

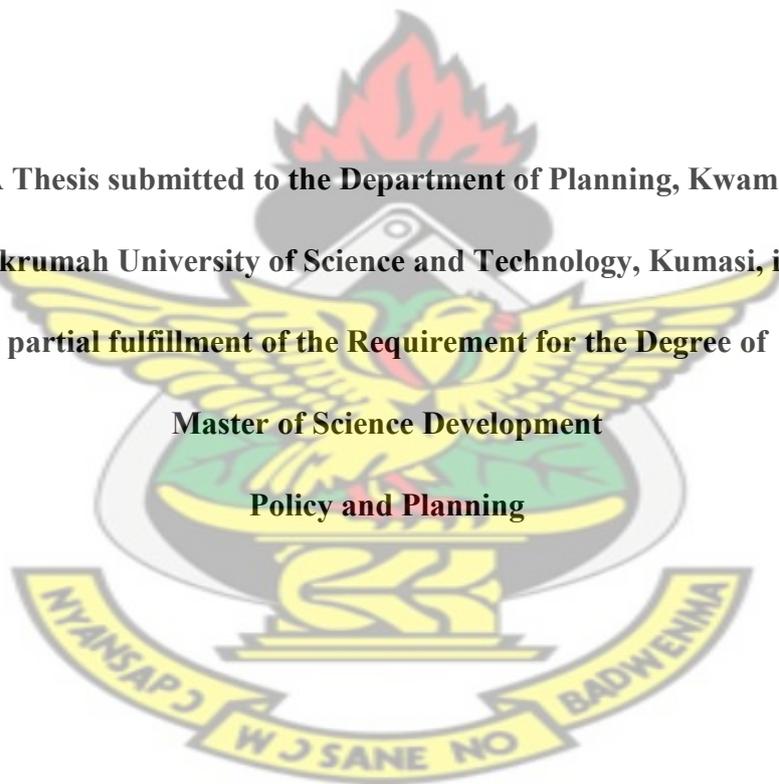
**Effects of empowerment of women on role changes in Ghana: the case of Nanumba
North District**

BY

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ABSTRACT

Women's empowerment is a contemporary issue espoused across the globe. This is shared by many as the surest way of making women play an active role in the socio-economic and political spheres of national, district and community development. The role of women in society especially their participation in economic and political activities have been a subject of interest among varying groups including governments, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs') and individuals worldwide. Gender disparities in terms of access to economic and political opportunities are widespread in Ghana, which limit women roles to the traditional level of caring for children and attending to domestic activities.

The study sought to examine the effects of women's empowerment (both socio-economic and political) on the role changes in the Nanumba District in the Northern of Ghana. The research strategy adopted was the case study approach. Sources of data included the primary and secondary with interviews, observations, discussions and questionnaire administration employed as data collection methods. Probability and non-probability sampling were adopted. On the part of probability sampling, the simple random approach was use to select a man and woman to be interviewed in all the 110 households visited. Purposive sampling (non-probability), on the other hand, was used to collect relevant information from some opinion leaders, two financial institutions, the District Assembly and four women groups in the district.

The study revealed among other things that, women's political and economic statuses are still low in the district. These limit largely, the roles they play to the traditional level of caring for children and domestic chores, while men assume the breadwinning role. However, women are building networks and also investing in trade and farming to improve their living standards. Through these efforts, women are now taking care of their children education and health needs and also providing food for the family as individuals and in groups. Challenges such as bad road network, lack of support for mounting political platforms, religious beliefs, difficulty in accessing loans and low media platforms are confronting women in the District.

In addressing these challenges, some policy recommendations have made which include: strengthening public sensitisation through institutions such as NCCE and NCWD on vital roles women when can play, pro-poor intervention like the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty should be revised to include more women and the girl-child and also women networks should be encouraged in the Districts.

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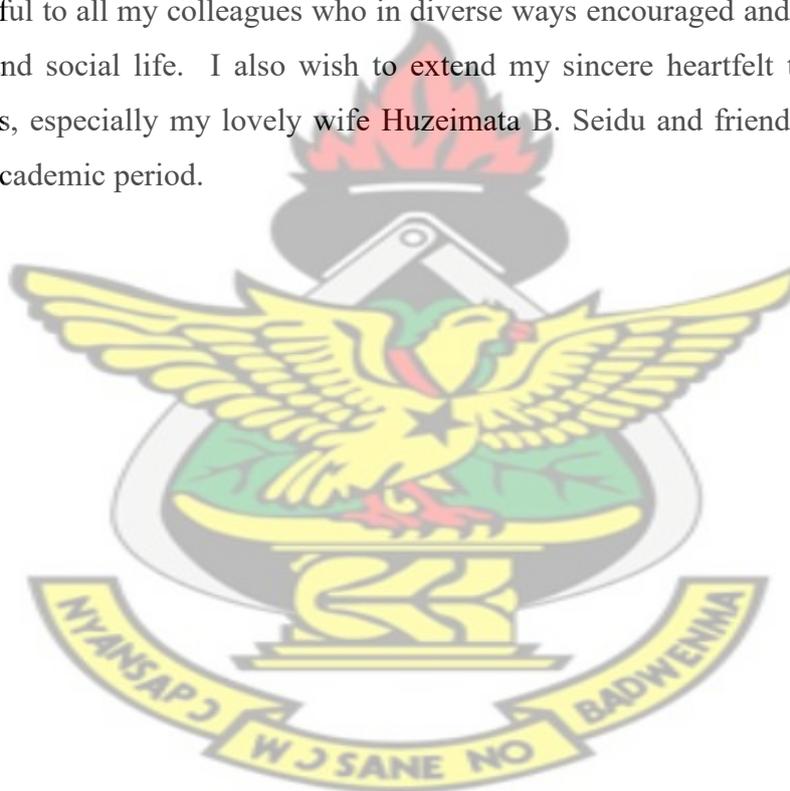


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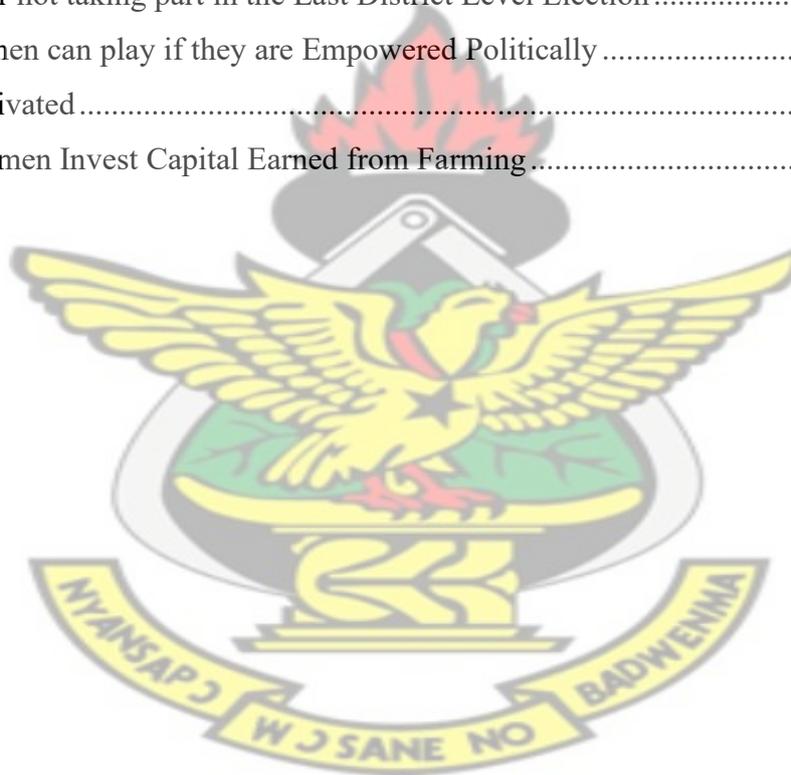
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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AGREDS	Assemblies of God Relief and Development Services
CEABUR	Centre for Economic and Business Research
CHRAJ	Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DMTPs	District Medium Term Plans
DLE	District Level Election
FAWE	Forum for African Women Educationalists
FIDA	Federation of International Women Lawyers
GPRS	Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy
GSGDA	Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda
GSS	Ghana Statistical Services
I-WASH	Integrated Water and Sanitation Hygiene
LEAP	Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty
MDGS	Millennium Development Goals
MOWAC	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
MP	Member of Parliament
NCCE	National Commission for Civic Education
NCWD	National Council for Women and Development
NDC	National Democratic Congress
NNDA	Nanumba North District Assembly
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-Operation And Development
SEND	Social Enterprise Development
SHEP	Self-Help Electrification Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
WACSI	West African Civil Society Institute

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The role of women in society especially their participation in economic and political activities has sparked a lot of controversy. This has brought several arguments among various groups such as women groups, government, development partners, civil society groups among others- as to whether there is the need for women to play an active role in the economic and political spheres of society. Most of these civil society groups and government institutions are of the view that, the biology of sex determines that women are limited to the home and the child care and must also play the subordinate role in the economy, political and public affairs (Deckard 1983). While others are of the view that since the biology of sex has been constant throughout, it cannot be used to explain changes in society and therefore cannot be used to explain both the economic and political status of women in any society. This lingering controversy has brought a lot of interest on both the international front and within the individual countries and district levels which has resulted in the ratification of certain Conventions and Charters such as the United Nations (UN) Convention on women empowerment and child rights and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGS).

The inclusion of a Millennium Development Goal oriented towards the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women demonstrates that gender equality is of high priority to every nation (UNDP, 2008). The Millennium Declaration also states that the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women in addition to being a goal in itself is also a means to further other development goals such as the elimination of poverty, hunger and diseases.

The advancement of women and the achievement of equality between women and men are a matter of human right and a condition for social justice. They are the only ways to build a sustainable, just and developed society (Beijing Declaration, 1995). The roles they play in general are instrumental in both economic and political development. However, they have suffered severely as a result of unfair customs and traditional practices since pre-colonial and colonial, as well as the first two decades of the postcolonial era.

The view that the promotion of gender equality may accelerate development is widely shared across the globe as it is placed among the MDG'S. Empowering women is not only about

slicing the pie differently, but also about increasing the size of the pie to be distributed. In fact, a virtuous circle could then be envisioned where increased empowerment stimulates development which in turn trickles further empowerment of women.

In the observation of Flitan (2008, in Amoako, 2011), women's empowerment is an active dynamic process where women obtain some concrete tools such as cash transfers, micro-credits, or technical assistance in doing better what they already do. Nevertheless, at the same time they are the protagonists of their own process, they become people better prepared, better qualified as human beings, as women in the more comprehensive way. Again, Amoako (2011), noted that women are able to play critical roles in their communities and societies, and they are able to cooperate with other women in terms of improving their opportunities and lives. Women in the Nanumba North District are no exception to this fact as they are into co-operative groupings carrying out a lot of activities with the sole aim of improving the welfare of their respective families especially the lives of their children. Some of the activities they carry out besides their domestic commitments are groundnut oil processing, shea butter and gari processing. The existence of some micro-credits institutions in the district are instrumental when it comes to advancing credit facilities to these women especially the women groups in improving their daily business activities. Empowerment of women can be described in various ways namely economic, social/legal aid, education and political empowerments. However, in the context of this study, focus is on the political as well as economic empowerment of women.

Starting with the economic empowerment of women, this can be explicated as follows:

Women's economic participation and empowerment are fundamental to strengthening women's rights and enabling women to have control over their lives and exert influence in society, specifically to their immediate families, (Eyben, 2008). Also, as enshrined in the Article 36 (6) of the 1992 republican constitution of Ghana, that the state shall afford equality of economic opportunity to all citizens; and, in particular, the state shall take all necessary steps so as to ensure the full integration of women into the mainstream of economic development of Ghana. This is a strong leverage by the state for women in the country, to be empowered economically as the state sought to provide them with the enabling environment to operate.

The economic empowerment of women is also a prerequisite for sustainable development, pro-poor growth and the achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Gender equality and empowered women are catalysts for multiplying development efforts. Investments in gender equality yield the highest returns of all development investments, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development(OECD, 2010). This implies that, with any little investments in women, the positive rippling effects on the great roles they can play towards the nation's development will be great.

Economic empowerment of women is the capacity of women to participate in, contribute to and benefit from growth processes in ways which recognise the value of their contributions, respect their dignity and make it possible to negotiate a fairer distribution of the benefits of the welfare of their various respective families. Economic empowerment increases women's access to economic resources and opportunities including jobs, financial services, property and other productive assets, skills development and market information aimed at empowering women to enable them contribute effectively towards the upkeep of their families (OECD, 2010).

Women usually invest a higher proportion of their earnings in their families and communities than men. For instance a study in Brazil showed that the likelihood of a child survival increased by 20% when the mother controlled the household income (OECD, 2010). This implies that, increasing the role of women in the economy, is part of the solution to the financial and economic crises and critical for economic resilience and growth of any nation or district.

Political empowerment on the other hand, is defined as increasing the participation of women in legislative assemblies, their decision making power in these assemblies, the ability of women to publicly voice their opinions and to affect the composition of legislative assemblies. An example of political empowerment could be to ensure women's suffrage. For instance, the principle of equality is founded on the democratic process which ensures equal participation of women and men in the political life of any nation or district.

This has been amply stated in the Article 35 (5) of the 1992 republican constitution of Ghana, which states that the state shall actively promote the integration of peoples of Ghana and prohibits discrimination and prejudice on the grounds of place of origin, circumstances of birth, ethnic origin, gender or religion creed or other beliefs. This again gives an equal playing field for both men and women in the country to integrate themselves in the political spheres of the nation and in any district. In realising this constitutional provision, the nation has established a body known as the National Council for Women and Development (NCWD)

to effectively mainstream women in national development programmes. This has later being ensued by cabinet and parliamentary approvals which have culminated to the designation of a ministry in charge of women and children affairs. With all these structures being in place, women are still under represented in positions of decision making and among owners of economic ventures despite the significant in rolls they stand to make when provided with the decision making platforms and economic resources such as land, capital and technology.

This study therefore seeks to find out the extent to which women empowerment can bring about role changes of women in the country as well as the district level.

1.2 Problem Statement

Ghana is one of the developing nations that has pursued vigorous policies and interventions aimed at arresting the plague of poverty. Among some of these programmes and interventions are: Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy, Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS) and now Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA). Of all these programmes and interventions, empowerment of women is given prominence. Women, according to the 2010 Population and Housing Census constitute about 51.8 percent of the population whilst 48.2 percent stands for the men (Ghana Statistical Service, 2012). Hence, empowerment of women should be a linchpin of any poverty reduction programme in the country.

The inclusion and the high priority accorded Millennium Development Goal 3 “Promoting gender equality and empowerment of women” represents a global affirmation of women’s rights and gender equality as core values of development (MOWAC, 2004). However, the MDG gender equality targets and indicators do not capture all the major components of gender equality. Most of the targets focus on education and health. There are no targets for increasing the representation of women in position of power and decision making, neither are there targets for decreasing women’s poverty or increasing their economic empowerment nor addressing the effects of conflict on women and children. These among other reasons explain why women’s number in parliament is too low compared with the men couple with low income levels. For instance, the increase in the number of women parliamentarians in the 2012 general elections went up by only three percentage points (from 19 to 30, representing 8.3 percent and 11 percent respectively) out of 230 and 275 in the 2008 and 2012 elections respectively.

Several attempts have been made by governments, donor organisations, civil society groups and private bodies through the adoption of various interventions towards this course. These interventions include economic, education, legal aid and political (participation). These have direct impact on women's empowerment and are influencing the roles they play towards societal welfare and development.

When women are empowered economically, that is having access to productive resources as land, affordable credit (investible capital) and appropriate technology for climate change adaptation, their level of contribution towards national development and also the attainment of the MDGS 1 and 3, will be enormous.

Politically, women reasonable representation in parliament and other executive platforms will enhance holistic national policy formulations towards development. Evidence from countries such Rwanda and Liberia, according to Munyamaliza (2010), has shown that, women friendly policies are likely to be highly prioritised within the country when they have fair representation in the legislature and executive bodies. Within the district level, women high representation in the assembly will result in the adoption of holistic approaches towards the district development. For instance, considering the low representation of women in the Nanumba North District Assembly of six (6) out of sixty-three (63) (representing only 9.5 percent of the Assembly membership), indicates that women issues are likely to be relegated to the background. This is in spite of several efforts by government and non-governmental agencies, Civil Society Organisations among others in sensitising the public on the relevance of women participation in the political front in our district assemblies.

Also equally important is their level of educational attainment. A highly educated women workforce will be a great potential for national and district development. For instance, qualified women teachers, lawyers, medical practitioners, engineers among others, have the potential of enriching policies geared towards national district development.

The question worth asking at this point is whether there can be any role changes between men and women when the latter is empowered economically and politically? Which, this study seeks to unravel.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The overall objective of the study is to examine the effects of women's empowerment on role changes in the Nanumba North District.

Specifically, the study seeks to address the following objectives;

- To assess the socio-economic and political status of women in the Nanumba North District;
- To examine the various roles played by both men and women in the Nanumba North District;
- To assess the effects of socio-economic and political empowerment of women on the roles they can play towards the development of the Nanumba North District;
- To examine the challenges confronting women in their socio-economic and political endeavours in the Nanumba North District.

1.4 Research Questions

To achieve the above objectives, the following research questions guided the study:

- What socio-economic activities are women engaged in the Nanumba North District?
- How are women represented in the decision making process of the Nanumba North District?
- How can socio-economic and political empowerment of women affect the roles they can play in the development process of the Nanumba North District?
- What socio-economic and political challenges confront women in playing an active role in the development process in the Nanumba North District?

1.5 Justification of the Study

Women constitute majority population in the country as evidenced by the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS, 2012) where 51.8 and 48.2 percents stood for women and men respectively. Governments in many countries have pursued various policies and interventions targeting the wellbeing of women. Considering the position of women in the Ghanaian societies as home

keepers, an enormous task is put on them. Their roles permeate the socio-economic and political spheres of society. From child birth and care to meeting the health and nutrition needs of children, educational needs of the child to some extent and above all linchpins when it comes to enabling an environment of peace and conflict free society. This suggests that when women are empowered, that is having the needed resources and enabling platforms, they would be able to play an effective role towards national development as men do. This will bring about some significant role changes between men and women in the society.

For instance, women in the Nanumba North District who constitute the majority of about 50.6 percent (GSS, 2012), play wide range of roles including the household chores, sowing and harvesting farm produce, child bearing and care, health and to some extent educational needs of the child.

The study seeks among other things, to unravel how roles played by men and women in the Nanumba North District and for that matter Ghana, can change when they are empowered. It will also enhance literature for further studies into gender roles of women in Africa and beyond. The study area will also be exposed to the rest of the world where other research avenues will be identified. Findings of this study will facilitate forwarding issues for consideration in national policy formulation with regards to developing and implementing of women friendly interventions and programmes with the view to enhancing their roles towards national development.

1.6 Limitations Of the Study

The following were limitations of the study:

- The time frame for the study could not allow access to large part of the target population.
- Also, limited resources did not allow for the coverage of more women especially the women groups.
- The other challenge was that, the 2010 population figures for communities in the town and five area councils in the district were difficult to access at the time of the research. Hence, the 1984 and 2000 population figures were used to project to 2013 which was used to compute the sampled households.

1.7 Organisation of the study

The entire work is structured in such a way that the chapter one dwells on the background, the problem statement, objectives, research questions and the justification of the work. Chapter Two covers the literature review while Chapter Three is centred on the brief profile of the study area and the methods adopted for collecting and analysing the data. Chapter four and five on the other hand encompass data analyses; discussions and presentation of results and summary of findings, recommendations and conclusions respectively.

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CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter explores the relevant literature related to the present study. It includes articles, journals and reports dealing with situation of the roles of women and men in Ghana, globally and in the study area (Nanumba North District). Also, economic empowerment, gender equality and political participation or empowerments were looked at.

2.1 Concepts and Definitions

In order to understand the study very well based on the relevant literature reviewed, there is the need to identify and define the key concepts embedded in the topic. Some of these are gender equality, women's empowerment; gender roles.

2.1.1 Gender Equality

Gender equality and women's empowerment are one of the eight United Nations Millennium Developments Goals (UNDP, 2008). According to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, women are not just the target of special measures to promote development. They are also the driving force to overcome poverty, reduce hunger, fight illiteracy, heal the sick, prevent the spread of disease and promote stability (UNDP, 2008). Gender equality and women's empowerment are considered to be a desirable by product of human development. Therefore, to achieve these goals, it is essential to close the gender equality and empowerment gaps in education, employment, and political participation (Kabeer, 2005).

Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA, 2008) defines gender equality to mean that all human beings are free to develop their personal abilities and make life choices without limitations set by strict gender roles. Similarly, the OECD (2011: 8) defines gender equality in a somewhat different way: "Gender equality requires equal enjoyment by women and men of socially-valued goods, opportunities, resources and rewards. Gender equality does not mean that men and women become the same, but that their opportunities and life chances are equal..."

Gender equality, in the observation of Centre for Economic and Business Research (CEABUR) (2008), is generally used to describe a situation: A given society at a given time can be considered more or less gender equal. It is common to distinguish between two

dimensions of equality: Equality in outcomes and equality in opportunities. Equality in outcomes means that women and men enjoy the same standard of living, degree of autonomy, status and other socially valued goods (Roemer, 1998). Equality in opportunities means that men and women have equal access to education, borrowing, election to legislative assemblies, labour market careers. Terms such as a “level playing field” are often used to describe a situation with equal opportunities.

Some differences exist among different authors and institutions, in the interpretation of gender equality (CEABUR, 2008). For example, UNFPA (2002:32) describes the meaning of gender equality in the following way: “Gender equality implies a society in which women and men enjoy the same opportunities, outcomes, rights and obligations in all spheres of life. Equality between men and women exists when both sexes are able to share equally in the distribution of power and influence, have equal opportunities for financial independence through work or through setting up businesses; enjoy equal access to education and the opportunity to develop personal ambitions.”

The UNFPA statement above requires that men and women enjoy the same outcomes, whereas the OECD definition only requires equal opportunities and life choices. For the purpose of the study the latter definition is considered; that is, understanding gender equality to mean equal opportunities.

2.1.2 The Concept of Role

In the observation of Odetola and Ademola (1987), role simply means the act people perform when they occupy a certain position. Social structures are ultimately composed of status positions, which are the places people occupy in a system of interconnected positions. By this definition, it posits that men and women play roles in relation to the positions they occupy and also subject to the norms of society. The status each of them occupies informs the specific roles they play and to a larger extent this is dictated either by nature or through modern values.

2.1.3 Empowerment of Women

The concept of women’s empowerment, globally, has attracted a lot of definitions and interpretations from various individuals, institutions and world organisations. These definitions cut across the political as well as the economic spheres of society. From the review of relevant literature the following were identified:

Empowerment, according to Kabeer (1999), is the ability and power to make one's own choices in terms of resources, agency and achievements. Empowerment of women has emerged from the importance of gender as a socio-cultural system based on unequal power relations between women and men. Pradhan (2003) notes that there has been a shift from the conventional socio-economic perspective of viewing subordination of women in terms of socioeconomic measures of power indicated by education, income or access to resources to the empowerment of women economically, demographically, and socially.

In the feminist paradigm, according to Ranjula (2007), empowerment goes beyond economic betterment and well-being, to strategic gender interests. Mayoux (1998) also suggests that, empowerment is a process of internal change, or power within, augmentation of capabilities, or power to, and collective mobilization of women, and when possibly men or power with, to the purpose of questioning and changing the subordination connected with gender, or excess power. Empowerment can range from personal empowerment that can exist within the existing social order. Thus this kind of empowerment would correspond to the right to make one's own choices, to increased autonomy and to control over economic resources. But confidence and self-esteem also play an essential role in change. Empowerment signifies increased participation in decision-making and it is this process through which people feel themselves to be capable of making decisions and the right to do so (Kabeer, 2005). Personal empowerment can lead to changes in existing institutions and norms, however, without the collective empowerment the personal empowerment and choices are limited.

The World Bank (2001:63) defines empowerment, as “the process of increasing the capacity of individuals or groups to make choices and to transform those choices into desired actions and outcomes”. Central to this process are actions which both build individual and collective assets, and improve the efficiency and fairness of the organizational and institutional context which govern the use of these assets. Thus, Ranjula (2007) confirms, societies that discriminate on the basis of gender pays the cost of greater poverty, slower economic growth, weaker governance and a lower living standard of their people.

Kabeer (1999), again stresses that women's empowerment is about the process by which those who have been denied the ability to make strategic life choices acquire such ability. According to her, it is important to understand empowerment as a process and not an instrumentalist form of advocacy, which requires measurement and quantification of empowerment. Thus, there is an emphasis that the ability to exercise choice incorporates

three interrelated dimensions: resources (defined broadly to include not only access, but also future claims, to both material and human and social resources); agency (including processes of decision-making, as well as less measurable manifestations of agency such as negotiation, deception and manipulation) and achievements (well-being outcomes).

Rosaline (1989:26 in Assimeng, 1990) sees empowerment as: a process by which people, women in this case, acquire real powers and command real resources within their locality; by that it meant recognised power over material resources and recognised power institutionalised within the political structure. It constitutes an affirmation of confidence that one has the tools, the mechanisms, and the resources to make decisions capable of solving one's problems.

From the above definitions and interpretations of the concept of women's empowerment, two key aspects of the concept is very apparent- the economic and political empowerment. While the economic empowerment connotes the women's independence in terms of access to productive resources that enable them to wean themselves off abject poverty and to contribute effectively towards the upkeep of the family especially taking care of their children's education and health needs. Political empowerment on the other hand refers to the creation of the enabling grounds where women can participate effectively in the legislature and the various assemblies as well as their respective homes to be able to influence meaningfully the decisions taken at these levels. However, how effectively the empowerment can influence the already existing roles played by both men and women in most societies in the country and in the Nanumba North District in particular is yet to be extensively explored.

2.2 Theoretical Underpinnings of Women Empowerment

In an attempt to understand the concept of women's empowerment, several theories come into play. While there are many explanations for the status of women in society, the analyses of the study focus on four dominant themes identified by Alexander and Welzel, 2005): (1) the classical modernization perspective that focuses on economic development, (2) the more recent human development view focusing on emancipative cultural changes that give rise to gender-egalitarian attitudes and self-expression values, (3) the historical legacies perspective which emphasizes the influence of cultural and political traditions, and (4) the institutional design perspective that is important from a political engineering perspective. For the purpose of the study, all the above themes are relevant considering the fact that it exposes thoroughly the economic and political dimensions of women's empowerment. Considering them one after the other, they are as follows:

2.2.1 Economic Modernity

The Classical Development Perspective. Focusing on economic development, the classical modernization perspective considers increases in democracy and human choice as a direct outcome of economic development (Alexander and Welzel, 2005). In relation to gender equality, this approach holds that economic development is central to increasing the pool of eligible women for positions of social power. These scholars establish that increased economic development associates with a more broad based distribution of educational and occupational resources. Greater access to educational and occupational resources increases women's chances of professional development, creating a larger pool of eligible women for power positions such as political office.

Others noted that higher levels of economic development bring more social services to societies. Through their alleviation of the costs in labour and time of everyday responsibilities associated with care giving (child-rearing, domestic work), increases in these services free up time for social pursuits in women's lives. Several studies confirm these hypotheses, demonstrating that developmental measures such as countries' levels of non-agricultural development, per capita gross domestic product, women in the workforce and women college graduates positively influence the percentage of women in their parliaments, (Kenworthy & Malami, 1999).

One gathers from the above theory that, with strong economic status of women in society, they stand to play an active role towards societal development. This equips them with the needed resources to contribute towards the family welfare and as such gives them the voice in the domestic decision making process.

2.2.2 Cultural Modernity (The Human Development Perspective)

A more recent theory emphasizes the conversion of economic development into a cultural process of human development that gives rise to an emancipative worldview, reflected in self-expression values that emphasize human choice and autonomy, including the choices and autonomy of women (Inglehart & Welzel 2005). This rise in emancipative orientations develops mass expectations targeted at making elites responsive and inclusive. In this way, rising emancipative values lead to increases in women's empowerment throughout society (Inglehart & Norris 2003)

At its core, the human development perspective links social modernization to emancipative values through changes in existential constraints. The theory highlights changes in modern societies particularly conducive to women's empowerment and therefore establishes a link between cultural modernity and publics that value greater equality between genders. Ultimately, Welzel (2003) ties the modern human resources crucial to the human development sequence to economic development. But in this view the effect of economic development is more indirect.

Inglehart & Norris (2003) find that cultural modernity holds real, positive consequences for women. When controlling for alternative hypotheses, their measure of attitudes toward gender equality is the sole predictor of the proportion of women in parliament. In later work, the findings were modified in such a way that, it was not so much gender-egalitarian attitudes in particular but the broad emancipative implications of self-expression values in general that positively predict gender empowerment.

In summary, modernization comes in many forms. While all the measures reviewed here relate in some fashion to women's empowerment, the strongest, most consistent findings show that gains in gender equality are most dramatic in countries with high levels of development and strong emancipative values. Thus, measures of economic development should strongly relate to the measures of women's empowerment. Also, measures of cultural modernity should strongly associate with the dependent measures. With respect to relationships between these two processes, given that the human development approach stresses the role of increasing human resources in expanding the scope of social inclusion and human choice, there is the expectation that, economic modernity will more strongly explain the initial stage of women's empowerment while cultural modernity will become more central to explanations of the higher stages.

2.2.3 The Historical Legacies

The human development perspective and the classical modernization perspective, according to Alexander and Welzel (2005), offer theories to explain why modern societies are more conducive to gains in gender equality. This section on cultural and institutional path dependency presents historical legacies potentially capable of affecting the improvement modernization brings to women's social and political status.

The developmental trends of social modernization may face legacies of path dependent cultural and institutional organization that affect societies' abilities to improve women's lives (Skocpol, 1992). Researchers note that the emergence of institutions, whether cultural or the result of policy, sometimes consists of types of social organization that have a continuing and somewhat determinant influence on phenomena relevant to those institutions far into the future. This influence can take the form of an inertial tendency where institutions affect relevant phenomena that would have otherwise changed due to other social forces, like modernization. Four measures of path dependent processes highlighted in the literature as those capable of affecting gender equality are: Protestant religious traditions, a long tradition of female suffrage, a state tradition of investing into welfarism rather than coercive forces, and a tradition of leftist dominance in government formation.

Depending on the nature of their traditions, religions vary in opportunity for women's emancipation. For instance, relative to other religious heritages, scholars find that a Protestant religious heritage improves the status of women in a country as (Reynolds, 1999). With its tradition of sectarianism and volunteerism, Protestantism holds a tradition particularly hospitable to democratic values, such as respect for individualism, reciprocity and popular sovereignty. Researchers also approach the impact of religious legacy on women's empowerment through measures of publics' levels of secularization (Inglehart & Norris, 2003). As societies secularize there is greater deference to rationality and expertise, and this typically gives rise to the modern state and widespread social services. The secularizing trend typically occurs from the pre-industrial through the industrializing phase of modernization.

During this transition, traditional units restrictive of women's development such as the family and the church lose their authority as individuals place greater emphasis on rationality and individualism. Scholars working with the World Values Survey have developed a value dimension for capturing this transition to secular, rational values. Studies find positive relationships between this and measures of women's empowerment (Inglehart & Welzel 2005)

In addition to religion, path dependent processes with respect to women's suffrage policy may affect the potential to increase gender equality in particular societies. Suffragist policy represents instances when elites and dominant political groups open the system of political representation to former, politically constructed out-groups. Countries with earlier suffragist policies for reforming women's formal political exclusion are likely to have a stronger institutional legacy of women's formal political inclusion. Several studies hypothesize and

establish a positive link between earlier suffragist policy and women's empowerment in parliament (Moore & Shackman, 1996). State-financed welfarism policy is another tradition that research on gender equality highlights as central to societies' progress in gender equality. Much research confirms that a key barrier to women's full social inclusion and autonomy has been and continues to be institutional arrangements that restrict the state's role in caretaking and domestic responsibilities (Hirschmann, 2001). Welfare policy is capable of alleviating these barriers by expanding the scope of the state's involvement in these everyday household necessities through, for instance, state supported childcare.

Finally, an important role has been assigned to the traditional dominance of leftist parties. Through their role as gatekeepers, political parties act as mediators of women's potential to seek and win elective office (Kunovich & Paxton, 2005). Party elites act as gatekeepers via the crucial role they play in the processes of candidate recruitment and selection (Norris & Lovenduski 1995). In evaluating characteristics of parties that impact the recruitment, selection and support of women political elites, researchers highlight the importance of party ideology and women's involvement in party leadership (Caul, 2001).

2.2.4 The Institutional Design Perspective

While theories of modernization emphasize the impact of economic resources and values on women's empowerment in society and historical legacies emphasize the impact of cultural and political traditions, researchers typically stress other factors to explain the representation of women in government (Alexander & Welzel, 2005). These researchers highlight the relevance of the characteristics of political institutions as causal factors.

This literature holds that variation in institutional characteristics mediates mass support for women's empowerment and the pool of women eligible for political office in ways that either enable or constrain women's attainment of political leadership. Three aspects of the political system find support in this literature: the strength of democracy, the electoral system, and gender electoral quota systems.

In comparison to autocracies, it is not surprising that scholarship on explanations of women's social and political empowerment highlight the role of democratic institutions. The argument is rather straightforward. The oppressive, unequal treatment of women clashes with the democratic idea of human equality (McDonagh, 2002). As societal foundations that preserve and socialize free and equal citizenship, democratic institutions supply women with

more rights and more channels for making their voices heard as it is enshrined in the 1992 republican constitution of Ghana. Research indeed shows that the strength of countries' democratic traditions empowers their women.

Researchers have also considered the impact of institutional variation within democracies on women's political representation. Most prominent among the arrangements considered is the influence of electoral systems. Electoral systems affect women's paths to parliament by structuring party elites' incentive or disincentive to run women candidates. In this line of research, the most persistent finding is the consistent, positive impact of Proportional Representation systems (PR) on the percentage of women in parliament (Rule, 1994). Studies hypothesize that PR systems positively affect the percentage of women in parliament because these electoral systems have a higher number of seats per district and offer parties a greater chance of winning more than one seat per district.

This results in greater turnover of office holders and reduces the costs of increasing women's elite status by sacrificing the seat of an incumbent male (Rule, 1994). The result is that parties are more likely to concern themselves with a ticket balanced according to gender. In addition, through greater district magnitude and party magnitude, parties are more likely to choose candidates down the party list, who are typically women (Matland, 1993).

The positive impact that Proportional Representation (PR) electoral systems make on women's recruitment is crucial. Due to differences in socioeconomic status, occupational choice and family responsibilities, in comparison to men, women candidates are likely to have greater difficulties in becoming eligible and aspiring political (Kenworthy & Malami, 1999). In this case, women are less likely to pursue political office and are likely to be lower on candidate lists if they choose to run. Thus, because PR electoral systems increase women's chances of recruitment and electability despite lower placement on candidate lists, these electoral systems provide greater opportunity for the election of women.

Finally, with PR electoral systems, the greater incentive to balance tickets gives parties greater opportunity to promote gender as an option for challenging other parties. This typically results in a contagion of promotion of women's inclusion across parties as elites attempt to equalize the playing field by avoiding the appearance of their party's marginalization of women voters (Matland & Studlar, 1996).

In addition to the role of electoral rules, gender electoral quota systems are institutional mechanisms that consistently, positively mediate the conditions and attitudes that structure women's leadership potential. Indeed, researchers studying the recent proliferation of quota systems throughout the world have referred to quota systems as "the fast track" to the equal political representation of women (Dahlerup & Freidanvall, 2003). Beginning with Norway, over the last three decades, several societies have witnessed the introduction of some form of a gender electoral quota system in their political bodies for improving the status of women. These quota systems take the form of a constitutional amendment, electoral law or party policy. For instance, the UN set a quota where each country is required to reserve 30 seats in the legislature for women across the globe. Scholars generally find that the stronger the gender electoral quota system the greater the level of women's percentages in political office (Kolinsky, 1991).

The attributes of democratic institutions, electoral systems, and the degree to which countries adopt gender electoral quota systems are the aspects of political systems supported in the literature that enhance our understanding of institutional designs that improve or hinder women's presence in political office. Scholars generally describe the role of institutional actors as a mediating role whereby variations in these aspects of political systems structure support for women's political empowerment and the actual empowerment of women in other areas of society in ways that facilitate or restrict women's proportions in political office. Taking the literature as a whole, progress in economic modernity, cultural modernity, together with favourable political and cultural traditions, as well as various institutional design factors are the likely correlates of various aspects of gender equality.

2.2.5 Implications of the Theories Above

All the above theories looked at, to a larger extent, influence the numerous interventions and policies both locally and internationally, in establishing a society which ensures equal opportunities for its citizens irrespective of sex, creed, religion among others. The consequence of this is bridging the gender gap and ensuring gender equality in both economic and political opportunities in the country. Ghana in line with this has deliberately enshrined in the 1992 republican constitution in both Article 35 and 36 which sought to create an equal playing field in both political and economic grounds for its citizens irrespective of sex, religious among others. The UN on its part, in guiding member nations, has developed several Conventions and Charters which seeks to enjoin all nations to promote women's

empowerment and gender equality. The most recent one is the Millennium Development Goals (MDGS) especially the MDG 3 which is on gender equality and women's empowerment. With this all member nations, which Ghana is one, are supposed to put in place affirmative measures to bring women to a reasonable level against their male counterparts in both political and economic fronts.

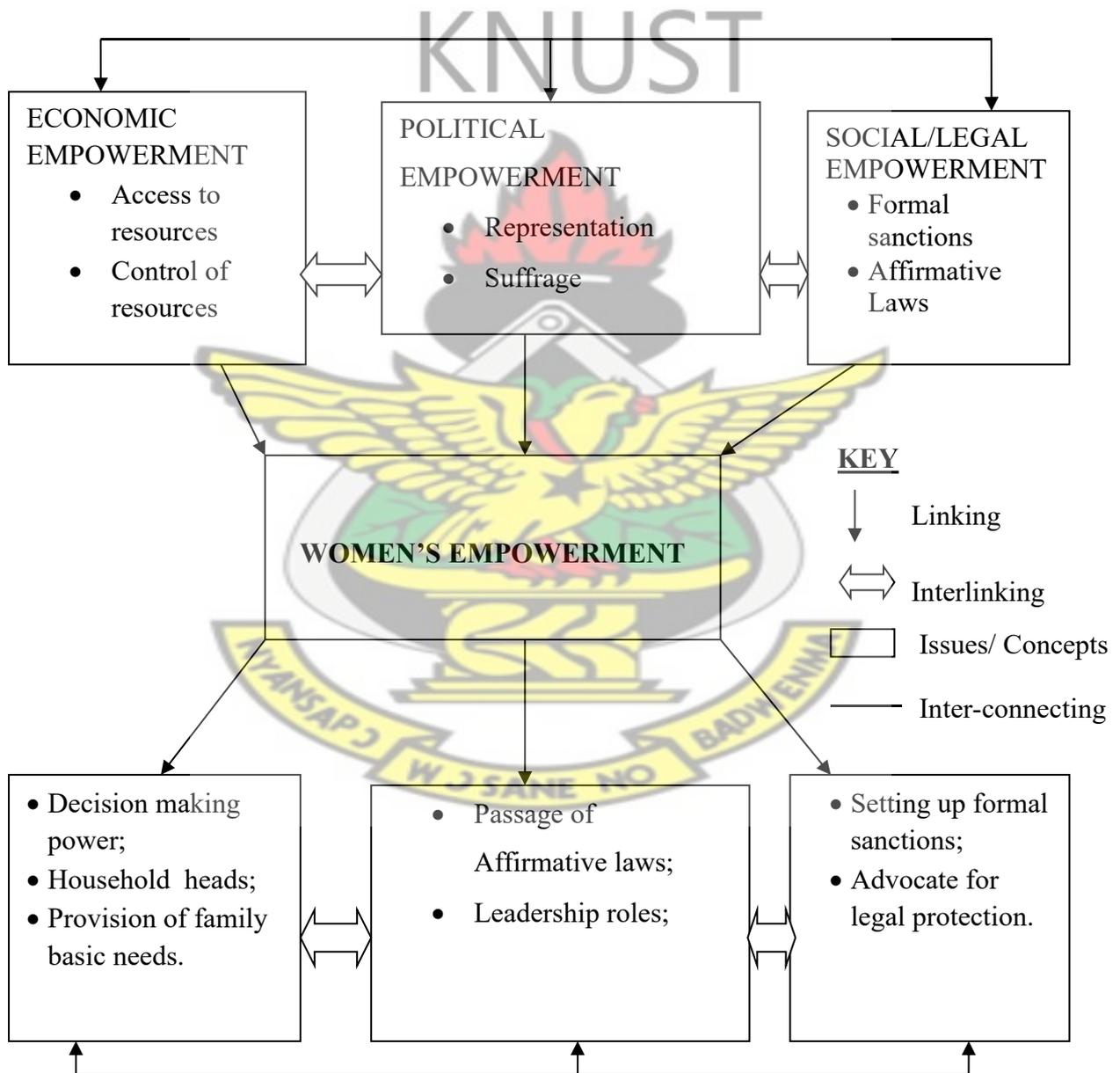
However, from literature, what is lacking in the theoretical explications is how the economic and political opportunities (empowerment) offered women can influence any role changes in society. As such, the current research seeks to bring to light how roles played by men and women in society can be changed when the latter are empowered economically and politically.



2.3 Conceptual Framework of Women’s Empowerment on Roles Changes.

Following the review of the key concepts and theories of women’s empowerment above, three prominent dimensions stand out. They are the economic, political and social/legal empowerment of women. These three dimensions are interlinked and also influence roles women can play in society in various ways. Figure 2.1 depicts the interconnections of the three dimensions:

Figure 2.1: Conceptual Framework of Women’s Empowerment on Roles Changes



Sources: CEABUR, 2008

From the Figure 2.1, it is conspicuous that the economic, political, and social/legal empowerments are interlinked in various ways. Before the interconnections of these three dimensions are explicated, it is imperative to know the basis of the dimensions. Starting with the economic empowerment; the access and control of economic resources form the basis of this dimension. Representativeness, adult suffrage and voice of the women form the basis of political empowerment. The social/legal economic empowerment emanates among other things from the formal and informal sanctions and the affirmative laws. The various ways these dimensions are interlinked are as follows:

A woman's economic empowerment rests on a larger extent on the power/position she occupies within the household as this determines her household resource control capacity. On the other hand, this may depend on how socially/legally empowered the women is; that is her right on the number of the children to have, a right to divorce, affirmative laws which allows the women to engage in a business of her choice where hitherto the husband denies her to engage in.

In a similar vein, economic empowerment of women can alter the social norms especially through their participation in the formal economy. As to some increasing extent, society finds it difficult sanctioning women who earn their wage in the formal sector. Also, there exist a connection between political empowerment and economic empowerment where some evidence posits that, high representation of women can influence passage of laws (affirmative) that redistribute income which turn to empower the women economically. There may also be an important feedback mechanism from economic empowerment to political empowerment: The access to and control of women to an increased amount of economic resources enhances their abilities to act collectively, e.g. in women's rights organizations, as described by Mayoux (2000 in CEABUR, 2008).

The last but not the least of the interconnections, is the interplay between political empowerment and social/legal empowerment. For instance, the representation of women in places of authority (Parliament, the District Assemblies) to a large extent leverages them to influence passage of laws that seeks to reduce oppressions on women in society. On the other hand, social/legal empowerment of women can break societal norms that prevent women from taking part in political activities thereby increasing their political participation (political empowerment).

With regards the roles women play as a result of their empowerment, Figure 2.1 has depicted that. These roles can be categorised in line with the three dimensions of empowerment discussed above. In the first place, economic empowerment among others can enhance the decision making power of women in society and within households, improve status of women household heads and enable them to provide their family basic needs. Politically, the representativeness of women (political empowerment) can lead to passage of affirmative laws and also enhance their leadership roles. The last but not the least, social/legal empowerment of women among other things can help women to influence formal sanctions against domestic violence and also advocate for other legal protections of women's rights.

After having looked at the interpretations and definitions of the various concepts, theoretical basis of empowerment, in the light of the relevant literature reviewed, it is imperative at this point to look at gender roles of women within the context of the world, Africa, Ghana and Nanumba North District in particular.

2.4 Global Perspective of Gender Roles of Women

Roles played by women in every social setting across the globe are shaped by certain factors which include religious, regional, cultural, historical beliefs, principles and experiences. As such, gender roles in society can be defined as the role portrayed by an individual with respect to a combination of factors depending on the living conditions. The conditions can be categorised as roles based on the classification- male, female, or a combination and their roles based on physical character and or sexual or psychological orientation, either as a result of social bonding or self preferences (Prashant, 2012).

For instance, males are interested in or perform physically tough activities like working in heavy industries and defence services while female perform tasks like raising children, cooking, and embroidery. While these roles are defined and mostly classified in many societies, this distinction becomes rarer in developed societies like the US or Western Europe (Schwimmer, 1979).

Education, household work, child care, professional commitments, societal issues are the various responsibilities or activities in a normal social framework. These roles were segregated on the basis of sex, but now it is more of a choice and based on an interest of an individual. However, there are many societies which continue to stick to the traditional roles. A female is usually or expected to or obliged to do or interested in house work, child care and

education, leaving professional and social roles for the males. From the above, it can be surmised that roles played by women globally cuts across both socio-economic and political spheres of society. As a result of the increasing awareness of the gross inequalities among women and men in societies globally, governments across the world are charged to developed women friendly policies in order to bridge the gap (Prashant, 2012). This has been backed by a lot international protocols including the United Nations Millennium Development Goals which has enjoined countries to set quotas for women to participate in the governance process of those countries

In commenting on the traditional of roles women across the globe, Alesina and Giuliano (2013) observed that in some societies, the dominant belief is that women should be allowed to participate freely and equally with males, in employment outside of the home. In others, there is the very different view that the appropriate place for women is within the home and they are discouraged from participating in activities outside of the domestic sphere. The differences can be clearly seen in surveys that ask respondents their attitudes about gender roles. For instance, the proportions of respondents in the world survey that agree with the statement that when jobs are scarce men should have more rights to a job than women varies widely across the countries, ranging from 3.6% (in Iceland) to 99.6% (in Egypt).

Again, in their study of societies which practice the plough agriculture rather than the shifting cultivation, Alesina and Giuliano (2013) observed that, some specialisation was developed along gender lines. While women are specialised in activities within the home, men tend to concentrate on work in the field outside the home. They further stressed that societies which are characterised by plough agriculture with a clear gender division of labour, developed the belief that the natural place for the women is the home. These cultural beliefs tend to persist even if the economy moves out the of agriculture, affecting the participation of women in activities performed outside of the home such as market employment, entrepreneurship or participation in politics.

In its attempts to enhancing women's participation in both economic and political spheres of the society, Oxfam (2010) case studied four Asian countries. It observed that women were responsible for running a household, caring for the children and the elderly members in the family. They are also expected to work and bring home an income. In countries such as Indonesia, Cambodia, Sri Lanka and the Philippines, women are rearing chickens, growing vegetables, selling cows' milk and doing other small scale activities to bring in a regular

source of income. As all these were recognised as home based activities they are not paid for their labour. On the other hand, decision making and income generating activities remain in the hands of men who similarly do not learn other ways of organising the household. This perpetuates the cycle of women and their children's dependency

From the above, women across the globe are the majority in terms of population and play various roles in every society. These roles range from domestic (child-birth and care, cooking, fetching of firewood and water), to out of home work agricultural related activities as sowing, weeding, harvesting of farm produce among others. The men are however specialised in the physically related work such as the making of yam mounds, ridges, income generating activities.

However, of all the roles played by women across the globe in the light of the literature reviewed above, none of the views has shown any clear relationship between the level of women empowerment be it economic and or political and the effective roles they can play in society. Hence, the thrust of this study is to bring to light how effectively women can play roles even designed as traditionally men's when they are empowered.

2.5 African Perspective on Gender Roles of Women

Women constitute the majority population in Africa. The roles they play on the continent do not vary widely with roles played women in the other parts of the world. There are clear traditional roles played by both men and women in Africa as noticed across the globe.

For instance, this was observed by Asiyanbola (2005) in his study of the patriarchy system and women empowerment in Nigeria when he noted that, there are clearly defined sex roles, while various taboos ensure conformity with specified gender roles. Traditionally, men do not participate in domestic work including child rearing – such tasks are considered to be the exclusive domain of women. Males are categorised as having the following qualities: strength, vigour, virile/powerful courage, self-confidence and the ability to meet the outside world animal and human intruders head on and deal with it effectively. These qualities were reflected in the kinds of work that men engaged in. Men were responsible for much of what was thought of as “heavy” labour.

On the other hand, as stressed by Asiyanbola (2005), women oversee the domestic chores. They kept houses, processed and cooked all foods. They also help in the planting and harvesting of food crops and cash crops. They are primarily responsible for the bearing and

rearing of children from birth; men were only called upon to assist when extraordinary discipline was considered necessary especially for the boys (Aweda, 1984:184).

Asiyanbola (2005), taking a critical look at masculinity in the Nigerian society observed that, this is not a fixed structure and can be varied over time and from place to place, with the kind of work or role performed by both men and women. As argued by Bernard (1981) : “It is not so much the specific kinds of work men and women do – they have always varied from time to time and place to place – but the simple fact that the sexes do different kinds of work, whatever it is, which is in and of itself important. The division of labour by sex means that the work group becomes also a sex group. The very nature of maleness and femaleness becomes embedded in the sexual division of labour. One’s sex and one’s work are part of one another, one’s work defines one’s gender” (Bernard, 1981:3).

This line of argument is also stressed in the work of Lupton (2000) which was essentially on how masculinity is defined, maintained and challenged in occupations and organizations. In fact, he argued that masculinity might be regarded as a role that is socially performed enacted and reproduced through discourse. Also that it can be performed by both men and women, is subject to change over time and, on account of its dynamic nature can be studied through observation of action and interpretation of discourse (Kvande, 1998).

Writing on gender roles in South Africa, Morag (2012) observed that, the male is the provider and holds the power while the women are more submissive nurturers. It was argued that, gender roles are breaking down in the developed countries due to educational advancements. However, the picture in Africa and other developing countries is different as it is difficult to break down gender roles as a result of lower standards and less access to education. In his view, women who are unable to receive an education to find husband to be looked after, which puts the women in a vulnerable state and rather strengthen the male inherent dominance. This limits the active role women can play towards the development of society.

Similarly, Munyamaliza (2010) indicated that, men in Rwanda control health decisions of their partners such as the number of children they should have, or the kind of medication they have to take. It further shows that differences in socio-economic status between men and women contribute to what is known as gender based violence. Primarily, men are seen as breadwinners, protectors, defenders; and that is the perception of women which in turn put men at a very comfort zone.

Agricultural activities are divided among men and women in Rwanda. Where men engage in the clearing of the lands and assist the women in breaking the soil, the women engage in the day- to- day activities such as planting, weeding, and harvesting. Men bear the primary responsibility of overseeing the livestock and other heavy jobs around the houses such as construction while women are responsible for maintaining the household, raising children, and preparing food. Also formal nonfarm activity in Rwanda is dominated by men while women often participate in informal nonfarm economic activities such as market trading. Similarly, the situation of women during the pre-colonial era is not the same as that of the post-colonial period. In pre-colonial Rwanda—even as most positions of public authority were reserved for men—women enjoyed a modicum of political and economic power, as exemplified by the powerful position of queen mother. The relative position of women eroded during the colonial period and never fully recovered. Women in contemporary Rwanda hold few political positions and have limited economic power, as seen in the difficulties women have in inheriting land and property. Many women's associations have attempted to increase the status of women in recent years, with little apparent success (Munyamaliza, 2010). As can be noticed in Africa, available literature has shown little, how roles played between men and women can be changed when the latter is empowered.

2.6 Gender Roles of Women in Ghana

The current population of the country stands at 24.6 million, out of which women constitute about 51.2% with men standing at 48.8% (GSS, 2012). Women constitute the majority population in Ghana. The roles they play as against men in Ghana do not differ across the globe. The economy of the country is characterised by rural constituting about 51%. They play various roles as found in anywhere across the globe. In their study, Baden et al., (1994), argued that, the reproductive roles are performed by women. These include child care, cooking, washing, fuel wood, and water collection.

Gender division varies across different ethnic groups in Ghana. For instance, in the observation of (Schwimmer, 1979), among the Akans, women assume the basic domestic and childcare roles. But both genders assume responsibility for basic agricultural production, although men undertake the most laborious task and women the repetitive ones. Also, women work on their husbands farms but will also farm their own. Traditionally, craft production is divided according to gender. Men are weavers, carvers, and metalworkers. Women make pottery and engage in food processing. Petty trade, which is a pervasive economic activity, is

almost exclusively a woman's occupation. Women independently control any money that they receive from their own endeavors, even though their husbands normally provide the capital funding. Wives, however, assume the main work and financial responsibility for feeding their husbands and children and for other child-care expenses.

However, within the Akan tradition, women assume important social, political, and ritual roles. Within the lineage and extended family, female elders assume authority, predominantly over other women. The oldest women are considered to be the ablest advisers and the repositories of family histories (Scwimmer, 1979).

Similarly, among the Ga and Adangme, women are responsible for domestic chores. They do not do any farm work, however, and are heavily engaged in petty trade. Ga women are especially prominent traders as they control a major portion of the domestic fish industry and the general wholesale trade for Accra, a Ga homeland. Northern and Ewe women, on the other hand, have fewer commercial opportunities and assume heavier agricultural responsibilities in addition to their housekeeping chores, Schiwmmmer (1979).

2.7 Gender Roles of Women in the Nanumba North District

The Nanumba North District was carved out of the Nanumba district in the year 2003. It is located along the eastern part of the northern region of Ghana. Females constitute the majority population of the district of about 50.6 per cent while the males stands at 49.4 per cent (GSS, 2012).

The roles they play in the district do not vary widely across the region and the country at large. Domestically, they take charge of cooking, fetching water and fuel wood for the family, child birth and care are all the ascribed roles of women in the district. Men on the other hand are specialised in the physical activities such as making of yam mounds, ridges, harvesting of the farm produce, construction works among others. Here, women are expected to handle the sowing and weeding most of the times, take part in the harvesting and sale of farm produce. However, decision regarding the spending of the proceeds largely lies in the men's domain.

2.8 Socio-Economic Status of Women in The Northern Region Of Ghana.

Traditionally, according to Abankwa and Abebe (2011), married women in rural Ghana especially the three northern regions, are customarily required to give helping hands to their husband's in farms. The proceeds however belong to the men who have control over the farm income. Men in rural Northern Ghana do not consider the development of the household as a

priority. Women are, however, a major force behind the upkeep of the household. This mounts undue financial pressure on the women who have less or no financial strength to provide the need of the household. They use several means to provide clothing, health care, and education to the household. These financial challenges often compel women and sometimes their female children to migrate to urban centres to seek greener pastures. This exposes them to several vices that ruin their lives. These people then become liabilities to their communities.

Women are the primary source of agricultural labour throughout Africa (Brown & Kuenyehia, 2003). They till the land and grow crops that are necessary to feed their families, but women rarely own land outright. Their right to use land is tied to their status as wives. This separation of unpaid labour and ownership makes women extremely vulnerable economically (Brown & Kuenyehia, 2003). As a result most women in Northern Ghana who are mostly the bread winners of their households are not financially empowered. According to Davidson and Burke (2004), a considerable part of women are unpaid assistants in the family business. This type of employment is particularly unfavourable because it makes women dependent on family members, usually men.

Kuenyehia (1998) stated that women might own crops, however, any assistance from the husband or children would make these crops her husband's. She also added that by customary law it is the domestic responsibility of a man's wife and children to assist him in carrying out of the duties of his work of life. For example, farming or business proceeds of joint effort from man, wife, or children and any property which the man acquires with proceeds are, customarily of the individual property of the man.

Women's care-giving obligations, according to Abankwa and Abebe (2011), at home in conjunction with the obligation of the work place reinforce poverty in two ways. First, they leave women exhausted without time for self-development activities which would be important in improving income-earning capacity and secondly, the obligations of care-giving also forces women to elect employment which is poorly paid but offers conditions compatible with child care and household obligations. In other words, women choose low paying jobs which allow them more time to take care of their families. However, by choosing these jobs, their scope for improving their lives and that of their families is reduced.

Ghanaian women, particularly in the northern region according to Jackson and Associates (2002), continue to face persistent gender inequalities that limit their full participation in

nation and district development. Women are disadvantaged relative to men in terms of their access to and control over the resources and services, education and training and participation in decision making (Jackson and Associates, 2002). Women in the Nanumba North District are not an exception to this fact as their ownership and control over the productive resources as land, labour, skills training, quality education among others in the district still leaves much to be desired. The exclusion of women in the observation of E.T Jackson and Associates, has adversely affected the sustainable development processes by hindering the achievement of project objectives as the Millennium Development Goals especially the Goal 3 (gender equality and women's empowerment), and other national and district aspirations.

Also, the structure of society itself is standing in the way of the economic transformation which is critical to the social progress that society desires. The barriers which stand in the way of women making improvement in their lives are in fact barriers to social and economic progress of the society as a whole. The benefit of improving the status of women is felt throughout the society as women continue in their role as care-givers to families. Increased income controlled by women, gives them self confidence which help them obtain a voice and vote in household decisions such as domestic well-being decisions. For instance women tend to use income for more equitable decisions about sons, daughters diet, education, and health. When women have economic power, they gain more equality and control over their own lives while contributing directly to their children's development and thereby indirectly to their household and nation's income growth, (Negash, 2006). Women provide their household with clothing, water, and place to rest after the day's work. When they produce their food crops, almost all are consumed within the family (Brown & Kuenyehia, 2003). The heavy involvement of women in the informal sector is considered a matter of necessity rather than a choice, given the educational levels, resources, constraints, and domestic responsibilities. This is the typical posture of women in the Nanumba North District.

Again, women in Ghana according to Jackson and Associates (2002), are responsible for household services; the care of the children, family health, providing food and fuel for cooking and other domestic chores. They also play a major role in productive activities of the family income generating activities, paid domestic labour, farming and food processing. In certain regions and districts as the Nanumba North District, in the view of Jackson and Associates (2002), incidences of female-headed households have added to the women's productive activities of the family and increased their vulnerability to poverty.

Women's productive role in the economic sector, reportedly high and very active, has been limited to the labour markets and the informal sector (Jackson and Associates, 2002). As such, no matter how active they are in the economic sector, their returns are usually lower compared with their male counterparts. There is a wide gap between women's unrecognised economic participation and their low political and social status. In assessing the gender roles in the Ghanaian society, Jackson and Associates (2002), observed that, women's share in labour and supply of basic needs has demonstrated a much more crucial role to the maintenance of the household than men's share.

In the views of Baden et al., (1994), Ghana's population of 24.6 million includes over 90 different ethnic groups. Among these the Akan, Mole Dagbani, Ewe and Ga-Adangbe are dominant. Different ethnic groups are characterised by a variety of kinship systems with different implications for access to resources and decision and decision making power by gender. The Akan, who constitute the largest ethnic group residing mainly in the southern part of Ghana, are organised along matrilineal lines. Most other ethnic groups, in the North, but also the East, are patrilineal. The Ga, who are concentrated around Greater Accra, are somewhat anomalous in having bilateral inheritance and kinship structures. Matrilineal systems may give women greater access to resources outside marriage than patrilineal systems, but they are characterised by a weaker nuclear household offering little economic security to women. However, matrilineal systems do not necessarily imply significantly greater access to resources and/or higher status of women (Baden et al 1994). This implies that, even, with the traditional division of roles of both genders in terms of inheritance, women are at a disadvantage regarding access to productive resources in most societies in Ghana. This to some extent, undermines the effective roles they can play towards development.

Largely, women are engaged in agricultural activities as men, even though in different aspects. For instance, food production is commonly associated with women as men are engaged in commercial farming for the market. As observed by Baden et al. (1990), women in food production during the 1970's was estimated at 70 per cent compared with 50 per cent of male farmers. Even with women in food agriculture especially during the 1984, only 26 per cent were estimated to be independent farmers or farm managers; the rest worked on joint family farms. Also, female farmers may be losing access to household and communal labour and having to spend more resources to buy in labour, at the expense of modern productive inputs. This process is happening at the same time as women in some regions especially the

northern region, are devoting more of their own time to providing labour on family or husbands farms. Rising rural wage rates under adjustment are creating incentives for traditional technology growers to intensify family labour rather than hire in labour. This further limits their productivity and hence their contribution towards national development.

The overall neglect of the northern regions, their patrilineal family structures reinforced by Islamic practices, and their arid-savannah ecology (Panuccio, 1989), are all factors which have acted to maintain women's low status in the three northern regions. Both pre and post-Independence, these regions have been viewed primarily as a labour reserve for the development of the rest of the country and there has been limited investment in development infrastructure in these areas. Outmigration, mainly of younger men to work in the cash economy of the south and beyond, has left women with increased labour burdens and undermined agricultural productivity and food security in these areas, whilst adding little to their incomes. The lack of physical and social infrastructure adds to women's labour burden (e.g. in collecting water; tending the sick) already more onerous than elsewhere because of agro-climatic conditions. Further, it means that women's income earning opportunities are constrained and that their access to education and thus modern sector employment is limited. On health, educational and poverty indicators, the three northern regions fare worst and gender gaps (e.g. in educational enrolment) tend to be widest.

It is very clear from above reviewed relevant literature that, women within the northern region and for that matter the Nanumba North District lag behind their male counterparts in socio-economic terms. Women naturally carry out chunk of the activities but are rewarded with less of the proceeds of their labour. The economic situation of women in the district is yet to be covered extensively by research as the region and the nation. The current study therefore seeks to bring to light the socio-economic status of women in the district.

2.9 Socio-Political Status of Women In Ghana

Equal participation of women and men according to Amoako (2011), in political life is one of the foundations of democracy. As such, the 1992 republican constitution of Ghana has made a provision for the equal participation of every citizen in the governance process of the country. Article 35(5) of the 1992 republican constitution of Ghana, gives backing to this by stating that the state shall actively promote the integration of peoples of Ghana and prohibits discrimination and prejudice on the grounds of place of origin, circumstances of birth, ethnic

origin, gender or religion creed or other beliefs. And this is also potential grounds for the realisation of the MDG 3(Gender Equality and Women Empowerment).

Also, in the same constitution under the fundamental human rights and freedoms Article 12 (2) notes categorically that “every person in Ghana, whatever his race, place of origin, political opinion, colour, religion, creed or gender shall be entitled to the fundamental human rights and freedoms of the individual contained in this chapter but subject to respect for the rights and freedoms of others and for the public interest”. It is against this background that the participation of women in the political processes and the administrative sector becomes relevant and crucial.

Even though efforts have been put in place both at the national and international level into increasing the and participation of women in parliament and political representation through legislative measures and affirmative action’s in order to fully integrate women into the decisions process, gender equality in politics has remained an ideal situation rather than a reality. Rosenthal (2002) laments that since the first United Nations World Conference on Women held in Mexico City in 1975, progress has been slow and disappointing. He observes that in 1975, women held 10.9 per cent of all parliamentary seats worldwide.

However, after 30 years of pledges, prescriptions and persuasion by international and local organisations, civil society groups among others, women still occupied less than 18 per cent of all parliamentary seats worldwide in 2008 (Amoako, 2011). The situation, Johnson (2008) observed, is not better when it comes to the executive level; in 2008, only 16 per cent of ministerial portfolios were held by women.

Women are also the minority, according to Amoako (2011), in the highest positions of the state: Of the 150 heads of state at the start of 2008, only seven (7) (4.7%) were women. Also, only eight (4.2%) of the world’s 192 governments were headed by women. Ghana is no exception of the low representation of women in both local and national political arena, (Odame, 2010). After 20 years of the fourth republic, the representation of women in the district and national levels is as low as 7% and 18% respectively. Against this backdrop, past and presents governments have made efforts to improve upon the situation. For instance, a whole ministry to take charge of Women and Children’s Affairs has been created. The first time in government of the NDC 2 led by Prof. Atta Mills made a pledge of 40% quota of women in positions in his government, though this is yet to be fully realised.

However, the situation of women’s involvement in the political process both at the local and national levels is yet to be fully realised. This is, in spite, of the numerous interventions by women’s organised groups and organisations such as FAWE, FIDA and ABANTU for Development, international bodies such the UN and non- governmental organisations, in increasing the number and participation of women in the political and governance process in the country. For instance, the recent UN quota of 30% women representation in the legislature in all member nations of which Ghana is part and the Millennium Development Goals (MDG’s) especially the MDG 3 which is on gender equality and women empowerment are geared towards women political empowerment in the country. Despite all these measures, the situation in the country is still very appalling, (Amoako, 2011). For instance, from the period 1960 to 1998, the representation of women in the legislature has been very low as depicted in the figure 2.2.

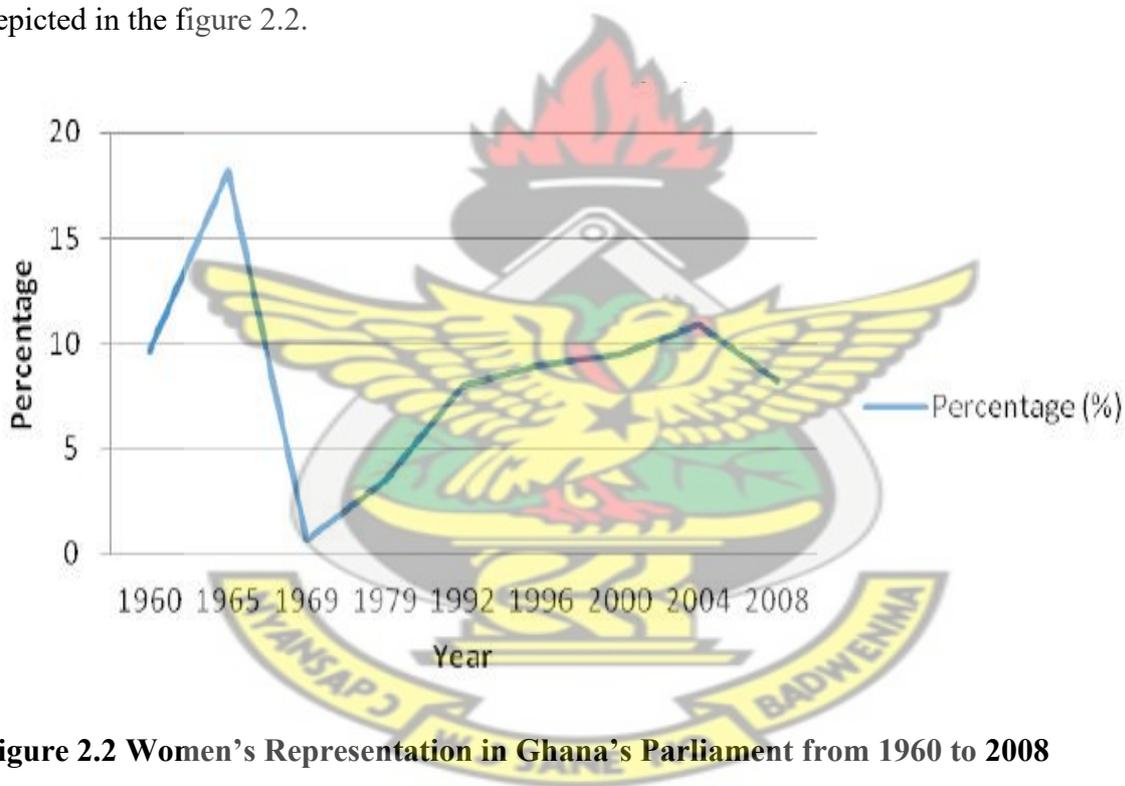


Figure 2.2 Women’s Representation in Ghana’s Parliament from 1960 to 2008

Source: Manuh (2011)

As depicted by Figure 2.2, it can be noticed that since 1960 to date, women’s participation in the legislature (parliament) of the country has been stably low compared to their male counterparts. Even in the 2012 general elections where the number of women had just increased to 30 seats out 275 seats the increase was marginal as it was just about only 2 percentage rise from the previous elections. This also permeates the district assemblies’ composition as women are less represented in the assemblies.

For instance, in the Nanumba North District, during the 2010 District Level Elections (DLE), out of the total of 63 Assembly Persons both elected and appointed, it is composed of only six(6) women, two(2) elected and four(4) appointed (NCCE district annual report 2010). This shows how women are lowly represented politically in the district, hence their poor representation in decision making process both at the family level and in the district. Literature has however failed to link the political status of women to the effective roles they can play towards the district and national development. As such, the current study seeks to bring to light how the socio-political status of women can influence the roles they can play towards the development of society.

2.10 Socio-Economic and Political Challenges of Women in Ghana

Despite the numerous international treaties and conventions that support the empowerment of women, not much has been achieved. There are many gender disparities in the local and national governance. It is on record that none of the countries in West Africa has achieved the 30 per cent representation bench mark instituted by the United Nations (WASCI, 2009). Compared this to other parts of the continent especially in Rwanda where the representation in parliament is about 56.3 per cent. Moreover, the underlying ideology and related practices of domesticity has been the main restriction of women's engagement in governance and leadership positions.

Other constraints as identified by Odame (2010), include low-income levels, low educational status, lack of confidence and patriarchy, on the part of women. Carrol (2003) observes that some women candidates have a particularly difficult time because some voters still perceive women as less politically powerful than men. The media also perpetuate this stereotype. For instance, studies have shown that the media focuses on the personal lives and physical appearance of female candidates, more than they do for the male candidates. All these challenges, in various ways, undermine women effective involvement in the local and national governance process.

On the economic front, women encounter several challenges that affect their productive capacity to play an effective role towards the family upkeep. For instance, poverty in Ghana is said to be serious among food crop farmers of which women are the majority. Increase in outmigration especially in the north also has the tendency to worsen the labour burdens of women thereby limiting their productivity. Women, even though are with limited time, considering their domestic commitments, are compelled to invest this scarce time in income

generating activities to earn additional income to provide for their family basic needs. Also, the heavy involvement of women in the informal sector is considered a matter of necessity rather than a choice, given the educational levels, resources, constraints, and domestic responsibilities (Abankwa and Abebe, 2011).

All the above few socio-economic challenges confronting women outlined, permeates every region and district of this country. However, there is the need to find out the specific socio-economic challenges confronting women in the Nanumba North District in the Northern Region, as such the relevance of this study.

2.11 Summary

This chapter looked at the relevant concepts and theories related to women's economic and political empowerments, the roles they play across the globe, on the continent as well as within the nation and the district under study. From the review, it is clear that, women's economic empowerment connotes the women's independence in terms of access to productive resources that enables them wean themselves off abject poverty and to contribute effectively towards the upkeep of the family especially, taking care of their children's education and health needs. Political empowerment on the other hand refers to creation of an enabling ground where women can participate effectively in the legislature and the various assemblies as well as their respective homes to be able to influence meaningfully decisions taking at these levels.

From the review, there are four theoretical underpinnings of women's empowerment which are the economic modernity, the cultural modernity, historical legacies and the institutional design perspective. Women play various roles in every society which were revealed by the review process. However, these roles do not vary widely across the globe as on the continent as well as in the country. They include among others, the domestic activities, child birth and care, supporting roles in the farm activities whiles men engage in the physical work including making of yam mounds, taking care of livestock and construction works. The chapter also reviewed the socio-economic situation of women in the country and the district as well as the challenges confronting them

The next chapter focused on the brief profile of the study area and the research methods adopted in collecting, analysing and presenting the concepts of women's empowerment and how it affects role changes in the study area.

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CHAPTER THREE

PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY.

3.0 Introduction

This part of the study focused on the brief profile of the study area and the research design that was employed. The design among other things included the sampling technique, sample size determination, the sample frame, data sources and methods of collection as well the methods employed for analysing the data collected from the field.

3.1 Profile of the Study Area

The profile takes into consideration the location of the study area, the socio-economic and political dimensions of the area, the population and tribal composition in the area among others.

3.1.1 Location and Size

Nanumba North District was created as a separate district in 2004 under LI 1754 when the then Nanumba District was split into two – North and South. It covers an area of 1,986 sq km. It is found in the eastern part of the Northern Region and lies between latitudes 8.5° N and 9.25° N and longitude 0.57° E and 0.5° E. It shares boundaries with:

- Yendi Municipality to the North
- East Gonja to the West and South-West
- Nanumba South to the south and East
- Zabzugu-Tatale to the North-North-East

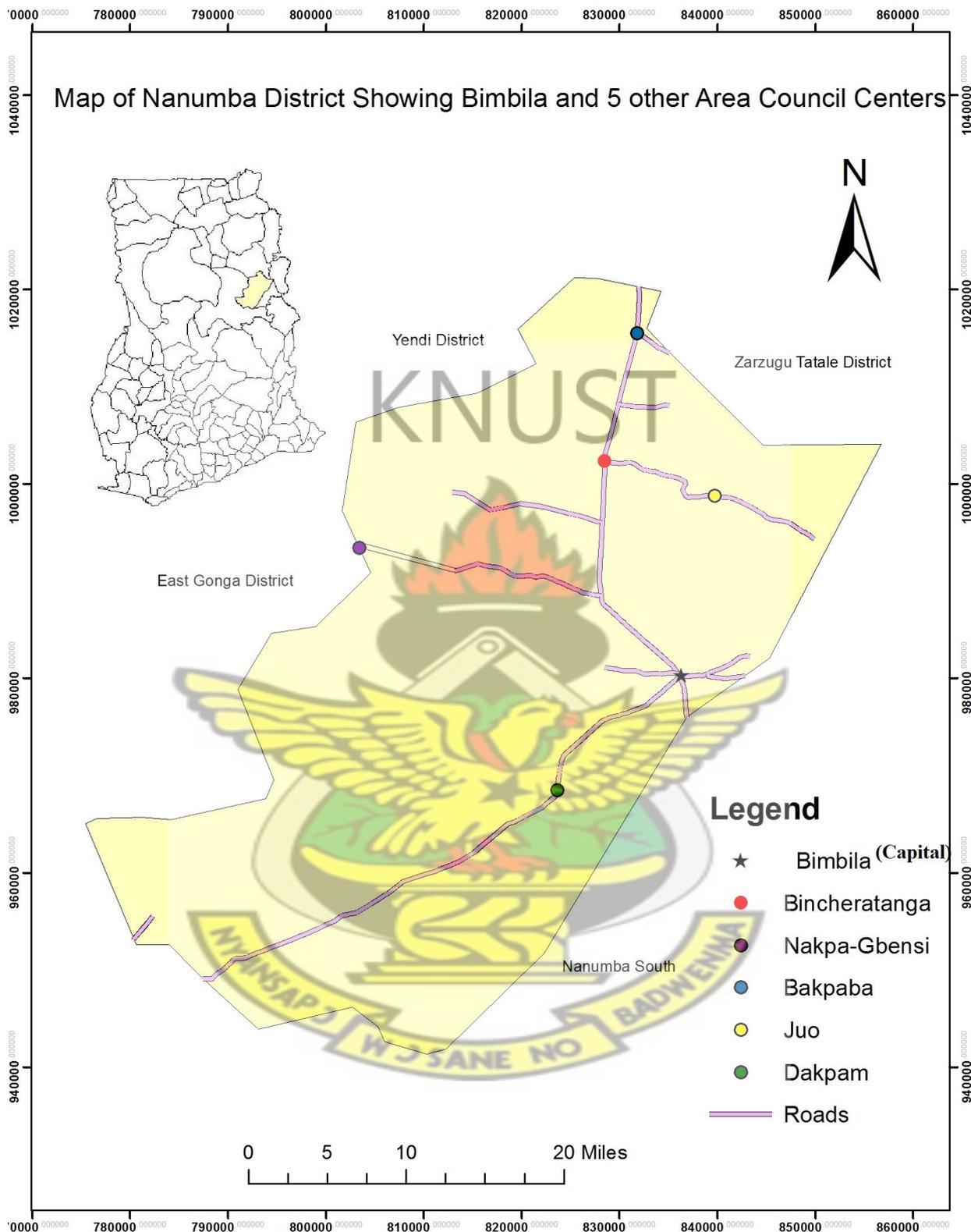


Figure 3.1: Map of Nanumba North showing six town and area councils

Source: NNDA, 2010

3.1.2. Climate

The district lies entirely in the Tropical Continental climatic zone, characterized by high temperature throughout the year. Temperatures range from 29° C to 41°C. Just like any other part of West Africa, the influence of the wet south west monsoon and the dry North East trade winds. During the Harmattan, temperatures can fall as low as 16° C during the night and mornings. Annual rainfall averages 1,268mm with most of it falling within six months – April to September. This is the busiest periods for farmers in the District. During this period too, streams overflow their banks and causes wide spread flooding of settlements and farmlands. This has brought some hardships to the people. The rest of the year is virtually dry and fallow period for most farmers. This is the period of wild bushfires, sometimes set usually by the youth to flush out animals from their habitat. There is huge burden during this time on women as they embark on long distance in search of water for their families, (DMTP, 2010)

3.1.3. Vegetation

The vegetation of the district is the Guinea Savannah type with tall grass interspersed with drought resistant trees. Shea nut, dawadawa, acacia, baobab and other drought and fire resistant trees are the main trees species found here. This influences to a large extent the activities engaged by the people in the district. The women, especially engage in local industrial activities such as shea butter processing, dawadawa spice making and groundnut oil processing as a result of this great potential, (NNDA, 2010)

3.1.4 Population and Settlement

The current (end of 2009) projected population of the district using the 2.7% annual rate of growth on the 2000 PHC (released in 2002) figure of 88,910 is 113,094 (2009). The ratio of male to female 49.4 to 50.6 and the population is basically youthful with about 56.2% between 0-19 years. However provisional figures from the PHC 2010 (released in 2012) gives the population as 129,171(Male: 63,264 and Female: 65,907). This still affirms that the women are the majority in the district, (NNDA, 2010)

3.1.4.1 Ethnic Composition

The ethnic composition of the district is diverse with no particular ethnic clearly dominating the population. Konkombas constitute 43.3%, followed by the Nanumbas who constitute 41.1%, Dagomba 9.8% with Akans and Hausas constituting 1.3%. The Konkombas who are

mostly farmers reside in the rural areas where there is abundant land for farming while the Nanumbas are mostly in the urban settlements.

3.1.4.2. Religious Composition

The religious composition is diverse. Majority of the inhabitants are Muslims and constitute 51.2% of the population. Traditional religion constitutes 26.2%, Christians-20.5% and 2.0% have no religious affiliations. Islamic religion predominates in the urban areas (91.8%) whilst Christianity dominates in the semi-urban communities.

Bimbilla is the District capital as well as the seat of the Paramouncy of the Nanumba Traditional Council. Nanugli is the main language spoken and most of the people are farmers, government workers, self employed and traders. Bimbilla also provides administrative, banking (including financial institutions), educational, marketing and health services to the periphery. Most of the women groups reside in Bimbilla probably due to the presence of some financial institutions which facilitates the formation of these groups.

Chamba, the second largest community, is about 28.8km West of Bimbilla and has a population of 4,826 who speak mostly Likpalkpa and Nanungli. Chamba renders health, marketing and educational services to its surrounding communities. Other larger settlements are Bincheratanga, Makayil, Nakpa Gbeini, Lepusi, Bakpaba, Pusuga, Dakpam, Sabonjida and Taali. The settlements are quite scattered in their distribution, (NNDA, 2010)

3.1.5 Economy

The Economic potential of the district lies in its vast arable land with a huge agricultural investment potential. The District is predominantly agricultural with about 85.6% of the people engaged in the agriculture and forestry sector (source: GSS, 2002; Analysis of the District data and implication for planning-Northern Region). Out of the total land area of 173,459 hectares in the District, about 130,094 hectares representing 75% are agricultural lands. However, only 46,566 hectares representing 28% is under cultivation. There is currently no area under irrigation despite the fact that two major rivers – Oti and Daka run through the District.

The district also has numerous productive valleys: the Kaleogu. Sabonjida. Juo, Jua and Salnayili for commercial rice production, but all these are underutilized. Crops grown are roots and tubers, cereals, legumes and tree crops such as teak and cashew nuts. Animal rearing including poultry keeping is an integral part of every household. The remaining

14.4% of the population are engaged in non-agricultural enterprises and are found mainly in the large settlements doing trading (mostly the women), self employed artisans and in the formal/government employment, (NNDA, 2010)

3.1.6. Socio-Economic Infrastructure

3.1.6.1. Health

There are four health sub-districts with six facilities one of which is provided by the Catholic Mission in the District. There is currently a District hospital in Bimbilla with One medical doctor supported by two Cuban doctors delivering services to the people of the District. This put the Patient: Doctor ratio at 113,094:1. There are 31 nurses who man the health facilities in the sub districts,(NNDA, 2010)

3.1.6.2. Education

The district currently has 62 kindergarten (KGS) and nurseries, 92 primary (5 private and 87 public) schools, 23 Junior High Schools (JHS), one senior high school and one college of education. The District has a total of 405 teachers out of which 190 are trained and 215 untrained (pupil teachers). There are also volunteer teachers under the NYEP. Only three of the KGS, 42 of the Primary and 14 of the Junior High Schools have permanent structures. About 39 schools are still operating under trees and a total of 151 schools have no or inadequate sanitary facilities and water, (NNDA, 2010)

3.1.6.3. Road network.

The district has a total road network of 607.44km. This is made up of 156km of trunk roads radiating from the District capital, Bimbilla and 260 km of engineered feeder roads,110.44km of unengineered feeder roads which are usually farm tracks and 81 km of partially engineered roads. None of these roads are tarred. The trunk roads though motor able throughout the year are difficult to ply especially during the rainy season. The partially engineered and the non engineered link the communities in the hinterland. However they are only motor able during the dry season. This post a threat to most economic activities especially the trading jobs engaged in by the women in the district, (NNDA, 2010)

3.1.6.4. Water and Sanitation

Currently, the District has only one pipe system serving Bimbilla and Dangbenayili, about 239 functioning boreholes, 3 hand-dug wells which dry up in the dry season, 20

dams/dugouts and streams. In 2006, the District was ranked the 9th most guinea worm endemic in Ghana. However through UNICEF I-WASH programme no case of guinea worm was reported since 2009.

With 88,507 of the population having access to potable water, potable water coverage in the District now stands at 74.4%. Eighty communities do not have access to any source of safe drinking water. There are 17 public toilets in use in the District. Household latrines are mostly found in government premises and smaller communities. Majority of the people in the District practice the free range system as a method of excreta disposal. About 79.4% of the communities practice this method. This poses a serious health risk as cholera outbreak is highly probable.

3.1.6.5. Electricity

Bimbilla the District capital was hooked onto the national grid in March, 1988 and since then; twenty-six other communities have been connected to it. Currently work is on-going for forty (40) communities to get them hooked onto the national electricity grid under the self-help electrification programme (SHEP). The current access to electricity can impact negatively on investment particularly those into agro processing sub sector. The use of gas for cooking is also very low with no LPG service point in the district. This implies that the main source of fuel for cooking is the firewood. This, the women fetch by depleting the vegetation cover of the district which has dire consequences on the climatic conditions of the district.

3.1.6.6. Financial Institutions

Nanumba North District enjoys the services of Ghana Commercial Bank and it is the only resident banking institution in the District. Social Enterprise Development (SEND) Foundation of West Africa facilitated the setting up of a Credit Union in the District and it is currently mobilizing and supporting their registered members with credit facilities. Another credit union offering the same services is in Chamba. These institutions serve as serious avenues of credit for the women business owners albeit on small scale basis.

Besides, the above, the District can boast three micro finance institutions. These are all however resident in the district capital (Bimbila). These institutions to a large extent are assisting the women in the district who are into income generating activities with some micro-credit facilities. They access this micro-credit in groups identified by these institutions

based on their criteria of selection. For instance, Shea butter processing and yam sellers association are assisted by these institutions.

3.1.7 Sub-District structures and level of Decentralization.

The District has one town council and five Area Councils. These are Gmantambu Town Council, Darikum, Kakuhi, Kumbo, Nabanga and Varibiegu Area Councils. Kumbo has the highest number of settlements (52) followed by Varibiegu(50), Nabanga(29), Gmantambu (24), Kakuhi (19) and Darikum(16).

Table 3.1: Town/Area councils in the District with their population

	Town/Area Council	Population	No. of Communities	Council Centre
1	Gmantambu	34,703	24	Bimbilla
2	Kumbo	29,493	52	Dakpam
3	Varibiegu	20,710	50	Nakpa
4	Nabanga	11,956	29	Juo
5	Kakuhi	4,513	19	Bincheratanga
6	Darikum	11,719	16	Bakpaba

Sources: NNDA, 2010.

All the Area Councils have offices and staff. However, none is operating as it should be. The main reason accounting for the non operationalization of the sub-structures is the non-payment of salaries, allowances or otherwise, of the staff. To fully operationalize the structures, some furnishing would have to be done and the issue of salaries of the staff would have to be settled.

3.1.8 Implication of the profile to the study

Nanumba North District which is located along the eastern corridor has Bimbilla as its capital and it has six sub-district structures made up of one town and five area councils. The district is abound with great potentials such as arable lands, water bodies, and economic trees (the shea, dawadawa, mangoes). Agriculture is the still the mainstay of the district's economy with mix farming the commonly practiced system. Both men and women engage in both the crop farming and animal rearing even though the latter do on a small scale basis. The main crops grown include the roots and tubers, cereals and legumes with animals such the sheep, goat, cattle and poultry reared.

Women constitute the majority population with about 50.6 percent whilst men constitute 49.4 percent. They largely engaged in non-agricultural activities such as trade and artisanery with some of them engage in the formal sector. The open political system, where both men and women are free to contest in any election as found anywhere in the country presents a potential for women's political advancement. However, much is yet to be realised from this as women are less represented in both the local and national levels. This can be due to reasons as low self-esteem, few role models and financial problems. These challenges stalled them from playing an effective role during decision making processes both at the district and national levels. This, thus affect any role changes that would happened should they (women) be empowered.

Economically, women have a great potential in improving their income levels so as to play effective role in family care. This, they can do by taking advantage of the arable lands to embark on large scale farming to produce more for the family and for sale. Also, they can network through groups to serve as a security to access funds from financial institutions in the district. However, challenges such as the bad road network and land tenure system where largely the custody of the land is still in the hands of landlords (largely men) still affect women's economic advancement. These deprive them of economic will power to contribute to bring about any role changes within the household and the district levels, where they (women) can take care of family needs as providing food, children's education and health bills and paying utilities bills and not only limited to the domestic and child care roles as demonstrated by the literature on gender roles reviewed in chapter two.

3.2 Research Design

According to Collis and Hussey (1997:54, in Saunders et al., 2009:72), research design is the overall approach to the research process from the theoretical underpinnings to the collection and analysis of the data.

In looking at the effects of women empowerment on the role changes in the Nanumba North District of the northern region, a case study was adopted. The researcher has done this after having embarked on a reconnaissance survey, main survey, an in-depth survey with an empirical inquiry in the Nanumba North District as a planning zone that befits the characteristics of other districts in the region.

Case study research is aimed at enabling the investigator to grasp and understand an individual, a group, a community, a social situation or an issue in order to take decisions that take into consideration the special and peculiar circumstances surrounding the case being investigated (Kumekpor, 2002).

3.2.1 Justification of the Choice of Case Study Approach.

The choice of case study approach is as result of many reasons. Among these are: it views a phenomenon under study as a unique case within a given physical, socio-cultural, economic and political context and seeks to collect data in order to explain patterns and relationships existing under specific context. Also, it offers the opportunity to critically examine the units of analysis in detail, and in context and it also ensures precision, provides and strengthens alternative explanations identified from other sources.

The advantages of the case study method are its applicability to real-life, contemporary and its public accessibility through written reports. Case study results relate directly to the common readers, everyday experience and facilitate an understanding of complex real-life situations. Researchers from many disciplines use the case study method to build upon theory, to produce new theory, to dispute or challenge theory, to explain a situation, to provide a basis to apply solutions to situations, to explore, or to describe an object or phenomenon (Kumekpor, 2002). In this study, case study approach is preferred due to the current concern of women's empowerment issues and how it affects the roles they play in society. This issue is a current concern both locally and internationally as it is one of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGS).

3.3 Target Population

The study focused basically on a population universe comprising women (both married and unmarried) where unmarried included the single; separated; widowed and divorced; Opinion leaders, men, women groups actively involved in various economic activities such as processing industries, trade, farming, financial institutions and the district assembly.

3.4 Sampling Technique

Probability and non-probability strategies were used to achieve the required data. Probability sampling was used to ensure that every household within sample size determined was given an equal opportunity of being represented. Specifically, the simple random sample method

was used to select respondents in all sampled 110 households visited. In each household visited, a woman and a man were interviewed.

On the part of the non-probability strategy, the purposive sampling technique was considered in soliciting views from persons who have special knowledge in issues such as women activities, roles they play and the challenges confronting them which were not covered by the sample size chosen. How it was used is as follows: Purposively, four socio-economic women groups were selected for their knowledge on the activities women carry out in the district. These groups were basically economic ones including sheabutter processing group, rice processing group, yam sellers association and women co-operative. Two of these groups (the women's co-operative association and the yam sellers) were selected from the Town Council (Bimbilla) while the shea butter processors and rice processors were selected from Bincharatanga and Bakpaba respectively. This was because these groups existed for long time and have carried out so many activities which the study needed to examine. In all, four focus group discussions were held for these groups at their respective communities.

Besides that, the gender desk officer who is a repository of women groups and their activities in the district was interviewed. Last but not the least; two financial groups in the district were contacted in ascertaining how women access financial assistance, their repayment terms and the difficulties they are bedevilled with.

3.5 Sample Size Determination

In considering factors such as level of confidence, data precision and accuracy, degree of variability in the population (homogeneity), a statistical formulae was used to determine the sample size for the study. Also, the issue of time, expenses and accessibility of respondents, occasioned the use of sample of the population of these one town and five area councils.

In determining the sample size of households for the study, a mathematical formulae was used. This is depicted below:

$$n = \frac{N}{1+N(\alpha)^2}$$

Where;

n = sample size,

N = sample population and

α = alpha= the confidence level that provides best outcome when the value of α 0.1 was used to determine the sample size.

From this formulae, 110 (n) households were sampled from the sample frame (N) of 5,658 (2013 projected) households in the six (6) communities from the one and five town and area Councils respectively in the district. In each of the 110 households visited, a man and a woman were interviewed bringing the total respondents to 220. After determining the sample size, the simple proportional method was adopted in the distribution of the households among the six (6) communities. Proportional, each community's households was taken in relation to the total households (5,658, 2013 population, projected) in obtaining the sample size for each area. Below is table 3.2 depicting the sampled households and their distribution.

Table 3.2 Sampled households' distribution

Towns/Communities	Estimated Number of households (2013)	Sample size (Households)
Bimbilla	4713	83
Dakpam	200	4
Nakpa	18	5
Juo	22	5
Bincharatanga	452	8
Bakpaba	253	5
Total	5,658	110

Appendix 6 is a table showing 2013 projected population figures from the 1984 and 2000 population censuses figures and distribution among the six communities.

3.6 Data Sources

Primary and secondary data were the main avenues through which information was sourced. Primary data were sourced mainly through the administration of questionnaires. On the part of the secondary data, relevant literature from both government and non-governmental institutions on women empowerment were sourced. Twumasi, (1986: 30), puts it that, questionnaire is an efficient method in the sense that many respondents can be reached within a short space of time.

Many scholars (Saunders et al., 2009; Cooper and Schindler, 2006) have agreed that, the questionnaire can be used for descriptive, and must have a good layout, with unambiguous questions (avoid double barrel and leading questions), and logically arranged to solicit a good

response. Also, Twumasi (1986; 29) intimated that interview technique is an appropriate method for all segment of the population and also offers flexibility. This is because the researcher is in the position to sense the situation and can adapt his questions to suit the psychology of the people involved in the field situation. Again, Saunders et al., (2009: 324) make a point that, an interview provides the interviewee the opportunity to reflect on events without needing to write anything on paper. This situation also provides the opportunity for the interviewees to receive feedback and personal assurances.

3.7 Scope of The Study

In all, the study covered six (6) communities in one and five Town and Area Councils respectively in the District. These communities were selected based on easy location, available information on women groups and their activities and access of population figures from the area councils centres (repository of council's information). Table 3.3 below shows the Town and Area Councils in the district:

Table 3.3: Town and Area Councils of NNDA

	Town/Area Council	Population PHC, 2010	No. of Communities	of Council Centre
1	Gmantambu	34,703	24	Bimbilla
2	Kumbo	29,493	52	Dakpam
3	Varibiegu	20,710	50	Nakpa
4	Nabanga	11,956	29	Juo
5	Kakuhi	4,513	19	Bincheratanga
6	Darikum	11,719	16	Bakpaba

SOURCE: NNDA, 2010.

3.8 Analytical Procedure

Statistical Package for the Social Scientists (SPSS.6.0) tool was used to analyze the quantitative data and the results were presented in tables, charts and figures. The qualitative, on the other hand, was analysed using descriptive means in the form of explanation and drawing inferences.

3.9 Summary

This chapter presented the brief profile of the study area and the data collection and analytical methods and procedures that have been adopted in the study so as to present the true picture of the situation of the problem in the study area. The next chapter presented the results and discussions from the field survey.

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CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.0 Introduction

This part of the study presents the results of the data analysis and the discussions accompanying it. It specifically took into consideration the demography of respondents (both women and men); the roles women's play vis-a vis the men; socio-economic and political status of women; the influence of socio-economic and political empowerment on women's roles in the district; the challenges confronting women in their socio-economic and political endeavours and the suggestions to these challenges.

4.1. Demographic Information of Women and Men

4.1.1 Age Distribution and Marital Status of Respondents

The study revealed that, the majority of respondents (women) are within the age range of 18-27 with 54.6 percent whilst the age bracket of 48-57 was the least of 2.6 percent. None of the respondents was within the age cohorts of 58 and above. Largely, women (respondents) within the age brackets of 18-27 and 28-37 were all married with 71.8 percent with singles making up 25.5 percent while widows stood at 2.7 percent. This means that, married women largely are in the youthful stage and can aspire higher in life especially in professional development (the educated amongst them) and also other life ventures like head porting (kayaye) among the uneducated. These can have open effect on their domestic and child-caring roles as they leave to different places in search for these professional trainings and the menial jobs. However these skills acquired can empower them to gain well paid jobs and advance their leadership opportunities in order to contribute effectively in terms of providing for family needs such as payment of children's school, health and utility bills, hence altering these perceived traditional roles.

On the part of the men, the study revealed that, 36.4 percent of the men respondents are within the age brackets of 28-37. The next category is within the domain of 38-47 with 29.1 percent with the least being 3.6 percent of age level 58 and beyond. Largely, the men interviewed are married (84 percent) as revealed by the study whiles singles are 11 percent with the least being the widowed at 5 percent. This makes the views elicited to be based on experience as far as roles played by men and women are concerned.

The tables 4.1 and 4.2 below depicts the age distributions and marital statuses respectively of the respondents.

Table 4. 1: Age of Respondents

Age group	Sex			
	Men		Women	
	Frequency	percentage	Frequency	percentage
18-27	60	54.6	12	10.5
28-37	29	26.4	40	36.4
38-47	18	16.4	32	29.1
48-57	3	2.6	22	20.4
58 and above	-	-	4	3.6
Total	110	100	110	100

Source: Field Survey, July 2013.

Table 4.2 Marital Status of Respondents

Marital Status	Sex			
	Men		Women	
	Frequency	percentage	Frequency	percentage
Single	28	25.5	12	11
Married	79	71.8	92	84
widow	3	2.7	6	5
Total	110	100	110	100

Source: Field Survey, July 2013

4.1.2 Educational Background

From the survey, it was revealed that 39.2 percent of respondents passed through the tertiary level (largely, the teacher training college), 30 percent of them being illiterates with least being those who can read and write without formal education (usually through non-formal education) constituting 3.6 percent. This means that, even though literacy among women in the district is improving, illiteracy is still a problem to their empowerment both at political and economic levels. As some of the women (30 percent) are illiterates, their employment status especially in the formal sector might be limited which can affect their economic status. This has been confirmed by Jackson and Associates (2002) in the literature, when they revealed that women in the northern region are disadvantaged relative to that of men in terms

of access and control over economic resources and services, education and training and participation in decision making.

The educated among them (largely teachers) play dual role of attending to domestic needs of the family as well as their professional role as teachers. This can limit their domestic and child care roles in the family albeit, they can support in family needs provision such as food, children's education and health bills all from their professional rewards (salaries), hence bringing about role changes both at home and community levels.

Largely, men who have passed through the secondary school level dominate with 36.3 percent with no formal education being next with 25.5 percent and the tertiary level is third at 20 percent. The rest of 18.2 percent respondents could read and write with no formal education in the district. As common among the women where literacy levels are improving, so are the men too, even though illiteracy still persists. This means that men as compared to women are also into professional development (largely the teaching) where they earn income to take of the family needs.

4.1.3 Occupation of respondents

Teaching, from the study, shows as the dominant occupation of women of 39.1 percent. This goes to confirm the tertiary level of educational attainment of women in the District. Besides the teaching, stands trading at 31.8 percent with the least as women entrepreneurs or industrialist at 2 percent. This means that women in the district do trading alongside the teaching profession which might have an open effect on the roles they play at homes as they share time among housekeep, trade and professional carriers.

In terms of occupation, farming/fishing (38.2 percent) is the mainly common among men in the District. This is followed by teaching and civil servants with 25.5 percent. The least identified occupation engaged by men is artisanery and the unemployed constitute 3.6 percent. Unlike, the women where teaching is common occupation amongst them, the men on the other hand (as revealed by the study), largely combine farming and teaching jobs. 95 percent of the men teachers do farming alongside. These, they do, to support the family with basic needs and contribute towards other development projects.

4.1.4 Religious Affiliation

The study analysis shows that the area is Muslim dominated with 86.4 percent of all the respondents. The least practice faith is the traditional religion with 2.7 percent with Christians

as the second practice religion at 11.0 percent. This is in line with the district profile where Islam is a common practice faith in the district. The Islamic region determines roles played by both sexes as stated in the Holy Qur'an. For instance, in the administration of the household, the woman is to be totally catered for by the man. This is stated in the Qur'an: "...but the father of the child shall bear the cost of the mother's food and clothing in a kind manner..." (Qur'an 2:233). This means that, the men are expected to go out and work to bring food to their wives and children whilst the women stay at home and take care of the children.

In contrast to this dependency structure between women and men, is a statement of equality from the Noble Book again when it states that "O mankind be dutiful to your lord, Who created you from a single person (Adam) and from him, He created his wife (Hawwa-Eve) and from them both He created many men and women..." Qur'an 4:1. This statement connotes principle of equality between men and women both in obligation and reward. This means that women are not supposed to depend on men for their livelihood but rather work in equal proportion and be rewarded as such. Hence, women can work to bring home food, clothing, take care of children education and health bills and also take part in household decisions which eventually can bring about role changes between them and the men both at home and the district level. The study also revealed that, Islam is the common faith (87.5 responses) among men in the District as the women, with Christianity (10 percent) being the next. This also goes in line with district profile which puts Islam as a common practice faith in the district.

Again, the Islam dominance among men has an effect of roles between the sexes as stated in the Holy Qur'an especially in chapter 2:233 as quoted under the religious affiliation of respondents. This clearly spelt out that the men are expected to work to provide food and clothing for the women and children. However, chapter 4:1 in the same Holy Book holds a contrasting view when it stresses on equality between men and women both in obligation and reward.

4.2. The Roles Played by Both Men and Women in the District

This part of the study looked at what has been revealed from the field on the various roles played by both men and women in the District. How people (both sexes) perceive the specific roles that women and men play towards the household and District development. The revelations from the field are presented as below.

4.2.1. Women's Responses on the Roles Played by Men and Women in the District

In an attempt to find out whether men and women play the different or same roles in the district, the study revealed that, men and women play different roles in the district. Majority (83.6 percent) of women respondents agreed to the assertion that the roles of women are different from that of men, while 16.4 percent of them said there is no difference in the roles both sexes play in society. The majority (98.2 percent) of women respondents who agreed to the view that there are different roles played by both sexes mentioned roles such as domestic chores and child care as common women while breadwinning responsibility lies within the domain of men. This observation conforms to Morag (2012) and Asiyanbola (2005) comments in the literature.

Also, many (65 percent) respondents also mentioned that, there are certain occupations which are regarded as for women and it seemed odd seeing men engaged in them. They mentioned occupations such as petty trading, hairdressing, food vendor and dressmaking in this respect. In the same vein, there are some occupations regarded as for men. There were of the view that women by their nature are weak and therefore cannot do jobs that required so much energy. This observation clearly corroborates the comment of Asiyanbola (2005) in literature when he said that men because of their vigour and physical qualities are responsible for the heavy work which requires much energy and not women. Also, 85 percent held a view that, men besides their breadwinning role, play leadership and security roles in society.

4.2.2 Men's Responses on the Roles Played by Men and Women in the District

In contrast to the largely "Yes" responses by women on the different roles played by men and women in the District, the men admitted that, there is no difference between the roles both sexes play in the District. The "No" responses constitute 89 percent as against the "Yes" responses of 11 percent. Largely, the enlightened men usually the teachers and the civil servants (of 85 percent) have it that, the roles played by men and women are the same. This can be attributed to modernity and their level of education. This observation goes in line with that of Morag Naledi (2012) when he commented in the literature that, gender roles are breaking down in the developed countries due to educational attainment. This suggests that, as people advance in education, roles played by men and women are seen to be the same. However, the elderly (beyond the age 60) and the youth (with low or no level of education and experience) hold the view that men and women play different roles in the District.

With regards to the specific roles played by men and women, respondents (58.2 percent) revealed that domestic and child care is the dominant roles played by women with the least being petty trading and farming at 7.2 percent. Men on the other hand, largely play the breadwinning and farming (63.6 percent response) with the least role being security (14.4 percent).

4.3 Women's Socio-Economic Status in the District.

Women largely are into various forms of trading business. The study revealed that 86.4 percent of the women are into trading. The trade business is also confirmed by the men when interviewed (96.4 percent responses). Also, the men identified activities such as farming, local industrial ventures as pomade and soap making, Shea butter processing and artisanship to be other economic activities engaged by women in the District. Women who are into farming constitute 10 percent. All women (100 percent response) in the formal sector especial teachers do one form of trading activity which includes clothing business, buying and storing of food stuff. They do this to augment their monthly earnings so as to cope with domestic and carrier challenges. Regarding occupation of choice, 64.0 percent of women respondents agreed that, they are into occupation of their choices with 36.0 percent not into occupation of their choice. Reasons such as inadequate finance (65 percent), and also as a fostered child (girl who is given to a relative to take of), all largely accounts for most women not engaging in the occupation of their choices.

The main source of capital for the woman's trading activities is always from personal savings (averagely GHC50.00 per month) with 47.3 percent followed by support from women's group 16 percent. The other sources include loans from financial institutions and borrowing from friends and or relatives (especially spouses). For instance, the men interviewed revealed (64.7 percent responses) that, they assist their wives in a form of transporting the goods to the market centres and other form of labour as they request in doing business. Table 4.3 depicts the Sources of capital for business activities.

Table 4.3: sources of funds for trading business:

Source	No.	Percentage
Loans	18	16.4
Personal savings	52	47.3
Borrowed	13	11.7
Women group	18	16.4
Others	9	8.2
Total	110	100

Source: Field Survey, 2013.

Almost all men respondents (97 percent) agreed supporting to the tune of 45 percent of the women's business seed capital. This might be for the fact that, women play vital roles in the family upkeep and community development (especially through the proceeds from their business activities).

There are few (10 percent) large scale businesses owned by woman in the district. As revealed by the study, 53.6 percent of respondents held the view that businesses owned by woman in the District are small scale in nature whilst 36.4 percent of response favoured medium scale businesses owned by women. The view that businesses owned by women in the District are generally small is largely shared by the men as well. This affects the income they make within the year. For instance, as indicated by the study, 58.2 percent gave their income per annum within the brackets of GHC 2,400 - 10,950 whilst 11.8 percent are within GHC 11,000 – 19,500. This latter category was largely teachers and public servants. Others who constitute 22.87% do not earn above GHC 500 a year, usually the petty traders. For instance, a petty trader (a provision store owner) inside the Bimbilla central market attributed her low inflows to the small scale nature of the store. All the above indicates the weak economic status of women in the district which, to a larger extent, limits the effective roles they can play in household and societal development. Tables 4.4 and 4.5 depict the income per annum and scale of business of women in the district respectively.

Tables 4.4 income per annum

Income	No.	Percentage
2,400-10,950	64	58.2
11,000-19,500	13	11.8
20,000-28,550	4	3.6
30,000-38,950	2	1.8
40,000-200,000	2	1.8
Others	25	22.8
Total	110	100

Source: Field Survey, 2013.

Table 4.5: Scale of business ownership.

Scale	Number	Percentage
Large	11	10
Medium	40	36.4
Small	59	53.6
Total	110	100

Source: Field Survey, 2013.

4.5 Socio-Political Status of Woman in the District

Women's participation in decision making process in the district and within their respective households is not encouraging. The study revealed that 74.5 percent of women are sometimes involved in household decision making process. With 5.5 percent not at all involved and 20 percent are always involved. Also, the study revealed that 25 percent of men do not involve their wives in household meetings due to reasons such as non-trustworthiness (that is not keeping secrets) of the women and also nothing to offer during these meetings. This shows how less influential women are in the household and community decision making levels. The level of education is not influencing much their level involvement in decision making due to challenges such as the low self esteem, fear of competition and lack of funds to carry out campaigns. All these limit their contributions in terms of ideas towards household and district development. In terms of representation in the district Assembly, and parliament, the study revealed that, women constitute only 9.5 percent (both elected and appointed) of the total Assembly membership with none in parliament. This also shows, how politically, women are poorly represented which limits their political roles in the district.

With regards to access to community leaders, especially, the key stakeholder such as the MP, the Assembly member, the traditional leaders, the government officials unit committees and the traditional leader. The study interestingly reveals that only 38.2 percent of respondents agreed contacting the traditional leader twice within the last 12 months. The rest are the MP, the Assembly Member, the unit committee member who largely are very influential when it comes to development interventions are not accessible to the people especially women in the district. This can be a disadvantage to the women as their concerns cannot freely be expressed which can limit their access to information and for that matter affecting their participation in decision making. It further shows how poor social auditing (that is, the process by which duty bearers account to the people they serve through regular meetings) in the district.

However, the constitutional rights of citizens are highly exercised by women in the District as revealed by the study. For instance, in the last 7th general elections, 94.5 percent of all respondents agreed to have exercised their franchise with only 5.5 percent not. Surprisingly, no women contested both in the primaries and the final elections. With regards to the 2010 District level elections, 78.2 percent of women agreed to have voted with only 21.8 percent not casting their votes. Within this category, two of the women who contested all won their seats through the support of their women colleagues. This could imply that, women are willing to support their colleagues to occupy leadership positions both at the district and national levels. Hence, to make women occupy vital leadership positions, there should be regular sensitisations and role modelling especially by the Ministry in charge of gender affairs and other non-governmental organisations. In all, 34 (constituting 31 percent) out of the 110 women interviewed indicated they did not take part in the elections. The dominant reasons of not voting revealed by the study were loss of confidence in the leaders which was 38.2 percent followed by not being aware of the exercise which stood at 35.3 percent with the least reason being associated with health reasons (5.9%). Table 4.6 presents reasons given by the 31 per cent of women respondents.

Table 4.6: Reasons for not taking part in the Last District Level Election

Reason	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Loss of confidence in leaders	13	38.2
Was not aware of the exercise	12	35.3
Was not at home	7	20.6
Was not feeling fine	2	5.9
Total	34	100

Source: Field survey, July 2013.

Women's participation in the election process notwithstanding, still are poorly represented in political platforms. This, to a large extent, affects the roles they play both within the household level and in the District.

4.6 The Influence of Socio-Economic and Political Empowerment on the Roles Women Play in District.

Political and economic empowerment influence to a larger extent the roles women play in the District. The study, for instance, reveals that 74.5 percent of women respondents who agreed to have taken part in household decisions contributed greatly during these meetings. This shows that, given more decision making platforms, women in the District can influence greatly decisions taken at the household and community levels.

For instance, with the roles women can play when voted into parliament and District Assembly, the study revealed that, women largely can influence the provision of social amenities and services, support women initiatives, serves as role models, deliberate in passing women friendly laws (such as proportional representation in all decision making platforms and affirmative action) and champion peace crusades in the district. Provision of social amenities and services, according to the study, constitute the highest priority at 49.1 percent of responses when women are given the political platform. Supporting women initiatives such as women's networks, women engaged in industrial activities and support girl-child education comes next at 41.8 percent with the least being serving as role models for women in the District. The implication is that, when women aspire to places of authority, the society (the District) is assured of sustainable development interventions as women as well as children who constitute the majority are always the main target.

Table 4.7: Roles Women can play if they are Empowered Politically

Roles	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Provision of social amenities	54	49.1
Support women initiatives/ passing women friendly laws	46	41.8
Serve as role models	10	9.1
Total	110	100

Source; Field survey, July 2013.

Economic empowerment, to a greater extent, can influence roles women play in the district and national development. For instance, the men indicated that, women can engage in large scale business ventures when they have access to productive resources. Albeit the study revealed that, in terms of access to loans, 33.6 percent of all respondents agreed to have received loans from one of the financial institutions in the district, none of them received beyond GHC 1000 (One thousand Ghana cedi). However, in an attempt to ascertain how the loan accessed was used, 70.9 percent of respondents (women) agreed using the money to invest in their trade from which proceeds they use to take of their children school, health and feeding needs while 29.1 percent agreed using it to meet social needs such weddings, funerals and naming ceremonies, this they agreed makes it difficult for them repaying the loans. Repayment becomes difficult for most of these women due to the misapplication of the loans. This means that, most of the women need intensive financial education to make them business minded so as to avoid misapplication of business funds. This can make them recoup their cost of investment, repay the loans and still have more to meet their social obligations. For instance, the 70.9 percent who applied the loans appropriately indicated quick repayments, enlargement of scale of trade and also more proceeds. All, these mean that, when women have access to more financial resources (in the form of affordable credit) coupled with intensive financial education, they will be able to realise more returns from their investment. This will make them influence the roles they play by also taking care of family needs such as children's school and health bills, utility bills and feeding.

The study also revealed that, 39 (35.5 percent) out of the 110 women interviewed agreed owning farms ranging between 0-5 hectares land space. The commonest crops grown are food crops of 92.3 percent with the least being cash crops (usually cashew and mangoes) at

2.6 percent. Family needs constitute the highest priority of the farm yields. Even though, the size of their farms are generally small (0-5 hectares), whatever yield is realised from the farm is invested in the family's upkeep. However, this subsistence mode is affecting their ability to expand the scale production so as to yield more to take care of their families and still have more for sale to make more income for other investments. This can be realised by making resources such as land and farming inputs accessible to women especially through the support of the district assembly. This can make farming attractive to them and in the long run can improve their productivity and make them play active roles in taking care of their families and also contribute towards the district development. Tables 4.8 and 4.9 and figure 4.1 depict the crops, usage of farm income and size respectively.

Table 4.8: Crops Cultivated

Crops cultivated	Number of respondents	Percentage
Food crops	36	92.3
Cash crops	1	5.1
Food crops and cash crops	2	2.6
Total	39	100

Source; Field survey, July 2013.

Table 4.9: Where Women Invest Capital Earned from Farming

Area of investment	Number of respondents	Percentage
Family needs	35	89.8
Expansion of farm	2	5.1
Support husbands	2	5.1
Total	39	100

Source; Field survey, July 2013.

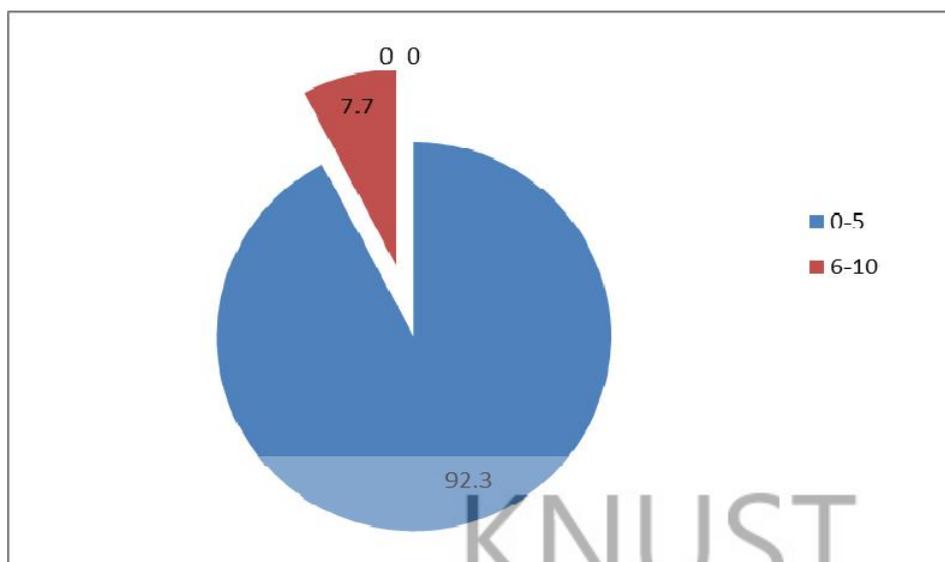


Figure 4.1: Size of the farms

Source: Field survey, July 2013.

4.7 Institutional Study

The two financial institutions (all located in Bimbilla) contacted in the District agreed dealing with some 30 women groups, largely into Shea butter and rice processing and yam selling (located across the district). The loans are advanced at an average rate of 4.6 percent to these women's groups, which is repayable within four months. The average amount of loan given to an individual within a group ranges between GHC 150 to GHC300. This rate charged is based on the number of groups it is dealing with coupled with the group's ability to repay. However, the rate charge cannot match against the national interest rate due to fact that, these financial institutions are donor funded. Hence, the women groups are use to implement their activities. In order to activate these groups to be viable, they are taken through some basic financial skills training such as basic book keeping, financial management, group conflict management and report writing. In terms of recovery, the study revealed that, there is high recovery rate (85 percent of the loaned amount) which is imputable to reasons such as credit worthiness of these groups and viability of their business ventures. With regards to challenges, the institutions indicated that, conflict of interest among group members, low funds, inflationary pressures and incessant competitions from other women's groups pose as serious challenge to these groups.

The District Assembly has registered no women's group in the District. This has been attributed to poor supervision of some identified women groups under the Micro and Small

Loans Scheme (MASLOC) coupled with funding difficulties. This led to the collapse of these groups in the District. However, the study indicated that, the Assembly has made efforts to revive these old groups, identify and nurture more women entrepreneurs and those already engaged in various rural industrial activities such as Shea butter extraction, ground nut oil business and women farmers. The Assembly has indicated to do this through the GYEEDA initiative and other donor support, as largely, most women (78 percent) who engage in these ventures are within the youth age bracket. The implication of the above is that, all relevant institutions such as the financial and the District Assembly, upon recognition of the important roles women can play when given the economic power (such as affordable credits and skills training in modern technology) have identified and are assisting both individual women and their networks in the District.

4.8 Women Groups or Networks (Focus Group Discussions).

The study indicated through four Focus Group Discussions that, the maximum membership of most women's groups in the District is 35. These groups are all into economic activities. They form these networks for various reasons as revealed by the study. These reasons include: assisting each other in terms of need; contributing meaningfully towards community development; solving pressing household problems especially supporting children's education, meeting their health and feeding needs. For instance, interactions among women co-operative association and yam sellers association (all in Bimbilla) revealed that 85 percent of them had one or two of their children proceeded to the tertiary level through the support of the groups. And almost all (98 percent) agreed to be contributing in food provision for their families.

The lead respondents during the discussions with Shea-butter (widows group) and rice processors group revealed that, 89 percent of members are supporting in taking care of children school and health bills and also support in feeding their families. They do this through proceeds from the sale of their products. However, they meet their social needs such as weddings, naming ceremonies and funerals and also placating each other's sorrows through the support as members of the groups. Most interesting effect of these women's networking is the peace campaigns they carry out in the District.

For instance, in one of the discussions, which was a widows group (into Shea butter processing), it was revealed that, having gone through the agonies of losing their husbands (through the 1994 Komkomba War), "we came together to wipe out each other's tears".

Through this process, they have been able to raise funds through the support of their industrial ventures such as soap/pomade making from the Shea butter extraction. The discussion also revealed that, rotational loans scheme has been developed through the facilitation of SEND FOUNDATION and Action Aid (Songtaba). It further revealed that, the funds raised are channelled to their children needs especially education, feeding and health needs as their husbands are not there to provide.

On their personal ambitions for joining the groups, all (100 percent) in all the four discussions agreed that, they are better off than before as they can boast of table top businesses, provision stores and clothing businesses and also into buying and storing of food stuff. They all indicated that, this has empowered them to play effective roles such as provision of food, taking care of their wards school and health needs and meeting their social need.

With regards to challenges, the discussions revealed that, many of these groups are yet to be identified by the Assembly and other relevant institutions and donor organisations for support. The other challenges as revealed through the discussions include; inadequate accommodation to contain their products, low media coverage of their activities, low support from their husbands especially the married women. The implications of women networks, notwithstanding the challenges they are bedevilled with, are very vital for the roles women can play in societal development. As revealed by the discussions, through these networks, women are better position to meet family needs even when their husbands are no more. They use these networks to influence support for each other, their families and the society at large. Above all, they are the cutting edge of peace promoters considering their numbers and the strategic position they occupy in the District.

4.9 Challenges confronting women in the district

4.9 Socio-Economic and Political Challenges Confronting Women in the District.

Women's efforts to engage in viable economic ventures in the District are hindered by certain challenges. The study revealed the following challenges:

On the economic aspect, the three most serious challenges confronting women in the District include; difficulty in accessing loans; bad weather conditions such as floods, drought and harmattans, and also bad road network linking the District to other parts of the country are challenges affecting women in engaging in economic ventures. These challenges in varying

ways limit the women capacity in earning more from their economic ventures. For instance, 75 percent of women expressed a concern that, most of their agro-products such as yam, vegetables among others, got rotten in carting them to the market centre within the year as a result of the bad road network. Whiles, 93 percent of the women expressed challenges such as bad weather conditions (the floods, drought and harmattan) and difficulty in accessing loans as serious challenges confronting their business activities in the district. These women are largely the yam sellers and those into farming and agro-processing activities like ground nut oil, rice and Shea butter processing.

On the part of political challenges, the study revealed that, fear of competition (29.1 percent responses), low literacy level which constitute 30.6 percent and lack of funds to carry out campaigns at 18.2 percent are the three conspicuous challenges confronting women to advance politically in the District. The other challenges included: lack of support from spouse/relatives, traditional/religious beliefs, lack of media or publicity and family obligation. These challenges have limited women to a larger extent in advancing their political fortunes in the District so as to influence roles they can play towards the District and national development. For instance, the 9.5 percent representation in the Assembly can be attributed to these identified challenges.

The last but not the least, as revealed by the study, are traditional/cultural beliefs (30 percent), low self-esteem (28.2 percent), and lack of respect for women (18.2) constitute the most serious challenges confronting women socially in playing an active role in the District development. The other challenge is sexual harassment in the community and at work places. These have limited the women's efforts in taking an active part in most social activities such as youth peaceful matches, community meetings among others. The table below depict these social challenges confronting women in the District.

4.10 Suggestions to Overcome the Socio-Economic and Political Challenges Confronting Women in the District

This part of the study looked at the suggestions made to arresting the conspicuous socio-economic and political challenges that limit the women's efforts in playing an active role in the District development process. These are presented as follows:

In overcoming the litany of challenges confronting women in the District, 90 percent of the men suggested that; discouraging negative cultural practices through regular public

sensitisations, promoting gild-child education, motivating and supporting women financially, and public sensitisation on women potentials among others are pragmatic antidotes to all the challenges women grapple with in the District.

Women on their part (95 percent of them), suggested that, there should be a continuous community sensitisation programmes on the important roles women can play when given a political platform in the District. They again suggested that, women advocacy organisations and government institutions in the District such as the Action-Aid Songtaba, Integrated Democracy Centre, National Commission for Civic Education and other donor originations should influence support for women to mount campaign platforms during any election especially the District level election. This, to a larger extent can increase the number female Assembly members.

With regards to the economic challenges, encouraging women's networking especially by the District Assembly and the financial institutions were largely suggested by both men and women (92 and 85 percent respectively) as a remedy to most of the challenges. Another suggestion was that, government through the District Assembly should prioritise and improve on the road network to ease the movement of human, goods and service to market centres. Agricultural extension services should be intensified to educate farmers on pre and post farming season practices to forestall any consequent flood and draught effects and post-harvest losses.

Socially, both women and men (respondents) suggested that, more social media (local radio) platforms should be opened to women to air their views on topical issues. Also, community by-laws should be set and enforced by the traditional authority to support women friendly initiatives to make them active social actors. This would also do away with most of the negative cultural practices such as witchcraft and child labour in the District. The last but not the least suggestion was that, women role-modelling should be encouraged by women advocacy organisations both in the District and outside to inculcate in the women and girls 'the can do' spirit. This would arrest the low self-esteem and make them active in social development process.

4.11 Summary

This chapter presented the discussions on the findings which established the effects of women's empowerment on roles changes in the District and beyond. Also, the socio-economic and political statuses of women in the District were established. The socio-economic and political challenges confronting women were as well presented. The next and the last chapter presented the major findings, recommendations and conclusions.

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CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION.

5.1 Introduction

This section highlights the findings with their implications, recommendations, and conclusions drawn from the findings. It involves recommendations that can provide pragmatic inputs to inform national policy on how economically and politically women can be empowered so as to bring about changes in roles women and men play towards the District and national development. This has been anchored among other things by the third Millennium Development Goal which is Promoting Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. This was upon realising the vital roles women can play (having constituted the majority population) in society across the globe, when they are empowered.

5.2 Summary Of Findings

This part presents the major findings from the discussions which encompass the socio-economic and political status of women, the roles played by women and men, effects of socio-economic and political empowerment of women on role changes and the challenges confronting women in the district. They are as follows:

5.2.1 Socio-Economic Status of Women in the District

The study revealed that, economically, women capacity in terms of engaging in large scale production is low. Notwithstanding, the various trading activities such as selling of agro-products, local industrial products (that are pomade, Shea-butter, soap among others) and clothing business, they are done on small scale. Largely, the source of business capital they run their trade with is from personal savings (averagely, GHC 50 per month) with support from their women's networks. The study also indicated, (58.2 percent response) of women earn below GHC 1,000 per annum from their trade which affects their recovery capacity to enlarge scales of their trade. All these point to their weak economic status in the district which limits the effective roles they can play towards household and district development.

5.2.2 Socio-Political Status of Woman in the District

The political status woman in the district is very low. As many of them are sometimes involve in household and community levels decision making. This was revealed by 74.5 percent of response of women who are sometimes engage in meetings at the household and

community levels. In terms of representation in the District Assembly and parliament, women constitute only 9.5 percent of the entire membership of the Assembly. Also, women's access to the stakeholders such as the MP, the Assembly member and unit committee member in the district is very low.

5.2.3 Roles Played by Women and Men in the District (From the Women's and Men's View Points).

The study revealed (from women view point) that men and women play different roles in the district. There was 83.6 percent response in favour of different roles played by women and men as against 16.4 of same roles played by both sexes. Regarding the dominant roles by both sexes, domestic chores and child care constitute the large roles by women whilst farming and breadwinning are typical of the men. Largely, women with high level of education within the age domain of 18-30 with post Diploma Degree usually (the carrier women) held the view that, women and men play the same roles.

However, the study indicated from the men's view point that, there are no different roles between men and women in the district. This is the open recognition by men of immense roles women play in district.

5.2.4 Effects of Socio-Economic and Political Empowerment on Women's Roles in the District

Economic and political empowerments affect to a larger extent roles women play in the district. For instance, 74.5 percent respondents agreed to have contributed greatly during any household meetings they take part. Also, the study revealed that, women can influence a lot of interventions when they are provided political platforms (such as the District Assembly and Parliament). Largely, they can influence provision of social amenities service, support women initiatives, serves as role models, deliberate in passing women friendly laws and also champion peace crusades in the district. Supporting women's initiatives such as women networks, women in to industrial activities, support girl-child education and championing peace crusades cumulatively constituted 51.8 percent responses among other effects.

Economically women can influence a lot of their roles when empowered. For instance, the 33.6 percent of respondents who agreed accessing loans from one or two financial institutions in the District indicated investing reasonable part in support of children education health and feeding needs of the family whilst the left part invested in trade. Even though, this was agreed

largely by the women to be risky as repayments were difficult, this shows how women are willing to take up family obligations such as providing food for the family and paying of children's school and health bills when they are empowered economically. The study also revealed that 35.5 percent of respondents who own terms ranging 0-5 hectares grow mainly food crops. The yields from these farms are invested largely in family upkeep. Men on their part (54.6 percent of respondent) intimated that, women's access to productive resources can make them engage in large scale business, supporting their husbands and assist in providing family needs. All these imply that, women stands to play vital roles (even the perceived men ones) in the District and beyond when they are economically empowered.

5.2.5 Challenges confronting women in the district.

Women in the District are confronted with litany of challenges which affect their socio-economic and political endeavours. These challenges are economic, political and social. The study revealed among other things that, economically, women largely are confronted with challenges of difficulty in accessing loans, climatic factors and bad road network.

On the political front, the study revealed that, largely women are confronted with fear of competition, low level of literacy and lack of funds to carry out political campaigns. The others include lack of support from spouse/relatives, traditional or religious beliefs, lack of media/publicity and family obligation. The last but not least, socially women are limited (as revealed by the study) by challenges such as traditional or cultural beliefs, low self-esteem and lack of respect for women.

5.3 Recommendations

The overarching aim of this study is to examine how socio-economic and political empowerment of women can influence role changes between them and the men towards societal development. Consequently, the study sought to come out with pragmatic prescriptions to guide policy makers in fashioning women friendly interventions so as to influence the roles they play in society. The following recommendations are prescribed:

- Civil Society Organisations (CSO'S) such as Action Aid (Songtaba), AGREDS and SEND FOUNDATIO in the District and beyond should lobby government and other donor agencies through intensive advocacy to provide affordable financial support (loans with low interest rate) for women especially those engaged in local industrial

activities. This would activate them to increase their productivity in order for them to play effective roles towards household and community development.

- Government institution such as the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) should be logistically empowered to strengthen public sensitisations on the vital roles women can play when given more platforms. The Police, Commission on Human Rights and Administration (CHRAJ) and the Social Welfare should enforce the existing constitutional and legal regimes (especially the Domestic Violence Law) that seek to protect the vulnerable in society especially the women.
- Again, the media platforms (TV, local radios) should be influenced by government through the District Assemblies to create more space for women to contribute to discussions on topical social, economic and political issues. This would build their confidence and analytical skills which have the potential of killing the low self esteem and boosting their confidence levels.
- The government policy on girl child should be intensified through sponsorship packages especially for the brilliant but needy girls in order to enrol more of them in schools. The Ministry of Gender and Social Protection should collaborate with relevant stakeholders to address the issues that limit women from participating at stages of schooling. In the same vein, the Non-formal education programmes should be strengthened to improve literacy levels among women especially in the rural areas.
- The various women groups should encourage their members to contest for decision-making positions. The motive behind this is to enhance their participation in decision making both at household, community and the national levels. This will provide them a good platform where they can influence decisions taking at these levels so as to reflect their felt needs in national policies.
- The financial institutions in the District should identify and encourage women networks (to serve as collaterals) to enable them have access to more affordable loans. This would not only leverage more financial resources to them but would also build their skills in running the economic activities they engage in, considering the wide range of financial management, group conflict management training these institutions stand to provide. The net effect of this would be that (as the study

revealed), women are positioned well to provide for the family needs, support their husbands in their endeavours and play other roles towards the District development.

- Social Auditing which seeks to hold the duty bearers accountable to the people they serve should be promoted by government and donor organisations in every District. This makes accessible persons such as the MP, Assembly member, Unit committee members and other stakeholders in the District to women especially which would make them assertive on issues that bother them in society.
- Pro-poor intervention such as the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) should be revised (in terms of its criteria) to include beneficiaries especially women and the girl-child in every District. This would further empower them economically to meet urgent household needs and also invest to enlarge the scales of businesses they operate.
- The Ministry of Gender and Social Protection and National Council on Women and Development should take of advantage of the Constitutional reforms to push for affirmative action such as quota representation system so as to increase the number of women serving in the Assemblies, the Parliament and the executive platforms. This would do away with the political rhetoric of political party campaign promises to consolidating the representation of women in political and high decision making levels in the country.

5.4 Conclusion

In summing up, women's empowerment has been a contemporary issue as anchored by the United Nation's Millennium Development Goal 3 (Promoting Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment). This has also been supported by provisions in the 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana under the Directive Principles of State Policy (chapter six). All these seek to empower women politically, economically and socially so that they can play effective roles in societal development. Also, it is the recognition of women being the majority and the various ways they can influence changes in the roles they and the men play towards the district and national development. For instance, the study amply revealed the various ways women can effect changes in the roles they play when empowered economically and politically. Provisions of basic family needs, supporting children's education, influencing social amenities and services for their communities, serving as role models among other

effects are the various ways women can effect changes in their roles when they are economically and politically empowered.

However, women notwithstanding the roles they can play when empowered politically and economically, are confronted with plethora of challenges in the District. The study revealed among other things difficulties in accessing affordable loans, bad road network, climatic factors (floods and draughts), fear of competition, lack of funds for campaigns, traditional or cultural beliefs, low self-esteem and lack of support from spouse and relatives.

To arrest this litany of challenges militating against women in the District so as to empower them politically and economically to effectively play their roles, the researcher recommended some policy interventions and strategies. It is therefore highly anticipated that when these policy suggestions, strategies and interventions are considered, it would go a long way to empowering women politically and economically so as to play effective roles towards the district and national development.



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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: HOUSEHOLD QUESTIONNAIRE A

Msc. Development Policy and Planning

TOPIC: EFFECTS OF WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT ON ROLE CHANGES IN NORTHERN REGION OF GHANA. THE CASE OF NANUMBA NORTH DISTRICT (BE ASSURED THAT ALL YOUR RESPONSES WOULD BE TREATED WITH UTMOST CONFIDENTIALITY. YOUR NAME IS NOT REQUIRED IN THIS)

SECTION A

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

(1) Age:

- I. 18-27 []
- II. 28-37 []
- III. 38-47 []
- IV. 48-57 []
- V. 58 and above []

(2) Educational background

- I. No Formal Education []
- II. No formal Education (but can speak/write in English or Vernacular) []
- III. Basic (Primary, Middle, JHS etc) []
- IV. Secondary (SHS, Vocational Inst. Etc) []
- V. Tertiary Institution (Trng Coll., Poly. University etc) []
- VI. Any other (please specify) []

(3) Occupation:

- I. Farmer/Fishermen/women []
- II. Trader []
- III. Entrepreneur/Industrialist []
- IV. Teacher/Lecturer []
- V. Civil Servant/Public Servant []
- VI. Artisan []
- VII. Unemployed []

(4) Marital Status:

- I. Single []
- II. Married []
- III. Separated []
- IV. Divorced []
- V. Widowed []
- VI. Other []

(5) Religious Affiliation:

- I. Moslem []
- II. Christian []
- III. Traditionalist []
- IV. Any other (specify).....

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SECTION B

GENDER ROLES

(6) Do women and men play different roles in this Community?

- I. Yes []
- II. No []

(7) If yes, what are they:

- a) Women-----

- b) Men-----

SECTION C

Women's participation in Economic Development

(8) What are the main occupations of women in the District?

- I. Trading []
- II. Farming []
- III. Teaching []
- IV. Public Services []
- V. Local industrialist []
- VI. Others (Specify).....

(9) Are you engaged in the occupation of your choice?

I. Yes []

II. No []

(10) If No, give reasons.

(11) How satisfied are you with your work??

I. Very satisfied []

II. Fairly satisfied []

III. Just satisfied []

IV. Not satisfied []

(12) To what extent are you remunerated for the work?

I. Very adequately []

II. Fairly adequately []

III. Somewhat adequately []

IV. Not adequate []

(13) What is your source of Capital for your business activities?

I. Loans from banks/ Savings and Loans company []

II. From personal savings []

III. Borrowing from friends /relatives/spouse []

IV. From women's groups/associations/organisations []

V. Any other (specify) []

(14) What is your estimated income per annum?

I. GH ¢ 2,400- 10,950 []

II. GH ¢11,000- 19,500 []

III. GH ¢20,000- 28,550 []

IV. GH ¢30,000- 38,950 []

V. GH ¢ 40,000- 200,000 []

VI. Above GH ¢ 200,000 []

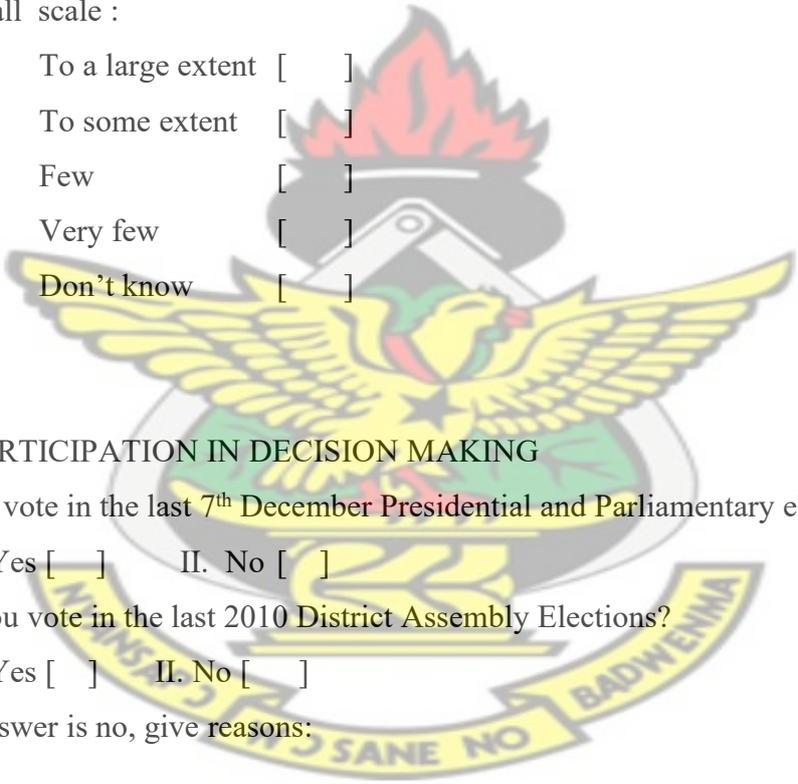
VII. Any other (specify) []

(15) To what extent do you agree that business owned by women in the District are:

a) Large scale

- I. To a large extent []
 - II. To some extent []
 - III. Few []
 - IV. Very few []
 - V. Don't know []
- b) Medium scale :
- I. To a large extent []
 - II. To some extent []
 - III. Few []
 - IV. Very few. []
 - V. Don't know []
- c) Small scale :
- I. To a large extent []
 - II. To some extent []
 - III. Few []
 - IV. Very few []
 - V. Don't know []

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SECTION D

WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING

(16) Did you vote in the last 7th December Presidential and Parliamentary elections?
 I. Yes [] II. No []

(17) Did you vote in the last 2010 District Assembly Elections?
 I. Yes [] II. No []

(18) If the answer is no, give reasons:

(19) How often are engaged in Household decisions?
 (I) Always [] (II) Sometimes [] (III) Not at all []

(20) During the last 12 months, how often did you contact any of the following to discuss any issue?
 (i) Not at all (ii) Once (iii) Twice (iv) Thrice (v) More thrice

- a) MP [] [] [] [] []
- b) Assembly M. [] [] [] [] []
- c) Political Party L. [] [] [] [] []
- d) A gov't Official [] [] [] [] []
- e) Unite C'tee mem [] [] [] [] []
- f) Trad. Leader [] [] [] [] []

(21) During the last 12 months, was there any meeting called to discuss matters concerning your community?

- (I) Yes [] (II) No []

(22) During the last 12 months, did you attend any meeting called to discuss matters concerning your community?

- (I) Yes [] (II) No []

(23) How were the contributions of women during these meetings?

- (I) Very great [] (II) Great [] (III) Moderate. [] (IV) Poor []

(24) How interested are you in public affairs?

- (I) Very interested []
- (II) Somewhat interested []
- (III) Not at all interested []
- (IV) Don't know []

SECTION E

THE INFLUENCE OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT ON WOMEN'S ROLES IN THE DISTRICT.

(25) Are you involved in household decision making process? (I) Yes [] (II) No []

(26) Have you ever accessed loan from any financial institution in the District?

- (I) Yes. [] (II) No []

(27) If the answer is yes, which of the following did you use the money for?

- i. To invest in business (Trade) []
- ii. To invest in farming business []
- iii. To pay for children school/health bills []
- iv. To assist husband to farm []
- v. Any other (specify) []

(28) Do you own a farm?

- (I) Yes [] (II) No []

(29) If the answer is yes, what is the average size of your farm?

- (I) 1–5 hectares [] (II) 6–10 hectares [] (III) 11– 20 hectares []
(IV) Above 20 hectares []

(30) What crops do you grow?

- (I) Food crops (maize, millet, Yam, etc) []
(II) Cash crops (cashew, cotton,) []
(III) Combined food and cash crops []

(31) Which of the following areas do you invest your farm yields on?

- (I) Provision of family basic needs (Food, Health bills, etc) []
(II) Building a house for rent []
(III) Ploughing back in farm business []
(IV) Assisting husband to do business []
(V) Any other (specify) []

(32) Are you aware of some laws that seek to protect women in this country?

- (I) Yes [] (II) No []

(33) If the answer is yes, mention any.....

(34) Do you the total membership of the District Assembly?

- (I) Yes [] (II) No []

(35) If the answer is yes, how many are they?.....

(36) How many are women, both elected and appointed?.....

(37) In your view, what do you think women can do when they are voted into Parliament and the District Assembly?.....

(38) Do you belong to any economic association, network or group?

- (I) Yes [] (II) No []

(39) Do you belong to any social organisation, association or network?

- (I) Yes [] (II) No []

SECTION F

SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CHALLENGES CONFRONTING WOMEN IN PLAYING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS OF THE DISTRICT.

(40) In playing an active role in the development process, what major factors hinder women in the following?

A. Economic Activities

- (I) Unpaid household work []
- (II) Difficulty in registering business []
- (III) Difficulty in accessing loans []
- (IV) Too many taxes levied on business []
- (v) Climatic factors (floods, draughts, etc.) []
- (VI) Lack of maternal/reproductive policy for women []
- (VII) Bad road network []
- (VIII) Any other (specify) []

B. Political Participation

- (I) Lack of support from spouse/relatives []
- (II) Lack of funds for campaigns []
- (III) Fear of competition []
- (IV) Traditional /religious beliefs []
- (V) Low level of literacy []
- (VI) Lack of media /Publicity []
- (VII) Family obligation []
- (VIII) Any other (specify) []

C. Social development

- (I) Traditional /cultural beliefs []
- (II) Low self-esteem []
- (III) Lack of respect for women []
- (IV) Sexual harassment []
- (V) Any other (specify) []

(41) How would you assess the level of women's status in political and leadership roles in the District?

(I) Very High [] (II) High.[] (III) Very Low [] (IV) Low []

(42) How would you assess the engagement of women in the economic activities of the District?

(I)Very High [] (II) High [] (III) Very Low [] (IV) Low. []

(43) How would you assess the level of women's participation in social development in the District?

(I) Very High.[] (II) High [] (III) Very Low [] (IV) Low []

(44) Suggest three ways to overcome the challenges of political participation among women

I.....

.....

.....

II.....

.....

.....

III)

.....

.....

(45) Suggest three ways to overcome the economic obstacles women's encounter in the district

(I)

.....

.....

(II)

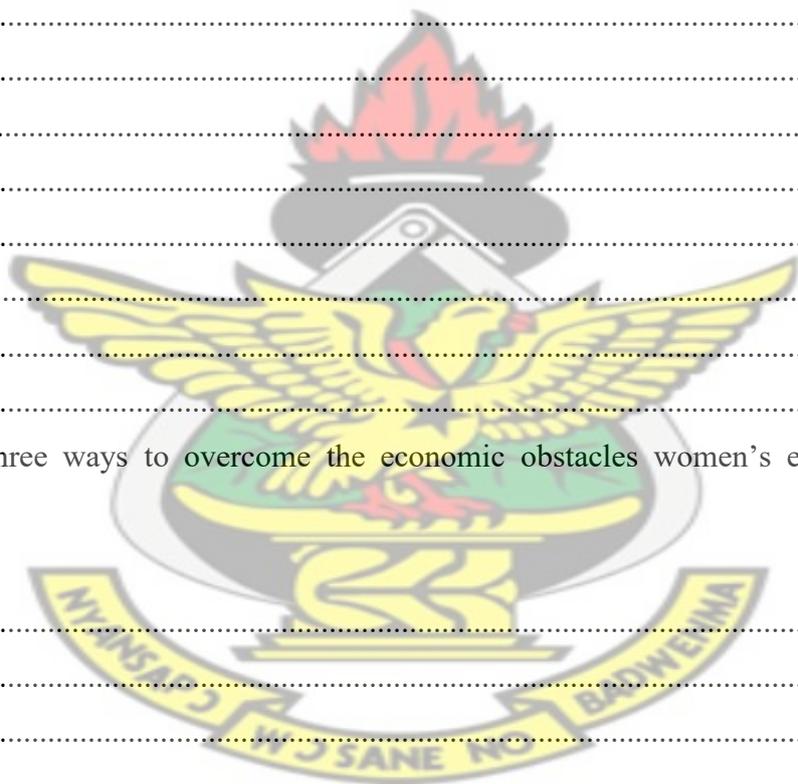
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.....

(III).....

.....

.....



(47) Suggest three ways to make women active players in social development.

(I)
.....
.....

(II).....
.....
.....

(III).....
.....
.....

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APPENDIX 2:HOUSEHOLD QUESTIONNAIRE B

TOPIC: EFFECTS OF WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT ON ROLE CHANGES IN THE NORTHERN REGION OF GHANA. THE CASE OF NANUMBA NORTH DISTRICT.

(BE ASSURED THAT ALL YOUR RESPONSES WILL BE TREATED CONFIDENTIALLY. SUBSEQUENTLY, YOU WILL NOT PROVIDE ANY NAME).

DEMO-DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

(1) Age:

- I. 18-27 []
- II. 28-37 []
- III. 38-47 []
- IV. 48-57 []
- V. 58 and above []

(2) Educational background

- I. No Formal Education []
- II. No formal Education (but can speak/write in English or Vernacular) []
- III. Basic (Primary, Middle, JHS etc) []
- IV. Secondary (SHS, Vocational Inst. Etc) []
- V. Tertiary Institution (Trng Coll., Poly. University etc) []
- VI. Any other (please specify) []

(3) Occupation:

- I. Farmer/Fishermen/women []
- II. Trader []
- III. Entrepreneur/Industrialist []
- IV. Teacher/Lecturer []
- V. Civil Servant/Public Servant []
- VI. Artisan []
- VII. Unemployed []

(4) Marital Status:

- I. Single []
- II. Married []
- III. Separated []
- IV. Divorced []
- V. Widowed []
- VI. Other []

(5) Religious Affiliation:

- I. Moslem []
- II. Christian []
- III. Traditionalist []
- IV. Any other (specify).....

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(6) Do men and women play different roles in this community?

- (i) Yes []
- (ii) No []

(7) If the answer is Yes, what are the specific roles played by

(a) Women

.....
.....
.....
.....

(b) Men:

.....
.....
.....
.....

Are women engaged in economic activities in this community?

- (i) Yes. []
- (ii) No []

(8) If the answer is yes, mention some of these activities.

.....
.....
.....
.....

(9) How can you describe the size of businesses own by women in this community?

- (i) Large scale []
- (ii) Medium scale []
- (iii) Small scale []

(10) Do you involve your wife/wives in the household decision making process?

- (i) Yes []
- (ii) No []

(11) If the answer is yes, how can you describe their contributions during these meetings?

- (i) Very great []
- (ii) Great []
- (iii) Moderate []
- (iv) Poor []

KNUST

(12) And if the answer is No, why?.....

.....
.....
.....
.....

(13) Do women own property (ie Land, House, Machine, etc) in this community?

- (i) Yes []
- (ii) No []

(14) Do you assist your wives in their business activities?

- (i) Yes []
- (ii) No []

(15) If the answer is Yes, what form of assistance do you provide?.....

.....
.....
.....

(16) Do you know the total membership of the District Assembly?

- (i) Yes []
- (ii) No []

(17) If the answer is Yes, what is the number?.....

(18) How many of them are women (both elected and appointed)?

.....

(19) In your own view, what role(s) can women play in society when they are empowered :

(a) Politically?

.....

.....

.....

(b) Economically?.....

.....

.....

.....

(c) Socially?.....

.....

.....

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(20) What are the challenges/obstacles women encounters in their socio-economic and political endeavours?.....

.....

.....

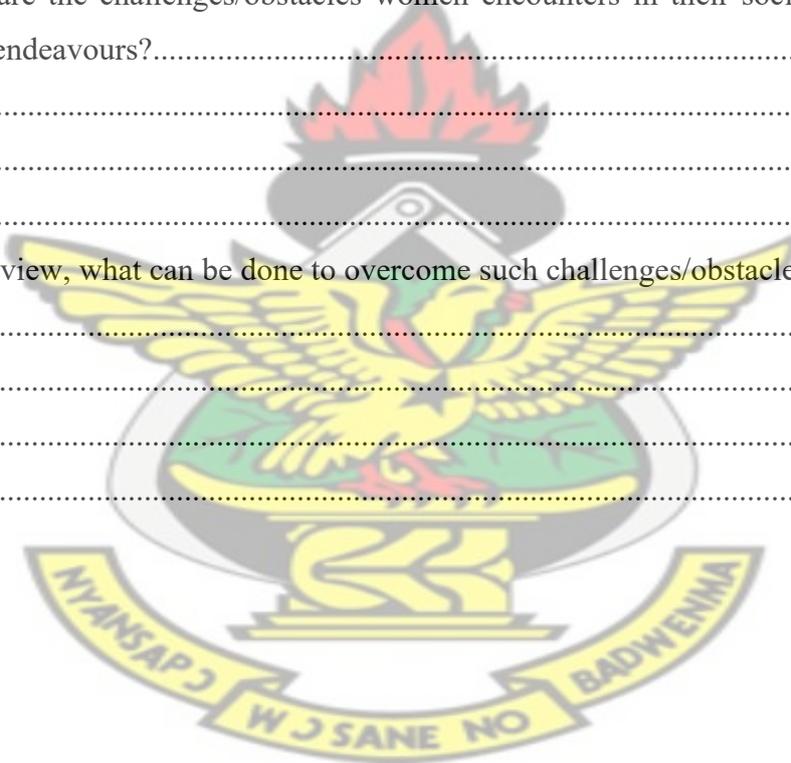
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(21) In your view, what can be done to overcome such challenges/obstacles?.....

.....

.....

.....



APPENDIX 3: INSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONNAIRE A

TOPIC: EFFECTS OF WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT ON ROLE CHANGES IN THE NORTHERN REGION OF GHANA. THE CASE OF NANUMBA NORTH DISTRICT.

(PLEASE BE ASSURED THAT YOUR RESPONSES WOULD BE TREATED CONFIDENTIALLY)

Date.....

Name of the institution:.....

(1) Do you assist women groups in the district?

- (i) Yes []
- (ii) No []

(2) If the answer is yes, what kind of assistance do you give to them?

- (i) Financial/Loans []
- (ii) Advice []
- (iii) Both []
- (iv) Any other (specify)

(3) What are the repayment terms for the loans in terms of:

- (i) Interest rate.....
- (ii) Period of payment.....
- (iii) Any other (specify).....

(4) How can you rank your recovery rate?

- (i) Very high []
- (ii) High []
- (iii) Very low []
- (iv) Low []

(5) What reasons account for this recovery rate?.....

.....

.....

.....

(6) Are these women groups given any form of skills training in support of the loans taken? (i) Yes [] (ii) No []

(7) If the answer is Yes, what form of training?.....

.....
.....
.....

(8) And if the answer is No, why?.....

.....
.....

(9) How can you assess the performance of the women groups assist?

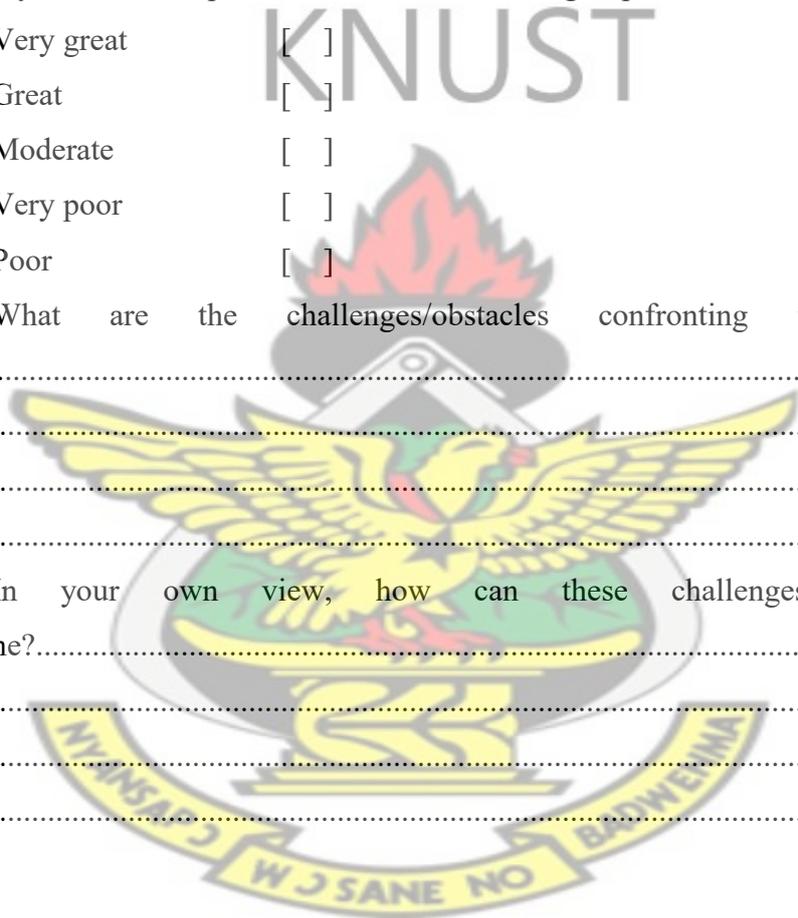
- (i) Very great []
- (ii) Great []
- (iii) Moderate []
- (iv) Very poor []
- (v) Poor []

(10) What are the challenges/obstacles confronting these women groups?.....

.....
.....
.....

(11) In your own view, how can these challenges/obstacles be overcome?.....

.....
.....
.....



APPENDIX 4: INSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONNAIRE B

TOPIC: EFFECTS OF WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT ON ROLE CHANGES IN THE NORTHERN REGION OF GHANA. THE CASE OF NANUMBA NORTH DISTRICT.

(PLEASE BE ASSURED THAT YOUR RESPONSES WOULD BE TREATED CONFIDENTIALLY)

Date.....

Name of the institution:.....

(1) Has the District Assembly registered women groups in the District?

(i) Yes [] (ii) No []

(2) If the answer is yes, how many are they?.....

(3) Do you assist these women groups in the district?

(i) Yes.....[] (ii) No.....[]

(4) If the answer is yes, what kind of assistance do you give to them?

(i) Financial/Loans []

(ii) Advice []

(iii) Both []

(iv) Any other (specify).....

(5) What are the repayment terms for the loans in terms of:

(i) Interest rate.....

(ii) Period of payment.....

(iii) Any other (specify).....

(6) How do you monitor the activities of these women groups?.....

(7) How can you rank your recovery rate?

(v) Very high.....[]

(vi) High.....[]

(vii) Very low.....[]

(viii) Low.....[]

(8) What reasons account for this recovery rate?.....
.....
.....

(9) Are these women groups given any form of skills training?

(i) Yes.....[] (ii) No.....[]

(10) If the answer is Yes, what form of training?.....
.....
.....

(11) And if the answer is No, why?.....
.....
.....

(12) How can you assess the performance of the women groups registered with the District Assembly?

(vi) Very great.....[]

(vii) Great.....[]

(viii) Moderate[]

(ix) Very poor.....[]

(x) Poor[]

(13) What are the challenges/obstacles confronting these women groups?.....
.....
.....

(14) In your own view, how can these challenges/obstacles be overcome?.....
.....
.....

APPENDIX 5: FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR THE WOMEN GROUPS

DATE OF FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION.....

LOCATION OF FOCUS GROUP.....

TOPIC: EFFECTS OF WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT ON ROLE CHANGES IN THE NORTHERN REGION OF GHANA. THE CASE OF NANUMBA NORTH DISTRICT.

(BE ASSURED OF CONFIDENTIALITY OF ALL YOUR RESPONSE).

(1) What is the name and year of formation of this Group?

Name:.....

Year:.....

(2) What is the total membership of the Group?

(3) What motivated the formation of this Group?.

(4) What motivated each of you to join the group?

(5) What do you hope to gain as members of the group?

(6) What have you gained from the group as members?

(7) How long has each of you been members of the group?

(8) What are the major roles you play as a Group in this Community?

(9) How does your membership influences the roles you play in your respective households?

(10) How supportive are your respective husbands to your course(s) in this Group?

(11) What are the major challenges/obstacles you encounter as individuals within the Group in playing your roles both within the Group and your respective households? In your views, how do you think these challenges/obstacles you have mentioned can be overcome?

APPENDIX 6: SAMPLE SIZE HOUSEHOLDS AND HOW THEY WERE DISTRIBUTED.

Towns	Population (1984)	Population(2000)			Household size	Projected Population (2013)	Estimated Number of household (2013)	Sample size
		Male	Female	Total				
Bimbila	10,775	10,409	10,607	21,016	7.5	35,348	4,713	83
Dakpam	711	583	623	1,206	8.9	1,781	200	4
Nakpa	242	93	81	174	7.6	134	18	5
Juo	299	125	108	233	8.3	180	22	5
Bincheratanga	1,897	1,145	1,262	2,407	6.9	3,122	452	8
Bakpaba	1,008	655	693	1,348	6.9	1,748	253	5
Total							5,658	110.00

SOURCE: AUTHOR'S CONSTRUCT, 2013

