

Effect Of Access To Livelihood Resources On The Wellbeing Of Rural Households In Selected States Of South Southern Nigeria

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ABSTRACT:- Rural household livelihood strategies are tied to their environmental context and the resources obtained in the environment is vital to their survival. Therefore, effect of access to livelihood resources on the wellbeing of rural households was investigated. A multistage sampling procedure was used to select respondents for the study and data was collected using structured interview schedule and analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The study found out that households in oil producing communities had higher access to livelihood resources (6.68 ± 2.93) than households in non oil producing communities (6.30 ± 2.52). It is recommended that a clean up of the environment in oil producing communities by MNCs is vital so that access to livelihood resources will translate to high level of economic output.

Keywords: *Oil producing communities, Livelihood resources, Livelihood activities, Household wellbeing*

I. INTRODUCTION

Rural Nigeria is characterized by agrarian livelihoods as well as certain other primary production activities. Rural dwellers livelihood strategies are tied to their environmental context and the resources obtained in the environment are vital to their survival. Livelihoods can be defined as any means or method of making a living or the various activities and resources that allow people to live and feed their households (Etuk 2012). Rural livelihood can be said to include: Physical capital such as farm equipment, fishing equipment and sewing machines, Social capital such as social networks, associations and NGO, Financial capital such as savings and credit facilities, Natural capital such as natural resources deposits as well as Human capital such as skills, education, attitudes, knowledge. All these either individually or as a framework help to improve the standard of living of the rural dwellers (Olawoye, 2000). The people in rural areas derive their livelihood in several ways such as livestock rearing, crop farming, fishing, hunting, petty trading, selling cooked foods/snacks, carpentry, palm wine tapping, bricklaying, blacksmithing, tailoring, hair dressing as well as working as civil servants (Olawoye, 2000). These livelihood activities are at the centre of human survival and well being. However, environmental degradation, insecure access to productive and natural resources and economic instability pose a threat to the sustainability of many of these livelihood activities (Olawoye, 2002). Carney (1998) buttressed this point by noting that livelihood is only sustainable when it has the capacity to meet the immediate needs of the people while its ability to meet future needs is not compromised. This study is thus informed by the major consideration that changing economic priorities have an effect on resource demand and resource management. The demand for resources (physical, financial, social, natural and human) beyond what nature can cope with leads to a conflict between present and future needs of such resources by the inhabitants of such an environment. An "unsustainable situation" occurs when these livelihood resources are used up faster than they can be replenished. Sustainability requires that human activity only uses nature's resources at a rate at which they can be replenished naturally. Therefore the objective of this study was to identify and describe the level of access to livelihood resources by households in oil and non-oil producing rural communities of the study area. It was hypothesised that there is no significant relationship between access to livelihood resources of households in oil and non oil producing rural communities and their level of wellbeing.

Methodology

A multistage sampling procedure was used to select respondents for the study. Abia and Akwa Ibom States were purposively selected being the least and highest oil producing states respectively. The states were stratified into oil and non-oil producing local government areas (LGAs) and 30% of LGAs in each stratum was randomly selected to give Ibeno and Ibesikpo Asutan in Akwa Ibom as well as Ukwa West and Ikwuano in Abia States

respectively. Using proportionate sampling technique, 20% of oil producing communities (OPC) and 10% of non oil producing communities (NOPC) were randomly sampled from selected LGAs. Heads of households (125 and 125) and (94 and 110) in OPC and NOPC of Akwa Ibom and Abia States respectively were systematically chosen to give 454 respondents. Structured interview schedule was used to collect data on respondents' socioeconomic characteristics and factors that determine wellbeing. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics and multiple linear regressions at $\alpha_{0.05}$.

II. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Access to Physical Resources by Households

Physical resources of households' are a store of wealth which can be sold to generate income for the household. The result of the survey on Table 1 shows that households had access to some physical resources, however the degree of access to these resources differed in both areas; for instance, in oil producing communities of Akwa Ibom state, 38.4% of the respondents had access to buildings through inheritance, 32.0% outright ownership and 16.8% through lease. While in the non oil producing communities, 3.2% had access to buildings through inheritance, 48.0% outright ownership and 36.0% through lease. The result indicates a higher percentage (48.0%) of home ownership in non oil producing communities implying a relatively higher level of economic comfort for the households.

“ there are good houses available here built by individuals not the oil multinationals. The people here die in the course of protecting Mobil yet they don't build any house for the people” (In-depth interview with key informant Ibeno LGA)

Farm/fishing implements: In Akwa Ibom state, 28.8% of respondents indicated they had access to non mechanized farm/fishing equipments through ownership, 1.6% rental and 8.0% inheritance and 61.6% of respondents do not have access to farm/fishing implements which is an indication that they may not be able to do much on their farms. Unlike households in non oil producing communities who indicated better access; 29.6% ownership, 34.4% rental and 7.2% inheritances of farm/fishing implements. Percentage Ownership of modern mechanized appliances such as tractor was highly uncommon with only 21.6% and 5.6% of households reporting ownership of a tractor in both oil and non oil producing communities respectively. This implies that agriculture is still at the subsistence level in the region. **Other items:** There was also a limited access to other livelihood items in the oil producing communities as shown in the table: large livestock 5.6%, small livestock (goats and pigs) 30.8% and poultry 32.0%. Households in the non oil producing communities did not indicate a better access to these resources as they also indicated low access: large livestock 5.6%, small livestock (goats and pigs) 32.0% and poultry. Households in both areas however indicated good access to household durables (fridge, television, radio, mattress, beds, mats, kerosene stove and cell phone) (65.2% oil) and (76.1% non oil). This result on household durables demonstrates a heightened concern with assets that are related to sleep, food and information acquisition.

According to the result on Table 1b, in Abia state, access to buildings for households were; ownership 55.3%, lease 44.7% in oil producing communities and 37.3% ownership, 41.8% lease in non oil producing communities. This implies that a higher percentage of households (55.3%) own homes in oil producing communities. Home ownership is an indication that the economic pressures of rents are minimal. From the focus group discussions, it was found out that legal owners of buildings in the study area were men while household durables and livestock were said to belong to all household members. *“ all these cement houses you see in this community are built by our sons who work hard and then come home to build houses for their parents and some were built by us too when we were young” (FGD Male participant Ikwuano)*. This indicates that the houses were owned through remittances into these communities

Farm/fishing implements: The table also shows that 53.2% respondents indicated ownership of non mechanized farm/fishing equipment and 27.7% rented in oil producing communities. While in the non oil producing communities, 50.0% owned, 41.8% rented farm/fishing implements. This is an indication that although commercial and mechanized farming is nonexistent, households in both areas are able to feed their families through subsistence agriculture.

Other items: Access to other items in the oil producing communities as shown in the table was: poultry 70.2% and household durables (fridge, television, radio, mattress, mats, kerosene stove, cell phone) 88.3%. Just like their counterparts in the non oil producing communities who indicated access to: poultry 37.3% and household durables (fridge, television, radio, mattress, mats, kerosene stove and cell phone) 89.2%. Access to household durables as indicated across all categories of respondents confers a certain level of comfort after a hard day's work on members of the household.

Table 1a: Distribution of households based on access to physical resources in oil and non oil producing communities of Akwa Ibom State

Physical resources	Akwa Ibom (Oil)						Akwa ibom (Non oil)					
	O %	R %	I %	U %	D %	MEAN	O %	R %	I %	U %	D %	MEAN
Farmland	20.0	12.8	49.6	0.8	16.8	2.21	50.4	28.8	4.0		16.8	2.96
Building	32.0	16.8	38.4	0	12.8	2.55	48.0	36.	3.2		12.8	3.09
Farm implements	28.8	1.6	8.0	0	61.6	1.36	29.6	34.4	7.2	1.6	27.2	2.38
Nonfarm implements	8.8	5.6	4.0	0	81.6	0.56	16.8	11.2	12.8	4.0	55.2	1.30
Machines	21.6	5.6	2.4	0	70.4	1.08	5.6	1.6	0.8	1.6	90.4	0.30
Cattle	4.8	0.8		0	94.4	0.19	3.2	0.8		1.6	94.4	0.17
Goats	50.4	0.8	3.2		45.6	2.09	24.8	0.8	2.4	0.8	71.2	1.07
Poultry	28.0	1.6	2.4	0	68.0	1.20	34.4	4.0	1.6	0.8	59.2	1.54
Pig	4.0	0.8	2.4	4.0	92.8	0.23	22.4	6.4	5.6	0.8	64.8	1.21
Cell phone	67.2	0.8	1.6	0.8	29.6	2.75	79.2	3.2	1.6	3.2	12.8	3.33
Bicycle	36.8	0.8	3.2	0	59.2	1.56	12.8	23.2	8.0	3.2	52.8	1.40
Motorcycle	42.4	1.6	4.8	0	49.6	1.86	18.4	7.2	21.6	5.6	47.2	1.44
Car	20.0	4.0	1.6	0	73.6	0.96	35.2	6.4	12.0	8.0	38.4	1.92
Lorry	1.6	0.8			97.6	0.07	9.6	13.6	8.0	4.8	64.0	1.00
Fridge	32.0		5.6	0.8	61.6	1.40	61.6	7.2	8.0	9.6	13.6	2.94
Television	61.6	0.8	3.2	0	34.4	2.55	80.8	5.6	4.0	7.2	2.4	3.55
Radio	88.0		2.4	0	9.6	3.56	84.8	4.0	1.6	7.2	2.4	3.62
Mattresses	67.2	0.8	1.6	0.8	29.6	2.75	79.2	3.2	1.6	3.2	12.8	3.33
Beds	50.4	3.2	0.8	0	45.6	2.09	61.6	7.2	8.0	9.6	13.6	2.94
Mats	88.0	2.4	0	0	9.6	3.56	80.8	5.6	4.0	7.2	2.4	3.55
Kerosene stove	67.2	1.6	0.8	0.8	29.6	2.75	80.8	8.0	1.6	7.2	2.4	3.62

O= Owned, R= Rented, I= Inherited, U=Using without permission, D= Don't have.

Source: Field survey, 2015

Table 1b: Distribution of households based on access to physical resources in oil and non oil producing communities of Abia State

Physical resources	Abia(Oil)						Abia (Non oil)					
	O %	R %	I %	U %	D %	MEAN	O %	R %	I %	U %	D %	MEAN
Farmland	51.1	34.0	0	0	14.9	3.06	37.3	30.0	0	3.6	29.1	2.43
Building	55.3	44.7	0	0	0	3.55	37.3	41.8	0	0	20.9	2.75
Farm implements	53.2	27.7	0	0	19.1	2.96	50.0	10.0	0	0	40.0	2.30
Nonfarm implements	25.5	12.8	0	0	61.7	1.40	24.5	6.4	0	1.8	67.3	2.29
Machines	8.5	23.4	0	0	68.1	1.04	3.6	20.0	0	0	76.4	0.75
Cattle	6.4	4.3	0	0	89.4	0.38	4.5	0	0	0	95.5	0.18
Goats	48.9	8.5	0	0	42.6	2.21	26.4	0	0	0	73.6	1.05
Poultry	63.8	6.4	0	0	29.8	2.74	37.3	0	0	0	62.7	1.49
Pig	31.9	0	0	0	68.1	1.28	22.7	0	0	0	77.3	0.91

Cell phone	93.6	2.1	0	0	4.3	3.81	88.2	0	0	0	11.8	0.35
Bicycle	42.6	6.4	0	0	51.1	1.89	18.2	0	0	0	81.8	0.73
Motorcycle	44.7	2.1	0	0	53.2	1.85	19.1	1.8	0	0	79.1	0.82
Car	42.6	0	0	0	57.4	1.70	59.1	0	0	0	40.9	2.36
Lorry	10.6	8.5	0	0	80.9	0.68	1.8	5.5	0	0	92.7	0.24
Fridge	83.0	2.1	0	0	14.9	3.38	92.7	1.8	0	0	5.5	3.76
Television	95.7	0	0	0	4.3	3.83	98.2	1.8	0	0	0	3.98
Radio	95.7	0	0	2.1	2.1	3.85	98.2	1.8	0	0	0	3.98
Mattress	95.7	2.1	0	0	14.9	3.38	90.7	0	3.8	0	5.5	3.76
Beds	95.7	2.1	0	0	14.9	3.38	88.2	0	0	0	11.8	0.35
Mats	63.8	6.4	0	0	29.8	2.74	59.1	0	0	0	40.9	2.36
Kerosene stove	83.0	2.1	0	0	14.9		98.2	0	1.8	0	0	3.98

O= Owned, R= Rented, I= Inherited, U=Using without permission, D= Don't have.

Source: Field survey, 2015

Access To Financial Resources by Households

Table 2a shows that in Akwa Ibom state oil producing communities, the respondents always had access to financial resources through income from farm work (36.0%), off farm work (29.6%), informal credit (4.8%) and formal credit (5.6%), while the respondents in the non oil producing communities indicated their sources of finance as; income from farm work (26.4%), income from off farm work (49.6%), informal credit (23.2%), cash gift (26.4%) and income from other household members (21.6%). This implies that households in non oil producing communities had better access to finances when compared to their counterparts in oil producing communities.

The results as shown in Table 2b, revealed that in Abia state the respondents in the oil producing communities always had access to finance through; income from farm work (36.2%), off farm work (53.2%), informal credit (12.8%) and formal credit (10.6%). While those in non oil producing communities always had access to finance through; income from farm work (24.5%), off farm work (38.2%), informal credit (4.5%) and formal credit (13.6%). The results indicate that although households reported having incomes, formal means of accessing finance may not be readily available to households in both oil and non oil communities. This result was buttressed by evidence from the focus group discussions with all the gender groups in the communities. The respondents noted that they do not have financial help from other sources besides their livelihood activities and sometimes from members of their households or through informal credit. *"nobody gives us money here oooo. Oil money is for oil people, e no dey reach our side at all. Our money is from our work, we work hard before we get money"* (FGD female participant Ibeno) *"Well, to say the truth, sometimes we use to get small small loan from some people but the interest is high. So we depend on whatever we make from our farm and trade"* (FGD female participant Ikvwuano) As such nearly all respondents of the focus group discussions classified themselves to be about average or below average in terms of socio-economic status particularly in the oil producing areas where environmental degradation was more obvious. The discussants in oil producing communities noted that there has been a great decrease in their financial capital due mainly to oil spillage which pollutes their soil and water bodies leading to loss of marine and aquatic life.

Table 2a: Distribution of households based on access financial resources in oil and non oil producing communities of Akwa Ibom state

Financial Resources	Akwa Ibom (Oil)				Akwa Ibom (Non oil)			
	A %	S %	N %	Mean	A %	S %	N %	Mean
Income from farm work	36.0	44.0	20.0	1.16	26.4	52.8	20.8	1.06
Income from off farm work	29.6	35.2	35.2	0.94	49.6	33.6	16.8	1.33
Informal credit	4.8	23.2	72.0	0.33	23.2	25.6	51.2	0.72
Formal credit	5.6	20.0	74.4	0.31	16.8	23.2	60.0	0.57
Pension	4.8	10.4	84.8	0.20	8.8	13.6	77.6	0.31

						6	6	
Cash gifts	4.8	44.8	50.4	0.54	26.4	41.6	32.0	0.94
Migrant remittances	0.8	12.0	87.2	0.14	12.0	12.8	75.2	0.37
Income from other household members	5.6	43.2	51.2	0.54	21.6	32.0	46.4	0.75

High Access > 20,000, Low Access <20,000 A= Always, S= Sometimes, N=Never

Source: Field survey, 2015.

Table 2b: Distribution of households based on access to financial resources in oil and non oil producing communities of Abia state

Financial Resources	Abia (Oil)				Abia (Non oil)			
	A %	S %	N %	Me an	A %	S %	N %	Me an
Income from farm work	36.2	36.2	27.7	1.09	24.5	48.2	27.3	0.97
Income from off farm work	53.2	40.3	6.4	1.47	38.2	32.7	29.1	1.09
Informal credit	12.8	76.6	10.6	1.02	4.5	57.3	38.2	0.66
Formal credit	10.6	59.6	29.8	0.81	13.6	47.3	39.1	0.75
Pension	14.9	17.0	68.1	0.47	7.3	11.8	80.9	0.26
Cash gifts	6.4	68.1	25.5	0.81	8.2	66.4	25.5	0.83
Migrant remittances	4.3	34.0	81.7	0.43	3.6	21.8	74.5	0.29
Income from other household members	4.3	83.0	12.8	0.92	8.2	61.8	30.0	0.78

High Access > 20,000, Low Access <20,000 A= Always, S= Sometimes, N=Never

Source: Field survey, 2015.

Access to Social Resources

Table 3a shows that in Akwa Ibom non oil producing communities, 59.2% belong to religious associations while in oil producing communities, 72.0% of respondents belong to religious organization and 50.0% to political organizations. In Abia state, the results as shown in Table 3b reveal more social resources among the participants. For instance, the respondents in the non oil producing communities indicated access to cooperative societies (52.7%) and religious associations (82.7%) while their counterparts in oil producing communities indicated access to age grade (70.2%), cooperative societies (66.0%), farmers' associations (66.0%), religious associations (80.9%) and community based groups (88.1%). Discussants of the focus groups in these communities noted that joining one social group or the other gives one a sense of belonging and unity. The youth discussants emphasized on the fact that coming together as a group helps them to defend their interests collectively.

“ yes we formed our youth association which is important for all youths of this community to join because that is the only way we can come together and fight for our rights with these oil company people” (Youth Leader, Owaza community)

Table 3a: Distribution of households based on access to social resources in oil and non oil producing communities of Akwa Ibom State

Social Resources	Akwa Ibom Oil		Akwa Ibom Non oil	
	Y %	Mean	Y %	Mean
Age grade	33.6	0.34	36.0	0.36

Cooperatives societies	36.0	0.36	48.0	0.48
Farmers association	34.4	0.34	36.0	0.36
Religious association	72.8	0.72	59.2	0.59
Market women's association	19.2	0.19	21.6	0.22
Community based associations	44.8	0.44	30.4	0.30
Political groups	59.6	0.59	41.6	0.42

Y= Yes, Source: Field survey, 2015.

Table 3b: Distribution of households based on social resources in oil and non oil producing communities of Abia State

Social Resources	Abia Oil		Abia Non oil	
	Y %	Mean	Y %	Mean
Age grade	70.2	0.70	41.8	0.42
Cooperatives societies	66.0	0.66	52.7	0.53
Farmers association	66.0	0.66	37.3	0.37
Religious association	80.9	0.81	82.7	0.83
Market women's association	38.3	0.38	10.9	0.11
Community based associations	68.1	0.68	41.8	0.42
Political groups	70.9	0.70	29.1	0.29

Y= Yes, Source: Field survey, 2015.

Access to Natural Resources

Table 4a shows that in Akwa Ibom oil producing communities, households always had access to the following natural resource base: cultivated land (47.2%), streams/rivers (37.6%) and economic trees (40.8%) while their counterparts in non oil producing communities always had access to natural resource base in: cultivated land (62.4%), uncultivated land (58.4%), streams/rivers (41.8%) and economic trees (35.2%). This indicates a higher access to natural resources (50.8%) in non oil producing communities. This perhaps could be as a result of households in oil producing communities losing their farmlands and streams to oil exploration activities with the consequent negative implication for household wellbeing. Table 4b shows that in Abia state, the respondents in the oil producing communities always had access to: cultivated land (70.2%), uncultivated land (42.6%), streams/rivers (57.4%), and economic trees (74.5%). While the respondents in non oil producing communities indicated they always had access: cultivated land (40.9%), uncultivated land (41.8%), streams/rivers (50.0%), and economic trees (51.8%). The result in Abia state indicated a higher access (61.2%) in oil producing communities perhaps because oil exploration is not as intensive here as it is in Akwa Ibom state. The result is an indication that the households in the study area depend on the natural resource base for their livelihood and overall wellbeing

Table 4a: Distribution of households based on access to natural resources in oil and non oil producing communities of Akwa Ibom State

Natural Resources	Akwa Ibom Oil				Akwa Ibom Non oil			
	A %	S %	N %	Mean	A %	S %	N %	Mean
Cultivated land	47.2	34.4	18.4	1.29	62.4	27.2	10.4	1.17
Non cultivated land	8.0	33.6	58.4	0.49	58.4	16.8	24.8	0.92
Streams/rivers	37.6	18.4	44.0	0.94	41.6	13.6	44.8	0.69
Lakes	12.8	8.0	79.2	0.34	0	17.6	82.4	0.18
Dams	2.4	9.6	88.0	0.14	0	14.4	85.6	0.14
Forests	19.2	17.6	63.2	0.56	13.6	22.4	64.0	0.49
Economic trees	40.0	26.4	32.8	1.08	35.2	40.0	24.8	1.11

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A= Always, S= Sometimes, N=NeverSource: Field survey, 2015

Table 4b: Distribution of households based on access to natural resources in oil and non oil producing communities of Abia State

Natural Resources	Abia Oil				Abia Non oil			
	A %	S %	N %	Mean	A %	S %	N %	Mean
Cultivated land	70.2	19.1	10.6	1.59	40.9	39.1	20.0	1.19
Non cultivated land	42.6	48.9	8.5	1.34	41.8	29.1	29.1	1.00
Streams/rivers	57.4	27.7	14.9	1.13	50.0	18.2	31.8	0.86
Lakes	25.5	29.8	44.7	0.81	10.9	24.5	64.5	0.46
Dams	27.7	29.8	42.6	0.85	8.2	24.5	67.3	0.41
Forests	44.7	34.0	21.3	1.23	27.3	25.5	47.3	0.80
Economic trees	74.5	21.3	4.3	1.70	51.8	27.3	20.9	1.31

A= Always, S= Sometimes, N=NeverSource: Field survey, 2015

Access to Human Resources

Table 5a shows that in oil producing communities of Akwa Ibom state, households having at least two to four members with no formal education was 21.6%, primary education 73.6%, secondary education 70.4%, tertiary education 28.4% and vocational education 40.8% respectively. In non oil producing communities it was; no formal (46.4%), primary (67.2%), secondary (73.6%), tertiary (64.0%) and vocational (41.6%). The result shows 61.6% v 53.3% literacy levels in favour of households in non oil producing communities.

Similarly, Table 5b shows that in oil producing communities of Abia state, households having at least two to four members with no formal, primary, secondary, tertiary or vocational education were; 21.3%, 40.4%, 70.2%, 46.8% and 25.5% respectively. While in the non oil producing communities the educational characteristics were; no formal (19.1%), primary (57.3%), secondary (59.1%), tertiary (37.3%) and vocational (12.7%). This result indicates that members of the households in the study area were educated. The implication is that households can use this high educational level of its members to access other livelihood resources to improve their wellbeing.

Employment: In the area of employment, Table 5a showed dependency ratio to be higher in non oil than in oil producing communities (66.6% v 48.4%). This is likely due to the number of non working individuals present in the communities. Similarly, the result in Abia state as shown in Table 5b also revealed a higher dependency ratio of 64.5% in non oil producing communities implying an abundance of labour but limited formal employment with consequent over dependence on limited resources and low household wellbeing.

Table 5a: Distribution of households based on access to human resources in oil and non oil producing communities of Akwa Ibom State

Human Resources	Akwa Ibom Oil				Akwa Ibom Non oil			
a) Education	N %	M %	A %	Mean	N %	M %	A %	Mean
No formal	72.0	21.6	6.4	1.66	47.2	46.4	6.4	1.41
Primary	18.4	73.6	8.0	0.89	25.6	67.2	7.2	0.82
Secondary	23.2	70.4	6.4	0.83	18.4	73.6	8.0	0.89
Tertiary	66.6	28.4	5.6	0.40	27.2	64.0	8.8	0.1
Vocational training	53.6	40.8	5.6	0.52	46.4	41.6	12.0	0.86
b) Health								
Numbers of household members ill at least 1 week per month	74.4	24.0	1.6	1.73	70.4	21.6	8.0	1.62

Numbers of household members with terminal illness	80.0	17.6	2.4	1.78	75.2	14.4	10.4	1.65
Numbers of household members with non-terminal illness	68.8	20.8	10.4	1.58	66.6	21.6	12.8	1.53
c) Employment								
Numbers of household members in paid employment	62.4	32.0	5.6	0.43	60.0	32.8	7.2	0.75
Numbers of household members unemployed but not dependent	57.6	36.8	5.6	1.52	61.6	29.6	8.8	1.21
Numbers of dependent household members	33.6	48.8	17.6	1.16	17.6	66.6	16.8	1.01
Numbers of household members employed but not satisfied	60.0	31.2	8.8	1.51	66.4	26.4	7.2	1.19
d) Labor								
Family labor	25.6	47.2	27.2	1.02	30.4	42.4	27.2	0.97
Hired labor	48.8	27.2	24.0	0.75	33.6	32.0	34.4	1.01

Multiple responses N= None, M= More than 1 but less than 5, A= 5 and above

Table 5b: Distribution of households based on access to human resources in oil and non oil producing communities of Abia State

Human Resources	Abia Oil				Abia Non oil			
	N %	M %	A %	Mean	N %	M %	A %	Mean
No formal	6.4	21.3	72.3	0.34	1.8	19.1	79.1	0.22
Primary	8.5	40.4	51.1	0.58	10.0	57.3	32.7	0.77
Secondary	6.4	70.2	23.4	0.82	10.0	59.1	30.9	0.79
Tertiary	2.1	46.8	51.1	0.51	6.4	37.3	56.4	0.50
Vocational training	72.3	25.5	2.1	0.72	83.6	12.7	3.6	0.20
b) Health								
Numbers of household members ill at least 1 week per month	76.6	23.4	0	0.23	83.6	10.9	5.5	0.22
Numbers of household members with terminal illness	87.2	10.6	2.1	0.15	87.3	9.1	3.6	0.16
Numbers of household members with non-terminal illness	61.7	31.9	6.4	0.45	49.1	32.7	18.2	0.59
c) Employment								
Numbers of household members in paid employment	63.8	36.2	0	0.36	42.7	56.4	0.9	0.58
Numbers of household members unemployed but not dependent	56.3	40.4	4.3	0.49	39.1	57.3	3.6	0.85
Numbers of dependent household members	6.4	56.3	38.3	0.88	7.3	64.5	28.2	0.79
Numbers of household members employed but not satisfied	44.7	48.9	6.4	0.82	43.6	50.0	6.4	0.63
d) Labor								
Family labor	21.3	57.4	21.3	1.00	32.7	62.7	4.5	0.72
Hired labor	31.9	44.7	23.4	0.92	48.2	35.5	16.4	0.68

Multiple responses

N= None, M= More than 1 but less than 5, A= 5 and above

Categorization of households into high and low access to livelihood resources

Figure 1 gives the overall picture of the level of access to livelihood resources by households in the study area. The result reveals that majority (51.2%) of households in oil producing communities had low access to livelihood resources while 51.6% in non oil producing communities also had a low level of access. This implies that access to livelihood resources were generally low in the study area which perhaps is as a result of high dependency ratio as well as over exploitation of the rural environment. There is therefore a need to improve on access to livelihood resources by rural households in order to improve their wellbeing as supported by DFID (2000) who noted that access to capital assets is necessary for improved livelihood status of rural communities.

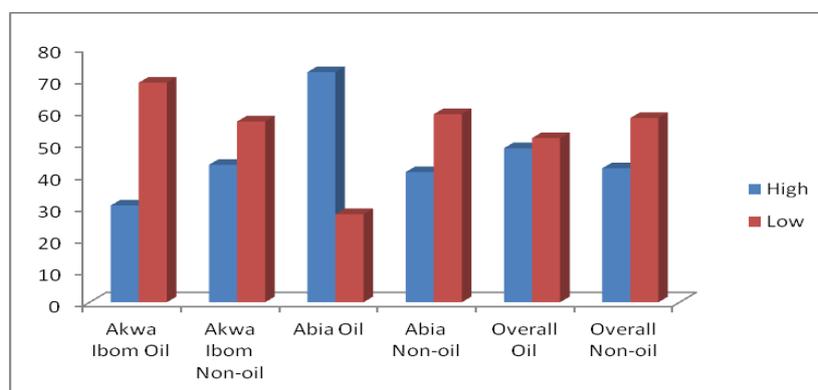


Figure 1: Categorization of household's into high and low levels of access to livelihood resources

Relationship between respondents' livelihood resources and their wellbeing

Table 6 shows that in oil producing communities, access to all the livelihood resources were significantly related at the $p < 0.05$ level to wellbeing of households. While in the non oil producing communities, there was a significant relationship between access to physical, human, natural and social resources and wellbeing but financial resources was not significantly related to wellbeing at the $p < 0.05$ level. In the overall, Table 5.16 further indicated that significant relationships exist between livelihood resources, (physical $r = 0.062$, financial $r = 0.042$, human $r = -0.343$, natural $r = 0.235$, and social $r = 0.212$, $p < 0.05$) of the respondents and their wellbeing. This implies that the level of wellbeing of households is a function of their access to livelihood resources. This finding is in tandem with the findings of Oduro, Baah-Boateng and Yiadom (2011), Epo and Baye (2011) and Onakuse *et al* (2007) who noted that the wellbeing and sustenance of households both in rural and urban centres is a function of the resources they can access .

Table 6: Relationship between livelihood resources and household wellbeing

Variables	Oil producing			Non oil producing			Overall		
	r	p	D	R	P	D	r	P	D
Physical	0.299	0.000	S	-0.142	0.029	S	0.062	0.028	S
Financial	0.164	0.015	S	-0.040	0.543	NS	0.042	0.036	S
Human	-0.283	0.000	S	-0.406	0.000	S	-0.343	0.000	S
Natural	0.208	0.002	S	0.278	0.000	S	0.235	0.000	S
Social	0.320	0.000	S	0.134	0.04	S	0.212	0.000	S

$r =$ correlation coefficient, $p =$ significance level, $D =$ decision

III. SUMMARY/CONCLUSION

The study revealed that majority of households in oil producing communities had high access to livelihood resources compared to their counterparts in non oil producing communities. It also revealed a significant relationship between access to livelihood resources and wellbeing of households in the study area.

IV. RECOMMENDATION

There is need for the government and relevant stakeholders to improve access to livelihood resources by rural households in the study area particularly oil producing communities. This is because of the significant and positive impact of these resources on wellbeing of rural households. A clean up of the environment in oil producing communities by MNCs is therefore necessary so that access to livelihood resources will translate to high level of economic output

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