

Literacy Needs of Non-Literate Women in Benue State of Nigeria

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Abstract

Advocates of women literacy and emancipation have always perceived illiteracy as the major cause of poverty, abuse and low-self esteem among women. This study investigated the extent to which non-literate women in Benue State, Nigeria perceived acquisition of literacy skills as critical to their social, personality and economic emancipations. The views of the women on the challenges of illiteracy and their coping strategies were also identified. A total of 134 women located in three local government areas were randomly sampled and used for the study. Data were collected using interview schedules and Focused Group Discussion (FGD). Descriptive statistics were used to analyze the data. The findings were that: women perceived illiteracy as the cause of their poverty and literacy as an empowerment option and that the women would willingly go to school if given the opportunity and support. The findings were discussed in terms of the need to empower women through viable adult literacy program.