

WOMEN AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF PERIODIC MARKETS IN TIVLAND

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Abstract

Historically, periodic markets have been known to be the most significant pivots for trade, communication and exchange in cultural and social activities. These markets, established within Tiv society, thrived greatly due to the regional and interregional trade activities amongst the people. Women by nature of their enterprising abilities were found to be instrumental in the development of communal trade within and outside the Tiv communities. The activities of women helped in the growth and expansion of the market frontiers and the movement of articles of exchange as they were produced, bought and sold interchangeably in the market centres found within Tivland. The research emphasizes the importance of periodic markets, recognizing their roles in providing opportunities for self-financial empowerment of women in the context of promotion of economic growth, gender equality, and sustainable development. It also examines the contributions of women to the development of periodic markets in Tiv area.

Keywords: *Periodic Markets, Development, Trade, Social Interaction, Cultural Exchange.*

Introduction

Tivland, a region in central Nigeria, is home to a rich tapestry of cultures, traditions, and vibrant marketplaces. Among the most prominent are the periodic markets, which have played a vital role in the economic and social life of the Tiv people for centuries. These markets, which occur at regular intervals, serve as hubs for trade, communication, social interaction, and cultural exchange. Historically, these periodic markets offer a wide range of

commercial goods as operated within the Tiv indigenous communities and they continue to grow and develop rapidly to become relevant in our contemporary society. However, an often-overlooked aspect of these markets is the profound contribution of women to their development and sustenance. It is against this backdrop that this work aims to provide a comprehensive exploration of the contributions of women in terms of trade, communication, social interaction and cultural exchange, to the development of periodic markets in Tivland. This article shows to a greater extent the enormous potential embedded in women that if fully tapped would not only expand the nature of periodic markets but also overhaul the entire social system. While the roles of women have been limited to the households, the research argues that women constitute the general social fabric of society and development in all spheres has the mark of a woman. The sections are carefully structured to accommodate the details of the research. In the research exercise, some that are found to be contemplative have been conceptualized before delving deeper into women's roles and contributions in shaping periodic markets in Tivland. The arguments are compelling in that the research analyses women's contributions and challenges in the broader context of the development of periodic markets sustaining the debate with relevant literature for better understanding.

Conceptualization of Terms:

Periodic Markets

Periodic market is defined as the assemblage of people and goods at a particular place at least once a week or at set intervals in order to carry out commercial activities. These traditional marketplaces open at regular intervals, often weekly or bi-weekly and mostly four or five days intervals as the case in Tivland. They offer a wide range of goods and services and serve as vital economic and social centres in the region. Periodic markets are classified in to three (3) basic categories; Central places (large markets) Intermediary (standard) markets and Local (small) markets.

Ikpanor noted that, Periodic markets are regulated through a set of market days through which commercial activities rotate in a chain or sequence from one market place to another. In this case, market cycle consist of (5) days and periodic markets are held on one of these days referred to as '*iyange-i-kasua*' market days. In essence, the occurrence of markets around Tiv is carefully structured by Tiv inhabitants of such villages and based on what is sold or bought in such a market.

Development

Development is a complex concept that encompasses a wide range of social, economic, and political factors. It is a concept that has been approached from different perspectives. It involves creating growth, progress, and positive change in various aspects of society without creating negative impact to the environment. In the context of this research, development can be defined as the process of expanding the growth of periodic market through economic, social, cultural and political advancements resulting from influences including the role of women in commercial activities. It involves the advancement of various factors such as economic, social, technological, institutional and market dynamics through the participation of women as one among the stakeholders within the market over time.

To avoid the unending debate on the concept of development, the UN concept of (sustainable) development would be adopted thus:

This refers to a type of development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The United Nations has established 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to guide global efforts towards sustainable development. These goals cover a wide range of issues, including poverty, hunger, health, education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, decent work and economic growth, industry, innovation and infrastructure, reduced inequalities, sustainable cities and communities, responsible consumption and production, climate action, life below water, life on land, peace, justice and strong institutions, and partnerships for the goals.

Therefore, the concept of "development" in the context of women and the development of periodic markets in Tivland can be understood as promoting poverty eradication and rural development by providing employment opportunities, access to goods and services for women and contributing to the local economy by women.

Trade

Trade is the exchange of goods and services between buyers and sellers. It is a

¹Sudhir Wanmali, *Periodic Markets and Rural Development in India*, B. R. Publishing Corporation, Delhi, 1941, p.17.

²E. T. Ikpanor, "Hierarchical Organization of Markets, Periodicity, Cycles and Trade in the Post-Colonial Southern Tivland" in *Dutsinma Historical Review, A publication of the Department of History and Strategic Studies, Federal University Dutsinma, Katsina State*, Vol 3, No. 1, 2020, pg. 48.

³E. T. Ikpanor, "Hierarchical Organization of Markets, Periodicity, Cycles and Trade in the Post-Colonial Southern Tivland" pg. 58.

⁴The 17 Goal: Sustainable Development Goals, <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>, Accessed, 13 Nov. 2023.

vital part of any global economy, providing a source of income for many people and access to essential goods and services for the community thereby helping to strengthen the competitiveness of industries, promoting investment, and ensuring fair trade through trade laws and agreements.

The concept of trade in this research paper is based on the principle of comparative advantage. This means that each trader has something unique to offer, and by trading with each other, they can all benefit. For example, a farmer may have surplus produce that they can sell to a trader who specializes in buying and selling food. The trader can then sell the produce to consumers at a higher price, making a profit for both themselves and the farmer.

Trade in periodic markets is also important for social and cultural reasons. It provides an opportunity for people from different communities to come together and interact. It also helps to promote traditional knowledge and practices.

Social Interaction

Social interaction is a process of reciprocal influence exercised by individuals over one another during social encounters. It involves communication between members of a society, and can be verbal or non-verbal. Social interaction is considered a fundamental building block of any society. Social structures and cultures are founded upon social interactions, and symbols are used to communicate the expectations of a given society to those new to it. Within the context of our paper, social interaction refers to the various ways in which people engage with each other, build relationships, and the exchange of ideas, information, and experiences within the market settings.

Alluding to the significance of social interaction as a crucial factor in bolstering the involvement of women in periodic markets in Tivland, Peter Nongukwagh notes that “Women form associations based on products they sell in the market square. Such associations contribute to market dues and most times, negotiate for levies with government for easy compliance by members.”

It could be inferred from the view above that social interactions in periodic markets are not only economic hubs, but places where people form bonds for the betterment of society. Premised on Peter Nongukwagh's views, another informant, Monica Iorhen in Adikpo Market, lauds the importance of

⁶Tio Gubab, “Social Interaction Types and Examples (Sociology)”, <https://helpfulprofessor.com/social-interaction-types-and-examples/>, Accessed 26th, Oct. 2023.

⁷Peter Nongukwagh, *Oral Interview*, Agbo Market Square, Vandeikya LGA, April, 2023.

⁸Monica Iorhen, *Oral Interview*, Adikpo Market, May, 2023.

social interactions when she states that “Woman have formed associations at markets such that those associations have been turned into cooperative societies. These societies have helped the women to expand their businesses and assist each member during times of celebrations or grief.”

Cultural exchange

Cultural exchange is simply referred as the sharing and interaction of ideas, beliefs, customs, traditions, values, and practices between individuals or groups from different cultural backgrounds. It pertains the mutual exchange of cultural knowledge, experiences, and perspectives to promote understanding, appreciation, and respect for diverse cultures. Cultural exchange within the ambit of our study, takes place in various forms such as language and communication, food and cuisine, art, customs, tradition, ideas, beliefs, which brought about mutual understanding, personal growth, intercultural competence, promote peace and cooperation. This informs that periodic markets not only serve as trading hubs but also places where culture and its elements are interchanged.

The Role of Women in the Development of Trade in Periodic Markets in Tivland

Throughout history, periodic market has been the main commercial centre in regional and interregional trade activities in Tiv society. These markets serve as meeting points for the exchange of goods, services, information, political socialization and exchange in economic relationship between individual markets. The periodic markets in Tiv society have a long history dating back centuries ago. These markets function as a commercial meeting point for the exchange of locally produced goods and manufactured items from the local people.

These markets have evolved, continue to evolve and adapted to changing economic and social conditions. One significant feature of periodic markets that cannot be completely wished away, is the presence of women. Women have always played a significant role in the evolution of markets. In

⁹ Kelsey Holmes, “What is Cultural Exchange” <https://greenheart.org/blog/greenheart-international/what-is-cultural-exchange/>, Accessed 26th Oct. 2023.

¹⁰ Claire, “What is Cultural Exchange and why Exchanging Cultures Matters”, <https://talesofabackpacker.com/what-is-cultural-exchange-and-why-exchanging-cultures-matters/>, Accessed 26th Oct. 2023.

¹¹ E. T. Ikpanor, “Hierarchical Organization of Markets, Periodicity, Cycles and Trade in the Post-Colonial Southern Tivland” in *Dutsinma Historical Review, A publication of the Department of History and Strategic Studies, Federal University Dutsinma, Katsina State*, Vol 3, No. 1, 2020, p. 52.

¹² E. T. Ikpanor, “The Establishment and Functions of periodic Market Centres in the Pre-Colonial Tiv Society” in *VUNA Journal of History and International Relations*, Vol 4, No. 1, 2020, p. 31.

Tivland, women have always played supportive roles at home. However, the marketplace is where women are predominantly featured, negotiating for what to buy for their children, selling farm produce and buying condiments and seasonings for domestic use.

In the past, they were primarily involved in selling agricultural products, crafts, and other goods, but their roles have expanded over time. Ikpanor stated that, *Awange* market was established to relieve the *Mbajor* women from the burden of trafficking to their neighbours in Cross River for trade without anybody coming to their land with commodities.

The role of women in the development of periodic markets in Tivland from history until contemporary times has been significant. While specific information about the role women played in the development of periodic markets in Tiv society is limited, we can draw some general insights about the importance of women in economic and social activities in African societies, including Tivland.

Chinenye Obinna in an interview with the researcher was of the view that the majority of the traders in Wurukum Market square are women. This confirms what the crux of the research is where the research statement holds that women have been involved in buying and selling in periodic markets in Tivland. She argues that they engage also in other activities other than buying and selling. For instance, they make hair, pedicure, facial-makeup and fashion and designing. They also operate restaurants and liquor joints to support the social activities of the markets.

Agricultural Production and Trade

In pre-colonial times, the Tiv people were known to be highly dependent on agricultural production for commerce and sustenance. Women have traditionally played a crucial role in agricultural activities, including cultivation, harvesting, and processing of crops. Their contributions to food production and trade have been essential for the functioning of periodic markets. Right from historical times, it has been a common practice of Tiv women cultivating agricultural crops, harvesting and taking them to the market to sell. Farm produce like cassava, yam, sweet potatoes, grains like rice, beans, guinea corn, maize, cowpea, groundnut, processed cassava (garri) are taken to the markets and sold to buyers. In southern Tivland, women are known to buy raw tubers of cassava at Bestse market, ferment

¹³ Chinenye Obinna, Oral Interview, Wurukum Market, April, 2023

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ E. T. Ikpanor, "Hierarchical Organization of Markets, Periodicity, Cycles and Trade in the Post-Colonial Southern Tivland" pp. 53-54.

them into akpu, some are ground and dried to use in processing cassava flakes (garri) which they take to Tsar market to sell.

As traders, women in Tiv society have been at the forefront of commercial activities in Tivland's periodic markets. They engage in various business activities, including selling foodstuffs, clothing, household items, and traditional artefacts. Their participation in trade has contributed to the local and regional economic growth. Women's role in the development of periodic markets has been significantly outlined in historical perspectives.

They play a central role in the development of periodic markets because; they are seen as the primary producers and sellers of goods and services at these markets. In the area of production, women produce a wide range of goods for sale at periodic markets, including food, clothing, handicrafts, and livestock.

They are also known to be the primary sellers of most agricultural produce at periodic markets. They set up stalls and sell their goods and services to consumers. Furthermore, women also play leadership role in periodic markets as they serve in market committees and boards, and they advocate for the interests of market women as their trade cliques.

Women in Tivland have demonstrated entrepreneurial skills and resourcefulness in the market. They have been involved in small-scale businesses such as food vending, textile trading, and craft production. Their entrepreneurial activities have contributed to local economic growth and the development of periodic markets.

For instance, the Ikpayongo Market known to be one of the major markets in Tivland, is a periodic market that holds in five days interval counting from the market day. The market majorly deals with agricultural produce, which are sold mostly by women of *Mbaivur* and *Mbaayande* clan. Major agricultural items sold mostly by women are soya beans, groundnuts, maize, beniseeds, dried cassava pellets, oranges, guinea corn and a host of allied agricultural produce. Others include food items such as pawpaw, vegetables, fruits, okro, palm oil, bean cakes, akpu etc. These trading activities have been in practice for a long period of time, which has contributed so much to the growth and development of the market.

Social and Cultural Hubs

Periodic markets do not only serve as a trade centre but places for political, economic and cultural meeting point, but beyond economic contributions, women in periodic markets also serve as social and cultural hubs, exerting

¹⁷ Atah Pine, "Ikpayongo Market: Understanding Tiv Culture", <https://newtelegraphng.com/ikpayongo-market-understanding-tiv-culture/>, Accessed 26th Oct. 2023.

their influence beyond economic activities. They play a pivotal role in preserving and passing down traditional knowledge and practices, thus maintaining the cultural fabric of the society. In some African societies, including Nigeria, women have historically played important roles in social and political spheres. While specific information about Tivland is limited, it is worth noting that women's involvement in decision-making processes and community development do have indirect effects on the development of periodic markets.

It is important to recognize that, the roles and contributions of women in Tivland's periodic markets have evolved overtime, influenced by various factors such as cultural norms, social changes, and external influences. While there are few available resources, that provide extensively and the specific historical and contemporary roles of women in Tivland's periodic markets, it is evident that women have played significant roles in social and cultural activities and have contributed to the development of the region.

Periodic markets have been veritable platforms for political socialization. R. A. Obudha notes:

The markets are used as centres for the dissemination of information relating to local and central government administrations. During market days, all local residents go to the market in order to buy produce as well as to meet government officials with the hope of exchanging current social information. The chief and sub-chief weekly conferences meet on market days with the marketing people as a means of pushing their activities to a wider audience.

While there are often no cases of Chiefs and Sub-Chiefs weekly meetings in this context, market women who form cooperatives often choose a certain market day (sometimes, Sundays) to meet and discuss the society's issues. It is indeed, at the cooperative meetings that women begin to propagate votes for their respective political benefactors and incorporate the agenda into the broader spectrum of the market.

In recent times, women's participation in trade activities at the market had evolved from just selling agricultural produce, to selling foreign goods, crafts and providing special services. Women now mostly are seen operating restaurants, food shops, with cooking usually done outside the shops both on and off market days. They also sell alcoholic beverages in beer parlours and run drinking joints where local beer like *burukutu*, palm wine are sold.

¹⁸R. A. Obudha, "Temporal Periodicity and Locational Spacing of Periodic and Daily Markets in Kenya" 1976, p. 558, from https://www.persee.fr/doc/cea_0008-0055_1976_num_16_63_2515. Accessed, 13 Nov. 2023.

Women also operate hairdressing saloon as these commercial activities take place daily at minimal levels, but tend to increase tremendously at periodic market days. This has contributed to the development of trade in such areas.

Beginning from the introduction of Christianity during colonialism, many women not only sell and buy at market places, they engage in the business of proselytization of the gospel. Obudha affirms that markets are also important religious centres where various sects can meet for the sole purpose of propagation of the gospel.

Challenges Faced by Women in the Development of Periodic Markets

While women are essential to the functioning of periodic markets, they often face unique challenges such as limited access to credit, inadequate infrastructure, and gender-based discrimination. Women often face difficulties in accessing financial resources, credit, and loans to start or expand their businesses in periodic markets. This lack of access to capital can hinder their ability to invest in inventory, equipment, and infrastructure.

Lamenting on the challenges faced by women in periodic markets in Tivland, Agwa John notes “Women face challenges of small capital capacity in their businesses. If women are given loans to expand their businesses, their Market Centres will be expanded and organized.”

This implies that women entrepreneurs often have less collateral and lower credit scores than men, which makes it difficult for them to access loans. Additionally, women's businesses tend to be smaller and less profitable than men's businesses, which further limits their access to capital.

To address this issue, there is a need to promote gender-responsive financial inclusion policies and programs that address the specific needs of women entrepreneurs.

UN Women supports rural women's value chain development and their access to remunerative markets. They also provide training and support for women entrepreneurs to improve their business skills and access to finance. By promoting gender-responsive financial inclusion policies and programs, women in periodic markets can overcome the challenge of small capital

¹⁹ E. T. Ikpanor, “Hierarchical Organization of Markets, Periodicity, Cycles and Trade in the Post-Colonial Southern Tivland” pp. 55-56.

²⁰ R. A. Obudha, “Temporal Periodicity and Locational Spacing of Periodic and Daily Markets in Kenya” 1976, p. 558.

²¹ Johnson Agwa, Oral Interview, Tsar Market, April, 2023.

²² Stoll, Hans R., and Anthony J. Curley, “Small Business and the New Issues Market for Equities,” *The Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis*, Vol. 5, No. 3, 1970, pp. 309–22. JSTOR, <https://doi.org/10.2307/2329998>, Accessed 12 Nov. 2023.

capacity and grow their businesses.

Women in periodic markets also face gender-based discrimination, including unequal treatment, stereotypes, and biases. This discrimination tends to limit their opportunities for growth, decision-making power, and access to market information and networks. Noting the challenge that hinders women's participation in periodic markets, Botreau and Cohen have this to say, "They [women] face discrimination and frequently are in a weak bargaining position. In addition, other forms of discrimination (based on, e.g., race, class, caste or religion) often inter-sectionally reinforce gender inequality." Moreover, gender inequality is at the heart of humanity and it is a major indicator in the man-woman relationship. As a result, rural women face unequal power relations within both the household and the wider society, which have impacts on many aspects of their life including their optimal participation in periodic markets.

Sustaining the debate, the Food and Agriculture Organization in its Thirty-Seventh Session held in Rome, deliberated on women's roles and identified "farming, food processing, marketing and ensuring household consumption and nutrition." As laudable as the roles, women are often not allowed to carry on with these roles, hence relegated.

Occupational segregation is a persistent challenge for women in periodic markets. They are often concentrated in certain sectors or types of products, limiting their ability to diversify their businesses and access higher-value markets. Ngunan Teryila supports the above statement when she said "Women are known with specific trade items at periodic markets. Those items for condiments are very significant to women that without them, very few women will be seen in market squares." This goes to show that women go to the market with specific products and with specific intent to buy condiments and seasonings to spice up and add flavour to their foods. This explains why some women are not often seen at the markets, especially when their salt pots or onions are filled up.

Women in periodic markets have limited access to market information, pricing trends, and technological tools that can enhance their businesses. This lack of information and technology can hinder their competitiveness and ability to adapt to changing market dynamics. The information provided by

²³ UN System & Rural Women, Women Watch from

<https://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/ruralwomen/overview-markets.html>, Accessed: 12 Nov 2023.

²⁴ H. Broteau and M. J. "Gender Inequality and Food Insecurity: A Dozen Years after Food Price Crisis, Rural Women Still Bear the Brunt of Poverty and Hunger" in National Library of Medicine, 2020, pp. 53-117.

²⁵ Ibid.

the UN System & Rural Women that “Rural women often lack timely market information, face challenges in negotiating prices with buyers, and have difficulty physically accessing markets due to limited transport opportunities and restrictions on their mobility.” Even though the World Bank has developed a tool that generates country-level information across some 125 indicators, which can be used to develop training programs for women, this ugly trend has continued to pose a challenge to rural women who have no access to these ever-emerging global tools.

Periodic markets lack adequate infrastructure, such as clean water, sanitation facilities, and storage spaces. The absence of these basic services can disproportionately affect women traders and limit their ability to operate efficiently and safely. There are four reasons to explain this debilitating situation at periodic markets. First, the spatio-temporal pattern of periodic markets determines the pattern of infrastructure in rural areas of developing countries. The other three reasons are given by the Food and Agriculture Organization thus:

Providing new market facilities creates a number of design problems, including the potential resistance by traders to change and to move to a new location, the possibility of constructing facilities that are too large, and the type of institutional controls that will be appropriate for the new location. The choice of location of any market is a key decision, particularly for urban wholesale markets. The question of location is closely bound up with that of transport, as markets are essentially only transit stops. Transportation changes and evolving road networks will significantly influence whether it is still viable for a market to remain in its present location or whether a new site should be sought. Congestion is often the main factor influencing the need for market improvements.

Therefore, improving infrastructure in periodic markets requires careful planning and consideration of various factors, including location, transportation, and the needs of traders and consumers, especially when the traders are women as it is the case in many periodic markets in Tivland.

Women often face the challenge of balancing their work in periodic

²⁶ FAO, Committee on World Food Security: Thirty-Seventh Session, Rome, 7-20 October, 2011, Final Report, 2011, <http://www.fao.org/3/mc494e/mc494e.pdf>.

²⁷ Ngunan Teryila, Oral Interview, Tsar Market, April, 2023
UN System & Rural Women, Women Watch from
<https://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/ruralwomen/overview-markets.html>, Accessed: 12 Nov. 2023.

²⁸ Ibid

markets with caregiving responsibilities. According to a study conducted by the National Partnership for Women and Families, Women spend an average 51.6 minutes a day caring for household children, other household members and non-household members. Men spend an average 26.4 minutes daily on such tasks. The statistics would seem right in the U. S, it perhaps would not be consistent in Nigeria or Tivland of Benue State where majority of these women are rural dwellers and the markets are established around villages and homesteads. It would be taken in analogy, especially given that women everywhere in the world are believed to have been engaged in activities around the home.

Women spend more time on activities such as taking care of children, elderly family members, or managing household chores. Women, and mothers in particular, make up a significant proportion of the labour force, and their employment and wages are vital to the overall economy. In fact, the percentage of women's performance in society is taken as a social indicator to calculate development basis and where women are not economically active on account of caregiving and household chores, affects the parameter for measuring societal development in general.

However, women's reduced employment and wages are often due to the time they spend providing unpaid care for their children and family members. Women have been bearing the primary burdens of housework, childcare, and other family responsibilities, which further worsens the disadvantages of women in balancing public and private life, with an impact on their employment and health outcomes. The unequal share of care responsibilities between women and men also affects women's participation and employment in the labour market. Indeed, this has elicited a lot of controversies as to whose responsibility between a man and a woman, it is to care for the house.

³⁰ D. M. Kithuka, "An Analysis of the Role of Periodic Markets in Rural Development in Mukaa Sub-County; Mukueni County, A PhD Thesis, University of Nairobi, Kenya.

³¹ FAO, "General Factors in Market Planning and Design" from <https://www.fao.org/3/X4026E/x4026e06.htm>. Accessed 12 Nov 2023.

³² Ana Teresa Solà, "The 'Time Gap' in Unpaid Caregiving Costs Women an Extra \$321.56 Billion a Year, Report Finds" in Women and Health, <https://www.cnn.com/2023/09/13/how-much-the-time-gap-in-unpaid-caregiving-costs-women.html>, 13 Sep 2023.

³³ S. J. Glynn and K. Hamm, "The Economics of Caregiving for Working Mothers," A Report, <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/economics-caregiving-working-mothers/>, December 10, 2019.

³⁴ C. Musiada and R. Patimo, "Women's Family Care Responsibilities, Employment and Health: A Tale of Two Countries" in Journal of Family Economic Issues, 42 (3), 2021, pp. 489-507.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ UN Women, "Promoting Women's Economic Empowerment, Recognizing and Investing in the Care Economy," Issue Paper, 2018.

While there are many theses supporting men, there have been anti-theses against the male-dominated world where women are relegated to the 'backyard.' Over the years, especially the years after the Cold War, feminism with its synthesis, sprang up with “equality between men and women” as watchwords.

To address this issue, there is a need to recognize and invest in the care economy, which is a crucial element for human well-being as well as an essential component for a vibrant, sustainable economy with a productive labor force. Policies that promote work-life balance, eliminate gender discrimination in the labour market, and provide access to affordable childcare services can help women in periodic markets balance their work with caregiving responsibilities. It is our argument in this research that lack of affordable childcare options and support systems can make it difficult for women to engage fully in market activities.

Although, the UN sometimes empower rural women vendors to influence local market conditions through their engagement in dialogue mechanisms with local government authorities to influence decisions concerning market management, infrastructure, and services, women's representation and participation in decision-making processes related to periodic markets is limited. This can result in their needs and perspectives being overlooked, leading to policies and practices that do not adequately address their challenges and aspirations.

However, it is pertinent to note that these challenges are not exhaustive and do vary across different regions and contexts. Addressing these challenges is crucial for empowering women and ensuring the sustainability of these markets. Empowering women in periodic markets involves providing access to education, financial services, and training in entrepreneurship and business management. Government policies and initiatives should be designed to support these endeavours.

Conclusion

The research examines periodic markets in Tivland and observed that periodic markets in Tivland are more than just places of commerce; they are symbols of culture, tradition, and community. One appreciable analysis that constituted the bulk of the research was the impact of women on periodic markets in Tivland. Thus, women's pivotal roles in these markets cannot be

³⁷ UN System & Rural Women, Women Watch from <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/ruralwomen/overview-markets.html>, Accessed: 12 Nov 2023.

³⁸ Nwankwo, E., & Mustapha, A. (2017). Gender and Economic Empowerment in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Development Perspective. Routledge. P. 3.

overstated, and their contributions have been instrumental in the region's development. Recognizing the importance of women's economic empowerment in periodic markets is a key and a step towards achieving gender equality, promoting economic growth, and ensuring the sustainable development of markets in the society.

Efforts to address these challenges require a multi-faceted approach that includes policy interventions, access to resources, capacity-building programs, and gender-responsive interventions.