

Poverty Profile of Rural Household in Ekiti State Nigeria: A Subjective Poverty Measurement Approach

Oginni Oluwaseun Clement

Federal University of Technology Akure, Nigeria

Abstract: The poverty situation in Africa, especially in Nigeria has triggered researchers across the globe in recent years, and various findings of their efforts were quite revealing. For example, poverty measurement from income and consumption perspective have revealed that there is high incidence, depth and severity of poverty in Nigeria. However, little work has been done on poverty using a subjective poverty measurement approach. The nature of poverty cannot be captured by a single income-based or consumption-based indicator. The poor also has a voice, that is; the way they perceive poverty. Hence this study focused on poverty profile of rural households in Ekiti State, Nigeria: using subjective poverty measurement approach. Three local governments area were sampled for this study and a total of 120 rural households were interviewed with the aid of structured questionnaire, while descriptive statistics was used to analyze the data. The findings revealed among others that: majority (82%) of the respondents considered themselves poor, while only 18% were non-poor. The major ways of perceiving poverty in the study area were: inability to feed households, lack of stable job, and lack of dignity. Therefore, Governments and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) should take the perceptions of poverty among the rural households into consideration in their poverty alleviation programmes, and they should sensitize rural dwellers on effective family planning, birth control measures and sanitation.

Keywords: Rural, Households Poverty, Subjective.

I. INTRODUCTION

Poverty has been defined in various ways and there is no single universally accepted definition because it is a multi-dimensional concept in nature. Definition of poverty varies according to who is doing the measuring, be it the World Bank, governments agencies or Non-Governmental Organizations, or people who live under the conditions of poverty [1]. [2] defined poverty as an economic condition in which a section of the society or a specific group of people lack sufficient income to obtain a minimum level of health services, food, housing, clothing, and education which are generally recognized as necessary to assume adequate standard of living.

According to [3] poverty is the inability to adequately meet the basic human necessities, such as food, shelter, clothing and Medicare. Poverty goes beyond material deprivation to include insecurity, vulnerability and exposure to risks, shocks and stress. It specifically includes not having enough food to eat, poor drinking water, poor nutrition, unfit housing, low opportunity to receive education, low employment opportunities, inadequate or complete lack of health care, lack of active participation in decision making process, a high rate of infant mortality, low life expectancy and low level of energy consumption [4]

The nature of poverty cannot be captured by a single income-based or consumption-based indicator, nor even by broader material proxy measurements of income poverty. Participatory studies have cumulatively shown that the poor also experience and understand their poverty in terms of a range of non-material and intangible qualities such as insecurity, lack of dignity and status or a lack of power or opportunity. Furthermore, these qualities and characteristics of poverty differ markedly by social group and by geographical and political-economic context. [5]

In Nigeria, Poverty is more prevalent in the rural sector due to dwindling and inequitable distribution of real income. Although there has been a multiplicity of programmes and projects with poverty reduction mandate implemented over the years, it appears they were tinkering at the edges rather than the root causes of poverty since poverty incidence and severity had continued to deepen. This study therefore assessed poverty status of rural households in Ekiti State, Nigeria: using a subjective poverty measurement approach. It focused on the perceptions of poverty among the rural households as well as their socioeconomic characteristics.

II. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Study Area:

This study was carried out in Ekiti State. Ekiti State was created in 1996 out of the old Ondo State (which consisted of the now Ondo and Ekiti States) as one of the 36 states of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Ekiti State is made up of 16(sixteen) local Government Areas, and it is located in South-Western Nigeria with its headquarters in Ado-Ekiti.

Ekiti State is located between Longitude 5°13'E of Green Meridian and Latitude 7°37'N of Equator. It lies in the South of Kwara and Kogi State as well as East of Osun State. Ekiti State is bounded in the East and in the South by Ondo State. The estimated population of Ekiti State on creation was put at 1.75 million, while 2006 Provisional population figures was estimated as 2.38 million people. [6]

2.2 Sampling Procedure:

Primary data was used for the study, and structured questionnaire was used to collect the data. Multi-stage sampling technique was used for this study. In the first stage, three Local Government Areas (LGAs) were randomly selected from the State. These local government areas are: Ekiti South-West Local Government, Ilejemeje Local Government and Gbonyin Local government. In the second stage, two (2) communities from each of the selected Local Government Areas were randomly selected. At the third and final stage, twenty (20) households were randomly selected from each of the communities making a total of one hundred and twenty (120) respondents.

2.3 Analytical Techniques:

Descriptive Statistics such as mean, mode, percentage, and frequency distribution, was used to examine the socio economic characteristics of the respondents and their perception of poverty. The perception of poverty by the rural households was measured by using Likert scale. A five point Likert type of scale is specified as follows; Strongly Agree (SA) 5 points, agree (A) 4 points, Undecided (U) 3 points, disagree (D) 2 points, and Strongly Disagree (SD) 1 point. The mean response to each perception was interpreted using the concept of real limits of numbers. The numerical value of the scale points and their respective real limits are as follows:

Strongly Disagree (SD) = 1 point with real limit of 0.5-1.49

Disagree (D) = 2 points with real limits of 1.50-2.49

Undecided (U) = 3 points with real limits of 2.50-3.49

Agree (A) = 4 points with real limits of 3.50-4.49

Strongly Agree (SA) = 5 points with real limits of 4.50-49

Any perception with a mean score of 3 and above was regarded as poor household, while any perception with a mean score below 3 was regarded as non-poor household.

III. RESULTS AND FINDINGS

As shown in Table 1, majority (70.83%) of the respondents were male, while 29.17% were female in the study area. This result agreed with the work of [7] on the "Analysis of poverty and its determinants among cassava farmers in Apa Local Government Area, Benue State, Nigeria" where male-headed households were about 85% of the sample studied. The dominance of the male over the female might be attributed to the fact that male is stronger physically and this implies that they are likely to generate more income for the family which can help in reducing poverty.

Table 1 shows that the modal age range of rural household heads was 41 – 50 years (25.8%) while the mean age was 48 years. 15% of the respondents were 30 years and below, 15.8% were between 31 – 40 years, 21.7% were between 51 – 60 years, 13.4% were between 61-70 years, while 8.3% were 70 years and above. This implies that majority of rural household heads in the study area were within productive age that could enable them to live above poverty line.

Also, 75% of the respondents were married, 13% were divorced, 6.7% were widowed, while only 5% were single. The married are more productive and responsible, and this is expected to reduce level of poverty in their households. Education is a major strategy for poverty eradication which ensures production skills that combines land and other factors of production for efficient productive activities [8]. Table 4 shows that 31.1% of the respondents had no formal education, 30.0% had primary school education, and 26.7% had secondary school education, while 11.1% had tertiary education. This implies that majority of the respondent had no or little years of schooling, and this can influence their poverty level as rural dwellers.

The size of household could also provide important information on the poverty level because it determines dependency ratio as well as family labour. Table 5 shows that majority (50%) of the respondents had more than 10 persons in their households, 41.7% of the respondents had households size within (1- 5) persons, while 8.3% of the respondents had households size within (6- 10) persons. The implication of this is that the majority of the respondents have large household size, and this can increase their poverty level.

3.1 Housing and Living Conditions of Households:

The housing conditions of a household provide good indicators of their poverty status. Table 2 shows that, 37.5% of the rural households owned the residence, 19.2% rented it, while 43.3% residence belonged to extended family. 53.3% of the households live in room and palour apartments, 25% live in single room apartment, while 21.7% live in flat. 30.8% of the households in the study area are living in residential building constructed with block, while 15.8% and 53.3% are living in houses made with mud and bricks respectively. However, the major floor materials in this study area was concrete (48.3%), tile was 11.7% while 40% of the houses were not floored.

The main sources of power to households as shown in Table 3 was either Power Holding Corporation of Nigeria (PHCN) or the use of Generator. 46.7% of the households use PHCN only, 16.6% use both Generator and PHCN, 1.7% use Generator only, while 35.0% use neither Generator nor PHCN. The common source of water is well water which constitutes 88.3% of access available to the rural households in the study area followed by stream which represent 8.3%, Borehole (3.3%), Water tank (3.3%) and pipe born water (1.7%) The common toilet facilities available in the study area was the uncovered pit latrine (36.7%), Covered pit latrine (25%), bush (23.3%) and water closet (15%). The implication of this is that majority of the respondents are living in poor conditions and they could not afford basic necessities of life.

3.2 Perceptions of Poverty among the Rural Households:

Figure 1 shows the result of subjective poverty measurement among the respondents. The subjective poverty measure is the perception of the respondents and it is not related to per capita expenditure of households. Any respondent with perceptions mean score of 3 and above was regarded as poor household, while any respondent with perceptions mean score below 3 was regarded as non-poor household. Based on this measurement, the poor were 82%, while the non-poor were 18%.

The perception of poverty by respondents in their households was measured on five point likert scale which are: strongly agree, agree undecided, disagree and strongly disagree. Table 4 shows that the respondents agreed that inability to feed household (Mean=4.20), lack of stable Job (Mean =3.84) lack of good health (mean=3.81), lack of access to modern agricultural inputs (mean=3.65), and lack of dignity (mean=3.59) were the major ways by which poverty can be perceived. The respondents were undecided that inability to own property (mean =3.46) inability to meet social and economic obligations (mean =3.37), and inadequate education (mean=3.44) as ways by which poverty can be perceived.

However, the respondents disagreed that lack of money for children education (=2.86) and high mortality rate (=2.15) as ways by which poverty can be perceived. This implies that inability to feed household, lack of stable job, and lack of access to good health were the major ways of perceiving poverty by the respondents. This finding is in agreement with [9] that lack of access to good health and lack of access to basic necessities of life as the major ways of perceiving poverty.

TABLE I: SOCIOECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESPONDENTS

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Sex		
Male	85	70.83
Female	35	29.17
Age		
≤30	18	15.0
31-40	19	15.8
41-50	31	25.8
51-60	26	21.7
61 -70	16	13.4
70 and Above	10	8.3
Marital Status		
Single	6	5.0
Married	90	75.0
Divorced	16	13.3
Widowed	8	6.7
Household Size		
1-5	50	41.7
6-10	10	8.3
≥11	60	50
Educational Level		
No Formal Education	38	31.1
Primary School Education	36	30.0
Secondary School Education	32	26.7
Tertiary Education	14	11.7

Source: Field Survey, 2016

TABLE II: DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS BY OWNERSHIP OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDING, TYPE OF BUILDING AND BUILDING MATERIALS

Indices	Frequency	Percentage
Housing Unit Type		
Single Room	26	25.0
Room and Palour	64	53.3
Flat	30	21.7
Total	120	100.0
House Ownership		
Personal	45	37.5
Rented	23	19.2
Family/Inherited	52	43.3
Total	120	100.0
Building Material		
Block	37	30.8
Brick	19	15.8
Mud	64	53.3
Total	120	100.0
Floor Materials		
None	48	40.3

Tiles	14	11.7
Concrete	58	48.3
Terrazzo	0	0.0
Total	120	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2016

TABLE III: DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS BY WATER SUPPLY, POWER SUPPLY AND TOILET FACILITIES

Indices	Frequency	Percentage
Water sources		
Pipe-borne Water	2	1.7
Well	100	83.3
Borehole	4	3.3
Tanker/Truck	4	3.3
Stream	10	8.3
Total	120	100.0
Power Supply		
None	42	35.0
PHCN Only	56	46.7
PHCN and Generator	20	16.6
Generator Only	2	1.7
Total	120	100.0
Toilet Facilities		
Covered Pit	30	25.0
Uncovered Pit	44	36.7
Water Closet	18	15.0
Bush	28	23.3
Total	120	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2016

TABLE IV: DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BY PERCEPTION OF POVERTY

Perceptions Statements	SA (5)	A (4)	U (3)	D (2)	SD (1)	Score	Mean	Rank
Inability to feed Household	260	208	18	16	2	504	4.20	1 st
Lack of stable job	315	48	42	50	6	461	3.84	2 nd
Inability to own property	55	256	48	54	2	415	3.46	7 th
Lack of access to good health	160	232	21	42	2	457	3.81	3 rd
Inadequate Education	45	264	54	42	6	411	3.43	8 th
Lack of dignity	130	228	30	32	11	431	3.59	5 th
Lack of money for children education	20	164	60	96	8	343	2.86	10 th
High mortality rate	20	68	78	38	54	258	2.15	11 th
Lack of access to basic necessities of life	40	312	36	40	2	430	3.58	6 th
Unable to meet social and economic obligation	70	228	36	66	4	404	3.37	9 th
Lack of access to modern agricultural inputs	245	104	48	24	17	438	3.65	4 th

Note: SA=Strongly Agree, A=Agree, U= Undecided, D=Disagree, SD= Strongly Disagree

Source: Field Survey, 2016

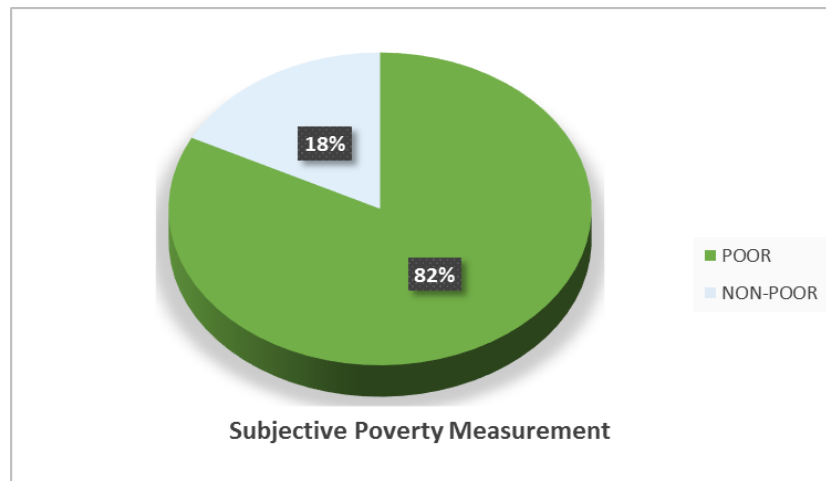


Figure 1: Subjective Poverty Measurement.

Source: Field Survey, 2016

IV. CONCLUSION

This study focused on poverty profile of rural households in Ekiti State: using subjective poverty measurement approach. A total of 120 rural households were interviewed with the aid of structured questionnaire, while descriptive statistics were used to analyze the data. Among others, the study revealed that majority of rural household heads in the study area were within productive age that could enable them to live above poverty line. Also, majority of the respondents have large household size, which can increase their poverty level and most them had no or little formal education.

Based on the subjective poverty measurement approach, 82% of the respondents were poor, while 18% were non-poor. The major way of perceiving poverty among the respondents were: that inability to feed household, lack of stable job, and lack of access to good health. Based on the findings of the study, the following policy implications and recommendations were made: Governments and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) should take the perceptions of poverty among the rural households into consideration in their poverty alleviation programmes, and they should sensitize rural dwellers on effective family planning, birth control measures and sanitation.

REFERENCES

- [1] Brodie, N. "what is poverty" Africa Check. www.africacheck.org. Accessed on 8th March, 2015, 2:34PM
- [2] Elumilade, D.O., Asaolu, T. O. and Adereti, S. A. "Appraising the Institutional Framework for Poverty Alleviation Programmes in Nigeria". *International Journal of Finance and Economics* Vol. 3. Lagos Pp 66 – 77, 2006
- [3] Ogunniyi, L.T., Adepoju, A.A., and Olapade-Ogunwole. F. "Comparative Analysis of Poverty and Income Inequality among Food Crop and Livestock Farmers in Ilesa Metropolis, Osun State" *Global journal of human social science*. Vol. 11 issue 5 version 1.0, 2011
- [4] Ajayi A. R. "The role expectation of agricultural extension in poverty alleviation in a democratic and deregulated economy". In Eds. Agbamu J.U. *Perspectives in agricultural extension and rural development*, 87-90. 228
- [5] United Nation University/ World Institute for Development Economics Research "World Development Reports" Vol:10 2001
- [6] National Population Commission (NPC) "Population facts" Abuja.2006
- [7] Tsue P. T., Obekpa J. U. C. and Iorlamen T. R. "Analysis of poverty and its determinants among cassava farmers in Apa Local Government Area, Benue State, Nigeria" *Journal of Agricultural Economics and Development* Vol. 2(7) 2013
- [8] Apata, T.G. (2006): "Income and Livelihood Diversification among Farming households in Crude-oil polluted areas of Ondo State, Nigeria" A Ph.D Thesis, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Ibadan.
- [9] Ayoade A. R and Adeola R.G. "Effects of Poverty on Rural Household Welfare in Oyo State Nigeria" *Global Journal of Science Frontier Research Agriculture and Biology*. Vol. 12 Issue 4, 2006