E-ISSN: 1116 - 2619 P-ISSN: 3026-8524
MPRI-JHLAR | INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF HUMANITIES, LITERATURE AND ART RESEARCH
VOL. 09 NO. 6 – JULY, 2025

GENDER DIFFERENTIAL AND POVERTY AMONGST WOMEN IN TAMBUWAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF SOKOTO STATE - NIGERIA

ISAH ABUBAKAR IDRIS Ph.D.; & ABUBAKAR UMAR ILLALU

Department of Economics, Shehu Shagari University of Education, Sokoto – Nigeria

Corresponding Author: idisah08@gmail.com

DOI: https://doi.org/10.70382/mejhlar.v9i6.055

Abstract

It is believed that gender-based poverty is one of the characters of Nigerian society and that there is increased feminization of poverty in the country particularly in the rural areas. Against this background, the paper examined the gender dimension of poverty among women in Tambuwal Local Government Area (LGA) of Sokoto State. The research made used of primary data and it was collected from 100 respondents in the study area using structured questionnaires in form of interview scheduled; Multi stage sampling technique was adopted in selecting the respondents for the study. Descriptive results were analyzed using frequency and percentages and inferential method of analysis was conducted using OLS regression Method. The results revealed that, the value of education, age, marital status, occupation and asset holding were all having statistical significant positive relationship with welfare and negative with poverty, except the non-linearity effect of the age squared which disclose a statistical significant negative relationship, suggesting that, welfare increases with age but declines eventually at old age. Therefore, the study recommended an increase in investment in education and the creation of more job opportunities as these would go long way in enhancing higher standards of living, reducing the level of poverty and raising per capita consumption expenditure of women in the study area.

Keywords: Gender Differential, Poverty, Women, Tambuwal LGA, Sokoto State

Introduction

Poverty remains one of the persistent social-economic problems of global community particularly in developing countries where it is more dangerous and devastating. Although poverty is a global phenomenon, it is believed that,

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Prof. S. T. Addo [GHANA]

extreme poverty is more prevalent in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa and Nigeria in particular (Orchi et *al*, 2023). This is despite the country's vast human and material resources. According to Omonona (2009) poverty is pervasive although the country is rich in human and Material resources that should translate into improve living standards of people. Poverty is not only a state of living but also a process with many dimensions and complexities.

Given the decades of protracted poverty in Nigeria, successive government introduced different policy/programs to address the lingering socio-economic challenges facing people in this country. However, the enduring challenges of poverty through gender inequality persist, and these have been attributed to program design and targeting shortcomings (Ayoo 2021) i.e. failure to target who and where the real poor are. Given Nigeria's abundance resources, there is a need to view poverty reduction strategies through a gender dimension approach. This is particularly important given the increasing feminization of poverty, especially in developing countries like Nigeria were the womenfolk have dominated the circle of poverty and significantly represent the poorest of the poor (Arogan & Miller 2012).

Similarly, as a results of this trend many studies on poverty in Nigeria have been conducted such as Omotoso et al (2021), Yahaya (2023), Adamu (2021), Alan et al (2020) among others, this is in order to assist in providing robust information needed in designing relevant policies and programme aimed at reducing the level of poverty in the country. In view of the above raised issues the paper is aimed at bridging the gap by providing empirical information on the gender dimension of poverty in Tambuwal local Government area of Sokoto State which to the best of our knowledge is unavailable.

Research problem

The feminization of poverty a phenomenon that is said to exist if poverty is more prevalent among females than their male's counterpart has been the focus of many recent studies. Reasons advanced for the existence of feminized poverty include discrimination against women in the labour market, or that women tend to have poor education than men and therefore, are paid lower salaries (Anyanwu, 1998). However, at a time when lawmakers and states actors are undergoing dramatic and rapid changes, "femine poverty" may deepen and strengthen gender inequalities. It is necessity for the development process to fully incorporate agenda for women's empowerment by including women's realities in the fullest sense. Thus, understanding of gendered poverty is a pre-condition for effective pro-poor development strategies. The determinants of the causes of poverty among women folk are not only complex, but also multidimensional, involving among other things, the location, marital status, education, and occupational structures. To understand gender dimension of poverty and to be able to delineate policy

option, we need to study these dimension. The current paper therefore examined the poverty among women in Tambuwal Local Government Area of Sokoto state, recognizing the fact that, evidence from much literature indicates absence of study on poverty for women folk in the area under consideration, with hope the results could be used by policy makers in designing and implementing state and local levels policies for main streaming gender balance in access to basic services.

Research objective

i. To investigate the relationship between education and poverty among women folk in Tambuwal Local Government area of Sokoto State.
ii. To examine how assets holding influence poverty status of women in Tambuwal Local Government area of Sokoto State.
iii. To investigate how occupation (formal/non formal) influence poverty status of women in Tambuwal Local Government Area of Sokoto State.

Review of Related Literature

Concept of Poverty

Poverty has been variously defined by Scholars; According to Ademola & Abang (2015) Poverty refers to the inability to attain a minimum standard of living. It is a social condition characterized by the inadequacy of access to basic human needs (food and non-food) for the sustenance of a socially acceptable minimum standard of living in a given society. Some of these basic determinants of well-being among others are adequate food, shelter, potable water, health care, education, and employment opportunity. As access to most of these facilities are largely market-determined income or disposable resources available to individuals or households invariably determine who has what. A household or individual without enough income to meet the minimum levels of these needs in a given society is generally said to be poor.

Poverty exists when one or more persons fall short of the level of economic welfare deemed to constitute a reasonable minimum, either in some absolute sense or by the standard of a specific society (Jude et al. 2020). The poor have very few assets beyond their own labour, which is inevitably spent in tedious, backbreaking, low-paid work. Poverty breeds poverty. A poor individual or family has a high probability of staying poor. Low incomes carry with them high risks of illnesses, limitations on mobility, and limited access to education (Adekoya, 2014).

According to Omobowale (2014), poverty is a condition in which individuals are deprived of the good things of life as well as the resources necessary to achieve the desired degree of wellbeing and a standard of living that is acceptable in society. Notably, over 80% of

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Prof. S. T. Addo [GHANA]

individuals in rural areas live below the poverty line and have little access to social and infrastructure resources, making poverty more prevalent there (Ogundipe et al., 2019). Multidimensional poverty measures can be used to create a more comprehensive picture to reveal who is poor and how they are poor, that is, the range of different disadvantages they experience. Multidimensional measures can be broken down to reveal the poverty level in different areas of a country and among different subgroups of people (Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network [MPPN] (2019).

Causes of poverty among female gender

Female gender constitutes a sex that typically has the capacity to bear children or produce eggs. That is, human being created with all the biological features of a woman (Wolfsohn, 2022). Female gender could be a girl, woman, daughter, an aunt, a sister or a lady. Poverty cuts across both male and female gender. However, in this case we are talking about poverty in relation to the female gender. It is on record that the scourge of poverty is more prevalent among the female gender than male in Nigeria (Anyebe, 2017)

It is believed that gender-based poverty is one of the characters of African society and that there is increased feminization of poverty in Africa (World Bank, 2009). Some of the factors causing this development include: limited skills and knowledge; unfriendly labour market structures that concentrate women in lower paying and time-consuming job and restrict their access to capital and credit; traditional family structures that perpetuate gender inequality through patriarchal norms of property ownership and inheritance; discrimination in the public domain; non-recognition of the value of women's work; etc (World Bank, 2009). The position of female-headed households with no economically active male either present or working elsewhere is the most severe. The lack of able-bodied male labour is a key characteristic of many of the poorest African households.

According to Lipton and Ravallion (1995) there are three main factors why women are more vulnerable to human poverty namely: Firstly, women work longer hours than men to achieve the same level of standard, the burden of both parts of the 'double day' of market labour and domestic labour is more severe for poor women (World Bank, 1997). Secondly, women face lower chances of escaping from poverty than men because women's large share of domestic works prevents them from seizing new and more lucrative job opportunities as readily as men (World Bank, 1997). Thirdly, in some cultures, widows face strong barriers against employment or re-marriage, and are treated as second class citizens within the family because of suppositious believe, leading to high vulnerability to poverty. Additionally, World Bank (1997) indicated that feminized poverty lingers because of women's low levels and quality education and training, poor health and nutritional condition, and limited access to resources which suppress their quality of life and hinder economic opportunities and growth

Methodology of the study

Study Setting

Tambuwal Local Government Area is one of the 23 Local Government Areas of Sokoto State which comprises of five districts namely: Tambuwal, Dogon Daji, Sanyinna, Jabo and Gindi. It has an area of 1,717km2 and approximate population of 224931 as at 2006 census. It is located on A1 high way at 12° 24'00" N, 4° 40'00'E. The major economic activities in the area are farming, trading and government employment (Wikipedia,org).

Method of data collection

The study makes use of primary source of data. The data was collected from different categories of women using well-structured pre-tested questionnaire in form of scheduled interviews. The information on socio economic characteristics of respondents, such as their marital status and age, as well as their educational level, asset holding and their occupational structures were collected.

Sample size and Sampling technique

All women (married, divorced and widows) in the five district of Tambuwal local government area, of Sokoto State constitute the population of the study. Sampling Technique: Multi stage sampling technique was adopted in selecting the respondents of the study from the population. The first stage involved purposive selection of two villages in each of the five districts of Tambuwal Local Government Area based on the availability of women who are ready to cooperate and respond. However, the second stage involved a random selection of 10 women in each of the two selected village in the five district of the local Government to arrive at a total of 100 women respondents.

Variables Measurement

Variables employed for the study would tell us the conditions of poverty among women in Tambuwal local government area of Sokoto State. Therefore, the variables selected would address such concerns.

Dependent variable:

The study used approximate daily per capita consumption expenditure of the respondents as a measure of household welfare and poverty. Similarly, daily per capita consumption expenditure from all sources food and non-food of the respondents, whose higher value indicate welfare and lower value poverty. The approach of using per capita consumption expenditure as proxy for household welfare and poverty has been used in many studies in Nigeria (World Bank (2001), Yusuf & Oni, (2007), Oluwatayo, (2009).

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Prof. S. T. Addo [GHANA]

Independent Variables

Education: is measured as the educational attainment of the respondents, taking the value of 1 if educated and 0 otherwise.

Asset holdings: is measured in terms of ownership of some household asset by the respondent, this includes jewelry, domestic animals and farm land.

Occupation: is measured as the occupation of the respondent, this includes civil service petty trading, animal rearing and or local craft.

Marital status: is measured in terms of current status of the respondent, this includes married, divorce or widow.

Age of the respondent: is measured in terms of the number of years of the respondents

Method of Data Analysis

The data collected were analyzed using standard statistical procedures with STATA software package. The filled questionnaires were cross checked in the field to detect, correct and remove inconsistencies and improper administration of instruments. Both descriptive and inferential methods of analysis were used. Descriptive statistics inform of frequencies and percentages have been applied in analyzing the data on socio-economic characteristics of the respondents. However, OLS regression method was used to test the relationship between dependent and independent variables under consideration.

Model Specification

The analytical model is specified as follows: $y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \beta_2 x_2 + \ldots \beta_n + e$

Where: y_i is the daily capita consumption expenditure which stands as a proxy for the welfare and poverty status of the respondents?

B_i = is a vector of parameters of explanatory variables

X_i= vector of explanatory variables

U_i= is an error terms

Results and Discussion

Interpretation of Descriptive results

In this subsection, using relevant tables the data collected for this research have been presented and analyzed.

Table 1: Marital Status of the respondent

Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Married	63	63.00
Divorce	13	13.00
Widow	16	16.00

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Prof. S. T. Addo [GHANA]

Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Others	8	08.00
Total	100	100%

Source: field Survey, 2025

Table 1 indicates the distribution of respondents by marital status. It results reveals that, 63% of the respondents were married, 13% divorce, 16% were widows. However, only 8% of the respondents were not married at all. This indicates that, the respondents were predominantly married women. Similarly the results also show a considerable number of widows and divorce women who if care is not taken would be surviving below the poverty line.

Age of the respondents

The distribution of respondents by age as indicated in table 2 reveals that, 27% of the respondents are between the age brackets of 20-30 years of age, while 31% are between 20-40 years. Similarly, 34% were between 40-50 years and only 8% are between the ages of 50- 60 years of age. This implies that majority of the respondents are still within their economically active age.

Table 2: Age respondents

Age Group	Frequency	Percentage (%)
20 – 30	27	27.00
30 – 40	31	31.00
40 – 50	34	34.00
50 – 60	08	08.00
Total	100	100

Source: field Survey, 2025

Educational Attainment of respondents

Educational attainment of respondents is dedicated in table 3, the results disclose that, 35% of the respondents do not have any form of formal education, however majority of them had Quranic education, with 24% secondary, 31% primary education and only 8% had tertiary education. This implies that over 50% of the total respondents had a form of formal education at different levels.

Table 3: Educational Attainment of respondents

Educational Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Non formal/Quranic	35	35.00
Primary	31	31.00

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Prof. S. T. Addo [GHANA]

Secondary	24	24.00
Tertiary	10	10.00
Total	100	100

Source: Field Survey, 2025

Occupation of respondents

The results in table 4 indicates that, 44% of the total respondents were engaged in petty trading while 27% engaged in animal raring and local craft respectively. However, only 15% of the respondents were civil servants.

Table 4: occupation of respondents

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Civil servant	15	15.00
Petty trading	44	44.00
Animal rearing	27	27.00
Local craft	14	14.00
Total	100	100

Source: field Survey, 2025

Assets holding of the respondents

Table 5 describe the assets holding of the respondents, the result indicates that 56% of the total respondents were having one domestic animal or another such as goat, sheep, cattle etc, similarly, he results further indicates that, 17% and 16% were having farm land and house ownership respectively. However, only 11% of the respondents were having jewelry.

Asset Holding of Respondents

Asset	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Jewelry	11	11.00
Domestic animals	56	56.00
Farm land	17	17.00
House ownership	16	16.00
Total	100	100

Source: Field Survey, 2025

This implies that, majority of the respondents are domesticating animals as a precaution against any unforeseen contingency.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Prof. S. T. Addo [GHANA]

Interpretation of Inferential results

This subsection provides the inferential analysis conducted using ordinary least square (OLS) regression model and interpretation of results.

Table 5: OLS Regression results for the whole sample

Dependent variables	Natural log of daily consumption expenditure
Independent variables	
Age of respondents	4.9357(3.20)
Age of respondents square	-04565(-3.41)
Marital status of respondents	37.5580(5.48)
Educational attainment of respondents	8.0274(16.00)
Occupational of respondents	36.4570(6.58)
Asset Holdings of respondents	7.0364(17.01)
R^2	0.26
F	67.25

Source: Field Survey, 2025

From the OLS regression results presented in table 5 when the log of daily consumption expenditure has been used as a dependent variable, the results indicate a statistical significant positive relationship between age of the respondents and daily per capita consumption expenditure: this suggest that, age improves household welfare reduces the incidence of poverty in the study area. However, in order to capture the non-linearity effect of the relationship, age squared was added, and the results disclose a statistical significant negative relationship, suggesting that, welfare increases with age but declines eventually at old age. This finding corroborate with those of Masood & Iqbal (2010) & Oluwatayo, (2009) who established the same findings in their separate studies.

With respect to education, the regression results indicate statistical significant positive relationship with expenditures. This suggests that, as the educational level of people increases, the level of their welfare also improves and the incidence of poverty decreases. This finding corroborates the findings of Babatunde & Olorunsanya (2008): siddiqui (2009): who also established a significant positive relationship between education and household welfare in their spate studies.

As regards the marital status of the respondents, the results reveal a statistical significant positive relationship between marital status and daily per capita consumption expenditure. This indicates that marital status of eth respondents has positive influence on welfare and negative with poverty.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Prof. S. T. Addo [GHANA]

The results for occupation of the respondents indicate a statistical significant positive relationship between marital status and daily per capita consumption expenditure. This indicates that marital status of the respondents has positive influence on welfare and negative with poverty.

The results for occupation of the respondents indicate a statistical positive relationship between occupation and welfare of respondents in the study area. Suggest that, occupation tends to improve welfare and reduce the incidence of household poverty.

Consequently, with respect to asset holding, the regression results indicate a statistical significant positive relationship between asset holding of the respondents and daily consumption expenditure. This suggest that, asset holding such as jewelry, domestic animals etc level of the people increases the level of their welfare and the incidence of poverty decreases.

Conclusion & Recommendation

From the findings of the study it is concluded that, age of the respondents improves their welfare and reduce their poverty at the beginning, however, the welfare decline at old age. Similarly education, marital status, occupation and assets holding of the respondents all have the capacity of improving the welfare and reducing the incidence of poverty of the respondents in the study area.

Recommendation

Having established from the study that, educational attainment of the respondents improves their welfare and reduces the incidence of poverty, it is suggested that, government particularly state and local government should intensify efforts at establishing sound and workable policies of giving free and compulsory education to women folk especially vocational, adult and high level education in the study area.

It is also recommended that, government should provide social security for vulnerable group such as the widows and divorce women. Similarly, it is suggested that, state and local government should provide access to capital in order to support the petty trading and other small scale business run by the women as this would go a long way in improving their welfare and reducing their poverty.

References

Adamu, B. D., Tanko, F., Barnabas, T. M. & Adejoh, E. U (2021) Determinants of Household's Poverty among Crop Farmers in Kaduna State, Nigeria, *FUDMA Journal of Sciences (FJS)* Vol. 5 No. 1, March, 2021,

Adekoya O. A. (2014): Analysis of Farm Poverty Status in Ogun State. Asian Economic and Financial Review 4: 325 – 340.

Ademola A. A., Abang S. O. (2015): Analysis of poverty status of rural farm families in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. Global Journal of Agricultural Science 14: 450 – 460

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Prof. S. T. Addo [GHANA]

Alan M. B, Baba G. S & Abba S.S. (2020) Determinants of Poverty among Farmers In Southern Part Of Borno State-Nigeria, *Journal of Developing Economies, Vol.2, Issue 1 No.3,*

Anyebe, A. (2017). Gender Differential and Poverty amongst Women in Nigeria International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences, 7(4) http://dx.doi.org/10.6007/IJARBSS/v7-i4/2021

Arogon, M. & G. Miller (2012) Global Women's Issues: Women in the World Today, Extended Version, Bureau of International Information Programs, United States Department of State. ISBN 978-1-622-39930-7

Ayoo, (2021) Poverty reduction strategies in developing countries. Intec open, Available at: https://www.intechopen.com/chapters/79838, 2023.

Babatunde R.O & E.O. Olorunsanya (2008). Assessment of rural household poverty: evidence from south-western Nigeria, *American Eurasian journal of Agric and Environmental science, 3 (6):114-138.*

Jude N. K., Alfred K. M., Roland A. B. (2020): Livelihood Diversification and Household Well-Being: Insights and Policy Implications for Forest-Based Communities in Cameroon. Society & Natural Resources 7: 876 – 895.

Lipton, M., and M. Ravallion (1995) Poverty and Policy, in J. Behrman and T.N. Srinivassan (eds) Handbook of Development Economics, Vol. III, pp.2553-2657

Masood, S.A, & M. Iqbal (2010). Determinants of urban poverty: a case of medium size city in Pakistan *Working Paper Series No. 60* Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, (PIDE) Islamabad.

Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN). (2019). National multidimensional poverty index for Nigeria MPPN, https://mppn.org/nigeria-national mpi/#:text=For%20Nigeria%2C%20the%20share%20of,of%20schooling%20and%20school%20att

Orchi, Y. Saidi & M.A. Labidi, (2023) Nonlinear threshold effect of governance quality on poverty reduction in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa: a dynamic panel threshold specification, J Knowl Econ (2023), https://doi.org/10.1007/s13132-023-01271-3.

Oduwole, E. A & Aborisade, R. A (2023) Feminization of poverty and the povertization of women in Nigeria: A conceptual analysis and implications for female criminalities. Journal of Gender and Behavior, 21(2)

Ogundipe, A. A., Ogunniyi, A., Olagunju, K., & Asaleye, A. J. (2019). Poverty and income inequality in rural agrarian household of southwestern Nigeria: The gender perspective. *The Open Agriculture Journal, 13(1), 51–57*

Oluwatayo, B.I. (2009). Poverty and income diversification among Households in Rural Nigeria: A gender Analysis of livelihood patterns. *Paper Presented at Instituto de Estudos Sociaise Economicos (IESE)* conference on dynamic of poverty and patterns of economic accumulation, Mozambique

Omobowale, A. O. (2014). Livelihood, agro ecological zones and poverty in rural Nigeria. Journal of Agricultural Science, 6(2), 103–113. https://doi.org/10. 5539/jas. V6n2p103.

Omonona, B. T (2009). Poverty and its correlates among rural farming households in Kogi State, Nigeria. Unpublished PhD Thesis, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Ibadan.

Omotoso A.B, Daud S.A, Adeniyi B.A, Ayodele M.A, Ajibade A.J (2021) Determinants of Poverty in Farming Households in South-west Geo-Political Zones of Nigeria. *Biomed Journal of Science & Technology Resource 39(3)-2021*. BJSTR. MS.ID.006290.

Siddiqui, M.A. (2009). Determinants of poverty in Pakistan: findings from survey data, 2005 *European Journal of Social Sciences, 12(3):323-352.*

Wolfsohn, J. (2022). Merriam-Webster Changes the Definition of 'Female'. https://www.nationalreview.com

World Bank (2001) World Bank (2001) Nigeria Economic Report, Retrieved on www.imf.org July 2020

World Bank (1997) Development in Practice: Taking Action to Reduce Poverty in Sub Saharan Africa, World Bank: Washington DC.

World Bank (2009) Engendering Development, Through Gender Equality in Rights, Resources and Voice, World Bank: Washington DC.

Yahaya Z .D, Daniel S. O, Jaafaru J (2023) Determinants of Poverty Among Rural Farming Households in Maiha Local Government Area, Adamawa State- Nigeria, *Agricultura Tropica Et Subtropica, 56 Ov, 1–11, 2023*

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Prof. S. T. Addo [GHANA]