

Constraints to Rural Women's Livelihood Activities in Maiduguri Metopolitan Area, Borno State, Nigeria

Alkali*, A., Tijjani, H. and Kura, M.A.

Department of Agricultural Technology, Ramat Polytechnic, Maiduguri, Borno State, Nigeria

*Email: abdullahialkali35@gmail.com, Mobile Phone: 08038343070

Abstract: *The study examined constraints to women's livelihood activities in Maiduguri Metropolitan Area of Borno State, Nigeria. The specific objectives of the study were to describe the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents in the study area, examine the types of livelihood activities engage in by the respondents in the study area and identify constraints affecting livelihood activities of the women in the study area. Data for the study were obtained from both primary and secondary sources. Primary data used for the study were obtained through the use of structured questionnaires and interviews. A proportionate and random selection was used, spreading over 15 political wards of the Local Government. A total of 150 respondents were selected for study. The analytical tools used was descriptive statistics such as the frequency distribution and percentages in categorizing the respondents on the basis of their socio-economic characteristics, types of livelihood activities as well as constraints affecting livelihood activity among women. Results of the study revealed that majority (80.6%) of the respondents were between the ages of 20 and 40. Majority of the respondents were married 68.7% and had Qur'anic education 44.7% respectively. Most of them are civil servant and occupied by business activities (42.7%) and the household size of 6 - 10 (62.7%) engage in livelihood activities. It was also evident from the study that about 33 of the respondents earned between N1000 to N2000 as weekly income. The result showed that 59% were into petty trading as a livelihood activity. It was revealed by the study that majority (96.7%) of the women indicated that lack of capital was their major constraint. Other serious constraints include unavailable credit, access to market among others. The study recommended that enlightenment programme should be pursued so that women can be educated on the importance of participating in livelihood activities that are available within their locality.*

Keyword: *Women, Constraints, Livelihood, Activities*

Introduction

Women perform many tasks in the home which include income generating activities such as petty trading, hair plaiting, weaving of mat and baskets, selling cooked food, tailoring among others and at the farm level women generate income from agricultural activities such as keeping poultry, animal husbandry, crop processing and as well as trading of agricultural produce. According to Kwaghe (1999), a large proportion of rural traders in West Africa are women. They are involved in the trading of mainly food items and other household livelihood activities such as plaiting, selling cooked food etc in the rural open market or in confined compound, depending on their religion and socio-cultural beliefs. Women are in livelihood activity which ranges from farm to off-farm enterprises, earning vital income for themselves and their families. These activities include crop production, harvesting, threshing of the crops, food processing, weaving of mats and baskets, crafting and trading to meet up their livelihood needs in the same vein Ogunbameru *et al.*, (2006) found that women were

involved in agricultural activities such as food processing, marketing, milking of cow and keeping of poultry in order to combat poverty and as source of income, for home consumption, recreation and hobby. On their part Njoku and Adesope (2007) reported that livelihood activities for rural women include petty trading, tailoring, thrift saving, farming, cooking at occasion and hair plaiting. They further stressed that pressure on the income and assets of rural farm families have forced them to diversify into non-agricultural activities as a way of improving livelihood.

Livelihood activities according to Ellis (1999), is the activities assets and the access that jointly determine the living gained by the rural households and this livelihood can be summarized into four headings, location, assets, substitution and options. Women in Maiduguri Metropolitan Area are involved in a wide range of livelihood activities whereby they take advantage of the water body around the town as well as crop and livestock that survive within the geographical location, hence leading to the engagement in wide range of income generation activities such as animal husbandry, crop processing, weaving of mats and basket, threshing of farm produce and so on.

Olawoye (2002) observed that presently there is an upsurge of female - headed household in the rural areas of most regions. This is to say that theoretically, women's activities in the informal sector enable them effectively combine their productive and reproductive roles because hours of work are flexible, permitting them to care for their children and engage in livelihood activities (Emmanuella, 2009). Informal economic sector today is being dominated by women who are faced with a lot of constraints such as lack of capital, lack of knowledge on marketing, lack of access to land and extension services among others (Onyenechere, 2009). Mate (2005) observed that migration of male counterpart, wage cut, male or husbands being killed are other constraints affecting women which make them diversify their livelihood for family sustenance. This study therefore analyzed constraints to women livelihood activities in Maiduguri Metropolitan Area of Borno state Nigeria.

Methodology

The study was conducted in Maiduguri Metropolitan Council (MMC) of Borno State, Nigeria which is one of the twenty-seven (27) local government areas of the state. It has a population of about 521,492 (census, 2006). The area is situated between 11 50N and longitude 14.45 E. It shares boundaries with Konduga local Government to the north and north -west and Jere local government to the south. The vegetation is typically sahel savannah, consisting mainly of grasses and drought resistance trees. Maiduguri Metropolitan is inhabited by the Kanuri, Shuwa, Babur, Marghi, Hausa, Chibok etc. Climate for most part of the year is hot and dry with maximum temperature 45 C and minimum temperature of 25 C. It has short rainfall duration with precipitation range of 500mm-600mm per year falling between the month of June and September. The area is usually covered with shrubs, herbs and shale grasses. The crops that are mostly cultivated include millet, cowpea, guinea corn, groundnut and maize. In the Local Government Area, women engage in a variety of livelihood activities essential to support the development of their family and the Local Government as a whole. They are involved in agricultural activities (food crop processing and livestock production) and non-agricultural activities (tailoring, trading, weaving of basket and mats, plaiting, milking and pottery) among others (Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, 2019). Data for this study was obtained from both primary and secondary sources. A proportionate and random selection was used in selecting the respondents. A total

of one hundred and fifty (150) respondents were selected for study. The analytical tools used was descriptive statistics such as the frequency distribution and percentages

Results and Discussion

Socio - Economic Characteristics of Respondents

Socio - economic characteristics of respondents vary significantly depending on the variables the study wants to find. Such differences play important role in influencing their engagement in livelihood activities. The result of the socio-economic characteristics considered for this study is presented in Table 1

Age: The result in Table 1 shows that 2% of the respondents fell below 20 years old. This group constituted the lowest percentage. One reason for the small number of the respondents in this category could be that the teenagers are still under the care of their parents and have not felt -need struggle for livelihood. All their needs are being met by their parents, guardians and/or anybody to whose household they belong as dependent.

The age classes 20-30 and 31-50 constituted 47.3% and 33.3% of the respondents in respectively. When added together, the respondents in these age categories constituted the majority (80.6%) are in their productive and energetic age bracket. Therefore, the fact that the largest number of the respondents was found to be within these age classes is an indication those women were active enough to participate in livelihood activities to earn a living. The results of this study agrees with that of Vosanka *et al*, (2010) which showed that most of women were between 20 - 50 years of age, meaning they are in their economical active age to undertake various livelihood activities. This finding also agrees to the findings of a study by Bzugu and Hayatu (2007) where it was showed that smallest farmers in Mubiregion were in their active ages and can engage in activities that generate funds for their livelihood activities with women inclusive.

Marital Status: This study revealed that 68% were married, 5.3% were single, 10.7% were divorce and 15.3% were widowed (Table 1). Married people have enormous responsibilities by virtue of their status, which could make them engage in livelihood activities to generate funds specially to cater for their family and especially their children. This finding is in agreement with that of Okoro and Odebode (2009) who examined that rural women who were engage in livelihood activities majority (68%) were married women this implies that there is a significant relationship between marriage and engagement in livelihood activity particularly among the rural women.

Education level: Results on Level of Education Table 1 shows that most (44.7%) had Qur'anic Education, 33.3% had no formal Education. 16.7% had gone through primary Education whereas only 2.7% had completed secondary Education and 2.7% completed tertiary Education. This disagrees with the observation made by Okoro and Odebode (2009) that education play a vital role in formal orientation on livelihood activities; a condition which could create better insight in livelihood activities. Wanyama *et al* (2010) found in their studies that education has a negative significant relationship with livelihood diversification. The reason for this could be that women to some extends are not allow furthering their education beyond some certain age limit.

Table 1 Distribution of Respondents Based on Socio-Economic Characteristics (n=150)

Socio-economic Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Age		
<20	3	2
20-30	71	47.3
31-40	50	33.3
41-50	14	9.3
51-60	8	5.3
Above 60	4	2.7
Marital status		
Married	103	68.7
Single	8	5.3
Divorce	16	10.7
Widow	23	15.3
Educational qualification		
Non formal school	50	33.3
Qur'anic education	67	44.7
Primary education	25	16.7
Secondary education	4	2.7
Tertiary education	4	2.7
Occupation		
Business	45	30
civil servant	64	42.7
Civil servant and business	41	27.3
Household size		
<5	7	4.7
6- 10	94	62.7
11-14	36	24
Above 15	13	8.7
Weekly income		
<1000	16	10.7
1 000-2000	33	22.0
2001-3000	16	10.7
3001 -4000	11	7.3
4001-5000	16	10.7
Above 5000	58	38.7

Source: Field survey 2019

Occupation: Table1 shows that 42.7% of the respondents were engaged in Business/Agricultural production as their occupation. These occupations include petty trading selling of weaved mats and basket, selling of farm produced/animal products as well as other activities. 30% of the respondents were civil servants while 27.3% of them were both civil servant and were into business. This implies that major occupation of most of the women in the study area was business like activities. Due to the nature of the norms and values of the

locality, respondents had to engage themselves in mostly petting trading which can be done indoors by the women. This agrees with the examination made by Olawoye (2002) that in developing countries like Nigeria (inclusive) livelihood can only be met by engaging in diverse livelihood activities.

Household Size: Table 1 shows the result on household size where the highest frequency was between six to ten consisting a total of 62.7%, about 24% were household size between eleven to fourteen. Whereas those with the least 4.7% and 8.7% respectively were household size less than five, this indication implies that a large household size was those mostly engaged in livelihood activities since the needs of each members of the family has to be met. This conclusion is in line with the result of studies carried out by Olawuyi and Rahji (2012) on analysis of livelihood strategies of household heads and where they observed that those households with more than six members in the family were those mostly engage in livelihood activities. Similarly, Ayanwuyi and Akintode (2011) on their studies on income generating activities among rural women in ensuring household food security in ill local government area who indicated that larger family size and larger number of children in the family increase the rate of involvement in livelihood activities. This could be because of feeding, health, Education and other basic needs of life.

Income: Table 1 shows that a good portion (38.7%) had their income above N5000 weekly, followed by N1000 – N2000 (22%) then 10.7% got income of N2000-3000 and N4000-N5000 respectively weekly. Those who earn between N3000 – N4000 constitute 7.3%. This implies that the more the respondents diversify the more the chances of increase in income among women. The result is in collaboration with what Raufu *et al* (2012) found in their studies on economic analysis of rural women's income from non-timber forest product in life, Osun state Nigeria revealed that respondents get income from the non-timber livelihood activities of different types which earns them a reasonable income.

Table 2 Distribution of Respondents Based on Types of Livelihood Activities Engaged in.

Livelihood Activities	Frequency	Percentage*
Petty trader	89	59.3
Hair plating	81	54.0
Weaving of mats and basket	67	44.7
Poultry keeping	45	30.0
Animal Husbandry	45	30.0
Crop Production	98	65.3
Dairy/milk processing	36	24.0
Tailoring	32	21.3
Food processing	16	10.7
Civil servant	32	21.3
Others	16	21.3

Source: Field Survey, 2019

Percentage are based on multiple response

Table 2 present the distribution of the respondents based on the types of the livelihood activities in which they were engaged in. The distribution shows that majority (59.3%) of the respondents were found to be engaged in petty trading. This implies that most women get their source of income from petty trading which include selling of both farm and non-farm goods so that they can cope with natural disasters and theft. 54% of the respondents were involved in hair plating as a source of income. It is an indoor livelihood activity that requires less capital and requires no labour. About 52.3% were involved in crop production which includes farming of crop such as Okra, Sorrel, Sesame seed as well as Cowpea. Tailoring is another important livelihood activity that most women get their income from. This is due to the facts that it is an indoor livelihood activity. Some women combine both farming and indoor activities. This is in agreement with Kabir *et al* (2012) where they observed that most housewives in rural and urban areas combine both farm and nonfarm livelihood activities in order to meet their family needs.

Table 3 Distribution of Constraints Affecting Livelihood Activities of the Respondents

Constraints	Frequency	Percentage*	Rank
Lack of adequate capital	145	96.7	1
Lack of access to working asset	78	52.0	4
Gender disparity	67	44.7	5
Lack of knowledge on change on price of produce	67	44.7	5
Difficulty in access to market	98	65.3	3
Unavailability of credit	102	68.0	2
Low sales	41	27.3	6
Poor harvest/yield	23	15.3	7
Norms and religious values that exclude women	41	27.3	6

Source: Field survey 2019

Percentage are based on multiple response

In Table 3 various constraints encountered by the respondents were shown, where majority (96.7%) of the respondents indicated lack of adequate capital as one of the serious constraints that makes it difficult for them to engage in multiple livelihood activities was ranked the first. The respondents were aspiring to engage in more than one activity, but they cannot do so because of lack of capital or fund. Also 68% of the respondents indicated that lack of access to credit facilities is a problem to them. This has been a decade's problem most credit aimed at assisting women do not get into the right channel, it is being diverted to the other counterpart. Since women do not have access to credit it has posse a problem in involving in livelihood activities. This agrees with Ayanwuyi and Akintonde (2011) in Iba local government area of Ogun State it was reported that constraints affecting women's livelihood

activities includes: poor access to credit was the major problem (81.1%) other like poor access to farm input (45.6%) and food scarcity (52.2%). Mutaingadura (2010) and Ashimolowo and Otufule (2012) found that women do not have enough and access to money to participate in income generating activities.

Table 3 also showed that the third ranked was 65.3% of the respondents found it difficult to access market places and this has been a great constraint to the rural women. They argued that the roads leading to a better market where they will either sell their produce and product at the village markets are mostly bad and threaten by rubber.

Other constraints found in the studies are lack of access to working asset 52%, as the fourth lack of awareness in new skills 27%, lack of knowledge on change on prices of produces, low sell, poor harvest yield 44.7% and gender disparity are 44.7% respectively were ranked fifth among those constraints affecting women participation of engagement in livelihood activities. These agree in similar studies conducted by Eboh and Ocheoha (2002); Franklin (2007); Eze (2002) and ogunlela and Muktar (2009). Also the Table shows that 27.3% indicated that norms and religious values excuse women from participating in certain livelihood activities, rural women sometimes are in purdah restricting women's contact with outside society and this has led to lack of support for new income generating activities while the least of all was poor harvest with 15.3%.

Conclusion and Recommendations

It was observed that rural women were in their active and productive age, therefore, they were able to engage in livelihood activities that generate income to support their basic needs. Majority of the women were married, mostly were self-employed through engaging in various types of occupation, only few combine livelihood activities and government employment. The Educational backgrounds of the respondents were mostly Qur'anic education. The study also showed that most rural women can only record what they earn per week than monthly because it is easier to remember and calculated, livelihood activities that is lucrative and requires less capital as well as less labour are that the rural women preferred, all these are to increase their income so that they can meet up with the family necessity hence reducing poverty condition one can conclude that the more the livelihood activates, the more the possibility of increase in unit income of the household. A number of constraints affected the women in the study area, among them, the difficult constraints were lack of adequate capital, unavailable credit facilities and difficulty in accessing market. The study recommended that enlightenment programme should be pursued so that women can be educated on the importance of participating in livelihood activities that are available within their locality.

References

- Ashimolowo, O.R. and Otufule, G.A. (2012). Effect of Domestic Violence on Women partners livelihood activities in Ogun State Nigeria. *Prime Journal of Social Science*, 1 (2): 31-42 www.primejournal.org/piss.
- Ayanwuyi, E. and Akintonde, J.O. (2011). Income Generating Activities among Rural Women in ensuring Household food security in 111 Local Government Osun State. *Nigeria world Young Researchers*, (5): 66-70.
- Bzugu, P.M and Hayatu Y. W (2007). Savings mobilization and Agricultural Production among Small Scale Farmers in Mubi Region, Adamawa state. Nigeria. In *Global Approaches to Extension Practice: A Journal of Agricultural Extension* Vol.4 No. 2.pp 26-31.

- Eboh, E.G. and Ocheoha, K.N. (2002). Determinants of Rural Non-Farm sector potential in reducing income-poverty: Evidence from Enugu State, Nigeria. Proceedings of 361 Annual Conference of Agricultural Society of Nigerian FUT, Owerri, 20-24 October 2002, pp. 160-164.
- Ellis. F. (1999) Rural Livelihood Diversity in Developing Countries: Evidence and Policy Implications-ODI. Natural Resource Perspectives, Number 40.
- Emmanuella. C. O, (2009). The Constraints of Rural Women in informal Economic activities in Imo State Nigeria: Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa. 83 -101
- Eze, S. O. (2002). Post-harvest plantain technology Dissemination and Agricultural extension Implication for poverty eradication among rural women in Anaocha Local Government Area of Anambra State Proceeding of the 36th Annual conference of Agricultural Society of Nigeria PUT, Owerri, 20- 24 October 2002pp. 201- 204.
- Franklin, S. (2007). Gender inequality in Nigeria. Taking 11 Global Online Publication, 31 May, 2007.
- Kabir, M.S., Xuexi, H., Rahima, A. Jing, W. and Lijia, W. (2012). Impact of small Entrepreneurship on sustainable livelihood asset of rural poor women in Bangladesh. *International Journal of economics and finance*, 4 (3): 265-280.
- Kwaghe, P.V. (1999). Women feed the world: prospects, problems and solutions for sustainable agriculture. In Undiandeyeet al.(eds) Sustainable Agricultural Development, Principles and case study. Mainasara Publishing Company Borno State, 86-98.
- Mate, R. (2005). Making Ends meet at the Margins?: Grappling with economic crisis and Belonging in Beitbridge Town, Zimbabwe, Dakar CODESRIA.
- Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (2019) Report
- Mutaingadura, G. (2010). Achieving Gender Equality, Women's Empowerment and Ending Violence against Women in Africa: A policy and Social Protection.
- Njoku, E.C. & Adesope, O.N. (2007). Livelihood Diversity Strategies of Rural Women in Local Extension, vol. 10. 17-23.
- Ogunbameru, B. O., Gwary, M.M., Idrissa, Y.L., Ani, A. O. and Yero, A. (2006). Empowerment of Women through Urban Agricultural Development in Maiduguri Metropolitan, Borno State. Proceeding of 11th Annual National Conference of Agricultural Extension Society of Nigeria (AESON) 3RD -6TH April, pp. 147-156.
- Ogunlela, Y.I. and MukhtarA.A. (2009), Gender issues in agriculture and rural development in Nigerian: The role of women. *Humanity and Social Science Journal*, 4(1): 63-77.
- Okoro, G.I. and Odebode, S.O. (2009). Challenges to livelihood activities of women in eastern Obodo, Niger Delta region, Nigeria-*International Journal of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development IJAERD2* (2): 7-13.
- Olawoye, J. (2002) Women and forestry in Nigeria: Final Report for Nigeria Forestry Action Plan (NFAP)
- Olawuyi, S.O. and Rahji, M. A.Y. (2012.) Analysis of Livelihood Strategies of household is heads in Ode-omi Kingdom Ogun-waterside Ogun State Nigeria *International Journal of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development* 11(2): 337-345.
- Onyenechere, E.G. (2009). The constraint of rural women in information on economic activities in Imo State, Nigeria. *Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa*, (CODESRIA 34(1): 83-101.
- Raufu, M.C., Akinnira, T.N., Olawuyi. S.D. and Akinpelu. M.O. (2012). Economic analysis of rural women income from Non-Timber forest product in Ife South Local Government Area of Osun State, Nigeria *Global Journal of science Frontier Research Agricultural & Biology*, 12(1): 215-225.
- Vosanka, I.P., Tari, B., Musa, H.Y. and Hammangabdo, .T. J.(2010). Analysis of The Socio-Economic Impact and Sustainability of Livelihood diversity of Rural Women in Zing

- Local Government Area of Taraba State Nigeria. *Journal of Agricultural and Veterinary Science* 2(1): 17-24.
- Wanyama, M. Mose L.O, Odendo M. J. O, Owuor G. and Mohammed, 2. (2010). Determinants of income diversification strategies among rural households in Maize Based Farming of Kenya Africa *Journal of Food Science* Vol. 4 No. 12, pp. 754- 763.