

PRELIMINARY SURVEY OF SOME SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF FISHERMEN IN DUNDAYE FLOOD PLAIN, AT KWALKWALAWA RIMA RIVER SOKOTO NIGERIA

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Abstract: The study was conducted to examine some characteristics of fishermen in Dundaye flood plain, Sokoto, Nigeria. Biodiversity of fisheries of DundayeFadama, Sokoto state. Frequency tables. Forty respondents were interviewed. Result, revealed that the main age of fishermen were 40%, while their sexes and religion were 100% male and Muslim respectively. 85% of fishermen only attended quoranic education engaged in the business full time and 20% part time, engaging in additional activities to augment their income. Major problem encountered by the fishermen is lack of Information and sufficient capital to successfully carry out their fishing activities for maximum yield.

Keywords: fishermen, Dundaye flood plain, income, business.

1. INTRODUCTION

Nigeria is a developing country and Sokoto State as one of its states is blessed with abundant natural and artificial water bodies. Most of the commercially important fish species (such as *Clariasspp*, *Distichodusspp*, *Tilapia spp*, etc) are mostly mismanaged or over-exploited (Samson, 1997). A few species (example *Ornamental Synodontis species*) are still underutilised and open to exploitation. There is therefore, a need to investigate the fishery resources of the Rima River and its flood plain for its potentials. And this will serve conservation purposes for the relevant agencies in putting appropriate measures in place for the conservation of the water body.

Fish is the key ingredients in the global environment and an important basis for livelihood worldwide (Benet and Heck, 2005), also the cheapest protein source of animal origin source such as beef, mutton, chicken presently are beyond the reach of an average income earner, (Samson, 1997).

On the global scale, almost 16% of the total average intake of animal protein was attributable to fish, (FAO, 1998). Hence, many people now depend on fish globally and particularly in Nigeria the demand have been on the increase, with supply not meeting up with demand (FAO, 2004).

Fisheries, especially in developing countries, contribute to livelihood in a range of ways; directly as food as a source of income and through other social benefits, such as reduced vulnerability to poverty. Fisheries provides livelihood to about 12 million people of the country directly or indirectly and other ancillary fishery activities (DoF 2013).

Fishing in has traditionally been an occupation of members of particular lower cast. Fishermen community is deemed to be one of the most vulnerable communities in terms of their livelihood opportunities (Farhana and Naser 2006).

Fishing is main occupation for them which cannot be carried out throughout the year; also they Dundayes alternative job

opportunities. For proper development in any place it is essential to improve the livelihood of people of all categories, especially the vulnerable one. Fishermen community belongs to this category. Baseline information is essential to initiate proper developmental steps and there is little or no information about socio demographic characteristic of fishermen in River rima. However this study was conducted with the following specific objectives- to know about: basic profile of the fishermen household like educational status, sexes, experience, income in Dundaye flood plain at River rima Sokoto State Nigeria.

2. METHODOLOGY

Study Area

This study was carried out in Dundaye area, located in Wammakko local government area of Sokoto state. It has an area of 679km² and has a population of 179,619 NPC (2006). The study area is located at latitude 13°2, 16 North and longitude 5°5'37 East.

The Dundaye has a distinct flood plain that flood to the capacity water environment i.e flowing. The banks are covered with plants during mid rainy season, July – August. (e.g *Cyperus* spp, *Sesbenia* spp (Rattle box), Water hyacinth, Water lilly, Water lettuce). The river is mostly dominated by fisher folk who also produced crops like: Rice, Potatoes, Onion, Millet, Tomatoes among others at the bank of the flood plane.

Sampling Method

Field Survey was carried out weekly to collect the necessary information. Random selection method was employed to select fisherman in order to avoid any bias in selection of the fisher men. A total of forty fishermen were surveyed.

Data Collection

The data was collected through primary source with the aid of questionnaire in the form of structured interview guide since most of the respondents are local fisher folks that could neither read nor write. And also group discussion was conducted to identify problems and recommendations.

The questions were both prepared in closed and open ended form to collect relevant information concerning the individual artisanal fishermen, their socio-economic non-socio-economic characteristics.

Secondary data were also collected from existing pieces of information relevant to the subject matter of the study from articles, and other publication on fisheries and some standard text books.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Socio-Demographic Characteristics of the Fishermen

Result of the field survey, (Table 1) shows that among fisher folks operating at the Dundayefadama plain, the middle aged group (21-30) were found to be actively involved in artisanal capture fishing, this group constitute the highest percentage (40%). This is in agreement with earlier studies by Yunusa (1999) who observed that this age bracket contain the innovative, motivated and adaptable population and there is likelihood that those in this age group will stick to one occupation as the only source of livelihood under the prevailing economic situation in the country.

The sex or Gender result shows that only men dominated all capture artisanal fishing at Dundayefadama flood plain. This has to do with the tradition, culture and attitude of the people. This predominantly Muslim culture gave women assignment gender roles which reduced participation in Fisheries (Neumayet and Pluemer, 2007).

The average household size is large. All the respondent were found to be active Muslim. This, the household size could be traced to their religion. The Hausas (mostly Muslim) can have more than one wife and have as much children as possible Odunuga (1998) confirmed this and concluded that the implication of this is that fisher folks will have many responsibilities to cater for in terms of food needs, clothing and shelter, also according to Izugbara and Ezech (2010) Muslim Women tend to give with too many children to ensure no-cash family labour and to saddle the husband with responsible of catering for a large family to discourage divorce.

Table 1: socio – demographic characteristics of the fishermen

PARAMETERS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
AGE.		
< 20	-	-
21 – 30	16	40
31 – 40	12	30
41 – 50	10	25
> 50	2	5
SEX.		
Male	40	100
Female	-	-
RELIGION.		
Islam	40	100
Christianity	-	-
Traditional/others	-	-
EDUCATION LEVEL.		
Qur 'anic	33	83
Adult	3	8
Primary	3	8
Secondary	1	3
Tertiary	-	-
MARITAL STATUS.		
Married	35	87.5
Single	5	12.5
Divorcee	-	-
Widow	-	-
NUMBER OF WIVES.		
Single	5	12.5
One wife	19	47.5
two wives	9	22.5
Three wives	4	10
Four wives	3	7.5
NUMBER OF CHILDREN.		
0		
1 – 5	7	17.5
6 – 10	18	45
11 – 15	13	32.5
16 – 20	1	2.5
> 20	1	2.5
NUMBER OF OTHER DEPENDANTS.		
0		
1 – 5	6	15
6 – 10	25	62.5
11 – 15	6	15
16 – 20	2	5
> 20	1	2.5
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ASSISTING IN FISHING ACTIVITIES.		
0		
1 – 5		
6 – 10	15	
11 – 15	21	37.5
16 – 20	4	52.5
> 20	-	10
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-

4. CONCLUSION

The study shows that fishermen operating at Dundayefadama flood plain have low level of education and are mostly men. The implication of this is that their low literacy level does not allow them to adopt modern pattern of fishing method or new technologies which may be devastating on their livelihood.

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