

Centrifugal Cause of Household Poverty in Nigeria

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The study assessed the centrifugal cause of poverty in Obudu, Cross River State, Nigeria. Utilising the survey research method, data was collected from 417 participants from Obudu Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria using cluster, purposive and simple random sampling technique. A semi-structured self-developed questionnaire was used for data collection. Collected data were analysed using simple percentages, graphs, frequency distribution and simple lineal regression at 0.05 confidence level. The result from the analysed data revealed that a correlation exists between family size correlates with household poverty from the descriptive analysis. It was discovered that 84.75 per cent of the participants could not afford to take care of their family because of family composition. Results also revealed that family income significantly correlates within household poverty. The descriptive statistics revealed that 96 per cent of the participants could hardly afford three square meal. The study concludes that family income and size significantly determine household poverty in Obudu Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria. There is a need for policy change by the government towards poverty alleviation programs and financial inclusion of people of Obudu.

Keywords: centrifugal cause; Household poverty, family income, socio-economic; unemployment, family size, & Nigeria.

Poverty is and continues to remain a global concern. It's multidimensional and multi-facet nature continuously manifest in economic, political, social and every other aspect of human existence. According to the World Bank (2019), globally, 766 million people are extremely poor, surviving on under 1.90 US dollars a day. Data from 104 developing nations revealed that more than 1.3 billion people live in extreme poverty (United Nation, 2018). The World Bank (2018) reported that 70 per cent of the world poor could be found in middle-income nations. Sub-Saharan African has the highest numbers of people living in extreme poverty, with 413 million, that is a 9 million increase between 2016 and 2018. The subcontinent also has the highest number of children living in extreme poverty with 41 per cent living in extreme poverty and 51 per cent extremely poor (World Bank, 2020). The Middle East and North Africa have the highest poverty increase in the world. This can be attributed to the conflict in Syria and Yemen, increasing from 9.1 million in 2016 to 18.6 million in 2018 (United Nation, 2020).

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Contribution of Authors:

1. Okokon Effiom Edem: Introduction, Literature review, methodology and conclusion
2. AM Ogaboh Agba: data analysis, result and Discussion
3. Felix Eja Ojong: data collection and description

Africa bears the burden of poverty globally (Agba, Coker & Agba, 2010; Ojong, Attah, Agba & Coker, 2020; Agba, Agba, Ocheni & Eteng, 2020; Attah & Angioha, 2019; Adeniyi, Eneji & Okpa, 2019; Okpa, & Ukwaiyi, 2017), though statistics and evidence revealed that the number of people has reduced from 54 per cent in 1990 to 41 per cent in 2015 (World Bank, 2019). This statistics is not a true reflection of the situation. A deeper insight into the poverty situation reveals stark contrast to this figure where the number of persons living below the poverty line in Africa increased from 278 million to 413 million in 2015 (World Bank, 2019). One in every three African live below the poverty line and the continent will host 87 per cent of global poverty by 2030.

In sub-Saharan Africa, 40 per cent of the population are poor and live below the poverty line of 1.90 dollars a day, and the total number of extremely poor is higher than it was two decades ago (World Bank, 2019; Agba, Okpa, & Ogar, 2020; Agba, Agba, Ocheni & Eteng, 2020; Omang, Liu & Eneji, 2013; Ukwaiyi, Okpa, & Akwaji, 2019). Two countries in the subcontinent Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo epitomise poverty and face the greatest challenges of reducing poverty. One hundred and fifty millions of their citizens are extremely poor, accounting for one-quarter of the total poverty figure in Africa (Mowafi & Khanwaja, 2005; Ukwaiyi & Okpa, 2017; Kuper & Polack, 2018; World Bank, 2018). As at 2019, the part of the Nigerian population most affected by poverty is large households in the rural area (Varrella, 2019; Ajah & Okpa, 2019) According to the National Bureau of Statistics (2019) report that 52.1 per cent of the rural household in Nigeria are poor living on less than 1.90 US dollar a day. The severity of poverty in Nigeria's rural household is evident in their limited social, economic and infrastructural services (Apata, Apata, Igalajobi & Aromiyi, 2010; Ukwaiyi, Okpa, & Dike, 2018; Omang, Liu, & Eneji, 2012). The people in the rural area depends on mostly substance agriculture, just a few farm on a large scale for economic reasons.

Some factors contribute to the continuous growth in the number of rural household's poor (Agba, Okpa, & Ogar, 2020; Ndem, Angioha, & Dike, 2020; Ebingha, Eni, & Okpa, 2019), especially in Obudu Local Government Area. These factors are categorised into centrifugal (macro), and centripetal (micro factor) Centrifugal causes are those environmental, social or macro factors that cause household poverty. These are usually not within the control of the individual. The centripetal or micro factors are those factors within the periphery and are usually within the control of the individual. The centrifugal condition of the Obudu people is highly vulnerable with a complex nature of poverty. During the 18th century, the now residents of Obudu is said to have migrated from the East. With their origin traced back to the mountains, people of this region create large family sizes and rely on subsistent means of livelihood such as farming and hired labour. These study attempts to examine the centrifugal cause of household poverty Obudu, Cross River State Nigeria.

Literature Review

Evidence abounds that household size or family income determine household poverty. According to Lanjouw and Ravallion (1995), people living in large and younger households are typically poor Fusco, and Islam (2017) assessed the relationship between household size and poverty. Using longitudinal data, information was collected from the Luxenberg socio-economic panel. Findings from the data revealed that the number of children of different age group significantly affects the probability of poverty. Andersson, Engvall and Kokko (2006), used household survey data to analyse the determinant of poverty and income in Lao, Result from the analysed data revealed a significant correlation between family size, dependency ratio, education and poverty. Sumarto, Suryahadi, and Widyanti (2005) found in his study that the major determinant of poverty at the household level is household composition. Lekobane and Seleka (2014), in their study, assert that a

larger household size means more expenditure for the household. Olawuyi and Adetunji (2003), in their assessment of rural households' poverty in Nigeria, found that factors such as household size, farm size are important factors that determine poverty in Ogbomosho, Nigeria.

Alemu, Bewket, Zeleke, Assefa and Trutmann (2011) examined the determinant of poverty in rural villages. The analysis of the data from their study found that land size, family income determines the level of poverty in a rural household. The study Ogwumike and Akinnibosun (2013) study on the determinant of rural poverty among farming household using the national Bureau of statistics measurement of poverty found that farming income, household size determines poverty. Okurut, Odwee, and Adebua (2002) study found that household income is a significant determinant of poverty at a multivariant level. Edoumiekumo, Karimo, and Tombofa (2013) investigated the incidence, depth and severity of poverty and its correlate in Bayelsa, using 2009-10 NLSS data, which was analysed using FGT decomposable class of poverty measures and a logit regression model. Findings revealed that family per capital income increases the probability that a household will be poor.

Theoretical Foundation

The study adopts the classical theory of poverty. Attribute to the works of David Ricardo in 1815 such as the "Principles of political economy and taxation", "Influence of a low price of corn on the profits of stock" among others (Davis & Sanchez-Martinez, 2014; Davis, Bob, David, & Daniel, 2011). The theory assumes that the outcome of the exchange that takes place in the market is efficient. It implies that wages impact positively on individual's productivity. The theory holds that poverty is as a result of the choices that individuals make that negatively affect productivity (Ricardo David, 1817). The poor decision made by an individual may lead them to the poverty trap. The theory further suggests that government's social programmes and interventions have the great potential of creating economic poverty (World Economic Forum, 2020). It is because government intervention or social security schemes aim towards reducing poverty in the society is misaligned between the society and the individual; undermining people's self-sufficiency and motivation to climb out of poverty through their own efforts (Policy Brief, 2011).

More so, government welfare programmes are seen as a potential source of poverty as the recipients of these programmes are overly dependent, thereby creating a circle of dependency (Policy Brief, 2011). Therefore the classical theory of poverty by David Ricardo strongly recommends that the individual is responsible to alleviate themselves from poverty. Market exchange, as in the enthusiasm to work and the increase in productivity will increase incentives and eliminate indigent livelihoods (Agba, Udom & Eka, 2020). This theory therefore helps explain the reason for poverty been institutionalised in Obudu, where you see a large family with little income (Odey, Agba & Edet, 2019). Hence, the choice, efforts and decision that an individual makes determine his or her willingness to jump out of poverty.

Methods

Study Settings

The study was carried out in Obudu local government area of cross river state. Located in the northern part of the Cross River State in the southern part of Nigeria, Obudu covers an area of 416 kilometres. Obudu is located in a mountainous area north of the cross river national park and has an altitude 500080 (Ojong-Ejoh, Iji, Angioha, 2019). The area falls within the equatorial tropical humid climate and located between longitude 6°40'0" North and 9°10'0" East of the equator. The local

government area for administrative purposes is divided into ten political wards and has a population of 161,459, according to the national population commission census of 2006. Obudu is made up of three (3) ethnic groups; Bette, Utugwang and Ukalu. The primary occupation of the area is subsistent farming, though a small percentage of the population engages in large scale agriculture and small business. Like other parts of the Cross-River State, 70 per cent of the population of Obudu live below the poverty line, living on less than 1.95 dollars a day.

Study Design

The study adopted the survey research design for data collection. The survey research design involves administering a survey instrument, in this case, a structured questionnaire to a sample or subset of a population to describe their attitude, characteristics, opinion on an issue that concerns them (Okpa, Ilupeju, & Eshiotse, 2020). For this study, a semi-structured self-developed questionnaire was developed to elicit information on centrifugal poverty and household wellbeing in Obudu Local Government Area, Cross River State, Nigeria.

Participants

The population of the study are the people of Obudu. According to the National Population Commission (2006), the population of Obudu stands at 161,457. The participants for this study are both men and women who are age 16 and above, who can provide the necessary information needed for this study. Using the Survey Monkey Sample Determinant Technique, the sample size for this study is 473. The cluster, purposive and random sampling technique was used to select the sample from the study area. Obudu was divided into ten (10) cluster according to the Wards of the Local Government Area. From ten clusters, four were selected using the convenience sampling technique. The four wards selected are Alege/Ubang, Obudu Urban 1, Ipong and Utugwang North. These wards were conveniently selected because they represent the major ethnic group in the local government, and the communities are mostly rural. The convenience sampling technique was also used in selecting four communities from each of the selected wards. The four wards communities selected are highlighted in table 1. The simple random sampling technique was then used in selecting 26 participants from 13 communities and 27 from five communities. The five communities where 27 participants were selected are Bebuawhan, Bebuatsuan, Okire, Ukwuatia and Kakum.

Table 1

Sample Selection of wards and Communities in Obudu Local Government Area

S/N	Wards	Communities
1.	Alege/Ubang	Okweriseng, Okire, Biwhue, Amukwong
2.	Obudu Urban I	Bebuawhan, Okwel-obudu, Abonkib, Atiekpe
3.	Ipong	Kakum, Bebuagbhong, Bebuatsuan, Bepeh
4.	Utugwang North	Ukworgung, Mgbenege, Ukwutia, Ejakpe

Source: Fieldwork 2020

Ethical Consideration and Method of Data Collection

A letter of introduction for the study to be carried out was sent to the secretariat of Obudu Local Government Area. A letter of clearance was given to the researchers with permission for the study. Also, a letter of introduction was attached to the instrument given to the participants. All participants were assured of their anonymity. The researchers employed four research assistants who were trained on the requirement for distributing the instruments. The researcher and the research assistant returned after two days to collect the completed instrument for the participants.

Data Analysis

Data collected from the field was checked for consistency and accuracy and then edited and coded. Data were then analysed according to the objective of the study. The analysis was done using the table, frequency distribution, percentages and simple lineal regression at 0.05 confidence level.

Description of Variables

The objective of the study is to examine the centrifugal cause of poverty and household income in Obudu Local Government Area of Cross River State. The study specifically examines;

- i. The extent to which family size causes poverty in Obudu, Cross River State, Nigeria.
- ii. The extent to which family income causes poverty in Obudu, Cross River State, Nigeria.

Results

The objective of the study was to examine the centrifugal cause of household poverty in Obudu. Data collected from the field was analysed using descriptive statistics such as tables, graphical illustration and simple percentage before the data were subjected to linear regression to check for the statistical significance at 0.05 level of significance. The first objective was to examine the extent to which family size causes poverty in Obudu.

Table 2

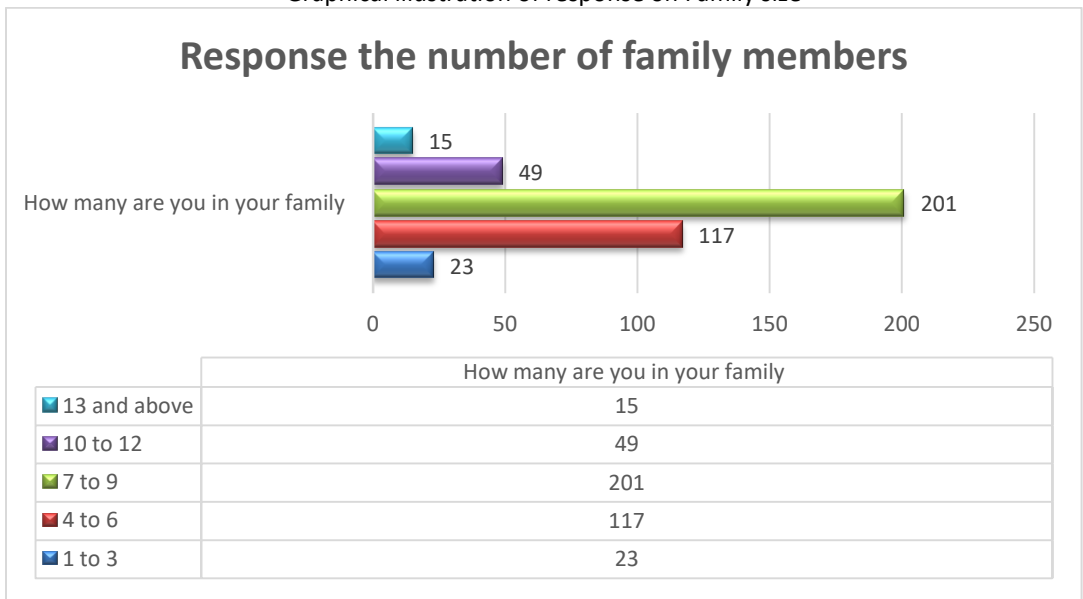
Responses on Family Size

S/N	Item	1-3	4-6	7-9	10-12	13-above
1.	How many are you in your family	23 (5.75%)	117 (29.25%)	201 (50.25%)	49 (12.25%)	15 (3.75%)

Source: Fieldwork 2020

Figure 1

Graphical illustration of response on Family size



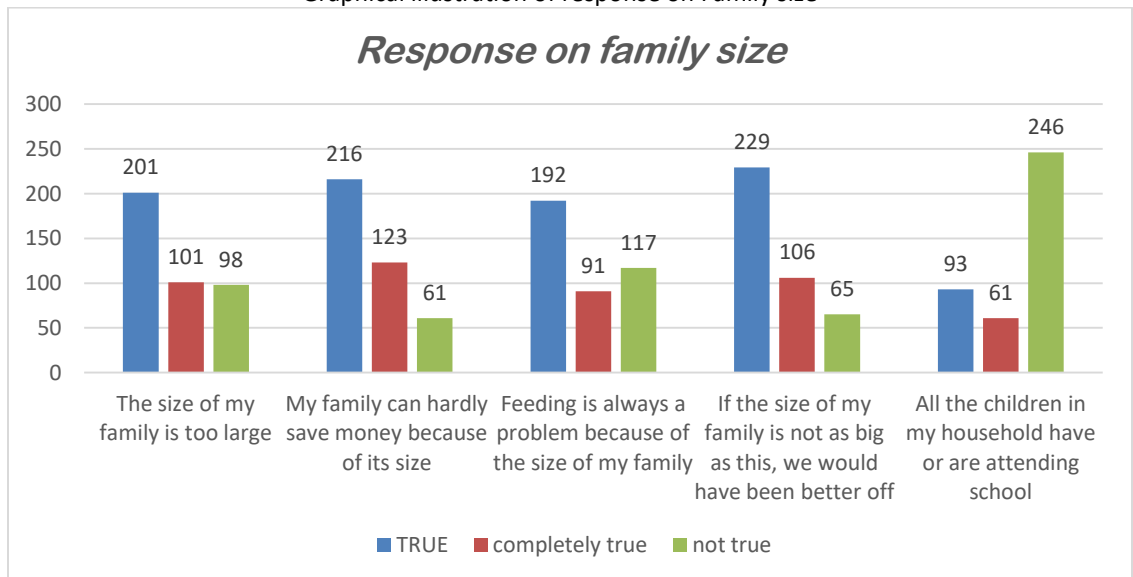
Source: Fieldwork, 2020

Table 3*Responses on Family Size*

S/N	Item	True	Completely true	Not true
2	The size of my family is too large	201 (50.25%)	101 (25.25%)	98 (24.50%)
3	My family can hardly save money because of its size	216 (54.00%)	123 (30.75%)	61 (15.25%)
4	Feeding is always a problem because of the size of my family	192 (48.00%)	91 (22.75%)	117 (29.25%)
5	If the size of my family is not as big as this, we would have been better off	229 (57.25%)	106 (26.50%)	65 (16.25%)
6.	All the children in my household have or are attending school	93 (23.25%)	61 (15.25%)	246 (61.50%)

*Source: Fieldwork 2020***Figure 2**

Graphical illustration of response on Family size

*Source: Fieldwork, 2020*

Data analysed using descriptive statistics in table 2, 3 and graphical illustration in figure 1 and 2 shows the response pattern of the participants as follows: on How many are you in your family; 23 (5.75%) reported between 1 and 3, 117 (29.25%) reported between 4 and 6, 201 (50.25%) reported between 7 and 9, 49 (12.25%) reported between 10 and 12 and finally, 15 (3.75%) reported between 13 and above. Responses on The size of my family is too large; 201 (50.25%) reported true, 101 (25.25%) reported very true and True, 384 (34.00%) not true and 98 (24.50%) reported not true. My family can hardly save money because of its size; 216 (54.00%) reported true, 123 (30.75%) reported very true, and 61 (15.25%) reported not true. Responses on Feeding is always a problem because of the size of my family; 192 (48.00%) reported true, 91 (22.75%) reported very true, and 117 (29.25%) reported not true. Responses on If the size of my family is not as big as this, we would have been

better off; 229 (57.25%) reported true, 106 (26.50%) reported very true, and 65 (16.25%) reported not true. Responses on All the children in my household have or are attending school; 93 (23.25%) reported true, 61 (15.25%) reported very true, and 246 (61.50%) reported not true. The result from the descriptive analysis was subjected to parametric statistics to check for the statistical significance of family size and household poverty. The analysis was carried out using Linear Regression Analysis at 0.05 significant level. The independent variable in this analysis is family size, while the dependent variable is household poverty.

Table 4

Summary of simple linear regression analysis of relationship family size and household poverty

Variables	Mean	Std. Deviation					
Family Size	14.3425	3.20247					
Household Poverty	44.6650	9.70455					
Model	Sum of Squares	Df	F	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Sig
Regression	1184.812	1	12.958	.178 ^a	.032	.029	.000 [*]
Residual	36392.298	398					
Total	37577.110	399					

Source: Fieldwork 2020

The result of the analysis showed that the R-value of .178 is significant at 0.05 alpha level (p-value of .000 is less than 0.05%), implying that there is a significant statistical relationship between family size and household poverty. Also, the R² –value of 0.32 implies that only 32 per cent of the total variance in household poverty is accounted for by the predictor variable (family size). Furthermore, the regression ANOVA revealed that there was a moderate joint linear association (contribution) of the predictor variables (family size) on household poverty given by the F-ratio (1, 398) = 12.958; p < 0.05. The adjusted R² (.029) shows some shrinkage of the unadjusted value (.032) indicating that the model could be generalised on the population. Based on the result, it was concluded that family size is a causal factor in household poverty in Obudu, Cross River State, Nigeria’.

The second objective was to examine the extent to which family income causes poverty in Obudu, Cross River State, Nigeria. Descriptive statistics were used to analyse the data before the result was subjected to parametric statistics.

Table 5

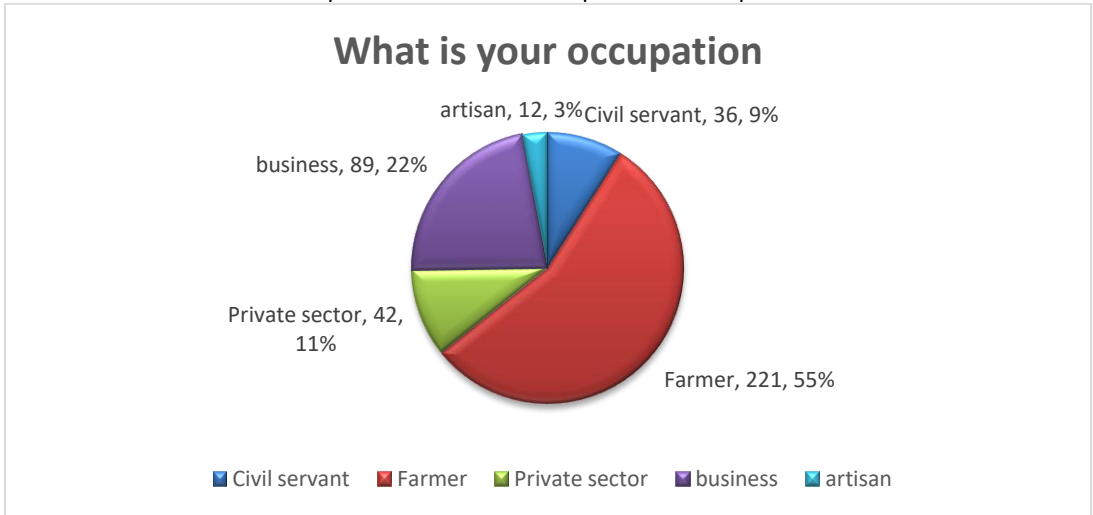
Responses on Family income

S/N	Item	Civil servant	Farmer	Private sector	business	artisan
1	What is your occupation	36 (9.00%)	221 (55.25%)	42 (10.50%)	89 (22.025%)	12 (3.00%)

Source: Fieldwork 2020

Figure 3

Graphical illustration of response on occupation



Source: Fieldwork, 2020

Table 6

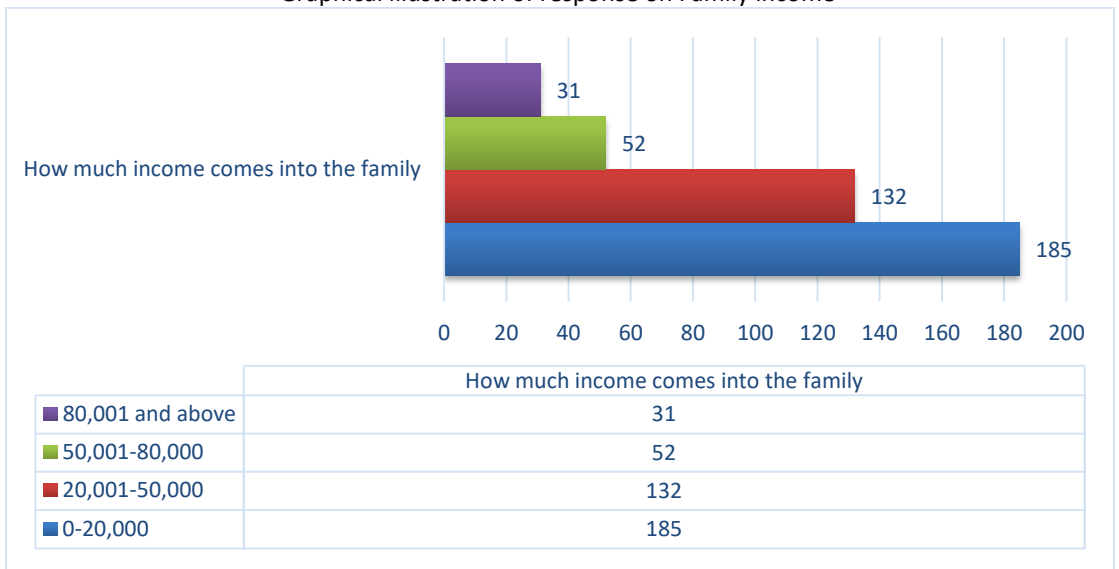
Responses on Family income

S/N	Item	0-20,000	20,001-50,000	50,001-80,000	80,001 and above
2	How much income comes into the family	185 (46.25%)	132 (33.00%)	52 (13.00%)	31 (7.75%)

Source: Fieldwork 2020

Figure 4

Graphical illustration of response on Family income



Source: Fieldwork, 2020

Table 7

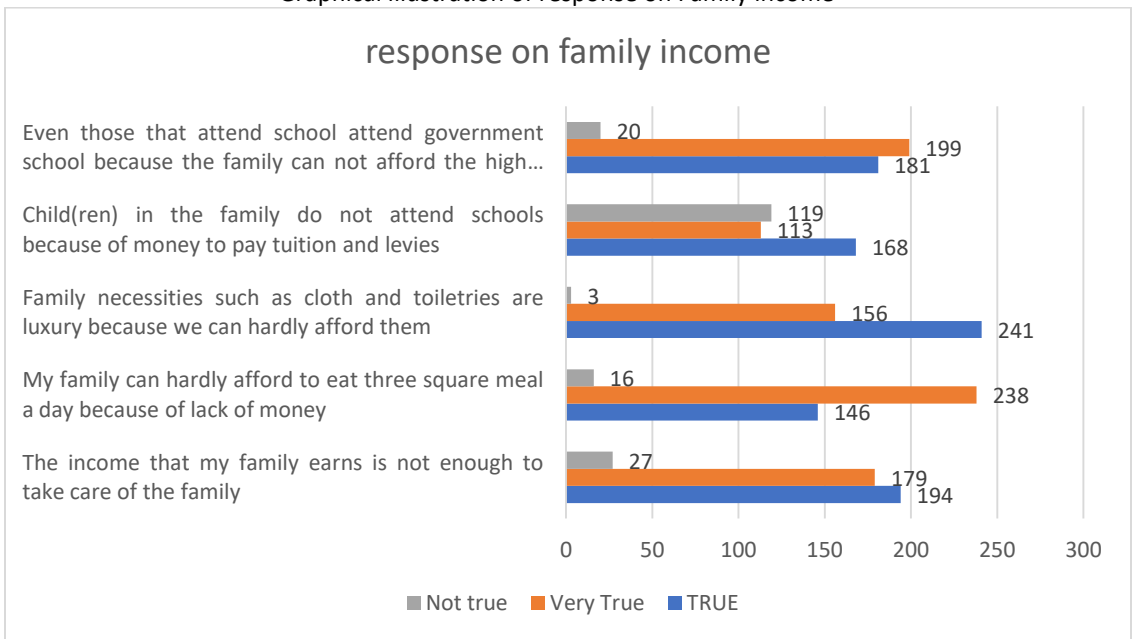
Responses on Family income

S/N	Item	True	Very True	Not true
3	The income that my family earns is not enough to take care of the family	194 (48.50%)	179 (44.75%)	27 (6.75%)
4.	My family can hardly afford to eat three square meal a day because of lack of money	146 (36.50%)	238 (59.50%)	16 (4.00%)
5	Family necessities such as cloth and toiletries are luxury because we can hardly afford them	241 (60.25%)	156 (39.00%)	3 (0.75%)
6	Child(ren) in the family do not attend schools because of money to pay tuition and levies	168 (42.00%)	113 (28.25%)	119 (29.75%)
7	Even those that attend school attend government school because the family cannot afford the high school fees of private schools	181 (29.50%)	199 (49.75%)	20 (5.00%)

Source: Fieldwork 2020

Figure 5

Graphical illustration of response on Family income



Source: Fieldwork, 2020

Data analysed using descriptive statistics in table 4, to 7 and graphical illustration in figure 2 to 5 shows the response pattern of the participants as follows: on What is your occupation; 36 (9.00%) were civil servants, 221 (55.25%) were farmers, 42 (10.50%) were private-sector employees, 89 (22.025%) were into business, and 12 (3.00%) were artisans. On How much income comes into the family; 185 (46.25%) reported between 0 and 20,000-naira, 132 (33.00%) reported between 20,001 and 50,000, 52 (13.00%) reported 50,001 and 80,000 and 31 (7.75%) report 80,001 and above. On The income that my family earns is not enough to take care of the family; 194 (48.50%) reported true, 179 (44.75%) reported very true, and 27 (6.75%) reported not true. On My family can hardly afford to

eat three square meal a day because of lack of money; 146 (36.50%) reported true, 238 (59.50%) reported very true and 16 (4.00%) reported not true. On Family necessities such as cloth and toiletries are a luxury because we can hardly afford them; 241 (60.25%) reported true, 156 (39.00%) reported very true, and 3 (0.75%) reported not true. On Child(ren) in the family do not attend schools because of money to pay tuition and levies; 168 (42.00%) reported true, 113 (28.25%) reported very true and 119 (29.75%) reported not true. On Even those that attend school attend government school because the family cannot afford the high school fees of private schools; 181 (29.50%) reported true, 199 (49.75%) reported very true and 20 (5.00%) not true.

The result from the descriptive analysis was subjected to parametric statistics to check for the statistical significance of family income and household poverty. The analysis was carried out using Linear Regression Analysis at 0.05 significant level. The independent variable here is family income, while the dependent variable is household poverty.

Table 8

Summary of simple linear regression analysis of the relationship between family income and household poverty

Variables	Mean	Std. Deviation				
Family income	12.2750	4.99216				
Household Poverty	44.6650	9.70455				
Model	Sum of Squares	Df	F	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square
Regression	3118.752	1	36.022	.288 ^a	.083	.081
Residual	34458.358	398				
Total	37577.110	399				

Source: Field Work 2019

The result of the analysis shows that the R-value of .288 is significant at 0.05 alpha level (p-value of 0.00 is less than 0.05%), implying that a correlation exists between family income and household poverty. Also, the R^2 -value of 0.81 implies that only 83 per cent of the total variance is accounted for by family income. Furthermore, the regression ANOVA revealed that there was a moderate joint linear association (contribution) of the predictor variables (family income) on household poverty given by the F-ratio (1, 398) = 36.022; $p < 0.05$. The adjusted R^2 (.081) shows some shrinkage of the unadjusted value (.083) indicating that the model could be generalised on the population. Based on the result, it was concluded that family income is a major risk factor for household poverty in Obudu, Cross River State, Nigeria.

Discussion

From the data gathered from the field, it was discovered that most of the respondents 267 (66.75%) were male, while 133 (33.25%) were female. 161 (40.25%) were between the age of 28 and 37 years of age, 123 (30.75%) were between the ages of 16 and 27, 74 (18.50%) were between the ages of 38 and 47 years and 42 (10.5%) were aged 48 and above. The result also revealed that most of the respondents 237 (59.25%) were married, 81 (20.25%) were widowed, 38 (9.5%) were widowers, 24 (6.00%) were single and 20 (5.00%) were divorced.

The first objective was to examine the extent to which family size causes poverty in Obudu. From the descriptive statistics carried out, it was discovered that most of the participants were from a large family, 117 (29.25%) were from a family-size between 4 and 6 and 201 (50.25%) from a family

size of 7 to 9. 75.5 per cent of the participants feel that the size of their family was large. 84.75 per cent of the participants believe that their family can hardly save money because of their size. Most of the participants, 61.50 per cent reported that most of the children in their family are not attending school because of their size. From the parametric statistics carried out, family size is a causal factor in household poverty in Obudu. This is because R-value of .178 is significant at 0.05 alpha level (p-value of .000 is less than 0.05%). Also, the R^2 –value of 0.32 implies that only 32 per cent of the total variance in household poverty is accounted for by the predictor variable (family size). Furthermore, the regression ANOVA revealed that there was a moderate joint linear association (contribution) of the predictor variables (family size) on household poverty given by the F-ratio (1, 398) = 12.958; $p < 0.05$. The adjusted R^2 (.029) shows some shrinkage of the unadjusted value (.032) indicating that the model could be generalised on the population. This result implies that the size of families is a hindering factor for the wellbeing of the family

The second objective was to examine the extent to which family income causes poverty in Obudu, Cross River State, Nigeria. From the descriptive analysis carried out, it was discovered that most of the participants were ordinary farmers (55.25%), followed by those involved in small businesses (22.25%), followed by those working in the private sector (10.50%), followed by Civil servants (9%) and finally artisans (3%). Most of the participants (93.25%) reported that the income that comes into the family is not enough to take care of the family. Most of the family (96%) can hardly afford three square meal a day. Most of the participants (67.25%) reported that not all the children in the family attend schools because of money. From the parametric statistics carried out, it was discovered that family income is a major risk factor for household poverty in Obudu. This is because the result of the analysis shows that the R-value of .288 is significant at 0.05 alpha level (p-value of 0.00 is less than 0.05%), implying that a correlation exists between family income and household poverty. Also, the R^2 –value of 0.81 implies that only 83 per cent of the total variance is accounted for by family income.

Furthermore, the regression ANOVA revealed that there was a moderate joint linear association (contribution) of the predictor variables (family income) on household poverty given by the F-ratio (1, 398) = 36.022; $p < 0.05$. The adjusted R^2 (.081) shows some shrinkage of the unadjusted value (.083) indicating that the model could be generalised of the population. This finding shows that most of the household in Obudu is very poor, and the income is very low. The result also shows that:

Conclusion and Policy Implications

From the analysis of data from the field, the result revealed that centrifugal poverty significantly causes household poverty in Obudu. This goes to show that no matter the argument, at the root of poverty lies the deprivation of rural households access the necessities such as healthcare, clothing, food, education, sanitation, and assets. Evidence from states such as Ebonyi and countries like India have shown that solving these issues will solve the problem of household poverty. Hence there is a need for;

- i. The government both at the state and federal level should invest in education, especially at the rural level. According to a United Nations report, Nigeria has the highest number of out of school children, and most of these numbers are concentrated in rural areas. Investing in rural education will give rural people a better opportunity to move out of poverty.
- ii. There is a need for investment for human capital potentials in Obudu. This implies that the government and other international and private agencies creating jobs for the rural people and increasing financial access and opportunities through the availability of microcredits.

- iii. There is a need for the government to increase the financial inclusion of Obudu people and other rural areas in Nigeria.
- iv. Family planning seminars and programs should be organised in Obudu to help families plan on the number of children that suits their income.

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