



International Journal of Financial Management and Economics

P-ISSN: 2617-9210
E-ISSN: 2617-9229
IJFME 2018; 1(1): 94-99
Received: 07-07-2018
Accepted: 13-08-2018

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Factors influencing sustainable livelihood of weaker section women in Bangalore city

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.33545/26179210.2018.v1.i1.279>

Abstract

A livelihood is made up of the skills, assets, and activities that are required to produce a source of income. Sustainability is the ability to withstand and recover from stresses and shocks while maintaining or improving skills, assets, and activities today and in the future without jeopardising the future of the living or existence. There is a scarcity of research on sustainable livelihoods in the Indian context, where the sustainability of the weaker sections is measured and remedial action is performed. The aim of the study is to identify the various factors influencing the sustainable livelihood of women of the weaker section of the society. Descriptive research strategy was used; the data was collected through a well-structured questionnaire. Cochran formula of unknown population was used and a sample size of [N=100] respondents was considered. Women who are working for the last 5 years under women entrepreneurs were selected on convenient sampling basis. The questionnaire was pre-tested with 12 women, and only minor modifications were made. Scale validity and reliability of the questionnaire was affirmed. The factors influencing sustainable livelihood were analysed using the AMOS R software- Confirmatory factor analysis. Descriptive statistics were used to summarize the responses of the women and it is seen that the women have strongly agreed to Vulnerability as one of the factors, which hinders their sustainable livelihood. The results of the study Women's long-term survival is influenced by factors such as health and food security. Credits and family expenses have a negative impact on women's capacity to keep a steady income.

Keywords: Weaker section, women, sustainability, sustainable livelihood

1. Introduction

Briefly, the sustainable livelihoods method helps to paint a more accurate picture of what it takes to feed the world's poorest people ^[1]. In order to organise and explain the links between the variables that restrict or enhance the options for earning a livelihood, the goal of this project has been established ^[2]. With the assistance of this tool, it may be easier to plan for the future and assess the impact of present activities on the preservation of livelihoods.

When considering long-term development from the perspective long-term aims, scope, and objectives, it is referred to as using a sustainable livelihoods approach to long-term development ^[3]. These ideals, in conjunction with policies and institutions, serve as the foundation for the activity of this movement. It is useful in the planning of existing and future development initiatives, whether large and small ^[4].

In terms of identifying realistic priorities for activities that are based on the views and interests of those who are impacted, the approach to sustainable livelihoods facilitates this process; yet, it is not a panacea in and of itself ^[5].

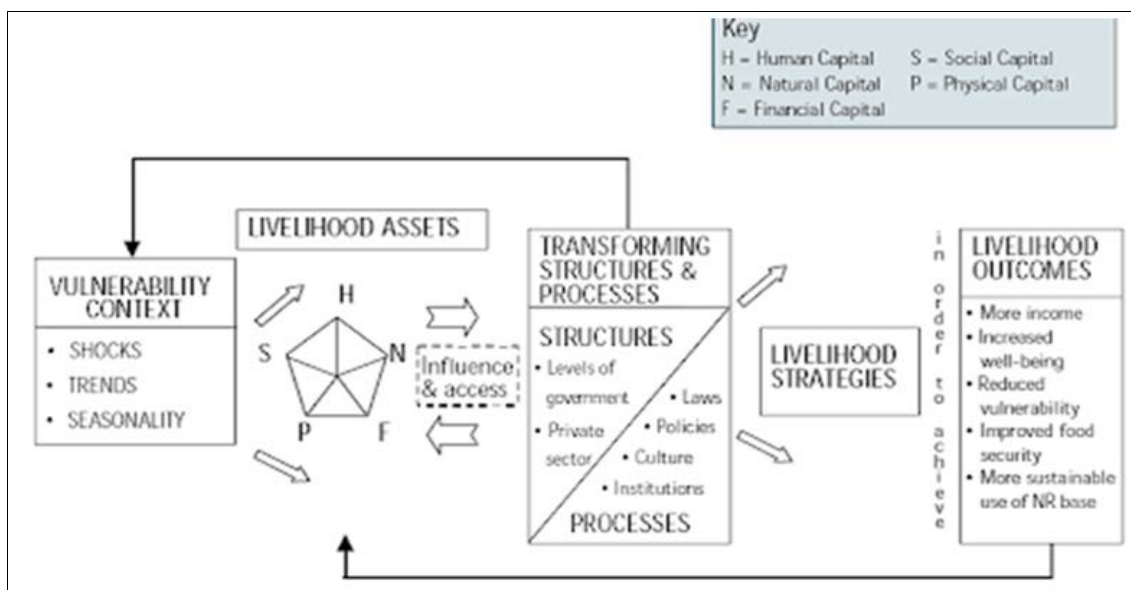
2. Review of literature

1. William Solebury (2017) ^[6] The Bridging Research programme of the Overseas Development Institute seeks to learn more about the world's most pressing problems, and this Working Paper is a component of that endeavour. Skills, belongings (both financial and social resources), and a means of subsistence are all regarded to be necessary components of a long-term way of life. The ability to withstand and recover from stresses and shocks, as well as the ability to preserve or grow capacities and traits in the present and the future, all while not jeopardising the natural resource base, is what defines a life as being viable (DFID, 1999a).

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2. Gesese S. Kune and Ignatious Mberengwa (2012) [7] It was determined, via the use of a case study methodology, the importance of off- and non-farm activities in achieving sustained rural household livelihood protection in Gubalafto Woreda. Primary data was gathered using a variety of methods, including questionnaire assessments, focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and field observations. According to the findings of the study, pre- and off-farm activities are the result of shocks caused by rainfall variability, soil degradation, and technical defects, rather than the result of beneficial benefits of agricultural development or output. Because the activities lacked the essential development assistance, the majority of survey respondents reported that their income from agriculture and off- and on-farm enterprises was insufficient to meet their basic requirements. These activities remained excellent backup strategies for maintaining household livelihood security, according to the findings of the study, which led to a call for greater government involvement in order to allow all of the recommended measures to be implemented in order to achieve long-term household livelihood security.
3. Vibha Pingle, (2005) [8] Microbusinesses may provide a means for women living in underprivileged regions to provide for themselves and their families by generating income. The fact that many women start microbusinesses does not diminish the fact that only a small proportion of these women are successful in producing a living from their endeavours. The following are the two questions that have arisen as a result of this: To begin, what are the factors and techniques that enable some women to be successful in their microbusiness while others are unsuccessful? Second, what social policies could be implemented to aid other low-wage women in attaining a living wage?

4. Moses Acholo, Nora McNamara, and Stephen Morse (2009) [9]. Sustainable Livelihood Analysis (SLA) is a technique that has been used by a number of large international organisations to incorporate development efforts into their operations since the 1990s. It is described as a social unit's ability to develop and improve its assets and abilities through time while dealing with shocks and stresses, according to the definition. Identifying a person's most valued assets, their patterns through time and space, the presence and impact of shocks and stresses (environmental, physical, and social) on these assets are all goals of the Strategic Asset Locating Approach (SLA). Following that, actions are put in place to address any vulnerabilities and improve people's lives, such as income diversification, while taking the larger context into mind (political, legal, fiscal, structural, and so on). A realistic system for evidence-based intervention with a great deal of rationality, as a consequence, may be classified as SLA. This is especially true in a rapidly changing setting with limited resources to support development activities. Implementing SLA, on the other hand, is not as simple as it appears, and there are significant parallels between it and the long-standing issues of making policy more evidence-based in general. A surprising number of attempts have been made to take a more objective position as a result of this phenomenon. Whether SLA is feasible and has the potential to aid individuals in industrialised countries in making meaningful changes This article examines SLA from the perspective of a specific location: Nigeria's middle belt, where it is being put into practise. "...refocus our international development efforts on eradicating hunger and encouraging economic growth that is poverty-friendly."



Source: <http://www.managingforimpact.org/tool/sustainable-livelihoods-security-framework>

Fig 1: Sustainable Livelihood Framework

Gap in the Research: Ignatious Mberengwa and Gesese S. Kune (2012) [7] have undertaken studies on sustainable livelihoods in the international setting; nevertheless, further research is needed. The role of off-farm and non-farm

activities in achieving sustained rural household livelihood protection in Gubalafto Woreda was investigated using a case study approach. Stephen Morse, Nora McNamara, and Moses Acholo are three of the most talented people in the

world (2009) Since the 1990s, a number of large international organisations have used the Sustainable Livelihoods Analysis (SLA) technique to incorporate development projects into their operations and strategies. There is a paucity of study on sustainable livelihoods in the Indian context, where the viability of the weaker portions is assessed and remedial action is taken as a result of the findings.

3. Objectives

- To identify the various factors influencing the sustainable livelihood of women of the weaker section of the society

4. Research methods

Table 1: Research methods

Research Type	Descriptive research: investigate the factors influencing sustainable livelihood
Data collection tools	There are two parts to the questionnaire. Part One: Information about the respondent's demographic characteristics (Multiple choices) Part 2: Questions about the Sustainable livelihood
Data collection Techniques	Women of the weaker section of the society
Sampling: Population	Working women of weaker section under women entrepreneurs in Bangalore
Determination of sample size	Cochran Formula of Unknown Population = 95% confidence level and 10% margin of error, sample size of 100 respondents
Sampling Frame	Women who are working for the last 5 years under women entrepreneurs
Sampling Technique	Convenient sampling by selecting women who are working under MSME registered women entrepreneurs
Sample	For the study, 112 questionnaires were circulated, and 100 valid replies were chosen.
Pilot Study	The questionnaire was pre-tested with 12 women, and only minor modifications were made.
Plan of Analysis	EFA –AMOS R Software

5. Discussion and Results

5.1 Demographic Profile of the women

A majority of 39% women are in the age group of 36 to 45 years, 30.9% women employees were in the age group of 46 to 55 years. A very small percentage of 8.1% women were above 55 years of age. This shows that the women entrepreneurs did not employ women who are above 55 years and a very less amount of women are employed who are in the age group of 18 to 25 and 26 to 35 years.

Educational qualification, A majority of 50% women employees had completed their of PUC or intermediate courses, 22% had completed their graduation 10% had completed their SSLC. A very small percentage of 6% and

10% had completed their post-graduation and technical degrees. All the women employees who are both graduates and technical degree have been employed in the medium scale industry with the highest post.

A majority of 69.1% women are married, 13.4% women employees are unmarried, 6.8% are divorced and 10.6% are widows. If we see the age of the women employees the majority of them are in the group of 36 to 55 year and 36 to 55 years obviously they will be married and a very small percentage of women are in 18 to 36 years therefore very small percentage are unmarried.

Further, the Family profile of the respondents was illustrated as follows:

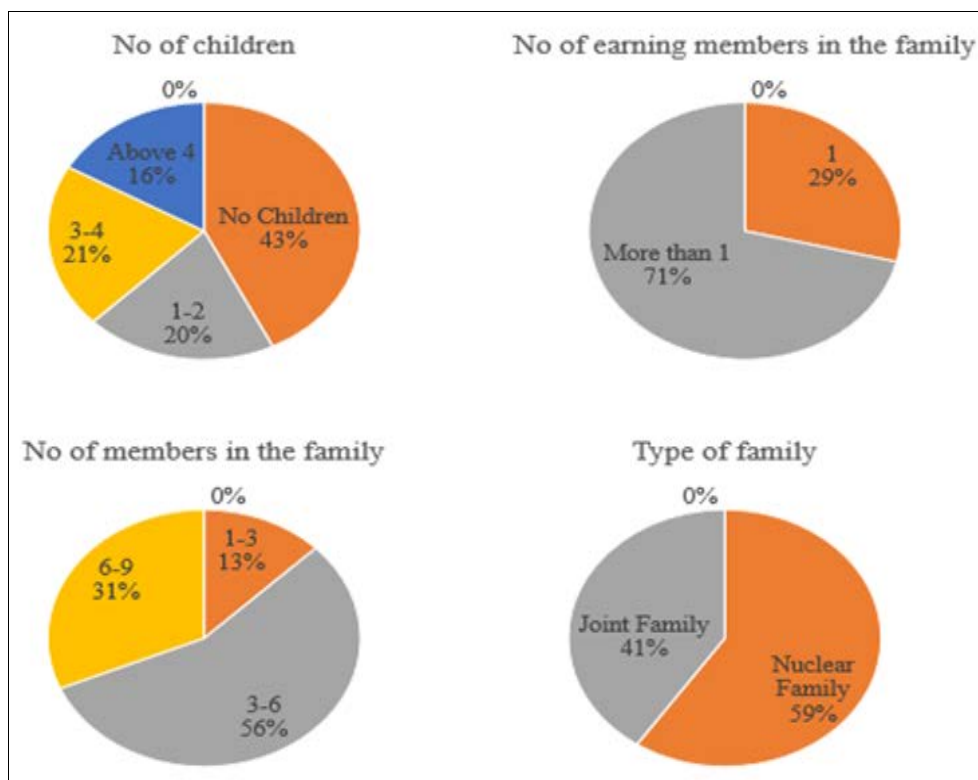


Fig 2: Family Profile of the respondents

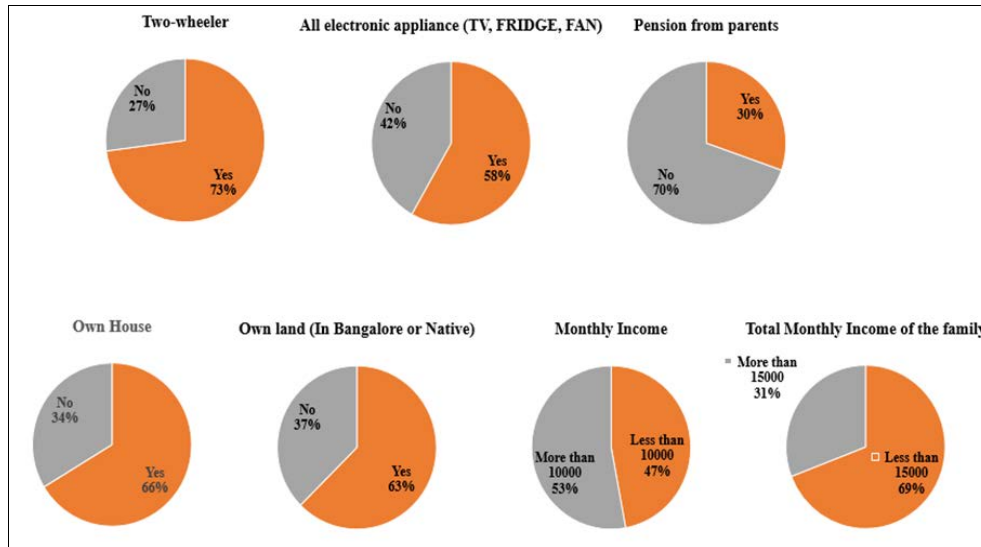


Fig 3: Economic profile of the respondents

5.2 Descriptive statistics for various factors of Sustainable livelihood

Table 2: Descriptive statistics for various factors of Sustainable livelihood

Descriptive Statistics				
	Mean	Std. Deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis
Use of services and institutions	2.95	0.78	-0.27	1.25
Family assets	1.633	0.77	1.284	1.611
Employment Information	4.553	0.624	-1.138	0.365
Living approaches	2.75	0.6794	0.131	0.0628
Right to use to natural resources	3.73	0.67	-0.4	0.42
Family expenses	4.57	0.65	-1.35	1.19
Credit and investments	2.3	0.48	-0.36	0.88
Susceptibility	4.48	0.64	-1.09	1.04
Food Safety	2.57	0.76	0.15	0.8
Well-being	3.89	0.9	-0.56	-0.02
Female Power	3.69	0.92	-0.48	0.1

The mean score for access to services and institutions was 2.95, which is less than 3, indicating that there is disagreement in the range of responses. The standard deviation is smaller than 1.000, showing that there is less variance in the replies of female workers, implying that all female employees have similar attitudes on access to services and institutions. Skewness is negative, indicating that the bulk of replies are to the right or toward agreement, and Kurtosis is within the permissible range of - 3 to +3 as specified in the third chapter Ali Faizan criteria.

In the case of working information, three issues were identified: if they can work longer hours, whether they can work overtime, and whether they can work on weekends and holidays. The women employees responded strongly, so the mean scores for all items are around 4.5, indicating that they strongly agree that they are able to work for the family or future sustainability, and the standard deviation is 0.624, indicating that most of the women have the same opinion about working information. Skewness is -1.138, showing that the replies are skewed to the right, indicating a high level of agreement. Kurtosis is within the allowed range.

In the case of access to natural resources, a mean score of more than 4 was obtained for all of the sustainability items except for sustainability 21, which discusses solar panels - the mean score for solar panels is 1.48, indicating that not many female employees have solar panels in their homes, and the total mean scores for access to natural resources are

higher. 3.73 shows a neutral to agreement range of answers, 0.67 is the standard deviation, and skewness and kurtosis are within acceptable limits.

In the situation of credit and saving, the majority of respondents denied that they have any sort of savings or that they have any loan on their head, thus it can be seen that in the case of credit and saving, the replies are mainly neutral to a disagreement or negative reactions. As a result, the mean score is less than 3.00, which is an excellent indication of long-term livelihood.

Overall, the poorest members of society have neutral food security. The standard deviation is 0.76, showing that women have similar views on food security. Skewness and kurtosis are within acceptable limits.

When questioned, a mean score of 3.69 was achieved, indicating that women are gaining a stronger place in society and that they themselves believe that yes, they are gaining some power, demonstrating sustainability. The standard deviation of 0.9, which is close to one, suggests that there is a small variance in women's replies in the case of women power sustainability.

5.3 Factors influencing sustainable livelihood

- **Null Hypothesis:** There is no impact of various factors of sustainable Livelihood
- **Alternate Hypothesis:** There is an impact of various factors of sustainable Livelihood

Table 3: Model fit – Factors influencing sustainable livelihood

CMIN					
Model	NPAR	CMIN	DF	P	CMIN/DF
Independence model	9	460.146	139	0.000	3.010
Acceptance Criterion				<0.05	<3.000
RMSEA, GFI					
Model	RMSEA	GFI	AGFI	PGFI	
Independence model	0.048	0.821	0.885	0.884	
	<0.10	>0.80	>0.80	>0.80	

Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) is used when the researcher makes an a priori assumption regarding the relationship between the experimental and underlying variables based on hypothetical knowledge, empirical study, or both. It assists the researcher in validating an instrument and confirming the factor structure hypothesized (Janssens *et al.*, 2008) [12]. The factor loadings are used to understand the regression coefficients. When the CFA and construct validity tests are combined, the researcher may assess the measurement quality (Hair *et al.*, 2010) [13].

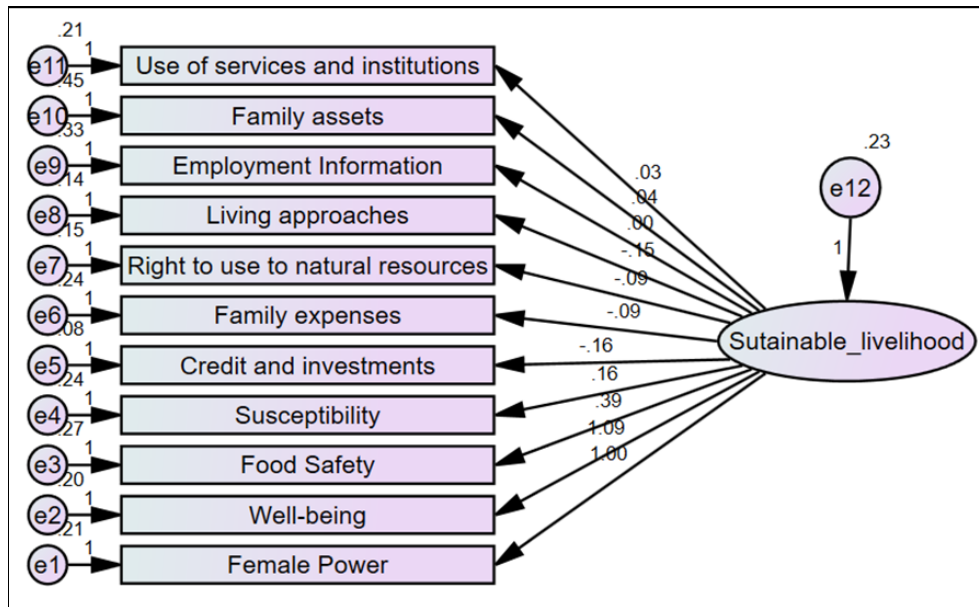


Fig 4: Factors influencing sustainable livelihood

Table 4: Factors influencing sustainable livelihood

			Estimate	Estimate	S.E.	C.R.	P
Sustain_11	<---	Sustainable_livelihood	1	0.725			
Sustain_10	<---	Sustainable_livelihood	1.092	0.758	0.293	3.729	***
Sustain_9	<---	Sustainable_livelihood	0.392	0.343	0.142	2.761	***
Sustain_8	<---	Sustainable_livelihood	0.164	0.158	0.123	1.327	***
Sustain_7	<---	Sustainable_livelihood	-0.165	-0.277	0.072	-2.272	***
Sustain_6	<---	Sustainable_livelihood	-0.088	-0.087	0.119	-0.739	***
Sustain_5	<---	Sustainable_livelihood	-0.088	-0.111	0.094	-0.936	***
Sustain_4	<---	Sustainable_livelihood	-0.146	-0.188	0.093	-1.573	***
Sustain_3	<---	Sustainable_livelihood	-0.001	0	0.139	-0.004	***
Sustain_2	<---	Sustainable_livelihood	0.038	0.027	0.163	0.233	***
Sustain_1	<---	Sustainable_livelihood	0.027	0.028	0.111	0.243	***

The above Table shows the relationship between the various factors affecting the sustainable livelihoods of the women. It aims to find out which of the actors are most positively contributing to sustainable livelihood

From the above table it can be indicated that

When sustain_10 Well being- positively goes up by 1, sustainability goes up by 0.758 Or 78% which is statistically significant at 0.000 and CR of 3.729. (Co-eff =0.758, Sig=0.000, CR=3.729)

When Sustain_9 positively goes up by 1, sustainability goes up by 0.343 Or 34% which is statistically significant at 0.000 and CR of 2.761. (Co-eff =0.13, Sig=0.000, CR=17.123)

On an overall basis, it can be inferred that the Wellbeing and Food safety factors positively affect the sustainable livelihood of the women. Credits and family expenses inversely affect the sustainable livelihood of the women.

The results of the SEM Analysis indicate that, there is both positive and negative impact of various factors of sustainable Livelihood on the life of women, The Null Hypothesis is rejected.

6. Conclusion

Lifelong strategies are designed to improve the quality of life for those who use them. When deciding on a means of subsistence, it's critical to weigh the pros and cons of various options, including those based on natural resources, those that aren't, as well as those that aren't connected to farms, such as migration and remittances, pensions, and grants, as well as the tradeoffs between intensification and diversification, as well as short-term versus long-term outcomes. It's one of the many problems with development that projects and programmes may assist some while harming others. This is only one of the many difficulties that

arise during the process of growth. More money, better health, and less vulnerability can all result from adopting a more wealthy lifestyle. Food security and sustainable use of natural resources can also be achieved, as well as a return to individual human dignity ^[10]. Some of these findings may clash with one other. It is vital to keep in mind that the sustainable livelihoods plan is merely one way to organise the many issues that plague poverty ^[11].

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