

LOW PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE MUNICIPAL BUDGETING PROCESS

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Introduction and Objective

With a population of 8,850 vendors found within the 16 markets under Jinja Municipal Council, considered to be micro and small enterprises, 65% of such market vendors are women who pay market dues. Over 4,000 women are in trade of goods and services and they pay trade licenses. Over 12,000 women are employed in industries that exist around the municipality and, they pay to council, local service tax. These payments to council are contributions towards service delivery in priority areas in line with the budget. However, with all their contribution to Jinja Municipal Council as a local authority, their involvement in budget process is quiet minimal. Jinja Municipal council therefore, developed mechanisms on how to interest women in participating in budgeting processes in order for them to determine priority areas that will enhance their well being. This was critical because, women play a very important role in any society's development.

Main objective

The overall objective was to ensure the high participation of women in the budgeting process of Jinja Municipal Council

Objectives:

1. Increase the number of women participating in the budgeting processes
2. Build confidence in council operations



Figure 1. The photograph reflects equal participation of women and men after the change project

Target group and method

The change project targets the women in employment at micro, small and medium enterprises.

The champion women/ UWEP women are to mobilize all women in the three divisions to attend sensitization meeting and participatory budgeting meetings.

The project stakeholders

Mayor/Executive, Division Chairpersons, women councilors Technical Planning Committee, Municipal Development Forum, Women Councils at Municipal and Division level, Community Based Services Department. And UWEP Women Groups



Figure 2. Market vendors in Amber court market

Results

The recent budget conferences held in the three Divisions reflect increased attendance and participation of women hence meeting the change project objective as indicated below;

- Walukuba Division; 37 women out of 63 participants attended (**fig. 3**)
- Mpumudde Division 40 women out of 85 participants (**fig. 3**)
- Jinja Central Division 19 women out 59 participants attended... (**fig. 3**)
- Head office; 37 women out of 106 participants attended

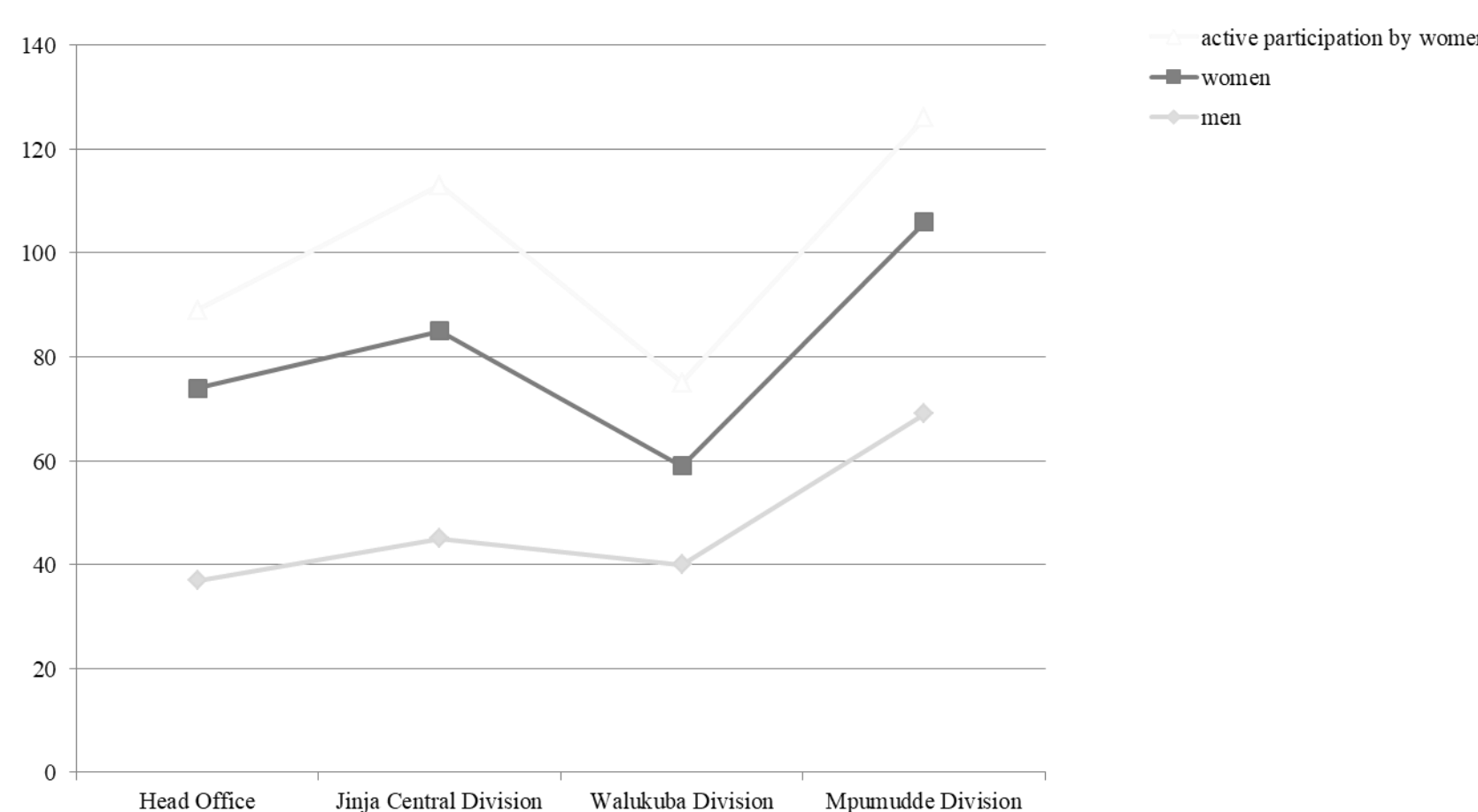


Figure 3. The line graph reflects attendance and participation of women in the budgeting processes of Jinja Municipal Council at Head Office and the three divisions

Impact

Women are the majority in micro, small and medium enterprises but with less participation in budgeting processes. This creates an imbalance in the budget priorities that would be geared towards their social and economic transformation hence, a need to enhance their direct involvement in council's budgeting processes for their sustainable development.

The participation of women in council programmes has increased since this change project commenced as reflected by the graph .Ushs 54,000,000 has been planned for provision of security lights in amber court market to enable the traders to carry out business at night.as per the draft budget for the Financial year 2020/2021. This was proposed by amber court women traders who participated in the budget conference that was held in Mpumudde Division on 15th October, 2019

Participation in Budget in budget conferences held by Jinja Municipal council from 2016 to 2019

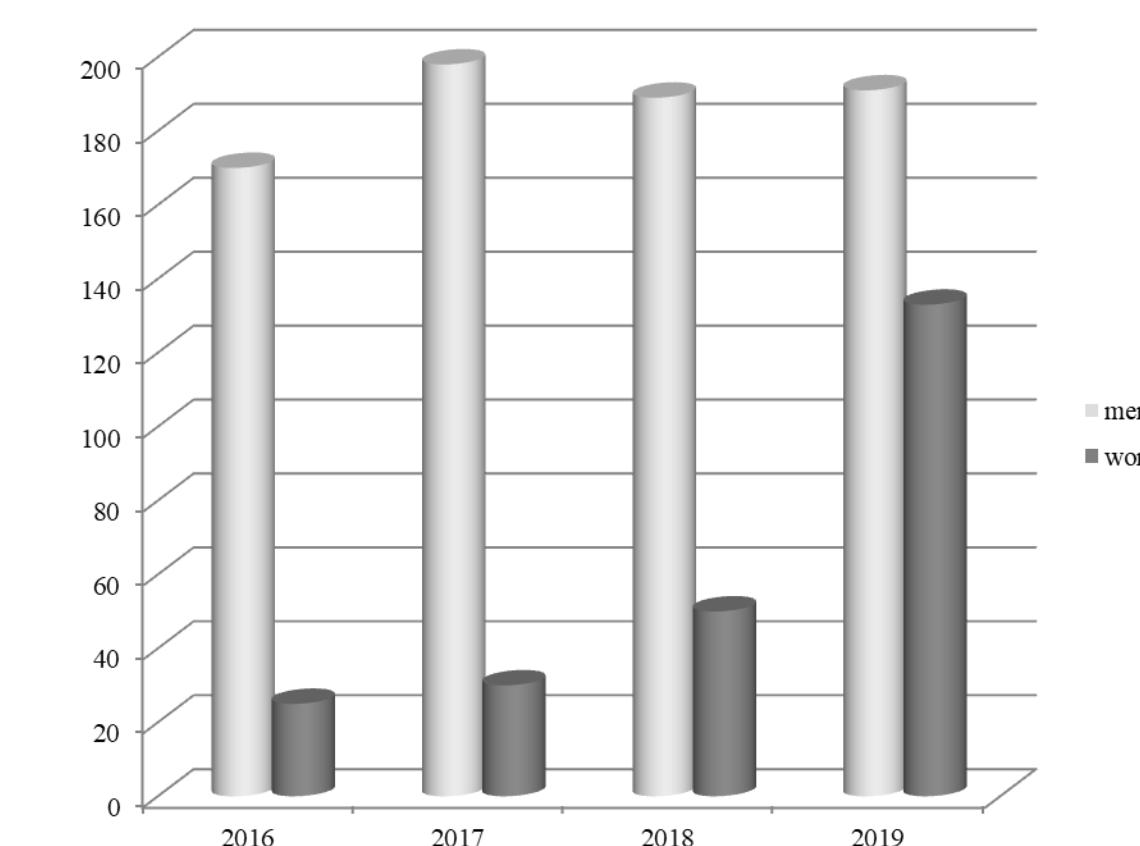


Figure 4 reflects an increase in the number of women who attended Budget conferences in Jinja Municipality

Conclusions

It is evident that women's participation in the budgeting process leads to inclusiveness in resource allocation leading to socio-economic transformation of local communities.

The women that participated in the budget conferences were able to present their needs and their challenges while carrying out business. Many of the proposals they presented were included in the council 5 year development plan and will handled by the Municipality depending on the resource envelope.

In conclusion, increased women participation in the Municipality budgeting processes enhances their social and economic development leading to sustainable development.

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