

Gender Inequality and Women Participations in Governance in Sagbama Local Government Area in Bayelsa State

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Abstract

The study looked at gender inequality and women's participation in governance in Sagbama Local Government Area, Bayelsa State, Nigeria. The study used feminist theory, the study used correlational research design, with a population of women residents (18 years and above) and women in governance in Sagbama L.G.A. A sample of 227 was drawn using stratified random sampling in the wards. Data were collected using a questionnaire, called the "Gender Inequality and Women Participation in Governance Questionnaire (GIWPGQ)". It was validated and reliability determined its reliability using test retest. Pearson Product Moment Correlation was used to answer the research questions and to test the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The study found that institutional and systemic forms of gender inequality limit women's participation in governance. It recommends that gender responsive policies and equal political appointments should inform the local governance processes.

Keywords: *Gender Inequality, Governance, Participation and Women*

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Background to the Study

Women's participation in governance reflects the measurable extent to which women are present and active in decision-making structures, elective and appointive offices, and governance processes within a political system (Salau *et al.*, 2024). In Nigeria, despite women comprising nearly half of the population, their representation in political and governance roles remains low. National figures indicate that women occupy only a small fraction of legislative and executive positions, with women holding approximately 6.7 % of parliamentary seats far below both global and regional averages and similar under-representation observed at sub-national and local government levels. Gender inequality, widely defined as the differential treatment and access to power, resources, and opportunities based on gender, disproportionately limits women's access to governance roles in Nigeria. Patriarchal norms, socio-cultural expectations assigning women to domestic roles, and structural barriers in political party systems all contribute to an environment where women's governance participation is constrained (Agunbiade, 2020; SDN report, Bayelsa context). These constraints manifest through lower rates of female candidacy in elections, limited support from political institutions, financial disadvantages, and cultural attitudes that discourage women from seeking leadership positions (National Women's Trust Fund perspective).

In the Niger Delta region inclusive of Bayelsa State, studies reveal that women's participation in governance is particularly challenged by entrenched patriarchal customs and socio-economic barriers, which often result in women being under-represented in decision-making bodies and political offices relative to their male counterparts (SDN report). Sagbama Local Government Area, as part of Bayelsa State, therefore represents a critical locus for investigating how these broader national patterns of gender inequality influence the degree and quality of women's involvement in governance activities, and how local socio-cultural dynamics intersect with formal political processes to shape women's political engagement.

Statement of the Problem

Despite global and national commitments to gender equality and inclusive governance, women's participation in governance at the local government level in Nigeria remains persistently low. In Sagbama Local Government Area of Bayelsa State, women continue to be significantly underrepresented in elective and appointive political positions, thereby limiting their influence in policy formulation and local decision-making processes. This marginalization persists notwithstanding constitutional guarantees of equality and policy frameworks aimed at promoting women's empowerment and political inclusion. The problem is largely rooted in entrenched patriarchal norms, gender stereotypes, and socio-cultural expectations that perceive governance and leadership as male domains. These norms often translate into discriminatory political party practices, limited access to political appointments, and the systematic exclusion of women's views from critical governance decisions. Additionally, economic constraints, low political mentorship, and weak institutional support structures further undermine women's capacity to effectively engage in governance at the grassroots level. The continued exclusion of women from governance in

Sagbama L.G.A. has serious implications for democratic development and inclusive governance, as it results in policies and programmes that inadequately reflect women's needs, priorities, and perspectives. Consequently, gender inequality in political participation not only weakens women's empowerment but also undermines the quality, responsiveness, and legitimacy of local governance. It is against this backdrop that this study seeks to examine gender inequality and women's participation in governance in Sagbama Local Government Area of Bayelsa State.

Aim and objectives

The study was aimed at investigating gender inequality and women participation in governance in Sagbama L.G.A. in Bayelsa State. Specifically, the study tends to achieve the following objectives:

1. Examine the influence of gender inequality of political representation on women's participation in governance in Sagbama L.G.A. in Bayelsa State.
2. Investigate the influence of gender inequality of political appointment on women's participation in governance in Sagbama L.G.A. in Bayelsa State.
3. Determine the influence of the inclusion of women's views in decision-making processes on women's participation in governance in Sagbama L.G.A. in Bayelsa State.

Research Questions

1. How does gender inequality of political representation influence women's participation in governance in Sagbama L.G.A. in Bayelsa State?
2. How does gender inequality of political appointment influence women's participation in governance in Sagbama L.G.A. in Bayelsa State?
3. How does gender inequality of inclusion of women's views in decision-making processes influence women's participation in governance in Sagbama L.G.A. in Bayelsa State?

Hypotheses

Ho₁: Gender inequality in political representation does not have a significant influence on women's participation in governance in Sagbama Local Government Area of Bayelsa State.

Ho₂: Gender inequality in political appointment does not have a significant influence on women's participation in governance in Sagbama Local Government Area of Bayelsa State.

Ho₃: Gender inequality in the inclusion of women's views in decision-making processes does not have a significant influence on women's participation in governance in Sagbama Local Government Area of Bayelsa State.

Conceptual Review

Meaning of Gender Inequality

Gender inequality is a deeply ingrained pervasive global issue in societies worldwide, impacting both men and women, though women tend to bear the brunt of its effects (World Bank, 2020). Gender inequality is the unequal treatment or perception of people because of their gender. This inequality usually results from societal norms and deeply ingrained prejudices, in which one gender is held above the other, most frequently, discrimination against women and girls.

Forms of Gender Inequality

According to Ramdin and Anwar (2024), Gender inequality is reflected in several forms:

1. **Marginalization (impoverishment, marginalization):** Marginalization is the behaviour and attitude of society or the government that excludes women and men. Marginalization is more related to economic marginalization. Marginalization is also related to the gender difference that constricts women. For instance, women have fewer opportunities to become high-ranking bureaucrats and in the army, there are few women. And for men, he has less access to jobs that require more precision and attention to detail such as garment or cigarette workers (Ramdin & Anwar, 2024).
2. **Subordination (second-class):** This is a belief that there is one sex that is more valued than the other. So, it makes inequality, a feeling of second-class citizen, no voice to speak and so on. In addition, it is reinforced by culture, traditions, interpretations of religion, and regulations that subordinate women, women have less decision-making space. For instance, there are types of jobs that are identified with women's work (secretaries and kindergarten teachers). There are some professions that have a salary difference between women and men, where men are higher (Ramdin & Anwar, 2024).
3. **Stereotypes (labeling):** Negative labeling. In general, towards one sex. Stereotypes result in gender inequality and discrimination. For instance, women are only linked to the domestic field. Women are also seen as weak, emotional, unsuited for leadership and less rational throughout their lives. The standards of assessment for women are different from men but the standards of assessment for women are worse (Ramdin & Anwar, 2024).
4. **Double Burden:** There is a greater workload for one sex with another. For instance, a female employee is a mother at home. Finally, this role is transferred to maids, also women. So, it is not transferred to the opposite sex. For instance, joint responsibility to partner for child rearing.
5. **Violence:** Violence is a type of violence, physical and non-physical, carried out by one sex, family, society or state toward another sex. Violence simply stems from the difference between feminine and masculine. This distinction has triggered violence. For instance, rape, sexual violence, sexual harassment, assault, insults, sexual exploitation of women, etc. (Ramdin & Anwar, 2024).

Gender Inequality in Governance

Gender inequality in governance is the unequal opportunities for men and women to hold decision-making and leadership roles in political, administrative and public policy

institutions. This inequality is expressed through unequal representation, limited participation in governance and cultural and structural barriers limiting the influence of women in decision-making and shaping public policy and development. Despite several international and national commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment, there is a low representation of women in governance in Nigeria at the national, state, and local levels (Ezeneche, 2021; Tukura & Suleiman, 2024).

Meaning of Women's Participation.

Women's engagement in political and economic institutions through participation in bureaucracy, policy-making forums, and representative organizations is referred to as both a process and a result (Msoka, 2018). Women's involvement in various areas of society, including politics, economics, and social movements, is sometimes referred to as women's participation. According to Singh (2024), the presence and involvement of women in political and decision-making processes at all governmental levels is unquestionably what constitutes women's representation in governance. As a result, gender equality, sound governance, and social and economic advancement all depend on women's presence in government. The creation of inclusive and egalitarian societies depends on efforts to increase women's involvement in political and decision-making processes (Singh, 2024; Baskaran et al., 2024).

Types of Women's Involvement in Politics

According to Singh (2024), women may participate in governance in the following ways:

- a. **Political Representation:** Women in elected positions, such as councilors or members of parliament. Executive Positions: Women serving as cabinet ministers, governors, presidents, prime ministers, and mayors.
- b. **Involvement in Decision-Making:** Women actively contribute to the creation, execution, and assessment of laws and policies. participation in committees, boards, and consultative and advisory organizations that decide on governance and public policy (Singh, 2024).
- c. **Equal Opportunities:** Giving women the same chances to enter politics, participate in politics, and assume leadership positions. removing systemic obstacles that restrict women's involvement, such as discrimination, resource scarcity, and cultural norms (Singh, 2024).
- d. **Encouraging Gender Equality:** Achieving gender balance requires gender equality. Patriarchal norms and systems are challenged and transformed by the presence of women (Singh, 2024).
- e. **Diverse Views:** Women provide a variety of perspectives and experiences to the governing process, which may lead to more comprehensive policies. Women's priorities are more likely to receive attention, such as family assistance, education, and health (Singh, 2024).
- f. **Improved Governance:** Transparent, responsible, and responsive governance can result from inclusive leadership. Studies reveal that nations with higher levels of female representation have lower levels of corruption and higher levels of institutional trust (Singh, 2024).
- g. **Role Models:** Women leaders may serve as role models, inspiring other girls and

women to pursue careers in politics and leadership. They have the power to alter how society views women's roles and capacities (Singh, 2024).

- h. **Social and Economic Development:** Policies that support social and economic development and benefit society can be the outcome of inclusive government. Economic growth and development are linked to women's economic empowerment and participation in governance (Singh, 2024).

The importance of Women's Involvement in Governance

For social, economic, and political advancement, women's involvement in governance is crucial.

- 1. Increased legitimacy of democracy:** By ensuring that a variety of actors are represented in governmental structures, the presence of women strengthens the legitimacy of political processes. Democracies that disregard or marginalize women are inherently less responsive and representative (Dahlerup, 2006). Because the governing bodies are more representative of all societal stakeholders, the presence of women in parliaments and other decision-making organizations increases public confidence in the government.
- 2. Improved Regulation:** According to research, women bring distinct concerns to policy talks, especially when it comes to social safety, health, education, and child protection (World Bank, 2012). Women's participation can lead to more comprehensive and responsive policy decisions in several areas that affect women and families. Furthermore, women's presence has been linked to increased openness and reduced corruption in the public sector.
- 3. Promotion of Social Justice and Gender Equality:** Traditional inequality and exclusion are broken by women's involvement in government. It can promote cultural change in favor of gender equality and aid in reducing gender disparities in public life (UN Women, 2015). Women in leadership positions serve as role models for young girls and women, encouraging future generations to take part in politics.
- 4. Economic Growth and Development:** Economic progress is linked to women's involvement in politics. Better economic and social growth is frequently correlated with government policies that support women's rights and participation (OECD, 2017). Research has indicated that nations with higher rates of female political involvement typically prioritize investments in human resources, including health and education, which are essential for growth.

Theoretical Review

The study was anchored on Feminist theory of Mary Wollstonecraft (1794)

Feminism, or feminist theory, is a movement historically initiated by women that seeks to end sexism. The aim of feminism is to bring about social justice for those who have been oppressed by the patriarchy in society (the dominance of men). While feminists may disagree about how to achieve this goal, feminism is about creating a better world for women, men, non-binary and everyone in between. Feminists such as Simone de Beauvoir, Maya Angelou and Mary Wollstonecraft are aiming to build a better society where people are not discriminated against on the basis of gender.

The feminist theory of development explains that women play a major role in development hence they should be empowered to participate in decision making and implementation. This theory is highly involved in capacity building and capability of women in development. And feminists have succeeded in creating awareness of gender inequalities in societies and participated in a lot of activities to liberate women. Feminists were able to develop theories, Women in Development (WID) and Woman and development (WAD) to achieve equality. Feminists argue that all individuals of both genders (but primarily women) are perceived differently in the patriarchal systems that prevail. Feminists argue that differences among the genders do not mean one is superior or inferior to the other, and the oppression of gender is an outcome of the long history of derogatory attitudes towards non-male people. Feminists have five common strategies: efforts to increase equality, expand human choice, end gender stratification, put an end to sexual violence and promote sexual freedom.

Although the feminist success in theory, they seemed to be fighting for the interests of women rather than fighting for the issues related to gender. This is pointed out by the Gender and development theory. Also, despite all activities and efforts for women to have a high-quality life there are still huge inequalities in our society. The feminist theory did not identify the steps and measures that should be taken by the society and men to assist women in development but just focused on why women should be involved and ignored the "how".

Feminist theory is therefore very important to the study of gender inequality and women's participation in governance in Sagbama Local Government Area of Bayelsa State as it offers a critical lens to understand the structural and systemic exclusion of women from political processes. It accounts for gender inequality in governance and political leadership in terms of patriarchal social relations, power structures and male-dominated institutional frameworks which disadvantage women in political processes, despite their formal legal equality.

The theory enables the study to examine the ways in which cultural practices, traditional leadership modes and political party politics promote gender inequalities through the prioritisation of men's political authority over women's political participation. With its emphasis on women's experiences, the theory allows the study to focus not just on the under-representation of women in numbers, but also the absence of women's voices in policy making and governance processes. This is especially relevant for the study of political representation, political appointments, and incorporation of women's perspectives in local governance. Similarly, feminist theory matters because it moves the normative claim that inclusion and gender equality are vital for democracy. It provides a rationale for the study's advocacy for gender-responsive policies, affirmative action, and institutional changes to improve women's local governance. Therefore, feminist theory enhances the explanatory value of the study by connecting gender inequality in Sagbama L.G.A. to patterns of power and it also provides a theoretical foundation for policy-relevant recommendations (UN Women, 2021).

Methodology

A correlational study design was used for the study and the target population for the study included women engaged in governance in Sagbama LGA, elected officials, political appointees, community leaders and female residents of Sagbama LGA 18 years and older who are interested in governance. The sample of the study was calculated by the appropriate statistical formula to ensure representativeness and a stratified random sampling was used to select respondents from the wards of Sagbama L.G.A. The study used a structured questionnaire, gender inequality and women participation in governance questionnaire (QIWPGQ) to get information from the respondents. The reliability of the instrument was tested through pilot survey using test-retest method. The questionnaire was personally administered to respondents by research assistants. Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) was adopted to answer research questions and test the hypotheses.

Results

Research Question 1: How does gender inequality of political representation influence women's participation in governance in Sagbama L.G.A. in Bayelsa State?

Ho₁: Gender inequality in political representation does not have a significant influence on women's participation in governance in Sagbama Local Government Area of Bayelsa State.

Table 1: Summary of PPMC on the Influence of political representation on women's participation in governance in Sagbama L.G.A of Bayelsa State

		Political Representation	Women's Participation
Political Representation	Pearson Correlation	1	-.716**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	227	227
Women's Participation	Pearson Correlation	-.716**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	227	227

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

According to Table 1, gender imbalance in political representation has a -0.716 effect on women's engagement in governance in Bayelsa State's Sagbama Local Government Area. This suggests that gender imbalance in political representation has a significant detrimental impact on women's engagement in governance in Bayelsa's Sagbama Local Government Area. The sig. value indicated that gender imbalance in political representation had a substantial impact on women's engagement in governance in Bayelsa State's Sagbama Local Government Area ($p = 0.000$). As a result, the null hypothesis is rejected at a p -value of less than 0.05.

Research Question 2: How does gender inequality of political appointment influence women's participation in governance in Sagbama L.G.A. in Bayelsa State?

Ho₂: Gender inequality in political appointment does not have a significant influence on women's participation in governance in Sagbama Local Government Area of Bayelsa State.

Table 2: Summary of PPMC on the Influence of Political Appointment on women's participation in governance in Sagbama L.G.A of Bayelsa State.

		Political Appointment	Women's Participation
Political Appointment	Pearson	1	-.770**
	Correlation		
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	227	227
Women's Participation	Pearson	-.770**	1
	Correlation		
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	227	227

Source: Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

According to Table 2, gender disparity in political appointments has a -0.770 effect on women's involvement in governance in Bayelsa State's Sagbama Local Government Area. This suggests that gender disparity in political appointments has a significant detrimental impact on women's governance engagement in Bayelsa State's Sagbama Local Government Area. The sig. value indicated that gender imbalance in political appointments had a substantial impact on women's engagement in governance in Bayelsa State's Sagbama Local Government Area (p=0.000). The null hypothesis two is rejected with a p-value of less than 0.05.

Research Question 3: How does gender inequality of inclusion of women's views in decision-making processes influence women's participation in governance in Sagbama L.G.A. in Bayelsa State?

Ho₃: Gender inequality in the inclusion of women's views in decision-making processes does not have a significant influence on women's participation in governance in Sagbama Local Government Area of Bayelsa State.

Table 3: Summary of PPMC on the Influence of Political Appointment on women's participation in governance in Sagbama L.G.A of Bayelsa State

		Inclusion in Decision-Making	Women's Participation
Inclusion in Decision-Making	Pearson	1	.512**
	Correlation		
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	227	227
Women's Participation	Pearson	.512**	1
	Correlation		
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	227	227

Source: Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

According to Table 3, gender imbalance in the inclusion of women's viewpoints in decision-making processes has a 0.512 effect on women's engagement in governance in Bayelsa State's Sagbama Local Government Area. This suggests that gender imbalance in the incorporation of women's perspectives in decision-making processes has a somewhat favorable impact on women's governance involvement in Bayelsa State's Sagbama Local Government Area. The sig. value revealed that gender imbalance in the incorporation of women's perspectives in decision-making processes had a substantial impact on women's governance involvement in Bayelsa State's Sagbama Local Government Area ($p=0.000$). The null hypothesis three is rejected with a p-value of less than 0.05.

Discussion of Findings

The Influence of Gender Inequality in Political Representation on Women's Participation in Governance in Sagbama L.G.A of Bayelsa State

This finding (see table 1) showed a strong negative correlation between gender inequalities in political representation and women's participation in governance in Sagbama Local Government Area. This suggests that as political representation inequalities increase, women's active participation in governance decreases. This finding highlights the institutionalised nature of exclusion in local politics, as access to elective offices and leadership positions is constrained, thereby limiting women's visibility, voice, and influence in political processes. This finding resonates with other studies that highlight that gender inequality in governance structures limits the opportunities for women to holding decision-making positions (Ezeneche, 2021; Tukura & Suleiman, 2024). Likewise, empirical evidence has demonstrated that political participation by women in Nigeria continues to be hampered by institutional and sociocultural factors that limit their representation in elective offices (Salau et al, 2024). The negative correlation found in this study, therefore, supports the view that political representation is a key factor in political participation. The underrepresentation of women in formal political institutions significantly undermines their ability to shape policy, represent community interests and contribute to the development of democracy. As a result, combatting gender inequality in political representation is important for improving inclusive governance and democratic legitimacy at the local level.

Impact of Gender Inequality in Political Appointment on Women's Governance Participation in Sagbama Local Government Area of Bayelsa State

Table 2, illustrated a significant negative association between gender inequality in political appointment and women involvement in governance processes in Sagbama Local Government Area. This suggests that gender inequalities in appointive political offices significantly reduce women's participation in governance. In essence, when women are left out of appointive political positions and key administrative positions, their access to decision-making, policy-making and resource allocation is severely limited.

This conclusion is consistent with findings by Ezeneche (2021) and Tukura and Suleiman (2024) that point to the fact that gender inequality in governance may be manifested through discriminatory appointment practices that restrict women's participation in leadership and decision-making. Likewise, empirical research has shown that institutional impediments in the political system in Nigeria, including gendered representation in appointive roles, continue to hinder women's active participation in politics (Salau et al., 2024). The more negative correlation found in this study suggests that political appointments may therefore be a more important avenue of exclusion than local elective representation. Thus, addressing issues of inequality in political appointments are crucial to increasing women's participation and improving responsive and inclusive governance in Sagbama Local Government Area.

Gender Inequality in the Consideration of Women's Perspectives in Decision-Making Processes and Women's Participation in Governance in Sagbama Local Government Area, Bayelsa State. Table 3 shows a moderate and significant association between gender inequality in the inclusion of women's perspectives in decision-making processes and women's participation in governance in Sagbama Local Government Area. This implies that the degree of inclusion of women's voices in decision-making and governance conversations has a significant impact on women's participation. Put simply, if the perspectives of women are recognised and incorporated into the decision-making framework, their participation in governance processes is enhanced; if not, it entrenches their marginalisation and restricts their meaningful participation. This finding aligns with earlier studies that stress the importance of women's active participation in decision-making bodies for inclusive governance and policy outcomes (Singh, 2024; Baskaran et al., 2024). Likewise, international policy studies also show that effective participation is not only about representation, but also the integration of women's views into decision-making processes, which improves responsiveness and the legitimacy of institutions (UN Women, 2015). Consequently, the moderate positive relationship found in this study underlines the significance of participatory inclusion as an important aspect of governance. The inclusion of women's perspectives in local governance processes is crucial for enhancing democratic practice and achieving gender-responsive governance in Sagbama Local Government Area.

Conclusion

This research investigated the impacts of gender inequality on women's governance in Sagbama Local Government Area of Bayelsa State, particularly in political representation, political appointments and the incorporation of women's perspectives in decision-making.

The results indicate that gender inequality in political representation and political appointments has a significant negative impact on women's governance, while consultation with women in decision-making has a significant association with their participation in governance. In all, this study shows that institutional and structural factors in local political systems continue to limit women's participation in governance. Women's access to elected and appointed offices, as well as the inclusion of women's perspectives in policy and decision-making, is critical to the democratic process and to good governance at the local level. Hence, the study concludes that the mitigation of gender inequality in political structures and processes and the inclusion of women in decision-making are vital to the enhancement of participatory governance and the legitimisation of democracy in Sagbama Local Government Area.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the researcher recommends the following:

1. Local government authorities and political parties in Sagbama L.G.A. should adopt and strictly implement gender-responsive policies, including quota systems, to increase women's representation in elective and appointive political positions.
2. Transparent and merit-based political appointment processes should be institutionalized to eliminate gender bias and ensure equitable access for qualified women to strategic decision-making roles.
3. Formal mechanisms such as mandatory consultation forums and inclusive policy committees should be established to guarantee the systematic integration of women's views into local governance and decision-making processes.

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S/N	Gender Inequality of Political Representation and Women Participation in Governance	VHE	HE	LE	VLE
1	Limited number of women in elected political positions in Sagbama L.G.A. affects women's participation in the area				
2	Gender imbalance in legislative positions (councillorship) in Sagbama L.G.A. hinders women's ability to advocate for their rights and interests				
3	Underrepresentation of women in political party leadership positions in Sagbama L.G.A. limits women's participation				
4	The lack of women in visible political offices in Sagbama L.G.A. discourages other women from aspiring to leadership positions				
5	Unequal political representation of women in Sagbama L.G.A. affects their access to resources and opportunities for development				
	Gender Inequality of Political Appointment and Women Participaation in Governance				
6	Few women are appointed to key government positions in Sagbama L.G.A., which affects women's participation				
7	Gender bias in political appointments in Sagbama L.G.A. limits women's capacity to influence governance				
8	Women are excluded from strategic appointive positions (e.g., Secretary, Treasurer, Department Heads) in Sagbama L.G.A., hindering their participation				
9	Unequal appointment of women to political offices in Sagbama L.G.A. reduces their economic empowerment opportunities				
10	Gender inequality in political appointments in Sagbama L.G.A. undermines women's confidence in participating in governance				
	Gender Inequality of Inclusion of Women's Views in Decision-Making Processes and Women Participation				
11	Women's opinions are rarely considered in policy formulation and implementation in Sagbama L.G.A., affecting their participation				
12	Exclusion of women from community meetings and governance discussions in Sagbama L.G.A. limits their participation				
13	Women's perspectives on critical issues (education, health, security) are ignored in decision-making processes in Sagbama L.G.A., hindering their participation				
14	Limited consultation with women's groups and organizations in Sagbama L.G.A. during policy development affects women's participation				
15	The practice of making decisions without women's input in Sagbama L.G.A. reinforces gender inequality and weakens women's participation				
	Women's Participation in Governance in Sagbama L.G.A.				
16	Women actively participate in electoral processes (voting, campaigning, contesting) in Sagbama L.G.A.				
17	Women hold significant positions in local government administration and governance structures in Sagbama L.G.A.				
18	Women attend and contribute meaningfully to community development meetings and town hall sessions in Sagbama L.G.A.				
19	Women are involved in budget planning and resource allocation processes at the local government level in Sagbama L.G.A.				
20	Women participate in oversight and monitoring of government programs and projects in Sagbama L.G.A.				
21	Women serve as members or leaders of committees, boards, and task forces in Sagbama L.G.A. governance				
22	Women engage in advocacy and lobbying for policies and programs that affect their communities in Sagbama L.G.A.				