Socio-demographic Factors and Household Expenditure on Food Consumption in Ondo State, Nigeria

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Abstract

Household expenditure on food consumption has become an issue of great concern in Nigeria today. This is so because an increasing percentage of the household in Nigeria was feeding less and therefore become more food insecure which made households suffer serious ailments arising from an acute deficiency in their diets. This study examined the effect of socioeconomic factors on household expenditure on food consumption in Nigeria. Data were gotten through the administration of questionnaires to 2500 household heads in three senatorial districts in Ondo State. The study adopted multistage sample techniques; we analyzed information extracted from the questionnaire using both descriptive and regression techniques. The result indicated that major source of income exerts a significant negative (t=-3.76, p<0.05) effect on household consumption expenditure in Ondo State, Nigeria, a positive relationship between household size and consumption expenditure (t=5,38, p<0.05), and a positive impact between education qualification and household expenditure for consumption (t-3.26,p<0.05). However, gender, age, marital status, and respondents'

senatorial districts did not get a significant effect on households' consumption expenditure of food. The study recommended that government should try to pay workers' salaries as at when due to discourage reduction in food consumption expenditure of the people

Keywords: Socio-economic, Household expenditure, Food consumption

1. Introduction

The provision of adequate and balanced food is a key requirement for a healthy and productive life. Food consumption in Nigerian households has become a decreasing trend in recent times. One reason for this was high prices accrued to consumables because of government policy. Recently, the federal government closes the entire country border to discourage the importation of consumable goods into the country. This move was initiated to serve as protection to local industries equally producing such goods and reduce waste of foreign exchange often spent in food importation in Nigeria. This laudable move by the government that should have served as a saving grace to the country turns out to hurt the citizen instead. Several other consumables are now outside the grasp of the common masses due to border closure. In a country where one cannot spend more than $1 per day a bag of rice that goes from N5,000 to N7,000 before they started the policy, now goes from N39,000 to N41,000 in places like Lagos, Nigeria whereas household income remains unchanged (Varrella, 2020).

Food is necessary for human existence and when a household's income is not sufficient to offset expenditure on food consumables, such household may face a critical diet problem, which is mostly because of insufficient food supply, poor income, and lack of adequate education on food selection (Aborisade & Carpio, 2017; Adeniyi, Omitoyin & Ojo, 2012). This difficulty causes undernourishment, a consequence of an unbalanced diet which is central to poor body shape and low energy productivity. The incredible surge in the cost of production and decrease in the supply of food in Nigeria is because of decades of neglect of the agricultural sector. Hence, producers and suppliers now see the recent government policy as a profiting making venture due to the high price charged on consumables that were ban by the government. This now leads to the high cost of production of food in Nigeria. By the disregard for the agricultural sector for other sectors such as the Oil sector and hurts the nutritional status of the Nigerians.

The challenges confronting households or consumers in terms of the cost of demanding food items had attracted scholarly contributions over the years. According to Kostakis (2013), many researchers have tried to explain the characteristics that stimulate demand for food expenditures.

The dominant factors, in terms of reviewed studies, could be summed up into demographic, psychological, social, and cultural.

However, the interest of this research work is to examine the effect of socio-demographic factors on household consumption expenditure in the face of previous and current income. The study intends to establish the effect other minor sources of income have on households' expenditure. Several studies in Nigeria were yet to establish the effect of previous and current

income, and other minor sources of income have on household's consumption expenditure Previous studies in Nigeria focus on the role of food items in household consumption while neglecting the influence of the previous year income and other minor sources of income at the hands-on households. For example, Adeniyi, Alabi, and Ademosun (2011) carried out a study on animal protein in south-western Nigeria, Igwe and Onyekwere (2007), Adetunji and Rauf (2012) and Aborisade and Carpio (2017) examined the demand for meat and its effect on household consumption. Jumah, Dipeolu, Ayinde, and Adebayo (2008) examined the demand for Cassava food products in Lagos while Obayelu, Okoruwa, and Ajani (2009) did a cross-sectional analysis on household purchase of food in North Central Nigeria. Some of these studies suffered from several setbacks, while others seem to differ in terms of this study. For instance, Aborisade and Carpio (2017) used 300 questionnaires administered to residents of Lagos state. This sample size is small compared to the sample population and hence, the result may be biased when used to generalize. Other studies focus on one item of consumers' consumables such as meat, cassava, etc. knowing fully well that there are several factors responsible for the decision of a consumer concerning the demand of a commodity.

Two major studies in food consumption analysis were that of Fawusi (1999) and Fashogbon and Oni (2013). Their studies focused on Ondo State. Fashogbon and Oni (2013) examined the heterogeneity in rural household demand for food and its determinants, while Fawusi (1999) examined the socio-economic factor influencing food nutrient consumption in urban and rural households. However, the results seem superficial because the purpose for choosing rural or urban was not stated.

The current research is unique in that it will bridge the gap by not only testing the effect of socio-economics variables on household expenditure but also increase the study by accommodating all possible minor sources of income accrue to households in Ondo State for generalization.

2. Literature Review

Guenther, Jensen, Batres-Marquez, and Chen (2005) examined the meat consumption and factors that explain differences among different groups of the population. The sample collected consisted of children and adults, 4,802 were children while 9,460 were adults and these were collected from the Continuing Survey of Food Intakes by Individuals. Similarly, they also collected samples from 5,649 adults based on Diet and Health. The study tested the interactions among the types of meat intake, their dietary characteristics, and the demographics of respondents. The study analyzed information extracted from the question using a two-stage and multivariate regression model. The study found that individuals in higher-income households seem to consume quite more chicken; while those in low-income households consumed more processed pork products. Those that did not consume beef and smaller amounts of chicken had the lowermost discretionary fat intakes. The study also found that those consuming beef and pork were more likely to contemplate that their diets were too high in fat, but then again less likely to rely on the importance of eating a low-fat diet. Region of residence also affected the prospect of consuming most meats. Having a higher level of education was found with a lower chance of consuming beef and pork. Sociodemographic

influences were strong predictors of the likelihood of selecting particular categories of meat and the quantities eaten. Knowledge and attitudes about diet and meat products were also found to influence choices.

Lee and Tan (2006) examined the determinant of Malaysian household demand for food away from home. The study collected data on 9184 households using the Malaysian Household Demand Survey from 1998 to 1999. Information on socio-demographic features of respondents such as age, location, ethnicity, gender, educational level, total monthly household income, and household size was analyzed using Tobit. The secondary data set was the most recent available of the national household food expenditure survey. Out of the adopted independent variables; location, Race, and household income were found to significantly explain household expenditures on FAFH.

Ricciuto, Tarasuk, and Yatchew (2006) examined the relationships between certain socio-demographic features and food selection among Canadian households. The study adopted secondary data analysis from the 1996 Family Food Expenditure survey data. Parametric and nonparametric modeling techniques were employed to analyze the effects of household size, composition, income, and education on the proportion of income spent on individual food groups and the quantity purchased from each food group. The result showed that Household size, composition, income, and education together explained 21-29% of the disparity in food purchasing. Households that had grown people spent a larger share of their income on vegetables and fruit, while households with youngsters purchased greater quantities of milk products. Higher income was linked with purchasing more of all food groups, but the relationships were nonlinear, with the robust effects at lower income levels. Households, where the reference person had a university degree, bought significantly more vegetables and fruit, and less meat and substitutes for other foods, relative to households with the least education level.

Krige, Mahomoodally, Subratty, and Ramasawmy (2012) carried out a study on socio-demographic factors and eating habits in Mauritius. Their study probes the different eating practices among an adult sample population in Mauritius. The study used a self-designed questionnaire, randomly distributed to 387 adults. The questionnaire was used to collect information on respondents' socio-demographic characteristics, eating patterns, dieting practices, etc. The study found that Males had a significantly higher consumption of food at lunch. Higher mean frequencies of consumption were found amid specific groups which also depicted significantly lower percentages of adherence to the WHO recommended daily intake of vegetables. Oily foods were frequently consumed by males however none of the socio-demographic factors evaluated indicated a significant relationship to observance to the recommendations for the eating of fish. The socio-demographic characteristics that influence eating practices were; gender, age, and socioeconomic status measured by education and occupation of respondents.

Omidvar, Ghazi-Tabatabie, Sadeghi, Mohammadi, and Abbasi-Shavazi (2013) explored the incidences of food insecurity and its sociodemographic elements among Afghan immigrants in two major cities of Iran. This cross-sectional study was carried out on a sample of 310

immigrant households in Tehran and Mashhad. Data were collected through interviews, using a questionnaire. Food security was measured by a locally adapted Household Food Insecurity Access Scale. The study found that more than 60% suffered from moderate-to-severe food insecurity, 37% were mildly food-insecure while about 23% of the respondents were food-secure. Food insecurity was significantly more dominant in female-headed households, households whose head and spouse had a lower level of education, belonged to the Sunni sect, and those with illegal residential status, unemployment/low job status, not owning their house, low socioeconomic status (SES), and living in Mashhad. The incidences of food insecurity were moderately high among immigrants in Iran.

Ramdhanie, Pemberton, and Granderson (2017) examined food security and the factors that were affecting expenditure on different food groups of households of primary school children located in North Trinidad. Their study intended to examine the determinants of increased consumption of fruits and vegetables. They adopted a random selection of schools and caregivers for children from certain classes who were interviewed. Data on household demographics and expenditures for four food groups were obtained in the survey. The study found that several factors including ethnicity, monthly household income, the age of the household's head, and a predictable food security index influenced the households' food expenditures.

Babalola and Isitor (2014) in their study tried to identify the determinants of food expenditure among urban households in Lagos State, Nigeria. The data used for this study were collected by the use of a questionnaire administered to household heads. The data were analyzed by both descriptive statistics and a regression model. Results of the study showed that 60% of the household income was expended on food which is considered high, suggesting low income and possibly high cost of food. The paper revealed that household income, tribe, household size, and the structure of the household had a significant effect on food expenditure.

Gwandi, Isah, Oyindamola, Zalkuwi, and Bunu (2014) examined the effect of socio-economic variables on the consumption of animal protein in Gombi local government areas of Adamawa State. A total of 105 respondents were selected using a stratified random sampling technique. Structured questionnaires and interview scheduled were used in the collection of information from the respondents. Descriptive statistics, regression analysis, and average propensity to consume were used in data analysis. The estimated coefficients from regression analysis revealed that the budget share allocation to animal protein consumption is positively influenced by age, expenditure on other foods, approximate monthly income, and education. The R square indicated that 53% variation in animal protein is accounted for by these variables.

Aborisade and Carpio (2017) examined household aggregate meat demand in Nigeria. The study made use of data obtained from the World Bank's Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) on households in Nigeria and Linear Approximate Almost Ideal Demand System (LA-AIDS) model was used to analyze the information obtained from the data. The results revealed that beef was a necessity while goat, chicken, and mutton were luxuries. The results

also indicated that the meat products adopted for the study were normal goods with their prices that were negative and consistent with demand theory excluding mutton. Goat and mutton were priced elastic, hence, price changes for these products will affect their consumers more than consumers of other meat products that were less elastic.

Babatunde, Omoniwa, Adekunle, and Oyeleke (2019) examined the effect of food expenditure on farming households' welfare in Osun State, Nigeria. They adopted both Logistic and OLS regression models were the analytical tools used. The study also made use of the Food Insecurity Gap (FIG) and Squared Food Insecurity Gap (SFIG) to capture the severity of food insecurity among the households. They found that all respondents sampled consume rice, beans, vegetable, fish, and oil as basic food items, while only 32% of them consume potatoes. The regression results indicated that the household size, per capita income, dependency ratio, and age were the core factors influencing food expenditure. From empirical studies reviewed thus far, the majority of the studies especially those in Nigeria had several shortcomings; hence, the findings of these studies can only be used to generalize with caution.

For instance, some of these studies did not justify the reason for using a small sample size in a population that is over a million. Some of the sample techniques adopted in these studies may not fully represent the sample population. The role of income was also neglected in some studies that examined the influence of food expenditure on household consumption/welfare. While some studies only focused on consumption of one item of food or nutrition other studies do not consider the influence of previous income or better still the total source of income. This study would consider these entire observed shortcomings so have a robust finding and proffer a better recommendation.

3. Methodology Source and Method of Data Collection

Data for the study were gotten from the primary source using a set of well-structured questionnaires. Data were collected on the socio-economics and household expenditure relating to food consumption.

Sampling Procedure and Sample Size: A multistage sampling technique was employed in this study. We collected samples from households in the 3 senatorial districts in Ondo State. Two towns (one rural and one urban) were picked from each of the senatorial districts, and a total of 6 towns were picked altogether. We administered 2500 questionnaires. However, 2327 samples were returned and also used for the analysis of this study.

Methods of Data Analysis: The data extracted from the administered questionnaire were processed using both descriptive statistics and econometric analysis. Information collected was classified into socio-demographics and consumption expenditure on food variables. Again, descriptive analysis and ANOVA were employed for the analysis.

Model Specification: This section is concerned with the structural presentation of dependent and independent variables. In this study, the model is specified as follows

$$Y = f(x) \tag{1}$$

Y is the dependent variable measured by Total Expenditure on Food and X is the explanatory variable measured by socioeconomic variables. Hence, functional form of Equation 1 becomes (after accommodating other explanatory variables);

$$TEF = f(Demo, sY, Y_0, Y_1) \tag{2}$$
$$TEF = a_o + a_1 Demo + a_2 sY + a_3 Y_0 + a_4 Y_1 + u_t \tag{3}$$

The stochastic variable is introduced into equation 2 to make it an econometric explicit equation as indicated below

Where;

TEF = Total Expenditure of Food
Demo = Demographic variables
sY = Sources of Income
Y_0 = Previous Income
Y_1 = Current Income
u_t = Stochastic variable

Measurement of Data

(a) Dependent variable: The dependent variable is the Total Expenditure on food. This variable is obtained by the multiplication of prices of food items purchased by households annually by the quantity. The food items were classified into Protein and Carbohydrate. The total for both classes of food was now used to measure Total Expenditure on food.

(b) Explanatory variables: The core explanatory variable is socioeconomic variables which consist of Gender, Age, Marital status, Household size, Senatorial Districts, Educational Qualification, Major Occupation, Minor Occupation, Major Sources of Income, Total Previous and Current Income. We discuss measurements of these variables as follows:

Age-This variable was measured by grouping it into four (4) age brackets; Age 1 = below 30 years, Age 2 = 30 - 39 years, Age 3=40-49 years, and Age 4 = 50years and above.

Gender - This variable was classified into two (2) categories: Male = 1, Female = 1

Marital Status - This variable was classified into four (4) categories: Single = 1, Married = 2, widowe(er) =3 Divorced/Separated = 4

Household Size - This variable was measured by grouping the size of the household into four (4) categories: HS1=below 3, HS2= 3-5 members, HS3=6-8 members, and HS4=8 and above members

Senatorial Districts - This variable was measured by the three (3) senatorial districts in Ondo State: Ondo South=1, Ondo Central = 2, and Ondo North = 3

Major Occupation- This variable was classified into seven (7) different types: Farming = 1, Trading = 2, Teaching = 3, Bricklayers = 4, Carpentry = 5, Civil Servants =6 and others =7

Minor Occupation- This variable was classified into six (6) different types: Tailoring = 1,

Trading = 2, Bricklayers = 3, Poultry Keeping = 4, Farming =5 and others =6 Major

Source of Income- This variable was categorized into three (3) types: Salary Job=1, Farming=2, and 3= Non-farming self-employment

Total Previous Income- This variable was measured using the total sum of previous income of respondents for the year 2017.

Total Current Income- This variable was measured using the total sum of current income of respondents for the year 2018.

4. Analysis of Result and Discussion

4.1 Descriptive Analysis on the Demographic Characteristics of Household in Ondo State

Table 1. Descriptive Analysis on the Demographic Characteristics of Household in Ondo State

Variables	Variable Classifications	% N=2327	Variables	Variable Classifications	% N=2327
Age	*Age1(<30yrs)*	13.5	Major Occupation	*Farming*	9
	Age2(30-39yrs)	27.4		*Trading*	25
	Age3(40-49yrs)	32.2		*Teaching*	17
	Age4(50yrs>)	26.9		*Bricklayer*	5
Gender	*Male*	56		*Carpentry*	5
	Female	44		*Civil Service*	19
Marital Status	*Single*	18.3		*Others*	19
	Married	62.1	Minor Occupation	*Tailoring*	7.5
	Widow(er)	19.7		*Trading*	13.4
	Separated/ Divorced	8.8		*Bricklayer*	1.8
Household Size	*Hsize1(<2)*	8.8		*Poultry Keeping*	9.9
	Hsize2(2-4)	47.4		*Farming*	12.8
	Hsize3(5-7)	38.3		*Others*	5.6
	Hsize4(>7)	5.5		*None*	49
Senatorial District	*Ondo South*	46.8	Major source of Income	*Salary Job*	42
	Ondo Central	24.5		*Farming*	8.0
	Ondo North	28.7		*Non Farm Job*	41.4
Educational Qualification	*No formal Edu*	8.9			
	Elementary	5.3			
	Junior Sec	4.0			
	Senior Sec	29.9			
	Tertiary	51.4			
	Others	0.5			

Source: Authors' Computation, 2020.

From Table 1, the ages of respondents were classified into four Age Brackets. Respondents who fall between the ages of 40 to 49 years (Age3) have the highest percentage with 32.2% followed by Age 2 (30-39years) with 27.4%, Age 4 (50years >) has 26.9% while Age1 (<30years) has 13.5%. In terms of Gender distribution, Male has 56% while Female has 44%.

For Marital Status, Married respondents were 62.1%, followed by Single with 18.3%, Widows/Widowers were 10.7% while those that were Separated/Divorced were 8.8%. The

respondents Household size were classified into 4, House size 2(2-4) has the highest with 47.4%, followed by House size 3(5-7) with 38.3%, House size 1(<2) has 8.8% while House size 4 (>7) were 5.5%. In terms of respondents' Senatorial Districts, 46.8% were from Ondo South followed by 28.7% from Ondo North while 24.5% were from Ondo Central. Information on the respondents' educational qualification showed that 51.4% were graduates of tertiary institutions, followed by 29.9% with Senior Secondary certificates, 8.9% had no formal education, 5.3% with elementary education, 4% had Junior Secondary School certificates while 0.5% had other forms of educational qualifications.

Information on the respondents' major occupation indicated that 9% of the respondents were into farming, 25% were traders, 17% were teachers, 5% were both Bricklayers and Carpenters while 19% were Civil servants and into other forms of occupations. In terms of Minor Occupation, 7.5% were Tailors, 13.4% were Traders, 1.8% were Bricklayers, 9.9% were into Poultry keeping, 12.8% were farmers, 5.6% were into other forms of occupations while 49% do not have minor occupations.

Finally, in terms of the major source of income of respondents, 42% had salary jobs, 8% were farmers while 41.4% had non-farming activities as their major sources of income.

4.2 Regression Results and Interpretation

The regression result (ANOVA) of the study is presented in the table below

Table 2. Econometric Analysis Result on the relationship between Total Expenditure on Socio-demographics of Households in Ondo State

Dependent Variable: Total Expenditure on Food (TEF)

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Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	7972.467	2538.787		3.140	.002
Gender	-663.141	587.942	-.036	-1.128	.260
Marital Status	52.252	374.762	.004	.139	.889
Household Size	895.207	166.332	.181	5.382	.000
Senatorial District	85.369	326.986	.008	.261	.794
Educational Qualification	844.445	258.435	.108	3.268	.001
Major Occupation	-437.969	148.463	-.099	-2.950	.003
Minor Occupation	488.235	156.560	.099	3.119	.002
Major Source of Income	-1281.189	322.885	-.135	-3.968	.000
Previous Income 2017	-.008	.002	-5.272	-3.656	.000
Current Income 2018	.009	.002	5.388	3.737	.000
Age	-25.309	31.401	-.028	-.806	.420
Model Summary	R=0.828	R Sq.=0.61	Adj R Sq=0.51	F Ch.=362.24	Sig. F=.000
		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	
Model	Regression	8762573022.5	11	796597547.5	
	Residual	76831803692.2	999	76908712.4	
	Total	85594376714.7	1010		

A look at Tables 2 and 3 shows that the signs of the coefficient of household size, education qualification, minor occupation, senatorial district, marital status, and current income are positive and in order of importance. While a major source of income, gender, major occupation, age, and previous income are negatives and in order of importance.

From the result in Table 2, household size seems to be a factor stimulating consumption expenditure among households in Ondo state. The result showed that an increase in household size will lead to an increase in household consumption expenditure on food and it was statistically significant at a 1% level. This finding conforms with the previous study of Babatunde et al., (2009).

They concluded that household size plays a significant factor in motivating household expenditure on consumption. This study's findings on the relationship between household size and expenditure on consumption may have been motivated by the general norms and customs of people of Yoruba descent. Yoruba as an ethnic group operates an extended family circle. This is responsible for the higher household size commonly finds in Ondo state.

Hence, it is a common norm to have one relative such as parents, in-laws uncles, aunties, etc. living together. Educational qualification of the household was found to positively influence their consumption expenditure on food. This implies that educated households spend more on consumable food items and this finding was statistically significant at 1% level.

This finding also supports a study by Gwandi et al (2014). Gwandi et al., (2014) found that the educational qualification of households stimulates their consumption expenditure. This study's finding may be because the more educated household members are the more, they are exposed to having better jobs which equally provide a platform for them to be able to afford food items irrespective of the cost.

Minor and Major Occupations embarked upon by households also seem to be a factor stimulating household consumption expenditure for food. The study found a positive relationship between minor occupation of household and household consumption expenditure on food and it was statistically significant at 5% level.

However, the Major Occupation of a household was found to have a negative relationship with household consumption expenditure on food and it was statistically significant at 5% level. These findings seem to be conflicting with a study by Krige et al., (2012). Krige et al., (2012) found that the occupation of households stimulates their consumption expenditure. This study differs a little bit from that of Krige et al., (2012) due to the incorporation of the different forms of avenues in which household sources for income. The findings of this study in terms of Minor and Major occupations having conflicting results is not surprising at all. One of the reasons for this is that households are now engaged in diverse means of sourcing for income in other for households to boost their financial status.

Most civil servants in Ondo state were owed several months of unpaid salaries and this situation has now become a problem for the government. Hence, the household now indulges in other forms of livelihood to boost their consumption expenditures. This may explain the conflicting findings in this study.

The study found that the Current Income of households tends to stimulate their consumption expenditures. The result showed that a positive relationship existed between current income and consumption expenditure of household and it was statistically significant at 1% level. This finding is also in tandem with a study by Babalola and Isitor (2014). Babalola and Isitor (2014) concluded that household income stimulates consumption expenditure.

This implies that household makes their consumption expenditure plan based on their current income. One of the reasons for this is that prices of consumables are inconsistent due to the recent inflationary trend in the country. Hence, it is more economical to purchase needed items than to keep money in the bank.

More so, workers have equally owned wages and salaries and when they finally get the pay they stock their homes with needed items. This may be responsible for the increase in the household consumption expenditure, on the contrary, major sources of Income and Previous Income of household heads also seem to harm household head consumption expenditure on food and both were statistically significant at 1% respectively. This finding does not support a study by Babalola and Isitor (2014). Babalola and Isitor (2014) found a positive and significant relationship between household income and household consumption expenditure. This study differs from that of Babalola and Isitor (2014) because of the adoption of different variables used in measuring different sources of income in the study.

One of the reasons for this finding may be because households' wages and salaries were not paid as at when due in Ondo State. Hence, this may negatively impact households' consumption expenditure. In this study, the following variables such as; age, gender, marital status, and senatorial districts were not significant factors stimulating household head consumption expenditure on food in this study.

Table 3. Ranking of Variable according to Absolute values

Variables	Coefficients	Ranking of Absolute Values
Gender	-663.14	4th
Marital Status	52.25	8th
Household Size	895.21	2nd
Senatorial District	85.36	7th
Education Qualification	844.45	3rd
Major Occupation	-437.97	6th
Minor Occupation	488.24	5th
Major Source of Income	-1281.19	1st
Previous Income 2017	-0.008	11th
Current Income	0.009	10th
Age	-25.31	9th

Source: Authors' Computation, 2020.

Finally, the R Square which is the coefficient of determination indicated that 61% of the variables adopted for this analysis explained the household consumption expenditure on food while 39% variation was not explained in this model. The P values of obtaining an F value of as much as 362.24 or greater is not almost zero, leading to the rejection of the hypothesis that states that socio-demographic variables adopted for this study have no significant effect on

the total expenditure of household consumption expenditure on food.

5. Conclusion and Recommendation

This study set out to examine the effect of socioeconomic variables on consumption expenditure in Ondo State. The study made use of a questionnaire administered to respondents in the three senatorial districts namely; Ondo South, Ondo Central, and Ondo North. A total of 2,327 questionnaire were returned and the data were analysed using descriptive and ANOVA to establish the relationship between the socioeconomics variable and consumption expenditure.

The study found that household size, educational qualification, minor occupation, and current income had a significant positive effect on the food consumption expenditure of household heads in Ondo State. However major occupation, major sources of income, and previous income had a significant negative effect on food consumption expenditure of household heads in Ondo State.

Finally, gender, marital status, senatorial districts, and age do not seem to be significant factors stimulating the household heads' consumption spending on food in Ondo. The study concluded that socioeconomic variables affect food consumption expenditure of household heads in Ondo State. The study thereby recommended that for the households to meet FAO's food requirement for food security of 2250kcal and 65.0grespectively, the government should try to pay workers' salaries and entailment as at when due to discourage reduction in food consumption expenditure of the people.

The more income a household earns, the less prone to food insecurity the household tends to become. This is because a lack of payment of workers' entailments could lead to a reduction in their purchasing power. This may also affect the access to socio-economic needs of the citizens such as education and household size, bearing in mind that with good education, the household will be properly informed on the number of a family size such household can maintain.

It must be noted that large family size put pressure on family income and thereby exposes household to inadequate food demand.

Acknowledgment

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