FACTORS INFLUENCING SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD OF WEAKER SECTION WOMEN IN BANGALORE CITY

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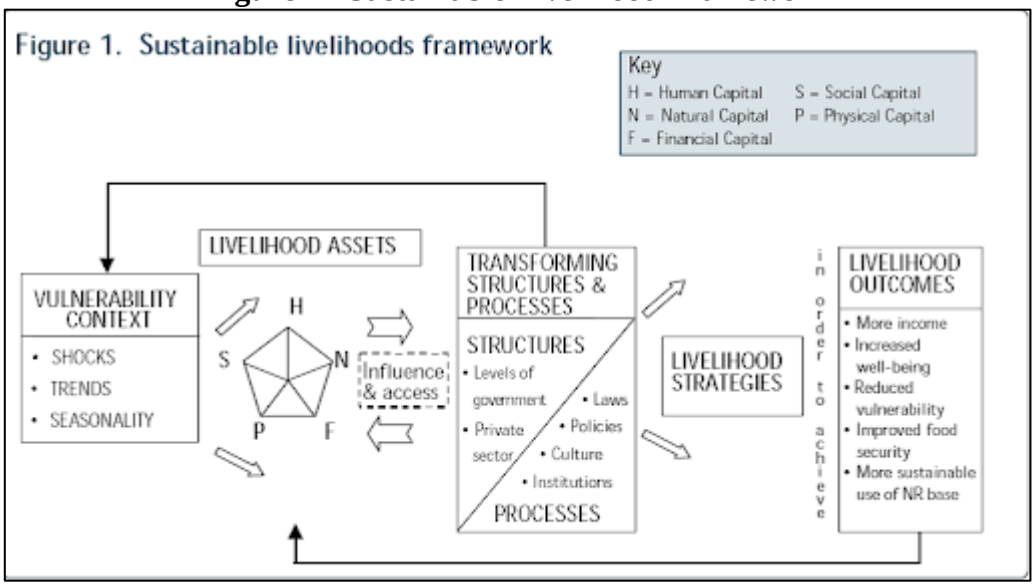
Abstract:
A livelihood incorporates all skills combined with essential assets and required activities that lead to obtaining income. Sustainability allows things to maintain a suitable quality of life after experiencing challenges and preserve future population existence without adverse effects. Study of sustainable livelihoods remains scarce throughout India because researchers have minimal knowledge and data about measuring weaker section sustainability and developing remediation strategies. This research project sets out to determine several aspects which shape the enduring life quality of marginalized women in society. The research employed a descriptive approach which utilized a well-designed questionnaire for data collection. An unknown population population used Cochran formula as the basis to determine [N=100] respondents as the sample size. A sample of working women entrepreneurs operating for five years served as the foundation of convenient sampling. Initial tests of the questionnaire were conducted with a group of 12 female participants leading to small adjustments in the research method. The scale validity together with the reliability of the questionnaire was verified. This study applied Confirmatory factor analysis on sustainable livelihood factors through the use of AMOS R software. The statistical data indicates that the surveyed women across communities showed their belief that vulnerability functions as an obstacle to their sustainable livelihood. Woman's long-term survival depends heavily on health and food security parameters according to study outcomes. The ability of women to maintain financial stability gets negatively affected by the costs associated with credits and family responsibilities.

Keywords: Weaker section, women, sustainability, sustainable livelihood.

1. INTRODUCTION

A brief overview of the sustainable livelihoods strategy offers improved knowledge about how poor people sustain themselves. This project works to present the relationships among elements which affect how people generate their income (Natarajan, et al., 2022). This analysis enhances both ongoing program planning for development work and outcome evaluation of present actions which protect livelihoods (Fahad et al.,2023). A sustainable livelihoods project demonstrates the best representation of long-term development thinking by defining development intentions and objectives and establishing their active boundaries (Jackson, 2021). Community awareness about poverty realities combined with institution significance along with vulnerability understanding creates the foundation for this movement. Development projects benefit from its role in creating both current and upcoming projects (Yang, 2024).

Figure 1 - Sustainable Livelihood Framework



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

The sustainable livelihood approach serves as an effective tool, though it does not provide single solution, to establish practical action objectives based on understanding the priorities of those whose lives are affected directly (Tabares et al., 2022). This approach merges effectively with different models starting from integrated rural development and sector-wide approaches and the classical participatory development approach. An individual's relationship with the wider enabling system determines the results achieved in livelihood plan execution (Karki, 2021). Livelihoods attach importance to a person's built-in capabilities which include workplace skills together with social group members and ownership of physical assets and moral authority to shape urban constructions (Levine, 2014). To prevent negative methods in problem solving the business world created the approach called appreciative inquiry. A community leads informational design along with data acquisition in an appreciative inquiry process to develop plans for achieving the best possible results from previous successful experiences instead of focusing on negative outcomes (rather than the negative).

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

1. Morse (2025) provide a critique in the SLA a methodogy for the planning of interventions for community development which is holistic and people oriented. Though SLA has been widely praised for its holistic view on livelihoods, risk, and institutions, this scheme was criticised as to its theoretical framework because of the insufficient emphasise on power relations, globalization processes influences and cultural imperative such as faith. herefore, Morse calls for the development of another approach that includes these dimensions; he refers to it as the Sustainable Living Approach (SLivA), which is much closer to Sen's capabilities approach. The paper also stresses on the importance of managing the complexity of such frameworks with their usefulness and proposes that these should be advanced using younger technologies like Earth Observation, machine learning and artificial intelligence.
2. Opiyo, Opinde, and Letema (2024) aim at assessing the extent of livelihood sustainability in Migori River watershed in Kenya which is one of the regions characterized by ecological sensitivity, poverty and disasters. Their study builds an LSI with the methodology of the UK Department for International Development that is conducting with five types of livelihood capital. The assessment of the 318 households of the overall study area at the upstream, midstream as well as the downstream zone declared a moderately sustainable livelihood in all the selected zones especially in midstream. The results revealed social, physical, and natural capital are also significant, but human and financial capital are not well-developed. The paper also proposes builds up natural capital by protect the natural resources, develop human capital by providing skills and improve financial capital through rural

enterprises. That way, the authorities could use the LSI as a guideline to assess the priority of assets to support further formation of effective interventions as well as constant improvement of the project.

3. M. Gai, T. Poerwati, F. Maghfirah, and M. M. Sir (2020). An occupation that can help families meet their daily needs is considered a sustainable livelihood. However, community livelihoods have worsened as a result of frequent floods, annual population expansion, and a lack of services like educational and medical facilities. Agriculture suffers when there are floods. This causes inequity in the distribution of resources at the research facility. Accordingly, this study's objective is to create a sustainable village development model. This research used both primary and secondary sources to examine a representative sample of 82 households in Surumana Village, Donggala Regency, Central Sulawesi Province. Attitudes, perspectives, and perceptions of social events or symptoms were measured using a likert scale. In addition, the Delphi method was used to collect expert opinions through the use of questionnaires with feedback systems, with the identity of the experts' responses being safeguarded. According to the results, social capital is more valuable than any other type of capital. Meanwhile, floods pose a threat to the resources of Surumana Village. There are a number of other factors that contribute to this realization, including institutions, education, health, transportation, lowering flood levels, and increasing agricultural output
4. E. A. Jackson (2020) In its current form, the SLF architecture has proven immensely useful in tackling critical problems related to the basics of sustaining people's livelihoods, especially in unserved parts of the global economy. The unintentional exposure of the global economy's unreadiness to embrace large-scale pandemic during the COVID-19 epidemic proved that the SLF is not well structured to accommodate the reality of pandemic, as was previously stated. The current SLF profile does a great job of reflecting how crucial it is to fulfill the fundamental asset requirements for human sustainable livelihoods and security. After careful consideration, it is apparent that the SLF would benefit from the incorporation of a detailed risk assessment profile in order to foster the long-term viability of human endeavors and improve people's quality of life. The COVID-19 scenario, which is more analogous to a natural disaster, is a true test of human resilience. While efforts are being undertaken to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the fact that people are especially vulnerable in some parts of the world (because to a lack of material assets) is evidence of humanity's ongoing exploitation of the ecosphere to meet basic needs.
5. Sir William Solebury (2017) This Working Paper is a product of the Bridging Research initiative of the Overseas Development Institute, whose mission is to increase knowledge about the most pressing problems facing the world today. Possessing knowledge, assets (both material and social), and a reliable source of food is crucial for maintaining one's standard of living throughout time. When life can endure and recover from adversity, when it can keep or improve its present and future capacities and features, and when it can do all this without endangering its natural resource base, we say that it is viable.
6. Researchers Gesese S. Kune and Ignatious Mberengwa (2012) The importance of off-farm and non-farm activities in securing the long-term financial stability of rural households in Gubalafto Woreda was investigated using a case study approach. Primary data were gathered by questionnaire assessments, focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and field observations. The study concludes that the positive effects of agricultural development and production are overshadowed by the negative consequences of pre- and post-farm activities, which are the result of shocks caused by rainfall variability, soil degradation, and technology defects. Revenue from agriculture and off- and on-farm companies was insufficient for the majority of research respondents because the activities lacked the essential support for development. However, these activities were still great backup plans for sustaining household livelihood security, and the study's findings prompted a need for more government involvement to ensure that all of the suggested measures succeed in providing long-term household livelihood security.
7. Vibha Pinglé (2005) Women in low-income communities may be able to support themselves and their families through the creation of microbusinesses. Although many women launch microbusinesses, just a minority of those women actually make enough money to support themselves. Therefore, there are two open questions: As a first question, why do some women's microbusinesses thrive while others don't, and what opportunities and methods contribute to this difference? Second, what societal interventions

would be most helpful in enabling other low-wage women to raise their standard of living? Is the micro-business they've started a means of subsistence for them?

8. Abraham Muse Acholo, Nora McNamara, and Stephen Morse (2009) A number of large international organizations have used the Sustainable Livelihood Analysis (SLA) method to include development programs into their work since the 1990s. It is the process by which a community builds its strengths and adapts to changing circumstances. The goal of SLA is to determine what resources are most valuable to an individual, how they change over time and space, and how various shocks and stresses (natural, anthropogenic, and social) affect those resources. Then, taking into account the bigger picture, actions are planned to strengthen communities and the people living in them, perhaps by introducing new sources of revenue (political, legal, fiscal, structural, and so on). Therefore, SLA may be regarded as a pragmatic tool for evidence-based intervention with a lot of rationale, particularly in a rapidly evolving context with limited resources to support development activities. But putting SLA into practice is not as easy as it may seem, and there are many parallels to the perennial challenges of making policy more evidence-based in general. Despite this, there have been surprisingly few attempts to adopt a neutral attitude. The potential for SLA and its ability to help people in developed countries make meaningful improvements in their lives The article examines SLA from the standpoint of its use in one region: the middle belt of Nigeria. To put it another way: "...redirect our overseas development efforts toward eradicating hunger and fostering poverty-friendly economic growth."

RESEARCH GAP: Studies on sustainable livelihood in the international context have been conducted by Ignatious Mberengwa and Gesese S. Kune (2012) Using a case study method, the relevance of off-farm and non-farm activities in attaining sustainable rural household livelihood protection in Gubalafto Woreda was studied. Stephen Morse, Nora McNamara, and Moses Acholo (2009) A number of big international organisations have utilised the Sustainable Livelihood Analysis (SLA) approach to include development initiatives since the 1990s. There is a scarcity of research on sustainable livelihoods in the Indian context, where the sustainability of the weaker sections is measured and remedial action is performed.

3. OBJECTIVES

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

4. RESEARCH METHODS

The type of research to be implemented is a descriptive one to assess the various factors that affect the sustainable livelihoods among the women of the weaker section of society and women entrepreneurs involved with working women of Bangalore. The research employed a questionnaire comprising of two sections and through it information was collected. The first section of the survey questionnaire was closed-ended in which the respondents were required to choose answers to various questions regarding demographics.

Sampling aimed to include working women from the weaker section of the society, who have joined some women entrepreneurs for more than five years. Calculate sample size using Cochran formula to a 5% level of significance, 95% confidence interval and 10% sampling error yields a sample size of one hundred respondents. One hundred questionnaires were administered of which one hundred were properly filled and used for analysis.

Subject to this study was selected a sample of 460 women only, who had been working for the last five years with micro, small, and medium enterprises with registered women entrepreneurs. Thus, the method of accessible populace was used, that is, the women were selected who could be easily contacted under the given circumstances. To reduce any measure of error, a pilot study using 12 women was made and based on the results, some slight changes were made in the study.

For data analysis Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA test) was carried out using the AMOS R software. This analytic technique was useful in establishing the research relationship between variables related to sustainable livelihoods, which offered the conventional information into what affected the working circumstances and sustainable livelihood of women in this bracket.

5. DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

5.1 Demographic Profile of the women

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

Educational qualification, A majority of 50% women employees had completed their of PUC or intermediate courses, 22% had completed their graduation 10% had completed their SSLC. A very small percentage of 6% and 10% had completed their post-graduation and technical degrees. All the women employees who are both graduates and technical degree have been employed in the medium scale industry with the highest post.

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

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

Figure.2 – Family Profile of the respondents

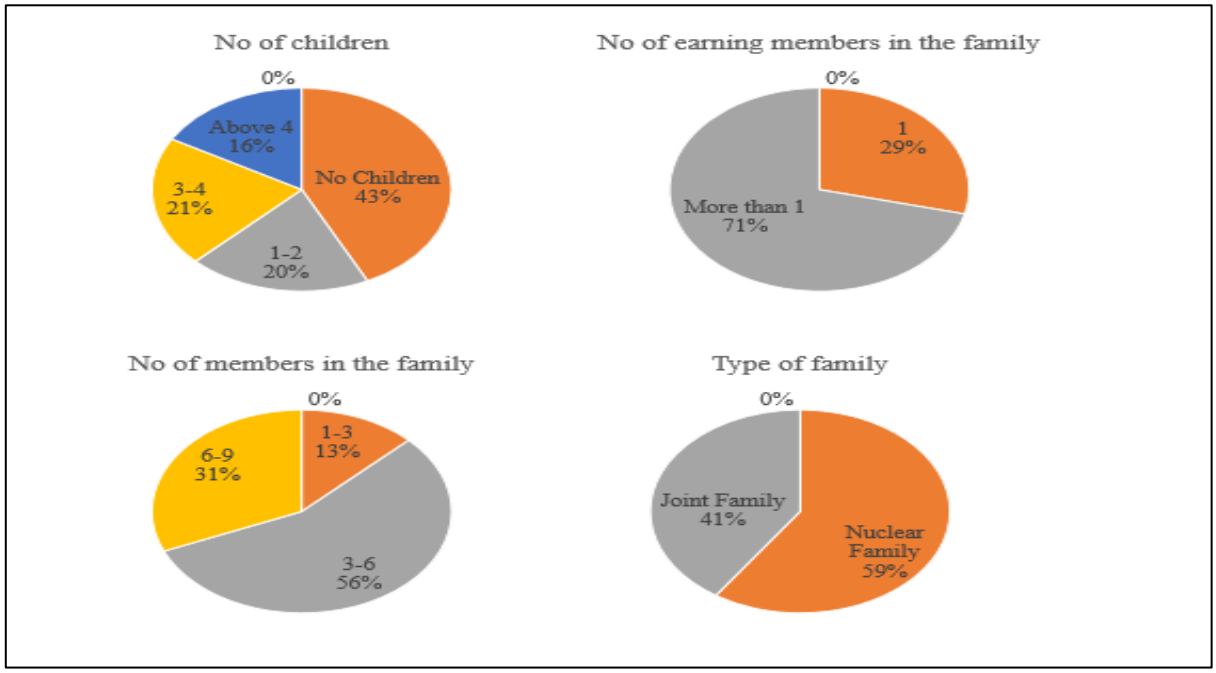
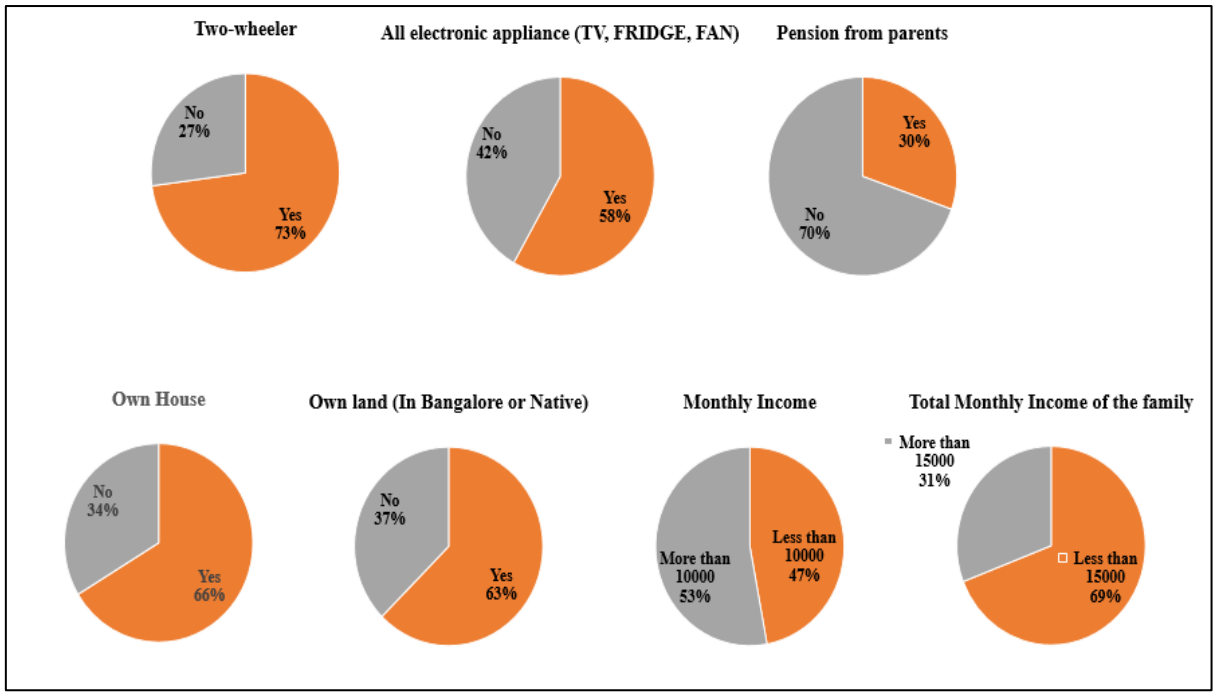


Figure 3- Economic profile of the respondents



5.2 Descriptive statistics for various factors of Sustainable livelihood

Table 1 - Descriptive statistics for various factors of Sustainable livelihood of women

Descriptive Statistics				
	Mean	Std. Deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis
Use of services and institutions	**2.95**	**0.78**	**-0.27**	**1.25**
Family assets	**1.63**	**0.77**	**1.284**	**1.611**
Employment Information	**4.55**	**0.624**	**-1.138**	**0.365**
Living approaches	**2.75**	**0.6794**	**0.131**	**0.0628**
Right to use to natural resources	**3.73**	**0.67**	**-0.4**	**0.42**
Family expenses	**4.57**	**0.65**	**-1.35**	**1.19**
Credit and investments	**2.3**	**0.48**	**-0.36**	**0.88**
Susceptibility	**4.48**	**0.64**	**-1.09**	**1.04**
Food Safety	**2.57**	**0.76**	**0.15**	**0.8**
Well-being	**3.89**	**0.9**	**-0.56**	**-0.02**
Female Power	**3.69**	**0.92**	**-0.48**	**0.1**

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

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

In the case of access to natural resources, a mean score of more than 4 was obtained for all of the sustainability items except for sustainability 21, which discusses solar panels - the mean score for solar panels is 1.48, indicating that not many female employees have solar panels in their homes, and the total mean scores for access to natural resources are higher. 3.73 shows a neutral to agreement range of answers, 0.67 is the standard deviation, and skewness and kurtosis are within acceptable limits.

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

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

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

5.3 Factors influencing sustainable livelihood

Null Hypothesis: There is no impact of various factors of sustainable Livelihood

Alternate Hypothesis: There is an impact of various factors of sustainable Livelihood

Table 2- Model fit – Factors influencing sustainable livelihood

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

The research method of Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) requires investigators to establish beforehand the associations between experimental and underlying factors through their hypothetical knowledge or empirical research or both. The technique enables researchers to validate their instruments and establish the anticipated factor structure (Janssens et al., 2008). The factor loadings help one interpret regression coefficients. Researchers can determine measurement quality by uniting tests for CFA and construct validity (Hair et al., 2010).

Figure 4 - Factors influencing sustainable livelihood

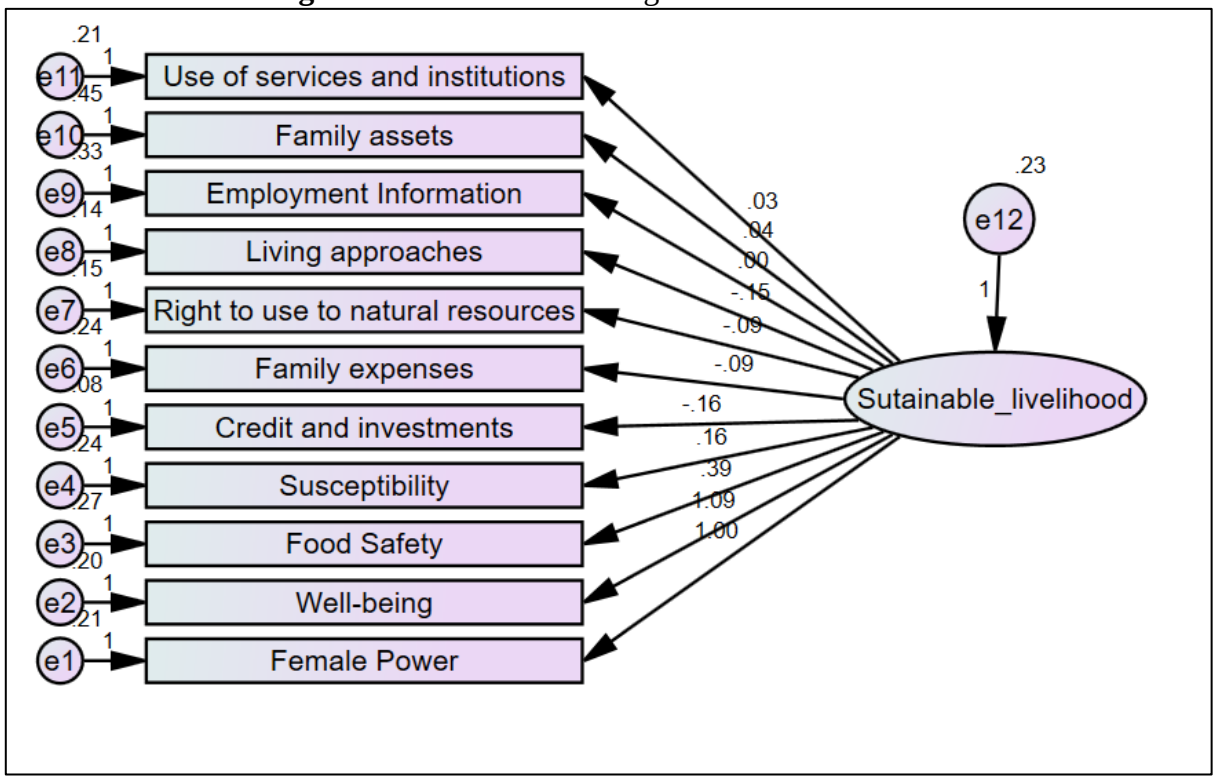


Table 3 - Factors influencing sustainable livelihood

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

An analysis of sustainable livelihood factors for women is presented in the above Table which illustrates their mutual effects. The study determines which actors make the greatest positive impact on sustainable livelihood.

The data in the above table demonstrates that

The positive increase of sustain_10 Well being by 1 unit leads to a 78% or 0.758 increase in sustainability with a level of significance at 0.000 and CR of 3.729. (Co-eff =0.758, Sig=0.000, CR=3.729)

The research shows that Sustain_9 increases by +1 to raise sustainability levels by +0.343 or 34% at p=0.000 with a CR of 2.761. (Co-eff =0.13, Sig=0.000, CR=17.123)

Based on the complete analysis we can confirm that the sustainability of women's livelihood receives positive influence from Wellbeing and Food safety aspects. The sustainable livelihood of women faces negative correlation with both credit burden and household expenses.

The SEM Analysis shows that different sustainable Livelihood factors both support and harm the life of women thus invalidating the null hypothesis.

6. CONCLUSION

Successful continuation of personal life practices stands as the main goal in livelihood strategy development. Different considerations which may compete against each other involve choosing between activities which depend on natural resources versus ones which depend on non-resources and off-farm activities together with options regarding migration and remittances as well as pensions and grants opposing diversification against intensified activities and disagreements between short-term strategies and longer-term outcomes. Development programs create winners yet at the same time create losers which presents one of many challenges for programs to overcome. Positive life changes create financial growth alongside better health and reduced risks while improving food resources and increasing natural resource management and restoring personal dignity. The findings show possible discrepancies. Remember the sustainable livelihoods plan stands as a single tool when dealing with various poverty-causing factors which affect vulnerable populations. The design needs to fit the special requirements and targets of the targeted region. Studies reveal that economic security combined with proper nutrition supply benefits women's life expectancy over many years. Women can sustain regular earnings based on the level of their debts combined with family expenses.

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