

# The impact of livelihood projects in promoting and empowering women in Kassala state- Eastern Sudan (2018-2023 AD)

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## Abstract:

This study aims to shed light on the impact of livelihood interventions to promote and empowered women in eastern Sudanese community. This study has been conducted in Kassala state in eastern Sudan during the period between, December,2018 to February, 2023.The study inspected the livelihood projects in strengthening and developing women and their ability to manage their projects. The study used the descriptive analytical approach and case study. Data was collected through primary and secondary sources, using questionnaire tools, personal interviews, and discussion groups in the study population. Sampling techniques were applied, the first is purposive sampling techniques (taking a random sample of women in the localities of Telkok and Tagug) The second method used is snowball sampling through which the respondent is located and identified by informants. The researcher used PRA techniques to increase the space for women and the weak participation to express and control the knowledge that is being created. The researcher analyzed the data of the study using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) program, following the descriptive statistics method, represented by the frequency tables, in addition to the chi-square test. While secondary sources are collected through information relevant to the research

topic, obtained through previous studies, references, and the Internet. The result showed that, a woman who headed a family is a working women, and working women whatever their income is represent a center of power for their family and have a good level of decision, the majority of respondent women had benefited from the projects supported by INGOs & NNGOs, particularly benefited from Income generation projects (livelihood) and their income increased and had a gradually positive change from the profit of their business. Also reflected the most of targeted women benefited from their projects, women can contribute to some extend to cover their needs and their family's basic needs and few of them can save. The study recommended that, importance of much attention to the issues of increasing women's access to financial services, much needs to be done to ensure women are actually empowered. We need to pay attention to women's control over the use of loans, the nature of their investment activity, their access to markets, to social and business support services and to new technologies. By focusing on women's empowerment. Addition that conducting training and capacity building should be flexibly designed so that training can be integrated when needed. Training must be tailored to the Programme and the women, and their input should be solicited when deciding on the topics to be addressed.

**Key words:**Livelihood projects, Women empowerment, Community development, Positive change and Capacity building

أثر مشروعات سبل كسب العيش في تطوير وتمكين المرأة في ولاية كسلا - شرق السودان

(2018- 2023 AD)

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**مستخلص:**

تناولت الدراسة أثر سبل كسب العيش في تطوير وتمكين المرأة - دراسة حالة ولاية كسلا- شرق السودان , وأجريت هذه الدراسة في الفترة من ديسمبر 2018 الى يناير 2023. تهدف هذه الدراسة الى : إلقاء الضوء على أثر العمل الطوعي ومشروعات سبل كسب العيش في تمكين وتطوير

المرأة ومقدرتها في إدارة مشروعاتها , كما تطرقت الدراسة لمعرفة مدى الإستفادة من المانحين من المنظمات الغير حكومية ونوعية التدخلات التي اثرت عليها إيجابيا. استخدمت الدراسة المنهج الوصفي التحليلي ودراسة الحالة. وتم جمع البيانات من خلال المصادر الأولية والثانوية وباستخدام اداتي الاستبانة والمقابلات الشخصية ومجموعات النقاش في مجتمع الدراسة. تم تطبيق تقنيات سحب العينات. الأولى هو تقنيات أخذ العينات الهادفة (أخذ عينة عشوائية من النساء محليتي تلوكوك وتاجوج) الطريقة الثانية المستخدمة هي أخذ عينات من كرة الثلج التي يتم من خلالها تحديد موقع المستجيب وتحديدته بواسطة المخبرين. استخدمت الباحثة تقنيات PRA لزيادة المساحة المتاحة للمرأة والمشاركة الضعيفة للتعبير عن المعرفة التي يتم إنشاؤها والتحكم فيها. قام الباحث بتحليل بيانات الدراسة باستخدام برنامج الحزمة الإحصائية للعلوم الاجتماعية (SPSS) باتباع اسلوب الاحصاء الوصفي متمثل في الجداول التكرارية بالإضافة لاختبار كاي ترييع. بينما يتم جمع المصادر الثانوية من خلال المعلومات ذات الصلة بموضوع البحث ، والتي تم الحصول عليها من خلال الدراسات السابقة والمراجع والإنترنت.

أظهرت النتيجة أن المرأة التي تعول أسرة هي امرأة عاملة ، وأن المرأة العاملة مهما كان دخلها تمثل مركز قوة لأسرتها ولديها مستوى جيد من القرار ، فقد استفادت غالبية النساء المستفيدات من المشاريع المدعومة. من قبل المنظمات غير الحكومية الدولية والمنظمات غير الحكومية ، استفادوا بشكل خاص من المشاريع المدرة للدخل (سبل كسب العيش) وزاد دخلهم وكان له تغيير إيجابي تدريجي من ربح أعمالهم. عكست النتائج أيضاً معظم النساء المستفيدات من مشاريعهن ، يمكن للمرأة أن تساهم إلى حد ما في تغطية احتياجاتها واحتياجات أسرته الأساسية وقليل منهن يمكنهن الادخار. وأوصت الدراسة ، بأهمية إيلاء قدر كبير من الاهتمام لقضايا زيادة مقدرات المرأة للوصول إلى الخدمات المالية ، أن هناك الكثير مما يتعين القيام به لضمان تمكين المرأة بالفعل. والاهتمام برفع قدرات المرأة على استخدام القروض ، وطبيعة نشاطها الاستثماري ، ووصولها إلى الأسواق ، وخدمات الدعم الاجتماعية والتجارية والتقنيات الجديدة. من خلال التركيز على تمكين المرأة. بالإضافة إلى أن إجراء التدريب وبناء القدرات يجب أن يصمم بهرونة وأن يكون التدريب متناسباً مع حاجتها.

الكلمات المفتاحية: مشروعات سبل كسب العيش، تمكين المرأة ، تنمية المجتمع ، التغيير الإيجابي، بناء القدرات والتدريب.

## Introduction:

East Sudan have histories of internal conflict and also have large populations of poor people. The eastern states are among the poorest states in Sudan. It is not the presence of these displaced persons that rendered these regions poor but the continuing presence in the temporary and dependent conditions will make the fight against poverty more difficult in these regions, <sup>(1)</sup>.

In Kassala state, migration and displacement are fueled by political instability, poverty, conflict and climate change. The already dire situation of women and families has been exacerbated amid the ongoing severe and acute economic crisis. poverty levels have risen drastically, with the most vulnerable populations bearing its brunt. Incomes, wages and purchasing power have fallen, almost a half of the entire population of Kassala state - to severe food insecurity. With over half of households not able to meet basic daily food requirements, <sup>(2)</sup>.

Therefore, this study is focuses on the livelihood impact of promoting and empowering women in Kassala state. This study is going to examine the women contribution in their communities and the social and economic impact of livelihood in creating a change of women promotion.

**Problem statement:**

Tradition and cultural patterns in Kassala have hampered women's development. As influenced by social norms and tribal cultural standards, women's tasks in the rural areas in Kassala State, are mainly confined to domestic duties. Their involvement in livelihood interventions is generally minimal, and their participation in community decision-making is not socially approved. Women comprise half of the population in the region and 35% of them are reported as extremely poor, <sup>(3)</sup>.

The need to address women's rights and development issues in Kassala State has been a topic of open discussion since the 1960s up to now.

**The problem represented in the main question as follows:**

What is the impact of livelihood projects in promoting & empowering women in Kassala state - eastern Sudan?

- How women livelihood benefited from livelihood projects provided by organizations and government?
- Is the livelihood intervention have a positive change in women living?

### **Importance of study: -**

#### **Practical importance: -**

The study will peruse the organizational and managerial capacities of non-governmental development actors to realize women empowerment by:

- Develop and implement a comprehensive organizational and managerial capacity assessment of non-governmental development actors and document their current organizational and managerial practices
- Develop a checklist of the generally accepted best practices in sustainable development and women empowerment
- Develop practical and realistic recommendation to bridge the identified capacity gaps

#### **Theoretical importance:**

The study would provide theoretical framework to answer the question of “Why women’s empowerment is essential for sustainable development” and that “women who are empowered become solutions to poverty, poor health and vulnerability for their families and within their communities. Incredible potential is reached with the benefit of support, financial resources and ongoing encouragement”.

#### **Objective of the study:**

##### **Main objective**

To study the impact of livelihood projects in promoting & empowering women in Kassala state of eastern Sudan.

##### **Specific objective**

1. To identify the current status of women from livelihood perspective
2. To study the results of the livelihood projects in creating a positive change in women empowerment and promotion.

##### **Research hypothesis**

The livelihood interventions have achieved positive progress in women promotion and empowerment towards improved living conditions in Kassala state of eastern Sudan.

1. A woman in Kassala state has social and economic roles in their society.
2. Livelihood projects can contribute to positive change in women living conditions.

### **Research methodology.**

Descriptive analytical and case study methods

#### **Data collection: -**

To satisfy the above- stated objectives, different methods of data collection were used in the study such as secondary and primary data collection. Combinations of qualitative and quantitative methods are used to elicit the information needed to respond to research questions and objectives.

Generally, the approach for the implementation of this study will be appreciative, participatory and learning centered.

#### **Primary data: -**

The primary data collected from, community research by using sampling. Information to be collected will cover livelihood, socio-economic aspects, gender analysis aspects, voluntary work interventions, cultural aspects, community involved organization. History of capacity building activities, these will represent a parameter that will be further broken down into variables and finally put into question as relevant to each tool and source.

#### **Secondary data collection: -**

The secondary data sources principally are relevant materials from available previous studies, which include books, reports, and other published material.

#### **Data collected.**

#### **Data collecting tools: -**

collected using approach means including questionnaires checklists for women, focus group discussion, key informant and general observation community leaders in addition to semi-structured interview from non-governmental organizations.

### **Data Analysis: -**

Different techniques used to analyze the collected data:

Statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) used to analyze the data. The analysis method implemented by the frequency table and chi- square methods.

### **Research coverage**

#### **Study location**

Sample covered Kassala state of eastern Sudan (More details in the methodology section)

The selection of target area covered two localities (Talkok and Tajouj)

#### **Sample size:**

This study based on a sample size of female. The sample is intended to include both young and old women. The targeted women are (300) participants selected randomly.

#### **Study Time frame**

From 2018 to 2022.

### **The General concept of the research: -**

#### **Women and community development:**

##### **Definition of woman:**

The woman is a fundamental person in the society, this part examines aspects of the women. A woman is a person who feel and thinks. This a natural thing, which we all know. We are at the beginning of the fifth sustainable development goals (SDG). when the woman got out of it is ivory tower. Then she has gained access to education. She participated and worked in a various fields and proved her competency and ability. If we look back down history, we find that woman was left out and marginalized. If we go back as far as pre-Islamic era (Jahilia) woman would be buried alive because she might bring dishonor to her family. She used to be bought and sold as any kind of property and belongings. Throughout ages woman gradually began to develop her intellectual faculties and her cultural identity. <sup>(4)</sup>.

### **Women empowerment:**

Women's empowerment defined in several ways, including accepting women's viewpoints, making an effort to seek them and raising the status of women through education, awareness, literacy, and training. Women's empowerment equips and allows women to make life-determining decisions through the different societal problems. They may have the opportunity to re-define gender roles or other such roles, which allow them more freedom to pursue desired goals. <sup>(5)</sup>

Nations, businesses, communities and groups may benefit from implementing programs and policies that adopt the notion of female empowerment. Women's empowerment enhances the quality and the quantity of human resources available for development. Empowerment is one of the main procedural concerns when addressing human rights and development. <sup>(6)</sup>

### **Livelihood Impact:**

The core objectives of women's livelihood programs should be defined around these deliverables: • Women meet basic vital subsistence needs without resorting to negative coping mechanisms. • Women generate income and assets to meet needs in a sustainable manner. • Women have information about, and can access and control, economic resources. • Women can anticipate and mitigate shocks and stress and reduce the latter's harmful impact on their social and economic well-being and those of their families. Ultimately, social and economic well-being is achieved when major vulnerabilities are meaningfully reduced, and when the exposure of women, their families and communities to more risks <sup>(7)</sup>,

### **Women are changing:**

Women empowerment marks the overall development of a nation. We must celebrate and salute the heroic women who are changing the world around them and empowering other women to do the same. From challenging gender stereotypes in the Indian rural and urban world to teaching women to build their businesses, many organizations have done it all. Also providing women with

financial and intellectual independence has accounted for the most inspiring initiative by many organizations like women well-being and initiatives. The aspect discussed above, in addition to the confidence in doing what and where in their lives, enables them. Plus, they help them choose the correct path following it. (8).

### **Gender Empowerment Measure**

Women empowerment can be measured through the Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM), which calculates women's participation in a given nation, both politically and economically. GEM is calculated by tracking "the share of seats in parliament held by women; of female legislators, senior officials and managers; and of female profession and technical workers; and the gender disparity in earned income, reflecting economic independence". It ranks countries given this information, (9).

### **Community development**

Is a process where people come together to take action on what's important to them. At its heart, community development is rooted in the belief that all people should have access to health, wellbeing. The **United Nations** defines **community development** as "a process where community members come together to take collective action and generate solutions to common problems, it is a broad concept, applied to the practices of civic leaders, activists, involved citizens, and professionals to improve various aspects of communities, typically aiming to build stronger and more resilient local communities. (10)

### **Feminist approaches to women empowerment**

Feminism is defined by the movement's goal of creating women's empowerment. Two methods feminists use to facilitate a sense of women empowerment are consciousness-raising and building relationships with the women participants and their external oppressors.(11).

### **Previous studies**

Progress towards gender equality Improved gender equality and women's empowerment among WFP-assisted popu-

**lation,2021.** Sudan ranks 170 out of 189 countries in the 2020 Gender Inequality. Gender inequality and gender-based violence remain a grave concern, exacerbated by a variety of factors, including armed conflict, tribal clashes, forced displacement, and recurring disasters such as floods. Assessments show that in Sudan, households headed by women are more food insecure than households headed by men. “The Voices from Sudan” report also showed that the impact of COVID-19 and the deteriorating economic situation has increased incidence of violence against women and forced marriages. There is also a low degree of gender parity across Sudan in terms of access to education. Only 15.4percent of adult women have reached at least a secondary level of education as compared to 19.5 percent of men. Against such contexts, WFP ensures that gender dimensions are integrated into the Programme design, implementation, and monitoring processes. WFP also conducts a range of analyses, which helped to identify gaps and improve gender equality in Sudan. For instance, an inter-agency joint assessment that was conducted in July helped identify WFP activities that could promote economic empowerment of women. Through its interventions, WFP strived to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment.

In addition, WFP’s livelihood support activities through productive safety nets yielded strong results, enhancing the capabilities and incomes of 30,000 women in 2021 while also reducing social inequalities amplified by the negative socioeconomic impacts. Women made up 40 percent of the participants who joined the CBPP exercise, putting women at the Centre of the decision-making process. While WFP continued to promote women’s participation in community activities, including project management committees (PMCs), only 35 percent of PMCs leadership were women at WFP distribution sites for emergency food assistance in 2021, which was a decrease from 2020 of 51 percent. WFP will continue to ensure women and girls have better access to information, resources, and economic opportunities, while encouraging them to

hold leadership positions with increased decision-making power.  
**Khatiwada, and others (2018) A Gender Analysis of Changing Livelihood Activities in the Rural Areas of Central Nepal.**

This Study presents a gender disaggregated analysis to assess trend and influencing factors of switching livelihood to higher returning activities at the intra-household level in three villages in rural areas of central Nepal. The result showed that both men and women have changed their livelihood activities from subsistence to cash-earning activities in the last decade. However, the livelihood activities of men have changed considerably compared to women.

This study examined the status and trend of change in livelihood activities for rural men and women in Nepal and identified the determinants through gender-disaggregated analysis at the intra-household level. This study highlights an increasing feminization of agriculture in Nepal since the result showed a higher number of women continue to depend on farm-based livelihood activities compared to men.

The result of this study also demonstrated both the pull and push factors as reasons for changing livelihood activities by men and women. A majority of the respondents reported that the need to increase income, low income from subsistence farming, and lack of jobs in the village were major push factors for changing previously followed livelihood activities irrespective of gender. With some exceptions, people change their livelihood activities in order to pursue better livelihoods via increasing income.

### **Results of the field**

**Table (1) Age group**

Response	Frequency	Percent
Less than 20	20	6.7
40 - 21	187	62.3
60 - 41	93	31
Total	300	100

**Source: Field survey, 2021**

Table (1) shows that the frequency and percentage of respondents less than 20 with percentage of 6.7%, the sample age between 21-40 years' old is 62.3% and age between 41 – 60 is 31%.

**Marital status Table (2)**

Response	Frequency	Percent
Married	220	73.3
Single	18	6.0
Divorced	13	4.4
Widowed	49	16.3
Total	300	100

**Source: Field survey, 2021**

Table (2) shows that who are married are percentage with frequency of 220 with 73.3%, single is 18 with 6%, divorced are 13 with 4.4%, and widowed are 49 with 16.3%.

**Education level Table (3)**

Response	Frequency	Percent
Illiterates	246	82.0
Basic	54	18.0
Total	300	100

**Source: Field survey, 2021**

Table (3) shows that the percentage of 82.0% are illiterates, 18.0% of the respondent's level in basic school. The majority of the respondents not educated.

**Table (4) What is your main source of income**

Response	Frequency	Percent
Farming	85	28.3
Breeding & trading animals	30	10.0
Handicraft	90	30.0
Trade	30	10.0
Seasonal work	50	16.7
Hired labor	15	5.0
Total	300	100.0

**Source: Field survey, 2021**

الهوامش:

The result from the table (4) 30% of respondents their main source of income is Handicraft, 28.3% of the respondents farming, 10% Breeding & trading animals and 10% is trade, 16.7% is seasonal work and 5% is labor.

**Table (5) Did you practice other work than family duties?**

Response	Frequency	Percent	Expected N	Residual
Yes	234	78	150.0	84.0
No	66	22	150.0	-84.0-
Total	300	100	Chi-Square 94.080	Sig. .000

**Source: Field survey, 2021**

Table (5) shows that 78% of the respondents in the study area are practiced other work than family duties and 22% didn't. The table indicates that there is a statistically significant difference between the observed frequencies. The chi-squared test table shows that the difference is statistically significant because the Pearson chi-squared value is 94.080, the asymptotic significance of .000 is less than .05. This means most of the respondents' in the study area had practiced other work than family duties.

**Did you benefit from the projects supported by INGOs/NN-GOs? Table (6)**

Response	Frequency	Percent	Expected N	Residual
Yes	272	90.7	150.0	122.0
No	28	9.3	150.0	-122.0-
Total	300	100.0	Chi-Square: 198.453	Sig. .000

**Source: Field survey, 2021**

The table (6) indicates that there is a statistically significant difference between the observed frequency and Expected. 90.7% of respondents had benefit from the projects supported by INGOs/NN-GOs and 9.3% hadn't benefited. The chi-squared test table shows

that the difference is statistically significant because the Pearson chi-squared value is 198.453 and the asymptotic significance of .000 is less than .05

### Table (7)

**If yes, to what extent has it helped to improve your living conditions?**

Response	Frequency	Percent	Expected N	Residual
Limited	88	29.3	100.0	-12.0-
Medium	192	64.0	100.0	92.0
High	20	6.7	100.0	-80.0-
Total	300	100.0	Chi-Square: 150.080	Sig. .000

**Source: Field survey, 2021.**

According to the result in the table (7) shows that 64% of the respondents are helped & improved their living conditions is medium, 6.7% is high and 29.3% of the respondents are limited. The table indicates that there is a statistically significant difference between the observed frequencies. The chi-squared test table shows that the difference is statistically significant because the Pearson chi-squared value 150.080 and the asymptotic significance of .000 is less than .05.

### Have you received income generating project or loan Table (8)

Response	Frequency	Percent	Expected N	Residual
Yes	257	85.7	150.0	107.0
No	43	14.3	150.0	-107.0-
Total	300	100.0	Chi-Square: 152.653	Sig. .000

**Source: Field survey, 2021**

The table (8) shows that there is a statistically significant difference between the observed frequency distribution and Expected. 85.7% of the respondents received income generating project or loan and 14.7% not received. The chi-squared test table shows that the difference is statistically significant because the Pearson

chi-squared value is 198.453 and the asymptotic significance of .000 is less than .05

**If yes, the benefits of the projects are? Table (9)**

Response	Frequency	Percent	Expected N	Residual
Own expenses	31	12.1	85.7	-54.7-
Your & your family's expenses	136	52.9	85.7	50.3
Expenses & saving	90	35.0	85.7	4.3
No	43	14.3	Chi-Square	.Sig
Total	257	100.0	64.677	000.

**Source: Field survey, 2021**

The findings of the table (9) 52.9% of respondents benefited from the projects' is Your & your family's expenses, 35.0 is Expenses & saving and 12.1% her own expenses. The table indicates that there is a statistically significant difference between the observed frequencies. The chi-squared test table shows that the difference is statistically significant because the Pearson chi-squared value 64.677 and the asymptotic significance of .000 is less than .05.

**Granted by Table (10)**

Response	Frequency	Percent	Expected N	Residual
NNGOs	58	19.3	100.0	-42.0-
INGOs	98	32.7	100.0	-2.0-
NNGOs and INGOs	144	48.0	100.0	44.0
Total	300	100.0	Chi-Square: 37.040	Sig. .000

**Source: Field survey, 2021**

Table (10) shows that there is a statistically significant difference between frequencies. 48% of respondents granted by NGOs and INGOs, 32.7% granted by INGOs and 19.3 supported by the NNGOs. The chi-squared test table shows that the difference is statistically significant because the Pearson chi-squared value is 37.040 and the asymptotic significance of .000 is less than .05

**Table (11)**

**Compared to previous years, how has your income changed?**

Response	Frequency	Percent	Expected N	Residual
High decreased	11	3.7	60.0	-49.0-
Minor decreased	81	27.0	60.0	21.0
No change	11	3.7	60.0	-49.0-
Minor increased	154	51.3	60.0	94.0
High increased	43	14.3	60.0	-17.0-
Total	300	100.0	Chi-Square: 239.467	Sig. .000

**Source: Field survey, 2021**

The result of table (11) shows, 51.3% of the respondents their income changed is Minor increased, 14.3% of respondents their income changed is high increased, 27.0% their income is minor decreased, 3.7% their income is high decreased and 3.7% there is no change in their income. The table indicates that there is a statistically significant difference between the observed frequencies. The chi-squared test table shows that the difference is statistically significant because the Pearson chi-squared value 239.467 and the asymptotic significance of .000 is less than .05.

**Have You received capacity building training Table (12);**

Response	Frequency	Percent	Expected N	Residual
Yes	208	69.3	150.0	58.0
No	92	30.7	150.0	-58.0-
Total	300	100.0	Chi-Square: 44.853	Sig. .000

**Source: Field survey, 2021**

Table (12) indicates that there is a statistically significant difference between frequencies. 69.3% of respondents received capacity building training and 30.7% not received training. The chi-squared test table shows that the difference is statistically significant because the Pearson chi-squared value is 44.853 and the asymptotic significance of .000 is less than .05

#### If yes, you trained by Table (13)

Response	Frequency	Percent	Expected N	Residual
Government	95	45.7	104.0	-9.0-
Organization NGOs/ INGOs	113	54.3	104.0	9.0
No	92	30.7	:Chi-Square	.Sig
Total	300	100.0	1.558	212.

Source: Field survey, 2021

Table (13) shows that 54.7% of the respondents received the capacity building and trained by Organization NGOs/ INGOs and 43.7% of respondents are trained by the Government. The table indicates that there is a statistically significant difference between the observed frequencies. The chi-squared test table shows that the difference is statistically significant because the Pearson chi-squared value 1.558 and the asymptotic significance of .000 is less than .5.

#### Table (14)

**Do you have the right to fully dispose of the income from your own business?**

Response	Frequency	Percent	Expected N	Residual
Yes	280	93.3	150.0	130.0
No	20	6.7	150.0	-130.0-
Total	300	100.0	Chi-Square: 225.333	Sig. .000

Source: Field survey, 2021

Table (14) indicates that there is a statistically significant difference between frequencies. 93.3% of respondents had a right to fully dispose the income from their own business, and 6.7% of respondents hadn't. The chi-squared test table shows that the difference is statistically significant because the Pearson chi-squared value is 225.333 and the asymptotic significance of .000 is less than .05

**Table (15) What is a positive change from the profit of your business?**

Response	Frequency	Percent	Expected N	Residual
Income generating projects ) (livelihood	268	89.3	100.0	168.0
Trade purchase livestock	29	9.7	100.0	-71.0-
Small trade	3	1.0	100.0	-97.0-
Total	300	100.0	Chi-Square: 426.740	Sig. .000

**Source: Field survey, 2021**

Table (15) 89.3% of the respondents benefited from Income generation projects (livelihood) and their income increased, 9.7% benefited from trade of livestock and 1.0% benefited from small trade. The table indicates that there is a statistically significant difference between the observed frequencies. The chi-squared test table shows that the difference is statistically significant because the Pearson chi-squared value 426.740 and the asymptotic significance of .000 is less than .05.

**Table (16) Did it contribute to strengthening and developing your decision-making capabilities?**

Response	Frequency	Percent	Expected N	Residual
Yes	286	95.3	150.0	136.0
No	14	4.7	150.0	-136.0-
Total	300	100.0	Chi-Square: 246.613	Sig. .000

**Source: Field survey, 2021**

Table (16) indicates that there is a statistically significant difference between frequencies. 95.3% of respondents benefited and strengthened their capabilities to make decision and only 4.7% of respondents didn't able to decide. The chi-squared test table shows that the difference is statistically significant because the Pearson chi-squared value is 246.613 and the asymptotic significance of .000 is less than .05

**Table (17) If yes, the level of contribution**

Response	Frequency	Percent	Expected N	Residual
Strong	148	51.7	95.3	52.7
Medium	118	41.3	95.3	22.7
Weak	20	7.0	95.3	-75.3-
No	14	4.7	:Chi-Square	Sig
Total	300	100.0	94.014	000.

**Source: Field survey, 2020**

Table (17) the finding shows that, 51.7% of the respondents the level of contribution is strong, 41.3% their level is medium and 7.0% their level is weak. The table indicates that there is a statistically significant difference between the observed frequencies. The chi-squared test table shows that the difference is statistically significant because the Pearson chi-squared value 94.014 and the asymptotic significance of .000 is less than .05.

**Table (18)**

**Are you satisfied with the livelihoods projects provided by the organizations?**

Response	Frequency	Percent	Expected N	Residual
Yes	263	87.7	150.0	113.0
No	37	12.3	150.0	-113.0-
Total	300	100.0	Chi-Square: 170.253	Sig. .000

**Source: Field survey, 2021**

From table (18) 87.7% of the respondents Are satisfied with the Voluntary & livelihoods projects provided by the organizations

and 12.3% are not satisfied. The table indicates that there is a statistically significant difference between the observed frequencies. The chi-squared test table shows that the difference is statistically significant because the Pearson chi-squared value 170.253 and the asymptotic significance of .000 is less than .05.

**Table (19)**

**Livelihood projects that you practice helped & improved the economic and social conditions of the family and society**

Response	Frequency	Percent	Expected N	Residual
Yes	279	93.0	150.0	129.0
No	21	7.0	150.0	-129.0-
Total	300	100.0	Chi-Square: 221.880	Sig. .000

**Source: Field survey, 2021**

The finding of table (19), show that 93.0% of the respondents replicated the Voluntary work practice helped & improved the economic and social conditions of the family and society, 7.0% are denied. The table indicates that there is a statistically significant difference between the observed frequencies. The chi-squared test table shows that the difference is statistically significant because the Pearson chi-squared value 221.880 and the asymptotic significance of .000 is less than .05.

**Table (20) The most useful projects**

Response	Frequency	Percent	Expected N	Residual
Income generating project	90	30.0	50.0	40.0
Health	5	1.7	50.0	-45.0-
Homestead farming	74	24.7	50.0	24.0
Handicraft	66	22.0	50.0	16.0
Breeding & trading animals	15	5.0	50.0	-35.0-
Farming	50	16.7	50.0	0.
Total	300	100.0	Chi-Square: 113.640	Sig. .000

**Source: Field survey, 2021**

The result of above table (20), shows that 30% of the respondents

their most useful projects are Income generating project, 24.7% homestead farming projects, 22.0% handicraft projects, 16.7% farming projects, 5.0% Breeding & trading animal's projects and 1.7% very small percentage in health projects. The table indicates that there is a statistically significant difference between the observed frequencies. The chi-squared test table shows that the difference is statistically significant because the Pearson chi-squared value 113.640 and the asymptotic significance of .000 is less than .05.

**Table (21)**

**Lessons learned from your past experiences**

Response	Frequency	Percent	Expected N	Residual
Improving family income generating	30	10.0	37.5	-7.5-
Empowering women	11	3.7	37.5	-26.5-
Marketing problem	30	10.0	37.5	-7.5-
Decision making	6	2.0	37.5	-31.5-
Participatory work	7	2.3	37.5	-30.5-
Income generating admin	3	1.0	37.5	-34.5-
Improving family income generating and Empowering women	3	1.0	37.5	-34.5-

Response	Frequency	Percent	Expected N	Residual
Improving family income generating, Empowering women decision making	210	70.0	37.5	172.5
Total	300	100.0	Chi-Square: 929.973	Sig. .000

**Source: Field survey, 2021**

The finding of the lessons learned from their past experiences explained in the above table (21), 70% of the respondents sees that useful projects improved family income generating and empowered women decision making. The table indicates that there is a statistically significant difference between the observed frequencies. The chi-squared test table shows that the difference is statistically significant because the Pearson chi-squared value 929.973 and the asymptotic significance of .000 is less than .05.

#### **Discussion of the results: -**

The discussion and findings from the above analysis:

#### **A woman in Kassala state has social and economic roles in their society.**

The finding divulges that women in Kassala state were involved in various social and economic roles, the majority of respondents in the age group (21 – 40 years) and women in nature, especially at this age are more strong and punctual due to her care and follow up of children. Therefore, she has the ability to be patient at the presses of life, due to her emotion towards her family. She is more coherent and often tolerant of the responsibility. Furthermore, the dependency of families on women is common in the developed and developing world similar. The result of this study shows married women have a higher role and participation rate

73.3% due to their obligations towards their families to help & cover the basic needs of their children.

Through what has been presented of the overall results from the questionnaire and interviews. We find that education level is very low, the percentage of 82.0% are illiterates, 18.0% of the respondents' level in basic school. The majority of the respondents not educated. Education provides more opportunities for women to partake in their life and in the process of their economic change, as well as to contribute in poverty alleviation and decision making.

The finding of this study used the different statistical techniques and combined both quantitative and qualitative methods whereas the other mentioned previous studies, we find that the main sources of their income 30% of respondents their main source of income is Handicraft, 28.3% of the respondents farming, 10% Breeding & trading animals and 10% is trade, 16.7% is seasonal work and 5% is labor with limited resources.

The results in this study explained, by the fact that, a woman who headed a family is a working women, and working women whatever their income is represent a center of power for their family and have a good level of decision, the finding of the study reports that 95.3% of respondents benefited and strengthened their capabilities to have decision and only 4.7% of respondents didn't able to decide. The chi-squared shows that the difference is statistically significant because the Pearson chi-squared value is 246.613 and the asymptotic significance of .000 is less than .05. This is also we confirmed by the study of Female-headed families and their homes. <sup>(12)</sup>.

in Sub Saharan Africa, rural people tend to depend on natural resource-based occupations. Rural households are dependent on both cash and subsistence income from natural resources or land-based strategies <sup>(13)</sup>.

### **Livelihood projects can contribute to positive change in women living conditions.**

Furthermore, the 90.7% of respondents had benefited from

the projects supported by INGOs & NNGOs. 48% from them granted by both NGOs and INGOs, 32.7% granted by INGOs and 19.3 supported by the NNGOs. Also the projects from organization received to the respondents (women) is an income generating project and loan with 85.7%. The chi-squared test table resulted that the difference is statistically significant because the Pearson chi-squared value is 198.453 and the asymptotic significance of .000 is less than .05.

According to the result study, a positive change from the profit of your business are gradually 89.3% of the respondents benefited from Income generation projects (livelihood) and their income increased, 9.7% benefited from trade of livestock and 1.0% benefited from small trade,

So all the above mentioned result explained that 64% of the respondents are helped & improved their living conditions is medium, 6.7% is high and 29.3% of the respondents are limited. The finding also reflected the most of targeted women benefited from the projects', she can contribute to cover her and her family's basic needs and few of them can save. The basic expenditures are Food, drinking water, education, health, cloth and social occasions

However, the profitability of business has been marred by socio-economic woes and negative climatic changes that cause poor rainfall and high temperatures both unfavorable to farming. Similarly, with Studies of rural household income demonstrate a shift in relying on agriculture, positing that between 40% and 60% of rural income emanates from non-natural resource based sources (14).

The study found that 87.7% of the women are satisfied with the **livelihood** projects provided by the organizations and 12.3% are not satisfied. The table indicates that there is a statistically significant difference between the observed frequencies. The chi-squared test table shows that the difference is statistically significant because the Pearson chi-squared value 170.253 and the asymptotic significance of .000 is less than .05. The average 93% reported that

**livelihood** practice helped & improved the economic and social conditions of the family and society, while the 7.0% are denied.

The study also disclosed that the greatest of women had a right to dispose the income from their own business. This is consistent with hypothesis. Also with the study of, female headed families and their homes.(15)

51.7%of the respondents the level of contribution is strong, 41.3% their level is medium and 7.0% their level is weak. In the decade's the economic pressures and awareness raising among women by the Gov., INGOs, NNGOs to all community members as general and women in particular reflected positive impact to encourage women in livelihood and voluntary participation. But in spite of the presence of some of the negative looks from the community and families and dissatisfaction of some husband and sons due to the local traditions and customs.

The study found that 69.3% of respondents received capacity building training. The chi-squared test table shows that the difference is statistically significant because the Pearson chi-squared value is 44.853and the asymptotic significance of .000 is less than .05. They received the capacity building and trained by Organization NGOs, INGOs and Government. The study also concluded that there were visited the field for experience and learning exchange supported by Organizations NGOs/ INGOs and the Government.

Addition to that they show, 30%of the respondents their most useful projects are Income generating project, 24.7% homestead farming projects, 22.0% handicraft projects,16.7% farming projects, 5.0% Breeding & trading animal's projects and 1.7% very small percentage in health projects. Which can be explained, by the fact the majority of women preferred the livelihood projects and voluntary work.

The study obtained lessons learned from targeted women past experiences, the results shows that 70%of the respondents sees that useful projects improved family income and empowered

women decision making. The table indicates that there is a statistically significant difference between the observed frequencies. The chi-squared test table shows that the difference is statistically significant because the Pearson chi-squared value 929.973 and the asymptotic significance of .000 is less than .05.

**Results: -**

- 62.3% of the respondents age between 21-40 years' old
- 73.3% of respondents are married
- 82.0% of respondents their level of education are illiterates.
- 30% of the sample their main source of income is Handicraft
- 78% of the respondents in the study area are practiced other work than family duties.
- 90.7% of respondents had benefit from the projects supported by INGOs/NNGOs
- 64% of the respondents are helped & improved their living conditions is medium.
- 85.7% of the respondents received income generating project or loan
- 52.9% of respondents benefited from the projects' is Your & your family's expenses
- 48% of respondents granted by NGOs and INGOs
- 51.3% of the respondents their income changed is Minor increased
- 69.3% of respondents received capacity building training
- 54.7% of the respondents received the capacity building and trained by Organization NGOs/ INGOs and 45.3% of respondents are trained by the Government.
- 93.3% of respondents had a right to fully dispose the income from their own business.
- 89.3% of the respondents benefited from Income generation projects (livelihood) and their income increased.
- 95.3% of respondents benefited and strengthened their capabilities to make decision
- 51.7% of the respondents the level of contribution is strong,

- 52%of the respondents' their main expenditure is Food, drinking water, education, health, cloth and social occasional
- 87.7%of the respondents Are satisfied with the Voluntary & livelihoods projects provided by the organizations
- 93.0%of the respondents replicated the Voluntary work practice helped & improved the economic and social conditions of the family and society.
- 30%of the respondents their most useful projects are Income generating project
- 70%of the respondents sees that useful projects improved family income generating and empowered women decision making.

### **Conclusion: -**

Women are the key to sustainable development and quality of life in their family. The varieties of role the women assume in the family are those of wife, leader, administrator, manager of family income and last but not the least important the mother.

The field of this paper in Kassala state, to stand on the impact of livelihood projects on promoting and empowering women.

The majority of respondent women in this study benefited from the projects supported by INGOs & NNGOs, particularly benefited from Income generation projects (livelihood) and their income increased and had a gradually positive change from the profit of their business, however, in some cases they were exposed to certain violence in work and housing environment.

Finally, the research argues that, the study had positive impact of livelihood on promoting and empowering women in Kassala state in eastern Sudan.

## Recommendations

1. The importance of much attention to the issues of increasing women's access to financial services, much needs to be done to ensure women are actually empowered. We need to pay attention to women's control over the use of loans, the nature of their investment activity, their access to markets, to social and business support services and to new technologies. By focusing on women's empowerment.
2. The training and capacity building should be flexibly designed so that training can be integrated when needed. Training must be tailored to the Programme and the women, and their input should be solicited when deciding on the topics to be addressed.
3. Most of the interventions were advocacy that did not reflect strongly on the economic situation and were confined to limited interventions due to the weakness of the budget
4. It is important that practitioners and donors take issues of gender into account in designing microfinance programs and provide the women in skill development and improving their capacities.
5. Strengthen the awareness and intensive orientation among the women, men and all communities on the importance of women participation and empowerment in voluntary work and livelihood.
6. Training of women with high quality to improve their work in a better and qualitative way to be more competitive in marketing locally and internationally in the production of small projects & how to grasp opportunities.
7. Establishing integrated women centers for the promotion and development of women in the fields of voluntary work and livelihood.

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