

UNIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, TAMALE

SOCIO – POLITICAL ANALYSIS OF WOMEN INVOLVEMENT IN COMMUNITY
WATER DELIVERY IN THE OFFINSO NORTH DISTRICT OF THE ASHANTI
REGION OF GHANA

UNIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES



MAMOA ELIJAH

UDS/MDM/0413/16

MARCH, 2019

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THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNANCE AND
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PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF
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MARCH, 2019

DECLARATION

Student's Declaration

I hereby declare that this study is my original piece of research and that no part of it has been submitted for another degree in this university or elsewhere. In places where other authors have been cited, due acknowledgements have been made and references made to such authors. I therefore accept responsibility for any error therein.

.....

MAMOA ELIJAH
(UDS/MDM/0413/16)

.....

Date

Supervisor's Declaration

I hereby declare that the preparation and presentation of this thesis was supervised in accordance with the guidelines on supervision of thesis laid down by the University for Development Studies.

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DR. B. A. A. AKANBANG
(SUPERVISOR)

.....

DATE



ABSTRACT

The study examined women participation in the management of community water in the Offinso North District of the Ashanti Region of Ghana. The study was motivated by the fact that not enough literature is available on the subject in Ghana and the Offinso District in particular. The concurrent mixed method design was used for the study. The study population consisted of household heads, staff of CWSA and members of the DWST, assembly members, and members of WATSAN committees. A multistage sampling was used for the study. Structured questionnaires were administered to household heads. Key informant interviews were held with stakeholders such as CWSA, DCE, and DWST leader among others. FGD was conducted with WATSAN committee members. The study revealed that women were motivated to participate in water governance because they want to benefit optimally from water facilities; the need to give back to the community; the prestige women enjoy and the need to satisfy a regulatory requirement. However, women felt intimidated by their male counterparts and also felt the management of water delivery was hijacked by men. Also, low level of education, gossip or intimidation by men and inadequate time were revealed as challenges women actively involved in water management in the OND face. The study recommends among others the organisation of ceremonies to award women for their courage and dedication, organisation of training workshops for women to build their courage, morale as well as their self-esteem; as ways of overcoming the challenges they face in order to ensure that there is inclusive development in the communities.



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For any other people who have given me the love, morale, kindness and more so inspiration to successfully complete this course work especially all those who assisted in the collection of data for this research, I say thank you.



DEDICATION

This research is dedicated to my Lord and Personal Saviour Jesus Christ for making me an example of his Amazing Grace.

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List of Abbreviations

CWSA	Community Water and Sanitation Agency
DCE	District Chief Executive
DA	District Assembly
DAAD	German Academic Exchange Service
DPO	District Planning Officer
DRA	Demand Responsive Approach
EA	External Agencies
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GAD	Gender and Development
GRWP	Ghana Rural Water Project
IWRM	Integrated Water Resource Management
MP	Member for Parliament
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MWS	Ministry of Water and Sanitation
MWRWH	Ministry of Water Resources Works and Housing
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organization
NWP	National Water Policy
OECD	Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development



OND	Offinso North District
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations International Children Emergency Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
VIP	Village Improved Projects
WHO	World Health Organization
WVG	World Vision Ghana
WATSAN	Water and Sanitation



Contents	Page
DECLARATION.....	ii
ABSTRACT.....	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	iv
DEDICATION.....	v
List of	
Abbreviations.....	viii
List of tables.....	xiv
List of figures.....	xv
CHAPTER ONE.....	1
INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.0 Background.....	1
1.1 Research Problem.....	4
1.2 Research Questions and Objectives.....	6
1.3 Research Questions.....	6
1.3.1 Main Research Question.....	6
1.4 Research Objectives	7
1.5 Justification for the Study.....	7
1.6 Scope of the Study.....	8
1.7 Limitations of the Study	9
1.8 Organization of the Report	9
CHAPTER TWO.....	10



THEORETICAL, CONCEPTUAL AND EMPIRICAL REVIEW OF LITERATURE ON WOMEN INVOLVEMENT IN RURAL WATER MANAGEMENT	10
2.0 Introduction	10
2.1 Theoretical Underpinnings of Women Participation in Water Governance.....	10
2.1.1 The Ladder of Citizen Participation	10
2.1.1.1 Forms of Participation	14
2.1.2 Gender and Development Approach	16
2.2 History of Women Participation in Water Governance.....	18
2.3 Approaches of Women Participation in Water Governance in the World.....	20
2.4 Approaches of Water Supply in Ghana	23
2.5 Institutional Framework for Community Water Supply in Ghana	24
2.5.1 Ministry of Water and Sanitation.....	25
2.5.2 Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development.....	25
2.5.3 Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA).....	25
2.5.4 District Assemblies.....	26
2.5.5 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).....	26
2.5.6 Private Sector.....	26
2.5.7 Water Users	27
2.6 Gender Approach in IWRM	27
2.7 Case Study One	28
2.8 Case Study Two.....	29
2.9 Gender, Water and Development	29
2.10 Benefits of Women Participation in Water Management and Sustainability	32





2.11 Constraints for Women’s Participation in Water Management.....	36
2.12 Conceptual Framework.....	38
2.13 Conclusion.....	40
CHAPTER THREE.....	41
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	41
3.0 Introduction	41
3.1 Study Area Profile	41
3.2 Research Design	43
3.3 Target Population	45
3.4 Sample Size Determination.....	46
3.5 Sampling Procedure.....	48
3.6 Data Type, Source and Collection.....	50
3.6.1 Types of Data.....	50
3.6.2 Data Collection Instruments	50
3.6.2.1 <i>Questionnaire</i>	50
3.6.2.2 <i>Interviews</i>	51
3.6.2.3 <i>Focus Group Discussion (FGD)</i>	51
3.7 Data Analysis and presentation.....	52
3.8 Validity and Reliability	52
3.9 Ethical Consideration	53
CHAPTER FOUR.....	55
RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS.....	55



4.0 INTRODUCTION.....	55
4.1 Demographic Profile of Respondents.....	55
4.1.1 Distribution of Respondents by Gender	55
4.1.2 Distribution of Respondents by Age	55
4.1.3 Distribution of Respondents by Educational Background	56
4.1.4 Distribution of Respondents by Occupation.....	57
4.1.5 Distribution of Respondents by Marital status	58
4.1.6 Distribution of Respondents by Ethnic Groups.....	59
4.1.7 Distribution of Respondents by their Sources of Water	60
4.1.8 Distribution of Respondents' Knowledge on Water Management Bodies.	61
4.2 Women Involvement in the Planning and Management of Water.....	62
4.2.1 Women Involvement in the Planning and Management of Water.....	62
4.2.2 Stages of Women Participation at in Community Water Delivery	64
4.2.2.1 Planning Stage	64
4.2.2.2 Implementation.....	66
4.2.2.3 Management	66
4.3 Socio-Cultural, Political and Economic Factors Affecting Women Participation in Water Governance.....	69
4.3.1 Cultural Factors	71
4.3.2 Gender Stereotypical Norms	72
4.3.3 Poverty and Income Levels of Women	73



4.3.4 Low Level of Education	73
4.3.5 Gossips Against Women Who Participate in Water Management Position	76
4.3.6 Serving as the Traditionally Accepted.....	77
4.4 Motivating Factors for Women Active Involvement in Water Governance in the District	78
4.4.1 To serve their Community.....	79
4.4.2 Enjoyment Water Facility in the Community.....	80
4.4.3 Adhere to Regulatory Standards.....	81
4.4.4 The Prestige Women Enjoy in the Community	82
4.5 The challenges faced by women actively involved in water management in the OND.....	84
4.5.1 High level of illiteracy	84
4.5.2 Timing	84
4.5.3 Intimidation and Gossip.....	87
CHAPTER FIVE.....	89
SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	89
5.0 Introduction	89
5.1 Summary of Findings	89
5.1.1 Women Involvement in Water Planning and Management.....	89
5.1.2 Socio-Economic Factors Affecting Women Participation in Water Management.....	90
5.1.3 Factors Motivating Women Active Participation in Water Management	90

5.1.4 Challenges Faced by Women Actively Involved in Water Management.....	91
5.2 Conclusion.....	91
5.2.1 Women Involvement in Water Planning and Management.....	92
5.2.2 Socio-Economic Factors Affecting Women Participation in Water Management.....	92
5.2.3 Factors Motivating Women Active Participation in Water Management.....	92
5.2.4 Challenges Faced by Women Actively Involved in Water Management.....	92
5.3 Recommendations	93
5.4 Scope for Future Research.....	94
REFERENCES.....	95
APPENDICES.....	106



List of Tables

Table 2. 1: Pretty’s typology of participation 16

Table 3. 1: Sampled Population of the study.....48

Table 4. 1: Table Age of Respondents 56

Table 4. 2: Occupation of Respondents 57

Table 4. 3: Sources of Water for Respondent 60

Table 4. 4: Factors Affecting Women Participation in Water Governance 70



List of Figures

Figure 2. 1: Eight levels on a Ladder of Citizen Participation.....	12
Figure 2. 2: Framework for Water Supply in Ghana.....	24
Figure 2. 3: Conceptual Framework.....	39
Figure 3.1: The Map of OND, Ghana.....	43
Figure 3. 2: Target Population for the Study.....	46
Figure 3. 3: Sample Size of the Population.....	47
Figure 4. 1: Educational Backgrounds of Respondents.....	56
Figure 4. 2: Marital Statuses of Respondents	58
Figure 4. 3: Ethnic Groups of Respondents	59
Figure 4. 4: Knowledge on Water Management Bodies.....	61



CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Background

Water is life and therefore fundamental for development. In spite of that, challenges associated with getting access to clean and non-contaminated water with inadequate water supply, and sanitation at the domestic level is increasing the poverty gap, gender inequities and aggravating the rate of water related ailment (Gender & Water Alliance, 2006). According to WHO/UNICEF (2008), restricted access to potable water and improved sanitation has resulted to 3.7% of the total world disease stress and 2.2 million fatalities each year, with women and children, who are the weakest segment of our society most, affected especially developing countries.

Although the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 7(c) purport to “halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and sanitation” (UNDP, 2006: p46), it is expected that developing countries especially Sub-Saharan Africa will only achieve the MDGs water objectives by 2040 (Sutton, 2008). Even with the targets achieved, average of 400 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa will still live with limited access to potable water with women and children being the most affected especially rural households (Sutton, 2008). Globally, development initiatives connected to the delivery of essential social services such as roads constructions, educational, health, and water facilities historically has been a bigger hurdle of state actors such as government, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the citizens in general (Tigabu et al.,2013). Water is a basic necessity devoid of which life will not be possible. However, a 2014 review by Marks et al found that access to potable, sustainable and protected water for domestic use



has become a multifarious concern for people in developing countries more specifically in sub-Saharan Africa (as cited in Garcia-Cuera, Berglund & Binder, 2016).

Globally, water inadequacy has been blamed on population explosion, unguarded agricultural methods, breakdown of ozone layers (climate change) and poor maintenance of water facilities (Chifamba et al., 2013; Garcia-Cuera et al., 2016; Kevany et al., 2013).

The prevalence of poverty and lack of sound environmental management has triggered both local and international organizations to refocus their initiatives to address issues of limited water as it is pivotal to sustainable environment (Kevany et al., 2013).

In an attempt to draft a more appropriate and efficient approach to the delivery of water services, CSOs and development partners have prioritised bottom - up participatory frameworks that centred on user active involvement in all steps of project life. The baseline argument is that citizen's involvement in projects maximizes the degree of fruition and the sustainability of the projects executed (Chambers, 1983, 1994; Whyte, 1986; Asamoah, 1998; Rietbergen-McCracken & Narayan, 1998; Good, 1996).

Although, the water concern is noted as an endemic issue for rural settlers, women and girls carry the burden because of their defined gender stereotypical roles, which involve water collection for domestic use (Buckingham, 2000; Rodda, 1993). Women and children as primary water providers in domestic homes had their involvement in education, economic activities as well as in family contact often compromised (Panda, 2007). Availability to water is a necessity to human live, health and wellbeing. Therefore, it is non-negotiable to ensure that people's access to potable water is sustained. As demands on this scarce resource rise, the necessity to explore new and improve ways to water provision has become an urgent concern.



The use of participatory techniques is one of the protocols adopted in Dublin convention (GWP, 2000a, b). The Dublin convention Principle No. 2 states that; Water delivery and its management should anchor participatory approach, involving beneficiaries, development facilitators, and policy-makers at all stages. Thus, whenever potable water is inaccessible, the live of the girls and women were the first to bear the brunt. Based on this appreciation, specific obligations with potable water access and sanitation have been enshrined in the following international human rights conventions: 1. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, adopted in 1979 - article 14 (2); 2. International Labour Organization Convention No. 161 concerning Occupational Health Services, adopted in 1985 - article 5; 3. The Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted in 1989 -articles 24 and 27 (3); and 4. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted in 2006 - article 28. (Bazilli & Maisonet-Guzmán, 2012)

Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) was indicated as the serious method in resolving the endemic worldwide water problems, at the International Conference on Water and Environment in Dublin (GWP, 2000). The underlying principle of IWRM is that it provides sound and sustained ways to utilizing water resources. It focuses on systemically developing, allocating and effectively monitoring water resources (Dungumaro & Madulu, 2003, p 10). The third of the four underlying principles of IWRM is the appreciation that women provide a crucial responsibility in the delivery, management and protection of safe water (GWP, 2000, p 13).

Developing water initiatives and programmes require considerable women's participation in management.

Since Ghana's independence in 1957, water management has pursued a number of reforms. The most important reform in Ghana has been the decentralisation of the management of water systems in the 1990s (Fuest. et.al., 2005. p 18). In 1959 the then Ministry of Works and Housing was designated to maintain the water sub - sector (Eguavoen, 2007, p 81). The ministry was later renamed Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing (MWRWH) as the highest state institution charged with the responsibility to manage the country's water sub – sector. In 1992, the Water Resource Commission was established under the MWRWH as superior regulatory body for the water sector in Ghana (Aagaard-Pedersen, 2006, p3).

With the decentralized system, the government has initiated delegated responsibilities to sub – governmental bodies. Today, Ghana is divided into 16 administrative regions with 254 distinctive districts (Government of Ghana Web, 2019-2-22) within each district is a District Assembly (DA). The DA is the highest political authority charged with the responsibility of planning, implementation and managing water facilities in all communities in their catchment areas (MWRWH, 2007, p 48-52).

This research seeks to understand how the creation of new participatory environment have been effective in promoting citizen's voices especially women to influence water management and seeking accountability from duty bearers.

1.1 Research Problem

Majority of community water supply systems in less developed countries have experienced high rate of poor performance (Whittington et al, 2008). They added that, researchers in the rural water sub – sector have delved to identify the underlying causes of widespread failures in the sector. These researches has yielded no results. However,

this has been blamed on lack of beneficiaries' involvement in project planning cycle. Therefore, an effective system of communication between water planners and communities in the slightest degree stages of the project cycle is so inevitable if this should be achieved. Community participation jointly of the ways in which local based resources are explored to facilitate development effectiveness especially water delivery. Women participation is explored in the Offinso North District as a way of helping to develop an area that has water as a top development challenge.

There has been a growing call against top-down approaches to management throughout the globe due to its tendency to rate and exclusively appreciate skilled and scientific "expert" opinion (Smith, 2008). Also, the top-down approaches lend themselves to a probably exclusive nature, which may ignore native folks and their internal resource managerial skills (Tailors, 2014). Hence, there have been a lot of fresh proposals for bottom-up approaches that characteristically, appreciate and incorporate native folks and their local information, skills, desires and experiences (Hickey & Mohan, 2004).

It has additionally been recognized that the easiest way to overcome the barriers caused by under - recognition of time of a woman and women's relative lack of access to money is to provide women with lots of responsibilities inside the management system. In rural water facility, there is an accord within the living literature that sustainability is significantly increased once women have key roles (Briscoe & de Ferranti, 1989; Dublin Declaration, 1992; Nordic freshwater Initiative, 1991; Ladele et al., 2011; Tigabu et al., 2013; Boateng et al., 2013a&b; & Harmon, 2012 cited in Mensah, 2015).

However, the main focus of studies up to now on women involvement in water management are directed towards the level of women involvement, the reason for low



involvement of women in rural water provision and the relationship among players in community water delivery, attributes of women in water delivery (Tigabu et al., 2011; Marks & Davis, 2012; Boateng, Brown, Tenkorang, 2013 Mensah (2015); Kevany et. al., 2013; Moraes & Rocha, 2013).

This study explores the social, political and economic factors affecting women's involvement in rural water delivery in a district noted for low involvement of women in water delivery. The study also examines the viewpoint of the few women actively involved in water services delivery, the motivating factors as well as the challenges they face in their involvement in the management of water in their communities.

1.2 Research Questions and Objectives

1.3 Research Questions

The study sought to address the following research questions on women participation in water delivery in the OND.

1.3.1 Main Research Question

The main research question was how the women were involved in the planning and management of water delivery in the Offinso North District and what were the socio-cultural, political and economic factors affecting their participation in water governance?

The specific research questions were as follows:

1. How were women involved in the planning and management of water delivery in the Offinso North District (OND)?
2. What were the socio-cultural, political and economic factors affecting women participation in water governance?



3. What was the motivation for women actively involved in water governance in the district?
4. What were the challenges faced by women actively involved in water management in the OND?

1.4 Research Objectives

The main research objective was to examine women involvement in the planning and management of water delivery in the OND and the socio-cultural, political and economic factors affecting women participation in water governance.

The specific objectives were as follows:

1. To assess women involvement in the planning and management of water delivery in the OND.
2. To ascertain the socio-cultural, political and economic factors affecting women's participation in water governance
3. To analyse the motivating factors for women actively involved in water governance in the district
4. To evaluate the challenges faced by women actively involved in water management in the OND.

1.5 Justification of the Study

The justification of this study lies on the grounds that, beneficiary's participation in development projects is generally low in Africa and for that matter Ghana even though participation has gained development orthodoxy. Women participation especially in water delivery is of essence because women have the responsibility to supply domestic family with sufficient water and ensure its sustainability. In this regard, this study is seen



as setting the pace for women's deep involvement in water delivery effort in a context that is confronted with endemic water related diseases and poverty.

The findings of this study can give associate insight and increase commitment of stakeholders towards the promotion of women, through the event of acceptable plans, policies and activities which will integrate women into rural based water delivery programmes and projects. Hence, there's space for arguably a singular contribution to literature in terms of theory and reality.

The findings of the study will not solely function as bases for future analysis into similar areas, however also will be helpful to policy advocates within the sense that it will inform them on the socio-cultural, political and economic factors that favour or inspire women and challenges of women involvement in water management, particularly in an Africa country such as Ghana where very little is understood about the subject

1.6 Scope of the Study

The geographical scope of this study covers the Offinso North District and its water supply systems. The study was carried out within the management framework of Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA) establishment (1994 to date) where community participation in water management gained prominence. The CWSA Act No. 564 of 1998 created the CWSA that became answerable for the support of native communities and District Assemblies in terms of rural water system. The CWSA emerged from the Community Water and Sanitation Division that had been created as a semi-autonomous division of the Ghana Water and Sewage Company (GWSC) in 1994. The contextual scope covers water and development, key stakeholders in community



water delivery sector, stakeholder involvement and approaches in rural water governance; women and water governance, among others.

1.7 Limitations of the Study

This study focused on women's participation throughout the design, implementation and management of rural water delivery in 3 communities within the OND. One major limitation of the study was that; the researcher could not comb all the communities within the district. Whereas this was not possible due to time and resource constraints, it acknowledges that this limitation could render generalization of the findings of the study difficult.

The researcher additionally faced challenges because of some respondent's disposition to offer information so they had to be persuaded to speak or give out information. A number of them felt shy to contribute to the discussions; they either refused to speak or seconded their colleagues within the discussion, thereby holding very important facts that may be helpful to the analysis and conclusion of findings.

Also, little or no attention was dedicated to women's involvement in alternative equally vital stages of rural water management like the monitoring and assessment remained unexplored.

1.8 Organization of the Report

The report was categorised into five chapters. Chapter one contains of the introduction and background to the research while chapter two outlines the theoretical and conceptual framework for the study. Chapter three covers the research methodology while chapter four presents and discusses the results of the analysis. Chapter five consists the summary of findings, conclusion and recommendations of the study.



CHAPTER TWO

THEORETICAL, CONCEPTUAL AND EMPIRICAL REVIEW OF LITERATURE ON WOMEN INVOLVEMENT IN RURAL WATER MANAGEMENT

2.0 Introduction

This chapter discusses the theoretical framework underpinning the study. It starts with a review of the relevant theories to the topic and ends with the conceptual framework or assumption taken by the author on the topic. In line with the objectives of the study, the literature review covers the following topics: history of women participation in water management, approaches to women in water and development, key stakeholders in community water delivery sector, stakeholder involvement and approaches in rural water governance, women and water governance, among others.

2.1 Theoretical Underpinnings of Women Participation in Water Governance

2.1.1 The Ladder of Citizen Participation

The typologies of citizens participation or Ladder of Citizen Participation (Arnstein, 1969), is underpinned by the principle that community participation is differentiated at various levels. This is driven by the degree of citizen power given by powerbrokers. The approach has three key typologies of degrees of citizen's participation: a) level of non-participation, b) level of tokenism and c) level of citizen power.

The three main types are further broadened into eight degrees of citizen involvement.

They are: manipulation, therapy, information, consultation, placation, partnership, delegated power and citizen power. The kind and degree of community participation match to the scale of citizen's power in driving their development project successfully.



The use of this typology might be hindered by other factors such as:

a) Cultural explanations (values, norms, and roles), b) Cognitive explanations (verbal skills and knowledge about the organizations) c) Structural explanations (alternatives, resources available, and the nature of benefit sought) (Nelson & Wright, 1995 as cited by Kilasim, 2016).

The Ladder of citizen's involvement stipulates that in community participation there are power brokers and therefore the weak. The power holders perpetually wish to take care of the established order within the space of management. Meanwhile, it is the distribution of power that allows the weak in the society, presently excluded from the political and economic processes, to be by design, integrated within the future policy framework. This is often the method by which the poor person is concerned in driven social processes (Arnstein, 1969).

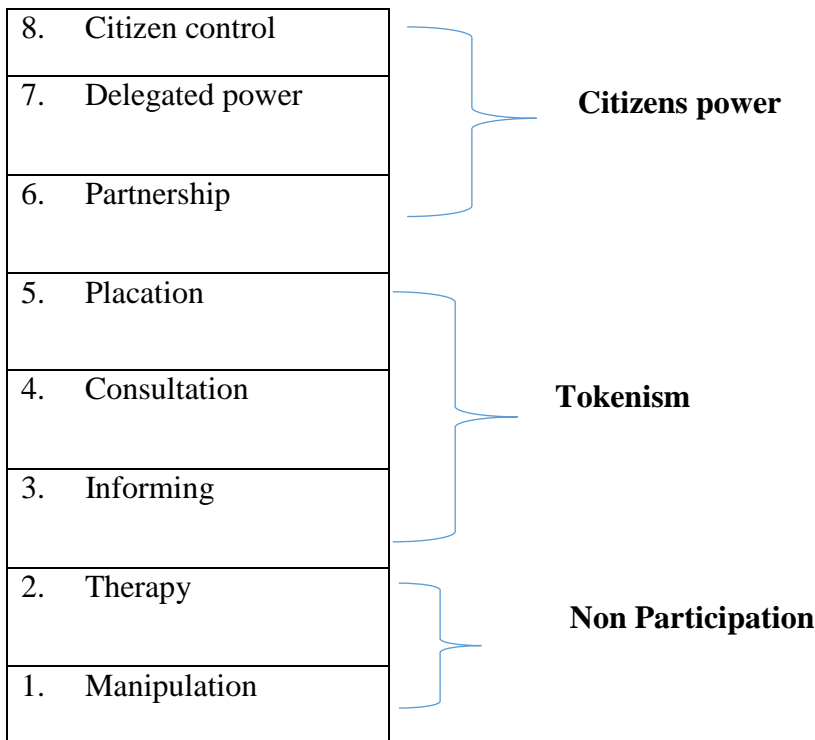
The theory further postulates that community involvement is that the dispersion of power that allows the poor communities, presently alienated from the political and economic space, to be purposefully captured within the future (ibid). It's the strategy by that the have-nots take part in influencing however knowledge is shared, goals and policies are set, tax resources are allotted and programs are operated. In short, it is surest way by which they will induce important social reform that allows them to share the benefit of the rich community (Haynes, 1998). Power required to have an effect on the result of the method. The idea contends that there's a crucial distinction between inquiring the empty ritual of participation and having the actual power required to have an effect on the result of the method



This difference is explained by the following words: “I participate; you participate; he participates; we participate; they participate . . . They profit” (Arnstein, 1969, p. 216).

The quotation reemphasizes the essential argument that community involvement while not correcting power distribution, is a hollow and disappointing method to the low-powered.

The theory of Ladder of Citizen Participation is further described through a diagram.



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Figure 2.1: Eight levels on a Ladder of Citizen Participation.

The bottom level of the ladder is non-participation. The level is described by two Stages of participation; these are (1) manipulation and (2) therapy. The two describe levels of “non-participation” that are created purposefully by some power holders to interchange for real participation (Pretty, 1969), the level explains further that there is no clear desire or effort to assist the community to involve in initiative that have an effect on them.

The (3) informing and (4) consultation represent the amount of "tokenism" that settle for the weak in society to simply have a voice expressed. At these stage of tokenism, the



community individuals could hear and be detected. However, underneath these rungs, the community lacks the capacity to insure that their contributions in public gathering are accepted by the power brokers at the locality (Arnstein, 1969). For a few reasons, the powerful cluster within the local people might contrive to capture the ideas from the people for his or her own advantage (ibid). That is the reality, this is what actually happens in our various localities. The power holders comes under the disguise of ensuring community participation at the community level but at the end will not factor opinions expressed by the people. The intended framework for programme implementation will not be changed to reflect the voices of the people.

Stage (5) placation could be a higher level of tokenism as a result of the bottom rules enable have-nots to recommendation, however power is retained for the powerful the continuing right to dictate the pace. Further on the ladder are levels of community power with increasing level of decision making power.

The citizens might enter into rung (6) partnership that permits them to barter and have interaction in trade-offs with customary power holders. At the uppermost stage, (7) Delegated power and (8) citizens control. At these levels the community majority get decision-making seats or full social control. These uppermost stages are levelled as real participation (ibid). It involves community members leading their own initiatives without external agents which Pretty (1969) described as self – mobilization.

It is widely known that participation in community-managed water system with stronger kinds of participation, involving control over programme design, priorities, and implementation have high degree of achieving collective goals (Arnstein, 1969; Rahman, 1993; Smith, 2008). It is also important to note that the individual participants of the



process and how they participate are as important as to whether there is local community participation and the kind of participation. Arnstein's reminds us is that involvement is ultimately regarding power and influence (Conwell, 2014). However, Tritter and McCallum (2006) criticise the Arnstein approach and other related model on user involvement. They argued that it is a one-way process, based on user's power to operate in prescribed decision-making processes. They added that the approach fails to capture the dynamic and overlapping nature or types of user involvement. Similarly, Collins and Ison (2006) have argued that the lineal sequential model of "participation as power" contained in the Arnstein typology is unsuitable in complicated context where a particular problem and the probable solution are not known. They called for the use of an expanded concept of social learning. The researcher accepts the criticisms of Arnstein theory and advocate for further approaches that will be multi-linear in nature.

Despite the criticisms of the Arnstein approach, the theory of Ladder of citizens Participation has relevancy during this study within the sense that a lot of community development works involve participation of the communities or beneficiaries (Smith, 2008). Community managed water is a key element of local based development arena. Community managed water is a key part of local based development arena. Thus, local people participation in water management acts as a catalyst for community management that then influences policies and programs that have an effect on the standard of their lives (Gamble & Weil, 1995).

2.1.1.1 Forms of participation

While Arnstein's ladder stressed at participation from the perspective of beneficiaries, Pretty's (1995) typology of citizen's participation focused a lot on the user of citizens



involvement methods. The theory is additionally normative: going from ‘bad’ kinds of participation – the inclusion of token representatives with no real power that he represented as manipulative participation and partial participation beyond choices that have already been taken – to ‘better’ forms, like participation by consultation and for material incentives. Practical participation’ captures the shape of participation that is most frequently related to efficiency arguments: people participate to fulfill project objectives additional effectively and to scale back prices, once the most choices are created by external agents. Pretty’s last two classes evoke a number of the professed goals of those development partners who promote and use citizens’ participatory theories and approaches in community development. ‘Interactive participation’ is delineate as a ‘learning process’ through that community people take charge over choices, thereby gaining a stake in maintaining structures. The last stage is ‘self-mobilisation’, where people in our local communities take the initiative on their own without the involvement of external organizations, developing contacts for resources and technical help, additionally holding control over these resources. Self-mobilization was, and to some level has gained development orthodoxy. What Pretty’s model helps explain is that the motivations of those who practise participatory models is a vital issue. The table 2.1 below shows the various types of participation and their various features.

Table 2.1 Pretty's typology of participation

Type of Participation	Features
Manipulative Participation	Pretence, with appointive representatives having no legitimacy or power
Passive Participation	Unilateral announcements while not being attentive to people's responses
Participation by Consultation	External agents outline issues and data gathering processes then control analysis
Participation for Material Incentives	People participate by contributory resources (labour) reciprocally for material incentives
Functional Participation	External agencies encourage participation to fulfil planned objectives
Interactive Participation	People participate (as a right) in joint analysis, development of action plans and formation or strengthening of native establishments
Self-Mobilisation	People take their own initiatives external of external establishments to vary systems

Adapted from Pretty (1995)

2.1.2 Gender and Development Approach

This approach stressed on gender instead of females within the development framework.

Oakley and Rubin (1975) in Moser (1989) each noted that the matter of females were



seen in terms of their sex, specifically their biological variations from men – instead of in terms of their general – that is, the cultural relationship between male and females within which women are purposefully and consistently side-lined.

GAD stressed that to specialize in ladies in isolation is to ignore the important issue that is their subordinate standing to men. For this case, women's issues must not be seen in isolation; however the main focus ought to get on gender relations. The gender and development framework consider the growth of men and women as equal partners therefore focuses on the relations between them. This theoretical framework views women's issues as resulting from inequitable power relations that stop just development and also the full involvement of women. The goal of the approach (GAD) is to realize just development with each men and women as stakeholders.

It will be attention-grabbing to work out how females as a deprived segment in communities can be promoted thereby remodelling unequal power structure in their societies (Moses, 1989). GAD framework does not lead solely to the issue of intervention and social action methods to make sure that women were higher integrated into on-going development efforts. It leads, effectively, to a basic assessment of social structures and establishments and, ultimately, to the loss of power of entrenched elites, which is able to have an effect on some women.

Moser (1989) argued that, there is the requirement to return up with methods that determine and addresses women's sensible gender wants and in conclusion address strategic interests of females through human centred development This approach therefore relevant to the study to unearth the probable effects of women participation in community water projects management and that households water supply has gender



based effects and development issues and the gains that have been made in rural communities.

2.2 History of Women Participation in Water Governance

The issue of involving each men and women within the management of water has been recognized at the world level, since 1977 United Nation Water Conference at Mar del Plata, the International safety water Decade (1981-90) and also the International Conference on Water in Dublin (1992), that expressly acknowledges the pivotal role of women within the provision, management and protecting of water. Reference is additionally provided for the involvement of women in water delivery in Agenda 21. Moreover, the consensus instituting the International Decade for Action, ‘Water for Life’ (2005-2015). Water for life advocates women’s participation and involvement in water connected activities. The Water for life Decade coincides with the timelines for achieving the MDGs. The connection between gender equality and women’s promotion (goal 3), and target ten on access to water. Wallace and Coles (2005. p 17) state that effective tool for involving women is to encourage gender based participation at all levels.

In many cases, showing that water projects work better when women were involved has a greater impact on mobilizing finance for gender-biased projects than showing that access to water has an impact on gender equality, Water for Life, (2005-2015). This is an evidence of previous studies by World Bank which concluded that women’s participation was strongly associated with water and sanitation project effectiveness. Due to that, there has been pressure on government across the globe to include more women in water management positions. Partners, governments and development agencies have made



commitments to support greater equality between women and men and to use a gender perspective in water and environmental initiatives. Specific commitments include:

- I. Results and follow-up of the International water safety Decade were mentioned in New Delhi (1990). There was a fresh demand for improve in women's inclusion in water management.
- II. Dublin Statement (1992), endorsed by over 100 countries, recognized that women play a central role in providing, managing and safeguarding water resources. It calls for participation of women in and managing water resources;
- III. Principle 20 of the Rio Declaration (1992) stated, Women have an important role in water management. Involving them is therefore essential to achieve sustainable development in the water subsector.

These efforts have resulted to a reasonable number of women taking higher positions in the water subsector including ministerial appointments in the recent times. Also, the pursued of development within the water sector has led to an agreement that participation by each men and women, not as objects of development however as equal partners, is important for sustained projects (Hamdy, 2005). This has inspired the promotion and use of gender friendly approaches in water programmes and, additional recently, in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).

Water resources management has imperative requirement for gender based analysis because of the speed by which integrated water resources management and development are sweptback onto international political agenda (UNICEF/WHO 2000; 2nd World Water Forum, 2000; The Bonn Conference 2001; MDGs, 2001 and WSSD, 2002). Hamdy (2005) additionally stated that sustainable water management needs the



combination of gender dimensions in any respect levels and for all water activities, from policies to projects. This expulsion of women has resulted to water management systems less tuned in to demands of water services. Moreover, it has wasted the abilities and energy of one third of the world's population that might have doubtless contributed to effective management of natural and specifically water resources.

In Ghana, women and youngsters were historically accountable for the fetching and utilization of households water (GWA, 2010-09-15). Also, they ought to be acknowledged as key actors in implementing water and sanitation (WATSAN) measures. The Ministry of Water Resources, Works, and Housing (MWRWH) (2007. PP 37-38) states that so as to achieve adequate water delivery, effective management of the country's water resources should be approached.

NWP additionally stated that "Women should be seen not solely as beneficiaries and water users, however conjointly as water managers and decision-makers. There has to be a paradigm shift within the style and implementation of water policies by key actors in the water sub - sector like government, NGOs, and individuals sector these days.

2.3 Approaches of Women Participation in Water Governance in the World

The UNDP (2006) noted that at the beginning of the twenty first century, one in 5 folks living within the developing world lack access to potable water. Not having access to potable water could be a suitable description for profound deprivation (UNDP, 2006). The UNDP (2006) indicated that folks live over one km from the closest water supply which they collect water from dams, ditches or streams that may be infected with pathogens and bacterium. This development has heightened advocacy for new approaches in water management at the international arena.



There is rising accord by policy planners that approach to management of water has gender implications and thus Water resources management has a pressing want for gender specific analysis as a result, water management needs the combination of gender dimensions in the least levels and for all water activities, from policies to outputs (Hamdy, 2005). Yet, too often, under-represented users, notably women and children - the most users and managers of water - were excluded from decision-making. That universal acceptance by actors within the water sector gave birth to the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) that acknowledges the role of women in water management and it has been swept onto international political agenda (UNICEF/WHO 2000; 2d World Water Forum, 2000; The Bonn Conference 2001; MDGs, 2001 and WSSD)

Policy makers, analysts, international organizations, and governments have sought consensus on principles to guide the setting of priorities, policy making and the elaboration of specific initiatives in IWRM. Key principles include: Policy planners, engineers, analysts, donor partners, and governments have agreed on specific initiatives in IWRM. Key principles include:

- I. Water ought to be treated as an economic, social, and environmental facility
- II. Water policies ought to specialize in the management of water as a whole and not simply on the supply of water.
- III. Governments ought to facilitate and modify the development of water resources by the supply of integrated water policy frameworks.
- IV. Water resources should be managed at the lowest appropriate level.
- V. Women ought to be recognized as key to the delivery and management of water.



The IWRM emphasised that socio - political and development results can't be maximize or sustained when specific needs of women and men are not completely addressed. Gender mainstreaming, the first framework for integrating a gender dimension into water development programmes, is necessary in assessing the implications for women and men in any planned action, as well as legislation, policies or programmes, in any sphere (Hamdy, 2005). It is a technique for creating the issues and experiences of women, similarly as men, an important part of policy designs, implementation, and programmes at all levels, so women and men benefit equitably and discrimination is not perpetuated. The overriding goal of gender mainstreaming is to attain gender parity in water management.

In apply, gender mainstreaming means that by design that specialize in each women's and men's contributions and support wants, instead of presumptuous that each can profit equally from gender-neutral development interventions. inside a project context, gender mainstreaming ordinarily includes distinguishing gaps in equality through the employment of sex-disaggregated information, developing ways and policies to shut those gaps, devoting resources and experience for implementing such activities, observing the results of implementation and holding people and establishments in charge of outcomes that promote gender parity.

Unsystematic water management policies lead to environmental degradation from over-exploitation of water resources, inappropriate allocations among competitive users, inequitable distribution of advantages and burdens and inadequate operation and maintenance of infrastructure. Inadequate involvement of each women and men has

hindered programmes and programmes geared toward addressing issues of water resources management (Hamdy, 2005)

2.4 Approaches of Water Supply in Ghana

In the Offinso North District, as is it in other parts of the Ghana, accessibility to potable water for domestic use may be a serious challenge in many communities. The development gets worse during the dry season where most women walk long distances in search of water which most often were not hygienic for human use. The development get worse throughout the time of year when rainfall is low, people walk long distances for water collection from streams and dams contaminated water for human use. This inhumane 21st century situation has precarious effects on quality of life on segment of society especially rural population. For example, the inaccessibility of water by rural population affects their time, energy, productivity, and risk associated with drinking contaminated water (Kelvany et al., as cited by Mensah, 2015).

Efforts to place mechanism in situ for rural populace for the supply of potable water has become the priority of the many developing countries. It is in the light of this that African countries are taking advantage of the worldwide agreements on the supply of community water system in underprivileged areas, centred on community based mostly water delivery with the objective of delivering safe and accessible water in the rural areas. The type of approach is the DRA which needs that the local people take active involvement from problem identification, design, implementation and delivery of the local based water facilities so as to confirm the acceptableness of the initiative, and influence sense of possession within the community members (Tigabu et al., 2014). This model of the state helps the delivery of the water projects by providing guidelines for effective operations.

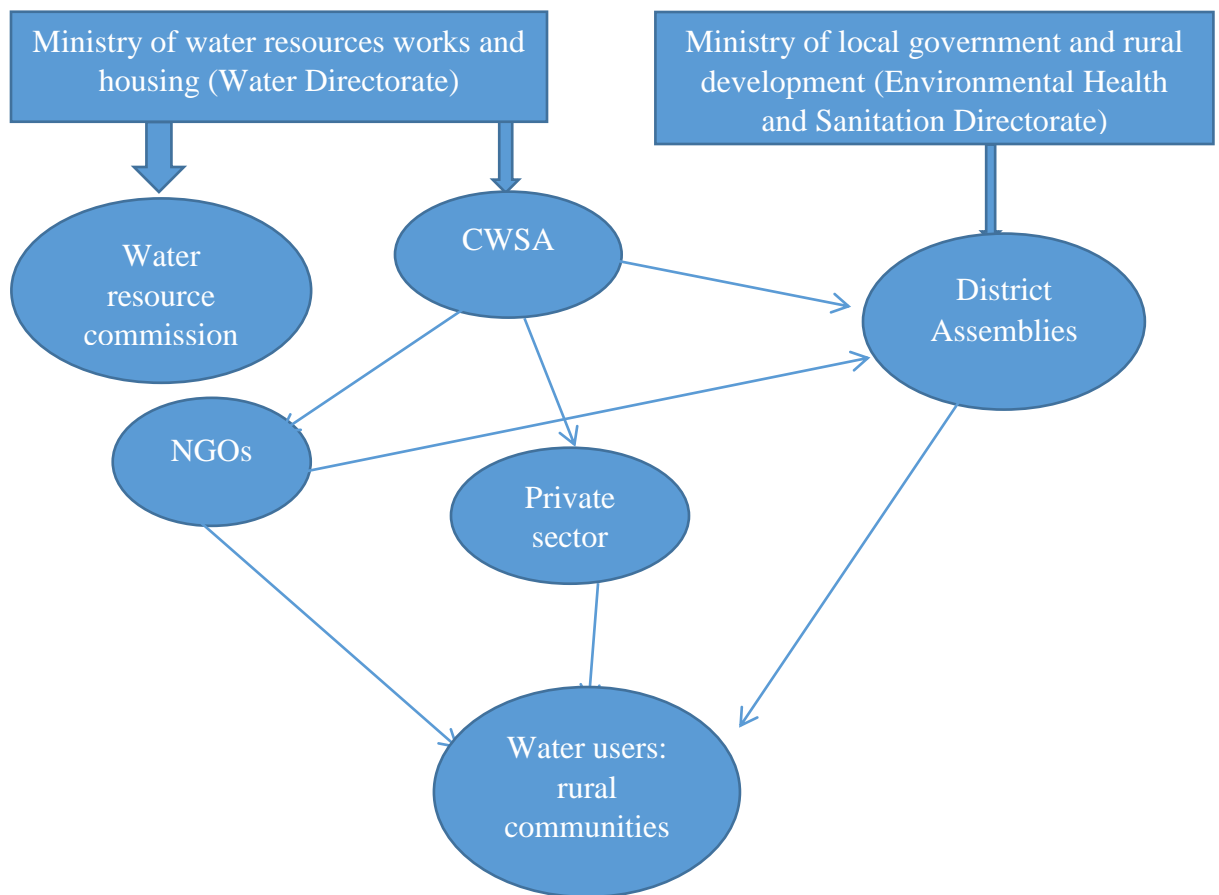


Lastly, the state coordinates development partners to solicit resources to boost water delivery sector and give benchmarks for funding accountability. The DRA has local based gender sensitive WATSAN that helps in implementing the framework at the community level supervised by the District Water and Sanitation Teams (DWST) at the district level, tasked with the obligation to initiate, supervise and manage water facilities in the district with active involvement of beneficiaries in rural areas.

2.5 Institutional Framework for Community Water Supply in Ghana

Figure 2.1 is the Institutional Framework for Community Water Supply in Ghana

Figure 2. 2: Framework for Water Supply in Ghana



Source: Adopted from Baur and Woodhouse (2004) Institutional Framework for Rural Water Supply

2.5.1 Ministry of Water and Sanitation (MWS)

The MWS once known as the ministry of Water Resource, Works and Housing (MWRWH) through the Water board unit, at the central level, is answerable for the formulation of water sector policies. It performs the role of developing policy proposals framework for the water subsector; seeking funding from donor partners, and advising government on water problems. With respect to rural facility, the board facilitates the activities and operations of CWSA.

2.5.2 Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development

The Ministry exists objectively to enhance the institution and development of effective and well-resourced localised system of government for Republic of Ghana to make sure there is accountable governance at the community level. The Environmental Health department of local government ministry is accountable for facilitating all the key sector establishments concerned within the water subsector. The department links with the MMDAs, in promoting localization of the water sector in rural areas in the country.

2.5.3 Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA)

CWSA at the regional level that links with the Water department of the MWRWH and currently MWS in promoting the improvement of water sector within the rural communities and villages. The CWSA conjointly initiate plans, benchmarks and specifications for the sector. It also facilitates the activities of NGOs and donors in delivering safe water. It helps the MMDAs in promoting and maintaining safe water at the community level.



2.5.4 District Assemblies (DAs)

The DAs were obligated to rural water delivery using non-public sector for infrastructure provision and community's operators for management. The Assemblies prepares the District Water and Sanitation medium term Plans. District Assemblies additionally founded DWST and contribute financially to their functioning. The DWSTs take into account beneficiary communities and obtain funding from donors on their behalf. The DWST within the Assemblies additionally trains members of the WATSAN committees in their catchment areas.

2.5.5 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

Conjointly play strategic roles within the provision and management of community water in the country. They provide technical help to communities throughout activities, execution and delivery of facilities. They conjointly offer training of WATSAN and provide boreholes. The NGOs active in rural water sector includes World Vision, Water Aid and church funded organizations.

2.5.6 Private Sector

The structural reforms of community water sector in the country resulted to the involvement of the non – public sector actors within the provision and management of water facilities for rural communities. The CWSA contracts some non – public entities for borehole construction and management.

2.5.7 Water Users

The basic unit for promoting the community based approach that was foremost among the topmost objectives of the community water reforms within the country is the beneficiaries. In their drive to accessing safe water, communities need to apply for support from the District Assemblies. The users also need to commit at least 5% to project cost. In addition, the users form workable WATSAN to set up tariffs, operate accounts and ensure day – to – day maintenance of water facilities.

2.6 Gender Approach in IWRM

There were 3 parts within the approach to gender in the IWRM. Every one of those parts supports each project potency and a priority for gender equality.

- ❖ The first part is that in each initiative or programme analysis, steps ought to be taken to grasp the variations and relations between women and men in every specific context into consideration. In alternative words, they must perform gender analysis.
- ❖ The second is that based on the analysis, all initiatives ought to incorporate women’s and men’s views, desires and interests and, wherever attainable, promote the advancement of women so as to scale back gender based differences.
- ❖ The third is that participatory models that facilitate the just participation of men and women, particularly at decision-making levels ought to be adopted.

In Ghana, acknowledging the essence of effective water management, the MWRHW (2007. p. 6) states that “Water, in its varied kind, management and uses, is an important part of human development ...” and is therefore an essential priority within the countries’ current development.) The institutional re-arrangements enabled the state to formally implement the National Community Water and Sanitation



Programme in 1994 (MWRHW. 2007. Pp 37-38). The NCWSP stressed the importance of community possession and control and promoting community participation within the water facilities, implementation and management of WATSAN measures that are gender responsive. The NCWSP aims at dispersive services and emphasizes giving "... ladies a bigger role in decision-making than has traditionally been the norm." (Whittington et. al. 2009. pp 696-697).

Proof of importance of gender sensitive approach to water governance is within the following case studies.

2.7 Case Study One

In the Ejura-Sekyedumasi District of the Ashanti Region of the country, the Ghana Rural Water (GRWP) was initiated by World Vision Ghana (WVG) to handle a significant infestation of guinea worm and limited access to safe water. The project has refocused from a strictly technology-driven approach to a rural focused, people-centred, demand-driven focus, together with gender mainstreaming, impoverishment alleviation and also the well-being of kids. Through the GRWP initiative, WVG provided the village with 2 boreholes fitted with hand pumps, 2 public latrines. The community has since identified this water and sanitation project as having had a high level of community participation and gender integration. It has improved the education of girls, who accounted for 53 per cent of primary school students in 2005, compared to 43 per cent in 1995. There is therefore the need to increase women role in the national water policy agenda and rural water policy because from the literature, it is clear that important role women could play in ensuring successful and sustainable water use and management is invaluable. This is important to the research as it seeks to establish women participation in the community



water delivery. The community has since known this water and sanitation project as having had a high level of community participation and gender integration. It has improved the education of kids, who accounted for fifty three per cent of elementary school pupils in 2005, compared to forty three per cent in 1995. There is thus the requirement to extend girls role within the national water policy agenda and rural water policy as literature proof that involving women and girls might play in guaranteeing the thriving water sector delivery.

2.8 Case Study Two

In El Salvador, Women were undermined within the ‘water world’, with careers and capacity building in water management dominated by men. If water management is to be democratic and open -- and represent the requirements of the individuals -- both men and women ought to have an equal voice.

The Water and gender based project in Salvador is an example of where girls learned new skills through involvement. The project made women leaders, and gave them capacity building to become community promoters and managers of little scale corporations. As a result, girls have no inheritable technical agricultural know - how and were currently delivering tasks hitherto were appropriate just for men. The proof within the case studies indicates that women role in water programme management has the probability of yielding higher results than men controlled initiatives so they must be a paradigm shift in water development models towards gender integration.

2.9 Gender, Water and Development

Today ‘gender’ is sometimes expressly mentioned in water policies within the contexts regarding countries domestic water project. However, girls as irrigators, fishers, or





farmers were less appreciated (Ahmed & Zwarteven, 2012). Zwarteven (1997) has depicted low level of women in irrigation programmes. Irrigation management is closely linked to land tenure, which many women in less developing countries lack. In developing irrigation facilities particularly, several men engineers saw the households as units, within the same manner as in Kabeer's analysis. The underlying principle is that the houses were pictured by the male head of the household, and therefore the whole house, and its members, therefor had gotten their interests met.

Generally, men's water use has been categorised as productive, e.g., irrigation or industrial, whereas women's use has been seen as restricted to the domestic environment. This outlook ignores conjointly the productive outcome from women's water use, like vegetable production and women as co-producers (Zwarteven, 1997). Frances meat cleaver has ascertained that the inclusion of girls in several water facilities appeared solely on the surface. Either issues of women were solely mentioned in short within the water management, or solely given impetus on paper; even cases where females were actually replaced by their husband or brother occurred (Cleaver & Elson, 1995). This is often true as representation in governance these days often remains on conference papers and international charters only. The important power for women to become involved and determine development outcomes remains unachieved.

The power difference may disagree among the identical units, for instance between mothers-in-law and daughters-in-laws of younger sons (Metha, 2000). Joshi (2005) and Ahmed (2005) write that girls in water facilities are seen as resources to bring efficiency. These initiatives were conferred as gender empowering supported the idea that involving women can by itself give results and advance them.



Furthermore, girls were additionally drawn to possess nearer affiliation to water and nature. Many writers (Wallace & Coles, 2005; Ahmed, 2005, 2007) have dropped at attention on how ‘gender’ is equated to females. Initiatives that tried to manoeuvre on the far side, have unremarkably replaced it with the view ‘women and men’, while not creating any deeper analysis on the social relationship between the sexes that the conception of gender entails. No consideration is given to gender ideas of power inequalities

Beside, Ahmed (2005) initiatives begin with the men who dominate in the early stages and so tried to ‘add on’ women in the end phase especially at the implementation stage. From the viewpoint of men and their connection with water there is little literature gender perspective. One study created in Republic of Kenya suggests that whereas improved community-based home facility relieves the burden from female, the male felt that their physical work had accumulated (Crow et al., 2012). I disagree with that assertion because some men recognise the role of women in their productive efforts.

Moreover, there's a scarcity of analysis on how water project affects men and the way the socially created role of “man” is expounded to water. On a broader development perspective Cleaver states that specialise in women in developing facilities will cause essentialism of each men and women, wherever men usually were solely framed as obstacles to women’s progress (Cleaver, 2000). I do agree that water facilities are sustainable when women are involved.

Finally, Abirafeh (2009) and Cleaver (2000) argue that ‘only women’-projects will backlash since men feel intimidated and discriminated. This view represents reality on the ground because success of a woman poses a threat to a patriarchal head which they do

make efforts to frustrate women. Cleaver conjointly claims that the usually arduous physical work that is connected to the ascribed male responsibility is not thought-about in gender initiatives.

2.10 Benefits of Women Participation in Water Management and Sustainability

The quest for development has resulted to agreement that involvement by male and female, not as objects of development however as equal partners, is crucial for sustained progress (Hamdy, 2014). International donors, governmental and NGOs and non - public establishments expend monies per annum within the implementation of carefully designed water facilities. Despite the amounts used and the efforts made, the quantity of output and water facilities sustainability is disappointing. The most causes of the negative outcomes in the past may be attributed to lack of community participation (Whittington et al. 2008). Also, utilization of inappropriate technologies, lack of community driven agenda, failure to produce the institutional support needed for the project and therefore the community with project outcomes.

The potentials of women within the context of women and home & community water, a sub-discourse will be found: women as potential catalysts: involving women in water related initiatives can leads to the project's success. It will be known within the underlined sentence segments: involving both genders in top roles in the least levels of water management will speed up the action of sustainability; and managing water in an integrated manner and contributes considerably to gender equity by up the access of both genders to water to satisfy their essential needs (Cap-Net/GWP, p. 9)

They could so be higher contributors to the institution and maintenance of project facilities. Past knowledge has shown that female were generally effective in managing



water related facilities. They even have preferences for various services that might help them to have higher productive value activities” (African Development Bank, p. 36).

A start line and reason for involving women in participating in governing this precious life resource referred to as water is that the indisputable fact that studies worldwide have over that women’s ecological footprints are abundant smaller than men’s. Women’s ecological footprints are directly coupled to their consumption patterns, by utilizing resources with the minimum environmental impact whereas supporting the well-being of individuals. “Governments will turn on feminine productive preferences to push friendly consumption patterns to positively affect the economy and community (OECD, 2008). Empowering women as a cheap way in governing and managing their water resources becomes a requirement.

Also, in order to design a more effective and responsive approach to the provision of water and sanitation, development organizations and donor agencies were utilizing a series of participatory methodologies and techniques that focus on getting intended users actively involved in all stages of the project cycle. Also, so as to initiate an efficient and responsive approach to the availability of water, donors were utilizing a series of bottom - up techniques that specialize in in ensuring that users effectively participates at every stage of project development. The underlying principle is that women participation increases the probability of success and the sustainability of the projects implemented. The underlying principle is that women involvement will increase the chance of project success and its sustainability (Chambers, 1983, 1994; Whyte, 1986; Asamoah, 1998; Rietbergen-McCracken & Narayan, 1998; Good, 1996).



Though women involvement has “gained the status of development orthodoxy” (Cornwall, 2008, p. 62), it is worth noting some of its specific benefits:

I. **Promotion and preventing marginalization:** As several development activist have found, “communities” not being the same units. There have been usually internal divisions and hierarchies that cause the subordination of women and vulnerable groups systematically excluded from public affairs. However, integrating participants from marginalized segment of society can guarantee them the chance to air their opinions and that can scale down the incidence of discrimination. Ensuring participation cannot be merely a neutral act. It has been represented as “the organized effort to extend management over resources and regulatory establishments . . . by those initially excluded.” Thus, whereas lack of participation has been shown to steer to conflict, the transfer of power it implies is usually tough for those in power to concede, and will itself result in (constructive) conflict (Stevens, Bur & Young, as cited in Blaxter, Farnell, & Watts, (2003). The integration of the initially excluded segment of our societies so central to participative development.

II. **Sustainability:** A major concern for development organizations is continuity. As Jordan’s Ministry of Economic Cooperation has placed it: “We appear to try and do all the correct things, bear all the correct steps, on the other hand the initiatives don’t work... require somebody who takes possession of the project (Burt, 2010, p. 3). If those full of comes were engaged from the point, local people can additional doubtless feel possession over the project, that will increase the chance of long-term continuity after implementation compared to once there is very little



input from beneficiaries (Burt, 2010). A project or development initiative that ignores people's opinions, beneficiaries' ideas or cultural appropriateness can doubtless meet opposition in the process. World Bank stated that "projects during which affected peoples' views are excluded suffer from a lot of frequent delays and poorer delivery (World Bank Environment Department, 1992).

- III. **Efficiency:** Engaging community peoples into the planning, implementation, and analysis of a project will seem time wasting. However, participation saves time and cash within the long term by harnessing native and specific ideas, avoiding disputes and with alterations within the program's early stages. People will possibly settle for a choice if they make meaning of the underlying bases for it, whether or not they were not in full agreement. Also, through participation, beneficiaries will contribute by assisting with labour and/or monetary resources (Michielsen, De Vries, & Van Heck, 2003). The rights that compose the human right to participation, particularly rights to free expression, were conjointly thought-about protection against interference in development by corruption (OHCHR, 2006, pg.5)

Ultimately, Amartya Sen defined the expansion of freedom as both the "primary end" and "principal means" of development (Sen, 1998, p. 36). Sen described these as "constitutive components" of the term Sen recognised that institutional, normative and cultural arrangements making or impeding opportunities were themselves influenced by the exercise of freedom through collaborating in social alternative and speechmaking. Instead of asking if participation and dissent were "conducive to development," subunit represented these as "constitutive components" of the term (Sen, 1998, pp.4-5). In



different words, right Base Approaches maintain that development that fail to involve and increase people's participation within the running of society is neither fascinating nor effective

2.11 Constraints for Women's Participation in Water Management

Devolution of management over resources to organizations will not essentially result in improved participation of all stakeholders. This is often notably true in extremely differentiated and stratified societies. Romanticised views of 'communities' as the same unit that have a common commitment to maintaining their community resources base, whereas ignoring the consequences of power variations among who participates in agenda of management and therefore the share of outcomes, risk reinforcing difference (Agrawal & Gibson, 1997).

Despite women's role in water and their multiple uses of water, women's participation in water control over water activities remained low (Krishnaraj, 2011, Cleaver, 1998, Meinzen- Dick & Zwartveen, 1998). Some writers make a case for this outcome by institutional reasons and rational alternative, i.e., criteria of membership limiting women's participation (e.g. land ownership) and overall advantages of women participation is more greater than not participating (Meinzen-Dick & Zwartveen, 1998). Other social and cultural factors are unremarkably rumored in South Asia, together with social norms and cultural practices, unimaginative concepts concerning gender division of labour, women's lack of quality, women's low level of confidence and low capability to participate in formal settings because of a high illiteracy level and male dominance (Upadhyay, 2010, Sultana, 2009).





Patriarchal power relations in most African societies, sees men as heads of households and women rely are to rely on the men. Elite or political leaders most frequently happen to be men particularly within the rural areas to facilitate major resolution on their behalf (Chifamba, 2013). Besides, the standards relied to elect women to accountable positions, does not provide space for the apparently poor females to involve. Chifamba (2013) observed that, in Zimbabwe, elective representatives who were women were people who commanded some type of respect from the community members, or female representatives with a specific level of resources like bicycle or money (Chifamba, 2013; Omorede, 2014; Marks et al., 2013).

- I. Unequal distribution of land and different resources like water. These resources primarily within the hands of the native authorities UN agency in most cases were men, going terribly restricted space for inclusion of women to manage these facilities (Omorede, as cited by Mensah, 2015).
- II. Concern of being criticized, ridiculed in addition to harmful criticisms from individuals particularly at the lower level, colleague women principally out of jealousy gossip regarding them of attempting to achieve recognition from men. These breeds loss of confidence and discourage them to speak regarding problems regarding their welfare publically. Then men take the initiative and choose for them (Boateng et al, 2013a).
- III. Timing, Domestic and economic activities additionally function as a barrier to women involvement in community water initiatives. The actual fact is that the majority sittings happened within the evenings once most women representatives

were busily getting ready for their domestic chore affects their participation in such meetings (Boateng et al., 2013b).

Implementing governmental or non-governmental agencies typically contact male elite farmers, either as a result of they had acknowledge or because they were obligatory entry channels within the community to steer any intervention (Meinzen-Dick & Zwartveen, 1998, Sultana, 2009a). However, even once women were members of the WATSAN, the outcomes have not essentially contributed to increased access to safe water.

2.12 Conceptual Framework

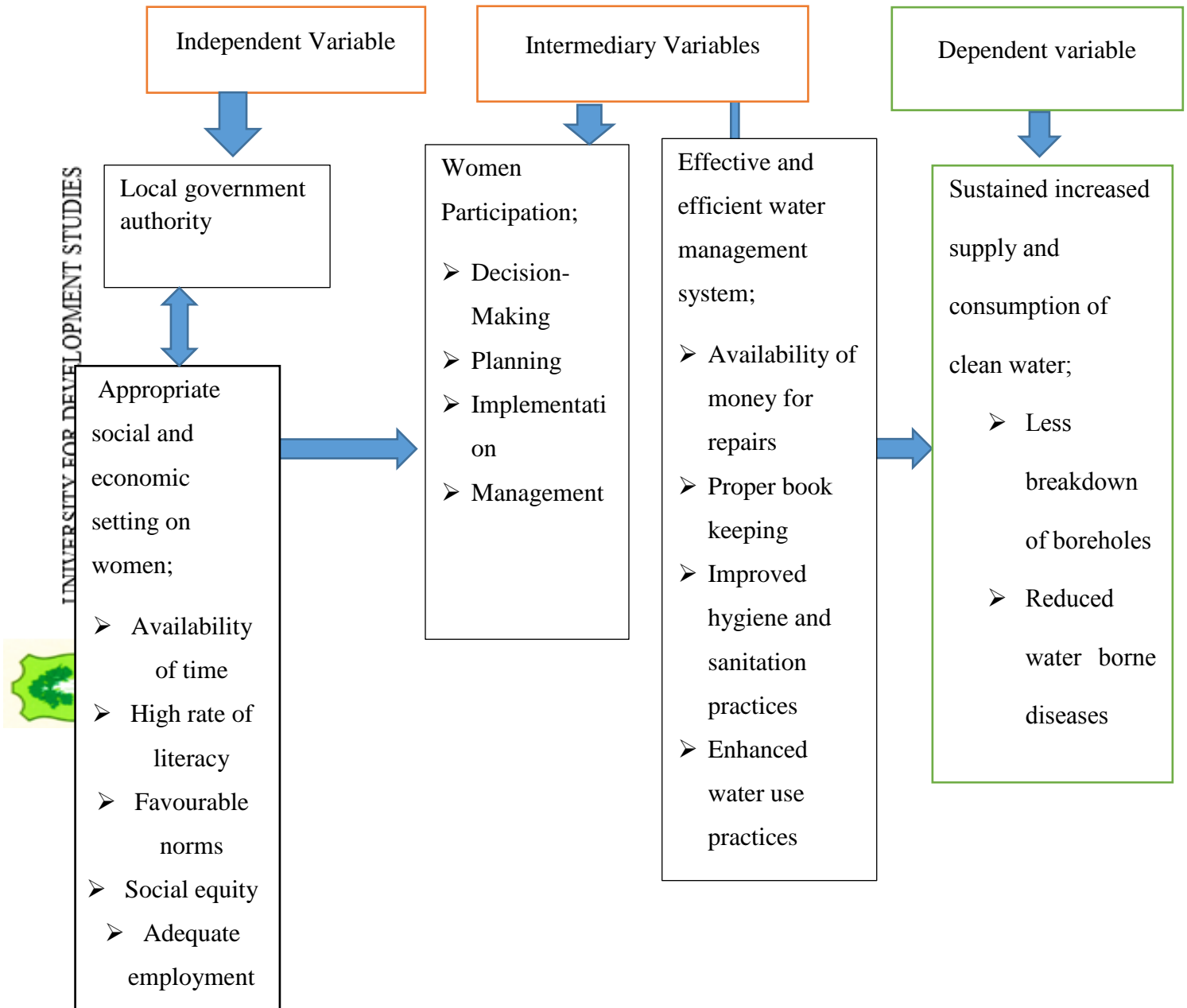
Figure 2.3 is a diagram showing the conceptual framework of the study. At conceptual level, the study is explained using three sets of variables; mainly independent, intermediate and dependent. The Independent variable employed in this study was the local government authority which is properly established, and working within appropriate social and economic framework which includes availability of time, high rate of literacy, favourable norms, social equity, and adequate employment. This framework has led to the establishment of appropriate policy environment which will increase women participation.

On the other hand, intermediate variables refers to the change that will occur when local government authority is properly established, which will lead to improved women participation in water governance, Women taking part in decision making, planning, implementation and holding top management positions of water based projects in the community. Women taking part in top management positions of water projects will result in an effective and efficient water management system; availability of money for repairs, proper book keeping, improved hygiene and sanitation in the community. This



will lead to the dependable variable where there will be sustained increased supply and consumption of clean Water, less breakdown of boreholes and reduction in waterborne diseases.

Figure 2.3: Conceptual Framework



Source: Author's Construct, 2018.

2.13 Conclusion

The theoretical discussion on women involvement in community water delivery, an area that concern women so much is discouraging. Though their involvement at the implementation and care giving is averagely good. Most women are not involved at the decision making stage and the focus of this study is to ascertain the motivating factor of women actively involved and propose a framework for effective women involvement at all levels of water delivery



CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

Research methodology is the process to consistently solve the problem of the research (Kothari, 1990). He added that, it may be understood as a science of studying how research is done scientifically. Brynard and Henekom (1997) research methodology is also known as the plan for research that shows the mode of data collection. The main objective of this research is to examine women involvement in the planning and management of water delivery in the Offinso North District and the socio - political and economic factors affecting women involvement in water management. This chapter will present an overview of methodology and procedures that was applied in this study. It includes the study area profile, research paradigm, research design and sample size, sampling techniques, data sources, methods of data collection, data analysis, validity and ethical issues in research.

3.1 Study Area Profile

The Offinso North District was inaugurated on 29th February, 2008 and established by LI 1856. It was created out of the former Offinso District-now Offinso Municipal. It is one of the 27 District Assemblies in the Ashanti Region and has its capital at Akomadan. The District lies between longitudes 10 60 W and 10 45 E and latitudes 70 20 N and 60 50 S. The total land area is about 741 kilometers square. It shares boundaries with the Techiman Municipal in the North, the Sunyani West District in the West, the Ejura Sekyere dumasi District in the East and the Offinso Municipal in the South; the others are the Nkoranza South District in the Northeast, the Tano North and South Districts in the



Southwest. The South-North Trans-West African Highway traverses the district, thus making it the entry point to the Ashanti Region from the northern part of the country.

The population of the Offinso North District, according to the 2010 Population and Housing Census stood at 56,881 with a little over half being females (50.2%) as against the males (49.8%). Over half of the population is rural (58.8%) as compared with the urban population of 41.2 percent. By the annual growth rate of 3.4% it is projected to about 58,814; 60,814; 65,620; 62,882; 67,231 and 69,516 in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively. The principal towns include Akomadan, Nkenkaasu and Afrancho which are urban settlements. The high population numbers are due to the presence of a significant migrant population mostly from Northern Ghana who are farmers.

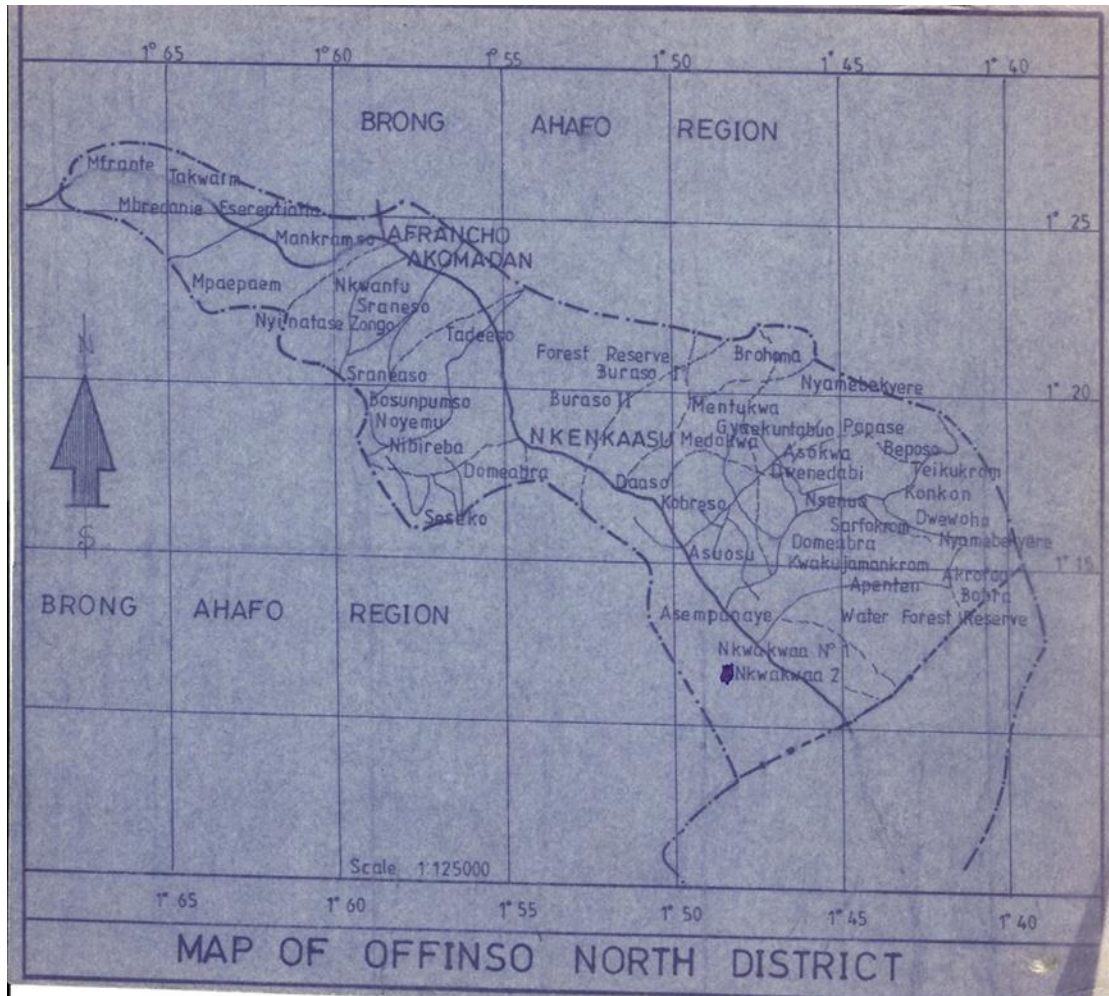
The OND has over 95 communities. By the national standards, rural-urban classification of localities is based on whether the population of a settlement is more or less than 5,000. In the case of a rural community it should be less than 5,000 whilst an urban population should be 5,000 or more. In the case of the Offinso North District only three (3) of the communities can be said to be urban. These are Akomadan, Nkenkaasu and Afrancho.

The remaining communities are rural communities. The average household size is 5.0. The household composition consists of persons from the nuclear and extended families as well as those outside the two mentioned. Heads of households are mainly males. However, there are female household heads too, who are either single or single parent households. Children constitute about 37.3 per cent of the average household. There are three main religions in the district. These are Christians (67.4%), Moslems (19.4%), and Traditional (2.8%). About 62.3 % of the population is are farmers. This indicates that



agriculture is the major economic activity in the district. It is followed by commerce which employs about 19.4%; service, 14.5% and industry, 3.8%. The figure 3.3 below is the map of OND.

Figure 3.1 The Map of OND, Ghana



SOURCE: Town and country Planning, Offinso North District (2014)

3.2 The Research Design

Research design can be seen as the logic or master plan of a research that throws light on how the study is to be conducted. The research design can be seen as actualization of logic in a set of procedures that optimizes the validity of data for a given research problem. Research design is regarded as a main plan of research that give more meaning



to how the study is to be conducted. The research style will be seen as realization of logic in a very set of procedures that increases the validity of information for a given research issue. According to Mouton (1996, p. 175) the research design serves to "plan and execute" the research to increase the "reliability of the results". It offers directions from the underlying philosophical perspective to research design. Yin (2003), explains that "colloquially a research approach is a strategy for obtaining from here to there, where 'here' is also outlined as the initial set of inquiries to be answered and 'there' is a few set of (conclusions) answers". (as cited in Mouton, 1996))

We have quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods approach. The type of method to use is depended on the study being undertaken. This study utilized the concurrent mixed method design in line with the character of the research objectives addressed (Creswell, 2013). This design allowed both quantitative and qualitative data to be collected once at a particular period.

Qualitative and quantitative analysis was regarded applicable during this study as I did not intend to essentially obtain any universal truth, I however aim at seeking to determine in-depth knowledge on involvement of women in community water delivery so as to increase existing literature and understanding of a specific development, at this instance women's participation. I used qualitative method more because the study requires an in-depth understanding of human behavior and the reasons behind the participation or otherwise of women in developmental projects at the community level. This requires the presence of the researcher at the study area or location, where the study is to be conducted. I used qualitative technique more as the study needs deep knowledge about human behaviour and therefore the reasons behind the participation or otherwise of

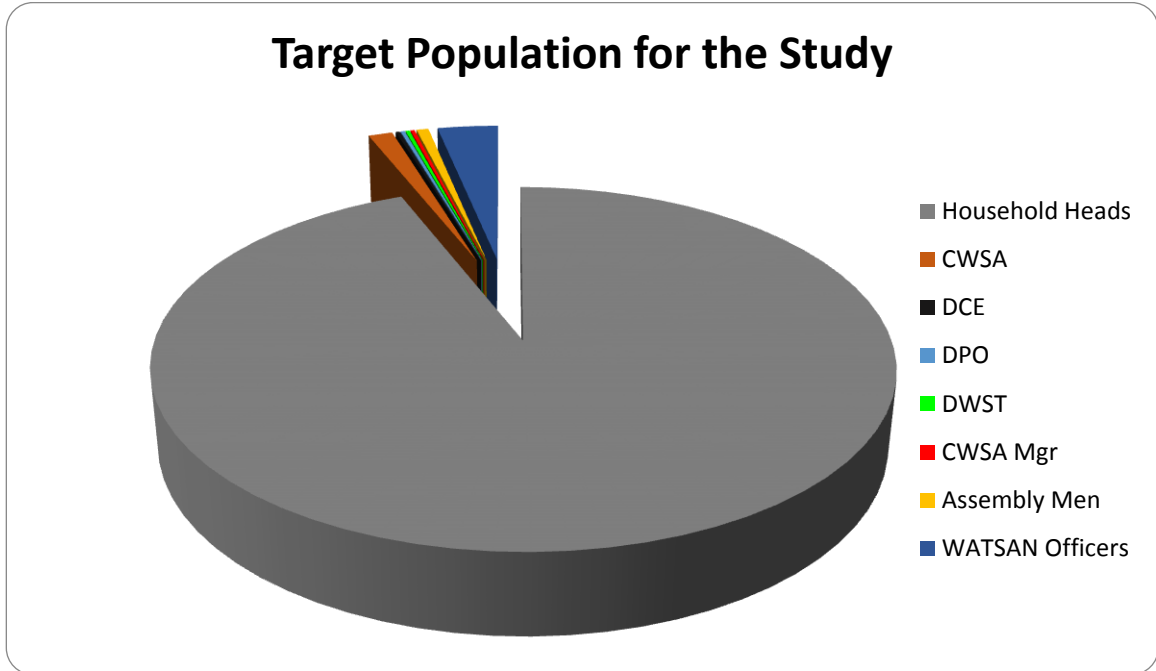
women in project initiatives at the grass root level. In this regard, I contacted officials from ONDA and beyond who are affected by water projects at the district and rural levels for their perspective on the topic. Thus participation of women in planning, implementation and managing water projects in the OND of the Ashanti Region of Ghana. The quantitative approach instruments such as the survey questionnaires was administered amongst household heads in the chosen areas of OND on women participation in water management and the challenges they face.

3.3 Target Population

The population includes all elements that meet certain criteria for inclusion in a study (Burns & Grove 2001). The population of the study consisted all stakeholders who are directly or indirectly concerned with the availability and maintenance of water supply, and proper sanitation in the Offinso North District of the Ashanti Region. In this study, the target population was 465 comprising three chiefs, seven WATSAN committee members, 434 Household Heads in the three communities namely; Asempanaye, Srentiatia and Sraneso No.1. Again, six officers, one DCE, one DPO, one DWST, one CWSA Manager in Kumasi and Three Assembly members were also targeted for the study. The participants were stakeholders and household heads above eighteen years. Respondents have lived in these communities for at least two years and have participated in the community water project in their respective communities. The target population for the study is shown in the Fig. 3.2 Below.



Fig 3.2 Target Population for the Study



Source: Author's Construct, 2018.

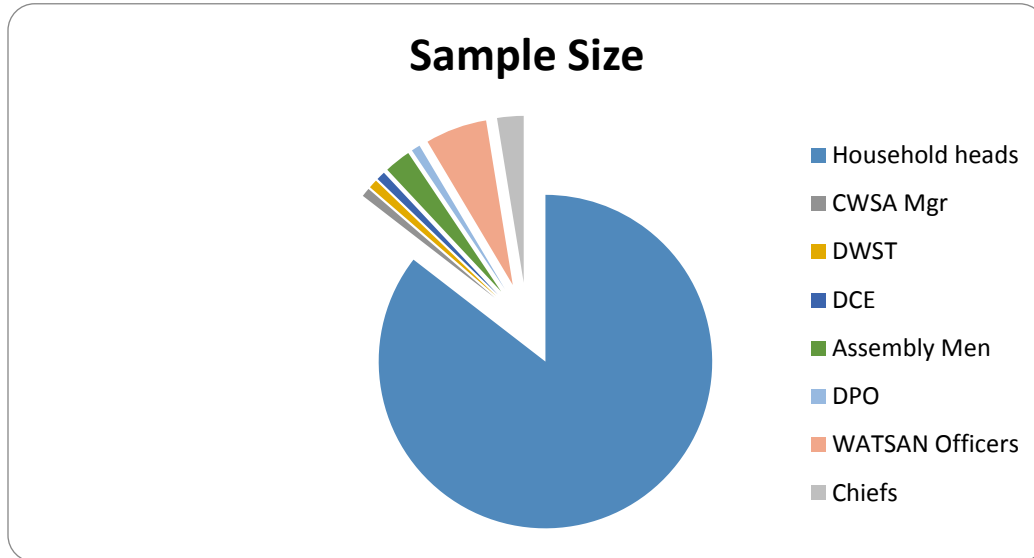
3.4 Sample Size Determination

A total of 117 of the target population were selected for the study using systematic sampling and purposive sampling techniques. A probability sample technique thus systematic sampling was used to offer all the participants equal opportunity to be selected for the study. The systematic sampling was employed to select 100 household heads with 40 household heads from Asempanaye, 35 from Sraneso and 25 from Srentiatia proportionately, these were communities with an estimated population of 437. Again, three chiefs, three assemblymen, one DCE, one DPO, and one DWST were selected. Also 7 participants who are members of WATSAN took part in the focus group discussion. The sample size for the survey was determined bearing in mind that the sampled population possesses characteristics of the entire population that make it imperative for



generalization of the outcome. The sampled population for the study is shown in the figure 3.3 below.

Figure 3.3 Sample Size of the Population



Source: Author's Construct, 2018.

The table 3.1 indicates the numbers of respondents and participants for the study. From the table, 100 Household heads making 85.45% who were considered as the heads of the various families in the community were selected for the study; Also Community Water and Sanitation Manager in Ashanti Region was also selected, He forms 0.85% of the sampled population. Again, one person from the District Water and Sanitation Team (DWST) of Offinso North District totalling 0.85% was selected. Moreover, two persons thus the District Chief Executive and District Planning Officer of Offinso North District Assembly representing 1.7% were included in the study and Three Assembly members making 2.56% responded to the questionnaire. Lastly, in the focus group discussions, 7 Water and Sanitation committees summing up to 6.98% contributed. These individual



were sampled due to their roles in water and sanitation issues in the various communities and the District at large. Below is table 3.1.

Table 3.1. Sampled Population of the study

Sampled population	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Household heads	100	85.45%
CWSA Mgr	1	0.85%
DWST	1	0.85%
DCE	1	0.85%
Assembly men	3	2.56%
DPO	1	0.85%
WATSAN	7	6.98%
Chiefs	3	2.56%
Total	117	100

Source: Field study, 2018.

3.5 Sampling Procedure



Here, a small unit was selected as representative of the population. It works with the objective to obtain valid and dependable information about the population with less cost, time and energy. It also helps to set out the standards of accuracy of such estimates. Generally, in the social sciences, it is not practicable to obtain data from all units related to our study. Such data is usually obtained from few respondents. The process of selecting the few is called sampling. For the lack of time, material resources and other considerations, researchers therefore have the option to select a sample for a study. Probability sampling equally give precision and enable generalization of findings. A probability sample is one that is used to select in such a way that every element chosen at



random has a known probability of being included. The study selected three communities - Asempanaye, Sraneso and Srentiatia purposefully. This is important as it gives the researcher the advantage to know all the social, political and economic dynamics that were affecting women participation across the three communities with recurrent breakdown of water systems. The underlying assumption is that people from those communities can share different understanding, perception, challenges of women participation in water delivery. The reason for using this sampling technique is that the phenomenon under study, which is women participation in water delivery, is complex due to the different communities and social issues involved. The researcher believes that the views of the different communities will differ and sampling different respondents from the three communities ensured a more comprehensive analysis of the situation and helped limit biased responses.

Systematic sampling was then used in reaching out the household's heads in the selected communities for questionnaire administration. Systematic sampling procedures, the researcher ensured that upon entry to the community, the community was divided into four sections by two main roads crossing each other at the center. The subsections in the community seemed to be along a certain order which made systematic sampling possible. Therefore, starting from the first house, in the first section, every second house that followed was chosen and an available household head selected to be part of the sample for questionnaire administration. This continued with the other sections until the sample was arrived. Systematic technique is important as it gives researcher a degree of control and has notably low risk of error and data contamination (Renner, 2018).

For the purpose of choosing other stakeholders (the DCE, DPO, DWST leader, CWSA, chiefs) for in-depth interviews, purposive sampling was used. This technique provides the researcher the flexibility to reach individuals on purposeful bases as they possess the qualities to give in-depth information peculiar to the study subject matter. In the case of women participation in planning and water management which is the focus of this study, CWSA, DWST head, Offinso North district assembly, NGOs in water supply, a chief and 3 assembly persons were purposefully selected for interview due to their indepth experiences in community water delivery.

3.6 Data Type, Source and Collection

3.6.1 Types of Data

Both secondary and primary data was relied upon in addressing the research questions. Secondary data from NGOs in water delivery evaluation reports, academic journals, OND reports on water situation or water profile, as well as other reports was used at different stages of the study. Primary data mainly of qualitative nature was collected from the target respondents (survey of target population, CWSA, WATSAN committees, ONDA, NGOs in rural water supply) through FGD, the use of institutional survey questionnaires and in-depth interviews.

3.6.2 Data Collection Instruments

3.6.2.1 Questionnaire

The questionnaire was designed along the frame work of the research objectives. The rational for using structured questionnaire was to ensure that responses do not deviate from scope of the study (Williams, et al., 2017). The questionnaire elicited the background information of respondents, socio cultural and economic factors affecting



women participation in planning and management of water facilities in the Offinso North District (OND). Survey questionnaire were administered to household heads. The advantage of this technique is that it is flexible and allowed researcher asked questions that demanded direct answers from respondents. In all 100 questionnaires were administered. Thus 40 for Asempanaye, 35 for Sraneso and 25 for Srentiatia communities which was purposely selected for the study.

3.6.2.2 Interviews

The advantages of interview method of data collection were that it helps to get direct contact with beneficiaries which often leads to possitive suggestions. The purpose of this study is to examine women involvement in the planning and management of water delivery in the Offinso North District and the socio-cultural, political and economic factors affecting women participation in water governance. Key informant interviews were conducted involving DWST leader, DCE, Planning officers, chiefs and assembly members. An interview was guided by the use of an interview. In all 10 officers were interviewed.

3.6.2.3 Focus Group Discussion (FGD)

Focus Group Discussion was also conducted involving seven WATSAN committee members in the study area. The advantage is that the researcher asks for clarification of issues from respondents and vice versa.

Focus group interview is guided by sample of questions prepared by the researcher and the medium of communication was in Twi.



3.7 Data Analysis and Presentation

The process of data analysis began with the categorization and organization of data in search of patterns, critical themes and meanings that emerge from the data. A process sometimes referred to as “open coding” (Strauss, 1978) is commonly employed whereby the researcher identifies and tentatively names the conceptual categories into which the phenomena observed would be grouped. The goal is to create descriptive, multi-dimensional categories that provide a preliminary framework for analysis. For the purpose of this study, qualitative data obtained from the field was summarized. The data was being analyzed by organizing them into themes and further discuss them in order to establish trends and patterns in accordance with the research questions.

The data was analyzed using Microsoft excel. Frequencies, percentiles, tables and graphs were used in describing and presenting the data. Information that was gathered was assimilated and correlated into summary findings of women participation and effective water management which allowed for constructive recommendations and suggestions to be arrived at.

3.8 Validity and Reliability

Triangulation is used to compare data to decide if it corroborates (Creswell, 2013), and thus, to validate research findings. It is one of the most important ways to improve the trustworthiness of research findings. For this study, the data collection instruments and questions were measured up to standard. This is achieved by ensuring that the questions were given out for second hand moderation for standardization. When that was done, the questionnaire was pre-tested or piloted in the study area to ascertain the degree at which it addresses the research issues and questions. Irrelevant questions were expunged,



restructured and relevant questions included before final administration of questionnaires to the study population. After data have been collected, the researcher revisited the field to sample respondents to find out whether they were contacted for data and what type of data was collected from them.

3.9 Ethical Consideration

Even though there were no known risks associated in taking part in this research, some considerations were necessary. In this study, the researcher has to interact deeply with the Women participants and the stakeholders, thus entering their personal domains of values, weaknesses, individual learning disabilities and the like to collect data. Silverman (2000, p. 201) reminds researchers that they should always remember that while they were doing their research, they were in actual fact entering the private spaces of their participants. Understandably, this raises several ethical issues that should be addressed during, and after the research had been conducted. Creswell (2013) states that the researcher has an obligation to respect the rights, needs, values and desires of the informants. Miles and Huberman (1994) list several issues that researchers should consider when collecting data. They caution researchers to be aware of these and other issues before, during, and after the research had been conducted. Some of the issues involve the following:

- I. Informed consent (Do participants have full knowledge of what is involved?)
- II. Harm and risk (Can the study hurt participants?)
- III. Honesty and trust (Is the researcher being truthful in presenting data?)
- IV. Privacy, confidentiality, and anonymity (Will the study intrudes too much into Group behaviours?)



- V. Intervention and advocacy (What should researchers do if participants display harmful or illegal behavior?)
- VI. For the purposes of this research, the above issues by Huberman (1994), jealously guided researcher's interaction with respondents.



CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the finding of the study. The data gathered from respondents were categorized and presented in line with the research objectives. The researcher backed the results with transcripts from informants to give in-depth understanding of the views as they pertain to this research.

4.1 Demographic Profile of Respondents

This section describes the demographics features of the respondents. Figures 4.1 to 4.5 present the results of demographic data of respondents.

4.1.1 Distribution of Respondents by Gender

In all, hundred (100) per cent of respondents who responded to the questionnaires, 58% were females. Although the sample was dominated by females, it is considered to be fairly spread among both genders since the female population in the towns under study was higher than the male population. Also, the research is female inclined.

4.1.2 Distribution of Respondents by Age

From the Table below, it can be seen that the respondents were dominated by people in the 25 – 34 years' age group. The least age group represented in the sample is the 45 years and above age group. Age is a plausible variable on the depth of knowledge in relation to women in water management. Most of the respondents were 34 years and below which means that the sample was youthful in nature. It was convincing to note that respondents of these ages were reliable sources of the study data.



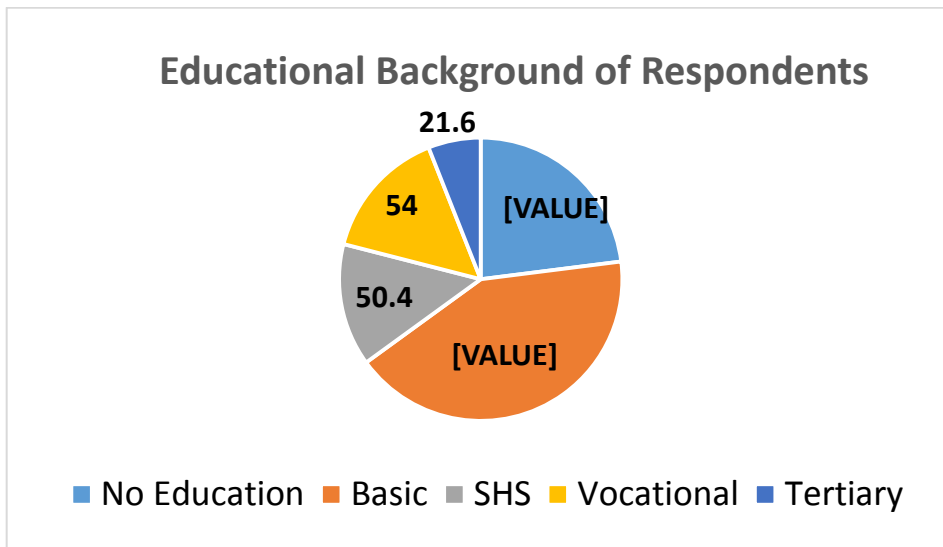
Table 4. 1: Table Age of Respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage
18- 24	27	27
25 – 34	39	39
35 -44	25	25
45 – 54	9	9
Total	100	100

Source: Author’s Construct, 2018

4.1.3 Distribution of Respondents by Educational Background

Figure 4. 1: Educational Backgrounds of Respondents



Source: Author’s Construct, 2018

The results from the data indicated that the majority of the respondents have basic education certificates. That is, forty – two (42) of the respondents (151.2⁰ of Chart area) have basic education certificates, twenty – three (23) of the respondents (82.8⁰ of Chart area) have no education or never been to school. Seventy- seven (126⁰ of Chart area) of



respondents having JHS education and above shows that literacy rate among these respondents is average. Therefore, it is expected that they can read and write and should be able to understand many of the issues their DWST will discuss with them regarding the essence of water committee formation and the benefits thereon.

4.1.4 Distribution of Respondents by Occupation

Table 4.2: Occupation of Respondents

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage
Farmers	28	43	71
Traders	6	3	9
Teacher	5	3	8
Others	3	9	12
Total	42	58	100

Source: Author’s Construct, 2018

The results from the Table 4.2 clearly indicated that the respondents were dominated by farmers since farming is one of the main occupations in and around the district. Farmers represent seventy –one per cent of the respondents Out of which, fifty- five were males implying that men were into farming more than women. Nine per cent were traders also dominated by women which is the occupation in which few people were into in the District. Farming, as a traditional profession, needs a lot of time to achieve results. This makes it difficult for farmers to accept to be members of modern governance structures including water committees as they feel that they lack the extra time to perform the duties of such committees. As a result, the human resource available for water management committees at the community level becomes inadequate. According to the results, almost

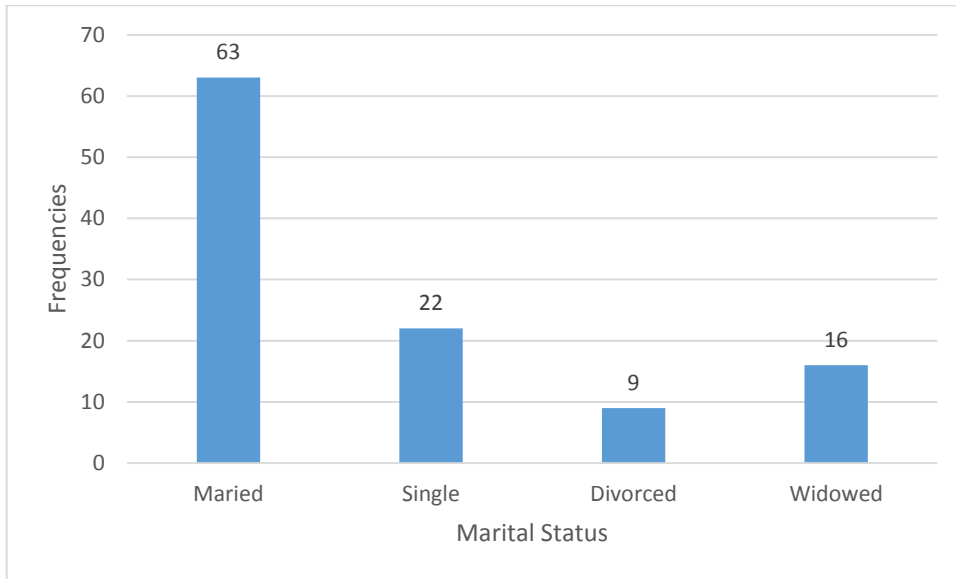


all the various occupations that can be found in Offinso North District were involved in the study.

4.1.5 Distribution of Respondents by Marital status

From the Figure 4.2 below, it can be seen that majority of the people who responded to the questions of the study were married people. From the data it was seen that 63 of the respondents were married people, 22 of them were single. Nine of them were divorced and six (6) were widowed. The respondents who were married tend to have depth knowledge and are interested in issues of water than those who were single. The vast knowledge of the respondents who were married aided the study.

Figure 4.2: Marital Statuses of Respondents



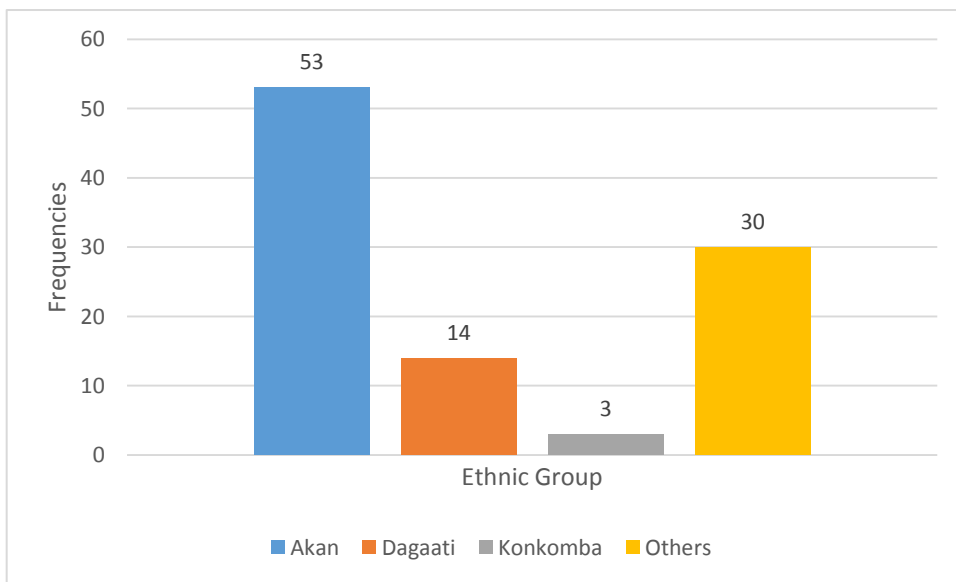
Source: Author's Construct, 2018



4.1.6 Distribution of Respondents by Ethnic Groups

The field data in the figure 4.3 shows that majority of the respondents were from the Akan ethnic group. The 53 of the respondents were from the Akan ethnic group, 14 of them were Dagaatis, three of them were Konkombas and we had thirty (30) of them who were from other ethnic groups such as Banda, Ga, Ewe, Gonja, Dagomba etc. The dominance of the Akan ethnic group in the sample reflects the demographic profile of the district which has Akans as the major ethnic group. The researcher believes that the practice of matrilineal inheritance among the Akans gives the women the “power” to make some decisions on their own. This “power” given to the women usually make them independent minded from their husband which encourages women participation in water management.

Figure 4. 3: Ethnic Groups of Respondents



Source: Author’s Construct, 2018



4.1.7 Distribution of Respondents by their Sources of Water

The study went ahead to check the sources of drinking water for the respondents with their gender as indicated in table 4.3. It shows that 73 per cent of the respondents which is close to three – fourth of the entire sample use borehole as their main source of water. About 45 per cent of them being females, 22 per cent of them use water from a dam, while two per cent of them uses pipe borne water and three per cent of them use water from other sources like streams and rainwater. This is the experience of water bodies in thee OND.

Table 4.3: Sources of Water for Respondent

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage
Borehole	28	45	73
Pipe borne	2	0	2
Dam	10	12	22
Others	2	1	3
Total	42	58	100

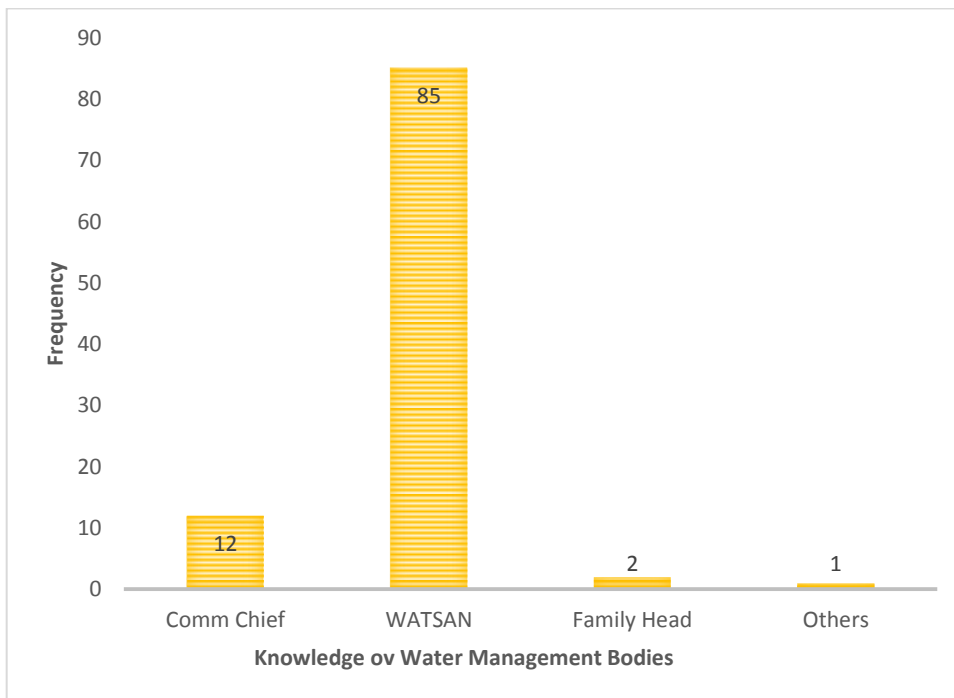
Source: Author's Construct, 2018



4.1.8 Distribution of Respondents' Knowledge on Water Management Bodies

The study also went further to ask respondents as to who manages their sources of water and from the Figure 4.4 above, it can be seen clearly that most of the communities has water and sanitation committees (WATSAN) seeing to the management of the sources of water in the communities. About 85 per cent of the respondents said their water sources were managed by the water and sanitation committees, 12 of them said water is managed by their community chiefs, two said their water source were managed by family heads and one other person said his water source is managed by a private water owner. This means that CWSA should include chiefs and the private sector players as stakeholders in water management.

Figure 4. 4: Knowledge on Water Management Bodies



Source: Author's Construct, 2018



4.2 Women Involvement in the Planning and Management of Water

The first objective of the study answered the research question which measured women involvement in the planning and management of water delivery in the OND.

4.2.1 Women Involvement in the Planning and Management of Water

The WATSAN members are usually a rigorously selected individuals of five from a beneficiary community of whom a minimum of 40% should be females. The mandate of the WATSAN is to manage the water systems, specifically boreholes and safe water and hygiene within the area. The WATSAN has the mandate to work and maintain the water projects in their catchment areas. Every WATSAN committee consist of a Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, organizer and caregiver of which two of whom should be women. In Offinso North, there were 31 WATSAN committees. The records available at the DWST show that of the 155 members of the WATSAN committee, 65 were women representing 42 per cent.

In the study area, the target communities of Asempanaye, Sraneso and Srentiantia has six WATSAN Committees. The membership of the committee comprise three males and two females in each of the three communities above. The research discovered that the chairmen and secretaries were a preserve of the men whiles the treasury and care givers position were exclusively for women.

The implications are that, women are members of WATSAN committees in the study area. However, the positions they hold are inferior and they cannot influence major decisions of WATSAN. This current study supports the assertion that most women on WATSAN had no significant influence on the decisions of the WATSAN (Boateng et al., 2013). The reason is that, there were no women who hold higher executive position on



the WATSAN and they do not have any great influence on the decisions of the committee due to their low position on it and lack of courage to express themselves in the group.

Srentiatia's WATSAN Chairman, who is a Primary school teacher noted:

My organizer and caregiver were interestingly effective in influencing resolutions arrived at, even higher than the men on the WATSAN though it is anticipated as they were each retired government employees not like the remaining ones who were farmers (Interview with Srentiatia's WATSAN Chairman, 10th April, 2018).

This is to mention that some females were simply on the WATSAN committees to fulfil a statutory rule however, do not contribute significantly once they were on Water facilities committees. This type of participation according to Pretty (1969) is non-participation (manipulation), that participatory spaces are created purposefully by some power holders to interchange for real participation

In an interview, the District Water and Sanitation Team leader, he indicated women's role in WATSAN in the following words:

The men do not respect the women on WATSAN despite their strategic suggestions at meetings, dismayingly because the community members regard them to be women they try to sweep over their comments. This sometime result to ignoring or even describing women who make regular contributions as inquisitive and name them 'women men'. This unacceptable conduct of men against women in WATSAN has its origin in the culture of the people where they see a man always ahead of a woman in all sphere of life (Interview with District Water and Sanitation Team leader, 10th May, 2018).

This response from experienced people means that the holding of positions by women does not ultimately result into women involvement because the Focus Group Discussants



unanimously asserted that the community members led by the chief dissolved the Sraneso WATSAN for the basis that the two women were inquisitives. As one discussant (with no formal education) at the FDG in Sraneso said: *“Men do not recognise women in key executive positions because they think women were their natural servants given to them by nature”* (a female FGD respondent, member at Sraneso, May 25, 2018).

This reaffirms the earlier assertion of the district water and sanitation team leader which implies that some men have no respect for women in leadership and therefore think community position should be the preserve of the men. At the time of the visit to my selected communities some of their boreholes were not functioning.

4.2.2 Stages of Women Participation in Community Water Delivery

In community development arena, project goes through several steps: design, execution and management. Studies show that in community water delivery, continuity is significantly increased once female have key roles (Tigabu et al., 2013; Boateng et al., 2013a&b; and Harmon, 2012 cited in Mensah, 2015). They added that even where their involvement is encouraging, their participation is limited to solely two steps and not all the major steps. They actively involve the women at the implementation and management stages, they continuing to ignore the women in core decision making level. This section delves into the level of women involvement throughout planning, implementation and management in the OND.

4.2.2.1 Planning Stage

Planning activities at the community level starts with the DPO initiating a gathering with the chiefs, assembly person and few other stakeholders. This forum provides opportunity for everybody to participate particularly females within the community are inspired to



attend for the discussion of the approaching initiative. Major areas of concern including location of the facility and who to involve were discussed at such fora.

The resolution at such meetings was used to plan and implement the water project. Here, 7 people were chosen from the tribal groups in the community (Akan, Frafra, Konkomba, Kusasi, Ewe, Dagati and Grusi) to constitute the interim planning committee:

Here, anything that we do, we includes are the major tribes. This committee has also been developed along that line chaired by a teacher. Bringing a member from each tribe is now the responsibility of that tribe to decide on one. The interim planning committee had six men and only one woman (Akan representative) was included to be our treasurer. Later we submitted the list of the committee to the DWST; we were urged to add more women. We returned and ask some of the ethnic groups to present women instead. Some heeded to the call and resubmitted and we had three women and four men in the reconstituted committee. The members were taking through training on basic water management and hygiene practices however; only four out of seven people completed the workshop. The men participated throughout but majority of the women left the workshop complaining of conflicting activities and illiteracy (Interview with chief's representative at Sraneso, May 25, 2018).

The FGD declared with a standard voice that some women got the platform to be part of the process, but majority of them were not ready to take the advantage to influence to influence development outcomes. Few women told the field researcher that while fora were organized to ascertain their opinions on the kind and site of facilities, most of them were not bold to speak for the bases of being intimidated by the men or being the subject



of gossip by colleague women. As a result only few literate women contributed to the process at the project strategy planning stage however, the men dominated them.

This concurs with Boateng's view that aside ridicule and damaging criticisms from folks particularly at the lower level, other females, largely out of jealousy, gossip concerning women who make contributions at these meetings, in an attempt to achieve recognition from men (Boateng et al., 2013). They additionally stated that these breed loss of spirit and discourage them to speak on problems regarding their welfare publicly. Therefore men take the set the agenda and choose for them. Unexpectedly, I found out from the FGDs that the assertion that men were more intelligent than women in decision making still had a place in local areas. One of the Focus Group Discussant revealed that the reason is due to the fact that historically, it was culturally not allowed for women to make contributions in decision making process in the community where men were present.

This suggests that at the planning stage, both men and women were allowed to participate in decision making. However, the level of knowledge sharing is unequal as men often dominate the process due to their numbers, cultural advantage and ability to influence decision making. This is not real participation and it is described by Pretty (1969) as "tokenism".

4.2.2.2 Implementation

The implementation starts with advertisement of project in line with procurement guidelines; contractors bid for projects and therefore the most qualified are awarded. Even though the district engineer may propose to the contractors to incorporate additional women to conform regulative demands in their operations however, the contractors had the discretion to simply accept to include women or not. Any attempts to insist on women inclusion at that stage will amount to a breach of contractual procedures.



However, in several instances the folks used by the contractors were largely men from the communities they felt were effective in delivering than women. Notwithstanding, there have been instances wherever contractors wanted help from community members as and once the requirement arose because of time or resource deficiency and additionally as a method of enhancing sense of possession within the community members. Here, nearly everyone was concerned except the sick and aged. Women provided food while males did the weeding and excavation.

One of the respondents at Asempanaye said that:

Everybody in the community participated because Nana Asempanayehene (Asempanaye chief) called for “oman adwuma” (communal labour) where women helped in water provision, and their men cleared the land. Those who refused deliberately to participate in the communal labour were sanctioned by power brokers (chief and elders) in the community in the form of fines with an amount of GHC 20.00 (FDG respondent, 11th May, 2018).

This corroborates the findings of Ahmed (2005) that community initiatives normally start with the men and they add women at the implementation stage where there is physical work. It was also established that women were not interested in the monitoring of progress of projects.

Occasionally, we tend to have site inspection within the course of the project. Here the CWSA team, DPO, DWST, district engineer, DCE team, usually visit the location to examine work progress, problems that emerge were known promptly and solved (*DCE, OND, April, 2018*).



Women were not interested in sitting in for monitoring meetings because they think it is not their job, the study confirmed. This means that men recognises the worth of women in the process of project cycle only when it comes to physical labour but they dumped them during the planning stage. Women are not given the power to influence development outcomes and that is what Arnstein (1969) described as passive participation.

4.2.2.3 Management

To ensure effective and efficient water management system; availability of money for repairs, proper book keeping, improved hygiene and sanitation practices and enhanced water use practices, a comprehensive management plan should be put in place. Here, monitoring, supervision and management of the water facilities were key in achieving results. The DWST along with the community committee were accountable for supervision of projects because of its technicalities. For instance, the treasury of the Srentiatia WATSAN (a woman) concurred that: “...*the DCE and the DWST visit the project location periodically to assess progress made suggestions for improvement*”

(Interview with Srentiatia WATSAN, May, 2018).

The interview revealed further that on completion of the project, the WATSANs were tasked to operate the water facility. Thereafter, the WATSAN leadership; chairperson, secretary, treasurer, care taker and organizer were then taken through an intensive workshops to provide them with managerial skills. This is in the area of accounts, hygiene, simple repairs and supervision after the project was put to use.

After the construction of project and the facility is to be put to use, that is when women were greatly involved. This is so because the facility operatives were mostly women; treasurers and caretakers. One of the care takers in Sraneso opined that:



The women use water mostly and for that matter were interested in availability or otherwise of water hence, they will report any breakdown of water projects. For keeping of the money is the job of the woman because men will easily embezzle it (FGD respondent, May, 2018).

The research revealed also that, daily care takers of water facilities were women responsible for the hygiene maintenance of facility surroundings. The WATSAN committees especially women identify any faults and run the facilities daily (Eguavoen, as cited by Decardi, Asare and Ayeh, 2012). However, women were not involved at the decision making level where men control. This is what Arnstein (1969) described as the highest level of tokenism (placation) where the have-nots make recommendations, however power is retained for the powerful men with the right to dictate the pace. The FGD revealed that women were happy that they were performing those responsibilities as prime water providers. Regardless of the monopoly of men at the decision making phase, the role of women as important stakeholders in water delivery in the OND cannot be underestimated.



4.3 Socio-Cultural, Political and Economic Factors Affecting Women Participation in Water Governance

The second objective of the study was to ascertain the socio-cultural, political and economic factors affecting women participation in water governance in the Offinso North District. The results obtained from the respondents with regards to this research question have been tabulated in the table 4.5 below.

Table 4.4: Factors Affecting Women Participation in Water Governance

Statements	Strongly Disagree		Neutral		Strongly Agree	
	Males	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Women and men have equal opportunities.	7 (7)	14 (14)	13 (23)	9 (9)	22 (22)	35 (35)
Gender stereotypical norms guard against women active involvement in water governance in the community	11 (11)	7 (7)	24 (24)	9 (9)	7 (7)	42 (42)
Employment and productive activities affects women participation in water governance	15 (5)	20 (20)	8 (8)	9 (9)	19 (19)	29 (29)
Poverty and low income of women affects their participation in water governance	23 (23)	15 (15)	3 (3)	4 (4)	16 (16)	39 (39)
Low level of education of women discourages them from involving in water management	11 (11)	8 (8)	11 (11)	7 (7)	20 (20)	43 (43)
Political and chieftaincy interference affects women participation in water management.	22 (22)	16 (16)	8 (8)	7 (7)	12 (1)	35 (35)
Women role is still the kitchen activities	19 (19)	31 (31)	9 (9)	12 (12)	14 (14)	15 (15)
Gossips against women who participate in water management position discourages them	9 (9)	11 (11)	9 (9)	4 (4)	24 (24)	43 (43)
Men as the first contact in the community gives them an advantage over women in participation	14 (14)	9 (9)	13 (13)	7 (7)	15 (15)	42 (42)
Women role is still the kitchen activities	4 (4)	22 (22)	10 (10)	19 (19)	28 (28)	17 (17)

Source: Author's Construct, 2018

The study made use of statements to measure how some identified variables affect the participation of women in water governance in the Offinso North District



4.3.1 Cultural Factors

From the table 4.5 above, it was seen that 57% of the respondents agreed to the statement that culture allows women and men to have equal opportunities in the workplace. Out of this, 35% were female respondents, 21% of them disagreed with the statement and 22% stayed neutral to the statement. This implies that majority of the respondents especially females 35% of 57% think culture is not a limitation to women participation in water governance. This is influenced by the recent campaign by women activist for gender equality with a mantra “what men can do, women can do it, even better”. I believe in any case, that campaign should lead to real structural changes in the area of public policy at the community level. The media campaign is not enough to guarantee the changes required at the desired level (community level). This concurs with the response from a Focus Group Discussion that;

Here, in Sraneso community, there is no known culture or tradition that deliberately restricts women from taking positions of leadership. Look at me I am a woman but I am the organiser to the WATSAN committee. Even though some of the women fear of their time and probably their husbands when it comes to taking up such community responsibilities, women like me who can read, write and speak in public, have no problem. As far as I am concerned, there is absolutely no cultural restriction on women taking leadership position and for that matter women and men have equal chances at workplace especially water governance (FGD at Sraneso, May 22, 2018).

However, this is, contrary to popular belief that the local culture does not give enough freedom to the women, majority of the respondents believe that the local culture does not necessarily hinder the participation of women. This also contradicts the assertion that:



Uneven distribution of land and alternative resources like water. These resources essentially were within the hands of the native authorities where in most cases were men, providing restricted space female to manage these facilities (Omorede, as cited by Mensah, 2015).

This means that there are unequal opportunities for women and men according to Omorede at work place concurring with the 21% who disagreed to the statement. They believed that in social reality, men and women do not have equal opportunities. This response is influenced by practical cases of gender based biase against women at the community and household's levels. The 22% who stayed neutral looked at the statement to be sensitive and did not offer their opinions.

4.3.2 Gender Stereotypical Norms

The study also found that 49% of the respondents agreed with the statement that gender stereotypical norms and practices guard against women's active involvement in water governance in the community. Out of this, 42% were females, 18% of them disagreed with the statement and t33% of them preferred to stay neutral. Out of 33%, 24% were males. This means that majority of respondent's 447% out of which 42% female's belief culture plays a role in undermining women active involvement in water governance.

This may be based on daily experiences of women in the hands of men and the practical application of these cultural norms in their daily affairs. The survey reaffirms Upadhyay, (2010) and Sultana, (2009a) who indicated that social and cultural issues have been noticed in South Asia, including stereotypical ideas about gender role, high illiteracy level and male dominance.

The findings from the focus group discussions and interviews confirmed this result and made it clear the difference between the gender stereotypes and the local culture. It was



revealed that gender stereotypes were from the people themselves in their current state and therefore easily changeable but the culture consist of traditions that has been passed on to the people from older generations. That is the current beliefs and the things they do and say affect the active participation of women in water management. The 18 respondents who disagreed with the statement may be influenced by their exposure to other formal setting who were not inclined to tradition. They may include educated elites in the communities. The 33% out of which 24 were males who stayed neutral represent respondents who do not want to say anything that will result to the review of the current socially male dominated arrangement.

4.3.3 Poverty and Income Levels of Women

The study also found out that 55 per cent (55%) of the respondents agreed with the statement that poverty and low income of women affects their participation in water governance. Out of this, 29 were female meanwhile 38 of them disagreed with the statement while 7% were neutral. This implies that majority of respondents ,29 out of 55, believe that most of the women were into petty trading and some of them do not work at all and stayed home as housewives. This makes them low income earners and makes them less effective participants at the community water committee level because they cannot contribute any funds when the need arises. The people themselves believe that when they accept any position, they cannot perform. The attitudes of the general public and the stigma towards the poor may also be a reason for low morale of the poor segment of our society taking leadership responsibilities.

This finding agrees with the fact that to elect a woman to a responsible decision making positions, does not give room for the seemingly poor women to participate. Chifamba (2013) observed that, in Zimbabwe, elected females were those that command some level

of respect from the community members, or a females with a specific level of resources like money (Chifamba, 2013). Corroborating both the survey and the literature, a FG Discussants told the researcher that;

If you do not have wealth and there is a meeting in this community, nobody will call you let alone allow you to take an important position. The rich, wealthy and influential women were those they call for meetings and for poor women, they do not matter at all (FGD at Sraneso, May, 2018).

The 38% who disagreed with the statement may be influenced by their depth understanding of leadership qualities and personal orientation which would want to see a society devoid of selectivity. The 7% were not so concern about public life.

4.3.4 Low Level of Education

It was further found that 63 respondents agreed with the statement that the low level of education of women and illiteracy discourages them from involving in water management. Out of this, 43% were female respondents. Nineteen respondents representing 19% of them disagreed and 18 of them stayed neutral to the statement. This implies that majority of the respondents 63% out of which 43% females admits that illiteracy is a dominant factor that results to low level of women in water management. The illiterate women view themselves as inferior and cannot do anything. Also, the current social system embraces literacy as basic standard qualification for any leadership position. Concurring with the survey results, DWST leader told the researcher in my interview with him:

Illiteracy is one of the reasons for low involvement of women in community water based committees. I know the field, I go there and I ask for women to be placed on the



committees but they tell me I am not educated. I cannot be part, in fact what can I bring on board. That is why men continue to dominate the committees, he lamented (DWST leader, OND, May, 2018).

The 19% of respondents think that education does not matter but other socially accepted norms may be why women were low in water governance committees. The 8 who stayed neutral may genuinely have no knowledge of the topic.

The study went further to find that 47 respondents agreed with the statement that political, chieftaincy and power imbalances affects women participation in water management. Out of this, 35% were female respondent. Thirty-eight respondents disagreed with the statement while 15 stayed neutral. Thus, a significant proportion believes that the low participation of women in water governance is politics and chieftaincy. Most chiefs and politicians would want favours from any community based established leadership; therefore they will show much interest in determining who makes it onto the committees. These unnecessary interferences will eventually result in exclusion of a segment of our society with women bearing the brunt. Confirming the survey outcome, the DWST leader told the researcher this:

For me it is true that there is power play as some politicians and community chief's struggle over who controls community water based committees. "I will go round the district to form the WATSAN committee but at the end you see that some of the members have been changed and new faces introduced without my knowledge as a technical person. These were the hand work of chiefs and politicians and the changes mostly affected the women" he bemoaned (DWST leader, OND, May, 2018).



The 38%, who disagreed to the statement, genuinely did not understand the underground dealings of the politicians and the chiefs or they supported the actions of these people in the dark and did not want them exposed. The 15% who stayed neutral tells how people were not showing interest in this.

4.3.5 Gossips Against Women Who Participate in Water Management Position

Furthermore, the study brought to light that majority of the respondent representing 67% agrees with the statement that Gossips against women who participate in water management position discourages them. Out of this number, 43% were female respondents. Twenty respondents representing 20% disagreed and 13 stayed neutral to the statement that gossips against women who participate in water management position discourage them. This indicates respondents mostly females of 43% out 67(67%) assert that gossips against women discourage them). Contrary to the above, a Focus Group member told me:

For me, I do not care about gossip; I became a member of the WATSAN committee voluntarily. You know as a woman, water is important to my life and water is a big challenge in this community. Could you believe that here in Srentiatia community, over 500 people were sharing just a single borehole? Due to numerous challenges of our water system, the WATSAN members, all then men, were not helping so I took it upon myself voluntarily supported by the 'Odikro', I performed the role of water fees collection, maintenance and repairs and now it's better (WATSAN committee member at Srentiatia, May, 2018).

This FGD participant agreed with 20% participants who think that gossip against women does not discourage them from participating in community based water committees. This



may be influenced by individual level decision and personal values. The 13% who cannot appreciate the question and do not want to take any position stayed neutral.

4.3.6 Serving as the Traditionally Accepted

Moreover, the survey revealed that 57% agrees with the statement that men serving as the traditional first contact in various communities gives them advantage over women in community WATSAN committee participation. Out of this 42 (42%) were female respondents. Twenty-three respondents disagreed with the statement while 20 stayed neutral. This implies that most respondents especially females 42 out of 57 were of the view that men being the entry points in the community gives them the opportunity to serve their interest first before women. This is based on previous knowledge of respondent on the known tradition and their experiences. The survey consolidates the argument Meinzen et al (1998), that implementing governmental or non-governmental agencies sometimes contact male literate farmers, either as a results of they were notable or as a result of the fact that they were mandatory entry channel to the community to guide any intervention. The 23 who disagreed with the statement may be influenced by personal belief for gender parity or non-appreciation of the effects of the traditional structure. The 20% who stayed neutral may be deliberately neutral in order not to provoke gender debate that will result in home-based conflict.

Also 15 respondents were unsure about any cultural practices that reinforce women exclusion in the district. This implies that majority of the respondent's 62(62%) out of which 40(40%) were male's beliefs that there were other cultural practices that reinforces women exclusion from water management in the OND. This indicates that the men enjoy the current social structure which favours them. The survey contradicts a FGD participant who told me:



For me, in this community there is no tradition that deliberately excludes women from taking positions. Even though some of the women fear of gossip and probably their husbands when taking responsibilities, women like me who am literate, have no issue. As for me there is no norm on women taking leadership position and for that matter women and men have equal chances at all levels

(WATSAN member at Sraneso, May, 2018).

The FGD participant view rather agreed with 23% of respondent's view that there were no cultural factors that led to the exclusion of women in water management. This confirms the popular saying that culture is dynamic and culture is relative. Some of the issues the yes respondents variously told the researcher include:

- a. Men serving as heads of family by divine rights
- b. We also belief that a woman cannot kill a snake while the husband is there. Meaning that a woman cannot lead a man
- c. Women were not allowed by custom to attend meeting in the night
- d. Woman cannot be a chief in any community here

Opened ended questions which sought respondent's opinions on ways to address the cultural factor undermining women effective involvement in water governance in the OND. Respondents were emphatic that the only way to end these cultural issues affecting women is to facilitate women access to formal education that will make them literate enough to demand what is due them.

4.4 Motivating Factors for Women Active Involvement in Water Governance in the District

There is a cliché that water is life. This underscores the necessity of water to human existence. Even though the water crisis is discovered as a general drawback for the local



communities, women and children bear the burden due to their socially stereotyped roles that involve searching for water for his or her home (Buckingham, 2000; Rodda, 1993). It's therefore required that issues of women in water should be placed high on top of policy agenda. This shows however that some women were involved in community water delivery processes despite the fact that majority do not. It is against this backdrop that this segment is dedicated to ascertain the socio – political factors motivating few women who involved themselves in community water delivery processes in the OND. The underlying principle is that when motivating factors for women were identified, it will give direction to stakeholders on strategic roadmap to increase women participation in community water delivery. The study identified the following motivation factors for women's participation in community water delivery in the OND.

4.4.1 To serve their Communities

One very important motivation factor that encouraged women who were actively involved in community water delivery is the desire to give back to their communities. The research discovered that some women participates in the community water delivery in the OND because of the desire to give back to their communities. These women believe that the society has contributed to their upbringing and making them responsible today. The society expects them to serve them in any capacity. The organizer at Asempanaye (a woman) stated that:

I lived in Kumasi for several years as a trader even though I was brought up here. I am now old enough and I had to return to serve my people. I left this community long ago when Limann was president and came last two years. I so much desire to serve my people (FGD, April 2018).

The research discovered that the motivating factor for few women to participate in the community water delivery is the desire to serve their community, which is an individual predisposition. These women hold the view that the community members in question have hope in what they can do as a result of their overseeing experience. These women mostly were deeply involved at the management level where majority of them serve as care taker to see the day – to-day maintenance of the facility as at the time of this research.

I became a member of this WATSAN voluntarily because I am traditional woman born and bred here and the community has done a lot for me and today is my time to pay back to the community (April, 2015).

This clearly shows that women who feel they have gotten much from the community, desire to pay back to their community by way of serving their communities by involving at management level with majority as care taker.

4.4.2 Enjoyment of Water Facility in the Community

Water is a basic necessity of life however limited access to potable water is increasing the rate of water related rate (Gender and Water Alliance, 2006). Hence, some women in the OND assert that without access to potable water will have dire effects on the well-being of the people. The FGD asserted that water as lifeline of the people and absents of it will have a catastrophic impact on general life, makes it a priority to women. We all know that absence of water in the community or household is the responsibility of women as part of our socially ascribed roles to provide. Therefore, availability of water in the community is crucial to women.

One of the things that motivate women to get actively involved in water governance is that they were encouraged by the fact that they want to see



adequate, sufficient and uninterrupted water supply in their communities so that they can enjoy. This makes them desire to serve on WATSAN (interview with DPO, April, 2018).

This shows that some women actually participated in water project out of the desire to have urgent need to provide clean and accessible water supply bearing in mind that absence of it directly affect them. This confirms the findings of Sutton (2008), who discovered that when MDGs ends in 2015, 4 million folks in Sub- Saharan continent were left while not having access to safe water with a majority of them being home wives and children living in rural households

The FGDs additionally confirmed that women and girls were principally effective at the implementation stage where they give physical labour and some provide food to support the provision of water facilities because they knew the implication of getting a water facility or otherwise in their community since they continuously suffered from walking long distances searching for water when there is no regular supply of water system. Here, it had been disclosed that women who were encouraged to participate at implementation and management stages of project. This is not a suggestion that those active at starting stage does not want to benefit water facilities as an urge of their participation.

4.4.3 Adhere to regulatory standards

The CWSA guideline requires that at least 40% of the composition of the WATSAN should be women. However, in most cases women do not show up at all. This result to the DWST doing nomination to comply with the regulatory requirement. Some of these nominations were not sustainable in the very long time because there is no payment for work done and many women think that is a waste of time. These women were only on the



WATSAN because the community members believe they can work but not because they wanted to be there. In an interview with CWSA, he told the researcher:

I think that there is consensus that women use water more than men and absence of water for domestic use affects women. However, when it comes to leadership of water, men dominate. There is an urgent need for a framework to guide the composition of water management committees. For example, our guideline requires 40% representation for women in water sector to prevent exclusion of women who were key stakeholders in the water delivery. Even though there were abuses to the framework application, public education by NGOs, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) and others should be encouraged to arouse the interest of people to recognise the worth of women and the need for their involvement in water delivery (CWSA, April, 2018).

This show that most women do not even want to be members of WATSAN with the fact that they were not paid however members of the committee were fetching water free of charge. Some of the women therefore do not see any reason why they should remain on the WATSAN in the face of gossip. Those who were driven by appointment noted to be women whose levels of education were low and did contribute very little to decision making process. It further noted that those nominated on the WATSAN, do not influence any decision made on the WATSAN. Therefore, their involvement on WATSAN was negligible.

4.4.4 The Prestige Women Enjoy in the Community

The research further discovered that women actively involved in water management were motivated because of prestige and the privileges they enjoy. Both the FGDs and



interviews conducted asserted that women who were actively involved in water management see themselves as the selected few among many women on water committees and they were encouraged to make strategic contributions to ensure successful water management. My interview with district engineer said:

The women on the committees see themselves as the privileged among the many women within the communities and they were motivated by the prestige accorded them and hence contribute effectively to water management (interview with District engineer, April, 2018).

Similarly, another WATSAN member in Sraneso disclosed that:

Apart from the general benefit of having a clean water to drink, nobody is paid any salary. However, members of the WATSAN committees were allowed to fetch water free of charge. Here, we were so fine on the committees not because of the material gains that we make but the recognition by community members (a female FGD member, Sraneso, April, 2018).

It was however revealed that these women believe that their involvement in such a platform will open up more opportunities for them to lead their people and build social links. They therefore view such platforms as a stepping stone to climb to higher pedestal such as contesting for an Assembly or unit committee membership elections.

I have always had the drive to lead my people to achieve success. I am a retired head dresser and I have acquired a lot of experience as a result. I was also being recognised by my people in the area so I saw serving my people on the planning committee and subsequently on the WATSAN as a home calling for me to show my capabilities to my people (Asempanaye WATSAN caretaker, April, 2018).



The planning stage is the decision making level where decisions regarding where to site the facility, the type of facility, how to raise the commitment fee for the total cost of the project were determined. If a woman feels that she has been recognised and that will open opportunities for her, she is likely to be active at the decision making stage so that community members can identify with her. The women who were motivated by this drive were notable at the decision-making and planning stages of the community water delivery. Below is the summarized driving factors of women participation in OND.

4.5 The challenges faced by women actively involved in water management in the OND

Across the world, the social and economic roles similarly as women's positions in society as major water users render them the heavily affected individuals during water inadequacy and poor water system. However, women are heavily excluded from key positions in the water subsector. Nonetheless, there were few women on water committees and the current studies evaluate the challenges faced by women actively involved in water management. Some of the challenges including; high level of illiteracy, gossip against women, intimidation by men and inadequate time.

4.5.1 High level of illiteracy

High level of illiteracy was discovered as a serious challenge to significant participation of women actively in water initiatives. All FGD participants except two believe uneducated women could not comprehend and understand key issues on the table to inform their contributions. Uneducated women could not also read workshop templates to familiarise themselves with the new guidelines for community water administration.

I have never been to class one before. What can I reasonably say at meetings?

Nobody will even recognise your point when you speak but I accept it because



most of the things that were discussed, I do not understand (FGD respondent, Sraneso May, 2018).

This reaffirms the assertion that women non-involvement in modern space is because of a high illiteracy level and male control (Upadhyay, 2010, Sultana, 2009a). However, two FGD participants rejected the assertion said despite their illiteracy, they were able to speak and manage water facilities. One of them who is a woman said:

For me I do not think that educated women make important suggestions when they were members of community water communities. "I have never entered class one before but I am a member of the WATSAN committee here. Ask them, I make a lot of superior suggestion that is why our borehole is still functioning. Book knowledge is different from knowledge we were born with" she asserted (WATSAN member at Sraneso, May, 2018).

Therefore, for women to be able to participate and make meaningful contributions in water management, they should have an appreciable level of education at least up to secondary level where they can demonstrate the ability to read, write, understand and indeed interpret the medium of communication. This is because throughout the interview and FGD the participants except two repeatedly referred to the inability to read and write as a disability to their involvement in decision-making. Therefore, for women and girls to be able to participate and significantly contribute in water management, they must have a considerable level of education, a minimum of up to secondary level in a way they can demonstrate the power to browse, write, perceive and so interpret the medium of communication. The interview and FGD participants except two repeatedly mentioned



the shortcoming to browse and write has incapacitated their active involvement in decision-making regarding water delivery

4.5.2 Timing

Homework responsibilities of ladies like childbearing, cooking, washing, and clean-up consume lots of their time and given them very little time left to focus on WATSAN activities. The DWST head and most of the FGD participants recounted several cases where women on WATSAN committees had failed to participate in their meetings and workshops. This they overwhelmingly attributed to the fact that women played other home responsibilities.

Also, inappropriate time for sittings of WATSAN affect women. Some male respondents were of the opinion that it's so the dearth of interest in community development discourse that is a challenge to women's participation, expressing their case added that whenever the chief calls the whole community for a gathering, majority of women and children does not show-up attributing their home chores as excuse. The female respondents heavily disagreed with this assertion intimating that their household burden was a serious challenge to their involvement in community water delivery.

For me as a woman, the nature of our multiple home duties coupled with time of meetings is key. Therefore, being a member of the WATSAN combined with my home responsibilities makes it difficult to perform (FGD respondent, April, 2018).

It is clear from the above response which affirms that the nature of home and economic activities of most women affects their effectiveness in the water delivery. According to Boateng et al., (2013b) home chores and productive activities also serve as a challenge to women involvement in rural water initiatives. The women also added that the majority of



WATSAN sittings took place within the evenings as most women were busily undertaken their domestic duties which make it tough for them to partake in such meetings.

4.5.3 Intimidation and Gossip

This study discovered that men within their bid to carry on the suitable ways of doing things in most rural communities in the OND, happens to hinder the effective involvement of women in development discourse by way of cruel and intimidation. The ideal context of culture, for a woman to stay silent once men were talking was a norm that was extremely respected. Unacceptably, this type of behaviour has resulted in timid nature of most rural based women of today. However, time has changed and women were systematically inspired to participate in all development efforts particularly water.

The few women who were in the water committees and were loud mouthed suffered intimidation especially decision making and planning.

Yes, women on the committees were being side-lined and intimidated or suffer men dominance. Women were few on the committee and the men perpetuate gender based discrimination against them. If a woman asks a lot of questions they see her to be challenging the traditional authority of men which they have enjoyed for long and they tend to shout at them to keep quiet (DPO, April, 2018).

This response corroborates the assertion by Boateng et al (2013a), who said ridiculed along with damaging criticisms from colleague women intimidate them. Hence men take the initiative and decide for them. This worldview has gained roots in women of today (Mensah, 2015)

Despite efforts on the need to allow space for women voices to be accepted, according to the DWST leader, it had not achieved much. This notion was corroborated by the



challenges of some women at meetings (FGDs). They normally second by affirmative head nodding or remained quiet.



CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

The focus of this study was to reveal the involvement of women in community water delivery, identify socio cultural factors affecting women participation, explored motivating factors of women actively involved in community water delivery and the challenges of women actively involved in water management in the OND. Having already presented and analysed the findings of this research in the above chapters, this chapter provide the summary, conclusions and recommendations of the study.

5.1 Summary of Findings

Participation has gained development orthodoxy and has been duly appreciated in several international platforms. The agreement that the sustainability of water development project is significantly increased when all the stakeholders, especially women, are involved has become widely accepted.

The research focused on addressing four main questions regarding the involvement of women in planning and management of community water delivery, the socio – political factors affecting women, motivating factors of women actively involved in water management and the challenges women actively involved in water management faced.

5.1.1 Women Involvement in Water Planning and Management

With this objective, data analysed revealed that women participated in the three major stages of water projects in the OND. There are planning, implementation and management. However, it was noted that women were more active at the implementation stage and the management stage (where many of them served as daily caretakers of the



water facility including money collection). At the planning stage where major decisions were taken had few women whose positions were not influential to drive the decisions of the planning committee. Also, the study identified chiefs, Queen mothers and other opinion leaders who have played important roles in the management of water projects in the OND.

5.1.2 Socio-Economic Factors Affecting Women Participation in Water

Management

The study revealed that there were no known socio-cultural practices and traditions that hindered women's participation water delivery in the study area today. However, our entrenched patriarchal systems and ideologies give men more opportunities in decision making process in our communities more than women. It was further observed that women were allowed fully at the implementation stage but at the decision making stage, which is key, women who were there could not express themselves.

5.1.3 Factors Motivating Women Active Participation in Water Management

On the third objective on factors motivating women actively involved in water management, the study discovered four factors. They were: The need to enjoy water facility in the community, the need to give back to the community, the prestige women enjoy and the need to satisfy a regulatory requirement. The study further revealed that the need to give back to the community was critical in motivating women to engaged in the decision making and planning stage. On the other hand, prestige and satisfying a regulatory requirement were found to be the major drivers of those who engaged in the project at the implementation and management stages. At the management stage women were motivated because of the need to enjoy water facility.



5.1.4 Challenges Faced by Women Actively Involved in Water Management

On the fourth research objective on challenges faced by women actively involved in water management, the study revealed three challenges. These were; low level of education, gossip or intimidation by men and inadequate time. For instance, the literate ones mostly men contributed so much to discussions because they could read write and interpret with logical sense. Even though women participation is becoming appreciated with regards to water projects of OND, there is still a wide range of challenges facing women actively involved in the decision making process. These discouraged women actively involved in water management despite the fact that they used the local language.

Also, women overwhelmingly asserted that their home responsibilities were not favourable to them to attend meetings. Besides, some men on the water committees have killed the confidence of women to contribute strategically to discussions. Men on the committees; mock and hijack the process to the detriment of women participants. It is against this backdrop that this study described women participation as passive (Arnstein, 1969).

5.2 Conclusion

The importance of gender mainstreaming in the water management has been anchored at the world level. The conclusive argument has been that to engender gender parity, certain conditions ought to be provided for all like education. Women involvement to community water delivery in the study area is still limited to fees collection at the water points.



5.2.1 Women Involvement in Water Planning and Management

From the findings, the first objective concludes that the limited role of women in decision-making means that women's perspectives, needs and knowledge, ideas, experiences, concerns, and proposed solutions were often ignored which means non-participation. Because women were recognised as major resource users especially water, they were the ones who were directly affected by water management policies.

5.2.2 Socio-Economic Factors Affecting Women Participation in Water Management

An understanding of gender based difference is fundamental for developing policies aimed at sustained resource use and improved health and well-being. Thus, women were not equally regarded as partners in the development of social, political and economic management policies, and they were not involved at all levels. The goal of development cannot be achieved if specific plans and expertise do no work to improve women's position and condition.

5.2.3 Factors Motivating Women Active Participation in Water Management

The study found that women who desired to help their communities because they want to give back to their communities were notable at implementation stage. Motivation by women actively involved in water management to satisfy regulatory requirement (quota) made women participate in all the stages.

5.2.4 Challenges Faced by Women Actively Involved in Water Management

The low levels of formal education of women and by extension low capacity among women, especially rural women, increased their inability to master courage to speak on issues affecting them. These make them vulnerable to gender discrimination perpetuated by men on women on the committees in the form of intimidation. This makes women



generally accept their subservient positions in society. They also reduce their ability to participate in water management issues and increased their likelihood of being excluded from new opportunities. Even if women were given the chance, they cannot take advantage of participatory opportunities because of their low capacity to interact in the settings in which they were placed.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the concluded findings of the study, the following recommendations were made to enhance the participation of women in the management of water sources in the OND.

- I. During the planning process, the District Water and Sanitation Team (DWST) through the existing local networks, such as chiefs, elders, and Assembly members should inform and encourage community members, especially women, to attend public meetings by assigning 40% of contributions and questions to women.
- II. The Community Water and Sanitation Agency should assign some key roles to Chiefs and Queen Mothers in water management.
- III. There is a need to establish appropriate policies and guidelines that gives a quota for women representation in community water management. This provision should reflect the local culture of the people.
- IV. New participatory mechanism such as time for meetings and places of meeting should be carefully considered.
- V. Also, ceremonies should be organised to award women for their courage and dedication to community water management activities.



VI. Further, training workshops for women will help build their courage, capacity, morale as well as their self-esteem to effectively participate in the water management process.

5.4 Scope for Future Research

Having explored socio – political analysis of women involvement in community water delivery in the Offinso North District of the Ashanti region of Ghana, focused on planning and management of projects. However, financial management, monitoring and evaluation as key part of project cycle were not delved into. Future community water researchers can explore these important areas.



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APPENDICES

UNIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

FACULTY OF PLANNING AND LAND MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT MPhil DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

Participation of women in community water delivery in the Offinso North District of the Ashanti Region of Ghana

Household Survey

I am a graduate student of UDS with identification number **UDS/MDM/0413/16**. I am conducting a research on the topic ‘**Participation of women in community water delivery in the Offinso North District of the Ashanti Region of Ghana**’ as part of the **processes for the award** of Master of philosophy in Development management in the University for Development Studies (UDS). The data you will give to me will be used for research purpose only. All information that you will offer me will also be kept confidential. Your positive contribution will be highly appreciated to enable me complete my studies. Thank you

INSTRUCTIONS

Read each statement below. Tick the box that corresponds with the letter which best describes your response to the statement. If you **STRONGLY DISAGREE** with the statement, tick **SD**, if you were **NEUTRAL**, tick **N** or **STRONGLY AGREE**, **SA**.

Section A; Personal information

1. Gender: Male Female

2. Age:



3. Educational status

No Education Basic S.H.S Vocational Tertiary

4. Occupation

Farmer Trader Teacher

5. Marital status

Single Married Divorced Widowed

6. Household size

7. Ethnic background

Akan Dagati Konkomba Others specify

8. Nationality.....

UNIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES



SECTION B; To ascertain the socio-cultural, political and economic factors affecting women participation in water governance

S/N	STATEMENT	SD	N	SD
1	Culturally, women and men have equal opportunities in the workplace.			
2	gender stereotypical norms and practices guard against women active involvement in water governance in the community			



3	Employment and productive activities affects women participation in water governance			
4	Poverty and low income of women affects their participation in water governance			
5	Low level of education of women and illiteracy discourages them from involving in water management			
6	Political, chieftaincy and power imbalances affects women participation in water management.			
7	Women role is still the kitchen activities			
8	Gossips against women who participate in water management position discourages them			
9	Men serves as the first contact in the community gives them the traditional advantage over women in participation			
10	Women and men were equally treated in the society.			

11. Do you know any other cultural practice(s) that reinforces the exclusion of women in water governance in the Offinso North District?

Yes sure

12. If yes, name them

13. How do we address them to ensure women participation in water governance?

.....
.....
.....

14. What were the other motivating factors of women actively involved in water governance?.....

.....
.....

15. What were the other challenges faced by women actively involved in water governance?

.....
.....

16. How can the challenges be addressed?

.....
.....



UNIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

**FACULTY OF PLANNING AND LAND MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT OF
GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT MPHIL
DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME**

*Participation of women in community water delivery in the Offinso North District of
the Ashanti Region of Ghana*

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION FOR WATSAN GROUP (27 MEMBERS)

I am a graduate student of UDS with identification number **UDS/MDM/0413/16**. I am conducting a research on the topic '**Participation of women in community water delivery in the Offinso North District of the Ashanti Region of Ghana**' as part of the **processes for the award** of Master of philosophy in Development management in the University for Development Studies (UDS). The data you will give to me will be used for research purpose only. All information that you will offer me will also be kept confidential. Your positive contribution will be highly appreciated to enable me complete my studies. Thank you

UNIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES



SECTION A; women involvement in the planning and management of water delivery in the Offinso North District

1. What is the relevance of the WATSAN committee?
2. Is the composition of WATSAN committee in line with CWSA guidelines?
3. How many women and men were supposed to be on each committee?
4. How many women were really on each committee?
5. Is your time schedule favorable to women?
6. Is the involvement of women prerogative of men?

7. Do women have the capacity to perform or were women on the committees performing?
8. Are women involved at all stages of planning to implementation in water management?
9. How easy or difficult were you able to perform these roles?
10. What different is recorded when women were involved in water governance?

SECTION B; To ascertain the socio-cultural, political and economic factors affecting women participation in water governance

1. Are men and women treated equally in the cultural context?
2. Are there social norms, beliefs that guard women conduct in the community?
3. What is the power relation in the community or who were the power brokers?
4. What were the determinants of women participation in water governance in the Offinso North District?
5. Are there political or chieftaincy interferences regarding who participates in water governance committees?
6. Can you mention cultural barriers to women participation in water governance in the Offinso North District?
7. How do we remove those cultural barriers to women participation?

SECTION C; To find out the motivating factors for women actively involved in water governance in the district

1. What motivate women who were involved in water governance in the Offinso North District?
2. How can the challenges be addressed?



SECTION D; To analyze the challenges face by women actively involved in water governance in the district

What challenges were the women in water governance faced?



UNIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

FACULTY OF PLANNING AND LAND MANAGEMENT

DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

MPHIL DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

Participation of women in community water delivery in the Offinso North District of the Ashanti Region of Ghana

IN DEPTH INTERVIEW/CHECKLIST FOR RCC/DCE/CWSA/NGO

(10 MEMBERS)

I am a graduate student of UDS with identification number **UDS/MDM/0413/16**. I am conducting a research on the topic ‘**Participation of women in community water delivery in the Offinso North District of the Ashanti Region of Ghana**’ as part of the **processes for the award** of Master of philosophy in Development management in the University for Development Studies (UDS). The data you will give to me will be used for research purpose only. All information that you will offer me will also be kept confidential. Your positive contribution will be highly appreciated to enable me complete my studies. Thank you.

SECTION A; women involvement in the planning and management of water delivery in the Offinso North District

1. What is the role of your outfit in ensuring women participation in water governance?
2. What were your guidelines say about women participation?
3. Are the implementers complying with your guide lines in ensuring that it is gender sensitive?



4. What were the shortfalls of your outfit in ensuring women involvement in water governance?
5. What were the challenges do you face in ensuring women involvement?
6. How do you surmount the challenges of women involvement?

SECTION B; To ascertain the socio-cultural, political and economic factors affecting women participation in water governance

1. What were the cultural factors that undermine efforts in ensuring women involvement in water management?
2. Are there reports of political and chieftaincy interferences in the composition of WATSAN committees which eventually leads to exclusion of women?
3. What were the major determinants of women participation in water governance in the Offinso North District?
4. What efforts is being made at the national, regional and district level to suppress the cultural hindrances to ensure gender mainstreaming in the water sector?

SECTION C; To find out the motivating and challenges for women actively involved in water governance in the district

1. What were the motivating factors of women who actively participate in water governance?
2. Are they any challenges that the women who participate in water governance face?
3. What is the way forward for the challenges of women involvement in community water governance?
4. What is the regulatory policy measure to ensure women participation in water governance?



SECTION D; To analyze the challenges faced by women actively involved in water governance in the district.

Challenges of women in participation

