

Household Survival and Economic Empowerment of Women in Osun State of Nigeria

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ABSTRACT The plight of the woman is a despicable one and to this end, this paper tried to examine the various survival-livelihood strategies for coping with the burdens of household management in Nigeria. Moreover, the study considered the viability of informal economic trading associations in facilitating household survival and general economic empowerment of women in Nigeria. The consequences of shifting the burdens of responsibilities of domestic welfare in male-headed households also constituted a major focus of this study. The data for the study were derived from primary sources namely, personal interviews and questionnaire; and were complemented by secondary data extracted from appropriate books and journals. The study found out that 77% of the women surveyed have joined one informal trading network or the other as a resort to household survival and that 23% involve in multiple mode of livelihood; that is, doing one or more other informal economic activities as a supplement to government employment. It was also discovered that the women that took to the multiple mode of livelihood strategy did so as a consequence of the default of male-dominated households and as a response to insecurity of government job. The study concluded that women's economic earnings have indeed increased as a result of their involvement in informal economic trading activities. Economic and political empowerment has also been largely achieved going by practical evidence of the successes recorded by women in Osun State of Nigeria in competently bearing household responsibilities and being able to win seats in both state and federal legislative houses.