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RICE MILLING FACTORIES AND POVERTY REDUCTION IN GOMBE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, GOMBE STATE

YERIMA ISHAYA JABIL

Department of General Studies, Federal Polytechnic Kaltunjo, Gombe, Gombe State

Corresponding Author:

yerimaishaya2017@gmail.com

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Abstract

This study examined rice milling factories and poverty reduction in Gombe Local Government Area. The study used both primary and secondary data in achieving the set objective; stratified random sampling technique was used to select three hundred and fifty respondents in the study area. Descriptive statistical tools such as tables, percentages and poverty measurement indices as well as logit regression were used to analyse the data. The result of the descriptive statistics shows that forty nine percent of the rice millers have no Western education and the result of the party profile shows that all the households were poor using dollar a day poverty benchmark. The result of the logit regression model shows that the poverty status of the rice millers improved as a result of the factories. It was found out that the poverty level of the respondents has improved as a result of involving in rice milling activities. It was recommended that enabling environment be created by the government for millers to operate favourably with a view of alleviating poverty.

Keywords: Rice, Milling, Factories, Poverty and Reduction.

Introduction

Industrialization is one of the most reliable means of improving the welfare of individuals within the economy and of raising a country's standard of living. This explains why developing economies have been in the pursuit of becoming industrialized. Anga, (2021) highlighted the crucial role of micro, small and medium

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Prof. R. Rena [South Africa]

enterpirses in serving as a sources of income and also in providing employment opportunities to men and women in the country, thus causing an improvement in the welfare of individuals, and contribution to economic growth and poverty reduction.

Poverty remains one of the intractable problems facing mankind ever since, however, this challenges is more severe in developing countries such as Nigeria, according to UNDP Report (2024) Nigeria has Human Poverty Index (HPI) of 36.2% which Ranks her 114 out of 135 countries measured. In Gombe State, Advanced Plan (2023), observed that poverty has been a major feature of the lives of the majority of Gombe people, approximately 65% of the people of the state live below the poverty line. In the same vein, Department for International Development DFID (2024)recorded that Gombe State is the 8th poorest of the thirty six states of the federation. According to the Department the reasons for this are complex, but may be part to be sought in the dependence of the state on Agriculture and the government neglect of the sector.

Rice is presently a strategic food security crop in Nigeria with an average per capita consumption of 24.8kg per year, representing 9% of annual calorie intake of Nigerians (Bamidele, 2023) Nigeria's estimated annual rice demand was put at 5 million metric tones while annual production on the average was about 2.21 million tonnes of milled rice with a deficient of 2.79 million tonnes bridged annually by importation (Abimiku, 2023).

Gombe State as the study area is located in Northeast by the States of Borno in the vicinity of Gongola River and lake Gongola River to the South by Taraba State, to the Southeast by Adamawa State and to the West by Bauchi State, Gombe is the State capital of Gombe State and it was formed from a part of Bauchi State on 1st October 1996, with an estimated population of about 3.25 million as of 2016 (Ogowu, 2024).

The extent to which rice milling factories have contributed to poverty reduction in the state cannot be readily ascertained, the level of unemployment in Gombe has risen from less than 10% to a high of 42.17% within the period 1996 to 2024 (NBS, 2024). Recording the second highest in the Northeast after Taraba State. Literacy rate is 52.9 percent indicating that about 47 percent of the population is illiterate and the poverty incidence is high at 39 percent indicating also that one out of every 3 person in the state is poor, it is against this background that this study investigate the impact of rice milling factories on poverty Reduction in Gombe Local Government area of Gombe State.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Conceptual Review

Rice Milling

A rice mill is a food processing facility where Paddy (Unmilled rice) is process by packing the rice leaving it in its final form for sale to consumers. Titiloal (2023) observed that Rice Milling in Nigeria is a cottage industry, mainly carried out by small-scale millers with an average hourly capacity of 200kg of milled rice, he explain further that rice processing involves all the activities that make paddy rice ready for cooking, it consist of soaking paddy rice inhof or cold water in a drum, followed by a rapid exposure of the soaked paddy to steam and gradual drying for atleast one day, the purpose of these processes is to respond to consumer preference but in the view of Gani (2024) Rice Milling Industry refers to the overall operations in a rice mill- clearing, shelling bran removal and size separation, or it can refers simply to the one operation of removing of the bran or outer layers from the brown rice to produce a while grain white rice product.

Poverty

Poverty can be categorized into three namely, absolute poverty, Relative Poverty and Subjective Poverty (Anga, 2024). This study however, focuses on absolute poverty which sees individuals, families andgroups as those who find it hand to meet the required minimum standard of living, people considered to be in absolute poverty are determined through a yardstick known as the poverty line which is drown on the level of income or consumption of individuals, households or groups in a given society. The poverty line provides a threshold whereby those whose income fall below the line are said to be poor and those who income is above are considered as the non-poor (Dalis, 2024).

The World Bank standard for international comparison of the poverty line is given below which those that live on less than that amount are below the poverty line and those that live on more than that are above the poverty line (Ogboru&Abimiku, 2023). Using the World Bank (2016) standard of $1.90 (N1500 at 1 USD) Per day, the poverty line is drawn, on bases of these assertions, this study sees poverty as a state of deprivation resulting from a lack of means of income generation, factors of production and productive resources to meet basic needs and services of a group of individuals a minimum acceptable standard of living.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Prof. R. Rena [South Africa]

Poverty Reduction

Poverty Reduction according to Bereh (2023) is a set of measurers, both economic and humanitarian that are intended to permanently lift people out of poverty, it enable the poort to create wealth for themselves as a conduct of ending poverty forever, but Bezum (2024) defined poverty reduction as the permanently and temporary measures put in place to reduce poverty either in the shortrun or in the longrun, poverty alleviation programmes are Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) the Green Revolution, the Directorate of food, Road and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI). The National Directorate of Employment (NDE), The Better Life Programme (BLP) for rural women. But in the view of Gozuk (2023) poverty reduction means to left up the people from level of poverty and promotion in their economic conditions, because poverty has many factors including ill health, low income, hunger, limited education and other basic needs.

Entrepreneurship

Ogundele (2023) viewed entrepreneurship as a process which creates an income generation means that empowers people to come out of poverty but in the views of Anga (2024) entrepreneurship is the process involving recognizing opportunities in life and change simultaneously. The entrepreneur is seen as one who undertakes innovations with finance and business acumen in an effort to transform innovation into economic goods but according to Gani (2025) entrepreneurship is the creation or extraction of economic value in ways that generally entail beyond the minimal amount of risk, and potentially involving values besides simply economic ones.

In this study, it is affirmed that entrepreneurship is a courageous action undertaken by an individual who has the zeal and the passion of utilizing resources such as land, capital, labour and the individual's own ability in order to provide a product or a service to the general populace. This the entrepreneurs does with the sole aim of meeting a particular need of the general populace and by so doing creating jobs, which will have an impact on the families of the employees and also profit to compensate for the number of hours put in by entrepreneur.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

This research has it theoretical underpering from situational constraints theory poverty, the theory stipulates that poverty results from imposed constraints such as low income, unemployment and illness Lipton (1993); Haralambos and Healed (1980) this is because people are poor due to the fact that they find themselves in a situation

of inadequate capital resources and opportunities for them to advance their welfare, it lays emphasis on the structural conditions that lead to poverty and at the same time focuses on the individual response to the objective situation of poverty. This theory underpins the establishment of the Bank of Agriculture where school leavers or farmers who are unemployed can be given loans to invest in food production that would create jobs and improving the quality of life of the people through public-private sector driven economy.

EMPIRICAL REVIEW

Keshiro (2024) carried out research on poverty status among farmers in Lagos state, Nigeria, the study uses the simple percentages, Gini Coefficient, foster Greer Thorbecke and Bivariate Logit regression techniques to analyse data, the result of the Gini Coefficient shows that low income inequality among the famers, and the result of the foster Greer Thorbecke shows that 60 percent of the farmers are below the poverty line, the result of the Bivariate Logit regression techniques show the likelihood of a farmer being poor is reduced with increase in the number of years of formal education, output per month and the income from and capital. The study concluded that there is a high level of poverty among the farmers in the study area.

Jibril, Haruna and Okonu (2023) assess poverty level among farmers in Bauchi Local Government Area, the study used both primary and secondary data in achieving the set objective, stratified random sampling technique was used to select three hundred and fifty respondents in the study area, descriptive statistics tools and logit regression were used to analyse the data. The results shows that a change in the number meals taken per day from farm income, access to improved medical services and level of education of the farmers will lead to about 24.4%, 42.4%, 34%, 51.7% and 12% reduction in their log likelihood of being poor, it was recommended that enabling environment be created by the government for farmer to operate favorably with a view of alleviating Agriculture poverty.

Abur and Torruam (2022) carried out research on agricultural credit as a strategy for poverty reduction in Benue State, Nigeria, primary data were used and applied on a cross-sectional data of 274 respondents in 2022, the analytical tools used was descriptive statistics and logit regression model and the result from the logit regression techniques indicates that the computed value of Nagelkerke R^2 is as high as 0.723 this implies that Agricultural credit influence the poverty status of the respondents, the study concluded that, agricultural credit help in reducing poverty among the respondents.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Prof. R. Rena [South Africa]

Reviewed literature reveals that various studies have been conducted on the viability of agricultural sector and poverty reduction in Nigeria, However, this study focuses on rice milling factories as a value addition process and its contributions to poverty reduction in Gombe Local Government using the FGT Matrix for poverty head count and severity among respondents in the state as well as the logit regression for analysis.

METHODOLOGY

Area of the Study

This study was carried out in Gombe Local Government Area of Gombe State. The local government is bordered on the West by Vamaltudeba local government by the Billers on the North-East by Shangom Local Government. Rice is generally cultivated at least twice in a year in the area; while rice milling is the major industry in the local government.

Sampling Procedure

Stratified random sampling technique was used to select 350 respondents of rice milling factories in the study area. The sample comprises 126 millers, 95 parboilers, 61 winnowers, 38 engine owners and 30 sewers/porters. Questionnaires were used to elicit information from the respondents.

Analytical Techniques Used

The major tools employed for data analysis were descriptive statistics (percentages) and Foster, Green and Thornbecke (FGT) index and logistic regression analysis. Poverty was measured using FGT Index (Foster et al 1984). This method subsumes the headcount ratio and poverty measurement of the population below the poverty line while the poverty gap measures the depth of poverty (Anyanwu, 1997).

The headcount ratio is stated as follows:

$$H = Q/N \quad --- \quad --- \quad --- \quad (1)$$

Where, H = Headcount ratio with values ranging from O to 1. the closer the value to 1, the higher the proportion of people below the poverty line.

Q = Number of households below the poverty line.

N = Total number of household in the studied population.

The poverty gap is measured as follows:

$$P\alpha = 1/n \Sigma \frac{(Z - Y)}{Z} \alpha \text{---------- (2)}$$

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Prof. R. Rena [South Africa]

Where,

P_α = Poverty gap

Z = Poverty line

Y_i = Income of the ith household in poor population

α = The FGT parameter with values from 0, 1, and 2.

n = Total numbers of population studied

Logistic Regression

Logit regression analysis was used to determine the correlates of poverty of rice millers in the study area. Logit regression analysis is usually used to analyse the determinants of poverty. In logit model, the endogenous variables is a dichotomous or dummy variable with (1) representing the household as poor and (0) if the household is not poor (Imran, Shahnawaza and Abo, 2019). This approach is in line with Allen and Thompson (2018), coulombe and Mckay (2020). Appleton (2020); Manson, (2021), Imran, schahnawaza and Abo (2019), and Yusuf, Adesanoye and Awotide (2018). The parameters of logistic regression were estimated by the maximum likelihood, with the likelihood function formed by assuming independence over the observations.

Yusufu, Adesanoye and Awotide (2018) implicitly specified a logit regression model as:

$$P(Y) = \frac{e}{(1+e)} \quad \text{---------- (3)}$$

Y measures poverty status, Y might be poor (1) or non-poor (0). By taking logs of both sides and simplifying equation (3), the log likelihood model was simplified as:

$$\text{LnYi} = \text{Pi} = \beta o \, \Sigma \, \beta i \, X \, ki + Ui \quad \text{---------- (4)}$$

$$(1\text{-Pi})$$

Where $\text{Ln } Y_i$ = Natural log of Y (poverty status)

Xki = A set of household socio-economic characteristics.

B_k = Parameters

U_i = A random disturbance term.

Model specification

Arising from the analysis of the logistic regression specification, the model for this study was explicitly stated as follows:

Pi = POV = I (x1, x2 , X3, X4, X5, X6 X7, X8, X9,), --------(5)

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Prof. R. Rena [South Africa]

(1 – Pi)

Where, POV is dependent variables (poverty status), calculated as:

POV = Average Annual income of Household from rice milling
Total number of days in a year (365 days)

If the result is less than 1.5 dollars naira equivalent, it means the household is poor in which case we assign (1). If the result is 1.5 dollars and above naira equivalent. Its means the households is non-poor, in which case we assign (0).

X_1 = Business size in bags of rice

X_2 = Number of meals taken per day (1 if three times meals a day, 0 if otherwise).

X_3 = Housetype (1 if Zinc roof and cemented walls/floor, 0 if otherwise)

X_4 = Access to improved medical services (1 if a respondent visits maternity, specialist and general Hospital, O if otherwise).

X_5 = Access to clothing (1 if at least one new cloth is purchased in a year, 0 If otherwise)

X_6 = Family members Access to formal education (1 if family members have access to formal education, O if otherwise).

X_7 = Level of education of the respondent (I if the respondent attains at least secondary school, O if otherwise).

X8 = House size X9 = Dependency ratio (Number of persons a respondent sponsors in school). Thus, the specific form of model was stated as follows:

$$POV = \beta o + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \beta_5 X_5 + \beta_6 X_6 + \beta_7 X_7 + \beta_8 X_8 + \beta_9 X_9 + U \text{ ----------(6)}$$

B_o = Intercept of the model.

B_1 - B_9 = Parameters

X_i = Explanatory variables

U = the error term.

Results and Discussion

The average annual income of the rice millers before and during rice milling in the study area is shown in table 1.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Prof. R. Rena [South Africa]

Table 1: Distribution of annual incomes of the sampled respondents before and during rice Milling

Average annual Income (N)	Annual income before rice milling activities		Annual income during rice milling activities	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
< 50,000	84	24	26	7.4
50,001-100,000	110	31.4	10	2.9
100,001-150,000	68	19.4	16	4.6
150,001-200,000	54	15.4	70	20
200,001-250,000	18	9.1	33	9.4
250,001-300,000	10	2.9	111	31.7
Above 300,000	6	1.7	84	24
Total	**350**	**100**	**350**	**100**

Source: Field Survey, 2025

The result from table 1 revealed that 24% of the respondents were earning less than or equal to N50,000 annually before they started rice milling, while 7.4% of the millers generate an average annual income of less than or equal to N50,000 when they joined rice milling. The table also revealed that 31.4% of the millers realized an average annual income of N50,001 – N100,000 before they joined rice milling, while 2.9% of the respondents earned N50,001-N100,000 when they joined rice milling. The average annual income of all these categories of millers was less than 1.5 Dollars naira equivalent (N225) per day. On the other hand, 19.4% of the millers earned an average annual income of N110,001 – N150,000 before they joined rice milling while 4.6% of the millers earned the same amount when they joined rice milling. 15.4% of the millers generate an average annual income of N150,001 – N200,000 before they joined rice milling while 20% of the respondents earned the same amount when they joined rice milling. Also, 9.1% of the millers realized an average annual income of N210, 001-N250,000 before they joined rice milling, while 9.4% of the respondents earned the same amount when they joined rice milling. Also, 2.9% of the millers generate an average annual income of N250,001 – N300,000 before they joined rice milling while 31.7% of the millers earned the same amount when they joined rice milling. And 1.7% of

the millers realized an average annual income of above N300,000 before they joined rice milling while 24% of the respondents also earned above N300,000 when they joined rice milling. All these categories of millers earn more than 1.5 dollars naira equivalent (N225) per day. From the foregoing, it can be seen that the more respondents earn higher incomes when they started rice milling activities.

Determination of the Poverty Status of Rice Millers Factories in the Study Area.

Poverty lines were estimated using the total annual income of the studied millers. Details on the implementation of the method can be found in Wodon (2020), Jibril, Haruna and Okonu (2023), and Yusufu, Adesanye and Awotide (2022). The total annual incomes of the respondents before and during rice milling were used in the classification of the households into poor and non-poor. This was done in two ways:

(a) A moderate poverty line equivalent of 2/3 of the mean per income.

(b) A core poverty line equivalent of 1/3 of the mean per income. Then households were classified into one of the mutually exclusive groups separated by line either as core poor, moderately poor or non-poor.

Using this criterion, the results were obtained and presented in table 2.

Table 2: Poverty Indices of the rice millers factories before and during rice milling in the study Area

Index	Before rice milling	During rice milling
(i) Total average annual income	N65,321,000	N133,000,000.00
*** Mean average annual income**		
*** 2/3rd of mean income**	N186,631.43	N380,000.00
*** 1/3rd of mean income**	N124,420.93	N253,333.33
(ii) Headcount Index	N62,210.48	N126,666.67
*** Core poor**		
*** Moderate poor**	0.24(24%)	0.103(10.3%)
*** Non-poor**	0.314(31.4%)	0.4943(49.43%)
(iii) Poverty gap index	0.446(44.5%)	0.557(55.7%)
*** Moderate poor**	0.32	0.177
*** Core poor**	0.23	0.11

Source: Field Survey, 2025

The analysis of the rice millers' poverty status in table 2 showed poverty line of N124,420.93 and N253,333.33, for before rice milling and during rice milling respectively. This implies that a miller in the area with an average annual income of greater or equal to N124,420.93 and N253,333.33 for before and during rice milling was considered to be non-poor or rich and any miller with an average annual income below N124,420.93 before rice milling and below N253.333.33 during rice milling was considered moderately poor. The core poverty lines of N62,210.48 and N126,666.67

for before and during rice milling respectively means that a miller with an average annual income greater than N62,210.48 but less than 124,420.93 before rice milling was considered extremely poor and a miller with the income of N126,666.67 but less than N253,333.33 during rice milling was considered to be extremely or core poor. The headcount indices of 0.24,0.314,0.446 before rice milling and 0.103, 0.4943 and 0.577 for during rice milling were obtained implying that 24% of the respondents were core poor before they joined rice milling while 10.3% of the studied millers were core poor when they joined rice milling 31.4% of the respondents were moderately poor before they joined rice milling, while 49.43% of the millers were moderately poor when they joined rice milling and 44.6% of the respondents were non-poor before they joined rice milling; while 57.7% of the millers were non-poor when they joined rice milling.

The poverty gap of average poor persons below the poverty line was 0.32, this implies that before rice milling the income of the moderately was 32% below the poverty line while that of the core poor was 23% below the poverty line. Conversely, the table reveals that during rice milling 17.7% of the income of the moderately poor falls below the poverty line while that of the core poor falls below the poverty line by11%.Thus, it can be said from the foregoing that lower income levels were required during rice milling to bring the miller up to the poverty line during rice milling activities. This implies that by joining rice milling their poverty status has improved.

Results of Logit Regression Analysis

As indicated in the methodology, the correlates of poverty among the rice millers factories were estimated using the maximum likelihood technique and the results were presented in table 3 below.

Table 3: Results of Logit Regression analysis

Variables	Coefficients	S.E	Sig	Exp(B)
Constant	-3.389	1.616	0.036**	0.34
X_1	-0.002	0.001	0.015**	1.000
X_2	-1.445	0.535	0.007**	0.242
X_3	0.086	0.383	0.822	1.090
X_4	-0.569	0.709	0.036**	0.34
X_5	0.467	0.361	0.196	0.596
X_6	0.365	0.193	0.059*	1.440
X_7	-0.660	0.372	0.076*	0.517
X_8	1.541	0.859	0.0712*	0.128
X_9	0.188	0.244	0.440	1.207

Nagelkerke R^2 = 0.335, log likelihood = 119.947 chi-square 45.617

*** Significant at 1%, ** significant at 5% * Significant at 10%.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Prof. R. Rena [South Africa]

From table 3, the log likelihood is 119.947, the Nagelkerke R^2 = 0.835 which indicates that some of the coefficients of the independent variables are statistically different from zero. The chi-square value also shows that the model performs well. Variables like x_1, X_2, X_4, , X_6, X_7 and X_8, have significant influence on the log likelihood of being poor. Other variables X_3, X_5 and X_9 have no influence on the log likelihood of being poor.

From the table above, it is evident that a unit increase in (X_1) the number of bags of rice milled will lead to about 100% reduction in their log likelihood of being poor. The same change in the number of meals taken per day from rice income, access to improved medical services, level of education of the rice millers factories will lead to about 24.4%, 42.4%, 34%, 51.7% and 12% reduction in their log likelihood of being poor. On the other hand, increase in family members access to formal education will increase about 144% of their log likelihood of being poor. This might be because of high cost of financing formal education. The results are in line with generally accepted theory. Having more children in schools can lead to short run poverty status (Lipton, 1983). Thus, it can be said that rice milling factories significantly affects the poverty status of the respondents.

Conclusion

The findings of the study showed that participation in rice milling factories has the potential of poverty reduction. However, to reduce their poverty level to a minimum level, the business size (bags of rice processed and marketed) of rice millers factories should be augmented either by encouraging farmers of paddy rice via subsidies or by increasing their access to credit facilities by the government. This is because, the study has revealed that a unit change in the business size will lead to 100% reduction in their log likelihood of being poor. Augmentation of their business size is necessary as an income transfer policy that will bring the moderately poor millers to the poverty line.

Recommendations

i. Enabling environment should be created by the government for rice milers factories so that more people will participate since findings of the study have indicated that by participating in rice milling alone generates income that can lead to about 34% reduction in the poverty level of those engaged in.
ii. Rice mill operators should be encouraged to form co-operative groups to benefit from government and non-governmental agencies.
iii. Electricity supply should be improved and prices of alternative energy (diesel) be reduced for commercial purpose to serve as incentives.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Prof. R. Rena [South Africa]

iv. Modern or appropriate milling machines should be made available and at affordable prices.

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