

WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN FARM AND NON FARM ACTIVITIES IN PARTS IN SELECTED AREAS OF THE KANO REGION, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

This study analyzed the farm and nonfarm activities of women in parts of Kano and Jigawa states with a view to establishing the variation in participation among female cooperative members and non cooperative members. Six settlements, three in Kano and Three in Jigawa were selected for the study. Dawakin Tofa, Dawanau and Marke in Kano while Furji, Aci Lafia and Gwiwa in Jigawa State were selected for the study. The target population was stratified into female in cooperative society, females not in cooperative society Two hundred (200) female cooperative members were randomly selected from the list of members in each settlements and a total of 110 female non-cooperative members were selected through systematic sampling method after an initial enumeration of households. For data collection, structured questionnaire was administered to the samples selected.. The data collected was analyzed using means, percentages. These activities were categorized into four main ones, viz: farming, trading, government employment and craft. The involvement of majority of women in nonfarm activities was largely attributed to inadequate land, capital and education significant differences were found in the income of females in cooperative society and females not in cooperative society. This was attributed to the access of female cooperative members to government assisted loans and grants. Invaluable as these benefits are, women are still perceived as wives, mothers and dependents. However, if given the necessary encouragements, through improved access to production resources such as land, capital/credit, training and education, women's capacities as nonfarm producers would be expanded and this will have a direct implication for changing the socio-economic status of women in the society.

Keywords: farm, nonfarm, women, cooperatives and non-cooperatives

1.1 Background to the Study

Rural areas usually provide two categories of income sources to their dwellers: agriculture and the non-farm economy. In fact, agriculture is the source of livelihood for of the majority

of people living in rural areas. A recent report indicates that out of 3 billion people living in rural areas in the world, 2.5 billion people derive their livelihood from agriculture

(Lanjouw, 2001). A wide range of rural household surveys (Haggblade et al., 2007) showed that incomes from the non-farm economic activities account for about 35% of rural incomes in Africa and about 50% in Asia (Haggblade, et al. 2007).

Nonfarm activities are generally divided into two broad groups of occupations: 'high-labour- productivity that leads to high-income activity and low- labour- productivity activities that serve only as residual source of income (Ellis and Freeman, 2004). The latter activities are common among the poor. But, such employment may be very important from a social welfare perspective. If agriculture employment is not an option for certain subgroups of rural population, then rural non-agricultural employment opportunities, even if they are not highly remunerative, can make a real difference, especially for those households that do not possess farmlands.

Smith (2000) has shown the greater importance of nonfarm occupations for the landless and those with land-size up to 0.5 acres in Bangladesh. Those among the latter who manage to participate in non-farm activities have low incidence of poverty than their counterparts in farm occupations. In short, the contribution of non-farm rural economy seems to be high in South Asian countries like Pakistan where unfavorable labour-land-ratio limits income earnings opportunities in agriculture (Haggblade et al., 2002).

The historical mainstay of the world's viable agro-ecological systems have been women, they have been known to provide family food security. In sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean, women produce between 60-80 percent of the crops grown. In Asia as a whole, women perform 50 percent of the labour involved in intensive rice cultivation when the technology used was crude. However with improved technology majority

of women rice workers were displaced (Agarwal,1985).

In Indonesia, Central and South America, women's compound garden represents some of the most complex compound cultivation known. Women represent a significant percentage of the agricultural labor force in South Eastern Asia especially in the Philippines and Malaysia where 35 and 54 percent of the agricultural labour force are women respectively. In Jamaica, women also play an important role in agricultural production. Lanjouw et al (1995) opined that 45 percent of the agricultural producers are women. Women in West Africa play a key role in agriculture, especially in the provision of most farm labour and making key decision for many agricultural activities in the absence of the male household heads. In Africa as a whole it has been estimated that women produce 78 percent of the continents food needs as well as staple grains-on subsistence plots, which the vast majority holds no title to (Mohammed, 2004).

Where population growth has increased the demand for fertile land, women farmers usually bear the brunt by being pushed to the infertile land. The problem of inaccessibility to fertile lands is attributed to the socio-cultural factor rooted in most societies in developing countries- i.e. patriarchy which is male dominated of women. This is also responsible for the gendered division of labour, which assigns men the primary role of the production, while women are assigned the role of reproduction. It is as a result of this, that women's productive activities are considered as secondary this partially explains why women are into nonfarm activities especially in less develop countries.

Majority of women in rural areas of developing countries including Nigeria in general and the study area in particular have inadequate formal education which could qualify them for employment in the formal

sector as such most engage in informal economic activities. And even with the informal economic activities their performance has remained at the subsistence level with the small startup capital characteristics of such business ventures. Despite this the contribution of the women to the household economy is becoming more relevant especially given the current economic situation in Nigeria (Mohammed, 2004).

1.2 Theoretical Framework

The argument of this paper rests on the fact that the factors that would affect the performance of women in any enterprises would be significantly different from men's. This argument is anchored on liberal and social feminist theories. Liberal feminist theory is rooted in liberal political philosophy that encompasses basic beliefs in the equality of all beings, and in human beings as essentially rational, self-interest-seeking agents. The liberal feminist theory attributes gender-based differences to the variations in power, opportunity accorded men, and women in society, that is, the structural positions women and men occupy in society (Belcourt et al 1991). Thus, differences in the achievements of men and women are ascribed to the inability of women to realize their full potential because they are denied equal access to opportunities in the labour markets and to resources. This in turn has hindered women from acquiring the skills and capabilities necessary to compete on an equal basis with men. According to the liberal feminist theory, once equal access to resources is ensured, gender differences in performance seemingly disappear (Carter et al., 1997).

In contrast to the liberal feminist theory, the social feminist theory, which emanates from the social learning theory and psychoanalysis, holds that differences between men and women exist from their earliest moments in

life and result in fundamentally different ways of viewing the world. These differences are seen in the way women and men construct and interpret reality and how these influence the formation of their values and intentions (Carter et al., 1997). Men and women are inherently different because of differences in their socialization, training and experiences encountered prior to entry into particular work positions. Differences in nurturing result in different self-perceptions, motivations and belief structures. Consequently, women adopt different approaches to work that may, or may not be as equally effective as those adopted by men (Fischer et al., 1993).

Drawing on these two feminist theories the research on women participation in farm and nonfarm activities in some selected areas of Kano region examined the variation in the farm and nonfarm activities of female members of cooperative society and female non members of cooperative society in the region.

2.0 Research Methods

2.1 Study Area

The study covers six settlements, three in Kano state and three in Jigawa state. The settlements located in Kano are; Dawakin Tofa (longitude $8^{\circ} 20'$ and latitude $12^{\circ} 10'$), Dawanau (longitude 8° and latitude $12^{\circ} 15'$) and Marke (longitude $8^{\circ} 15'$ and latitude 12° and $11'$). The three from Jigawa state are Gwiwa (longitude $8^{\circ} 20'$ and latitude 11° and $25'$), Furji (longitude $8^{\circ} 20'$ and latitude 12° and $10'$) and Acilafia (longitude $8^{\circ} 28'$ and latitude 12° and $45'$) (Figure 1). The study population comprises all females who are economically productive in the settlements. It is expected that the villages selected will be a fair representation of the Local government areas, since these communities have homogenous landscape, socio-cultural and economic as well as in the religious dimensions.

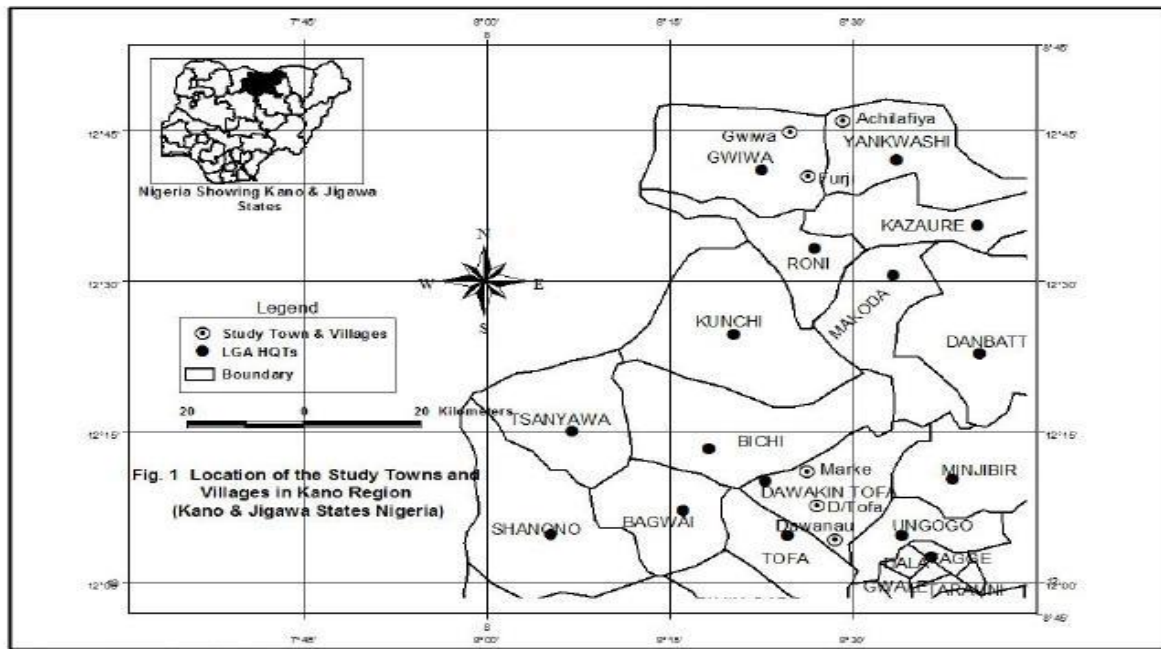


Figure1.Location of the Study Towns and Villages in Kano Region

2.2: Sampling Frame and Sample Size of Female Cooperators and non cooperators

To select the samples for the study, the population of women was stratified into female members in co-operative society and female not in co-operative society and from the over 1000 cooperative members, 669 duly registered cooperative members was used as sampling frame from which a total of 200 samples proportioned to one third of the total population of registered cooperative members gotten from the development officers in each village as given in table (1) was used.

Table1: Sampling frame and sample size of female in Co-operative and female not in Cooperative society in the settlements

Villages	Enumerated H/Holds	Sample Size of non of Female members cooperative society	Population of members Cooperative Society	Sample Size of members of cooperative
Dawakin Tofa	129	13	180	54
Dawanau	261	26	120	36
Marke	83	08	70	21
Gwiwa	223	22	170	51
Acilafia	190	19	45	14
Furji	220	22	84	24
Total	1106	110	669	200

Source: Field work, 2016

For the female non members of co-operative society approximately one third of the population which totaled about 110 of the respondents from the six study settlements were which followed the initial enumeration of the households. After which samples were picked after every the 20th household to the last one. Questionnaire was used to collect data on a wide array of issues that ranged from demographic characteristics of females to their involvement in farm and non-farm activities and the role of co-operatives in expanding their opportunities.

Relevant descriptive techniques were employed to analyze the data collected which included the use of frequencies, tabulation and percentages.

3.0 Results and Discussion

3.1 Socio Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

3.1.1: Women and Education

Table 2 shows that more than half of female members of cooperative society and those female non members of cooperative society (53% and 49% respectively) are not literate in Western education. On the contrary, more have had some form of Quranic education. This confirms parents' interest in Islamic education as against western education and is a reflection of the dominance of Islamic

religion in the settlements, while 12.5% of female members of cooperative society and 13.6% female non members of cooperative society had access to primary education very few had secondary education with (3.5) percent female members of cooperative society and (0.9) percent female non members of cooperative society .

The above data revealed western education it is still besieged with some challenges especially in the rural areas. The challenges have been and may be attributed to lack of recognition of the benefits of western education by the some rural people since most parents still have the believe that the primary role of a woman is that of reproduction which is achieved under the marriage institution. As a result of this and other economic issues, girls who start primary schools never get to complete it or even reach secondary school. Those who start the secondary school are removed half way through to be married (Fafunwa, 1974). All over the study settlements majority of the women approximately four fifths (82%) of female members of cooperative society and (87%) female non members of cooperative society are married. This is in accordance with Islamic cultural practice which encourages marriage being a strong Sunnah of the prophet Muhammad (S.A.W).

Table 2: Women and Education

Educ. Level	Cooperative 200	%	Non-cooperative 110	%
Not literate	53	26.5	54	49.1
Quranic educ.	115	57.5	40	36.4
Pri. Educ.	25	12.5	15	13.6
Secondary	7	3.5	1	0.9
Total	200	100	110	100
Marital Status of Women				
Marital Status	Cooperatives	%	Non cooperatives	%
Married	174	87	97	82
Divorced	12	6	5	4.5

Others	14	7	8	7.3
Total	200	100	110	100

Source: Field work, 2016

3.2 Farm and Non Farm Activities of Women

From table 3 it is evident that common to all the six settlements and female members of cooperative society and female non members of cooperative society are nonfarm activities such as the sale of groundnut, palm oil, raw foodstuffs, soup ingredients, food condiments like potash, Others into the sale bean cake soya cake making and selling of all fiber products like rope, mat and hand fan and herbs. Availability of clay at the Watari dam may have encouraged the production of pots and ceramics industry found in Dawakin Tofa. In addition to groundnut oil production women in the study areas are

also into the production of pots and ceramics. Locust bean production is the second largest employer of female labour in Gwiwa village as a result Of abundant supply of the raw material in the area.

In addition to the traditional forms of nonfarm activities other options (Table 5) have been newly introduced by the Ministry of Women Affairs and through diffusion process through training of the cooperative members at the various women centers in different parts of the study area.

Table 3: Farm and nonfarm Activities of Women in the study areas

ACTIVITIES	DF	DA	M	G	AC	F
FARM ACTIVITIES						
Farming	X	X	X	X	X	X
Animal husbandry	X	X	X	X	X	X
NON FARM ACTIVITIES						
Sales of Raw Foodstuffs	X	X	0	X	X	X
Market Speculation of Agric Product	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sale of Soup Ingredient	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sale of Potash	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sale of Kola Nut	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sale of Groundnut Oil	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sale of Palm Oil	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sale of Kerosene	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sale of Diary Products	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sale of Ice Water	0	X	0	0	0	0
Sale of Bean Cake	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sale of Awara (Soya) Bean	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sale of Cakes	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sale of Fibre	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sale of Herbs	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mat Making	0	0	0	X	X	X
Rope Making	0	0	0	X	X	X
Pottery Making	X	0	0	0	0	0
Cloth Weaving	X	0	0	0	0	0

Dyeing	X	0	0	0	0	0
Hair Dressing	0	0	0	X	X	0
Hand Decorator	X	X	0	0	0	0
Bicycle Hiring	0	X	0	0	0	0
Wheel Barrow Hiring	0	X	0	0	0	0
Threshing Machine Hiring	0	X	0	0	0	0
Government Employed	X	X	0	X	0	0
Total	20	21	15	20	19	18

Source: Field work, 2016

Key DF=Dawakin Tofa; DA =Dawanau =Marke; G=Gwiwa;AC =Acilafia;F =Furji; O=Absence of the activity = Presence of the activity

3.3: Income Generating Activities of Cooperators and Non Cooperators

Specifically the farm and nonfarm activities in table 3 can be summed under four broad types: farming, trading, civil service and craft.

Majority of the women are in trading activities (52%) female members in cooperative society and (75%) female non members of cooperative society. This may have been due to the fact that trading and petty trading that women do require small start-up capital and since most of the activities are done within the four walls of the home environment it therefore implies that women's primary roles would not be jeopardized in addition to fulfilling one aspects of the Islamic cultural rights that of restricting the intermingling of women and men . This can be explained from socio-cultural point of view of Islamic seclusion of women and the informal/flexibility nature of trading activities which can be started up with minimal capital (Brydon and Chant, 1989).

Government employment (civil service job) was found to be the least employer in the study location. Of the total 200 female members of cooperative society sampled in the settlements four (4) percent are civil servants while less than 2 percent among them are female non members of cooperative society. The low participation of women in government employment is attributed to lack

of appropriate western education to qualify them for such jobs.

A slightly higher proportion (23%) of female members of cooperative society sampled engaged in craft production compared with only 5 percent of female non members of cooperative society; craft production in the settlements related to pots and ceramics manufacture in Dawakin Tofa and mat weaving and "fai-fai" weaving in Marke, Gwiwa and Dawakin Tofa. Other related activities are dying, cloth weaving, hairdressing, hand decoration as an economic activity and tailoring which are all second to trading in all the study areas. This is because as with trading, handcrafts require little or on education which majority of the female in the study area lacks Some of the options listed in table 4 had been in existence before government intervention, what is new is that women were taught new techniques on how to improve product and add value e.g. the production of diary /Zobo in sealed cellophane. Some of the newly introduced options such as exotic poultry production was practiced by women for sometimes and later dropped. Presently emphasis is more on the production of food condiments.

As regards the exotics poultry production, the high costs of buying the feeds for the chicken and the inability of the women producers to provide the conducive

environment for the chicks made majority of them (the women) who started the business

opt out and return to traditional poultry keeping.

Table 4: Farm and Nonfarm Activities of Female in Cooperative and Females not in Cooperative Society

Activities	Members of Cooperatives Society		Non members of cooperative society	
Farming	42	21	20	18.2
Trading	104	52	82	74.5
Civil Service	08	04	02	1.8
Craft	46	23	06	05
Total	200	100	110	100

Source: Field work, 2016

The result in table 5 shows that Awara, Zobo, Knitting and Weaving are common to both female cooperative members and female non-cooperative members, with majority of females members of cooperative society engaged in Curry powder production, Soap and Cream making as well as exotic poultry farming production.

3.4: Newly Introduced Non Farm Activities

Table 5: Newly Introduced Non Farm Activities of women in the Study Area

NON –FARM ACTIVITIES	DF	DA	M	G	AC	F
Sale of Modern Food condiments	X	X	0	0	0	0
Sale of Dairy Products	X	X	X	X	X	X
Modern Fish farming/poultry	0	X	0	0	0	0
Modern Restaurant	0	X	0	0	0	0
Sale of Awara (Soya)/ Bean cake	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sale of Snacks	X	X	0	0	0	0
Modern Dyeing	X	0	0	0	0	0
Hair Dressing	0	0	0	X	X	0
Modern Body/Hand Decoration	X	X	0	0	0	0
Knitting and weaving	X	X	0	0	0	0
Modern Tailoring/Bed sheet making	X	X	0	0	0	0
Modern poultry/fish farming	X	X	0	X	0	0
Soap and cream production	0	X	0	0	0	0
Total	8	10	2	4	3	2

Source: Field work, 2016

Table 6: Percentage Distribution of New nonfarm options among Female cooperators and Non cooperators

Activities	Cooperatives members		Non cooperatives members	
	N	%	N	%
Sale of modern food condiments	25	28	3	14
Sale of dairy products	10	11	2	10
Modern restaurant	2	2.2	0	0
Sale of soya/bean cake	30	33.33	10	48
Modern Dying	1	1.1	0	0
Sale of snacks	2	2.2	0	0
Hair dressing	2	2.2	0	0
Modern body/Hand decoration	5	5.5	3	14
Knitting and Weaving	5	5.5	2	10
Modern tailoring and bed sheet making	3	3.3	0	0
Modern poultry/fish farming	4	4.4	1	4
Soap and cream production	1	1.1	0	0
Total	90	100	21	100

Source: Field work, 2016

3.5: Women's Sources of Credits/Capital

The main source of credit or funds for female's nonfarm activities in the study locations is essentially through their spouses who provided such funds and consent to the women to participate in a business ventures This is clearly illustrated in table 7

Table 7: Women's Sources of Credits/Fund for farm and nonfarm activities

Sources	Female members of Cooperatives society	%	Female Non-members of Cooperatives society	%
Husbands	139	70	87	79
Govt. Loan	41	20	03	03
Others	20	10	20	18
Total	200	100	110	100

Source: Fieldwork, 2016

3.6: Sources and Amount of Credit/Capital

Table 7 shows that 70% female members of cooperative society and 79% female non members of cooperative society got capital/funds for their nonfarm activities through their spouses. This confirmed the findings of Ellis and Freeman (2004) who pointed out that financial backing or startup capital for a business may be backed by supportive individuals or groups such as spouses/husbands, friends, families, business associates and professional women's organizations.

A total of 140 (70%) female members of cooperative society started business with approximately 2,000 Naira 9 (9.5%) started with approximately 2,500 Naira 20.5% with over 2,500 Naira. In comparison, over three quarters (87%) of the female non members of cooperative society started nonfarm activities with approximately 2,000Naira or less and very few of them 3% started with approximately 2,500 Naira and above.

Table 8: Sources and amount of credits/capital

Sources	Female cooperative members						Female non-cooperative members					
	1500-2000	%	2,001-2,500	%	2501 & above	%	1,500-2,001	%	2,001-2,500	%	2,500 & above	%
Spouses	120	60	19	9.5			87	78			-	
Grants	-				41	20.5	-				3	2.7
Others	20	10	-		-		20	18	-		-	
Total	140	70			5	2.5	107	97	3	3	-	

Source: Field work, 2016

The low capital investment was identified by Ellis and Freeman (2004) as one of the characteristic of low labour nonfarm activities common among rural poor especially women. The low capital investment is also one of the factors that define whether the activity to be embarked upon would be low or high labour type of nonfarm activities. (Table 3)

The low capital investment is reflected in the income earning of the respondents which invariably can be described as low as shown in table 8. The result show that almost half (50%) of female members of cooperative society earned between 1,500-2,000 and more than three quarter (77%) of female non members of cooperative society earned the same amount.

Table 9: Income of women from farm and non-Farm activities

FEMALES				
Amount	Female members of Cooperatives society	%	Non members of cooperatives society	%
1,500-2,000	100	50	85	77.3
2,001-2,500	78	38	20	18.2
2,500 and above	22	11	05	4.5
Total	200	100	110	100

Source: Field work, 2016

It has earlier been established in this study that the nonfarm sector contributes over 45% of rural employment especially among the rural poor including women who for most have inadequate to resources, credit (table 7) land (table 10) and education (table 2) either through omission or commission as the results in the tables shows.

Land has been found to be a major production resource for agricultural production; crop cultivation, husbandry and poultry farming. The means of acquiring land by women as with men have essentially been through inheritance 'gado' and purchase 'saye'. The latter is rare as a result

of the low level of savings, characteristics of poor rural homestead. Women are also given land as gifts 'kyauta' which could be by the husband or a relative.

The inference drawn from the field data in Table 10 shows that majority of the female members in cooperative society (92%) and over four fifth (83%) of female non members of cooperative society who have acquired land did so through inheritance. Very few of the total female land owners 4% female members of cooperative society and 17% of those in female non members of cooperative society got the land through purchase

3.7: Women's Access to Land by Source

Table 10: Women's access to land by source

Sources	Females members in Cooperatives society	%	Females members non of cooperatives society	%
Inheritance	24	92	5	4.5
Gift	1	0.5	-	-
Purchase	1	0.5	1	0.9
Total	26	100	6	5.4

Sources: Author's Fieldwork, 2016

Table 11: Access and amount of land

Sources	Female members of Cooperative society	%	Female Non members of cooperatives society	%
Land in hectares	N	%	N	%
No access	174	87	04	95
1-2	26	13	06	05
Total	200	100	110	100

Sources: Author's Fieldwork, 2016

Table 11 shows that most females in cooperative society and females non members of cooperative society had no access to land (87% and 95% respectively); thus 13% and 0.5% of female members of cooperative society and female non members of cooperative society respectively said they have access to land.

Conclusion and Recommendation

The conclusion drawn from the results of this study is that females in the settlements are essentially for most part involved in nonfarm activities as a result of inadequate access to production resources especially land to engage in and expand farm activities, education needed to improve productivity and know how, credit, capital to expand and technology. Despite the inadequate access to resources, women in cooperative society do

have better chances in access to some of the production resources especially credits and education where government from time to time assist women with soft loans and grants through their various cooperative societies. Even then for all the women in both categories their nonfarm and farm activities have remained at subsistence level.

Based in the findings of this study, governments and nongovernmental organizations should not relent in their efforts to bring women into the development folds through the various educational/training and enlightenment programmes needed to improve women's productivity in their income

generating activities. This can be achieved where women form a viable cooperative society. So therefore it also recommended that women need to be encouraged to form viable cooperative society where it would be easy for the government and stakeholders to reach out to them.

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