

**INFLUENCE OF GENDER TIME ALLOCATION ON POVERTY
STATUS OF RURAL FARMING
HOUSEHOLDS IN SOUTHWESTERN NIGERIA**

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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to the Almighty God, the King Eternal, Immortal, Invisible, the only Wise God and the Giver of wisdom, and also to my former supervisor, Late Dr. O. I. Y. Ajani.

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ABSTRACT

Evidence has shown that Time Allocation (TA) to various activities by gender has implications for poverty status of households. Yet, there is little empirical evidence on the influence of TA on household poverty in rural Nigeria. Hence, the influence of gender TA on poverty status of rural farming households in Southwestern Nigeria (SWN) was investigated.

Oyo and Osunstates were randomly selected from SWN. Two rural Local Government Areas (LGAs) were randomly chosen from each state. Five villages were randomly selected from each of the LGAs from which 200 out of 430 multi-person farming households were randomly selected based on probability proportionate to population of farming households in each village. In each of the selected households, the eldest male and female (who were aged 18-60 years) were interviewed twice on their time use during the rainy and dry seasons. Data were collected on household socioeconomic characteristics and individual respondent's hours allocated to different activities (farm work, non-farm work, housework and leisure) using structured questionnaire. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, Foster, Greer and Thorbecke weighted poverty indices, Tobit, ordinary least squares and probit regressions at $p=0.05$.

Mean age and years of schooling were 46.6 ± 12.5 and 5.4 ± 4.6 years respectively for males and 41.8 ± 12.8 and 4.3 ± 3.5 years respectively for females. Mean household size and farm size were 5.0 ± 2.1 people and 2.3 ± 1.2 hectares respectively. During the Rainy Season (RS), average Farm Work Time (FWT), Non-Farm Work Time (NFWT), Housework Time (HT) and Leisure Time (LT) respectively for males were 7.6 ± 0.6 , 4.7 ± 0.9 , 4.5 ± 1.7 and 7.2 ± 0.1 hours daily. On the other hand, females allocated 6.2 ± 0.7 , 4.3 ± 1.1 , 8.2 ± 1.6 and 5.4 ± 0.2 hours daily. In Dry Season (DS), males allocated 6.3 ± 0.6 , 5.1 ± 1.4 , 4.4 ± 0.9 and 8.2 ± 0.1 hours daily, while those of their female counterparts were 5.1 ± 0.6 , 4.5 ± 0.4 , 9.2 ± 1.6 and 5.3 ± 0.1 hours daily. Males' and females' age significantly decreased their FWT by 0.04 and 0.24 and increased their HWT by 0.01 and 0.04 respectively during RS. Females' years

of schooling enhanced their NFWT by 0.04 during DS. Farm size significantly decreased males' and females' NFWT respectively by 0.05 and 0.02 during RS and 0.05 and 0.01 during DS. At monthly poverty lines of ₦4,054.20 and ₦3,610.35 for RS and DS, 32.6% and 40.7% of the farming households were poor. Years of schooling of males and females respectively significantly lowered household poverty by 2.5% and 2.6% during RS and 9.5% and 11.1% during DS. The NFWT of males and females reduced household poverty by 0.5% and 0.6% during RS and 0.8% and 0.9% during DS. However, HWT of females increased poverty by 1.3% during RS and 1.9% in DS.

Farming households' time allocation differed by gender and season. Male respondents allocated more time to farm work, non-farm work and leisure, while their female counterparts allocated more time to housework during the rainy and dry seasons. Non-farm work time of males and females significantly reduced poverty at all times. The amount of time females allocated to housework aggravated poverty during rainy and dry seasons.

Keywords: Gender time allocation, Farming households, Rural poverty

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CERTIFICATION

I certify that this thesis was carried out by Abigail Gbemisola ADEYONU under my supervision in the Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ADP	Agricultural Development Programme
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
FGT	Foster Greer Thorbecke
FOS	Federal Office of Statistics
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
LDCs	Less Developed Countries
LGA	Local Government Area
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MPCHHE	Mean per Capita Household Expenditure
NAPEP	National Poverty Eradication Programme
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
NEEDS	National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy
NPC	National Population Commission
NSA	National System of Account
NUFU	Norwegian Program for Development, Research and Education
OLS	Ordinary Least Squares
SAP	Structural Adjustment Programme
SSA ₁	Statistics South Africa
SSA	sub-Saharan Africa
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme