

Investigating the Roles of Household Sustainability through Small Scale Businesses and Farming in Sierra Leone.

Case study: Makarie Chiefdom, Bombali District.

Osman Ibrahim Sorie Kamara, Gabriel Maxwell Turay, Osman Opa Sesay, Albert Tamba Sidric Kanu

Faculty of Social Science at the Ernest Bai Koroma University of Science and Technology

ABSTRACT

According to Statistics Sierra Leone Survey (2014), Wide spread illiteracy, low levels of education and lack of training and business education and experience can limit the capacity of rural women entrepreneurs to consolidate sustainable enterprises. In Bangladesh for example, 76.3% of rural women entrepreneurs have no formal education, and 17% cannot read or write and use mainly manual skills in their businesses.

Underdeveloped rural infrastructure and services for transport, electricity, and clean water further limit women's access to resources, markets and public services such as healthcare, and lengthen the time needed for household, reproductive health care work.

This, added to women's considerable agricultural work, creates time constraints for non-farm business-related activities (including training and seeking information and business services).

Since women often operate home based micro enterprises, lack access to transportation, and may be barred from accessing the same networks, as men by societal norms and attitudes, their networks and contacts may remain weak while these are critical to connect entrepreneurs to growth opportunities.

Few banks operate in rural areas. Although financial institutions have increased access to micro finance in many countries, loans are seldom large enough to enable significant growth of enterprises.

Women entrepreneurs, particularly in rural areas, often experience difficulties accessing relevant financial products and services due to a lack of appropriate products, information, understanding of their needs and collateral.

Business Development Services are not readily available in many rural areas where there is low population density. Where they do exist, women may not access them due to low literacy, education, time, cost and mobility constraints or because these services do not serve their specific needs. Women are left to rely on friends and family for management decisions and other support to

their businesses.

Women-led businesses often concentrate in low paying, feminized markets (handicrafts, agricultural, fish and livestock products for local markets, food processing, sales of goods and services) in the informal economy with no legal registration, no regular workforce with rights and freedom of association, and no adequate operating capital to cover employees' social protection and health benefits.

The prevailing lack of social protection and control over assets reduces women's possibilities to become entrepreneurs, engage in higher risk and higher return activities, or develop their capacities and protect their health.

Women's obstacles in accessing domestic and export markets (small scale of operation, lack of transportation and information, and time constraints) limit their capacity to achieve growth, create decent working conditions and build sustainable livelihoods.

Women engaging in rural businesses with their spouses often invest considerable time, but do not always share decision-making power and may not identify themselves as business owners. This may limit their opportunities to grow professionally, be innovative or demonstrate entrepreneurial attitudes that could lead to business growth.

Most micro and small businesses, especially those led by women, were underrepresented in employers' associations.

Therefore, they lack voice and representation to raise awareness and advocate for their needs.

In Sierra Leone, poor households achieve less dietary diversity, especially Makarie chiefdom Bombali District, which increases the risk of malnutrition of eight possible food groups, 56.8 percent of households consume from four or less, and 13.9 percent consume two groups or less on a weekly basis. Micronutrient deficiency (MNDs) including deficiencies in iron and Vitamin A, are common, and attributable to poverty, lack of access, lack of knowledge, and prevalence of infectious diseases. Access to protein-rich foods can be challenging in rural, non-coastal areas. Dried and smoked fish may be unhygienic and lacking in nutrients due to long travel times from the coast. Fish accounts for 80 percent of Sierra Leoneans' animal protein intake, and "is particularly important during pregnancy and the first two years of a child's life, as the fatty acids it provides promote optimal brain and neurological development." Limited access to fish in certain areas, therefore means limited animal protein altogether, with potential long-term health consequences for the young children in Makarie is not an exception in Bombali District.

INTRODUCTION

Before the war, women constituted the majority of the rural labour force. They made vital contributions to the economy. They have always played a substantial role in the sustenance of the family. Women provided more than (60%) Sixty per cent of farm labor for food production.

Women involvement in business and farming was a very serious issue in Sierra Leone. Women are deprived to access farmland to practice farming and the high cost of interest rate levied by many financial institutions prevents them from getting or taking loans. In order to practice small scale businesses. Women constitute 66% of farmers population

according to the 2015 census, but their effort and roles are still not realized in the development of the nation.

The farming and the business sector, these are sectors that has a high number of women and for any country to succeed in its goals, it must base its priorities in these two sectors.

However, this is a complete contrast situation in Sierra Leone. These problems bring about the reasons for this study. This problem affects key individuals in the community as, children, women, and men who are caregivers in their home. When women engaged in farming and small scale business can support the home in terms of food, clothing and other financial commitment but when such is lacking both the other component are affected.

Of recent time, government and NGOs have been directed their support to ward capacitating women especially in the area of farming and business. Despite the effort made by government and NGOs the problem is still having a greater bite in the community (Makarie Chiefdom).

While men had greater access to ownership and control of cash crop production, women were engaged in subsistence farming and provided the labour force for cash crop production. A micro-finance demand survey, undertaken in 2008, revealed that 90% of households were not served by any formal, semi-formal or informal lending institutions or groups. The Government and its partners have been focusing on access to financial services had the potential for enhancing women's economic, social and political empowerment, transforming power relations between women and men. Giving women access to working capital and training helps mobilize their productive capacity to alleviate poverty and maximize economic output. In Sierra Leone, women have shown potential to be bankable. There is still however a large percentage of women excluded from financial services provision, especially in the rural areas: men tend to have more access than women in commercial bank "big" borrowing. Women make up 80% of the clients in the microfinance

industry, mostly aged between 18 and 60 years. Microfinance institutions (MFIs) offer both individual and group loans. The number of clients covered by the nine MFIs in August 2012 was estimated at 78,000, approximately 75% of whom were women. The demand for microfinance services in Sierra Leone is estimated at 160,000 potential clients. Four of the ten commercial banks have downscaled to provide financial services to low income persons. There are nine MFIs and NGOs implementing best practice microfinance procedures. Many of the women that chose not to access the services did so because they felt costs were prohibitive: interest rates too high, or cash collateral exorbitant. The women engaged in business, whether or not they had access to alternate sources of financial services, were using Rotating Saving and Credit associations, “osusu”, as a means of augmenting their income. For many women, ‘osusu’ activities, with terms unique to the various groups served, was their only means of access to financial services. The village savings and loan association methodology is tried and tested, and has been implemented successfully in remote and deprived target groups: it allows women’s groups to engage in savings and loan activities utilizing their own resources. There existed about 1,000 cooperatives in Sierra Leone.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Aim of the study

The purpose of this study is to examine small-scale and subsistence farming women’s contributions towards enhancing rural household food security and sustainability in Makarie Chiefdom, Bombali District.

Objectives of the study

The following objectives have been established to guide the research process:

- I. Map out the categories of women in Makarie chiefdom that are engage in both small-scale businesses and subsistence farming at the same time.
- II. Assess how sustainable are these women’s contributions towards enhancing foodsecurity in their rural households.
- III. Identify the challenges faced by these women in drive to enhance food security and sustainable in their rural households.
- IV. Recommend strategic solution over challenges faced by women in small scalefarming and

other businesses.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- What are the categories of women that engaged in both small scale business and farming?
- How sustainable are the women contribution towards sustaining food security in household?
- What the challenges faced by women in trying achieving food security in Makarie chiefdom?
- What recommendations will you make to women who engage on household farming and businesses?

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The study population that was found under the Investigation of the Role of Women in Household Sustainability through Small-scale Businesses and Farming in Makarie Chiefdom Bombali District was primarily focused on in order to achieve the main aim and objectives of the study. The study primarily aimed at examining small-scale and subsistence farming women's contributions towards enhancing rural household food

security and sustainability in Makarie Chiefdom, Bombali District for which the researcher incorporated a joint approach on qualitative and quantitative methods. In the process of investigating this problem, I identified gaps, such as inadequate finance, Women and Girls Peasantry, Women Headed Households, Women and Girls Village, Women Health and Intimidation Challenges were critically looked at, as they were some of the cases which the researcher brought to light. The data was collected using questionnaires and interview guides. Local Women group, Local Business entities, NGOs Supporting Women, Mother's Clubs, Human Rights Organizations and caregivers were out rightly selected on the Investigation of the Role of Women in Household Sustainability through Small-scale Businesses and Farming in Makarie Chiefdom Bombali District.

Study Area

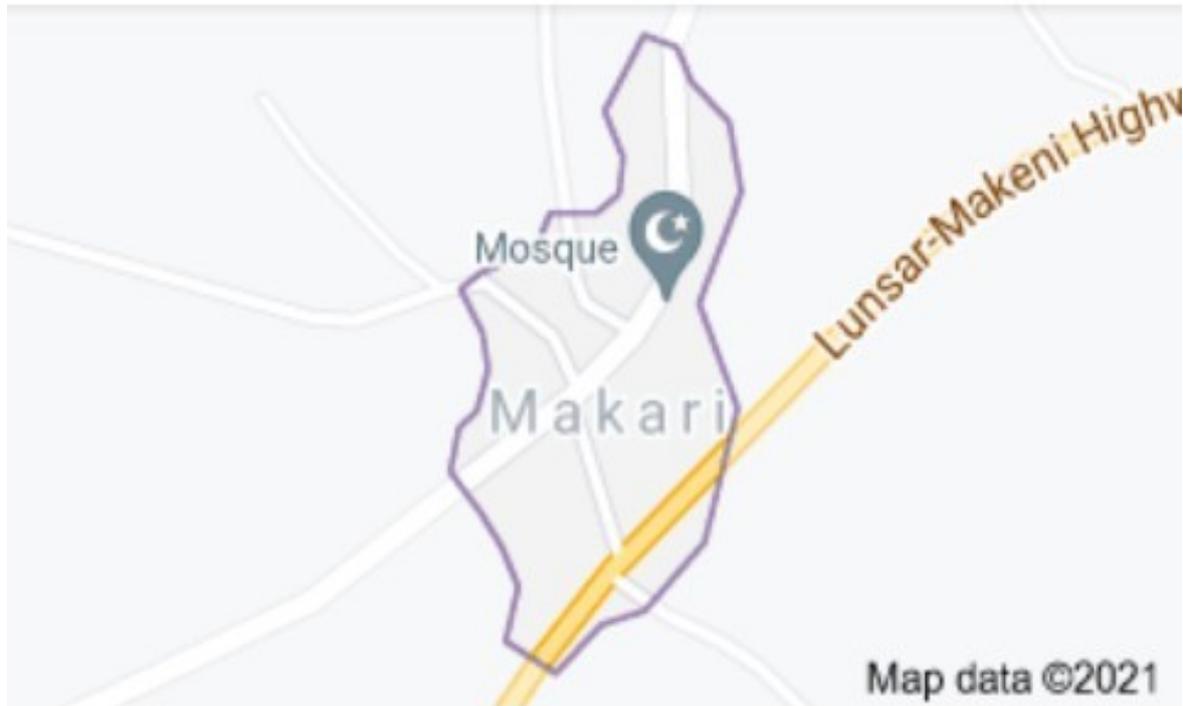
The study was carried out at Makarie Chiefdom Bombali District. Makarie is a dealgated chiefdom of Makarie Gbanti, which are now of two including Makarie and Gbanti chiefdoms.

Makarie is a rural located chiefdom, where in all the socio-economic activities of the people are mostly farming and small scale businesses. According to 2004 population and housing census, the chiefdom holds a population of 41,186. The chiefdom has more 50 villages and the bigger towns include Makarie, Masongbo, Makoth and Yainkasa. The Chiefdom headquarter in Makarie town Bombali district.

Figure 1: SIERRA LEONE MAP SHOWING MAKARIE GBANTI CHIEFDOM



Figure 2: MAP SHOWING MAKARIE CHIEFDOM



Population and Sampling

The population of the study included Three Hundred (300) Women farmers and small Business Entrepreneurs. On that note the study specifically targeted Women and Girls Farmers and small Business Entrepreneurs in Makarie Chiefdom Bombali District. These targeted groups contributed immensely in the study of Women in Household Sustainability through Small-scale Businesses and Farming in Makarie Chiefdom Bombali District. This population was an effective participatory group on the Role of Women in Household Sustainability through Small-scale Businesses and Farming in Makarie Chiefdom.

Targeted Population

The population of this study consists of selected household heads, business people and local administration drawn from the five sections of the Makarie Chiefdom. This population was pre-determined in order to get the population of the Chiefdom.

A sample of ninety nine (94) household heads and business people were randomly selected within the Makarie Chiefdom. Thirty seven (37) household heads and business men respondents were randomly selected from each of the five (5) sections using simplerandom sampling techniques and

fifty seven (57).local authorities were also randomly selected within the Makarie Chiefdom to get a total representation of the ninety nine (94)respondent for the study.

Sample size and procedure

During the research process, the researcher used a random sampling of which 80 questionnaires were designed for the study, which include 50 for dependent and 30 for independent variables. These were randomly distributed to the participants. The interview was selective as a purposeful sampling method that which was used in this direction. Participants were carefully selected in this direction, including Small scale business Women, Women Farmers, Household Women Heads, and Women’s Groups Heads. These were among the selected samples from which detailed information was collected on RolePlay by Women in small scale businesses and farming for household sustainability in Makarie Chiefdom Bombali District. The selective sample procedures were done through discussion methods with participants as they were the key informants.

Sample Techniques

The sampling techniques that were judiciously employed to collect the data included random sampling technique and purposive sampling technique.

Source of Data Collection

According to Bernard (2002), in any research the data is very important as the theoretical background is better understood with the gathering of appropriate data. When data is collected improperly you can never make up for it. There is the need to therefore select the best way of collecting your data and make sound judgment on who to collect the datafrom. Both secondary and primary data was collected for the purpose of this study. Patton (2002) posits that, using different instruments in your data collection can give credibility and fortify the researcher’s study.

DATA PRESENTATION

The results of the findings and analysis are presented based on the following points Personal information of the respondents

The types of farming and small scale businesses practice in Makarie Chiefdom. How women farmers get sponsorship in Makarie Chiefdom.

The types of crops cultivated by women farmers in Makarie chiefdom

Challenges faced by women farmers in Makarie Chiefdom.

Categories of farming and small scale businesses are women in at Makarie Chiefdom. How sustainable are women farmers in Makarie Chiefdom?

Table 1: Shows the type of Farming/Business practice in Makarie Chiefdom

| Types of Farming and small scale businesses practice in Makarie Chiefdom | | | | | |
|--|---------------------|---------------|--------|-------|------------|
| Community | Small scale Farming | Petty Trading | Others | Total | Percentage |
| Masongbo | 18 | 07 | 05 | 30 | 37.5 |
| Makarie | 15 | 08 | 04 | 27 | 33.7 |
| Makoth | 10 | 12 | 01 | 23 | 28.7 |
| Total | 43 | 27 | 10 | 80 | 100 |

Source: Research Findings

Figure 3 Shows the type of Farming/Business practice in Makarie Chiefdom
 Source: Field Research Data

The table 1 and figure 3 above, show the small scale businesses practiced in Makarie Chiefdom Bombali district, the researcher carried out interviews to understand the views of respondents to see which areas women are mostly involved in. Based on their responses, 43 people responded of practicing small scale farming, 27 people responded of practicing small scale businesses, and 10 practicing other businesses cut across some major communities such as Masongbo, Makarie and Makoth villages in Makarie chiefdom Bombali district.

Demographic Analysis of Respondents

Table 2: shows marital status of women Farmers in Makarie Chiefdom

| <i>Marital status of Women Farmers in Makarie Chiefdom</i> | | | | | | |
|--|--------|---------|-------|---------|-------|------------|
| Community | Single | Married | Widow | Divorce | Total | Percentage |
| Masongbo | 11 | 14 | 01 | 04 | 30 | 37.5 |
| Makarie | 07 | 16 | 02 | 02 | 27 | 33.7 |
| Makoth | 06 | 13 | 03 | 01 | 23 | 28.7 |
| TOTAL | 24 | 43 | 06 | 07 | 80 | 100 |

Source: Research Findings 2021

Figure 4 shows marital status of women Farmers in Makarie Chiefdom Source: Field Research Data

The table 2 and figure 4 above, show the marital status of Women Farmers in Makarie Chiefdom Bombali district, Most of the women respondents are married with 43 respondents based on the sample interviewed, 24 women are single who are practicing farming, Six (6) and (7) respondents are widows and divorced respectively.

Table 3: shows how Women farmers get sponsorship in Makarie Chiefdom.

| Sponsorship of Women Farmers | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|------------|------|--------|-------|------------|
| Community | Private/self sponsored | Government | NGOs | Others | Total | Percentage |
| Masongbo | 14 | 04 | 10 | 02 | 30 | 37.5 |
| Makarie | 12 | 04 | 10 | 01 | 27 | 33.7 |
| Makoth | 10 | 04 | 07 | 02 | 23 | 28.7 |
| TOTAL | 36 | 12 | 27 | 05 | 80 | 100 |

Source: Research Findings

Figure 5: shows how Women farmers get sponsorship in Makarie Chiefdom.

Source: Field Research Data

From table 3 and figure 5 above, show that one of the greatest challenges faced by women farmers is to enhance sustenance in terms of sponsorship. Several women farmers interacted with in the study received their sponsorship in various ways or the other. This include privately/self sponsored, with 36 responses attested of being self sponsored, 27 responded of being the second highest sponsor received by NGOs, 12 responded to be sponsored by government and 5 respondents showed up to be sponsored in other ways. This is to ensure excellent work in the areas of small scale farming and business practiced by women in Makarie chiefdom Bombali district.

Table 4: Shows types of Crop Cultivated by Women Farmers in Makarie Chiefdom

| Type of Crop Cultivated by Women Farmers? | | | | | | |
|---|------|------------|-------|--------|-------|------------|
| Communities | Rice | Vegetables | Maize | Others | Total | Percentage |
| Masongbo | 13 | 11 | 04 | 02 | 30 | 37.5 |
| Makarie | 14 | 08 | 02 | 03 | 27 | 33.7 |
| Makoth | 07 | 12 | 03 | 01 | 23 | 28.7 |
| TOTAL | 34 | 31 | 09 | 06 | 80 | 100 |

Source: Research Findings

Figure 6: Shows types of Crop Cultivated by Women Farmers in Makarie Chiefdom

Source: Field Research Data

From table 4 and figure 6 above, show that in Sierra Leone, the weather conditions in certain parts of the country determine the type of crop to be cultivated. In that regards, Bombali district Makarie chiefdom has some of the most fertile lands to cultivate crops of different varieties. Generally, studies have shown that, farmers from every part of the country cultivate rice as it is the staple food for everyone's consumption in Sierra Leone.

Therefore, responses proved that, 34 respondents showed that, they are cultivating rice, 31 respondents attested of cultivating vegetables as it shows the second most cultivated crop in the chiefdom, this is followed by maize and other crops with 9 and 6 respondents respectively.

Table 5 shows some of the Farming Challenges faced by Women Farmers in Makarie Chiefdom

| Farming Challenges Faced by Women Farmers | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|---------|-----------------|-------|-------|------------|
| Communities | Financial | Weather | Tools/Man Power | Seeds | Total | Percentage |
| Masongbo | 16 | 02 | 06 | 06 | 30 | 35.7 |
| Makarie | 12 | 03 | 07 | 05 | 27 | 33.5 |
| Makoth | 11 | 02 | 07 | 03 | 23 | 28.7 |
| TOTAL | 39 | 07 | 20 | 14 | 80 | 100 |

Source: Research Findings

Figure 7 shows some of the Farming Challenges faced by Women Farmers in Makarie Chiefdom

Source: Field Research Data

From table 5 and figure 7 above, depict that farmers faced different challenges in achievement good farming practice and acquiring better yield. As it mostly stands, financial challenges come up each and every time a researcher seeks to know something about such nature. This is followed by challenging of tools and man power farmers work with, the seeds and weather conditions with 39, 20, 14 and 7 respectively.

Table 6: shows categories of Farming and small scale business are women in Makarie Chiefdom

| Categories of Farming and small scale businesses of Women in Makarie Chiefdom | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|--------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------|-------|------|
| Communities | Vegetable Farming | Rice Farming | Cash crop/Tubers Farming | Small Scale businesses | Others | Total | % |
| Masongbo | 08 | 10 | 04 | 07 | 01 | 30 | 37.5 |
| Makarie | 12 | 07 | 03 | 03 | 02 | 27 | 33.7 |
| Makoth | 10 | 05 | 04 | 03 | 01 | 23 | 28.7 |
| Total | 30 | 22 | 11 | 13 | 4 | 80 | 100 |

Source: Research Findings

Figure 8: shows categories of Farming and small scale business are women in Makarie Chiefdom

Source: Field Research Data

From table 6 and figure 8 above, reveal the fact that women in Makarie Chiefdom are involved in small scale farming and small scale businesses, the researcher categorized them and got responses from the study participants in Masongbo, Makarie and Makoth in Makarie chiefdom. In this case, women involved in Vegetable Farming appeared to have the highest responses with 30 respondents, 22 from the rice farming category, 13 responses from small scale businesses, 11 respondents from cash crops and tuberfarmers and 4 respondents from other categories of Farming.

Table 7 Show how Sustainable are Women Farmers in Makarie Chiefdom.

| Sustainability of Women Farmers in Makarie Chiefdom | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------|------------|
| Communities | Highly Sustainable | Moderately Sustainable | Low Sustainable | Not Sustainable | Total | Percentage |
| Masongbo | 03 | 04 | 08 | 15 | 30 | 37.5 |

| | | | | | | |
|---------|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Makarie | 02 | 03 | 10 | 12 | 27 | 33.5 |
| Makoth | 01 | 01 | 07 | 14 | 23 | 28.7 |
| Total | 06 | 08 | 25 | 41 | 80 | 100 |

Source: Research Findings

Figure 9 Show how Sustainable are Women Farmers in Makarie Chiefdom Source: Field Research Data

The table above shows the level of sustainability women farmers are, in Makarie chiefdom Bombali district. According to responses of the findings, a large number of responses showed that 41 farmers responded of being not sustainable, 25 responded of low sustainability in their farming practice, 8 respondents are moderately sustainable and 6 are highly sustainable.

Discussion of Results

In Table 2, the study find out that there are more married men in Makarie Chiefdom, 14 respondents are married and Makarie constitute the highest numbers of married respondent which is 16. The study revealed that there are 6 widows who responded to the questionnaire and Makarie constitute the highest number. The study also captured the opinion of divorced population and 7 respondents were divorced.

In Table 1, the study focuses on the types of farming and small scale businesses practice in Makarie Chiefdom. 43 respondents engaged in small scale businesses and 27 are petty traders while other that engaged on differential types of business are 10. From the table above, it shows that Masongbo has the highest respondents who are practice small scale businesses, Makarie constitute 15 and Makoth has 10 respondents who are do small scale businesses. The total percentage of respondent at Masongbo is 37.5% and Makarie is 33.7% while as Makoth is 28.7%. Which make up a total of 100%. From the above percentage displayed it clearly shows that Makarie Chiefdom is doing very well in practicing the types of farming and businesses.

In table 4.3, in this table the study captured on the ways or means in which women get sponsorship in Makarie Chiefdom. A total of 80 respondents were engaged during the course of this study, in this 36 respondents received support from private organization or individual and 12 received sponsorship from government and 27 got supports from NGOs to do their farming and business activities, while as other who received or get support from either relatives or from other means are 5. Masongbo constitute the 37.5 from the respondents on all the types of sponsorship they received and Makarie represent 33.7 and Makoth represent the 28.7. The whole of this study on the how women get sponsorship is 100%, this indicate that the Chiefdom is attracting donors and sponsors

both from the government and NGOs.

Table 4, reveals the types of crops grown is very important in this study, the views of the respondents indicated that 24 rice is one of the highest crops grown in Makarie Chiefdom, 31 respondents grown vegetable, 9 respondents grown maize based on the findings of this research, while others who plant other types of crops constitute 6 respondents. The study captured a total of 80 respondents and a total percentage of 100%.

In Table 5, the study focused on the challenges faced by women in the course of practicing farming and their small businesses. The respondent highlighted the various problems which women faced in Makarie Chiefdom, finance is one of the problem which most business women encountered in the Chiefdom this has drastically hampered the people's progresses in making a meaningful living. The study revealed that 39 respondents faced financial challenge and 7 respondents blamed the weather for the ineffective operations of farming activities and businesses, lack of tools and inputs 20 respondents indicated that the lack of tool and inputs are serious challenge they faced in the Makarie Chiefdom. Lack of seeds, 14 respondents revealed that, there are not enough seeds for them to plant in their farms and also to do their business operations. The whole study in this aspect also constitute 80 respondents, the whole of this research represent 100%.

Table 6, in this table the categories of farming and small scale business of women are in at Makarie Chiefdom are captured in this table respondents gave their views and opinion on the subject matter. The study covered a total of 80 respondents. 20 respondents are practicing vegetable farming, 22 engaged in rice farming and 11 do cash crops farming while as 13 do small scale businesses. Masongbo constitute 37.5% of the respondents who involved in all the categories of farming in the Chiefdom, followed by Makarie which has 33.7% and Makoth which has 28.7%. The total percentage of the study is 100%, this indicate that the study achieved it objective.

Table 7, this proved how sustainable are women in their farming and businesses in their various locality in the Chiefdom. Highly sustainability of farming and businesses responded by 11 participants and moderate was responded by 8 respondents, low sustainability was responded by 41 respondents, it implies that the farming and business activities of Makarie Chiefdom are not sustainable. The government and NGOs should try to look at the challenges faced by women in Table 5, find a way of addressing them to

ensure that farming and businesses at Makarie chiefdom are sustainable. The respondents also recommended in this study necessary point that government, NGOs and Local Authorities should used to promote household sustainability through farming and small scale businesses.

NGOs and government should embarked on training women on new and improve farmingsystem and techniques of farming. Government should also provide loans and subsidies to business

women. Government should provide basic amenities in village so as to discourage the movement of young women to big town. Women should be educated on how to handle or manage household affairs, to discourage wastage of food and other facilities. The government should revisit the law in which people hold land in the Chieftdom, as most system discourage the proper utilization of land and so if affect agricultural practices.

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

The Role of women in household sustainability through small-scale businesses and farming in Makarie chieftdom Bombali district have been studied through some intensified research processes with research methods through which the researcher followed. The study mainly focused on how small scale farming and businesses supported women in Makarie chieftdom in order to help them take care of themselves and their household sustainability. The study went through a rigorous process through which the researcher used some study objectives in order to achieve the main goal of the study.

Related literatures from several authors were analyzed during the process of investigating Role of women in household sustainability through small-scale businesses and farming in Makarie chieftdom Bombali district. Several authors' books, journals, encyclopedias, and so many publications were reviewed, that helped the researcher to

look at the study's national, worldwide and local perspective. This helped the researcher to draw in and analyze some policy perspectives the study entails in view of several authors takes on other related topics. This later followed with the researcher's view on drawing up conclusion on gaps that were discovered in reviewing the literature and the suggested ways or recommended perspectives for the problem to be harnessed.

In achieving the research aim, the researcher then involved diverse study methodologies in carrying out the research. Qualitative and quantitative methods were implored during the investigation of the problem within Makarie chieftdom. Through such process, the researcher drew up sample population which was targeted to generate the actual data of the findings through various views received by respondents which were mostly women. These women population comprised of married women, single women; widow and divorced. With the aid of a designed questionnaire administered to the selected population, the researcher was able to generate important findings of Role of women in household sustainability through small-scale businesses and farming in Makarie

chiefdom Bombali district.

In actualizing the generated findings, the researcher used tables to present all the responses numerically in terms of percentage in relation to the total figures and numbers of respondents identified from various groups in different communities. These include the responses received from sponsorship received by women farmers, challenges faced by women farmers, type of farming and businesses they carried out, the sustainability of their small scale farming and businesses, their marital status and the type of crop cultivated.

These findings were presented based on the actual numbers generated from personal interviews, questionnaires distribution and discussions carried out during the course of the study on Role of women in household sustainability through small-scale businesses and farming in Makarie chiefdom Bombali district.

Conclusion

The Role of women in household sustainability through small-scale businesses and farming in Makarie chiefdom Bombali district identified an existing problem affecting local women and their households in Makarie chiefdom and the country as a whole. The approach which several researchers had made based on the problem, have contributed greatly to finding solutions through which the problem should have some remedies. Therefore, the study carried out has helped discovered other unsolved issues related to the problem. The identified gaps from different situations observed from women farmers helped the researcher to understand the existence of the problem, its effects and threats it continued to pose to women farmers in Makarie chiefdom Bombali district Sierra Leone.

Recommendation

The problem on Role of women in household sustainability through small-scale businesses and farming in Makarie chiefdom Bombali district still has a lot of underlying challenges yet left unaddressed by authorities in charge. This has led to the unproductiveness of women farmers in Makarie chiefdom Bombali and the country as a whole.

In that regards, the gaps discovered during the studies prompted the research to bring up some possible recommendations to enhance some positive dynamism and improve in rural women's farming and businesses in Makarie chiefdom Bombali district and some parts of the country. Based

on the findings and gaps discovered, the study recommended that:

1. Although women were holding the responsibilities in their various households through their small scale farming and businesses, yet men and other able bodied individuals should give their key and strategic local support in the farms, businesses and households to help reduce the burden and work load encounter by women farmers in the district.
2. Based on support offered to some farmers in the chiefdom, yet there were still some challenges discovered as to how these supports influence the development and improvements of women's small scale farming and businesses. Therefore, government and nongovernmental organizations should increase their support to women farmers in terms of finance in order to help them access adequate labors, buying of improved seed, provision of food for work and buying of machines for mechanize farming. As a result this will help the women farmers and increase yield/output in their farm.
3. Added to that, women farmers also required technical farming and business support training to build their capacities and improve their business support skills in farming and businesses in order to improve in their small scale businesses and farming.
4. Also, women as household heads in most communities in Makarie chiefdom, required financial and microfinance with small grant support from financial and microfinance institutions. This will help them as a socioeconomic financial boost in their farming and small scale businesses.

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