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PARTICIPATION IN HOUSEHOLD RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN RURAL COMMUNITIES OF OSUN-STATE, NIGERIA: A GENDER ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT
The study assessed gender participation in household resources management in rural communities of Osun State. Specifically, it described the socio-economic characteristics of respondents on gender basis, analysed the level of participation of men and women in household resources management with a view to knowing the emmerging gender issues in household resources managemennt among rural dwellers of Osun State. A two stage sampling procedure was adopted for sample selection 312 respondents across gender. Data collected were analysed using descriptive statistics while t-test analysis was used to test the hypothesis stated. Results showed that the mean age of the male farmers was slightly higher that that of the female (46.4±9.31 and 43.1±5.9). Islam and Christianity were the dominant religion in the study area. Male and female participate in managing household resources at different degrees. Results of t-test revealed that there was no significant difference between male and female respondents and their level of participation in household resources management. The study concludes that high level of collaboration existed between male and female respondents in household resources management. It is therefore, recommended that more gender awareness training should be organised by the developmental stakeholders across the country with a view to bridging the gap that exists between male and female in household resources management.

KEYWORDS: Gender Participation, Household Resources Management

INTRODUCTION

Household is the first social system an individual experiences. It is the basic residential unit in which production, consumption, inheritance, and shelter are organized and carried out. It is where every individual learns basic norms, culture, value which then serves as a guide used in daily life. The household can be defined in terms of social system consisting of individuals that have different personality and the interaction between these individuals. The individuals in the family are usually the father, mother and their children. It can be defined simply as a person or group of people living in the same residence.

Food and Agricultural Organization (2003) defines the concept of "household" as "the arrangements people make for providing themselves with food or other essentials of living". It may be one-person or multi-person, they may be related or unrelated or a combination of both. According to Oluwoye (1985), in reality, the household is a more complex and dynamic social entity which may change its composition and goals over sometime as family members and dependants are of varying age groups.

In order to satisfy the basic needs of the family, the family uses what it has such as food, money and so on. These possessions are referred to as resources. Resources are those materials and human attributes that can be used satisfy human wants. These resources are often limited but the family usually have many goals. Some of the available resources for the household include time, food, energy etc. There are different types of resources which are the human and non-human resources. Resources can also be exhaustible and inexhaustible. Meeting the household needs depends on the management of this resources.

Household management can therefore be defined as efficient use of household resources such as time, cash income, food, energy. It is the administrative side of family which involves decision making that leads to action. It makes use of scientific findings and knowledge of different aspects of life. It involves the family knowledge to manage the resources within the family (Corinne and Jere, 2001). It can therefore be defined as the process of using the resources the family has to meet the needs of the family. Successful resources management leads to enhanced family well-being and sustainable use of these resources, hence gaurantee food security among family members.

Deji (2008); Moser (1993); GLAAD (2010) describes the concept of gender analysis as the ability to recognize the differences in the roles, responsibilities, access and control over resources as well as the sphere of authority between women and men. Gender is a social construct that distinguishes men from women on the basis of their roles, responsibility as well as opportunities and privileges available to them. It represents the opinion of the society and it differs from society to society. It is generally known that men and women have distinct roles and responsibilities and these vary from one country to another (Ellis, 1998; Corinne and Jere, 2001). *In Nigeria, especially in the rural areas there is always a*

misinterpretation of roles between men and women. This, not in small measure also affects how resources have been managed among the household members. It is basically assumed that women take care of the household and the children and that the male fulfil only financial obligations. Scholars like Corinne and Jere (2001); Farhana et al., (2011); Akram (2002) and several others had conducted studies on gender division in household resources management but none seems to have been done in Nigeria, hence the study. Against this background, the study was designed to assess gender participation in the management of household resources in rural communities of Osun State. Specifically, the study analysed the level of participation of men and women in management of household resources. The study therefore, hypothesized that there was no significant difference between men and women and level of participation in the household resource management in the study area.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Osun State, Nigeria. The State was carved out of Oyo State on August 27th, 1991 with its headquarters in Osogbo. The State lies in the southwest of the Niger valley in the sannavah and rainforest zones of the country. It lies between latitude 700^0 and 900^0N and Longitude 2.75^0 and 6.75^0E. it covers a total area of approximately 37,680km^2. The State is bounded in the north by Kwara State, in the east by Ondo State and Ekiti State and West by Oyo State.

A two stage sampling procedure was adopted for sample selection. The first stage involved a purposive selection of four rural communities in each of the Agricultural Development Programme zones viz: Osogbo, Ife/Ijesha and Iwo, based on the degree of rurality. A total of 12 communities were used for the study. In the second stage, 26 farmers (13 male and 13 female) were selected using ramdom sampling technique in each of the community and interviewed using interview schedule. A total of 312 respondents were sampled for the study. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics such as frequency counts, percentages, mean, median while t-test analysis was used to test the hypothesis stated.

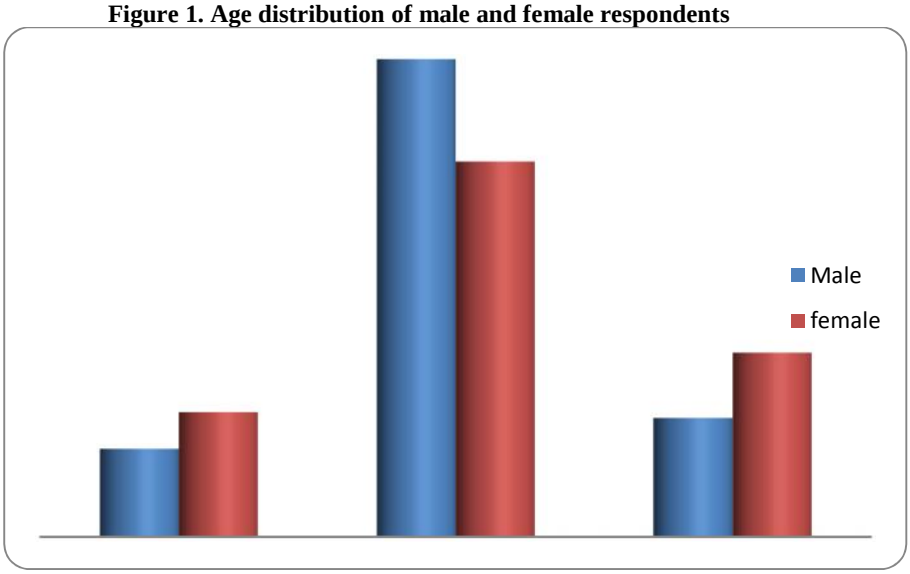
The dependent variable in the study was level of participation in household resources management which was measured as high, moderate or low using mean and standard deviation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Farmers' personal characteristics of respondents

*Results in Figure 1 showed that 12.8 per cent of the male farmers were less than 30 years of age, 69.*9 per cent were within the age bracket of 30 and 59 years while just a very few (17.3 %) were 60 years and above. The mean age and the standard deviation was 46.4±9.31 years. Among the female respondents, 18.2 per cent were less than 30 years, 54.9 per cent were within the age bracket of 30-60 years while 26.9 per cent were 61 years and above with a mean age of 43.1±5.9. The findings revaled that majority (69.9% and 54.9%) of male and female farmers in Osun State, Nigeria, respectively were in their active ages, hence, they can actively participate in resources management thereby enhancing the food security in the area. The findings conform with Babatunde *et al.* (2007) who puts the mean age of Nigerian farmers as 48.6 years.

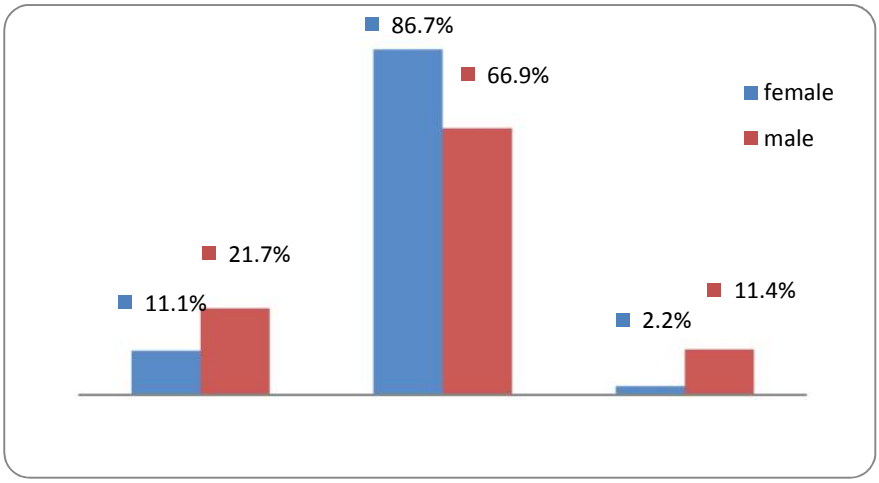
Figure 1. Age distribution of male and female respondents



Source: Field survey, 2013

Evidence in Figure 2 showed that about 11.1 per cent of the female respondents were single, 86.7 per cent were married while just a few (2.2%) were widows. Also, 21.7 per cent of male farmers were single, 66.9 percent were married while 11.4 per cent were widowers. The findings revealed that majority (86.7% and 66.9%) of female and male farmers, respectively were married. Marital responsibilities may be a crucial factor in determing the role of an individual in household resources management. This assertion conforms with Corinne and Jere (2001) assertion that rural families must constantly negotiate their livelihood by obtaining access to resources like land, water, capital and market and that successful negotiation leads to enhanced family well being.

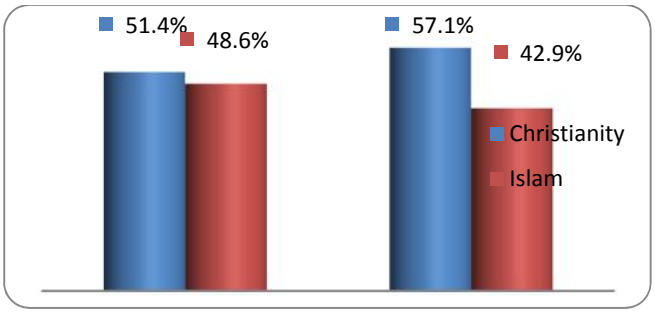
Figure 2: Distribution of respondents by marital status



Source: Field survey, 2013

Results in Figure 3 showed that 51.4 per cent of the male farmers were Christians while about 48.6 per cent were Muslims. Also, 57.1 per cent of female farmers were Christians while 42.9 per cent were female. The findings revealed that Christanity and Islam are the dominant religion in the study area.

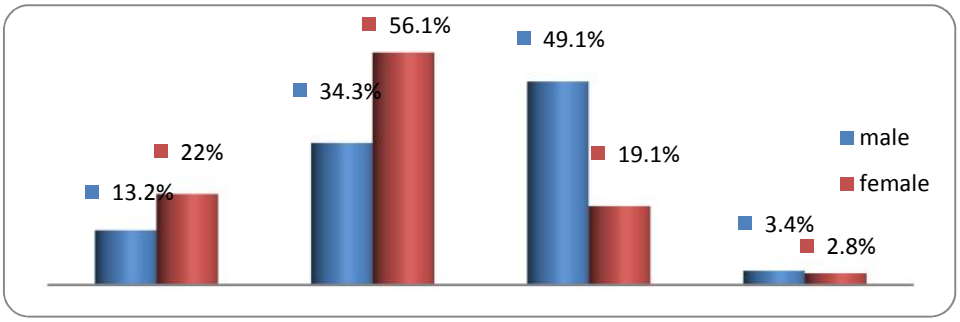
Figure 3: Distribution of respondents by religion affiliation



Source: Field survey, 2013.

Results in Figure 4 showed that 34.3 per cent of male farmers spent less than 6 years in formal education, 49.1 per cent spents between 6 and 12 years while only 3.4 per cent spent 13 years and above in formal education. In addition, 56.1 per cent spent less than 6 years in formal education, 19.1 per cent spent between 6 and 12 years while only 2.8 per cent spent 13 years and above in formaleducation. It further revealed that 13.2 percent and 22.0 per cent of the male and female farmers, respectively did not have primary education. The mean year spent in formal education was 8.1±4.1years and 5.7±1.7 for male and female farmers, respectively. This implies that farmers in Osun State have low level of education. This findings conform with Meyer (2003) assertion that farmers in Nigeria had between primary and secondary education.

Figure 4: Distribution of respondents by number of years spent in formal education



Source: Field survey, 2013

Farmers' socio-economic characteristics

Results in Table 1, showed that the mean household size for male and female respondents were 7.1 and 3.8, respectively. This revealed that male had higher household size than the female. The higher household size among the male could be due to polygamy type of marriage which is a common type of marriage among men in the rural areas. The findings conforms with the study expectation. Farming was the major occupation among the respondents as majority 48.7 per cent and 53.2 per cent of male and female respondents, respectively indicated farming as their primary occupation. The average annual income of male respondents from farming and non-farm activities was ₦58, 621 while that of the women was ₦63, 171. This findings revealed that women farmers have higher income than their male counterparts in Osun State. This could be due to the fact that women make more income from the sales of agricultural produce than their male counterparts as documented by De-Haen and Hemrich (2007) that women farmers had more job diversification than their male counterparts, hence, they make more income.

Table 1: Distribution of selected farmers' socio-economic characteristics

Variable	Male		Female		Male Mean±St.D	Female Mean±St.D
	F	%	F	%		
Household size					7.1±3.6	3.8±1.9
Primary occupation						
Farming	76	48.7	83	53.2		
Civil service	53	34.0	13	8.3		
Artisan	27	17.3	60	38.5		
Income					**₦58, 621±₦12, 700**	**₦63, 171±₦17,100**

Source: Field survey, 2013

Level of participation in household resources management

Evidence from Table 2 revealed that majority (75.0%) of female very often participate in the supply of water while only 3.2 per cent of male indicated that they participated very often in water supply. However, majority (70.5%) of male never participated in water supply. Majority of female (97.5%) showed that they very often participated in household chores such as cooking and other domestic activities while only 6.4 per cent of male participated very often. However, majority (80.2%) of male respondents never participated. Also, 88.5 per cent of female showed that they participated very often in child care while 75.0 per cent of male never participated. In addition, 42.3 per cent of male respondents showed that they participated very often in payment of utilities such as electricity bills, water bills and others household utilities, 34.6 per cent often participated, 12.8 per cent participated occassionally and only 7.1 per cent never participated. Comparatively, 23.7 per cent of female respondents indicated that they participated very often in payment of household utilities bills, 31.4 per cent participated, 13.5 per cent particpated while 20.5 per cent never participated. Evidence on the household food suppy showed that only 10.9 per cent of male respondents participated in food supply very often, 32.7 per cent particpated participated often, 30.1 per cent participated occassionally and 15.4 per cent never participated. In contrary, 43.6 per cent among the female respondents participated very often, 20.5 per cent often participated while 25.6 per cent never participated.

More so, only 4.5 per cent of male respondents very often particpated in food processing and storage while majority 78.8 per cent never participated. On the other hands, majortiy (59.0%) of female very often participated in food processing and storage, 39.1 per cent often particpated and only 1.9 per cent rarely participated. The findings revealed that female particpated in food processing and storage in the study area than male. This could be due to the fact that majority (66.9% and 86.7%) of male and female respondents, respectively were married. Many Nigerian culture especially, among the people of Southwest, Nigeria coontrained female to handle food and some other domestic activities than male. *Furthermore, 30.8 per cent of male respondents very often participated in child(ren) education, 58.3* per cent ofetn participated while only 10.9 per cent occassionally participated. However, 33.3 per cent of female very often participated in child education, 29.5 per cent often participated, 30.8 per cent occassionally participated while only 6.4 per cent rarely participated. This findings revealed that both male and female were involved in child education in the study area. Evidence from provisions for children needs showed that 44.2 per cent of male respondents very often participated in the provision of children needs, 11.5 per cent often participated, 26.3 per cent occassionally participated, while only 4.5 per cent never participated. Also, 55.8 per cent of female respondents very often participated in the provision of household children needs, 27.6 per cent participated often, 8.3 per cent occassionally participated 8.3 per cent rarely participated.

The findings revealed that male and female participated differently in household resources management at different degrees. However, as against some cultural beliefs, female also participated in household resources management that culturally believe to be male duties such as payment of utility bills, provision of children needs and their education. This findings agreed with Young (2003) assertion that men and women participate in household resources management among Tiv in Benue state Nigeria.

Table 2: Selected household resources between male and female respondents

Resources	Male		Female	
	f	%	F	%
Water supply				
Very often	5	3.2	117	75.0
Often	5	3.2	31	19.9
Occassionally	9	5.8	8	5.1
Rarely	27	17.3	-	-
Never	111	70.5	-	-
Household chores				
Very often	10	6.4	152	97.5
Often	9	5.7	3	1.9
Occassionally	10	6.4	1	0.6
Rarely	2	1.3	-	-
Never	125	80.2	-	-
Children care				
Very often	12	7.7	138	88.5
Often	12	7.7	11	7.1
Occassionally	6	3.8	3	1.9
Rarely	9	5.8	4	2.5
Never	117	75.0	-	-
Payment of utility bills				
Very often	66	42.3	37	23.7
Often	54	34.6	49	31.4
Occassionally	20	12.8	21	13.5
Rarely	5	3.2	17	10.9
Never	11	7.1	32	20.5
Food supply				
Very often	17	10.9	68	43.6
Often	51	32.7	-	-
Occassionally	47	30.1	32	20.5
Rarely	17	10.9	16	10.3
Never	24	15.4	40	25.6
Food processing & storage				
Very often	7	4.5	92	59.0
Often	9	5.7	61	39.1
Occassionally	3	1.9	3	1.9
Rarely	14	9.0	-	-
Never	123	78.8	-	-
Children education				
Very often	48	30.8	52	33.3
Often	91	58.3	46	29.5
Occassionally	17	10.9	48	30.8
Rarely	-	-	10	6.4
Never	-	-	-	0
Provision of family needs				
Very often	69	44.2	87	55.8
Often	18	11.5	43	27.6
Occassionally	41	26.3	13	8.3
Rarely	21	13.5	13	8.3
Never	7	4.5	-	-

Source: Field survey, 2013.

Gender and level of participation in selected household resources management

Results in Table 3 revealed that there was not significant difference between male and female respondents and their level of participation in household resources management. This could be due to the fact that gender awareness and western education have a great influence on gender participation in household resources management. Women now carry out responsibilities such as provision for household needs, payment of utility bills, payment of children education etc, which are culturally believed to be men' responsibilities. This has also resulted into high level of collaboration between male and female in managing household resources for the benefit of the family members. This findings conform with Quisumbing (2003); Young (2003); Olaf *et al* (2005) findings that men and women collaborate in the management of household resources management. This collaborative efforts between gender greatly influenced the stability of a family as a social institution.

Table 3: t-test showing the differences between gender and level of participation in household resource management

Variables	No.of cases	Mean	SD	SE	MD	T-test	P	D
Male	156	4.38	2.37	0.35	0.03	16.43	0.093	NS
Female	156	4.35	2.31	0.03		12.04		

Source: Field survey, 2013

CONCLUSION

A household is an intergral part of a social system wit numerous resources. Adequate and proper management of these resources has a great influence on the entire family members. The study revealed that the mean household size among male respondents was 7.1±3.6 while that of the female was 3.8±1.9. The mean age of the male farmers was 46.4±9.31 while that of the female was 43.1±5.9. Islam and Christainity were the dominant religion in the study area. The study further revealed that there was a high level of collaboration between male and female respondents in household resources management. This resulted into low level of differences between male and female respondents and level of household resources management in Osun State, Nigeria. The study recommends that more gender training should be organised in order to completely brigde the gap between male and female respondents in household resources management for the benefits of both the family and the society at large.

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