

EFFECTS OF THE USE OF FAMILY PLANNING ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AMONG RURAL WOMEN IN SURULERE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF OYO STATE

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ABSTRACT

The general objective of the study was to assess the effects of family planning on agricultural production of the rural women in Surulere local government area of Oyo state. Multistage sampling technique was used in selecting 90 respondents for this study. Data was collected with the aid of well-structured interview schedule while descriptive statistical tools (frequencies, percentages, mean and weighted mean score (WMS)) and inferential tool (Paerson Product Moment Correlation) were used to present the results of the findings.

The results of the findings revealed that most (80%) of the respondents were married with the mean age of 40 years while the mean household size was 6 members. The major agricultural activities the respondents were processing of agricultural produce (68.9%) and marketing activities (95.6%). The major method of family planning used by the respondents was Condom (63.3%). The various benefits derived from family planning were prevention of sexually transmitted diseases (91.1%) and more participation of women in economic activities (100%). The constraints to the use of family planning were; desire for more children with weighted mean score (WMS) of 2.6 and husband objection, WMS of 2.3. The results of Pearson Product Moment Correlation showing the relationship between the selected socioeconomic characteristics of the Respondents and the effect of family planning om agricultural Production revealed a significant relationship between the age($r=-0.153$; $p=0.050$) and years of schooling of the respondents ($r=0.397$; $p=0.000$) and the effect of family planning on agricultural production.

The study concludes that the major effects of the use of family planning on agricultural production were increased participation of women in agricultural production it was therefore recommended that government and all the various stakeholders in family planning should further make more awareness on the benefits of family planning so that the various identified constraints will not limit the usage of family planning methods by the respondents.

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture, which is the cultivation of crops and rearing of livestock for the satisfaction of human needs, is the most important sector towards the development of any nation (Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN, 2008). Agriculture provides the greatest avenue for employment, income and food for Nigerian populace (general public). The agricultural sector been has an important component of the Nigerian economy with peasant farmers producing over 90% of available food in the country and 70% of the labour force relying on this sectors (Amao *et al*, 2003). Agriculture which is the backbone of Nigeria's economy currently contributes 26 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) directly and another 25 per cent indirectly. The sector provides more than 18 per cent of nation's formal employment and supports more than 75 per cent of the nation's population especially in the rural areas (Central Bank of Nigeria, 2010). The growth of the sector is highly correlated to the growth of the country's economy. However, the performance of the sector is far from satisfactory with the agricultural production output lagging behind those in developed countries for decades (Aker, 2011).

Women constitute an important part of society and their status determines the level of progress attained by society in real terms (Zafaris, 2008). It is almost universally accepted that traditionally women's position in all societies has been one of general subordination to man. Their primary role was that of a home maker and it was for the man to provide subsistence to his family. (Zafaris, 2008). The family particularly had a basic pattern, which was caste based and patriarchal in nature. In traditional patriarchal family, the eldest male member is the head of the family and where major role is to take all the decisions on family matters. Women in family had a very inferior position compared to their male counterparts. They are appreciated only for their role as mothers of male children. They were economically dependent on their husbands, which did not allow them to gain a position of authority in the family structure as well as in the social structure. (Zafaris, 2008).

The practice of family planning have attracted great and significant interest in recent time (Adewale et al, (2005). This is due to increase in unwanted or unplanned pregnancies, induced or criminal abortion, maternal mortality, sexually transmitted diseases, human immune-deficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immune-deficiency syndrome (AIDS) prevalence among the adolescence and women of child-bearing age. Nigeria which has a population of about 200 million people and annual growth rate of 3.2 % is the most populous country in Africa. Nigeria, according to Khurfeld (2006), is already facing a problem of rapid population growth with the resultant effect in its food production incapable of matching its growing population and seriously threatening the nation's quest of achieving food security. In Nigeria today, the birth rates are higher than the world averages (Nwachukwu & Obasi, 2008).

Family planning practices help individuals or couples to avoid unwanted pregnancies, regulate the intervals between pregnancies, control the timing as regards the age of the parents and determine the number of children in the family (Muthu and Isay, 2005). The methods of modern contraceptives available at the regional and national levels include: pills, intrauterine contraceptive device, injectables, implants, male condom, female condom, male and female sterilization, diaphragm, foam/jelly, lactational ammenorrhoea and emergency contraception (Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey, 2012).

Family planning programmes have played an important part in increasing the contraceptive prevalence rate in many countries (Cleland et al, 2006). Investment in family planning promotion has a range of potential benefits which include but not limited to; reduced maternal and child mortality, reduced poverty, and contributing to environmental sustainability. The lives of women are impacted by contraception in terms of improved maternal health, but additionally it facilitates women's socio-economic participation, through better education and employment. (Cleland et al, 2006; WHO, 2012). It is estimated that women in high-fertility societies spend about 70 percent of their lives in childrearing, as compared to about 14 percent in low-fertility societies (WHO, 2012).

This expansive population growth rate has been attributed to some factors, the major of which is low contraceptive usage. (Bongaarts, 2007; Osheba, 2002) In industrialized countries, virtually all married women resort to contraception at some time in their reproductive period. In contrast, the proportion reporting such use in developing countries is extremely low. (Henry & Piotrow, 2009). Like many other developing nations, majority of Nigeria's population (about 70%) live in the rural communities (Ekong, 2003). These rural communities have very high fertility rate and family planning adoption is also considerably lower in rural areas with CPR of 8% as compared with 18% in the urban areas in Nigeria (Ekong, 2003). Many rural women are reportedly reluctant to accept any artificial method of contraception. (Gaur *et al.*, 2008) Several studies also revealed that rural women generally are unwilling to accept family planning methods due to the concern about child survival and view children as a source of support in old age. (Kartikeyan & Chaturvedi, 2005). The UNFPA(2006) has pointed out that meeting the contraceptive needs of about 201 million women around the world who do not have access to effective Family Planning Methods, would prevent 23 million unplanned births, 22 million abortions, 1.4 million infant deaths, 142,000 pregnancy related deaths and 505,000 children losing their mothers due to pregnancy related deaths.

Also, family planning methods are considered a first line of defense against unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and human immune-deficiency virus (HIV). The consistent and correct use of family planning methods reduce greatly unwanted pregnancies, STIs and HIV among women of reproductive age in any nation thus enhancing their health and their involvement in economic activities.. However, it appears that the practice of family planning among women of reproductive age in Nigeria is low and it varies.

With increasing population and lack of full involvement of nursing mothers and pregnant women in agriculture and other economic activities, the issues of adoption of appropriate family planning method cannot be overemphasized, therefore the result of this findings will be providing information that will be helpful to women,

service providers, health educators and counsellors in their various offices. Other women may also become aware of the prevailing methods in practice and tend to use them

The general objective of this study is the effects of family planning on agricultural production, the study also identified the socio-economic characteristics of childbearing women involved in agricultural activities, identified the agricultural activities carried out by the women, examined the method of family planning used in the study area, determined the benefits of family planning methods on agricultural production and investigated the constraints of the use of family planning methods

Hypothesis of the Study

H₀₁: There is no significant relationship between the socioeconomic characteristics of the respondents and effects of family planning.

METHODOLOGY

The study was carried out in Surulere local government, Oyo state. Its headquarters is in the town of Iresa-Adu. It is one of the 33 local government of Oyo state. It has an area of 23km² and a population of 142,070 at the 2006 census. The temperature ranges from 21°C to 32°C throughout the season. The wet and dry seasons are associated with two winds, time monsoon winds from the Atlantic Ocean and the dry continental harmattan winds from the Sahara Desert. The local Government consists of about 260 communities, The area is located in Latitude 4°N and Longitude 8°E. Some of the towns in the local government are Iresa-Adu, Iresa-Apa and Orile-Igbon. Each of these towns has its own traditional leader with a given royal titles. The area has a vegetation of guinea savanna and moderate annual rainfall that ranges between April and October every year. The main economic activity of residents of the towns that make up Surulere local Government is farming. The major crops that are usually cultivated in the area are cassava, maize, yam, melon, Tobacco and the likes.

A multistage sampling technique was adopted. During the first stage, purposive sampling techniques was used to select two wards that are rural and that are predominantly dominated by crop farmers, simple random sampling technique was used to select two villages from each of the two wards making a total of six selected villages while simple random sampling technique was used in selecting 15 respondents from each of the six selected villages making a total of 90 respondents for the study. A well-structured interview schedule was used to obtain relevant information from the respondents. The variables consists of both dependent and independent variables. The dependent variable was the effect of family planning which was measured on a 3-scale of major effect, minor effect and no effect.

Data for the study were analyzed using descriptive statistics tools like frequency, percentages, mean and standard deviation, while Pearson Product Moment Correlation was used as the inferential tool to test the hypothesis of the study

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socioeconomic Characteristics of the Respondents

The results presented in table 1 revealed that 27.77% of the respondents were less than equal to 30years of age, 28.89% were between 31 and 40years of age, 15.56% were between 41 and 50years of age, another 20% were between 51 and 60 years of age while 7.70% of the respondents were above 60years of age. The mean age of the respondents was 40years. This implies that the respondents were of average age, still strong and agile for agricultural production. The results also revealed that most (68.9%) of the respondents were Christians while 31.10% of the respondents were Muslims. The result furthers indicates that both Islamic and Christian religion were being practiced by the respondents though the Christians were a little more than the Muslims. The table also revealed that most (80%) of the respondents were married while 20% of the respondents were single. This implies that they should be knowledgeable about the various family planning practices.

Furthermore, table one also revealed that less than half (37.8%) of the respondents did not have formal education, 40% of the respondents spent between 1-6years in school, 13.3% of the respondents spent 6-12years in school while only 8.9% of the respondents spent more than 12years in school. The mean years of schooling was 6.27years. This implies that the on the average, the respondents had primary school completed which might help their understanding and usage of family planning practices. The table revealed that 27.78% of the respondents had household size of between 1 and 3 members, 38.90% had between 4 and 6 members while 33.40% of the respondents had between 7 and 8 members. The mean household size was 6 members. This shows a relatively large family size which will be a source of family labour to the respondents.

In addition, the results also revealed that half (50%) of the respondents had farm size of between 1-2 hectares, another 36.67% had farm size of between 2-4 hectares while 13.3% of the respondents had between 5-6 hectares. The mean farm size was 2.56 hectares. The results implies that the respondents were smallholder farmers cultivating at subsistence level. Also, the table revealed that 31.11% of the respondents had between 1 and 10years of farming experience, 36.67% had between 11 and 20 years of experience, 22.22% of the respondents had between 21 and 30 years of experience while 10% of the respondents had above 30years farming experience. The mean year of farming experience was 16.20years. This implies that the respondents have considerably high years of farming experience which will make them to be abreast of different ways of improving and managing their farm. The table revealed that 43.3% of the respondents used only family labour, 24.4% of the respondents used only hired labour while 32.2% of the respondents utilized both family and hired labour. The distribution of the respondents by membership of social organization revealed that 20% of the respondents did not belong to any organization, most (70%) of the respondents belonged to cooperative society while few (10%) of the respondents belonged to farmers club. The belongingness to social organization is expected to help the respondents to access useful information and resources to improve their farm enterprise. Table 1 also revealed that 38.9% of the respondents got credit from cooperative society, 17.8% got credit from friends and family while 43.3% of the respondents got credits from personal savings. This results shows that personal savings and cooperative society were the main sources of credit to the respondents.

Table 1: Socioeconomic Characteristics of the Respondents

Variable	Frequency	Percentage	Mean
Age			
<=30	25	27.77	40.21
31-40	26	28.87	
41-50	14	15.56	
51-60	18	20.00	
Above 60	7	7.70	
Religion			
Christian	62	68.9	
Muslim	28	31.1	
Marital Status			
Married	72	80.0	
Single	18	20.0	
Level of Education			
No formal education	34	37.8	
Primary education completed	23	25.6	
Secondary education uncompleted	13	14.4	
Secondary education completed	12	13.3	
Tertiary education	8	8.9	
Years spent in School			
0	34	37.8	6.27
1-6	5	5.6	
7-12	31	34.4	
Above 12	8	8.8	
Household Size			
1-3	25	27.78	6.7
4-6	35	38.90	
7-9	30	33.42	
Farm size			
<=2	45	50.00	
3-4	33	36.67	
5-6	12	13.30	

Years of farming Experience

1-10	28	31.11	
11-20	33	36.67	
21-30	20	22.22	16.20
Above 30	9	10	

Sources Labour

Family	39	43.30
Hired	22	24.40
Family and hired	29	32.2

Membership of Social Organization

Not a Member	18	20.0
Cooperative Society	63	70.0
Farmers club	9	10.0

Sources of Credit

Cooperative	35	38.9
Friends and family	16	17.80
Personal savings	39	43.30

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Agricultural Activities of Rural Women

Table 2 revealed that majority (95.6%) were involved in marketing activities, a large percentage (71.1%) of the respondents were involved in transportation of agricultural produce. 68.9% were involved in processing of agricultural produce, while half (50%) of the respondents were involved in fertilizer application. 48.9% were involved in land preparations while 41.1% were involved planting of crops, The results implies that marketing and selling of agricultural produce were the agricultural activities that the respondents were mostly involved in.

Table 2: Agricultural Activities of the Rural Women

Agricultural Activities	Frequency	Percentage
Land preparation	44	48.9
Planting	37	41.1
Transplanting	48	53.3
Fertilizer Application	45	50.0
Harvesting	80	88.9
Processing of Agric produce	62	68.9
Marketing/ selling of produce	86	95.6
Transportation of produce	64	71.1

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Different Family Planning Methods

Table 3 revealed that a larger percentage (63.3%) of the respondents used condom, 38.9% used pills, 20% used injectable while 18.9% of the respondents used natural method. Also, 4.4% of the respondents used ultra-uterine copper device, 16.6% used withdrawal method while 11.1% of the respondents used celibacy method. The results implies that condom was the most widely used family planning method by the respondents.

Table 3: Distribution of Respondents by Family Planning Methods

Family Planning Methods	Frequency	Percentage
Condom	57	63.3
Pills	35	38.9
Injectable	18	20.0
Natural	17	18.9
Ultra uterine Copper Device	4	4.4
Withdrawal	14	16.6
Incantations	-	-
Celibacy	10	11.1

Source: Field Survey, 2018

4: Benefits of Family Planning

The distribution of the respondents by various benefits derived from family planning revealed that most (91.1%) of the respondents identified prevention of sexually transmitted diseases as the benefits of family planning, 68.9% identified Provision of quality education for wards, 85.6% of the respondents identified mother health stability as the benefit of family planning while 91.1% agrees that it stops malnutrition and poverty. Also, 86.7% of the respondents says it improve household living standard, 85.6% of the respondents agrees that it makes the household have resources for child upbringing while all (100%) of the respondents identified more participation of women in economic activities as the benefits of family planning. The results implies that more participation of women in academic activities is the major benefit of the use of family planning methods by the respondents.

Table 4: Distribution of Respondents by Benefits of Family Planning

Benefits	Frequency	Percentage
To prevent sexually transmitted diseases	82	91.1
Provision of quality education for wards	62	68.9
For mothers health stability	77	85.6
To stop malnutrition and poverty	82	91.1
To improve household living standard	78	86.7
Have resources for child upbringing	77	85.6
More participation of women in economic activities	90	100

Source: Field Survey, 2018

5: Constraints to the Use of Family Planning

The distribution of the respondents according to the constraints to the use of family planning revealed that desire for more children was ranked first with the weighted mean score (WMS) of 2.6, husband objection ranked 2nd with the WMS of 2.3, fear of side effect ranked 3rd with the WMS of 2.2 while I personally don't like it ranked 4th with the WMS of 1.9. Also, against my religious belief ranked 5th with the WMS of 1.7, against my cultural belief ranked 6th with the WMS of 1.6 while I don't know where to get it was ranked 7th with the WMS of 1.4. The results implies that desire for more children and husband objection were the major constraints to the use of family planning methods by the respondents.

Table 5: Distribution of the Respondents by Constraints to the Use of Family Planning

Constraints	Major Constraint	Minor Constraint	Not a Constraint	WMS	Rank
Husband Objection	36(40.0)	45(50.0)	9(10.0)	2.3	2 nd
Fear of side effect	34(37.8)	36(40.0)	20(22.2)	2.2	3 rd
I personally do not like it	34(37.8)	12(13.3)	44(48.9)	1.9	4 th
Desire for more Children	61(67.8)	21(23.3)	8(8.9)	2.6	1 st
Don't know where to get it	8(8.9)	22(24.4)	60(66.7)	1.4	7 th
Against my Religious belief	18(20.0)	26(28.9)	46(51.1)	1.7	5 th
Against my cultural belief	22(24.2)	-	68(75.6)	1.5	6 th

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Effects of Family planning on Agricultural Production

The distribution of the respondents by the effects of family planning revealed that increase participation of women in agricultural production and Increased participation of women in processing of agricultural commodities were jointly ranked 1st with the weighted mean score (WMS) of 2.7, Concentration on farming and livelihood activities was ranked 3rd with the WMS of 2.68, Good health for increase productivity was ranked 4th with the WMS of 2.65 while More participation of women in the marketing and sales of agricultural produce ranked 5th with the WMS of 2.62. Also, Increased food supply to the household was ranked 6th with the WMS of 2.54, leads to increase in food production was ranked 7th with the WMS of 2.53 while More access to resources and capital to expand their farm had the least ranking of 8th with the WMS of 2.47. The results implies that increased participation of women in agricultural production and increased participation of women in processing of agricultural commodities were major effects of family planning on agricultural production of the respondents.

Table 6: Distribution of the Respondents by the Effects of Family Planning on Agricultural Production

Effects of Family Planning	Major Effect	Minor effect	No effect	WMS	Rank
Increased participation of women in agricultural production	90(100)	-	-	2.7	1 st
Leads to increase in food production	77(85.6)	9(10.0)	4(4.4)	2.53	7 th
Increased food supply to the household	78(86.7)	8(8.9)	4(4.4)	2.54	6 th
More participation of women in the marketing and sales of agricultural produce	82(91.1)	8(8.9)	-	2.62	5 th
More access to resources and capital to expand their farm.	77(85.6)	13(14.4)	-	2.47	8 th
Concentration on farming and livelihood activities	89(98.9)	1(1.1)	-	2.68	3 rd
Good health for increase productivity	85(94.4)	5(5.6)	-	2.65	4 th
Increased participation of women in processing of agricultural commodities	90(100)	-	-	2.7	1 st

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Test of Hypothesis

There is no significant Relationship between the selected Socioeconomic Characteristics of the respondents and the effects of family planning of agricultural Production.

The results of Pearson Product Moment Correlation showing the relationship between the selected socioeconomic characteristics of the Respondents and the effect of family planning on agricultural Production revealed a significant relationship between the age ($r=-0.153$; $p=0.050$) and years of schooling of the respondents ($r=0.397$; $p=0.000$) and the effect of family planning on agricultural production. The results implies that age and years of schooling of the respondents significantly affect their production. The null hypothesis is hereby rejected.

Table 7: The results of Correlation Analysis Showing the relationship Between Some selected socioeconomic Characteristics and Effect of Family Planning on Agricultural Production of Rural women

Variable	r- value	p- value	Remarks
Age	-0.153	0.050	Significant
Years of Schooling	0.397	0.000	Significant
Household Size	-0.150	0.157	Not significant
Farm size	-0.097	0.364	Not significant
Farming Experience	0.018	0.864	Not significant

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Conclusion And Recommendation

The study concludes that respondents were active, agile and still in their productive age with small farm size and many years of farming experience, therefore recommends that government and all the various stakeholders in family planning should further make more awareness on the benefits of family planning so that the various identified constraints can be done away with. Rural Men also needs orientation and enlightenment on family planning so as not discourage their wives from adopting the practice of family planning.

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