

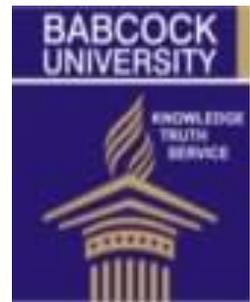


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Factors affecting the perceived effect of poverty among rural households in Ede South Local Government of Osun State

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Abstract

Poverty remains a global concern and has become a phenomenon with vast dominance in Africa, Nigeria inclusive. A multistage sampling procedure was employed to select 120 respondents for the study. The data were collected with a structured interview schedule and analyzed using descriptive statistics and ordinary least square (OLS) regression. Results revealed that poor access to good security with a weighted mean score of 1.37, lack of access to reliable electricity with a weighted mean score of 1.36, and lack of job opportunity with a weighted mean score of 1.21 were the major determinants of household poverty. The result of the t-test revealed that there is a statistically significant difference ($p < 0.05$) between the income of rural households with low and high level of perceived effect of poverty. Multiple linear regressions result showed that years of education was statistically significant ($p < 0.05$), and income was statistically significant ($p < 0.01$) as determinants of the level of perceived effect of poverty. Based on the findings, the study, therefore recommends the need to give adequate education by government since it is one the determinants of level of perceived effects of poverty.

Keywords: Income, level, differential, coping, poverty

Introduction

Poverty remains a global concern for the last few decades as most countries of the world fall under the absolute poverty line (based on World Bank classification), which indicates that they live on less than one United States dollar per day. It has become a phenomenon with vast dominance in Africa, Nigeria inclusive (Omodero, 2019). Poverty hinders economic growth and sustainable development. The social, economic, demographic, cultural and other significant contributing factors for poverty reduction have implications on the economic development and policy interventions (World Bank, 2014). Perception of poverty by an individual is quite different from one another, meaning it is multidimensional. Effiom and Archibong (2014) showed that poverty manifests in many forms and dimensions, especially among youths. The scholars highlighted some of the ways including an escalation in prices, an increase in crime rate, an increase in child labour, low literacy, and a high rate of unemployment. Similarly, poverty can also manifest in poor health, insecurity, powerlessness, low level of income, food

insecurity, and social exclusion in society. Interestingly, Todaro and Smith (2012) defined absolute poverty as the situation of being unable or only barely able to meet subsistence essentials of food, clothing, shelter, and basic health care.

The poverty situation in Nigeria is aggravated by overpopulation, lack of essential social amenities, political instability, poor industrialization, wrong economic policies, bribery, corruption, persistent insecurity across the country, absent or dilapidated infrastructure (World Bank, 2010, UNDP, 2015). According to the NLSS Report (2019), 52.1% of the rural population in Nigeria is described as poor compared to 18% in the urban area. The predominance of rural poverty over urban has been consistent between 1996 and 2010. From the Human Development Index (HDI) which focuses on three measurable dimensions of human development; living a long and healthy life, being educated, and having a decent standard of living, Nigeria's estimate in 2003 was 0.443 and rose to 0.532 in 2017 (Omodero, 2019). Further, in the world ranking, Nigeria in 2003 being the base year was 220 and in 2017, Nigeria ranked 157 among 189 countries

included in the UNDP as reported by (Omodero, 2019). Despite successive government's efforts in reducing poverty, its situation in Nigeria is quite disturbing as the story of poverty alleviation seems to be sulky over the years (Abbas, 2013). Further, while the remaining insignificant minority is living in affluence as noted by (Okunmadewa, 2015). Also, Okunmadewa (2015) noted that one of the most pathetic features of the Nigerian economy today is that a majority of its populace is living in a state of destitution. Poverty and inequality have been identified as inseparable evil that is highly related to rural households (Ogundipe *et al.*, 2019).

Consequently, for the rural households to increase their incomes and meet the economic requirement of the increasing population, their poverty situation has to be reduced. This, however, requires identifying the factors that influence poverty among the rural households in the study area. More so, in Nigeria, there is a significant gap in living standards among people. Conversely, people of rural areas suffered the most from poverty, and poverty itself has a different face in rural areas. The

aforementioned issues necessitate carrying out research on poverty situations in rural households. The main objective of this study was to examine the factors affecting the perceived effect of poverty of rural household in Ede South Local Government of Osun State, while specific objectives were to identify the perceived effects of poverty determinants of rural households poverty, establish the relationship between income and level of perceived effects of poverty, analyze factors affecting the perceived effects of poverty of rural households and examine the coping strategies to poverty by rural households in the study area.

The hypothesis of the study

H₀: There is no significant difference in the income of the rural households with respect to their perceived effect of poverty levels.

Materials and methods

Study area: The study was carried out in Ede South Local Government Area, Osun State, Nigeria. It is located in the southwestern part of Nigeria, dominated mainly by Yoruba people. It has an area of 219 km² and a population of 76,035 (National Population Census (NPC),

2006. It is located in the tropical rain forest belt of Nigeria: Like most parts of the old Western Region, the area is characterized by two distinct seasons, namely the wet and the dry seasons. The annual rainfall received in this region is very high, usually above 2,000 mm. This tropical rainforest climate has a very small temperature range and the temperature range is almost constant throughout the year. Temperatures are fairly uniform throughout the year and the differences between day and night are slight. The hottest months are August and November and the lowest temperature occurs in March and September. Mean daily recorded maximum temperatures at Ede varied from 150 C to 160 C and minimum values ranged from 70 C to 90 C.

Source and type of data: Primary data were used for this study. The primary data were obtained with the aid of a well-structured questionnaire and unstructured interview guide. The questionnaire was structured to capture data on socio-economic variables, input utilization, and variables on perceived effects of poverty.

Data collection and sampling techniques:

Two-stage sampling procedure was employed in selecting the rural households in the study area. In the first stage, fifteen (15) communities were randomly selected in the local government area while the last stage involves the random selection of eight (8) respondents from each community to give a total number of one hundred and twenty (120) respondents as the sample for the study.

Analytical techniques and models

Descriptive statistics, inferential statistics, and a logit regression model were utilized in this study. The descriptive statistics tools used were mean, standard deviation, frequency counts, and percentages which were applied to describe socio-economic characteristics of the rural household heads. A pair-sample t-test as an inferential statistics tool was used to test the significant difference between the income of households with low and high level of perceived effect of poverty while the ordinary least squares multiple regression models were applied to establish the factors influencing perceived effect of poverty in the study area.

Perceived effects of poverty on rural households were ascertained using a 5-point Likert scale namely; strongly agree = 5, agree = 4, undecided = 3, disagree = 4, and strongly disagree = 1 which were on a list of fourteen (14) perceptual statements. The benchmark was obtained by adding 5+4+ 3+2+1 = 15 which is divided by 5 to give 3.0. Any mean score of 3.0 and above is favorable, otherwise not favourable (Ofuoku and Isife (2009) as cited in Omotara, (2016). The perception index was obtained by dividing the grand mean perceptual score by 5. The aggregate score of perceived effect poverty components was computed and the grand mean is obtained. Following Oni and Adepoju, (2011) this study adopted the probability $P(Y_i)$ of occurrence of the i^{th} individual perception of poverty values greater than or equal to the grand mean value ascribed 1; and 0 otherwise. Individual household with poverty value greater than mean is considered as high level of perceived effect of poverty while those with the poverty value below the mean value is categorized as low level adapting Oni and Adepoju, (2011). The process resulted into disaggregation of mean value into

low and high level of perceived effect of poverty.

The mean difference model

The mean difference model is presented as equation 1 below:

$$t_{\text{cal}} = \frac{\bar{X}_1 - \bar{X}_2}{\sqrt{\frac{\sum(X_1 - \bar{X}_1)^2 + \sum(X_2 - \bar{X}_2)^2}{(n_1 + n_2) - 2}}} \cdot \frac{1}{n_1} + \frac{1}{n_2} \quad (1)$$

Where,

X_1 = Income for rural households with a low level of perceived effect of poverty.

\bar{X}_1 = Mean income for rural households with the low level of perceived effect of poverty.

X_2 = Income for rural households with the high level of perceived effect of poverty.

\bar{X}_2 = Mean income for rural households with the high level of perceived effect of poverty.

n_1 = Number of rural households with a low level of perceived effect of poverty.

n_2 = Number of rural households with the high level of perceived effect of poverty.

The null hypothesis of no significant difference between the incomes of rural households with a low and high level of perceived effect of poverty was tested at a 5 percent level of significance by comparing the calculated t (cal) with the tabulated t (tab) for $(n_1 + n_2) - 2$ degree of freedom.

Ordinary least squares multiple regression

model: The perceived effect of poverty and their determinants were fitted into four functional forms. These models were explicitly specified as follows;

Linear function:

$$Y = f (b_0 + b_1x_1 + b_2x_2 + b_3x_3 + b_4x_4 + b_5 x_5 + e)$$

(2)

Exponential function:

$$\text{Ln}Y = f (b_0 + b_1x_1 + b_2x_2 + b_3x_3 + b_4x_4 + b_5 x_5 + e)$$

(3)

Semi – log function:

$$Y = f (b_0 + b_1\text{ln}x_1 + b_2\text{ln}x_2 + b_3\text{ln}x_3 + b_4\text{ln}x_4 + b_5\text{ln}x_5 + e)$$

(4)

Double-log function:

$$\text{Ln}Y = f (b_0 + b_1\text{ln}x_1 + b_2\text{ln}x_2 + b_3\text{ln}x_3 + b_4\text{ln}x_4 + b_5\text{ln}x_5 + e)$$

(5)

Where Y = Perceived effect of poverty index

x_1 = Age of the head of rural household in years

x_2 = Years of formal education attainment
(number of years spent in formal education)

x_3 = Farming experience in years

x_4 = Household size from nominal value of member of the household

x_5 = Income in naira value

$b_1 - b_5$ are the co-efficient parameters to be estimated

e = stochastic error variable

Results and discussion

Socio-economic characteristics of the households head

Table 1 presents the socio-economic characteristics of the household head. The results in Table 1 showed that few of the respondents (32.5%) fall within the age group of 31-40 years. The mean age was 47.3 ± 9.1 years. This implies that the respondents are still in their economically active age and can be engaged in agricultural production activities. This finding agrees with that of Umen *et al.*,

(2013) which revealed that many rural dwellers are still in their active and energetic age for involvement in agricultural production activities.

The majority (75.0%) of the respondents were male as compared to their female counterparts that represent few (25.0%) of the sample for the study. This implies that the majority of the households in the study area were male-headed. Result in Table 1 further shows that almost half (46.7%) of the respondents in the study area had at least 11 to 15 years of education. This implies that the majority of the households had a form of education and as such should welcome growth and development programme. The mean years spent in school was 9.3 ± 5.5 years.

The results in Table 1 show that almost half (49.2%) of the respondents had a household size of between 6 and 10 while (44.2%) of them

had a household size of between 1 and 5. The mean household size of the respondents was 6 ± 3 persons. This implies that the respondents had more family members to cater for, which might either affect their disposable income level negatively. Their families can also contribute to their economic activities and may also be used as a source of labour for on-farm and off-farm activities. This result is in line with Onuk, *et al* (2013) as they found household labour providing farm power needs of farmers. Table 1 further shows that less than half (39.2%) of the respondents had between 11 and 20 years of farming experience. The mean years of farming experience of the respondents were 22.9 ± 14 years which connotes that the farmers in the study area have longer years of experience which might assist them in productivity.

Table 1: Socio-economic characteristics of the household heads

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Mean	standard deviation
Age (Years)				
≤ 30	10	8.3		
31-40	39	32.5	47.3	±9.1
41-50	29	24.2		
51-60	22	18.3		
> 60	20	16.7		
Sex				
Male	90	75.0		
Female	30	25.0		
Years spent in school				
≤ 5	24	20.0	9.3 years.	± 5.5 years.
6-10	24	20.0		
11-15	56	46.7		
> 15	16	13.3		
Household Size				
1-5	53	44.2	6 persons	± 3 persons
6-10	59	49.2		
11-15	08	6.7		
Years of farming experience				
1-10	19	15.8		
11-20	47	39.2	22.9	± 14 years.
21-30	30	25.0		
> 30	24	20.0		

Source: Field Survey Data, 2020.

Perceived determinants of household poverty

Table 2 presents the distribution of the respondents by poverty determinants of households. The results in Table 2 presented the poverty's determinants in their ranking of severity. They include poor access to good security (Weight Mean Score = 1.36), lack of access to reliable electricity (WMS = 1.36), lack of strong institution (Weight Mean Score = 1.20), lack of job opportunity (Weight Mean Score = 1.20), low-income level (Weight Mean Score = 1.19), lack of access to health facilities (Weight Mean Score = 1.08), lack of basic sanitation (Weight Mean Score = 1.07), weak community organization (Weight Mean Score = 0.94), lack of source of livelihood (Weight Mean Score = 0.93), lack of access to safe drinking water (Weight Mean Score = 0.91), natural hazard (Weight Mean Score = 0.91), lack of general resistance due to malnutrition (Weight Mean Score = 0.84), lack of modern assets

(Weight Mean Score = 0.72) and lack of good education (Weight Mean Score = 0.30).

Interpreting severe and very severe as (1) and otherwise, as (0), the result shows that wicked and corrupt leaders were the greatest determinant of household poverty as identified by households in the study area. Also, lack of access to reliable electricity and lack of basic sanitation determines greatly household poverty status. Poor access to good security and low level of income also affects household poverty status. This finding indicates that poverty determinants are more related to lack of access to the basic necessity of life thereby precipitates into deficit in access to good health facilities. This is in line with Ayoade and Adeola (2012) who identified that lack of access to the basic necessity of life and lack of access to good health is a major perception of poverty determinants by the rural households.

Table 2: Respondents' perceived determinants of poverty in the study area

Items	Very severe	Severe	Not severe	WMS	Rank
Poor access to good security	68(55.8)	29(24.2)	23(20.0)	1.37	1 st
Lack of access to reliable electricity	64(53.3)	35(29.2)	21(17.5)	1.36	2 nd
Lack of job opportunity	53(43.3)	40(33.3)	27(23.3)	1.21	3 rd
Lack of strong institution	54(45.0)	36(30.0)	30(25.0)	1.20	4 th
Low-income level	50(41.7)	43(35.8)	27(22.5)	1.19	5 th
Lack of access to health facilities	47(39.2)	36(30.0)	37(30.8)	1.08	6 th
Lack of basic sanitation	29(24.2)	70(58.3)	21(17.5)	1.07	7 th
Weak community organization	29(24.2)	55(45.8)	36(30.0)	0.94	8 th
Lack of source of livelihood	26(21.7)	57(47.5)	37(30.8)	0.93	9 th
Lack of access to safe drinking water	41(34.2)	27(22.5)	52(43.3)	0.91	10 th
Natural hazard	38(31.7)	33(27.5)	49(40.8)	0.91	10 th
Lack of general resistance due to malnutrition	23(19.2)	55(45.8)	42(35.0)	0.84	12 th
Lack of modern assets	24(20.0)	38(31.7)	58(48.3)	0.72	13 th
Lack of good education	14(11.7)	08(6.7)	98(81.7)	0.30	14 th

Source: Field survey Data, 2020.

*Multiple responses

Distribution of the respondents according to the total amount realized from all income-generating activities

Table 3 presents the annual income from the various income-generating activities. The result in Table 3 shows that the majority (90.0%) of the respondents generated a total amount of

₦400,000 and below while a few (22%) earned above ₦500,239. The mean annual income was ₦338,239 ± ₦260,618. The mean annual income from the various income-generating activities is a clear indication that majority of the households are low income earners.

Table 3: Distribution of the respondents according to a total annual amount of income-generating activities

Total Amount generated from all Income Generating Activities (₦)	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	Standard deviation
1,000-200,000	45	37.5		
200,001-400,000	45	37.5	₦338,239	± ₦260,618
400,001-500,000	08	6.7		
> 500,000	22	18.3		
Total	120	100.0		

Source: Field survey Data, 2020.

Paired differences in income of rural households with low and high level of perceived effect of poverty

The result from Table 4 shows that the difference in income of respondents at a low level of perceived effect of poverty and those at the high level was statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) with a mean income of low level (4.21) and high level (2.94) and a mean difference of

(1.27). Therefore, the null hypothesis which stated there is no significant difference in the income of the rural households regards their level of perceived effect of poverty is rejected and the conclusion is drawn that there is a significant difference in the income between the low and high level of perceived effect of poverty in the study area. This implies that the respondents at a low level of perceived effect of

poverty earn income than those respondents at a high level of perceived effect of poverty. Implication of this result is that those rural

households that earn high level of income do not consider themselves as poor unlike those rural households with low level of income earnings.

Table 4: Pair sample t-test of difference in income between the two levels of perceived effect of poverty

Group	Obs	Mean	Std. Err.	Std. Dev.	[95% Conf. Interval]	
Low	57	4.210526	.3402204	2.568607	3.528983	4.89207
High	63	2.936508	.2676183	2.124155	2.401547	3.471469
combined	120	3.541667	.2210542	2.421528	3.103957	3.979376
Diff		1.274018	.4287832		.4249109	2.123126

diff = mean(low) – mean (high) t = 2.9712

Ho: diff = 0 degrees of freedom = 118

Ha: diff < 0 Ha: diff != 0 Ha: diff > 0

Pr(T < t) = 0.9982 Pr(|T| > |t|) = 0.0036 Pr(T > t) = 0.0018

Source: Field survey Data, 2020.

*Significant at the 5% level (critical t = 1.96)

Determinants of the perceived effects of poverty in the study area

Result in Table 5 is the output of the multiple linear regressions of the factors affecting the perceived effects of poverty in the study area. The results in Table 5 showed that the exponential equation was chosen as the lead equation based on its robustness and most fitted model. The coefficient of multiple determination

(R²) shows that 71.8% of the variation in perceived effects of poverty is been determined by the included independent variables in the model. The R² and F statistics which is significant at p < 0.01 shows that the exponential model is well fitted.

The results in Table 5 showed that the coefficient of years of education was negative and statistically significant at a 5% level of

significance. This implies that a unit increase in the years of education will decrease the perceived effect of poverty of the household head in the study area by 0.03. The implication of this result is that an educated person would not perceive as poor in standard of living in comparison with an illiterate. Education opens opportunities for an individual to explore any opportunities in order to move out of poverty. It could be seen from Table 4 that income has a positive and significant relationship with perceived effects of poverty at $p < 0.01$ critical level. This indicates that a naira increase in the income of the household head will reduce the perceived effects of poverty by 0.008 units. The implication of this finding is that with more income, the lesser the syndrome of being perceived as poor. This is in consonance with the findings of Ayllon and Fusco (2017) that assert that poor people due to their low level of income perceive themselves in financial difficulties unlike people of higher income level. However, this may not be true always in the real economic sense of life as there is always luxury for money.

Coping strategies employed by households in the study area

Table 6 presents the distribution of the respondents according to the coping strategies employed in tackling the poverty situation. As revealed by results in Table which were in multiple responses; the majority (88.3%) of the respondents indicated that they involved in the developmental union, 83.3 percent of them had personal savings as their coping strategies, 80.0 percent of them borrowed from family and friends, 64.2 percent of them gets gifts from better family members and 52.5 percent of them denied the family of good food and clothing. And also, (50.8%) of the respondents get food on credits, 49.2 percentage denied themselves proper medical care, 40.8 percent of them eats food without meat, 40.0 percent of them gets assistance from local leaders, 31.7 percent of the respondents run away from creditors and 13.3 percent of them scavenges for food.

The findings of this study, therefore, indicate that involvement in developmental union and use of personal savings ranked first and second, respectively in the coping strategies

adopted by the household. Other prominent coping strategies include borrowing from family and friends and gifts from better family members also agrees with the findings.

Table 5: Multiple regression analysis showing factors affecting the perceived effects of poverty in Ede South of Osun State

Factors	Linear Co-efficient	Exponential Co-efficient	Double Log Co-efficient	Semi-log Co-efficient
Constant	48.498*** (10.30)	3.885 *** (32.81)	3.890*** (9.88)	45.199*** (7.649)
Age	0.011 (0.11)	-0.0002 (-0.09)	0.014 (0.11)	1.906 (0.41)
Years of Education	-1.177** (-2.09)	-0.030 ** (-2.13)	-0.065 (-1.62)	-2.523 (-1.59)
Household size	-0.238 (-0.53)	-0.003 (-0.29)	-0.013 (-0.26)	-1.216 (-0.61)
Farming experience	0.063 (0.69)	0.002 (0.63)	-0.004 (-0.10)	-0.096 (-0.05)
Income	-0.994 *** (-2.83)	-0.008*** (-2.69)	-0.130 *** (-3.61)	-5.624*** (-3.95)
R ²	0.682	0.718	0.523	0.612
Adj. R ²	0.654	0.693	0.461	0.573
F-statistics	3.73***	4.43***	3.79***	4.15***
No of observation	120	120	120	120

Source: Field Survey Data, 2020.

*Significant at 10%; **Significant at 5%; ***Significant at 1.0% and t-value are in parenthesis

Values in parenthesis stand for p-values

Table 6: Distribution of the respondents according to household coping strategies

Coping strategies	*Frequency	Percentage (%)
Involvement in developmental union	106	88.3
Personal savings	100	83.3
Borrowing from family and friends	96	80.0
The gift from better family members	77	64.2
Denying family of good food and clothing	63	52.5
Food on credits	61	50.8
Denied oneself of proper medical care	59	49.2
Eating food without meat	49	40.8
Local leader's assistance	48	40.0
Running away from creditors	38	31.7
Scavenging for food	16	13.3

Source: Field Survey Data, 2020

*Multiple responses

Conclusion and recommendations

Years of education and income had been identified as the major determinants of level of effects of poverty among the rural households in the study area. Moreover, rural households with low level of perceived effects of poverty recorded high mean income level compared to those of rural households with high level of perceived effects of poverty which were significantly different from each other. It was

therefore concluded that years of education and income are major determinants of level of effects of poverty among the rural households in the study area.

Based on the findings, the study, therefore recommends the need to give adequate education by government and other stakeholders to the respondents since it is one of the determinants of level of perceived effects of poverty thereby reducing their poverty

especially through access to diverse income generating activities. Also, there is a need to encouraged adequate involvement of the respondents in the developmental union in order to fast track access to numerous income generating opportunities.

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