

Assessing the Role of Community-Based Organizations Activities on Women Empowerments: A Case of African Evangelical Enterprise in Gasabo District, Rwanda.

Miss. UMULISA Aurore, Dr. Jonas NZABAMWITA (PhD).

Faculty of Environmental and Development Studies in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of Masters of Science in International development Studies, University of Lay Adventists of Kigali, P.O. Box: 6392, Kigali, Rwanda.

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ABSTRACT: this study sought to assess the role of community-based organizations activities on women empowerment in rural communities using a case of AEE-Rwanda in Gasabo district 2020-2023". The study used qualitative and quantitative approaches. Self-administered questionnaires used as the main methods of data collection. Nevertheless, interview, observation, and content analysis were used to compliment, supplement and validate data collected through the questionnaire. In progressive study, the drawn conclusion is that AEE had contributed to the social economic development and women empowerment in rural community in Gasabo district and the researcher recommend the AEE Rwanda to focus on how beneficiaries can shift from farming activities to off farm activities, cooperate in data collection and interview activities and make stronger the collaboration between AEE Rwanda and local government authorities, Population of this study was 3050 from poor households in Bumbogo and Nduba sectors where purposive technique was used in order to get the desired respondents, Sample size was 354; it has been got from the formula of Yamane. Data were analyzed and interpreted using SPSS tool to draw all tables and even indicates relationship. During this research both primary and secondary data were used to achieve the set objectives. Training on micro-financing and group lending was very low, 100% had no savings and investments in other words, it was the best time for AEE to intervene in Bumbogo and Nduba sectors. after working with AEE 60.45% saving between 5,001 and 10,000 per year, the biggest part 41.67% of respondents bought Animals (Livestock), the

59.88% of respondents paid health insurance difficultly and after work with AEE the 79.94% of the respondents paid health insurance easily. 100% is very easy to pay school fees. and the 85.87% confirmed that they are able to pay bills of water and electricity the result is $[-0.009 < 0.932 < 1.00]$ means that there is a relationship between the contribution of AEE to the women's empowerment at those sectors because the correlation of 0.932 is positive and very high correlation.

Keywords: Community, Organizations, Women, Empowerment and Rural community.

I. INTRODUCTION

Empowering women is crucial for the country's prosperity and development. Women's empowerment on a global scale is a novel idea. The topic of women's empowerment has been more important among university scholars and on national and international platforms during the second half of the 20th century (Saidu, 2014). Promoting the culture of gender equality, ensuring equal opportunity for all Rwandans, Support for disadvantaged groups (Gupta, 2021), Rwanda is a globally leading in women participation in decision-making positions with 61.3% female members of Parliament and ranked 9th globally, Women make up 50% of community mediation and conflict resolution committees (Abunzi) Rwanda adopted a National Action Plan 2009-2012 for the Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) which aims to reinforce the capacity of women in peace and security processes (World bank, 2020) In 2008, Rwanda became the first and only country in the world to have majority

female representation in its parliament at 56%, Rwanda was ranked 2nd out of 52 on the Gender Equality Index, 2015 (Ohmer, 2007). Rwanda was ranked the best place to be a woman in Africa and 6th globally - Global Competitiveness Report 2015. Most of the services provided by these CBOs are those often promised by the State to the people (RISDA, 2006). To be more specific, these CBOs have continued to engage in a range of activities, from education and health to infrastructural development and environmental protection or conservation (Hedayat and Marof, 2016). The involvement and participation of women in tertiary education is about 52% for men and 48% for women. The Imbuto Foundation, for example, has introduced programs aimed at supporting girls in order to raise their level of participation and performance particular in science and technology (Utusan, 2016). Rwanda was ranked the best place to be a woman in Africa and 6th globally - Global Competitiveness Report 2015. Other CBOs working in the nation in support of their other potential beneficiaries of the current study are the corresponding donors and funders (Isaboke, 2018). By providing basic education, vocational training, training for self-employment, legal aid, protection for women, and self-awareness programs, NGOs and self-help groups (SHG) play a crucial role in the empowerment of women (Gupta, 2020). CBOs have many programs, functions and roles, which assist community to become empowered, and eventually attain sustainable development. Globally, women hold a disproportionately low percentage (under 12%) of national legislative seats despite making up 50% of the population. This inequality persists across continents, hindering their access to equal opportunities in various spheres, including economic and political. In rural areas women face

barriers in accessing finance and land ownership due to cultural norms and insecure rights, limiting their economic independence and leading to social marginalization. While some efforts exist to empower women, the lack of legal enforcement of gender equality in many African countries allows injustice to continue, with consequences like increased vulnerability to abuse and economic hardship for women and girls. This study will be assessing the role of community-based organizations on women empowerment in rural community (Muhammad, 2009).

II. METHODS AND MATERIALS

2.1 Description of study area

Gasabo District is one of the three districts in Kigali City, comprised of 15 sectors, 73 cells, and 501 villages. Located in the northeast of Kigali, it shares borders with Kicukiro, Nyarugenge, Rwamagana, Rulindo, and Gicumbi districts. Following the Rwandan genocide, the African Evangelical Enterprise (AEE) responded by revitalizing existing programs and creating new ones, maintaining its "word and deed" mission. Over its 30+ years of operation, AEE has reportedly impacted thousands of Rwandan lives and spread Christianity throughout the nation. The organization primarily focuses on children and youth development, aiming to help them reach their full potential. AEE implements programs that directly support children and youth, as well as initiatives that work with their families and communities, believing that the well-being of the latter is crucial for the flourishing of the former. Their programs and projects target vulnerable, marginalized, and disadvantaged communities in both rural and urban areas of Rwanda.

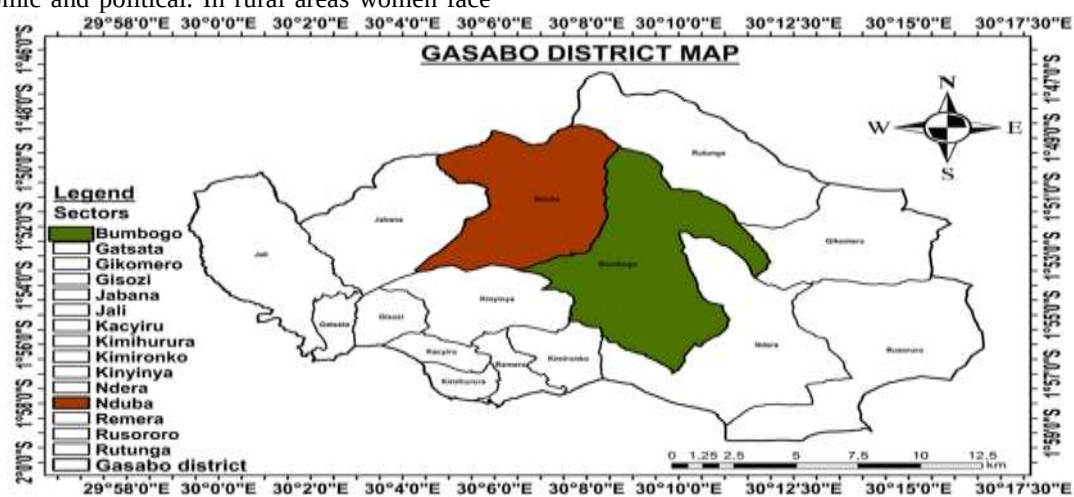


Figure 1: Gasabo District Map

Source: Gasabo DDSFY 2022-2023

2.2 Data collection and analysis

This study adopted descriptive and exploratory approach, thus in this research the key methods for gathering information include surveys/questionnaires through google form to collect structured data on women empowerment and its impacts, interviews for in-depth insights from community-based organization, focus group discussions to gather community perspectives, field observations to directly assess the impacts of community-based organization activities on women empowerment. Therefore, the data of this study was analyzed by using SPSS which involves

processing and interpreting data using methods aligned with the research question, data type (qualitative/quantitative), and study design. Descriptive analysis uses measures of central tendency (mean, mode, median) and dispersion (range, variance, standard deviation) to understand relationships, such as between post-harvest processing and environmental degradation. Statistical analysis, employing correlation and regression, examines relationships between continuous both variables. This study utilized a sample size of 354 respondents, determined using Yamen's Formula.

Table 1 Sample size

Sector	Population size	$ni = \frac{Ni * n}{N}$	
		Sample size	
Bumbogo	1800	203	
Nduba	1250	144	
AEE staff	2	2	
Local leaders	4	4	
Total population	3056	354	

Source: AEE report, 2023

III. RESULTS

3.1. The services offered by AEE

Table 2: The services offered by AEE

Service offered by AEE	Frequency	Percent
Livestock (Animals) bought for me	14	3.88
Training on Income generating	340	94.44
Training on micro-financing and group lending	274	76.11
Organizing cooperatives and women groups	213	59.17
Facilitating change of attitudes	197	54.72
Training on Career guidance	97	26.94
Job creation	18	5
Training on Freedom from violence	301	83.61
Education support	111	30.83
Training on Gender Equality	298	82.78

Source: Primary data, February 2023

The table above shows that respondents ticked more than one services according to the time scope of my research and according to vision 2050 plan of Rwandan government for eradicating poverty sustainably, so Training on Gender equality, Training on freedom from violence and training on Income generating are more dominant

according to the mentioned table. Majorities of respondent offered more than one training and helps to empower women economically and socially, enabling them to participate more fully in their communities and contribute to the overall development of the country.

3.2. Annual income of respondents before working with AEE.

Table 3: Annual income of respondents before working with AEE.

Annual income before and after working with AEE	Frequency Before AEE	Percent Before AEE	Frequency After AEE	Percent after AEE
Bellow 30,000	210	59.32	9	2.54
30,001-50,000	89	24.72	196	55.37
50,001-100,000	51	14.16	122	34.46
100,001-150,000	4	1.11	27	7.63
Total	354	100.0	354	100.0

Source: Primary data, February 2023

Table 4 demonstrates that the biggest number of respondents 59.32% earned the income below 30,000Frw, 24.72% earn 30,001-50,000Frw, 1.11% earn 100,001-150,000Frw, this signifies that the annual income of respondents in Bumbogo and Nduba sectors have not stabilized due to the table above and after working with AEE their standard

of living is changed according to the feedback from local leaders of those sectors.

3.3.1. Annual savings of respondents after working with AEE.

Savings are only practiced where there is profit because saving is equal to income minus either consumption or investment.

Table 4: Annual savings of Respondents after working with AEE.

Annual savings level	Frequency	Percent
Bellow 3,000	2	0.56
3,001-5,000	109	30.79
5,001-10,000	214	60.45
10,001-15,000	22	6.11
15,001-20,000	7	1.94
Total	354	100.0

Source: Primary data February (2023)

Table 5 shows that after working with AEE 60.45% saving between 5,001 and 10,000 per year, 30.79% saving between 3,001 and 5000, 6.11% saving between 10,001 and 15,000, 1.94% saving between 15,001 and 20,000, only 0.55% saving below 3000 Rwandan francs. This can provide women with more opportunities to invest in their education, start businesses or

access credit which can enhance their economic independence and decision-making power.

3.3.2. Investments of respondents after working with AEE.

Investment is made where people experience savings. Hence investment is made where people have profits on their daily activities

Table 5: The investments after benefiting the AEE.

Investment	Frequency	Percent
Construction of buildings	4	1.13
Expanding the business	12	3.39
Buying land	2	0.55
Buying farm equipment	186	51.67
Buying Animals (Livestock)	150	41.67
Total	354	100.0

Source: Primary data February (2023)

The table 6 shows that the part 4.44% of respondents Expanded their business, 51.67% of them bought farm equipment, 41.67% bought Animals (Livestock), 1.13% Constructed buildings, 0.55% bought land and 3.39% they are expended their business. Expanding business can be linked to women's empowerment as it can provide women with economic opportunities, financial independence and the ability to make decisions about their own lives and women can gain access to resources, markets and networks that can

help them achieve their goals and improve their overall well-being.

3.3.3. Health insurance of respondents before AEE.

Health insurance in Rwanda was mainly emphasized by the introduction of mutual insurance where every Rwandan citizen should be integrated in order to be treated in case one falls sick.

Table 6: Health insurance of respondents before AEE.

Health insurance level	Frequency	Percent
Difficult	212	59.88
Very difficult	142	40.12
Total	354	100.0

Source: Primary data February (2023)

The table 6 shows that the 59.88% of respondents paid health insurance difficultly and 40.12% of respondents paid health insurance very difficultly. Paying for health insurance was very difficult for them, this suggests that a substantial portion of respondents are facing financial challenges in accessing and maintaining health insurance coverage.

3.3.4. Health insurance of respondents after AEE.

Health insurance in Rwanda was mainly emphasized by the introduction of mutual insurance where every Rwandan citizen should be integrated in order to be treated in case one falls sick.

Table 7: Health insurance of Respondents after AEE.

Health insurance	Frequency	Percent
Very easy	71	20.05
Easy	283	79.94

Total	354	100.0
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Source: Primary data February (2023)

The table 7 shows that the 20.05% of respondents paid health insurance very easily and 79.94% of respondents paid health insurance easily.

Human capital enables people to get knowledge and skills which will help them to create and innovate for the sake of getting off-farm jobs. The table below shows paying school fees for respondents' family members before CBOs.

3.3.5. Paying school fees for respondent's family members before AEE.

Education is one among the important capitals that people need very much in their lives.

Table 8: Paying school fees for respondent's family members before AEE.

School fees paying level	Frequency	Percent
Difficult	153	43.22
Very Difficult	201	56.78
Total	354	100.0

Source: Primary data February (2023)

The table 8 shows that 56.78% of respondents could pay school fees for their family members difficult and 43.22% do it very difficultly, this demonstrates that many respondents could hardly pay school fees for their family members especially in secondary schools.

respondents after working with AEE Rwanda was very easy to pay school fees for their family member. The implication of school fees payment is that it can help improve access to educational attainment, leading to better economic outcomes for individual and their family (Rugege, 2019)

3.3.6 Paying school fees for respondent's family members after AEE.

Education is one among the important capitals that people need very much in their lives. Human capital enables people to get knowledge and skills which will help them to create and innovate for the sake of getting off-farm jobs. All

3.3.7 Paying bills of water and electricity

When a family gets affordable income which can sustain them, it will be easy for the family to pay bills of water and electricity. The table below shows paying bills of water and electricity in a family.

Table 9: Paying bills of water and electricity after AEE

Water bills and electricity payment ability	Frequency	Percent
Yes	304	85.87
No	50	14.13
Total	354	100.0

Source: Primary data, February (2023)

The table 9 shows that 85.87% of respondents confirmed that they are able to pay bills of water and electricity and only 14.13% answered no meaning incapable of paying bills of water and electricity in relation to women's empowerment, the ability to pay bills can also empower women to make informed decisions about their household needs and priorities by having control over their finances and allocate resources

effectively and managing expenses and maintaining financial stability.

3.4 Correlations

A statistical relationship or association between two or more variables is referred to as correlation. It shows how much the variables change in connection to one another. To put it another way, when one variable changes, the other

variable could rise, fall, or stay the same. There are three types of correlation: Positive correlation: When one variable increases, the other also increases. Negative correlation: When one variable increases, the other decreases. No correlation: There is no relationship between the variables. Two variables are strongly correlated, one may be used to predict the behavior of the other. For instance, if

there's a strong positive correlation between temperature and ice cream sales, researchers might predict higher sales on warmer days. In summary, correlation is a useful statistical tool for understanding relationships between variables and is integral in many areas of research to make predictions, analyze trends, and guide further investigation.

Table 10: Correlations between AEE's activities and Women's empowerments.

Correlation		What is the service CBO offered you/your family?	Savings after Joining CBO
What is the service AEE offered you/your family?	Pearson Correlation	1	-.009
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.932
	N	354	354
Annual Savings after Joining AEE	Pearson Correlation	-.009	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.932	
	N	354	354

Source: Primary data, February (2023)

Basing on table 10 the result of the correlation of the services offered by AEE to the community and their annual savings after working with it for empowering them, and the result is $[-0.009 < 0.932 < 1.00]$ means that there is a relationship between the contribution of AEE to the women's empowerment at Bumbogo and Nduba sectors because the correlation of 0.932 indicates a strong positive correlation between the services offered by AEE to the community and their annual savings after working it for empowering them. This means that as the services offered by AEE increase, the Annual savings of the community also tend to increase.

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