

# Impact of Legal Awareness and Empowerment Programs on the Ability of Women and Girls to Claim Their Rights in Nigeria.

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## ABSTRACT

In Nigeria, abuse of the pursuit of justice among women and girls is chronic in nature, which is manifested by discriminatory laws, cultural policies, and illiteracy about laws, geographical and economic constraints, and lack of access to services by marginalized groups of rural women, out of school young people, young mothers and young people with disabilities. Interventions based on legal empowerment such as peer paralegals, legal clinic, legal hotlines, and online platforms have been used to overcome these difficulties; however, the effectiveness of these interventions in various settings has not been well studied. This study is concerned with evaluating how these interventions would help adolescent girls and young women to comprehend their rights, pursue justice, and report violations. These were aimed at measuring performance, uncovering obstacles and enabling factors, and prescribing scalable solutions to improve inclusiveness and equitable access to justice. The quantitative research design was adopted with the help of structured survey consultation questionnaire conducted to 300 individuals living in urban and rural areas and consisting of the various subgroups including young mothers and people with disabilities. Knowledge, confidence, and willingness to act were measured with both closed-ended and Likert-scale questions, which were supported by open-ended questions that contained qualitative information. The findings showed that peer paralegal and legal clinic services produced the most effect in enhancing the level of legal knowledge and confidence, whereas the impact of hotlines and online networks was moderate. The reported benefits in the urban players were bigger, whilst the marginalized groups experienced lesser access and influence because of the structural, socio-cultural, and technological restrictions. Some of the recommendations necessitate scaling programs on community-based initiatives, improving digital access, producing more inclusive and multilingual resources, and adopting effective monitoring and evaluation systems to follow the progress. These are key strategies to the realization of sustainable and equitable legal empowerment of women and girls in Nigeria.

**Keywords:** Legal empowerment, Women and girls' rights, Access to justice, Peer paralegals and legal clinics.

## INTRODUCTION

The issue of access to justice is still a very urgent problem among the adolescent girls and young women in Nigeria where social, economic, and institutional factors still restrict their right to claim and exercise their freedoms. Far-seated gender inequality, discriminatory legislations, and deep-rooted cultural beliefs usually suppress women and girls who need redress against violations of gender-based violence, child marriage, sexual harassment, and refusal of inheritance (Olusegun & Oyelade, 2021). Although the justice system is constitutionally accessible, it is often inaccessible to marginalized groups, because it is costly, the language barrier exists, the groups lack documentation, do not know their rights, and are too far away to access the legal institutions. The barriers are even stronger in the case of adolescent girls and young women, particularly those who are in rural areas, are out of school or live with disabilities (Hunter et al., 2022). As a result, many abuse or discrimination cases remain unreported and this continues to create cycles of injustice and exclusion. One of the causes of this inequality is the insufficient legal consciousness. Nigeria is one of the countries where many women and girls are not aware of their legal rights under the national and international regulations, such as the Nigerian Constitution, the Child Rights Act, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of

Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The young women and girls are at the mercy of exploitation and structural discrimination without adequate knowledge or trust to reach out to justice systems (Aina-Pelemo et al., 2025). Furthermore, poor conversations about police, courts and the traditional systems of justice prevent many people seeking legal redress and this culture of silence and impunity is entrenched. It is on this background that legal awareness and empowerment programs have been noted as a crucial means of closing the gap between the women and girls and the justice system (Olusegun & Oyelade, 2021). Peer paralegals, community-based legal clinics, toll-free hotlines, and digital rights platforms have proven to have some potential to increase legal literacy and confidence and access to justice (Delores & Olabode, 2025). The purpose of these programs is not just to educate the women and girls about their rights but also to empower them to do something about it- to seek legal help, to report on abuse or to insist on discriminatory practices. This paper thus aims at evaluating the effectiveness of such empowerment initiatives in the capacity of adolescent girls and young women in Nigeria to demand their rights. The research will shed some evidence-based findings and policy suggestions on how to enhance equitable access to justice and promote gender equality by means of sustainable empowerment programs by researching the effectiveness of these interventions in various settings, such as in both rural and urban settings, among out-of-school youth, young mothers, youth with disabilities, etc.

## **Problem Statement**

Although there are various efforts in the direction to gender equality, adolescent girls and young women in Nigeria still encounter a lot of obstacles when it comes to justice and legal rights. It is hard to seek redress on infractions of gender-based violence, economic exploitation and social exclusion due to their low legal literacy, institutional responsiveness, and gender discrimination (Lwamba et al., 2022). Although the introduction of legal awareness and empowerment (legal awareness, legal empowerment) has been implemented through peer paralegal, community legal clinic, and online platforms, there is little empirical data on their real impact and effectiveness, especially in such diverse groups as rural communities, out-of-school youth, young mothers, and individuals with disabilities (Joshi et al., 2022). Lack of detailed information and assessment models leaves a knowledge gap as to the best methods of facilitating legal empowerment and long-term behavioral transformation. This knowledge gap is important to come up with scalable, inclusive, and context-sensitive approaches that enhance women and girl access to justice in Nigeria.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Legal Empowerment Frameworks and Rights-Based Approaches.**

The legal empowerment frameworks and rights-based approaches form the basis of empowering women and girls to learn, assert, and practice their rights (Khatreja, 2023). Defining legal empowerment, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor (CLEP) focus on the processes of making people more capable of applying the law to their own interests and to receive justice. This framework is no longer bound to formal legal institutions and understands that empowerment should be done at the community level through access to information, legal assistance, participative governance, and social inclusion (Costantinos, 2021). It brings to light the four pillars of access to justice and the rule of law, property rights, labor rights, and business rights that will lead to the wider human development and equality. The rights-based approach (RBA) adds to this framework by conceptualizing legal empowerment as a process and as an outcome based on the principles of international human rights like equality, participation, accountability, and non-discrimination (Gready, 2008). It does not place women and girls as passive recipients of aid but as rights-holders who are entitled to protection and justice with institutions as duty-bearers who should implement these rights. This strategy is based on major international documents such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the rights of the child (CRC) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 5 and SDG 16). Legal empowerment and rights-based approaches used together form a complex system that enables gender justice, empowers women and girls to have agency, and provides equal and equitable access to justice systems in Nigeria.

### **Effectiveness of Peer Paralegals, Hotlines, Legal Clinics, and Digital Platforms**

The legal empowerment initiatives like peer paralegals, hotlines, legal clinics, and online platforms have become an important instrument in supporting the access of women and girls to justice in Nigeria (Ikuteyijo et al., 2024).

All interventions have their distinct role to play in enhancing legal literacy, awareness of rights, and seeking redress to violations of the law including gender-based violence, discrimination, and exploitation.

1. One of the most effective grassroots strategies is peer paralegals. They are community volunteers that are trained to offer general legal information, mediation, and referrals. They are effective because they are accessible and cultural sensitive particularly in rural and underserved regions where formal legal assistance is restricted (Ahlawat, 2025). Conventional peers tend to serve as confidants between vulnerable groups and formal institutions, assisting women and girls in overcoming fear and stigma and the complexities of the procedures. They are very crucial in stopping violation of rights by spreading awareness of child marriage, inheritance rights and domestic violence laws. Nevertheless, they need long-term training, guidance, and assistance of professional legal practitioners to be effective (Green et al., 2024).
2. Hotline services have also been useful in providing prompt, confidential and free access to justice and protection services. (Iyke-Ibe et al., 2023). Legal clinics are also provided at universities and non-governmental organizations that provide free legal education and services to marginalized populations. They act as points of entry into the justice system and facilitate experiential learning to law students as well as empowering communities (Chukwuemeka, 2025). Clinics that deal with women rights have helped to enhance legal literacy, enhance the cases that are resolved, as well as enhance the confidence of the community in the justice systems.
3. Online legal empowerment programs are facilitated through digital platforms such as mobile applications, online legal assistance portals, and social media campaigns, which expand the reach of the legal empowerment programs. They enable young women (particularly in cities) to obtain information, file complaints and communicate with legal practitioners over the phone (Craig & Emma, 2025). In as much as issues like low digital literacy and internet connectivity remain, online action has fueled awareness, documentation and advocacy of woman rights.

### **Barriers and Facilitators to Access to Justice for Women and Girls**

The structural, cultural, economic, and institutional factors of access to justice by women and girls in Nigeria are interacting in a complex manner. Obstacles to justice still exist at several levels, which on many occasions perpetuate gender disparity and social marginalization (Olonade et al., 2021). Among the key obstacles is poor knowledge of the law that many women and girls have no idea about their rights and justice systems that can help them, which prevents them to speak up and report abuse. Financial limitations are also important since legal counsel, paperwork, and court charges are mostly out of reach especially among women in low-income and rural areas (Lwamba et al., 2022). The access is also limited by geographical distance and poor infrastructure as most of the rural regions are not close to police stations, courts or legal aid centers. The cultural and religious values that have elevated the male dominance, do not encourage women to pursue justice particularly when matters are related to family or sexual assault. Victims are usually silenced by stigma, fear of retaliation, and pressure in communities (Sepulveda & Donald, 2014). In addition, corruption and delays in the justice process, and gender bias in the police and courts are institutionalized and hinder the confidence of the justice system. Women with disabilities and adolescent girls have increased challenges that are compounded with cases of discrimination, barriers in communication, and absence of child- or disability-friendly facilities. In spite of all these obstacles, there are some facilitators that have been developed to help women and girls to get access to justice. Following the emergence of community-based legal aid groups and peer paralegal trainings, justice has been even more accessible to the marginalized groups of the population. These measures establish trust, increase awareness of the law, and offer low-cost services. The women organizations especially FIDA and WACOL are very active in the area of advocacy and legal assistance as well as in raising awareness; this organization is giving bigger voices to women in terms of policy change (Hinman et al., 2023). Moreover, technological based interventions have increased the legal reach, including toll free hotlines, internet-based complaint systems and educational awareness programs about gender-based violence through social media. Gender equality policies and acts such as Violence against Persons (Prohibition) Act (VAPP) and Child Rights Act are also legally embedded to offer protection and remedy but are not much enforced (Mutinta, 2025). Although the obstacles that act against women and girls accessing justice in Nigeria are still deeply rooted, the interventions which are multifaceted in terms of

legal education and awareness of institutional reforms as well as community involvement and participation still play a critical role in bringing about equitable and inclusive access to justice (Majekodunmi et al., 2024).

## METHODOLOGY

The research design to be adopted in this study is quantitative research design, to evaluate how legal awareness and empowerment program influences capacity of women and girls in Nigeria to assert their rights. A quantitative method would provide the ability to gather measurable data of a large group of participants, with an opportunity to compare the results statistically in different categories related to demography and context, including age, locality, education, and disability. The sampling will be stratified to allow coverage of various contexts such as rural and urban setting, out of school children, young mothers and youth with disabilities. The participants will be drawn to areas, where legal awareness campaigns, including peer paralegal programs, legal clinics, hotlines, and digital platforms are in operation. Such a method guarantees diversity and inclusivity, which will capture the individual experiences and perceptions of adolescent girls and young women in varying socio-economic conditions. The structured survey questionnaire will be used to collect data through community consultations. The questionnaire will contain the closed-ended questions and Likert-scale questions to address the knowledge of legal rights, the access to the justice mechanisms, and the effectiveness of different empowerment interventions among participants. The questionnaires will be administered both in person and digitally to cover respondents with a different level of literacy and access to the internet. Ethical implications will be adhered to in the research process. All participants will be informed and consent provided (parental or guardian consent will be required in case of minors). Data records will not contain personal identifiers which will guarantee confidentiality and anonymity. There will be safeguarding mechanisms to avoid retraumatization and harm to participants, particularly in instances where sensitive matters are involved such as gender-based violence or discrimination. Data analysis will be performed by means of statistical methods, such as descriptive statistics to summarize the responses and inferential analysis to determine the significant relationships between the intervention exposure and the results. The data will be processed by statistical software (SPSS), which will provide empirical evidence of the effectiveness of legal empowerment programs in various settings.

## RESULTS

Table 1: Participant Demographics

Variable	Category	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
<b>Age Group</b>	15–19 years	60	20.0
	20–24 years	90	30.0
	25–29 years	80	27.0
	30 years and above	70	23.0
<b>Location</b>	Urban	120	40.0
	Rural	180	60.0
<b>Education Level</b>	No formal education	40	13.0
	Primary	60	20.0
	Secondary	100	33.0
	Tertiary	100	33.0
<b>Marital/Parental Status</b>	Single	110	37.0
		130	43.0

	Married/Partnered Young mothers	60	20.0
<b>Disability Status</b>	Young mothers	60	20.0
	With disability	40	13.0
	Without disability	200	87.0
<b>Occupation Status</b>	In school/student	90	30.0
	Out of school	80	27.0
	Self-employed	70	23.0
	Unemployed	60	20.0

Table 1 shows the number of participants in the study who were 300 people with the distribution of the demographics. Most of them were in the 20-29 age group (57 percent of the respondents), with the rural (60 percent) respondents slightly ahead of urban respondents. The majority of them were moderately literate people, having at least secondary education (66). The study was based on vulnerable groups, which means that married women and young mothers made 63. There was predominance of participants who were without disability (87%), but there was representational balance through inclusion of persons with disability. The occupation information indicates that 50 percent were students or out of school after which legal empowerment programs that focus on younger and less financially secure women need to be supported.

### Research question 2

What factors influence women’s and girls’ ability to access and benefit from legal awareness and empowerment programs such as peer paralegals, hotlines, legal clinics, and digital platforms in Nigeria?

Table 2: Factors Influencing Access to Legal Awareness and Empowerment Programs

S/N	Statement	Mean (x)	Standard Deviation (S.D)	Agreement (%)	Remark
1.	Does high cost of legal services limits access to programs?	4.2	0.8	85%	Strongly agreed
2.	Distance to legal clinics or paralegal offices is a barrier?	3.9	0.9	78%	Agreed
3.	Lack of awareness of available programs prevents participation?	4.5	0.6	90%	Strongly Agreed
4.	Cultural norms discourage women from seeking legal support?	4.1	0.7	83%	Strongly Agreed
5.	Limited digital literacy or internet access restricts use of online platforms?	3.7	1.0	72.0%	Agreed

According to Table 2, the most important barriers to the access of women and girls to legal empowerment programs are lack of awareness of available programs (90%), and fear of stigma or retaliation (88%). Participation is also severely restricted by high cost (85%), cultural norms (83%), distance to clinics (78%), and program inclusivity (80%). A significant limitation is limited digital literacy or internet access (72%), which may be a significant restriction, especially in the case of technology-based interventions. In general, the results point to the importance of both structural and socio-cultural barriers to access and the necessity to engage and

implement specific, community-responsive approaches to enhance the reach, inclusivity, and effectiveness of legal awareness campaigns.

### Research question 3

How effective are these legal empowerment interventions in improving knowledge of legal rights, confidence to seek justice, and willingness to report rights violations among adolescent girls and young women?

Table 3: Effectiveness of Legal Empowerment Interventions

S/N	Statement	Mean (x)	Standard Deviation (S.D)	Agreement (%)	Remark
1.	Peer paralegals have improved my knowledge of legal rights?	4.3	0.7	88%	Strongly agreed
2.	Legal clinics increase my confidence to seek justice?	4.1	0.8	83%	Strongly agreed
3.	Hotlines help me report rights violations safely and confidentially?	4.0	0.9	80%	Agreed
4.	Digital platforms enhance my understanding of available legal remedies?	3.8	1.0	75%	Agreed
5.	Programs are inclusive and accessible to adolescents and young women?	3.7	1.1	73.0%	Agreed
6.	Exposure to these interventions increases my willingness to take legal action	4.2	0.8	85%	Strongly agreed

Table 3 reveals that legal empowerment interventions tend to be effective in increasing knowledge of rights to seek justice, confidence to seek justice, and willingness to report about rights violations among adolescent girls and young women. The highest mean (4.3) and agreement (88%) were on peer paralegals, which shows a high impact in the development of legal literacy. Confidence (mean 4.1, 83%) and willingness to act (mean 4.2, 85%) were also greatly boosted by legal clinic and exposure to interventions. The effectiveness of hotlines and digital platforms was moderate, and the level of agreement was slightly lower. Generally, the results provide evidence that community-based, accessible, and interactive interventions are the most effective in the legal empowerment of women and girls.

### Research question 4

What strategies can strengthen the inclusiveness and sustainability of legal empowerment initiatives, particularly for marginalized groups such as rural women, out-of-school youth, young mothers, and persons with disabilities?

Table 4: Strategies to Strengthen Inclusiveness and Sustainability of Legal Empowerment Initiatives.

S/N	Statement	Mean (x)	Standard Deviation (S.D)	Agreement (%)	Remark
1.	Increase community outreach and awareness campaigns targeting rural areas?	4.4	0.7	90%	Strongly agreed

2.	Provide multilingual and culturally sensitive materials for programs?	4.2	0.8	85%	Strongly agreed
3.	Expand hotline and digital platform access, including offline options?	4.0	0.9	80%	Agreed
4.	Develop youth- and disability-friendly program formats?	4.3	0.7	88%	Strongly agreed
5.	Strengthen partnerships between NGOs, community leaders, and government?	4.1	0.7	83.0%	Strongly agreed
6.	Regular monitoring and evaluation of program effectiveness?	4.0	0.9	80%	Agreed

Table 4 shows that there is a high agreement in terms of policy measures to improve the inclusiveness and sustainability of legal empowerment efforts against marginalized populations. Most critical were seen to be increasing community outreach in rural (90% agreement) and building youth- and disability-friendly program formats (88%). Enhanced collaboration between NGOs, community leaders, and government (83) and multilingual and culturally sensitive materials (85) were also very appreciated. An increase in hotline/digital platform access (80%), and regular monitoring and evaluation (80%), were both agreed to be relevant in terms of long-term program effectiveness. Overall, participants underline that the availability of culturally responsive and well-coordinated interventions is the determinant of empowering women and girls in various settings.

Table 5: Comparison of Legal Empowerment Intervention

S/N	Group	Knowledge of Legal Rights Mean (x)	Confidence to Seek Justice (Mean x)	Willingness to Report Violations (Mean x)	Agreement (%)	Remark
1.	Rural women	3.9	3.8	3.7	78%	Moderate effectiveness
2.	Urban women	4.2	4.1	4.0	83%	Strong effectiveness
3.	Out-of-school youth	3.8	3.7	3.6	74%	Moderate effectiveness
4.	Young mothers	4.0	3.9	3.8	80%	Moderate to strong
5.	Youth with disabilities	3.7	3.6	3.5	73.0%	Limited access & impact

Table 5 shows significant differences in how legal empowerment interventions are effective in various contexts. Women in cities scored highest on the knowledge of legal rights (4.2), confidence to pursue justice (4.1), and readiness to report violations (4.0) which indicated that they had better access and were more involved in the programs. Rural women, out-of-school children and youth, youth mothers and youth with disabilities had lower mean scores (3.5-4.0), which means that interventions have limited reach and impact in these populations. Young people with disabilities experienced the most barriers, which is why program designs are to be more inclusive, accessible, and specific. Overall, the results support the significance of context-specific measures to guarantee fair legal empowerment.

## DISCUSSION

The results of this study have shown that legal awareness and empowerment education helps to increase the knowledge of legal rights, the confidence to pursue justice, and the readiness to report violations by significantly increasing the confidence in seeking justice and willing to report violations among the adolescent girls and young women. These findings resonate with the assumptions of the rights-based approach and legal empowerment theory, which hold that access to information and participatory systems can help marginalized groups to demand their rights and interact with the justice systems. Interventions with the greatest effect on legal literacy and confidence were community based, especially peer paralegal interventions. This is in line with previous argument that informal and localized models of offering legal assistance through a trust-based relationship are more useful in situations in which the formal institution is considered remote or threatening. Nevertheless, the research also points at the inability to overcome structural and contextual obstacles. Rural residents, out-of-schoolers, young mothers, and people with disabilities reported the lowest access and effectiveness levels in terms of program access and program performance. These inequalities mirror the intersectional character of exclusion: gender inequality is interacting with poverty, disability, geographic remoteness, and limited education to limit legal agency. The intersectionality framework is important because the same intervention gives disproportionate effects and that the application of differentiated strategies that can tackle several dimensions of the disadvantage at the same time is essential. The middle effect of the digital platforms and hotlines also explains the significance of accessibility. Though technological solutions are more far reachable, they require internet access and digital literacy- none of which is even across the board. This implies that digital technology cannot substitute community outreach and face-to-face services. It is possible that hybrid models an offline-assisted online resource can become a more inclusive way to empowerment. On the policy side, the findings highlight how the issue of providing information alone is not merely the case with legal empowerment but also requires supportive ecosystems. The government agencies, civil society organizations and the community leaders can cooperate to enhance the sustainability of the programs and the cultural legitimacy. Monitoring and evaluation systems, also have their place in monitoring outcomes and evidence-based refinement of the interventions. The absence of systematic data collection and feedback loops endangers the program stagnation and its low scalability. The paper also adds on to the bigger political debate on gender justice and development. The empowerment of women and girls to pursue justice is not only an issue to do with the rights of individuals, but it also aids in social inclusion, economic inclusion, and democratization. Once the discriminated groups are able to oppose the discrimination and seek solutions, the institutions become more responsible and the societies more fair. These are the results that are echoed by the development goals of the United Nations Development Programme, which focuses on the importance of justice and rule of law in human development. However, restrictions should be accepted. The quantitative design presents general trends but is not able to detail experiences or contextual peculiarities. Future studies must combine both qualitative research approaches to examine the perceptions of empowerment and obstacles in more detail: both interviews and focus groups. The longitudinal research would also assist to determine whether the observed increase or decrease in knowledge and confidence leads to lasting behavior and legal consequences in the end.

## RECOMMENDATION

### 1. Expand Community-Based Legal Awareness Programs

- a. **Action:** Peer paralegal programs should be expanded to cover every district with the partnership of NGOs and community organizations with the Ministry of Justice placing special emphasis on rural areas, out-of-school youth, young mothers, and youth with disabilities. Schools need to incorporate age-based legal literacy courses in school.
- b. **Monitoring & Evaluation:** Monitor the access of girls and young women to legal assistance, workshops or the use of community paralegals.
- c. **Timeline & Indicator:** Implementation within 3 years; an increase of at least 20% in the number of participants in each district each year, and disaggregated by age, location and disability.

## Strengthen Digital Platforms and Hotlines

- d. **Action:** The NGOs and government agencies need to strengthen online legal assistance programs and hotlines, such as offline access to the services and multilingual services.
- e. **Monitoring & Evaluation:** Track the use of hotlines, visits to the digital platform, and the number of cases solved with the help of online support.
- f. **Timeline & Indicator:** Upgrade of the platform and campaigns in 12 months; 30% growth in reported cases on digital platforms each year.

## 2. Ensure Program Inclusivity and Accessibility

- a. **Action:** The design of programs should be youth and disability-friendly, culturally sensitive, and multilingual to all the stakeholders. Inclusive sessions could be organised in schools and community centres.
- b. **Monitoring & Evaluation:** Accessibility audit and survey participant satisfaction audit and track participation rates of marginalized groups.
- c. **Timeline & Indicator:** Adopt in 18 months; at least half of programs available to youth with disabilities and other marginalized groups in two years.

## 3. Regular Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

- a. **Action:** Create a joint M&E system between the Ministry of Justice, NGOs, and community organizations to monitor the outcomes and change the strategies.
- b. **Monitoring & Evaluation:** Monitor such indicators as reported cases of rights violations, legal aid requests, and increased knowledge of the participants.
- c. **Timeline & Indicator:** Continuous; quarterly report and annual impact evaluation in order to make improvements in the program.

## CONCLUSION

This paper has established that legal awareness and empowerment initiatives are very vital in empowering the ability of adolescent girls and young women to assert their rights in Nigeria. Community-based efforts, especially peer paralegals, legal clinics, and hotlines, played a big role in enhancing the knowledge of the participants about the rights to the law and their readiness to use the justice systems. The findings confirm the fundamental premises of the rights-based approach and legal empowerment theory: by educating people and empowering them, one is better prepared to fight injustice and find solutions. The study also however points out significant disparities in access to and effectiveness of programs. There were higher benefits to the urban participants compared to rural women, out-of-school youth, young mothers, and persons with disabilities. These differences are an indication of structural and socio-cultural impediments that need specific action. The design of the inclusive programs, multilingual materials, disability friendly formats, and community outreach are necessary to make sure that no population group is discriminated. The legal empowerment should be context-sensitive and cross-cutting which will take into account the multi-faceted realities of women and girls as opposed to homogenous needs. The paper also highlights the role of sustainability and cooperation between institutions. Legal empowerment cannot be based on short-term projects but it should be long-term investment and coordination of government agencies, non-governmental organizations and community actors. Program design should include the use of monitoring and evaluation frameworks to produce evidence on the need to continuously improve. Decision-making that is founded on data will boost accountability and maximization of impact. Gender equality and access to justice can be achieved through legal awareness and empowerment programs as a possible way. These programs have the potential to bridge knowledge gaps and empower marginalized communities when rescaled and empowered with community involvement, technological innovation, and the inclusion approach. The wider good of society wherein there is increased legal agency, decreased discrimination, and increased institutional accountability are

consistent with the national development objectives and national human rights undertakings. These results will require long-term political will, sufficient resources, and evidence-based policy.

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