

Income Generating Activities of Fulani Women in Iseyin Local Government Area of Oyo State

J. O. Oladeji, M. G. Olujide and O.B.Oyesola

*Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development,
University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria*

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ABSTRACT This study was carried out to investigate the income generating activities of Fulani women in Iseyin Local Government Area of Oyo State. Other variables considered include their personal characteristics and assessment of effect of income generating activities of Fulani women on their standard of living. Simple random sampling technique was used to select one hundred and twenty Fulani women for the study. Data was collected with the aid of structured interview schedule. Frequency counts and percentages were used to describe the data while Chi-square was used as inferential statistical tool. The result revealed that most 56.7% of the Fulani women are within age range of 30 and 40 years, most married (83.3%), predominantly Muslims and majority of them are cattle rearer. The most prominent income generating activities of Fulani women is milk processing, followed by mat weaving and hired labour. The result further revealed that none of the Fulani women's personal characteristics such as age, marital status, marriage pattern, household size, education and religion affect or influenced their income generating activities. It is therefore recommended that Fulani would should be organized into group for training on other income generating activities by extension institutions in order to broaden their horizon of income generating activities.

INTRODUCTION

In Nigeria, there been tremendous decline on food production due to lack of appropriate technology, innovation, use of traditional implements and generally under development (Omolewa, 1995). Perhaps, one of the factors responsible for this could be non-recognition of women's contribution to agriculture (Adekanye, 1988; Olawoye, 1983).

Women in rural areas are known to provide 70% of the labour in food production and solely responsible for food processing (ILO, 1984). They have always been contributing significantly to the economic life of their communities; they are major contributors to subsistence agriculture in Nigeria (FAO, 1989).

It was in line with Tanko (1984) posited that women have been described as the invisible work force and the unacknowledged back bone of the family and the national economy. This description resulted from an analysis of the contribution to the economy as a whole.

In agriculture women's contribution are said to be central and pivotal. It is within this context that the well-known conclusion about women emerge, namely, that they contribute 60% of the labour force and produce 80% of the food, earn 10% of the money income and own 1% of the family assets (Adekanye, 1988).

Also, FAO (1989) asserted that with the

increasing male migration, women are becoming the sole producers of the food for the maintenance of the family, this shows that women play a major role in traditional activities such as subsistence food production, household cores, food processing, home crafts market trade etc.

Studies by Patel and Anthonio (1976), Adeyokunnu (1980), found that in domestic economy women featured prominently in several socio-economic activities such as trading, farming, processing, caring for children etc, all these activities present a means for improvement of family through the provision of better skills and better equipment to women so that they may perform their traditional tasks efficiently (Adeyeye, 1984).

Olawoye (1996) reported that the primary concern of women is usually the welfare of their families, spending money generated on personal items only after the family needs are met. People take up other jobs apart from their primary occupation, which is farming to take care of their family and to be economically independent irrespective of their ethnic group or background. Socio-culturally, women play dual role of wives and mothers. Most women are responsible for the health nutrition and education of members of the family in the rural community (Olayide and Atobatele, 1980; Adeyeye, 1985). In order to meet the hercheem task of providing for the family need

women engage in all sorts of off-form activities to raise income for the family. These activities range from trading to working as government employees. Traditionally, women have been relegated to such activities because of existing social structure. The fact that women had to cope with domestic chores as well as carry out economic activities, encourage them to get involved in the business that are of sedentary nature and can be conducted as near the house as possible (Spiro 1980: Osoba 1985).

The migration of Fulani women to the western part of Nigeria with their husband is basically for greener pastures. They are known to have their own primary occupation, which most at times is basically the selling of milk they obtained from cows. They also engaged in petty trade such as selling of groundnut as well as production of cheese, they are also found weaving grasses to make mats and other useful items (Sim, 1994).

Osundina (1995) reported that inability to provide for household needs is one of the indicators of poverty; hence the role of rural women in the survival and sustenance of their household become a very important issue.

It is against this background that the research intended to provide answers to the following questions.

- i. What the personal characteristics such as (age, marital status, marriage pattern, Number of children, level of education, primary and secondary education) of Fulani women.
- ii. What are the income generating activities of the Fulani women in the study area?
- iii. What are the effects of income generating activities on standard of living of Fulani women?

Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study was to determine the income generating activities of Fulani women in Iseyin Local Government Area of Oyo State.

Specifically the study was aimed at achieving the followings, which are to:

- i. describe the personal characteristics of Fulani women in the study area.
- ii. determine the Fulani women's income generating activities.
- iii. assess the effects of income generating activities of Fulani women on the standard of living.

METHODOLOGY

The study was carried out in Iseyin Local Government Area of Oyo state. It is bounded by Latitude 7°57'N and 8°17'N with longitude 2°45'E and 3°37'E. It shares boundaries with Ojogbodu, Kajola, Ifedapo and Ibarapa Local Government Areas of Oyo State.

Agriculture is the main occupation in this area and some of the food crops cultivated include; maize, okro, yam, cassava and various leaf vegetables. Their secondary occupations are trading, craftworks, soap making, gaari and oil palm processing.

The study area has 10 villages where Fulani women are residing out of which 4 villages was purposively selected based on the concentration of Fulani women. 15 Fulani women was randomly selected from each of the village making a total sample size of one hundred and twenty (120) respondents. A well structured interview schedule was used to elicit information from the respondents. Data analysis was carried out using frequency counts percentages and Chi-square as inferential statistical tool.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The result of analysis in Table 1 shows the distribution of respondents according to their personal characteristics, such as age, marital status, marriage pattern, number of children, religion, education, primary and secondary occupation.

Age: It was revealed that majority (56.7%) of the sample Fulani women are within the age range of 30 and 40 years while 41.7% of them have their age less than 30 years and few (1.7%) are between the ages of 42 and 50 years. The implication of this finding is that majority of the rural Fulani women are at their middle age and fall within the economically active, productive and reproductive age.

Marital Status: Evidence from the data collected, revealed that majority (83.3%) of the respondents are married while others (16.7%) are single parents. It could therefore be inferred that majority of the Fulani women are married, the few single parents are those who carried alone the responsibilities of parents.

Marriage Pattern: Table 1 further revealed that more than half of the sampled Fulani women (56.7%) indicated that their marriage pattern is

Table 1: Distribution of sampled Fulani women's personal characteristics.

<i>Variables</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
A. Age Range		
Less than 30	50	41.7
30 – 40	68	56.67
42 – 50	2	1.7
50 and above	-	-
Total	120	100
B. Marital Status		
Married	100	83.3
Single Parent	20	16.7
Divorced	-	-
Widowed	-	-
Total	120	100
C. Marriage Pattern		
Monogamy	68	56.7
Polygamy	34	28.3
Polyandry	-	-
No response	18	15
Total	120	100
D. No of Children		
1 – 3	84	70
4 – 6	36	30
6 and above	-	-
No response	-	-
Total	120	100
E. Level of Education		
No formal education	-	-
Quaranic	100	83.3
Primary School	-	-
Secondary School	20	16.7
Modern School	-	-
Adult Literacy	-	-
Total	120	100
F. Religion		
Christianity	-	-
Islam	120	100
Traditional	-	-
Total	120	100
G. Primary Occupation		
Farming	6	5
Cattle rearing	86	70
Livestock keeping	-	-
Selling farm produce	30	25
Total	120	100
H. Secondary Occupation		
Yes	118	48.8
No	2	1.7
Total	120	100

one man-one wife (monogamy) while about (41.7%) indicated their marriage pattern as polygamy. The practice of polygamy among Fulani men is religious based, that one can marry more than one wife, also marrying many wives will produce more children who are to assist them in cattle rearing.

Number of Children: Majority (70.0%) of the respondents have between 1 and 3 children, while 16.7% of them a total number of children ranging from 4-6 and others 13.0% have above 6 children.

Religion: The entire respondents (100.0%) claimed to belong to Islamic religion. This reveals that Fulani women are predominantly Muslim.

Education: from table 1, it is evidenced that majority (83.8%) of the respondents had Quaranic form of education. This means that Fulani women are literate hence they could not read and write.

Primary Occupation: The primary occupation indicated by majority (70.0%) of the respondents is cattle rearing, followed by selling farm produce (25.0%) and few (5.0%) practiced farming. This shows that majority of the Fulani women are cattle rearers since they could not have access to land for farming because they are strangers i.e. nomadic Fulani.

Secondary Occupation: A large number of Fulani women (98.3%) claimed to have engaged in secondary occupation, they still engaged themselves in other income generating activities in order to meet the basic needs of the family.

Income Generating Activities of Fulani Women: The most prominent income generating activities of Fulani women is milk processing as more than half (53.3%) of them indicated that they often engaged themselves in it, followed by mat weaving (21.7%) in the same category and few (5.0%) of the sampled women engaged in hired as income generating activities (Table 2).

The finding of this study has shown that the most prevailing income generating activities of Fulani women is milk processing because they have access to cattle, which are reared by their husbands.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to the activities rural Fulani women engage in apart from their primary occupation.

<i>Income Generating Activities</i>	<i>Often (%)</i>	<i>Sometime (%)</i>	<i>Do not (%)</i>	<i>No response (%)</i>	<i>Total (%)</i>
Hair plaiting	30(25.0)	50(41.7)	30(25.0)	10(8.3)	120(100)
Hired labour	65(54.2)	30(25.0)	25(20.8)	-	120(100)
Soap making	-	-	112(93.3)	08(6.7)	120(100)
Milk processing	92(76.7)	28(23.3)	-	-	120(100)
Mat weaving	67(55.8)	25(20.8)	18(15.0)	10(8.3)	120(100)

Effect of Income Generating Activities of Fulani Women on Standard of Living: Majority (85.0%) of the respondents affirmed that engaging in income generating activities gives them rest of mind while others (15.0%) use the extra income generated to care for their children (Table3). The implication of this finding is that engaging in income generating activities brings about rest of mind because they are to buy and acquire whatever they need at any point in time. Another section of table reveals that all the respondents indicated that income generating activities had increased their nutritional level.

Table 3: Frequency distribution of respondents according to the importance of extra generating income activities of Fulani rural women.

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
<i>Benefit of extra income</i>		
Care of children	16	13.3
Rest of mind	102	85
Take part in family responsibility	-	-
<i>No response</i>		
Total	2	1.7
Total	120	100
<i>Change in Nutritional level</i>		
Increased	120	100
No change	-	-
Decreased	-	-
Total	120	100
<i>Types of shelter</i>		
Palm front hut	4	3.3
Mud-house	116	96.7
Cement house	-	-
Others	-	-
Total	120	100

Tables 3 further revealed that majority (96.7%) of the sampled women are now living in mud house as against living in palm front hut (3.31%). Generally, it could be inferred that income generating activities of Fulani women lies improved their standard of living because they are able to make extra money from their secondary occupation.

Result of Chi-square Test: Table 4 shows the result of Chi-square analysis of

Fulani women personal characteristics and

Table 4: Chi-square analysis of Fulani women personal characteristics and their income generating activities.

Variable	Chi-square value	D.F	P	Level of significance	Ds
Household size	0.4	1	0.53	0.05	NS
Education	1.33	2	0.51	0.05	NS
Religion	-	-	-	-	-
Marital status	0.2	2	0.9	0.05	NS
Family pattern	2.57	2	0.28	0.05	NS
Age	0.61	1	0.69	0.05	NS

their income generating activities. None of the women's personal characteristics such as age, marital status, education level, marriage pattern, number of children, religion have significant relationship with income generating activities. This implies that none of the personal characteristics of Fulani women influenced their choice of income generating activities.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Rural Fulani women are in their economic productive stage of life, hence they are able to diversify their income generation activities, which has however improve their standard of living in terms of caring for their children, increased nutritional level etc.

None of the personal characteristics of Fulani women influenced their income generating activities.

Sequel to these finding, it is therefore recommended that Fulani women in the study area could be organised into group for training on other on income generating activities apart the prominent one (milk processing by the government and research should be conducted on coping mechanism strategies adopted by Fulani women.

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