



Towards Poverty Alleviation:-Women Empowerment through Participation in Agricultural Development. A Case Study of Nyangavi Ward 5 in Guruve District of Mashonaland Central Province

Shillah Rugonye & Abigail Mandizha

Zimbabwe Open University, Mashonaland East Region
P. O. Box-758, Marondera.

Email: srugonye@gmail.com

Abstract

This research explores the contribution made by women towards poverty alleviation through agricultural development and in particular the study focuses on Guruve's Nyangavi Ward 5. The study explores different activities of agriculture being done by women in the case study area, ranging from crop to animal husbandry. Drawing analysis from fieldwork interviews, FGDs, participant observations and case study analysis the research established that despite facing many challenges women in Nyangavi were heavily involved in several agricultural development activities. Such activities contributed in the transformation and upliftment of their individual and household livelihoods. The study also observed that the level of agricultural production and their efforts to address deep seated societal poverty in Nyangavi ward were also affected by many issues which include lack of resources, lack of support from government and the rainfall pattern which sometimes cause mistiming on the part of the women farmers. As a result, most, if not all women in the Nyangavi Ward 5 have remained trapped in the poverty cycle and also remain marginalized – at the peripheries of mainstream economic development. The study concludes by offering policy interventionist strategies that might be harnessed by different stakeholders in improving the situation of women farmers in Nyangavi ward 5 areas in Guruve. The study also observed that women are critical agents of economic change and local development if they receive adequate empowerment as informed by the Nyangavi case study.

Keywords: Developments, Poverty alleviation, Women empowerment, Participation.

References

- [1]. Agritex Zimbabwe (1993); Farm Management Handbook, 4th edition, Jacobus de Jong, Harare, published by Agritex Zimbabwe.
- [2]. Butaumocho, R. (2014); 'Empower Women, Empower A Nation', *The Herald*, 12.05.201. <http://www.herald.co.zw>
- [3]. Chambers R (1983); Put the Last First, Rural development, published by Pearson education Ltd, New York, USA.
- [4]. Crenshaw, K. (1991); Mapping the margins: Intersectionality, identity politics, and violence against women of colour, *Stanford law review*, 1241-1299.
- [5]. Dawson, C., (2002); *Practical research questions*, 2nd edition by Diana Brueton.
- [6]. Fabiyi, E. F. et al., (2007); Role of women in agricultural development and their constraints: a case study of Biliri Local Government Area, Gombe State, Nigeria, *Pakistan Journal of Nutrition*, 6, pp. 676-680.
- [7]. IMF (2000); Poverty is Powerless and Voiceless, Finance and Development Name of Journal article, Volume 37(4) 4.
- [8]. Kardos and Smith (1979); Case Study research and Theory Building, published by Sage publications.
- [9]. Mkandawire(2005); Targeting Universalism in Poverty Reduction, published by UNRISD, Switzerland.
- [10]. Mpofu, B. (2011); Some Perceptions on the Poverty Question in Zimbabwe, *Solidarity Peace Trust*.
<http://www.solidaritypeacetrust.org/1109/some-perceptions-on-the-poverty-question-in-zimbabwe>
- [11]. Oladejo, J. A., et al (2011); Analysis of women participation in Agricultural production in Egbedore Local Government Area of Osun state, Nigeria; *International Journal of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development*, 4 (1) pp. 1, 13.
- [12]. O'Leary, Z. (2004); The essential guide to doing research, London: Sage, OX4 IRE, United Kingdom, published by How To Books.
- [13]. Saunders, M. et al., (2009); Research Methods for business students, 5th edition, Harlow: Prentice Hall.
- [14]. Swanepoel, H., & F. D. Beer, (1997); Introduction to development studies, *International Thomson Publishing*.



- [15]. Ukpore, B. A. (2009); Sustainable development in Nigeria: Roles of women and strategies for their improvement, *Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa*, 10(4), pp.268-283.
- [16]. UN (2012); Rural Women Powerful catalysts for sustainable development, agents against poverty, hunger.
<http://www.un.org>
- [17]. UN Women (2015); The Role of Women In Rural Development, Food Production And Poverty Eradication.
<http://www.unwomen.org>
- [18]. Yin, R. (1994); Case study research: Design and methods, *Beverly Hills*.