





ADVANTAGES OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAMS OFFERED BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS TO WOMEN IN TAIZ GOVERNORATE, YEMEN

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ABSTRACT

The current study aimed to identify the benefits of community support programs launched by non-governmental organizations to women in Taiz Governorate. Data were collected using a paper-based structured questionnaire administered to 300 women targeted by NGO projects, distributed across three directorates. A significant negative correlation was found between education and the benefits received by women. Whereas occupation, geographical openness, sources of information, and organizational participation showed a significantly positive correlation with women's benefits. Moreover, education level, geographical and cultural openness significantly influenced the benefits from NGOs. Therefore, it is suggested that community support programs should be launched in the future to improve women's skills and abilities.

Keywords: Women, Taiz Governorate, Community Support Program, Organizations, Non-Governmental.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Women are an active element in society and have made significant contributions to various aspects of development. However, they still face several challenges that limit their full participation in the society. The government of Yemen is working with numerous non-governmental and international organizations to enhance the role of women in development. The government of Yemen adopted the Mutual Accountability Framework at the Riyadh Conference held in September 2012, emphasizing the importance of involving civil society actors in Yemen's development and recognizing the role of civil society organizations in promoting transparency, decision-making, and policy-making in an inclusive and accountable manner (World Bank, 2013).

Previous study revealed that NGO interventions contribute positively to empowering women as an important human resource, with the same rights, duties, responsibilities, and opportunities as men in all aspects of life and development activities. It believes that women empowerment is an essential element, as the role of women in any society is one of the measures that expresses the growth and development of that society. Women could play a vital role in socio-economic development, in addition to caring for and raising children, as well as fulfilling their marital duties. Women are at the forefront of capital and recent years have witnessed remarkable interest from various parties, political and civil society organizations, with the aim of activating the role of women in development and empowering them with their rights (Acharya et al., 2007; Bannaga & Batwaih, 2025).

Elayah (2023) evaluated government programs in India that work to improve women's socio-economic status, such as vocational training programs, support for women who work from home, and assistance to victims of violence, addressing health and education. The study concluded that women benefited from health education, maternal and child care services. But the improper administrative procedures limited women empowerment. Joshi (2004), focused on social welfare programs for rural women, including awareness-raising, training, income generation, and capacity building. Moreover, it was concluded that previous programs contributed to increasing women's awareness which had a great impact on enhancing their economic and social participation. In Yemen, Abu Shaqra (2004) studied the factors influencing poverty reduction. It identified education, health, women's work,

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humanitarian projects, and job creation as essential factors. The study emphasized the importance of providing support to civil society organizations, enhancing cooperation and partnerships between them and government sectors, and removing administrative restrictions that hinder their work. Al-Aghbari et al. (2024) focused on the developmental role of civil society organizations in the Republic of Yemen. He noted their effective role in areas such as health, small production projects, training and rehabilitation, literacy programs, and human rights advocacy. However, these organizations face numerous challenges, such as limited funding, a weak administrative structure, and scarce leadership training programs. The study recommended developing and implementing plans for coordination between civil society organizations and government agencies that ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of development efforts.

Hence, the importance of women's empowerment programs, both economically and socially, and efforts to address the challenges that limit their role in society. In Taiz Governorate, women continuously facing challenges that directly and indirectly impact their effective participation in society. Civil society organizations are important entities that aim to drive development in various fields, and they are expected to contribute to solving many of these challenges and problems. However, the role of these organizations remains unclear, and no studies have been conducted to address their potential benefits. This study focused on the role of non-governmental organizations in women empowerment in Taiz Governorate, highlighting the important factors that influence women's ability from the various activities provided by these organizations.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1 Description of the Study Area

This study was conducted in Taiz Governorate, Yemen. Beneficiaries were selected from three of the safest and most accessible districts (Al-Qahirah District, Al-Mudhaffar District, and Sala District). A purposive sample of 300 women was taken from a total of 221,646, distributed across the three districts (Al-Qahirah District: 80,021, of which 108 were selected, representing 36%; Al-Mudhaffar District: 69,769, of which 96 were selected, representing 32%; and Sala District: 71,856, representing 32%).

2.2 Data Collection

Primary data was collected using a questionnaire designed to include all the information required to achieve the study objectives. Socioeconomic characteristics of respondents including age, education, marital status, geographical openness, income, family size, occupation and living standard were included.

2.3. Research Instrument

The research instrument consisted of various sections. First section included economic benefits measured using three-point Lickert scale (1=Low; 2=Medium; 3=High). Second section included educational activities measured using three-point Lickert scale (1=Low; 2=Medium; 3=High). Third section included raining and rehabilitation activities measured using three-point Lickert scale (1=Low; 2=Medium; 3=High). Fourth section included social activities measured using three-point Lickert scale (1=Low; 2=Medium; 3=High). Fifth and sixth section included health and legal activities measured using measured using three-point Lickert scale (1=Low; 2=Medium; 3=High).

2.4 Reliability and Validity

A pilot study was conducted to measure the reliability and validity of the construct. Data was collected from 30 respondents and Conbach Alpha was estimated to be 0.72.

2.5. Statistical Analysis

The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) was used to analyze the data. Descriptive statistical analysis was used to measure percentage, frequency, mean and standard deviation. Moreover, simples correlation and stepwise multiple regression analysis was run.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results in Table 1 show 70% of the female researchers were 19 to 46 years old. Only 5.33% of the female researchers were between 47 to 60 years old. Approximately 55% of the female researchers were married, while 33% were unmarried. The Remaining were widowed and divorced. Educationally, 59% of female respondents held a university degree and remaining held primary, secondary, diploma, and postgraduate. Whereas 2% were illiterate and 5% could only read and write. Around 98% of the respondents have low geographical openness. The Majority of the respondents earned a low annual income of 0-100,000 Saudi Riyals. The Majority of families consisted of 2-5 family members, which is considered a literate family. Majority of the respondents have low living standards.

Table 1: Socio-economic characteristics of the respondents (n=300)

Personal Characteristics	%	Characteristics	%
Age		Income	
First Age Group (19-32)	34.59	Low (0-100,000 SAR)	92.7
Second Age Group (33-46)	35.33	Medium (101-201,000 SAR)	5.3
Third Age Group (47+)	30.08	High (202 and above)	2
Marital Status		Family Size	
Single	33	Small (2-5)	71.7
Married	55.3	Medium (6-9)	27.3
Divorced	7.3	Large (10 and above)	1
Widowed	4.4	Occupation	
Educational Level		Housewife	30
Illiteracy	2	Teacher	12.3
Read and Write	5	Seamstress	6
Primary	7	Merchant	3.3
Secondary	10	Student	14.3
University	59	Nurse	9.7
Diploma	9	Hairdresser	3.7
Postgraduate Studies	8	Lawyer	11
Geographical Openness		Human Rights and Media Activist	9.7
Low (5-8)	94.7	Living standard	
Medium (9-12)	4.9	Low (7-11)	52.3
High (13+)	0.4	Medium (12-16)	44.7
		High (17 and above)	3

The overall majority of respondents within the younger (19-32) and middle-aged categories (33-46 years), as well as 55.3%, specify an energetic, economically and socially stable. Further, (59%) of respondents possessing university-level education think critically and engage in social issues and developmental matters. It has been shown that the majority of respondents (57.3%) are students in various professional occupations, such as seamstresses, teachers, nurses, and lawyers. A relatively higher percentage of respondents (30%) are housewives, which indicates a cultural dimension of gender roles.

The high educational attainment of respondents in a low-income profile may be due to underemployment or wage disparities between genders. The main reason is that over half of the respondents (52.3%) categorize their living standard as low, followed by a considerable share who identify it as medium (44.7%).

Table 2 shows the economic activities that benefited women in Taiz Governorate and were implemented by non-governmental organizations, ranked by the arithmetic mean. The first rank was “the organization introduced available job opportunities in the community,” with an arithmetic mean of 0.59. The last rank was “the organization provides soft loans for women” with an arithmetic mean of 0.39.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to the benefits from the economic activities provided by non-governmental organizations

Economic activities	Benefit level						Mean	SD
	High		Medium		Low			
	N	%	N	%	N	%		
The organization introduced available job opportunities in the community.	0	0	4	1.3	160	53.3	1.56	0.52
The organization contributed to building our economic capacity through self-help.	4	1.3	4	1.3	146	48.7	1.55	0.59
I received an introduction to institutions that support small businesses.	0	0	4	1.3	151	50.3	1.53	0.56
Participation in the organization's programs led to increased income.	0	0	1	0.3	132	44	1.45	0.50
The organization helped provide job opportunities that match our abilities and potential.	0	0	2	0.7	132	44	1.45	0.51
The organization helped develop our capacity for sound household economic management.	0	0	0	0	122	40.7	1.41	0.49
The organization provided us with training in income-generating businesses.	0	0	2	0.7	114	38	1.39	0.50
The organization contributed to gaining the necessary experience in the labor market and its requirements.	0	0	2	0.7	80	26.7	1.28	0.46
The organization provides soft loans for women.	0	0	0	0	56	18.7	1.19	0.39

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Overall, it clearly indicates that NGOs are low profile in economically and women empowerment in small businesses. The majority revealed low benefit and consistently low mean values, indicating the failure of women empowerment programs in bringing practical outcomes for most participants, and their work is more symbolic than transformative.

Furthermore, the very low benefit response related to the availability of soft loans and training for launching a business indicates structural barriers. The prominent issues are credit constraints, low awareness and procedures that hinder financial stability of women. The overall low mean values suggest that training programs are either insufficient or poorly integrated into skill development for generating income. Adegoroye and Adegoroye (2008) revealed that the financial issue contributed almost 20.1% of the total factors influencing the economic empowerment of women. Among other hindrances, lack of access to credit facilities, cultural norms and traditions, and access to information are prominent ones with almost the same percentages. According to Nandan and Kushwaha (2017), NGOs play a key role in providing necessary skills useful to earn a respectable livelihood as well as starting a small business by assisting them with financial assistance and marketing of their products.

Regarding the educational activities that benefited from the women's point of view. The Table 3 shows that the statement "the organization implemented awareness programs on the importance of girls' education and changing the customs and traditions that limit women's education" ranked first with a mean value of 0.49. The statement "the organization contributed to building classrooms in your school" ranked last with an arithmetic mean of 0.36.

Table 3: Distribution of female respondents according to benefit from educational activities

Educational activities	Benefit level						Mean	SD
	High		Medium		Low			
	N	%	N	%	N	%		
The organization has implemented awareness programs on the importance of girls' education and changing the customs and traditions that limit women's education.	0	0	2	0.7	101	33.7	1.35	0.49
The organization supports orphan girls in their education.	0	0	0	0	91	30.3	1.30	0.46
The organization has renovated school classrooms.	0	0	0	0	77	25.7	1.26	0.43
The organization has contributed to providing school bags for female students.	0	0	3	1	70	23.3	1.25	0.45
The organization provides breakfast to female students in schools.	0	0	3	1	64	21.3	1.23	0.44
The organization participates in literacy programs for women.	0	0	0	0	64	21.3	1.21	0.41
The organization has contributed to building classrooms in your school.	0	0	0	0	47	15.7	1.16	0.36

Again, the consistently low mean values for interventions to improve girls' education indicate either a weak institutional presence or a lack of funds to build educational infrastructure. There is a greater focus on raising awareness of girls' education by breaking traditional barriers and including orphan children than on providing resources and investing in infrastructure.

A similar study by Peppin Vaughan (2019) found that the current dominant issues in girls' education relate to access and quality. This is defined by the relatively weak involvement of women's NGO groups in proportion to the private sector organizations.

Ngonyani and Kamando (2023) indicated that NGOs played a critical role in training girls who are facing a tough psychological environment. In addition, special efforts are required to equip schools with the sensitive facilities necessary for girls, especially the infrastructure.

The results in Table 4 indicate that "I benefited from training courses in sewing and embroidery" ranked first with an arithmetic mean of 0.52, and "I joined a training course in the field of incense and perfumes" ranked last with an arithmetic mean of 0.42.

Table 4: Distribution of female respondents according to benefit from the training and rehabilitation activities provided by non-governmental organizations

Training and rehabilitation activities	Benefit level						Mean	SD
	High		Medium		Low			
	N	%	N	%	N	%		
The organization offered training courses in the field of handicrafts.	0	0	0	0	202	67.3	1.67	0.47
I benefited from training courses in computer science.	0	0	0	0	107	35.7	1.36	0.48
I benefited from training courses in sewing and embroidery.	1	0.3	4	1.3	98	32.6	1.36	0.52
I benefited from training courses in the field of food industries.	0	0	0	0	90	30	1.30	0.45
I enrolled in a training course in incense and perfumes.	0	0	2	.7	48	16	1.18	0.42

The handicraft industry, especially at the rural level, is considered handy for the financial stability of women as well as sewing and embroidery skills (Mmopelwa and Mackenzie, 2019; Aufa, 2024). Luftu-ul-Hasnaen et al. (2023) show that owning a small business and health-related skillsets are trendy among women and are helping rural women improve their livelihoods. NGOs played a key role in providing training and helping start businesses.

Computer-related skills are the need of the hour these days, but women's participation in computer science and food industry-related training courses is found to be negligible, indicating missed opportunities in the way of women's economic empowerment (Wetzel, 2002; Hassan & Silong, 2008; Weil et al., 2018; Fisk et al., 2021; Gyan et al., 2022; Trisnani & Badruzaman, 2023; Kamuzora et al., 2024).

The data in Table 5 shows that "the organization helped me develop my abilities to deal with family disputes" ranked first with the mean score 0.84, the organization helped me feel proud of myself, the organization enhanced my sense of social belonging to the community and the organization contributed to improving my personal and social relationships in the community" ranked last with the mean score 0.59. Overall, NGOs are empowering women and raising their personal abilities however, the interventions require deeper integration with community-level empowerment processes to achieve social inclusion.

Table 5: Distribution of female respondents according to benefit from social activities provided by non-governmental organizations

Social activities	Benefit level						Mean	SD
	High		Medium		Low			
	N	%	N	%	N	%		
The organization enabled us to recognize our potential and capabilities that we can utilize.	19	6.3	12	4	174	58	1.85	0.76
The organization helped me feel proud of myself.	3	1	14	4.7	183	61.0	1.73	0.59
The organization enhanced my sense of social belonging to the community.	4	1.3	12	4	184	61.3	1.73	0.59
The organization contributed to improving my personal and social relationships in the community.	4	1.3	11	3.7	181	60.3	1.72	0.59
The organization helped me support my personal strengths.	19	6.3	12	4	117	39	1.66	0.82
The organization helped me develop my abilities to deal with family disputes.	21	7	10	3.3	110	36.7	1.64	0.84
The training helped me acquire skills in raising children properly.	3	1	13	4.3	93	31	1.43	0.62

Results reflect that NGO programs are more focused on personal strengths and capacity building to handle family matters by incorporating interpersonal and psychosocial dimensions. This highlights that NGOs are more effective in fostering self-esteem, emotional resilience and household conflict resolution while improving dimensions of social networking and parenting skills.

According to Khoso et al. (2011), NGOs are at the forefront of working on the issues of women's health, education, gender violence, and laws of inheritance. Similarly, Hibbs (2022) highlighted the role of NGOs in women's psychological and civic participation. According to Pokrzywa (2018) and Jha & Pal (2025), education is a key for NGOs to equip women to make informed decisions and improve their socio-economic conditions.

Table 6 shows that the statement "the organization works to raise awareness about the importance of regular breast cancer screening" ranked first with a mean score of 0.60. The statement "The organization provides training courses for midwives" ranked last with a mean score of 0.48. The role of NGOs in addressing health disparities, particularly in the developing world, is widely discussed in various studies. Several studies mentioned that NGOs worked to enhance the health of women by empowering them with first aid skills and raising awareness about diseases (Sajadi et al., 2022; Mondal and Saarma, 2025).

Table 7 shows that "It implements awareness programs on the consequences of domestic violence" ranked first (mean, 0.67). Whereas "It participates in programs to combat violence against women" ranked last (mean- 0.61).

Jha & Pal (2025) highlighted the positive role that NGOs are playing in promoting legal awareness and legal literacy initiatives. By empowering women with awareness about their rights and legal advantages they have, NGOs help those counter social disparities and challenging power dynamics in various aspects of life (Sajadi et al., 2022; Shreedhar et al., 2024).

According to Table 8, several statistically significant relationships exist between women's taking advantage of NGO interventions and the selected independent variables. The results indicate a multifaceted nature of women to take advantage of NGO programs. There is a significant negative correlation between education and its benefits for women. It means higher education and lowers the benefits. Whereas occupation, geographical openness, sources of information, and organizational participation showed a significantly positive correlation with the benefits of women. It means an increase in these variables increases the benefits for women.

Occupation, geographical openness, reliance on information sources, and organizational participation have positive correlations that are well aligned with the studies of Lakshmi (2014) and Thenmozhi & Arul (2018), emphasizing that information access, facilities of mobility and social networking are critical in enhancing women's

empowerment. According to Akinyemi et al. (2024), employed and socially engaged women have more chances of being involved in NGO programs and utilizing their resources. On the other hand, the significant negative correlation with education suggests that NGO programs are more effective for less-educated women, who are the primary target group. Results by Gebisa and Tefera (2020) and Singha (2025) support that engaging with the communication system, social activeness, and mobility are the key determinants for women to take maximum benefit from NGO's interventions.

Table 6: Distribution of female respondents according to benefit from health activities provided by non-governmental organizations

Health activities	Benefit level						Mean	SD
	High		Medium		Low			
	N	%	N	%	N	%		
The organization provides medications and treatments for women with chronic diseases.	1	0.3	4	1.3	152	50.7	1.54	0.54
The organization works to raise awareness about the importance of regular breast cancer screening.	4	1.3	5	1.7	117	39	1.46	0.60
Training with the organization has given me experience in first aid.	3	1	5	1.7	110	36.7	1.43	0.58
The organization offers awareness programs about the dangers of early marriage and multiple pregnancies.	4	1.3	5	1.7	101	33.7	1.41	0.59
The organization contributes to providing healthcare for pregnant women and children.	1	0.3	5	1.7	108	36	1.40	0.54
The organization provides healthcare for poor women.	1	0.3	5	1.7	104	34.7	1.39	0.54
The organization offers awareness programs about the importance of vaccination for children.	4	1.3	5	1.7	95	31.7	1.39	0.59
The organization provides training courses for midwives.	0	0	1	0.3	102	34	1.35	0.48
The organization has contributed to raising awareness about epidemics and seasonal diseases.	4	1.3	5	1.7	74	24.7	1.32	0.57

Table 7: Distribution of respondents according to their benefit from the legal activities provided by NGOs

Legal activities	Benefit level						Mean	SD
	High		Medium		Low			
	N	%	N	%	N	%		
The organization educates women on how to access their legal rights.	6	2	10	3.3	130	43.3	1.56	0.65
It implements awareness programs on the consequences of domestic violence.	7	2.3	9	3	118	39.3	1.52	.67
It provides support for women's participation in decision-making positions.	0	0	16	5.3	116	38.7	1.49	.65
It helps raise women's awareness of their marital and family rights.	6	2	9	3	107	35.7	1.48	.65
It supports women's efforts to achieve equal rights with men.	6	2	8	2.7	105	35	1.46	.65
It raises women's awareness of their inheritance rights.	5	1.7	10	3.3	88	29.3	1.41	.64
It participates in programs to combat violence against women.	3	1	12	4	88	29.3	1.40	.61

Table 8: Simple correlation coefficient values between independent variables and the benefit for women from the activities provided by non-governmental organizations

Independent Variables	Correlation coefficient
Age	-0.024
Marital Status	-0.073
Educational Level	-0.158**
Occupation	0.179**
Monthly Income	0.0544
Family Size	0.14
Geographical Openness	0.263**
Reliance on Information Sources	0.195**
Living standard	-0.055
Organizational Participation	0.220**
Respondents' Attitudes Toward Volunteer Work	0.13

To identify the independent variables influencing the degree of benefit of the activities and programs of non-governmental organizations. The results in Table 9 indicated the significance of this model up to the third step of the analysis. There are three independent variables that influence the degree of benefit for women respondents from the activities and programs of non-governmental organizations, geographical openness, education level, and cultural

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openness influence the benefits obtained from NGOs.

Table 9: Results of the correlation and stepwise multiple regression analysis to determine the relative factors affecting benefit for women from the activities and programs of non-governmental organizations.

Independent variables	Multiple correlation coefficient R	Coefficient of determination R ²	Adjusted coefficient of determination R ²	% of explained variance in the dependent variable	F
Geographical openness	0.276	0.076	0.073	7.3	**24.552
Educational level	0.35	0.129	0.123	5	**21.919
Cultural openness	0.408	0.167	0.158	3.5	**19.744

4. CONCLUSION

Overall, results indicate a low level of benefit attained from NGOs in economic empowerment, making improvements to livelihoods, and supporting women in initiating small businesses. The consistently low mean values regarding interventions taken to improve education for women indicate either a weak institutional presence or an absence of funds to build educational infrastructure. There is greater focus on raising awareness of women education by breaking traditional barriers and including orphan children than on giving resources and investing in infrastructure. Further, results reflect that NGO programs are more focused on personal strengths and capacity building to handle family matters by incorporating interpersonal and psychosocial dimensions. NGO led interventions about women's health related matters and awareness programs on the consequences of domestic violence are a top priority. Women's capacity to benefit from NGO interventions is significantly linked to informational, social, and participatory factors. Whereas demographic attributes and attitudes do not affect this ability. The results highlight the critical role of social capital and communication exposure in fostering the active participation of women in NGOs.

Recommendations

1. Implement training programs to raise women's awareness of the importance of joining development organizations and associations.
2. Work to provide programs that help provide soft loans to women to implement family and craft projects.
3. Implement programs targeting literacy for women in rural areas.
4. Implement programs targeting the development of women's skills in some household industries.
5. Offer training courses in midwifery and raise awareness of epidemics and seasonal diseases.
6. Work to raise women's awareness of their rights and the importance of their participation in decision-making.

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