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Gender Dimension of Livelihood Activities among Farmers in Kagarko Local Government Area of Kaduna State, Nigeria

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Abstract

This study aimed to examine the gender analysis of diversification among rural farmers. Primary and secondary data was used. The primary data was obtained by means of a structured questionnaire. Questionnaires were used to collect information from one hundred and fifty respondents randomly selected from the five districts. Descriptive statistics such as percentages and frequency was used. The Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) was used for the analysis of the gender disparities in the various livelihood enterprises such as on-farm, non-farm self-employed enterprises and wage labour. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) was employed to test whether there is a significant difference in the mean number of livelihood activities engaged in by women as compared with that of men. Socio-economic

characteristics of the working age respondents covered in the survey such as household size, marital status, access to credit and working hours per day were found to differ between men and women. The result of the Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) revealed that a significant difference exist between male and female farmers. The number of the respondents engaged in food crop production, paid wage labour and the number of livelihood diversification activities in on-farm and off-farm are significant at $P \leq 0.05$. The analysis revealed significant gender difference in the number of livelihood activities engaged in by men and women. Conclusively, the socio-economic characteristics of the working age respondents such as household size, marital status, access to credit and working hours per day was found to be different between men and women. The results of the Analysis of Variance revealed a difference between male and female farmers in the number of hours spent for paid wage labour which was significant at $P \leq 0.05$. The study recommends that farmers should be able to access credit to enhance their livelihood activities at least at the Local Government level and also farmers should be encouraged to participate in off-farm activities which have the capacity to generate more income for the household.

Key words: Socio-economic characteristics, Gender, Livelihoods, Enterprises, Crop production

INTRODUCTION

Available evidence portrays rural livelihood gender disparities as a continuously occurring phenomenon that complement on-farm livelihood portfolios thereby generating new forms of non-farm livelihood activities including wage labour and expanding available livelihood options for both men and women. The fact that women and men particularly in Africa have significantly different roles in the making of livelihoods decisions calls for the need to further understand how gender influence individual livelihood diversification among men and women. Majority of rural Nigerians are self-employed in both agricultural and non-agricultural activities thus indicating their livelihood diversification and a pursuit of various livelihood portfolios for their living.

Even though agriculture or on-farm livelihood activities, particularly food crops production used to be the main source of income, the non-farm sources are increasingly becoming an important source of income in Nigeria. However, while non-farm self-employed income has reduced income inequality, non-farm wage income has increased income inequality.

The fact that rural livelihood portfolios is expanding beyond agriculture is not contested, however, very little is known on whether gender makes difference in rural dwellers construction of livelihood portfolios (Abolude et al., 2018)

In view of the forgoing, this study hopes to seek answers to the following questions.

1. What are the socio-economic characteristics of the farmers in Giwa L.G.A?
2. Are there differences in the number of hours spent on the farm by each gender?
3. What are the gender disparities in engagement on various livelihood activities?

Objectives of the Study

The major objective of this study is to examine gender dimension of livelihood activities among the rural farmers in Giwa Local Government (L.G.A) of Kaduna State. The specific objectives of the study are to

1. identify the socio-economic characteristics of the farmers
2. determine the number of hours spent on the farm by each gender
3. examine the gender disparities in engagement on various livelihood activities.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The Role of Nigerian Women in Agriculture

In Nigeria, the role of women in agriculture is not different from that in most of other African countries. It is also clear that rural households in Nigeria engage in multiple livelihood activities such as trading, marketing or adding value to commodities on small scale business enterprises like carpentry, radio and bicycle repairs and processing of agricultural goods, arts and crafts like weaving, mats and basket marketing in order to supplement earnings from agriculture (Ekong, 2003; Mathews-Njoku *et al.*, 2007; Abimbola and Oluwakemi, 2014). These activities (livelihood diversification) are influenced by certain factors which operate at both internal and external environments of rural households (Kimenju and Tschirley, 2008; Manjur *et al.*, 2014). Nigerian women provide labor in farming, fishing, herding and commerce, pottery, cloth making and craft work alongside Nigerian men.

In an earlier study of some parts of Nigeria noted that from a sample of 128 farm women in Western Nigeria, it was found that women work on farm crops such as yams, maize, cassava and tobacco as a cash crop. In Eastern Nigeria, a study of the Uboma Community showed that Igbo women are mainly concerned with production of crops (Okali *et al.*, 2001). Also, the non-muslim ethnic groups, like the Tiv women of Benue State do much of the farm work. Among the secluded Muslim Hausa women in Zaria, 90 percent of them engage in food processing, trading, crafts, livestock keeping and some gardening. The pastoral Fulani women are responsible for processing and marketing of milk products in different markets (Nasai *et al.*, 2010, Abolude *et al.*, 2018). Similarly, studies conducted among the Yorubas of Western Nigeria observed that Yoruba women are not only traders but dominate the Yoruba market scene (Ade and Okunade, 2005; Okere and Smith, 2013; Adepoju, 2012; Umar *et al.*, 2016; Oyesola and Ademola, 2017). They trade in a wide variety of goods ranging from farm produce, clothes and handcrafts to household utilities. Food processing was also observed as a major economic activity of these women (Babatunde and Qaim, 2009). Also, in a study of four villages in Western Nigeria, it was found that over 80 percent of the women were engaged in the production and sales of cassava flour (garri) and palm produce. Though they did not own land, they farmed on plots given to them by their husbands or other male relations (Adepoju, 2012).

It has also been observed that the activities of rural women in Northern Nigeria were not different from what was obtained in other parts of the country. A study conducted in Kaduna and Katsina States showed that 92 percent of the women were engaged in farming activities. They performed such operations like land preparation, planting, weeding, fertilizer application, harvesting as well as post-harvest processing (Auta, 2000; Adebayo *et al.*, 2012). Though the Hausa muslim women do not perform the heavy tasks of land clearing and weeding, they keep poultry, sheep and goats.

In Samaru Kataf, Funtua and Maigana zonal centers of the Kaduna State Agricultural Development Project, a study which was conducted showed that over 60 percent of the women who were in purdah in Funtua claimed farming as their main occupation, which they practiced through the help of their husbands, relatives and hired labour (IFAD, 2001). About 50 percent of the women in Zonkwa owned farms while 63 percent had joint farms with their husbands (IFAD, 2009).

Ade and Okunade (2005) stated that recent findings indicate that though going by the 1991 National Population Census figure, Nigerian women constitute 49.6 percentage of the total population; they are responsible for 60-80 percent of the food produced in the country in addition to the traditional reproductive and community management roles they play.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization efforts to promote gender equity in labour markets and income generating activities, as well as to support decent employment initiatives in rural areas, are hampered by the lack of comprehensive information on the multiple dimensions of social and gender inequalities, particularly in rural areas (FAO, 2012).

One can therefore observe from the various studies that have been carried out that women would-continue to play a very pivotal role in agricultural activities and in rural and family economic development in Nigeria.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Concept of Gender

It is the state of being male or female (typically used with reference to social and cultural differences rather than biological ones). Grammatically, gender is only very loosely associated with natural distinctions of sex (online Cambridge and English Dictionary accessed on 19th June, 2018).

A gender role, also known as a sex role, is a social role encompassing a range of behaviors and attitudes that are generally considered acceptable, appropriate, or desirable for people based on their actual or perceived sex or sexuality. Gender roles are cultural and personal. They determine how males and females should think, speak, dress, and interact within the context of society. Learning plays a role in this process of shaping gender roles. These gender schemas are deeply embedded cognitive frameworks regarding what defines masculine and feminine.

Concept of Livelihood

It is the way someone earns the money he/she needs to pay for food, a place to live, clothing, etc.: A person's livelihood is the job or other source of income that gives him/her the money to buy the things the person needs. It is a means of support or subsistence. It is a means of securing the necessities of life.

A livelihood is a means of making a living. It encompasses people's capabilities, assets, income and activities required to secure the necessities of life. A livelihood is sustainable when it enables people to cope with and recover from shocks and stresses (such as natural disasters and economic or social upheavals) and enhance their well-being and that of future generations without undermining the natural environment or resource base (Wikipedia accessed 19th June, 2018).

A person's livelihood refers to the "means of securing the basic necessities -food, water, shelter and clothing- of life". Livelihood is a set of activities, involving securing water, food, fodder, medicine, shelter, clothing and the capacity to acquire above necessities working either individually or as a group by using endowments (both human and material) for meeting the requirements of the self and his/her household on a sustainable basis with dignity. The activities are usually carried out repeatedly. For instance, a fisherman's livelihood depends on the availability and accessibility of fish (online Meriam-Webster Dictionary accessed on 19th June, 2018).

Concept of Sustainable Livelihood

The concept of Sustainable Livelihood is an attempt to go beyond the conventional definitions and approaches to poverty eradication. These had been found to be too narrow because they focused only on certain aspects or manifestations of poverty, such as low income, or did not consider other vital aspects of poverty such as vulnerability and social exclusion. It is now recognized that more attention must be paid to the various factors and processes which either constrain or enhance poor people's ability to make a living in an economically, ecologically, and socially sustainable manner (Agboola et al., 2008; online Oxford Dictionary accessed on 19th June, 2018).

The concept offers a more coherent and integrated approach to poverty. The sustainable livelihood idea was first introduced by the Brundtland Commission on Environment and Development, and the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development expanded the concept, advocating for the achievement of sustainable livelihoods as a broad goal for poverty eradication.

A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (stores, resources, claims and access) and activities required for a means of living; a livelihood is sustainable which can cope with and recover from stress and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for the next generation; and which contributes net benefits to other livelihoods at the local and global levels and in the short and long term

In social sciences, the concept of livelihood extends to include social and cultural means, i.e. the command an individual, family, or other social group has over an income and/or bundles of resources that can be used or exchanged to satisfy its needs. This may involve information, cultural knowledge, social networks and legal rights as well as tools, land and other physical resources (Butler et al., 2014).

METHODOLOGY

Description of the Study Area

The study was conducted in Kagarko Local Government Area (LGA) which is located northward of the Federal Capital Territory. The Local Government Area lies within Latitude 9.483°N and Longitudes 7.683°E and has a land area of 1,864Km² and had a population of 240,049 (2006 census) (NPC, 2006) which has been projected to 332,283 in 2017 using a growth rate of 3%. It had 11 Districts as at 2017. The two major ethnic groups are Koro and Gbagyi. It's inhabitants are mostly peasant farmers, civil servants and traders. It shares borders with Niger State to the West, Jaba LGA to the East and Kachia LGA to the North. It has two seasons namely: a wet season which occurs from April to October and a dry season from November to March (Bayei et al., 2017)

Sample Size

Five districts were selected at random out of the 11 districts in the LGA. The selected districts include: Kagarko, Iddah, Kubacha, Jere and Dogon Kurmi. In each district 50 farmers were selected at random to form a sample size of 150 farmers.

Method of Data Collection

Primary and secondary data were used for the study. The primary data was obtained by means of a structured questionnaire. That is, questionnaires were used to collect necessary information from the randomly selected 150 farmers.

Data Analysis

Descriptive statistics such as frequency tables and percentages was used to analyze the respondents' socio-economic characteristics of the farmers. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was used for the analysis of gender disparities in various livelihoods enterprises such as on-farm, non-farm self-employed enterprise and wage labour. For the two objectives, the Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was employed to test whether there is a significant difference in the mean number of livelihood activities engaged in by women as compared with that of men. Variables were tested at 5 % significant level, that is, $p \leq 0.5$.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socio-economic Characteristics of Farmers

The result of the analysis of socio-economic characteristics of the respondents is shown in Table 1. As shown in the Table, household size, marital status, access to credit and working hours per day are found to differ between men and women respondents. Also, household size is found to differ between men and women. It is also observed from the table that 64% and 25% of men and women respectively come from households of less than five persons indicating that men are more likely to come from large households with membership being more than five persons than women respondents. About 75% and 36% of women and men respondents respectively are also observed to have come from households of more than five persons which shows that most households in the six villages of Giwa Local Government Area examined are quite large.

The women and men respondents differed in terms of marital status. The men are found to be more likely to be single than women. As shown in Table 1, about one quarter of the 22 women of working age in the study are single compared with 24 out of the 78 men who are found to be single. Thus, women who are married are more than the men who are married. But in all, only 65% of the respondents are married. With regards to working hours per day, the findings of the study established differences in the number of working hours per day between women and men. These differences are significant at $p \leq 0.05$. As shown in Table 1, men are found to be more likely to work more than eight hours per day than women. This has been observed for both paid work and unpaid work such as domestic activities.

Table 1 also shows that about 23% of the men usually work more than eight hours per day on the farm as compared to 2 % of the women who also work more than eight hours per day. Also, more men than women have borrowed within the last 12 months compared with women, even though general access to formal credit is very poor with only 32% of them who have borrowed within the last 12 months.

Majority (59%) of the respondents are within their youthful age of 35 years or younger with 56% being able to read and or write. But the majority i.e.78% of the respondents are from the male headed households while the remaining 22% are from the female headed households indicating that households in the study area are predominantly male headed households. Also, most of the households (82%) are mixed adults (male and female adults) households with only 18% of the respondents who have indicated that they are from households of either adult male only or adult female only indicating that the households are of mixed adult gender structured households.

Table 1: Cross Tabulation of Socio-economic Characteristics of the respondents

Variable	Women	Men	Total
Gender			
<u>Age bracket</u>			
35years or younger	13(13%)	46(46%)	59(59%)
More than 35years	9(9%)	32(32%)	41(41%)
Total	22(22%)	78(78%)	100(100%)
<u>Household size</u>			
Five (5) persons or less	25(25%)	39(39%)	64(64%)
More than 5 persons	75(75%)	61(61%)	36(36%)
Total	100(100%)	100(100%)	100(100%)
<u>Marital Status</u>			
Single	8(8%)	34(34%)	32(32%)
Married	13(13%)	52(52%)	65(65%)
Widow	1(1%)	1(1%)	2(2%)
Separated	0(0%)	1(1%)	1(1%)
Total	22(22%)	78(78%)	100(100%)
<u>Literacy Level</u>			
Cannot read and write	13(13%)	31(31%)	44(44%)
Can read and or write	9(9%)	47(47%)	56(56%)
Total	22(22%)	78(78%)	100(100%)
Female/Male Headed Households	22(22%)	78(78%)	100(100%)
<u>Household Structure</u>			
	women	men	total
Mixed adults (by sex)	82(82%)	84(16%)	84(84%)
Male or Females	18(18%)	16(16%)	16(16%)
Total	100(100%)	100(100%)	100(100%)
<u>Working Hours per day</u>			
Eight (8) hours	20(20%)	55(55%)	75(75%)
More than eight (8) hours	2(2%)	23(23%)	25(25%)
Total	22(22%)	78(78%)	100(100%)
<u>Credit</u>			
Access to Credit	7(7%)	25(25%)	32(32%)
Borrowed within the Last 12 months.	15(15%)	53(53%)	68(68%)
Could not borrow Within the last 12 months	22(22%)	78(78%)	100(100%)

Source: Field Survey, 2017.

Gender Disparities in Engagement in livelihood Activities.

In order to obtain information on people’s engagement in various activities, the respondents were asked whether they have participated in various activities within a period of 12 months. The livelihood activities in the study area, which are predominantly agricultural based, include food crops production, livestock rearing and fish farming. The non -farm livelihood activities are paid wage labour and non-farm self-employed. Livelihood enterprises such as trading, agro-processing, food venturing and artisanship among others.

The results of the SPSS analysis in Table 2 reveals significant gender differentiated labour participation in food crop production, livestock rearing, non-farm self-employed enterprises and paid wage labour. This finding agrees with the findings of round six of the change living

standard survey which portrayed significant variation in women and men engagement in agricultural and non- agricultural livelihood (GSS, 2013).

Senadza (2011) observed that in spite of the fact that incomes from on-farm livelihood activities continue to constitute the back bone of the rural economy in most developing countries, income from wage labour and other non-farm income generating activities have increasingly become significant. Similar findings were made by IFAD (2010) and FAO (2012).

The result shown in Table 2 demonstrates that men dominate in the food crop production as against women, with men respondents being more likely to have been engaged in food crop production compared with women within the last 12 months. The SPSS values demonstrated strong relationships between gender and engagement in food crop production. Whilst only nearly 14% of the women respondents indicated that they have been engaged in food crop production within the last 12 months, overwhelmingly majority (73%) of the men respondents have been engaged in one production or the other within the last 12 months.

Table 2: Distribution of Respondent Engagement in various Activities by Gender

	Gender		Total
	Women	Men	
<u>Food crop production</u>			
Yes	14(14%)	73(73%)	87(87%)
No	8(8%)	5(5%)	13(13%)
Total	22(22%)	78(78%)	100(100%)
<u>Livestock rearing</u>			
Yes	14(14%)	52(52%)	66(66%)
No	8(8%)	26(26%)	34(34%)
Total	22(22%)	78(78%)	100(100%)
<u>Fish farming</u>			
Yes	3(3%)	15(15%)	18(18%)
No	19(19%)	63(63%)	82(82%)
Total	22(22%)	78(78%)	100(100%)
<u>Non-farm Enterprises</u>			
Yes	15(15%)	40(40%)	55(55%)
No	7(7%)	38(38%)	45(45%)
Total	22(22%)	78(78%)	100(100%)
<u>Paid wage labour</u>			
Yes	9(9%)	49(49%)	58(58%)
No	13(13%)	29(29%)	42(42%)
Total	22(22%)	78(78%)	100(100%)

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Gender and Number of Livelihood Activities/Enterprises

The reverse scenario was observed with regards to the respondents’ engagement in non-farm self-employed enterprises with more women respondents being more likely to have been engaged in non- farm self-employed enterprises within the last 12 months than men.

As shown in Table 3, gender disparities in engagement in non-farm self-employed livelihood enterprises, show that nearly 68% of the female respondents indicate that they are engaged in a non-farm self-employed enterprise. It can be argued that there is high female participation in non-farm self-employed enterprises. The non- farm self-employed livelihood enterprises mostly engaged in by respondents are trading, agro-processing and artisanship. Similar finding where women were found to be engaged more in non-farm self-employed enterprises such as buying and selling, agro-processing among others were observed by Senadza (2011), FAO (2012) and GSS (2013).

The result of the analysis of data indicates a significant gender disparity in paid wage labour. The study therefore showed that labour participation in wage labour differed across gender. Men respondents have been engaged in wage labour compared to women. As shown in Table 4.2, also nearly 49% of male respondents indicated that they have been engaged in paid wage labour as against (9%) of the female respondents. However, no significant gender disparities have been found in the respondents’ engagement in fish farming indicating that male respondents as well as female respondents are likely to have been engaged in little or no fish farming.

Table 3: Diversification of Livelihood Activities by Female Respondents

Activities engaged in	Response		Total
	Yes	No	
Food crop production	14(63.6%)	8(36.4%)	22(100.0%)
Livestock production	14(63.6%)	8(36.4%)	22(100.0%)
Fisheries production	3(13.6%)	19(86.4%)	22(100.0%)
Non-farm self-employed enterprise	15(68.2%)	7(31.8%)	22(100.0%)
Paid wage labour	9(40.9%)	13(59.1%)	22(100.0%)

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Gender Dimension of Number of livelihood enterprises

The various options of livelihood enterprises available in the study area are categorized into on-farm such as food crop production, livestock rearing and fish farming and off-farm livelihood such as non-farm self-employed enterprises (such as agro- processing, trading and artisan work) and paid wage labour. Five livelihood options (food crop production, livestock rearing, fish farming, non-farm self-employed enterprises and paid wage labour were considered.

As shown in Figure 1, most of the respondents are engaged in diverse livelihood activities within the last 12 months with only 20% of them indicating that they have participated mostly in food production. Thus, almost 80% of the respondents have second or more jobs confirming the findings of FAO (2012) that in the rural areas 56% of the working population has a second job or more.

The findings by Abimbola and Oluwakemi (2013) revealed that in Nigeria, most of the rural households are poor and usually diversify their livelihood into off and non- farm activities as a relevant source of income. Most of the respondents as shown in Table 4.4 show that 39% and 21% of the respondents covered in the study area are engaged in two or more livelihood activities respectively. This finding demonstrates some level of diversification, although such diversification is mostly within agricultural based livelihood. Majority of those who engaged in

diverse livelihoods are into food crop production and livestock rearing which is all within on - farm based livelihood enterprises.

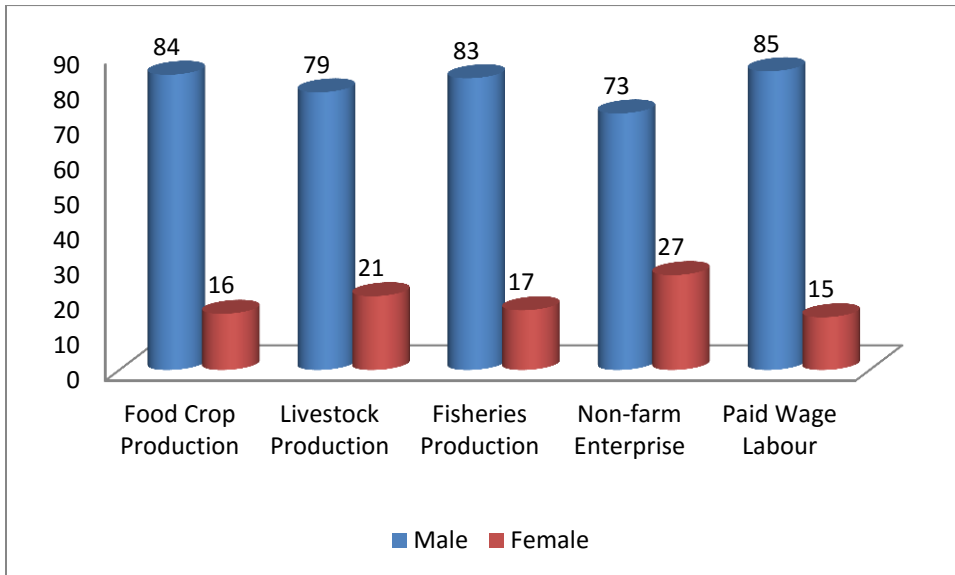


Figure 1 Genders and Number of Livelihood Activities / Enterprises

CONCLUSION

The socio-economic characteristics of the working age respondents covered in the survey such as household size, marital status, access to credit and working hours per day was found to be different between men and women. However, the majority of the respondents were within their youthful age of 35 years or younger with 56% being able to read and or write. The results of the Analysis of Variance revealed a difference between male and female farmers in the number of hours spent for paid wage labour which was significant at $P \leq 0.05$. Most of the respondents are engaged in diverse livelihood activities with majority of them having second or more jobs.

Recommendations

1. Farmers should be able to have access to credit to enhance their livelihood activities at least at the Local Government level.
2. Farmers should be encouraged to participate in off-farm activities which have the capacity to generate more income for the household.

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