

**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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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title page.....	i
Dedication.....	ii
Abstract	iii
Acknowledgements.....	v
Certification	vii
Table of contents.....	viii
References.....	xi
Appendices.....	xi
List of tables.....	xii
List of figures.....	xiv
Abbreviations and acronyms.....	xv

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the study.....	1
1.2 Statement of problem	3
1.3 Research objectives.....	7
1.4 Analysis of the objectives.....	7
1.5 Research hypothesis.....	7
1.6 Justification of the study.....	8
1.7 Thesis format.....	10

CHAPTER TWO: THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Theoretical framework.....	11
2.2 Literature review.....	14
2.2.1 Methodological/analytical review.....	14
2.2.1.1 Determinants of Time Allocation by Gender.....	14
2.2.1.2 Measurements of Poverty.....	16
2.2.1.3 Determinants of Poverty.....	18
2.2.2 Empirical review.....	19
2.2.2.1 Studies on gender time allocation.....	19

2.2.2.2 Studies on household poverty.....	26
2.2.2.3 Studies on the influence of gender time allocation on household poverty.....	29
2.3 Conceptual framework.....	32
2.3.1 Concept of work and leisure.....	32
2.3.2 Concept of gender and linkage between gender and time allocation.....	33
2.3.3 Concepts of poverty.....	34
2.3.4 Conceptual framework linking gender time allocation and household poverty.....	34

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 The study area.....	37
3.2 Sources of data.....	40
3.3 Sampling procedure.....	40
3.4 Analytical techniques.....	43
3.4.1 Descriptive statistics.....	43
3.4.2 Determinants of time allocation to work (Tobit Regression).....	43
3.4.3 Determinants of time allocation to leisure (OLS Regression).....	49
3.4.4 Poverty line estimation.....	51
3.4.5 Foster, Greer, and Thorbecke (FGT) Poverty measure.....	52
3.4.6 Determinants of farming households' poverty status (Probit Regression).....	52
3.5 Definitions of variables used in the empirical models.....	55
3.6 Data limitations and other methodological problems.....	56

CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1 Descriptive statistics.....	58
4.1.1 Individual demographic variables by gender.....	58
4.1.2 Relevant household variables.....	61
4.1.3 Household income during rainy and dry seasons.....	64

4.2	Time allocation by gender and season.....	66
4.2.1	Time allocation to farm work.....	66
4.2.2	Time allocation to non-farm work.....	68
4.2.3	Time allocation to housework.....	70
4.2.4	Time allocation to leisure.....	72
4.3	Determinants of time allocation by gender and season	75
4.3.1	Determinants of farm work time by gender and season.....	75
4.3.2	Determinants of non-farm work time by gender and season.....	79
4.3.3	Determinants of housework time by gender and season.....	83
4.3.4	Determinants of leisure time by gender and season.....	87
4.4	Profile of farming households' level poverty by gender and season.....	93
4.4.1	Determination of poverty line.....	90
4.4.2	Poverty profile by male time allocation to various activities during rainy season.....	92
4.4.3	Poverty profile by female time allocation to various activities during rainy season.....	95
4.4.4	Poverty profile by male time allocation to various activities during dry season.....	98
4.4.5	Poverty profile by female time allocation to various activities during dry season.....	103
4.5	Determinants of household poverty by gender factors.....	103
4.5.1	Influence of gender time allocation on farming households' poverty status during the rainy season.....	103
4.5.2	Households' poverty elasticity by gender factors during rainy season.....	105
4.5.3	Influence of gender time allocation on farming households' poverty status during the dry season.....	107
4.5.4	Households' poverty elasticity by gender factors during dry season.....	109

CHAPTER FIVE: POLICY IMPLICATIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

5.1	Summary of major findings.....	111
5.2	Conclusion of the study.....	115
5.3	Policy implications of the findings and recommendations.....	115
5.4	Contributions to knowledge.....	116
5.5	Suggestions for further study.....	117

REFERENCES	118
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APPENDICES	129
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UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1 List of sampled villages.....	42
Table 2 <i>A priori</i> expectations of the explanatory variables used in farm Work analysis model by gender.....	46
Table 3A <i>priori</i> expectations of the explanatory variables used in non-farm work time model by gender.....	47
Table 4 <i>A priori</i> expectations of the explanatory variables used in housework time analysis model by gender.....	48
Table 5 <i>A priori</i> expectations of the explanatory variables used in leisure time Analysis model by gender.....	50
Table 6 <i>A priori</i> expectation with respect to influence of time allocation by gender on household poverty.....	54
Table 7 Selected individual characteristics by gender.....	60
Table 8a Selected household characteristics.....	63
Table 8b Farming households' income during the rainy and dry season.....	65
Table 9 Average time spent on farm work by gender and season.....	67
Table 10 Average time spent on non-farm work by gender and season..	69
Table 11 Average time spent on housework by gender and season	71
Table 12 Average time spent on all the activities (work and leisure) by gender and season.....	74
Table 13 Estimate of Tobit regression for the determinants of Farm work time by gender and season	78
Table 14 Estimate of Tobit regression for the determinants of non-farm work time by gender and season.....	82
Table 15 Estimate of Tobit regression for the determinants of housework time by gender and season.....	86
Table 16 Estimate of Ordinary Least Square regression for the determinants of leisure time allocation by gender and season.....	89
Table 17 Average monthly expenditure of farming households on food and non-food Items	91

Table 18 Household poverty profile by male time allocation variables (rainy season).....	94
Table 19 Household poverty profile by female time allocation variables (rainy season).....	97
Table 20 Household poverty profile by male time allocation variables (dry season).....	99
Table 21 Household poverty profile by female time allocation variables (dry season).....	102
Table 22 Probit regression of the influence of gender time allocation on households poverty during the rainy season	104
Table 23 Estimates of households' poverty elasticity by gender.....	106
Table 24 Probit regression of the influence of time allocation by gender on household poverty during rainy season.....	108
Table 25 Estimates of household poverty elasticity by gender.....	110

UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1	Conceptual framework of the study.....	36
Figure 2	Map showing the six southwestern states of Nigeria.....	39

UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN

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