



EMPOWERING WOMEN'S POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT VIA HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY: A STUDY OF MOSOP IN KHANA AND GOKANA LGAS

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Abstract: This study investigates the role of human rights advocacy in enhancing women's political awareness in Khana and Gokana Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Rivers State, with a particular focus on the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP). The research aims to understand how MOSOP's advocacy initiatives contribute to increasing women's political participation in the selected regions. The study specifically examines MOSOP's role in promoting women's political awareness, capacity building, and addressing barriers to women's political participation. A descriptive survey design was employed, with a population of 3,200 respondents comprising members of the Federation of Ogoni Women's Associations (FOWA) as an affiliate of MOSOP. The sample size of 320 respondents was determined using Taro Yamane's model and selected through proportionate and simple random sampling techniques. Data was collected using a structured questionnaire titled "Assessing the Impact of Advocacy Programs on Economic Empowerment and Sustainable Growth in Khana and Gokana Local Government Areas" (AIAPEESGKGLGA). The questionnaire's reliability was confirmed with a coefficient of $r = 0.65$ through the test-retest method. Data were analyzed using mean and standard deviation. The findings indicate that MOSOP's advocacy significantly enhances women's political awareness and participation by providing knowledge, skills, and access to resources. However, challenges such as patriarchal norms, limited access to education, and economic barriers persist. The study recommends intensified awareness campaigns, financial literacy training, and community-based decision-making initiatives to further empower women and promote gender equality in political participation in Khana and Gokana LGAs.

Keywords: Enhancing, Political, Awareness Human, Rights, Advocacy & MOSOP

Introduction

Women's political awareness is a critical component of promoting gender equality and democratic participation, yet in many parts of the world, including Nigeria, women remain marginalized in political processes. Despite increasing global advocacy for women's rights and participation, many women still face significant barriers to political engagement, especially in rural and underrepresented communities. In the Niger Delta region of Nigeria, particularly in the Khana and Gokana Local Government Areas (LGAs), women are often excluded from political decisionmaking, largely due to social, cultural, and economic factors that hinder their involvement in governance. This situation is compounded by limited access to information about their political rights and opportunities.

The Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP) has played a significant role in advocating for the rights of the Ogoni people, including the promotion of women's rights within this community. However, despite MOSOP's efforts, there remains a lack of comprehensive studies on how human rights advocacy, specifically through MOSOP, can enhance women's political awareness in the Khana and Gokana LGAs. Previous studies have often focused on broader political participation or human rights advocacy, but few have explored the intersection of these areas regarding women's political consciousness in specific local contexts such as Khana and Gokana. This research seeks to address these gaps and provide a deeper understanding of the role that human rights advocacy can play in empowering women politically.

Statement of the Problem

Women in the Khana and Gokana LGAs of Rivers State, Nigeria, continue to face significant challenges in participating fully in political processes. Despite human rights advocacy efforts by groups like MOSOP, there is insufficient understanding of how these efforts influence women's political awareness in these areas. This lack of awareness stems from a combination of factors, including inadequate education, limited access to political information, cultural constraints, and a lack of specific programs that target women's empowerment in governance. While MOSOP has been at the forefront of advocating for human rights in the region, its role in raising political awareness among women has not been thoroughly investigated. Therefore, there is a need to explore how MOSOP's advocacy can be leveraged to enhance women's political awareness in Khana and Gokana.

Aim and Objectives of the Study

The aim of this study is to investigate how human rights advocacy, particularly through MOSOP, can enhance women's political awareness in the Khana and Gokana LGAs. This research seeks to understand the mechanisms of human rights advocacy that can facilitate increased political participation for women in these regions. Specifically to:

1. Investigates the role of MOSOP in advocating for women's political awareness in Khana and Gokana LGAS.
2. Assess the role of MOSOP in capacity building for women's political rights in Khana and Gokana LGAS.
3. Identify the barriers to women's political participation in Khana and Gokana LGAS and how MOSOP's advocacy could help overcome them.

Research Questions

1. To what extent do MOSOP's human rights advocacy programmes influence women's political awareness in Khana and Gokana LGAs?
2. To what extent do MOSOP's international advocacy programs through capacity building influence women's political awareness in Khana and Gokana LGAs?
3. What are the main barriers preventing women from engaging in political activities in these areas, and how can MOSOP's advocacy mitigate these challenges?

Significance of the Study

This study is significant for several reasons. First, it will provide new insights into the intersection of human rights advocacy and women's political empowerment in Nigeria, specifically in the Khana and Gokana LGAs. By focusing on MOSOP's efforts, this research will highlight the role of grassroots human rights organizations in promoting political awareness among women in rural communities. Second, the findings will contribute to the broader discourse on gender equality and political participation in Nigeria, offering practical recommendations for policymakers, NGOs, and advocacy groups seeking to enhance women's involvement in politics. Lastly, the study will fill a gap in the existing literature by examining the specific challenges and opportunities faced by

women in the context of MOSOP's advocacy, offering a model for similar communities in other parts of the world.

Methodology

This study employed a descriptive survey design with a population of 3,200 respondents from 63 communities in Khana and 17 communities in Gokana Local Government Areas of Rivers State. The 3,200 respondents consisted of 2,000 members of Federation of Ogoni Women's Associations (FOWA) as an affiliate of the MOSOP advocacy programs organized in communities in Khana L.G.A. and 1,200 members of MOSOP advocacy programs organized in communities in Gokana L.G.A. of Rivers State. FOWA is a women's organization within MOSOP that focuses on promoting the rights and interests of Ogoni women, particularly in the areas of environmental justice, political and economic rights. The respondents were identified through the local government council, which provided information on the number of MOSOP advocacy programs organized in their communities. The sample size for the study were 320 respondents, determined using the Taro Yamane model of sample size determination. To select the 320 FOWA members, a proportionate sampling technique was used to choose 24 communities out of 63 and two kingdoms in Khana, according to MOSOP classifications, as well as 8 communities out of 17 and one kingdom in Gokana Local Government Area, resulting in a total of 32 communities sampled. Ten respondents were chosen from each of the selected communities using a simple random sampling technique, bringing the total number of respondents to 320. This comprised approximately 240 respondents from Khana and 80 respondents from Gokana. The instrument used to gather information for the study was a structured questionnaire, which was administered by the researcher to respondents in their respective communities. The questionnaire was titled "Assessing the Impact of Advocacy Programs on Economic Empowerment and Sustainable Growth in Khana and Gokana Local Government Areas" (AIAPEESGKGLGA). The validation of the instrument was carried out through a critical evaluation of the questionnaire by the researcher's supervisor and other experts in the field of Adult and Community Education in the Department of Educational Foundations. The test-retest method was used to assess the reliability of the instrument, and a reliability coefficient of $r = 0.65$ was obtained, confirming that the instrument was reliable. The research questions were analyzed using the mean and standard deviation

RESULTS

Research Question one: To what extent do MOSOP's human rights advocacy programmes influence women's political awareness in Khana and Gokana LGAs?

Table 1: Mean Ratings of FOWA's Responses on the Extent to Which MOSOP's Human Rights Advocacy Programs Influence Women's Political Awareness in Khana and Gokana LGAs

		Khana LGA	Remarks	Gokana	Remarks n= 240	LGA			
n= 80									
S/N	Statement Items	Mean		Std.		Mean		Std.	
1	MOSOP's advocacy programs increased my knowledge of my political rights	2.82	0.77	High Extent	2.81	0.81	High Extent		
2	MOSOP's advocacy programs influenced your interest in political participation (e.g., voting, attending political meetings)?	2.93	0.75	High Extent	2.78	0.89	High Extent		

3	Have MOSOP's human rights advocacy programs empowered you to challenge political discrimination against women	2.84	0.77	High Extent	2.83	0.82	High Extent
4	To what extent have MOSOP's programs enhanced your confidence to contest for political positions	2.73	0.63	High Extent	2.76	0.89	High Extent
5	How effective are MOSOP's human rights advocacy programs in educating women about governance and decision-making processes	2.80	0.87	High Extent	2.81	0.87	High Extent
6	Have MOSOP's human rights advocacy programs empowered you to challenge political discrimination against women	2.75	0.75	High Extent	2.77	0.89	High Extent
7	To extent has MOSOP's human rights advocacy programs educating women within the voting age encourage to vote during election	2.66	0.76	High Extent	2.86	0.85	High Extent
8	To extent has MOSOP's human rights advocacy programmes have had a positive impact on your political awareness and participation as a woman?	2.82	0.86	High Extent	2.76	0.85	High Extent
9	To extent has MOSOP's advocacy programmes have empowered you and increased your self-confidence in participating in political activities	2.47	0.96	Low Extent	2.75	0.65	High Extent
10	To what extent do you agree that MOSOP's advocacy programmes have provided you with access to information on political issues and women's rights?	2.84	0.96	High Extent	2.78	0.88	High Extent
Grand Mean		2.77	0.81	High Extent	2.79	0.84	High Extent

Source: Research's Field Result, 2025

The results presented in Table 1 provide insights into the extent to which the human rights advocacy programmes of the Osob People's Slaves Movement have impacted women's political awareness in Khana and Gokana Local Government Areas. The first item in the table shows that the Osob People's Slaves Movement's advocacy programmes have significantly increased women's knowledge of their political rights, with average ratings of 2.82 in Khana and 2.81 in Gokana. This indicates that women in both local areas acknowledge the role of these programmes in enhancing their understanding of their rights. In terms of political participation, the results show that the Osob People's Slaves Movement's advocacy programmes have significantly impacted women's interest in voting and attending political meetings. The average rating of 2.93 in Khana indicates a slightly higher impact compared to Gokana (2.78), although both are within the high range category. The data also reveal that the Osob People's Slaves Movement's programmes have empowered women to challenge political discrimination to a large extent, with average ratings of 2.84 in Khana and 2.83 in Gokana. This suggests that advocacy programmes have been successful in encouraging women to resist discrimination and assert their political rights. Confidence in running for political office is another important aspect of political awareness. Mean scores of 2.73 in Khana and 2.76 in Gokana suggest that MOSOP programmes have contributed to building women's confidence in running for political office, albeit with slight differences between the two localities. In terms of education on governance

and decision-making, the results show that MOSOP programmes in the area of human rights advocacy are seen as effective, with mean ratings of 2.80 in Khana and 2.81 in Gokana. This suggests that women have gained knowledge of political structures and processes through these initiatives. In addition, MOSOP programmes have been effective in encouraging women of voting age to participate in elections. Mean scores of 2.66 in Khana and 2.86 in Gokana suggest that while the impact is high in both localities, the impact is slightly stronger in Gokana. Another noteworthy finding is that the overall impact of OMS advocacy programmes on women's political awareness and participation is rated as high, with mean scores of 2.82 in Khana and 2.76 in Gokana. This shows that the programmes have positively shaped women's political awareness and participation. However, the perception of empowerment and self-confidence in political participation shows some differences. In Khana, the mean score of 2.47 indicates a lower extent of impact, while in Gokana, the score of 2.75 falls within the high range category. This suggests that while OMS programmes have been effective overall, more efforts may be needed in Khana to enhance women's confidence in political activities. Access to information on political issues and women's rights due to OMS advocacy programmes is rated as high in both localities, with mean scores of 2.84 in Khana and 2.78 in Gokana. This highlights the importance of information dissemination in enhancing women's political awareness. The overall mean score of 2.77 in Khana and 2.79 in Gokana confirms that OPSM's human rights advocacy programmes have significantly impacted women's political awareness in both localities. While the overall impact is positive, specific areas such as building self-confidence in Khana require further attention to maximise the effectiveness of these programmes.

Research Question Two: To what extent do MOSOP's international advocacy programs through capacity building influence women's political awareness in Khana and Gokana LGAs?

Table 2: Mean Ratings of FOWA's Responses on the Extent to Which MOSOP's international advocacy programs through capacity building influence women's political awareness in Khana and Gokana LGAs

S/N	Statement Items	Khana	Remarks Gokana	Remarks LGA	LGA n= 240		n= 80	
					Mean	Std.	Mean	Std.
11	To what extent have MOSOP's international advocacy programs improved your understanding of women's Extent political rights?	2.84	0.93	High	2.74	0.86	High	
12	How effectively have MOSOP's capacity-building programs empowered you to participate in political Extent discussions and decision-making?	2.82	0.86	High	2.76	0.85	High	
13	To what extent has MOSOP's international advocacy programs influenced your willingness to engage in political Extent activities (e.g., voting, political campaigns, or leadership)?	2.81	0.86	High	2.84	0.85	High	
14	Have MOSOP's capacity-building programs increased your knowledge about political leadership and Extent governance structures?	2.96	0.82	High	2.79	0.83	High	
15	MOSOP's international advocacy programs have provided you with opportunities to network and learn Extent from international organizations and experts	2.65	0.83	High	2.81	0.87	High	
16	How much do you agree that MOSOP's capacity-building programs have enhanced your skills and Extent knowledge on women's rights and political participation	2.82	0.83	High	2.81	0.85	High	
17	To what extent do you agree that MOSOP's international advocacy programs have provided you Extent with access to international resources, such as funding and technical assistance?	2.82	0.86	High	2.76	0.85	High	
18	How much do you agree that MOSOP's capacity-building programs have increased your confidence in Extent	2.81	0.86	High	2.84	0.85	High	

advocating for women's rights and political participation?

19	To what extent have MOSOP's advocacy initiatives influenced policy changes that support women's LGAs?	2.82	0.86	High	2.76	0.85	High
20	To what extent do you agree that MOSOP's international advocacy programs have improved your understanding of international human rights instruments and their application to women's rights?	2.82	0.86	High	2.76	0.85	High
Grand Mean		2.82	0.86	High	2.79	0.85	High

Source: Research's Field Result, 2025

The results presented in Table 2 provide insights into the extent to which the OSUPE international advocacy programmes through capacity building have impacted women's political awareness in Khana and Gokana LGAs. The results indicate that the OSUPE international advocacy programmes have significantly improved women's understanding of their political rights, with average ratings of 2.84 in Khana and 2.74 in Gokana. This indicates that the programmes have been successful in educating women about their rights, although the impact appears to be slightly stronger in Khana. The capacity building initiatives have also played a crucial role in empowering women to participate in political discussions and decision-making processes. The average ratings of 2.82 in Khana and 2.76 in Gokana demonstrate a high level of impact in both LGAs, reinforcing the effectiveness of these initiatives in promoting political participation. Women's willingness to participate in political activities such as voting, political campaigning and community leadership has been positively impacted by the OSUPE international advocacy. Responses show a high level of impact, with average ratings of 2.81 in Khana and 2.84 in Gokana, indicating that the programmes effectively encouraged active political participation. Increased knowledge of political leadership and governance structures is another notable impact of the capacity building programmes of the UZOMB. With average scores of 2.96 in Khana and 2.79 in Gokana, the results suggest that these programmes provided valuable insights into political systems, with slightly higher impact in Khana. Opportunities to network and learn from international organisations and experts were facilitated through the advocacy efforts of the UZOMB. Women in Gokana (mean = 2.81) reported a slightly higher level of impact than women in Khana (mean = 2.65), suggesting that these opportunities may be more accessible or better used in Gokana. Strengthening skills and knowledge of women's rights and political participation is another key outcome of the programmes. With average ratings of 2.82 in Khana and 2.81 in Gokana, responses confirm that capacity building initiatives have contributed significantly to women's empowerment in both local areas. Access to international resources, such as funding and technical assistance, was rated highly, with average scores of 2.82 in Khana and 2.76 in Gokana. This indicates that the advocacy efforts of the Osup Survival Movement have been successful in connecting women with external support, further enhancing their political participation. Confidence in advocating for women's rights and political participation has also been enhanced through these programmes. Responses indicate a high level of confidence among women, with average ratings of 2.81 in Khana and 2.84 in Gokana, reinforcing the positive impact of capacity building initiatives. The advocacy efforts of the Osup Survival Movement have influenced policy changes that support women's political participation in both local areas. Average scores of 2.82 in Khana and 2.76 in Gokana indicate that these initiatives have had a tangible impact on the political landscape, promoting gender inclusivity. Furthermore, the programmes improved women's understanding of international human rights instruments and their application to women's rights. With mean scores of 2.82 in Khana and 2.76 in Gokana, the results indicate that these programmes have successfully bridged

the gap between global advocacy efforts and local political awareness. The overall mean scores of 2.82 in Khana and 2.79 in Gokana confirm that the international advocacy programmes of the Uzumbi People Survival Movement through capacity building have had a significant impact on women's political awareness in both localities. While the overall impact is significant, some areas, such as networking opportunities and access to international resources, show slight differences between the two localities, suggesting potential areas for further enhancement.

Research Question Three: What are the key factors of community involvement in advocacy programmes that influence economic empowerment and sustainable growth in Khana and Gokana LGAs?

Table 3: Mean Ratings of the key factors of community involvement in advocacy programmes that influence economic empowerment and sustainable growth in Khana and Gokana LGAs?

S/N	Statement Items	Khana	Remarks Gokana	Remarks LGA	LGA n= 240		n= 80	
					Mean	Std.	Mean	Std.
21	Limited access to education and information about political processes and rights.	2.43	0.87	Low	2.81	0.84	High	Extent
22	Patriarchal norms and cultural expectations that discourage women's participation in politics.	2.75	0.85	High	2.83	0.85	High	Extent
23	Your level of awareness enhanced economic growth initiatives in your community	2.57	0.87	High	2.56	1.11	High	empowerment and sustainable
24	Limited access to economic resources, such as funding and employment opportunities.							
25	Community participation in decision-making processes influence the success of advocacy programs for economic empowerment	2.80	0.76	High	2.39	1.04	Low	Extent
26	Advocacy programs encourage collaboration between members and local government authorities to drive sustainable growth	2.65	0.83	High	2.68	0.94	High	community
27	Significantly access to funding and financial resources has impact on the level of community involvement in economic empowerment	2.76	0.85	High	2.82	0.86	High	Extent
28	Fear of violence, intimidation, and harassment that discourages women from participating in politics.	2.75	0.65	High	2.47	0.96	Low	Extent
29	cultural beliefs and traditional values align with advocacy programs promoting economic growth in Khana and Gokana LGAs	2.78	0.88	High	2.84	0.96	High	Extent
30	Limited access to information about political processes, policies, and programs.	2.76	0.85	High	2.82	0.86	High	Extent
Grand Mean				High			High	
		2.43	0.74	Extent	2.42	0.84	Extent	

Source: Research's Field Result, 2025

The results presented in Table 3 provide insights into the key drivers of community engagement in advocacy programmes that impact economic empowerment and sustainable growth in Khanna and Gokana LGAs. Limited access to education and information about political processes and rights appears to be a significant challenge in Gokana, with an average rating of 2.81, indicating a significant impact. In contrast, the impact in Khanna was

rated lower at 2.43, indicating that while the challenge exists, it is less pronounced compared to Gokana. This highlights the need for increased educational and media outreach, especially in Gokana. Patriarchal norms and cultural expectations that discourage women's political participation are identified as major barriers in both LGAs. Average ratings of 2.75 in Khanna and 2.83 in Gokana confirm that cultural factors continue to limit women's engagement in political and economic empowerment initiatives. Addressing these entrenched community norms is crucial to enhancing community engagement in advocacy programmes. Awareness plays a key role in economic empowerment and sustainable growth. Respondents in both localities rated this factor highly, with average scores of 2.57 in Khanna and 2.56 in Gokana. This indicates that awareness campaigns and advocacy programmes have positively impacted economic initiatives, but there is still room for improvement in deepening community engagement. Community engagement in decision-making processes significantly impacts the success of advocacy programmes for economic empowerment. In Khanna, this factor received a high average rating of 2.80, underscoring the importance of inclusiveness in governance and development efforts. However, in Gokana, the average rating of 2.39 indicates a lower extent of impact, suggesting that decision-making structures may be less accessible or inclusive. Advocacy programmes that encourage collaboration between community members and local government authorities are seen as highly effective in both localities, with average ratings of 2.65 in Khanna and 2.68 in Gokana. This suggests that strengthening partnerships between communities and local governments is essential to drive sustainable growth and promote economic empowerment initiatives. Access to finance and financial resources is another critical factor influencing community participation in advocacy programmes. Respondents in both localities rated this factor highly, with average scores of 2.76 in Khanna and 2.82 in Gokana, indicating that financial constraints remain a major barrier. Expanding financial support mechanisms and improving access to funding opportunities could enhance participation in economic advocacy initiatives. Fear of violence, intimidation and harassment discourage women from political participation. Responses indicate that this is a more important issue in Khanna (mean = 2.75) than in Gokana (mean = 2.47), where it was rated low. While respondents in Gokana see this factor as less influential, the relatively high score in Khanna suggests that security concerns continue to be a deterrent to women's political and economic participation. Cultural beliefs and traditional values that are consistent with advocacy programmes that promote economic growth were rated highly in both local areas, with an average of 2.78 in Khanna and 2.84 in Gokana. This indicates that in many cases, advocacy programmes have successfully integrated with existing cultural frameworks to promote sustainable development. Limited access to information about political processes, policies and programmes was rated highly in both local areas, with an average score of 2.76 in Khanna and 2.82 in Gokana. This underscores the need to improve communication channels to ensure that community members are well informed about political and economic opportunities. The overall average score of 2.43 in Khanna and 2.42 in Gokana suggests that community engagement in advocacy programmes has a significant impact on economic empowerment and sustainable growth in both local areas. However, the varying impact of factors such as access to education, participation in decision-making and security concerns highlights the need for targeted interventions to address the specific challenges in each local area. Strengthening awareness programmes, improving access to financial resources, and fostering collaboration between community members and policymakers will be essential to drive sustainable growth and empower the economy through advocacy initiatives.

Discussion of results

The Impact of Human Rights Advocacy Programs in the Oromia People's Survival Movement on Women's Political Awareness

The results from Table 1 indicate that the human rights advocacy programmes of the Ozombo People Survival Movement (OPSM) contributed significantly to increasing women's political awareness in Khana and Gokana Local Government Areas. The high mean ratings of political rights awareness (2.82 in Khana and 2.81 in Gokana) are consistent with previous studies that highlight the role of civil society organisations in promoting political awareness among marginalised groups (Tripp et al., 2009). Similarly, studies by Okeke (2018) on political participation in Nigeria confirm that grassroots advocacy enhances women's political participation, especially in rural communities. The findings that the Ozombo People Survival Movement programmes influenced women's interest in voting and attending political meetings (2.93 in Khana and 2.78 in Gokana) are consistent with the findings of Agbalagobe (2010), who confirmed the impact of advocacy on increasing women's electoral participation in Nigeria. Furthermore, women's empowerment to challenge political discrimination (2.84 in Khana and 2.83 in Gokana) is consistent with Tamale's (2020) assertion that human rights campaigns enhance women's confidence in demanding political inclusion. However, disparities in self-confidence in competing for political office (2.47 in Khana versus 2.75 in Gokana) suggest regional differences in advocacy effectiveness. This finding is similar to the findings of Nwankwo (2017), who noted that socio-cultural factors influence women's political aspirations differently across regions.

Impact of international advocacy for the survival of the Oromia people through capacity building

The results in Table 2 show that the OMS international advocacy programs had a significant impact on political awareness in both localities. The improved understanding of political rights (2.84 in Khana, 2.74 in Gokana) echoes the findings of Ray (2017), who argued that international cooperation promotes political enlightenment among women in developing countries. Additionally, capacity-building initiatives that promote women's participation in political discussions (2.82 in Khana, 2.76 in Gokana) echo similar findings in studies by Cornwall and Goetz (2005), who linked training programs to increased female political participation. The slightly higher impact in Khana for knowledge of governance structures (2.96) compared to Gokana (2.79) echoes studies by Waylen (2013), who found that targeted leadership training has varying effects based on local social and political dynamics. It is worth noting that networking and learning opportunities showed a stronger effect in Gokana (2.81) than in Khana (2.65), which is consistent with the findings of Kabir (2005), who suggested that external connections enhance the effectiveness of women's advocacy in politically conservative environments. The overall mean of 2.82 in Khana and 2.79 in Gokana confirms that international advocacy programs significantly enhanced women's political awareness. However, as highlighted by the studies of Tro and Parisi (2019), differences in access to international networks may affect the sustainability of these improvements.

Community Participation and Its Impact on Economic Empowerment and Sustainable Growth

Table 3 highlights the critical role that community engagement plays in advocacy programmes for economic empowerment. The findings that restricted access to education is a greater challenge in Gokana (2.81) compared to Khana (2.43) are consistent with studies by Moser (2012), who emphasized the association between education and women's economic independence. The patriarchal norms that limit women's participation (2.75 in Khana, 2.83 in Gokana) support the arguments made by Engelhart and Norris (2003), who found that deeply held cultural beliefs hinder gender equality in political and economic spheres. The fear of violence that affects women's participation (2.75 in Khana, 2.47 in Gokana) reflects the findings of Ballington (2008), who identified security concerns as major barriers to women's political participation. The importance of advocacy programmes in promoting sustainable growth, with high ratings for collaboration between communities and local authorities

(2.65 in Khanna, 2.68 in Gokana), is consistent with research by Sen (1999), who argued that inclusive governance enhances economic empowerment. Similarly, studies by Chant (2016) reinforce the importance of financial access (2.76 in Khanna, 2.82 in Gokana) in supporting women's economic participation. The overall mean scores of 2.43 in Khanna and 2.42 in Gokana suggest that while community engagement in advocacy has a significant impact on economic empowerment, disparities in access to education, participation in decision-making, and security concerns require tailored interventions to enhance effectiveness. **conclusion**

Implemented by the Oromo People Survival Movement (OPSM) has played a significant role in enhancing women's political awareness and participation in Khana and Gokana Local Government Areas. The outcomes of the human rights advocacy initiatives implemented by the Oromo People Survival Movement have also contributed positively to women's understanding of their political rights, increased their participation in elections, and empowered them to challenge political discrimination. The international advocacy implemented by the Oromo People Survival Movement through capacity building programs has also enhanced women's political participation by equipping them with the necessary knowledge, skills, and access to international resources. In addition, community engagement in advocacy programs has a significant impact on economic empowerment and sustainable growth, with key factors such as access to education, financial resources, and cultural barriers playing critical roles. While the overall impact of these programs is positive, some challenges, including patriarchal norms, security concerns, and limited access to decision-making structures, continue to hinder women's full participation. Therefore, a more targeted approach is needed to address these barriers and maximize the effectiveness of advocacy initiatives.

Recommendations

1. Given the findings on limited access to education and political information, it is recommended that the Urumqi People's Survival Movement and other advocacy groups intensify awareness-raising programmes, especially in the Gokana Local Government Area, to ensure that women and other marginalized groups have access to accurate and timely political information.
2. To overcome economic barriers, advocacy programmes should include financial literacy training and facilitating access to finance. Establishing microfinance initiatives and economic support programmes that focus on women can help promote economic empowerment and sustainable growth.
3. Efforts should be made to encourage community participation in decision-making processes, especially in Gokana Local Government Area, where influence is less. Awareness programmes should also be designed to challenge patriarchal norms and promote gender equality in political and economic participation.

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