The Impact of Women Leadership in Rural Transformation in Edo State: A Case Study of Egor and Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Areas of Edo State (2010-2019)

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Abstract

This research work attempts to assess the impact of women leadership in rural transformation in Egor and Ikpoba Okha Local Government Areas of Edo State. The research questions and research hypothesis raised to guide the study include to investigate the impact of women leadership in the social/economic transformation, conflict management, fight corruption and describe how culture have hindered women from leadership positions as well as to examine how trafficking of young women through the Mediterranean have hampered women participation in leadership positions. To achieve the objectives of the study, data from primary and secondary sources were collected. Two hundred (200) questionnaires were administered by the researcher of which one hundred and seventy (170) were retrieved successfully and used for data analysis and presentation. While the secondary source consist of textbooks, journals, manuals and other publications. Descriptive analysis-simple percentage was used for data presentation and analysis. Inferential statistical tools-chi-square analysis was employed in testing the formulated hypotheses of the study. From the hypotheses tested, the researcher find out that the few period women were chief executive in both Local Government Areas, the economic/social status of its citizenry were transformed positively and various tribes' residence in the areas were harmonized for peaceful coexistence. Also, the researcher discovered that the women leadership were not having the wherewithal to fight corruption to a standstill and that cultural affiliation as well as trafficking of young women to abroad through the Mediterranean posed a quagmire to women participation in leadership position. It was therefore recommended that through constitutional amendment,

some political offices should be exclusively reserved for women and the instrument for prosecution of any corruption practices be strengthen and explicitly stated.

`**Keywords:** Women, Leadership, Rural, Transformation, Impact, Egor, Ikpoba-Okha.

1. Introduction

Every organization needs a leader irrespective of its size and functions. A leader is a person who influences and encourages a group of people to work towards the realization of goals. The hallmark of leadership is the capacity to influence others towards accomplishing goals and towards betterment. Tutorialpoint (2015). For most women leaders, leadership is not meant only for accomplishing organizational goals but for transforming their followers into better people. Tutorialpoint (2015). According to Fallender (2015) women leadership means continuing to advocate for and invest in changes that support advancement of women within their organization and industries, by addressing issues of unconscious bias and enlisting developing solution. She further stated that it also mean challenging companies and businesses leaders to reexamine the leadership role that the private sector can play in empowering girls and women globally. Paulet (2015) buttress that women leadership is not about gender, it is about being yourself-your whole self. For me, this meant realizing that my emotions are not a weakness I should hid but an asset I should share. To Longsworth (2015), leadership should not be define by gender but by ability to lead successful enterprises that prioritize profit, employee well-being and making a positive impact. In the view of Oghale (2014) it is pertinent to state that the wake of the 21st century has ushered in the long awaited desire of women to be in the corridors of power, to be vocal about their needs, and to execute their dreams by contributing their quota to local or national development. Although the awareness about the relevance and undeniable role of women leadership gain momentum in the late 1980s, it was further enhanced at the United Nations fourth world conference on women held in Beijing in 1995. The conference which serve as an eye-opener to all women has become a springboard into the 21st century where women leadership has spread through all spheres and sector of society. Eagly and Carli (2007) cite that African women have demonstrated effective leadership abilities in their positions, this is despite living in hostile environment and handling power structures that do not always advocate for their right. Oloyede (2015) asserted that both Christian and Islam do not accord women much role in public life and same is obtainable in most cultural values where women are not to be seen in public domain therefore the few who ventured into politics are looked upon as shameless and promiscuous. Rama (2015) indicate that in general women are expert in managing crises and adapting to change. This is the positive result of the economic and political situation that we have lived through. The capacity to manage change and tolerate uncertainties and

ambiguities is essential to the success of any enterprises she explain. It is important to state that it is not only in the western world that women have caught the wind of their right and importance to rural transformation. Here in Edo State, the impact of women leadership and rural transformation, in reference to Egor and Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Areas cannot be overemphasize. History has shown that women in Edo State worked hard to arrive at this point in the 21st century where they are gradually rising into positions of power in all sector of society. The immense contributions of women to national transformation have led to the conclusion that was made by Caldwell (2006) that:

> Indeed, when women are full participants in the democratic process, there is greater likelihood that a society's policies will better reflect the needs of all its citizens. Aside that, the 2005 reports from the UN's millennium projects notes that, when women are well represented on governing bodies, the overall quality of governance tends to rise and level of corruption sink.

It was on this noted that the then governor of Edo State Adams Oshiomhole having witness the developmental strides of Ikpoba-Okha Local Government chairman Mrs. Itohan Osahon Ogbeide, said and I quote "for me it was a brilliant surprise when the chairman of the local government invited me to come and commission these taxes. I am not ashamed to say that you have worked faster than me". PM NEWS (2013). It is a known fact that women naturally are permeated with such conspicuous and fairness qualities such as peace loving, meticulousness, economy, human and material management and organizational skills Oghale (2014). Over time in history and presently, women are also known to be family and society builders, a few women who have been entrusted with leadership role to manage human and material resources have more often than not proved the same point that given adequate support, they can surpass normal expectations, hence the impact of women leadership in rural transformation, in reference to Egor and Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Areas of Edo State are being researched upon.

2. Research Hypotheses

The formulation of hypotheses and their testing through observation are essential steps in the research process. Hypotheses are therefore defined as a preposition that asserts the existence of relationship among phenomenon or variables. It may in this sense also be understood as proposition that states tentative answer to a question or solution to a problem. Hypotheses are tentative because their variety or truthfulness can only be evaluated after they have been tested empirically. Their roles as scientific roles in scientific

research are to suggest in their investigation of others. For the purpose of this research, the researcher shall attempt to test the following hypothesis:

H_0: There is no significant difference between gender opinion with respect to the relationship between women leadership in Egor/Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Areas and the economic/social transformation of its citizenry.

H_R: There is a significant difference between gender opinion with respect to the relationship between women leadership in Egor/Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Areas and the economic/social transformation of its citizenry.

H_0: There is no significant difference between gender opinion with respect to the relationship between women leadership and effective conflict management control in Egor/Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Areas.

H_R: There is significant difference between gender opinion with respect to the relationship between women leadership and effective conflict management control in Egor/Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Areas.

H_0: Looking at Egor/Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Areas, there is no significant difference between gender opinion with respect to the relationship between women leadership and ability to fight corruption to a standstill.

H_R: Looking at Egor/Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Areas, there is a significant difference between gender opinion with respect to the relationship between women leadership and ability to fight corruption to a standstill.

H_0: There is no significant difference between gender opinion with respect to the relationship between women participation in leadership position in Egor/Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Areas and cultural affiliation.

H_R: There is a significant difference between gender opinion with respect to the relationship between women participation in leadership position in Egor/Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Areas and cultural affiliation.

H_0: There is no significant difference between gender opinion with respect to the relationship between female participation in leadership position in Egor/Ikpoba Okha Local Government Area and trafficking of young women abroad through Mediterranean.

H_R: There is no significant difference between gender opinion with respect to the relationship between female participation in leadership position in Egor/Ikpoba Okha Local Government Area and trafficking of young women abroad through Mediterranean.

Methodology

This chapter describes the methods and procedure that were used for this research. Research methodology in this case means the techniques used in studying impacts of women leadership in rural transformation in Egor/Ikpoba Okha Local Government Area of Edo State.

Population of the Study

Population is the total group the researcher wishes to study. It is also called the universe. Therefore, the population of this study is the 339,899 and 371,106 residents of Egor/Ikpoba Okha Local Government Area of Edo State.

Sample of the Population

The sample size of this study consist of one hundred (100) randomly selected respondents from the inhabitants of Ward 02, Ward 03 and ward 04 of Ikpoba Okha Local Government Area and one hundred (100) randomly selected respondents from the inhabitants of ward 03, Ward 10 and Ward 08 of Egor Local Government Area making a total number of two hundred (200) sample size. The sample size comprises forty (40) respondents from Ward 02 comprising Oregbeni, Ramat Park and its environs which represent urban area, thirty (30) respondents from Ward 03 comprising Ohovbe and Ogbeson Quarters representing rural area while thirty (30) respondents from Ward 04 comprising Aduwawa, Uroral and Evbomodu representing semi-urban area of Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Area. In the same vein, thirty (30) respondents from Ward 03 comprising Use and Ogida community which represent rural area, another thirty (30) respondents from Ward 10 comprising Uwelu and its environs represent semi-urban area while forty(40) respondents from Ward 08 comprising Uselu 1 and its environs (Egua Iyoba) representing urban area of Egor Local Government Area.

These wards were carefully and randomly selected to cover the two local government areas.

Method of Data Analysis

Data collected to test the five hypotheses formulated for this study were coded for computed analysis. For easy identification of data collected, the researcher present the opinion of the respondents in a tabular form. This tabulation gives concrete picture and cases in comparison and also reveal at a glance, the differences in opinion in a more comprehensive manner and the percentage of each opinion. In analysing the data and testing the stated hypotheses, the descriptive analysis-simple percentages and inferential analysis-chi square analysis were employed. The interpretation of data presented were

also given. They were compared to know if they were either in support or at variance with the research questions formulated. All the analyses were based on the results derived from the questionnaire. For the purpose of this study; "women participation in leadership position" was treated as the dependent variable while the following were manipulated as the independent variables.

1. Economic/Social transformation
2. Conflict management
3. Corruption
4. Culture
5. Trafficking of young women

Research Instrument

The research instrument adopted for this study is the likert scale type and open-ended questionnaire. It is a special type of multiple choice questions suitable for obtaining the respondents assessment of an object. The likert-type question indicates the extent to which the respondents agree or disagree with a given statement. The answer range from agreed, strongly agreed, undecided, disagreed and strongly disagreed. While the open-ended question is to allow respondents to include more information and understanding of the subject.

The questionnaire was constructed in a way to elicit response as much as possible to the questions bearing in mind the need to avoid measurement error, surrogate information error and make for high response rate. The questionnaire was sectioned into A, B and C. section A had question 1-6 and contained questions regarding the bio-data of the respondents. Section B had question 7-19 and contained questions directly relevant to the research and section C had question 20-21 which gives the respondents the opportunity to express their opinion and feelings.

Data Presentation and Analysis

This is mainly concerned with the interpretation of data and the discussion of findings. The major instrument used in the collection of the various data was questionnaire and they were administered at random to selected inhabitant of Ward 02, Ward 03 and Ward 04 of Ikpoba Okha Local Government Area and inhabitant of Ward 03, Ward 08 and Ward 10 of Egor Local Government Area of Edo State. Two hundred (200) copies of the questionnaire were administered and one hundred and seventy (170) of them were retrieved which represent 85%. Analysis of data and relevant information collected for this research will be grouped as follows:

Section A: Personal Data

Table 4.1: Sex distribution of the respondents

Sex	**Number**	**%**
Male	90	52.9
Female	80	47.1
Total	**170**	**100**

Source: Field Study, 2019

Table 4.1 above shows that 52.9% of the respondents were males and 47.1% females. This suggests that male's population of the respondents is just a fraction above that of the females. This makes this survey appropriate and valid because there is no room for gender discrimination in this survey.

Table 4.2: Educational qualification distribution of the respondents

Qualification	**Number**	**%**
SSCE/GCE	28	17
OND	34	20
B.Sc	76	45
M.Sc	16	9
Ph.D.	4	2
Others	12	7
Total	**170**	**100**

Source: Field Study, 2019

From the table above 17% of the respondents possess SSCE/GCE, 20% hold OND, 45% are B.Sc holders, 9% possess M.Sc, 2% hold Ph.D. while 7% are others.

Table 4.3: Marital status

Marital status	**Number**	**%**
Married	90	53
Single	72	42
Divorce	5	3
Widowed	3	2
Total	**170**	**100**

Source: Field Study, 2019

As observed in table 4.3, majority of the respondents representing 53% are married, followed by 42% which are single, 3% are divorced while 2% are widowed.

Table 4.4: Distribution of age of respondents

Age	**Number**	**%**
18-25	56	33
26-35	46	27
36-45	30	18
46-55	22	13
56 and above	16	9
Total	**170**	**100**

Source: Field Study, 2019

Looking at the age distribution among the respondents, 91% (cumulative percent) of the respondents were within the active age bracket (18-55 years) while only 9% were 56 years and above.

Section B
Table 4.5:
Table 4.5:
Question 8: Looking at Egor and Ikpoba Okha Local Government Area, women leadership have transformed the economic/social status of its citizenry

	Number	**%**
Strongly Agreed	36	21
Agreed	66	39
Undecided	28	16
Disagreed	34	20
Strongly Disagreed	6	4
Total	**170**	**100**

Source: Field Study, 2019

From the response above, 21% of the respondents agreed strongly that women leadership in Egor/Ikpoba Okha Local Government Area have been able to transform the economic/social status of its citizenry, 39% agreed, 16% were undecided, 20% disagreed while 4% disagreed strongly to it.

Table 4.10:
Question 12: Women leadership have demonstrated effective conflict management control among different tribes in Egor/Ikpoba Okha Local Government Area

	Number	**%**
Strongly Agreed	28	16
Agreed	76	45
Undecided	34	20
Disagreed	24	14
Strongly Disagreed	8	5
Total	**170**	**100**

Source: Field Study, 2019

From the response, 16% agreed strongly, 45% agreed, 20% were undecided, 14% disagreed while 5% strongly disagreed to it.

Table 4.12:
Question 14: Looking at Egor and Ikpoba Okha Local Government Area, women leadership has been able to fight corruption to a standstill.

	Number	**%**
Strongly Agreed	16	9
Agreed	32	19
Undecided	22	13
Disagreed	60	35
Strongly Disagreed	40	24
Total	**170**	**100**

Source: Field Study, 2019

From the response, 9% agreed strongly, 19% agreed, 13% were undecided, 35% disagreed while 24% strongly disagreed that women leadership has been able to fight corruption to a standstill.

Table 4.15
Question 17: Cultural affiliation affect women participation in leadership position.

	Number	**%**
Strongly Agreed	56	33
Agreed	82	48
Undecided	14	8
Disagreed	14	8
Strongly Disagreed	4	3
Total	**170**	**100**

Source: Field Study, 2019

From the response, 33% agreed strongly, 48% agreed, 8% were undecided, 8% disagreed while only 3% strongly disagreed that cultural affiliation affect women participation in leadership position.

Table 4.16
Question 18: Trafficking of young women to abroad through the Mediterranean in search for greener pasture has affected the level of female participation in leadership position.

	Number	**%**
Strongly Agreed	64	38
Agreed	44	26
Undecided	12	7
Disagreed	34	20
Strongly Disagreed	16	9
Total	**170**	**100**

Source: Field Study, 2019

From the response, 38% strongly agreed, 26% agreed, 7% were undecided, 20% disagreed while 9% strongly disagreed to it.

Test of Hypotheses
Descriptive Analysis-Simple Percentages Inferential Analysis-Chi-Square Analysis. The cross tabulation of gender against response to questions that relates to the respective hypothesis was used in the analysis. This cross tabulation yielded simple percentage and the outcome was also used in inferential statistics i.e. chi-square analysis.

Decision Rule:
If the calculated p-value is less than the threshold value of 0.05, we reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis.

Hypothesis One

H_0: There is no significant difference between gender opinion with respect to the relationship between women leadership in Egor/Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Areas and the economic/social transformation of its citizenry.

H_R: There is a significant difference between gender opinion with respect to the relationship between women leadership in Egor/Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Areas and the economic/social transformation of its citizenry.

In analyzing the above hypothesis, question Eight(8) of the questionnaires was used.
Variables measured for the hypothesis are:

1. Economic/social transformation (independent variable)
2. Women leadership (dependent variable)

Hypothesis 1

Table 1a: Gender * Responses Crosstabulation

			Responses			
			Agree	Disagree	Undecided	Total
Gender	Female	Count	56	12	12	80
		% within Gender	70.0%	15.0%	15.0%	100.0%
		% within Responses	54.9%	30.0%	42.9%	47.1%
		% of Total	32.9%	7.1%	7.1%	47.1%
	Male	Count	46	28	16	90
		% within Gender	51.1%	31.1%	17.8%	100.0%
		% within Responses	45.1%	70.0%	57.1%	52.9%
		% of Total	27.1%	16.5%	9.4%	52.9%
Total		Count	102	40	28	170
		% within Gender	**60.0%**	23.5%	16.5%	100.0%
		% within Responses	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	60.0%	23.5%	16.5%	100.0%

Table 1b: Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	7.389[a]	2	.025
Likelihood Ratio	7.549	2	.023
N of Valid Cases	170		

Interpretation

From table 1a 60% of the total respondents agree with the notion that women leadership in Egor/Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Area has a positive relationship with the economic/social transformation of the citizens in the LGAs.

From table 1b, $X^2 = 7.389$, df= 2, p= 0.025; since the p-value is less than the threshold value of 0.05 we reject the null hypothesis and conclude that there is a significant difference between gender opinion with respect to the relationship between women leadership in Egor/Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Area and the economic/social transformation of its citizenry.

Hypothesis Two

H_0: There is no significant difference between gender opinion with respect to the relationship between women leadership and effective conflict management control in Egor/Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Areas.

H_R: There is significant difference between gender opinion with respect to the relationship between women leadership and effective conflict management control in Egor/Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Areas.

In analyzing the above hypothesis, question twelve(12) of the questionnaires was used. Variable measured for the hypothesis are:

1. Conflict management (independent variable)
2. Women leadership (dependent variable)

Hypothesis 2

Table 2a: Gender * Responses Crosstabulation

			Responses			
			Agree	Disagree	Undecided	Total
Gender	Female	Count	62	10	8	80
		% within Gender	77.5%	12.5%	10.0%	100.0%
		% within Responses	58.5%	31.3%	25.0%	47.1%
		% of Total	36.5%	5.9%	4.7%	47.1%
	Male	Count	44	22	24	90
		% within Gender	48.9%	24.4%	26.7%	100.0%
		% within Responses	41.5%	68.8%	75.0%	52.9%
		% of Total	25.9%	12.9%	14.1%	52.9%
Total		Count	106	32	32	170
		% within Gender	**62.4%**	18.8%	18.8%	100.0%
		% within Responses	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	62.4%	18.8%	18.8%	100.0%

Table 2b: Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	15.020[a]	2	.001
Likelihood Ratio	15.467	2	.000
N of Valid Cases	170		

Interpretation

From table 2a, 62.4% of the total respondents agree with the notion that women leadership in Egor/Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Area has a positive relationship with Effective conflict management control.

From table 2b, $X^2 = 15.020$, df= 2, p= 0.001; since the p-value is less than the threshold value of 0.05 we reject the null hypothesis and conclude that there is a significant difference between gender opinion with respect to the relationship between women leadership in Egor/Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Area and Effective conflict management control.

Hypothesis Three

H_0: Looking at Egor/Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Areas, there is no significant difference between gender opinion with respect to the relationship between women leadership and ability to fight corruption to a standstill.

H_R: Looking at Egor/Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Areas, there is a significant difference between gender opinion with respect to the relationship between women leadership and ability to fight corruption to a standstill.

In analyzing the above hypothesis, question fourteen(14) of the questionnaires was used. Variable measured for the hypothesis are:

1. Corruption (independent variable)
2. Women leadership (dependent variable)

Hypothesis 3

Table 3a: Gender * Responses Crosstabulation

			Responses			
			Agree	Disagree	Undecided	Total
Gender	Female	Count	24	42	14	80
		% within Gender	30.0%	52.5%	17.5%	100.0%
		% within Responses	50.0%	44.7%	50.0%	47.1%
		% of Total	14.1%	24.7%	8.2%	47.1%
	Male	Count	24	52	14	90
		% within Gender	26.7%	57.8%	15.6%	100.0%
		% within Responses	50.0%	55.3%	50.0%	52.9%
		% of Total	14.1%	30.6%	8.2%	52.9%
Total		Count	48	94	28	170
		% within Gender	28.2%	**55.3%**	16.5%	100.0%
		% within Responses	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	28.2%	55.3%	16.5%	100.0%

Table 3b: Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	.477[a]	2	.788
Likelihood Ratio	.477	2	.788
N of Valid Cases	170		

Interpretation

From table 3a, 53.3% of the total respondents disagree with the notion that women leadership in Egor/Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Area has a negative relationship with ability to fight corruption to a standstill.

From table 3b, $X^2 = 0.477$, df= 2, p= 0.788; since the p-value is higher than the threshold value of 0.05 we do **NOT** reject the null hypothesis and conclude that there is no significant difference between gender opinion with respect to the relationship between women leadership in Egor/Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Area and ability to fight corruption to a standstill.

Hypothesis Four

H_0: There is no significant difference between gender opinion with respect to the relationship between women participation in leadership position in Egor/Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Areas and cultural affiliation.

H_R: There is a significant difference between gender opinion with respect to the relationship between women participation in leadership position in Egor/Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Areas and cultural affiliation.

In analyzing the above hypotheses, question 17 of the questionnaire was used. Variables measured for the hypothesis are:

1. Cultural affiliation (independent variable)
2. Women participation in leadership (dependent variable)
3.

Hypothesis 4

Table 4a: Gender * Responses Crosstabulation

			Responses			
			Agree	Disagree	Undecided	Total
Gender	Female	Count	68	8	4	80
		% within Gender	85.0%	10.0%	5.0%	100.0%
		% within Responses	49.3%	44.4%	28.6%	47.1%
		% of Total	40.0%	4.7%	2.4%	47.1%
	Male	Count	70	10	10	90
		% within Gender	77.8%	11.1%	11.1%	100.0%
		% within Responses	50.7%	55.6%	71.4%	52.9%
		% of Total	41.2%	5.9%	5.9%	52.9%
Total		Count	138	18	14	170

% within Gender	**81.2%**	10.6%	8.2%	100.0%
% within Responses	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
% of Total	81.2%	10.6%	8.2%	100.0%

Table 4b: Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	2.242[a]	2	.326
Likelihood Ratio	2.320	2	.314
N of Valid Cases	170		

Interpretation

From table 4a, 81.2% of the total respondents agree with the notion that women participation in leadership position in Egor/Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Area has a positive relationship with cultural affiliation.

From table 4b, $X^2 = 2.2420$, df= 2, p= 0.326; since the p-value is higher than the threshold value of 0.05 we do **NOT** reject the null hypothesis and conclude that there is no significant difference between gender opinion with respect to the relationship between women participation in leadership position in Egor/Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Area and cultural affiliation.

Hypothesis Five

H_0: There is no significant difference between gender opinion with respect to the relationship between female participation in leadership position in Egor/Ikpoba Okha Local Government Area and trafficking of young women abroad through Mediterranean.

H_R: There is a significant difference between gender opinion with respect to the relationship between female participation in leadership position in Egor/Ikpoba Okha Local Government Area and trafficking of young women abroad through Mediterranean.

In analyzing the above hypothesis, question eighteen(18) of the questionnaire was used. Variables measured for the hypothesis are:

1. Trafficking of young women (independent variable)
2. Women participation in leadership (dependent variable)

Hypothesis 5

Table 5a: Gender * Responses Crosstabulation

			Responses			
			Agree	Disagree	Undecided	Total
Gender	Female	Count	54	20	6	80
		% within Gender	67.5%	25.0%	7.5%	100.0%
		% within Responses	50.9%	40.0%	42.9%	47.1%
		% of Total	31.8%	11.8%	3.5%	47.1%
	Male	Count	52	30	8	90
		% within Gender	57.8%	33.3%	8.9%	100.0%
		% within Responses	49.1%	60.0%	57.1%	52.9%
		% of Total	30.6%	17.6%	4.7%	52.9%
Total		Count	106	50	14	170
		% within Gender	**62.4%**	29.4%	8.2%	100.0%
		% within Responses	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	62.4%	29.4%	8.2%	100.0%

Table 5b: Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	1.741[a]	2	.419
Likelihood Ratio	1.749	2	.417
N of Valid Cases	170		

Interpretation

From table 5a, 62.4% of the total respondents agree with the notion that women participation in leadership position in Egor/Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Area has a positive relationship with trafficking of young women to abroad through the Mediterranean.

From table 5b, $X^2 = 1.741$, df= 2, p= 0.419; since the p-value is higher than the threshold value of 0.05 we do **NOT** reject the null hypothesis and conclude that there is no significant difference between gender opinion with respect to the relationship between women participation in leadership position in Egor/Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Area and trafficking of young women to abroad through the Mediterranean.

Discussion Findings

Based on the inferential analysis used in testing the hypothesis on the significant relationship between women leadership in Egor/Ikpoba Okha Local Government Area and the economic/social transformation of its citizenry, it was observed that the few period women were chief executive in both local government areas, the economic and social status of majority of its citizenry were transformed positively. The economic/social transformation programmes carried out during these periods of women leadership in both Local Government Areas were neither party, political, religion nor tribal affiliated as both Muslim, Christian and African Traditional religion practitioners benefited from the various poverty alleviation programmes. This was the position of Caldwell (2006) that indeed when women are full participant in the democratic process, there is greater likelihood that society's policies will reflect the needs of its citizens".

Furthermore, the test on the significant relationship between women leadership and conflict management among different tribes in Egor/Ikpoba Okha Local Government Area shows that the alternative hypothesis was accepted against the null hypothesis. This means that the few period women were chief executive in both local government areas, they were able to harmonize the various tribes for peaceful coexistence. Rama (2015) agreed to this when she assert that in general, women are experts in managing crises and adapting to change. The capacity to manage change and tolerate uncertainties and ambiguities is essential to the success of any enterprise.

However, the test on the significant relationship between women leadership in Egor/Ikpoba Okha Local Government Area and their ability to fight corruption to a standstill shows that the null hypothesis was accepted against the alternative hypothesis. This means that for the period women were the chief executive in both local government area, they were not having the wherewithal to fight corruption to a standstill in the local government and this could be traced to so many factors. Eagly and Carl (2007) concur to this when they opined that "African women have demonstrated effective leadership abilities in their positions. This is despite living in hostile environment and handling power structures that do not always advocate for their right".

Additionally, the test on the significant relationship between culture and women participation in leadership position in Egor/Ikpoba Okha Local Government Area shows that the alternative hypothesis was accepted against the null hypothesis. This means that cultural affiliation serve as a major barrier to women participation in leadership position in Egor/Ikpoba Okha Local Government Areas. This was the view of Oloyede Oluyemi (2015) when she declared that both Christianity and Islam do not accord women much role

in public life and same is obtainable in most cultural values where women are not to be seen in public domain, therefore the few women who ventured into politics are looked upon as shameless and promiscuous confirming this notion, president Buhari declared "I don't know which party my wife belong to, but she belong to my kitchen, and my living room and the other room" Punch (2016).

Finally, the test on the significant relationship between trafficking of young women to abroad and women participation in leadership position in Egor/Ikpoba Okha Local Government Area shows that the alternative hypothesis was accepted against the null hypothesis. This means that, trafficking of young women to abroad through the Mediterranean has affected the level of women participation in leadership position. Affirming this findings, Human Right Watch (2017) interviewed a deportee in Benin City, she declared "I was the Head girl in my school and had the best result in my Senior School Certificate Examination (SSCE) with the hope for a bright future and role model to my generation however, was deceived by a woman who promised me a job earning 150,000 naira (US$ 414) weekly in abroad".

Arising from the discussion above, it became pertinent that the impact of women leadership in both Local Government Areas cannot be overemphasized. Therefore, women should be given their pride of place towards the development of the society. It was on this note the 27th Prime Minister of Australia Julia Gillard declared during the opening of the 69th session of the UN General Assembly that "we know that training boys and girls, men and women, is morally right. But training girls and women is especially effective because when we train them, the benefits are felt throughout the whole community. It is a magic multiplier in the development equation". The Guardian (2014).

Conclusion

The outcome of this study offers an important insight into the impact of women leadership in rural transformation in Edo State: A case study of Egor/Ikpoba Okha Local Government Area of Edo State. From the foregoing, we have been able to highlight and discuss the impact women in leadership position has made.

From this study, we observed that there is a significant relationship between women and societal development. We also observed that socio-cultural belief posed a quagmire to women political participation in Egor/Ikpoba Okha Local Government Area, as well as trafficking of young women to abroad hinder those who would have made a change in the polity.

The findings of this study imply that women are still grossly underrepresented as regards to participation in leadership position in Egor/Ikpoba Okha Local Government Area. Based on this fact, we therefore state that gender should not be a factor in appointing or electing people into position of authority, it should be based on one's ability towards contributing to local or national development. Equal opportunity should be seen as a matter of right and not privilege. Women equally have a stake in leadership and it is as high as that of the male folk. Therefore, they should be encouraged and not treated as a second class citizens. Until equal right is installed and practiced into administrative and political appointment or elective positions, our effort towards rural transformation is faced with a very serious challenge.

Recommendations

In line with the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made:

1. That women should be given the necessary support to participate in any elective political position whether at the local, state and national level. This can be done through the amendment of the constitution to exclusively reserve some political offices for women on the basis of quota system.
2. Women should be allowed to mediate during conflict resolution. In other words. The number of women in any conflict resolution committee whether at local, state or national level should outweigh that of men.
3. Government in all tiers whether local, state and national should strengthen the instrument of prosecution of any corrupt practices. In other words, the structures or legal framework to deal with corruption whether at high or low places should be strengthen and explicitly stated.
4. The aspect of our cultural practices that is inimical to women participation in leadership position should be expunge. The era of women being seen or regarded as second class is passed they should be seen as partner in nation building.
5. Trafficking of young women through the Mediterranean or desert to abroad for greener pasture should stop forthwith and offenders seriously prosecuted. Just as National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) is a law enforcement agency of the federal government, there should be State or Local Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (SAPTIP or LAPTIP) that will have offices in various local government even down to the political wards for sensitization and enlightenment of the citizenry.

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