

# **The Constrains & Challenges affecting women participation on voluntary work in Kassala state- Eastern Sudan (2018-2023AD)**

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## **Abstract:**

This study aims to cabin light on the Constrains and Challenges affecting women participation on voluntary work 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 focused on the family and society's view of women working in the fields of voluntary work and livelihood projects. Also to identify the challenges and obstacles that women suffers from and that hinder them from implementing their projects perfectly.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 study came out with the most important results: that voluntary work has little effect on eradicating poverty because of various challenges being faced women. These challenges emanating from climate change and drought, economic crisis, lack of capital, poor farming methods, complications to the market accessibility and the negative local tradition and customs against women. These challenges hindered rural women from producing and providing their families perfectly. The study recommended that, It is important for practitioners and donors to take women's issues into account and encouraging them in voluntary work. and improving their capacities. Also strengthening the awareness and intensive orientation among the women, men and all communities on the importance of women participation and empowerment in voluntary work.

Finally, the study of voluntary work and means of subsistence has a gradual positive change and needs more capacity building, financing and improving the quality of production to compete.

**Key words: Voluntary work, challenges, women headed house hold, Participation and Education role.**

### التحديات والمعوقات التي تؤثر على مشاركة المرأة في العمل الطوعي

ولاية كسلا - شرق السودان (2018-2023م)

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### مستخلص:

تناولت الدراسة أثر العمل الطوعي في تطوير سبل كسب العيش للمرأة دراسة حالة ولاية كسلا - شرق السودان , وأجريت هذه الدراسة في الفترة من ديسمبر 2018 الى يناير 2023. تهدف هذه الدراسة الى: إلقاء الضوء نظرة الأسرة والمجتمع للمرأة التي تعمل في مجالات العمل الطوعي ومشروعات سبل كسب العيش. والتعرف على التحديات والمعوقات التي تعاني منها وتعيقها مشروعاتها. 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 بمحليتي تلوكون وتاجوج) الطريقة الثانية المستخدمة هي أخذ عينات من كرة الثلج التي يتم من خلالها تحديد موقع المستجيب وتحديد

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 أسلوب الاحصاء الوصفي المتمثل في الجداول التكرارية بالإضافة لاختبار كاي تربيع. بينما يتم جمع المصادر الثانوية من خلال المعلومات ذات الصلة بموضوع البحث ، والتي تم الحصول عليها من خلال الدراسات السابقة والمراجع والإنترنت. وخرجت الدراسة بنتائج أهمها: أن العمل التطوعي له تأثير ضئيل في القضاء على الفقر بسبب التحديات المختلفة التي تواجه المرأة. تتبع هذه التحديات من تغير المناخ والجفاف ، تفشي الأمية وسط النساء والأزمة الاقتصادية ، ونقص رأس المال ، وسوء الأساليب الزراعية ، وتعقيدات الوصول إلى الأسواق ، والتقاليد والعادات المحلية السلبية ضد المرأة. كل هذه التحديات أعاقَت المرأة من الإنتاج وإعالة أسرتها على أكمل بصورة قوية. أوصت الدراسة بأهمية أخذ الممارسون والمناحون قضايا المرأة في الحسبان وتشجيع النساء على العمل التطوعي وتحسين قدراتهم. بالإضافة الى تعزيز الوعي والتوجيه المكثف لدى النساء والرجال وجميع المجتمعات حول أهمية مشاركة المرأة وتمكينها في العمل التطوعي. ويوصي الباحث بأن دراسة العمل التطوعي وسبل العيش لها لها تغيير إيجابي تدريجي وتحتاج إلى مزيد من بناء القدرات وتوفير التمويل وتحسين جودة الإنتاج للمنافسة. كلمات مفتاحية: العمل الطوعي - التحديات - المرأة التي تعول أسرة - المشاركة - دور التعليم .

## Introduction and Background:

Sudan receives high numbers of refugees from neighboring Ethiopia, Eritrea, Chad, Central African Republic and South Sudan. At the beginning of 2021, Sudan hosted more than one million refugees and asylum seekers, including more than 810,000 South Sudanese refugees; the second largest figure in the region (after Uganda) as well as some 60,000 Ethiopian refugees who recently fled conflict in the Tigray region, (UNHCR, feb.2019).

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, (UNHCR, feb.2019).

The field of this paper in Kassala state, to stand on the Constrains & Challenges affecting of women involvement on

livelihood. This paper is going to reflect the main challenges hindering women contribution in their communities and to know the reason behind.

### **Problem statement: -**

In Kassala state the gender inequalities faced by women are reflected, among other indicators, by high illiteracy rates (close to 56% of women in the state are illiterate). Constraints on girls' education, limited opportunities for vocational training, early marriage and high birth mortality contribute to widen the gender gap in eastern Sudan and particularly in Kassala state. Persistent barriers to women's advancement in the Eastern Sudan include the prevalence of tribal politics that marginalize women from participating in decision making processes. For instance, the use of traditional tenure systems curtails the ability of women to own land, livestock and to hold other economic assets, (UN Women'2021).

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

What is the Constrains & Challenges affecting women Participation on voluntary work in Kassala state- Eastern Sudan?

- 1- What are the main challenges and constrains hindered women Participation in voluntary work?
- 2- Is the women involvement and participation in voluntary work acceptable in their community?

### **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 Constrains & Challenges affecting women Participation on voluntary work in Kassala state of eastern Sudan.

#### **Specific objective**

- To identify the current status of women from voluntary work perspective in their communities.
- To Identify the reasons that hinder participation of women in voluntary work.

### **Research hypothesis**

There are challenges and constrains that hindered women participation in the voluntary work in Kassala state of eastern Sudan.

1. The illiteracy, hindered women participation in the voluntary work.
2. The local custom and traditions have a negative influence of women
3. participation in the voluntary work.
- 2- Community perspective affected on women participation in the voluntary work.

### **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 covered 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 tools and sources.

### **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:**

#### **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). 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. Throughout ages woman gradually began to develop her intellectual faculties and her cultural identity. (**Amani A.H. 2014, page 9**).

#### **The role of women in their families and the communities: -**

Women are the key to sustainable development and quality of life in the 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. (**Report**). **New York: United Nations. 2009, Retrieved June 29, 2017**).

**Balgis Badri (2007)** in her book she concerns with Sudanese women in relation to Participation & empowerment through specific indicator like health, education, work, political participation among other indicator. All these assume that women can take place or position in society.

#### **Impact of voluntary work: -**

The main problems they face is the limited number of educational possibilities and lack of adequate food. Moreover, if women choose to go for higher wages, they are generally paid less as compared to men. So, we have seen that a separate. In this advent, women organizations are enhancing and transforming the existence of women by involving in the voluntary work activities. By this, these women can support their families. **(Davis et al., (2010).**

As the nature of emergencies is rapidly changing and global development challenges are becoming more pressing than ever, women are particularly at risk of bearing the harmful social and economic impact of recurring shocks and stresses. There is a need to identify effective, sustainable, cost-effective and innovative practices to strengthen the capacity of women to reduce risks and vulnerabilities, while preserving and strengthening their rights, dignity, livelihoods and overall well-being. **(Kate Bird, January 2018.page 529)**

#### **Collaboration and Participation**

**Collaboration** helps bring together people of different backgrounds who may have access to different resources that can be of benefit to the community. Each person also has a role that they play within the community, thus it is likely that they will each have a role to play in the process of community development. The interactions that occur through the collaborative efforts of community development can help bolster leaders and the skills they are using to guide the community through the process. Participation allows a person to exert any influence they have in that moment



during the process-they're able to offer input and provide feedback on things that are going to directly impact them as a member of the community. This can tie together with empowerment as well, as the two principles will often feed into one another during the process. **Kelkar, G. (2013)**

### **Awareness**

Awareness is a key principle of community development because it allows communities to identify things like resources and needs within their own space. It allows the community to take ownership of their problems when they are aware of it, which can prompt them to take action on their own. Awareness in the community development process can do more than just identify problems, it can also monitor the progress of the process and the improvements that are implemented, **Bentley, K. (2004).**

### **Concept of Society**

**Allison and Ellis (2001)**, has written about various strategies to conceptualize society. This stress on culture is associated with the notion that society is underpinned by ideas and values. Society is a process in which people continuously interact with one another, the key terms are negotiation, self-other, reflexivity the implication being that society is constituted and reconstituted in social interaction. Society is not imposed upon people in the process definition rather it has to be accepted and confirmed by participants.

### **Barriers and Constrains: -**

Many of the barriers to women's Participation and equity are the result of cultural norms. While many women are aware of issues posed by gender inequality, others have become accustomed to it. Many men in power are hesitant to disrupt societal norms that are unfair to women. **Momsen, J. (2016)**

### **Role of education: -**

Education empowers women to make choices that improve their life, their well-being, and chances of acquiring survival skills, education can increase women's awareness of their rights, boost their self-esteem, and provide them the opportunity to assert their

rights. (UNESCO (2015), Retrieved May 10, 2017)

### **Previous studies**

**Gender, livelihood capabilities and women's economic empowerment Reviewing evidence over the life course, Naila Kabeer, September 2018, Promoting economic capabilities among working-age women**

This study reviews the evaluation literature on policies and programs designed to pays attention to the gendered 'structures of constraint' that may prevent women and girls accessing resources and translating those resources into improvements in their voluntary work outcomes. The study explores the geographical, intersectional and life-course variations in how women and girls experience these structures of constraint.

Most older people rely on their own assets, savings, voluntary & livelihood efforts, and slowly eroding family support, Women's limited access to education, assets and opportunities across the different stages of the life course combines with later life events to increase their risk of poverty in old age, Social pensions are unlikely to provide a long-term solution; there needs to be greater attention to promoting the livelihood efforts of the active elderly and to helping people build savings and assets during their prime working years.

**Women access to market: a livelihoods and gender approach--case study: Kassala State** Citation metadata Authors: [Badri](#), [Babiker Ahmed](#), [Ejail](#) and [Zeinab Tahir Salih](#) , Date: June 2008 , From: [Ahfad Journal](#)(Vol. 25, Issue 1) , Publisher: Ahfad University for Women

The study has been conducted in Kassala State during the period from May 2007 to February 2008. The main objectives of this study were to identify the factors that affect women access to markets in the study area and to investigate the major obstacles that faced women in markets in the study area. One hundred women

who work in the local markets at the study area were selected.

Results showed that competition, high production cost and low quality of goods, and insufficient capital beside illness, pregnancy, lactation and delivery were the major limitations that constraint women access to market in the area. Finally, findings indicated that Beja women are not represented in Kassala markets in high proportion due to different limitations that constraint their access to markets including tribal traditions, social status, absence of women control on financial resources and wealth, cultural factors and other factors related to Beja women attitudes and culture about

### Results of the field: -

#### Age group Table (1)

Response	Frequency	Percent
Less than 20	20	6.7
21 - 40	187	62.3
41 - 60	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) You participated in any community voluntary activities

Response	Frequency	Percent	Expected N	Residual
Yes	277	92.3	150.0	127.0
No	23	7.7	150.0	-127.0-
Total	300	100.0	Chi-Square: 215.053	Sig. .000

**Source: Field survey, 2021**

Table (4) indicates that there is a statistically significant difference between frequencies. 92.3% of respondents participated in community voluntary activities and 7.7% not participated. The chi-squared test table shows that the difference is statistically significant because the Pearson chi-squared value is 215.053 and the asymptotic significance of .000 is less than .05

### The level of participation Table (5)

Response	Frequency	Percent	Expected N	Residual
Need assessment	98	35.4	69.3	28.8
Decision making	85	30.7	69.3	15.8
Marketing	79	28.5	69.3	9.8
Monitoring & Evaluation	15	5.4	69.3	-54.3-
No	23	7.7	Chi-Square	Sig.
Total	300	100.0	59.390	.000
Total	300	100.0	Chi-Square: 239.467	Sig. .000

### Source: Field survey, 2021

The table (5) shows that 35.4% of the respondents are participated in the level of need assessment, 30.7% in the level of decision making, 28.5% in marketing level and 5.4% in M&E level. 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.

### Did You participate in your community committees? Table (6)

Response	Frequency	Percent	Expected N	Residual
Yes	229	76.3	150.0	79.0
No	71	23.7	150.0	-79.0-
Total	300	100.0	Chi-Square: 83.213	Sig. .000

### Source: Field survey, 2021

Table (6) indicates that there is a statistically significant difference between frequencies 76.3% of respondents participated in their community committees and 23.7% of respondents are not participated. The chi-squared test table shows that the difference is statistically significant because the Pearson chi-squared value is 83.213 and the asymptotic significance of .000 is less than .05

### If yes, what type of committees Table (7)

Response	Frequency	Percent	Expected N	Residual
Community development committee	51	22.3	45.8	5.2
Women committee	92	40.2	45.8	46.2
Association fund	10	4.4	45.8	-35.8-
Saving - loan	28	12.2	45.8	-17.8-
Women's Cooperative association	48	21.0	45.8	2.2
No	71	23.7	Chi-Square:	Sig.
Total	300	100.0	82.201	.000

### Source: Field survey, 2021

Table (7) shows that 40.2% of the respondents participated in Women committee, 22.3% participated in Community development committee, 21.0% participated in Women's Cooperative association, 12.2% of respondents participated in saving – loan and 4.4% are participated in Association fund. 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 82.201 and the asymptotic significance of .000 is less than .05.

### Did You have a leadership position in committees Table (8)

Response	Frequency	Percent	Expected N	Residual
Yes	196	65.3	150.0	46.0
No	104	34.7	150.0	-46.0-
Total	300	100.0	Chi-Square: 28.213	Sig. .000

### Source: Field survey, 2021

Table (8) indicates that there is a statistically significant difference between frequencies. 65.3% of respondents they had a leadership position in their committees and 34.7% of them they hadn't a leadership position in their committees. The chi-squared test table shows that the difference is statistically significant because the Pearson chi-squared value is 28.213 and the asymptotic significance of .000 is less than .05

### If yes, what is the type of leadership Table (9)

Response	Frequency	Percent	Expected N	Residual
Member	177	30.3	39.2	137.8
Deputy director	2	52	39.2	-37.2-
Finance	1	10	39.2	-38.2-
Secretary	14	7.7	39.2	-25.2-
No	104	34.7	Chi-Square:	Sig.
Total	300	100.0	608.439	.000



### Source: Field survey, 2021

Table (9) indicates that there is a statistically significant difference between frequencies. 30.3% of respondents are a member, 7.7% are Secretary and 52% are deputy director and 10% are finance positions. The chi-squared test table shows that the difference is statistically significant because the Pearson chi-squared value is 608.439 and the asymptotic significance of .000 is less than .05

### Table (10); Any negative impacts related to women participation in community voluntary works

Response	Frequency	Percent	Expected N	Residual
Yes	30	10.0	150.0	-120.0-
No	270	90.0	150.0	120.0
Total	300	100.0	Chi-Square: 192.000	Sig. .000

### Source: Field survey, 2021

Table (10) the result shows that 90% of the respondents present that is no negative impacts related to women participation in their community voluntary works and only 10% said yes there is negative impact. 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 192 and the asymptotic significance of .000 is less than .05.

### Table (11)

### Did You attend any field visit for experience and learning exchange?

Response	Frequency	Percent	Expected N	Residual
Yes	182	60.7	150.0	32.0
No	118	39.3	150.0	-32.0-
Total	300	100.0	Chi-Square: 13.653	Sig. .000

### Source: Field survey, 2021

Table (11) indicates that there is a statistically significant

difference between frequencies. 60.7% of respondents visited the field for experience and learning exchange and 39.3% they didn't visit the field. The chi-squared test table shows that the difference is statistically significant because the Pearson chi-squared value is 13.653 and the asymptotic significance of .000 is less than .05

**Table (12) If yes, by whom you visit the field for experience and learning exchange**

Response	Frequency	Percent	Expected N	Residual
Government	37	20.3	91.0	-54.0-
Organization NGOs/ INGOs	145	79.7	91.0	54.0
No	215	150.0	Chi-Square:	Sig.
Total	300	100.0	56.333	.000

**Source: Field survey, 2021**

Table (12) shows that 79.7% of the respondents visited the field for experience and learning exchange supported by Organizations NGOs/ INGOs and 20.3% of respondents visited the field 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 56.333 and the asymptotic significance of .000 is less than .05.

**Table (13)**

**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 (13) 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 (14) 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 (14) 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 (15)**

**Do you face any challenges& constrains in participating in the voluntary work?**

Response	Frequency	Percent	Expected N	Residual
Yes	102	34.0	150.0	-48.0-
No	198	66.0	150.0	48.0
Total	300	100.0	Chi-Square: 30.720	Sig. .000

**Source: Field survey, 2021**

Table (15) indicates that there is a statistically significant difference between frequencies. 66% of respondents didn't faced any challenges& constrains in the participation of voluntary work and 34% of respondents faced challenges& constrains in participating in the voluntary work. The chi-squared test table shows that the difference is statistically significant because the Pearson chi-squared

value is 30.720 and the asymptotic significance of .000 is less than .05

**Table (16) If yes, from whom**

Response	Frequency	Percent	Expected N	Residual
Family	3	2.9	34.0	-31.0-
Community	7	6.9	34.0	-27.0-
Both	92	90.2	34.0	58.0
No	198	66.0	Chi-Square:	Sig.
Total	300	100.0	148.647	.000

**Source: Field survey, 2021**

Table (16) shows that, 90.2% of the respondents facing challenges & constrains in participating in the voluntary work from their Community and their Family, 6.9% they Facing challenges from their community and 2.9% they facing challenges by families. 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 148.647 and the asymptotic significance of .000 is less than .05.

**Table (17)**

**Is there any kind of violence against you?**

Response	Frequency	Percent	Expected N	Residual
Yes	229	76.3	150.0	79.0
No	71	23.7	150.0	-79.0-
Total	300	100.0	Chi-Square: 83.213	Sig. .000

**Source: Field survey, 2021**

Table (17) indicates that there is a statistically significant difference between frequencies. 76.3% of respondents faced violence practices against them and 23.7% there are no violent practices against them. 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 (18) If yes, So what kind of violence**

Response	Frequency	Percent	Expected N	Residual
Marginalization	28	12.2	45.8	-17.8-
The inability to sell the product due to prevailing traditions	92	40.2	45.8	46.2
Not being able to go outside her home	51	22.3	45.8	5.2
No support from her relative	48	21.0	45.8	2.2
No support from Organizations	10	4.4	45.8	-35.8-
No	71	23.7	Chi-Square:	Sig.
Total	300	100.0	82.201	.000

**Source: Field survey, 2021**

From table (18), the result shows 40.2% of the respondents the kind of violence is inability to sell the product due to prevailing traditions, 22.3 are not being able to go outside her home, 21.0% are not supported from her relative, 12.2% are Marginalized and 4.4% of respondents are not supported from Organizations. 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 82.201 and the asymptotic significance of .000 is less than are .05.

**Table (19)**

**Is there any gender discrimination from supporting agencies when providing voluntary / livelihood projects?**

Response	Frequency	Percent	Expected N	Residual
Yes	93	31.0	150.0	-57.0-
No	207	69.0	150.0	57.0
Total	300	100.0	Chi-Square: 43.320	Sig. .000

**Source: Field survey, 2021**

Table (19) indicates that there is a statistically significant

difference between frequencies. 31% of respondents said there is a gender discrimination when providing voluntary / livelihood projects and 69.0 of respondents answer no gender discrimination when providing voluntary / livelihood projects. The chi-squared test table shows that the difference is statistically significant because the Pearson chi-squared value is 43.320 and the asymptotic significance of .000 is less than .05.

**Table (20) Community perspectives about working woman in voluntary/ livelihood projects and perform her work**

Response	Frequency	Percent	Expected N	Residual
Positive	190	63.3	150.0	40.0
Negative	110	36.7	150.0	-40.0-
Total	300	100.0	Chi-Square: 21.333	.000 Sig.

**Source: Field survey, 2021**

Table (20) indicates that there is a statistically significant difference between frequencies. 63.3% of respondents the Community perspectives about working woman in voluntary /livelihood projects is positive and 36.7% answered Community perspectives about working woman in voluntary /livelihood projects is negative. The chi-squared test table shows that the difference is statistically significant because the Pearson chi-squared value is 21.333 and the asymptotic significance of .000 is less than .05

**Table (21)**

**Your family perspectives about working woman in voluntary/ livelihood projects and perform her work**

Response	Frequency	Percent	Expected N	Residual
Positive	180	60.0	150.0	30.0
Negative	120	40.0	150.0	-30.0-
Total	300	100.0	Chi-Square: 12.000	.001 Sig.

**Source: Field survey, 2021**

Table (21), show that 60% of the Family perspectives about woman contribution in the voluntary work/livelihood is positive and 40% is negative. 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 12 and the asymptotic significance of .000 is less than .05.

**Table (22) Explain Family perspectives about contribution in the voluntary work**

Response	Frequency	Percent	Expected N	Residual
Family members participate and help me in the project implementation	100	50.3	99.5	.5
My husband refused to let me out of the house to market my products	99	49.7	99.5	-.5-
Total	300	100.0	Chi-Square: .005	Sig. .943

**Source: Field survey, 2021**

Table (22) indicates that there is a statistically significant difference between frequencies. 50.3% of respondent explain that Family members participate and help her in the project implementation, 49.7% shows that her husband refused to let me out of the house to market my products.

**Table (23) Your future goals**

Response	Frequency	Percent	Expected N	Residual
Continue working	86	71.3	150.0	-64.0-
Stop working	214	28.7	150.0	64.0
Total	300	100.0	Chi-Square: 54.613	Sig. .000

**Source: Field survey, 2021**

The result of the table (23) shows 71.3% of the respondents their future goals is continue working and 28.7% of respondents stop working. 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 54.613 and the asymptotic significance of .000 is less than .05.

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

The finding of this paper used the different statistical techniques and combined both quantitative and qualitative methods whereas the other mentioned previous studies, so the result from the above analysis as follows:

#### **The illiteracy, local custom and traditions hindered women participation in the voluntary work.**

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.

In low- and middle-income countries in Latin America, Asia and Africa) Women's limited access to education, assets and

opportunities across the different stages of the life course combines with later life events to increase their risk of poverty in old age, **Naila K. (September, 2018).**

### **Women participation in voluntary work.**

92.3% of respondents participated in community voluntary activities and 7.7% not participated. The chi-squared test table shows that the difference is statistically significant because the Pearson chi-squared value is 215.053 and the asymptotic significance of .000 is less than .05, the results indicated that, the majority of women in this study are joined voluntary work and activities in their communities in deferent level as shown in the finding reveal that 35.4%of the respondents are participated in the level of need assessment, 30.7% in the level of decision making, 28.5%in marketing level and 5.4% in M&E level.

There are positive aspects related to participation of women in voluntary activities, which can have explained, by the fact that, a women became more empowered, awarded and have their own views through their input and membership in their community committee with 76.3% from the targeted women, such as women committees, community development committees, women's cooperative association, saving – loans and any association fund in their communities.

moreover, the results indicated that women in this study have a leadership position in their community committees showed that with 65.3% of respondents, the type of position according to the findings are deputy director, Secretary, Finance and members. 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 participation in the voluntary work, 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.

Furthermore, the study reported that a women have been face type of violence 76.3% of respondents faced violence practices against them and 23.7% there are no violent practices against them, such as 40.2% of the respondents the kind of violence is inability to sell the product due to prevailing traditions, 22.3 are not being able to go outside her home, 21.0% are not supported from her relative, 12.2% are Marginalized and 4.4% of respondents are not supported from Organizations. Also the result of this study showed 31% of respondents alleged there is a gender discrimination when providing voluntary work and 69.0 of respondents answer no gender discrimination when providing voluntary / livelihood projects.

### **Community perspective affected on women participation in the voluntary work.**

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 **Restrepo.R, (1999)**. Female- headed families and their homes.

There are clear indicators of community perspectives about working woman in voluntary work 63.3% of respondents sees positive and 36.7% answered the community perspectives about working woman in voluntary /livelihood projects is

negative. Moreover, 60% of the Family perspectives about woman contribution in the voluntary work/livelihood is positive and 40% is negative.

The study investigates how family standpoints about women contribution in the voluntary work, the finding demonstrated that 50.3% of respondent explain that family members participate and help her in the project implementation, 49.7% shows that her husband refused to let me out of the house to market my products. **The findings of Ahfad University** study on :Women access to market: a livelihoods and gender approach--case study: Kassala State confirmed that Beja women are not represented in Kassala markets in high proportion due to different limitations that constraint their access to markets including tribal traditions, social status, absence of women control on financial resources and wealth, cultural factors and other factors related to Beja women attitudes and culture about marketing and productive work outside the home. The study also concluded that there were some challenges and constrains facing women in the participation of voluntary work and from their Community and their Family.

### **Results:**

From the above analysis and discussion, the study came out with the following 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.
- 64% of the respondents are helped & improved their living conditions is medium.
- 92.3% of respondents participated in community voluntary activities
- 35.4% of the respondents are participated in the level of need assessment.

- 76.3% of respondents participated in their community committees
- 40.2% of the respondents participated in Women committee
- 65.3% of respondents they had a leadership position in their committees.
- 90% of the respondents present that is no negative impacts related to women participation in their community voluntary works
- 60.7% of respondents visited the field for experience and learning exchange.
- 79.7% of the respondents visited the field for experience and learning exchange supported by Organizations NGOs/ INGOs
- 95.3% of respondents benefited and strengthened their capabilities to make decision
- 51.7% of the respondents the level of contribution is strong,
- 66% of respondents didn't faced any challenges & constrains in the participation of voluntary work
- 90.2% of the respondents facing challenges & constrains in participating in the voluntary work from their Community and their Family
- 76.3% of respondents they face violence against them.
- 40.2% of the respondents the kind of violence is inability to sell the product due to prevailing traditions
- 69.0 of respondents answer no gender discrimination when providing voluntary.
- 63.3% of respondents the Community perspectives about working woman in voluntary is positive.
- 60% of the Family perspectives about woman contribution in the voluntary work is positive



- 71.3% of the respondents their future goals are continue working

### **Conclusion: -**

This study looks at an important part of society, explicitly women. The different culture of the world wide awards great importance to women.

The field of this paper in Kassala state, to stand on the Constrains & Challenges affecting women participation on voluntary work.

The study concluded women had a positive aspects related to participation of women in voluntary activities and livelihood activities, which can have explained, by the fact that, a women became more mobilized, awarded and have their own views through their input and membership in their community committees, she is able to beer the pressures of life, due to her emotion towards her families.

The study also concluded that most of respondents come from low level of family income. As well as, low education level. Education provides more opportunities for women to participate in public life such as voluntary work and livelihood and all the process of economic and social change.

The study also concluded that there were some challenges and constrains facing women in the participation of voluntary work and from their Community and their Family.

### **Recommendations**

- 1- Conduct gender sensitive & responsive policy matrix and update analysis for need assessment, taking into account the marginalized areas and vulnerable women.
- 2- In light of inflation, women should be supported in groups to minimized risks.
- 3- To support the women empowerment through capacity building to be able to control over their resources,

participation and decision making.

4- The necessity of applying the **learning by doing** (South American experience, Paolo Fariro).

5- It is important that practitioners and donors take issues of gender into account in encouraging women in voluntary work. and improving their capacities.

6- Strengthen the awareness and intensive orientation among the women, men and all communities on the importance of women participation and empowerment in voluntary work.

7- The cultural and economic context of women in Kassala is weak, and therefore they cannot reach the markets, which negatively affects the sale of their products, in addition to the fact that they are not fluent in the Arabic language. The recommendation more capacity building and education opportunities for women.

8- The importance of girl education and literacy to reduce the gap

Illiteracy.

9- 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.

10- Establishing integrated women centers for the promotion and development of women in the fields of voluntary work.

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