

# **Empowerment of Women in Nigeria's Small Scale Fisheries: A Tool to Sustainability**

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# Introduction

The small-scale fisheries sector is gaining wider international attention recently

Despite the general consensus that more knowledge base on how to develop future interventions to take gender considerations into account is quite extensive it also suffers non-visibility thereby making many ignorant of these resolutions



# Introduction (Continuation)

Gender is a socially constructed definition of women and men and not just about women



Gender inequality is always a topic to discuss whenever we are talking about gender

# Introduction Continued

- ▶ Female stakeholders in the fisheries sector were until recently invisible in the statistics collected and provided to fisheries managers, policy-makers and FAO



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# Introduction Continued

- ▶ There is therefore a need to make these contributions visible and this brings us to the concept of "**Empowerment**"
- ▶ Women empowerment is a process by which women can enjoy greater control over material and intellectual resources that will enable them to have greater autonomy over household decision making and economic resources





# Objectives

- ▶ To provide gender disaggregated data
- ▶ To determine the nature and extent of rural women's empowerment through the use of Cumulative Economics Index (CEI)
- ▶ To advise on comprehensive strategic framework for improving rural women's empowerment level

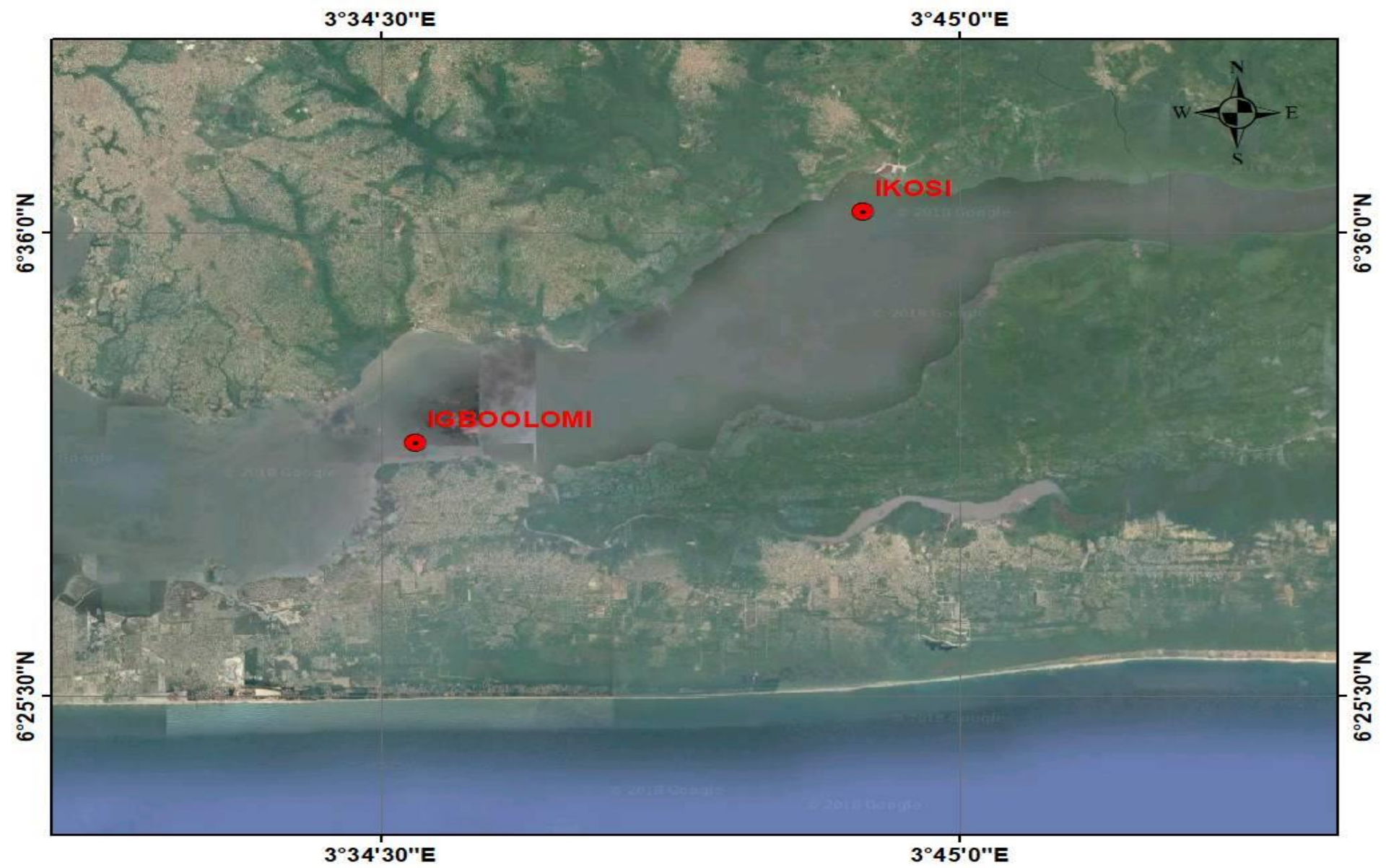


# Methodology

Description of Study Area  
The study was carried out in active fishing communities i.e.

- ▶ Ikosi Agbowa, situated in Epe with geographical coordinates,  $6^{\circ} 39' 0''$  North,  $3^{\circ} 43' 0''$  East
- ▶ Igboolomi in Ibeju Lekki with GPS coordinates of  $6^{\circ}29' 46.561''$  N  $3^{\circ} 35' 47.245''$ E both in Lagos State, Nigeria





**Map Indicating the Study Areas**



# Methodology

- ▶ The two communities were selected being very active with fishing activities, with availability of water body and large market for sale
- ▶ Needs assessment were conducted in the two communities
- ▶ Prompting questions and the use of other transdisciplinary tools were applied to 80 respondents (women) from both communities



# Methodology

- ▶ A Cumulative Empowerment Index (CEI) with 10 indicators (**contribution to household income, decision making ability, spending ability, ownership of assets, access to resources, membership in economic or social groups, time allocated to household, productive tasks and leisure activities, coping capacity to household shocks and political awareness**) was developed to have a picture about the status of women empowerment in the communities
- ▶ A multiple linear regression analysis was used to analyze these



# Results and Discussion

- ▶ The CEI for Agbowa Ikosi is shown in Fig. 2 below
- ▶ The result also shows about 53% respondents fall under low level of empowerment and 77% of the respondents fall under medium empowerment and below. Only 23% have high to very high level of empowerment.



# Cummulative Empowerment Index (CEI) for Agbowa Ikosi

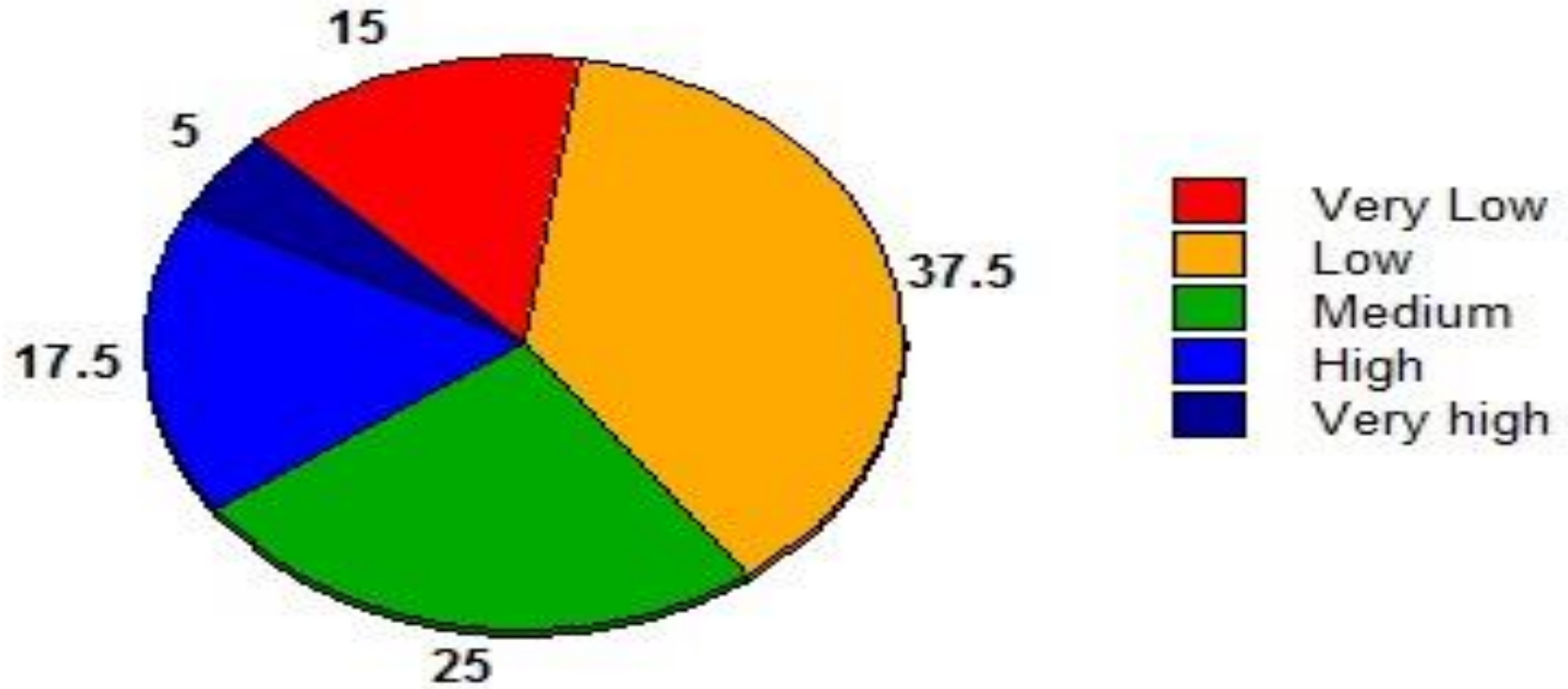


Figure 2: Chart for CEI in Agbowa Ikosi

# Results and Discussion

- ▶ The CEI for Igboolomi is shown in Fig. 3 below
- ▶ The result from Igboolomi shows that 83% of the respondents falls below the low empowerment index while all the respondents falls from medium empowerment index and below





# Results and Discussion

## Cummulative Empowerment Index (CEI) for Igbo

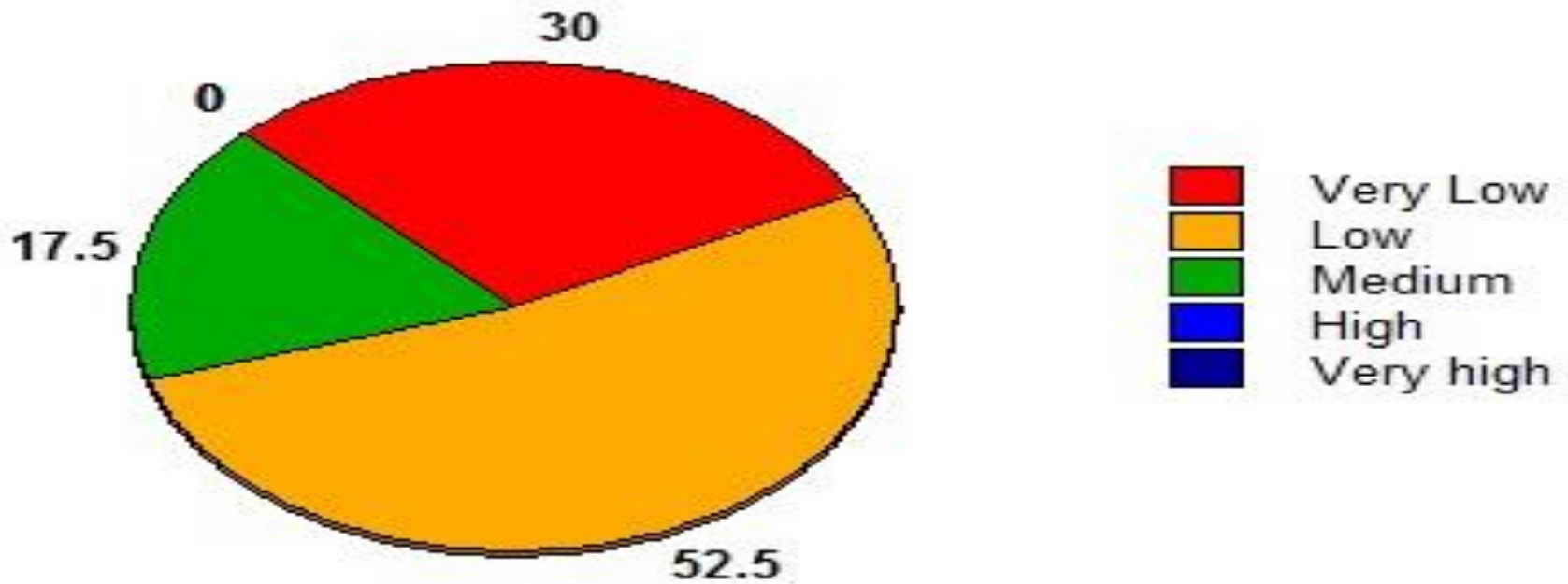


Figure 3: CEI for Igbooolomi



# Results and Discussion

- ▶ Of the various variables (factors) evaluated, Age and Occupation were found to have significant association with the CEI of the women in both communities
- ▶ Also, it was observed that older women have better CEI than the younger ones in both communities

# Discussion

- ▶ Women in both communities despite contributing significantly to the fisheries sector are not faring so well with respect to empowerment as against the men
- ▶ Many of these women have less power in decision making process in the family or society; have a little access to resources and a low control over their assets unlike the men

# Discussion

- ▶ Older women have better empowerment index perhaps because their productive and reproductive roles as young mothers and wives have reduced unlike the younger women that spend much time on these roles

# Conclusion

In conclusion, the participation of women is crucial for the growth of an economy in addition to the men

The involvement of women in income related activities increases their level of empowerment

An empowered woman has more decision making power, have better control of assets and can therefore improve the fisheries value chain significantly .





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**Thank you for your time**

