

SURVIVING ON CREDIT: WOMEN AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION IN AFRICA

Announcement published by MUTIAT TITIOPE OLADEJO on Monday, November 2, 2020

Type:

Call for Papers

Date:

November 2, 2020 to January 30, 2021

Location:

Nigeria

Subject Fields:

African History / Studies, Anthropology, Social Sciences, Women's & Gender History / Studies, Communication

DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA RESEARCH FORUM (DARF)

CALL FOR BOOK CHAPTERS

SURVIVING ON CREDIT: WOMEN AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION IN AFRICA

Dr. Muhammad Yunus (the founder of Grameen Bank) in his philosophy of microcredit system affirmed that “credit is a human right”. This view simply explains how credit should be accessible to create self-employment. This stance is premised on the fact that government’s responsibility is to ensure right to food, shelter, education and health. Over the decades in Africa, nation states plan and attempt to provide rights-based needs, yet they are inadequate. And basically, credit should be humanised to enhance wealth distribution and access to basic amenities, how sustainable?

According to International Labour Organisation (ILO), women’s empowerment through microfinance is key to promoting decent work agenda and it contributes to the core values of gender equality. As at 2006, about 79 million women have access to microfinance services (Daley-Harris, 2007)

Businesses in contemporary Africa rarely survive for several reasons, even before the death of the owner. (Oladejo, 2013) The complexities associated with access to credit to grow businesses place women at the disadvantaged and vulnerable position across African societies. With the nature of trade and investment in Africa, men dominate the 'big' businesses and control the organised private sector, very few women belong to such category from the colonial era. Women own micro businesses in the markets, retail spaces, neighbourhoods, community and villages.

In East African societies, women have institutionalised credit schemes and create loan hubs to help businesses grow in village and community clusters. In West Africa, especially in Nigeria, microfinance institutions exist in the organised private sector, they offer loan schemes to shrewd business women. However, the schemes have advantages and disadvantages across Africa. In Southwest Nigeria for instance, there is the concept of *gbomu le lantern* (breast on a kindled lantern) which in practice means that women work excessively into late nights with lit lantern in their kiosks to make desirable profit to repay loans. Inability to pay money-lenders in African history is described by Falola (1993), that "money-lenders charged exorbitant interest and insisted on loan repayment at a fixed date. Borrowing from the modern banking system, the money-lenders prepared legal documents and required surety. Debt recovery was generally painful to defaulters; they were humiliated, harassed, and had their property confiscated. The practice generated many conflicts". Inability to pay loans result in conflicts and public shaming of women, a loan recovery officer reported that: "shame campaign works better than arresting them, because they experience it in full view of their friends, children and family". In spite of this, operators of microfinance banks constantly market their products to small businesses as the informal sector dominate African economies (Oladejo and Komolafe, 2019)

Financial inclusion and access to microcredit facilities is prominent in Africa's informal sector which women dominate. To what extent do women encounter inclusion and/or exclusion in accessing business finance. How do women organise self-help microcredit? What are the local and global factors influencing women's financial inclusion?

The proposed book seeks scholarly contributions in the following themes but not

limited to:

- Concepts and theories in money lending and credit systems in Africa
- Gender issues in precolonial lending systems
- Credit systems in colonial Africa
- Government intervention in entrepreneurship and business financing
- Business conflicts and credit systems
- Women's informal credit systems
- Women in cooperative societies
- Debt recovery and public shaming
- Patriarchal and patrilineal factors in money lending
- Motherhood, business systems and credit culture
- Women's business survival strategies
- Female headed households and business survival
- Glass ceiling and loan sizing
- Digital tools in women's financial inclusions
- Gender considerations in microfinance institutions
- Microfinance for women in rural communities
- Market associations and credit facilitation
- Gender based loan hubs
- Faith based institutions and credit schemes
- Media coverage of women's financial inclusion
- Legal issues in microcredit and gender
- Globalisation and women's financial inclusion

Contributors are expected to submit 150 word abstract with clear methods and methodology to obiradeducation@gmail.com. Please adhere strictly to APA format.

book will be edited by:

Mutiati T. Oladejo Ph.D. University of Ibadan, Nigeria

Rasheed A. Adebisi Fountain University, Nigeria

Timeline:

Submission of abstracts:	December 22, 2020
Notification of acceptance of abstract:	January 5, 2021
Submission of article:	March 25, 2021
Decision on peer review:	April 30, 2021
Author corrections and verifications:	May 30, 2021
Publication:	July 31, 2021

Contact Info:

Dr. Mutiat Oladejo,

Contact Email:

obiradeducation@gmail.com