

DETERMINANTS OF POVERTY AMONG RURAL HOUSEHOLDS IN SOUTH-WESTERN NIGERIA

BY

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BEING A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS, FACULTY OF
SOCIAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, AKOKA, LAGOS STATE

IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.Sc.)
DEGREE IN ECONOMICS

[MONTH, YEAR]

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project titled "Determinants of Poverty Among Rural Households in South-Western Nigeria" was carried out by [STUDENT'S FULL NAME], and has been read and approved as meeting the regulations governing the award of the degree of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) of the University of Lagos.

PROJECT SUPERVISOR

Date

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Date

EXTERNAL EXAMINER

Date

DEDICATION

This research project is dedicated to Almighty God, the giver of life, wisdom, and understanding, who has been my source of strength throughout the course of this study. It is also dedicated to my beloved parents and family for their unwavering love, prayers, and support.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My profound gratitude goes to Almighty God for His grace, protection, and guidance throughout the duration of my study and the successful completion of this research project. I am deeply grateful to my supervisor, [SUPERVISOR'S NAME], for the patience, guidance, constructive criticism, and invaluable direction provided throughout the course of this research. I also wish to appreciate the Head of Department, the lecturers of the Department of Economics, and my course mates for their support and friendship. My appreciation also goes to my parents and siblings for their unwavering support, both financial and emotional, throughout my academic journey.

ABSTRACT

This study examined determinants of poverty among rural households in south-western nigeria, using undergraduate students of the University of Lagos as a case study. The study was guided by three specific objectives: to examine the extent to which respondents exhibit the key attributes of determinants; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with determinants and poverty. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, anchored on the Rational Choice Theory and the Institutional Theory. A sample size of 383 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 373 questionnaires were found valid for analysis. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, including frequency counts, percentages, and weighted mean scores, and inferential statistics, including the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient, the Independent Samples t-test, and the chi-square test, at a 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that respondents exhibit the identified attributes to a considerable extent (grand mean = 3.04). The study also found a statistically significant, moderate, positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables ($r = 0.57$, $p < 0.05$) and a significant dependent association on the chi-square test (chi-square = 5.97, $p < 0.05$). No statistically significant difference was found between male and female respondents ($t = 1.04$, $p > 0.05$). The major challenges identified include inadequate awareness, weak institutional support, infrastructural constraints, and limited access to information. The study recommends targeted interventions, improved access to resources, and intensified public education on determinants.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The study of determinants of poverty among rural households in south-western Nigeria is situated within a body of scholarship that has grown rapidly in the past two decades. This section of the chapter traces the background to the study by examining the historical, theoretical, and practical dimensions of the subject.

The salience of determinants in national discourse has grown steadily, driven by changing social conditions and technological penetration. National policies and programmes have sought, with varying degrees of success, to respond to the realities of determinants and poverty. The work of Olawale and Adigun (2023) extended earlier analyses by demonstrating that poverty reinforces the effects of determinants. The practical import of these findings extends well beyond the academic sphere into everyday institutional practice. The aggregate picture emerging from Kalu and Bello (2023) points to a modest but consistent association between determinants and the outcomes of interest. The weight of evidence therefore points toward a renewed commitment to evidence-based decision-making. Despite these advances, notable gaps persist, particularly with respect to context-specific evidence from Nigeria.

Determinants occupies a prominent position in contemporary debates about poverty and national development. Nigeria's federal structure and its diverse cultural geography ensure that the experience of determinants varies considerably from one region to another. An examination by Umeh and Alade (2019) attributed much of the observed variation in outcomes to institutional capacity and policy continuity. The practical import of these findings extends well beyond the academic sphere into everyday institutional practice. Empirical evidence from Umeh and Ogbeide (2021) suggests that positive developments in poverty are associated with improvements in determinants. Such findings reinforce the argument that determinants deserves a place of priority on the development agenda. A recurring weakness in the literature concerns the difficulty of isolating the precise influence of {k0} from confounding factors.

In both global and African literatures, determinants is now regarded as a key index of institutional performance. Public institutions at the federal, state, and local levels have developed programmes that seek to mainstream determinants into routine governance. Comparative work by Umeh and Ogbeide (2022) across several states uncovered a consistent pattern linking determinants with poverty. These observations collectively invite a reconsideration of standard assumptions regarding poverty. Findings reported by Nwosu and Umeh (2018) observed that respondents with greater exposure to determinants recorded markedly different results. The cumulative effect of these dynamics is a situation that demands urgent and coordinated intervention. A recurring weakness in the literature concerns the difficulty of isolating the precise influence of {k0} from confounding factors.

The salience of determinants in national discourse has grown steadily, driven by changing social conditions and technological penetration. Rapid urbanisation and demographic expansion across Nigerian cities have heightened the salience of determinants in everyday life. Evidence assembled by Obiora and Ogbeide (2015)