
Welfare Deprivation of Women in Rural North-West, Nigeria

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Abstract: Women are important segment of the human population and appropriate investment in their welfare would be of great benefit at individual, household, and community levels. There has been an increasing incidence of welfare deprivation among women in rural Nigeria. Thus this study examined the welfare deprivation of women in rural North-West (NW) Nigeria. Secondary data from Nigeria Demographic Health Survey (NDHS, 2013) was used for this study and 6798 rural women were sampled in the survey. Data analysis was done using descriptive statistics, fuzzy analysis and logit regression. The mean age of women in NW is 30 years and a standard deviation of 9. Majority of the women in NW had no formal education (85.80%) and this is a major contributor to women's welfare. Women in this region have a mean household size of 7 and this had an effect on their deprivation status. The Deprivation Index for rural women ranges from 0.01 to 0.82 with a mean value of 0.30. Educational attainment, employment type, household size, marital status, age of the woman, state of residence determines a woman's deprivation status in rural NW. The study concluded that women are deprived in rural NW. Government and non-Governmental Organisations should put in place measures to augment human capacity development of the women in NW through increased school funding in order to overcome the financial constraints of parents involvement in educating up-coming generations.

Keywords: Asset, Deprivation, North-West Nigeria, Welfare, Women

1. Introduction

Deprivation is a state of observable and demonstrable disadvantage relative to the local community or the wider society or nation to which the individual, family or group belongs [20] [18]. This disadvantage may be with regard to food, clothing, housing condition, or lack of education and exclusion from the decision-making class among others. A person is therefore considered deprived to the extent that he falls short of the level attained by his contemporaries within the same society, or below generally acceptable social status [19; 16]. Women play a very vital role in the development of communities and nations. Development is incomplete if it fails to comprehend the contributions of women [6]. Women in the North-West are particularly deprived compared to their counterpart in the south as a result of socio cultural norms and beliefs in their area where women are seen and treated as second class citizens. Women are married off early forfeiting their education and do not acquire the required skill to help

them in life. They are particularly dependent on their husbands who has to take care of three or four of such women and their children. Thus women are limited and they continually remain in poor. Welfare among women is determined not only by their health status, but from other dimensions like education, food and nutrition, housing and sanitation characteristics, asset ownership, autonomy, type of employment, information access, and others.

Several studies had considered the issue of welfare deprivation at individual and household level. [13] examined the level of welfare deprivation among riverine households in Southwestern Nigeria using five dimensions consisting of sixteen welfare indicators. Using the principal component analysis, the deprivation index of the households were aggregated into a three-component deprivation structure, namely: housing condition deprivation; health and nutrition deprivation; and social network deprivation. Considering the deprivation characteristics of the riverine households, access to public basic educational facilities as well as other stable

means of income than farming, fishing and natural resource collection activities- should be put in place to reduce their deprivation level in many of the indicated welfare dimensions.

Also, in the study on Gender Inequality in Multidimensional Welfare Deprivation in West Africa by [3]. The study made use of a counting approach to examine gender issues in Burkina Faso and Togo using household surveys, namely Enquête Intégrale sur les Conditions de Vie des Ménages (2009/2010) and Core Welfare Indicators Questionnaire (2011), respectively. It focused on six dimensions (housing, basic utilities, assets, education, employment and access to credit) largely recognized as MDG targets. Their findings indicated that overall individuals are the most deprived in education in Burkina Faso, while the reverse situation is true in Togo. Gender inequality was observed in all dimensions since women always seem to be more deprived than men. The situation was also marked by regional disparities. Moreover, the assessment of dimensional contributions showed different patterns for each country. While employment proves to be the main contributor of gender inequality in Burkina Faso, three dimensions (assets, access to credit and employment) accounted for most of the total contribution to gender inequality in Togo.

Poverty and deprivation is one of the fundamental challenges of our contemporary world [17]. [5] revealed that more than a billion people live below US\$1.25 per day globally while about 1.75 billion persons suffer from multidimensional poverty, with deprivations in health, economic opportunities, education, and living standard. Greater proportion of poor people is found in developing countries, with Africa accounting for the largest. Several countries across the globe are narrowing the rich-poor gap; however, the gap appears to be widening in Africa. [7] noted that "poverty, slow economic growth, and unequal income and wealth distribution are endemic in African countries". Nigeria, the largest Black country in the world, is characterized by high rate of poverty despite her economic fortune [17]. According to [11], the incidence of poverty in Nigeria increased from about 27.2% in 1980 to 46.3% in 1985. It decreased marginally to 42.7% in 1992 and rose to 65.6% in 1996. Conversely, the rate declined to 54.4% in 2004 and increased again to 69.0% in 2010. The proportion of the Nigerian population living in absolute poverty rose from 54.7% in 2004 to 60.9% in 2010. It is in view of this that this study proffered answers to these research question

1. What is the welfare deprivation status of women in North West?

2. What are the factors influencing their deprivation status?

Objectives

The main objective of this study is to estimate the welfare deprivation of women in rural North-West Nigeria. It was achieved through the following research question

1. To analyse the welfare deprivation status of women in North West.

2. To determine the factors influencing their deprivation status

2. Method

2.1. Study Area

The area of study for this research is rural North-West Nigeria. North- West geopolitical zone is one of the six geopolitical zones in Nigeria. Secondary data from Nigeria Demographic Health Survey [12] was used for this study. The sample for the 2013 NDHS was a stratified sample, selected independently in three stages from the sampling frame. Stratification was achieved by separating each state into urban and rural areas. Information from 6798 women were used for this study.

2.2. Analytical Procedure

Descriptive statistics fuzzy set theory and logit regression were used in this study. The descriptive statistics used include percentages, frequency distribution tables, and the mean.

2.2.1. Fuzzy Set Analysis

This was used to estimate the deprivation status of women. The fuzzy set substitutes the characteristic function of a crisp set that assigns a value of 1 or 0. Large values denote high degree of membership. [9; 8]. The degree of deprivation is shown by the placement of the individual on the 0 or 1 value or other values in-between. The model is considered as follows:

Assume a population A of n individuals, $A = (a_1, a_2, a_3 \dots a_n)$. A fuzzy subset B includes all individuals with $a_i \in B$. The degree of deprivation of the ith individual ($i=1, \dots, n$) with respect to a particular attribute j given that ($j = 1, \dots, m$) is defined as:

$$\mu_{B|X_j}(a_i) = x_{ij}, 0 \leq x_{ij} \leq 1 \text{ where:} \quad (1)$$

$x_{ij} = 1$; condition of total lack of welfare attribute (state of deprivation)

$x_{ij} = 0$; condition of full possession of welfare attribute

$0 \leq x_{ij} \leq 1$; conditions within the range of lack and full possession

The variables that define indicators of welfare are either dichotomous or categorical in nature.

Dichotomous Variables

These are answered by either Yes or No; with the yes being a state of wellbeing and the No, a state of deprivation. Following [14], from a universal set of A individuals, we define the membership function of fuzzy subset of B for the ith individual ($i=1, \dots, n$) that possesses the jth welfare attribute ($j=1, \dots, m$) as:

$$\mu_{B|X_j}(a_i) = x_{ij}, \quad (2)$$

$X_j(a_i)$ is the m order of welfare attributes that will result in a state of wellbeing if totally or partially owned by the ith woman.

$x_{ij} = 1$, if the ith individual possesses the jth attribute

$x_{ij} = 0$, if the ith individual does not possess the jth wellbeing attribute.

Categorical Variables

Categorical variables present themselves in a range of

values, rather than just two values. Expressing the membership function for these variables take the form:

$$\mu_{\beta_j}(x_j(a_i)) = x_{ij} \quad (3)$$

Where C_{\max} is the value that depicts high level of deprivation in the j^{th} attributes, which translates to lowest level of welfare; while C_{\min} is the lowest level of deprivation in the j^{th} attribute which indicates highest level of welfare in the a_i^{th} woman. Thus, the modalities are arranged in decreasing order of welfare attainment C_{ij} values are the intermediate values within the two thresholds, which depicts the position of the a_i^{th} woman within the modalities set forth.

$$x_{ij} = C_{\min} - C_{ij} / C_{\min} - C_{\max}, \text{ if } C_{\max} \leq C_{ij} \leq C_{\min} \quad (4)$$

so that $0 \leq x_{ij} \leq 1$

In specifying the well-being index for the population of women, following [15, 14, 2] it is expressed as:

$$\mu_{\beta}(a_i) = \sum_{j=1}^n x_{ij} w_j / \sum_{j=1}^m w_j \quad (5)$$

Where w_j is the weight given to the j^{th} attribute. $\mu_{\beta}(a_i)$ measures the degree of well-being of the i^{th} individual as a weighting function of m attributes/ indicators.

Selected Dimensions and Methods of Evaluation are presented in table 1 were used for this study.

Table 1. Selected Dimensions and Method of Evaluation.

Indicator	Selected criteria	Deprivation
Housing and Sanitation		
Source of drinking water	Pipe borne water and treated 1=improved, 0=otherwise	0=non deprived, 1=deprived
Toilet facility	1=improved, 0=otherwise	0=non deprived, 1=deprived
Main floor material	1=improved, 0=otherwise	0=non deprived, 1=deprived
Main wall material	1=use of finished material, 0=otherwise	0=non deprived, 1=deprived
Main roof material	1=use of finished product, 0=otherwise	0=non deprived, 1=deprived
Autonomy		
	Husbands take decisions alone=4	
Final say on travel to market and outside village/community	Women and husband take decision=3 Women take decisions with another person=2 Women take decisions alone=1	0=non deprived, 1=deprived
Final say on own health	Same as above	0=non deprived, 1=deprived
Final say on visit to friends and relatives	Same as above	0=non deprived, 1=deprived
Final say on making large household purchases	Same as above	0=non deprived, 1=deprived
Final say on money spending.	Same as above	0=non deprived, 1=deprived
Final say on husband's earnings	Same as above	0=non deprived, 1=deprived
Health and Nutrition		
Place of delivery	Deliver in health facility=1, 0=otherwise	0=non deprived, 1=deprived
Antenatal care	Receive ante natal care from skilled attendant =1, 0=otherwise	0=non deprived, 1=deprived
Skilled attendant during delivery	Attended to by skilled attendant during delivery=1, 0=otherwise	0=non deprived, 1=deprived
Body Mass Index (BMI)	18.5kg/m ² to 25.0kg/m ² =1 <18.5kg/m ² and >25.0kg/m ² =0	0=non deprived, 1=deprived
Education		
	woman with no formal education=4 woman with primary education=3 woman with secondary education=2 woman with tertiary education=1	0=non deprived, 1=deprived
level of educational attainment	Women who can read part of a sentence or a whole sentence will be regarded as literate. A value of 1 will be assigned, 0= otherwise	0=non deprived, 1=deprived
Literacy		
Employment		
	Currently employed=1, 0= otherwise Unemployed=4	
Employment status	Skilled and Unskilled manual employment=3	0=non deprived, 1=deprived
Employment type	Agricultural and allied sector=2 Non Agriculture=1	

Source: Authors' computations from the 2013 DHS data.

2.2.2. Logit Regression

Logit regression model was used to achieve objective two which is to determine the factors influencing the deprivation status of women. This identified the variables that significantly influence asset ownership by women. Logit regression analysis extends the techniques of multiple regression analysis to research situations in which the outcome variable is categorical. The model for logistic regression analysis assumes that the outcome variable Z is

categorical (e. g. dichotomous) and models the probabilities associated with the value of Z . The dependent Variable (Y) is dichotomous and takes the value 1 for the deprived individual and 0 for the non-deprived individual.

The logit model postulates the probability (P_i) that a woman's deprivation status is a function of an index (Z_i)

Where:

(Z_i) is an inverse of the standard logistic cumulative function of P_i i. e. $P_i(y) = f(Z_i)$

Variable	Jigawa		Kaduna		Kano		Kastina		Kebbi		Sokoto		Zamfara	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Head	81	7.53	14	2.35	53	4.12	25	15.15	11	1.15	9	0.95	15	1.59
Wife	873	81.13	543	91.11	1129	87.72	100	60.61	903	94.75	96.9	96.93	915	96.83
Daughter and others	122	11.34	39	6.54	105	8.16	40	24.24	39	4.09	20	2.12	15	1.59
Occupation type														
Unemployed	474	44.05	234	39.26	387	30.07	308	30.92	361	37.88	504	53.33	323	34.18
Skilled and Unskilled	182	16.91	31	5.20	337	26.18	102	10.24	80	8.39	135	14.29	93	9.84
Agric sector	16	1.49	39	6.54	9	0.70	24	2.41	51	5.35	1	0.11	10	1.06
Service sector	404	37.55	292	48.99	554	43.05	562	56.43	461	48.37	305	32.28	519	54.92
Total	1076	100	596	100	1287	100	996	100	953	100	945	100	945	100

Source: Authors' computations from the 2013 DHS data.

Table 4. Distribution of Rural Women by their Health and Nutrition status.

Category	Frequency	Per cent
Ante natal care		
Skilled Attendant	956	14.06
Non Skilled Attendant	5842	85.94
Assistance during delivery		
Skilled Attendant	273	4.02
Non Skilled Attendant	6525	95.98
Place of delivery		
Health facility	340	5.00
Non health facility	6458	95.00
Body Mass Index		
Normal	4975	73.18
Abnormal (Thin and Obese)	1823	26.82

Source: Authors' computations from the 2013 DHS data.

Table 5. Distribution of Rural women by Autonomy.

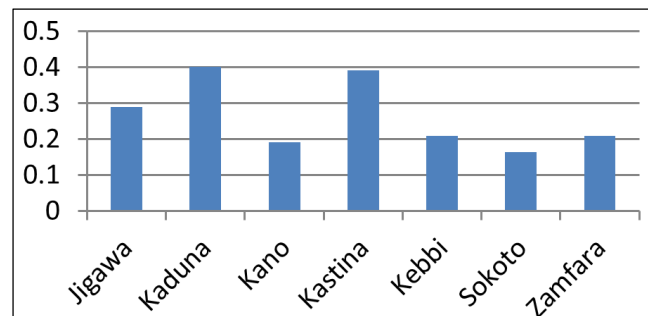
Category	Frequency	Per cent
Decision maker on how to spend respondent's earnings		
Respondents alone	3665	53.91
Respondents and Partner	190	2.79
Husband/partner alone	2932	43.18
Someone else and others	11	0.16
Decision maker on own health		
Respondents alone	45	0.66
Respondents and Partner	762	11.21
Husband/partner alone	5978	87.94
Someone else and others	13	0.19
Decision on large household purchases		
Respondents alone	38	0.56
Respondents and Partner	680	10.00
Husband/partner alone	6062	89.17
Someone else and others	18	0.27
Decision on visit to family/relatives		
Respondents alone	99	1.46
Respondents and Partner	1226	18.03
Husband/partner alone	5454	80.23
Someone else and others	19	0.28

Source: Author's computations from the 2013 DHS data.

Table 6. Distribution of Rural Women by their deprivation Index.

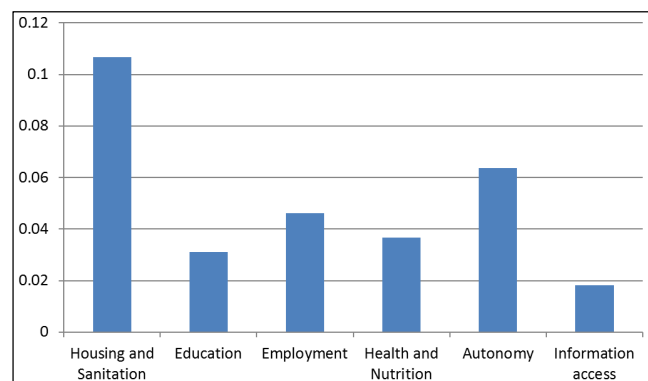
Deprivation Index	Frequency	Per cent
0.0000-0.1000	148	2.18
0.1001-0.2000	1167	17.17
0.2001-0.3000	2371	34.88
0.3001-0.4000	1896	27.89
0.4001-0.5000	761	11.19
0.5001-0.6000	324	4.77
0.6001-0.7000	112	1.65
0.7001-0.8000	18	0.26
0.8001-0.9000	1	0.01
0.9001-1.000	0	0.00
Total	6798	100

Source: Authors' computations from the 2013 DHS data.



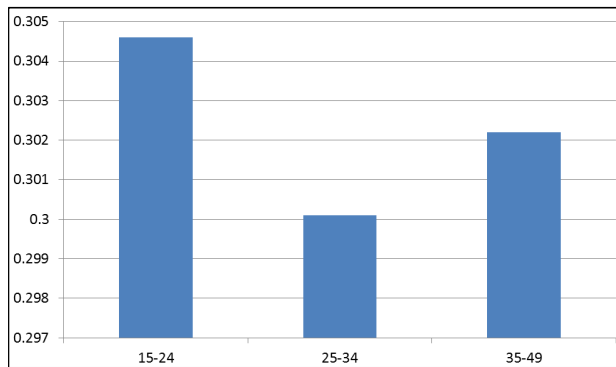
Source: Authors' computations from the 2013 DHS data.

Figure 1. Welfare deprivation Index across states.



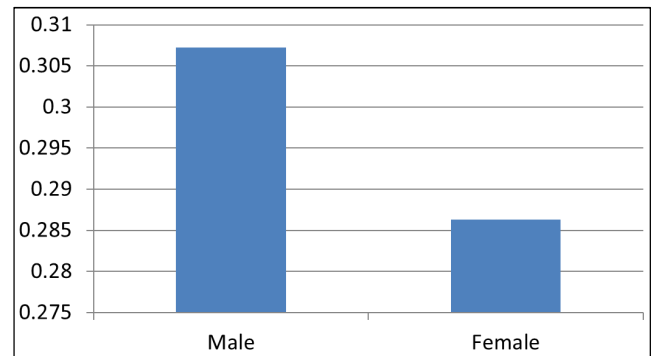
Source: Author's computations from the 2013 DHS data.

Figure 2. Multidimensional Deprivation Decomposition across Dimensions and Indicators.



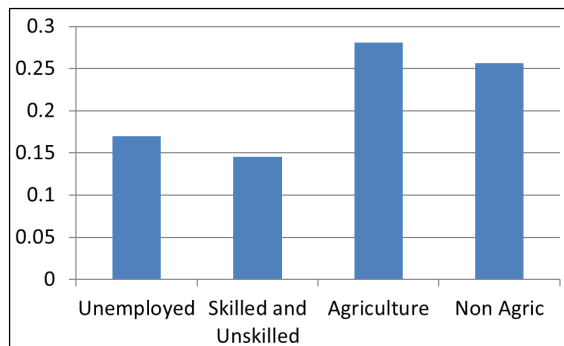
Source: Author's computations from the 2013 DHS data.

Figure 3. Multidimensional Deprivation Decomposition across Age.



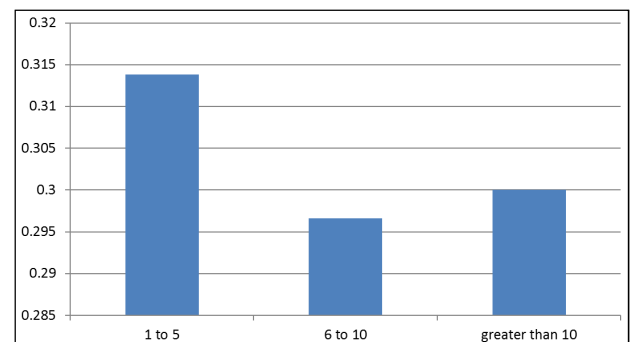
Source: Authors' computations from the 2013 DHS data.

Figure 5. Multidimensional Deprivation Decomposition across Gender of household head.



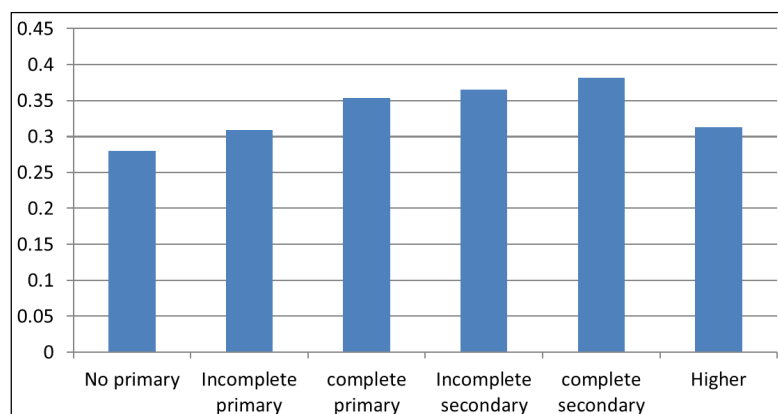
Source: Author's computations from the 2013 DHS data.

Figure 4. Multidimensional Deprivation Decomposition across Employment type.



Source: Author's computations from the 2013 DHS data.

Figure 6. Multidimensional Deprivation Decomposition across Household size.



Source: Authors' computations from the 2013 DHS data.

Figure 7. Multidimensional Deprivation Decomposition across Educational group.

Table 7. Factors influencing asset ownership by women.

Predictor variables	Coefficients	Standard error	Marginal effects
Individual level factors			
Age of women (b: 15-24 years) 25-34 years	0.0305	0.0749	0.0055
35-49 years	0.3096***	0.0784	0.0565***
Employment (b: unemployed)	-1.5955***	0.0889	-0.3283***
Skilled and Unskilled			
Agric and allied	-1.1332***	0.1842	-0.2315***
Services	-2.1829***	0.0699	-0.4396***
Educational attainment (b: no education)			
Incomplete primary	-0.5566***	0.1724	-0.1002***
Complete primary	-0.2190*	0.1208	-0.0401*

Predictor variables	Coefficients	Standard error	Marginal effects
Incomplete secondary	-0.5685***	0.1997	-0.1022***
Complete secondary	-0.2617	0.2071	-0.0479
Higher	-0.1609	0.4599	-0.0295
Household level factors			
Gender of household head (b: Male)			
Female	-0.3723	0.3156	0.0674
Marital status (Single)			
Married	1.8186***	0.2349	0.2859***
Household size (1-5)			
6-10	-0.2215***	0.0674	-0.0301***
>10	-0.5652***	0.0899	-0.0578***
Environmental factors (State: Sokoto)			
Zamfara	1.3994***	0.1089	0.2638***
Kastina	1.9555***	0.1113	0.3684***
Jigawa	0.8731***	0.1052	0.1612***
Kano	-0.3119***	0.1059	-0.0514***
Kaduna	1.3809***	0.1267	0.2602***
Kebbi	0.2993***	0.1082	0.0529***
Constant	-0.9430***	0.4027	
Log likelihood	-3715.989		
Chi square	1938.67		
Probability	0.0000		
Pseudo R square	0.2069		

Source: Author's computations from the 2013 DHS data.

*** P<0.01 significant at 1%, ** P<0.05 significant at 5%, * P<0.1 significant at 10%.

4. Discussion

4.1. Socio Economic Characteristics

In table 2, 34.47% of women fall within the age range of 25-34 followed by those within the age range of 35-49 (33.63 per cent) in North West (NW) Geopolitical zone. The mean age of women is 30 with a standard deviation of 9. This implies that we have more middle aged women in rural NW and this may be because women in this zone marry early. Majority of the women in this zone no educational attainment (85.80%). Women that had complete primary education were 6.38% while 2.06% had complete secondary education. According to the universal basic education that recommends that a girl child should have a minimum of nine years of education, based on this 11.21% of women in the southern region are educated. Women in this region have a mean household size of 7. Most of the women are married (97.63%). Women that are employed in the service sector are 45.56% followed by those that are unemployed (38.11%) with 14.12% employed in the agriculture and allied sector. Most women in this region belong to a male headed households (91.69%) while only 2.87 percent are heads of households.

All the states in NW had a mean age of between 30 years in table 3, except Jigawa, Kaduna and Zamfara. Also all the states has a mean household size of 7 members except Kano that has a mean of eight members. Sokoto state has the highest percentage of women with no education (94.50%) while Kastina state has the highest percentage of women with complete primary education (11.55 percent). Based on the data used for this study Kano state has the highest number (1287) of women while Kaduna has the lowest number (596) in NW.

As shown in table 4, 85.94% of rural women in NW receive antenatal care from non skilled attendant. This is common in rural setting where most rural areas do not have health centres or even where one exists, there are no health personnel to attend to patients or rural women may have to trek long distances in search of medical care. Also, only 5.00% of women deliver in health facilities. Only 4.02% of women were assisted by skilled health personnel during delivery. In spite of government efforts to achieve the SDGs, rural women largely patronise traditional birth attendants and some even prefer to deliver at home without assistance. Little wonder why maternal mortality is on the increase in the rural areas. Women in general are disadvantaged in accessing health services which have always resulted in high sickness rate and mortality. In Nigeria, there are over 7 million live births annually, Only 61% of pregnant Nigerian women attend the WHO-recommended for ante natal care visits, and less than 60% of births are attended by a skilled birth attendant [11].

Table 5 shows that highest percentage of women (53.91%) take decisions alone in spending money while 43.18% of women's husband or partner decide on how they spend their money which is in line with the report given by [1, 2] that a larger percentage of women have autonomy on money spending. Observably, the distribution shows that making large household purchases, decision on own health and visits to friends and relatives representing 89.17%, 87.94%, and 80.23%, respectively are taken by their husbands or partners.

4.2. Multidimensional Welfare Deprivation of Women

Table 6 shows the distribution of rural women on their Deprivation status. The DI for rural women ranges from 0.01 to 0.82 with a mean value of 0.30. On the average, women in

rural NW Nigeria have DI between 0.2001-0.4000, thus are deprived this is in line with studies using unidimensional and multidimensional approach carried out in Nigeria [4] where women are believed to have low wellbeing. Using a multidimensional approach, the result is more pronounced with a larger number of women found to be worse off [2]. Figure 1 shows the deprivation index across states in rural North West.

The contribution of each welfare dimension to women's deprivation is presented in Figure 2. Among the six dimensions considered, housing and sanitation had the highest absolute and relative contributions of 0.11% and 35.26% and thus contributes the least to deprivation. This is followed by autonomy with 0.06% and 21.04%. This means that rural women are better off in these dimensions than others. The high relative contribution of housing is expected since most of them live in the same house with their spouses. These houses are provided by the joint effort of the household. It is also worthy of note that autonomy has a high relative contribution. The high relative contribution of autonomy underscores the point that power relations within the household is crucial and ability to participate in decision making particularly with respect to self is important for women's well-being.

The lowest absolute and relative contributions of 0.02% and 6.05% respectively are recorded in information access and 0.03 and 10.32 in education these dimensions contributes more to deprivation. It implies that rural women's access to information and employment is poor presently and improving this dimension will improve their welfare. In ascending order of contribution, the six dimensions considered are arranged as follows: information access, education, health and nutrition, employment, autonomy, housing and sanitation. In view of the high deprivation index of women in general, these dimensions need to be improved on particularly information access, education, health and nutrition whose contributions to deprivation are high. The Levene's test shows that the variances of multidimensional well-being indices across dimensions are significantly different ($p=0.0000$).

4.3. Decomposition Across Socio-Economic Groups

In Figures 3-7, the decomposition of DI across socio-economic characteristics of rural women is presented. These characteristics are age, household size, gender of household head, employment type, and educational attainment. The decomposition by age group presented in Figure 3 shows that middle aged women within the age group of 25 to 34 years have lower DI compared to other age groups.

The absolute and relative contributions obtained for employment type is presented in Figure 4. It reveals that women that are skilled and unskilled worker have lower DI (0.1451) compared to unemployed (0.1701), those employed in the non-agricultural sector (0.2565) and those in the agricultural sector (0.2809). This might be because skilled and unskilled worker are mostly paid daily, and thus have money to spend per day unlike their counterparts employed

in other sectors.

In Figure 5, the deprivation indices of women in male and female headed households are 0.3072 and 0.2863 respectively. Women in male headed household have a lower DI than those in female headed households.

With respect to household size (Figure 6), the subgroup belonging to small household size (6 to 10) has lower DI than other groups. This subgroup has a 0.2966 DI, followed by those with greater than 10 household size with 0.3000 DI.

The deprivation indices across educational groups increase from no education to complete secondary and decreases at higher education level. (Figure 7). The peak is attained by the group with complete secondary while the least is recorded in the group with no education.

In summary, middle aged women with higher education from a medium sized female headed household, skilled and unskilled worker have lower deprivation indices than other groups. The Levene's test show that the variances of multidimensional wellbeing indices across socio-economic characteristics of rural women are significantly different ($=0.0000$).

4.4. Determinants of Asset Ownership by Women

The result of the regression analysis is presented in Table 7. The columns present the coefficients and their marginal effects. The diagnostic statistics reveal that the model has a log likelihood ratio of -3715.989 and a chi-square statistic of 1938.67; significant at one per cent. This shows that the model is a good fit for the data. Sixteen variables were found to significantly influence welfare deprivation.

Individual level factors

The coefficient of the age group 35 to 49 years is 0.3096, indicating that a change in the age category from the base category (15 to 24 years) to 35 to 49 years category significantly increase the deprivation status of the latter. The log odds of the latter being 0.31 times that of the former, older women (35 to 49 years) are more likely to have high deprivation status compared to younger ones (15 to 24 years). The marginal effect estimates reveal that being in the age group 35 to 49 years increase the likelihood of being deprived by 5.7%.

With regards to employment type, all the employment types significantly influence deprivation status at one per cent. The results reveal that being employed in any of these sectors is likely to reduce the probability of deprivation. Although the non-agricultural sector has a higher coefficient than others. Women in all the employment types are likely to experience lower deprivation.

Also, with regards to the educational attainment of women, there is a negative relationship with deprivation. Levels of educational attainment from incomplete primary education to incomplete secondary education are significant at one to ten per cent in reducing deprivation of women. Also, from the estimated coefficients, incomplete secondary education has the highest estimate (0.57) which shows that if a women is educated to incomplete secondary education level, the lower the probability of deprivation.

The results show that educational attainment exerts high marginal impacts on deprivation. There is a gap between having a complete primary and secondary school education as shown by a difference of 0.01 in the marginal effects. The implication is that, for a meaningful improvement in the welfare of women in rural NW, the completion of a primary school education is the required minimum.

Household level factors

Being a married woman will increase the probability of being deprived compared to being single. The results show a positive relationship between deprivation status of women and being married. Being a married woman in rural NW increase the probability of deprivation by 0.29. This might be because of low autonomy they have on final say on their own health and final say on making large household purchases.

Women in medium to large households are more likely to have low deprivation status compared to women in small households. In other words, family size is inversely related to women's deprivation status. The marginal estimates reveal a 0.0578 increase in the probability of being better off in households with greater than ten people.

Regional factor

When compared with the Sokoto, rural women in Kano are better off which reveals a negative relationship with higher levels of deprivation and is significant at one percent. Meanwhile the six remaining states have a positive relationship with deprivation thus they are worse off in deprivation. In summary, educational attainment, employment type, household size, marital status, age of the woman, state of residence determines a woman's deprivation status in rural NW.

5. Conclusion

This study provides empirical evidence of the welfare deprivation of women in the North-West. Interventions in the area of information access, education, health and nutrition, is needed for women in North-West. More efforts by agencies working with women are needed for women in the NW through empowerment programs that take into cognizance their peculiarities such as soap and cream making, knitting of mat and bags to improve their welfare status. Government and Non-Government organisations should put in place policies to improve education at the grassroots for women.

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