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Articles

Out of the dark but not out of the cage: women's empowerment and gender relations in the Dangme West district of Ghana

Fuera de las tinieblas pero no fuera de la celda: el empoderamiento de las mujeres y las relaciones de género en el distrito de Dangme West en Ghana

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In Ghana[illegible]n linked to wome[illegible]ese. Yet, many[illegible]sarily looking at the im[illegible]s on women. Using qu[illegible]hana, this article sh[illegible]an reduce

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women's vulnerability to poverty and empower them. But much more needs to be done to complement these efforts. The study shows that women beneficiaries as against women non-beneficiaries have significantly improved their socio-economic status through access to financial and non-financial resources. This has in certain instances improved gender relations at the household level, with women being recognized as earners of income and contributors to household budget. However, some women still regard their spouses as ‘heads’ and require their consent in decisions even in issues that have to do with their own personal lives. Moreover, the improved economic status of women has resulted in a ‘power conflict’, creating confrontation between spouses. The article recommends that, as part of their programmes, assisting organizations and institutions must address ‘power relations’, the basis of gender subordination at the household level, otherwise socio-cultural norms and practices, underpinned by patriarchal structures, will remain ‘cages’ for rural women.

En Ghana, las estrategias contra la pobreza entre las mujeres rurales han estado a menudo ligadas a programas de empoderamiento de mujeres con el crédito como un componente fundamental. Sin embargo, muchos programas se centran en los beneficios económicos para las mujeres sin necesariamente examinar el impacto sobre las relaciones de género a nivel del hogar y sus consecuencias para las mujeres. Utilizando datos cualitativos y cuantitativos del distrito de Dangme West de Ghana, este artículo muestra cómo los programas de reducción de la pobreza con componentes de crédito pueden reducir la vulnerabilidad de las mujeres a la pobreza y empoderarlas. Pero se necesita hacer mucho más para complementar estos esfuerzos. El estudio muestra que, comparadas con las mujeres no beneficiarias, las mujeres beneficiarias han mejorado significativamente su estatus socioeconómico a través del acceso a recursos financieros y no financieros. En algunas situaciones esto ha mejorado las relaciones de género a nivel del hogar, con las mujeres siendo reconocidas como generadoras de ingresos y contribuidoras a la economía del hogar. Sin embargo, algunas [...]timiento en decision[...]nales. Más aún, el e[...]flicto de pode[...]as organi[...]deben tener en cuent[...]o a nivel del hogar, d[...]or estructuras patriarcales, permanecerán siendo “celdas” para las mujeres rurales.

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关键词：迦纳当梅西区、性别、贫穷、赋权

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1. The M Summit in 2000, ar ration commits member countries to promote gender equality and the empowerment of

women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate sustainable development.

2. The Grameen bank is a micro-finance organization designed to offer credit services to the rural poor, particularly women, without requiring collateral. A group-based credit approach is applied which utilizes the peer pressure within the group to ensure the borrowers use caution in conducting their financial affairs, thus ensuring repayment and allowing the borrowers to develop good credit standing. Started in 1976 by Mohammed Yunus in Bangladesh, this approach has since become a model for many micro-finance schemes for women.

3. Opinion leaders are usually the respected members of a particular community. They are most often the community political leaders (mainly men) such as chief, elders of the chief, church leader or head teacher. In this instance, the opinion leader is an elder of the chief in the Old Ningo community.

4. To preserve the anonymity of this respondent, a pseudonym has been used.

5. This is a local textiles group.

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