

Female Mutual Help Associations in a rural area of Burkina Faso

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Background and objectives of my research

In recent years, the populations of urban areas have grown. Africa, in particular, has experienced rapid growth in its urban populations and this trend has included Burkina Faso (Beauchemin & Schoumaker, 2005; Jeune, Piche & Poirier 2004). A growing number of women in Burkina Faso have been migrating from rural to urban areas in recent years (Jeune, Piche & Poirier, 2004), due, in part, to increased economic autonomy and education among women (Oppong, 1983; Adepoju, 1995). It has been reported that 40% of the women who have migrated from rural to urban areas are 20 to 24 years of age, educated, and planning to obtain additional education or jobs in the urban areas (Adepoju1995).

However, in the village of Passakongo, which places in northwest of Burkina Faso, there is not a lot of women who migrate to urban areas. To reflect of this situation, there might be a lot of reasons for this. By the way, there are 13 female mutual help associations in this village. This number is more than that of male mutual help associations. For example, one of the female associations owns 2 of 1 ha. vegetable garden. If she becomes a member and pays membership fees every each months, she can grow vegetables

there and consume or sell as she wants to do. And other activities of the association are commerce of sorghum, Rotating Credit and so on. These activities seem to help women's activities of earning.

Furthermore, it is presumed that these active activities of the female mutual help associations affect the low numbered people of migrating to the urban areas from this village.

Therefore, in this research, I investigate the livelihood and husbandry of woman. Besides, conducting an investigation of all the female mutual help association in Passakongo village, I develop the feature of those groups such as activities and members. After all, I will reveal the role of female mutual help association to women life in rural area of Burkina Faso.

Pictures



Zen-baho Woman working in the vegetable garden. Tap tap tap! Processing shea-butter.



In the cabaret This is the place where you drink *Nyam*(local beer) all day long!

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