GENDER ANALYSIS OF MULTIPLE JOBS HOLDING AMONG FARM FAMILIES IN SOUTH WESTERN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The issue of multiple jobs holding has been a major concern in recent times. Both male and female gender engaged in one or more jobs apart from their primary occupation. Of major concern is the rate at which Multiple Jobs holding increased among farm families and the attendant food shortage and insecurity witnessed in South Western Nigeria. The purpose of this study is to investigate multiple job holdings among farm family with the mind of examining the distribution among male and female gender and its effect on their farm, farm family and rural development in South Western Nigeria. A multi-stage random sampling technique was used in selecting 300 respondents from 30 communities in the study area. The results indicate that earning more income, better living standard, farm income diversification, meeting children's needs, security of income, and risk management are the major reasons why people work off the farm The study provide evidence of multiple jobs holding as a flexible mechanism for coping with changes in the economic environment facing the farming household. Multiple jobs holding are found not to have any negative health hazards on the farmers. However, it affects the home as well as the farm as it leads to reduced dedication to farm work and thereby reducing farm productivity. It affects social life, ability to look after children's welfare, causes divided loyalty and conflicting obligations at home as well as on the farm. There is a negative significant relationship between age, income, farm size and MJH. There is a positive significant relationship between educational status, family size, number of dependent relatives and MJH. There is no significant relationship between Gender and MJH.

Keywords: Gender, Farm families, Multiple Jobs

INTRODUCTION

Multiple jobs holding, according to Fuller (1990), have increased considerably in a number of countries in recent decades, particularly in the transition economies of Eastern Europe. In Russia, it almost doubled in the early 1990s, from 5.6 per cent in 1992 to 10.1 per cent in 1996. (Foley, 1997) Multiple job-holding has also grown in some industrialized market economy countries. According to Fuller (1991), multiple jobs holding has increased from 4.9 per cent to 6.2 per cent of employed workers between 1979 and 1989, most especially among female employees in the United States. In 1979, the multiple job-holding rate among women was only 60 per cent of that of men, the two rates were almost identical by 1996 (Foley, 1997). Researchers found that farm families had diversified their sources of income from the core farm business operation to include off-farm employment and alternative enterprises in order to maintain farm household incomes, defend farm equity as well as provide greater opportunity for retirement and family succession (Benediktsson, et al., 1990, Taylor and McCrostie Little, 1995). As observed by Taylor (2003) the agricultural sector of the economy has the highest incidence of multiple job-holding in New Zealand. Taylor emphasized that the

analysis of the 2001 Census data from New Zealand found that in 2002-2003, among 15 farm households, women were found to have a higher rate of multiple job-holding than men. For these women, there was an important relationship between their off-farm work and cycles of family development. The interview survey shows that a greater number of women worked full-time before having children and moved into part-time work as they returned to work in order to balance their paid work with their child-rearing responsibilities.

Information on multiple job-holding is however scanty for Developing countries. Yet the available evidence indicates a significant presence of multiple job-holding. The number of multiple jobholders in Brazil increased from 2.9 million in 1992 to 3.4 million (or 5 per cent of the total workforce) in 1999. These workers were on average working 21 hours per week in their secondary jobs. A much higher proportion of multiple job-holders were reported for Nepal, where more than 40 per cent of workers had secondary jobs in 1998-99. In Australia, a large percentage of professional Artists engaged in multiple jobs (Throsby, 2011)

In Nigeria, the issue of multiple jobs holding is very prominent especially among women but most of these jobs are not recognised. It is generally known that women constitute the vast majority of the people in the rural sector of most developing countries and perform several roles in Agricultural and rural development. According to the UNDP report (1996), most of the works in the society goes unrecognised and undervalued. The report emphasized that women in developing countries tend to carry uneven larger share of the workload than those in industrial countries. According to Ritche (1977), African women are responsible for 70 per cent of the food production and 50 per cent of domestic food storage in the country. The Economic Commission of Africa (ECA) estimated that women perform 60-80 per cent of the agricultural labour force. FAO (2002) reported that women constitute more than half of the population in rural areas, and that 18 per cent of the rural household is headed by women. The subsistence nature of agriculture in Africa, in general, which is characterised with small farm size, low productivity, low income and poor savings, affects the farm family, making them to live below poverty level of \$1 per day. To compound the problem is the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) of the 1980s as well as the current economic meltdown which geared the people to look for coping strategies for survival. The typical women's job of rearing progeny and looking after family welfare in terms of food, clothing, and schooling makes the women to carry the uneven share of the burden. According to Taylor (1995), men perform major farm role while women perform household role. While women commonly share ownership of the farm with their husbands, they seldom either shared or acknowledged responsibility for management of the farm. Rarely are women principal operators. Women act as "sounding boards" especially in terms of marketing and production. The role of women, according to Mcrosite et al (1998) is still commonly viewed, even by themselves, as an "extra pair of hands" – a euphemism for the hard and often invisible farm work they do. The heavy burden carried by women geared them to engage in multiple jobs to sustain family living.

This study is concerned with investigating gender analysis of multiple jobs holding and its effect on farming, farm family and rural development in South Western Nigeria. Specifically, the study aims at:

- 1. Examining the proportion of male and female farming households that engaged in multiple jobs
- 2. Investigating the various jobs engaged in by male and female gender
- 3. Examining the reasons behind multiple jobs holding
- 4. Interrogating the effect of multiple jobs holding on farm, farm family and rural development

HYPOTHESES

- 1. There is no significant difference between multiple jobs holding among male and female farm households.
- 2. There is no significant relationship between multiple jobs holding and farmers socio-economic status.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Multiple jobs holding refer to a situation whereby people engage in more than one job. It is a practice used as coping strategies for the economic survival of the family.

Multiple job holding (MJH) is common to all fields of endeavour. For instance, Mcla1ren (2001) discovered that MJH is associated with the actualization of employment and more flexible work patterns in Western societies, a move from the so called 'standard' work. The apparent trend to non-standard employment is in effect a move away from 'full time' work over a basic week. According to him, the change is attributed to processes such as economic globalization and decentralized, non-unionized labour bargaining over work terms and conditions. The reasons for engaging in multiple jobs, according to Chapman (2000), vary among employers and workers. Employees are motivated primarily by the need to build a sufficient level of individual or household's income. Low skill workers and households with low income hold multiple jobs to pay for necessities. High income professionals also engage in multiple jobs to build a higher income and are motivated by the personal and family benefits from flexible employment. According to Thomas (1995), the percentage of workers holding multiple jobs increased with education and remains stable over earning classes. One of the significant changes that affect farm households in developing countries, according to OECD (2001), is the significant increase in participation in off-farm employment among women farmers.

Weersink *et al* (1998) hold the view that multiple jobs holding is a flexible mechanism that helps dairy farm families in the United States of America and Canada to adjust to changes in economic environment. They maintained that MJH is a self- insurance activity that can minimize the impact of down- turns in farm incomes

Taylor and Mcrosite Little (1995) found that in New Zealand, the additional income received by the two-third of the off-farm employment households, was either very important or important to their farm finances. It was noted that off-farm works assisted the process of farm succession for two sons and concluded that off-farm income remains important for providing extra financial power for expenditures on items such as clothing, education, children education, children activities, and holidays as well as to the self-esteem of individuals employed. Off-farm work is seen as a means by which farm households can manage risks through diversification of income. Goliath (2007), however views MJH as a means by which time and management experiences have been pulled away from farming. Also Smith (2007) notes that the increased relevance on off-farm employment may have implied less attention to issues important to farm productivity such as adoption of best management practices, integrated pest management and precision farming. She further emphasized that the extent to which off farm employment pulls away off farm efforts may result in farm growth inhibitions and less efficient farm may result.

Multiple jobs holding is common among both male and female genders as well as across region and age. For instance, according to Taylor *et al* (1997), both males and females are heavily engaged in non-farm employment but women are identified to be more involved than men. Taylor *et al* (2003) note that MJH rate is consistently higher for women than for men in the farming sector industries. Women in education noted how they had developed their career

through multiple jobs. They emphasized how they were using their qualification to benefit from their social contacts outside the farm, developed community relationships, and strengthened their personal development. Several research reports on farm women show that there is an important relationship between non-farm work of farm women and the cycles of family and farm development. Multiple jobs holding are also common to both rural and urban areas. For instance, Puller (1990) confirms the effect of multiple jobs holding in rural areas which were stimulated by successive climatic events such drought and difficulties faced by farmers due to low commodity prices. Le-Heron (1991) found that farm families generally had diversified their source of income from the core family business operation to include offfarm employment and alternative enterprises. Taylor *et al* (1997) added that multiple jobs helped to maintain farm household income, while it defended and provided greater opportunities for retirement and family successions. Age wise, multiple jobs holding cut across all ages, increases at early productive ages but decreases as one gets older.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in three states of South Western Nigeria- Oyo, Ondo and Ekiti. A multistage random sampling technique was used to select three hundred respondents from thirty communities and towns (Ado, Ikere, Ikole, Ijero, Ikoro, Ode, Agbado, Imesi, Omuo and Ilawe from Ekiti State, Akure, Owo, Ondo, Okitipupa, Ikare, Akungba, Iju, Igbaraodo, Ilaramokin and Arigidi from Ondo State, Ibadan, Ogbomoso, Aba Osoro, Abaoloko, Idewure, Shakiimini, Ata Olamokun, and Atan- in Oyo State)

A structured pre-tested interview schedule was designed and used to elicit information from the respondents on their demographic characteristics, various jobs as well as the notable changes/ effect of such jobs on farm family, farm and rural development. Frequency counts, percentages, as well as log it regression model were used in data analysis while a five-point likert scale of Strongly agree, agree, undecided, Disagree and Strongly Disagree were employed determining the reasons for engaging in multiple jobs as well as the effects of multiple jobs holding on primary occupation, farmers health and family welfare of the respondents. Parts of the figures were represented in pie chart and graph.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Socioeconomic Characteristics

Data in table 1 shows that majority (53.3%) of the respondents were males while 46.7 per cent were females. Eighty-five per cent of the respondents were within the age range of 26-50 years, 8.3 percent were within 51-60years while 6.7 per cent were above 60 years. The respondents had low educational status with 35.0 per cent having secondary education, 22.7 per cent having primary education and 25.3 per cent with no formal education at all. Only 17.0 per cent had tertiary education. The respondents had a large family size with 36.5 per cent having family size of above seven members, 43.3 per cent have between 4-6 family members. Majority (62.7%) had 1-2 dependant relatives, while 15.0 per cent had 3-4 dependants.

It could be deduced from the above that majority of the respondents are males and relatively young but with low educational status. They had large family sizes as well as dependants. The low educational status might affect their attitude to adoption of improved farm practices. This might be the reason behind their small scale farming. The large family size is typical of African nations. Most of the people in the Nigerian local settings have one or more relatives staying /living with them. An attempt to meet the needs of these respondents might necessitate their craving for more jobs outside their primary occupation.

Variable		Frequency (300)	Percentages	
Sex	Male	160	53.3	
	Female	140	46.7	
Age	<30 years	56	18.7	
	31-40years	75	25.0	
	41-50years	124	41.0	
	51-60years	25	8.3	
	>60 years	20	6.7	
Marital Status	Single	57	19.0	
	Married	198	66.0	
	Divorced	27	9.0	
	Widowed	18	6.0	
Highest Level of	No Formal Education	76	25.3	
Education	Primary Education	68	22.7	
	Secondary Education	105	35.0	
	Tertiary Education	51	17.0	
Family Size	<4	60	20.0	
	4-6 years	130	43.3	
	7-9 years	90	30.0	
	>9 years	20	6.7	
Dependent Relatives	None	67	22.3	
	1-2	188	62.7	
	3-4	45	15.0	
Area of farm	Arable Crop Production	167	55.3	
specialization	Cash Crop Production	47	15.7	
	Poultry Production	56	18.7	
	Small Ruminant Production	31	10.3	
Farm Size(n=234)	Less than 2 ha	183	78.2	
	2-5ha	51	21.8	
Size of birds (n=66)	<500	25	37.9	
	501-1000	15	22.7	
	1001-1500	16	24.2	
	1500-2000	10	15.2	
Access to Credit	Yes	107	35.7	
facilities	No	193	64.3	
Farming	0-5	21	7.0	
Experience(yrs)	6-15	158	52.7	
	16-25	66	22.0	
	26-30	55	18.3	

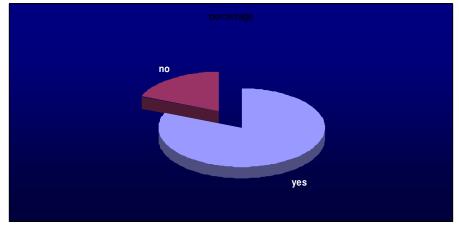
Table 1. Socio-economic Characteristics of the respondents

Source: Author's Field Survey, 2010.

Majority (62.3%) of the respondents produce arable crops, 15.7 per cent produce cash crops while 22.0 per cent rear animals. Majority (78.0%) had less than two hectares of land, while 5 per cent were medium scale farmers with about 5 hectares of land. None of the respondents had above five hectares of farm land. Those that rear animals were poultry farmers whose birds were not more than 2000.

Nature of Multiple Jobs Holding

Figure 1 shows that 81.0 per cent of the respondents engaged in multiple jobs while only 19.0 per cent did not engage any other job other than farming. Of the number that engaged in multiple jobs, 40.0 per cent engaged in only one job apart from the primary occupation, 22.0 per cent engaged in two jobs while 19.0 per cent engaged in three other jobs apart from their primary occupation (Figure 2). While investigating the types of jobs they engaged in, data in table 2 shows that the jobs engaged in by both male and female respondents differ. Above 10 per cent of the male respondents engaged in religious works such as pastors and church founders, 8.2 per cent were motorcycle '*okada*' riders followed by motor drivers (4.9%), 3.3 per cent were dry-cleaners, 2.5 per cent were furniture makers, 2.9 per cent were tailors while 2.1 per cent were part-time teachers, photographers and cobblers' respectively. About 1.2 per cent was food vendors while 0.8 per cent engaged in buying and selling. Majority of the females (18.9%) on the other hand engaged in cooking and selling of foods and snacks, 15.2 per cent were hair dressers, 2.5 per cent were religious workers while 2.1 per cent engaged in buying and selling of various items, 6.6 per cent took up tailoring, 4.9 per cent were hair dressers, 2.5 per cent were religious workers while 2.1 per cent engaged in buying and selling of coasions.



Source: Author's Field Survey, 2010.

Figure 1. Engagement in Multiple jobs

It could be deduced from the above that majority of the male and female respondents took up secondary occupations in the area of service provider rather than production. Most of these jobs require low capital investment when compared with any aspect of agricultural production. The return on investment is usually high on the short-run when compared to agriculture and the gestation period is usually very short. These might be the reasons why they prefer them to other primary jobs. The male respondents engaged in fewer jobs when compared to the females. When looking at the secondary jobs in the areas of vocations, very few of them engaged in vocations such as tailoring, hairdressing and photography which require training and the purchase of equipment for use. This might be due to their poverty level and the huge amount of money required for establishing themselves. It is pertinent to note that a good percentage of the male respondents engaged in religious works as their secondary occupation. Reasons adduced for this include the fact that religious activities are

good sources of income for people without sweating as religious ethics commands the practitioners to pay tithes and offerings as these will determine what they receive in return from God. This might be the reason for the proliferation of churches in the Nigerian society. Also the large number of the male respondents as *Okada* riders should be seen as a thing of concern as so many young-able bodied men turned to the business as an easy way to survive without considering the implications on their health as well as the dangers inherent. A lot of human resources have been drawn away from other vocations including agriculture to *Okada* business thus paralysing these other sectors.

Reasons for Engaging in Multiple Jobs

Data in table 2 shows the various reasons for engaging in multiple jobs, while ranking these reasons, management of risk through income diversification ranked first followed by aspiration to improve standards of living. The desire to meet children's needs ranked third followed by the desire to earn more income while the need to acquire experience in other fields ranked 6th. The need to enjoy work variety/ work flexibility ranked 7th.

Reasons for engaging in Multiple jobs	SA	Α	U	D	SD	Т	М	С
To Earn More Income	700	140	114	44	08	1006	4.14	S
Better Living Standard	830	120	90	14	10	1064	4.38	S
Acquire Experience	375	240	30	176	10	831	3.42	S
Social Contact	210	80	120	162	50	622	2.56	NS
Planned Career Movement/Investment	165	176	60	232	30	663	2.72	NS
Risk Management Through Income	700	352	06	14	06	1078	4.44	S
Diversification	235	220	264	86	10	815	3.35	S
Enjoy Work Variety/ Flexibility	40	52	60	376	14	542	2.23	NS
Savings For Overseas Trip	640	240	105	24	08	1017	4.19	S
Meet Children's Need Security Of Income	390	260	84	104	20	858	3.53	S

Table 2	Reasons	for	engaging	in	multiple jobs	
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Source: Author's Field Survey, 2010.

Planned career movement/investment ranked 8th. Social contact took the 9th position while savings for overseas trip came last. Further efforts were made to distinguish which of the reasons is statistically significant or not significant. This is done by finding the mean. Any figure below the mean (mean=3) is referred to as not significant. Of the ten reasons listed for engaging in multiple jobs, only three are found not to be significant. These are planned career movement /investment, with a mean of 2.7, Social contact (mean=2.6), and savings for overseas trip (mean=2.2) (See Table 2).

Effects of Multiple job holdings on Primary Occupation, Health and Farm family

Efforts were made to find the effects of MJH on the farmers, their primary occupation and health. Ten variables were listed as effects of multiple jobs holding among farm families. Of all the variables, better children education ranked 1st, this is followed by positive financial

effect. Less dedication to primary occupation ranked third followed by reduced farm productivity. Reduced social life ranked 5th followed by inability to look after children's welfare. Conflicting obligations ranked 7th while divided loyalty ranked 8th. Negative health hazards ranked 9th while caring/supporting other families took the last position, 10th. Also testing the level of significance, only two out of the ten variables on multiple jobs holding have no significant effect. These are care/ support for other families and negative health effect.

From the above, it could be deduced that MJH has both positive and negative effects on the farmers, and their farm and families. On the positive side, multiple jobs holding leads to better children's education and positive financial effect. Hence it could be said that MJH enables the farm family to generate more income used in enhancing their children's education as well as other home expenditures. The negative health effect found to be non significant might result from the ability to generate more income utilised to enhance standards of living, maintain a healthy environment as well as meet their health needs.

However, MJH poses more negative than positive effects on the farmers as it leads to less dedication to primary occupation-farming and reduced productivity. It affects social life and also reduces the ability to look after their children's welfare. It causes divided loyalty both at home as well as on the farm and results in conflicting obligations. It could be said that MJH leads to a shift in the agricultural sector to other jobs. This might be one of the reasons why Nigeria experiences a high level of food insecurity and thereby depends mainly on importation of foods such as rice. It is pertinent to note that apart from cassava and yam, the major food crops consumed in South Western Nigeria such as rice and cowpea are either imported or brought from the Northern part of Nigeria. Of the export crops; cocoa, cashew, oil palm and rubber, only cocoa maintains its position as a major export crop in the environment. Oil palm which was a major export crop in the 1970s, could not stand the test of time due lack of expansion witnessed in the sector. Rubber and cashew are no longer among the list of the major cash crops in the area.

Reasons for engaging in Multiple jobs	SA	Α	U	D	SD	Т	М	R	С
Conflicting Obligations	325	152	180	70	45	772	3.18	6^{th}	S
Positive Financial Effect	390	384	105	30	10	919	3.78	1^{st}	S
Limits To Social Life	130	180	138	160	46	654	2.69	9 th	NS
Negative Health Hazards	110	245	156	160	40	711	2.93	8^{th}	NS
Inability To Look After Children	250	260	132	108	30	780	3.21	5^{th}	S
Divided Loyalty	250	180	180	88	44	742	3.05	7^{th}	S
Caring/Support Other Families	125	128	120	136	78	587	2.42	10^{th}	NS
Caring/ Supporting Children	300	272	165	90	15	842	3.47	2^{nd}	S
Reduced Dedication To Farm Work	250	268	165	92	25	800	3.29	4^{th}	S
Reduced Farm Productivity	275	280	198	58	27	838	3.45	3^{rd}	S

Table 3. Effect of Multiple Jobs on Primary Occupation, Farmers health and Family

Source: Author's Field Survey, 2010.

The poor social life of the MJH respondents might be as a result of their low inters- and intrapersonal relationship within the society. This in turn, might weaken commitment and

dedication to communal living, adherence to social norms and values thus resulting in a weak society. Despite the fact that MJH provides money to improve children's education, it has the negative effect of farmers' inability to look after the children's welfare (Table 3). The caring and raring of progeny which is mainly the responsibility of the mother has been shifted to nannies and day-care centres. This could be responsible for the high rate of deviant behaviours in our society. Cultism in schools is at a higher level, armed robbery is increasing at an alarming rate, a new wave is kidnapping. There are cases of children, wives, and even aged parents being kidnapped while ransom is usually demanded for release. Internet fraud is predominant among school children especially the youths. Conflicting obligation as well as divided loyalty both in the farm and home front is expected as a servant cannot serve two masters faithfully. The servant would be loyal to one and be disloyal to the other, hence the reasons while the farm and the home front suffers.

Variable	Coefficients	Standard Deviation
AGE	-0.123 **	0.0128
MST	0.295	0.535
EDSTATUS	0.223*	0.101
FMLYSIZE	0.689*	0.265
FARMSIZE	-0.498*	0.260
FEXP	1.042	1.910
GENDER	0.190	0.380
DRELATIVES	0.121**	0.019
INCOME	- 0.724*	0.187

Table 4. Results of the Logit Regression Model

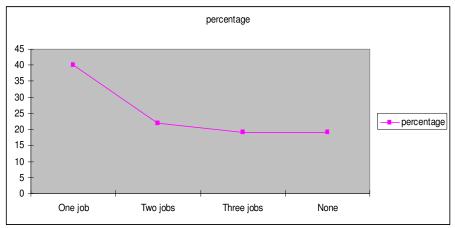
* Significant 5%

** Significant at 1%

Source: Data Analysis, 2010

Data in table 4 shows the result of the Logit model used in analysing whether there is a significant relationship between gender, socioeconomic characteristics of the respondents and Multiple Jobs Holding. There is a negative relationship between Age (-0.123), Income (-0.724), Farm Size (-0.498) and MJH. This shows that as the respondents increase in age, the tendency to engage in Multiple Jobs decreases. With reference to income, the higher the income, the lower the possibility of MJH. The negative relationship existing between MJH and farm size implies that the larger the size, the lower the need/ ability to hold multiple jobs There is a positive relationship between educational status (0.223), Family size (0.689), Number of dependent relatives (0.121) and MJH. This implies that the higher the level of education of the respondents the higher the possibility of engaging in multiple jobs. This is supported by Thomas (1995) findings which state that the percentages of workers holding multiple jobs increased with education and remain stable over earning classes. This is expected as the educational status of the respondents increases, the more enlightened they become and their exposure to various means of generating income to meet their needs.

Moreover, the positive significant relationship between family size, dependent relatives and MJH implies the larger the family size and dependants, the greater the need for MJH. There is no significant relationship between gender and Multiple Jobs Holding. This contradict the findings of Taylor *et al* (2003), who notes that MJH rate is consistently higher for women than for men in the farming sector industries.



Source: Author's Field Survey, 2010

Figure 2. Number of jobs engaged in apart from primary Occupation

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Majority of the farm families holding multiple jobs are young, married, of large family size and dependants but low educational status. Most of them are experienced in farming, produce mostly arable crops with small farm sizes. Majority of them have no access to credit facilities. They engaged in additional lor 2 jobs additional jobs apart from their primary occupation. Reasons given for holding multiple jobs include: to earn income, better living standard, income diversification, meet children's needs, security of income, planned career movement, risk management, savings for overseas trip and to enjoy job flexibility. Of all the reason adduced, only three were found not to be significant for MJH. These are planned career movement, social contact as well as savings for overseas trip. MJH leads to increased income which is mainly used to enhance children's education. It is also found not to have any negative health hazards. However, it affects the home as well as the farm as it leads to reduced dedication to farm work and thereby reducing farm productivity. It also affects social life, ability to look after children's welfare, causes divided loyalty and conflicting obligations at home as well as on the farm. MJH is common among farmers with large family size as well as dependants. It is high among the young farmers than the aged ones. There is a negative significant relationship between age, income, farm size and MJH. There is a positive significant relationship between educational status, family size, number of dependent relatives and MJH. There is no significant relationship between Gender and MJH.

Based on the above, it is recommended that efforts should be made to encourage the increase in the farm size of the farmers through micro-credits. It is expected that as the farm size of farmers increases, so is the income generated. This would help in meeting the divergent needs of the farmers. People should be encouraged to take up farming as a business and career through provision of farm support in forms of improved seeds, agrochemicals and fertilizers. These would enhance their productive capacity. The female gender should be provided with lands for farming as limited land and the reliance on spouse for farmland is found as a major

factor inhibiting their production. Government should help in stabilising farm prices by embarking on the purchase of farm products, to improve the earnings of farmers on their products and prevent cheap sales during excess market supply. More emphasis should be placed on awareness campaigns on birth control measures among farmers to curtail large family size. Social welfare packages should be introduced in Nigeria to argument family needs.

605

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