



DETERMINANTS OF YOUTHS' INVOLVEMENT IN AGRICULTURAL VOCATIONAL TRAINING IN OYO STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Development of youth through active participation in agricultural vocational training may bring about proliferation of agricultural enterprises for sustainability of agricultural sector. This study focused on the determinants of youths' involvement in vocational training in Oyo State, Nigeria. A multistage sampling procedure was employed to select 120 respondents. Data were collected via structured questionnaire on respondents' socioeconomic characteristics, reasons for the choice of specific agricultural enterprise training, attitudes towards the trainings, involvement and constraints to the vocational training. Data were analysed using descriptive and inferential (Chi-square, PPMC, and linear regression) statistics. Results show that most of the respondents were male (74.2%), married (70.0%) and entrepreneur (64.2%) with mean age and monthly income of 22 years and ₦27,665 respectively. Respondents were mostly involved poultry (120.8) enterprise and personal interest (55.8%) was the main reason for their choice of the enterprise. They had unfavorable attitude (53.3%) and lack of fund (weighted mean=165.9) constrained their involvement. Significant relationship existed between respondents' age ($r=-0.31$, $p=0.00$), institutions attended ($\chi^2=91.90$, $p=0.000$), monthly income ($r=-0.22$, $p=0.02$) and involvement in the enterprise. Major determinants of their involvement in the enterprise were age ($\beta=-0.30$; $p=0.01$) and constraints faced ($\beta=0.20$; $p=0.03$). Since they identified fund-related constraints, subsequent agricultural vocational training programmes should be packaged with credit facilities (with little or no interest rate) to be disbursed immediately after the training programme.

Keywords: Youths' involvement, poultry enterprise, vocational training, attitudes, personal interest and Agricultural Vocational Training Programme (AVTP)

INTRODUCTION

Youth unemployment has become one of the developmental challenges in almost every developing country of the world in the 21st century. According to International Labour Organisation (ILO) (2008), youths made up of as much as 36 percent of the total working age (15 years and above) population of the world in 2007. The report further shows that about 60 million young people (80%) are unemployed which makes youths to be nearly three times as adults that were unemployed in world. Similarly, youth unemployment grows annually at more than 15 percent rate in all the developing countries around the world. Nigeria's past record shows that about 80 million of the 140 million population are youths between the ages of 10 and 24 years (Nigeria Population Reference Bureau, 2007). However, the national joblessness rate in Nigeria was estimated to be 23.9 percent of which the youth proportions were up to 70 % (Small, 2017). However, the issues leading to youth unemployment in Nigeria are rural-urban migration, rural underemployment and urban unemployment, rapid population growth, absence of vibrant manufacturing sector and lack of employable skills among others (Small, 2017). While these facts may not have captured the youth unemployment scenario in Nigeria in totality, they point to the fact that the situation is very serious. To address this problem, various regimes in Nigeria have initiated programmes and established some institutions to promote self-employment and self-dependence among the youths. One of these institutions is the National Directorate of

Employment (NDE) of 1986 (NDE, 2009); which was saddled with the responsibility of promoting skills acquisition, facilitation of creative mind, self-reliance and independence. Currently, N55.5 billion has been set aside by the Nigeria government for youth empowerment programme under the Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme (Laleye, 2018).

Hence, the skill acquisition programmes (vocational training) have been identified as panacea for the substantial youth unemployment, poverty and hunger in Nigeria; where about 70 percent of the unemployed population are unskilled (Ojei, 2010 and Food and Agriculture organisation of the United Nations (FAO), Technical Centre for Agricultural and rural cooperation (CTA) and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), 2014). In order to address the lack of employable skill among the Nigerian youth, the Federal Government in collaboration with the NDE and Institute of Agricultural Research and Training (IARandT) (Moor plantation, Ibadan), facilitated short term vocational training programmes for vocational skills acquisition in order to make youths to be self-employed, economically self-reliant, enhance their socioeconomic wellbeing, strengthens their agricultural skills, encourages youth involvement in the agricultural sector of the economy and even becomes employers of labour (Ojei 2010; and NDE, 2009). Consequently, vocational skills development programme equips youths with the human capital needed to avoid poverty and to have a more fulfilling life as the training involves the use of informal sector

operators such as master craftsmen/women as training centres, where youths spend appreciable period long enough for them to acquire the requisite skills. Nigerian youths have benefited from this scheme in some of the areas such as fishery, poultry, beekeeping, tree planting, and piggery among others. Based on the acquired skills youths are expected to be able to establish their individual businesses with the help of resettlement packages from NDE, bank credit facilities and family support to facilitate the take-off of the entrepreneurs' businesses. It is therefore important to evaluate the determinants of youths' involvement in agricultural vocational training in Oyo state, Nigeria.

Therefore, this paper examined the determinants of youths' involvement in agricultural vocational training in the study area. Hence, the study ascertained the socioeconomic characteristics of the respondents, attitudes of youths towards involvement in agricultural vocational trainings, the extent at which youths are involved in the agricultural vocational training programmes, reason(s) for the choice of their enterprise, constraints to their involvements in the Agricultural Vocational Training Programmes (AVTP). It was hypothesised that no significant relationship existed between the socioeconomic characteristics of the respondents and their involvement in the vocational training.

METHODOLOGY

The study was carried out in Oyo state, Nigeria. Study population were all the youth participants or ex-trainees of the agricultural vocational training programmes in Oyo state before year 2014. Multistage sampling procedure was used to select respondents for the study. The first stage involved the purposive selection of two Local Governments Areas (LGAs) that have institutions which are involved in agricultural vocational training programmes in Oyo state. These are Federal College of Agriculture, (FCA) in Ibadan southwest LGA and National Directorate of Employment (NDE) in Ibadan North LGA from where the list of graduates from these two institutions were generated. This gave a total of 720 graduates (350 from Federal College of Agriculture and 370 from National Directorate of Employment) from the two institutions so far as at year 2014. The second stage involved the random selection of 17% of the total participants of the agricultural enterprises of these two institutions (Federal College of Agriculture and National Directorate of Employment). The procedures gave a total sample size of 120 respondents who were used for this study.

Attitudes of youths towards involvement in agricultural vocational trainings was measured by providing them with 25 attitudinal statements with

the response options of strongly agree, agree, undecided, disagree and strongly disagree with scores of 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 assigned, respectively for all positive statements and was reversed for the negatively worded statements. The maximum obtainable score was 125 with a minimum score of 25. Eventually, attitudinal index was computed and mean was used as a bench mark to categorise respondents to favourable and an unfavourable attitude towards involvement in agricultural vocational training programmes. Respondents with scores below mean were regarded as having unfavourable attitude with those with mean score and above categorised as having favourable attitude.

The extent of respondents' involvement in the agricultural vocational training programmes was measured by providing them with 13 agricultural enterprises (poultry, fishery, beekeeping, cash crop production and piggery among others). Thereafter, they were asked to state to what extent they got involved in each of the agricultural enterprises with three response options of "to a large extent", "to a lesser extent" and "not at all" with scores of 2, 1 and 0 assigned, respectively. The maximum obtainable score was 26, while the minimum was 0. Then, weighted mean score was generated and used to rank their responses to isolate the most agricultural enterprise involved in.

To measure motive(s) for the choice of their enterprise, four different reasons (personal interest, peer influence, family influence and affordability) that could inform respondents' choice of enterprise were generated and they were provided with three response options of "to large extent", "to a lesser extent" and "not at all" with scores of 2, 1 and 0 assigned, respectively. The maximum and minimum obtainable score were eight and zero, correspondingly. Then, weighted mean score was generated and used to rank their responses to determine the main reason(s) for the choice of their agricultural enterprise.

The constraints to the respondents involvement in agricultural vocational training programmes was measured by providing them with a list of nine constraint items such as lack of finance, lack of land, lack of incentives, natural hazards and lack of access to market among others. They were asked to state the severity of each constraint items to them and they were supplied with response options of "serious constraint", "mild constraint" or "not a constraint". Response option "serious constraint" was assigned a score of 2, "mild constraint" a score of 1 and "not a constraint" was assigned 0. Minimum obtainable score was 0 and maximum 18. Weighted score was generated and used to rank the constraints to determine the most severe constraints.

Finally, respondents' determinants of involvement in the vocational training programmes



was measured by putting some of the variables measure into linear regression model in other to determine in particular the variables that informed respondents' involvement in agricultural vocational training programmes.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results in Table 1 show that the mean age, monthly income, years of formal education and household size of the respondents were 32 years, N27,665.00, 16 years and 2 persons, respectively. Majority of the respondents were married (84%) male (74.2%), entrepreneurs (64.2%) by employment status, while the courses vary, ranging from agriculture (26.7%) to social science (28.3%) and engineering (11.6%). This implies that respondents are young and will be agile to practice the vocation they have chosen; they earn above the minimum monthly salary (N18,000) recommended for Nigerian civil servants. They are educated as they have spent considerable number of years in school and this might likely position them to have high access to information on the vocation they

have chosen to learn. However, the different course of study undertaken by the respondents aside from agriculture implies that majority of the respondents did not have agricultural studies background. This implies that agriculture as a course is not a criteria for learning or acquiring agricultural vocational skill.

Table 2 presents result on respondents' attitude towards agricultural vocational training programmes. The results show that 93.4% of the ex-trainees agreed that the outcome of AVTP could improve the overall welfare of the society, 92.5% of them were of the opinion that AVTP will ensure their food security, while 91.7% agreed that such AVTP can help youths improve their level of income and as well create a viable employment opportunity. However, Table 2a indicates above average (53.3%) of the respondents had unfavourable attitude to AVTP. This is in contrast with the findings of Thomas and Eforuoku (2016) in which most (68.0%) of the youth had a favourable disposition towards participation in youth-in-agricultural programme.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents by their socioeconomic characteristics

Variables	Frequency	Percentage	Mean
Age (years)			32.2
20 – 30	37	30.8	
31 – 40	83	69.17	
Sex			
Male	89	74.2	
Female	31	25.8	
Marital status			
Single	36	30	
Married	84	70	
Own family size			3.6 persons
2 – 5	64	79.2	
6 – 8	25	20.8	
Household size			1.6 persons
4 – 6	24	92.5	
7 – 11	8	6.7	
Above 11	1	0.8	
Years of formal education			15.5
1 – 6	3	2.5	
7 – 12	12	10	
Above 12	105	87.5	
Course of study			
Agriculture	32	26.7	
Social sciences	34	28.3	
Engineering	14	11.6	
Arts	8	6.5	
Sciences	5	4	
Education	7	5.7	
Employment status			
Currently employed	10	8.3	
Previously employed	6	5.0	
Underemployed	12	10	
Entrepreneur	77	64.2	
Trainee	5	4.2	

Variables	Frequency	Percentage	Mean
Not employed	10	8.3	
Monthly Income(naira)			27,665
2000 – 20,000	52	43.3	
20,001 – 40,000	47	39.2	
40,001 – 60,000	15	12.5	
60,001 – 80,000	2	1.7	
80,001above	4	3.3	

Source: Field survey (2014)

Table 2: Distribution of respondents by their attitude to vocational training

Perception statements	SA	A	N	D	SD
Agricultural vocational training programmes have motivated me to take up agribusiness.	39.2	45.8	1.7	7.5	5.8
Agricultural vocational training programmes have helped me in introducing new techniques and practices in crop and animal production.	25.0	56.7	6.7	7.5	4.2
Agricultural vocational training programmes may help improve the income of youths	37.5	54.2	2.5	4.2	1.7
Agricultural vocational training programmes can help solve the production and agro-processing problems.	35.0	54.2	4.2	4.2	2.5
Agricultural vocational training programmes has enhanced my livelihood status.	23.3	51.7	12.5	8.3	4.2
Government is not committed to agricultural programmes.	12.5	24.2	31.7	24.2	7.5
Agricultural vocational training Programmes is not addressing the felt needs of the youth.	15.0	36.7	6.7	34.2	7.5
I have had no regret in participating in agricultural vocational training programmes	8.3	10.8	3.3	40.8	36.7
Agricultural vocational training programmes will ensure my food security.	35.0	57.5	3.3	3.3	0.8
Outcome of Agricultural vocational training programmes could improve overall welfare of the society.	34.2	59.2	4.2	2.5	0
Agricultural vocational training programmes are empty promises; nothing spectacular might come from them.	8.3	35.0	8.3	35.8	12.5
AVTP comes with appropriate financial incentive that facilitates implementation.	9.2	39.2	10.0	20.0	21.7
I am participating in Agricultural vocational training programmes because I am jobless	13.3	35.0	2.5	30.8	18.3
Agricultural vocational training programmes has not significantly enhanced my capacity.	10	40.8	13.3	31.7	4.2
Government policies to improve agricultural productivity through agricultural vocational training programmes are not effective.	12.5	22.5	18.3	35.8	10.8
Active participation in agricultural vocational training programmes has not raised the production efficiency and productivity of the beneficiaries.	14.2	34.2	9.2	35.0	7.5
Agricultural vocational training programmes can create a viable employment opportunity for me.	32.5	57.5	5.0	4.2	0.8
Agricultural vocational training programmes implementation requires huge capitals to start, which is not usually available.	5.0	18.3	6.7	45.8	24.2
Agricultural vocational training programmes implementation requires a lot of risk which discourages most people from being involved.	18.3	47.5	2.5	22.5	9.2
Agricultural vocational training programmes can prevent poverty.	44.2	47.5	2.5	4.2	1.7
Agricultural vocational training programmes implementation involves lots of physical activities which discourages me.	10.8	29.2	5.0	40.0	15.0

SA= Strongly Agree, A= Agree, N= Neutral, D= Disagree and SD= Strongly Disagree

**Table 2a: Categorisation of respondents' attitude towards the vocational training**

Attitude categories	Frequency	Percentage
Unfavourable	64	53.3
Favourable	56	46.7
Total	120	100

Source: Field survey (2014)

Results in Table 3 show participants ranked poultry first with the highest weighted mean score of 120.8 as the enterprise they were involved in during their training at AVTP. This is directly followed by fishery (101.7) and beekeeping (98.4), while the least agricultural enterprises involved were farm machinery and maintenance (5.1). This

implies that the respondents were involved in poultry, fishery and beekeeping than other agricultural enterprises. This might be due to ease in starting up, reasons for their choice of involvement as well as possible profitability of the enterprises.

Table 3: Distribution of respondents by their involvement in vocational training

Agricultural enterprise	To a larger extent	To a lesser extent	Not at all	Weighted score	Rank
Poultry	53.3	14.2	32.5	120.8	1 st
Fishery	45.0	11.7	43.3	101.7	2 nd
Beekeeping	41.7	15.0	43.3	98.4	3 rd
Cash crop production	28.3	6.7	65.0	63.3	4 th
Piggery	25.0	11.7	63.3	61.7	5 th
Exotic vegetable production	25.8	9.2	65.0	60.8	6 th
Tree planting/ crops	25.0	10.0	65.0	60.0	7 th
Arable crops production	22.5	12.5	65.0	57.5	8 th
Snailry	22.5	10.8	66.7	55.8	9 th
Horticulture	20.8	14.2	65.0	55.8	9 th
Fruit processing	20.8	13.3	65.8	54.9	10 th
Quailry	20.8	13.3	65.8	54.9	11 th
Farm machinery and maintenance	1.7	1.7	96.7	5.1	12 th

Source: Field survey (2014)

Table 4 indicates personal interest was ranked first, then peer influence and enterprise profitability with weighted mean scores of 186.6, 140.0 and 70.2 individually, as reasons that motivated respondents in picking their choice of enterprise during the course of agricultural vocational training programmes. This suggests that personal interest was the main motive for the respondents' choice of agricultural vocational training rather than profitability of the enterprise. This is probably

because initially prior to the training programme they might not really have details as to what enterprise will be profitable than other, so they were to stocked to the best reason (personal reason) known to them. This is in agreement with the assertion of Ayinde and Latopa (2015) that interest and passion were the two interconnected elements for sustainability of youths' involvement in agricultural programme.

Table 4: Distribution of respondents by their motive(s) for choice of agricultural vocational programme

Motive(s) for choice of vocational programme	To a large extent	To a lesser extent	Rarely	Not at all	Weighted score	Rank
Personal interest	59.2	1.7	5.8	33.3	186.8	1 st
Peer influence	41.7	5.8	3.3	49.2	140	2 nd
Family influence	44.2	0.8	5.0	50.0	139.2	3 rd
Affordability	22.5	5.0	1.7	70.8	79.2	4 th
Profitability	20.1	3.3	3.3	73.3	70.2	5 th

Source: Field survey (2014)

Table 5 reveals that lack of finance with weighted mean score of 165.9, lack of land (104.2), lack of incentives (63.3), occurrence of natural hazards (58.3), market access (39.9) and inadequate training (31.7) were the most severe constraints

faced by the respondents as they were ranked first, second, third, fourth and fifth, respectively. This indicates that almost all the respondents' constraints revolve round fund because if they had money they could actually purchase land and there

will not be need for any incentives from governments. This corroborates the assertions of Adekunle, Adefalu, Oladipo, Adisa and Fatoye (2009) and FAO, CTA and IFAD (2014).The

studies implicated lack of credit facilities and inadequate access to financial services as constraints affecting AVTP and youths' participation in agricultural training programme.

Table 5: Distribution of respondents by their constraints to their involvement in vocational training

Constraints	Serious constraints	Minor constraints	Not a constraint	Weighted score	Rank
Lack of finance	76.7	12.5	10.8	165.9	1 st
Lack of land	47.5	9.2	43.3	104.2	2 nd
Lack of incentives	25.8	11.7	62.5	63.3	3 rd
Natural hazards	17.5	23.3	59.1	58.3	4 th
Lack of access to market	13.3	13.3	73.3	39.9	5 th
Inadequate training	12.5	6.7	81.6	31.7	6 th
Parental influence	6.7	6.7	87.5	20.1	7 th
Peer pressure	4.2	10.0	85.8	18.4	8 th
Low self interest	5.0	7.5	87.5	17.5	9 th

Source: Field survey (2018)

Table 6 shows that institutions attended ($\chi^2=91.90$; $p=0.00$), employment status ($\chi^2=13.69$; $p=0.02$), age ($r=-0.31$; $p=0.00$) and monthly income ($r=-0.22$; $p=0.02$) of the respondents were significantly related to the respondents' involvement in the AVTP among other socioeconomic characteristics. However, institution attended and employment status have direct

relations to their involvement in the AVTP, while both age and monthly income the inverse (negative) relationship. This implies that the younger and the less income earner were the ones more involved in the AVTP. This is expected because the programme actually targeted the unemployed youths.

Table 6: Chi-square for test of relationship between socioeconomic characteristics and involvement in vocational training programme (n=120)

Characteristics	χ^2	Df	p-value	Decision
Institution attended	91.90	1	0.00	Significant
Sex	1.05	1	0.21	Not significant
Marital status	2.07	1	0.11	Not significant
Course of study	43.32	37	0.22	Not significant
Employment status	13.69	5	0.02	Significant
Variable	r-value	NA	p-value	Decision
Age	-0.32	-	0.00	Significant
Years of formal education	0.11	-	0.25	Not significant
Household size	0.06	-	0.50	Not significant
Owned family size	-0.09	-	0.33	Not significant
Monthly income	-0.22	-	0.02	Significant

Source: Computation analysis (2014)

Table 7 indicates that age ($\beta= -0.30$; $p=0.01$) and constraints faced ($\beta=0.20$; $p=0.03$) significantly determined the respondents' involvement in the vocational training programme. This indicates that age contributed 30 percent (although negative) meanwhile constraints contributed 20 percent to their involvement in AVTP. This implies that as respondents' age is

increasing their involvement in AVTP is decreasing, practically this is pointing to the fact that youths are the ones interested in AVTP. This is in tandem with the studies of conducted by Nnadi and Akwiwu (2008) and Thomas and Eforuku (2016). They identified age and constraints as part of determinants of youth participation in rural agriculture.

Table 7: Regression Analysis of determinants of youths' involvement in agricultural vocational training

Variables	β -value	r-value	p-value	Decision
Age	-0.30	-2.79	0.01	Significant
Own family size	-0.01	0.03	0.98	Not significant
Household size	-0.13	-0.71	0.48	Not significant
Years of formal education	0.11	1.25	0.22	Not significant



Variables	β -value	r-value	p-value	Decision
Monthly income	-0.16	-1.86	0.07	Not significant
Index of attitude to AVTP	0.06	0.65	0.52	Not significant
Constraints index	0.20	2.16	0.03	Significant

Source: computation analysis (2014)

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusively, respondents were male, married, entrepreneur, young and small income earners. They were involved in poultry enterprise during the AVTP for personal interest or reason. They had unfavourable attitude towards involvement in AVTP, had fund-related constraints and significant relationship existed between institutions they attended, age, monthly income and their involvement in AVTP while age and constraints faced were the determinants of their involvement in AVTP.

The study recommends that in order to enhance and encourage youths to get involved in subsequent agricultural vocational programmes, age and identified constraints should be giving high consideration. Youths' age should be pruned to really include main target group (stating specifically age limit) so as to have desired impact. While identified constraints such as lack of fund, access to land and incentives could be solved by providing them with loan credit facilities with little or no interest rate immediately after the training programme.

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