

**FARM CHILDREN AND AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION IN NIGERIA  
PROCEEDINGS OF THE 12<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE AND  
NETWORK MEETING OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE  
PROGRAMME IN NIGERIA**

**(CYIAP – Network)**

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From Editor-in-Chief Office

Eulogy of CYIAP Pioneer President: Late Professor S. Fola Adedoyin (Aged 60 years)

The Network cannot forget urgently the commitment and contribution of the Pioneer President of the Network, Prof. S.F. Adedoyin who did not find it difficult to bring members together regularly at his own expense.

He chartered the course for the network even when there seems to be none. A renowned Professor of Extension and Rural Sociology indeed. He was the Vice Chancellor of Samuel Adegboyega University, Ogwa until his demise. Adieu, Prof. S.F. Adedoyin.

  
Dr. A.O. Ajayi

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**Table I: Socio Economic Characteristics of Respondents**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Age</b>		
< 15	5	3.5
15 – 25	83	57.6
26 – 35	46	31.9
Above 35	10	6.9
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	90	62.5
Female	54	37.5
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Single	110	76.4
Married	29	20.1
Widowed	1	0.7
Separated	4	2.8
<b>Education Status</b>		
No formal Education	29	20.1
Primary Education	43	29.9
Secondary Education	32	22.2
Tertiary Education	40	27.8
<b>Occupation</b>		
Farming	25	17.4
Teaching	9	6.3
Trading	21	14.6
Transporter	67	46.5
Civil Servant	4	2.8
Artisan	18	12.5

**Source:** Field Survey, 2014



**Table 2: Reasons for interest in Agriculture**

Statements	Strongly Agree		Agree		Undecided		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Mean
	5	4	3	2	1						
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	
Agriculture is a noble profession	11	7.6	12	8.3	9	6.3	23	16.0	89	61.8	1.84
I will encourage my children to go into Agriculture	4	2.8	7	4.9	8	5.6	36	25.0	89	61.8	1.62
Agriculture is a good source of income	42	29.2	28	19.4	21	14.6	33	22.9	20	13.9	3.27
I will prefer better opportunities in the city	87	60.4	30	20.8	11	7.6	10	6.9	6	4.2	4.26
My involvement in agriculture is because I have no alternative for now	77	53.5	41	28.5	9	6.3	12	8.3	5	3.5	4.20
I am into agriculture because I want to obey family tradition	53	36.8	28	19.4	22	15.3	27	18.8	14	9.7	3.55

Source: Field Survey, 2014



**Table 3: Factors Limiting Youth Involvement in Agriculture\**

Limitations	YES	% Freq	NO	% Freq	Mean	Ranking
Inadequate access to funds and credit facilities	139	96.5	5	3.5	1.03	1
Lack of access to mechanized farming	127	88.2	17	11.8	1.11	2
Inadequate government support for grass root youths	101	70.1	43	29.9	1.30	3
No ready Market	97	67.4	47	32.6	1.33	4
No access to land	82	56.9	62	43.1	1.43	5
Inadequate availability of supporting rural infrastructures	36	25.0	108	75.0	1.77	6
No access to training	23	16.0	121	84.0	1.84	7
Lack of access to Information	11	7.6	133	92.4	1.92	8

**Source:** Field Survey, 2014



**Table 4: Chi square analysis between the socio – economic characteristics of farmers and factors limiting involvement**

Variables	X <sup>2</sup>	df	p – value	Decision
Age*Funds	5.806	3	0.121	Ns
Age*Government Support	5.3	3	.151	Ns
Age*Land	20.077	3	.000	*
Sex*fund	1.045	1	.307	Ns
Sex*Government support	0.005	1	.944	Ns
Sex*Land	0.825	1	.364	Ns
Marital status*funds	1.755	3	.625	Ns
Marital status*Government support	3.121	3	.373	Ns
Marital status*Land	3.952	3	.267	Ns
Education*funds	60.199	1	.000	*
Education*government support	20.347	1	.000	*
Education*Land	39.994	1	.000	*

Source: Field Survey, 2014

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## TRANSFORMATION OF NIGERIA'S ECONOMY THROUGH AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

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### ABSTRACT

Nigeria economy strives primarily on export of agricultural products such as cocoa, palm oil and groundnut from Western, Eastern and Northern part of the Country respectively, before the advent and exploration of crude oil in the late 50s to early 60s. Instead of the oil boom to be a catalyst for improved agricultural production, the reverse was the case. Farming was abandoned with the able bodies and the youth looking for white-collar jobs. Today, the nation continues to import food items from other countries to supplement local production. The masses can no longer afford the prices of available food items while youth unemployment is on the increase, in addition the level of poverty is very high breeding corruption and social insecurity. Indeed, Nigeria needs transformation in all spheres of life. For Nigeria economy to experience the needed transformation, emphasis must be placed on meaningful agricultural production. Thus, the objective of this paper is to highlight how the agricultural potential of the nation can be managed, utilized in achieving self reliance and sufficiency for the development of the country.

Keywords: Transformation, agricultural production

### INTRODUCTION:

Nigeria is a Country that is naturally endowed for agricultural production. The earth in Nigeria from South to the North is very rich and capable of supporting one crop type or the other. Despite her human and national resources, Nigeria as a nation have not being able to feed her citizens. Eric (2013) reported that between 2003 and 2007, the agricultural sector grew by 7 percent a year. It is also noted that the import profile as far as agricultural products are concerned continues to rise. In 2009, imports in this sector added up to more than USD3billion. The Country imports 3 million tones of rice annually at a cost of close to \$700million while 100,000 tonnes of soybeans valued at over \$50 million was imported to feed livestock. Major agricultural imports are wheat, rice and sugar (Eric, 2013).

Environmental factors in terms of climate, soil and vegetation favour the country not just to be sufficient in food production but also to be the major exporter in agricultural produce in Africa. The human resources in terms of labour both skilled and non-skilled labour is the most populous nation in Africa. If all these natural and human resources are judiciously coordinated and utilized with the right attitude, the problem of poverty, lack of raw materials for the agro-allied industries and youth unemployment will be reduced significantly (Idachaba, 2004 and Agbato, 2008).

Nigeria depends so much on agriculture as its source of foreign exchange earnings before the

discovery of crude oil in late 50s and early 60s. According to the Business Trade and Investment Guide on Nigeria (2010/2011) before independence, cocoa generated 90 percent of Nigeria's foreign exchange earning. Local food production was able to feed the population while export of cash crops such as cocoa, groundnut, palm oil and other cash crops was able to keep the economy going. Laudable projects were carried out from income earned through exportation of these agricultural products such as building of the Cocoa House and the first stadium – Liberty Stadium renamed Obafemi Awolowo Stadium all at Ibadan in the Southwest. In the early 70s, Malaysia came to the Country to collect breed of oil palm seedlings for establishment in their Country. Today Malaysia is a major producer and exporter of palm oil in the world (personal communication)

The discovery of crude oil led to shift of emphasis from agricultural production to petrochemical development. The money realized from the exploration and export of crude oil brought about rapid development of the cities especially the State capitals causing mass exodus of the youth and able bodied men from the rural areas to the cities. At present, more than 80 percent of the nation foreign exchange earnings is from the oil sector while the agricultural sub-sector was neglected (Oyekunle, Amusat, Sodiya and Atanda, 2013)

Depending solely on crude oil as a major source of income can be suicidal to the economy in view of the instability in the world oil prices over



the years. It was in view of this that the civilian regime of former President Olusegun Obasanjo launched its New agricultural policy in 2001. The policy's objectives are to achieve self – sufficiency in food supply, to raise production of agricultural inputs for industry, to increase the production of crops for export, to promote the use of modern technology, to foster sustainable practices and protect the environment and to generate employment and improve rural quality of life (Idachaba, 2004). The importance of agriculture makes former President Yar'Adua ranked high, food security and agriculture in his Seven Point agenda for Nigeria. The former administration of immediate past President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan on assumption of office package his policy as *Transformation Agenda* with a view of repositioning the economy for better productivity and self-reliance (Goodluck, 2014). The objective of this paper therefore is to examine the importance of agricultural production in transforming the economy of Nigeria and how this can be effectively achieved.

#### **What is transformation and why?**

The Oxford Learner dictionary (2000) defined transformation as a means of renewing or changing existing nature of a material, object or people. Transformation Agenda was the policy list of this past administration at repositioning the attitude, orientation and other aspect of Nigeria for productivity and efficiency. According to Goodluck (2011), before and immediately after independence, Nigeria were ruled by leaders with focus, purpose and articulate spirit, always having the people's needs at heart and putting the people first before their individual self. It was also period where leaders served the Country sacrificially not because of what they can get from Nigeria but rather because of what they can offer for Nigeria. However, this is no longer the case, hence the need for re-orientation and transformation.

The nation is confronted by serious food, political, economic, social and security challenges despite her 54 years of independence. Some of these challenges are low agricultural production, hunger and high level of poverty, corruption and bad governance or leadership, serious youth unemployment, epileptic power supply, security challenges and insurgence of terrorist fundamentalist especially in the northern part, high inflation rate, lack of morale and motivation in public service leading to unabated strikes, high crime and violence rate, decaying infrastructural facilities and non-existence in some areas. , Lack of foods that is hunger poverty and youth unemployment predisposed the youth to various forms of vices that

threaten the security of the nation. The level of corruption is very high both in public and private sectors. In Nigeria politics, corruption level is very endemic. The love of money is the order of the day without consideration for human life and dignity. Gaining employment in the public sector is no longer on what you can do but more on who you know. Indeed Nigeria needs transformation. An important sector of the economy that is very vital in developing the nation economy is agricultural production. If the agricultural sub-sector is well focus, developed and transform, the economy will improved, food which is the major basic needs of life will be available with various job opportunity. Therefore, the importance of agricultural development can not be over emphasized in the Transformation Agenda of the country for self reliance and sustenance.

#### **Nigeria's Agriculture: Nature and its importance**

Nigeria is an agrarian country by virtue of her natural and human resources. According to the Business, Trade and Investment Guide 2010/11, agriculture contributed 41.84 percent to Nigeria Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2009 and the sector employed around 70 percent of the work force. Nigeria has 79 million hectare of cultivable land. Most of the farmers are small-scale subsistence farmers with average size of farm of 1 hectare in the south and around 3 hectares in the north. Around 33 percent of the country land is used as arable land though about 80 percent of the land is potentially cultivable. Much of Nigeria agriculture is carried out according to traditional methods with little or no mechanization.

After crude oil exploration, the second source of foreign exchange earning to the country is through agriculture. Ekemode (2000) noted that Nigeria is a country who is very suitable for agriculture and that the impact of agriculture to the nation economy includes provision of food for the people, provision of employment directly or indirectly, provision of income to the farmers and the nation, provision of raw materials for the industries and provides materials for clothing and shelter. Agriculture plays a major role in the economic growth and development of the nation by providing market for industrial goods.

Despite the agricultural potentials of the country, yet the nation cannot boast of sufficient food supply in times of crises or problems. Many of the citizenry are leaving below the poverty line, with industries closing down as a result of lack of raw materials. The challenges are enormous but can be surmounted if all hands are on desk. If there are genuine efforts from all to boast agricultural



production, it can be a basis by which Nigeria economy can be transformed thus making life more better and meaningful.

### Ways of transforming Nigeria's Agriculture

The challenges facing Nigeria agriculture is multidimensional requiring holistic approach. There are so many stakeholders that must work together as a team in order to achieve the desired transformation in the agricultural sector for the improvement in the economy. For transformation of Nigeria agriculture the following has a vital role to play. They are the government, educational and research institutions, the private and organized sectors, the youth, farmers and its allied Associations

#### (i) The government

The three tiers of the government that is Federal, State, and Local governments have a major role in transforming agriculture. This is because the national resources of the nation are managed and kept in trust for the people by these tiers of the government. It is in view of this that national revenue and other taxable income are shared on monthly basis. This action makes the government to be in control of public funds more than any individual.

The Leadership at each tiers of the government determines the course of actions and the general level of development. The responsibilities expected of the government include:

1. Consistent government policies and programmes as related to agriculture. Change in agricultural policies and programmes as a result of change in government and administration does not allow for continuity in developmental process. There is therefore need for stability in government policies and programme from time to time.
2. Timely allocation and disbursement of agricultural fund in the ministries and other parasitals. This is because agriculture is directly linked to climate that no body has control over. Appropriate timing for agricultural activities is very essential for success on the farm.
3. Transparency in handling and accountability on public funds should be strictly enforced.
4. Creating an enabling environment for private investment in agricultural production. Government may not be directly involve in agricultural production. However, where there are good, condusive environment provided by the government,

these will promote and be a catalyst for enhanced production. The needed enabling environment include:

- (a) Development and maintenance of the Country infrastructure facilities that are catalyst for development of the rural areas. This involve provision of electricity, good road net work, clean water supply, communication facilities among others.
- (b) Proper funding of Tertiary and Research institutions for development of local technologies and new products and techniques.
- (c) Guarantee minimum price for agricultural products such that farmers can make profit out of their farm enterprise
- (d) Provision of inputs like seeds, farm machinery fertilizers, agrochemicals and vaccines at subsidized rates to recognized or registered farmers associations and cooperatives.
5. Resuscitation ad re-establishment of farm settlement schemes based on youth involvement and integration. This will go a long way in securing job opportunities and empowerment of the youth for meaningful agricultural production. Each farm settlement should have functional residential houses with the needed infrastructures for good living.
6. Establishment of plantation of tree and other cash crops based on climatic and ecological consideration. Cocoa, rubber, other economic trees can be established in the Southwest of the Country, oil palm in the South East while legumes and cereals are suitable in the Northern part. For livestock production, the southwest is very suitable for production of poultry products like eggs, broiler meat while the north should intensify the production and fattening of animals like cattle, sheep and goat.

(ii) *Educational and research institutions*: Nigeria is highly blessed with tertiary and allied Research Institutions in the field of agriculture. There is therefore the need to develop the indigenous knowledge and technology such as developing crop and animal varieties and agricultural techniques for sustainable production. The curriculum should be tailored in relation with the peculiar nature of soil, climatic and natural characteristics of the country. It must equally be practically based that graduate must be able to start small scale farming enterprises.

The rate of population growth coupled with dynamic nature of technology demands that agricultural



production and techniques supersede the traditional methods of farming. However the country cannot totally depend on imported technology, machines and implements. This is because of their limitations in the sense that they are very costly and beyond the reach of average farmers; also lack of spare parts and experts for maintenance and servicing as at when due.

For transformation of Agriculture in Nigeria to be achieved, the educational and research institutions must intensify their efforts and work as a team in developing the needed adaptive technology, farm machines, products varieties and techniques that will be compatible with our soil, climate, easily repaired and available at affordable to the average farmers that forms the bulk of Nigeria's farmers.

**(iii) The private sector partnership:** To develop and transform Nigeria agriculture, the involvement and investment of the private and organized sector of the economy is very vital and important. Once the enabling environment has been created by the government coupled with favourable weather conditions and available market opportunities, private and individuals who are skilled in the field of farming and financially capable are encouraged to invest in farming business and enterprise. The advantages of this over government owned farms are:

- a. The bureaucratic process are removed in decision making process.
- b. Change in regime or administration does not affect the organizational set up and its smooth running
- c. Funds are released as at when due for effective results. Examples of these are private sector that are contributing significantly to the economy of the country are Obasanjo Farms Nigeria Ltd, Animal care Nigeria Ltd, Amo & Siberra Farm Ltd., Zartek Farm Nigeria Ltd., Chi Farm Nigeria Ltd among others.

**(iv) The youth:** One of the challenges confronting the nation is youth unemployment. The nation aged farmers are passing away gradually thus needing replacement by able, willing and competent youth. In view of this, youth trained in the field of agriculture from Universities, Polytechnics and Colleges of Agriculture can be motivated, encouraged and mobilized to start farm business and enterprise in crop, animal, fishery and other related areas rather than roaming the cities in search of white collar jobs.

**What does the youth needs to start a farm business**  
The youth requires a technical know-how of the business, that is possess the rudimentary knowledge, should have interest and willingness, be focus and

determined, should have financial assistance in form of loans or subsidy, low cost housing scheme, enabling environment such as good land, infrastructures, farm inputs and machineries

Many of the youth may not have the financial back-up to start farming. Take off grants and maintenance allowance can be given to them before the harvesting of their crops or livestock. The programme can be well package under the term "Youth farm settlement Programme" in collaboration with Ministries of Agriculture, Youth Development and Finance. The modalities for this programme may include acquisition of land by government for this purpose, land allocation to interested youth should be free of charge, provision of inputs at subsidizing rate, periodic training, workshop and seminar for the participating youths, formation of youth farmers cooperatives. Running away or non participation of the youth in agricultural production in the country potent a grave danger for the country in future and may also be a disservice to the nation by the youth.

**(v) Farmers organization and associations:** This is coming together of farmers to form organization and associations. This no doubt will assist the knowledge base of the farmers which will in turn affect their output. The advantages of this are:

- (1) Farmers are better recognized and registered
- (2) It affords the opportunity to receive loans and inputs from the government without these falling into wrong hands.
- (3) Farmers are able to channel their challenges properly for better solutions and results
- (4) It makes it easier for training and workshop to be organized for them
- (5) Assist in marketing their outputs properly thus prevent exploitative tendencies of the middle men.

#### CONCLUSION:

Considering the natural, human and material resources and endowment of Nigeria, the nation is potentially rich agriculturally and can be a food basket and not just for herself and Africa but the entire world. It is hoped that if the ideas in this paper are well implemented, there will be transformation in Nigeria agriculture thus improving the economy.

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## TRANSFORMING TRADITIONAL BEEKEEPING FOR YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

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### ABSTRACT

This paper gives an insight into beekeeping otherwise known as apiculture, highlighting its potentials and the possibility of the government keying into its prospects by promoting it as a form of empowerment programme for many unemployed youths with the aim of engaging them and making them self-reliant while contributing to national development simultaneously. It also briefly discusses youth unemployment and the need for government to pay more attention to youth empowerment to foster national development. Some of the recommendations made includes; transforming traditional beekeeping by using top-bar hives rather than fixed comb hives, improved methods of harvesting and honey extraction and also promotion of the venture as a youth empowerment programme by the government.

**Key words:** Transformation, Beekeeping, Youth empowerment, National development

### INTRODUCTION

Beekeeping or apiculture is the maintenance of honey bee colonies, commonly in hives, by humans. The layman on the street believes the only product which can be obtained from a bee hive is honey. On the contrary, a beekeeper (apiarist) keeps bees in order to collect honey and other products of the hive (beeswax, propolis, pollen, and royal jelly), to pollinate crops, or to produce bees for sale to other beekeepers. A location where bees are kept is called an apiary or "bee yard". There are more than 20,000 species of wild bees (Biology online, 2009). Many species are solitary (Heaf, 2009) like mason bees, and many others rear their young in burrows and small colonies, (bumblebees). Beekeeping, or apiculture, is concerned with the practical management of the social species of honey bees, which live in large colonies of up to 100,000 individuals. In Nigeria, the most commonly reared specie is the African killer bee, which is highly productive and has a nasty reputation for being extremely aggressive.

All of the *Apis mellifera* sub-species are capable of inter-breeding and hybridizing. Many bee breeding companies strive to selectively breed and hybridize varieties to produce desirable qualities like disease and parasite resistance, good honey production, swarming behaviour reduction, prolific breeding, and mild disposition. Some of these hybrids are marketed under specific brand names, such as the Buckfast Bee or Midnite Bee. The advantages of the initial F1 hybrids produced by these crosses include: hybrid vigor, increased honey productivity, and greater disease resistance while the disadvantage is that in subsequent generations these advantages may

fade away and hybrids tend to be very defensive and aggressive (Chandler, 2007).

### Potentialities of Beekeeping

Beekeeping in its various facets has a lot of potentialities which includes;

- Honey production: honey has been confirmed to be a better and healthier alternative to refined sugar and other sweeteners, It may be noted here that honey is an extremely useful product that encloses different sugars such as glucose and fructose, minerals like magnesium, calcium, potassium, chlorine, sulfur, iron, phosphate and sodium. Honey also contains small proportions of iodine, copper and zinc. In addition, honey contains an assortment of vitamins, including vitamins B1, B2, B3, B5, B6, and C. ([www.flpalovera.co.uk](http://www.flpalovera.co.uk))
- Source of propolis: Honey bees metabolize propolis from sticky resin secreted by trees and buds. They use it to line their hives thereby creating an environment many times more sterile than that found in a modern hospital. Propolis is a powerful, natural antibiotic, which enables 60,000 bees to live together in a bacteria-free environment. Propolis acts as a stimulant on the body's immune system and current uses include the treatment of respiratory tract conditions such as asthma and bronchitis and skin conditions such as eczema and psoriasis. ([www.flpalovera.co.uk](http://www.flpalovera.co.uk))
- Source of beeswax: Beeswax also has a long history as a useful product for humans. Its



uses include cosmetics, sealing documents, paints, furniture polish, adhesives and bronze casting. Whereas honey is produced with the help of plants, Beeswax is produced entirely by the bees themselves in wax glands on their abdomens.

- Source of bee venom: Apitherapy, as the science is now called, involves using any product of the hive to aid in recovery from disease or to maintain optimal health. Bee venom is one of the therapies used and involves administering bee stings in a controlled manner at a specific spot on the body to lessen the symptoms of various diseases namely Arthritis and Multiple Sclerosis (MS). ([www.flpalovera.co.uk](http://www.flpalovera.co.uk))
- Source of Royal jelly: Royal Jelly is a reservoir of nutrients containing vitamins A, C, D & E and also contains an abundance of the B vitamins. It also contains 18 amino acids and a variety of minerals. Royal Jelly provides a variety of benefits to the human body including antibacterial and antiviral action, the acceleration of wound healing, the promotion of cell-tissue regeneration, provision of energy and an all round calming effect on the body's central nervous system. ([www.flpalovera.co.uk](http://www.flpalovera.co.uk))
- Source of revenue generation: The combination of all these products of beekeeping can be a very good source of income for the beekeeper.

#### **Traditional beekeeping and wild honey harvesting**

Traditional beekeeping entails the use of fixed comb hives, in which the combs cannot be removed or manipulated for management or harvesting without permanently damaging the comb. Almost any hollow structure can be used for this purpose, such as a log gum, skep or a clay pot. Fixed comb hives are no longer in common use in most places, and are illegal in some places that require inspection for problems such as varroa and American foulbrood. Wild honey harvesting entails harvesting unfarmed honey from the wild. Wild or feral bees are usually found in hollow trees, crevices of rocks among others wild honey harvesting involves the use of fire in destroying the hive, to drive away the bees and subsequently harvest the honey, the problem with this procedure is that a lot of bees are killed in the process and the honey is usually contaminated by melted wax due to the effect of the flame.

#### **Youth empowerment and national development**

The issue of youth empowerment for national development has been a major point of focus for successive governments over time but it seems there has been more of talking than action because up till this present moment, the issue of youth unemployment is still a recurrent decimal in our national discourse. The era of easy access to white collar jobs has far faded away and this is a reality which the teeming population of youths in the country has to face, an edition of the Sun newspaper (2014) paints a grim picture of this reality by quoting the national bureau of statistics figure on unemployment which it puts in excess of 20 million, in the actual sense, the figure could actually be much higher considering the number of graduates being churned out yearly from the various tertiary institutions in the country and also the youths with little or no form of education in the society. These groups of unemployed youth can be likened to a time bomb waiting to explode if care is not taken, and as a matter of fact we can even conclude that the matter has gotten out of control considering the myriad of security challenges facing the country at the moment, for instance we have challenges such as boko haram, militancy, armed robbery, kidnapping, ritual killings, internet fraud among others. The truth of the matter is that the government needs to start taking the issue of youth empowerment more seriously rather than paying lip service to it if it is serious about reducing the unemployment figures to enable the teeming youth contribute their own quota to national development.

#### **Transforming traditional beekeeping to modern Beekeeping techniques for youth empowerment and national development**

The potentialities of beekeeping have been highlighted earlier which all have different nutrient and medicinal values as well as other vital uses. These products command some monetary value and can therefore be a source of income for unemployed individuals. Traditional beekeeping has been described as beekeeping with fixed comb hives, over time it has been discovered that the use of these fixed comb hives is not efficient as a lot of damage is done to the bee colony during harvesting and it is also difficult to inspect the hive health due to the nature of the fixed combs. For a sustainable beekeeping experience, traditional beekeeping needs to be transformed and this would entail embracing modern practices in beekeeping.

An integral aspect of the transformation would be to jettison the use of fixed comb hives and embrace the use of top-bar hives which are relatively easy to construct and manage. The use of top-bar hives



helps to improve the efficiency of production as the individual top-bars holds individual combs thereby making inspection of the hive and honey harvesting easy. The top-bar hives also makes possible a reduction in the damage done to the population of bees in the hive. Another aspect in the transformation is the establishment of an orchard which will have a variety of nectar producing plants which will serve as a source of raw materials for honey production for the foraging bees unlike under traditional whereby the bees are allowed to travel various distances in search of such plants. The main advantage of establishing an orchard in the vicinity of the apiary is that the beekeeper can actually determine the quality of his honey by establishing nectar producing plants of his choice in addition to the reduced distance of travel for the foraging bees. In the aspect of honey harvesting and extraction, under the traditional methods and wild harvesting of honey, the use of heat is actually quite common, but this is not the best practice as the honey becomes contaminated with melted wax, therefore reducing its quality and market value, but with modern beekeeping, smoking devices and mechanized honey extractors are now available to ensure that the quality of honey harvested is premium, therefore commanding the best market prices. A transformed traditional beekeeping can be embraced by unemployed youths and promoted by the government as a form of youth empowerment programme to keep the youths busy with the possibility of generating income and becoming self reliant which will subsequently promote national development.

#### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion, it can be said that beekeeping is an aspect of agriculture which has great potentials which has not been fully tapped into and considering the present economic conditions of the country with the dwindling oil prices in the world market and the talk of economy diversification by the government, it is an area which should be promoted for youth empowerment with a view to engaging millions of unemployed youths in the country. It can also be

concluded that the traditional method of beekeeping is no longer fashionable and should be transformed for better efficiency of production so as to have products of better quality and quantity for maximum economic gains for the beekeeper.

Based on the issues discussed, the following are recommended;

1. Traditional beekeeping should be transformed especially in the area of using fixed comb hives which should be discouraged while promoting top-bar hives as an alternative.
2. Improved methods of honey extraction and processing should be encouraged via the use of mechanized honey extractors and smokers instead of heat.
3. Beekeeping should be promoted as a form of youth empowerment programme and many unemployed individuals should be encouraged to embrace it for self reliance
4. Adequate technical know-how should be provided in the form of trainings, workshops and support programmes.

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## CHECKMATING SELF-MEDICATION: A PANACEA FOR UNHEALTHY AND UNPRODUCTIVE FARM CHILDREN

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### ABSTRACT

*The global trend today, and in fact, one of the greatest concerns, is how to feed the ever increasing population. The world population is increasing at an alarming rate with over 60% of this occurring in the developing countries. The developing countries have over 70% of their populace living in the rural areas and depending on agriculture and agriculture-related activities as sources of livelihoods. However, due to the high rate of using very primitive farm practices among the rural people, poverty and high rate of vulnerability to diseases and death, food production still remains at the subsistence level. This effort in food production is grossly deficient in feeding the large population, more so that, this is coupled with rapid migration of the active youth to the towns and cities. Therefore, if farming must be given its rightful place on priority list, the youth and the children must be sensitized into taking up food production and greater effort must be made to transgenerate them into farming through motivation. It is therefore expedient that, the youth and the children, who should take over from the aged, must be healthy and productive. Studies have shown that more youth and children are more prone to diseases and violent crimes which often incapacitate them. In order to treat the ill health, a large percentage of the victims often result to self-medication. Self-medication could be another source of a complicated cause of unhealthiness and unproductiveness among the youth and children. No matter the reason(s) the youth may be adducing to justify their position, self-medication has been found to be injurious to their health. It was therefore suggested that campaign for the awareness of the dangers inherent in self-medication be a priority and that doctors must insist on only drugs supplied by chemists while drug control policy should be legislated.*

**Key Words:** Checkmating, Self-medication, Panacea, Farm children

### INTRODUCTION

The global trend today, and in fact, one of the greatest concerns, is how to feed the ever increasing population. The world population is increasing at an alarming rate with over 60% of this occurring in the developing countries (Alfred and Odefadehan, 2007). The developing countries have over 70% of their populace living in the rural areas and depending on agriculture and agriculture-related

activities as sources of livelihoods (Alfred *et al*, 2013).

However, due to the high rate of using very primitive farm practices among the rural people, poverty and high rate of vulnerability to diseases and death, food production still remains at the subsistence level. This effort in food production is grossly deficient in feeding the large population, more so that, this is coupled



with rapid migration of the active youth to the towns and cities.

The migration of active and productive youth and children therefore, leaves farming in the hands of the aged. If farming, yea, if food production must be given its rightful place on priority list, the youth and the children must be sensitized into taking up food production and greater effort must be made to transgenerate them into farming through motivation. It is therefore expedient that, the youth and the children, who should take over from the aged, must be healthy and productive.

Studies (Alfred, 2009, WHO, 2005) have shown that of the population infected with HIV/AIDS in some parts of Africa, 40 percent are youths of below 25 Years and the major obstacles to checkmating the spread of the dreadful diseases, is the lack of awareness in the most vulnerable proportions of the population of the risks they face and preventive measures to imbibe. For example, in Tanzania, with and HIV/AIDS infection rate of 18 percent, 51 percent of the girls and 75 percent of the boys; and in Zambia, with 13 percent rate of infection, 23 percent of the girls and 10 percent of the boys were ignorant. It was the same for Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Cote D'voire, with high prevalence rates of infection, yet varying percentages of their young people were found to have no knowledge of how to protect themselves from being infected by the virus. Between May 10 and May 20, 2015, over 80 children died of lead poisoning in Zamfara and Niger States of Nigeria (Nigeria Television Authority news, 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2015). A larger percentage of those fighting and are being killed at *Boko haram* induced insurgency in Nigeria are youths with ages ranging between 16 and 35 years with an appreciable of those below those ages being used as suicide bombers.

Generally, more youth and children are more prone to diseases and violent crimes which often get them incapacitated. More importantly too, are those children and youth who become unhealthy and unproductive through the habit of self-medication. In order to treat the resultant ill health, a large percentage of the victims often result to self-medication. Self-medication could be another source of a complicated cause of unhealthiness and unproductiveness among the youth and children. It is against this backdrop that this paper attempted to answer questions as; what is the concept of self-medication. What is responsible for self-medication among the children? What likely effects have self-medication on children's health? To what extent can self-medication be put under check?

#### **Concept of Self-Medication**

People want to get healthy, particularly, when they become ill. One of the strategies of overcoming illness is by taking medication. However, when medication is not recommended by a medical expert, it is referred to as self-medication and this has been generally regarded to be unsafe and dangerous from the medical and pharmacological perspective (Chukwu et al, 1996). Self-medication has been referred to as the health activities to treat oneself with or without drugs using information obtained from past health experiences, books, devices, software, internet, or through radio or television advertisement (Hughes et al, 1999). The World Self-Medication Industry (WSMI) has defined self-medication as the "treatment of common health problems with medicines especially designed and labeled for use without medical supervision And approved as safe and effective for such use (Arikpo, 2009).

Self-medication products are those not requiring a medical prescription and which



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are produced, distributed and sold to consumers for use on their own initiative. Responsible self-medication can be used to present and treat symptoms and ailments that do not need medical consultation or oversight. This reduces pressure on medical services, especially when these are limited. For those populations living in rural areas where access to medical services may be difficult, patients are able to control their own conditions to a greater extent. Only if the condition fails to respond, persists or becomes severe will the patient need to seek professional medical care. (Rago, 2000).

#### **Perceived Reasons for Self-Medication among the Youths**

One of the causes of self-medication may be false perception. One might know the name of medicines that will cure a particular ailment through peer group or through an accidental drop of information, but might not know what dosage that is required. He may end up in taking more or less than the recommended dose of such drug. False perception may also be in the circumstance where one's neighbor became fit and fine after the intake of certain vitamins/supplements/drugs. Now, if the youth goes and buys the same pills, hoping to be become healthy, he may be doing a big mistake. The pills that suited his neighbor might not suit his.

Other reasons that may be adduced for self diagnosis and self-medication include peer group influence, quackery, high cost of medical consultancy, and proliferation of patent medicine stores and low ratio of medical personnel to patients (Salami, 1997). The reasons may also include increased advertisement of pharmaceutical products to which the youth are easily accessible (Syed *et al*, 2007).

#### **Risks of Self-Medication**

It is often easier to avoid the cost of hassle of visiting a doctor and use over-the-counter (OTC) or prescription medication to alleviate the symptoms of an illness or physical discomfort. Unfortunately, there are consequences associated with self-medicating that are just not worth the risks. One of the risks that attend to self-medication is wrong or inaccurate diagnosis of a particular cause of an ill-health. Certain symptoms of some particular diseases may appear similar but the causes may vary. Using similar drugs for the similar symptomatic diseases may be counter-productive. It would take an expert to arrive at accurate diagnosis and hence the accurate medication.

The tendency is high for one to use inappropriate medications that cause side effects if such usages are not based on prescription from a medical expert. The medical expert, who had studied the body constitution and composition of the individual, knows better what drugs or medicines suits such body. To do otherwise therefore brings about risks with their attendant consequences.

Subjecting oneself to self medication disposes the individual to masking the symptoms of a serious condition. In this instance, many have developed chronic typhoid fever when attempting to treat malaria fever in the place of typhoid which could have been dealt with at earlier stage if it were to have been handled by an expert. Such avoidable lapses could be very fatal. Medicines (Arikpo, 2009) are used in dosages depending on age, medical history and severity of the diagnosed symptoms. When one self-medicates therefore, inaccurate dosage that could lead to accidental overdose or under dose is a possibility. This may be accompanied with its disastrous tendencies. Apart from this possibility, is the practice of mixing



medications that are not safe to mix, and which may result in legal costs or health concerns. In addition, self-medication and drug abuse are prime movers of developing an addiction or several addictions (Mudur, 1999).

Whatever may be the reason(s) for self-medication, what is very certain is the possibility of associated unfortunate repercussions. Shittu (1994), reports that, every year there are cases of deaths or damages to the important organs of people's bodies resulting from self-medications and that abnormal reactions to medication could account for as much as 20 percent of all hospitalizations.

### **Control of Self-medications**

Total control of self-medication, given its dominant practice in both urban and rural areas, may actually be an unrealistic goal. However some efforts could be attempted to ameliorate its rampancy. One of these efforts could be in the area of public education, using public organs of information, such as the radio, television, posters, hand bills, campaigns, songs, folk tales, drama, lectures, workshops and other cultural methods like town criers. The content of the education is making layman aware of the possible dangers inherent in indiscriminate use of drugs

Two, the doctors or other medical experts must insist on drugs that are being supplied by the Chemist only on a valid prescription.

Three, a proper "Drug Control" must be implemented, rationally restricting the availability of drugs to the public.

### **CONCLUSION**

Self-medication has been seen as using medicine by an individual with the prescription by a medical expert. There are reasons why people self-medicate which were found to be due to the readily availability of drugs on the counter at

chemists medicine stores without restriction and also because the high cost of consultations. It was however, elucidated that self-medication has its attendant risks which could be very injurious to the individual if left unchecked. It was suggested that total eradication of self-medication may prove to be a difficult one but it could be reduced through proper and tenacious public awareness creation using accessible means of information. Also, that the doctors should insist on drugs supplied by experts while a proper Drug Control policy should be put in place.

When children and youth-in-Agriculture conform to the policy of using only drugs prescribed by experts, accidental dangers to health would be ameliorated and they would be able to maximize their potentials in farm activities and thereby contributing to farm production and productivity.

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## ASSESSMENT OF CONSTRAINTS FACED BY YOUTHS WHO ARE SMALL HOLDER FARMER INVOLVED IN AGRICULTURAL MARKETING IN NIGERIA

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### ABSTRACT

*In the age of trade liberalization and globalization, the world markets are increasingly being integrated. This implies that farmers in the developing world are ever more linked to consumers and corporations of the rich nations. Consequently, youths that are farmers are facing increasing market competition, not only in international markets, but also in local markets that hampers the general growth in agriculture, thus the process of rural development could not be realized, and the level of food insecurity, inequitable distribution of income for majority of the rural households is increased. Small-scale farmers find it increasingly difficult to penetrate the market channel and therefore need to develop and explore other market strategies. In particular, farmers tend to pursue activities that increase their income, reduce their financial and physical risk, reduce labor requirements, and are convenient or enjoyable. A variety of constraints play into farmers' decisions, including constraints with respect to available production technologies, biophysical or geophysical constraints, labor and input market constraints, financial and credit constraints, social norms, intertemporal tradeoffs, policy constraints, and constraints to knowledge or skills. Policies and regulations can impact the profitability and evolution of different agricultural systems by facilitating or hindering trade in particular types of agricultural products, by influencing farmer decisions about what crops to grow or how much land to farm using policies such as price supports or set-aside programs, or by making different types of production or land-use relatively more or less "expensive" via regulations, taxes and subsidies, or standards.*

**Keywords:** smallholder farmers, agricultural production, market, output

### INTRODUCTION

In the age of trade liberalization and globalisation, the world markets are increasingly being integrated. This implies that farmers in the developing world are ever more linked to consumers and corporations of the rich nations. Consequently, local farmers are facing increasing market competition, not only in international markets, but in local markets as well. In an effort to withstand the market pressures, agricultural markets are now transforming to a vertically coordinated structure (Reardon and Barrett, 2000). Also, both the private and public sectors have made some adjustments in agricultural markets, in order to survive competition resulting from market changes. In output markets, smallholder farmers often faced with difficulties in enforcing contracts and meeting stringent food safety norms, lack skills, are located in remote areas and mostly rely on middlemen. They are also served by poor physical infrastructures and weak institutions in markets (Kherallah and Kirsten, 2001; Makhura, 2001). Understanding such challenges among smallholder farmers is important in identifying areas that need focus and direction for improvement. In

the light of these challenges, suggestions can be made on how information flows and the institutional environment. It is affirmed that smallholder farmers in rural economies lack adequate market information and contractual arrangements, lack lobbies in the legal environment and are not easily receptive to changes (Delgado, 1999; Kherallah and Kirsten, 2001). These factors result in high transaction costs, hence difficulties in formal market participation. This line of argument is substantiated by (Makhura, 2001) who explained that when smallholder farmers are faced with high transaction costs, they will either stop participation in marketing or resort to other means of marketing such as spot markets. The use of spot markets may not be as rewarding to the farmers as formal markets are, mainly due to traders' opportunistic behaviour. In addition, spot markets are becoming less popular in the liberalized environment but dominating most developing environment. To sum up, owing to institutional aspects, smallholder farmers face difficulties in accessing formal markets. This calls for institutional development among this group of farmers.

### Objective



The objective of this paper is to review the major constraint encountered in marketing of agricultural product by small holder farmers.

### **Challenges in Marketing of Agricultural Products**

Marketing of agricultural products is an important function of the agricultural industry as it plays a major role in transferring products from the farm to the final consumer. Marketing is a complex activity which commences at the farm, when the farmer plans his production to meet specific demands and market prospects, this may include farmer's decision on how to transport and disperse his produce, and to the activities of intermediaries this may include product, assembling, transportation, storage, processing, packaging, wholesaling, retailing and ownership by the final consumer (Omiti, 2009). According to (Schuh 1987), agricultural marketing is a very important but rather neglected aspect of agricultural development; emphasis is usually placed on increasing food production, with the idea that this will both improve the material status of the population and act as a base for rural development. This is true due to the fact that, markets do not develop automatically and the lack of well-established or functioning markets can seriously hinder the production. Furthermore, if the surplus resulting from increase in production cannot be marketed neither, the producers in the area lose, they may even be hurt if costly resources must be used to produce output that is not sold. The fundamental objective of agricultural development should not be just to increase output but to increase net per capita and family income. The contribution of smallholder agriculture to social (equitable distribution of income, food security, employment etc.) and national economy (e.g. provision of foreign currency), is recognized in various development strategies. However, smallholder farmers' participation in commercial agriculture is low despite the envisaged benefits of market-orientation, as well as favorable trends in drivers of commercialization. Access to agricultural output markets is seen to be directed in service of large-scale commercial farmers. Lack of market participation by small-scale farmers discourages or hampers the general growth in agriculture, thus the process of rural development could not be realized, and the level of food insecurity, inequitable distribution of income for majority of the rural households is increased. Small-scale farmers find it increasingly difficult to penetrate the market channel and therefore need to develop and explore other market strategies (Omiti *et al.*, 2009). It is generally accepted that farmers in traditional agriculture are

poor but efficient (Ngqangweni, 2000). In this view, it is held that farmers remain poor because they have to connect with lack of technical and economic opportunities to which they could otherwise respond (Makhura, 2001). Although previous studies (Azam *et al.*, 2012; Rendela *et al.*, 2010; Ramoroka 2012; Omiti *et al.*, 2009 and DAFF 2011) attributed to the low market participation of different challenges even when various efforts to promote small-scale farming was made in the past decade, however, there is very little information on factors affecting market participation by small-scale farmers in developing countries. Participation of small-scale farmers in commercial agriculture is important for unlocking suitable opportunities set necessary for providing better incomes and suitable livelihoods for small-scale farmers. Enhancing access to information and providing incentives to farming households among others are issues which, when attended to, might increase the market participation of small-scale farmers. Appropriate policy interventions and agricultural marketing development strategies require that policy makers have a good understanding of the factors affecting small-scale market participation.

### **Technical Aspects in Smallholder Agricultural Markets**

Technical changes in marketing can be viewed as those transformations that allow goods to be available on the market at lower costs and diversification of markets. Technical changes are usually influenced by the organization, and regulation and advances in technology, but technical changes are closely linked to technological development. In agricultural production and marketing, smallholder farmers are still lagging in the use of improved technology (Carre` and Drouot, 2002). (Machethe, 2004) pointed out that most small producers in Africa lack appropriate transportation facilities and road infrastructure, communication links and storage infrastructure. Further, smallholder farmers have limited ability to add value to their produce. Lack of such facilities usually constrains farmers' supply response to any incentives in both agricultural production and marketing (Dorward *et al.*, 2003). Moreover, poor roads and poor telecommunication networks results in high transaction cost. Sometimes these costs are too high for farmers and traders to get any meaningful benefits from their trading activities, thus discouraging farmers from marketing activities. For this reason, institutional development has to be accompanied by technological changes, in order to



sustain market participation among smallholder farmers (Fenwick and Lyne, 1999).

#### **Farm Produce Profitability**

How profitable is it to farm? The answer depends upon the choices a farmer makes about what crops to grow and where, what technologies to use, and many other short- and long-term management decisions. Economists assume that farmers make choices so as to improve their utility, or well-being. In particular, farmers tend to pursue activities that increase their income, reduce their financial and physical risk, reduce labor requirements, and are convenient or enjoyable (Stoorvogel *et al.*, 2004). A variety of constraints play into farmers' decisions, including constraints with respect to available production technologies, biophysical or geophysical constraints, labor and input market constraints, financial and credit constraints, social norms, intertemporal tradeoffs, policy constraints, and constraints to knowledge or skills (Stoorvogel *et al.*, 2004).

#### **Factor That Influence Farmer's Productivity Choice**

Farmer attitudes, resource availability, and education and knowledge are especially important; farmers may be risk averse toward making changes in cropping decisions or adopting new agricultural practices, or might have very conservative attitudes toward technology or lower or higher levels of concern for the natural environment (McCann 1997, Hanson *et al.*, 2004, Musshoff and Hirschauer 2008, Serra *et al.*, 2008). A farmer's income or resource base and ability to obtain credit will also influence his/her choice of crops, farming systems, and willingness to invest in new crops, systems, or technologies (McCann 1997, Knowler and Bradshaw, 2007). A risk-averse farmer or one who is credit or income-constrained (which often is the norm rather than the exception, particularly in developing countries) may be less likely to adopt new technologies, even if they are likely to reduce his susceptibility to risk or increase productivity or income over the long-run (Nerlove *et al.*, 1996, Hanson *et al.*, 2004). Lack of knowledge and information about the costs and benefits of adopting new technologies or conservation practices or lack of knowledge about how to implement such technologies or practices will also affect a farmer's propensity to adopt them (Chavas *et al.*, 2010, Chavas and Kim 2010). Even if farmers have full information and can implement new technologies efficiently and at low cost, differences in intertemporal preferences or credit constraints may mean that farmers are unwilling to sacrifice current

profits or income for long-term improvements in soil fertility, risk-reductions, or improved yields (Shively 2001, Sunding and Zilberman 2001, Coxhead and Shively 2002).

#### **Understanding Consumer's Preference**

The consumer's desire to have an array of cheap produce available, no matter the season, and decreased long-distance transportation costs due to improved infrastructure have also had important implications for regional specialization. Even in markets where some consumers are demanding food that is produced more locally, sustainably, organically, and diversely, the high costs of certification and marketing (Hardesty and Leff 2010) and risks associated with pests commonly controlled by synthetic pesticides, in the case of organics or pesticide-free varieties, can make these varieties more expensive than conventional varieties, and make consumer demand (and therefore farmer revenues) unpredictable (Lohr and Salomonsson 2000, Regmi and Gehlhar 2005). Farmers marketing locally-grown food also face the challenges of transporting small volumes of goods to local markets (Pretty *et al.*, 2005). Finally, variation in regional agricultural suitability and length of growing seasons mean that diverse, local production systems may not provide the same consistent product variety that consumers have become accustomed to.

#### **Availability of Biological and Geophysical Impacts**

Biological and geophysical factors and input and output market conditions are important variables that also impact farmer decision-making and adoption of land use practices or technologies. Biological and geophysical factors that influence production can include water availability, soil fertility, and risks of floods, droughts, frost, or pest or weed infestations, and the importance of each of these factors varies with the types of crops planted (Loomis *et al.*, 1971, Leemans and Born 1994).

#### **Market Condition**

Input market conditions can shape farmer production decisions in a number of ways; dynamics of local and seasonal labor availability may mean that it is not profitable to grow a crop with a very narrow harvesting window in a month where the overall demand for agricultural labor is high in the region (Binswanger and Rosenzweig 1986). Input price volatility and economies of scale with respect to inputs or technologies can also contribute to farmers planting different mixes of crops, or planting more land in one crop than another (Zilberman *et al.*,



2012). Similarly, output market conditions including prices, price variability, transportation costs, and supply chain transactions costs are important determinants of how profitable it is for farmers to grow a crop. Many of these variables are influenced by location; (Rogers 2003) notes that communities closer to urban centers are likely to adopt new technologies more quickly. Consumer attitudes and willingness to pay (i.e., the maximum amount a consumer would be willing to pay for a good or attribute) for differentiated crops or particular attributes, such as organic or local production or pesticide-free varieties, also affect the agricultural systems that emerge in response to the demands of a changing market (Rogers 2003).

### Policies

Finally, policies and regulations can impact the profitability and evolution of different agricultural systems by facilitating or hindering trade in particular types of agricultural products, by influencing farmer decisions about what crops to grow or how much land to farm using policies such as price supports or set-aside programs, or by making different types of production or land-use relatively more or less “expensive” via regulations, taxes and subsidies, or standards (Hardie *et al.*, 2004, Goetz and Zilberman 2007). Government must be ready to examine policy options related to issues like decentralization, infrastructure, marketing costs, deregulation, credit, technology, stocks, price stabilization, and input markets. This is to assist the Government in making the transition from direct quantitative or fiscal interventions in the farmers market output to a more market-oriented profile (Francesco and Christiane 1999).

### CONCLUSION

Knowledge of markets is a key ingredient. The better the knowledge of the requirements of the market, the less is the wastage of the product. Consistent product quality is also key to successful marketing. Marketing and quality standards help farmers understand market requirements and, ideally provide a clear framework for managing food production quality.

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## SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS INFLUENCING MIGRATION OF YOUTHS IN OSUN STATE

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### ABSTRACT

Man keeps moving out of their origin from time to time and over time through migration from less desirable situation to get comfort and improved livelihood. This migration ranged from journey of a few meters to countries across oceans and continents. Young people view migration as an avenue to improve their status, learn new skills, and transit into adulthood. This study (a) examined the push and pull factors responsible for youth movement (b) the causes of rural-urban migration (c) investigated the socio-economic factors influencing rural-urban migration of youths in Osun State. Primary data were collected with the use of structured questionnaires administered to 150 respondents chosen through multi-stage stratified random sampling technique and complimented by secondary data. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used for the analysis. The results showed that majority of respondents were male, single, primary school certificate holders and age range of 21-35 years. Majorities cultivated at least 0.5 hectares of land for farming, and belonged to cooperative societies. The reasons deduced for the migration were to further their education, lack of social amenities, inadequate infrastructure while the push factors were; lack of employment, lack of educational opportunities, and disenfranchisement and the pull factors were; hope for employment, and better educational opportunities.

**Key words:** Youths, Socio-economic, Rural-Urban, Migration, Osun State

### INTRODUCTION

The movement of people from one place to another for temporary or permanent stay due to social and economic reasons can be referred to as migration (Ekong, 2003). Human migration is the movement

by humans' beings from one place to another. However, migration has continued under different forms, namely voluntary migration within one's region, country, or beyond and involuntary migration (which includes the slave trade, trafficking in human beings and ethnic cleansing, war, civil unrest e.t.c). People who migrate into another territory are called immigrants, while at the departure point they are called emigrants. Also, small people migrating to develop a territory considered void of settlement depending on historical setting, circumstances and perspective are referred to as settlers or colonists, while populations displaced by immigration and colonization are called refugees. Young people view migration as an avenue to improve their status, learn new skills, and transit into adulthood. As a consequence, migration

continues to serve as the means to improve livelihoods.

Ekong (1998) as a matter of fact identified that migration basically is a reflection of imbalance in opportunities and life changes that exist between places be it rural-rural, or urban-rural. He also said that population migration is a small part of the many movement made by people every day. External migration is where residence changes between a residential unit in the same area and one outside it while, internal migration is where residence changes from one residential unit to another in the same area. Migration may be permanent, temporary, voluntary or forced. Migration can occur as a result of push and pull factors. Push factors are those which force a person to move out of a place which may be due to drought, famine, lack of jobs, over population civil war, racism e.t.c. Pull factors are those which encourage a people to move to another place which may include a better job, better education, and a better standard of living. Thus some migrant have taken permanent abode in their respective places of



destination as this is usually premised upon the prevailing economic, social and personal conditions in their places of origin.

Migrants involved in rural-urban migration always outnumber those engaged in urban-rural migration. Rural-urban migration negatively impacts on the quality of rural life, especially when such migrants carry away their needed productivity into the city (Adewale, 2005). In Nigeria, most of the food producers are in the rural regions of the country, but due to urban-rural migration, the agricultural labour force has witnessed a drop in the past years.

The oil boom in Nigeria led to rapid urbanization as a result of the influx of oil exploring and servicing companies. Also the oil boom opened doors for most of the educated rural youth to abandoned farming for a more rewarding work. The educated youths started looking down on farming as they preferred the white collar jobs. One of the effects of migration is that there is a rapid increase in the urban population, thus leading to problem such as overcrowding, proliferation of urban slums, unemployment and the characteristics overuse of existing social and physical infrastructures. Despite the prevailing problems, rural-urban migration continue to flood the cities, thus the problem of rural-urban migration needs to be checked and examined so as to check food insufficiency in order and enhance the development of the nation as a whole.

In view of the foregoing, proper analysis of the push factors and pull factors affecting migration need to be carried out. The general objective of the study is to find out the socio-economic effects of rural-urban migration on youths in Osun state. The specific objectives; to ascertain the push and pull factors responsible for movement; to identify the causes of rural-urban migration; to investigate the socio-economic factors influencing rural-urban migration of youth in the study area.

#### **Methodology**

The study area for this research is the entire Osun state in south western part of Nigeria. Osun state is a landlocked state in south-western Nigeria and its capital is Oshogbo. It is bounded in the north by Kwara state, in the east partly by Ekiti and Ondo states, in the south by Ogun state and in the west by Oyo state. Administratively, Osun state has 30 local governments in Osun state, Osun state is located on a latitude of 7°30N 4°30E with mean annual temperature 20°C with lowest temperature of 29-30°C and highest temperature of 28°C-50°C. The annual rainfall is 127mm with long wet season in middle March, July, heavy rainfall and high

humidity period with short dry season in august and short wet season between September –October.

A multi – stage stratified sampling technique was used; a local government was selected out of the 30 local government areas in Osun State. One local government area was selected in each senatorial district (Boluwaduro ,Oriade and Ola- Oluwa). One ward was selected each from the three local governments namely; Eripa, Ira/ Ikeji-ile and Ikonifin/Isero from each ward an average of 60 respondents were selected for the study. Structured questionnaires was administered to 180 respondents, however 150 questionnaires were useable. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used for the analysis.

#### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The table 1 shows that higher proportion (47%) of the respondents were between the age range of 31-35 years engaged in the farming activities in the study area, 24% of the youths were between of 21-25years. Most of the respondents were male (62%) and the remaining 38% of the respondents were female. This is because farming operations were strenuous jobs, males were believed to have more strength than female to do the job. However, long term migration negatively affects the male/female ratio and leads to disrupted family structures, which in turn, might affect the growing feminization of migration in Africa (World Migration, 2003). Seventy percent of the respondents were single, 22% were married and 7% were divorced. It's believed that men often tend not to get married at an early age, although getting married is a cherished value among the rural people in Nigeria, but due to the cost of living and feeding their wife and children, they then tend to work and get established before getting married. Also, majority (63%) of youths in the study area have less than farm size of 1ha and others were having 1 - 2.0 ha (17%). Only few youth practiced medium -scale farming.

Table 1 also, showed that majority of the respondents have formal education, 40% of the respondents have primary educational background, 25% of the respondents have secondary school educational background,17% have tertiary educational background and 18% of the respondents have no formal education. The data shows that 38% of respondents practiced arable farming only, 30% of the respondents' practiced livestock farming, and 26% respondents practiced farming with civil service. Therefore, most of the respondents engaged in farming activities in the study area. Sixty percent of the respondents were members co-operative societies, while 40% of the respondents were not in any co-operative society. Youths were generally



advised to join co-operative so as to have access to capital, fertilizer etc. and information which may include procurement of improved seeds, post-planting activities and marketing strategies.

#### **PUSH AND PULL FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR MIGRATION**

Push factors are factors that influence a person's decision to leave/ move away from a locality to another; while pull factors are factors that influence person's decision to migrate into a locality. Push and pull factors could either be political, social or economic depending on the motive(s) of the migrant.

Table 2 shows that 50% of the respondents pulled out for search of jobs, 14% pulled out due to natural disasters, 19 % pulled out due to lack of food and shelter and 17% pulled out due to lower standards of living. This implies that lack of employment is the major economic reason for youths to migrate and then may also migrate to further their education. Braun van (2004) reported that people tend to be pulled to the areas of prosperity and pushed from areas of decline. Thirty four percent of the respondents will migrate out due to lack of agricultural facilities, 50% of the respondents migrated because of lack of educational facilities while 16% migrated due to poor religious tolerance. Also, 40% of the respondents moved due to disenfranchisement (not being able to vote or government in tolerance) and 31% of the respondents due to war and terrorism and 29% of the respondents moved due to unfair legal system. However, youths would move out into areas with high tolerance for youthful exuberances.

The data in table 3 showed that 50% of the respondents migrated into areas that had high opportunities of the getting jobs, 33% of the respondents migrated in search of food and money, and 14% of the respondents moved into areas with better housing. Forty five percent of the respondents moved into areas with better educational facilities, 26% of the respondents moved in due to better health care and 21% of the respondents moved in due to encouragement from friends and family. Also, 49 % of the respondents moved into the places where they feel secured, 37% of the respondents migrated into areas where they were free from persecutions either from the government or individuals, and 14% of the respondents moved in so as to gain protection under the law. This implies that youths migrate into areas with high rate of employment, high number of educational facilities and areas where they will be safe. Carletto et al. (2005) in their study found out that individual, household and community (networks) factors have all played a significant role in the decision to

migrate. Also Worku (2006) found out that people who were better off financially could migrate to get a better social infrastructure (education, health), urban amenities, and culture and life style etc.

Various reasons caused the movement of youths from one place to another. The data in table 4 revealed that 15% would migrate because of inadequate infrastructure, 19% migrated due to lack of social amenities, 24% migrated to live in a more civilized area, 76% would migrate to further their education, and 4% would migrate because of low standard of living. This is in accordance with the Ghana Statistical Service (2005) citing Kelly and Williamson (1984) that rural-urban migration is always a response to opportunities in the urban areas rather than population pressure from the rural areas.

Logit regression in table 5 shows that age  $P= 0.020$ , marital status  $P = 0.048$  and education  $P= 0.031$  were significant at  $P=0.05$ . This implies that youths in the study area will decide to migrate or not based on the three factors listed above. Mimi (2001) who found that in most rural areas, the impact of rural-urban migration was a rapid worsening of the rural economy leading to persistent poverty and food insecurity. Incomes from the farms are much lower than expected to maintain the minimum standard of living essentially arising from low productivity (Nwaru, 2004; Iheke, 2010) and most of the farmers and other rural dwellers can hardly feed themselves. The consequence is pervasive poverty among the populace.

#### **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, there is a significant relationship between socio-economic characteristic of the respondents' age, marital status and education and migration of youths. However, excessive rural-urban drift is primarily caused by improper balance of economic and social opportunities such as unavailability of social amenities like good roads, hospitals, opportunity for advancement, health care between the rural and urban areas. Therefore, provision of basic amenities, improvement in the quality of education, creation of credit and loan schemes, entrepreneurship training, access to productive resources, and establishment of more cooperatives societies to reduce rural urban drift of youths by both Non-governmental Organizations and Government institutions.



**Table 1: Socio-economics distribution of the respondents**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Above 15- 20years	15	10
21- 25 years	36	24
26-30 years	25	16
31 – 35 years	69	47
36 – 40 years	5	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	93	62
Female	57	38
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Single	105	70
Married	33	21
Divorced	11	7
Widowed	2	2
<b>Farm Size</b>		
Less than 1ha	96	64
1ha-2ha	25	17
2.1 – 3ha	14	9
3.1 – 4ha	5	3.3
4.1 – 5ha	6	4
Above 5ha	4	2.66
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Educational Status</b>		
No-formal education	27	18
Primary education	60	40
Secondary education	38	25
Tertiary education	25	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Other Occupation</b>		
Livestock farming	45	30
Arable Farming alone	57	38
Farming and Trading	9	06
Farming and Civil service	39	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Membership of Cooperative</b>		
Member of Cooperative	90	60
Non-Member of Cooperative	60	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>



**Table 2: Distribution of respondents based on economic push factors**

<b>Push economic factors of migration</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Lack of employment	75	50
Natural disasters	21	14
Lack of food or shelter	29	19
Lower standard of living	25	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Push social factors of migration</b>		
Lack of health care	51	34
Lack of educational opportunities	75	50
Lack of religious tolerance	24	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Push political factors of migration</b>		
Unfair legal system	44	29
Disenfranchisement	60	40
War and terrorism	46	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field survey, 2014

**Table 3: Distribution of respondent's based on pull factors of migration**

<b>Pull economic factors of migration</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Hope for better employment	75	50
More money and food	50	33
Better shelter	21	14
Hope for family	4	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Pull social factors of migration</b>		
Encourage from friends and family	31	21
Better educational opportunities	68	45
Better health care	39	26
Religious tolerance	12	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Pull political factors of migration</b>		
To gain protection under the law	21	14
Right to vote and freedom from persecution	56	37
Safety	73	49
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field survey, 2014



**Table 4: Reasons for Migration**

	Frequency	Percentage
Possibilities for migration out		
Due to inadequate infrastructure	35	15%
Lack of social amenities	45	19%
To know more about agriculture	5	2%
To live in a more civilized society	57	24%
To further education	76	32%
Violence	10	4%
Lower standard of living	10	4%
Total	238	100

\* Multiple responses

Source: Field survey, 2014

**Table 5: Showing the logit Regression result**

Variables	B	S.E.	Wald	Df	Sig
Age	-1.557	0.669	5.415	1	0.020*
Sex	-0.519	0.719	0.521	1	0.470
Marital Status	1.102	0.641	2.954	1	0.048*
Farm Size	-0.086	0.262	0.109	1	0.742
Education	-0.999	0.463	4.660	1	0.031*
Other Occupation	-0.389	0.307	1.610	1	0.204
Membership of Cooperative	0.28	0.639	0.02	1	0.965
Personal Farm	0.806	0.912	0.781	1	0.377
Constant	0.497	1.957	0.065	1	0.799

Source: Field survey, 2014

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## STRATEGIES FOR ALLEVIATING POVERTY AMONG NIGERIAN YOUTH

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### ABSTRACT

*This paper reveals the strategies for alleviating poverty among Nigerian youth. The subject of this study was 18 lecturers and 124 students out of the whole agricultural education students from selected tertiary institutions in Oyo state. Data were collected through structured questionnaire. Data were analyzed using frequency counts and mean scores. The study revealed that youth participation in food production will address the issue of food insecurity and eradicate poverty in our society. The study recommends that agricultural education students should be encouraged to participate in workshops and seminars so as to enhance their effectiveness in their disciplines.*

**Key words:** Poverty, Alleviation, Strategies, Youth

### INTRODUCTION

Food is basic needs of man, once there is adequate food production and consumption the environment will be pleasant and have access to other societal affairs. However, farmers or agricultural education students must know all the activities of providing necessary foods for the distribution and consumption of members of their society. Gradual and continuous practices develop and promote the skills of these farmers and enlighten them into high and better capacity of agricultural productions. In this sense, when people are taught the art and science of agriculture they are equipped for survival.

Poverty is described as the state of being poor. It is lack of adequate resources to meet one's needs. Poverty is one of the major challenges that face all economic activities of an identified community. Any means of reducing poverty need a conducive living condition for the self sustaining economic, social, political and environmental status. This has been the major concern of nation's government and all its citizenry. This also has been the major responsibility of some organizations like United Nations Organizations (UNO) and its agencies like UNDP, IMF, World Bank etc.

Poverty in Nigeria is a national aspect which cannot be over emphasized except there is provision and utilization of basic needs and resources among the citizens. A proper and stronger human development effort in many communities is poverty eradication programme. It develops and promotes the living condition of general populace than ordinary sustainability programme from single stakeholder.

However, agricultural education is critical to our national development. It prepares people to the world of work with practical skills, so that

trainees could be mentally and physically competent for employment aside white collar jobs (Njoku, 2002). Agricultural practice entails planning, production, harvesting and sale of farm products for the consumption and other uses by man. This has drastically aid the nutritional needs of every family. It is strong avenue for job security, progress and uses in co-ordinating family members and other relations together. It built cooperation, gives open and clear mind within the citizens.

### OBJECTIVES

The main objective of this study is to examine the strategies for reducing poverty alleviation among Nigerian youth while the specific objectives are to:

- ascertain youth opinion on financing food supply;
- assess government authority on the provision of agricultural activities;
- determine provision of job opportunity for graduate of agricultural education programme; and
- identify the strategies for improving job opportunity among the agricultural education youth.

### METHODOLOGY

The study used survey research design with structured questionnaire to elicit information from Agricultural education lecturers and students in the three selected tertiary institutions of Oyo State in Nigeria. The research study made use of three tertiary institutions in Oyo state thus; Federal College of Education (Special), Oyo; Emmanuel Alayande College of Education, Oyo and Oyo State College of Agriculture, Igboora. The population of this research was final year students of Agricultural



Education departments and their lecturers. A sample of 142 lecturers and students of Agricultural Education departments in all the three selected colleges were randomly selected for the study. Only 18 lecturers that were available during each period of administration were selected while others were distributed to their students. This gave a total number of 142 respondents for the study.

Structured questionnaire was designed and used as the instrument to collect data for the study. The instrument comprised of two sections. Section A was designed for personal data of respondents while section B contained 20 items which were generated to meet the research objectives

One hundred and fifty (150) copies of questionnaire were randomly distributed to lecturers and students of the selected institutions for the study. They were collected at each administered day after thorough responses from the respondents. Only 142 copies were returned and used for final analysis of data. Frequency counts and mean scores were used to analyze the data collected. Five point scale of (5, 4, 3, 2, 1) was used. Any rating of 3.00 and above is accepted while less than 3.00 were rejected.

Table 1 shows that all the stakeholders (parents, government, Non governmental organizations and students themselves) need to embrace the activities of agriculture.

Table 2 revealed that government has a major role in the field of agriculture so that there will be sufficient and enough production capacity of farm products and other agricultural areas in our country. However, agriculture is a major factor of increasing the human capital and also the economy of Nigeria. It ensures the job security, food production and standard of living of its citizenry.

Table 3 guaranteed the opportunity of job security among agricultural education students after completing their programmes.

Table 3 supported different strategies that can enable agricultural education students to secure job and be self reliance. It also increases the standard of living and economy of an entire community.

## DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The study unveils that there are several ways by which youth can eradicate poverty. This study revealed that government should fulfill all righteousness in providing for agricultural activities in other to increase the standard of living in our society. Tarasuk (2001) pointed out that children and youth need to be adequately financed by

government of their environment so as to curb the standard of job insecurity and also increase the nation's economy.

Poverty alleviation as pointed out from the findings of this study can be reduced if the school or programme authority monitored properly. Schools or any institution are required to equip their laboratories and farms. This comprise of the raw materials, personnels and other pre-requisites for the smooth running of their organization. Anyakohaa (2002) also agreed that government need to fund any institution for successful activities that the curriculum designed for each programme. It is the responsibility of government to finance and pay any salaries and wages for any employed staff and see to the smooth running of that particular institution and organization.

The result of the study showed that government of the nation is required to pay huge amount in financing all education sectors so as the derive much benefit in any school programme. Agricultural educational programmes being one of the vocational programmes require much concentration which will eventually develop any individual practicing it. However, poverty can be effectively eradicated, if one is self reliance and better met with the standard of his or her environment.

Different strategies should be incorporated for the progress of agricultural programmes. Such strategies are, mass media, marketing strategies, social amenities, credit facilities to encourage and develop one and be self reliance in the society.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

To ensure a positive result of enhanced environmental condition from agricultural sectors, policies on agricultural programmes should be focused. They should have enough funding, practices and preparations for their students before completing their educational programmes.

There should be other supports from parents, Non-Governmental organizations and other stakeholders to support these citizenries to be better in all their future endeavours. Youth participation in food productions will address the issue of food security.

Based on findings of this research study, the following recommendations were proffered:

- Government should pay serious attention on vocational and technical education programmes so as to equip and empower more people for their daily living.
- Employers of labour should provide work for graduate students of agricultural educational programmes.



- Youth should be encouraged to form co-operative societies, this will enable them to share common ideas and enhance their involvement in agricultural productions.
- These set of students should also be encouraged to participate in workshops and seminars so as to enhance their effectiveness in their disciplines.
- Extension service workers should work efficiently in co-opting youth so as to develop them in their several agricultural practices.

**Table 1: Mean response of youth on financing food supply**

S/No	Opinion of youth on financing food supply	Mean	Remark
1.	It is possible to fund food supply in the school	3.40	Agreed
2.	Should government alone provide food for children and youth in both their school and at home	2.73	Disagreed
3.	Parents only need to provide for their children's feeding than government	2.05	Disagreed
4.	Other Non governmental Organizations need to provide for students in their society.	3.71	Agreed
5.	Can children source for their feeding than other means?	1.24	Disagreed
6.	Can children struggle before they can feed themselves?	1.56	Disagreed
7.	Special take home grant should be given to youth to practice agriculture programmes.	4.28	Agreed

**Table 2: Mean response of government authority on the provision of agricultural activities**

S/No	Opinion of government authority on the provision of agricultural activities	Mean	Remark
1.	Facilities required are to be provided by the government	4.10	Agreed
2.	Daily finances on agricultural practices should be controlled by the government	3.24	Agreed
3.	Teachers should find means of financing feeds and raw materials required in the agricultural programmes within their department.	4.42	Agreed
4.	Internally generated revenue should be shared among these agricultural education students.	2.90	Disagreed
5.	Relevant machineries should be provided by government.	3.64	Agreed

**Table 3: Mean response on provision of job opportunity for graduate of agricultural education programme**

S/No	Mean response on provision of job opportunity for graduate of agricultural education programme	Mean	Remark
1.	Should governments provide job for any fresh graduate student?	3.52	Agreed
2.	There must be special treatment for agricultural education students in their different institutions of learning after graduation.	3.05	Agreed
3.	Should government provide other related programme for agricultural education students in the society?	3.92	Agreed
4.	Extension Service workers must co-opt fresh students in several agricultural programmes in the community.	4.17	agreed

**Table 4: Mean response on strategies for improving job opportunity among the agricultural education youth**



S/No	Opinion on strategies for improving job opportunity among agricultural education youths	Mean	Remark
1.	There should be enough markets and marketing facilities for the sales of farm products	4.72	Agreed
2.	Provision of credit facilities is necessary in producing and practicing agricultural programmes	3.68	Agreed
3.	Provision of social amenities for the smooth running of agricultural products is necessary in one's environment.	3.59	Agreed
4.	Vocational skills do not allow one for societal well-being, so one must practice it at a minimal rate.	1.43	Disagreed
5.	Government should embrace the awareness of agricultural production through mass media.	3.49	agreed

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## BREASTFEEDING PATTERN AND CHILD NUTRITIONAL STATUS AMONG RURAL HOUSEHOLDS IN NIGERIA

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### ABSTRACT

This study used the 2008 Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) data to assess the determinants of breastfeeding on child nutritional health status in rural Nigeria. The data was obtained using a stratified 2-stage cluster design. A total number of 21,035 rural households with duly completed information were used for the data analysis. To determine the nutritional status of the children, height and weight measurements were obtained for all children born in the five years preceding the 2008 NDHS. The height and weight data are used to compute the following three summary indices of nutritional status: height-for-age, weight-for-height, and weight-for-age.

The result shows that 54.3% of the children under the age of 5 years were breastfed for a period of 12-24 months. The findings of the analysis also reveals that 71.9%, 76.8% and 77.8% of children that were breastfed for a period of less than 6 months were stunted, wasted and underweight. Factor that determines the duration of breastfeeding are child being male, mothers educational status, delivering of children by trained medical practitioners and mothers having health insurance. The findings of the study reveal that there exists a positive relationship between duration of breastfeeding and child's nutritional status. There is therefore the need for sensitization of mothers in the rural areas on the need to breastfeed their children as it has effect on the nutritional and health outcomes of the children.

**Keywords:** Child, Mother's education, Nutritional Status.

### INTRODUCTION

Nutrition is a fundamental pillar of human life, health and development across the entire life span. From the earliest stages of foetal development, at birth, through infancy, childhood, adolescence, and into adulthood and old age, proper food and good nutrition are essential for survival, physical growth, mental development, performance and productivity, health and well-being (FAO/WHO, 1992; WHO, 2000).

Breast milk contains all nutrients, antibodies, hormones and antioxidants that an infant needs to thrive (UNICEF, 1998). Early initiation within half an hour of birth will ensure that the protective antibodies in the colostrums are available rapidly to the infant, because after 24 to 48 hours, the level of antibodies in breast milk diminishes. Breastfeeding is the one practice that simultaneously provides a child with food, health and care. Breast-feeding is considered the most complete nutritional source for infants because breast milk contains the essential fats, carbohydrates, proteins, and immunological factors needed for infants to thrive and resist infection in the formative first year of life (Cadwell in Barry, 2004). The scientific basis of the benefits of breastfeeding is well-established and recent policies and guidelines encourage health professionals to promote it Gartner *et al* 2005.

The World Health Organization estimates that approximately 150 million children younger than 5 years in developing countries are underweight and an additional 200 million children are stunted (Laura, 2004). World Health Organization in 2001 reported that 54% of all childhood mortality was attributable, directly or indirectly, to malnutrition.

Although, WHO, UNICEF and Nigeria's National breastfeeding policy recommended that infants be exclusively breastfed from birth to 6 months and continue breastfeeding to 24 months and beyond for optimal survival, growth and development (FMOH, 2007). Unfortunately only 17% of infants under six months of age are exclusively breastfed in Nigeria (FMOH, 2007). The poor breastfeeding and inadequate complementary feeding explained the protein energy malnutrition level in children as they grow older.

This study therefore sets out to evaluate the extent to which parents breastfeed their children, to examine the relationship between breastfeeding and child health status and to identify the factors that determine breastfeeding among rural households in Nigeria as the outcome will help develop policies that will help households especially in the rural areas to adopt exclusive breastfeeding for their children in order to improve the health outcome of their children.

### Methodology



The study area is Nigeria. Nigeria is located in western Africa on the Gulf of Guinea lying 10<sup>o</sup> north of the equator and 8<sup>o</sup> east of the Greenwich meridian and has a total area of 923,768 km<sup>2</sup> (356,669 sq mi) (Rank order area, 2011) making it the world's 32<sup>nd</sup> largest country (after Tanzania). Nigeria, known as "the Giant of Africa", is the most populous country in Africa and the seventh most populous country in the world with an estimate of 174,507,539 in 2013. The 2006 census estimates further claims that 42.3% of the population is between 0 and 14 years of age, while 54.6% of the population is 15 to 65 years of age. The birth rate is significantly higher than the death rate, at 40.4 and 16.9 per 1000 people respectively.

### Sampling Technique

The study made use of the 2008 National Demographic Health Survey (NDHS) data. The 2008 NDHS sample was selected using a stratified two-stage cluster design consisting of 888 clusters, 286 in the urban and 602 in the rural areas. A representative sample of 36,800 households was selected with a minimum target of 950 completed interviews per state. In each state, the number of households was distributed proportionately among its urban and rural areas. A complete listing of households and a mapping exercise were carried out for each cluster from April to May 2008, with the resulting lists of households serving as the sampling frame for the selection of households in the second stage. In the second stage of selection, an average of 41 households was selected in each cluster, by equal probability systematic sampling. All women age 15-49 who were either permanent residents of the households in the 2008 NDHS sample or visitors present in the households on the night before the survey were eligible to be interviewed. In a sub-sample of half of the households, all men age 15-59 who were either permanent residents of the households in the 2008 NDHS sample or visitors present in the households on the night before the survey were eligible to be interviewed.

For the purpose of this study, the data obtained were stratified into urban and rural areas. A total of 21,035 households that resides in the rural areas were extracted which served as the sample size for the study.

### Analytical Techniques

The data obtained were analyzed through the use of descriptive statistics, Z-scores, cross tabulation and ordinary least square (OLS) regression analysis. Descriptive statistics such as frequencies, percentages tables and graphs were used to present the result of the socio-economic characteristics and

to profile the breastfeeding pattern of the respondents in the rural areas of Nigeria. The cross tabulation was used to examine the relationship between the duration of breastfeeding of a child and the nutritional status while the OLS regression analysis was used to identify the factors that determine the duration of breastfeeding.

### MODEL SPECIFICATION FOR ORDINARY ANALYSIS REGRESSION

The implicit of the regression model for breastfeeding is

$$B = X_1 + X_2 + X_3 + X_4 + X_5 + X_6 + \dots + X_n,$$

Where B is the dependent variable and it is the duration of breastfeeding in months.

X<sub>1</sub> = Mothers educational level

X<sub>2</sub> = Number of household members (number)

X<sub>3</sub> = Number of children five and under

X<sub>4</sub> = Wealth index

X<sub>5</sub> = Covered by health insurance

X<sub>6</sub> = Marital status

X<sub>7</sub> = Father's educational level

X<sub>8</sub> = Father's occupation status

X<sub>9</sub> = Fathers age (years)

X<sub>10</sub> = Sex of child

X<sub>11</sub> = Current age of child (in years)

X<sub>12</sub> = Place of delivery

X<sub>13</sub> = Father's occupation status

### RESULT AND DISCUSSION

#### Socio-economic characteristics of parents of children under five years

The result of the socio-economic characteristics of mothers and fathers who have children that are five years old and younger is presented in table 1. The result shows that majority (56%) of the mothers are between the ages of 25 and 40 years old. This implies that most of the mothers are matured enough to raise a child and would be expected to know the importance of breastfeeding in the nutritional status of their wards. The result also shows that majority of the mothers have low literacy level with 22.9% and 57.1% of them having no formal education and primary school leaving certificates respectively. Therefore, rural women will need awareness programmes on the benefits of breast milk on their child's nutritional status. Furthermore, about 67.3% of the mothers are unemployed, though this will create time for the mothers to take care of their child and breastfeed their child adequately, they may not be financially empowered to provide other complements like good medical services and supplementary meals needed by the child.

Table one also reveals that 19% and 48% of the fathers of children under-five years of age have no form of formal education and primary school



certificate respectively. This implies that the fathers may not be in the best position to tutor their wives on the need to adequately breastfeed their child. The result of the parent's socio-economic characteristics also shows that 98.9% of the fathers are engaged in one form of income generating activities or the other for the sustenance of their households as they are the bread winner. Therefore, they will be able to provide the support needed for other complements that will ensure that their child health status is improved.

#### **Socio-economic characteristics of children under five years**

The result of the socio-economic characteristics of children under five years of age is presented in table two. The result reveals that 51.1% of the children under-five years in rural Nigeria are male. This is an indication of the patrilinear structure of the Nigeria society where there is a strong preference for male children. The result of the socio-economic characteristics of children under five years also shows that majority of the children are between the ages of 1-3 years. Therefore it is expected that the children will still be breastfeeding or would have just been weaned. Table two further reveals that majority of the children that are less than five years of age were delivered with the assistance unskilled medical attendance. Mothers of such children were not likely to attend ante-natal clinics where they would have been taught how to breastfeed their children and it attendant benefits on the nutritional status of their babies which will invariably have effect on their health status.

Table one further presents the result of the nutritional status of children under-five years of age. The result shows that about 41% of the children are malnourished i.e stunted. This implies that there is still the need for advocacy on the importance of proper nutrition among households in the rural areas of Nigeria.

#### **Distribution of respondents by months of breastfeeding**

The result of the duration of breastfeeding of children is presented in figure one. The result indicates that majority of the respondents (54.6%) breastfeed their baby till they are between 12 and 24 months old, 16.5 % respondent breastfed their baby between 0 to 6 months, 17.7% breastfed their baby between 6 to 12 months, and 11.1% continued breastfeeding after 24months. This implies that the majority of the respondents' breastfeed their child for a duration of 12 to 24 months which is expected to improve the nutritional status of such children and invariably their health status. The reasons for this may not be far-fetched as most rural areas lives a

communal life and if a mother stops breastfeeding her child at a more tender age she may be stigmatized. This is coupled with the fact that rural areas have higher poverty incidence and it is cheaper for them to give their children breast milk.

#### **Relationship between months of breastfeeding and stunted child**

Table 3 shows the relationship between months of breastfeeding and nutritional status (stunted) of children. The result indicates that 71.9% of children who were breastfed for a period less than 6 months, 51.1% of children were breastfed for a period of 6 to 12 months 13 and 42.0% of children who were breastfed for more than 12 months were stunted. This shows that there is a positive relationship between the months of breastfeeding and children that were stunted as majority of the children who were not breastfed for a period of at least six months were stunted while infants that were breastfed for more than 12 months had their majority not stunted.

#### **Factors that determine breastfeeding among rural household**

Factors that determine the duration of breastfeeding of children is presented in table 4. The result shows that 57% of the variation in the months of breastfeeding of children is explained by changes in educational level, number of household members, number of children 5 and under, wealth index, covered by health insurance, marital status, fathers education level, fathers occupation, fathers age, sex of child, age of child, place of delivery and mothers occupation. The result shows that while mothers educational level, household size, wealth index and age of child have negative effects on the months of breastfeeding of the child while mothers educational level, father's age, child being male, giving birth to children at health care centers and having health care insurance have positive effect on the months of breastfeeding of children.

The result of the regression analysis shows that a 1% change in mothers' educational level will reduce the months of breastfeeding by 2.286 while a unit change in household size will reduce the months of breastfeeding by 0.253. A 1% change in the wealth index will reduce the months of breastfeeding by 0.446 while a percentage change in the respondents covered by health insurance will increase the months of breastfeeding by 0.542. A percentage change in father's age will increase the month of breastfeeding by 0.42 while a unit change in a child being male will increase the months of breastfeeding by 6.36. The result also shows that 1% change in the current age of child and in the place of delivery will increase



months of breastfeeding by 2.356 and 0.331 respectively.

The result therefore implies that the higher the educational level of the respondents the lesser the months of breastfeeding because the respondents will not have enough time to take care of their children as they will be more concentrated on their work. An increase in the number of household members will reduce the months of breastfeeding of the child because the mother will be dropping the infant with their siblings or other relatives to engage in income generating activities so as to augment the expenditure of the households. Also a change in the wealth index of the respondents will reduce the months of breastfeeding. The poorer the respondents, the higher will be the months they will spend in breastfeeding. This is because the respondents will have to depend only on breastfeeding their child as they do not have other means of feeding their child. As the wealth index changes from poorest to better wealth index, the months of breastfeeding will reduce because the respondents will be able to purchase food for their children and may not actively practice exclusive breastfeeding.

Respondents covered by health insurance will actively participate in exclusive breastfeeding because their health is insured and they have more knowledge on breastfeeding. Also the older the father, the less he will contribute to exclusive breastfeeding and this might be because of his traditional beliefs. The younger the partner, the more he will be involved in and also support exclusive

breastfeeding. Breastfeeding practice increases for the ages of the children less than 5 years of age especially between 0 – 6 months of age. The place of delivery (especially in hospitals or health care centers) will increase months of breastfeeding because the respondents will be educated more on the importance of exclusive breastfeeding.

Respondent's occupation also decreases the months of breastfeeding because the busier they are, the lesser time they will have to adequately breastfeed their child.

#### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

This study examined the duration at which infants are breastfed, the relationship between the duration at which infants are breastfed and their nutritional status and the factors that determines duration of breastfeeding. The result shows that there exists a positive relationship between the duration at which a child is breastfed and child's nutritional status. It is therefore imperative if nutritional status of children is to be improved government and other relevant stakeholders should continue in their advocacy programme for exclusive breastfeeding and to sensitize mothers especially the educated ones and working mothers on the importance of breast milk on their child's nutritional status. They should be oriented not to focus on other nutritional complements of breast milk. In addition households should be educated on gender equity as male children are perceived as more superior than the girl child therefore not giving them equal opportunities.



**Table 1: Parents Socio-economic Characteristics**

Socio-economic characteristics	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Mothers age</b>		
<25	7,835	37.3
25-40	11,786	56.0
>40	1,414	6.7
Total	21,035	100.0
<b>Mothers educational level</b>		
No formal education	4820	22.9
Primary	12,005	57.1
Secondary	3577	17.0
Tertiary	633	3.0
Total	21,035	100.0
<b>Mothers Employment status</b>		
Employed	14,158	67.3
Unemployed	6877	32.7
Total	21,035	100.0
<b>Fathers educational level</b>		
No formal education	4003	19.0
Primary	10,105	48.0
Secondary	4994	23.8
Tertiary	1933	9.2
Total	21,035	100
<b>Fathers employment status</b>		
Employed	20,793	98.9
Unemployed	242	1.1
Total	21,035	100

Source: NDHS, 2008

**Table 2: Relationship between Months of breastfeeding and Stunted child**

Months of breastfeeding	Stunted (%)	Non-stunted (%)
<6 months	0.719	0.280
6 – 13	0.511	0.489
>13 months	0.420	0.579
Total	0.480	0.519

Source: NDHS, 2008

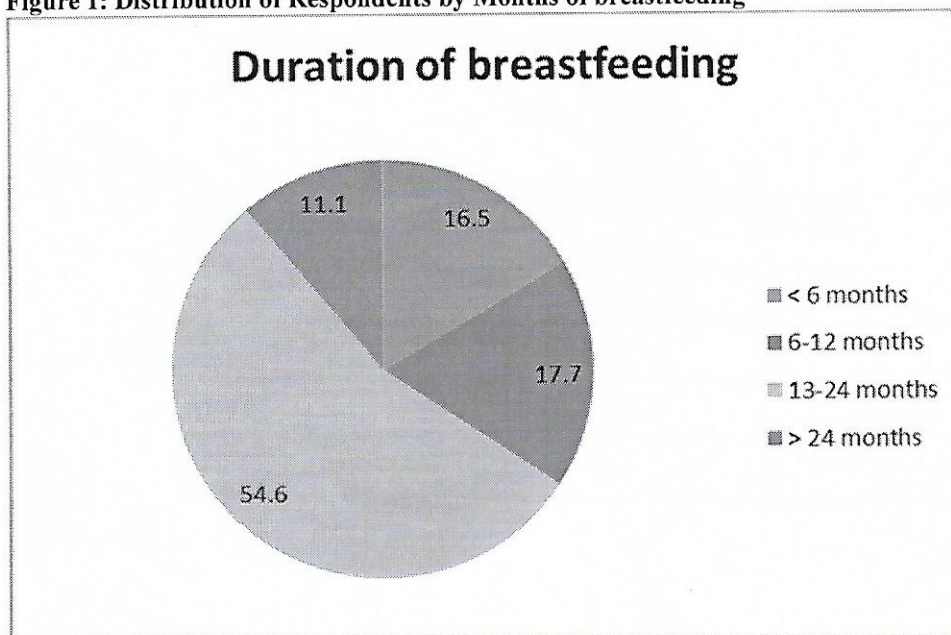


**Table 2: Socio-economic Characteristics of Children Under Five Years**

Socio-economic characteristics	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	10,745	51.1
Female	10,290	48.9
Total	21,035	100
<b>Age</b>		
<1 year	6,831	32.5
1-3 years	10,756	51.1
> 3 years	3,448	16.4
Total	21,035	100
<b>Place of delivery</b>		
Self/unskilled birth Attendants	16,279	77.4
Public hospitals	3,110	14.7
Private	1,646	7.9
Total	21,035	100
<b>Nutritional Status</b>		
Stunted	8,624	41
Non-stunted	12,411	59
Total	21,035	100

Source: NDHS, 2008

**Figure 1: Distribution of Respondents by Months of breastfeeding**



Source: NDHS, 2008



**Table 4: Factors that determine breastfeeding among rural household**

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	COEFFICIENT	STANDARD ERROR	T- RATIO	SIG. LEVEL
Constant	14.774	.942	15.689	.000
Mothers educational level	-2.286	.248	-9.229	.000*
Number of household members	-.253	.064	3.945	.000*
Number of children 5 and under	-.244	.176	-1.386	.166
Wealth index	-.466	.168	-2.774	.006*
Covered by health insurance	.542	.256	2.119	.034*
Current marital status	.266	.332	.801	.423
Father's education level	.098	.135	.723	.470
Father's occupational status	.002	.002	.963	.336
Father's age	.042	.012	3.502	.000*
Sex of child	-.636	.324	-1.961	.050*
Current age of child	2.356	.114	20.591	.000*
Place of delivery	.331	.013	25.393	.000*
Mother's occupation	-0.04	..002	-1.656	..098*
R SQUARE	0.57			

Source; NDHS,2008

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## Perception of Students on Students' Socio-economic Conditions and Academic Performance in Oyo State College of Agriculture, Igboora, Oyo State, Nigeria

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### ABSTRACT

A critical analysis of student socio economic conditions is crucial in the explanation of academic performance of student. Indeed, a conducive socio economic condition is germane for improved academic performance of students. This study explored the perceptions of students of the Oyo State College of Agriculture, Igboora, on the relationship between students conditions and academic performance. Using primary data collected from distributed questionnaires to 200 students of the college out of which 13 were discarded, the study sought to understand the perception of student on this critical topic. The findings indicated that the students perceived that most crucial to their academic performance is their ability to access quality food for nutrition as well as access ability to afford academic materials, as against affordability to entertainment and relaxation. The study concluded that for achieving improved academic performance among students, ensuring access to basic needs of life such as quality food as well as ensuring access to academic materials is vital.

**Key Words:** Students, Perception and Performance.

### INTRODUCTION

Socioeconomic status has been defined as an economic and sociological combined total measure of a person's work experience and of an individual's or family's economic and social position relative to others, based on income and education, and occupation. Marmot, (2004) suggest in analyzing social economic status, the household income, earners' education and occupation are examined, as well as combined income, versus with an individual, when their own attributes are assessed.

A family's socioeconomic status is based on income, parental education level, parental occupation, and social status in the community such as contacts within the community, group associations, and the community's academic performance of the family. Families with high socioeconomic status often have more success in preparing their young children for school because they typically have access to a wide range of resources to promote and support young children's development. They are able to provide their young children with high-quality child care, books, and toys to encourage children in various learning activities at home. Also, they have easy access to information regarding their children's health, as well as social, emotional, and cognitive development. In addition, families with high socioeconomic status often seek out information to help them better prepare their young children for school.

American Psychological Association (2001) opined that children from homes with high socioeconomic

status tend to express more "disengagement" behaviours than their less privileged peers. In this context, disengagement behaviours represent actions such as fidgeting with other objects and drawing pictures while being addressed. Other participants born into less favoured circumstances tended to make more eye contact, nods as signs of happiness when put into an interactive social environment. The more fortuitous peers felt less inclined to gain rapport with their group because they saw no need for their assistance in the future. While the knowledge of the Impact of socio economic status on engagement and disengagement pattern of student is evolving into well documented literature, the impact of this on academic performance remain rather slim. Random assumptions and opinion is that children from not so privileged home may strife hard to perform well in school with the notion that academic success will help them upgrade their socio economic status. Further more children from privileged homes may have too much comfort and that may distract them from focusing on their studies in school. How credible these opinions are remain subject to empirical testing. Other notions are that children from less privileged homes may not have well developed mental ability to cope with academics successfully as their very privileged colleagues, as well as they may spend too much time trying to cater for their basic needs to the detriment of their studies. This study therefore aims at examining the contribution of student socio-



economic status on the academic performance of students using the Oyo State College of Agriculture, Igboora, Oyo State for a case. The college is a college set up by the Oyo state government to promote agricultural education and development as well as to facilitate extension services in the state, hence its situation in the Oke ogun region of the state which is the most active agricultural region of the state.

#### LITERATURE REVIEW

Simiyu, J.W (2001) opined that a family's income is the wages salaries, profit, rents and any other flow of earnings received. He argued further that income can also come in the form of unemployment or workers compensation, social security, pensions, interests or dividends, royalties, trusts, alimony, or other governmental, public, or family financial assistance. Income can be perceived from two perspective, relative and absolute. Absolute income, as theorized by economist Keynes, is the relationship in which as income increases, so will consumption, but not at the same rate. Relative income dictates a person or family's savings and consumption based on the family's income in relation to others. Income is commonly used measure of social economic status because it is relatively easy to figure for most individuals.

Lareau, ( 2003) broke socioeconomic status into three categories, high, middle, and low to describe the three areas a family or an individual may fall into when placing a family or individual into one of these categories any or all of the three variables income, education, and occupation can be assessed. Moreover, low income and little education have proven to be significant determinant of a range of physical and mental health problems due to environmental conditions may be the entire cause of that person's social predicament. From the foregoing it becomes evident that socio economic status varies across the income different levels.

Income inequality is most commonly measured around the world by the Gini Coefficient, where 0 corresponds to perfect equality and 1 means perfect inequality. Low income focuses on meeting immediate needs and do not accumulate wealth that could be passed on to future generations, thus increasing inequality. Families with higher and expendable income can accumulate wealth and focus on meeting immediate needs while being able to consume and enjoy luxuries and weather crises (GOK, 1983). The impact of inequality to not just the family but economies as a whole remains huge with renowned economist like Paul Krugman referring to inequality as a drag others such as Thomas Pickety in his new book Capital has

highlighted the negative impact of inequality. It is argued that the pursuit of equality is not just a moral imperative, not just vital for the poor and for the social cohesion and wellbeing of society, it is also necessary for a stable economy. For example, the scourge of inequality has had a real role in the current intractable economic and financial crisis. Many leading economists regard growing inequality as one of the main causes of financial crashes: the International Monetary Fund has published evidence that inequality led to the huge debts behind the 2008 bank crisis; and Rajan (2010) argues that the growing income inequality was a key factor leading to the financial crisis and to the current economic downturn. It is no accident therefore that both major modern crises – the first beginning in 1929, the second in 2008 – coincided with historic levels of inequality. van Treeck and Sturn (2012) survey the evidence that income inequality is a cause of the recent Great Recession. In addition, Greenspan (2007), former Chairman of the US Federal Reserve, says that increasing inequality is bad for business while the UK Prime Minister, David Cameron (2009), notes that more unequal countries do worse according to every quality of life indicator, Including Human Capital development which then gives an insight into academic performance of students at micro level.

Ominde, S. (1964) observes that Education plays a major role in skill sets for acquiring jobs, as well as specific qualities that stratify people with higher from lower Social economic status. Annette Lareau speaks on the idea of concerted cultivation, where middle class parents take an active role in their children's education and development by using controlled organized activities and fostering a sense of entitlement through encouraged discussion. Laureau argues that families with lower income do not participate in this movement, causing their children to have a sense of constraint. A division in education attainment is thus born out of these two differences in child rear Gachathi, P (1976) indicates that Occupational prestige as one component of socio-economic status encompasses both income and educational attainment Occupational status reflects the educational attainment required to obtain the job and income levels that vary with different jobs and within ranks of occupations. Additionally, it shows achievement in skills required for the job. Occupational status measures social position by describing job characteristics, decision making ability and control, and psychological demands on the job (Erick, Nyakundi etal, 2012). Occupations are ranked and some of the most prestigious occupations are physicians and surgeons, lawyers, chemical and biomedical engineers, and



communications analysts. These jobs, considered to be grouped in the high status in classification, provide more challenging work, ability and greater control over working conditions. Those jobs with lower rankings were food preparation workers, counter attendants, bartenders and helpers, dishwashers, janitors, maids and housekeepers, vehicle cleaners, and parking lot attendants. The jobs that were less valued were also paid significantly less and are more laborious, very hazardous, and provide less autonomy. Economic reserves or assets, presents a source of security providing a measure of a household's ability to meet emergencies, absorb economic shocks, or provide the means to live comfortably. Wealth reflects intergenerational transitions as well as accumulation of income and savings, income, age, marital status, family size, religion, occupation, and education are all predictors for wealth attainment (Marmot, Michael 2004) The family wealth gap is due in part to income disparities and differences in achievement. The differences in savings due to different rates of incomes, inheritance factors, and discrimination in the housing market lead to the wealth gap. The savings increase with increasing income, the amount a person inherits, either during a lifetime or after death, can create different starting points between two different individuals or families. These different starting points also factor into housing, education, and employment discrimination. ( Amutabi, M.N 2003) In line with similar research on monkeys, humans showed an increase in brain activity while viewing individuals they perceived to be of similar status. This means the brains of people with a high socioeconomic status showed more activity when looking at a picture of an individual they thought also shared high status. The same goes for people with lower perceived socioeconomic status when they viewed others similar to them. Amutabi, M.N ( 2003) discuss the impact of socioeconomic status on children's readiness for school."The segregating nature of social class, ethnicity may well reduce the variety of enriching experiences thought to be prerequisite for creating readiness to learn among children. Social class, ethnicity, dictate neighbourhood, housing, and access to resources that affect enrichment or deprivation as well as the acquisition of specific value systems. APA ( 2001) describe the relationship of family socioeconomic status to children's readiness for school, Across all socioeconomic groups; parents face major challenges when it comes to providing optimal care and education for their children. For families in poverty these challenges can be formidable. Sometimes, when basic necessities are lacking,

parents must place top priority on housing, food, clothing, and health care. Educational toys, games, and books may appear to be luxuries, and parents may not have the time, energy, or knowledge to find innovative and less-expensive ways to foster young children's development. Ominde, (1964) observes that even in families with above average income parents often lack the time and energy to invest fully in their children's preparation for school, and they sometimes face a limited array of options for high-quality child care both before their children start school and during the early school years. Kindergarten teachers throughout the country report that children are increasingly arriving at school inadequately prepared. Families with low socioeconomic status often lack the financial, social, and educational supports that characterize families with high socioeconomic status. Poor families also may have inadequate or limited access to community resources that promote and support children's development and school readiness. Parents may have inadequate skills for such activities as reading to and with their children, and they may lack information about childhood immunizations and nutrition. Lareau, (2004) state that "low maternal education and minority-language status are most consistently associated with fewer signs of emerging literacy and a greater number of difficulties in preschoolers." Having inadequate resources and limited access to available resources can negatively affect families' decisions regarding their young children's development and learning. As a result, children with low socioeconomic status are at greater risk of entering kindergarten unprepared than their peers with median or high socioeconomic status.

#### METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted in Oyo State College of Agriculture, Igboora, Oyo State, Nigeria To understand the impact of student family socioeconomic status on academics performance in Oyo State College of Agriculture, Igboora, Oyo State, the study employed the use of the *ex post facto* research design. This type of design is most appropriate because it enables use of descriptive statistics and explanations for analysis. Descriptive statistics involves quantitatively describing the main features of a collection of information. It brings out the possible antecedents of events that already occurred and therefore cannot be manipulated. Further, it explores and describes phenomena. The design is effective in obtaining information relating to people's thoughts, feelings and opinions. It collects generalizable information from a population. To find out student responses on their academic performance



based on socio- economic background, the design enabled the researcher to collect and analyze data. The study targeted both males and females at the college, and included a total of 200 students at the college, out of which 187 respondents were successfully investigated and 13 were unsuccessful. Data was collected using structured and unstructured questionnaires. The Questionnaires were designed to use the Likert type of scale in measuring the student perceptions and attitudes on their socio- economic background and how it impacts on their academic

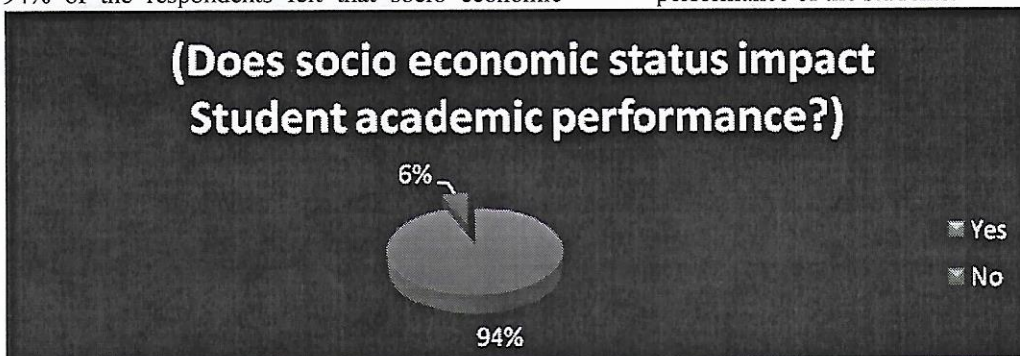
performance. According to Mugenda and Mugenda (1999), the Likert types of scales are used to measure perception, attitude, values, and behaviour. Rating scales consist of numbers and descriptions which are used to rate or rank the subjective and intangible components in research. The collected data was analysed with the use of Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) and Microsoft Excel was combined in this research in organizing, coding and analyzing quantitative data collected.

**RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS**

Does socio economic status impact Student academic performance?

As seen below, the result of the study suggest that 94% of the respondents felt that socio economic

background impacted on the student academic performance, while 6% indicated socio economic background does not impact on the academic performance of the students.

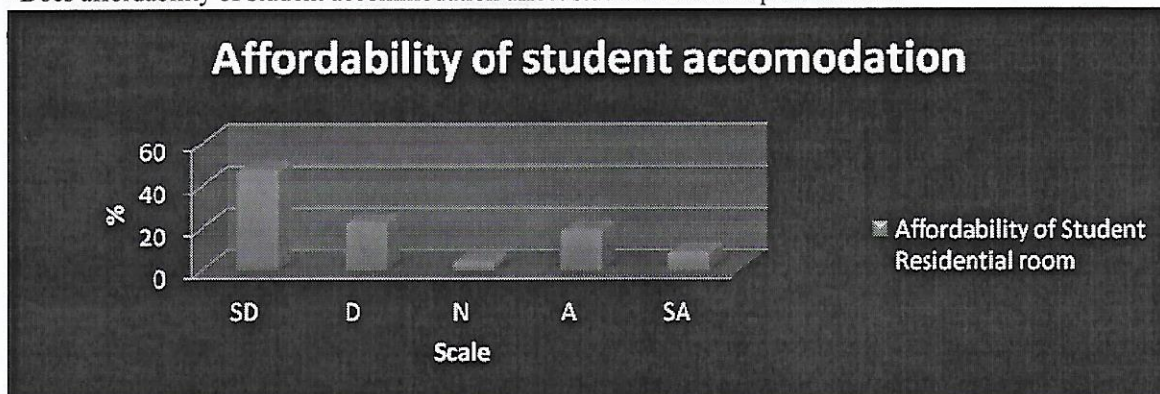


**Figure 1:** Students perception of the impact of socio economic status of student on academic performance  
 Source: Field survey

From the result of those that responded positively to does socio economic status impact Student academic performance? Their response to the following questions were then analyzed to understand their

positions. The questions posed all bothered on basic needs of students for academic performance as opined by Okioga (2013).

- Does affordability of student accommodation affect student academic performance?



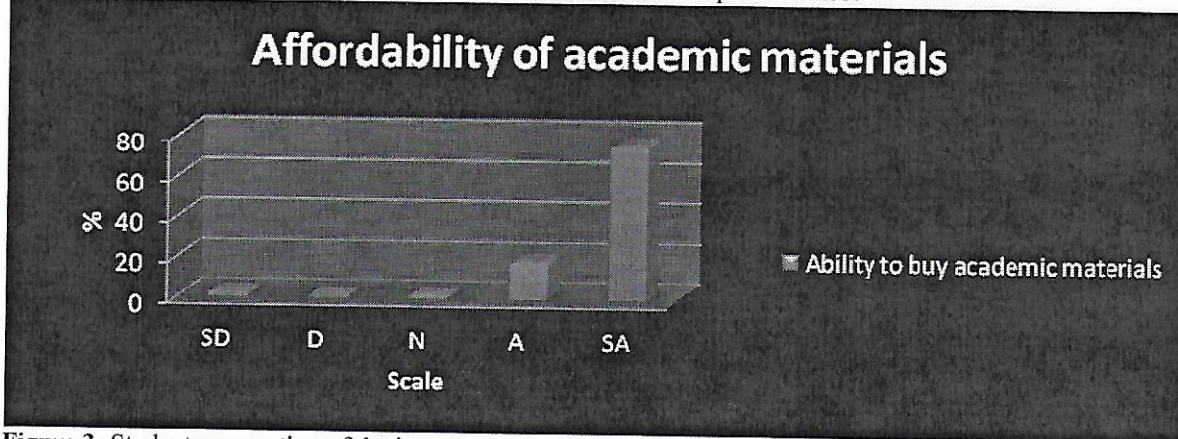
**Figure 2:** Students perception of the impact of affordability of student accommodation on academic performance  
 Source: Field survey



Out of the 100 percent of the respondents that were positive to the question that socio economic status had impact on academic performance, about 70 percent disagreed to accommodation affecting

academic performance. About 26 percent of the respondent agreed to accommodation affordability affecting academic performance while 4 percent were neutral.

- Does affordability of academic materials affect student academic performance?

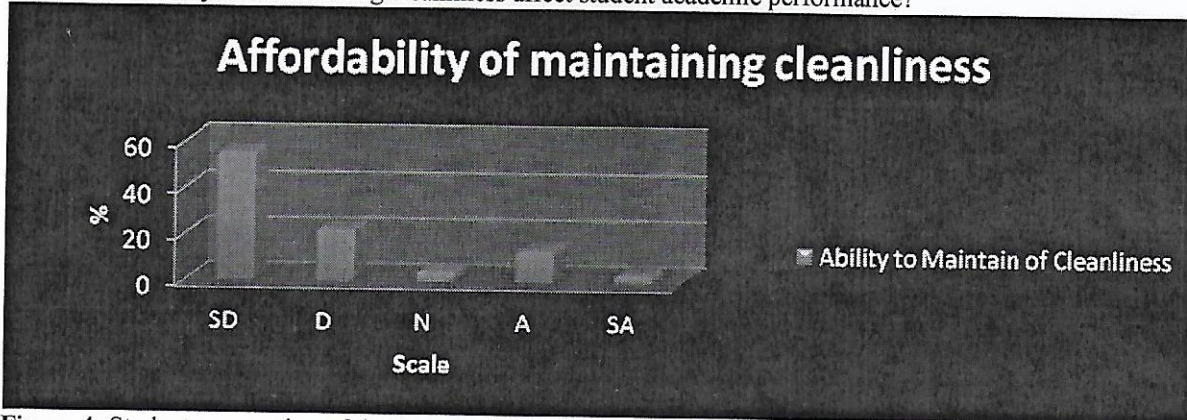


**Figure 3:** Students perception of the impact of affordability of academic materials on academic performance  
 Source: Field survey

Out of the 100 percent of the respondents that were positive to the question that socio economic status had impact on academic performance, about 96 percent agreed to inability to afford academic

materials affecting academic performance. About 2 percent of the respondent disagreed to inability to afford academic materials affecting academic performance while 2 percent were neutral.

- Does affordability of maintaining cleanliness affect student academic performance?



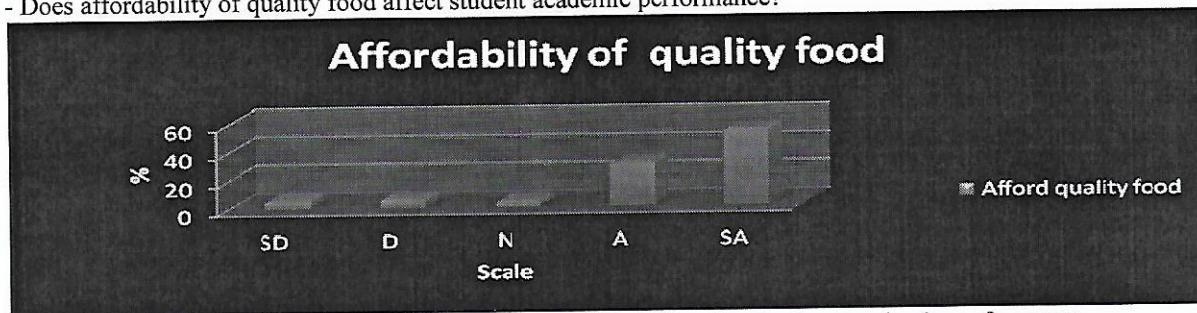
**Figure 4:** Students perception of the impact of maintaining cleanliness on academic performance  
 Source: Field survey

Out of the 100 percent of the respondents that were positive to the question that socio economic status had impact on academic performance, about 78 percent disagreed to inability to maintain cleanliness

affects academic performance. About 17 percent of the respondent agreed to inability to afford academic materials affecting academic performance while 5 percent were neutral.



- Does affordability of quality food affect student academic performance?



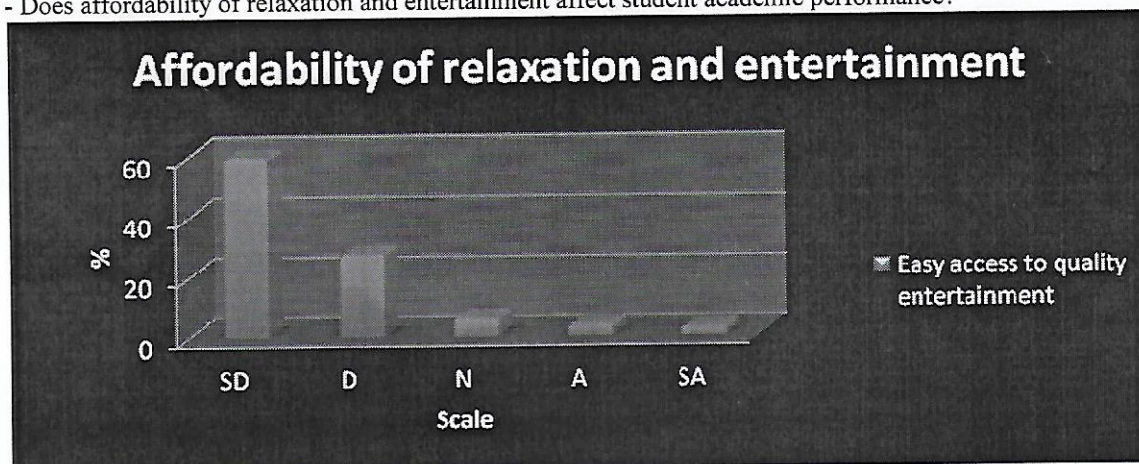
**Figure 5:** Students perception of the impact of affordability of quality food on academic performance

**Source:** Field survey

Out of the 100 percent of the respondents that were positive to the question that socio economic status had impact on academic performance, about 84 percent agreed to inability to afford quality food

affecting academic performance. About 12 percent of the respondent disagreed to inability to afford quality food affecting academic performance while 2 percent were neutral.

- Does affordability of relaxation and entertainment affect student academic performance?



**Figure 6:** Students perception of the impact of affordability of relaxation and entertainment on academic performance

**Source:** Field survey

Out of the 100 percent of the respondents that were positive to the question that socio economic status had impact on academic performance, about 87 percent disagreed to inability to afford relaxation

and entertainment affecting academic performance. About 7 percent of the respondent agreed to inability to afford relaxation and entertainment affecting academic performance while 6 percent were neutral.

**Table 1: Correlation Table**

Control Variable AP		SA	AM	MC	QF	RE
	SA	1.000000	0.734450	0.120728	0.731131	0.003763
	AM		1.000000	0.229557	0.252506	-0.325948
	MC			1.000000	0.025273	0.372833
	QF				1.000000	-0.324687
	RE					1.000000

Table 1 reveal a positive relationship between most of the relationships. It revealed a positive relationship for all the variables and the control variable. It revealed a positive and strong

relationship between food quality and access to academic materials and academic performance. Where: SA= Affordability of Student Accommodation  
 AM= Affordability of academic materials



MC= Affordability of Maintaining Cleanliness  
 QF= Affordability of quality food  
 RE= Affordability of relaxation and entertainment  
 AP= Student Academic Performance

**Table 2 : Model Summary**

Model	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	F stat	Durbin Watson
.570 <sup>a</sup>	.325	.281	.128	7.419	1.935

a. Predictors: (Constant), SA, AM, MC, QF, RE.....

b. Dependent Variable: AP...

The model accounts for 32.5% of variations in student Academic performance. The significance of fit of data used is ( $F(6, 186) = 7.419, p < .000$ ), suggesting that the model is significant. The adjusted  $R^2$  (0.281) reduced a little bit in comparison with the  $R^2$  (0.325), and slightly below 0.5 which suggests that the model may not be able to give a perfect generalization but rather an averagely good generalization. The Durbin-Watson values at 1.935 however suggest that the model is good as it is close to 2.

From the regression coefficients below, it appears that there is a positive relationship between academic performance and affordability of student accommodation, academic materials, maintaining cleanliness, and quality of food. There is however a negative relationship between academic performance and relaxation and entertainment.

Generally, it can be suggested that the model is good using the F-statistics which also possess a high p-value and Durbin Watson value close to 2.

The model can then be specified as:

$$Y = f(X) \text{ ----- (i)}$$

$$X = (X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n) - \dots \text{ ----- (ii)}$$

For the purpose of this study,

$$X = X_1 + X_2 + X_3 + X_4 + X_5 \text{ ----- (iii)}$$

$$\therefore Y = f(X_1 + X_2 + X_3 + X_4 + X_5) \text{ ----- (iv)}$$

$$Y = B_0 + B_1X_1 + B_2X_2 + B_3X_3 + B_4X_4 + B_5X_5 + e \text{ ----- (v)}$$

$$Y = 3.041 + (0.221X_1) + (0.028X_2) + (0.283X_3) + (0.380X_4) + (-0.26X_5) + e \text{ ----- (vi)}$$

$$Y = 3.041 + 0.221X_1 + 0.028X_2 + 0.283X_3 + 0.380X_4 - 0.26X_5 + e \text{ ----- (vii)}$$

Where:  $B_0$ = Constant

$X_1$ = Affordability of Student Accommodation

$X_2$ = Affordability of academic materials

$X_3$ = Affordability of Maintaining Cleanliness

$X_4$ = Affordability of quality food

$X_5$ = Affordability of relaxation and entertainment

$e$ = error term

$Y$ = Student Academic Performance

$\infty$  = Infinity

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the objectives of the study to investigate the socioeconomic background affecting student academic performance in the college, from the analysis of the collected data, the following major findings that: that student inability to afford quality food as well as academic materials were major influences on student academic performance. The affordability of basic needs such as quality student accommodation, maintaining cleanliness are needs necessary for the improved academic performance. The basic means of life bring about the student academic performance.

The study determined the impact of student socioeconomic background on student academic performance. The study concludes that for achieving improved academic performance among students, ensuring access to basic needs of life such as quality food as well as ensuring access to academic materials are crucial.

The study therefore recommends that should access to quality food as well as academic materials be stimulated within the campus to ensure students maximize their potentials in academic performance in the college as this are the two variable viewed as contributors to academic performance. Further studies can be conducted to understand the expenditure pattern of student and its impact on their academic performance.

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