
CONSTRAINTS ENCOUNTERED BY RURAL WOMEN IN POULTRY PRODUCTION IN SELECTED RURAL AREAS OF LAGOS STATE

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Abstract

This study assessed the constraints encountered by rural women in poultry production across some selected rural areas of Lagos State. A total of 146 respondents were selected through a multi-stage sampling procedure while a questionnaire was used to elicit information from the respondents. Data were described using frequency counts and percentages while Pearson's Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) was used for analysis. The result indicated that 49.3% of the respondents used their personal savings in establishing poultry farms, 71.2% were non-members of poultry organization and 76.0% were involved in large scale production. Lack of access to credit facilities (Mean ($\bar{x}$) = 1.67), inadequate land ($\bar{x}$ = 1.62), lack of equipment ($\bar{x}$ = 1.57), diseases ($\bar{x}$ = 1.38), lack of capital ($\bar{x}$ = 1.35) and high cost of drugs ($\bar{x}$ = 1.32) were found to be the most serious constraints militating against rural women involvement in poultry production. Correlation analysis showed the significant but negative relationship between types of poultry production rural women engaged in and constraints encountered by them (r = -0.249). The constraints were more severe among rural women that were involved in cockerel production than those involved in broilers or layers or production of different types. Credit facilities, subsidized land and equipment should be made available to rural women for improved production. They should be trained on disease prevention and management for better production. They should also be encouraged to scale up their production to include different types of poultry.

Key Words: Constraints, Involvement, Poultry production, Rural women

Introduction

There is growing recognition of the contribution of women to agricultural production. Women take part actively in farming activities and in processing farm products in addition to their domestic and reproductive responsibilities (Fabiya, Danladi, Akande and Mahmood, 2007). According to Butt, Hassan, Mehmood and Muhammad (2010), rural women around the world play an important role in the field of food security, but they have problems in approaching the source of agricultural extension services, especially in developing countries. It is often said that women are responsible for more than half of the world's food production and produce up to 60 to 80% of basic foodstuff in Africa (Fresco, 1998). Women farmers play a major role in the activities of livestock production (Al-Rimawi, 2002) and the roles of women in livestock sector are worthwhile because many poultry management activities take place in or around their homes. Achemydesh (2004) emphasize that women have been known over the years to take part in all aspect of poultry production. Poultry rearing is a popular activity among rural women in most countries. In fact, women have been reported to be the predominant owners of rural poultry (Okitoi, Ondwasy, Obali and Murekefu, 2007). Poultry is an affordable livestock for resource-poor households. The enterprise provides regular outputs using small inputs and the production can be undertaken by women in the household (Nielsen, Roose and

Thilsted, 2003).

Agarwal (2001) opined that despite women's contributions to poultry production, they tend to be an invisible actor and contributor in the development; as a result, their contributions are poorly understood and often under-estimated. Achemydesh (2004) believed that rural women are facing many problems as they have less opportunities and do not have decision-making rights due to male dominance society which negatively affects their role in every field of life, especially in the poultry sector. Although rural poultry production does not generate any large income, it represents a known skill to most poor women and it can assist them in moving into a positive spiral of events that may lead them on to a path out of poverty (Jensen and Dolberg, 2003).

Livestock and poultry production represent area of agricultural concern in Lagos State. Lagos Bureau of Statistics Gross Domestic Product Report 2010 revealed that value added of quantity of livestock/poultry produced in year 2010 amounted to 0.79% of the overall State Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the same year. Various studies have been conducted and published in different aspects of poultry production in the State. Some of these include; economic analysis of broiler production (Omolayo, 2018), analysis of participation of farmers in participatory poultry production research (Apantaku, 2006) and profit efficiency in poultry production (Bamiro, Otunaiya, and Adejumo, 2013)

among others, with the majority of poultry farmers involved in the studies being males. However, there is dearth of information on challenges facing rural women in poultry production in the state. The constraints to the involvement of women in poultry production in the rural areas of Lagos State, therefore, form the bedrock of this research. It is against this background that this research work investigated the constraints to poultry production among rural women in selected rural areas of Lagos State.

Methodology

This study was conducted in selected Local Government Areas of Lagos State, Nigeria. The target population for this study was all rural women involved in poultry production in the study areas. A multi-stage sampling procedure was used to select the respondents for the study. In the first stage three (3) Local Government Areas (Epe, Ibeju-Lekki and Badagry) were purposively sampled due to their high level of rurality. Secondly, three (3) rural communities were purposively selected from each Local Government Area due to their rurality. At the third stage, the list of registered rural women poultry farmers was obtained from the Agricultural Development Programme (ADP) and 50% of the registered rural women poultry farmers were purposively selected to make a total of 150 respondents for the study. A questionnaire was administered to One hundred and fifty respondents for data collection out of which one hundred and forty-six (146) (97.3%) of them were retrieved for analysis. Constraints faced were measured on a three-point Likert-type scale of "not a constraint, minor constraint and major constraint. The mean score was calculated to determine the severity of the constraints. Descriptive statistical tools such as frequency counts and simple percentages were used to report the findings, while inferential statistical tool such as Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) was used for the analysis.

Results and Discussion

Socioeconomic Characteristics of the Respondents

Table 1 shows that 30.8% of the respondents were between 20-40 years of age while the majority (54.8%) were between 41-60 years and about 14.4% were above 60 years. This implies that the rural women involved in poultry production in the study areas were mostly adult i.e. within the age range of 41-60 years. On the marital status of the respondents, the majority (51.4%) of the respondents were married, 20.5% were divorced, 15.1% were widowed and 13.0% were single. This shows that majority of rural women involved in poultry

production were married and this could be of great advantage in their production as their family members could assist in labour supply on the farm.

The result also revealed that 43.8% of the respondents were involved in livestock rearing alongside with their involvement in poultry production while 27.4% were engaged in crop farming. Not less than 16.4% were civil servants, 8.2% were traders and 4.1% were engaged in other occupations like private teaching, artisanship among others. This implies that most of the respondents have other means of generating income which could in-turn improve their poultry production. On the educational status of respondents, most (42.5%) of the respondents had no formal education, 12.3% had primary education and 19.9% had a secondary education while 25.3% of the respondents had tertiary education. This shows that high proportion of the respondents had low literacy level. This could seriously affect their level of poultry production, since they may find it difficult to comprehend relevant innovation in poultry production. This is in line with the view of Agarwal (2001) who opined that the illiteracy level of rural women has compounded the plight of rural women, and affected their production capacity. The result also revealed that 49.3% of the respondents used their personal savings in poultry production, 28.1% used bank loans while 22.6% got money from their relatives. This implies that most of the respondents did not have access to a loan which could have been used to improve their poultry production. On the basis of poultry production experience, over 80% of the respondents had been in poultry farming for more than 6 years. This implies that most of the respondents were experienced in poultry production.

It was also revealed that a majority (71.2%) of the respondents did not belong to the poultry farmers' organization. This could have a negative effect on their production and sales as they may not receive relevant information or innovation on poultry production that may contribute to the success of their production practices from the said association.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents based on personal characteristics n = 146

Age (years)	Frequency	Percent
20-40	45	30.8
41-60	80	54.8
61 and above	21	14.4
Marital Status		
Single	19	13.0
Married	75	51.4
Divorced	30	20.5
Widowed	22	15.1
Other occupation		
Farming (Crop)	40	27.4
Trading	12	8.2
Livestock rearing	64	43.8
Civil Servant	24	16.4
Others	6	4.1
Educational Status		
Non-formal Education	62	42.5
Primary Education	18	12.3
Secondary Education	29	19.9
Tertiary Education	37	25.3
Source of Capital		
Personal savings	72	49.3
Loan from bank	41	28.1
Relatives	33	22.6
Years of experience		
1 – 5 years	29	19.9
6-10 years	69	47.3
10 above	48	32.9
Membership of poultry organization		
Member	42	28.8
Non-member	104	71.2

Types of poultry production involved in by rural women were

The result of analysis (Table 2) indicates the different types of poultry production engaged in by the rural women. The result shows that 37.7% of the respondents were involved in the management of cockerel, 48.6% in broilers production and majority (58.2%) in layers production. Above all, the majority of the respondents (69.1%) were involved in all types of poultry management and production. The involvement of the rural women in all the types of poultry production listed may be due to the fact that it

could bring more profit, keep them in business; give room for diversification and risk management or allow them to compare the type of poultry that is more profitable and good at keeping. This implies that women are indeed forces to be reckoned with in poultry production. No wonder that Achemydesh (2004) emphasized that, women have been known to take part in all aspect of poultry production over the years. In the same vein, Gwary, Nuhu, Burabe and Toro (2015) also stated that women are actively involved in poultry production.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents based on types of poultry production they were involved in n = 146

Types of poultry production engaged in	Frequency	Percentage
Cockerel production	55	37.7
Broilers production	71	48.6
Layers production	85	58.2
All of the above	101	69.1

Table 3: Distribution of the respondents on constraints encountered in poultry production

S/N	Constraints	Not a constraint		Minor constraint		Major constraint		Mean
		Freq.	Percentage	Freq.	Percentage	Freq.	Percentage	
1	Lack of access to loan	-	-	48	32.9	98	67.1	1.67 ^{1st}
2	Inadequacy of land	17	11.6	22	15.1	107	73.3	1.62 ^{2nd}
3	Lack of equipment	05	3.4	53	36.3	88	60.3	1.57 ^{3rd}
4	Diseases	14	9.6	63	43.2	69	47.3	1.38 ^{4th}
5	Lack of capital	27	18.5	41	28.1	78	53.4	1.35 ^{5th}
6	Cost of drugs	-	-	100	68.5	46	31.5	1.32 ^{6th}
7	Difficulty in sourcing for birds with better performance	40	27.4	60	41.1	46	31.5	1.04 ^{7th}
8	Unfavourable weather	55	37.7	61	41.8	30	20.6	0.83 ^{8th}
9	Low demand for the product	68	46.6	53	36.3	25	17.1	0.71 ^{9th}

Source: Field Survey 2015.

Correlation analysis between types of poultry production rural women were engaged in and constraints encountered.

The result of analysis (Table4) shows that there was a significant but negative relationships between the types of poultry production rural women were engaged in and constraints encountered by them. This shows that those involved in all types of poultry production encountered less constraints than those involved in layers production only, broilers production only and cockerel production which was

believed to be at the lowest rung of the ladder and less important. The implication is that, the more important the types of poultry production the rural women were engaged in, the lower the constraints encountered in production. This might be as a result of the numerous benefits that could be derived from keeping all the types or more important types such as layers and broilers. High profit, diversification and risk management are important among the numerous benefits that could account for this finding.

Table 4: Correlation Analysis between types of poultry production rural women were involved in and constraints encountered.

Variables	Correlation (r) value	p-value	Decision
Types of poultry production engaged in (Cockerel, Broilers, Layers, all of the above) and Constraints encountered	-0.249	0.005	Significant

Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations

The study examined the constraints encountered by rural women in poultry production across selected rural areas of Lagos State. Results showed that respondents were mostly married but with no formal education. They used their personal savings in poultry production, most of them did not belong to any poultry farmer's organization. They were mostly involved in all types of poultry production. Lack of access to loan facilities, the inadequacy of land, lack of equipment, disease infestation, lack of capital and high cost of drugs were found to be the most significant constraints militating against the rural women in poultry production. The constraints encountered by rural women were more severe among those that were engaged in only one type of

poultry production than those engaged in different types. This study recommends that credit facilities, government subsidized land and equipment should be made available to rural women who are interested in poultry production in order to improve their productivity. They should also be trained in disease prevention and management for better production.

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ACQUISITION OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP SKILLS DEVELOPMENT BY RURAL YOUTH IN CHANCHAGA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF NIGER STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

Acquisition of entrepreneurship skills development by rural youth in Chanchaga local government area of Niger state, Nigeria was examined in this study. Data for the study were collected using structured questionnaire administered to 120 respondents from the study area. Data collected were analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics such as Tobit regression model. The result of the analysis revealed that majority of the respondents were between the age ranges of 21 – 30 years with mean age of 29 years, 80% were males, 53.3% were single and 90.8% had household size ranging from 1 – 5 persons with a mean of 3 persons. In terms of education, 96.7% of the respondents acquired formal education with about half (45.8%) of the respondents having an income ranges between ₦10,000 – ₦30,000 monthly. The study further revealed that a majority (85.0%) of the respondents had acquired tailoring as an entrepreneurship skills which ranked 1st among other entrepreneurship skills development, this was followed by baking (79.2%) and barbing (64.2%) skills ranked 2nd and 3rd respectively. Reasons for acquiring entrepreneurship skills was for capacity building (87.5%) followed by self-development (74.2%). The Tobit regression analysis revealed that age, education, income, cooperative and access to information were significant and statistically influences acquisition of entrepreneurship skills development. The severe constraints identified by the respondents were inconsistent government policy ($\bar{x} = 3.23$), problem of corruption ($\bar{x} = 2.78$), lack of investment capital ($\bar{x} = 2.97$) and inadequate infrastructure ($\bar{x} = 2.59$). It could be concluded that Tailoring was the dominant entrepreneurship skills acquired by the rural youths in the study area. It was therefore recommended that policy makers should recognize the essence of entrepreneurship to economic development by creating enabling environment for entrepreneurs to thrive and the spirit of entrepreneurship should be encouraged among young people.

Key Words: Development, empowerment, entrepreneurship, skills, youth

Introduction

Entrepreneurship as a concept occurred many centuries ago and it has created the basis for economic growth and development (Yahaya and Nuhu, 2011). The concept refers to a creative and innovative response to economic and social ventures as it involves setting up of business ventures through willingness. Thus, it is the ability of an individual to explore investment opportunities and being able to run it successfully, through making it profitable or suffering loss of invested capital. According to the World Bank (2013), entrepreneurship education is fundamental to the construction of knowledge economy and society in all nations. It is through education that knowledge and skills are transferred to individuals, and their competencies and abilities developed. Therefore, youth entrepreneurship education has been given prominence all over the world. Through entrepreneurship education, youth are provided with knowledge; skills and innovation to encourage them develop entrepreneurial acumen in variety of settings.

According to Aremu and Adeyemi (2013), youth is a stage of between adolescent and adulthood. They are people between the age of 18 and 35 years. However, Oluwadare (2014) posited that person within the age bracket of 10 to 24 years are youth. United Nations (2011) defines youth as a person between the ages of

15 to 24 years, while World Bank (2013) reported that person between 15 to 29 years. Youth have both negative and positive attributes which are predominant and distinguish them from the adults. They are fearless (sometimes to a fault); they are generally militant, rebellious and have disregard for social norms and ethics. Yet, they remain the bedrock on which every nation's development thrives (Arogundade, 2011).

Empowerment means assisting people to overcome obstacles which might prevent them from achieving their potentials. The need for empowerment arises from the inability of an individual or group of people to actualize their dreams and reach their greatest potentials due to artificial barriers created by individuals and/or other groups within the same society (Olakulehin and Ojo, 2006). Fletcher (2005) asserted that youth empowerment means creating and supporting the enabling conditions under which young people can act on their own behalf and on their own term, rather than at the direction of others. According to Valrus and Fletcher (2006), youth are empowered when they acknowledge that they have or can create choices of life, are aware of the implications of these choices, make an informed decision and accept responsibilities for the consequences of those actions. The concept of youth