



The Contributions of Some Shuwa Arab Women to the Development of Borno

AMINA RAMAT SAIDU
University of Maiduguri, Nigeria

Abstract. This study on the contributions of Some Shuwa Arab women of Borno examines their roles towards nation building. The study analyses how Shuwa Arab women who were mostly Marginalized in the public sphere compared to their male counterparts have contributed immensely on parallel ground with their male counterpart, because of their excellent performance in their chosen careers. Shuwa Arab women of Borno belonging to various background and profession were examined and their contributions to nation building are being brought to limelight. The activities of Shuwa Arab women who were opportuned to be first ladies in their respective states or where their husbands became governors of states were critically evaluated and specifically outlined. Sources of data were captured from both primary and secondary. Primary sources was drawn from focused group discussion (FGD) and oral interview, while secondary sources were retrieved from seminar papers, books, theses/dissertations and internet materials. This study remained fixated on the contribution of Shuwa Arab women to the development of Borno and thereby given much emphasis to that effect.

1. Introduction

Borno State has borders with Yobe (West), Gombe (South) and Adamawa States and also with the Republic of Niger, Chad and Cameroun (East). The state has a land mass area of about 69, 436 sq km. The state occupies a large part of the Chad Basin and has a population density of about 45 inhabitants per square km. The vegetation is a mixture of Sudan Savannah and Sahel Savannah, the former stands in area close to the Northern limit of Sudan vegetation in the country and the latter the southern part of the Sahelian vegetation in the West Africa. The vegetation includes *Acacia nilotica* Senegal, and

Acacia seyal, the last two are the major sources of gum Arabic and grown in semi-arid areas, the vegetation also includes the non-leguminous *ziziphus* and *balanites aegyptiaca*, though between 1975-1995, the acacia woodland suffered mild depletion. The state witnesses rainfall around June/July. September and from December to February, it undergoes the dry harmattan season. A large portion of the state is classified as semi-arid or arid. Major geographical features of the area include the Borno plains, Biu Plateau, and the swamps located south and west of Lake Chad. Borno has an estimated population of 4,071,104 million people, with male 2,163,358 million and female 2,007,746 million according to the 2006 census (National Population Commission 2006).

The Shuwa Arabs are predominantly cattle rearers and merchants. The cattle rearers among them move from place to place looking for greener pasture for their cattle. However, over the years, substantial numbers of them have come to dwell in towns and urban cities such as Maiduguri, Mafa, Gamboru-Ngala, Marte, Kala-Balge, Monguno, Khaddamari, Konduga, Bama and Damboa. The Shuwa Arab women have played very significant roles in the pre-colonial Shuwa society in areas such as domestic chores and upbringing of children. The imposition of colonial rule brought about the introduction of western education, the acquisition of which afforded one's participation in national development. In Borno, female education was introduced in 1935 in Maiduguri and Dikwa. After initial apathy and resentment to western education by the Shuwa Arabs, they later started enrolling their female children into the western schools.

Before the end of colonial rule, a number of Shuwa Arab women became educated and started contributing to national development. Thus, national development

may be seen as a process of change at level of economic, political and social-cultural sphere, and that encompasses transformation that results in general improvement on the welfare of the people of a given nation. This work, therefore, studies the role of Shuwa Arab women of Borno in national development from 1960-1999. National development entails the general development of society.

In other words, it means the social, economic and political advancement of a nation. In this regard, the contribution of human resource to this advancement should not be underestimated. Some Shuwa Arab women who are mostly in the present day Borno state, constitute a significant number of the population, but are mainly relegated to the background and left with domestic chores and children upbringing. But with the introduction of Western education, it opened opportunities for them in many sectors in the nation.

The following Shuwa Arab women were selected to represent the larger number of Shuwa Arab women in the society so as to reflect the various contributions made by the Shuwa Arab women towards the development of the Nation in general and Borno state in particular. Women who were mostly considered as second fiddles in Nation building as compared to their male counterparts were today opportune to have contributed immensely on parallel grounds with their male counterparts as can be seen from the selected profiles of notable Shuwa Arab women who in some cases have excelled in their careers.

2. Hajja Hamra Kankani Imam.

Hajja Hamra Imam was born on 2nd December, 1947 at Mafoni in Maiduguri. She was fondly called Kankani by her aunt because of her smallish figure when she was a child. She spent almost all her childhood with her father's sister Amina whom she was named after at Zango in Hausari and later they moved to Mafoni where her father was in 1956. Hajja Hamra Imam went to Hausari primary school and proceeded to provincial girls school Maiduguri after passing an examination to go to primary three. She then proceeded to secondary school in Kano (Government Girls Secondary School Dala Kano). She attended Bayero University Kano for her degree in English, History and Islamic studies, but dropped History in the final year.

Hajja Hamra was appointed to several boards, she was a member, board of directors of News Agency of Nigeria (NAN). She was member conference of university administrators of Great Britain where they

administered the conference. She was a member, board of directors of National Nomadic Education Commission. She was a member of Nigerian delegation to the preparatory committee meeting of the United Nation fourth world conference on women in Beijing, China between August and September 1995.

As commissioner in Borno State, she initiated the formation of Borno State women civil servants association, where she served in the capacity of president. She was the president of the formation of the Nigerian forum for advancement of women, an organization for the promotion of women in Government, Business and politics. She also, act as commissioner for establishment and service matters, played a key role in the reversal of Government policy which denied women appointment as administrative officers in Borno State Civil Service. As director-general ministry of education from 1987-1990, she streamlined the educational system by abolishing co-education in Borno State in 1989. To further promote educational system within the state, she also improved the condition of service for teachers and set a force committee on teacher's promotion.

Hajja Hamra Imam is a recipient of many awards, some of which are chieftaincy title. For example she was awarded Agbaje Wolu of Igogo-Eikit by Oba (Dr) Mathew Bamiteko, the Oniggo of Igogo-Ekiti. She was also given merit award, from the National council of women society, for contributing to the development of women and the family. She was also given the award of honorary colonel of the state of Georgia, United States in 1974. Hajja Hamra Imam held these positions and awards as a result of her recognitions and contributions to national development. Hamra Imam is alive and healthy.

3. Hajiya Halita Aliyu (MFR)

Born 31st October, 1954 in Borno State, she attended central primary school, Maiduguri, (1967-1971), school of Basic studies, Zaria (1972-1973 and Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria (1973-1976), respectively. She holds a Bachelor Degree in Public Administration (2nd class upper). She had a successful career serving as Administrator, management consultant and Business Executive. She is an Alumnus of University of Manchester and the Administrative Staff College of Nigeria (ASCON), Badagry Lagos.

She has attended several courses and conferences, including, the 3rd GSM world congress in Nice,

strategic telecommunication planning management organized by the United States Telecommunications Training Institute (USTTI) and the University of Colorado seminar on privatization, a strategic management perspective organized by USTTI and Global Resources, Inc Washington, Seminar on the use of Economic Data in collective Bargaining organized by the Bureau of labour statistics, the US Department of Labour, and Industrial Relations course organized by the Industrial Society, UK amongst several others.

After serving as the District officer in the Zaria Divisional office under the National Youth Service Cops scheme, she later joined Usmanu Dan Fadiyo, University in 1977 as an administrative officer and served in various capacities. She was eventually selected to represent the congregation on the Nigerian Telecommunications Limited (NITEL) in 1985 as a senior manager. Through hard work, dedication and an unwavering commitment to the corporate ideals of NITEL, she rose to the highest professional career level of a General Manager.

A fellow of the Nigerian Institute of Management (FNIM), the Institute of Management Consultants of Nigeria (FIMC) and member Nigerian Institute of Personnel Management (MNIPM), Hajjiya Halita was conferred with a National Honour of the member of the order of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (MFR) in 2002. For contributions to the development of the telecommunications sector amongst others. She is one of the first recipients of the National productivity Merit Award on account of her distinguished and selfless service to the nation.

Hajjiya Halita Aliyu has served in the following capacities at various times, chairperson, Nigerian Mobile Telecommunications Ltd, Director MTN, Trustees, the National centre for women Development, members of the steering committee on pension reforms in Nigeria and director, NITEL. She is presently- director on the Boards of interconnect cleaning house Nigeria Ltd, and Akakaim Telecoms Ltd. She owns a bookshop of her own in Abuja (Islamic Bookshop) called Tarbiyya Bookshop, She is married with five children.

Hajja Ammuna Lawan Ali

Ammuna Lawan Ali was born on 13th January, 1953. She attended Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, Nigeria where she obtained a bachelor of Art degree. Upon completion of her compulsory National Youth Service (NYSC), she joined the Borno State Civil Service as a planning officer in the ministry of land

and survey, Maiduguri. She then proceeded to the United States of America to pursue a diploma programme in environmental studies and on her return to the country she was transferred to the Borno State ministry of education Maiduguri where she rose to the rank of acting registrar. She obtained a Master degree in public administration in the University of Maiduguri in 1986. In January 1986 she was appointed to the substantive post of Registrar and she was given a special assignment as sole administrator of the Konduga local government area of Borno State, from July 1989 to February 1990.

Back in the mainstream of the civil service, she was appointed Director-General in 1990, Ammuna was appointed permanent secretary in 1992 and served in the State, as well as the Ministry of Education. She was appointed executive secretary in the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, Tourism and Cooperative. She attended the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), Kuru, Jos and obtained a Certificate of membership of the Institute (mni) in 1995.

In her quest to contribute her own quota to the development of the country, she joined the federal civil service in August 1995 as a director, and was posted to the federal ministry of women affairs and social development from federal ministry of women affairs she moved, she moved to the federal ministry of finance as director foreign exchange and trade relations. In January 2001, she was appointed permanent secretary in the federal civil service and was deployed to the federal ministry of commerce where she served for three years before moving to the ministry of petroleum resources in her capacity as the permanent secretary of the ministry. In recognition of her meritorious service, Ammuna Lawan Ali was given a National honour, Officer of the Order of the Niger (OON) by the President and Commander-in-chief of the Armed forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in the year 2003.

She is a member of various professional bodies as well as voluntary organizations. Dr. (Mrs) Hajja Ammuna Lawan Ali, OON, mni, is married to Engineer Ibrahim AG and they are blessed with children.

Habbaba Musa Daggash

Born July 18th 1965, Started primary education in Shehugarbai primary school. She later moved went to Kaduna Capital School, then admitted into Queen Amina College Kaduna. Her secondary education was interrupted by the death of her mother in 1981.

From then she came back to Ramat Polytechnic Maiduguri where she had her Diploma and Secured a job in Chad Basin Authority and later proceeded to the University of Maiduguri in 1989 to read Accountancy which she graduated with a second class lower 2/2.

With the B.Sc. Accountancy she was opportuned to work with Peoples Bank as the northern inspector of the Bank. And with the knowledge she had in the Chad Basin which she transformed into the Banking sector she took the Bank into a greater height. She later proceeded to African Petroleum for a greener pasture in January, 2000 and left in October, 2007.

She later returned to her job with the Chad Basin as the Chief Internal Auditor after serving most of her career in various capacities in different organizations. She had been a very dedicated and incorruptible selfless service, worker throughout her life. A staunch virile lady that is equal to every task that came her way.

4. Hajja Maryam Danna

Hajja Maryam Danna Mohammed hails from Jere local government area of Borno State, Nigeria. Born almost five (5) decades ago, she graduated from the University of Maiduguri in 1990 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting. In 1997, she bagged a Master Degree in Finance. By 2006 she became an Associate Chartered Accountant (ACA); a CGEIT (Certified in the Governance of Enterprise IT) in 2009 and Certified in the Risk and Information Systems Control (CRISC) in 2010. She joined the services of the defunct National Electric Power Authority now (PHCN) in the year 1992 as Officer II (Audit). A dedicated, sound and hardworking auditor, she rose so rapidly to the position of Assistant General Manager (Audit). Subsequently, she was seconded/transferred to Niger Delta Power Holding Company as Assistant General Manager (Audit).

Hajjiya, Maryam Danna Mohammed has undergone both local and international trainings to mention but a few, are as follows:

- (a) Information System Auditing - California, USA
- (b) Corporate Fraud Management and Investigation (Anti Money Laundering) – Johannesburg South Africa
- (c) Advanced Programme on Prevention, Analysis and Detection of Corporate Fraud-Arusha, Tanzania.
- (d) Office Automation Course for Auditors and Accountants, Nigeria.

She is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN).

Member of the Nigerian Institute of Management (NIM)

Member of the Information System Audit and Control Association (SACA)

Member of Chartered Management Accountant (ICMA), AND

Fellow of Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria

Currently, Hajja Maryam Mohammed is the General Manager, Audit and Compliance at the Niger Delta Power Holding Company of Nigeria (NDPHC).

5. Hajja Maryam Bukar Petrol

Hajja Maryam Bukar Petrol also made significant contribution to the development of Borno State through Non-Governmental Organisation. Presently, Hajja Maryam is a Chief Lecturer and College Counsellor in Sir Kashim Ibrahim College of Education, Maiduguri. She was the President of National Council Women Society (NCWS), Borno Chapter between 2004 and 2008. Before then, Maryam was made Honourable Commissioner, Borno State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development in 2005-2006 The seasoned academic and counsellor served in the ministry until 2007 when she was transferred to the Ministry of Environment as Commissioner in charge of that ministry. Hajja Maryam stayed in the ministry until 2009 when she returned to Sir Kashim Ibrahim College, Maiduguri where she was lecturing before being appointed commissioner.

While serving as Honourable Commissioner, Maryam did not relinquish her position as the President of NCWs in Borno State. Being a commissioner and at the same time, the President of NCWS in the State, gave Hajja Maryam the opportunity to pursue programmes that were pro-women. As a President of NCWS, her area of concern was child health care. Maryam and her executive in NCWS intensified effort in enlightening women in the rural areas about the National Programme on Immunization (NPI) and Oral Re-hydration Therapy (ORT).

As an educationist and counsellor with vast experience, Maryam paid attention to girl-child education in the State. Perhaps it was because of her concern about girl-child education in the State that she was invited in July 2005 by Government Girls College, Maiduguri to speak on the topic, “The Importance of Education to the Girl-child” during Graduation and Prize Giving Day of the College. As Commissioner of Women Affairs and Social

Development she also helped in the “promote of healthy child development through encouraging a child-friendly environment that ensures survival, eliminates all forms of abuses and guarantees healthy physical and mental development of the Nigerian child”.

Beside contributing to the development of Borno State through NGOs, Maryam has also contributed immensely to the development of Sir Kashim Ibrahim College of Education, Maiduguri. She has been at the forefront in counselling students on career choices and how to manage their time while in the college. Some of the students who took her advice seriously have come out with flying colours in their National Certificate in Education (NCE) examination. These graduates are now contributing their own quota to the educational development of Borno State.

6. Hajja Yabawa Lawan Wabi

Hajja Yabawa Lawan Wabi is yet another Shuwa Arab woman who has contributed to national development through politics. She was born on 26th August, 1962 to the family of late Mohammed Lawan, a highly disciplined civil servant and agriculturalist who was one of the pioneer chief executives of the Chad Basin Development Authority. Lawan’s daughters were attracted to the elites and highly placed individuals years back because they were regarded in Maiduguri as amongst the educated and disciplined women. She attended federal government college Maiduguri where she passed out with grade A results. She also holds a second class upper degree in accountancy from Ahmadu Bello University Zaria. She holds Member National Institute (mni), having attended the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, Kuru, Jos in 2009.

Hajja Yabawa Wabi was Accountant General of Borno State for four years, she was permanent secretary in the ministry of health and chieftaincy affairs in 2007 where she served until her appointment by President Good Luck Jonathan. She was the first in the family or serving in the federal cabinet. Since she has served as an accountant general, she attended series of federal accountant allocation committee meeting from 2003-2007, in addition to also being saddled with some responsibilities of following up allocations and payments due to Borno at the Federal ministry of finance.

7. Hajja Inna Galadima

Another remarkable Shuwa Arab woman who had done well in the field of politics is Hajja Inna Galadima. She was made honorable commissioner of women affairs by his excellency governor Kashim Shettima. She has improved and advanced the condition of women. During her tenure as a commission for women affairs her ministry and the ministry of information had worked together with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as National Council for Women Societies, media network and network of traditional and religious leaders on a project called, gender project. The project is aimed at achieving gender equality and empowerment of women in the state. She is presently the commissioner for poverty Alleviation.

8. Maryam Jiddah Sani Abacha

Her Excellency, Maryam Sani Abacha was born in Kaduna on the 4th March, 1947 to Sheikh Mohammed Jiddah and Nana Ya Gumsu Nasara, a Kanuri princess of Borno Emirate whose father was of German Origin. Her Excellency, Maryam Abacha began her educational pursuit at Tudun Wada Primary School and United Nation Primary School, Sabon Gari Zaria she graduated later from the Dala Girls Secondary School Kano. While in primary school, her discipline and leadership qualities began to emerge as she rose to become a patrol leader in the girls’ movement (Brawnie and Girls Guide) in 1961. In 1965, Maryam Jiddah was married to second-lieutenant Sani Abacha. In 1979, Maryam Abatcha along with the wives of other senior military officers helped in the re-activation of the moribund Army officers wives Association (NAOWA) and emerged as its 12th National president from 1985-1990.

As the National president of NAOWA, she began a systematic programme of establishing vocational training schools in various Army formations throughout the country. On 17th November, 1993, General Abacha became Head of State, Commander-in Chief of the Nigerian Armed Forces. As first Lady, Her Excellency, Mrs. Maryam Abacha on 3rd March 1994 initiated the Family Support Programme (FSP). Accordingly, the programme focused on health, education, agriculture, income generation, disability and destitution among others. She also initiated and sponsored seminars and workshops on health, HIV/AIDS, Domestic violence, Disability, Destitution and street begging, culture and tradition as they relate to the sustenance of interest in traditional music.

The first lady through the efforts and success of the family support programme persuaded the Federal

Government to establish the federal ministry of women affairs and social development in January 1995. It is in this context that she led the Nigerian delegation to the 5th African Regional conference on women held in Dakar in 1994 and the 4th world conference on women held in Beijing, China in 1995. As part of Maryam Abacha's renewed efforts to improve the quality of life for Nigerian families, and in consonance with Nigeria's vision 2010 programme of development, the first lady launched the socio-economic aspects of the (FSP) called family economic advancement programme (FEAP) on 3rd March, 1997. The programme was designed to empower all families who constituted the local producers of goods, services and potential entrepreneurs in the area of the establishment of cottage industries. She initiated the construction of National Hospital Abuja and many VVF Centres in Nigeria.

In recognition of her consistent and dedicated humanitarian services to the Nigerian people, Maryam Abacha received merit awards from numerous national and international organizations. These include the African Youth Sports Federation, Sickle Cell Club of Nigeria, National Council of Women's Societies, the Nurses Association of West Africa, and the African Association of women Entrepreneurs amongst other. Other awards include award from World Council of Mayors Inc. for outstanding support of families, women and children (1997), merit Award for boundless effort and dedication in uplifting the lives of families by the international cultural center, Los Angeles, USA (1997), Equally in late 1995 and 1997, the University of Maiduguri and Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka conferred honorary degrees of Doctor of laws (LLD) on Maryam Abacha in the same year, the University of Maiduguri bestowed on her another honorary degree of Doctor of letters etc. As an avowed writer and poet, Her Excellency has to her credit the following publications: Home as a Base for Peace (1987), NAOWA: A Symbol of Motivation (1992). The Pride of Culture (1996).

9. Hajja Fatima Ali Sheriff

Mrs Fatima Ali Sheriff is another prominent Shuwa Arab woman who stood behind her husband former Executive Governor of Borno State and contributed to the development of politics in the state. Her Excellency, Mrs Fatimah attended Shehu Garbai primary school and the then Governments Girls Secondary School, Maiduguri and Ramat Polytechnic Maiduguri between the early seventies to early eighties. Having Majored in Business Management,

She did a stint with the Borno Radio Television but later resigned and devoted her time to her husband and children. She is hardworking, kind and compassionate, resilient, a dogged fighter and a firm believer of what her husband is and stands for. She believes that women are integral part of nationhood and nation building without which no nation can progress. Thus to her, their economic empowerment is the first step towards getting them fully involved in policy or decision making process in the state.

While her husband engaged in the business of governance for the people of his state, she singled out women and children to improve their lives positively. Her reason was informed by the firm conviction that if the woman and her children are happy the father is fulfilled. This is more so when one looks at the impact of poverty, insecurity, hunger, war, famine and diseases on women and children who are always the worst hit. She has consistently impacted their lives positively in the areas of health, social welfare and education among others.

Among her contributions was the construction and fully equipped by her was Mrs. Fatima Ali Sheriff free maternal health care centre, which has reduced the high incidence of maternal deaths to the barest minimum as women have access to free maternal services right from conception to delivery and up to 6 weeks after delivery.

Water was made available to women in the rural areas as she singled out remote areas in the state and sunk boreholes, free drugs for de-worming children were provided while the mobilization and sensitization of the people were carried out by her being in the forefront of the fight against poliomyelitis and HIV/AIDS. Being the chairman of Borno State Action committee on Aids (BOSACA) she has not relented in fighting against stigmatization and the spread of HIV/AIDS through campaigns. Indigent sick people of the state, women, children, youths and even men, have benefited from her kind gestures. Mrs Sheriff has also provided loans worth over N65 million to women in the state to make them self-reliant while skills acquisition materials and poverty alleviation materials were distributed to assist women. To effectively carryout her strategy for the mass mobilization of whom to participate actively in politics, a political retreat for women from the grassroots and all other stakeholders was organized by her where women were enlightened on the need to register for political parties of their choice, seek elective positions as well as register and cast their vote. Wives of council chairman were also directed to organize same at local government levels.

Her Excellency was also the National patron, National Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ) and patron of many Non-Governmental Organizations in the state including the National Council for Women Societies (NCWS), Federation of Muslim Women's Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN), Female Medical Doctor's Association Chief Matron and Member Nigerian Peace Corps, Member National Women Peace Envoy and State Chief Social Mobilize for NPI, State Women Trafficking and Child Labour Foundation.

10. Hajja Maryam Bukar Abba Ibrahim

Hajja Maryam Bukar Abba Ibrahim cannot be ignored in Borno State. She was born on 14th February 1957 in Maiduguri. Young Maryam was lovingly brought up by her parents who afforded her western and Quranic education. In 1973 Hajja Maryam obtained the West African Examination council certificate at the Government Girls secondary school, Maiduguri and the higher school certificate in 1975, from North East College of Arts and Science (NECAS) Maiduguri. She was admitted to read a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education at the Nigeria's premier University, Ahmadu Bello University (A.B.U) Zaria where she obtained B.A. Education Degree in 1979, and M. Ed. in 1989.

Hajja Maryam began her educational career as Education mistress in the Ministry of Education, Borno State. She was posted to Government Girls Secondary school, Maiduguri as a classroom teacher. Barely a year, Hajja Maryam moved to the then Advance Teachers College, Maiduguri (now sir Kashim Ibrahim College of Education) as an Assistant Lecturer I, in 1981 in the Department of Education, she grew through the ranks to become chief lecturer in the College. She was made the provost of the college in 1999, and re-appointed provost in 2001.

On assumption of office, Hajja Maryam swung into action by improving the welfare of her lecturers. She gave them loans for self improvement. These loans not only boosted their morale but also galvanized them into putting their best in their jobs. She then turned towards the expansion of classrooms, students hostels, laboratories and staff quarters. In collaboration with official of the Education Tax Fund (ETF), she got these classroom laboratories and students hostels expanded, thus improving the standard of teaching and learning in the institution. It was while working to improve the standard of teaching and learning in the college the Shuwa born academic became the first Lady of Yobe State. Her

greatest contribution is in her setting up Yetim Care Foundation. The foundation has boarding and day schools located at Maiduguri in Borno State and Damaturu in Yobe State. Hajjia Maryam held a number of leadership positions including chairperson and membership of professional Associations and college committees, president of the committee of provosts Nigerian Colleges of Education.

Hajja Maryam Bukar Abba Ibrahim has contributed a lot to the women folk in Yobe state where she was the first lady. When her husband came into power the most important challenged she has faced was the education of women. Hajja Maryam started making campaigns and enlightenment programmes on the need for girls to be educated and allowed participating on the socio-economic affairs of their state and country.

11. Hajja (Dr.) Gona Abdullahi

Hajja Gona was born to Mallam Abdullahi and Hajja Kaltum, at Gulumba on 20th October 1937. She attended Gulumba Elementary School from 1947-1948, at a time when western education in the Northern provinces was despised, frowned upon and called all sorts of names and was therefore unattractive, even for men, let alone women of Borno where Islamic tradition and culture was already rooted in the minds of the people. After elementary school she proceeded to Bama Central Primary School, then to Borno Middle School in 1951. After Borno Middle School she went to provincial girls school Maiduguri, where she qualified as a Grade III Teacher. Her career as a teacher started in 1956 when she was posted to Gamboru Primary School as a Teacher.

Hajja Gona was send to London in 1958 under the auspices of British council. After she came back she was made the headmistress of Yerwa practicing school, Maiduguri, the following year she left for Women Teachers College, Kano to read for her Grade II Teachers' certificate which she successfully completed in 1962.

She served as a member for educational board in the local education authority Maiduguri from 1966 to 1986; she also served as the chairperson of art and culture, and member of the Nigerian Red Cross Society in 1976. She was also a member of catering rest house committee, she became girls guide commissioner for Borno State in 1976, she was also a member of Ramat Polytechnic governing council, and University of Maiduguri staff primary school Governing board.

Hajja Gona was a teacher for more than 30 years. She see education necessary for good governance as it is only an educated citizen who will appreciate what is right and is in the interest of the Nation. She excels in education and prepares people for their high places in the society. Because of her contribution to education, the University of Maiduguri honored her with a honorary degree on 10th February, 1990, the university orator then Prof. D.S.M. Koroma presenting Hajja Gona Abdullahi said “Here is a woman who have been anything she wanted to be, but she chose to remain a teacher, a primary teacher for thirty years”.

12. Hajja Ashe Wakilbe

Hajja Ashe Wakilbe is another Shuwa Arab woman who contributed significantly to the development of education in Borno State. She was born in 1958. Hajja Ashe started her career as a primary school teacher in July 1975. She became the head teacher of Chad Basin Development Authority staff school in New Marte in 1979 and later in Baga. She gave a good account of herself as an astute teacher and leader. After she transferred her services of the state civil service in 1980, she was posted to the Borno State agricultural Development Programe (BOSADP) where she remained until 1992.

Hajja Ashe Wakilbe obtained a Bachelor Degree in public administration in 1998, and in 2002, a Master degree in the same field at the University of Maiduguri. She has contributed immensely towards the development of education in Borno State. In 1988, she established Maiduguri capital school, one of the most popular and famous schools in the north east region of Nigeria. The school has nursery, primary, junior and senior secondary school sections. Presently, the school system can boast of over 500 pupils and students. About 50 staff are employed in the school. The school has brought several awards to the state, thus putting Borno on the educational map of the country.

13. Hajja Zaynab Muhammad Abdullahi Amira

Another Non-Governmental Organization through which women in Borno State contributed significantly to the development of their State is the Federation of Muslim Women Association (FOMWAN) The association which was formed in 1985 has branches all over the country.

The FOMWAN branch in Borno State was opened the same year the national body was set up. Presently

the Association in the state is headed by Hajja (Amira) Zaynab Muhammed Abdullahi Zaynab, is the Vice Principal, Government Girls’ College, Maiduguri. She got her Primary school certificate in 1973 and soon after that she enrolled into Government Girls College, Maiduguri to further her education.

In 1987 she graduated from the Girl’s College with flying colours. In 1993, Zaynab obtained her National Certificate of Education (NCE) from Sir Kashim Ibrahim College of Education Maiduguri and proceeded to University of Maiduguri where she obtained her Bachelor of Education (B.Ed/Islamic Studies) in 1989.

As an avid reader and scholar, Zaynab went back to her alma mate, University of Maiduguri, for her master’s degree in Islamic Studies and graduated in 2007. After her graduation, she went back to her teaching profession where she grose through the ranks to become Vice Principal Government Girls’ College Maiduguri.

Perhaps, it is because of her hard work and dedication to duty that Hajja Zainab was elected as ‘Amira’ of FOMWAN in Borno State. Since her assumption of duty as the ‘Amira’, she has brought her experience to bear on the association. In carrying out her duties as the ‘Amira’ of FOMWAN, she always promoted the aims and objectives of the organization which, among others is to educate Muslim women on what Islam teaches and act upon these teachings.

14. Conclusion

In conclusion, Shuwa Arabs Women are resourceful and industrious, this is because they are very hardworking, they take care of the family, from rearing of animals to farm land, milking the cows and taking the dairy to market and trading activities which ranges from knitting of mats and hand fan to other petty trading. Shuwa Arabs women are peace loving people, although they are very easily to be provoked and they are hot tempered but it is very rare to find a Shuwa Arab on the offensive, and that is the typical Shuwa Arab behavior. “Peace lovers”. A critical look at the various sectors in which the Shuwa Arab women dwell on as part of their livelihood also form part of their contribution towards the economic development of Borno.

A lot of achievements have been recorded in terms of the impact of western education among the Shuwa Arab women. The rate at which the Western

education system affected the traditional norms and values positively varies from one place to another. The western form of education brought ordinary women into lime light, more especially in the field of administration, which could be recognized as the major factor towards their contribution to the development in Borno.

References

- Akinfeleye R. A. (2011): *Essentials of Modern African Journalism*. Lagos: Malthouse Publishers Ltd.
- Attoe S.A. (2002). *Women in Nigeria Politics” the way Forward*. Free World Publishers Ltd.
- Awe, B. (1993): *Nigeria Women in Historical Perspective*, Lagos: San Kore Publishers Ltd.
- Badmus, O. (2006). *Women in the Move in Contemporary Revolutionary Publishing LLTD*
- Chike, D. I. (1988). *Women in the Borno State Civil Service: Dividends or Losses in Investment in Human in Human Capital in 4th Mega-Chad Symposium Papers CNRS/ORSTOM, Pairs*.
- Fafunwa, Babs (1974): *History of Education in Nigeria*. George Allen and Unwin, (London).
- Jibril, Amin (1991): *The Evolution of Nomadic Policy, Education and Pastoralism in Nigeria*, Ayo Publications, (Ibadan).
- Kausar, Zeenath (1985): *Women in Feminism and Politics: New Directions Towards Islamization*, Petalingjaya, Malaysia.
- Lovejoy, Paul J. K. (1903): *Cochrane in Borno, February 1902 to January 1903*, in Borno Museum Society Newsletter NO 41.
- Mukhtar, Yakubu (2002): *Musa Daggash, the Story of a Shuwa Arab Boy*, Heinemann Educational Books (Nigeria Plc).
- Osuntokun, A. (1987): *Power Broker: A Biography of Sir Kashim Ibrahim*. Adeyomi Press, Ltd. Ijebu-Ife.
- Rendall J. (1990): *The Origins of Modern Feminism: Women in Britain, France and the United States 1780-1860*, London.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

A: Primary sources:

Oral interviews.

Name Her Excellency, Hajiya Maryam Jiddah Sani Abatcha
 Age 69 years
 Occupation Former First Lady
 Place of interview Asokoro, Abuja
 Date of interview 16th September, 2015

Name Hajia Hamra Kankani Imam
 Age 69 years
 Occupation Retired Civil servant
 Place of interview Maiduguri
 Date of interview 27th August, 2015

Name Hajia Halitta Aliyu
 Age 62 years
 Occupation Retired Civil Servant
 Place of interview Abuja
 Date of interview 15th September, 2015

Name Hajia Ammuna Lawan Ibrahim Ali
 Age 63 years
 Occupation Retired civil servant
 Place of interview Abuja
 Date of interview 18th September, 2015

Name Hajia Fatima Habbaba Dagash
 Age 51 years
 Occupation Civil servant
 Place of interview Maiduguri
 Date of interview 30th August, 2015

Name Hajia Maryam Danna
 Age 49 years
 Occupation Civil servant
 Place of interview Abuja
 Date of interview 17th September, 2015

Name Hajia Maryam Bukar Abba Ibrahim
 Age 59 years
 Occupation civil servant
 Place of interview Maiduguri
 Date of interview 19th October, 2015

Name Hajia Ashe Wakilbe
 Age 57 years
 Occupation Retired civil servant
 Place of interview Maiduguri
 Date of interview 27th December, 2014