FGD with Women Community Members at Dalijan Community, Gwandu LGA

The community is a recipient of a solar powered borehole facility.

31st May 2024

**Interviewer**: Hello, good evening everyone, hope u are all doing well?

**Aisha:** we are all fine.

**Interviewer**: My name is xxx, a PhD student in the University and I am currently conducting research for my program, and I wanted to find out the impact of the I-WASH project in this area to your lives.

All the questions I have for you are related to my area of specialization in the PhD program, and I wanted to seek for your consent, to let me record your voices and willingly, tell me your readiness to attend to my questions. You will first of all tell me your names before we continue

Now let me start with you, what is your name, and you tell me you have given me full support and consent.

**Ruqayyah**: my name is Rukayya Usman and I will give you all the needed support to conduct the interview.

**Aisha**: my name is Aisha Abubakar, and I will give maximum support for this interview.

**Interviewer**: thank you. Now, you also what is your name?

**Umma**: my name is Umma Abubakar

**Interviewer**: Now, can you remember where have you been fetching water before the establishment of the water project in this area?

**Aisha**: we were getting our water then in our house through open wells.

**Interviewer**: using a local fetcher, right?

**Group**: yes

**Interviewer**: Now that you have this, do you still use the previous ones (hand dug well)?

**Aisha**: Yes, we do. In a (coral response) But it has been tremendous developments to us.

**Interviewer**: Now, how do you use the water?

**Group**: We use the water for domestic purposes especially drinking and washing our clothes and cooking among others

**Interviewer**: Do you still use the hand dug (open) wall?

**Ruqayyah**: we used both of the sources of our water, but those that could not go out to look for the water are the ones mostly using the open walls at home.

**Interviewer**: Precisely, when do you use the open wall?

**Ruqayyah**: We use the wells mostly in the night, while we need the water and in the early morning (down) hours before the sun comes up, to perform ablution, but in the daylight too we occasionally used the wells at home.

**Interviewer**: are you getting the water here always?

**Group**: yes.

**Interviewer**: Now like you mention, how does this change your life? I mean the new water system in this community

**Ruqayyah**: well, the changes the brought in to our lives has to do with the fact that tap or pipe water is quite different from the tradition walls water.

**Aisha**: indeed, the pipe water is more hygienic and good for human health. They do not have common diseases and are pure.

**Ruqayyah**: but the well water do contain insects and virus that harm human body. But these borehole waters are pure right from their source. One doesn’t even have to filter them before cooking.

**Aisha**: but as for wells water, it must be filtered.

**Interviewer**: Are you in WASHCOM?

**Ruqayyah**: Yes

**Interviewer**: including you Umma?

**Aisha**: the two of us, excluding Umma.

**Interviewer**: Ok. Now, regarding what you have done in washcom, what have you been doing?

**Ruqayyah**: We are looking after environmental sanitation, house cleanliness, toilets and rooms where they are living. We also ask them not to allow their children in dirt.

**Interviewer**: Do you go house to house to knock?

**Ruqayyah:** yes, we visit house to house.

**Interviewer**: are you still doing the campaign? Or it was only during the program?

**Aisha:** we were do it during the time of the project, and we are we taking time do it even after the project has ended.

**Ruqayyah**: But sometimes we are off due to our personal activities.

Interviewer: Can you remember the reason why you joined into the washcom initiative? Rukayya in particular what motivated you to join the project?

**Ruqayyah**: I join the WASHCOM just to enlighten the public on personal hygiene such as house and toilet cleanliness, water and the children and the environment in general. And thank God we have made impact on it, especially water because we now have borehole.

**Interviewer**: Mallama Aisha what made you to join the union?

**Aisha**: We joined the union objectively to improve our personal health and environmental cleanliness.

**Interviewer**: Aisha why you did not join the washcom association?

**Umma**: I was not in the town at the time of its establishment.

**Interviewer**: Did you travel?

**Umma**: Yes, I traveled.

**Interviewer**: For you that joined, don’t you think that joining the washcom initiative could undermine some of your businesses if any, in the house or other home activities, since its free and nonprofit making activity? Or are you receiving any money from it?

**Aisha**: well, even if we are not been paid we have to do it since we have been engaged into it.

**Ruqayyah**: Since it was an enlightenment campaign, we deemed it a duty to do it. And one day we could benefit from it materially.

**Group**: we are delighted, our town has been developed *[smiling and laughing]*. Despite our small scale businesses, we can still accept such work we can even suspend the personal business.

**Interviewer**: Aisha, do you do any business?

**Aisha**: I am selling commodities, but for two years now, I did not sell anything because of a health issue with me. But it did not hinder me from these activities that does not require long journey. If for example an activity may come up that will need us to visit not more than 15-20 houses, I am good to do it.

**Interviewer**: Did you do the business when the program started?

**Aisha**: Yes, I do, but I suspended it.

**Interviewer**: But who ask you to join the WASHCOM?

**Aisha**: Magaji (traditional head of the town)

**Interviewer**: Now, at the time when Magaji invited you into the program, didn’t you feel you were been forced to do it?

**Aisha**: not at all. My right has not been affected.

**Interviewer**: Do you feel happy for being invited?

**Aisha:** Yes, yes.

**Interviewer**: what about you, Rukayya?

**Ruqayyah**: I was selling rice; I do cook and sell, and sell the raw rice itself.

**Interviewer**: Do you still do the business?

**Ruqayyah**: Yes, up till now am doing it.

**Interviewer**: But during the program do you have this business?

**Ruqayyah**: Yes, but I do it at night, when we return from the WASHCOM campaign exercise.

**Interviewer**: don’t you think that joining the washcom initiative could neglect your business, looking at the fact that you work in the night and hiring someone to take the rice to the engine instead of how you have been doing it before, meaning you don’t have resting time?

**Ruqayyah**: Sincerely speaking I did not think about that, notwithstanding am very much happy with the initiative because it helps me a lot, I gained new knowledge so far.

**Interviewer**: What are your gains so far in the program, through which ways?

**Ruqayyah**: I learned how to sanitized myself and the environment and also how to enlighten others whenever I understand they do not have the needed cleanliness in the environment.

**Interviewer**: Ms Umma, do you have any business or other things currently?

**Umma**: Yes, I have a business.

**Interviewer**: what is it?

**Umma**: Soya beans business namely, awara (fried tofu).

**Interviewer**: Now is there any way that this water and water program helps you in this business?

**Umma**: Yes.

**Interviewer**: How?

**Umma**: I can now distinguish between the pure and contaminated water unlike before. Before, I use to fetch water from that home, because they are cleaner than that of our well.

**Interviewer**: Now regarding the environmental sanitation, do you think your community got changes, or now that it has been long since the end of the program, do you think you have gone back to the old time?

**Ruqayyah**: Actually some people have change their minds but like you know, you cannot predict human being. While a segment of the society sees what you do in a positive way, others may understand you in a negative way. Many have change to the needs of the initiative.

**Interviewer**: Now how can the issue be resolved?

**Ruqayyah**: Women in the community could see what we do as disturbing, because we are engaging them for free, no any material assistance. It could be boring to them. But for many is a welcome development even though nothing was given to them, they appreciate it.

**Aisha**: adding that educating them is a huge advantage. Children’s body and health improve, their brain capacity and general health improves as well.

**Interviewer**: Now, how do you think you can change the minds of those that do not understand the importance of human health and environmental sanitation?

**Aisha**: They should be taking along little by little, they will understand.

**Interviewer**: It means you did not support the idea that they should be given money and other material things for them to cooperate?

**Aisha**: Well, material things or money is actually needed, but the issue is that no one knows when they could be available. But any time a gift arrives one could be happy with it.

**Ruqayyah**: some women accused us that we were given all the supporting materials and money, only that we took all if it for ourselves. We don’t want to give them. But on our part we keep telling them that we are doing this work for the sake of Allah (God). Free of charge.

**Interviewer**: Do you get the support of male people in this community regarding the washcom project or you don’t need their support?

**Ruqayyah**: Actually, we need their support and they do support us, because if for instance children go and excrete in places, the parents do ask them to pack it and clear the place.

**Interviewer**: Ms Aisha do you have any advice on how best to plan this program?

**Aisha**: Well, everything needs consultation actually.

**Interviewer**: do you have any advice?

**Ruqayyah**: My advice is that in some places they have water problem, they lack tap water, and they are facing water scarcity somehow. That was my advice. They need water.

**Interviewer**: Aisha and Rukayya, Is there anything you think you may like to have just to improve on your washcom activities?

**Group**: Yes we need change if we can have it.

**Interviewer**: Change as how? Ms Aisha change like how? Do you mean that some washcom members to be changed?

**Aisha**: no please. We just need an improvement if possible.

**Interviewer**: what do you mean by improvement? Just say your mind, am just a student carrying out an investigation. I want to hear it from you.

**Aisha:** for instance, if that village can have their own borehole, it will be okay.

**Interviewer**: But am asking you about your washcom movement, all is well?

**Aisha**: All is well. However, we may appreciate new cloths.

**Interviewer**: Rukayya from your own side, what changes will you want to see regarding the washcom?

**Group**: Should the washcom give us capital to improve our business, we will be happy.

**Interviewer**: you mean capital to start business?

**Group**: yes.

**Interviewer**: On to you Aisha, will you want to join the washcom project? Or what do you think about the work Rukayya and Aisha are doing for the washcom?

**Umma:** I will join when am opportuned to be enrolled.

**Interviewer**: why do you want to be enrolled? Don’t you think it will divert your attention from your local business?

**Umma**: no.

**Interviewer**: don’t you have any concern even if the washcom activity hinders your Awara business?

**Umma**: yes.

**Interviewer**: but why do you think it will not affect you since it was your source of income?

**Umma**: I have someone who can market the business for me.

**Interviewer**: That is all. Thank you all. God bless.