
Resettlement Coping Strategies of Women Settlers Around Dams in Nigeria: A Case Study of Erelu Dam in Oyo, Oyo State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT This study investigated resettlement coping strategies of women settlers around Erelu dam in Oyo, Oyo State of Nigeria. One hundred and forty women settlers were sampled for the study using stratified random sampling technique. Structured interview schedule was employed to collect data from the respondents. The results of the study showed that the coping strategies employed often or always by majority of the women settlers include fish processing (77.1%), fish marketing (78.6%) and processing of food crops into the final products (68.6%). Other coping strategies employed often or always are production of vegetables in irrigated area (44.3%), hair dressing (35.7%), cloth weaving (28.6%) and labour on other people's farms (20.0%). The results also showed that there is a positive and significant relationship between the respondents' ages and their scores on coping strategies ($r = .267$) at 5% level of significance. Also, there is a positive and significant relationship between the respondents' years of formal education and their scores on coping strategies ($r = .244$) at 5% level of significance. The dam construction has influenced a shift in the major occupation of most of the women settlers from trading to fishing activities. It is recommended that there should always be proper resettlement of displaced people in dam construction to enable the people to enjoy the full benefits of the dam.

[Home](#)

[Back](#)
