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Income management practices of homemakers in Emohua local government area of rivers state, Nigeria

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Abstract

The study investigated income management practices of homemakers in Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State, Nigeria. The study adopted the descriptive survey design. The population of the study was all homemakers in Emohua Local Government Area. A sample of 180 fulltime home makers was selected across the 8 strata classification of the study area using multistage sampling techniques. Furthermore, two experts validated structured instrument titled "Income Management Practices for Homemakers Inventory" (IMPHI) with a reliability coefficient of 0.773 was used for the collection of data analyzed using mean and standard deviation. The result revealed that the main sources of income available to homemakers were income from farming ($\bar{X}=3.0$), some gifted skill/talent ($\bar{X}=2.9$), and share of contribution ($\bar{X}=2.8$). The homemakers spent more of the income on family feeding ($\bar{X}=3.7$), children school fees ($\bar{X}=3.4$), clothing ($\bar{X}=3.0$), and medication ($\bar{X}=2.9$). While savings ($\bar{X}=3.9$), organizing garden ($\bar{X}=3.4$), and buying from market where goods are cheap ($\bar{X}=3.3$) was the income management strategies adopted by homemakers. It therefore, recommended that husbands and children be involved in home management by making requests that are within the family income and budget. Alongside, homemakers should be prudent and judicious in their use of resources to avoid debt which affects the family self-sufficiency, freedom and coexistence.

Keywords: Income, management strategies, housewives

Introduction

Homemakers are women who are legally married to men either through the native or customary laws, religious or church laws, or the civil law in the marriage registry or a combination of two processes or the entire three processes. This marriage union confers certain responsibilities either exclusive (to fathers/mothers as applicable) or shared by the members of the family (i.e. father, mother and children) in order to adequately cater for the family's needs. However, each member of the family especially women with means and resources from legal work, trading, and cooperatives for weekly or daily contribution commonly called (Osusu) at her disposal, could offer support to enable the family tackle the social, economic, financial, childlessness, etc. problems threatening the sustenance of the family.

Consequently, the reality that there could be social, economic, financial, childlessness, etc. problems threatening the sustenance of the family necessitates the adoption of income management. Although, management of the family income demands a lot of cooperation from all the members of the family, as other forms vary in the resources they possess. However, ensuring the existence or practice of an organized system of planning, organizing, budgeting, coordinating and monitoring activities and programmes aids the family to adequately meet its needs and sustenance (Kotter, 2001) [4]. Northhouse (2007) [5] stated that efficient management and judicious use of resources or income is instituted to enable the family meet or accomplish its set objectives in education, health care, feeding, shelter, clothing, etc.

Furthermore, maintain that the "God given roles" confers the responsibility of managing the family resources (limited or abundant) at the purview of women or mothers (who as homemakers operate either on fulltime or part time basis). In this regard, part time homemakers are educated and skilled wives or mothers engaged in paid employment or business outside the home during working hours.

While the fulltime homemakers are perceived as the less educated and less-skilled wives or mothers whose priority of family and leisure above paid work makes them to be engaged continually in the service and care of their family. Consequently, the effectiveness of homemakers in supporting their homes is predicated on their acquisition of important vocational or entrepreneurial skills in: hair dressing, fashion designing, craft, trading, bead making, catering, cosmetology, modern farming or agribusiness (like fishery, snail Re, poultry, piggery, high breed farming, etc.) in order to improve the family's income and productivity. This underlies the preference of most men in our today's society for the fulltime homemaker (who gives all her time and probably resources for the upkeep of her family).

maintain that increased productivity and better running of the family is not a function of affluence or wealth but on the ability of the self-reliant and entrepreneurial oriented homemaker to effectively use and manage her personal and family resources (from husband) for the support, sustenance and achievement of family goals. In other words, homemaker's financial management skill and capability determine the family's future, achievement and sustainability. Nwankwo (2003) ^[6] stated that for financial management to crystallize or manifest to success in any home or family. Hananto (2011) ^[8] noted three important things that homemakers as financial manager of the family must understand, these are: ^[1] cash flow management; ^[2] family's financial goals and ^[3] financial knowledge or discipline.

These understandings of good financial management tips are extremely important for homemakers and the wellbeing of their family. A study by OJK in 2013 revealed that only 17% of homemakers have good understanding of financial management tips. Although, homemakers are considered more thorough in managing family cash or finance, good financial understanding necessitates that they are not stuck merely as the manager of family spending, but also for savings and investments including developing a comprehensive financial plan for prudent management and investment of their personal money. Corroborating this view, Dauda (2000) developed a workable monthly expenses formula (via: 15% medication; 15% debts; 40% home expenses; 10% tithe; and 20% savings) which if unaltered will not only enhance better management of family budget but will put the family free from economic crisis or chaos.

Homemakers need to be disciplined and prudent in spending especially on feeding, clothing and other general family needs or goals such as; emergency fund, education fund, retirement fund, recreation fund, etc. They ensure that all sources and expenditure pattern of family income/resources (via money, food items, clothing, household property, etc.) which are necessary for the sustenance of the family are budgeted, organized, planned, coordinated and controlled. Nwankwo (2003) ^[6] stressed that adopting effective and wise money management and use respectively, maximally benefits the entire family all the time in terms of prudence and decision. Gila (2006) ^[3] observed that effectively managing and meeting family: budget, savings, mini business ventures, planning, nutrition, and educational needs are economic strategies that can empower, sustain and the family out of poverty line.

Furthermore, Anyakoha (2008) ^[1] highlighted stated that effective money management strategies is predicated on certain principles like: ensuring that expenditures are within the limit of the income, estimating priorities among family collective goals, avoiding impulsive spending, determining

which goals are important and need to be attained easily, and determining the income available to the family for achieving the goals. Other money management strategies entails: making allowances for emergencies such as illness, accidents, etc., budgeting on how to use the available income for achieving the goals, and organizing all efforts by setting up measurable sub-goals. Hence, the utilization of the limited resources available to homemakers to enhance the self-sufficiency, freedom from debt and family coexistence is the crux of this study.

Purpose of the Study

The general purpose of the study was to investigate the income management practices of homemakers in Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State, Nigeria. Specifically the study determined:

1. Sources of income available to homemakers in Emohua Local Government Area.
2. Ways homemakers spend their income in Emohua Local Government Area.
3. Ways the homemakers manage their income in Emohua Local Government.

Research Questions

The following question guided the study

1. What are the sources of income by homemakers in Emohua Local Government Area?
2. In what ways do homemakers spend their income in Emohua Local Government Area?
3. What ways do home makers manage their income in Emohua Local Government Area?

Methodology

Design of the Study: The descriptive survey research design was employed in this study. The essence of this is to bring out how homemakers of different socio-economic statues tend to come out with strategies to manage their incomes in their families.

Area of the Study: The study was conducted in Emohua Local Government Area as one of the twenty- three local government areas in Rivers State. Emohua local government area was created in 1991 and has its headquarters in Emohua; a town which has attained a semi-urban status in recent time. Similarly, Emohua Local Government Area is one of the four Local Government Areas which make up the Ikwerre ethnic nationality in Rivers State. The principal clans in the local government are Odegu clan (Eveku, Ovogo, Rumuodogo, Rumuji and Rumuewhor); Ishimbam clan (Elele Alimini, Omudioga, Egbeda, Akpabu, Itu and Ubimini); REO group (Rumuji, Emohua and Ogbakiri), Rishimini clan; (Ibaa Uvuawhu and Obele) and Rundele clan. Other Local Government Areas bordering Ernohua Local Government include: Qbio-Akpor, Ikwerre, Degema, Abua and Ahoada East Local Government Areas.

Population for the Study: The population for the study was all the home makers (i.e. young ladies between ages of 25 and 40 years; and mothers between the age of 47 and 50 years old) in the entire eighteen (18) different communities in Emohua Local Government Area.

Sample and Sampling Technique: A sample of one hundred and eighty (180) homemakers or respondents participated in the study. The multistage sampling technique was in two

phases. In the first phase, stratified sampling technique was used in the classification or stratification of Emohua Local Government Area (LGA) into eight ^[8] strata via: Isiodu, Emohua, Ogbakiri, Rumuji, Elele Alimini, Ibaa, Rumuewhor, and Ndelestrata. In the second and inalfphase, random sampling technique was used in the selection of twenty-five respondents or homemakers from each of the eight ^[8] strata classification of Emohua Local Government Area. This constituted a sample of 180homemakers that was selected across the 8 strata classification that was used for the study.

Research Instrument: The instrument of data collection was a 36 item self-structured instrument titled “Income Management Practices for Homemakers Inventory” (IMPHI). The IMPHI instrument was patterned after a four point rating scale of “Strongly Agree” (SA, 4 Points), “Agree” (A, 3 Points), “Disagree” (D, 2 Points) and “Strongly Disagree” (SD, 1 Point). Furthermore, the IMPHI instrument consisted of two sections. While Section A consisted of the demographic variables or biodata of the homemakers, Section B elicits data on the variables of the study which was eventually scored.

Furthermore, the IMPHI instrument was validated by was determined by the two ^[2] educational experts (one Home Economist and one Measurement and Evaluator). In the same vein, the reliability or internal consistency of the IMPHI instrument was ascertained using Cronbach Alpha (r_a) method to obtain a reliability coefficient of 0-773, which necessitated the use of the IMPHI instrument for administration.

Data Analysis: Data collected from the 180 copies of the

IMPHI instrument administered to homemakers in the study area was analyzed using frequency count and percentage rating for the demographic variables, while mean and standard deviation was used to answer the research questions at criterion cut off mean of 2.5.

Results

The biodata of the sampled homemakers include: 40 respondents (representing 22.22%) belonging to the age category of 20-29 years, 60 respondents (representing 33.33%) belonging to 30-39 years of age, 38 respondents (representing 12.78%) within 40-49 years, while 19 respondents (representing 10.56%) are within 50-59 years. 150 of the homemakers (representing 83.33%) are married while 30 homemakers (representing 16.67%) are single. Furthermore, homemakers with no educational level were 63 (representing 35.0%), homemakers with primary school educational level were 72 (representing 40.0%), those with secondary education are 36 (representing 20.0%), while homemakers with post-secondary education were 9 (representing 5.0%). The study also showed that the homemakers with no child were 4 (representing 2.22%), those with 2 children were 9 (representing 5.0%), homemakers with 3 children were 27 (representing 15.0%), those with 4 children were 54 (representing 30.0%) with homemakers with more than 4 children as 86 (representing 47.78%). In terms of occupation, homemakers who are traders were 45 (representing 25.0%), the farmers were 81 (representing 45.0%), those who are students were 9 (representing 5.0%), employed homemakers were 18 (representing 10.0%), while the unemployed homemakers were 27 (representing 15.0%).

Table 1: Mean responses of the sources of income available to homemakers

S. N.	Homemakers source of income includes	N= 180	Remark
		Mean	
1	Make income from farming	3.0	Agree
2	Engaging in petty trading in food items	2.5	Agree
3	Stipends from husband	2.6	Agree
4	Make income from some gifted skill/talent	2.9	Agree
5	Salary and wages	2.6	Agree
6	Own share of contribution	2.8	Agree
7	Receiving gift from friends	2.0	Disagree
8	Savings in the bank	1.8	Disagree
9	Family or community women meeting	2.9	Agree
10	Politicians and other NGO gift to women	2.0	Disagree
Grand Mean		2.5	Agree

Table 1 reveals that the sources of income available to homemakers include: make income from farming ($\bar{x}=3.0$) in item 1, make income from some gifted skill/talent in item 4, and family or community women meeting in item 9 (each with $\bar{x}=2.9$), own share of contribution ($\bar{x}=2.8$) in item 6, stipends from husband in item 3, and salary and wages in item 5 (each with $\bar{x}=2.6$), and engaging in petty trading in food items ($\bar{x}=2.5$) in item 2. Although, the respondents disagreed that: receiving gift from friends in item 7, and politicians and other NGO gift to women in item 10 (each with $\bar{x}=2.0$), and savings in the bank ($\bar{x}=1.8$) in item 9 were the sources of

income available to homemakers. However, the grand mean score of 2.5 therefore, indicates that these items were the sources of income available to homemakers in Emohua Local Government Area, Rivers State.

Furthermore, the result from focused group discussion (FGD) during the period of administration with the respondents or homemakers reveals that the sources of income available to homemakers include: going to farm labour or work for other women, escorting people on an errand, marriage, visitation, etc., cleaning people’s home especially during festive seasons or occasions, sale or exchange of gifts or materials received in meetings or marriages, fetching water in building sites, and felicitating with people who returned home.

Table 2: Mean responses of the ways homemakers spend their income

S. N.	Homemakers way of expenditure includes	N= 180	Remark
		Mean	
11	Feeding the family	3.7	Agree
12	Buying family clothing item	3.0	Agree
13	Paying children school fees (education)	3.4	Agree
14	Providing medication (health issues)	2.9	Agree
15	Paying house rent	2.5	Agree
16	Maintaining the house	2.6	Agree
17	Managing environmental hazards	2.4	Disagree
18	Patronizing business	1.9	Disagree
19	Paying more for food because of inflation	2.7	Agree
20	Paying for special clothing	2.0	Disagree
Grand Mean		2.9	Agree

Table 2 reveals that homemakers way of expenditure include: feeding the family ($\bar{x}=3.7$) in item 11, paying children school fees ($\bar{x}=3.4$) in item 13, buying family clothing item ($\bar{x}=3.0$) in item 12, providing medication ($\bar{x}=2.9$) in item 14, paying more for food because of inflation ($\bar{x}=2.7$) in item 19, maintaining the home ($\bar{x}=2.6$) in item 16, and paying house rent ($\bar{x}=2.5$) in item 15. Although, the respondents disagreed that: managing environmental hazards ($\bar{x}=2.4$) in item 17, paying for special clothing ($\bar{x}=2.0$) in Item 20, and patronizing business ($\bar{x}=2.0$) in item 18 were

not homemakers ways of expenditure. However, the grand mean score of 2.9 therefore, indicates that these items were the ways of expenditure of homemakers in Emohua Local Government Area, Rivers State.

Furthermore, information from focused group discussion (FGD) with homemakers during the period of administration reveals that homemakers other ways of expenditure include: hosting group meetings or committee of friends, assisting family members, church offerings and donations, emergency or unplanned freewill donation, payment of levies and fines, buying of lunch for children in the school, payment of electricity bill, including other sundry and unbudgeted expenses that can impact on the family sustenance.

Table 3: Mean responses of income management strategies of homemakers

S. N.	Income management strategies of Homemakers includes	N= 180	Remark
		Mean	
21	Embanking on savings (osusu)	3.9	Agree
22	Investing part of the family fund	2.5	Agree
23	Budgeting money to be spent before going to market	2.7	Agree
24	Complying with planned spending habit (spending formula)	2.5	Agree
25	Keeping records of all money spent	2.7	Agree
26	Implementing birth control measures	1.9	Disagree
27	Organizing garden where some foodstuffs can be harvested from	3.4	Agree
28	Setting up mini business or pretty trading	2.9	Agree
29	Spending within limit of family income	3.0	Agree
30	Implementing family expenditure goal	3.2	Agree
31	Arranging family needs in order of priority	2.8	Agree
32	Evaluating or reviewing family budget with family members	2.3	Disagree
33	Implementing good safety or storage measure	2.6	Agree
34	Controlling the rate of credit purchases	2.1	Disagree
35	Buying from market where goods are cheap rather than supermarkets	3.3	Agree
36	Replacing the real thing the family needs	3.1	Agree
Grand Mean		2.8	Agree

Table 3 reveals that the income management strategies by homemakers include: embanking on savings (osusu) ($\bar{x}=3.9$) in item 21, organizing garden where some foodstuffs can be harvested from ($\bar{x}=3.4$) in item 27, buying from market where goods are cheap rather than supermarkets ($\bar{x}=3.3$) in item 35, implementing family expenditure goal ($\bar{x}=3.2$) in item 30, replacing the real thing the family needs ($\bar{x}=3.1$) in item 36, spending within limit of family income ($\bar{x}=3.0$) in item 29, setting up mini business or pretty trading ($\bar{x}=2.9$) in item 28, arranging family needs in order of priority ($\bar{x}=2.8$) in item 31, budgeting money to be spent

before going to market in item 23, and keeping records of all money spent in item 25 (each with $\bar{x}=2.7$), implementing good safety or storage measure ($\bar{x}=2.6$) in item 33, and investing part of the family fund in item 22, and complying with planned spending habit (spending formula) in item 24 (Each with $\bar{x}=2.6$). Although, the respondents disagreed that: evaluating or reviewing family budget with family members ($\bar{x}=2.3$) in item 32, controlling the rate of credit purchases ($\bar{x}=2.1$) in item 34, and implementing birth control measures ($\bar{x}=1.9$) in item 26 were not homemakers income management strategies. However, the grand mean score of 2.8 therefore, indicates that these items were homemakers' income management strategies in Emohua Local Government Area, Rivers State.

Furthermore, information from focused group discussion

(FGD) with homemakers during the period of administration reveals that homemakers other income management strategies include: giving family members some money to hold, buying of items like palm oil, cassava, yam, pepper, tomatoes, etc. during their cheap period and selling them during the item period of scarcity, sending children to relatives or friends during holidays, festivities or weekends, eating in occasions, engaging in periodic prayer and fasting exercises, and other expenditure patterns that can determine family sustenance and self-sufficiency.

Discussion

The result in Table 1 revealed a grand mean score of 2.5 which indicated that the sources of income available to homemakers include: make income from farming, make income from some gifted skill/talent, family or community women meeting, own share of contribution, stipends from husband, salary and wages, engaging in petty trading in food items, receiving gift from friends, politicians and other NGO gift to women, and savings in the bank. Furthermore, the result from focused group discussion reveals that other findings include embarking on paid labour, fetching water in building sites. This finding is in agreement with earlier findings by Nwankwo (2003) ^[6] that the acquisition of skills, income from farm products is old time business which improves family income and wellbeing of households. Hence, stated that the homemakers acquire vital vocational or entrepreneurial skills in: hair dressing, fashion designing, trading, bead making, catering, cosmetology agribusiness (like fishery, poultry, etc.) in order to generate income that was used to support and promote the family wellbeing.

The result in Table 2 revealed a grand mean score of 2.9 which indicated that homemakers way of expenditure include: feeding the family, paying children school fees, buying family clothing item, providing medication, paying more for food because of inflation, maintaining the home, and paying house rent, managing environmental hazards, paying for special clothing, and patronizing business. Furthermore, the result from focused group discussion reveal that other way of homemakers expenditure include: hosting committee of friends, assisting family members, donating money to church, payment of levies and fines, buying of lunch for children in the school, payment of electricity bill, etc. This finding is consistent with earlier findings by who emphasized that homemakers adopt a workable monthly expenditure formula for the management of family budget, prudent expenditure in feeding, education and health care. This enables homemakers as financial managers in the family to understand that their expenditure pattern and budgeting conforms with the level of cash flow management, family's financial goals, and financial knowledge or discipline (Hananto, 2011) ^[8].

The result in Table 3 revealed a grand mean score of 2.8 which indicated that income management strategies by homemakers include: embanking on savings (osusu), organizing garden where some foodstuffs can be harvested from, buying from market where goods are cheap rather than supermarkets, implementing family expenditure goal, replacing the real thing the family needs, spending within limit of family income, setting up mini business or petty trading, arranging family needs in order of priority, budgeting money to be spent before going to market, keeping records of all money spent, implementing good safety or storage measure, investing part of the family fund, complying with planned spending habit (spending formula), evaluating or reviewing family budget with family members, controlling the

rate of credit purchases, and implementing birth control measures. Furthermore, the result from focused group discussion reveal that other income management strategies adopted by homemakers include buying of items like palm oil, cassava, yam, pepper, tomatoes, etc. during their cheap period and selling them during the item period of scarcity, sending children to relatives or friends during holidays, festivities or weekends, etc. This finding is aligns with that being abreast with money management strategies aids people or homemakers to be involved in either daily, weekly, or monthly contributions (called osusu) which increases family productivity and savings even during emergence financial situations. Therefore, increased productivity, achievement, and better running and sustenance of the family is not dependent on wealth but on the financial management skill, capability and strategies incorporated or adopted by the homemaker in determining the effective management of family's income or resources.

Conclusion

The study revealed that homemakers (especially fulltime) as home keepers and financial managers in the family had their source of income from: farming, gifted skill/talent, family or community women meeting, own share of contribution, stipends from husband, salary and wages, engaging in petty trading in food items, receiving gift from friends. The income generated was expended for: feeding, rent, children's school fees, clothing, and medication, maintain home etc. However, the income management strategies adopted by homemakers via: embanking on savings, organizing garden, spending within limits of income and approved budget, buying from market where goods are cheap, etc. will determine the extent the family remains self-sufficient, free from debt and existence.

Recommendations

Based on the finding of the study, the following recommendations were proffered:

The following recommendations were made in regard to income management of housewives in Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State:

- Government should establish vocational support programme for homemakers in rural areas, through community-oriented apprenticeship. Such will involve offering different courses such as soap making, hat making, etc. to increase home income,
- Homemakers should be given loans and other incentives to assist them embark on viable economic projects and other small-scale business.
- Homemakers should be resource managers at home through family training and guidance, instead of enslaving house helps.
- Home maker seducation and adult literacy class should be encouraged in every programme of the family, especially, home maker's empowerment programme.
- The other family members like husbands and children should be involved in home management by making needs or requests that are within the family resources and budget.
- Homemakers should be courageously prudent and judicious in their use of resources to avoid going into debt which enslaves and affects the family self-sufficiency, freedom and existence.
- More civil society group groups should be involved the income management strategies.

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