

LAGOS JOURNAL OF CHILD AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT (LAJOCYD)



MAIDEN EDITION, VOL. 1 NO. 1 OCTOBER, 2003



A Journal Publication of Lagos State Chapter Of Children-in-Agriculture Programme

RURAL YOUTHS AND INCOME GENERATION IN RURAL MARKETS OF ENUGU AND ANAMBRA STATES, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated the activities of rural youths in rural market towns for income generation. Twelve rural markets were purposively selected from existing markets in Anambra and Enugu States between July – August 2003. A total of 36 randomly selected respondents were interviewed using structured questionnaire. Data analyzed using percentages and means. The results showed that 50 percent of the youths were between 11 – 15 years. Twenty five percent were 16 – 19 years while twenty five percent were above 20 years. The survey revealed that the major reasons for the youth's involvement in income generating activities were poor parenthood, big family size, low family income, interest and educational drive. It was further revealed that these youths participated in community development projects. Based on the findings, the researchers recommended that efforts should be made by NGOs and the three tiers of government to harness the potent energies in the youths and direct them properly towards positive activities by the establishment of more rural youth organizations, funding and training them in various enterprises within an organized market layout.

INTRODUCTION

World over, expectations are rising and people are clamouring for better standard of living. The rural youths are not left out. Various activities have been planned and directed at the youths to improve their lives and train leaders and citizens for the future. Adedoyin (2001) observed that:

The Children – in – Agriculture Programme (CIAP) is a research and development initiative aimed at human capital development focusing on children and youths for effective harnessing and for motivating them towards active participation in the agricultural and rural development process?

The total development of young people to prepare them for their role as useful citizens. According to Shuluwa (2001), our children have the great task of taking over the mantle of leadership in all spheres of life, including agriculture after our exit from active life. They have to meet this challenge not by rioting, not by tearing down their schools, not protesting and demonstrating, not by indulging in cult activities; but by working hard, by building on the foundations of our society and by co-operation. Eaton (1970) stated that youth organizations provide a framework within which a large segment of youths are motivated to spend part of their leisure time in task-oriented groups. The youths combine fun seeking, learning and comradeship with the acquisition of self-confidence, reinforced by the experience that their activities enjoy much social support. In the same vein Nnadozie and Ugwu (2000) stated that the aim of training children in agriculture, is to improve their lives in ways they themselves can sustain especially through the young farmers organization. It was based on the premise that the youths must participate in and determine what is best for them, their families and communities. Since the inception of Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) in 1986, most Nigerian families were unable to meet their needs.

The identified problem is that despite various youths programmes carried out by various government and NGOs, the urban youths are targeted at the expense of their rural counterparts. Nnadozie (2001) and Uzoigwe (2001) pointed out that lack of effective rural youths programme results to rural urban migration.

The board objective of this study was to determine the various youth's activities in rural markets of Enugu and Anambra States towards income generation; while the specific objective are to:

- (a) determine the socio-economic variables of the youths involved in rural markets activities;
- (b) find out the reasons that have influenced the youths' interest in income generation;
- (c) evaluate the problems and prospects of these activities on youths and
- (d) make recommendations for policy on rural youths programmes based on findings.

METHODOLOGY

Descriptive survey research approach was employed to determine youths' involvement in income generation activities in twelve rural markets of Enugu and Anambra states. Three youths were randomly selected in each of the six purposively selected rural markets in Anambra and Enugu State in July and August 2003.

Multi - stage random sampling technique was in the subject selection and study areas. In each state, a list of rural and urban market were made, out of this, six rural markets were selected from three local government areas. This means that in each LGA, only two rural markets and three youths in each market were selected. This gave 18 youths in each state and a total of 36 youths in both Anambra and Enugu state. The markets, communities and states surveyed were shown in table 1 (A & B). Relevant data were collected by use of structured interview schedule. Data analysis was achieved by application of simple statistics as percentage and means.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Table 1A: List of some rural markets in Enugu and Anambra States.

(a) Anambra State

S/N	COMMUNITY	MARKET	L.G.A.
1.	Umudioka	Afor-Igwe	Dunukofia
2.	Enugu-ukwu	Nkwo	Njikoka
3.	Abagana	Oye-agu	Njikoka
4.	Nnewi	Nkwo	Nnewi North
5.	Ifitedunu	Nkwo	Dunukofia
6.	Awkuzu	Nkwo	Oyi
7.	Awka	Eke	Awka south
8.	Achala	Oye	Awka south
9.	Ihiala	Nkwo ogbe	Ihiala
10.	Umunze	Nkwo	Orumba south
11.	Ekwulobia	Eke	Aguata
12.	Ogbunike	Oye-olisa	Oyi

(b) Enugu State

S/N	COMMUNITY	MARKET	L.G.A.
1.	Adani	Oye	Uzo-Uwani
2.	Ede-oballa	Eke	Nsukka
3.	Agbani	Eke	Nkanu West
4.	Aku-Diewa	Eke	Igbo-etti
5.	Ukehe	Nkwo ogbede	Igbo-etti
6.	Opanda-Nimbo	Nkwo	Uzo-Uwani
7.	Ehaamufu	Afor	Isuzo
8.	Orba	Orie	Udenu
9.	Ugwuogo	Orie	Enugu East
10.	Amagunze	Eke	Nkanu East
11.	Nike	Nkwo	Enugu East
12.	Nkerefi	Eke	Nkanu East

Source: Field Data (2003)

Table 1B: List of Selected rural markets in Anambra and Enugu states

S/N	COMMUNITY	MARKET	L.G.A.
1	Umuidoka	Afor-Igwe	Dunukofia
2	Ifitedunu	Nkwo	Dunukofia
3	Awkuzu	Nkwo	Oyi
4	Ogbunike	Oye-olisa	Oyi
5	Enugu-ukwu	Nkwo	Njikoka
6	Abagana	Oye-agu	Njikoka

B. Enugu State

S/N	COMMUNITY	MARKET	L.G.A.
1	Adani	Oye	Uzo-uwani
2	Opanda-Nimbo	Nkwo	Uzo-uwani
3	Aku-Diewa	Eke	Igbo-etiti
4	Ukehe	Nkwo-Ogbede	Igbo-etiti
5	Amagunze	Eke	Nkanu East
6	Nkerefi	Eke	Nkanu East

Source: Field data (2003)

Data result on table 2 showed that 50 percent of the youths fall within the age range of 11 – 15 and 25 percent in the age range of 16 – 19 years while 16.7 percent are those between 20 – 25 years with 8.3 percent others fall between 26 – 30 years. This means that those in age brackets of 11 – 19 are more energetic. These groups form the bulk of those involved in income generating activities in rural markets of the study areas.

Table 2: Age Distribution of Respondents

Age (Years)	No of Resp	Percentage
11 – 15	18	50
16 – 20	9	25
21 – 25	6	16.7
26 – 30	3	8.3
Total	36	100

Source: Field data (2003)

Table 3, of the result showed that 66.7 percent of the respondents are males while 33.3 percent of them were females. This implies that more males engage in income generating activities in rural markets than the females. This agreed with earlier observation by Ukpabi (1990) that in traditional communities with little opportunities for higher education, it is considered that making a girl work hard on the farm or in petty trading is good training for marriage. Moreover girls are more easily exposed to moral danger than the boys.

Table 3: Gender of the Respondents

Sex	No of Resp. (F)	Percentage
Male	24	66.7
Female	12	33.3
Total	36	100

Source: Field survey (2003)

Table 4: The Number of Siblings in the Respondents Families

Siblings (X)	No Of Resp (F)	Percentage	X
5	5	13.9	
6	6	16.6	7.25
7	11	30.6	
8	7	19.4	
9	5	13.9	
10	1	2.8	
11	1	2.8	
Total	36	100	7.25

Source: Field survey (2003)

Data on family size was shown on table 4. It reveals that majority of the respondents were seven in their families as represented by 30.6 percent of them. Those who were eight in family represented 19.4 percent. The next was those that were six in family with 16.6 percent. Those who were ten and twelve in the family had 2.8 percent respectively. The above showed that the number of siblings in the family is correlated to their involvement in income generation activities in rural markets of Enugu and Anambra State.

Table 5: Educational Background of Respondents

Qualification	No of Respondents	Percentage
Secondary School completed	22	61
Primary School completed	14	38.9
Total	36	100

Source: Field data (2003)

However, table 5 showed that virtual all the respondents are literate with 61 percent having full secondary education, while 38.9 percent others had primary schools education completed. More than 50 percent of them said that they were temporarily in the market in order to save to enable them further their education.

Table 6: The Ability of Respondents' Parents' income to meeting family needs

Income	No of Respondents	Percentage
Enough	10	27.8
Not Enough	26	72.2
Total	36	100

Source: Field survey (2003)

Data on table 6 showed parents' income capacity to meet family needs. It showed that 72.2 percent of the respondent agreed that their parents' income was not enough to meet their basic needs. Thus, the 27.2 percent of them who claimed that they had enough family income was very insignificant.

Table 7: Youths Enterprises and Sources of Income in Rural Markets

Enterprise/Income sources	No of Respondents	Percentage
Sales of agric. Products	10	27.8
Milling/Processing agric products	5	13.9
Operating provision stores	7	19.4
Hawking goods (items)	8	22.2
Serving as middle men	2	5.6
Others	4	11.1
Total	36	100

Source: Field data (2003)

Table 7 displayed the various enterprises and sources of income generation in the rural markets by the youths. The table shows that majority of the youths (27.8 percent) are into the sale of agricultural products. This agreed with the earlier assertion by Ijere (1992) that in rural community, agrarian occupation predominate others.

It was also observed that 22.2 percent of the respondents hawked goods items along the market roads. This was especially the case with those living around Oye-agu Awka to Onitsha exist; while in Enugu state, Nkwo Ogbede in Ukehe is along the Makurdi - Ninth mile highway and that of Nkwo Opanda Nimbo is at the tarred road of Ogoriugu. Adani Nsukka newly renovated Federal road. These access roads have made hawking a flourishing enterprise.

However, 13.4 percent of the respondents operate mills for processing agric products and 19.4 percent of them operated provision stores. The data also show that 11.1 percent of the youths were into

other enterprises, such as wears, meats, and carrying of loads for customers. There was also another group, which represented 5.6 percent of the respondents who served as middlemen. It implies that when put together agricultural products sales and processing accounted for 41.7 percent of the youth's enterprises in rural markets of Enugu and Anambra States of Nigeria.

Table 8: Prospects of Youths Involvement in Income Generation Enterprises in Rural Markets of Enugu and Anambra State

Prospects	No of Resp	Percentage
Participate in community dept.	5	13.9
Increased income	4	11.1
Better living std.	17	47.2
Gain more about business skill	10	27.8
Total	36	100

Source: Field data (2003)

Data on table 8 showed the prospects of youths involvement in rural market. It indicates that 42.7 percent of the youths had improved standard of living, 27.8 percent others increased their knowledge about business with 13.9 percent of the respondents participating actively in community development programme. However, 11.1 percent of the youths accepted that their income increased as they engaged in the rural market activities. It therefore, follows that their involvement had a positive correlation with increased social economic status.

Table 9: Constraints Faced by Youths in Income Generation Activities

Problems	No of Resp.	Percentage
Incessant Market dues/levies	5	13.9
Premises	8	22.2
Sexual assault	6	16.7
Inadequate fund for expansion	7	19.4
Injury from auto accidents	10	27.8
Theft	2	5.5
Total	36	100

Source: Field data (2003)

The constraints or problems associated with the rural market activities by the youths were as shown in table 9. It is glaring to note that 27.8 percent of them are exposed to bodily injuries by auto-accidents. About 22.2 percent of the youths lacked adequate trading stores while 16.7 percent other lacked adequate fund for expansion. It was also agreed by 13.9 percent of them that incessant market dues was a major problem facing them while 5.5 percent others highlighted theft as problems. However, 16.7 percent of them agreed that sexual assault posed as their major constraint as shown in table 9 of the study.

CONCLUSION

Based on data findings, the conclusion is that youth's involvement in rural market activities was positive in improving social-economic status and participation in males. It was concluded that agricultural related enterprise was the major enterprise of the youths since 41.7 percent was the share of this sector in the overall enterprises in rural markets of Enugu and Anambra states.

The study implicated road accident and lack of adequate fund as the major constraints of the participants. It is therefore, recommended that non governmental organizations and all three tiers of government should assist the youths in rural communities by harnessing their potentials, funding and training them in various enterprises within an organized market layout. The extension service can contribute to this through their various rural youth programmes.

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