

IMPACT OF SOCIAL CAPITAL ON LIVELIHOOD SECURITY OF WOMEN IN
LAPAI LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, NIGER STATE, NIGERIA.

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ABSTRACT

Livelihood involve the flow of monetary and non-monetary resources that are exploited for continuous sustenance. In recent decades it was established that a livelihood becomes vulnerable when it is unable to withstand the shocks and challenges faced. This situation is mainly a result of weak capacity to withstand social, economic and environmental shocks and stress. In seeking ways to reduce vulnerability in women livelihood activity in Lapai local government area, different scholars encouraged, the adoption of social capital as it was identified a crucial element in providing security for livelihood activities of the women. This study their fore seeks to evaluate the impact of social capital on livelihood security of women in Lapai Local Government area, with the view of determines its contribution to women security in livelihood activities. Membership to social groups is a predicator to ownership of social capital for this study. The study is a descriptive research that made use of the 1991 population data of Lapai Local Government area, it employed purposive sampling technique to administer questionnaires to the sample size of 383, data collected was analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). The research establishes that there is gender base, profession base, ward base, religious, and other form of social capital within Lapai Local Government, all of which if properly engaged would reduce the likelihood of vulnerability due to possible weak adaptive capacity in economic, social and environmental activities of the women. The study reveals that the participation of women in social network activities in Lapai Local Government is influenced majorly by financial benefits that seem to emanate from social capital also, the mean value of 4.26 for Tangible Impact and 4.16 for Intangible Impacts revels that Social capital has helped in creating security in livelihood activity majorly by providing support in the form of livelihood equipment, providing access to information and giving easy access to loans. The study also reveals that through social capital, women of the Local Government Area have been able to acquire different form of tangible and intangible benefits which creates security for their livelihood activities. Based on the findings from the survey, the study recommends that the Local Governments should put in place appropriate policies that would support and promote the effectiveness of social capital as a means of securing women livelihood.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Definition
ADP	Agricultural Development Projects
BLRW	Better Life for Rural Women
CARE Extension	Centre for Agriculture and Rural
DFID Development	Department for International
LSI	Livelihood Security Index
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
NPC	National Population Commission

RHS	Rural Health Schemes
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
SDF	Sustainable Development Framework
SLA	Sustainable Livelihood Approach
UNCED Environment and Development	United Nation Conference on
UNDP	United Nation Development Program
WCED and Development	World Commission on Environment

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Poverty is a global issue that has become a problem in almost all parts of the world especially in Latin America, Asia and Africa (Guiga and Rejeb, 2012). Poverty according Kalpita (2018) is capacity deprivation he perceived it as a situation where a person lacks the ability to achieve the minimally acceptable level of functioning. The functioning could be physically, which could means being well nourished, being adequately clothed, shelter and having the ability to avoid preventable morbidity that have to do with lacking financial resources and socio relations. Martins (2019) define poverty as mortification, being reliant on people and having no choice but to accept insolence, abuse and irrelevance from people with a higher capacity. Poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon as it covers various

aspects of human deprivations both economic and non-economic. According to Tisdell *et al*, (2017) poverty creates inequality, which hinders an individual's ability to invest in physical capital, natural capital, human capital, financial capital and social capital, which are the internal influential factors that ensure sustainability of livelihood

Livelihood according to (Schraven and Rademacher-Schulz, 2016) is a multifaceted system consisting of assets like material goods, social possessions and activities used to generate a living. Hari *et al* (2019) in their research define livelihood as a system comprising of competencies and assets (like resources, claims and assets). Vincent and Cull (2010) established in their research that poverty is a product of livelihood vulnerability. According to Qalsrani *et al* (2018), a Livelihood becomes vulnerable when it becomes exposed to additional risk, which leads to deprivation, livelihood insecurity and poverty. Livelihood vulnerability does not only occur as a result of devastation to the physical environment, however it is a result of limitation in participation within the political, economic and social environment Madhuri *et al* (2014).

In bridging the limitation, which does not allow for adequate individual's participation in the different sectors of the society which can reduce livelihood vulnerability Alex (2014), encouraged the adoption of a system that can create an enabling environment, allows unbiased circulation of resources, and encourage social activities. This led to Social capital one of the livelihood household assets, to be considered a mechanism of livelihood improvement and enhancement, according to Minamoto (2010), it plays a decisive role in mitigating vulnerability, getting people out of poverty trap and securing people's livelihood activities.

Social capital according to Taga (2013) is a means that secures people livelihood through connections with individuals, social groups institutions and structural networks. According to him, social networks including association with prominent individuals within the society and political environment plays a vital role in facilitating individual growth and contributes to livelihood generation and security. World bank (2008) defines social capital as institutions, relationships and norms that shape the quality and quantity of a society's social interactions, According to Mukaila (2016), social capital is not just the sum total of the institutions which underpin a society but the glue that holds them together.

Different scholars according to Priyanath and Premaratne (2017b) have discussed the diverse benefits of social capital and they established that its first major benefit is access to information as social capital aids access to border information and increases information quality, relevance and timeliness. Martins (2019) define social capital as the value of social association as well as the benefits that originate from such interaction, Martins (2019) went further to emphasis that social capital is the assets people accrue from belonging to social networks like associations, cooperatives or institutions through inter or intra-family associations that add to their lots and gives them a voice heard within the complex society. This Social relation are considered only if they are part of a person's assets-base and their relationship aids engagement with others to share resources, identify opportunities, gain opportunity, improve livelihood, and secure livelihood activity (Gilchrist and Kyprianou, 2011).

According to Grootaert, (2003), interaction in social networks and groups influences positively household livelihood activities of women as it gives them a leeway out of poverty trap they may be absorbed in, he stated that, it can increase economic development among women, household and the entire community. In Nigeria, policies that support social relations are not encouraged, the promotion of policies that encourage social associations would go a long way in serving as a strategy in securing women livelihood activities. This study therefore attempts to highlight and investigate the role social capital plays in the securitization of the livelihoods of women within Lapai Local Government area with a view of bringing out the positive contributions that would aid the promotion of policies that support the activities of social capital in the area.

1.1 Statement of the Research Problem

Poverty is not a new phenomenon but at each mention it stimulates a lot of worry. This is due to developmental challenges and the distressing effect it has on its victims. Barnes (2010) observed that over the last ten years the quality of life of the average Nigerian citizen has progressively declined as poverty has become so endemic that people have started seeing it as part of their life lot. The situation in Nigeria however, opposes the belief that Nigeria is blessed with enormous human and physical resources, as the citizens are poor in the midst of abundance (Ijaiya 2016). Women, all over the world, suffer from various forms of inequalities and discriminatory practices despite the fact that women especially women entrepreneur in developing countries being considered to be better in finance utilization in the different sectors of the economy.

According to Arora and Meenu (2010) women are considered to be at the lowest rung of the poverty ladder (poorest of the poor). Agreeing with Okpukpara, (2009) this is attributed to social exclusion, lack of access to resources, education and capacity building activities. The girl child is not seen by all in Lapai local government area as an individual deserving of educational investments, and as such is just left to carry out minor trading activities. These pitfalls have become impediments in the socio-economic development of women in the Nigerian society Abdulkadir *et al* (2012) thereby resulting to livelihood vulnerability.

Available statistics from the research of Obadan (2001) Barnes (2010) indicate how precarious life has become for the average Nigerian woman over years in the face of overwhelming levels of poverty. Niger state as at 2014 has a poverty rate of 61.20% with women experiencing a high 55% of the poverty within the state (National Bureau of Statistics, 2014). All this still with the numerous poverty reduction programs like Better Life for Rural Women (BLRW), Rural Health Schemes (RHS), Family Economic Advancement Programme, Agricultural Development Projects (ADP, Better life programs and National Poverty Eradication Program Barnes (2010) that the state has benefited from. In other to effectively address the multifaceted nature of poverty facing the women in Niger state and going by the report of Smith (2014) that gender base differential in the securitization of women livelihood activities is based on cultural attitude which is visible in the women's lack of control over resources, unequal access to information and social exclusion.

Morse and McNmara (2013) identified five broad livelihood assets, natural capital, physical capital, human capital, financial capital and social capital, Morse and McNamara (2013) went further to make known that social capital plays a vital role in the decline in

poverty rate as it creates a network of open relationship that creates new opportunities which add value and quality to livelihood activities. Thus, women could become reliant on social networks and invariably gain social capital for example, women in the different wards of Lapai local government area may not have access to financial resources but they may have access to social capital, which would cover-up for the shortage in their financial or individual capacity. It is on this basis that this study seek to study in detail social capital not just as a means of reducing livelihood vulnerability but also improving livelihood security of the women in Lapai Local Government area of Niger state.

1.2 Research Questions

- i. How does the women of Lapai Local Government engage in social network activities?
- ii. What are the factors that influence women participation in social network groups within Lapai Local Government area?
- iii. What are the prevalent livelihood activities of women in Lapai Local Government area?
- iv. What impact do social capitals have on livelihood security of women in the study area?

1.3 Aim and Objectives of the Study

1.3.1 Aim of the study

The aim of the study is to evaluate the impact of social capital on the livelihood security of women in Lapai Local Government Area with a view of determining its contribution to women livelihood security.

1.3.2 Objectives of the study

The objectives are set out to:

- i. Asses Women Participation in Social network groups in Lapai Local Government Area.
- ii. Determine the factors that influence their participation in social network groups in the study area.
- iii. Examine the prevalent livelihood activities of women in Lapai Local Government Area.
- iv. Analyze the impact of social capital on livelihood security of women in the study Area.

1.4 Scope of Study

1.4.1 Area scope

This research was conducted within the boundaries of Niger state, with emphasis placed on the entire wards in Lapai Local Government area, one of the Twenty-five (25) Local Government areas in Niger state. The study covered ten (10) wards within the Local Government area namely Gupa/Abugi, Muye/Egba, Gabas/Kudu, Arewa/Yamma Evuti/Kpada, Birni Maza/Tashibo, Takuti/shaku, Ebbo/Gbacinku, Duma/Zago, Gulu Anguwa /Gulu.Vatsa. The combined land area of the wards are 3,051km².

1.4.2 Subject Scope

This study focused on the livelihood activities of the women, emphasis was on identifying the predominant livelihood activities of women within Lapai Local Government, the study also investigated the type of social network which give rise to social capital available to the women, demographic factors of women and the aspects which social capital affect women

livelihood activities in Lapai Local Government area. The social capitals available to women, the reasons for joining such social groups, the level of participation and the benefits women acquire from such association was assessed together with its impact on the livelihood activities.

1.5 Justification of Study

In third world countries like Nigeria, women embrace diverse livelihood strategies to reduce poverty, this is a result of the devastating effect poverty have on people. Barnes (2010) painted a grim picture of the Nigerian people, women especially as those trapped in abject, abnormal poverty and declining productivity. This he attributed to the lack of security in livelihood activities of the Nigeria people. Hence the rising interest in the role of social capital over the last 20 years, in securing livelihood activities Faist and Ozveren, (2004).

The women of Lapai Local Government Area, are known to be very proactive and active in business and agricultural activities hence the reason why membership to social networks has gradually been understood as a predictor to ownership of social capital and is crucial in ensuring livelihood security. Social capital in the Area of study has been as an instrument that explains how culture, trust, and cooperation between people are put into a function of general good, economic growth and societal development. In decades past, social scientists, as well as various financial institutions, like the world bank and the international monetary fund have carried out different researches where social capital has been looked at as an asset of positive consequence and societal wellbeing.

A significant number of economists and practitioners justifiably claim that formation, construction or preservation of social networks represents an engine of economic and social

progress. Authors such as Morris *et al* (2019) looked at social capital as a factor of collaboration, according to their research, social capital seeks to enhance collaboration and social relationships among government, grassroots organizations, and communities, as it improves the effectiveness and efficiency of government-implemented projects leading to partnership between groups that expand solution to challenges faced.

There have been studies on social capital and livelihood activities in Nigeria, however majority of them have not related directly the impact social capital have on securing livelihood activities of women, Researches such as Gabriel (2015) looked at social capital as a process that aid the facilitation of rural livelihood improvements. The research of Ijaiya *et al* (2012) laid emphasis on the impact of social capital as a poverty reduction mechanism in Minna.

However, there have not been major emphasis on social capital as a mechanism that can promote livelihood security for the Nigeria women; this study consequently seeks to fill this gap by exposing the extent to which social capital can reduce livelihood vulnerability and enhance the security of livelihood activities of women in Lapai local government area.

1.6 The Study Area

1.6.1 Geographical location

Lapai Local Government area is one of the twenty five (25) local government in Niger State, it is located on the south-eastern part of Niger state and shares borders with Paikoro and Agaie Local Government area as shown on Fig 1.1. The Local Government has a total female population of 36,113 according to 1991 census (NPC) and a land coverage of 3,051km². Lapai Local Government is located between longitude 9°03'00"N, 9°04'53"N

and latitude $6^{\circ}34'00''\text{E}$, $6^{\circ}57'03''\text{E}$ near the Gurara River as shown on Fig 1.2. The Local Government Area Operates within the west central African time zone (GMT +1)

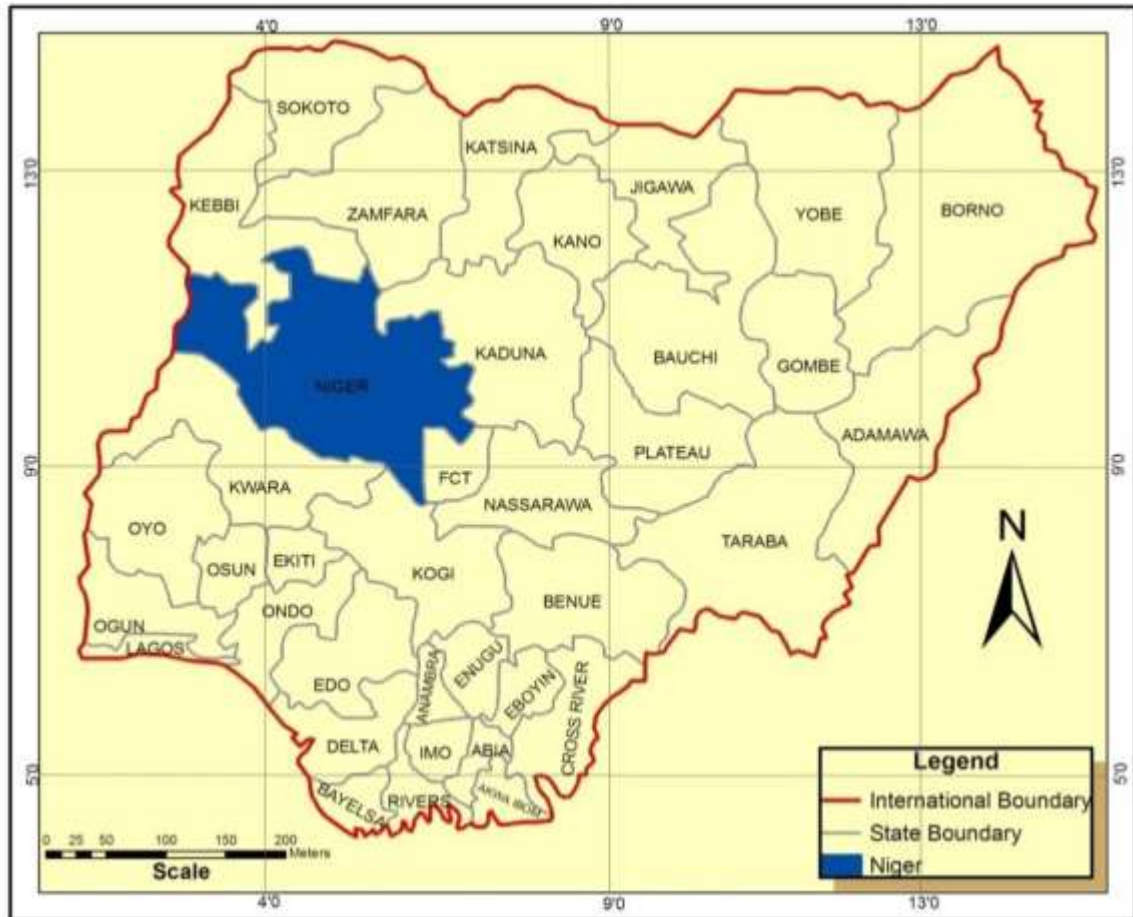


Figure 1.1 Niger State within the Context of Nigeria Map

Source: Ministry of lands and Housing Minna, 2021

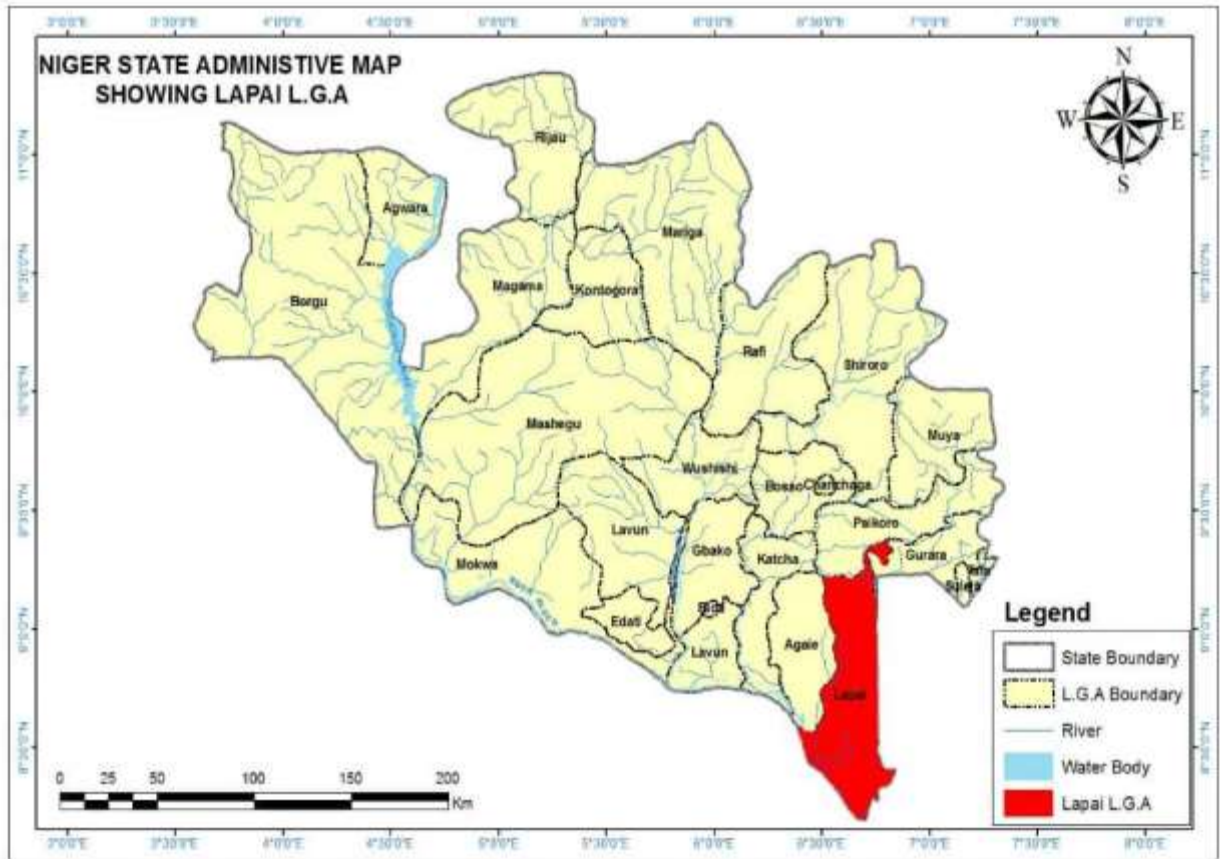


Figure 1.2 Niger State Showing Lapai Local Government Area
 Source: Ministry of lands and Housing Minna, 2021

1.7.2 Historical background

Lapai Local Government is a traditional emirate, which was populated by the gbagyi people, who were part of the then Hausa kingdom of Zazzau after 1804, the gbagyi people later became subjects to the Fulani emirate in Zaria, in 1825, the Fulani requested the emir of Gwando (Gando), the overload of the western Fulani emirates to create a new emirate independent of the emirates of Zaria and Agaie (which is to the west of Lapai). Lapai town came to be after the emirate had given military aid to Bida (80km) to the west in the campaign against the British Royal Niger Company in 1897. The emirate was incorporated

into niger provinces in 1908 and 1938, its traditional seat was moved to Badegi-Lapai (now known as Badegi).

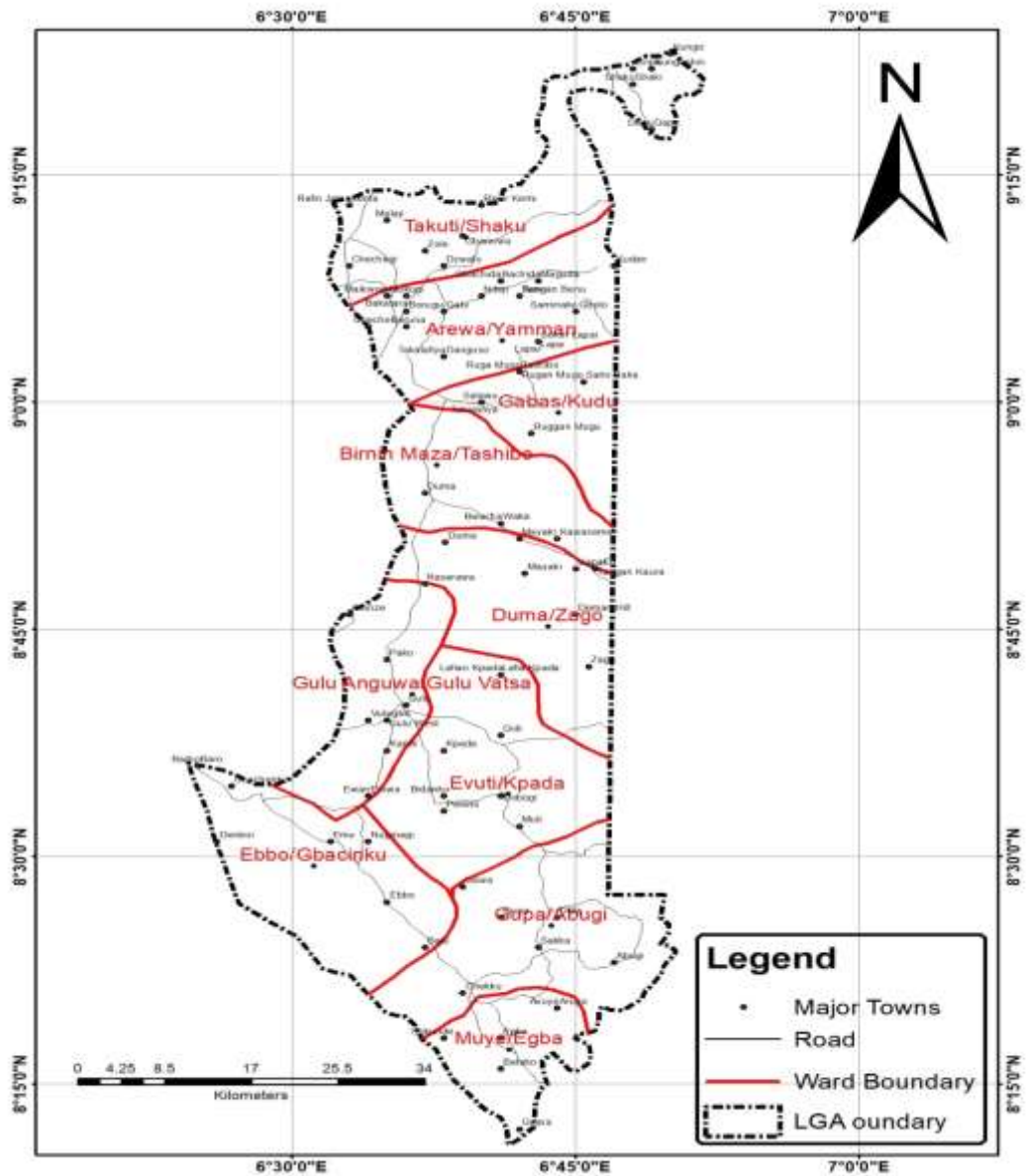


Figure 1.3: Lapai Local Government Area showing its Wards
 Source: Adopted and modified from Ministry of Land and Housing Minna (2021)

1.7.3 Geology

Lapai Local Government like other areas on the same latitude is covered by two major rock formations. The sedimentary rocks to the south characterized by sandstones and alluvial deposits, particularly along the Niger valley and parts of Gulu, Muye and the eastern parts of Lapai town. These areas as noted by Tsepav (2014) contain extensive flood plains of the River Niger and this has made the entire local government one of the largest and most fertile agricultural lands in the state. To the north is the Basement Complex, characterized by outcrops of the Migmatite-Gneiss Complex, the Schist Belts and the Older Granites of Precambrian age, which can be found in the vast topography of rolling landscape. The university, which is part of the town, is situated within this basement complex

1.7.4 Topography

Lapai Local Government, according to Tsepav (2014), has a gently undulating topography, which is covered with vegetation, shrubs, trees and grasses. It has fine grain texture of sand clay-sand, laterite and pebbles of granites with few visible exposures.

1.7.5 Climate

Lapai Local Government area experiences two distinct seasons the dry and wet seasons. The annual rainfall varies from about 1,600mm in the south to 1,200mm in the north. The duration of the rainy season ranges from 150 to 210 days or more from the north to the south. Mean maximum temperature remains high throughout the year, hovering about 32°C, particularly in March and June, NBS (2014). The lowest minimum temperatures occur usually between December and January when most parts of the area come under the

influence of the tropical continental air mass, which blows, from the north. Dry season in Lapai commences in October.

1.7.6 Socio-Economic and Livelihood Activities of People in Lapai

Lapai Local Government Area as an urban center is multidimensional in nature, which covers enormous expanse of land, and accommodate diverse economic activities Raji, (2013). The residents of Lapai Local Government Area as gathered are predominantly farmers. The establishment of Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University in 2005, have led to an increase in number of workers in the public Sector (Umar and Onoh 2020). Lapai Local Government serves as a market center for the Sorghum, Cashew nut, Yams, Millet, Shea nuts, Cottons and many fruits, Lapai town observe a weekly market every Tuesday, when people from neighboring villages bring their farm produce to sell. The other wards as shown on Fig 1.3 observe their market days at five days' interval. The local government headquarters is located within Lapai town.

Majority of the women within Lapai Local Government and its environments engage in diverse livelihood activities, as they are known to be strong and hardworking. From those who engage in major trades of farm produce to those who engage in small scale trading of perishable goods within their immediate neighborhood. Some of the women trade in fruits especially, Watermelon that is cultivated in commercial quantity within Lapai local Government with people coming in from different parts of the country to purchase and transport back to their place. Some of the women engage in jobs like sweeping and cleaning within the higher institution located in the Local Government.

CHAPTER TWO

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Conceptual Frameworks

2.2 Concept of Social Network

Over the past 20 years, Social networks have played important roles in simplifying human activities (Faist and Ozveren, 2004). Networks are progressively been seen as important means of understanding and carrying out the different human activities in the world, (Castles and Miller, 2003). The manner of building these networks are subjective to certain variant factors Boyd, (1989). These relationships that arise as a result of the networks influence the decisions of activities that are carried out at particular times. Thus, social networks are key element in facilitating livelihood activities. Social networks are however, often conceptualized rather loosely, with little attention given to the multiplicities in networks and the different forms of support they may provide.

Social networks are increasingly regarded as important sources of social capital for human livelihood activities, allowing them to access social support. Indeed, social capital and networks are frequently seen as synonymous. These arguments lead to the suggestion that social capital, as a concept, is rooted in social networks and social relations, and must be measured relative to its root, Putnam (2007) offered what he termed ‘a lean and mean’ definition of social capital as social network and the associated norms of reciprocity and trustworthiness’. The central premise of social capital is that individuals benefits from various norms and values that a social network foster and produces such as trust, reciprocity information and cooperation. These norms and value provide the preconditions for collective actions.

2.3 Concept of Social Capital

The concept of social capital centers on people's relationships and engagements amongst the various sectors in the society, the history of social capital according to Mukaila *et al* (2016) is associated to the work of Hanifan in the 20th century, where he refers to social capital as Goodwill, Fellowship, Mutual sympathy and Social interaction. Routledge and Amsberg (2003) acknowledged that Hanifan used the term 'capital' specifically to highlight the importance of the social structure to people with business and economic perspective. According to Routledge and Amsberg (2003), it was not until the early 1990s that the concept began to gain widespread recognition with the writings of Bourdieu, Coleman and Putnam who are considered the contemporary authors of social capital. The concept seeks to explain the role of dyads in human, social and economic development.

Social capital represents the quality of relationships and networks available to an individual (Ereinstein 2011, Morse and McNamara, 2013, Dhanasree *et al.* 2014, Serrat, 2017). The concept according to Gabriel (2015), is an important tool that can guide and improve economic activities, he rightly put that social capital help take households out from poverty. Christopher (2017), argued that societies that have high stock of social capital in form of grassroots association are less vulnerable and have greater capacity to resolve conflicts and as well take advantage of new opportunities for improvement. Hence, the central idea that social capital is the resultant benefits of different type of networks and associations with norms and transformational value.

According to (Rozelle & Wang 2012) social capital shapes the interactions of people, as put by them social capital is one of the most powerful contemporary concepts in

development research literature owing to its fluidity, interdisciplinary and trans boundary role in research, they argued that social capital is a praxis implying that it is a federating concept in the social science disciplines. Improved social capital facilitates increases access to resources leading to reduction in the vulnerability of families to poverty Knight and Yueh, (2008).

Shahidul *et al*, (2018) Specified that networks or relationships alone does not qualify as social capital, it is the resources available through these networks, as well as the active use of these resources by members of the network for the specific purposes they are required that result in social capital. In early 2000s, several researches on social capital particularly identified the vagueness and ambiguity that characterizes the concept. Although Ellis (2000), Dubos (2017) tried to present a concise definition of social capital as a network of relationships that can be leverage on in the event of shocks and stress, other scholars in the 2000 s criticized the concept, the scholars argued that it is too vague a concept to command meaningful conceptualization.

Defining social capital according to its role, Sharon (2009) exposes a concept that entails a group of like-minded individuals seeking and willing to achieve similar goals by putting together efforts to achieve the desired goals. Martins (2019), defines social capital as the financial, physical or moral gains acquired as a result of good relationship or membership with an organization. This gains most times is reliant on a number of factors like the number of people in the group, trust and the social class within the organization. Szreter and Woolcock (2004) argue social capital to be product of the prior history of political, constitutional and ideological developments in any given setting at a particular time. Thus, the exact nature of social capital differs in respect to cultural setting, as the factors that

shape social capitals are reliant on specific norms of behavior, linkages and organizations that are present and active within that setting.

2.4 Dimensions of Social Capitals

Social capital has two major components namely cognitive component and structural component. The cognitive component includes norms, values, attitudes, and shared beliefs and it can also be define as individual's perception of the level of trust, mutual reciprocity, social cohesion, social commitments and interactions among social groups Putnam (2012). The structural component includes social supports which facilitate human interactions and frequently refers to the intensity and density of the ties of sociability, social participations, social institutions, or patterns of civil interactions Araya *et al* (2006).

Attempts to more thoroughly conceptualize social capital have resulted in multiple authors identifying its different dimensions and characteristics, the most common being the classification done by Robert (2010) where he divided social capital into three: Bonding, Bridging and Linking social capitals depending on the nature, level and degree of interaction involved.

He described bonding social capital as one based on strong feelings of identity between family members, good friends and neighbors. According to him, it is a strong force for promoting reciprocity and commitment between network members. Bridging social capital is based on weak connections between the common interests of colleagues or group members. Its networks are inform of a social horizontal type that seek to lubricate already existing connections and strengthen weak ties. Liu (2017) defines linking social capital as a type of social capital based on vertical network linkages between individuals or groups at different social levels. According to him linking social capital help individual's access

resources and information from formal systems, which could otherwise not be available to them.

Social capital can create negative effects on the economy as it could lead to persistence of poverty as inequality in access to social networks may exclude the poor from benefiting from it and lead to or entrench chronic poverty Tisdell *et al*, (2017). This is because the poor often do not have the ability to invest in social relations or lack the ability to negotiate in unequal exchange systems. To be able to take people out of poverty through social capital, networks must be able to improve greater economic access to established and willing participants, who have proven to be trustworthy due to repeated transactions. To achieve effectiveness in these networks, Max (2004) advanced that there must be frequent interaction that would improve the trust, connections and norms as having this commitment and trust would enable the group make reasonable progress.

2.5 Concept of Livelihood

Livelihood according to Shyamalie and Saini (2010) involve the flow of monetary and non-monetary resources that are exploited for continuous sustenance. Schraven *et al*. (2016), define livelihood as a multifaceted system consisting of the assets, which can be material or social possessions and the activities through which a means of living is generated. Schraven *et al*. (2016) went further to imply that the material assets could be those which are tangible and through which a person or people can generate a living. Livelihood in the opinion of Datta *et al*. (2010) involve the command of social and cultural means an individual, family or other social groups have over income or bundles of resources that can be used or exchanged to satisfy their needs. It involves culture, information, knowledge, social networks and legal rights as well as land, tools and other physical resources.

According to Isaac *et al.* (2019b) livelihoods of women are affected by social, economic, religious and political contexts surrounding them. The institutional frameworks within a community influence the livelihoods of women according to United Nations Development Programme, (2010). Figure 2.1 according to Rahman and Akkter (2012) shows that livelihood analysis is a complex exercise owing to its multidimensional nature.

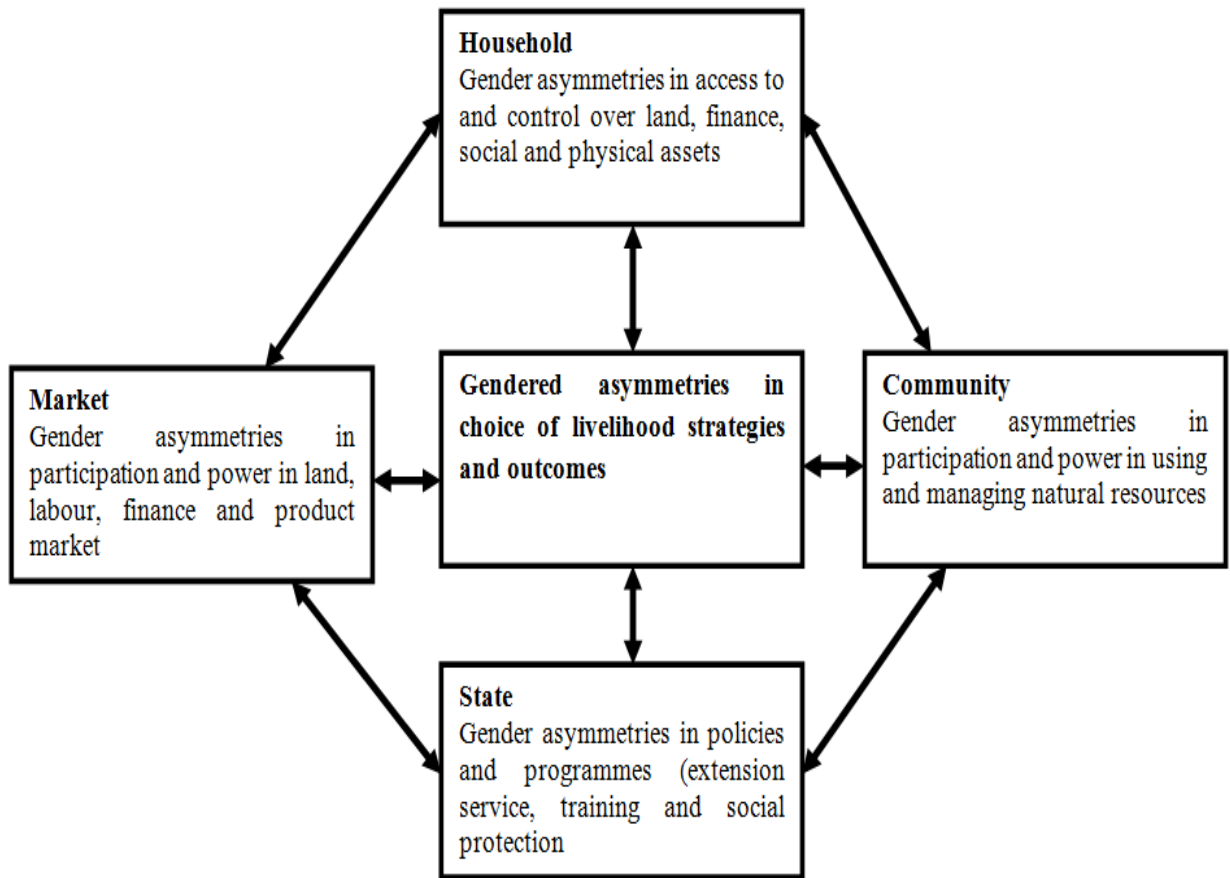


Figure. 2.1: Impacts of Institutional Frameworks on the Livelihood
 Source: United Nation Development Program (2010)

Figure 2.1 defines the happenings within the different sectors of the society with the households, being the start point of women deprivation and lack of access to or control over physical assets, finances and social responsibilities; this is due to the patriarchy nature of most communities especially in developing countries. Women from a young age are not giving priority in the aspect of education, as sending the female child to school is seen as a luxury to most household heads this is prevalent in the rural communities. This has resulted in most female children growing up with little or no ability to secure a sustainable livelihood foundation. The framework at the community level hypothesized that there are gender differences in level of participation and power control in the usage of resources and management of assets, this affect the livelihood choice and strategies at the community level this can be associated to the gender bias at the household level. The institutional framework illuminate that at the state and market level there are gender asymmetries in the aspect of policies, Program engaged in or established and the overall economic situation of the women livelihood. These Policies could be those that have to do with training, capacity building, its bias on a particular gender promote livelihood vulnerability in and in turn lead to poverty.

2.6 Sustainable Livelihood

Wantanee and Dorji (2015) opined that a livelihood becomes sustainable when it has the ability to survive pressure and maintain its skills and properties both now and in the future without undermining its natural resource base. Sustainable Livelihood is effort to go beyond the conventional definitions and approaches of Livelihood as it has included poverty eradication into its arena. In a report that was put forward by the Advisory Panel of the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987, the concept of

Sustainable Livelihood was introduced and was first defined as adequate stocks and flows of food and cash resources enough to meet basic needs for the present and future. Sustainable Livelihood refers to the maintenance or enhancement of resource productivity on a long-term basis. A livelihood becomes sustainable when it is able to discern objectives, opportunity, and capacity is built to ensure stress and shocks have not prevailing effects and allows for development activities. It is based on evolving thinking about the way the poor and vulnerable live their lives and the importance of policies and institutions

According to the Environment and Development report in 1987, a Household may be able to achieve Sustainable Livelihood in many ways; it could be through ownership of land, livestock, trees, rights to grazing, fishing, hunting or gathering, through stable employment with adequate remuneration, or through varied repertoires of activities (World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987). The concept of Sustainable Livelihood was able to easily secure the attention of the socioeconomic thinkers within five years from the formal introduction of the concept, which was in the early 1960s.

2.6.1 Over View of Sustainable Livelihood discourses

The concept of Sustainable Livelihood has gradually gained popularity and has become a concept that has been looked at by people from different sectors of the world over the last three decades, as it is one that seek to eradicate poverty Morse and McNamara, (2013). However, it is one concept whose historic background goes a long way to the 60s, Table 2.1 below tries to show the stage by stage evolution of the concept sustainable livelihood as it displays the steps that have been taken by different bodies as it relates to promoting and ensuring the poverty eradication.

Tab 2.1	Chronicles of sustainable livelihood Discourse
1960s	In 1960s, World Bank funded the Integrated Rural Development projects and this lead to the emergence of other agro ecosystem analysis.
1970s	Different System Approaches like Farming Systems Research and participatory methods in development evolved in 1970s and 1980s.
Early 80s	This period witnessed the rise of New Household Economics; Norman Long referred to Livelihood Strategies in his book <i>Family and work in rural societies</i> published by Tavistock Publications.
Late 80s	This period saw the World Commission on Environment and Development Published its report titled <i>Our Common Future</i> . This report further advocated for the notion of Sustainable Livelihood.
Early 90s	The First Human Development Report was published by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the early 90s, This report considered income, life expectancy and education in measuring development.
Late 90s	The Ian Scoones <i>Sustainable rural Livelihoods: a framework for analysis</i> was Published by IDS in the late period of the 90s. This period also saw the publishing of the DFID <i>Sustainable Livelihoods and Poverty Elimination</i> .
2000 s	An Inter-agency Forum on Operationalizing Sustainable Livelihoods Approache, involving DFID, FAO, WFP, UNDP took place during this period and International Fund for Agriculture and Development (IFAD) was organized by UN- FAO. World Summit on Sustainable Development also known as Earth Summit 2002 took place in Johannesburg, South Africa. This period also saw the united nation adopting the millennium development goals.
2012	The World Summit on Sustainable Development for the year of 2012 took place in Rio de Janeiro. It resulted in a focused political outcome document , which contains clear and practical measures for implementing sustainable development.
2015	On September 2015, Sustainable Development Goals were adopted as a part of the new Sustainable Development Agenda. These goals aim to end Poverty and ensure prosperity for all.

Source: Adopted and Modified From Morse & McNamara, (2013)

2.7 Sustainable Livelihood Framework

The sustainable livelihood approach does not replace other tools such as participatory development and integrated rural development but it facilitates the identification of practical priorities for action that are based on the views and interest of those concerned. China, *et al.* (2014) opined that livelihood strategies are strongly determined by the availability of livelihood assets (that is, physical capital, natural capital, social capital, human capital and financial capital). Sati *et, al.* (2014) and Sati and Vangchhia (2017) further noted that the policy and institutional settings as well as vulnerability context in terms of seasonality and shocks are some of the major determinants of livelihood strategies. Sustainable livelihood according to Jie *et al.* (2011) is awareness that having conventional approaches as a measure to economic development at the household's level are not holistic enough.

In the view of Serrat (2017), Morse and McNamara (2013) the sustainability of a livelihood is supplemental to its ability to maintain its capabilities and recover from unfavorable situations both in the present and in future, while also not posing any adverse effect to the natural resource base. A livelihood is largely not sustainable if it threatens the continuous availability and quality of the natural supporting resource, or if it further exposes the poor to vulnerable situations that they are unable to recover. Jie Fan *et.al* (2011) in their research maintain that the sustainable livelihoods approach attempts to prove the incomprehensiveness of the traditional use of income as a measure of poverty and development. According to them, it represents a paradigm shift in the measurement of developmental outcomes (Sati and Vangchhia, 2017).

The idea of livelihood sustainability Framework was birthed during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED, 1992) in its Agenda 21, which advocated the need to adopt sustainable livelihoods framework in order to achieve effective poverty eradication. This was based on an evolving thought about the way the poor and vulnerable live their lives and the importance of policies and institutions that would help bring them out of poverty. Understanding and responding to the multiple dimension of poverty requires a broad multi-disciplinary approach. The Sustainable Livelihood Approach is useful in this context as it provides both set of guiding principles and an analytical framework.

The sustainable livelihood framework according to Oliver (2017) aids the formulation of policies that are People centered, Dynamic, Viable, Conducted in partnership with public and private sectors, Responsive and Participatory. This is done through the re-structuring of policies and institution by the government and private sectors in such a way that the laws and policies put in place promotes the capital assets and in turn creates livelihood outcomes where wellbeing, food security, income and sustainable use of natural resources are attained. The overall goal of the sustainable livelihood framework according to Oliver (2017) is having a community where the residents have overcome livelihood vulnerability, shocks and threats and as a result have guarantee livelihood security. As indicated in Figure 2.2 the sustainable livelihoods framework also helps to organize the factors that constrain and enhance livelihood opportunities and shows the inter relationship between them.

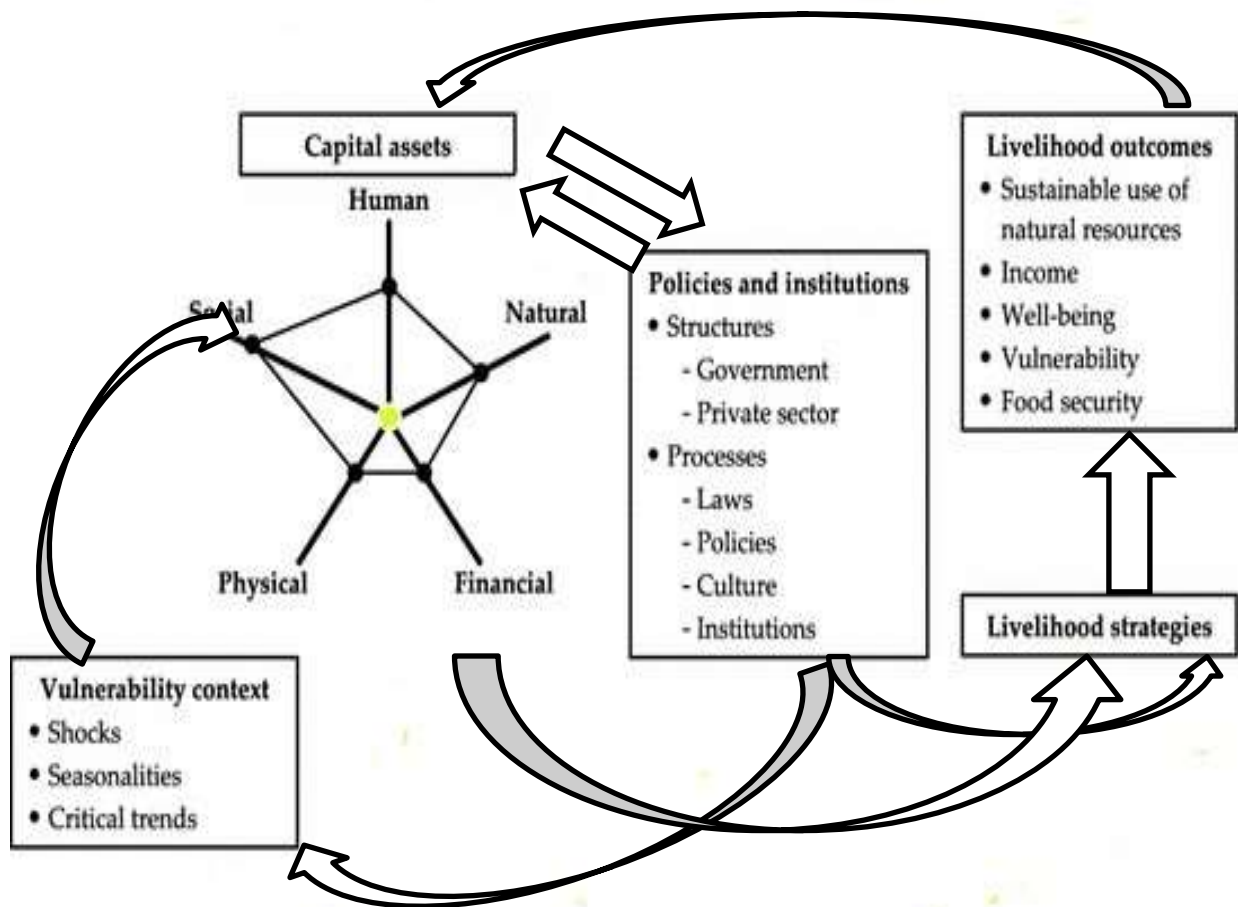


Figure. 2.2: The sustainable livelihood framework
 Source: Oliver Serrat (2017)

2.7.1 Principles of the Sustainable Livelihood Approach

The core principles of Sustainable Livelihood Approach (SLA) according to Edward H (2006) is summarized into six guiding principles as discussed below:

- i. **Be people-centered:** involves putting people’s social and economic activities at the center of the analysis, this principle promotes acknowledging that attempts to allocate right of access to the poor requires understanding more about the people than just their livelihood activities. Edward (2006) supports that with individual capacity varying in

the type of livelihood activities engaged in being people-centered would livelihood approach requires understanding of just more than just the individuals efforts in livelihood activities.

- ii. **Be holistic:** Sustainable livelihood approach (SLA) acknowledges that people adopt many strategies to secure their livelihoods, and that many actors are involved.
- iii. **Be dynamic (self-motivated):** SLA seeks to understand the dynamic nature of livelihoods and how it influences them. Acknowledging that livelihoods are dynamic and as such analyzing them subsequently and how they change over time and the factors that lead to the changes.
- iv. **Build on strengths:** SLA builds on people's perceived strengths and opportunities rather than focusing on their problems and needs. Although development aims to reduce incidences of low income, poor health, lack of education, food insecurity and social exclusion, the livelihood approach encourages tackling these problems that makes most of peoples existing capabilities by supporting existing livelihood strategies.
- v. **Promote micro-macro links:** Sustainable livelihood approach encourages explicit consideration of links between the local sectors (like resource allocation among the different benefactors) and the national policy makers and the entire concern body. It seeks to examine the influence of policies and institutions on livelihood options as this would highlights the areas for which policies are to be informed with insights on the week, local level and with the priorities being placed on the poor.
- vi. **Encourage broad partnerships and Sustainability:** Sustainable Livelihood Approach counts on broad partnerships as it draws on both the public and private

sectors. The approach views sustainability as the capacity of elements of a livelihood system to withstand shocks and adapt to change, it also seeks to make the four key dimensions to sustainability, which are social, environmental, economic and institutional explicit.

2.8 Livelihood Assets

Livelihood assets refer to the resource base of the community and of different types of households. Community and household assets are influenced by two major sets of outside factors first, the policy and institutional context and secondly the vulnerability context. Scoones (2009) noted that the social, tangible and intangible assets that people use for constructing their livelihoods are conceptualized in different forms of capital to emphasize the role they play as a part of the productive streams from which livelihoods are constructed. Vincent and Cull (2010) maintained that, the higher the assets owned, available and controlled by an individual or a community the lesser the vulnerability level of such individual. The lower the assets available controlled and owned by an individual the higher the vulnerability chance such individual or community.

UNDP (2010) noted that the livelihood strategies of individuals, households and communities are determined by the availability of assets in terms of access, ownership and control. These Livelihoods assets are those things that are either naturally or artificially available to man upon which he generates a living. Morse and McNamara (2013) provided an analytical framework to aid the understanding of the five dominant forms of livelihood assets that influence people's ability to achieve sustainable livelihoods, these dominant forms of livelihood assets are (natural, physical, human, financial and social assets) which are the major complementary building blocks for livelihoods sustainability.

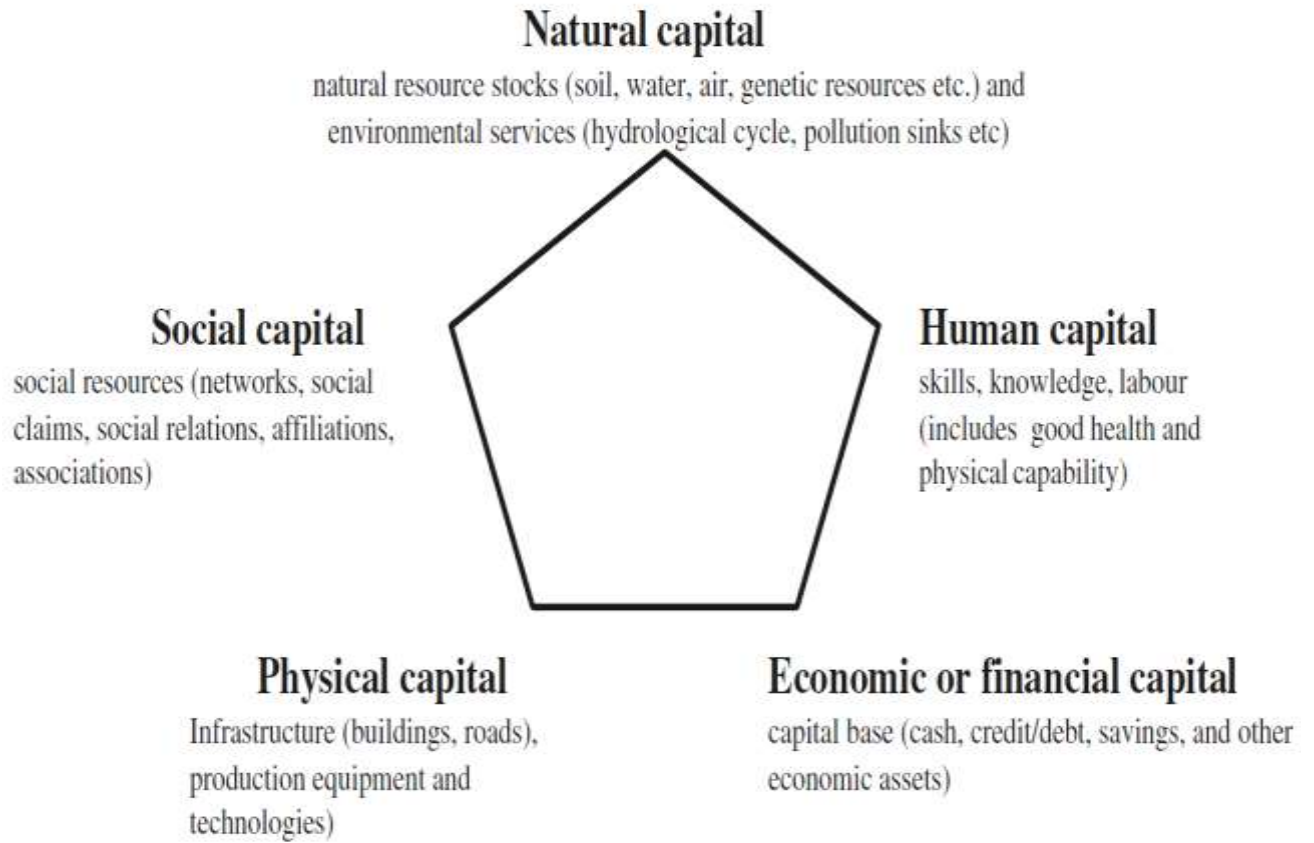


Fig. 2.3: The livelihood asset pentagon

Source: Morse and McNamara (2013)

Fig 2.3 shows the important elements required when designing sustainable livelihood strategies as it identifies and defines the dominant forms of assets below.

- i. **Natural Capital:** The natural resource base from which resources useful for livelihoods activities are derived. Natural capital includes all naturally occurring factors that can be the fulcrum for livelihood activities. Natural capital has two dimensions, namely natural resources and ecological services. The natural resources include soil, water, sun, forests and rainfall; while the ecological services include the hydrological cycle and atmospheric sink Morse and McNamara (2013). Although natural capital may be available to everyone, access to certain natural

capitals may be restricted based on gender and other socio economic features. For instance, the exploitation of forests for hunting livelihood may not be equally feasible for men and women.

- ii. **Physical Capital:** The basic infrastructure (transport, shelter, water, energy, and communications) and production equipment are means which enable people to pursue their livelihoods. This form of capital has to do with tools and equipment's as well as infrastructure and services available to an individual, household or community. Physical capital is important not only for meeting peoples need directly but also for providing access to other capitals. It is observed that, in most cases, the ownership and control of physical capital is usually gender bias. Approaching the issue of physical capital from the gendered perspective, UNDP in (2010) contended that women are deprived of equal access to, ownership of and control over livelihood assets as the men, this according to them is due to culturally biased institutions, policies and norms that tend to stimulate gender-based deprivation in the aspect of physical capital.
- iii. **Financial Capital:** The financial resources which are available to people (whether savings, supplies of credit, o regular remittances or pensions) which provide them with different livelihood options, Rutendo (2017). It is often by definition the most limiting asset of poor people, but it is one of the most important, in that it can be used to purchase other types of capital, and can also be used to influence other people. Financial capital provides opportunities for engagement in specific livelihood options for a considerable choice of time.

- iv. **Human Capital:** The skills, knowledge and good health are important to the ability to pursue livelihood strategies. Human capital has both qualitative and quantitative dimensions Isaac *et al.* (2019). The qualitative dimensions of human capital include level of education, type of skill, professionalism and health status. The quantitative dimension on the other hand includes household size and number of hours worked per day. Human capital is therefore that part of human resources determined by people's qualities such as personalities, attitudes, aptitudes, skills, knowledge and physical, mental and spiritual health. Human capital is important, not only for its intrinsic value, but also because no capital assets can be used without it (NRI, 2000).
- v. **Social Capital:** The horizontal and vertical social resources (networks, membership of groups, relationships of trust, access to wider institutions of society) upon which people base their pursuit of livelihood. Social capital is a type of capital that seeks and promote cooperation and coordination for mutual benefit, Maclean (2010) Define social capital as trust, norms and networks that allow people coordinate actions and achieve their aims. Social Capital is the missing link in development, a corrective mechanism to the social corrosion of neoliberal policies aimed at getting the right economic situation, Vincent and Cull (2010), argued that livelihood vulnerability can also be influenced through availability and access to social capital, they stated that social capital is of essential value, as it increases well-being, facilitates the generation of other capital and provides services to generation of the framework of the society in general, with its cultural, religious,

political and norms of behavior. Kyeremeh (2014) stated that lack of social capital and social exclusion, can be highlighted as a significant characteristic of poverty.

2.9 Concept of Livelihood Security

The concept of Livelihood has increasingly gained popularity among policy makers and scholars of poverty and developmental studies (Kaag 2004). This emerging concept is a creation of crisis the present world has been passing through because of Livelihood insecurity. Different socio scientist having diverse perspectives has conceptualized livelihood security. However, the most common conceptualization of livelihood security found in literatures describes it as the protection of the socioeconomic, sociocultural and socio-political livelihood base of individuals and households Shyamalie and Saini, (2010). According to Shyamalie and Saini (2010), scholarly investigations into the issue of livelihood security began in the early part of 1990s, while arguing that recent researches on the subject of livelihood security is shrouded in several methodological complexities. The need to resolve the aforementioned methodological complexities engendered the development of the Livelihood Security Index (LSI) by the Centre for Agriculture and Rural Extension (CARE) in the year 1996.

The concept aims to 'better the livelihoods of the people and ensure that individuals, households and communities are engaged in sustainable livelihoods Shaw and Kristjanson, (2014). Furthermore Guha *et al* (2018)) viewed livelihood security as the ability to ensure stability in livelihood activity that ensure ease in meeting an individual basic need.

Lindenberg (2002) recognized the usefulness of the Livelihood Security Index in assessing wellbeing at micro-levels as the concept of livelihood security has both micro-scale and macro-scale implications. Singh and Hiremath (2008) opined that the micro-scale

implications of livelihood security involves the availability to, have access, and control income and other resources that are required for daily survival and for overcoming livelihood stress and shocks. At the macro-scale, Jeyarajah (2016) argued livelihood security to involve the stabilization of territorial population through birth and migration controls, prevention of overexploitation of non-renewable resources, control of the exploitation of renewable resources and inculcation of the doctrine of ecological stewardship. Daniel *et al* .(2019) established that maintaining an optimum population at the macro level and creating accessibility to resources at the micro level is a livelihood security approach that occupies the forefront of antipoverty initiatives.

Rahman and Akter (2012) concluded that the concept of livelihood security naturally encompasses three important and interrelated issues, namely: engagement in income-earning activity (employment), access to assets (resources), and the overall capability context of the individual, community or household. The dimensions of livelihood security that were identified by (Shyamalie and Saini 2010, Akter and Rahman 2012) include food security, health security, economic security, education security, habitat security and social network security. Thorlakson, (2012) contended that the understanding of the concept of livelihood security requires a significant level of understanding the assessor's own family.

2.10 Concept of Livelihood Vulnerability

Vulnerability is not poverty, according to Shaffer (2001), multiple authors have conceptualized poverty but in all the ways it has been looked it is not poverty. It just pronounces the prospect of sinking into poverty or falling into a sense of total deprivation. Vulnerability describes the degree of exposure to risks and the capacity to respond to the

pressures. Adger (2006) considered vulnerability as the condition of susceptibility to harm due to shocks and stresses. He observed that vulnerability is an outcome of social, economic and environmental changes on one hand, and weak adaptive capacity on the other. In similar vein, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2007) maintained that weak adaptive capacity increases the vulnerability of household. The link between vulnerability and resources used logically indicates the need to evaluate livelihood susceptibility at the individuals and households level Rignall and Kusunose, (2018). In the opinion of Vincent and Cull (2010), vulnerability of livelihood is a serious factor that can result in collective susceptibility; thus, it requires collective action. Can et al (2013) puts it that vulnerability context influences livelihood sustainability.

According to Deressa *et al* (2009) the two popular approaches to measuring livelihood vulnerability are the indicator approach and the econometric approach. Etwire *et al* (2013) explained the econometric approach to be one that uses econometric methods to measure the level of household livelihoods vulnerability. However, Deressa *et al* (2009) observed that, this method presents serious problems in terms of its susceptibility to artificial errors, the validity of the tools used, and the appropriateness of the hypotheses and false identification of causality. On the other hand, the indicator approach is regarded as one that encompasses the selection of indicators, which the researcher assumes to shape vulnerability contexts (Etwire *et al*, 2013, Amos *et al*. 2014). This approach also has their weakness that is communicated in the subjectivity of the choice of indicators.

Livelihood vulnerability affects all livelihood assets, although in different dimensions and to different extents Madhuri and Bhowmick, (2014). However, based on the arguments of Vincent and Cull (2010), the vulnerability of livelihood assets in developing countries is

easily exhibited in household's social vulnerability. Several scholars according to Amos *et al* (2014) have argued that climate change is the foremost predictor of livelihood vulnerability. However, Pandey *et al* (2017) observed the primary factor responsible for the vulnerability of livelihoods to be poverty. This led Gerlitz *et al* (2017) to develop a Multidimensional Livelihood Vulnerability Index to help curtail the multi-dimensional nature of livelihood vulnerability as shown in form of a vicious cycle in figure 2.4 as it reveals further the several social and economic problems.

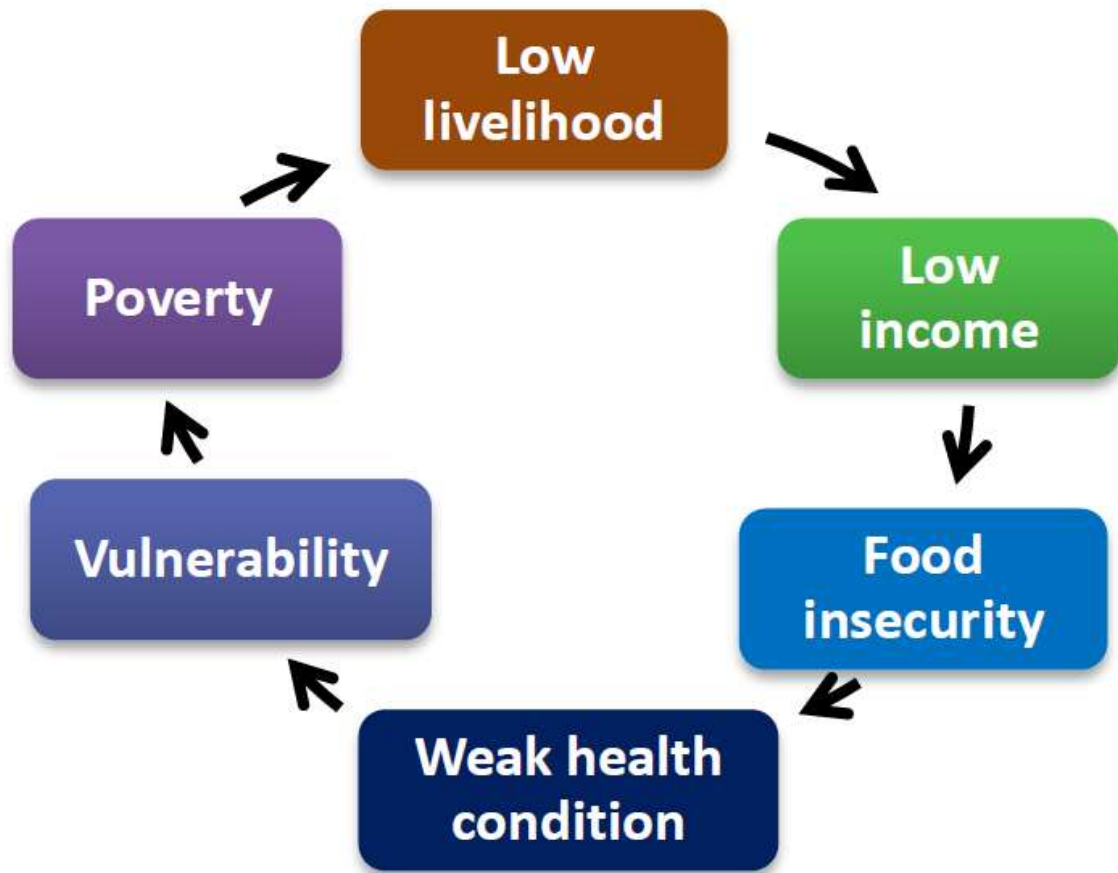


Figure 2.4: Livelihood Vulnerability Cycle

Source: Alam (2016)

Can *et al* (2013) rated the Livelihood Vulnerability Index on a scale of 0 to 1, where 0 signifies the least vulnerable situation, with 1 signifying the highest level of vulnerability. Different scientist in a variety of contexts has studied the problem of livelihood vulnerability. Wu *et al* (2002) examined the physical and social vulnerability context of New Jersey, United States. Cutter *et al* (2003) invented an ethical and holistic index for measuring the social vulnerability of individuals, households and communities called the Social Vulnerability Index. However, the approach of Wu *et al* (2002) is based on the Geographic Information System (GIS) analysis of physical and social conditions of New Jersey. The physical conditions adopted in the analysis are the shore height, drainage width and rise in sea level. On the other hand, the social conditions included income, gender, age and housing conditions. They discovered and concluded that both physical and social contexts significantly shape the vulnerability of livelihoods in New Jersey.

In their study of Mozambique, Hahn *et al* (2009) applied the Livelihood Vulnerability Index to measure the vulnerability of individuals and households in Mozambique based on the Sustainable Livelihood Framework. Their study was based essentially on primary data obtained at the household level, while the analysis was practically based on Livelihood Vulnerability Index. Their study revealed that owing to its reliance on primary data, Livelihood Vulnerability Index is an essential strategy for analyzing the resilience and sustainability of livelihoods and a viable tool that aid policymakers and development planners in making decisions on livelihoods at local levels. The three basic dimensions of livelihood vulnerability are exposure to threats, sensitivity to risk factors, and the capacity to adapt to stresses and shocks.

2.11 Global Perspectives on Social Capital

Luca and Asimina (2016) opined that the social capital idea is one of relationships matter. They related it to, trust, cooperation and reciprocity involved in the relationships that can have a positive impact on the wealth of society by reducing transaction costs, facilitating collective actions, and lowering opportunistic behavior. Their work sheds light on the different theoretical and empirical problems that a scholar is likely to face in dealing with social capital research and analysis. They proposed in their report a critical roadmap of social capital theories and applications for a general audience, including non-users, with particular attention to the works of political and social economists. They generated a critical debate on the different definitions and measures, that developed the theoretical frameworks, and the empirical techniques adopted so far in the analysis of the impact of social capital on socio-economic outcomes. Luca and Asimina (2016) looked at the limitations of these techniques and they suggest some basic strategies to reduce the magnitude of these limitations.

Rimaz *et al* (2014) carried out an investigation on relationship between social capital and quality of life in multiple sclerosis patients, according to them large portion of existing medical research on Multiple Sclerosis patients focuses more on predicting medical and individual variables such as the onset of disease, gender, etc. rather than broader socio-contextual factors. The aim for their research was to determining the relationship between social capital and quality of life in Multiple Sclerosis patients who referred to Iran Multiple Sclerosis Society in 2012. This cross-sectional study was conducted on 172 patients that visited Iran Multiple Sclerosis Society during 10 months using convenience samplings and face-to-face interaction. The Tools they used for collecting data were World Bank's social

capital integrated questionnaire and the Multiple Sclerosis Quality of Life. They analyzed the six dimensions of social capital using questionnaires, the result showed them that the highest average score belonged to membership in groups and networks and the lowest ones was about trust and solidarity. The results from their regression model presented that there is a statistical significant and positive relation between social capital and quality of life. They conclude by saying that the research has provided invaluable information regarding the quality of life and at the same time present hypotheses about the contributing factors.

Thomas *et al.* (2012) in their research opined that social capital portfolios could offer opportunity to integrate a border and economic perspective on livelihood security. They argued that social capital is a crucial mechanism through which livelihood assets are distributed, accessed and claimed. For data, collection they relied on mixture of focus group discussion and interviews their findings shows how the adaptation social capital portfolios reflect the changing impact of the livelihood options among the rural households in Burundi. They went further to state that although their research was able to prove that social capital can make tangible the concept of power and powerlessness and the effect of the distribution of livelihood strategies, further research is needed to test their Argument that social capital portfolios reflect on the livelihood choices of people

Cindy (2009) in her research titled the role of social capital in the creation of sustainable livelihood investigated the difficulty faced by the people of cape town in accessing natural resources due to the limited nature and access to financial assets leading to people relying on social capital as a means of earning a living. Her study explored the three types of social capital, which are Bonding, Bridging and Linking. This was done with the purpose of

enabling development practitioners, government officials and local people to work together to plan initiatives that enhances people's quality of life.

The study employed a case study approach due to its appropriateness when dealing with a small number of participants and the specific context of their complex real-life activities in great depth. By taking a post –positivistic stance, the researcher was able to appreciate the different constructions and meaning that people place upon their life experiences. The research reveals that by membership in a particular network, people's livelihood was improved as access was granted to resources, which would have otherwise remained inaccessible to them as individuals. And also that while high levels of solidarity promotes collective benefits, cross cutting ties between heterogeneous groups and groups of different levels of powers are also essentials in order to create sustainable livelihoods for project beneficiaries.

2.12 Global Perspectives on Gender and Livelihoods

Dhanasree *et al.* (2014) evaluated the socioeconomic empowerment of women and how they affect the livelihood security of rural women in Andhra Pradesh, India. Their study aimed at investigating the impacts of women's empowerment on livelihood security. The objectives of their study were to examine the relationship between the socioeconomic profile of the women in the study area and their livelihood security; and to appraise the problems encountered by rural women in the process of enhancing their livelihood security. Six villages were selected based on cluster sampling and 30 respondents were sampled from each village, to which structured questionnaire was administered. Inferential data analysis was carried out with the aid of the multiple regression analysis technique and it

was discovered that the livelihood security of rural women is strongly determined by the availability of market facilities, information, education, motivation, family size, age-grade and credit orientation.

Salim *et al.* (2013) investigated the livelihood security of rural fishing communities in India. Their aim was to assess the impacts of fishermen social status on the livelihood security of their households. Structured questionnaires were administered to 4555 respondents using the systematic random sampling technique. Descriptive analytical techniques was adopted for the study and it was discovered that the youths have the preponderance of adopting fishing as a livelihood strategy. It was also discovered that the fishermen are highly literate, with about 80% literacy level. The fishermen earn considerably medium to high income, has higher tendency to save part of their income, and expresses high level of social capital formation. On the aggregate, these factors contribute to ensuring livelihood security among fishermen. Their study therefore recommended the establishment of microfinance institutions and community self-help groups to enhance the livelihood sustainability of the rural fishing communities in India.

Shyamalie and Saini (2010) carried out a comparative study of the livelihood security of women in hill-top communities of India and Sri Lanka. Shyamalie and Saini (2010) opined that marginality of women is a strong determinant of their livelihood security. They developed six indicators for measuring the livelihood security of rural women, namely: food security, health security, economic security, education security, habitat security and social network security. Data was collected with the aid of well-structured Likert-Scale questionnaire. These indicators were used as the index for evaluating the livelihood security of the women in the study area on a scale of 1-5; the higher the score on scale, the

better the livelihood security. The study revealed that only habitat security and food security of the women in marginal areas of the two case studies recorded higher than the mid-point of the index score. The implication is that women in India and Sri Lanka experience economic, health, education and social network insecurity. They suggested an improvement to the health, education, finance and social status of the women in the study area as a way of lifting them out of the ‘livelihood insecurity trap’.

Similar to the study by Shyamalie and Saini (2010), Kumar *et al.* (2010) examined the importance of goats herding on the livelihood security of residents of marginal communities in India. They noted that the residents who practice goat husbandry have a higher chance of improving their livelihood security. Kumar *et al.* (2010) adopted the stratified random sampling approach to administer structured questionnaires to residents of marginal communities in India. Their result was determined based on the Ranked-Scale Quotient. The Ranked Scale Quotient, which is given as:

$$RSB = \sum_{i=0}^n \frac{F_i \cdot (n + 1 - i)}{N \cdot n} \times 100$$

Where:

F_i = Frequency of farmers for the i -th rank of constraint;

N = Total number of respondents;

n = Total number of ranks;

i = Rank.

It was discovered that goat rearing among women in India contributes to the securing of their livelihood. However, flock size was a major predictor of the level of satisfaction with

the goat husbandry livelihood in the study area. In other words, it can be deduced that the larger the flock, the more the level of satisfaction with the livelihood. Furthermore, Kumar *et al* (2010) reported that goat rearing has a cumulative livelihoods effect because owners of larger flocks employ shepherds for their flock, and these shepherds earn their livelihoods from herding these flocks. It was however observed during their research that the goat husbandmen were dissatisfied with the income they generate from the sales of their goats. Notwithstanding, Kumar *et al.* (2010) predicted a continuous rise in goat demand after the research owing to its low level of cholesterol, thereby increasing the livelihood security of the goat owners in the study area.

Department for International Development (DFID, 2000) reported that globally, women contribute about 60% of working hours, constitute 30% of global labor force and controls about 50% of the global economy. The status of women's livelihoods in a nation is a very vital predictor of the level of development Dhanasree *et al* (2014). In the opinion of Huq (2000), livelihood security refers to the access to, and the ownership and control of natural and Man-made resources for the purpose of offsetting stresses and shocks and meeting contingencies.

2.13 Livelihoods and Social Capital of Women in Africa

Morris *et al.* (2019) noted in their study noted that social capital enhances collaboration and social relationships between government, grassroots organizations, and communities, it improve the effectiveness and efficiency of government-implemented projects leading to Collaboration between groups which broadens the solution options for environmental problems, thus, heighten the resiliency of the community against environmental disasters.

According to them Social capital is considered a factor of collaboration. They argued in their study that the higher the social capital the stronger the bond within the community will improve the collaboration with people.

Kiboro (2017) in his study investigate the influence of social Capital on the livelihood outcomes for the internally displaced persons in Kenya. Membership to local level associations was used as a predictor of social capital in his research and the study revealed that majority of the households that were affiliated to local level associations obtained essential services that influenced their livelihoods positively. The overall findings of the study reveal that memberships in local associations (social capital) tend to insulate households from risks and other exigencies. He recommended that government and other stakeholders such as non-governmental organizations should formulate projects and programs that seek to promote wider participation in local level associations particularly by the poor and those whose livelihoods are vulnerable

Gabriel (2015) examines the role of social capital as a process of facilitating improvement of rural livelihoods in Kenya. In his research, he made use of primary data collected from a sample of 340 households from Nyeri district to achieve the research objectives. Descriptive method in form of cross-tabulation was used to explore the nexus between social capital and livelihood sources and socioeconomic status of the households. The research reveals that social capital is an important factor in the livelihood diversification strategy of the households in Kenya and social capital enables households to diversify their main sources of livelihoods into activities like crop production, livestock production and non-farm activities. His results further shows that investment in social capital can help households escape from poverty. He went further to recommend that the findings of his

study be used to suggest policies for promoting formation of social capital as a mechanism of improved living conditions of rural households.

Smith (2014) investigated the role of gender in livelihood diversification among Maasai women in Tanzania. The study aimed at evaluating the extent to which gender shapes the livelihood strategies of Maasai women. Data was collected with the aid of focused group discussions and personal interviews. The analysis revealed that men dominate the pastoralist livelihood in the study area, while women participate more on small-scale business activities. As such, the Maasai women contribute substantially to the economy of the households in the study area.

Furthermore, it was discovered during his research that the determination of livelihood activities based on gender is a household level cultural attitude. At the community level, Smith (2014) reported that gender-based differential in livelihood strategies is predicted by the status of the family and the household in the class-structure of the community. He suggested that women and men be given equal chance of participating in the livelihoods of their choices without discrimination. He also suggested that the Maasai women in Tanzania should be adequately empowered in order to enhance their livelihoods.

In her study of single women's access to land and livelihood assets in Zimbabwe, Makura-Paradza (2010) observed that women face arbitrary deprivation in access to livelihood assets. These deprivations are so deeply institutionalized that many women have shown acceptance to them. Makura-Paradza (2010) maintains that household based decisions on the allocation of land and other resources in Zimbabwe tend to marginalize single women. She discovered that women in Zimbabwe could only influence decisions when they change

their marital status from single to married. Even when their marital status is changed, Makura-Paradza (2010) noted that women's access to land for farming and residential purpose in Zimbabwe is subject to intense negotiation with the patriarchal leaders of the extended family or the community. She concluded that the livelihoods of Zimbabwean single women in particular and women in general, are exposed to social vulnerabilities beyond their control. She concluded her study by suggesting the need for continuous orientation and enlightenment on gender equality (or at least, gender equity) in Zimbabwe. She also suggested the need to empower women through socialization in order to lift them above the vulnerability trap.

Hudu (2009) appraised the livelihood strategies of rural women beneficiaries of microcredit in Ghana. The study aimed at estimating the impact of borrowing on the sustainability of the livelihoods of women in rural areas of Ghana. 150 women were sampled for the study and data collection was done through focused group discussions, oral interviews and questionnaire administration. Data analysis was substantially descriptive in nature. Hudu (2009) discovered that about 90% of the women have diversified their livelihoods. He also found that the age, educational attainment and type of livelihood activity of the women significantly reduces their vulnerability to livelihood shocks and stresses. Furthermore, the study found a statistically significant correlation between the amount of loan obtained as well as proximity to market and livelihood security of rural women in Ghana. The study therefore recommends capacity building for rural women in Ghana.

Sweetman (2005) investigated the nexus between poverty, empowerment and livelihood of migrant women in Ethiopia. The study established that poverty affects the social capital of

women in Ethiopia through weakening of social ties and loosened social relationships. Sweetmen (2005) argued that empowerment strengthens the social capital bases of women and gives them the opportunity to engage in a befitting livelihood strategy. She established that social capital and empowerment exists in a nexus because while empowerment boosts social capital of women in the study area, social capital is also a fundamental determinant of the kind of empowerment they receive. The study recommended the need for a serious cross-cutting social capital development and livelihood empowerment Program for women in Ethiopia.

2.14 Livelihoods and Social Capital of Women in Nigeria

Isaac *et al*, (2019b) investigated the role of gender in determining access to livelihood assets in Isoko North Local Government Area of Delta State. Their study aimed at examining the extent of gender-based deprivation in livelihood assets of the area. Systematic random sampling was used to administer structured questionnaire to the women in the study area. Data analysis was essentially descriptive in nature. The study revealed that women encounter several deprivations in terms of access to and control of livelihood assets. Specifically the study revealed human capital deprivation manifested in low educational achievement and low skills; poor physical capital connected to their inability to secure land in the extremely patriarchal cultural landscape, and very weak financial capital base as seen in their poor income. However, their results on social capital deprivation indicated obscurity in the level of deprivation. Isaac et al. (2019b) concluded that women within the study area suffered serious livelihood insecurity. They therefore suggested the need to conduct an in-depth study on the role of social capital in the securitization of women's livelihoods.

Ruth (2015) evaluated the factors affecting the performance of women in food production. The objectives of the study were to identify the socioeconomic characteristics of women farmers in Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State and to determine the relationship between those socio-economic characteristics and food production. The study purposively selected six villages where eighty percent of the women were randomly selected in each of the villages. In total 200 women were selected and to them structured questionnaire were adopted. Descriptive Statistics, correlation and Regression Analysis were used to analyze the acquired results. The study Null hypothesis shows that there is no significant relationship between socioeconomic characteristics of women and food production was therefore rejected and the alternative hypothesis accepted. Ruth (2015) therefore recommended that women should be empowered through the provision of loans. She also saw the need to improve the level of education of the women and also to train them on additional source of income generation.

Adama and Kenneth (2015) carried out a research about the effect of social capital on poverty alleviation in Nasarawa state; the study assessed the effect of social capital on self-employment, education, economic empowerment, training and skills acquisition. They adopted a survey research design and systematic sampling technique to select the elements that completed the research questionnaire. Regression statistical method was employed to analyze the generated data. They discovered that social capital is significantly related to self-employment, education, training, skills acquisition and economic empowerment. Adama and Kenneth (2015) recommended the creation of more awareness on the relevance of social capital to women entrepreneurs. They suggested further that, social networking

and social capital acquisition among women entrepreneurs should be encouraged through women entrepreneurs' associations and cooperative societies.

Amos *et al.* (2014) appraised the perception of coastal households on the vulnerability of their livelihoods with emphasis on climate change. Their study adopted the multi-stage sampling technique to sample 101 households from three rural coastal settlements in Akwa Ibom State. The livelihood vulnerability index was used as the analytical technique for their study. They discovered that households in the study area experience vulnerability in terms of climate change. However, vulnerability was found to be more severe among women than men and this was linked to their weak financial capability. They recommended that social security of the residents of coastal settlements should be looked into and adequately implemented. And that effort on coastal women's empowerment should be pursued by the government.

Isaac (2009) carried out a gender analysis of livelihood patterns on the poverty and income diversification among households in rural Nigeria. Poverty rate according to him have continued to be on the increase within the past two to three decades, due to instability experienced economically and socio-politically in the country. Random sampling technique was use to collect data from 420 households selected from six states (one state from each of the six geopolitical zones) of the country. His analysis of collected data revealed that most of the respondents were young, married with large household size. Educational analysis of respondents indicated that a sizeable number had no formal education with only one-third educated to tertiary level. However, he discovered that respondent distribution by poverty status shows more female-headed households in the study area than male-headed households with over half of those surveyed living on less

than one dollar a day. He made use of the Tobit regression model to ascertain the determinants of livelihood diversification, and it showed that the coefficients of gender, household size, poverty status and access to credit facility were positive.

Further, the coefficients of years of formal education, income, marital status, primary occupation and location were negative. Thus, an increase in the value of any of the variables will negatively influence the estimated livelihood diversification index. In general, male-headed, small-sized, non-poor households with formal education and better income and access to credit facility were not all that engaged in multiple jobs like female-headed, uneducated, large-sized, poor households and those not having access to credit facility. He recommended the continuous empowerment of the female gender through their engagement in higher education level and skills acquisition.

CHAPTER 3

3.0

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

According to Blaxter *et al* (2006), a sampling design is a work strategy that postulates the sample size, the selection method, frame of the population as well as the estimation method to be adopted. For this research the sample frame the sample size and the technique that would be employed determine to a great extent the procedure that would control the process of data collection and data analysis for this research.

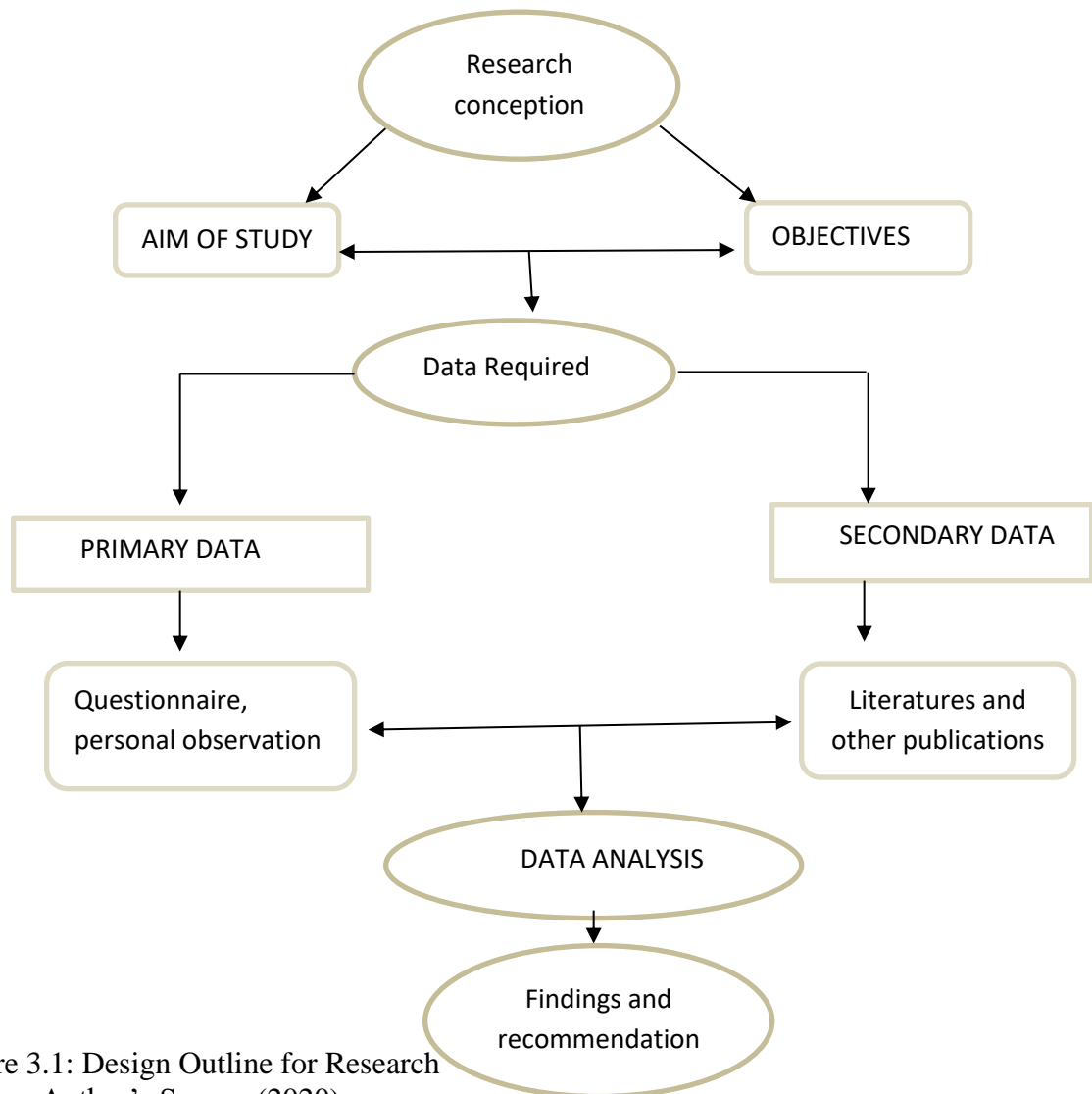


Figure 3.1: Design Outline for Research
Source: Author's Survey (2020)

3.2 Data Required for this Study

The data required for the purpose of this survey include socioeconomic data, demographic data, data on choice of social networks, data on livelihood activities, and data on perceived impact of social capital. The socioeconomic data required for this study include data on income, average monthly savings, occupation and education qualification of the women. The demographic data used for this study include data on age, and household size. The social networks data that are of significance to this study are data on Women membership to social networks, types of social networks, reasons for engaging in social network activities, number of social networks they belong, frequency of social networks meetings, and number of participants in social networks. Data on the primary livelihood activities, secondary livelihood activities and the challenges encountered in carrying out livelihood activities is also required. The data on the political, environmental, and economic factors that influences the vulnerability of women livelihood activities is also required. The data on the perceived tangible and intangible impact of social capital on livelihood activities of women in Lapai Local Government area is also required.

3.4 Sources of Data

3.3.1 Primary data

The primary data used for this research was collected from the women in Lapai Local Government through observation and questionnaire administration. Through the aid of a well-structured questionnaire first-hand information was acquired which helped in solving the individual research objectives.

3.3.2 Secondary data

The secondary data for this research was collected from unpublished and published sources, also different literatures including textbooks, journals articles, newspapers, web sites, goggle earth, statistics and governments reports.

3.4 Sampling Approach

3.4.1 Population data of Lapai Local Government Area

This research requires population data of women in Lapai Local Government. There is limitation in acquiring recent population figure of women in the study area. The population figure of Lapai Local Government area as at 1991 census was adopted for this research because the population figures are broken down into sub localities, this helped in determining the individual ward population of the study area. The female population figure of Lapai Local Government areas recorded by the National Population Commission (NPC) is 36,113.

The population figure of 1991 is projected to 2020 using this formula

$$POP_B = POP_y (1 + r)^n$$

Where POP_B = Projected population

POP_y = Base year Population

r = Growth rate

n = Number of Years

The projected population of women in Lapai local government as of year 2020 is 95,335. The growth rate used for the purpose of projecting is 3.4%. This population of 95,335 serves as the sample frame for this research.

3.4.2 Sample size

Bless *et al.* (2011), defined a sample as a subgroup of a given population, which comprises of all the characteristics in the whole population. Lapai Local Government has 10 wards with each of the wards having women who engage in different livelihood activities (either formal or informal). The Krejcie and Morgan sampling calculator was used to determine the sample size with a 5% margin of error. The sample size for each ward and their projected population is presented on Table 3.1

Table 3.1 Wards Population and Sample Size of Lapai Local Government Area

S/No	Wards	1991 population	2020 Projected Population	Sample Size
1	Gabas/Kudu	4,317	11,396	45
2	Arewa/Yamman	3,846	10,153	41
3	GuluAngwan/GuluVatsa	5,162	13,627	54
4	Gupa/Abugi	4,117	10,869	44
5	Muye/Egba	2,951	7,790	31
6	Brini Maza/Tashibo	2,575	6,798	28
7	Duma/Zago	1,459	3,851	16
8	Ebbo/Gbanciku	3,394	8,960	36
9	Takuti/Shaku	5,151	13,598	54
10	Evuti/Kpada	3,141	8,292	34
	Total		95,335	383

Source: Author's 2020 Population Estimate Projected from NPC 1991

3.4.3 Sampling technique

This study adopted a non-probability sampling technique, reason being that the targeted population is not well defined. Purposive sampling was carried out at the individual ward bases due to the differences in ward population. This was done to ensure there was equal probability of capturing the different variables within the study area.

3.5 Method of Data Analysis and Presentation

The study used a quantitative research method employing ODK (Ordinary Data Kit) as a data-collecting instrument. The data obtained from the 383 questionnaires was coded and entered into an excel sheet and further transferred to SPSS software where the data was analysed. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) employed descriptive statistical technique to analyse the data collected through questionnaire administration. The results of the analysis are presented using tables and charts.

CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section of the research presented the data collected, from the 389 administered questionnaires only 369 returned valid. The demographic characteristics of women, the type of social capital available, the factors that influence participation in social networks, the benefits from this social networks, the livelihood activities of the women and other factors were presented in this section.

4.1 Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Lapai women

4.1.1 Age

The result presented in Table 4.1 shows the different age categories of the respondents in the study area, 37% of the respondents belong to the age group of 18 – 27, this implies that 53% of the respondents are in their prime and are actively involved in livelihood activities. Also 32% of the respondents fall within 38 – 47. 5% of the respondents on the other hand belong to the age group of Above 58, this implies from the study carried out that, the very elderly women in the study area don't engage much in livelihood activities

Table 4.1 Age of Respondents

Age group	Frequency	Percent (%)
18 - 27	135	37
28 - 37	57	15
38 - 47	118	32
48 - 57	42	11
Above 58	17	5
Total	369	100

4.1.2 Educational level

The study reveals that 56% of the respondents have acquired Secondary level of Education, this implies there is some form of literacy level amongst the women in Lapai Local Government Area. 25% of the respondents on the other hand have went ahead to acquire or are in the process of acquiring different form of tertiary education and certifications. Table 4.2 further shows that 19% of the respondents acquired primary level of education.

Table 4.2 Level of Education

Educational standing	Frequency	Percent (%)
Primary	69	19
Secondary	207	56
Tertiary	93	25
Total	369	100

4.1.3 Income

Majority of the women in Lapai local government according to the survey earn below the minimum wage of N30, 000, this implies that 61% of the respondents are living below the poverty line. Table 4.3 reveals that 17% of the respondents earn between N31, 000 – N45, 000 which is above the minimum wage set by the federal government. However, N46, 000 – N60, 000 and N56, 000 – N70, 000 Income ranges as shown in table 4.3 have 9% and 10% of respondents belonging to the range. It can be deduced from the responses gotten that majority (61%) of the respondents have an average monthly income below the minimum wage with is a predictor to women poverty.

Table 4.3 Average Monthly Income of Respondents

Income	Frequency	Percent (%)
Less than 15, 000	90	24
16, 000 - 30, 000	134	37
31, 000 - 45, 000	63	17
46, 000 - 60, 000	40	11
61, 000 - 75, 000	34	9
Above 75,000	8	2
Total	369	100

4.2 Women participation in Social Network Activities in Lapai local government.

4.2.1 Social network participation

From the data collected for the purpose of this research, the survey reveals in Table 4.4 that out of the total sampled respondents 96% of them attest to participate in the activities of at least one social network within Lapai Local Government. Using membership to a social network as a predictor of social capital, it can be deduced from the analysis that majority of respondents own social capital of different forms. Furthermore, the survey reveals that 4% of the respondents claim to have no form of social capital due to their non-participation in social network activities.

Table 4.4 Membership to Social Network

Participation in Social Network	Frequency	Percent (%)
Yes	369	96
No	14	4
Total	383	100

4.2.2 Social network types

From the result of the analysis, Figure 4.1 shows the different Social network available within Lapai Local Government area with 90% of the respondents stating that they belong to different forms of Market Based social network, this research employed membership to social networks as predictor to social capital ownership. Examples of the Market based social networks discovered during the survey include, Grain seller's association, Recharge card seller's association and Food vendor's union. The other form of social network discovered is the Religious Based social network, with 65% of the respondents engaging in the activities of these social networks, examples of this forms of social network as discovered are Women Fellowship Groups, Girls Guide Group and Young Women Farmers association. The Ward base social networks was selected by 48% of the respondents, according to the data collected from the respondents, examples of the ward base social networks include the Vigilante Groups, Youth Political Networks and Rice Processors Group of the ward among others. The study went further to reveals that 56% of the women respondents claimed to be part of the different forms of Gender Base social networks, example of which are the Married Women Association, Young Women Association, Women Political Association and Women Farmers Cooperative Association in Lapai Local Government. 50% of the respondent identified Profession Based as one of the means they acquire social networks, example of these Professional Based social network is Women Teachers association within the Lapai town and Fashion designer's association. Consequently, 21% of the respondents noted that there exists other means within the Local Governments through which they get social capital benefits as regards to their livelihood

activities, examples of some are Fisher women association of Muye/Egba ward, Pot makers association.

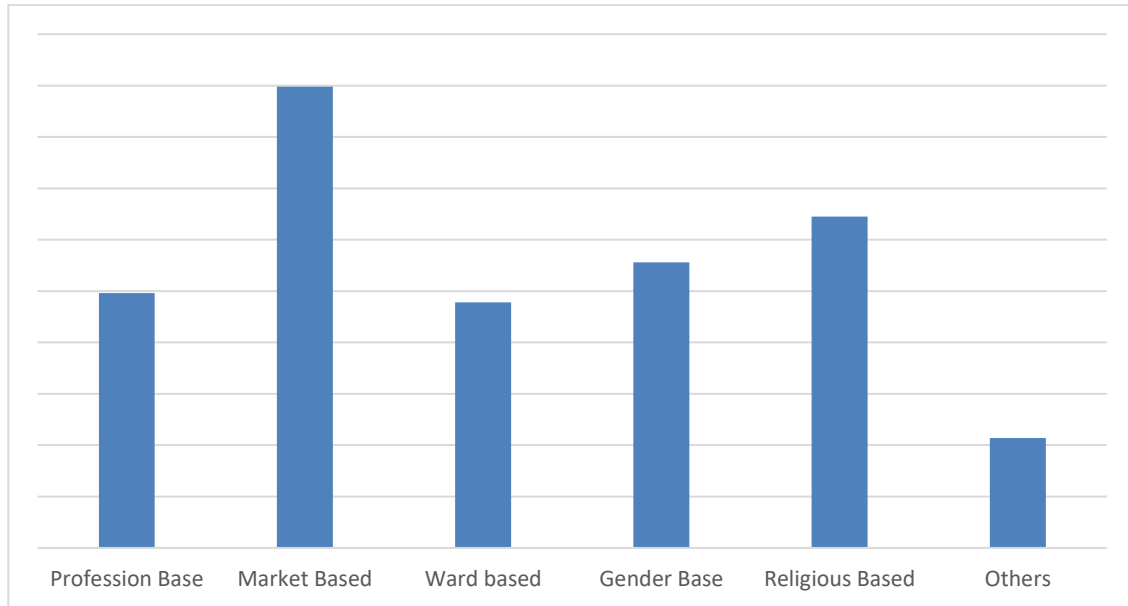


Figure 4.1: Types of Social Networks within Lapai Local Government
Source: Author's Survey (2020)

4.2.3 Number of social networks

The analysis carried out from the collected data and shown on Table 4.5 reveals that 55% of the respondents belong to 4 or more different Social groups within Lapai Local Government Area, inferences can be made that majority of the women in the Local Government Area are not limited in terms of number of social networks, hence their availability of social capital. The table 4.5 also shows that 36% of the respondents claim to belong to 3 different social networks within Lapai Local Government, however 8% of the respondents belong to two social network with the remaining 1% of the respondents only engaging in the activities of one social network group within Lapai Local Government area.

Table 4.5 Total Social Networks Women Belong

Number of Social Networks	Frequency	Percent (%)
1	5	1
2	29	8
3	133	36
4	145	40
Above 5	48	15
Total	369	100

4.2.4 Duration of participation in social networks

Analysis of extent of participation in social network activities indicated from Table 4.6 that 35% of the respondents have been part of different social group activities between 7 to 10 years, also 34% of the respondents from the data collected and analysed have been engaging in the activities social network group from over 10 years, this indicate that the women of Lapai local government area have had social capital for a while now. The analysis reveals that 25% of the respondents have participated in social network activities for between 2 – 6 years. This analysis shows that majority of the women respondents have got different social capital and have engaged in their activities for a while as regards to the achievement and attaining different benefits for their livelihood activities. However, only 7% of the respondent’s population claim to be only be engaging in social network activities for not more than 2 years, this goes further to strengthen the discovery that social capital is available to the women of Lapai local government area.

Table 4.6 Years of participation in social network

Years of Participation	Frequency	Percent (%)
Below 2 years	24	7
2 – 6 years	92	25
7 – 10 years	129	35
Above 10 years	90	34
Total	369	100

4.2.5 Size of participants per social networks

As presented in Table 4.7 majority 39% of the social networks within Lapai Local Government have a total number of participants within the range of 16 – 25 people, also the analysis carried out shows that 35% of the respondents belong to social groups with members of around 26 – 35 persons. Equally the analysis reveals that 9% of the respondent bellows to groups with above 36 members, this implies that the social networks groups within Lapai Local Government don't operate in sole isolation but are open to a large number of people participation.

Table 4.7 Number of participants in Social Groups

Number of people	Frequency	Percent (%)
Below 6 people	5	1
6 – 15 people	59	16
16 – 25 people	147	39
26 – 35 people	128	35
Above 36 people	30	9
Total	369	100

4.2.6 The frequency of meeting

The analysis reveals on Table 4.8 the regularity of the social network group meeting within Lapai Local Government area, with 44% of the respondents claiming to have the meetings of their groups on a monthly basis. Also 27% of the social groups according to the respondents hold their meetings every week of the month, the frequency of this meetings gives more room to build trust and connections within members of the groups and networks. Out of the total women respondents 28% of them, claim to hold meetings in their social groups just once in every other two months, the frequency of their meetings could led to little trust among networks members as there is no much opportunities to interact, share ideas and build trust.

Table 4.8 Schedule of Social Network Meetings

Meetings Regularity	Frequency	Percent (%)
Daily	3	1
Weekly	100	27
Monthly	164	44
Every 2 Month	102	28
Total	369	100

4.2.7 Factors that influences women participation in social networks

The participation of women in social network activities, is subjective to certain prevalent factors, the data collected and analysed in respect to the individual factors are highlighted in Table 4.9. The analysis reveals that 56% of the women strongly agreed that financial benefit is the factor that stimulates their participation in social network activities. Also 53% of the respondents Strongly Agreed that Business growth is the factor that inspires their engagement in social network group activities as it gives room for them to have a larger market for their products. The survey reveals that 30% of the respondents are neutral as it regards to social ties being the reason for social network engagement. However 33% of the women strongly disagreed with Recognition being a pulsating factor that influences their engagement in social networks activity

Table 4.9 Factors that Influences Women Participation in Social Networks

Factors	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neutral		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Financial Benefit	206	55.83	117	31.71	26	7.05	15	4.07	5	1.36	369	100
Business Growth	194	52.57	102	27.64	41	11.11	22	5.96	10	2.71	369	100
Social Security	121	32.79	150	40.65	35	9.49	12	3.25	51	13.82	369	100
Asset Acquisition	111	30.08	143	38.75	36	9.76	42	11.38	37	10.03	369	100
Employment Opportunity	123	33.33	105	28.46	53	14.36	18	4.88	70	18.97	369	100
Environmental Security	96	26.02	103	27.91	81	21.95	46	12.47	43	11.65	369	100
Social Ties	61	16.53	83	22.49	112	30.35	76	20.60	63	17.07	369	100
Recognition	13	3.52	26	7.05	98	26.56	112	30.35	120	32.52	369	100

4.2.8 Rank of factors influencing participation

The analysis on Table 4.10 shows that financial benefit has a mean value of 4.37 which implies it rank highest among the selected factors that influence participation in social networks activities for this study, this could be majorly due to the short term Loans and Easy Access to Loans that member of some social networks enjoy. Business growth is closely ranked second with a Mean value of 4.21 which is due to Larger Markets and opportunities that Social networks offer. The data analysed also reveals that social security has a mean value of 3.75 this pace it third in the rank of the most factors influencing participation of women in social activities. The list ranked reason that influences participation in social network activities according to the analysis carried out is recognition with a mean value of 2.19.

Table 4.10 Ranking of the Factors that Influences Social Network Participation

	Mean Weighted Value	Rank
Financial Benefit	4.37	1 st
Business Growth	4.21	2 nd
Social security	3.75	3 rd
Asset Acquisition	3.67	4 th
Employment Opportunity	3.52	5 th
Environmental Security	3.44	6 th
Social Ties	3.22	7 th
Recognition	2.19	8 th

Note: Strongly Disagree (1:1.80), Disagree (1.80: 2.60) Neutral (2.60: 3.40), Agree (3.40: 4.20) strongly agree (4.20: 5.00)

4.4 Livelihood Activities of women in Lapai Local Government Area.

4.4.1 Primary livelihood activities

The study reveals in Table 4.11 that the prevalent Primary livelihood activity of the women of Lapai Local Government area is Trading with 42% of the women respondents engaging in different form of business example which are grains trading, provision selling, Fish selling, Material clothing's trading, and cashew nut selling among others. The analysis according to 30% of respondents reveals Farming as a primary livelihood activity engaged in by the women, different animal farming was noted by the respondents as a livelihood activity majority of them engage in either in commercial quantity or for immediate household usage. The types of animal farming mentioned were goats, chickens and fish farming also the women of Lapai Local Government area are also known for their Water melon and vegetable farming. The respondents who are Artisans according to the survey are 24%, with 4% of the remaining respondents serving as civil servants within the different sectors of the government in Lapai local government area.

Table 4.11 Primary Livelihood activity

Livelihood activity	Frequency	Percent (%)
Artisan	88	24
Civil servant	15	4
Farming	116	31
Trading	150	41
Total	369	100

4.4.2 Secondary livelihood activities

The analysis carried out reveals through Figure 4.2 the other forms of livelihood activities engaged in by the respondents within Lapai Local Government area, from the analysis 85% of the respondents cited Trading as the secondary forms of livelihood activities they engage in aside their major primary livelihood activities, majority of them claim to have shops, where they trade in different products while some claim to trade in goods that do not necessarily require ownership of shops. Animal rearing was also noted by 84% of the respondents as one of the major secondary livelihood activities in Lapai local government area, with the women keeping domestic animals both for commercial and household purpose.

The findings from this survey shows that 56% of respondents engage in sanitary works within the Local Government, activities like sweeping and cleaning of the university facilities, works in the hospitals, clinic and also cleaning of the different government owned offices in Lapai Local Government area. Also 82% of the women in Lapai Local government engage in other forms of secondary livelihood activities some of which are stated as discovered from the field survey, the women of Muye/Egba ward, were discovered to engage in fishing activities being that Muye/Egba is a riverine area. The analysis reveals that 68% of the respondents are artisans who engage in different production activities like hair making, makeup artists. Commercial Harvesting, Commercial rice processing, Oil making are other ways the women of Lapai local government acquire livelihood, as all this activities are carried out for financial returns.

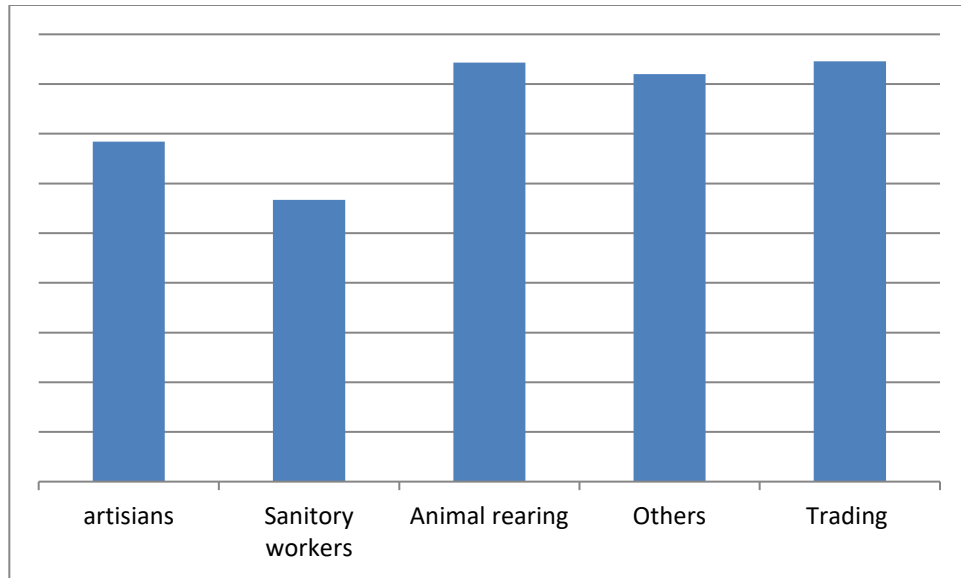


Figure 4.2 Secondary Livelihood Activities of Lapai women.

Source: Author's Survey (2020)

4.4.3 Challenges encountered

The analysis carried out reveals in detail the challenges faced by the women of Lapai Local Government in respect to their livelihood activities, Figure 4.3 shows that 70% of respondents through multiple selection cited lack of infrastructural facilities as a major limiting factor in their livelihood activity, examples of this infrastructural facilities challenges include inadequate electric supply as this affects the level of productivity especially with to livelihood activities that require electric supply to function properly. Livelihood activities like rice processing, Grinding of other produce, Hair saloon amongst others are greatly limited as a result of this.

Environmental challenges was mentioned by 58% of the respondents as the trials they face regarding their livelihood activities, they noted that flooding and erosion have adverse effect on their livelihood, activities like farming and fishing tends to suffer greatly whenever this environmental challenges occur. Consequently, 70% of the respondents

multiply selected lack of financial resources as one great challenge facing their livelihood activities, as majority of them have no stable source of financial income, so they tend to depend on earning a living commercially. Gender bias was mentioned by 34% of the respondents as a challenge facing the women in the study area, according to them the patriarchy nature of the study area and the expectations that women should not participate in certain livelihood activities within the study area, limits women to a restricted number of livelihood activities they can engage in.

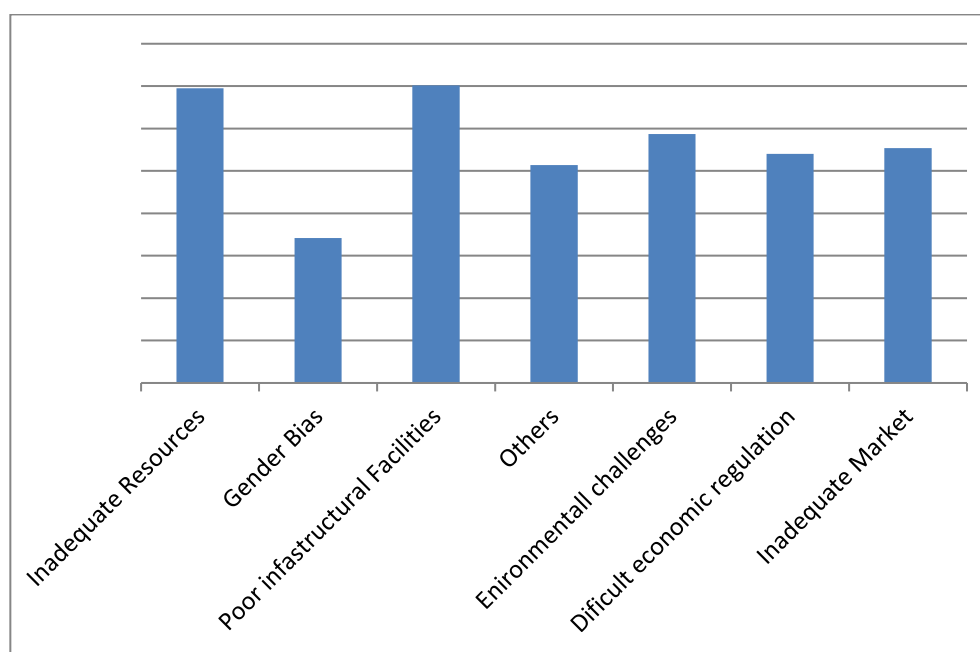


Figure 4.3 Challenges encountered in livelihood activities

Source: Author's Survey (2020)

4.4.4 Environmental factors that affect livelihood activities

The environmental factors that affect the livelihood activities of women were analyzed using Linkert scale and presented in table 4. 12 according to the response from the respondents. The survey shows flooding and erosion with a mean figure of 3.86 and 3.81 respectively, which according to the scale of measurement of this study means “Strongly Agree”. Inferences can then be drawn from the analysis that the respondents are in agreement that Flooding and erosion affect the adequate functioning of their livelihood activities. The analysis further reveals that Pollution with a mean figure of 3.78 was “agreed” to be one of the Environmental factor also that leads to vulnerability, Pollution in the aspect of soil pollution which leads to lose of farm produces and water pollution which occur in the Muye/Egba ward affecting the livelihood sources of women who engage in fishing activities. Climate change and Drought according to the conducted survey have a mean value of 2.25 and 2.01 respectively which imply that the respondents where “neutral” as it regards it being a factor that causes vulnerability in livelihood activities of the women in Lapai Local Government.

Table 4.12 Environmental Factors that Influences Livelihood Vulnerability

Environmental Factors	Strongly Agree(5)			Agree(4)		Neutral(3)		Disagree(2)		Strongly Disagree(1)		Mean
	N	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Flood	369	138	37.4	119	32.2	36	9.8	76	20.6	0	0	3.86
Climate change	369	26	7	36	9.8	46	12.5	156	42.3	105	28.5	2.25
Erosion	369	109	29.5	132	36.6	83	22.5	30	8.1	12	3.3	3.81
Pollution	369	50	13.6	130	35.2	163	44.2	26	7	0	0	3.55
Drought	369	0	0	59	16	61	16.5	75	20.3	174	47.2	2.01

Note: Strongly Disagree (1:1.80), Disagree (1.80: 2.60) Neutral (2.60: 3.40), Agree (3.40: 4.20) strongly agree (4.20: 5.00)

4.4.5 Political factors that affect livelihood activities

The analysis reveals in Table 4.13 the political elements that have different effect on the livelihood activities that are engaged in by the women of Lapai local government area. The analysis reveals irresponsible politicians, lack of continuity and gender Bias with the mean value of 4.02, 3.76 and 3.52 as “Agree” by the respondents to be the political factors that affect their livelihood activities. According to the respondents this resulted in situation of uncompleted and abandoned projects resulting to vulnerability in their livelihood activities. Conversely exploitative government policies and difficult regulation with a mean value of

3.15 and 2.9 when analysed have the respondents “Neutral” as it regards the factors affecting their livelihood activities.

Table 4. 13 Political Factors that Influences Livelihood Vulnerability

Political Factors	Strongly Agree(5)		Agree(4)		Neutral(3)		Disagree(2)		Strongly Disagree(1)		Mean	
	N	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N		%
Exploitative Govt policies	369	92	24.9	74	20.1	60	16.3	83	22.5	60	16.3	3.15
Irresponsible politicians	369	112	30.4	175	47.4	58	15.7	24	6.5	0	0	4.02
difficult Regulations	369	57	15.4	36	9.8	172	46.6	22	6	82	22.2	2.9
Lack of continuity	369	73	19.8	210	56.9	32	8.7	32	8.7	22	6	3.76
Gender bias	369	87	23.6	93	25.2	135	36.6	32	8.7	22	6	3.52

Note: Strongly Disagree (1:1.80), Disagree (1.80: 2.60) Neutral (2.60: 3.40), Agree (3.40: 4.20) strongly agree (4.20: 5.00)

4.4.6 Social factors that affect livelihood activities

Social factors that lead to the vulnerability of livelihood activities of the Lapai women were noted and analysed based on the response from survey using the using the Linkert scale to determine the individual mean, this allows adequate determination of their rank as regards to them affecting livelihood activities. Lack of adequate facilities was ranked highest with it having a mean value of 4.08 which implies that the mean response as regards to lack of facilities causing livelihood vulnerability is Agree, this implies that lack of facilities plays a major role in livelihood vulnerability. Corruption and lack of trust had a mean response of 4.04 and 4.05 respectively using the scale for this research to rank it, this means “agreement”. The analysis reveals that insecurity and gender issue with mean response of 3.99 and 3.79 indicate agreement that they are factors that lead to vulnerability of livelihood activities. Equally inferences can be drawn as regards the social factors analyzed for this study that the responses agree that they expose their livelihood activities to stress and shocks they may not be able to recover from, leading to livelihood vulnerability.

Table 4.14 Social Factors that Influences Livelihood Vulnerability

Social factors	Strongly Agree(5)			Agree(4)		Neutral(3)		Disagree(2)		Strongly Disagree(1)		Mean
	N	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Lack of facilities	369	158	42.8	136	36.9	45	12.2	8	2.2	22	6	4.08
Insecurity	369	180	48.8	63	17.1	67	18.2	59	16	0	0	3.99
Lack of trust	369	106	28.7	124	33.6	101	27.4	32	8.7	6	1.6	3.79
Corruption	369	139	37.7	140	37.9	55	14.9	35	9.5	0	0	4.04
Lack of social order	369	163	44.2	148	40.1	4	1.1	20	5.4	34	9.2	4.05

Note: Strongly Disagree (1:1.80), Disagree (1.80: 2.60) Neutral (2.60: 3.40), Agree (3.40: 4.20) strongly agree (4.20: 5.00)

4.5 Impacts of Social Capital on Livelihood Security

4.5.1 Tangible impact of social capital on livelihood security

The cumulative mean average was determined from analysis of the study to be 3.5, this was used as a benchmark against individual variables to determine the variables with much more social capital impact as it regards the livelihood security of women in Lapai Local Government Area. As revealed on table 4.15 social capital has a very high tangible impact on women livelihood security in aspect of Food Products, with a mean value of 4.21 which is above the cumulative mean of tangible social capital impact for this study, inferences can be made that through the social networks activities and engagements of women they enjoy easy and cheap access to food produces.

The analysis reveals that ownership of sewing machine has improved tremendously as it regards to the livelihood activities of women in Lapai Local Government Area with a mean value of 4.00 which is positively above the cumulative benchmark of 3.5. The impact of Social Capital is greatly felt in the livelihood activities of women as shown on table 4.15 as it gives easy in access to ownership of Household appliances, grinding machine and landed properties also, with 3.51, 3.79 and 3.73 mean values respectively which are above the cumulative mean of 3.5 for this study.

The analysis carried out for this study indicates on table 4.15 that the impact of social capital on livelihood activities of women in Lapai Local Government area is not strongly felt as it regards to it giving access to residential Building, ownership of automobile and infrastructural facilities as the individual mean variables are 2.79, 2.87 and 3.38 respectively which are below the cumulative benchmark for the survey. This implies that compared to other variables, social capital has more impact on security of livelihood activities of women in Lapai Local Government area on the variables with mean value above 3.5

Table 4. 15 Tangible Impact of Social Capital

Tangible Impacts	Strongly Agree(5)			Agree(4)		Neutral(3)		Disagree(2)		Strongly Disagree(1)		Mean
	N	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Food Products	369	200	54.2	115	31.2	6	1.6	26	7	22	6	4.21
Residential												
Building	369	42	11.4	109	29.5	32	8.7	102	27.6	84	22.8	2.79
Sewing Machine	369	146	39.6	120	32.5	81	22	0	0	22	6	4.00
Land	369	93	25.2	162	43.9	75	20.3	0	0	39	10.6	3.73
Household Appliances	369	97	26.3	70	19	138	37.4	51	13.8	13	3.5	3.51
Infrastructural Facilities	369	42	11.4	144	39	95	25.7	88	23.8	0	0	3.38
Automobile												
Vehicle	369	74	20.1	48	13	108	29.3	35	9.5	104	28.2	2.87
Grinding Machine	369	113	30.6	118	32	112	30.4	0	0	26	7	3.79
Water Facilities	369	80	21.7	80	21.7	111	30.1	75	20.3	23	6.2	3.32
Farming Tools	369	61	16.5	146	39.6	82	22.2	33	8.9	47	12.7	3.40

4.5.2 Intangible impact of social capital on livelihood security

Analyzing the intangible impact of social capital on livelihood security of women in Lapai Local Government area, table 4.16 reveals that large market opportunity is the highest variable from the analysis carried out with a mean value of 4.26, the study was also able to establish that social capital impact the livelihood activities in the area of access to information which had a mean value of 4.15, the value when put against the benchmark of 3.40 shows the high rate of impact social capital has on creating security of the women livelihood.

The analysis reveals easy access to loans, environment security are also areas that social capital provides a source of livelihood security with the mean value of 4.05 and 4.03 respectively, this mean value further shows a glaring high difference against the cumulative benchmark of social capital impact adopted for this research.

The table 4.16 further shows that health services and job opportunities are the least variable where social capital has impact on the livelihood activities of women in Lapai Local Government area, with the mean value of 2.59 and 3.09 respectively, this because the mean values are below the 3.40 benchmark for this research. From the table therefore it shows that social capital impact more intangible variable as it regards the women of Lapai Local government with majority of the variable having a mean value higher than the cumulative average of 3.40.

Table 4. 16 Intangible Impacts of social capital

Intangible Impacts	Strongly Agree(5)			Agree(4)		Neutral(3)		Disagree(2)		Strongly Disagree(1)		Mean
	N	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Access to information	369	156	42.3	139	37.7	54	14.6	12	3.3	8	2.2	4.15
Improve standard of living	369	141	38.2	99	26.8	59	16	35	9.5	35	9.5	3.75
Increase Trust	369	88	23.8	121	32.8	81	22	79	21.4	0	0	3.59
Ease access to loan	369	130	35.2	130	35.2	105	28.5	4	1.1	0	0	4.05
Large market Job opportunities	369	136	36.9	192	52	41	11.1	0	0	0	0	4.26
Environment security	369	84	22.8	40	10.8	129	35	57	15.4	59	16	3.09
Health services	369	131	35.5	139	37.7	77	20.9	22	6	0	0	4.03
Equal opportunities	369	0	0	109	29.5	101	27.4	59	16	100	27.1	2.59
Improves Social Status	369	123	33.33	105	28.46	53	14.39	18	4.88	70	18.97	3.52
	369	16	4.3	185	50.1	90	24.4	52	14.1	26	7	3.41

4.6 Summary of Findings

a) Women participation in social network groups.

The study was able to establish that majority (96%) of the women respondents engage in the activities of social network groups in Lapai Local Government area, the primary form of social groups as discovered from the survey are Profession based, Religious based, Market based, ward based and Gender based.

The analysis also shows that 35% of the respondents have being participating in social network activities between 7 – 10 years, with 34% of respondents participating in social network activities for above 10 years. Also the frequency of social network meeting shows that 43% of the social groups hold their meetings on a monthly basis while 30% of them hold their group meetings on a weekly basis. The social network groups according to 38% of the respondents have a participation of between 16 – 25 people, with 36% mentioning that they have 26 – 35 participants in their social networks groups.

b) Factors that influence participation in social networks

The research was able to establish financial benefit, which has a mean value of 4.37 to be the major factor inducing women participation in social network activities in Lapai Local Government area.

The analysis shows that Business growth and social security are also of the reasons women engage in social network activities, as this network of relationship built within the social networks opens up more opportunities for their businesses. The analysis further reveals Social ties and Recognition to be the least reason for people engagement in social network activities.

c) Prevalent livelihood activities of women

The research reveals trading with total response of 42% to be the prevalent primary livelihood activities of the women in Lapai Local Government area, closely followed by Farming 30% and then Artisan with 24%, also animal rearing was discovered to be the most prevalent secondary livelihood activity engaged in by the women of Lapai Local Government area followed by trading.

The major problem encountered by the respondents in their livelihood activities was the issue of inadequate resources and poor infrastructural facilities, according to 70% of respondents within the Local Government area, poor electrical supply and bad roads within the wards and neighborhoods were among the main challenges stated. The issue of flood, erosion, irresponsible politicians, Gender bias and corruption was also discovered to be part of the problems facing women livelihood activities.

d) Impacts of social capital on livelihood security

The research was able to establish that social capital has more impact on the intangible aspect of women livelihood activities in Lapai Local Government with a cumulative mean of 4.26 than the tangible impact which had 4.16 in the respect to their livelihood, this is because majority of the variable used to measure the intangible impact of social capital have their mean value above the cumulative mean. The area of access to information, larger market opportunities, improve in standard of living, Easy food produce, ownership of Sewing and Grinding machines are the areas the women have experience security of livelihood due to participation in social network activities within the Lapai Local Government area.

Access to easy health services, ownership of Residential buildings and automobile vehicles were aspect that the research shows social capital to have not made major impact.

CHAPTER FIVE

5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusion

This study was able to analyse the impact social capital has in ensuring livelihood security of women in Lapai Local Government area. The influence of social capital is felt keenly in the area of Livelihood activities of participating women in social network activities, with social capital being a derivative of their social networks, the women of Lapai Local Government area the research was able to establish to have different types of social capital due to their participation in social network activities within the Local Government.

The study was also reveals that through social capital, women of the Local Government Area have been able to acquire different form of tangible and intangible benefits which creates security for their livelihood activities. The research was able to establish that social capital helps in improving ownership of sewing and grinding machines which are a means of livelihood for the women in the study area, it was also discovered that access to information and loans which is used to expand the livelihood and secure other tangible properties is a benefit of social capital. Therefore, the benefits of social capital on livelihood security of women in Lapai Local Government cannot be over emphasis is as it also creates equal opportunities, improves social status as well as providing environmental security especially in the neighborhood due to the neighborhood ties social network activities breed.

5.2 Recommendations

The study makes the following recommendation from the research findings to improve and ensure that social capital have greater impact on livelihoods activities of the women in Lapai Local Government area.

1. The women of the Local Government Area should be enlightened more about the part social capital can play in securing their livelihood and they should also be encouraged to make deliberate efforts to secure social capitals through social networks that could become a source of livelihood support.
2. The States and Local Governments should put in place appropriate policies that would support and promote the effectiveness of social capital as a means of securing women livelihood.
3. The formation of more social networks should be encouraged and their activities should be given full support especially as it regards to the women livelihood activities.
4. The Local Government should formally recognize these different social groups and put in place mechanisms that would constantly check the activities of these social networks.

5.3 Contribution to knowledge

This research shows that there are different forms of social networks available within Lapai Local Government Area, and 55% of the total respondents belong to at least four of the social networks within the study area namely gender based, profession based, ward based, religious based, and other form of social networks. The availability of these forms of social

capital statistically proves they have become a means of reducing vulnerability of women livelihood activities as revealed by the 4.37 mean value who have had financial benefits from these social networks. The research established further with a mean weighted value of 4.21, that business growth have become a key influencing factor for women participation as Social capital aids the sustenance and growth of their livelihood activities, From the findings of this research other women can be encouraged to generate social capitals from them self's through participation in social network activities due to the benefits they can derive from it as it regards ensuring security for their livelihood activities.

This research shows the important role social capital can play as it regard reducing the vulnerability level of women who engage in livelihood activities and further ensuring their livelihood activities have the capacity to withstand challenges it is faced with.

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APPENDIX

FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

CONSENT FORM. A research is been carried out on the **Impact of Social Capital on Livelihood Security of Women in Lapai Local Government Area** by Emmanuel Tsado, a M.TECH student of Federal University of Technology Minna. You are to serve as a key stakeholder in this research and therefore your response is required on some questions. The information collected for this research is confidential and used for academic purpose only.

SECTION A: DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

1. Ward
2. Age of respondent a) 18-27 b) 28-37 c) 38-37 d) 48-57 e) Above 58
3. Educational level. a) Primary b) Secondary c) Tertiary d) Informal
4. Household size a) 1-4 b) 5-8 c) 9 - 12 d) 13 – 16 e) 17 – 20 f) Above 20
5. Length of Stay in neighborhood a) less than 1year b) 1-3years c) 4-6years d) 7-9years e) Above 9years
6. Average monthly income of respondents. a) less than ₦15, 000 b) ₦16,000 – ₦30,000 c) ₦31,000 – ₦45,000 d) ₦46,000 – ₦60, 0000 e) ₦61,000- ₦75,000 f) above ₦75,000

SECTION B: LIVELIHOOD CHARACTERISTICS

7. Which primary livelihood activity do you engage in a) Trading b) Artisan c) Civil Servants d) Farming

8. Which other livelihood activities do you engage in?

s/no	Secondary livelihood activities	Tick ()
1	Artisans	
2	Trading	
3	Animal rearing	
4	Sanitary workers	
5	Others	

9. How much are you able to save monthly. a) less than ₦2, 000 b) ₦2,000 – ₦5,000 c) ₦5,010 – ₦8,000 d) ₦8,010 – ₦11, 0000 e) ₦11,010- ₦15,000 f) above ₦15,000

10. Have you faced any challenge regarding your livelihood activity? a) Yes b) No

11. If yes, which challenge have your livelihood activity faced a) inadequate resources b) poor infrastructures c) Gender Bias d) Environmental Challenges e) Economic regulation

12. Rate the extent to which these environmental factors has made your livelihood activities vulnerable

Environmental factor	5	4	3	2	1
Flood					
Climate change					
Erosion					
Drought					
Pollution					

5 = Highly vulnerable

2= vulnerable

4 = Moderately vulnerable

1= Not vulnerable

3= Neutral

13. Rate the extent to which these Social factors has made your livelihood activities vulnerable

Social factor	5	4	3	2	1
Insecurity					
Lack of Trust					
Lack of facilities					
Lack of social order					
Corruption					

5 = Highly vulnerable

2= vulnerable

4 = Moderately vulnerable

1= Not vulnerable

3= Neutral

14. Rate the extent to which these political factors has made your livelihood activities vulnerable

Political factor	5	4	3	2	1
Exploitative govt policies					
Irresponsible politicians					
Difficult regulations					
Lack of continuity					
Gender bias					

5 = Highly vulnerable

2= vulnerable

4 = Moderately vulnerable

1= not vulnerable

3= Neutral

SECTION C: SOCIAL CAPITAL CHARACTERISTICS

- 15. Do you belong to any social network group a) yes b) No
- 16. What types of social network do you belong to you in Lapai LGA? a) Market based b) Religious Group c) Ward Based d) Gender based e) Professional based f) others.....
- 17. How many social groups are you part of? a) 1 b) 2 c) 3 d) 4 e) Above 5
- 18. How long have you been a member of a social group? a) less than 2year b) 2 - 6years c) 7- 10 years d) Above 10years
- 19. What is the number of people membership in your social network? a) below 6 people b) 6 - 15 people c) 16 - 25 people d) 26- 35 people e) Above 36 people
- 20. How is the frequency of meeting of the social group? a) Daily b) Weekly c) Monthly d) Every 2 Month
- 21. Rate the extent to which these factors influence your participation in social network activities

Factors	5	4	3	2	1
Financial benefits					
Business Growth					
Social Security					
Asset Acquisition					
Employment Opportunity					
Environmental Security					
Social Ties					
Recognition					

5 = Strongly agree
 4 = Agree
 3= Neutral

2= Disagree
 1= Strongly disagree

22. Rate the Intangible impact of social capital on livelihood security

Intangible Impact of social capital	5	4	3	2	1
Access to information					
Improve standard of living					
Increase Trust					
Ease access to loan					
Large market					
Job opportunities					
Environment security					
Health services					
Equal opportunities					
Improves Social Status					

5= strongly agree 2= Disagree
 4= Agree 1= Strongly Disagree
 3= Neutral

23. Rate the tangible impact of social capital on livelihood security

Tangible Impact of social capital	5	4	3	2	1
Food Produce					
Residential Building					
Sewing Machine					
Land					
Household appliances					
Infrastructural Facilities					
Automobile vehicle					
Grinding Machine					
Water Facilities					
Farming equipment					

5= strongly agree 2= Disagree
 4= Agree 1= Strongly Disagree
 3= Neutral