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POVERTY ALLEVIATION STRATEGIES AMONG NON-ACADEMIC STAFF OF UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN

BY

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Abstract

The major objective of this study was to investigate the coping mechanisms of the non-academic staff, University of Ibadan. Information was obtained from the field by means of well-structured questionnaires from 103 respondent. Majority of the respondents was found to be within the age of 40 and 49. In term of educational level, it was discovered that many of respondents has formal education about 97 percent. The average household size was 6 person. To be able to cope with poverty, it was discovered that the poor households adopts certain strategies such as engaging in farming, in other business activities to generate additional income, in animal husbandry, buy food on credit at their places of work, buy second hand clothes or stopped buying entirely and given old clothes to children, finally reduce food consumption among members by eating once or twice in a day. The most adopted strategy is their involvement in multiple income generating activities.

Background of the Study

Poverty is a pervading phenomenon worldwide, where over one million of the 5.6 billion people in the world live in state of object poverty wit income and consumption levels below the internationally defined poverty line of U.S 1 per day. Over 200million Africans now wallowing in abject poverty as contained in a report of global poverty published by the United Nations Organisation (UNO, 1988) Department of public information. Poverty can be defined as a condition of inadequate command over resources to provide for what is regarded as a minimum standard of living. Poverty usually arises from lack of access to resources and political participation.

Two criteria are often used in defining poverty, the levels of income and nutritional intake of the people. In Nigeria, a World Bank poverty assessment team 1996 was able to identify a poverty line of #395 per person per month. A person that falls below the this poverty line is referred to as "poor" while a person who falls far below the poverty line with #198 per month is referred to as "extremely poor". The United States government definition of poverty is according to the social security administration, an acceptable minimum level of income is three times what a family needs to buy essential food. This government definition is known as the poverty line. In 1975 a family of four living in an urban area in America need about U.S \$ 5,500 to meet this standard.

Poverty defined in terms of nutritional intake as recommended by FAO, (1995) is the consumption of less than 2,300 calories per person per day. This simple idea has been transformed into poverty line. A poverty line on the basis of recommended nutritional requirements of 2,400 calories per person per day for rural area and 2,100 calories per person per day for urban areas was thus defined. Poverty manifests itself in prostitution, exposure to risks insecurity, corruption, robbery street life, destitution, increases unemployment living in squalor, shanties, satchels, high infant mortality acute malnutrition, decreasing enrolment in primary

and secondary schools, short life expectancy, human degradation living in overcrowded and often poorly ventilated house.

Also, using the most recent poverty indicators such as illiteracy access to safe water and the number of poor people as manifestation of poverty. Nigeria, s GNP per capital is also lower while its purchasing power continues to decline with high inflation and increasing income inequality. UNICEF, (1996) classifies Nigeria as a country with severe child malnutrition and very high under 5 morality rates. In Nigeria, access to education, health water and housing is inadequate.

Presently, the price of consumer goods including food has increased astronomically without proportionate increase in wages and salaries of workers. This development has in no little way put workers under untold hardship condition. The scenario above suggests that certain coping strategies are in place. It is therefore necessary that these coping strategies re examined. The main objectives of this study are to investigate the coping mechanisms of the non-academic staff of university of Ibadan.

Methodology

The study was carried out in Abadina in the University of Ibadan community, where most of the non-academic staff of the university lives. Data were collected from primary source through the use of structured questionnaire. The questionnaire was structured to reflect the type of information needed to fulfil the objectives of the study. Simple random sampling design was used and a total of one hundred and ten [110] repondents were interviewed. The data were coded manually then both descriptive and inferential statistics were used for the analysis such as frequency counts, percentages and multiple regression analysis.

Results and Discussion

Socio-Economic Characteristics Of Households: The consumption expenditure pattern of the household is influenced by household size, educational status, age of respondent and marital status, All these eventually effects the welfare or standard of living of the household and determines their poverty status.

TABLE 1: Age Distribution of Respondents

AGED (YEARS)	NUMBER RESPONDENTS	OF	PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION
Below 10	0		0
10 - 19	1		0.97
20 - 29	9		8.74
30 - 39	21		20.39
40 - 49	35		33.99
50 - 59	26		25.24
Over 60	11		10.66
TOTAL	103		100

Source: Field survey 1997.

In Table 1, majority of the respondents falls between the age of 40 and 49 years and constituted 33.98 percent of the total household interviewed. The number of respondents that fall between the age of 10 and 19 years are few because this range represents the school age. Therefore, the majority of the respondents are middle-aged people.

Educational Status of Respondents: Educational status is one of the most important socio-economy characteristics that influence the quality of life a

household lives. It has great influence on the consumption of food and non-food items that a family live on.

TABLE 2: Educational Status of Household Heads

LEVEL OF EDUCATION	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Non-Formal Education	4	3.88
Primary Education	34	33.01
Secondary Education	35	33.98
Tertiary Education	30	29
Total	103	100

Source: Field survey 1997.

Table 2 shows that 3.88 percent of the respondents interviewed has no formal education at all and 33.01 percent has secondary education while 33.98 percent has secondary education and 29.13 percent of the respondents has tertiary education.

Household Size: The number of people influences aggregate expenditure, level and pattern of their consumption and eventually influences poverty status. At a certain level of income, if the size of the family increases without appreciable increase in income of the household this will decrease the standard of living.

TABLE 3 Distribution of Households According to Size

HOUSE SIZE	NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLD	PERCENTAGE
1 - 3	22	21.36
4 - 6	40	38.84
7 - 9	33	32.04
10 - 12	6	5.83
Over 12	2	1.94
TOTAL	103	100

SOURCE: Field survey 1997.

As shown in table 4.3 majority of the respondents fall within the households size ranges of 4 - 6 and 7 - 9. The total household in these two ranges of household size is 73. This represents about 70.87 percent of the total household interviewed. The average household size is 6 persons.

TABLE 4 : Marital Status of The Respondents

MARITAL STATUS	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Married	84	81.55
Single	19	18.45
TOTAL	103	100

Source: Field Survey, 1997

Table 4 shows that 81.55 percent of respondents are married while 18.45 percent are single. This shows that a great number of respondents have families and this is likely to increase the consumption pattern of the households.

INCOME ANALYSIS

Table 5: Distribution of Households By Income Groups

Income Group	Income Range	Number of Household	Percentage
Low	<= 3500	18	17.48
Middle	3501 <= 7000	44	42.72
High	>= 7000	41	39.80
TOTAL		103	100

Source: Field Survey 1997

Table 5 shows that the greatest percentage of the households found to be in the income range of the middle group which constituted 42.72 percent. While about 39 percent are found on the high group. This is average monthly income as well as the average monthly expenditure will be so because most of the respondents are engaged in other business activities in order to earn additional income.

AVERAGE MONTHLY INCOME AND SIZE OF THE HOUSEHOLD

Table 6: Distribution of Households by Average Monthly Income and Size

Household Size	Number of household	Total monthly income(N)	Average monthly income (N)
1 - 3	22	183715.4	8350.70
4 - 6	40	304026	7600.65
7 - 9	33	211223.1	6400.70
10 - 12	6	26040	4340.00
Over 12	2	7300	3650.00
Total	103	732304.5	6068.41

Source: Field Survey 1887

Table 6 shows that household with size ranging between 1 - 3 earned the highest average monthly income while household size 12 and above, earned the lowest average monthly income per household. The households with size 10 - 12 and over 12 have their average monthly income less than the total average monthly income of 6068.14. These ranges constitute only 8 respondents of the total household interviewed. It could also be observed from the table that as the household size increases the average monthly income per household decreases.

Table 7: Distribution of Households According to Other Sources of Income

Source	Number of respondents	Percentage distribution
No other sources of income	11	10.68
Having other sources of income	92	89.32
Total	103	100.00

Source: Field Survey 1997

Table 7 shows that a great percentage of the households had other sources of income. About 89.32 percent respondents had other source of income, which make them not to depend on their wages and salaries only.

Frequency Distribution of Expenditure: The frequency distribution of expenditure is meant to show in more details, the pattern of household per capital expenditure distribution among the households in the areas of studied.

Table 8 shows the expenditure classes of the all households in the area under study. It varies greatly from lower expenditure class of less than N3000 per capital to as high, as above N15, 000 per capital. The expenditure frequency shown in Table 10 indicates that the per capital expenditure distribution skews to the right side since the greater percentage of the households constituted the lower expenditure classes as seen in the table below. The table also shows that the households in the per capital expenditure ranges from N3001 to N5000 constituted the highest percentage in the entire survey. It can therefore be seen from the Table that there is high degree of inequality in the distribution of the expenditure among the various classes and the number of household's decreases as the expenditure class gets higher.

Table 8 :Distribution of Households Per Capital Expenditure

Per Capital Expenditure	Frequency number of respondents	Percentage of households
3000	24	23.30
3001 - 5000	41	39.81
5001 - 7000	20	19.42
7001 - 9000	12	11.65
9001 - 11000	3	2.91
11001 - 13000	2	1.94
13001 - 15000	1	1.97
Total	103	100

Source: Field Survey 1997

Determination Of The Factors Affecting Expenditure Of Households

To identify factors which affect the poverty of households, a multiple regression of certain characteristic variables of these households was run on the expenditure of the households. The variables used are as follows:

- X1 = Total income of the household
- X2 = Size of household
- X3 = Educational Status
- X4 = Marital Status
- X5 = Age of household head

In the case of variable X4 dummy variable was used to represent it because of its nature.

This also implies that the higher the income available to the household, the better the disposable income, as well as the purchasing power of such households. Hence, such households can then afford to devote more of their income to basic needs.

Furthermore, income level and educational status are often positively related to expenditure on basic needs. Higher income and educational status are better placed in terms of income generation and so enhanced the purchasing power of the person.

However, the coefficient of the size of household and age of household head are not statistically significant at the desired levels though they are positively related to expenditure on basic needs. This can be explained by the fact that as the size of the household increases, the per capital income of such household increases. Consequently, there is the tendency for such households to reduce expenditure on certain basic needs. Age and marital status do not exert a specific influence on expenditure on basic needs.

Table 9: Results of Regression Analysis

Functional Forms	Constant term	Total monthly income X1	Size of household X2	Educational Status X3	Marital Status X4	Age of household head X5	R ²	R ² *	Freq.
Linear	-425.10 (-0.44)	*** 0.49508 (9.09)	29.10 (0.079)	** 269.20 (1.30)	-180.40 (-0.37)	22.94 (1.17)	0.623	0.603	** 31.
Semi-log	*** 26520 00 (-5.94)	*** 6833.00 (6.44)	381.10 (0.41)	** 2112.0 (1.59)	-191.00 (-0.29)	2764.0 0 (1.17)	0.479	0.452	* 17
Double Log	*** 1.2108 (3.25)	*** 0.51520 (5.82)	0.0675 7 (0.86)	** 0.1586 (1.43)	- 0.0270 3 (0.49)	0.2419 (1.23)	0.452	0.424	** 16.
Exponential	*** 3.1849 8 (35.78)	*** 0.000033 28 (6.67)	0.0084 54 (1.23)	*** 0.0293 / (1.55)	- 0.0151 1 (-0.34)	** 0.0026 /b (1.48)	0.521	0.497	** 21.

Source: Computed from Field survey 1997

Note: *** t - values significant at 1%

** t - value significant at 20%

t values are in parenthesis

R² = 0.623

R²* = 0.603

From the four functional forms fitted to the data. The linear function was selected as the lead equation this is based on its conformation to the a-priori expectation in terms of the signs and magnitude of the coefficients the number of significant variables and the coefficient of determination R², t and F ratios

The linear equation is thus specified

$$Y = -425.10 + 0.49508X_1 + 59.10X_2 + 269.20X_3 + -180.40X_4 + 22.94X_5$$

From the above equation, it is shown that income household size, educational status and age of household head are positively related to the expenditure of basic needs while marital status is negatively related to it. From the above equation, it could also be seen that the coefficients of income and educational status are statistically significant at 1% and 20% level respectively, this therefore, confirms the significant impact of these variables on expenditure of household basic needs. This also implies that the higher the income available the household, the better the disposable income, as well as the purchasing power of such households. Hence, such households can then afford to devote more of their income to basic needs.

Furthermore, income level and educational status are often positively correlated, in the sense that with improvement in the level of education, one is better placed in terms of income generation and so enhanced the purchasing power of the person.

However, the coefficient of the size of household and age of household head are not statistically significant at the desired levels though they are positively related to expenditure on basic needs. This can be explained by the fact that as the size of the household increases, the per capital income of such household increases. Consequently, there is the tendency for such households to reduce expenditure on certain basic needs. Age and marital status do not exert a specific influence on expenditure on basic needs.

