

AN ASSESSMENT OF MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES OF WOMEN PASTORALISTS IN SUPPORT OF HOUSEHOLD LIVELIHOOD IN OLORUNSOGO AREA OF OYO STATE, NIGERIA

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This study assessed the management activities of women pastoralists in support of household livelihood in Olorunsogo Local Government Area of Oyo State, Nigeria. Multistage random sampling was used to select sample. The total sample size used was 116 respondents. Data were collected with the aid of interview schedule and were analysed with descriptive statistics such as frequency, percentages, mean score and means ranking while Pearson Product Moment Correlation analysis was used to test for hypothesis. Results of data analysed showed that about 61.21% of respondents were aged between 31 – 40years. Majority (67.24%) had no formal education. Analysis of respondents' involvement in pastoral management activities revealed that feeding and caring of livestock was ranked 1st, marketing of animals and animal products 2nd while watering of animals was ranked 3rd. Above 90% indicated that they use their income for clothing of children, purchase of jewellerys, and payment of children school fees. PPMC analysis had revealed that feeding and caring for animals, collection of manure and marketing of animals were positively significant to areas in which respondents spend their income made from management of pastoral activities. Higher above 80% indicated unavailability of extension agents, poor access to credit facilities and multiple household tasks as their major constraints to effective management of pastoral activities. The study concludes that pastoral management activities of most women pastoralists were purposely for the support of household livelihood. To further enhance management capacity of women pastoralist for improve productivity and better support for

household livelihood, effort should be made by women pastoralists to form strong credit cooperative society in other to empower themselves financially as well as accessing information.

Key word: management, pastoralists, women, support, household livelihood.

Agriculture is the primary economic activity and means of livelihood for larger population of people in Nigeria. Ever since pre-colonial Nigeria, pastoral activities of breeding animals especially cattle, goats and sheep in commercial quantities when going from a fertile land to another were one of such fantastic economic. This practices (pastoral farming) or grazing is farming aimed at producing livestock rather than growing crop.

Several literatures have documented the participation of women in livestock management. All over the world, rural women accounted for about two-third of the world's 600 million poor livestock keeper (Thornton, 2003), and they play the significant role in meeting the challenges of agricultural production and development (Rahaman, 2008). In Nigeria, most women farmers were engage in livestock production (Owolabi et al., 2011) and about 73 per cent of the women were involved in goat and sheep production (Oji and Ekumankama, 2002). Lebbies (2004) stated that goat production play an important role in the overall livelihoods of rural households.

The main activities of women pastoralists in Nigeria as pointed out by Ayoade *et al*, (2009) were; feeding, milking of cows, making butter and cheese, cleaning of barns, and managing of vulnerable animals such as calves, small ruminants and sick, injured and

pregnant animals. Oji and Ekumankama (2002) also reported that feeding is the main activity by women in livestock management. Women involvement and sharing roles in various agricultural activities in crop production, livestock production, and fish farming is a complementary role with her male counterpart (Oladeji, 2004; Oyesola, 2004). Female pastoralists are therefore affected in their lifestyle, and also ensure food security for their household (Omotayo, 2002). The definition of livelihood as provided by Ellis (2000) comprises of assets (natural, physical, human, financial and social capital), the activities, and the access to these (mediated by institutions and social relations) that together determine the living gained by individual or household. Anosike and Fasona (2004) reported that in Nigeria, most women shoulder the responsibility in the provision of food and welfare for their households despite their access to little productive resources.

Although, quite a lot is known about the constraints pastoral women face to accessing information, training and improved technologies. Little information is available on the extent productivities of pastoral enterprises managed by women have contributed to household livelihood. Because women roles in livestock production seem not to be recognised, their contributions in support for household livelihood has been grossly underestimated, undervalued and rarely acknowledged in the society. These have resulted to some pressing problems such as neglect by agricultural extension (Adisa and Okunade, 2005) and lack of credit facility (Owolabi et al., 2011). It is in light of the above that this study seeks to examine the management activities of women pastoral farmers in support of household livelihood in Olorunsogo Local government area of Ogun State, Nigeria. Specific objectives were to; (i) examine the socioeconomic characteristics of respondents, (ii) determine their extent of involvement in various livestock management activities, (iii) examine areas in which respondents support household livelihood and (iv) examine constraints faced by respondents for effective management activities.

Hypothesis of the study

HO₁: There is no significant relationship between pastoral economic activities of respondents and areas in which respondent spend income generated in support for household livelihoods.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Area

The study was conducted in Olorunsogo Local Government (LG) area of Oyo State, Nigeria. The local government is one of the 33 local government areas in Oyo State. The headquarters is located in town of Igbeti. It has an area of 1,069 km² and a population of 81,759 at the (Census, 2006). The local government comprises of ten (10) division referred was cells and here about 400 towns and settlements. Some of the towns include; Tesi Garuba, Aiyekale, Koto, Tesi, Apata, Jabia lawo, Igbeti, Kondoro, Dogo, Pankoko, Oguniyi, Karama, Olobe, Apati, Alaye, Moti, Odokoto, Ogundiran, Kunbi, OjoAaro, Gaa Sundi, Abuja, Tesi Baba Dudu, Tesi Baba pupa, Gaa Chiroma, Gaa nuru, Odo-ile, Ojebeyo, Kanikuo, Gaa Tainu, Ohosun, Alusekere, Eleke, Waaro, Selkona, Alagunter and Gaa Aliu. The major occupation of the people of the area are farming and trading. A few are engaged in other business like transportation, hunting, gathering & herding, and trading.

Sampling Techniques

The population for this study comprise of all women livestock farmer in Oyo State. Multi stage random sampling technique was used in selecting the sample for this study. The first stage involved a random selection of six (6) communities. The selected communities were Alusekere, Kanikuo, Igbeti, Pankoko, Ogundiran, and Eleke. The second stage involved a random selection of 20 women pastoralist from selected communities. The total sample size was 120 women pastoralists.

Data Collection Technique

The data collected for this study was obtained from primary data. The primary data were collected for this research using a structured questionnaire. The primary data were collected between June 2010 and August 2010. Copies of the questionnaire were administered to women pastoralists

during field survey in farming communities of the study area. Only 116 questionnaires retrieved from the field survey were good to analyse.

Data Analysis

Data collected were subjected to both descriptive statistics such as frequency counts, and percentages, mean score and mean rank. Also, Pearson Moment Correlation Analysis was used to assess the hypothesis stated above.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socioeconomic Characteristics of women pastoral farmers

Data analysed in table 1 revealed that majority (61.21%) of women pastoral farmers were within the age group between 31 – 40 years of age. This shows that majority of the farmers are still young and agile. Most (85.4%) of the women pastoral farmers were married. This agrees with that of Ayoada et al. (2009) that majority of women related to livestock production were married. Other than pastoral farming, women pastoral farmers have other responsibilities been house wife. Only 2.6% of the respondents were divorced. This group of divorced women may loss access to livestock assets (Goe and Mack, 2005; Mutenje *et al.*, 2008). Educational level was low as majority (67.24%) of the respondents indicated that they have no formal education. Only 5.17% had tertiary education, 19.83% had primary education and 7.76% had secondary education. Results further revealed modal number of animals they kept was between 20 – 40 animals with percentage of 45, This implies that women pastoral farmers were small scale pastoral farmer. This agrees with Flintan (2008) who stated that in pastoral societies, women frequently own fewer animals. Also from table 1, more than halve (53.45%) of the respondents were crop farmers. Deduction from results indicated that 26.72%, 12.93% and 6.90% of the respondents were trader, artisans and civil servants respectively. This is an indication that women pastoral farmers were not without other occupations. This is similar to Hassan et al. (2002) that most livelihoods of the rural women are based on multiple activities.

Results of data analyses in table 1 shows that most (45.69%) of the respondents rare sheep and goat. This may because of low cost sheep and goat to invest with little cost of feeding. This finding is similar to (Oji and Ekumankama, 2002) reports that women farmers in Nigeria mostly keep sheep and goat. Results in table 1 also shows that higher percentage (43.10%) of respondents indicated that the average income earned (Naira) was between ₦41,000 – ₦50,000. Also, 25% of respondents indicated average income earned were between ₦31,000 – ₦40,000. Only few (12.93%) earned 51,000 and above. Though, few (0.86%) were unable to estimate their average income. Considering the present fixed minimum wage (₦18,000) by the Federal Government of Nigeria (Fapohunda *et al.*, 2010) as yardstick, the average income of respondents is generally low. This may be as a result of little number of animals kept by majority as indicated in table 1.

Table 1: Socioeconomic Characteristics of Respondents (n=116)

<i>Socioeconomic Characteristics</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Age (Years)		
30 and below	14	12.07
31 – 40	71	61.21
41 – 50	20	17.24
51 and above	11	9.48
Total	116	100
Marital Status		
Single	4	3.4
Married	99	85.4
Divorced	3	2.6
Widowed	10	8.6
Total	116	100
Educational Status		
No formal education	78	67.24
Primary education	23	19.83
Secondary education	9	7.76
Tertiary education	6	5.17
Total	116	100
Number of animal kept	28	24.14

Less than 20	57	49.14
20 – 40	16	13.79
41 – 60	10	8.62
61 – 80	4	3.45
81 – 100	1	0.86
above 100	116	100
Total		
Other occupation		
Crop farming	62	53.45
Trading	31	26.72
Artisans	15	12.93
civil servant	8	6.90
others	-	-
Total	116	100
Type of animal kept		
Cattle rearing	10	8.62
Goat rearing	8	6.89
Sheet rearing	26	22.41
Sheep and Goat rearing	53	45.69
Cattle and Sheet rearing	18	15.53
Cattle, sheep and Goat rearing	1	0.86
Average income from livestock rearing (Naira) per annum		
Less than 20,000	14	12.07
21,000 – 30,000	7	6.04
31,000 – 40,000	29	25.00
41,000 – 50,000	50	43.10
51,000 and Above	15	12.93
Unable to estimate	1	0.86

Extent of respondents' involvement in Pastoral management activities

The data presented in table 2 showed the ranking of women pastoral farmers according to their involvement in pastoral management activities. Feeding and caring of livestock with mean score (563.70) was ranked first. This was followed by marketing of animals and animals produce with mean score (548.36). This may be because marketing of farm produce is one of the major activities of women in typical Nigerian society. Data further revealed that watering of animal was ranked 3rd, making and storage of livestock

feed was ranked 4th, clearing of animals' sheds was ranked 5th, collection of manure was ranked 6th, making animals' sheds was ranked 8th while milking and milking processing was ranked 9th. Reasons for low milking and milking processing activities may be that most the respondents were raising more of sheep and goat as indicated in table 2. This finding is similar to Oji and Ekumankama (2002) reported that feeding is the main activity of women in livestock management.

Time spent on Pastoral management activities per day

Result in table 3 showed that 46.55% women pastoral farmers spend only 1 – 2 hours per day on pastoral activities. This may be because majority of the respondents keeps small numbers of animals which were sheep and goats as indicated in table 1 and 2. Also, 32.76% of the respondents indicated 5 – 6 hours on daily basis, 14.66% indicated 3 – 4 hours daily, 4.31% indicated 7 – 8 hours daily while 1.72% were unable to estimate hours spent on daily basis for pastoral activities. These categories of respondents who spent more than 3 hours could probably be women farmers who keep large number of animals and probably those that keep cattle as well.

Areas in which respondents support household livelihood

Results presented in table 4 revealed that majority of respondents spent their income from pastoral activities to support household livelihoods in the areas of clothing for children (94.83%), purchase of jewellery and clothing for themselves (92.24%), Children school fees (93.10%), foodstuff for the family (62.93%) and maternal healthcare bills (53.45%). Only few percentage; 1.72, 7.76%, 10.35%, 20.69% and 23.28% spent their income on opportunity to participate in the community, drinking water, PHCN bill and house rent respectively. Khan and Khan (2007) stated in a study that, married women are contributing more to their household budget as compared to single women.

Constraints to effective pastoral economic activities among women pastoralists

Results of data analysis of constraints women pastoralist faced for effective management activities presented in table 5

Table 2: Management activities of respondents

<i>Pastoral Activities</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Rank</i>
Making and Storage of livestock feed	442.37	4 th
Feeding and caring of Livestock	563.70	1 st
Watering of animals	432.44	3 rd
Collection of manure	356.94	6 th
Cleaning of animals' sheds	386.21	5 th
Grazing of animals	312.77	8 th
Making animals' sheds	329.50	7 th
Milking and milking processing	226.65	9 th
Marketing of animals and animals' produce	548.36	2 nd

Table 3: Time spent on Pastoral activities per day

<i>Time Spent (Hours)/day</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
1 – 2	54	46.55
3 - 4	17	14.66
5 – 6	38	32.76
7 – 8	5	4.31
unable to estimate	2	1.72
Total	116	100

Table 4: Areas in which Respondents Support Household livelihood

<i>Area supporting in household</i>	<i>Frequency*</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
House rent	27	23.28
Drinking water	12	10.35
Maternal healthcare bill	62	53.45
Children school fees	108	93.10
Clothing for children	110	94.83
Food stuff for family	73	62.93
Opportunity to participate in the community	9	7.76
PHCN bill	24	20.69
Purchase of jewellerys and clothing for myself	107	92.24
Others	2	1.72

*=Multiple response

revealed that unavailability of land was indicated by majority (53.4%) of the respondents. A study by (Fabusoro and Oyegbemi, 2009) had reported that poor access to land for grazing is a major source of livelihood vulnerability. Results of data further shows that irregularity of extension agent visit was indicated by majority (87.1%) of the respondents. Gender disparities in access to extension services, information and training exist throughout the developing world. This finding is similar with Adesiji, et al. (2013) report that there is little access to veterinary extension delivery in Nigeria. Below average percentage (31.9%) of the respondents indicated no

access to animal health care services as constraints. Poor access to credit facilities was also indicated by majority (84.5%). High percentage (68.1%) of respondents also indicated degradation of pasture land as constraint. Multiple tasks of women pastoralist was indicated by the highest percentage (91.4%) of respondents.

Test for hypothesis

HO₁: There is no significant relationship between pastoral management activities of respondents and areas in which respondent spend income generated in support for household livelihoods.

Pearson product moment correlation analysis between management activities of women

Table 5: Constraints to effective pastoral managements' activities among women pastoralist

<i>Constraints</i>	<i>Frequency*</i>	<i>Percentages</i>
Unavailability of land	62	53.4
Contact with extension agents are not regular	101	87.1
No access to animal healthcare services	37	31.9
No access to credit facilities	98	84.5
Scarcity of resources	54	46.6
Multiple household tasks of women	106	91.4
Degradation of pasture land	79	68.1

*Multiple responses

Table 6: Summary of Pearson Product Moment Correlation Analysis showing the relationship between management activities and areas of household support by women pastoralists

	<i>Significance (2 tailed)</i>	<i>Pearson (r)</i>	<i>Decision</i>
Areas of Support for Household livelihood			
Making and Storage of livestock feed	0.065	0.115	Not significant
Feeding and caring of Livestock	0.042*	0.035	Significant
Watering of animals	0.328	-0.016	Not significant
Collection of manure	0.455*	0.000	Significant
Cleaning of animals' sheds	0.156	-0.134	Not Significant
Grazing of animals	0.080	0.173	Not Significant
Making animals' sheds	0.528	-0.061	Not significant
Milking and milking processing	0.061	0.661	Not Significant
Marketing of animals and animals' produce	0.336*	0.001	Significant

*Correlation is significant at $p \leq 0.05$ (2 tailed)

pastoralist and their area of support for household livelihood shows that management activities such as feeding and caring of livestock, collection of manure and marketing of animals and animals' products were positively significant at 0.05 level of significant. This implies that increase in management activities such as feeding, collection of manures and marketing of animals and animals' products will increase their support for household livelihoods. Results also indicated that management activities such as Making and Storage of livestock feed, Watering of animals, Cleaning of animals' sheds, Grazing of animals, Making animals' sheds, Milking and milking processing were not significant 0.05 level of significant with their support for household livelihood.

CONCLUSION

Based on findings, it is observed that pastoral management activities of most women pastoralists were purposely for the support of household livelihood. Despite their contribution to household livelihoods; multiple tasks, unavailability of extension agent, lack of access to credit facilities were among their major constraints to effective management activities. To further enhance management capacity for improve productivity among women pastoralist for better support of household livelihood, effect should be made by women pastoralists to form strong credit cooperative society in other to empower themselves financially. There is need for agricultural extension organizations in the study area to device reliable means of reaching more women pastoralists by creating female extension wing to train and provide services on different pastoral management activities in

order to enhance the knowledge and skills of women pastoralists.

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