

# Evaluation of rural livelihood options for households in Zango local government area, katsina state, Nigeria

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## ABSTRACT

Rural livelihood suffers serious neglect which makes availability of different options of economic activities to be chosen as a means of survival very insignificant which affect the livelihood of many households. This study examines the types of livelihood activities and factors affecting the choice of livelihood options among the households in the study area. It used quantitative method. A total of 400 respondents were sampled out using disproportional quota sampling for the interview and the data was analysed using simple descriptive statistics. Multinomial logistic regression was used to determine the effects of demographic and social variables on the preferences of livelihood activities among the households. The result indicates that many livelihood options exist but farming related activities that constitute 57% livelihood activities among the respondents and the lowest livelihood activity people practiced are non-income related activities (fetching firewood and water, housekeeping and childcare) accounting for 7.5%. The findings shows that age, gender and designation of the households significantly determine the choice of government-based livelihood activity since the P-value is less than 0.05 (i.e., age (0.002), gender (0.03), designation (0.001)), while agricultural livelihood activity choice was significantly influence by gender and ethnicity with a P-values (0.000) which less than 0.05 as the odd reduce by a factor (0.667) and (0.131) with a unit increase respectively. This implies that not all demographic and social variables determine the choice of livelihood activities. However, the major challenges respondents' experiences in the choice of livelihood options include lack of support from government and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO), lack of skills acquisitions centers, over reliance on irregular and low paying laborious daily wages as well as the farming activity is at subsistent level, they received low amount of annual rainfall, difficulties in getting fertilizer and improved seeds and among others. The study recommends that the government should provide skills acquisition centers, fertilizer, improved seeds, financial support, and technical support (agricultural extension workers) and other farm equipment's to the households. The household should encourage by traditional rules and elides to get bank loans to improve their livelihood activities.

## Keywords:

Rural, Livelihood, Households, Economic Activities, Diversification

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Livelihood options are important socio-economic aspect of life not only to urban areas where there are unlimited options but also rural communities which are globally agreed to have minimum choices available (Sanzidar & Shaheen, 2014). United States Agency for International Development (USAID, 2017) highlighted that persons/household's power to choose the job they do to earn money to live, exist only when there are options available, therefore, these options remain to be an important subject of discussion today not only in Nigeria or Africa, but all over the world. The dynamism of rural livelihood and diversification remains an important subject not least in the rural world, where expectations of its contribution to improving livelihoods, reducing poverty, enhancing food security and creating employment is high as well as improve the welfare of rural communities (World Bank, 2007 and Abera, Yirgu & Uncha, 2021). In many rural African communities, individuals (men or women) or households are mostly into agricultural activities with their small farm holdings and many among them did not only depend on crop farming but have some livestock as an additional source of income (Mensah, 2014 and Onwuaro, 2017). Nevertheless, rural livelihood can be associated with farm activities (crop and non-crop) and the nonfarm activities both the farm and nonfarm are very important not only to the local society but at national and international levels this is clear that that most poor people in addition to farm also try to seek livelihoods in a nonfarm sector to enable them complement seasonal agricultural incomes, to supplement inadequate agricultural incomes and to take advantages of opportunities arising in the nonfarm sectors (Reardon, Beregue, Barret & Stomoulis, 2007 and Yamba, Appia, Siaw & Asante, 2017).

The most serious problem that the rural society faces within the country is poverty; the major causes of poverty are unemployment,

underemployment, low wage rate and reductions in the agricultural sector and so forth. The conditions of poverty are regarded as major impediments within the course of sustenance of adequate livelihoods opportunities (Kimengsi, Pretzsch, Kechia, & Ongolo, 2019). When the rural individuals experience severe problems as a result of poverty, then they form this major goal to get engaged in different types of employment opportunities in accordance to their skills and abilities (Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations FAO, 2018). Likewise, African Development Bank (ADB, 2007) observed that rural livelihood suffers serious neglect in Nigeria as attention development strategies mostly urban areas based at the expense of rural landscape. Besides that, when rural people get affected by natural calamities and disasters, such as, drought and floods they need assistance to recuperate; one of the most indispensable means to alleviate these problems is to obtain lucrative livelihoods opportunities (Dary & Kuunible, 2012; (Olusola & Adenegan, 2011 and Dary & Kuunible, 2012).

Numerous studies on rural livelihood options have been carried out across the globe and Nigeria inclusive. For examples; Amevenku, Asravor and Kuwornu (2019) studies the determinants of livelihood strategies of fishing households in the Volta Basin, Ghana, they used a non-hierarchical k-means cluster analysis partitioned the households into four livelihood strategies on which the multinomial logistic regression was performed. Likewise, Israr, Yaseen and Ahmed (2017) explored the sustainable rural development and livelihood sources of the rural households in mountainous Pakistan. They used qualitative and quantitative methods. Moreover, Abera *et al* (2021) studies the determinants of rural livelihood diversification strategies among Chewakaresettlers' communities of Southwestern Ethiopia. The study utilised both descriptive and inferential statistics along with multinomial logistic model have been employed to analyze the data. Similarly, Aderinoye-Abdulwahab,

Nwachukwu, Salawu & Popoola (2015) explored the assessment of livelihood activities of rural farmers in Kwara state, Nigeria. The study reveals that majority of the households (53%) engage in trading as the major livelihood activities in the study area. It also, found that access to credit facilities was the major interest of the communities and existing groups were not strong enough to control market or operate as pressure group influence access to credit facilities. They all used quantitative and qualitative techniques. Nevertheless, Lambu (2016) examine the cultural forces and women livelihood options in rural areas of Kano state, Nigeria. He explores the cultural issues surrounding buying and selling engaged by rural women to supplement their housewifery functions. It is cross sectional research that involves both quantitative and qualitative types of data. Finally, there is no much study conducted in the study area, the rural households suffer most in terms of hunger and food insecurity due to poverty and their overreliance on irregular and low paying laborious daily wages as such there is need for bringing about improvements in livelihoods opportunities of rural households in the study area. In addition, Zango LGA is one of the typical rural settlements in Katsina state where majority of the occupants engage in primary economic activities. Therefore, this study focuses on rural livelihood options for households in the study area with an attempt in identifying the different livelihood activities households practiced and determines the factors affecting the choice of livelihood activities in the area. This is particularly important for the design and effective adoption of sustainable livelihood strategies in the future that can assist rural households.

2. THE STUDY AREA

Zango Local Government Area (LGA) is located between Latitude 12°50'N and 13°00'N and between Longitudes 8° 26'E and 8° 44'E of Greenwich Meridian. In the Northern part it shares borders with Niger Republic, to the Eastern part with Baure Local Government Area of Katsina state, to the Southern part with Jigawa State and in the Western part with Sandamu and Mai'adua Local Government Areas in Kastina State (Figure 1). It covers a total land area of about 601 square kilometers. The local government lies about 100 kilometers east of Katsina the state capital (Tukur & Amadi, 2014).

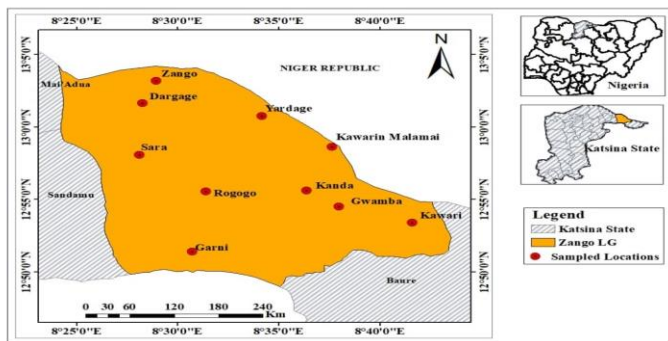


Fig 1. Zango Local Government Area

Source: GIS Laboratory, Department of Geography, Bayero University, Kano (2021)

Based on the 2006 National Population and Housing Census the Zango LGA has a population of 156,052, which is made up of 79,771 males, accounting for approximately 51.11 % of the total population and 76,281 females, accounting for the remaining 48.88 % of the total population. There is an average annual growth rate of 2.6% and fertility rate of 7.3 per woman, and it was ranked as the number 17<sup>th</sup> out of 34 LGAs of Katsina state in terms of population size (National Population Commission, 2010). The demographic feature of the study area shows that 45% of the population is less than 15 years of age, while 35% fall within the active age group of 15-64 years and 65 years and above (old age group) account for 20% (National Bureau of Statistics Nigeria, 2018 and Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey, 2013). In terms of economic activities, over 65% of the inhabitants of the area practice one form of agriculture or another and the remaining inhabitants practice are into commercial activities or are in public service. The main agricultural produce of farmers in the study area include millet, guinea corn, maize, rice, potatoes, cassava, groundnuts, beans for subsistence, while wheat, cotton and vegetables are cultivated for cash. Local crafts such as blacksmithing, weaving, food processing and sale

of cakes also play an important role in the economic life of the people in the area, state and nation at large (Tukur & Amadi, 2014; Abdul'azeez, Ibrahim, Abdullahi, Rabi'u & Garba, 2019).

3. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study employed two sources of data (primary and secondary data) and quantitative method was used in this study. The populations of interest in this research are households for the interview schedule, the choice of this is because the study is interested in examining the rural livelihood options, and households are responsible for taking care of their children and other members of the families. The selection of individual households for the interview was done using disproportional quota sampling technique from 10 political wards in the study area, with the aid of sampling frame as adopted by Tobin, Obi & Isah (2013); Rilwanu (2014) and Barau & Abudulkarim (2022). The sample size (400) was drawn from the population size using Krejcie& Morgan (1970) formula. The sample size of 400 was divided into 10 political wards from which 40 respondents was selected in each political ward and the equal distribution for the response on questionnaire was based on the disproportional quota sampling technique as adopted by Tobin, Obi, & Isah (2013); Rilwanu (2014) and Barau & Abudulkarim (2022). Interview was translated and done to the respondents in Hausa language because, people in the study areas felt more comfortable discussing issues in their local language. Research assistants were employed and trained in order to make them effective communicators and solicitors of information. Pre-test were conducted to ensure validity and reliability which help this research to achieved desired results. However, the data obtained from the households was first entered into Excel Microsoft (2007) application to create a sample database. Then, simple descriptive statistical techniques such as tables, pie-charts and bar-graphs were used to analyze data. Multinomial logistic regression was used to determine the effects of demographic and social variables on the preferences of livelihood activities among the households in the study area. All these analyses were done with the used of Excel Microsoft (2007) application and Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 20 was used for multinomial logistic regression.

However, a series of logistic regressions were fitted from which the estimated odds ratios (y) were derived to establish the effect of the predictors on the livelihood activities. Odds ratios were used to evaluate the strength of association or non-independence between two binary data values. Odds ratio values specify changes in odds of livelihood activities on independent variables (explanatory variables). Values between 0 and 1 indicate that an increase in the values of independent variables leads to a decrease in possibility of carrying out specific livelihood activities. Values above 1 indicate that an increase in values of independent variables leads to an increase in probability of undertaking specific livelihood activities. Each indicator was taken as a binary outcome and logistic regression was used to model explanatory variables including gender (male or female), marital status, age group, level of education ethnicity and designation (Table 1). Livelihood activities (dependent variables) used for modelling include government job, agriculturally based, shopping/trading, handcraft and others (sale of cakes as outdoor of women, weaving and wood carving). The Chi-square test at a = 0.05 significance level was used to assess the goodness of fit of the models.

Table 1. Description of the Variables in Multinomial Logistic Regression

S/N	Variables	Description
1.	Gender	Gender of the household head (if male 1; 0 if female)
2.	Age	Age of household head (years)
3.	Marital Status	Status (If married 1; 0 if separated, divorced or widowed)
4.	Level of Education	This was measured as attainment of non-formal and formal education (Islamic, primary, secondary and tertiary level).
5.	Ethnicity	Hausa, Fulani and others
6.	Designation	Employed, unemployed and self-employed

Source: Field Survey (2021)

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Demographic and Socio-economic Characteristics of the Households in the Study Area

In Table 2, sex as a demographic variable, indicates that males headed households were the most predominant with more than three fifth (76%) out of the total respondents compared to their counterpart (females) headed households that accounts for 24%. This implies that, males are mostly engaged in livelihoods activities and responsible for taking care of the family members more than females and the bias in the distribution was not intentional, but due to the cultural background of the area. This study is similar with the study of Aderinoye-Abdulwahab *et al* (2015) they explored that men and women do not have equal participation in livelihoods activity (farming) because males out number females.

**Table 2.** Respondent's Demographic and Socio-economic Characteristics

The Variables		Frequency	(%)
Sex	Male	304	76
	Female	96	24
	Total	400	100
Age	21-30 Years	108	27
	31-40 Years	138	34.5
	41-50 Years	86	21.5
	50 & above	68	17
	Total	400	100
Marital Status	Married	330	82.5
	Separated	22	5.5
	Divorced	34	8.5
	Widowed	14	3.5
	Total	400	100
Level of Education	Islamic	192	48
	Primary	72	18
	Secondary	82	20.5
	Tertiary	54	13.5
	Others	0	0
	Total	400	100
Ethnicity	Fulani	84	21
	Hausa	306	76.5
	Others	10	2.5
	Total	400	100
Mode of Income	Daily	161	40.2
	Weekly	120	30
	Monthly	35	8.8
	Yearly	84	21
	Total	400	100
House Ownership	Owned	102	25.5
	Rented	10	2.5
	Our Parent House	288	72
	Total	400	100

Source: Field Survey (2021)

With regard to the age category of the respondents in Table 2, it shows that 21-30 years age group scored the highest percent (34.5%), then followed by 31-40 years with 27% which are all young adults age groups, and the old age group (50 years and above) constitutes the lowest percent (17%). The two groups with highest percent are the most economically active population in the study area and the members depend mostly on them for their basic needs, and even the old age headed households are responsible for their family members as such they have to find a livelihood activity and engage on for their well-being. This study contrary with findings of Sanzidar and Shaheen (2014); FAOUN (2018) and USAID (2017) they highlighted that aging populations in many developed nations usually do not engage in livelihood activities the depend mostly on the

government. However, based on marital status the result indicates that majority of the respondents were found to be married (82.5%), while divorced constitutes of 8.5% and widowed scored the lowest per cent with just 3.5% (Table 2). This implies that being married adds one's respect, honor in the society as explained by most of the respondents and according to majority of males headed households the social status that a man achieves is that of a wife/wives and children. They further stated that based on their religion and culture people get married at early age and marriage in their society is not very expensive compared to urban areas in the state. This is similar with study of Kamwi *et al* (2018) that majority of households who engage in livelihood activities are married and they take care of their family.

Similarly, one of the important social variables for social classification is level of education. It indicates that all the respondents' attained one type of education due to the fact majority of them can read and write either in Arabic language or formal education which make them literate (Table 2). The results also, shows that Islamic education lead with highest percent (48%), then followed by secondary education that account for 20.5% and tertiary education constitutes the lowest percent (13.5%). However, rural households' access to formal education and training is often limited due to financial barriers, the opportunity costs for education and training for poor rural children and adults may be too high to give up their income-generating activities and unpaid duties that help sustain their families as shown by the results, this resulted to many of them did not attain higher levels of education. This study is consistent with work of Danladi (2016) who explored the literacy level of the rural women in Tsanyawa LGA, Kano state that engage in various livelihood options and it shows that majority can read and write with comprehension in either Arabic or English language. Likewise ethnicity is a social variable and the result reveals that the two major ethnic groups are predominant namely; Hausa (76.5%) and Fulani (21%) who outnumbered the other groups with just 2.5% (Zabarmawa, Ibos, Yoruba and among others) that migrated from Niger Republic and Southern part of the country respectively as well as taken permanent residence in the area (Table 2). This reveals that they are predominant in livelihood options, because they are the indigenous people of the community. This study is contrary with that of Aderinoye-Abdulwahab *et al* (2015) who explained that people that held from other places are the predominant groups that engage themselves on various livelihood options.

Nevertheless, the findings in Table 2, shows that one of the important economic variables i.e., source of income among the headed household and it reveals that daily mode of income constitutes of 40.2%, while weekly source of income account for 30% and monthly source of income scored the lowest percent (8.8%) at period of this research. This reveals that, majority of the respondents get low income because the major source of income is daily which they get and spend it on daily bases. This is an indication of poverty and their over reliance on irregular and low paying laborious daily wages as well as lack of opportunities to get a better occupation. This work coincides with the study of Lambu (2016) who found that lack of opportunities to get a better livelihood activity make women to have low income. More so, the house ownership is another economic variable that could be employed for economic classification of households in any geographical area. In Table 2, the study shows that the households living in their parents' houses has largest percent (72%), then followed by people living in their owned houses that constitutes of 25.5%, while, rented houses scored the lowest percent (2.5%). This implies the sign of rural poverty, because many households in the area had no money to build their own houses as such they live in together parents which this causes a lot of challenges that almost all the respondents said they cannot mentions them, but some these challenges include overcrowding in housing facilities (like toilet, room, kitchen and among others), higher dependent on the other headed household if he is rich in the extended family, poor sanitation within the house environment which will leads to outbreaks of communicable diseases and among others. This finding is related with the studies of FAOUN (2018) and ADB (2018) assessed that many households in developing countries cannot afford to buy or build a house due poverty and lack opportunities to practice important livelihoods options that will bring more profit.

#### 4.2 Types of Livelihood Activities Practiced

The types of work respondents engage towards sustaining their livelihoods (Figure 2) indicates that people practicing farming activities than any other livelihood activities, it accounts for 57% of the total

respondents and these activities include crop farming, livestock farming, irrigation and among others as means of sustaining livelihood. The types of crops cultivated as narrated by respondents and observed during the survey include tomatoes, lotus, cabbages, onions, cucumbers, vegetables, rice, and maize. Followed by non-farming activities with 21.8%, the non-farming activities for livelihood in the area are blacksmithing, repairs, local trades and businesses, sale of cakes as outdoor for women, wood curving and weaving. And the lowest livelihood activities practiced are non-income related activities (fetching firewood and water, housekeeping and childcare) with only 7.5%.

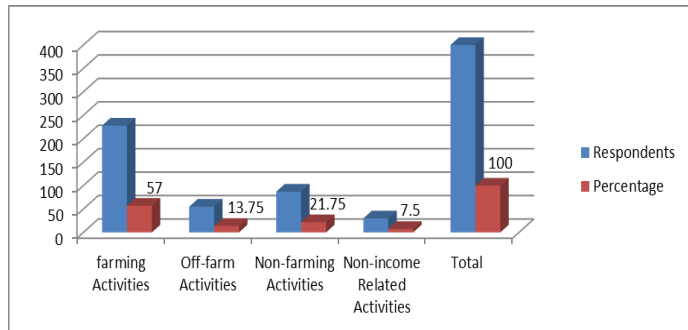


Fig 2. Respondent's Types of Livelihood Activities

Source: Field Survey (2021)

From the foregoing majority of the people depend on farming related activities as the main means of livelihood to sustain themselves and their family. However, the farming activity is at the subsistent level, with low amount of annual rainfall being received, they had difficulties in getting fertilizer and improved seeds, as well as lands for irrigation were very few and it provides them low profits which cannot fully sustain them and their family leading to poverty and also makes some of them to engage in other livelihood activities. Moreover, majority of them highlighted that even other livelihood options are at lowest level due to lack of capital and support from relatives, individuals, organisations and governments as well as lack of skills acquisitions centres that will train people on different skills that will diversify livelihoods which in turn leads to hunger, poor food insecurity and increase rural poverty. Notwithstanding the potential of investment in agriculture by the government, there has often been inadequate attention paid to the needs of rural communities in this regard. This is in line with finding of Aderinoye *et al* (2015) which shows that agricultural-based (subsistence) livelihood in Nigeria has a higher level of poverty than other occupational activities and majority of people practiced this activity. Similarly, this result disagreed with findings of Gebru, and Beyene (2012); USAID (2017) and FAOUN (2018) they identified in many rural areas especially developing nations where agricultural education and training in general has persistently failed to meet the needs of farmers because the range of skills needed by subsistence producers and rural women, are often ignored or are poorly addressed.

### 4.3 Demographic and Social Factors Affecting the Choice of Livelihood Activities

In table 3, multinomial logistic regression analysis was used to determine the effects of some variables/factors on the preference of livelihood activities among the households. The result indicates that factors/variables; age, gender and designation of the respondents significantly determine the choice of government-based livelihood activity since the P-value is less than 0.05 (i.e., age (0.002), gender (0.03), designation (0.001)). In addition, education (0.987), marital status (0.997) and ethnicity (0.378) have no any influence in determine the choice of government-based livelihood activity due to the facts that, the P-value is greater than 0.05 at the period of this study. This reveals that age and designation may be a determining factor of this type of livelihood activity, because it required using some age, knowledge (majority of households attained either Islamic education, primary or secondary education), training and skills to be provided before you will be employed, and gender also influence the choice of government jobs in the area due to the cultural factor that females are not allowed to work as such, it is dominated by males. This in line with the study of Onwuaroh (2017) opined that status,

gender and age of households influence the choice of any livelihood activity.

Table 3. Factors Affecting the Choice of Households Livelihood Activities

Livelihood Activity	Independent Variable	Odds Ratio	Lower	Upper	P-Value
Government Job	Age	4.026	0.662	5.583	0.002*
	Education	2.465	3.257	1.866	0.987
	Gender	1.021	1.021	1.021	0.003*
	Marital Status	6.859	0.000	0.000	0.997
	Ethnicity	1.292	0.731	2.283	0.378
	Designation	1.143	1.005	1.301	0.001*
Agricultural-Based	Age	5.257	2.739	1.009	0.985
	Education	1.000	1.000	0.000	1.000
	Gender	1.910	0.667	3.855	0.000*
	Marital Status	1.487	0.000	0.000	0.998
	Ethnicity	0.245	0.131	0.460	0.000*
	Designation	4.014	0.502	3.079	0.190
Shopping/Trading	Age	1.729	1.432	2.326	0.004*
	Education	1.000	1.000	0.000	1.000
	Gender	1.310	1.562	1.023	1.00
	Marital Status	1.179	0.000	0.000	0.998
	Ethnicity	1.155	0.880	1.517	0.299
	Designation	0.971	0.291	3.240	0.961
Handcraft	Age	9.666	3.608	2.589	0.990
	Education	2.862	0.327	4.456	0.002*
	Gender	0.026	3.422	2.987	0.930
	Marital Status	5.456	0.000	0.000	0.999
	Ethnicity	0.442	0.214	0.913	0.002*
	Designation	1.474	0.792	2.742	0.602
Others	Age	1.000	1.000	0.000	1.000
	Education	1.000	1.000	0.000	1.000
	Gender	1.832	1.632	1.856	0.000*
	Marital Status	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000*
	Ethnicity	4.397	1.207	1.392	0.000*
	Designation	0.449	0.236	0.853	0.001*

Source: Field Survey (2021) Significant 0.05 C. Level, \* Significantly Influence

However, agriculturally based livelihood activity choice of the households was significantly influence by gender and ethnicity with a P-values (0.000) which less than 0.05 as the odd reduce by a factor (0.667) and (0.131) with a unit increase respectively, while age, education, marital status and designation of the households cannot determine the choice of agriculturally based livelihood activity as an occupation (Table 3). This indicate that the variables that could not influences the choice of agricultural activities as a means of livelihood option in the study area is attributed to fact this option is the predominant in the community which make majority of people in engage on it and in rural setting is a taboo of an individual not practicing it. This study is contrary to the study of Reardon *et al* (2007) who explained that gender haveno influence on any agricultural livelihood activity.

More so, in choice of shopping or trading livelihood activities all the variables only age have significantly influence this is because, it has p-value (0.004) which is less than 0.05 alpha levels and the odd reduce by a factor (1.729). But education, marital status ethnicity and designation of the

households they cannot significantly detriment the choice of these livelihood activities base on the findings as the P-value of all these is greater than 0.05 significant levels (Table 3). This implies that these activities as options are more less labour intensive which make older members of the community carried out it in the study area. This work is contrary to the work of Onwuaroh (2017) who stated that, marital status and education of households influence the choice of any livelihood activity. But is in line with work of Reardon *et al* (2007) opined that age has influence on trading livelihood activity.

In addition, Table 3 shows that handcraft as a livelihood activity choice is significantly influence by the level of education and ethnicity of the households where the odd is (2.862) and (0.442) respectively and more likely with a unit increase in education with P-value (0.002) and ethnicity (0.002) which are all less than 0.05 alpha level. This reveals that engaging to this livelihood option required knowledge, training and skills and is being practice mostly by some cultural groups of people in the study area. This finding coincided with finding of Kamwi *et al* (2018) who stated that level of education has significant influence on any hand works livelihood activities. Others livelihood activity choice such as sale of cakes as outdoor for women, weaving and woodcarving activities by the households significantly detriment by gender, marital status and designation this is because, all their P-values are less than 0.05 alpha level and despite the significant influence of marital status on other livelihood activity, the odds reduced by a factor of (0.000) with a unit increase in marital status (Table 1). This is an indication that woodcarving is dominated by males, while sale of cakes (which is mostly done by divorced and old women in the community) and weaving are dominated by females in the study area. This finding is contrary with finding of Kamwi *et al* (2018) who opined that marital status has no any significant influence in the choice of wood carving livelihood activity by the households, but this work is similar in gender which significantly influences the choice of wood carving livelihood activity.

#### 4.4 The Main Source of Income and Support Respondents Received

Figure 3, indicates the different sources of income of the households and it shows that the households that earn their income from shopping or trading related activities constitutes more than two fifth, followed by activities from agriculture with almost two fifth ,this is because even though farming is the major livelihood activity, but during dry season many people including the farmers engaged in local shopping and trading which gives them more income as narrated by one of the respondents, while from income from salary constitutes a few percent which is very clear as the level of western education in the area is very low leading to very few civil servants in the study area. Others sources like income from friends and relatives accounted for the lowest. This finding reveals that households depend on non-farming and agricultural base activities as their main sources of income to sustained livelihoods economically which in turn helps in taking care of their family (provisions of food, clothes, paying school fees and health issues and so on). Therefore, this study is in line with findings of Timmer (2009) and Olusola & Adenegan (2011) who opined that rural livelihood is still a complex structure comprising of mostly agriculture and non-farming activities in order to attain a sustainable livelihood to get better income.

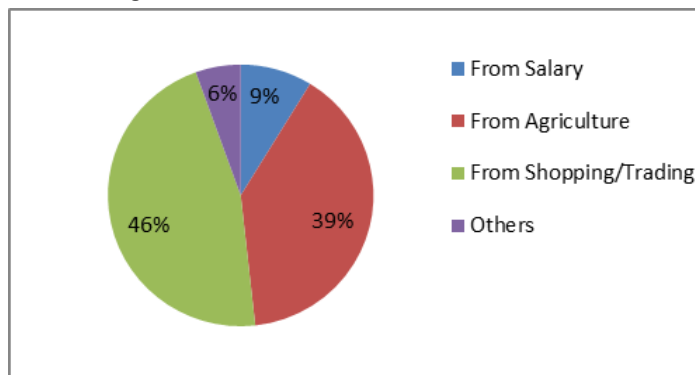


Fig 3. Respondents Main Source of Income

Source: Field Survey (2021)

Nevertheless, the different ways households received support to improve their livelihood activities, shows that majority of the people get more support from their relatives, remittance from their children and support from friends. But only few people get support from the government and no any support from banks and micro finance as explained by the respondents at the time of this study. This reveals that poor support from governments, private organisations (commercial banks, micro finance and among others) and non-governmental organisation leads to serious setback in the choice of livelihood activities of the people of the study area (economically and socially). This study is consistence with work of ADB (2007) who opened that rural livelihood suffers serious neglect in Nigeria as attention has been focused on urban areas that is by given support, creation of jobs opportunities, opening vocational centers and commercial centers among others.

## 5. CONCLUSION

Conclusively, livelihoods opportunities are regarded the primary aspects of the rural individuals belonging to all age groups, categories and backgrounds in order to promote their well-being. In the present existence, many livelihood options exist but the main livelihood activity was farming related activities which suffer serious challenges that include subsistent level, low amount of annual rainfall, lack of financial supports from relatives, individuals, organisations and government, difficulties in getting fertilizer and improved seeds, and among others. The non-farming activities and non-income related activities also are at lowest level because the rural households suffer most in terms of no skills acquisitions centres that will train people on different skills, hunger and food insecurity due to poverty and their over reliance on irregular and low paying laborious daily wages as well as few attentions was made either by government or private organisations within and outside Nigeria to address these issues. Therefore, rural areas require immediate attention of by individuals and all stakeholders globally in order to mitigate the recommendations risks and uncertainty that characterised rural existence.

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

After a thorough and careful research some recommendations are made; there is need for policy makers should understand the nature and patterns of households' livelihood activities so as to make policies that will assist in providing sustainable livelihood options for the poor rural people. Government should provide skills acquisition centres (that will assist and train rural people on different kind of self-reliance programs which will help in diversifying different livelihood options), fertilizer, improved seeds, financial support and technical support (agricultural extension workers) and other farm equipment's to the households, this will promote their well-being since is agriculture is major livelihood activity. The household should encourage by traditional rules and elides to get bank loans and who to get other financial support from government and NGOs to improve their livelihood activities. In addition, individual at their own level should provide a means that they can assist themselves by making donations in terms of contribution (weekly or monthly) or contribution just to assist the poor one among them.

### Data availability statement

The data that support the findings of this study are available on request from the corresponding author. The data is not publicly available due to privacy or ethical restrictions.

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