

A STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF ATTITUDINAL CHANGES TOWARDS FEMALE BREADWINNERS IN WUKARI LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

Mathew Stephen¹, Danjuma Idi², Dangana Blessing³

¹Kwararafa University Wukari, Nigeria

^{2,3}Federal University Wukari, Nigeria

matsteve231@gmail.com; idanjumawatsaji@gmail.com

Article Info:

Submitted:	Revised:	Accepted:	Published:
Aug 1, 2024	Aug 18, 2024	Aug 21, 2024	Aug 24, 2024

Abstract

This study carried out a statistical analysis of attitudinal changes towards female breadwinners in Wukari Local Government Area, Taraba State, Nigeria. Using a survey research method, a sample of 400 were examined. Primary data were collected using structured questionnaire and analysed using frequency counts and simple percent. Hypothesis were tested using the chi-square statistic. The findings reveal that a significant proportion of respondents recognize the importance of defining roles and responsibilities within the family, acknowledging the potential impact of female breadwinners on traditional family structures. Additionally, a notable portion of respondents agree that female breadwinners face financial and other challenges. Also, the findings reveal a significant shift in gender roles, driven by economic opportunities, social dynamics, and cultural norms. Hypothesis testing further demonstrates a significant increase in female breadwinners in the area, attributed to economic, social, and cultural factors. The study concludes by emphasizing the need for understanding and recommends awareness programs, policy interventions, educational initiatives in Wukari LGA.

Keywords : Breadwinners; Upsurge; Cultural; Perception(s); Gender; Traditional

INTRODUCTION

The traditional nuclear family structure, where the father serves as the primary breadwinner and the mother assumes the role of homemaker, has evolved significantly in recent years (Pfau-Effinger, 2004). The rise of female breadwinners in families challenges these conventional gender roles and responsibilities (Oláh et al., 2020). This shift reflects broader global transformations, as women increasingly move beyond their historical roles in caretaking and homemaking. These changes are driven by evolving societal attitudes, legal reforms, and economic dynamics that encourage women to pursue education, contribute to household income, and engage actively in family decision-making processes (Davis, 2013). In Nigeria, supportive policies and initiatives have been implemented to enhance women's access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities, thereby acknowledging their rights and roles within family structures (Rezaei, Mohammadinia & Samiezadeh, 2013; Veisani, Delpisheh & Sayehmiri, 2013; Meisenbach, 2010). Despite these advancements, challenges persist, particularly in conservative settings, highlighting the need for continued advocacy and awareness to align accepted standards with principles of gender equality and women's empowerment.

The global trend of increasing female breadwinners is particularly evident in Africa, including Nigeria, where traditional gender roles are increasingly blurred. Women are now pursuing careers and income-generating activities beyond their traditional roles. Economic factors, such as rising male unemployment and underemployment, contribute to this shift (Musti, 2023). While this transformation empowers women economically and enhances their independence, it also introduces challenges. In societies where traditional gender roles persist, female breadwinners often face difficulties balancing professional responsibilities with family duties. Additionally, social stigma and resistance in conservative societies underscore the need for a nuanced understanding of this phenomenon to promote gender equality (Martin & Kats, 2003; Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2004).

In the Wukari Local Government Area (LGA), notable changes are observed as more females, including both women and girls, engage in various forms of petty trading, such as fast-food vending and marketing staple commodities. The increasing prevalence of female breadwinners in this area is closely related to rising challenges, such as male unemployment, inflation, and poverty (Nneji & Oyebuchi, 2023; Chatha & Ahmad, 2020). However, this shift also brings about consequences, including heightened stress,

vulnerability to sexual harassment, health issues, and exposure to domestic violence. Understanding these dynamics is essential, as this study aims to explore the perceptions of the community regarding the causes, patterns, and consequences of the rise in female breadwinners within Wukari LGA.

Youth unemployment is a significant driver of the increasing prevalence of female breadwinners. The Nigerian National Youth Policy (2001) defines youth as individuals between the ages of 18 and 35. This demographic, often expected to be starting families or settling into their own nuclear families, also represents a significant proportion of the unemployed population. Nigeria ranks second worldwide in youth unemployment, with a rate of 53.4%, trailing only South Africa (Nwachukwu, 2023). The rising number of female breadwinners in response to this unemployment trend reflects the complex interplay between gender roles and economic pressures. Despite the positive aspects of women contributing to family income, the balancing act between traditional duties and professional roles can be challenging.

The consequences of women serving as breadwinners include increased anxiety, insomnia, and other stress-related issues (Interayamahanga, 2022). Additionally, female breadwinners often face stigmatization, verbal abuse from extended family members, and domestic violence (Meisenbach, 2010). These repercussions can negatively impact their families, potentially leading to issues such as family dissolution, juvenile delinquency, and increased crime rates. This study aims to investigate how female breadwinners in Wukari LGA provide for their families, identify the causes of this trend, analyze its negative consequences, and propose strategies to mitigate these impacts. The primary objective is to assess public perceptions of the patterns, causes, and consequences of the rise in female breadwinners in Wukari LGA, with specific goals including:

- i. To ascertain the upsurge and pattern of female breadwinners in Wukari LGA
- ii. To determine the causes of the upsurge of female breadwinners in Wukari LGA
- iii. To determine the consequences of female becoming breadwinners in households in Wukari LGA

Literature Review

Female breadwinners

Female breadwinners are individuals who provide the primary financial support for their households. Traditionally, this role has been associated with male family members in

many Western cultures (Chapman, 2004). However, there has been a notable increase in the prevalence of female breadwinners in industrialized societies, challenging traditional gender norms (Meisenbach, 2010).

Meisenbach's (2010) research delved into the experiences of female breadwinners and how their roles influenced their gendered identities within family dynamics. Her study revealed that female breadwinners often felt a sense of control and power in making decisions in their lives. Simultaneously, they faced significant pressure as the primary breadwinners in their families and expressed concerns about the potential consequences if they were to lose their jobs. Some participants also reported experiencing feelings of guilt and resentment regarding their perceived neglect of household duties.

In African context, the traditional expectation is that males should fulfill the role of the family's breadwinner. Nevertheless, the entry of women into the labor market has disrupted this traditional dynamic. Several factors have contributed to the increasing involvement of Saudi women in financially supporting their households. These factors include the rising cost of living, the desire to enhance family well-being, increased self-esteem, and the need to cope with the financial challenges often encountered by low- and middle-income families (Samargandi *et al.*, 2019). This shift reflects changing gender roles and economic necessities in Saudi society.

Empirical Review

In a study focusing on South African female breadwinners, Parry and Segalo (2017) employed a Phenomenological approach to explore the lived experiences of women who defy traditional gender roles by becoming primary breadwinners in their families. Through in-depth, semi-structured interviews with ten female breadwinners from the Mpumalanga and Gauteng provinces, the study examined the intersection of gender, race, cultural influences, and patriarchal pressures that shape their experiences. The findings reveal how these women perceive and navigate their roles as breadwinners, highlighting persistent gender disparities despite societal calls for gender equality.

Niels and Hewitt (2019) conducted a longitudinal investigation into the relationship between female-breadwinner households and changes in relationship satisfaction. Focusing on Australian couples, the authors utilized various theoretical frameworks, including specialization, relative resource, role collaboration, and doing gender theories. Using data from the Household, Income, and Labour Dynamics in

Australia household panel survey, the study found that both men and women experienced reduced relationship satisfaction when transitioning to dual-earner households where women out-earned their partners. Female breadwinning due to male unemployment or illness also decreased relationship satisfaction for women, emphasizing the enduring influence of traditional gender roles on relationship dynamics.

Jurczyk, Jentsch, Sailer, and Schier (2019) explored how female breadwinning is associated with new gender roles and how role reversal affects families' everyday lives. Through qualitative interviews with female breadwinners in Western Germany, the study investigated the division of employment and domestic labor within these families. While some modernization of gender roles was observed, traditional concepts and practices persisted. Families with female breadwinners achieved results similar to other couple types but required extraordinary efforts, underscoring the persistence of normative gender roles.

Jarska (2019) examined public opinions about women's wage work in late 1950s and early 1960s Poland. Using letters to institutions and sociological research from that period, the study introduced the concept of female breadwinning to understand the perception of women's wage work under state socialism. It revealed that opinions on women's wage work varied, primarily based on gender assumptions and the valuation of men's and women's work.

Kowalewska and Vitali (2021) researched the economic vulnerabilities of female breadwinner couples, emphasizing their increasing prevalence and the challenges they face. Using Luxembourg Income Study microdata from 20 industrialized countries, the authors compared household incomes between female-breadwinner couples and other couple types. Their analysis revealed that pure female breadwinners had lower average individual earnings than their male counterparts, even after accounting for various factors. The study also highlighted the limited effectiveness of welfare systems in compensating for the earnings gap, portraying female-breadwinner families as facing multiple disadvantages in the social and economic spheres.

Zarean and Latifi (2021) investigated the effectiveness of self-healing intervention on the quality of life and mother-child interaction among female breadwinners in Isfahan, Iran. Through a controlled experimental study, the authors revealed the positive impact of self-healing training on quality of life and mother-child interaction in this group. The findings indicated that this novel approach improved various components of quality of life

and mother-child interaction among female breadwinners, underscoring the potential benefits of such interventions.

Sánchez-Mira (2021) delved into the experiences of working-class couples with female breadwinners during the Great Recession in Spain. Using qualitative methods, including biographical interviews and life history calendars, the study explored how couples adapted to gender-atypical work-family arrangements. The findings highlighted that men, especially those whose partners were primary breadwinners for a period, made significant efforts to preserve the male-breadwinner illusion. In contrast, female breadwinners identified with a co-breadwinner model and emphasized their economic contributions. Gender disparities in housework and childcare, along with women's disapproval of men's insufficient participation, illustrated the challenges of adapting to unconventional arrangements.

Miller, Carter, MacRae, and Schulz (2021) conducted a comparative study on attitudes towards female and male breadwinners in Germany, Sweden, and the United States. Using data from the World Values Study, they explored how gender norms influenced these attitudes. The study revealed that women generally supported equality in job opportunities but still perceived female breadwinners as problematic. Men, on the other hand, were supportive of both male and female breadwinners. Cross-national differences in attitudes were noted, highlighting the complex interplay of education and employment status in shaping these perceptions.

Khamis and Ayuso (2022) analyzed the presence of female breadwinners in countries with different welfare models and examined their characteristics and impacts on families' well-being and household management. Using data from the International Social Survey Programme, the study demonstrated that female primary breadwinners tended to be older, more educated, and less religious than their male partners. They held more egalitarian values and managed money separately. However, female breadwinners faced economic disadvantages across different countries, challenging established welfare typologies.

METHODS

Research Design

The research design adopted for this study is a descriptive survey design. This design is selected due to its ability to deeply explain or describe specific situations or cases within the research materials. Descriptive research, involves collecting, analyzing, and presenting data in an accessible manner. This generalized form of research design allows for exploring one or more variables through various research approaches.

Study Area

The study is conducted in Wukari Metropolis, Taraba State, with geographical coordinates Latitude 7°52'N and Longitude 9°40'E (Chapman & Chapman, 2001). Wukari Local Government Area (LGA) is the second most populous LGA in Taraba State, with a population of 3,609,800 according to the 2023 projection (Akinjide, 2013).

Population and Sample Size

The study's population comprises the entire population of Wukari LGA. Using Taro Yamane's formula, the sample size is determined to be 400 respondents. Wukari is divided into ten wards: Akwana, Avyi, Bantaje, Chonku, Hospital, Jibu, Kente, Puje, Rafin Kada, and Tsokundi. Through simple random sampling, five wards (Hospital, Rafin Kada, Kente, Tsokundi, and Chonku) were selected for this study. Through the method of equal allocation, 80 samples were assigned to each of the selected wards. The formula for sample size determination is:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e^2)}$$

where: n is the sample size, N is the population size, e is the margin of error (5%).

Data Collection

The primary data was collected using questionnaires, which include open-ended and close-ended questions, yes/no questions, five-point Likert scale questions, and other formats to allow respondents to express their views without restriction. Construct validity is ensured by incorporating contributions from subject matter experts into the questionnaire, which was then reviewed and corrected based on feedback.

Data Analysis

Both descriptive and inferential statistics will be employed for data analysis. Descriptive statistics will include frequency distributions, tables, charts, and simple percentages. Data collected from respondents will be encoded using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS 25). Descriptive research is appropriate for identifying characteristics, frequencies, trends, and categories, especially when much is known about the topic or problem. To test the hypotheses, the Chi-square (χ^2) test will be used. The formula for the Chi-square test is:

$$\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(f_o - f_e)^2}{f_e}$$

where: χ^2 is the Chi-square value, f_o is the observed frequency, f_e is the expected frequency.

Decision Rules

If the p-value is less than the level of significance (0.05), reject the null hypothesis (H_0).

If the p-value is greater than the level of significance, do not reject the null hypothesis (H_0).

RESULTS

Socio-Economic Characteristics of Respondents

This section presents demographic information gathered from the survey conducted in Wukari LGA, organized into categories including age, sex, marital status, level of education, religion, and occupation. The data indicates an equal representation of males and females, each comprising 50% of the surveyed population. This balanced gender ratio allows for a comprehensive understanding of the perceptions and experiences of both men and women regarding female breadwinners. The age distribution shows that a majority of respondents are within the younger age brackets, with 30% aged between 18 and 25, and 25% aged between 26 and 35. This youthful demographic suggests potential implications for employment trends and family dynamics, including the prevalence of female breadwinners. Marital status data reveals that 55% of respondents are married, followed by 24% who are single, while smaller portions are separated (7.5%) or divorced

(5%). These figures suggest shifts in family structures that may influence the rise of female breadwinners.

Educational attainment data shows that a significant portion of the population has secondary education (45%), followed by tertiary education (30%), indicating a relatively educated population in Wukari LGA. This level of education likely impacts employment opportunities and the capacity of individuals, including women, to become breadwinners. Religious affiliation data shows that most respondents identify as Christians (62.5%), followed by Muslims (32.5%). This religious diversity may shape societal norms and values related to gender roles and family dynamics, potentially affecting the prevalence of female breadwinners. The occupational distribution highlights a diverse economic landscape, with 37.5% of respondents employed as public/civil servants, 22.5% as farmers, and 22.5% unemployed. These figures suggest a variety of employment sectors contributing to the livelihoods of individuals, including female breadwinners who may work in different occupations to support their families.

Perception on the upsurge of Female Breadwinners

The survey data reveals significant perceptions and attitudes toward the increase in female breadwinners and the recognition of their contributions within households in Wukari LGA. Regarding the increase in female breadwinners, 24.70% of respondents strongly agree and 28.10% agree, indicating that more than half of the surveyed population acknowledges an upward trend in the number of female breadwinners. A smaller portion of respondents remain neutral (18.80%), while 16.40% disagree and 12% strongly disagree with the statement, showing some level of skepticism or disagreement among a minority of the population.

In terms of recognizing the value of female breadwinners' contributions, the responses are similarly positive, with 25.80% strongly agreeing and 29.70% agreeing. This suggests that a substantial majority of respondents (55.50%) appreciate and recognize the significant role that female breadwinners play in their families. A neutral stance is observed among 19.80% of respondents, while 14.80% disagree and 10% strongly disagree with the need for recognizing the value of female breadwinners' contributions. This indicates that while there is strong recognition of female breadwinners, there remains a segment of the population that does not fully appreciate their contributions.

Table 1: Perceptions of Female Breadwinners in Wukari LGA: Attitudes and Trends

Response	Increase in Female Breadwinners	Recognizing Value of Female Breadwinners' Contributions
	Frequency (Percentage)	Frequency (Percentage)
Strongly Agree (SA)	95 (24.70%)	99 (25.80%)
Agree (A)	108 (28.10%)	114 (29.70%)
Neutral (N)	72 (18.80%)	76 (19.80%)
Disagree (D)	63 (16.40%)	57 (14.80%)
Strongly Disagree (SD)	46 (12%)	38 (10%)
Total	384 (100%)	384 (100%)

Table 2 highlights the factors influencing the increase in female breadwinners, with responses categorized into Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Neutral (N), Disagree (D), and Strongly Disagree (SD). Economic factors are the most significant influence, with 34.10% of respondents strongly agreeing and 30.50% agreeing, indicating a substantial majority. This suggests that financial necessity and economic empowerment are driving the upsurge of female breadwinners.

Social factors also play a crucial role, with 30.50% of respondents strongly agreeing and 34.60% agreeing, indicating a significant impact of social norms and expectations on the increase in female breadwinners. In contrast, cultural factors are less influential, with only 10% strongly agreeing and 12.20% agreeing, while 28.40% strongly disagree and 29.70% disagree, indicating a significant divide in opinions regarding cultural influences.

Educational factors have a moderate influence, with 30.20% strongly agreeing and 32.30% agreeing, suggesting that education and awareness play a role in the increase in female breadwinners, but to a lesser extent than economic and social factors. The result suggests that economic and social factors are the primary drivers of the increase in female breadwinners, while cultural factors are less influential, and educational factors have a moderate impact.

Table 2: Factors Influencing the Upsurge of Female Breadwinners

Factor	(SA)	(A)	(N)	(D)	(SD)
Economic	131(34.10%)	117(30.50%)	68(17.70%)	39(10.20%)	29(8%)
Social	117(30.50%)	133(34.60%)	76(19.80%)	39(10.20%)	19(5%)
Cultural	38(10%)	47(12.20%)	76(19.80%)	114(29.70%)	109(28.40%)
Educational	116(30.20%)	124(32.30%)	76(19.80%)	39(10.20%)	29(8%)

Table 3 explores various patterns related to the functions of female breadwinners in families in Wukari LGA, detailing the levels of agreement or disagreement among respondents.

Female Breadwinners as Crucial Financial Providers

Only a small percentage of respondents strongly agree (6.25%) or agree (12.50%) that female breadwinners are crucial financial providers, totaling 18.75%. A significant portion remains neutral (18.75%). However, the majority disagree (37.50%) or strongly disagree (25.00%), indicating that many do not view female breadwinners as essential financial providers in their families.

Influence in Financial Decisions

A slightly higher percentage, 8.33% strongly agree and 16.67% agree, totaling 25%, believe that female breadwinners have a significant say in financial decisions. Again, a large segment is neutral (25%), while a combined 50% disagree (33.33%) or strongly disagree (16.67%). This suggests that while some recognize the influence of female breadwinners in financial matters, many do not perceive it as significant.

Balancing Work and Family Commitments

Respondents are more positive about female breadwinners balancing work and family commitments effectively, with equal proportions strongly agreeing (25%) and agreeing (25%), totaling 50%. Neutral responses account for 18.75%, while 12.50% disagree and 18.75% strongly disagree. This indicates that half of the respondents acknowledge the capability of female breadwinners to manage both work and family responsibilities.

Challenging Traditional Gender Roles

When it comes to challenging traditional gender roles, only 4.17% strongly agree and 8.33% agree, totaling a mere 12.50%. Neutral responses are at 12.50%, but a significant majority disagree (41.67%) or strongly disagree (33.33%). This indicates that most respondents do not believe female breadwinners are challenging traditional gender roles significantly.

While there is some recognition of the roles female breadwinners play in financial decisions and balancing work and family commitments, there is a notable lack of acknowledgment of their importance as crucial financial providers and their impact on challenging traditional gender roles. This reflects a mixed perception of the roles and contributions of female breadwinners in Wukari LGA.

Table 3: Pattern or how Female Breadwinners' Functions in Families

Factor	(SA)	(A)	(N)	(D)	(SD)
Female breadwinners are crucial financial providers	24(6.25%)	48(12.50%)	72(18.75%)	144(37.50%)	96(25.00%)
Female breadwinners have a significant say in financial decisions	32(8.33%)	64(16.67%)	96(25.00%)	128(33.33%)	64(16.67%)
Female breadwinners balance work and family commitments effectively	96(25.00%)	96(25.00%)	72(18.75%)	48(12.50%)	72(18.75%)
Female breadwinners challenge traditional gender roles	16(4.17%)	32(8.33%)	48(12.50%)	160(41.67%)	128(33.33%)

Consequences of Female Breadwinners

Table 4 provides results on the perceived consequences of female breadwinners on various aspects of family and societal dynamics in Wukari LGA. The responses reveal a mixed view, with some recognizing the challenges faced by female breadwinners, while others do not perceive these consequences as significant issues.

Financial Strain

A quarter of respondents (24.80%) believe female breadwinners face greater financial strain, indicating a recognition of the economic pressures they may encounter. However, a significant portion (17.20%) remains neutral, and a combined 59.40% disagree or strongly disagree, highlighting a divide in opinions. This suggests that while some acknowledge the financial challenges, others do not view it as a predominant issue.

Breakdown of Traditional Family Roles

Only 20.80% of respondents agree that female breadwinners break down traditional family roles, indicating a minority view. A majority (59.90%) disagree or strongly disagree, suggesting that most respondents do not see female breadwinners as significantly disrupting traditional family roles. This implies that the presence of female breadwinners is not widely perceived as a threat to traditional family structures.

Societal Judgment

A quarter of respondents (24.80%) believe female breadwinners experience heightened societal judgment, indicating a recognition of the social pressures they may face. However, 17.40% remain neutral, and 57.80% disagree or strongly disagree, highlighting a varied perception. This suggests that while some acknowledge the societal judgment, others do not view it as a significant issue.

Stress and Psychological Pressure

Only 20.20% of respondents agree that female breadwinners experience elevated stress and psychological pressure, indicating a limited recognition of the emotional challenges they may encounter. A majority (60.70%) disagree or strongly disagree, suggesting that many do not view stress as a significant consequence. This implies that the emotional well-being of female breadwinners may not be a prominent concern.

Impact on Decision-Making Dynamics

A quarter of respondents (24.60%) believe female breadwinners negatively influence decision-making dynamics, indicating a mixed view. However, 18.80% remain neutral, and 56.80% disagree or strongly disagree, highlighting a varied perception. This suggests that while some recognize the potential impact on decision-making, others do not view it as a significant issue.

Strained Marital Relationships

A mixed view emerges regarding the perception that female breadwinners lead to strained marital relationships, with 29.40% agreeing. However, 20.10% remain neutral, and 50.80% disagree or strongly disagree, suggesting a varied perception. This implies that the impact of female breadwinners on marital relationships is not universally agreed upon.

Table 4: Consequences of Female Breadwinners

Statement	(SA)	(A)	(N)	(D)	(SD)
Female breadwinners face greater financial strain	38(10%)	57(80%)	66(20%)	114(70%)	109(40%)
Presence of female breadwinners breaks down traditional family roles	29(8%)	49(12%)	76(19%)	133(34%)	97(25.3%)
Female breadwinners experience heightened societal judgment	38(10%)	57(14%)	67(17%)	116(30%)	106(27%)
Female breadwinners endure elevated stress and psychological pressure	29(8%)	47(12%)	75(19%)	127(33%)	106(27%)
Female breadwinners negatively influence decision-making dynamics	38(10%)	56(14%)	72(18%)	124(32%)	94(24.5%)
Presence of female breadwinners leads to strained marital relationships	45(12%)	67(17%)	77(20%)	111(28%)	84(21.9%)

Hypothesis Testing

The Chi-square analysis results presented in Table 5 reveals significant insights into how economic, social, and cultural factors influence perceptions of female breadwinners.

i. Economic Factors

The Chi-square value of 108.6563 and p-value of 0.0000 indicate a strong and statistically significant association between economic factors and respondents' views on female breadwinners. This suggests that economic considerations, such as financial contributions and challenges, heavily influence perceptions of female breadwinners.

ii. Social Factors

The Chi-square value of 124.2813 and p-value of 0.0000 reveal a significant and substantial relationship between social factors and responses. Social influences, including societal norms and community attitudes, play a crucial role in shaping perceptions of female breadwinners.

iii. Cultural Factors

The Chi-square value of 62.6927 and p-value of 0.0000 indicate a statistically significant association between cultural factors and perceptions of female breadwinners. While the impact of cultural factors is slightly less pronounced than economic and social

factors, cultural attitudes and traditions still significantly influence how female breadwinners are viewed.

The analysis demonstrates that economic and social factors have a strong and significant impact on perceptions of female breadwinners, followed by cultural factors. These findings highlight the importance of considering economic, social, and cultural contexts when examining the roles and perceptions of female breadwinners.

Table 5: Chi-Square Analysis Results

Response	Economic Factors	Chi-square	P-value	Social Factors	Chi-square	P-value	Cultural Factors	Chi-square	P-value
Strongly Disagree (SD)	29	108.6563	0.000	19	124.2813	0.000	109	62.6927	0.000
Disagree (D)	39			39			114		
Neutral (N)	68			76			76		
Agree (A)	117			133			47		
Strongly Agree (SA)	131			117			38		
Total	384			384			384		

DISCUSSION

Contextualizing Female Breadwinners in Wukari LGA, Nigeria

The present study in Wukari LGA, Nigeria, provides valuable insights into the experiences and perceptions of female breadwinners within a specific socio-cultural context. In line with Parry and Segalo's (2017) South African study, the findings suggest a noticeable shift in traditional gender roles, as respondents in Wukari LGA acknowledge an increase in female breadwinners. This aligns with the global discourse on challenging gender norms, reflecting the evolving dynamics of women's roles in family and society.

Economic, Social and Cultural Factors

However, the study's results on the factors contributing to the upsurge of female breadwinners in Wukari LGA diverge from Jurczyk et al.'s (2019) findings in Western Germany. Unlike the observed modernization of gender roles in some Western German families, the Wukari LGA context reveals a complex relationship where economic, social,

and cultural factors significantly contribute to the upsurge. This highlights the need to recognize diverse socio-cultural contexts shaping gender dynamics and challenges the universality of shifts in traditional roles.

Global Trends and Approaches

Studies such as Niels and Hewitt's (2019) investigation into relationship satisfaction in Australian couples and Kowalewska and Vitali's (2021) analysis of economic vulnerabilities in female-breadwinner couples, highlight both commonalities and distinctions. While the present study lacks specific data on the consequences of female breadwinners, the identified contributing factors in Wukari LGA suggest potential challenges that resonate with global trends. The findings emphasize the importance of nuanced approaches to understanding the complexities of gender roles and their implications for individuals and families across diverse cultural settings.

CONCLUSION

This study reveals a significant shift in gender roles within households in Wukari LGA, marking a departure from traditional norms. The increasing number of women assuming the role of primary breadwinners is influenced by a complex interplay of economic opportunities, social dynamics, and cultural norms. While this trend presents opportunities for women's empowerment, it also raises important concerns, such as financial strain and changes in family dynamics. Moreover, the consequences associated with this trend, such as financial strain and changes in family dynamics, underscore the need for further exploration and intervention. The study provides valuable insights into the evolving dynamics of gender roles and their implications for households in Wukari LGA.

Recommendations

Based on the study's outcomes, several recommendations can be put forth:

- i. **Economic Empowerment Programs:** Implement economic empowerment programs targeting women in Wukari LGA, providing training and resources to enhance their financial stability and independence.

- ii. Family Support Services: Establish family support services to address the consequences of shifting gender roles, such as financial strain and changes in family dynamics.
- iii. Cultural Sensitivity and Awareness: Promote cultural sensitivity and awareness campaigns to challenge traditional gender norms and stereotypes, recognizing the value of women's contributions to household income and decision-making.

REFERENCES

- Chapman, T. (2004). *Gender and domestic life*. Palgrave MacMillan.
- Davis, A. (2013). *Breadwinners and homemakers: Ideals of men and women in the family*. In *Modern motherhood*. Manchester University Press.
- Ghimire, K. B., & Pimbert, M. P. (2013). Social change and conservation: an overview of issues and concepts. *Social change and conservation*, 1-45.
- Habimana, P., & Kaze, E. (2009). Creating an inclusive society: practical strategies to promote social integration. *Division for Social Policy and Development United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs [Internet]*.
- Jarska, N. (2019). Female Breadwinners in State Socialism: The Value of Women's Work for Wages in Post-Stalinist Poland. *Contemporary European History*, 28(4), 469-483.
- Jurczyk, K., Jentsch, B., Sailer, J., & Schier, M. (2019). Female-Breadwinner Families in Germany: New Gender Roles? *Journal of Family Issues*, 40(13), 1731-1754.
- Khamis, N., & Ayuso, L. (2022). Female breadwinner: More egalitarian couples? An international comparison. *Journal of Family and Economic Issues*, 43(3), 534-545.
- Meisenbach, R. J. (2010). The female breadwinner: Phenomenological experience and gendered identity in work/family spaces. *Sex Roles*, 62(1), 2-19
- Meisenbach, R. J. (2010). The female breadwinner: Phenomenological experience and gendered identity in work/family spaces. *Sex Roles*, 62, 2-19.
- Miller, B., Carter, J., MacRae, C., & Schulz, B. (2021). A comparative analysis of attitudes towards female and male breadwinners in Germany, Sweden and the United States. *Journal of Gender Studies*, 30(3), 358-370.
- Oláh, L. S., Vignoli, D., & Kotowska, I. E. (2020). Gender roles and families. *Handbook of labor, human resources and population economics*, 1-28.
- Ormerod, R. (2020). The history and ideas of sociological functionalism: Talcott Parsons, modern sociological theory, and the relevance for OR. *Journal of the Operational Research Society*, 71(12), 1873-1899.
- Pfau-Effinger, B. (2004). Socio-historical paths of the male breadwinner model—an explanation of cross-national differences 1. *The British journal of sociology*, 55(3), 377-399.
- Rezaei MA, Mohammadinia N, Samiezadeh TT. (2013). Problems of female-headed households in Sistan Baluchistan province, *Iran. J Res Health*, 3(3):452-7.

Samargandi, N., Al Mamun, M., Sohag, K., & Alandejani, M. (2019). Women at work in Saudi Arabia: Impact of ICT diffusion and financial development. *Technology in Society*, 59, 1–11.

Sánchez Mira, N. (2021). (Un)doing gender in female breadwinner households: Gender relations and structural change. *Gender, Work & Organization*.