Gender, Remittances And Household Development In Rural Southeast Nigeria

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Remittances represent an important category of capital transfers and have proven to be a crucial tool for development globally. This study examined the gender role in remittance use on household development in rural south-east, Nigeria. Primary data were collected using a well-structured questionnaire. Questions related to household heads were collected. A multistage sampling technique was used to sample 192 remittance-receiving households in the study area. The data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics, logit models, tobit regression model and t-test statistics.

The result showed that the average age of the household heads in the study area was 51 years. 62.5% of the household heads were male. (47.4%) attained secondary level of education and the average household size was 6 members. The result further showed that internal source of remittance was the most reliable source with (46.6%) of the respondents receiving their remittances internally mostly from close relatives. Money, food and clothing were mostly received on weekly, monthly and yearly basis respectively. Most of these respondents received monthly the remittance between ₦2000 and ₦50,000.

The logit regression showed that units increase in internal amount of remittance increase the probability of education budget share (0.7), a unit increase in external remittances increase the probability of education budget share (0.001). Furthermore, an increase in number of household members increases the probability of expenditure on education of the households (0.001). Results from the tobit regression revealed that the external amount of remittance significantly (0.06) and (0.6) increase probability health expenditure for female-and male-headed households respectively.

Result from the t-test analysis showed that on the aggregate there was no significant difference between expenditure pattern by both male-and female-headed households. However, there was significant difference between the household heads expenditure on education, festivals, and land at 1%, 10%, and 1% respectively.