



# Gender-Based Violence Support Groups and Women's Economic Empowerment in Goma, DRC: An Analysis for Ethiopia's Context

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## Abstract

This study examines the impact of gender-based violence support groups on women's economic empowerment in Goma, DRC, and explores its applicability to Ethiopia's context. A qualitative approach was employed through in-depth interviews with participants from existing support groups and focus group discussions with community leaders to gather insights on their experiences and impact. Support groups have shown a significant improvement in women's economic activities by providing training, networking opportunities, and emotional support. Women reported increased income levels and reduced financial dependency. Gender-based violence support groups play a crucial role in enhancing women's economic empowerment in Goma, offering tangible benefits that can be adapted to Ethiopia's specific context. Policy-makers should invest in expanding the reach of these support groups by integrating them into existing social services and providing financial incentives for community facilitators.

**Keywords:** *DRC, Geographic Focus, Gender-Based Violence, Empowerment Programmes, Qualitative Research, Community Development, Economic Policy Analysis*

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