

# ANALYSIS OF FACTORS INFLUENCING LIVELIHOOD DIVERSIFICATION AMONG RURAL DWELLERS IN ADAMAWA STATE, NIGERIA

**Andrew O. Donye**

Adamawa State University, Nigeria

## **Abstract**

*The study analyzed factors influencing livelihood diversification among rural dwellers in Adamawa State, Nigeria. Data used for the analysis were generated from 360 respondents, who were selected using multi-stage random sampling technique. The analytical tools used were descriptive and inferential statistics. The descriptive statistics were used in categorizing the respondents on the basis of their socio-economic characteristics, constraints encountered in diversifying livelihoods, levels of livelihood diversification, reasons for livelihood diversification and types of livelihood diversification activities engaged in. Livelihood diversification indices were determined using Simpson's Index formula. Tobit regression was employed to determine the factors influencing livelihood diversification. Results of the study revealed that age, marital status, education, household size, years of farming experience and the number of natural resources available were all found to be positive and significant at 1% level of significance. Income, main occupation, the number of occurrence of natural disasters and the period (rainy or dry season) of the year were also found to be positive and significant at 5% level of significance. The major reason indicated by the respondents for diversifying their livelihoods was that: livelihood diversification was a coping strategy in times natural hazards and failures. The major constraint to livelihood diversification identified was lack of fund. It was concluded that the extent of livelihood diversification is determined by the contribution of nearly equal amounts made by each livelihood activity to the total income in the individual's/household's control and not by the multiplicity of livelihood activities. Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended that: extension workers should convince rural dwellers to invest nearly equal amounts of money into their livelihood activities; Nigerian Government and Commercial banks should provide credits and loans to rural dwellers.*

**Key words:** Analysis, Factors, Influencing, Livelihood Diversification, Nigeria.

*andrewdonye@yahoo.com*