



EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR RURAL WOMEN HELD ON THE 14 OCTOBER 2016 AT UNGWAN JOHN COMMUNITY NASARAWA KADUNA.

Rural women are key agents of achieving economic, environment and social transformation required for sustainable development. But due to the limited access to credit, health care and education are among the many challenges they face, which is further aggravated by the global economic crises and climate change. Ensuring the empowerment of rural women is key not only to the well-being of individuals, families and communities, but also to overall economic productivity, given women's large presence in the agricultural workforce worldwide.

The event started with an opening prayer led by EWEI Mentor, Mrs Theresa Biniyat at 10:00 am.

Participants present at the event introduce themselves and the community head thanked the organization for coming to mark the day with women in his community and pledged to support the organization.

The theme of the celebration **"Benefits of Economic Empowerment"** was facilitated by Joy Anthony, Programme Officer Administration and Logistics. In her remarks, she stated that when more women work, economies grow and there is an increase in female labour force participation. She highlighted that gender inequalities remain a challenge in most developing countries and when paid and unpaid work are combined, women in developing countries work more than men, with less time for education, leisure, political participation and self-care.

Despite some improvements over the last 50 years, in virtually every country, men spend more time on leisure each day while women spend more time doing unpaid housework. Evidence from a range of countries shows that increasing the share of household income controlled by women, either through their own earnings or cash transfers, changes spending in ways that benefit children. Because of the current recession in Nigeria, women are encouraged to learn skills and seek loans to start up businesses.

Mrs Theresa Biniyat facilitated the session on skill acquisition and led showed the participants the process of producing the soap and vaseline. She encouraged the women to stand up, get engaged and not wait for their husbands to provide for their everyday needs. She stressed the need for women in the community to form groups where they can start up savings and assist each other

Seventy women participated in the skills acquisition session which is the first in the series of sessions for a selected community that will be benefitting from the Educate Equip and Empower project of EWEI.

One of the participants at the session, Aisha, is featured on EWEI's Educate, Equip and Empower crowdfunding project and will be taking part in a series of capacity building and mentoring sessions. Aisha, who is a widow is among other selected women will also receive start up support to start her own small business that will help cater for her two children. You can read more about the project here : <https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/educate-equip-empower-girls-and-women-in-nigeria-1/> and contact us for how you can support this project.



The Educate, Equip and Empower project will tackle issues of poverty, girl child education, networking and access to opportunities. This project targets girls and women of four different profiles in Kaduna in northern Nigeria. Through the project, we aim to subsidize the education of ten girls in public secondary schools over two years, train and mentor 120 indigent rural women (mostly widows and heads of households), engage 100 adult females in two tertiary institutions and empower 2 female artists. Send us an email at contact@eweing.org to find out hwo you can help.

