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**IMPACT OF ONG INTERVENTIONS ON THE EMPOWERMENT OF POOR WOMEN.
Case of the Vakinankaratra region. Mada
gascar»**

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ABSTRACT

Poverty has long been a topic of discussion at both the national and community levels. Women are a particularly affected group. Deprived of a qualitative change in their lives, women are mainly the most affected by poverty. Reducing women's poverty in particular is becoming a priority. For ONGs, holding the role of intervener in this fight and ensuring the sustainability of their interventions present great challenges. Thus, the question arises as to how ONGs adapt their actions to the feminization of poverty. The results of a survey of 156 women in the Vakinankaratra region on the dimensions of female poverty confirmed the hypothesis that ONGs accompany women in need in their empowerment.

KEYWORDS: Women, Poverty, ONGs, Indicators, Empowerment

INTRODUCTION

The feminization of poverty would therefore be a phenomenon in which the female population represented a disproportionate percentage of the world's poor, hence the expression: "the poorest of the poor are women". But there is another dimension to the problem besides this quantitative percentage measure. According to Medeiros and Costa in 2008, it also refers to inequalities in opportunities. This disparity takes the form of the inability to lead a long, healthy and creative life; or the inability to enjoy basic rights such as freedom, respect and dignity.

This precariousness accumulates over time. Several elements can explain its process. According to Naghdalyan in his work "The Feminization of Poverty" in 2007: "Feminization is more related to the observation that gender differentiates the processes leading women or men into poverty. Because of gender-specific constraints, women have more difficulty getting out of poverty. Clearly, this author and others have examined the indicators that amplify it, including the sexual division of labor, women's workload, the status of head of household, lack of access to community infrastructure, land, credit, organizations, as well as the difficulty of access to training.

In the face of this, ONGs are considered key actors in the fight against precarious living conditions. Their fields of action vary and revolve around emergency aid to people in distress. They accompany and support them in the long term to enable them to rebuild themselves, if necessary, to regain their place as actors in society and thus recover their fundamental right to a dignified life. They work with public organizations and local structures to facilitate the access of individuals to various social services. However, the question arises as to how the intervening ONGs adapt their actions to the feminization of precariousness.

To answer this question, we opted for a methodology based on the results of a survey conducted with a sample of 156 women from the Vakinankaratra region, trying to build a database on the actions of ONGs to fight against female poverty in order to discuss the hypothesis that ONGs accompany women in need in their empowerment.

I- CONCEPTUAL BASIS

According to Golle's advances in 2017: through their knowledge of the qualitative aspects of poverty, ONGs have exposed the shortcomings of the purely quantitative and often simplistic indicators used by the international community. In this way, they have established the basis for a better knowledge and measurement of precariousness. This measurement takes into consideration the multidimensional aspect. Moreover, ONGs have changed the vision of society and researchers on the problem by revealing the process of consolidation of life complications. It is now accepted that poverty is much more than a deprivation of resources, especially in terms of income. These theoretical revivals have persuaded national

and international institutions to look for more typical indicators that combine both the quantitative and qualitative aspects, even if the latter is more difficult to measure.

The other contribution of ONGs is the influence of poverty on the lack of respect for human rights. Golle articulates this idea by stating that the poorest have learned to understand the indivisibility of human rights. Extreme poverty undermines the free exercise of fundamental rights. Worse still, the people in its grip no longer see themselves as subjects of rights. This message of poverty as a violation of human rights has been engraved in stone on the Council of Europe's forecourt since 1993, on the slab of refusal of poverty. The slab contains the words of Father Joseph Wresinki: "Wherever people are condemned to live in misery, human rights are violated. It is a sacred duty to unite to ensure that they are respected.

ONGs are key players in the fight against precarious living conditions. Their fields of action vary and revolve around emergency aid to people in distress. They accompany and support them in the long term to enable them to rebuild themselves, if necessary, to regain their place as actors in society and thus recover their fundamental right to a dignified life.

II- RESULTS

In order to verify the impact of the ONGs' activities on their beneficiaries, the results will focus on the ONGs' activities.

2.1 Extension of Income Generating Activities (AGR)

The ONGs are developing practices in the creation of income-generating activities for their targets. The analysis related to IGAs gives this picture:

Table 1: Paired samples test on women's activity

		Paired differences					t	Ddl	Sig. (bilatéral)	Eta-Square partial
		Means	Ecart type	Mean standard error	Confidence interval of the difference at 95%.					
					Lower	Superior				
Paire 1	ACI- ACA	-1,179	1,407	,113	-1,402	-,957	-10,468	155	,000	,411
Paire 2	ACI- UE	-,429	1,271	,102	-,630	-,229	-4,222	155	,000	,103

Source: Authors, 2022

In order to verify the effect of the ONG intervention, the matched sample test is the most appropriate. Indeed, this tool compares individuals with themselves. In this case, the information provided by the table is the existence of a significant difference between the means, since the P-values are less than 0.000. Thus, there was, on average, a change in the activity practiced by the women compared to what they opted for when they first borrowed. The use of the current loans does not coincide with the activities of the first loan for the majority. As a result, it was noted that the ONGs were unable to ensure the continuity of the women's IGAs. Furthermore, the partial effect sizes calculated using the square square bracket give values of 0.411 and 0.103. These indices express a large effect size of the difference in means. These interpretations shed light on why the initial activity is not significant. They are more lucid through a graphical representation that clearly shows that most of the sample changed their main activity from the initial activity for which they borrowed, namely:

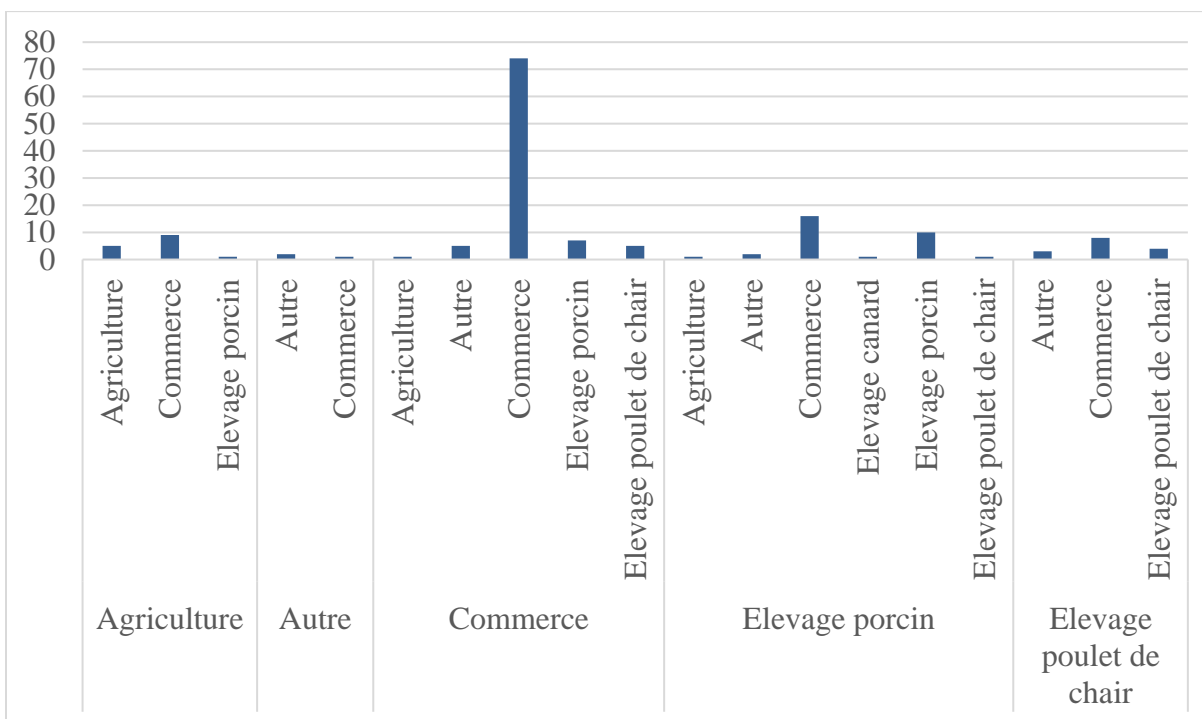
- ♦ some women who initially raised broiler chickens have maintained this activity. However, a large number changed to trade.
- ♦ Most of the women who raised pigs have also switched to trade now. However, there are a few who have continued to raise chickens, although their numbers have decreased.

Female traders have the highest retention rate. However, a change in employment was noted. Now there are those who raise broilers and pigs, do agriculture but also other activities such as sewing, etc.

As for the sample that had other occupations, a smaller proportion continued their farming while the others became traders.

Recently, women farmers still exist, but most of them have moved to trade.

Figure 1: Evolution of the woman's AGR compared to the initial activity



Source: Authors, 2022

Figure 2 shows that the use of the amounts currently borrowed does not correspond with the AGRs when they first borrowed.

For those who started out in agriculture, they now borrow to raise livestock (broiler, pig, duck), but also to trade. However, there are women who have managed to maintain their occupation as farmers.

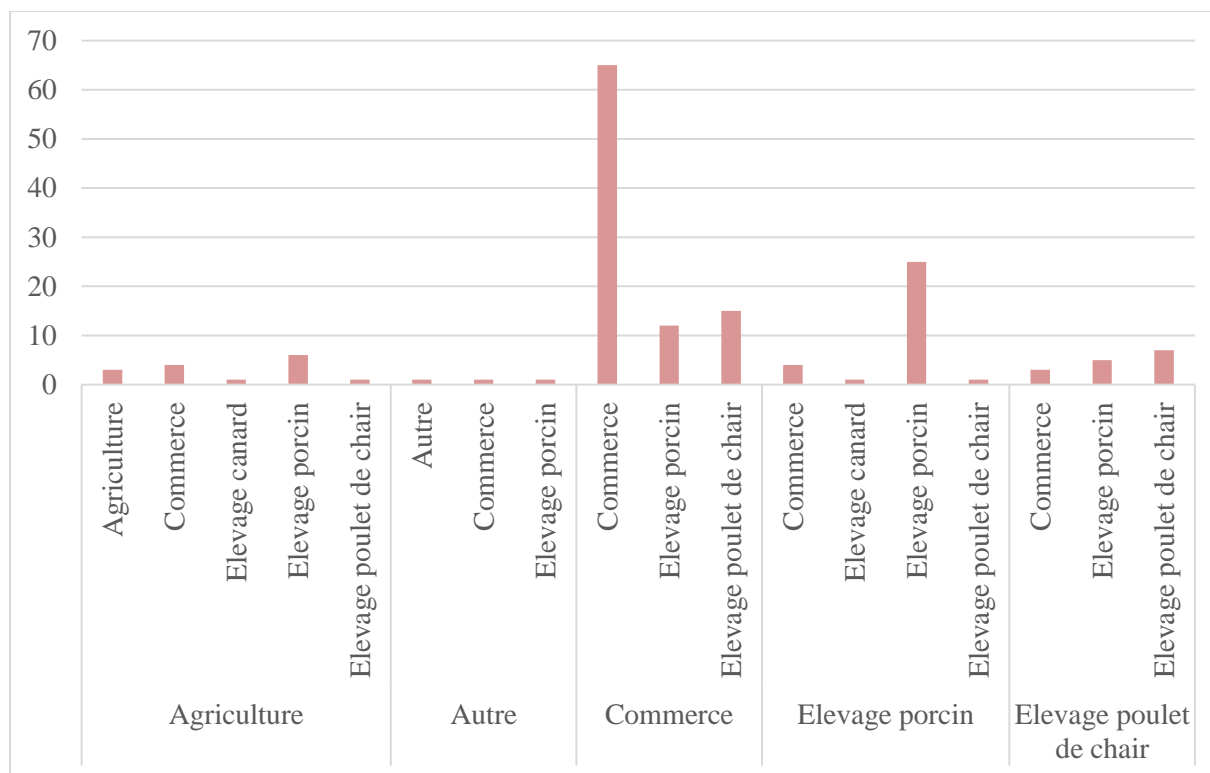
The women who practiced other activities at the beginning also opted for trade and breeding. There are still individuals who have remained faithful to their initial AGR.

In contrast, many of the women in the trade sector have maintained their trade, although some have given it up and are now involved in livestock production.

The majority of women who raise pigs have maintained this activity. However, the others have chosen new AGRs, namely: trade and breeding (duck and broiler).

Finally, the majority of broiler breeders have expanded this activity while the minority has decided to invest in trade and pig breeding.

Figure 2: Evolution of the woman's AGR in relation to the use of the Loan



Source: Authors, 2022

2.2 Improvement of the level of autonomy

In order to thrive, every person should gain independence in certain areas. This independence can come from several factors such as the help of people in this field.

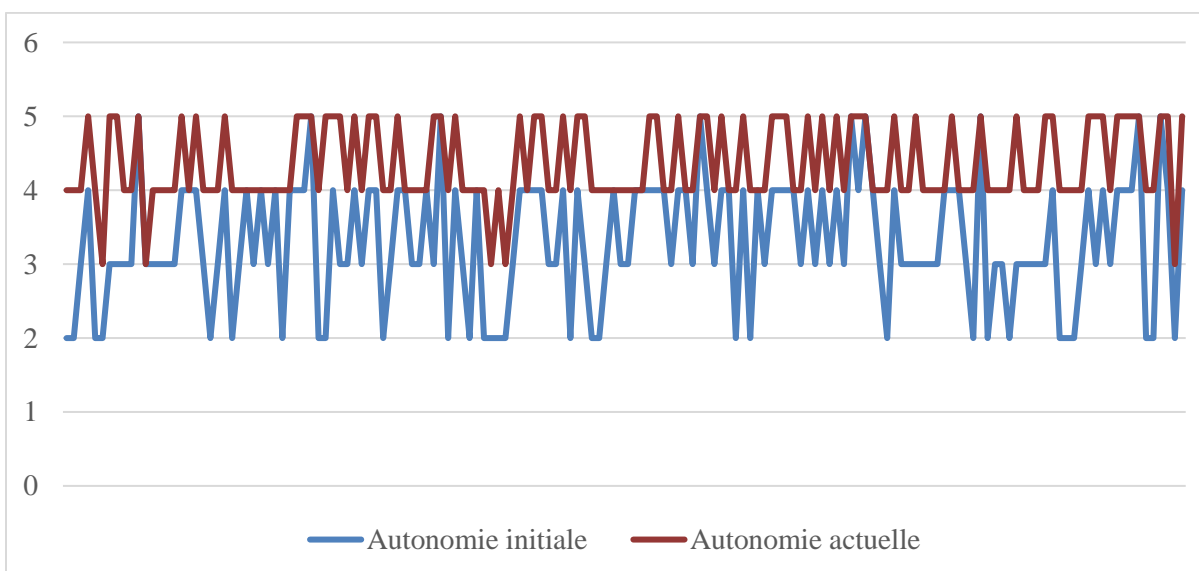
Table 2: Paired samples test on autonomy

Paired	AI-AA	Matched differences					t	Ddl	Sig. (bilateral)	Eta-Square partial
		Means	Ecart type	Mean standard error	Confidence interval of the difference at 95%.					
					Lower	Superior				
1		-1,045	,666	,053	-1,150	-,940	-19,605	155	,000	,713

Source: Authors, 2022

The average is negative. This is a sign that the woman is now highly autonomous. The actions of the organization have allowed to reinforce the level of autonomy of the beneficiaries compared to their initial situation. The P-value affirms this difference with a percentage of 0%. The partial Eta-square is also high. The increase in women's autonomy is thus not due to chance, as the actions of the ONGs have provided a large effect. The following figure shows this evolution.

Figure 3: Evolution of the level of autonomy of women



Source: Authors, 2022

If at the beginning, most of the sample had an autonomy level between 3 and 4, currently it is between 4 and 5.

2.3 Increase in income

Income is an element that ONGs can influence. The organization's contribution on this parameter was analyzed.

Table 3: Test of matched samples on income

		Matched differences					t	ddl	Sig. (bilatéral)	Eta-Square partial
		Means	Ecart type	Mean standard error	Confidence interval of the difference at 95%.					
					Lower	Superior				
Paire 1	RI/J- RA/J	-,224	1,167	,093	-,409	-,040	-2,401	155	,018	,036

Source: Authors, 2022

According to the average, current income is higher compared to initial income. An increase in women's earnings is then noticed during their loan. Furthermore, the P-value affirms this difference in mean. It has a value of 0.18 which is less than 5%. Furthermore, the magnitude of the dissimilarity of means is given by the partial Eta-square. It has a value of 0.036. This index signifies a small effect size.

2.4 Stagnation in consumption

Consumption plays an important role for economic agents. Its degradation impacts on their performance. The impacts of the host institution's activity on this parameter are similarly tested

Table 4: Paired samples test on consumption

		Matched differences					t	ddl	Sig. (bilatéral)	Eta-Square partial
		Moyenne	Ecart type	Mean standard error	Confidence interval of the difference at 95%.					
					Lower	Superior				
Paire 1	CI- CA	-,058	,844	,068	-,191	,076	-,853	155	,395	,004

Source: Authors, 2022

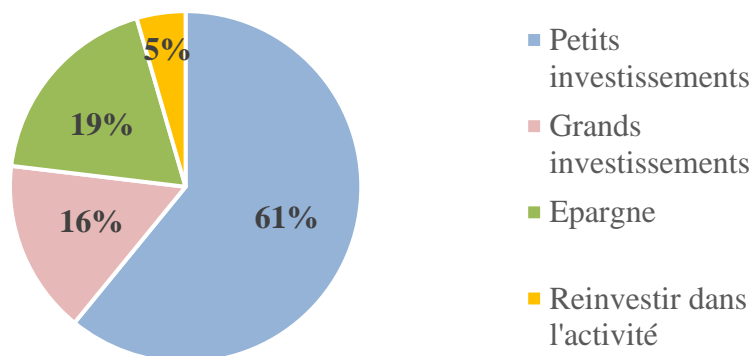
The average shows a negative value. The current consumption is therefore higher than the initial consumption. However, this difference is not significant. The P-value shows a risk higher than 5%. Similarly, the partial Eta-squared is small, reflecting a small effect size of the dissimilarity.

2.5 Investment realization

Through the profits from the IGA, objectives have been achieved. Apart from using the profits for daily expenses, the women mainly make small investments. 61% of respondents follow this practice. On the other hand, 16% have made large investments, 19% have saved and 5% have reinvested the profit in the activity.

- With regard to the types of investments, the responses describe them as follows
- small investments: household equipment, children's school fees, bicycle purchase
- large investments: construction, extension or repair of a house

Figure 4: Use of profits from previous loans



Source: Authors, 2022

III- DISCUSSIONS

Our hypothesis assumes that ONGs accompany women in need in their empowerment, so the discussions will revolve around the contributions of ONGs to the development of women.

The respondents noted subjective contributions from the activities of the ONGs. The analysis of the frequency of the subjective contribution of ONGs touches on the individual and collective aspects. Four ideas were highlighted by the resource persons.

Table 5: Subjective input from ONGs

Subjective contribution of ONGs	Fréquence
Control over income	89%
Capacity building	100%
Strengthening of self-confidence	80%
Valuation by society	74%

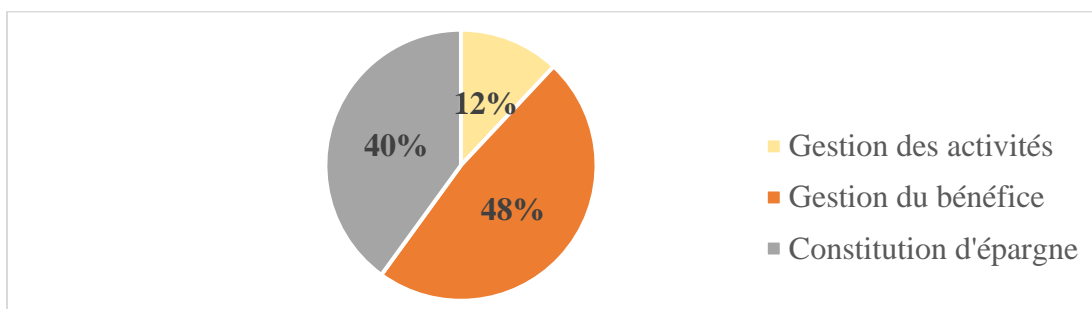
Source: Authors, 2022

89% of the women said that the microcredits contributed to the improvement of their control over income. 100% have seen their capacity increase while 80% have gained more self-confidence. At the societal level, 74% of the respondents feel more valued.

3.1 Capacity Building

Capacity building is seen more as a consequence of the trainings offered by the ONGs. Those that have had a greater impact on women can be divided into three areas as shown in the following figure.

Figure 5: Women's Enhanced Capabilities



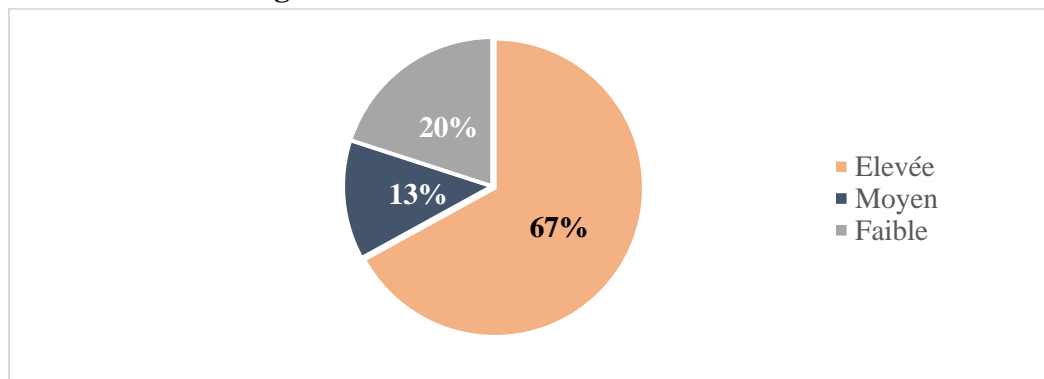
Source: Authors, 2022

For the majority, the capacity to manage profits and build up savings is the strongest. However, control of the activity is still difficult, hence the low proportion of 12%. These results mean, in other words, that even if control of the IGA is lacking, women are still striving to optimize their profits and build up savings.

3.2 Strengthening of self-confidence

According to Yves Alexandre Thälmann in 2015: "Self-confidence is a concept that is similar to a belief. The person who has self-confidence believes that he will be able to accomplish the task he is about to undertake. He is not sure, but he has the hope that it will go well. Therefore, confidence is a success factor, which is why it must be analyzed through the interventions of ONGs.

Figure 7: Woman's level of self-confidence



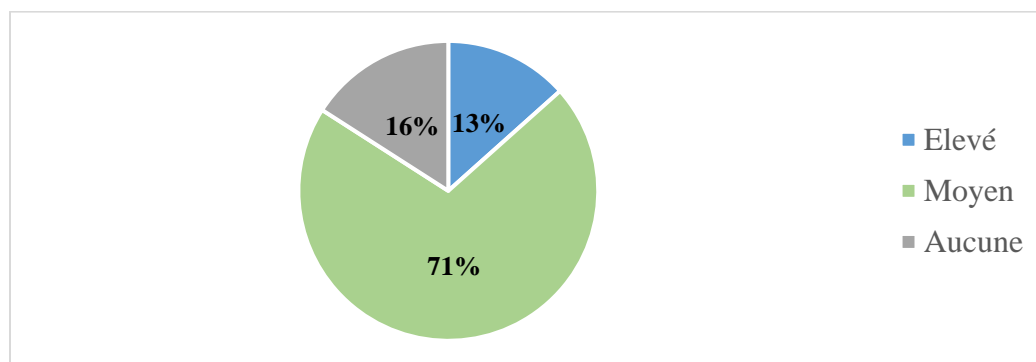
Source: Authors, 2022

The analyses reveal that 67% of the women have high self-confidence. They think that the ONG interventions have helped them to value themselves and to assert themselves compared to their initial situation. But small percentages are still hesitant in their ability. There are 13% who have an average level of self-confidence. Worse still, 20% have low or no self-esteem.

3.3 Valuation by the company

The women's stories revealed that the activities of the ONGs impacted not only their family life, but also their entire community.

Figure 8: Degree of valuation by the company



Source: Authors, 2022

Compared to their initial situation, the degree to which women are valued by society has evolved. Currently, 13% of them are considered important by their entourage. In addition, they are participants and members of associations. On the other hand, 71% are moderately valued. They are just integrated. Unfortunately, 16% are still not valued and marginalized.

CONCLUSION

The assumption is that ONGs accompany the needy in their empowerment. In the pursuit of aid to vulnerable people, ONGs act on certain objective and subjective parameters depending on the results. The analysis of the woman's activity revealed a lack of continuity in the IGA. The organization does not ensure the sustainability of the woman's employment. On the other hand, bringing about a change in consumption remains a difficult task.

On the other hand, the ONG reduces women's poverty by increasing their income and their autonomy. It thus acts for the good and development of the needy. The hypothesis that the intervention of the ONGs accompanies the needy women in their empowerment is therefore verified.

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ANNEX

Table 6: Socio-demographic characteristics of the sample

Variables		Modality	Frequency (%) Urban area	Frequency (%) Semi-rural area
Age	♦	Under 30 years old	21,5	25,2
	♦	30 to 40 years old	33,9	37,4
	♦	Over 40 years old	44,6	37,4
Marital status	♦	Single	1,5	0
	♦	Cohabiting	12,3	8,8
	♦	Married	47,7	54,9
	♦	Separated	32,3	17,6
	♦	Widow	6,2	18,7
Head of household	♦	Men	60	62,6
	♦	Women	40	37,4
Household size	♦	Less than 3	13,9	9,9
	♦	3 à 5	78,4	80,2
	♦	More than 5	7,7	9,9

Consumption unit	♦	1 - 2,50	86,2	75,8
	♦	2,51 - 4	13,8	24,2
Principal activity	♦	Agriculture	3,1	5,5
	♦	Pig farming	9,2	13,2
	♦	Broiler farming	3,1	8,8
	♦	Duck breeding	0	1,1
	♦	Trade	73,8	65,0
	♦	Other	10,8	5,5
Activity sector	♦	Informal sector	47,7	31,9
	♦	Formal sector	52,3	68,1

Source: Authors, 2022

Table 7: KMO Index and Bartlett Test on variables measuring ONG actions

Indice de Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin pour la mesure de la qualité d'échantillonnage.		,643
Test de sphéricité de Bartlett	Khi-deux approximatif.	224,346
	Ddl	6
	Signification	,000

Source: Authors, 2022

Table 8: Total variance explained by the 5 items

Composante	Initial eigenvalues		
	Total	% of variance	% cumuled
1	2,449	61,237	61,237

Source: Authors, 2022

Table 9: Matrix of components of the 5 indicators

	Extraction	Composante
		1
Current autonomy	,579	,692
Initial consumption	,554	,745
Initial income	,564	,751
Use of profit	,522	540
Contribution of the ONG	,735	,857

Source: Authors, 2022

Table 10: Summary of reliability statistics for variables

	Number of factors	Cronbach's Alpha	Number of initial items	Number of items selected
Impact of ONG activity	1	,780	6	5

Source: Authors, 2022