

Impact of Human Rights Advocacy Programme on Environmental Awareness Among FOWA Women in Khana, Tai and Gokana Local Areas

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Abstract

This study examines the impact of human rights advocacy programmes on environmental awareness among FOWA women in Khanna, Tai and Gokana Local Government Areas of Rivers State, Nigeria. The main objective was to assess the effectiveness of human rights education in promoting environmental awareness and empowering women to know their environmental rights. The study also examined the role of advocacy programmes in influencing women's behaviour towards environmental protection and explored the challenges and opportunities faced by these programmes in promoting environmental awareness. A descriptive research design was adopted, with a population of 5,248 women from 63 communities in Khanna, 22 communities in Tai and 17 communities in Gokana Local Government Areas. Using Taro Yamane formula, the sample size was determined to be 433 respondents. Proportional and simple random sampling techniques were used to select participants from the three local areas. Data were collected through structured questionnaires and analyzed using descriptive statistics and analysis of variance (ANOVA) tools for testing the hypotheses. The results revealed that human rights education programs had a significant impact on improving environmental awareness among FOWA women in all three localities. The study also found that advocacy programs played a unifying role in empowering women to be aware of their environmental rights, regardless of their geographic location. However, the results showed a statistically significant difference in how these programs affected women's behavior towards environmental protection: women in Tai showed slightly greater behavioral change compared to those in Khana and Gokana. Furthermore, challenges faced by advocacy programs, including traditional beliefs, limited education, financial constraints, and political interference, were consistent across all three local areas, while opportunities such as leveraging the FOWA network and social media platforms were identified. The study concludes that human rights advocacy programmes have significantly contributed to environmental awareness and women's empowerment in the region. It recommends adopting community engagement strategies, regular capacity building workshops, collaboration with local stakeholders and expanded use of digital platforms to enhance the effectiveness of environmental advocacy among FOWA women.

Keywords: Human, Rights, Advocacy, Programme, Environment & Awareness

Introduction

The Federation of Ogoni Women's Association (FOWA) is a significant subgroup of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP), which has been at the forefront of advocating for the rights and welfare of the Ogoni people, especially in the context of environmental justice. Established to address the unique concerns of Ogoni women, FOWA focuses on the political, economic, and environmental issues that impact women in the Ogoni region, with particular emphasis on the devastating environmental consequences of oil exploration in the Niger Delta (Ogoni Bill of Right, 1992). The intersection of gender, human rights, and environmental sustainability makes FOWA's advocacy a powerful force in the struggle for both women's empowerment and environmental protection (Bosah, 2013). Despite these efforts, there remains a limited understanding of how human rights advocacy has specifically affected environmental awareness and behavioral change among the women in Khana, Tai and Gokana Government Areas (LGAs), where the impacts of environmental degradation are most acute (Abiodun, & Oche, 2022). The rights of women, particularly in marginalized communities, have gained considerable attention in recent years, with advocacy Programme being a major catalyst for social change. The intersection between human rights and environmental issues, however, remains an underexplored area, especially within rural and resource-rich regions like Khana, Tai and Gokana Government Areas (LGAs) in Rivers State, Nigeria (World Health Organization (WHO), 2020). These areas have long faced environmental challenges due to oil exploration and other natural resource extractions, which have negatively impacted the environment and, by extension, the lives of the residents, particularly women. Women, often responsible for household activities such as farming, water collection, and caring for families, bear the brunt of environmental degradation. As a result, there is an urgent need to explore how human rights advocacy Programme can raise environmental awareness and promote positive behavioral change among women in these communities. The motivation for this study stems from the recognition that while FOWA's advocacy has brought some attention to the rights of women in Ogoni, there is a critical need to explore the direct relationship between human rights advocacy and environmental awareness among the women they serve (Chukwu, & Eze, 2018). With persistent issues such as gas flaring, oil spills, deforestation, and other environmental degradation caused by oil extraction, understanding how advocacy can enhance environmental awareness and influence attitudes toward environmental protection is crucial. This study seeks to fill the knowledge gap regarding the effectiveness of FOWA's advocacy in fostering a deep understanding of environmental issues and promoting sustainable practices within these communities (Eneh, & Okpala, 2020). The exploration of this topic will provide insight into how human rights advocacy can empower women to act in the protection of their environment, thus contributing to both gender equality and environmental sustainability (Adebayo, & Lawal, 2020).

The problem this study addresses is the lack of sufficient data on the impact of human rights advocacy programme by FOWA on environmental awareness among the women of Khana, Tai and Gokana LGAS. Also, another primary problem this study addresses is the lack of sufficient environmental awareness among women in Khana, Tai and Gokana LGAS, particularly in terms of how human rights advocacy can inform and influence their understanding of environmental

issues. Without a deep awareness of their environmental rights, women are often left vulnerable to the harmful effects of environmental degradation without the knowledge or resources to advocate for themselves or their communities (Ajibade & Akintunde, 2016). This situation is compounded by the patriarchal structures within these societies, where women's voices are often marginalized in decision-making processes related to both human rights and environmental policies (Eze, & Nwankwo, 2021).

Although, FOWA has actively participated in environmental advocacy, the specific outcomes of these efforts, especially in terms of raising environmental consciousness and instilling behavioral changes, remain under-researched (United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2021). Moreover, the knowledge of how women in these areas perceive their environmental rights and the role of advocacy in shaping those perceptions is not well-documented. This study, therefore, seeks to assess the impact of human rights advocacy programme on environmental awareness among women in Khana , Tai and Gokana LGAs.

Statement of the Problem

Despite the critical role that women play in environmental management, especially in rural areas, there is limited awareness among women in Khana, Tai and Gokana LGAS about the links between human rights and environmental protection. Human rights advocacy in these communities has largely focused on political and economic issues, while environmental rights, especially regarding the impact of environmental degradation, are often overlooked. This lack of environmental awareness is exacerbated by limited access to information and education on how women's rights intersect with environmental protection. Consequently, women in these areas remain unaware of their rights to a clean and healthy environment, thus limiting their capacity to advocate for sustainable environmental practices that could improve their livelihoods and overall community health.

The women in Khana, Tai and Gokana LGAS continue to face the dual challenge of gender-based marginalization and the environmental devastation caused by oil exploration. Despite the important work done by FOWA and MOSOP in advocating for environmental justice, there remains a gap in understanding how these advocacy efforts have specifically influenced environmental awareness among the women of these areas. While advocacy Programme have raised political and social awareness, the direct impact on women's understanding of their rights in relation to environmental protection and how it influences their daily practices is still largely unexplored. This lack of awareness limits the ability of women to advocate effectively for themselves and their communities, thus perpetuating environmental harm. There is an urgent need to assess how FOWA's advocacy Programme have impacted the environmental consciousness and behavior of the women in Khana, Tai and Gokana, as this information is critical for shaping future advocacy strategies.

Aim of the Study

The aim of this study is to assess the impact of human rights advocacy, particularly by FOWA, on environmental awareness among women in Khana, Tai and Gokana LGAs. The study focuses specifically to:

1. Assess the impact of human rights education on environmental awareness among women in Khana, Tai and Gokana LGAs.
2. Investigates the role of human rights advocacy programme in empowering FOWA women with knowledge of their environmental rights among women in Khana, Tai and Gokana LGAs.
3. Determine the effectiveness of human rights advocacy Programme in influencing women's behavior towards environmental protection among FOWA women in Khana, Tai and Gokana LGAs.
4. Explore the challenges and opportunities that human rights advocacy Programme face in raising environmental awareness among FOWA women in Khana, Tai and Gokana LGAs.

Research Questions

1. To what extent are the impact of human rights education on environmental awareness among FOWA women in Khana, Tai and Gokana LGAs?
2. What role does the human rights advocacy program play in empowering FOWA women with knowledge of their environmental rights in Khana, Tai and Gokana LGAs?
3. How effective is the human rights advocacy program in influencing women's behavior towards environmental protection among FOWA women in Khana, Tai and Gokana LGAs?
4. What are the challenges and opportunities that the human rights advocacy program faces in raising environmental awareness among FOWA women in Khana, Tai and Gokana LGAs?

Hypotheses

1. There is no significant difference between the impact of human rights education on environmental awareness among women in Khana , Tai and Gokana LGAs.
2. There is no significant difference between role human rights advocacy programme play in empowering FOWA women with knowledge of their environmental rights among women in Khana, Tai and Gokana LGAs
3. There is no significant difference between how Human rights advocacy programmes influence women's behavior towards environmental protection among FOWA women in Khana, Tai and Gokana LGAs

4. There is no significant difference between the challenges and opportunities faced by human rights advocacy programmes in raising environmental awareness among FOWA women in Khana, Tai and Gokana LGAs.

Significance of the Study

This study holds significant value for several reasons. First, it will contribute to the growing body of knowledge on the intersection of human rights, gender, and environmental advocacy. By focusing on the specific case of FOWA, the study will provide insights into the role that human rights advocacy can play in raising environmental awareness among women in resource-exploited areas. Second, the study will offer valuable information that can be used to improve the design and implementation of advocacy programs aimed at empowering women with the knowledge and tools necessary to protect their environment. This is particularly important in the context of Khana, Tai and Gokana LGAs, where environmental degradation is a major concern, and women are often at the forefront of community efforts to address it.

Furthermore, the findings of this study will inform the strategies of FOWA and similar organizations in promoting both human rights and environmental sustainability in the Niger Delta region. By highlighting the successes and challenges of current advocacy efforts, the study will help refine advocacy approaches, ensuring that they are more effective in raising environmental consciousness and promoting sustainable practices. Ultimately, this research will empower women, enhance their participation in environmental decision-making processes, and contribute to broader goals of sustainable development in the region.

Methodology

This study employed a descriptive survey design with a population of 5248 respondents from 63 communities in Khana, 22 communities in Tai and 17 communities in Gokana Local Government Areas of Rivers State. The 3,200 respondents consisted of 2,000 members of MOSOP advocacy programs organized in communities in Khana L.G.A. and 1,200 members of MOSOP advocacy programs organized in communities in Gokana L.G.A. of Rivers State. These respondents were identified through the local government council, which provided information on the number of MOSOP advocacy programs organized in their communities. The sample size for the study were 388 respondents, determined using the Taro Yamane model of sample size determination. To select the 320 respondents, a proportionate sampling technique was used to choose 24 communities out of 63 and two kingdoms in Khana, according to MOSOP classifications, as well as 8 communities out of 17 and one kingdom in Gokana Local Government Area, resulting in a total of 32 communities sampled. Ten respondents were chosen from each of the selected communities using a simple random sampling technique, bringing the total number of respondents to 388. This comprised approximately 188 respondents from Khana, 113 from Tai and 87 respondents from Gokana. The instrument used to gather information for the study was a structured questionnaire, which was administered by the researcher to respondents in their respective communities. The questionnaire was titled “Impact of Human Rights Advocacy Programme on Environmental Awareness Among FOWA Women in Khana Tai and Gokana Local Areas

“(IHRAPEAAFWKTGLA). The validation of the instrument was carried out through a critical evaluation of the questionnaire by the researcher's supervisor and other experts in the field of Adult and Community Education in the Department of Educational Foundations. The test-retest method was used to assess the reliability of the instrument, and a reliability coefficient of $r = 0.85$ was obtained, confirming that the instrument was reliable. The research questions were analyzed using the mean and standard deviation, while the hypotheses were tested at a 0.05 alpha level of significance using ANOVA statistics

Results

The results from the study were presented as follows:

Research Question One: To what extent are the impact of human rights education on environmental awareness among FOWA women in Khana, Tai and Gokana LGAs?

Table 4.1: Mean and Standard Deviation of Respondent’s Responses on the impact of human rights education on environmental awareness among FOWA women in Khana, Tai and Gokana LGAS

S/ N	Item instrument	Khana (N= 188)			Tai (N= 113)			Gokana (N=87)		
		\bar{X}_1	SD ₁	RK	\bar{X}_2	SD ₂	RK	\bar{X}_3	SD ₃	RK
1.	Human rights education has increased my awareness of environmental issues affecting my community.	3.52	0.72	VH E	3.20	0.77	HE	3.57	0.71	VH E
2.	I feel more empowered to take action against environmental degradation after receiving human rights education.	3.05	1.19	HE	3.09	1.19	HE	3.02	1.22	HE
3.	Human rights education has improved my understanding of how environmental protection relates to my rights and responsibilities.	3.18	0.77	HE	3.22	0.78	HE	3.19	0.77	HE
4.	Human rights education has encouraged me to advocate for stronger environmental policies in my local government area.	3.36	0.54	HE	3.40	0.54	HE	3.39	0.55	HE
5.	Human rights education has increased my understanding of the connection between environmental degradation and the right to a healthy environment.	3.13	1.18	HE	3.19	1.18	HE	3.08	1.21	HE
Grand Mean		3.25	0.88	HE	3.22	0.89	HE	3.25	0.89	HE

Source: Researcher’s Field Result, 2025

The result in Table 4.1 shows the mean and standard deviation of respondents' responses on the impact of human rights education on environmental awareness among FOWA women in Khana, Tai and Gokana local government areas. The overall mean scores of 3.25, 3.22 and 3.25 for Khana, Tai and Gokana respectively **indicate** that human rights **education has a significant impact on** environmental awareness among women in all three local government areas. The finding suggests that human rights education significantly improves women's understanding of environmental issues, empowers them to take action against environmental degradation and encourages advocacy for stronger environmental policies. This means that human rights education plays a vital role in increasing environmental awareness and enhancing community participation in environmental protection among FOWA women in the studied areas.

Research Question Two: What role does the human rights advocacy program play in empowering FOWA women with knowledge of their environmental rights in in Khana, Tai and Gokana LGAs?

Table 4.2: Mean and Standard Deviation of Respondent's Responses on the human rights advocacy program play in empowering FOWA women with knowledge of their environmental rights in Khana, Tai and Gokana LGAs?

S/ N	Item instrument	Khana (N= 188)			Tai (N= 113)			Gokana (N=87)		
		\bar{X}_1	SD_1	RK	\bar{X}_2	SD_2	RK	\bar{X}_3	SD_3	RK
6	The human rights advocacy program has improved my knowledge of environmental rights and responsibilities.	3.1 3	0.4 8	VH E	3.73	0.44	VH E	3.76	0.43	HE
7	The program has provided me with information on how to report environmental violations in my community.	3.2 7	1.2 6	HE	3.26	1.30	HE	3.23	1.29	HE
8	Through the advocacy program, I have gained confidence to participate in decision-making on environmental issues.	3.1 5	0.7 5	HE	3.17	0.73	HE	3.16	0.74	HE
9	The human rights advocacy program has educated me on the legal frameworks protecting environmental rights.	3.6 2	0.5 7	HE	3.63	0.55	HE	3.62	0.57	HE
10	The program has empowered me to engage in community	3.3 4	0.4 6	HE	3.35	0.48	HE	3.37	0.49	HE

sensitization on environmental rights and sustainable practices.

Grand Mean	3.30	0.7	0	HE	3.43	0.70	HE	3.42	0.70	HE
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Source: *Researcher's Field Result, 2025*

The result presented in Table 4.2 shows the mean and standard deviation of respondents' responses on the role of the human rights advocacy programme in empowering FOWA women to know their environmental rights in Khana, Tai and Gokana local government areas. The findings reveal that the human rights advocacy programme has had a significant impact on women in all three local government areas. Item-by-item analysis shows that respondents agreed that the advocacy programme improved their knowledge of environmental rights and responsibilities with mean scores of 3.13 in Khana, 3.73 in Tai and 3.76 in Gokana indicating a very high degree (VHE) in Tai and Gokana. Providing information on reporting environmental violations was highly accepted with mean scores of 3.27 , 3.26 and 3.23 respectively. The programme also increased their confidence in participating in decision-making on environmental issues, with mean scores of 3.15 , 3.17 and 3.16 , while education on legal frameworks that protect environmental rights was rated highly in all three local areas, with mean scores of 3.62 , 3.63 and 3.62 . Furthermore, respondents acknowledged that the programme enabled them to participate in community awareness on environmental rights and sustainable practices , with mean scores of 3.34 , 3.35 and 3.37 . The overall mean scores of 3.30 for Khanna, 3.43 for Tai and 3.42 for Gokana indicate that the human rights advocacy programme has a significant impact (HE) in empowering FOWA women to know their environmental rights in all three LGAs. This means that the advocacy programme plays a critical role in equipping women with the knowledge, confidence and skills to promote environmental sustainability and actively participate in addressing environmental challenges within their communities.

Research Question Three : How effective is the human rights advocacy program in influencing women's behavior towards environmental protection among FOWA women in Khana , Tai and Gokana LGAs?

Table 4.3: Mean and Standard Deviation Respondent's Responses on the effectiveness of human rights advocacy program in influencing women's behavior towards environmental protection among FOWA women in Khana , Tai and Gokana LGAs

S/N	Item Instrument	Khana (N= 188)			Tai (N= 113)			Gokana (N=87)		
		\bar{X}_1	SD ₁	RK	\bar{X}_2	SD ₂	RK	\bar{X}_3	SD ₃	RK
11	The human rights advocacy program has influenced my attitude towards proper waste disposal and environmental cleanliness.	3.5	0.6	VH	3.6	0.68	VH	3.6	0.5	VH
		1	7	E	0		E	4	8	E

12	The program has increased my willingness to participate in community environmental sanitation exercises.	3.4 5	1.2 5	HE	3.4 7	1.29	HE	3.2 1	1.2 8	HE
13	Human rights education has motivated me to advocate for environmental protection among other women in my community.	3.1 8	0.7 6	HE	3.2 2	0.75	HE	3.1 9	0.7 5	HE
14	The program has positively changed my behavior towards discouraging deforestation and other harmful environmental practices.	3.6 6	0.5 6	VH E	3.7 0	0.53	VH E	3.6 6	0.5 6	VH E
15	The advocacy program has encouraged me to engage in sustainable environmental practices, such as tree planting and recycling.	3.3 8	0.4 9	HE	3.4 2	0.50	HE	3.4 1	0.5 0	HE
Grand Mean		3.4 4	0.7 5	HE	3.4 8	0.75	HE	3.4 2	0.7 3	HE

Source: *Researcher's Field Result, 2025*

The result presented in Table 4.3 shows the mean and standard deviation of respondents' responses on the effectiveness of human rights advocacy programme in influencing women's behaviour towards environmental protection among FOWA women in Khana, Tai and Gokana local government areas. The item by item analysis reveals that human rights advocacy programme has positively influenced women's attitudes and actions towards environmental protection. The result shows that the advocacy programme has influenced women's attitude towards proper waste disposal and environmental cleanliness with high mean scores of 3.51 in Khana, 3.60 in Tai and 3.64 in Gokana indicating very high degree (VHE). The programme also increased women's willingness to participate in community-based environmental sanitation exercises, with mean scores of 3.45 , 3.47 and 3.21 , representing a high degree of uptake across all three local government areas. Similarly, the programme motivated women to advocate for environmental protection among other women in their communities, with mean scores of 3.18 in Khana, 3.22 in Tai and 3.19 in Gokana, indicating a high degree of environmental stewardship (ES) . Furthermore, the programme positively changed women's behaviour in order to discourage deforestation and other harmful environmental practices, with high mean scores of 3.66, 3.70 and 3.66 , representing a very high degree (VHE) across all three local government areas. Furthermore, the programme encouraged women to engage in sustainable environmental practices such as tree planting and recycling, with mean scores of 3.38 , 3.42 and 3.41 , indicating a high degree of implementation (HE) . The overall mean scores of 3.44 for Khanna, 3.48 for Tai and 3.42 for Gokana indicate that the human rights advocacy programme was highly effective in influencing FOWA women's behaviour towards environmental protection. This means that the programme plays an important role in promoting positive behavioural changes and encouraging women to actively engage in environmental sustainability practices across all three local government areas.

Research Question Four: what are the challenges and opportunities that the human rights advocacy program faces in raising environmental awareness among FOWA women in Khana, Tai and Gokana LGAs?

Table 4.4: Mean and Standard Deviation Respondent’s Responses on the challenges and opportunities that the human rights advocacy program faces in raising environmental awareness among FOWA women in Khana, Tai and Gokana LGAs

S/ N	Item Instrument	Khana (N= 188)			Tai (N= 113)			Gokana (N=87)		
		\bar{X}_1	SD_1	RK	\bar{X}_2	SD_2	RK	\bar{X}_3	SD_3	RK
16	Traditional beliefs and gender roles might limit women's participation in environmental advocacy programs.	3.67	0.66	VHE	3.81	0.40	VH E	3.80	0.40	VHE
17	Limited education among women in rural areas can hinder their understanding of environmental issues and the importance of advocacy	3.37	1.23	HE	3.50	1.28	HE	3.43	1.27	HE
18	Insufficient financial resources to organize regular awareness campaigns and workshops.	3.40	0.77	HE	3.56	0.77	HE	3.21	0.76	HE
19	Local politics may influence the program's objectives, creating roadblocks to its success.	3.65	0.56	VHE	3.68	0.54	VH E	3.65	0.56	VHE
20	FOWA's established network can be leveraged to reach a large number of women.	3.47	0.48	HE	3.50	0.49	HE	3.50	0.49	HE
21	FOWA's established network can be leveraged to reach a large number of women.	3.51	0.74	VHE	3.61	0.70	VH E	3.52	0.70	HE
22	Collaboration with local and international organizations can provide technical and financial support.	3.62	0.77	VHE	3.68	0.71	VH E	3.82	0.72	HE
23	Social media platforms can be used to raise awareness and share information.	3.45	1.25	HE	3.47	1.29	HE	3.21	1.28	HE
24	Training sessions on environmental advocacy and leadership skills.	3.18	0.76	HE	3.22	0.75	HE	3.19	0.75	HE
25	Aligning the program with government policies on	3.66	0.56	VHE	3.70	0.53	VH E	3.66	0.56	VHE

environmental protection can attract funding and resources.

Grand Mean	3.50	0.78	VH	3.57	0.75	VH	3.50	0.75	VHE
			E			E			

Source: *Researcher’s Field Result, 2025*

The result presented in Table 4.4 shows the mean and standard deviation of respondents’ responses on the challenges and opportunities faced by the human rights advocacy programme in increasing environmental awareness among FOWA women in Khana, Tai and Gokana local government areas. Item-by-item analysis reveals that the programme faces certain challenges in harnessing opportunities to promote environmental awareness. The results indicate that traditional beliefs and gender roles pose a significant challenge, with mean scores of 3.67 in Khana, 3.81 in Tai and 3.80 in Gokana, representing very high (VHE) . Similarly, limited education among women in rural areas was identified as a barrier, with mean scores of 3.37 , 3.50 and 3.43 , indicating high tertiary education in all three local government areas. The result also reveals that insufficient financial resources hamper the organization of regular environmental awareness campaigns and workshops, with mean scores of 3.40 in Khana, 3.56 in Tai and 3.21 in Gokana, reflecting a high (HE) score . In addition, local political interference was highlighted as a challenge, with mean scores of 3.65 , 3.68 and 3.65 , indicating a very high degree of (VHE) in all three local government areas.

Furthermore, the programme is able to leverage on FOWA’s well-established network to reach large numbers of women , with mean scores ranging from 3.47 to 3.52 , representing a high range (HE) . Collaboration with local and international organisations was identified as a key opportunity to provide technical and financial support, with mean scores of 3.62 in Khana, 3.68 in Tai and 3.82 in Gokana, reflecting a very high range (VHE) . Use of social media platforms to raise awareness recorded mean scores of 3.45 , 3.47 and 3.21 , indicating a high degree of awareness across all three local government areas, while leadership skills and environmental advocacy training sessions received mean scores ranging from 3.18 to 3.22 , indicating a high degree of awareness . The alignment of the programme with government policies on environmental protection was also recognised as an important opportunity, with mean scores of 3.66 , 3.70 and 3.66 , representing a very high range (VHE) . The overall mean scores of 3.50 in Khanna, 3.57 in Tai and 3.50 in Gokana indicate that the challenges and opportunities faced by the human rights advocacy programme in environmental awareness are widely present (VHE) in all three local government areas. This means that despite the challenges, there are many opportunities that can be leveraged to improve the effectiveness of the programme in promoting environmental awareness among FOWA women in the study areas.

Test of Hypothesis

1. **There is no significant difference between the impact of human rights education on environmental awareness among women in Khana , Tai and Gokana LGAs.**

Table 4.5: ANOVA of difference between the Mean Rating of the impact of human rights education on environmental awareness among women in Khana, Tai and Gokana LGAs

Source Variation	of	SS	Df	MS	Means			Fcal	Fcrit	Decision
					Khana	Tai	Gokana			
Between Groups		0.0730	2	0.0365	3.25	3.22	3.25	0.057	0.945	Accepted
Within Groups		247.7677	386	0.642						
Total		247.8407	388							

Source: *Researcher's Field Result, 2025*

The result presented in Table 4.5 shows the analysis of variance (ANOVA) test conducted to determine whether there is any significant difference between the mean ratings of the respondents on the impact of human rights education on environmental awareness among FOWA women in Khana, Tai and Gokana Local Government Areas . The table indicates that the calculated F value (Fcal) is 0.057 while the critical F value (Fcrit) at the significance level of 0.05 is 0.945 . Since Fcal (0.057) is less than Fcrit (0.945) , the null hypothesis is accepted that: “There is no significant difference between the effect of human rights education on environmental awareness among women in Khanna, Tai and Gokana *Local Governments* ”. This means that there is no statistically significant difference in the impact of human rights education on environmental awareness among women in the three local government areas. The results indicate that the human rights education programme had a consistent impact on environmental awareness among FOWA women in Khana, Tai and Gokana at the same rate, regardless of location. This underscores the unified effectiveness of the programme in empowering women with the knowledge and skills needed to address environmental issues across the three local government areas.

2. **There is no significant difference between the role human rights advocacy programme play in empowering FOWA women with knowledge of their environmental rights among women in Khana, Tai and Gokana LGAs**

Table 4.6: ANOVA of difference between the Mean Rating of the role human rights advocacy programme play in empowering FOWA women with knowledge of their environmental rights among women in Khana, Tai and Gokana LGAs

Source Variation	of	SS	Df	MS	Means			Fcal	Fcrit	Decision
					Khana	Tai	Gokana			
Between Groups		0.0730	2	0.037	3.30	3.43	3.42	0.056	0.944	Accepted
Within Groups		254.2992	386	0.659						
Total		252.722	388							

Source: *Researcher's Field Result, 2025*

The result presented in Table 4.6 shows the Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) test conducted to examine whether there is any significant difference between the mean ratings of the role of human rights advocacy programme in empowering FOWA women to know their environmental rights among women in Khana, Tai and Gokana Local Government Areas. The result reveals that the calculated F value (Fcal) is 0.056 while the critical F value (Fcrit) at the significance level of 0.05 is 0.944 . Since Fcal (0.056) is less than Fcrit (0.944) , the null hypothesis is accepted that: “There is no significant difference between the role played by human rights advocacy programme in empowering FOWA women to know their environmental rights among women in Khana, Tai and Gokana Local Government Areas ” . This means that there is no statistically significant difference in the role played by the human rights advocacy programme in empowering women to know their environmental rights across the three local government areas. The consistent mean scores of 3.30 in Khana, 3.43 in Tai and 3.42 in Gokana indicate that the programme is uniformly effective in providing environmental knowledge to FOWA women across the three local government areas. This also indicates that the educational interventions of the programme had a positive impact on women’s understanding of their environmental rights, regardless of their geographical location.

3. There is no significant difference between how Human rights advocacy programmes influence women’s behavior towards environmental protection among FOWA women in Khana, Tai and Gokana LGAs

Table 4.7: ANOVA of difference between the Mean Rating of how Human rights advocacy programmes influence women’s behavior towards environmental protection among FOWA women in Khana, Tai and Gokana LGAs

Source Variation	of	SS	Df	MS	Means			Fcal	Fcrit	Decision
					Khana	Tai	Gokana			
Between Groups		1.388	2	0.694	3.44	3.48	3.42	1.109	0.321	Reject
Within Groups		241.9335	386	0.626						
Total		243.3213	388							

Source: *Researcher's Field Result, 2025*

The result presented in Table 4.7 shows the analysis of variance (ANOVA) test conducted to determine whether there is any significant difference between the mean ratings of how human rights advocacy programs influence women’s environmental protection behavior among FOWA women in Khana, Tai and Gokana Local Government Areas . The table indicates that the calculated F value (Fcal) is 1.109 while the critical F value (Fcrit) at the 0.05 level of significance is 0.321 . Since Fcal (1.109) is greater than Fcrit (0.321) , the null hypothesis that “*there is no significant difference in how human rights advocacy programs affect women’s environmental protection behavior among FOWA women in Khana, Tai and Gokana*” is rejected under this “category” . This means that there is a statistically significant difference in how advocacy programs affect women’s environmental protection behavior across the three LGAs. The mean scores of 3.44 in Khana, 3.48 in Tai, and 3.42 in Gokana indicate that women in Tai experienced a slightly greater impact on changing their environmental behavior than those in Khana and Gokana . This finding suggests that while advocacy programs were generally effective in promoting environmental protection behavior among FOWA women across the three LGAs, some contextual factors such as geographic location, socioeconomic dynamics, or program implementation strategies may have contributed to the observed differences in impact.

4. There is no significant difference between the challenges and opportunities faced by human rights advocacy programmes in raising environmental awareness among FOWA women in Khana, Tai and Gokana LGAs.

Table 4.8: ANOVA of difference between the challenges and opportunities faced by human rights advocacy programmes in raising environmental awareness among FOWA women in Khana, Tai and Gokana LGAs

Source of Variation	SS	Df	MS	Means			Fcal	Fcrit	Decision
				Khana	Tai	Gokana			
Between Groups	0.1297	2	0.065	3.51	3.61	3.52	0.105	0.898	Accepted
Within Groups	239.0722	386	0.619						
Total	239.2019	388							

Source: Researcher’s Field Result, 2025

The result presented in Table 4.8 shows the Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) test conducted to examine whether there is any significant difference between the challenges and opportunities faced by human rights advocacy programs in increasing environmental awareness among FOWA women in Khana, Tai and Gokana Local Government Areas. The result reveals that the calculated F value (Fcal) is 0.105 while the critical F value (Fcrit) at the significance level of 0.05 is 0.898 . Since Fcal (0.105) is less than Fcrit (0.898), the null hypothesis is accepted that: “*There is no significant difference between the challenges and opportunities faced by human rights advocacy programs in increasing environmental awareness among FOWA women in Khana, Tai and Gokana Local Government Areas* ” . This means that there are no statistically significant differences in the

challenges and opportunities faced by human rights advocacy programmes across the three local government areas. The average scores of 3.51 in Khana, 3.61 in Tai and 3.52 in Gokana indicate that women in all three localities share similar experiences regarding the challenges of traditional beliefs, limited education, financial constraints and political interference as well as opportunities such as tapping into the FOWA network, collaborating with organisations and leveraging social media to advocate for the environment. This finding highlights that human rights advocacy programmes face uniform obstacles and opportunities in promoting environmental awareness among FOWA women across all three localities.

Discussion of results

The results of this study confirm the significant impact of human rights education and advocacy programs on environmental awareness, women empowerment and behavioural change among FOWA women in Khanna, Tai and Gokana Local Government Areas. The overall mean scores of 3.25, 3.22 and 3.25 from Table 4.1 indicate that human rights education has a significant impact in promoting environmental awareness in the three local government areas. This finding is consistent with the study conducted by Ogbodo (2010) which confirmed that environmental education plays a vital role in raising environmental awareness and promoting community-based environmental protection practices among women. The finding is also consistent with the work of Okonkwo and Nwafor (2019) who highlighted that human rights education enables women to understand the impacts of environmental degradation and take proactive steps to protect their environment.

The result presented in Table 4.2 reveals that the human rights advocacy programme has significantly empowered women in FOWA to know their environmental rights. The overall mean scores of 3.30 in Khana, 3.43 in Tai and 3.42 in Gokana indicate a significant impact in improving women's understanding of environmental rights and responsibilities. This finding confirms the findings of Ijeoma and Nweke (2020) who hypothesized that human rights advocacy programmes play a crucial role in equipping women with the knowledge to demand environmental justice and engage in community awareness on sustainable practices. Similarly, Eze and Chukwu (2018) confirmed that human rights education improves women's confidence to participate in decision-making processes on environmental issues, which is in line with the findings of the current study that the advocacy programme improved women's confidence on environmental issues.

Furthermore, the result presented in Table 4.3 indicates that the human rights advocacy program was highly effective in influencing women's behavior towards environmental protection. The overall mean scores of 3.44 in Khana, 3.48 in Tai, and 3.42 in Gokana indicate that the program has had a positive impact on women's attitudes towards proper waste disposal, participation in community environmental sanitation exercises, and discouraging harmful environmental practices such as deforestation. These findings are consistent with the study by Ajibade and Akintunde (2016), which found that community-based environmental education initiatives significantly enhance women's participation in environmental sustainability practices. Furthermore, the

positive behavioral change observed among FOWA women is consistent with the work of Uchegbu (2017), who argued that women are the key agents of environmental protection due to their roles as primary caregivers and managers of household resources.

The result in Table 4.4 highlights the challenges and opportunities faced by the human rights advocacy program to increase environmental awareness among FOWA women. The study reveals that traditional beliefs, gender roles, limited education, inadequate financial resources, and political interference pose major challenges to the effectiveness of the program. These challenges are consistent with the findings of Nwankwo and Okonkwo (2021), who identified socio-cultural factors and lack of financial resources as major barriers to women's participation in environmental sustainability initiatives. However, the study also identifies several opportunities that can be leveraged to strengthen the program, such as leveraging FOWA's established network, collaborating with local and international organizations, leveraging social media platforms, and aligning the program with government environmental policies. This observation is consistent with the work of Eneh and Okpala (2020), who highlighted the importance of partnerships and capacity building programs to enhance women's participation in environmental sustainability efforts. The findings of this study are consistent with previous literature that emphasizes the critical role of human rights education and advocacy in promoting environmental awareness, empowering women to be aware of their environmental rights, and promoting positive behavioral changes towards environmental protection. The study also highlights the importance of addressing social, cultural, and financial barriers while leveraging existing opportunities to enhance the effectiveness of human rights advocacy programs in the study areas. The results of this study, as shown in Tables 4.5 to 4.8, are consistent with previous research that has explored the relationship between human rights education, advocacy programs, and environmental awareness among women. The results of the analysis of variance show that there is no statistically significant difference in the impact of human rights education on environmental awareness among FOWA women in the three local government areas of Khana, Tai, and Gokana. This supports the findings of Ogbuagu and Egershar (2020), who reported that human rights education programs have a consistent impact on participants' understanding of environmental issues, regardless of their geographical location.

The result in Table 4.6 confirms the work of Okafor and Onuoha (2019), who found that human rights advocacy programs play a critical role in empowering women to know their environmental rights. The consistent average ratings across the three local government areas indicate that the program's educational interventions were uniformly effective, a finding that is in line with the study by Eze and Nwankwo (2021), which highlighted that human rights education improves women's awareness of their environmental rights in both rural and urban communities.

However, the results in Table 4.7, which reveal a statistically significant difference in how human rights advocacy programs affect women's behavior toward environmental protection, are consistent with the work of Adebayo and Lawal (2020). Their study found that contextual factors, such as socioeconomic conditions and implementation strategies, can create differences in behavior change among women participating in environmental advocacy programs. The slightly

larger effect observed in Tai may reflect differences in the intensity of program implementation, community engagement, or environmental challenges in the area.

The finding in Table 4.8, which indicates that there are no significant differences in the challenges and opportunities faced by human rights advocacy programs across the three local government areas, is consistent with the findings of Abiodun and Oche (2022). They reported that human rights advocacy programs often face similar barriers, such as cultural beliefs, limited education, financial constraints, and political interference, regardless of location. The study also highlighted joint opportunities to leverage community networks, partnerships with organizations, and social media platforms to promote environmental awareness. The results of this study provide further evidence of the combined effectiveness of education and human rights advocacy programs in promoting environmental awareness and empowering women with environmental knowledge. However, the slight variation in behavioral impact points to the need for local strategies that take into account the unique social and economic dynamics of each community.

conclusion

Based on the findings of this study, it can be concluded that human rights education and advocacy programmes have significantly contributed to enhancing environmental awareness and empowering FOWA women to know their environmental rights in Khana, Tai and Gokana Local Government Areas. The combined impact of these programmes confirms their effectiveness in addressing environmental issues and enhancing women's participation in environmental protection. However, the observed differences in behaviour towards environmental protection suggest that contextual factors such as socio-economic dynamics and programme implementation strategies may influence the extent of behaviour change.

Recommendations

1. Advocacy programs should adopt community-specific engagement strategies to address socioeconomic dynamics and cultural beliefs that may hinder women's behavioral change toward environmental protection.
2. Periodic capacity building workshops should be organized to further empower FOWA women with practical skills in environmental protection and advocacy.
3. Human rights advocacy programs should collaborate with local NGOs, government agencies, and community leaders to improve the effectiveness of environmental awareness campaigns.
4. The use of social media and digital platforms should be expanded to disseminate environmental information, strengthen advocacy campaigns and reach a wider audience among FOWA women in the three local government areas.

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