



**DETERMINANTS OF WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES
INDOGUWA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, KANO STATE, NIGERIA**

A. D. Abubakar¹, S. A. Makama², L. L. Yakubu¹

¹Department of Agricultural Economics, Faculty of Agriculture, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria Nigeria

²National Agricultural Extension Research and Liason Service, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria

Email: ahmedabuiar@yahoo.co.uk,

Phone no: (+234) 7069740233

ABSTRACT

The study assesses the determinants of women participation in income generating activities in Doguwa Local Government Area, Kano State. The study determined the socio-economic factors influencing women participation in income generation activities, described the income generating activities women engaged in, and identified the constraints faced by the women in participating in income generation activities. Data were collected using structured questionnaire from 100 randomly selected women and analysed using descriptive statistics and multiple regression. The results showed that majority of the women (85%) were married and had formal education (88%). The highest family size ranges from 10 households and above. Only 42 per cent engaged in one form of business or the other. Fifty percent of the respondents had access to credit while 22 per cent belong to cooperative societies. The result from multiple regression models revealed marital status, level of education, family size, household headship and membership of cooperative to have positive coefficients and were significant at. Age was found to have negative coefficient which implies that age is not a determinant of participation in income generating activities. The commonest income generating activities engaged by the women were; petty trading (33%), confectionery making (13%) and tailoring (13%). The commonest constraints faced by the women were inadequate capital, gender imbalance and religious factors. Based on the above findings, it can be concluded that women engaged in various forms of income generating activities and that marital status, level of education, family size, household headship and membership of cooperative societies were found not to be significant determinants of women participation in income generating activities. Access to credit was however, found to be significant in determining women participation in income generating activities. It is therefore recommended that women should be encouraged to form cooperative societies so as to enable them solve their problem of capital and gender imbalance.

Key words: Determinant, Women, Participation, IncomeGeneration, Activities

1.0 Introduction

Women are over half of the world's population, yet they do two-thirds of the world's work, earn one-tenth of the world's income, and own less than one-tenth of the world's poverty (Akinpelu, 2007). They play a significant role in agriculture, over the world. About 70 percent of the agricultural workers, 80 percent of food producers, and 10 percent of those who process basic foodstuffs are women and they also undertake 60 to 90 percent of the rural marketing; thus making up more than two-third of the workforce in agricultural production (FAO, 1985 and Baba *et al.*, 2013). According to National Population Commission (2013), Nigerian population was estimated to be 173.6 million at a growth rate of 2.8 percent and out of which almost 50 percent of which are women. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO, 2013) report that, 70 percent of this women

population resides and works in rural areas. This could probably be the reason for too many Nigerian women that largely live in poverty, having limited access to basic education, nutrition, health and social services which the development process is supposed to provide.

Despite their contribution to global food security, women farmers are frequently under estimated and overlooked in development strategies. According to FAO's (2010); world statistics, women generally make up two-third of the work force in agriculture. Despite all these, women are still perceived as mothers and house-keepers largely due to tradition and culture. Various studies have concluded that constraints faced by women in terms of equal access to economic opportunities and productive resources such as; land, credit, technology and market information tend to make them even more vulnerable

(FAO, 2010). And also most of women work is undervalued because it is typically under remunerated and often confined to the domestic or household realm, such as caring for children, the elderly and the ill; collecting water and fuel for cooking; maintaining household and preparing food are the responsibilities which are mostly taken up by women and girls (Fontana and Paciello,2010).

Therefore, the main objective of this study is to assess the determinants of women participation in income generating activities in the study area (Doguwa LGA, Kano State). The specific objectives are to; describe the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents; determine the socio-economic factors influencing women participation in income generating activities; describe the income generating activities that women engaged in; identify the constraints faced by the women in their pursuit to participate in income generating activities.

2.0 Materials and Methods

2.1 The Study Area

The study was carried out in Doguwa Local Government Area of Kano State. Doguwa Local Government Area is located between latitudes $8^{\circ}44'$ and $8^{\circ}73'$ East and longitudes $10^{\circ}45'$ and $10^{\circ}75'$ North of the equator. It has a landmass area of 1,473 square kilometers and a population of 151,181 people with projected population of 234,263 people as at 2017 at 2.8% growth rate (NPC, 2017). It shares boundaries with Lere, Kubau and Ikara local government areas of Kaduna State and Toro local government area of Bauchi State across north-west and south-east respectively. The study area is endowed with natural resources such as Falgore Game Reserve and available mineral resource deposits. Doguwa Local Government Area is within the semi arid Sudan savannah zone and characterized

The formula is expressed as follows:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \beta_5 X_5 + \beta_6 X_6 + \beta_7 X_7 \quad (1)$$

Where:

Y = dependent variable (1 = participation in income generating activities and 0 = otherwise).

X_1 - X_7 = factors affecting women participation in income generating activities

X_1 = Age of the respondent (in years)

X_2 = Marital status (Single=1, married=2 and Divorce=3)

X_3 = Level of education (informal=0, primary=1, secondary=2 tertiary=3 and others=4)

X_4 = Family size (number)

X_5 = Access to credit (1=Yes, 0=No)

X_6 = Membership of association (1=Yes, 0=No)

X_7 = Household head (1=Yes, 0=No)

by two distinct seasons categorized on the basis of moisture, as dry and rainy seasons. The rainy season usually starts at the end of May and ends in early October while the dry season starts in late October and ends in April. The mean annual rainfall is between 400-1,200 mm / annum, and the mean minimum temperature is 14.02°C , while the mean maximum temperature is 32.3°C . Dry cold and dust wind (Harmattan) is experienced between November and February where the weather is always cold. Heat is more severe in March and April and the climate condition is Guinea savannah. The soil is light or moderately leached, yellowish brown and sandy just like most northern savannah (KNARDA, 2011).

2.2 Methods and Tools

Probability and non probability sampling technique was used to select ten wards of the local government area. The five wards selected include Doguwa, Falgore, Tagwaye, Maraku and Rigada. Two villages were randomly selected out of each ward making a total of ten villages. Ten respondents were randomly selected from each village to give a total sample size of 100 respondents. Primary data were collected using structured questionnaire and interview schedule were used for illiterate respondents. Information that were collected include socio-economic characteristics of the, income generating activities that women engaged in and constraints faced by the women.

Data generated were analysed using both descriptive and inferential statistics such as frequency, percentage and ranking to achieve objectives i, ii and iv and linear regression model was used to analyse objective iii which is factors influencing women participation in income generating activities.

Logical model was used to test objective ii and is based on the cumulative logistic distribution function as expressed by Gujarati (1995).

β_0 = Constant

β_1 - β_7 = coefficient of determination

3.0 Results and Discussions

3.1 Socio-Economic Characteristics of the Respondents

The socio-economic characteristics of the respondents are shown in Table 1. The results showed that majority, about 75 per cent of the respondents were within the age bracket of 30-49 years and about 19% of the respondents were in the age category of 20-29 years, and (6%) were in the age category of 50 and above years. This implies that the respondents are still within their productive age as defined by FAO, 2013 that an age range of 30-49 falls within the age range that are economically productive in a population. Most of the women in the area are still

able-bodied women who could actively engage in income generating activities, and can contribute tremendously to the economic needs of their families as well as the community at large. In term of marital status the study revealed that about 85% were married, 9% were single and about 6% were divorce. This may be due to the fact that the study area is a Hausa/Fulani dominated area where their culture and tradition allows early marriage. Results further showed that about 12 percent of the respondents had no formal education, about 31 percent had primary education, 43 percent had secondary education and 14 percent had tertiary education. This implies that majority of the respondents are literate.

The results also revealed that about 22 percent of the respondents have a family size of 4-10 members, 40 percent has a family size of 11-17 members, 21 percent has a family size of 18-24 members and 17

percent has a family size of 25-31 members. This implied that there is need to balance home and market responsibilities which according to Diane (1998) is a major constraint to women's earnings, productivity and human capital accumulation.

In terms of occupation, few of the respondents (9%) of the respondents are civil/public servant, (42%) were involved in business, (14%) are students, (1%) were politician and others (34%) which include house wife and the rest. Majority (75%) of the respondents were not the heads of their household while only few (25%) were household head. The results further showed that about 17 percent of the respondents have no children, (50%) have between 1-5 children, (31%) have between 6-10 children and (2%) have from 10 and above children. About 50 percent of the respondents have access to credit and only (22%) were members of cooperative group.

Table 1.0: Socio-economic characteristic of respondents

Characteristic	Frequency	Percentage
Age Range (years)		
20-29	19	19
30-49	75	75
50 and above	6	6
Marital Status		
Married	85	85
Single	9	9
Divorce	6	6
Level of Education		
Informal	12	12
Primary	31	31
Secondary	43	43
Tertiary	14	14
Family Size		
4-10	22	22
11-17	40	40
18-24	21	21
25-31	17	17
Occupation		
Civil/Public servant	9	9
Business	42	42
Students	14	14
Household Head		
Yes	25	25
No	75	75
Number of Children		
1-5	50	50
6-10	31	31
11 and above	2	2
Access to credit		
Yes	50	50
No	50	50

Membership of Cooperative		
Members	22	22
Non-members	78	78

3.2 Determinants of Women Participation in Income Generating Activities

The result in Table 2 revealed that factors; marital status, level of education, family size, household headship, and membership to cooperative had positive coefficient though not significant. However, access to credit facilities was found to be positive and significant; implying that the more the access to credit facilities the more the women participation in income generating activities. On other hand, age had a negative coefficient implying that, as age increases

the level of participation in income generating activities goes down. The result is in agreement with that of Adejoh (2006) who also found age to be not significant as a factor affecting the use of improved cassava processing technologies by women. Access to credit was significant at 1 percent level of probability. The R-square value was found to be 0.527 which implies that about 53 percent of the independent variables jointly contributed to the dependent variables (Y).

Table 2.0: determinants of women participation in income generating activities

Variables	Coefficient	Standard Error	T – value
Age	-0.007	0.005	-1.287ns
Marital status	0.116	0.100	1.156ns
Level of education	0.009	0.043	0.206ns
Family size	0.045	0.028	1.585ns
Household head	0.127	0.086	1.473ns
Access to credit	0.622	0.079	7.893**
Cooperative	0.004	0.099	0.045ns
Constant	0.272	0.223	1.218ns

R² = 0.527; Adjusted R² = 0.491; ** = Significant at 5% and Ns = not significant

3.3 Income Generating Activities Engaged by the Women in the Study Area

The various income generating activities that women engaged in the study area are shown in Table 3. It has been found that most women engaged in more than one form of income generating activity. This agrees with Iliya (1999) findings that most rural people in various locations in Nigeria engaged in

various income-generating activities to make a living. Petty trading at home (33%) is the commonest important income generating activity that women engaged in, followed by confectionery making (13%) and tailoring/weaving (13%). Farming (9%), hair dressing/plaiting (8%), groundnut processing (6%) and poultry production (5%) were the least engaged by the women.

Table 3.0: Distribution of respondents according to income generating activities

Activities	Frequency	Percentage
Petty trading	56	32.56
Pottery making	3	1.74
Tailoring/Weaving	23	13.37
Farming	15	8.72
Poultry production	9	5.23
Soap making	9	5.23
Groundnut processing	11	6.40
Fish production	3	1.74
Confectionery production	23	13.37
Hair dressing/Plaiting	14	8.14
Hire labour	6	3.49
Total	172*	100

* = multiple responses allowed

3.4 Constraints Faced by the Respondents in Pursuit of the Income Generating Activities

The study revealed that,inadequate capital is the major constraints faced by the respondents(Table 4).

Table 4.0: Constraints faced by the respondents

Constraints	Frequency	Percentage	Ranking
inadequate of capital	87	30.20	1 st
Cultural and religious factors	55	19.10	3 rd
Poor market environment	68	23.61	2 nd
Family responsibilities	41	14.24	4 th
Gender inequality	37	12.85	5 th
Total	288*	100	

Multiple response*

It constitutes 30 percent of the constraints. Poor market environment also constitute about 24 percent of the constraint affecting a number of households in the area. Moreover cultural and religion factors also affect women participation in income generating activities which constitute about 19 percent of the constraints and also affect about 55 respondents. Family responsibility is also among the constraints that affect women participation in income generation activities (14%). Gender inequality is also found to be one of the constraints that is affecting women (13%).

4.0 Conclusion

It could be concluded that the women engaged in various form of income generating activities and that access to credit determine their participation in income generating activities was not significant and do not determine participation. Also, the women face many constraints; such as lack of capital, cultural and religious barriers, poor market environment, family responsibilities and gender inequality. It is therefore recommended that women in the study area should be encouraged to develop the habit of engaging in petty trading at home front and also to form or join the existing cooperative societies so as to acquire skills and training such as those training sessions offered by many Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs).

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