

6th October 2023

Resilience and women entrepreneurship programs for women in diverse communities.



Comprehensive Data Collection for Women's Empowerment Assessment

Introduction:

The following survey questions were developed to collect comprehensive data about women in the states of Borno, Adamawa, Kaduna, and Kano. This data collection effort is a collaborative initiative involving the following organizations:

1. Freehearts Africa Reach Out Foundation (FAROF)
2. Centre for Community Health and Development (CHAD)
3. SUPER TECH FOOD (STF)
4. Save The Slum Initiative (STSI)
5. Hope for Communities and Children Initiative (H4CC)

Objective:

The primary objective of this assessment is to gain a deep understanding of the diverse needs, circumstances, and challenges faced by women in these regions. This data will inform the design of interventions that are highly responsive to their specific needs and circumstances.

Survey Questions

The survey questions encompass various key areas, including:

- Demographics
- Residency status
- Language skills
- Access to technology
- Employment status
- Business ownership
- Entrepreneurship interests
- Skills and training needs
- Support systems
- Use of digital platforms
- Goals and aspirations
- The impact of the socio-economic context on their employment or entrepreneurship opportunities

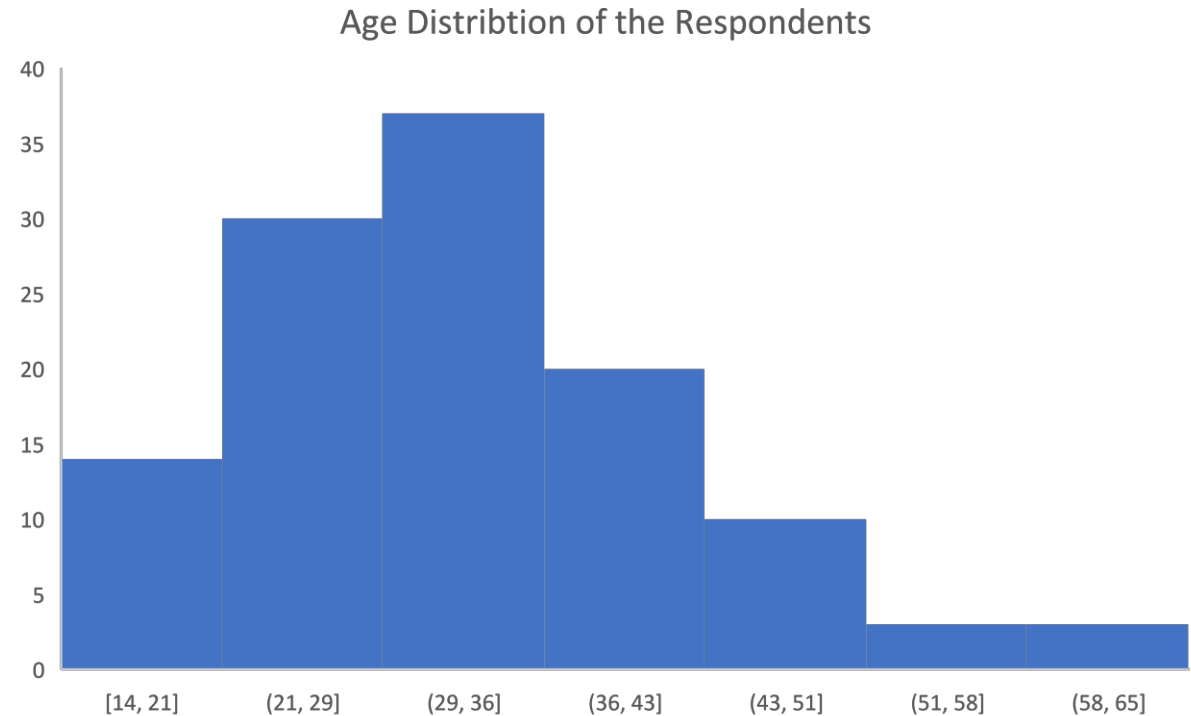
Methodology

- The methodology section of the report describes how the survey was conducted and how the data was analyzed. The following are the main steps involved in the methodology:
- **Selection of Respondents:** The respondents were selected from four states in Nigeria: Borno, Adamawa, Kaduna, and Kano. These states were chosen based on their socio-economic context and the presence of potential partners for intervention. The respondents were women from various backgrounds, including host community residents, refugees, and internally displaced persons (IDPs).
- **Data Collection:** The data was collected through a structured questionnaire that was administered online or offline, depending on the availability of internet access and smart devices. The questionnaire consisted of multiple-choice and open-ended questions that covered various topics such as demographics, residency status, language skills, access to technology, employment status, business ownership, entrepreneurship interests, skills and training needs, support systems, use of digital platforms, goals and aspirations, and the impact of the socio-economic context on their employment or entrepreneurship opportunities.
- **Data Analysis:** The data was analyzed using descriptive statistics to summarize the data and present the frequency distribution of the variables. The data analysis was performed using Microsoft Excel software.

Age Distribution

The age distribution of the respondents provides valuable insights into the demographic profile of the women surveyed. The data is as follows:

- **14-21 years:** 14 respondents
- **21-29 years:** 30 respondents
- **29-36 years:** 37 respondents
- **36-43 years:** 20 respondents
- **43-51 years:** 10 respondents
- **51-58 years:** 3 respondents
- **58-65 years:** 3 respondents



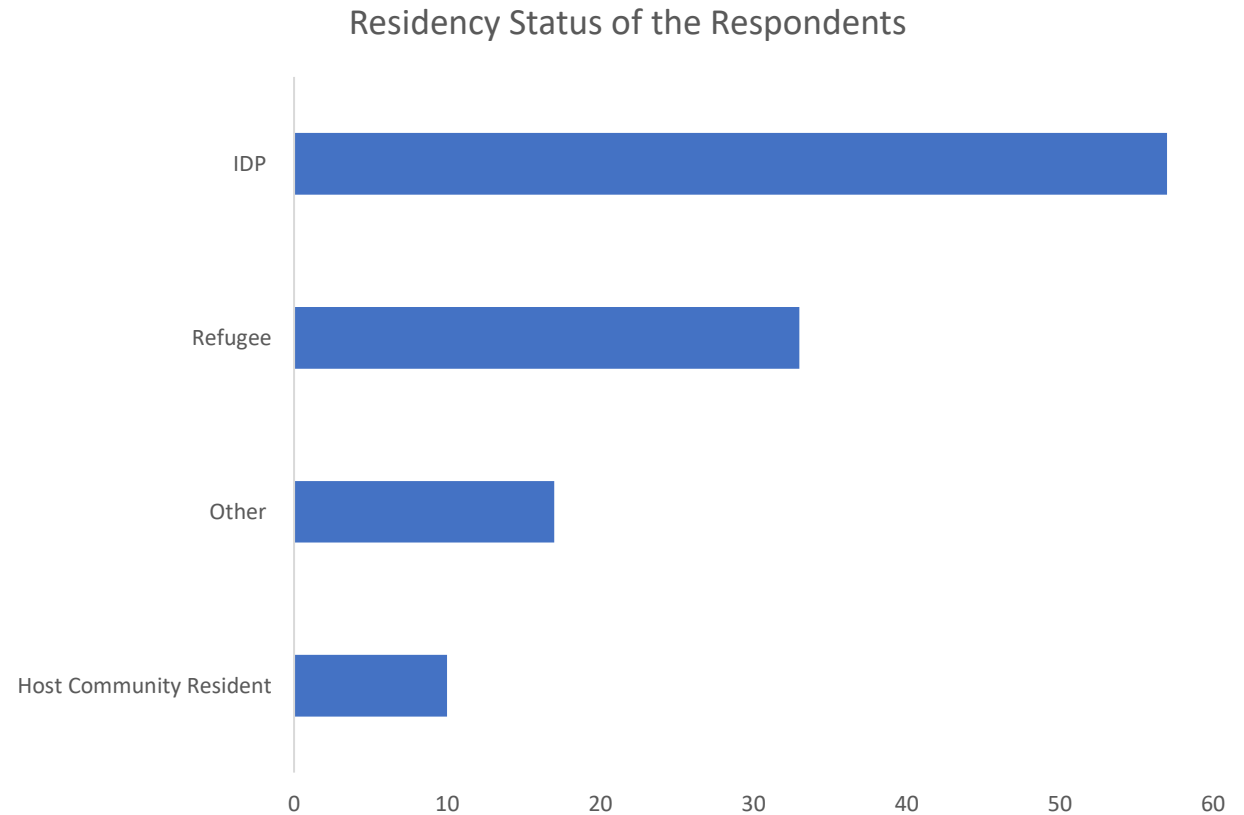
- The majority of the respondents fall within the age range of **21 to 36 years**, which are typically considered the most productive years in a person's life. This demographic represents a significant portion of the population that is actively seeking employment or entrepreneurial opportunities.
- Understanding the age distribution is crucial as it helps us tailor interventions that are age-appropriate and address the unique challenges faced by each age group. For instance, younger women may benefit from educational programs or skill development initiatives, while older women might require support in terms of access to finance or markets if they are interested in entrepreneurship.
- In conclusion, this age distribution data serves as a foundation for understanding the demographic profile of women in Borno, Adamawa, Kaduna, and Kano states. It provides a starting point for designing interventions that are responsive to their needs and aspirations.

Residency Status of the Respondents

The residency status of the respondents is as follows:

- Host Community Resident: 8% of respondents
- Other: 14% of respondents
- Refugee: 28% of respondents
- Internally Displaced Person (IDP): 48% of respondents

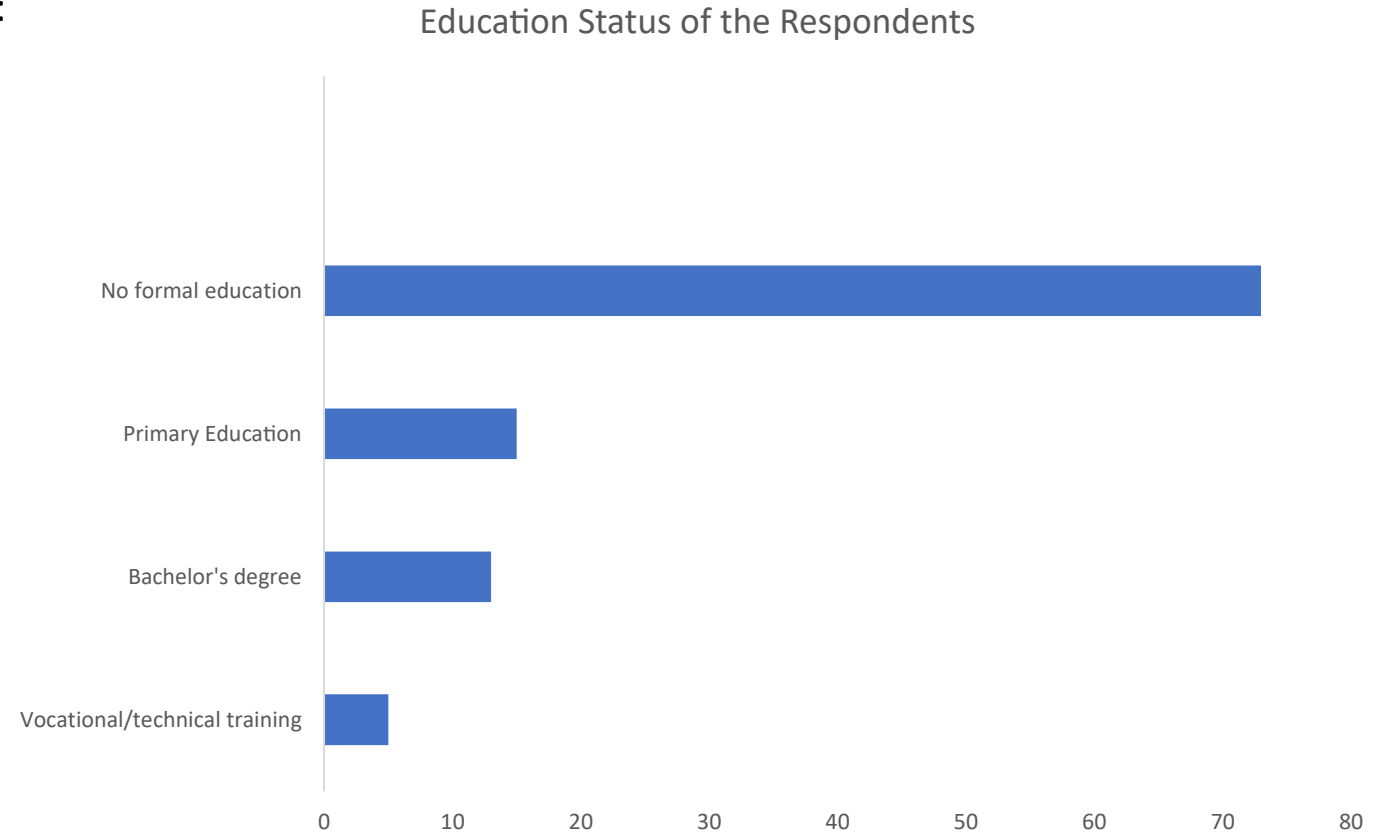
This data shows that the majority of the respondents are Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugees. This is an important consideration as these groups often face unique challenges and barriers to employment and entrepreneurship. Understanding their residency status can help in designing interventions that are sensitive to their circumstances and needs.



Education Status of the Respondents

The education status of the respondents is as follows:

- **Master's degree:** 3% of respondents
- **Vocational/technical training:** 4% of respondents
- **Bachelor's degree:** 11% of respondents
- **Primary Education:** 12% of respondents
- **No formal education:** 62% of respondents

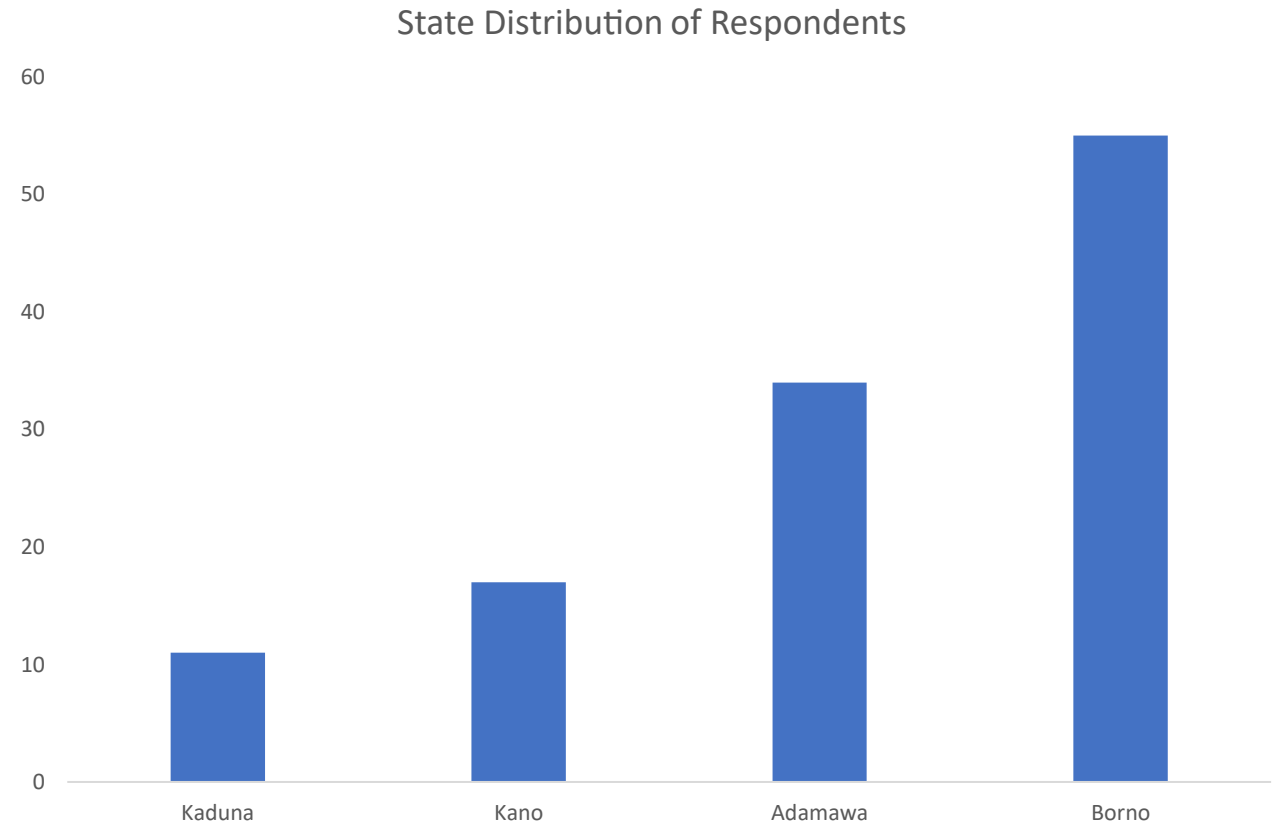


- This data shows that a significant majority, 62%, of the respondents have no formal education. This is a crucial factor to consider as it could potentially limit their employment and entrepreneurship opportunities. On the other hand, a small percentage of respondents have received higher education (Bachelor's and Master's degrees) or vocational/technical training. These individuals may have different needs and opportunities compared to those with primary education or no formal education. Understanding the educational background of the respondents can help in tailoring interventions that cater to their specific needs and circumstances.

State Distribution of the Respondents

The state distribution of the respondents is as follows:

- **Kaduna:** 9% of respondents
- **Kano:** 14% of respondents
- **Adamawa:** 29% of respondents
- **Borno:** 47% of respondents



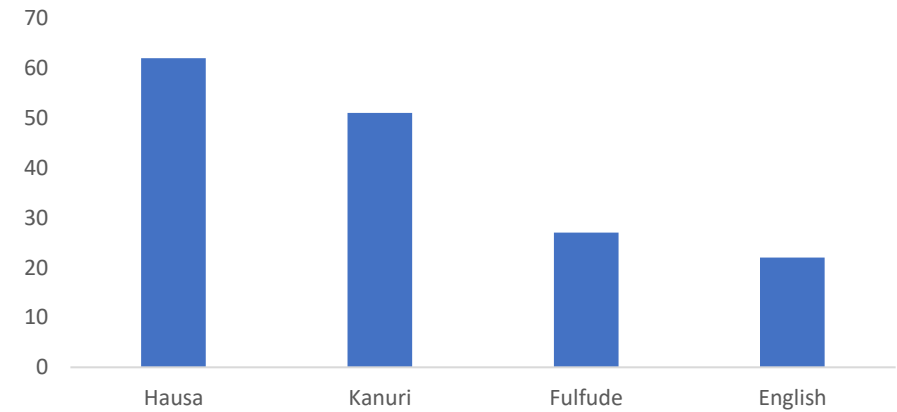
- This data shows that the majority of the respondents are from Borno and Adamawa. This geographical distribution is important to consider as it could reflect the different socio-economic contexts in these states. Understanding the state distribution can help in tailoring interventions that cater to the specific needs and circumstances of women in these states.

Literacy Rates of the Respondents

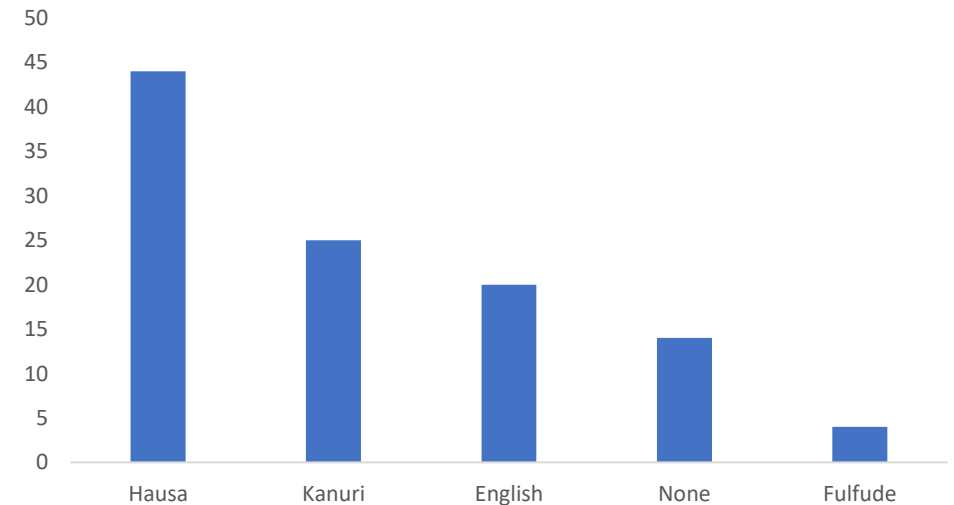
The literacy rates among the respondents in different languages are as follows:

- **Hausa:** 53% of respondents
- **Kanuri:** 43% of respondents
- **Fulfude:** 27% of respondents
- **English:** 18% of respondents

Top Languages Spoken by Respondents



Literacy Rates Among Respondents

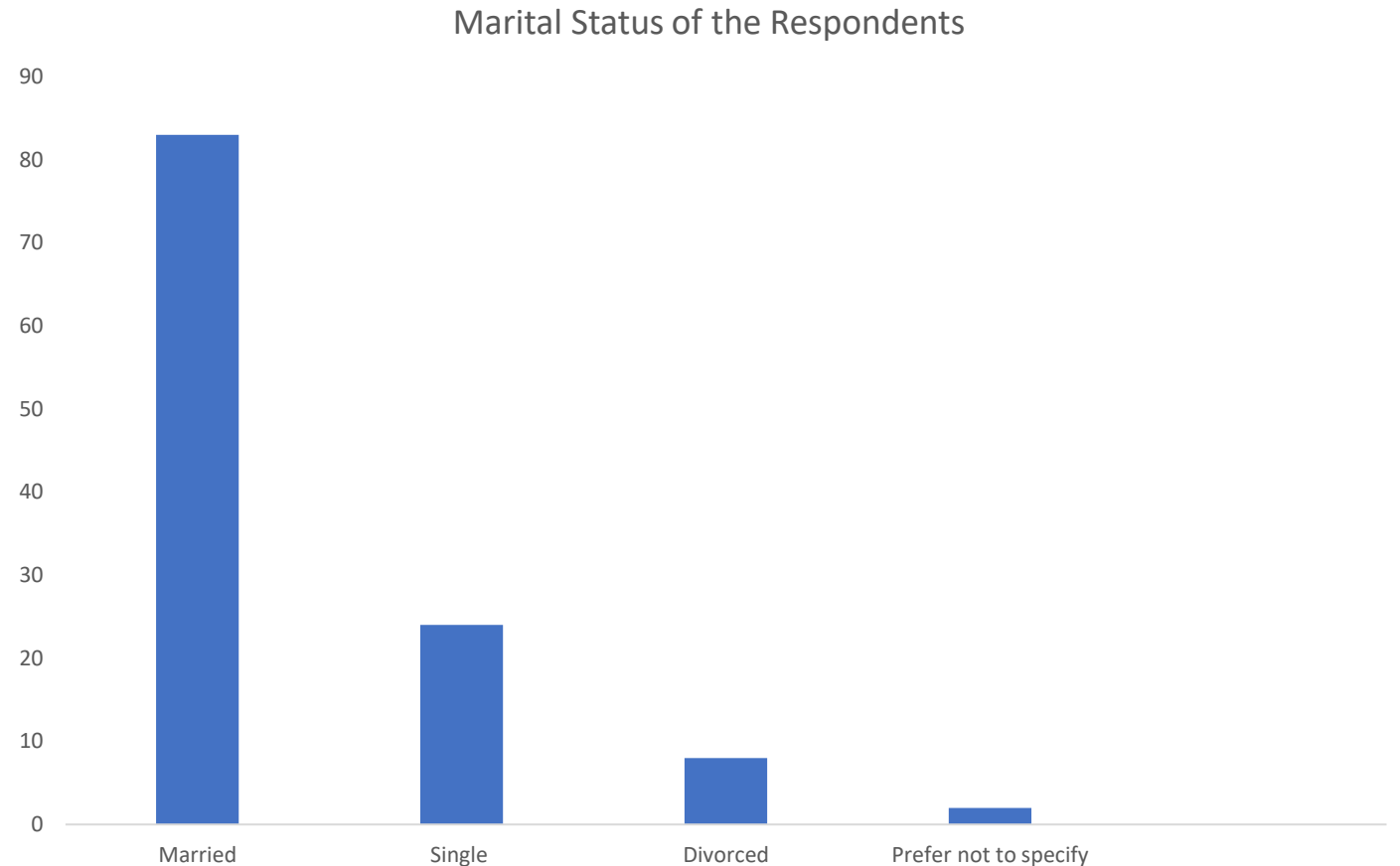


- This data shows that the majority of the respondents are literate in Hausa and Kanuri, while a smaller percentage are literate in Fulfude and English. This is an important consideration as language skills can significantly impact a person's access to information, employment opportunities, and ability to engage with digital platforms. Understanding the literacy rates in different languages can help in designing interventions that are linguistically appropriate and accessible.

Marital Status of the Respondents

The marital status of the respondents is as follows:

- **Married:** 71% of respondents
- **Single:** 20% of respondents
- **Divorced:** 7% of respondents
- **Prefer not to specify:** 2% of respondents

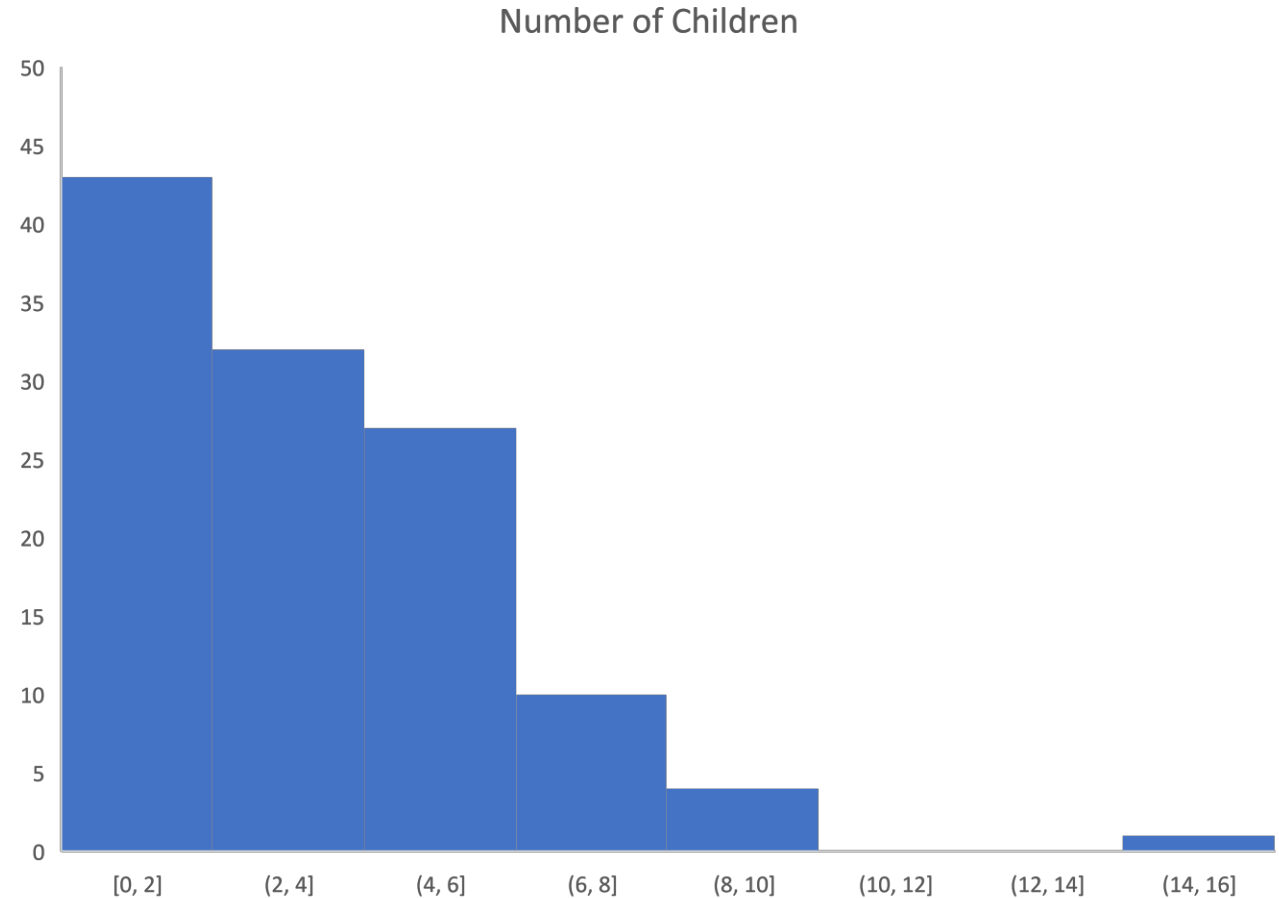


- This data shows that the majority of the respondents are married. This is an important consideration as marital status can significantly impact a woman's employment and entrepreneurship opportunities. For instance, married women may face different challenges and have different needs compared to single or divorced women. Understanding the marital status of the respondents can help in designing interventions that cater to their specific needs and circumstances.

Number of Children per Respondent

The distribution of the number of children the respondents have is as follows:

- **0-2 children:** 43% of respondents
- **2-4 children:** 32% of respondents
- **4-6 children:** 27% of respondents
- **6-8 children:** 10% of respondents
- **8-10 children:** 4% of respondents
- **14-16 children:** 1% of respondents

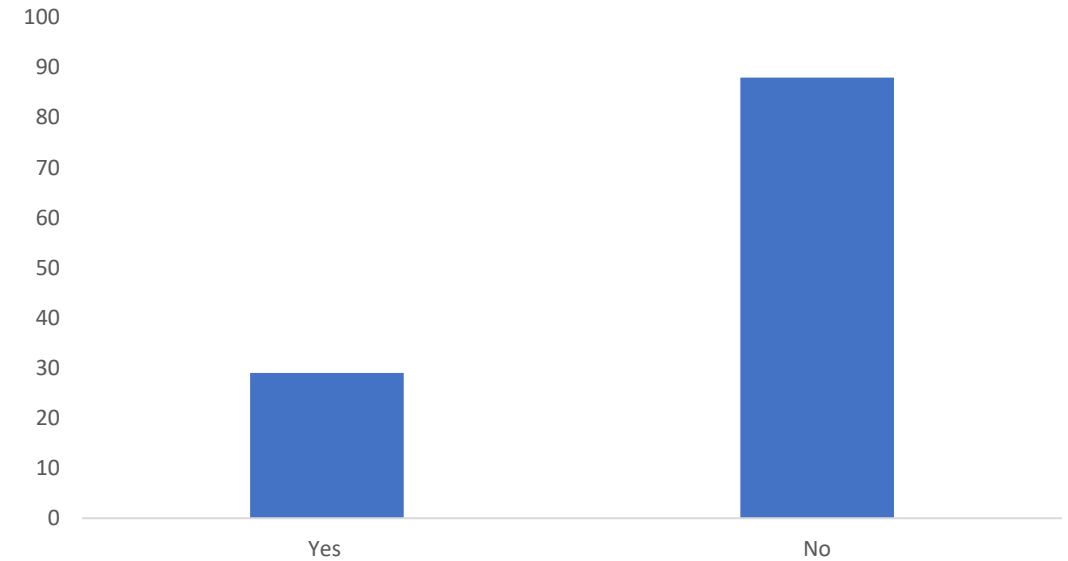


- This data shows that the majority of the respondents have between 0 and 4 children. This is an important consideration as the number of children can significantly impact a woman's employment and entrepreneurship opportunities. For instance, women with more children may face different challenges and have different needs compared to women with fewer or no children. Understanding the distribution of the number of children can help in designing interventions that cater to their specific needs and circumstances.

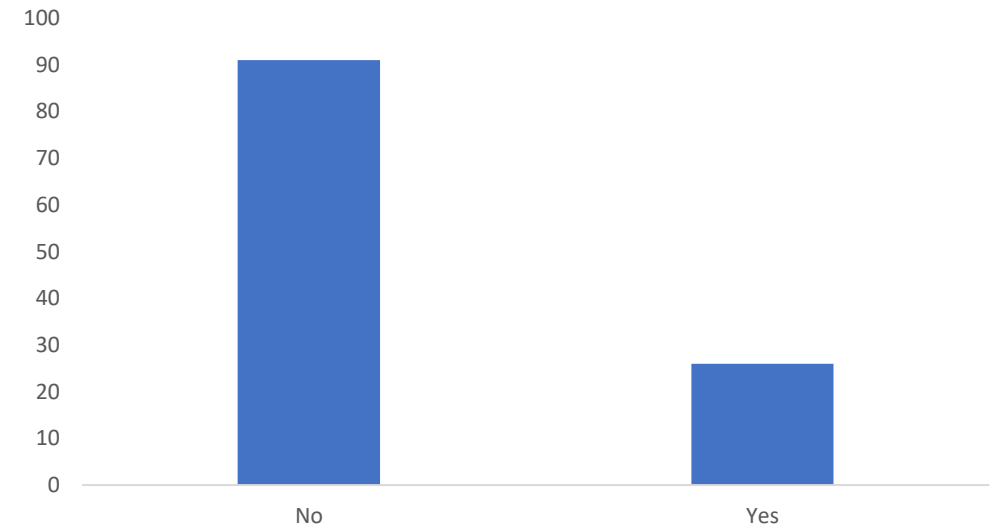
Access to Technology

- Access to technology is a critical factor in today's digital age, impacting various aspects of life, including employment and entrepreneurship opportunities. Here's what the survey revealed about the respondents' access to technology:
- **Smart Devices:** Only 25% of respondents reported having access to smart devices, while a significant majority (75%) do not have access. This lack of access to smart devices could limit their ability to leverage digital platforms for learning, communication, and business.
- **Internet Access:** Similarly, regular internet access is limited among the respondents, with only 22% reporting regular access, while 78% do not have regular internet access. This digital divide could further exacerbate the challenges faced by these women in accessing information, resources, and opportunities.

Respondents Access to Smart Devices



Respondents Regular Access to Internet



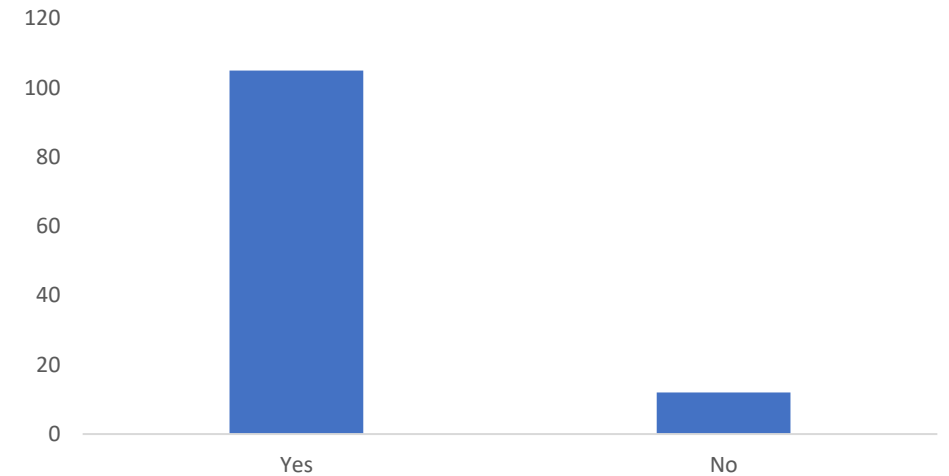
- These findings highlight the need for interventions that not only focus on skill development but also address these technological barriers. This could include initiatives aimed at improving access to smart devices and the internet, digital literacy training, and support in leveraging digital platforms for employment or entrepreneurship.

Employment Status and Occupation

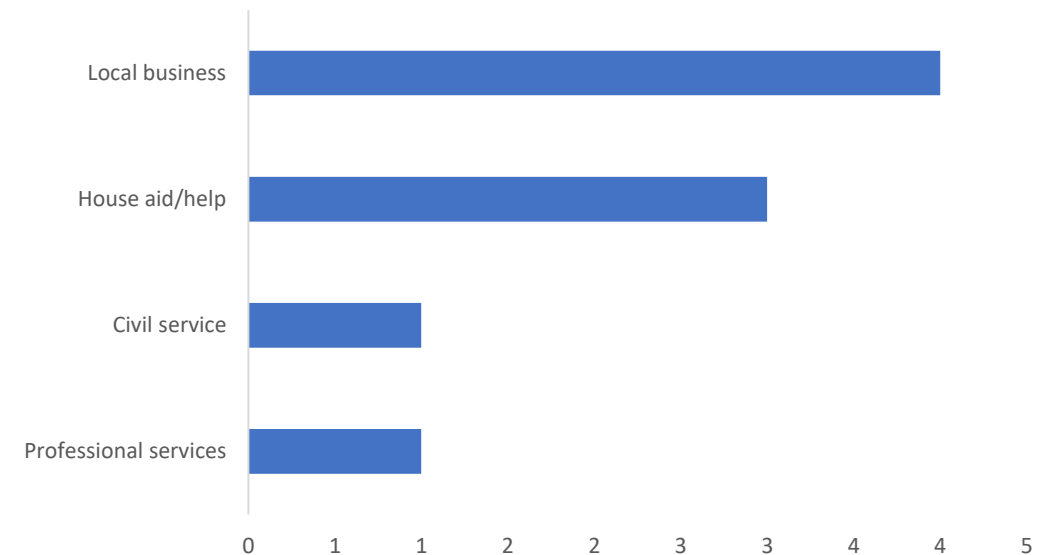
The survey reveals critical insights about the employment status and nature of occupation among the respondents:

- **Employment Status:** A significant majority of the respondents (90%) are unemployed, while only 10% are employed. This high unemployment rate underscores the need for interventions aimed at improving employment opportunities for these women.
- **Nature of Occupation:** Among those who are employed, the nature of their occupation varies:
 - **Professional Service:** 11% are engaged in professional services.
 - **Civil Service:** 11% work in the civil service.
 - **Local Business:** A significant portion (38%) run local businesses.
 - **House Help:** 33% work as house help.

Employment Status of the Respondents



Occupation of the Respondents

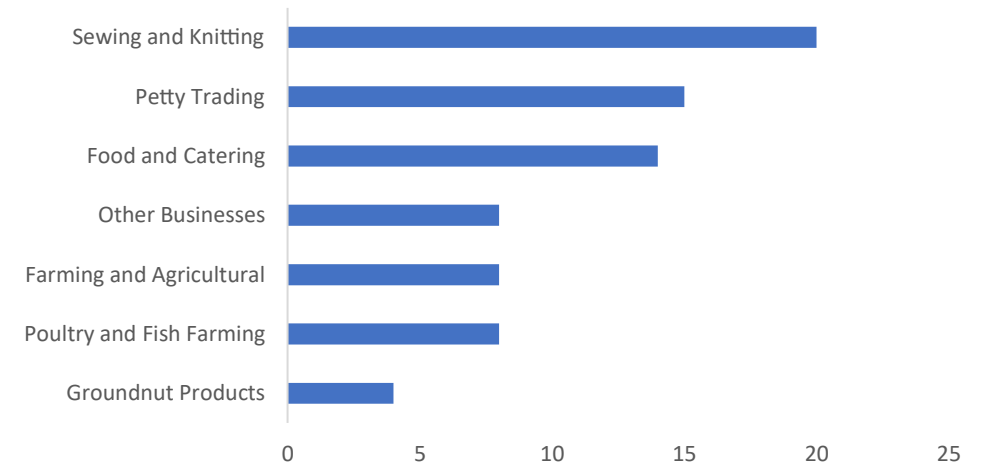


- These findings highlight the diverse range of occupations among the employed respondents. However, it's worth noting that a significant portion are engaged in local businesses or work as house help, which are often low-paying jobs. This calls for interventions aimed at skill development and creating opportunities for higher-paying jobs. Additionally, support for local businesses could be beneficial in improving income levels among these women.

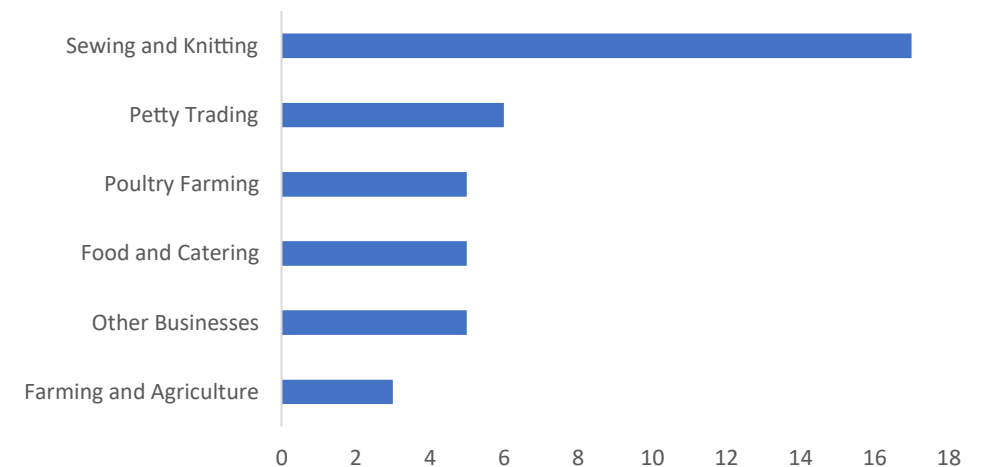
Job Search and Business Ownership

- **Job Search:** Among the respondents, 69% are actively looking for a job, while 24% are not. This indicates a high demand for employment opportunities among these women.
- **Previous Business Ownership:** A significant majority (71%) of the respondents have previously owned a business, while 29% have not. The businesses they owned include:
 - Sewing and Knitting: 37%
 - Petty Trading: 26%
 - Food and Catering: 22%
 - Other Businesses, Farming and Agricultural, Poultry and Fish Farming, and Groundnut Products: Each 14%
- **Current Business Ownership:** Currently, 37% of the respondents own a business, while 63% do not. The nature of their current businesses include:
 - Sewing and Knitting: 41%
 - Petty Trading: 14%
 - Poultry Farming, Food and Catering, and Other Businesses: Each 12%
 - Farming and Agriculture: 7%

Nature of Previously Owned Business



Nature of Current Business



Challenges in Current Business

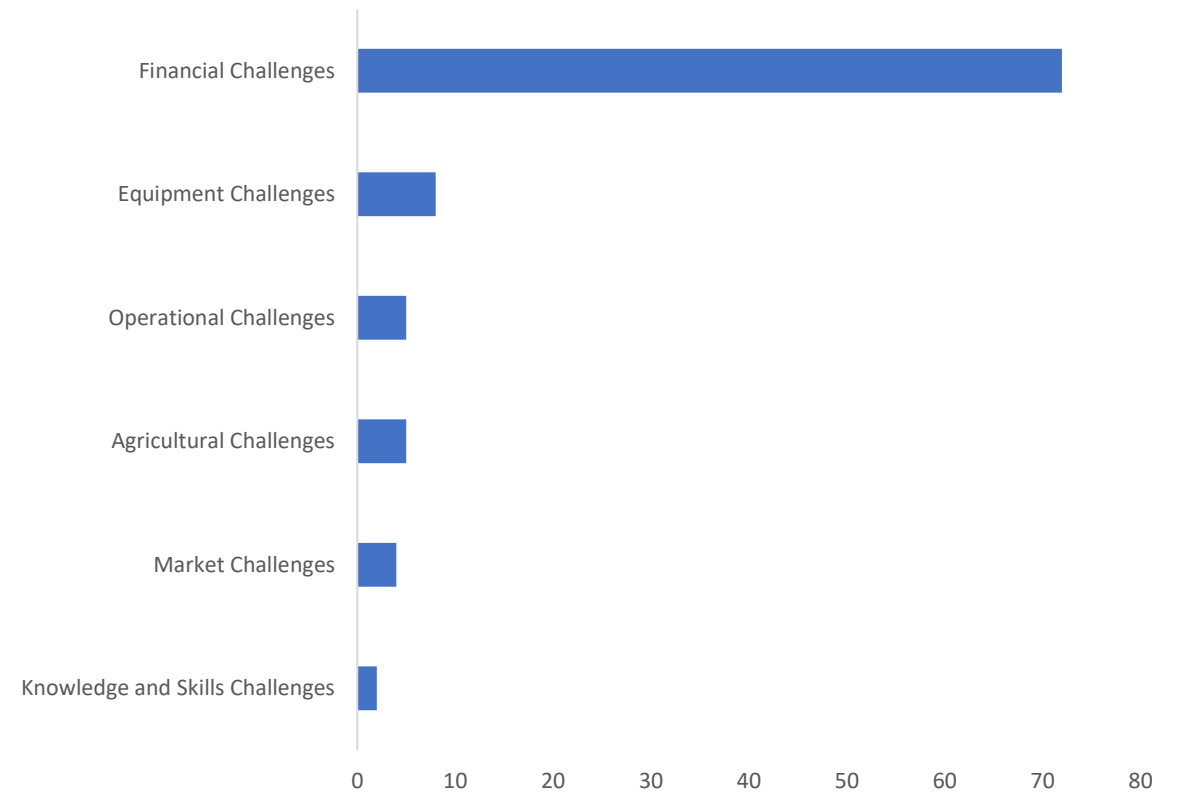
The respondents face various challenges in their current businesses:

- **Financial Challenges:** A significant majority (62%) face financial challenges.
- **Equipment Challenges:** 6%
- **Operational Challenges** and **Agricultural Challenges:** Each 4%
- **Market Challenges:** 3%
- **Knowledge and Skills Challenges:** 1%

To overcome these challenges, the respondents feel they need the following:

- **Training and Skills:** 46%
- **Financial Support:** 37%
- **Equipment:** 14%

Challenges Faced in Running the Businesses



- These findings highlight the need for interventions that provide financial support, training and skills development, and access to necessary equipment. Such interventions could help these women overcome the challenges they face in their businesses, thereby improving their income levels and economic well-being.

Entrepreneurship Interests

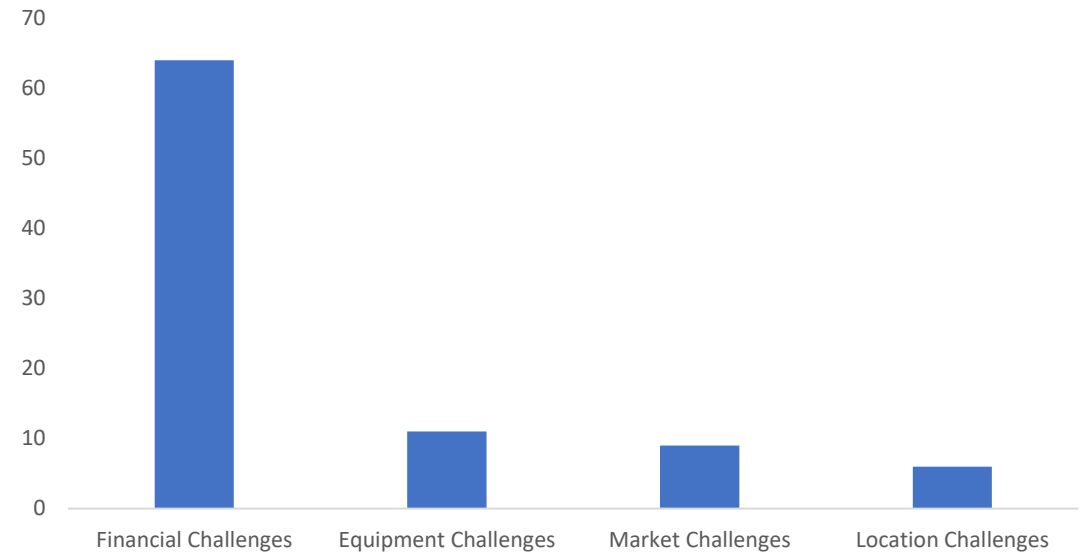
A significant majority of the respondents (95%) expressed interest in starting a business, while only 4% did not. The nature of the businesses they intend to start include:

- **Sewing and Knitting:** 27%
- **Food and Catering:** 20%
- **Petty Trading:** 15%
- **Others:** 14%
- **Farming and Agriculture:** 12%
- **Poultry and Fish Farming:** 9%

Anticipated Challenges

- The respondents anticipate various challenges in their future businesses:
- **Sewing and Knitting: 26%**
- **Food and Catering: 20%**
- **Petty Trading: 15%**
- **Others: 14%**
- **Farming and Agriculture: 12%**
- **Poultry and Fish Farming: 9%**

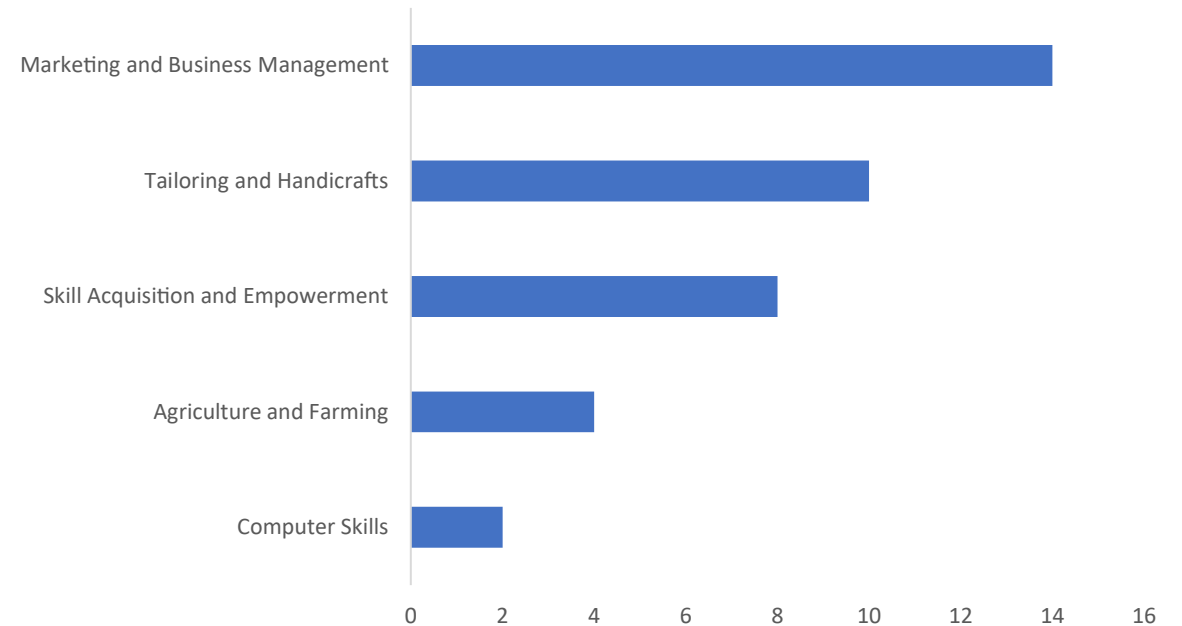
Anticipated Challenges in the Future Business



Skills Acquisition

- The respondents also identified skills they need to acquire for their businesses:
- **Sewing and Knitting:** 26%
- **Food and Catering:** 20%
- **Petty Trading:** 15%
- **Others:** 14%
- **Farming and Agriculture:** 12%
- **Poultry and Fish Farming:** 9%
- These findings highlight the entrepreneurial spirit among the respondents, as well as their awareness of the challenges they might face and the skills they need to acquire. This underscores the need for interventions that provide entrepreneurship training, skill development, and support in overcoming anticipated challenges.

Skills Desired by Respondents



Access to Financial Services and Digital Platforms

- **Financial Services:** Only 21% of the respondents reported having access to financial services, while a significant majority (78%) do not. This lack of access to financial services could limit their ability to manage their finances effectively and access credit for their businesses.
- **Use of Digital Platforms:** Of the respondents with smart devices(25%), a majority of (84%) use digital platforms such as WhatsApp and Facebook to advertise or manage their business. This shows a high level of digital engagement among these women, which could be leveraged to provide them with more opportunities.

Barriers limiting Respondents access to smart devices

There are several barriers limiting their access to smart devices:

- **Lack of Smart Devices:** 46%
- **Lack of Knowledge:** 15%
- **Financial Constraints:** 11%
- **Lack of Internet Access:** 3%
- These barriers highlight the need for interventions that address these issues. This could include initiatives aimed at improving access to smart devices and the internet, providing digital literacy training, and offering financial support.

Social and Professional Networks

- A significant majority of the respondents (93%) reported that they do not belong to any social or professional networks, while only 7% do. Social and professional networks can play a crucial role in providing support, sharing knowledge and opportunities, and fostering a sense of community. The lack of participation in such networks could potentially limit these women's access to information, resources, and opportunities. This underscores the need for interventions aimed at promoting social inclusion and networking among these women.

Conclusions

- **Diverse Demographic Profile:** The survey reflects a diverse demographic profile of women in Borno, Adamawa, Kaduna, and Kano, with varying age groups, educational backgrounds, residency statuses, and language skills.
- **Age-Appropriate Interventions:** The majority of respondents fall within the 21 to 36 age group, signifying a significant workforce seeking employment or entrepreneurial opportunities. Age-appropriate interventions are vital, such as educational programs for the younger population and support for older women in accessing finance or markets.
- **Unique Challenges for IDPs and Refugees:** A substantial portion of respondents are Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugees, indicating the need for interventions that address their unique challenges and barriers to employment and entrepreneurship.

- **Language Literacy:** Understanding that the majority are literate in Hausa and Kanuri, interventions should be linguistically appropriate to improve access to information and opportunities.
- **Marital Status Impacts:** The dominance of married respondents (71%) underscores the need for support that considers the unique challenges faced by married women, possibly extending to family-focused assistance.
- **Employment and Business Diversity:** A significant number of respondents are unemployed (90%), and many engage in local businesses or work as house help. Interventions should focus on skill development and creating higher-paying job opportunities.
- **Educational Disparities:** The high percentage of respondents with no formal education (62%) is a crucial factor that could limit their employment and entrepreneurship opportunities. Tailored training is necessary to bridge educational gaps.
- **Geographical Considerations:** The majority of respondents are from Borno and Adamawa, suggesting differing socio-economic contexts in these states. State-specific interventions should be implemented.

- **Entrepreneurship Potential:** The high interest in entrepreneurship (95%) emphasizes the need for comprehensive entrepreneurship training and support to overcome anticipated challenges.
- **Limited Networking:** The lack of social and professional networks participation (93%) highlights the need for interventions aimed at promoting social inclusion and networking to enhance access to information and resources.
- **Digital Engagement:** The high use of digital platforms (84%) presents an opportunity to expand digital literacy training and overcome barriers related to access to smart devices.

Recommendations

- Develop age-specific programs, including educational initiatives and skill development for younger women, and finance and market access support for older women.
- Implement interventions tailored to the unique challenges faced by Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugees, addressing their specific needs.
- Provide basic and advanced training to bridge educational gaps, catering to those with no formal education and those with higher degrees.
- Design state-specific interventions considering the differing socio-economic contexts in Borno and Adamawa.
- Create linguistically appropriate programs for Hausa and Kanuri speakers to improve access to information and opportunities.

- Tailor support for married women to address their unique challenges, extending to family-focused assistance.
- Offer skill development programs and opportunities for higher-paying jobs, in addition to supporting local businesses.
- Deliver comprehensive entrepreneurship training and support to women interested in starting businesses.
- Expand digital literacy training to leverage digital platforms for business and economic opportunities.
- Address barriers related to access to smart devices and the internet, providing training and financial support.
- Facilitate the formation of social and professional networks to enhance access to information, resources, and opportunities for women in these communities.
- These recommendations aim to empower and support the diverse group of women in Borno, Adamawa, Kaduna, and Kano, ultimately improving their socio-economic prospects and quality of life.