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**An Analysis of the Position of Return Migrant  
Women in the Informal Farm and Non-Farm  
Labour Markets in Rural Enugu**

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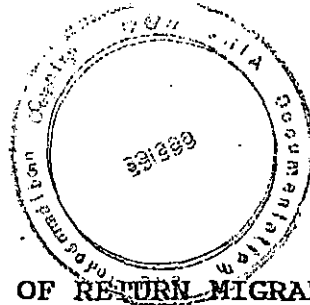


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**AN ANALYSIS OF THE POSITION OF RETURN MIGRANT WOMEN IN  
THE INFORMAL FARM AND NON-FARM LABOUR  
MARKETS IN RURAL ENUGU STATE**

**A RESEARCH REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA,  
NSUKKA IN FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE  
AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE (M.SC)  
AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS**

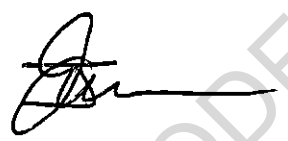
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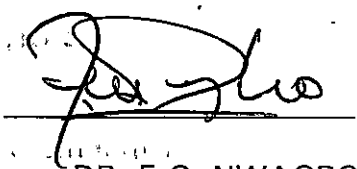
**CERTIFICATION**

OKORO, OGECHUKWU, a postgraduate student in the Department of Agricultural Economics and with the Registration Number PG/MSC/93/14609 has satisfactorily completed the requirement for the degree of Master of Science (M.Sc) in Agricultural Economics.

The work embodied in this project report is original and has not been submitted in part or full for any other diploma or degree of this or any other University.



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15/5/98

DATE

15/5/98

DATE

## DEDICATION

To the loving memory of my late father, Chief P.O. Okoro, who kindled the light, My mother Mrs Mary Okoro, for her endurance and care; and my sisters for their various supports.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is clear that this project would not have been a success without the contributions and encouragement given to me from many institutions and individuals. I am most grateful to the Holy spirit, My senior partner who through his guidance and protection made my master degree programme a success. My sincere gratitude goes to my supervisor, DR. C.J. Arene for his objective criticisms and advise in the course of the study. Also my gratitude goes to all the lecturers in the Department of Agricultural Economics for their assistance and immense contributions. I am most grateful to the council for the Development of Economic and social Research in Africa (CODESRIA) for awarding me their 1996 Research grant for Thesis writing. This has greatly helped me in the successful completion of the work.

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Most particularly I am immensely indebted to my Mother, Mrs Mary Okoro, My sisters Ify, Persh, Ngo, Nky, and Chi, my in-law Abonyi C.C. and Odoh E.O. My fondest regards and love to you all for having inspired and contributed immensely to my happiness.

I express my deep gratitude to my sister Nky, for her wonderful encouragement both financially and spiritually.

Finally, to all others whose efforts I cannot document here, I will ever remain grateful.

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My eternal gratitude goes to my brethren in the lord, DR. E. Agomo, Mr

## ABSTRACT

The study investigated the position of return migrant women in the informal farm and non-farm labour markets in rural Enugu state of Nigeria. It described the extent of return migration and its effect on the choice of labour; investigated the determinant of access to each sector, measured labour efficiency among respondents in each sector. The purposive sampling technique was adopted. It involved sampling the local government areas and communities within the local government areas and finally, identifying the return migrant women. A sample frame of return migrant women was compiled in the selected communities. Selection was restricted to return migrant women of the marital status; widow, polygamy, unmarried and divorce who return between the years 1987 and 1991. A total of sixty-two respondents were randomly selected in ten local government areas of three agricultural zones of Enugu state. Data was collected using a set of structured questionnaires. The result of the study revealed that the rate of return migration among women was on the increase and is basically on involuntary reasons. There was a high rating for employment related reasons for leaving rural areas. Human capital such as years of vocational/ technical schooling and years of work experience was found to be important characteristics of status choice especially in non-farm sector. The demographic factors, age and house hold size are important factors in

the farm sector. The labour force composition of the respondents shows participation in farm and non-farm sector as employee or own account. The following recommendations were made:

Proper channeling of resources to reflect farm and non-farm sectors. A change in the method of data collection to reflect both farm and non-farm work.

Time and labour saving devices to be introduced to reduce the work burden of rural women. Well intended income generating scheme which teach women to sew, embroidery and exhibit some other naturally endowment, domestic skills as emphasized in Better Life for Rural Women Programme to be made commercially viable.

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title page	i
Certification	ii
Dedication	iii
Acknowledgement	iv
Abstract	v
Table of content	vii
<b>CHAPTER ONE:</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>
1.1 Background	1
1.2 The Problem	4
1.3 Objectives of the study	5
1.4 Hypothesis	6
1.5 Justification of the study	6
<b>CHAPTER TWO:</b>	<b>REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE</b>
2.1 Migration	8
2.2 Return Migration	9
2.3 Rural and Urban	9
2.4 Contemporary Models and Concepts	10
2.5 Campbell and Johnson Propositions on Return Migration	12
2.5.1 Type A Proposition	12
2.5.2 Type B Proposition	13
2.6 Migration Motivation	14
2.7 Consequences of Return Migration	15



2.8	Migration and Labour Market	16
2.9	The Position of Women in the Labour Market	18

### **CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY**

3.1	The Study Area Enugu	22
3.2	Sampling Plan	23
3.3	Data Collection	24
3.4	Data Analysis	24

### **CHAPTER FOUR: PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS**

4.1	Personal Characteristics of the Respondents	27
4.1.1	Age of Respondents	27
4.1.2	Marital Status of Respondents	29
4.1.3	Educational Qualification	31
4.1.4	Work Experience	33
4.2.1	The Rate of Return Migration and Labour Choice	34
4.3	Reasons For Leaving Urban Area	37
4.4	Non-Farm Training Received By Respondents	38
4.5	Distribution of Respondent According to Occupation in Urban Areas	40
4.6	Labour Force Composition of the Return Migrations	41
4.7	Respondents Objectives For Sector Choice	43
4.8	Probit Analysis Result	46
4.9	Efficiency Of Labour Use Among The Return Women	51
4.10	Estimation Of Costs And Returns To Average Return Migration Women	58

**CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION**

5.1	Summary	60
5.2	Conclusion	64
5.3	Recommendations	65
	Bibliography	67
	Appendices	73

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## CHAPTER ONE

### 1.0

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Selected studies on labour migration over the past twenty to thirty years in Nigeria including the work of Essang and Mabawonku, 1974 have identified labour as a limiting factor in the enterprises of communities. Most of these studies were generally focused on rural-urban migration of able bodied youths to be the major cause of shortage in labour. The issue of urban- rural migration (or return migration) has not been significantly addressed in Nigeria. However, the global processes of socio-economic development are leading to changes in economic structure and social organizations. This is demonstrated in some of the government policies in Nigeria, as observed in the structural adjustment programme of 1986, increased state creation exercises, and the consequent retrenchment of workers in both private and government sectors. The resultant effects lead some people to decide on returning to the rural areas as the job which formerly attracted them to the cities are no longer available. Of special interest, is some of the rural development programmes embarked by the Federal Government like that

of Directorate for Food, Road, and Rural infrastructure which aim at creation of more jobs, production of food and raw materials, and the provision of roads electricity, pipe-borne water and other rural infrastructural facilities. These, facts in essence will help bring to lime-light the relative importance of return migration.

Theoretical models of developing economics often postulates an agrarian sector allocating its labour between two major activities. Although their major activities are farming, most rural people in Nigeria still combine it with some non-farming activities in varying degree (Olayide, 1980). Often, dominant position of farming activities among the rural population in less developed economics such as Nigeria tends to obscure the importance of specialization by the rural population in non-farming occupation ( Oludimu and Williams, 1986). An examination of available evidence reveals that there are extensive activities in this sector. For example, Juring (1967) presented data that revealed that 48% of the employed males in rural areas of Sokoto province had either primary or secondary occupations in the rural non-farm sector. Similarly, Norman (1971) found that 47% of the average male adult working time in a major village (Malaukanji) in Zaria area was spent on non-farm occupation.

International donor agencies and governments of many less developed countries have recently begun to devote increasing attention to the development of policies and programmes for expanding productive employment and earning opportunities of women in the various activities in less developed countries. Programmes which are trying to take care of the above perspective of development in Nigeria are that of the Better life for Rural Women, family support and integrated Development programmes - processes of rural development which in a broad sense, try to integrate the rural poor into the social, political and economic life of a country by emphasizing participation in farm and non-farm activities. The rural non-farm activities in Nigeria have greater potential to generate surplus that can contribute substantially to rural income necessary for development.

Most farm and non-farm labour in Nigeria is supplied by women. Their relative contribution is of great importance to the household income and the development of the country in general, but women's largely unwaged labour goes uncounted in economic statistics of the country and is therefore, unrecognized. Moreover, the contributions made by women are usually separated from the tasks and problems of rural development.

The gross national product (GNP) includes only goods and services

exchanged for money, whereas subsistence activities in rural areas are excluded from estimates of the GNP in Nigeria and most other less developed countries. BOSERUP (1970), for example, emphasized that subsistence activities usually omitted in the statistics of production and income are largely women's work. Although the tendency is for official statistics to under-report all subsistence activities, whether carried out by women or men, some of these are specific to women, particularly domestic work and participation in agriculture and unpaid family labour (Beneria and Gita, 1986).

Determining and recognizing the economic contributions made by women in rural development must, therefore, be a first step in order to give a realistic assessment and to integrate them into the rural development process.

## 1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT

Most labour force data bases do not contain direct information on the degree of protection and income enjoyed by return migration women workers in the segments of the informal labour sector. Classification of workers in the farm or non-farm segments must then rely on proxy criteria, often the number of workers in each segments and the level of income enjoyed.

Many small enterprises in rural Nigeria are indeed found in the informal sectors as a result of the difficulty and the high cost of providing formal work arrangements and protection in small enterprises in these areas. Since farm size differences are this a result, not a cause, of the distinction between sectors, it is essentially wrong to use size to define the sectors. This study will try to distinguish between the sectors using a direct definition based on the workers socio-economic attribute such as human capital and demographic variables.

The problem then is to what extent is the reversal of migration occurring and how does it affect the choice of labour among women returnees in the rural areas? To address this problem, attention needs to be paid to identifying those who have migrated their characteristics, and reasons for migrating.

### **1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The broad objective of this study is to investigate the position of return migrant women in the informal farm and non-farm labour markets in rural Enugu state of Nigeria.

The specific objectives are to:

- (a) Describe the human capital and demographic variables of the respondents

- (b) Describe the extent of return migration and ascertain how it affects the choice of labour status
- (c) Investigate the determinants of access to each sector of the labour market;
- (d) Measure the efficiencies of labour use by workers in each sector;
- (e) Determine costs and returns per worker in each sector; and
- (f) Make policy recommendation based on the result of the findings.

#### 1.4 HYPOTHESIS

Based on the above specific objectives, the null hypothesis formulated is that access to each sector is not determined by human capital and demographic variables

#### 1.5 JUSTIFICATION OF THE STUDY

This research is justified on the following grounds:

- (a) Given that labour is a critical factor in a farm and non-farm activities in rural Nigeria because of the fact that these activities are still labour intensive, any research work that aim at a better under standing of the mobility of labour force in the rural setting is justified.
- (b) The results of the research are expected to shed some light on the interdependent nature of the farm and non-farm economics in rural Nigeria.



(c) Little, if any research has been done on the specific determinants of return migration among women. This work is expected to go a long way in specifying such determinants.

(d) In order to be able to formulate appropriate and effective development policies for rural women, there is the need to keep abreast of changes in factors that influence the availability of labour.

(e) The result of this study will, therefore, throw more light on the philosophy and implications of the Better Life For Rural Women Programme initiated by the Nigerian government aimed at improving the welfare of rural women.

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## CHAPTER TWO

2.0

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 MIGRATION

Technical definitions of migration are weakened by differing jurisdiction definitions of political areas; by differing cultural homogenities of political units ( Richmond and Kubot, 1976). Beijer (1968), Magalam (1968) defines migration as a "relatively permanent moving away of a collectivity called migrants from one geographical location to another preceded by decision -making on the part of the migrants based on a hierarchically ordered set of values or value ends and resulting in the interfactional system of the migrants."

The bulk of literature on migration in Africa in general and Nigeria in particular relates to rural-urban migration only passing references have been made to the urban-rural (or return migration) as a phenomena that had, until recently been insignificant, not much had been documented on it (Okoye, 1989). Adepoju (1975) believes that even though migration studies have proliferated in Nigeria, the data base for migration survey is inadequate for the analysis of migration partly because of unstandardized definitions, concepts and methodology and poor presentation all of which make comparative analysis difficult.

## 2.2 RETURN MIGRATION

Return migration involves the movement of people who had migrated to elsewhere outside their home villages or district, into other rural area or urban centres, but have eventually returned and resettled in their home, villages or districts (Ajaegbu, 1975).

Return migration became a relevant migration patterns just before and after the Nigerian Civil war. However, this was short lived as it was followed by high economic growth rate during the period of oil boom. This resulted in massive exodus of able bodied persons from the rural to the urban area. However, with the recent adverse economic situations in the country there is reversal in migration and in the findings of Okoye (1989). Return migration is now a reality in Nigeria.

## 2.3 RURAL AND URBAN

A proper definitions of "Urban or Rural" area involves the consideration of some identifying criteria. These include ecological, demographic, occupational and socio-cultural. The use of some or combination of these determinants depend on countries. For instance, each country generally fixes a certain population conglomeration as urban and sometimes accords this a special administrative status (Abiagom, 1975).

Generally, Urban areas are characterized as centres of concentration of

government administrative machinery, commercial, industrial and manufacturing activities supported by large amounts of infrastructure. While rural areas are characterized by population density, small absolute size, relative location (defined in terms of physical distance from the cities), with the major economic base being agricultural (Okoye, 1989). However, the agricultural activity is characterized by direct confrontation of nature's physical elements and a primary economic conversion function. They show a marked absence of modern amenities such as roads, pipe-borne water, electricity, telephone, and so on (Bealer, et al, 1965).

#### **2.4 CONTEMPORARY MODELS AND CONCEPTS**

(a) Stevens (1980) provides an economic frame work for return migration, highlighting differences between access to public goods and to private goods. He was of the view that people show willingness to forego income to gain access to public goods (good health services, electricity) etc that are more readily available in non-metro political (rural) areas. This model is more of developed countries features but has some relevance to our own context.

(b) Bender's (1980) model has the following propositions;

(i) Basic economic activities are dispersing increasingly into the rural

areas;

(ii) Services disperse as a result of the growth of basic industries in rural areas;

(iii) Existing labour force participation rates in combination with new employment opportunities determine the degree to which labour conditions induce new migration;

(iv) Wage growth induces both higher labour force participation and new migration and

(v) Increasing transport costs encourage the substitution of labour for energy.

Propositions (i) (ii) and (iii) have some vital explanations to return migration, though it lacks in some vital issues on the urban conditions of recession and retrenchment that are considered to be the major propellers of return migration.

(c) Concerning migration decision making, Williams and Mcmillen (1979) emphasized the concept of location-specific capital especially for migrants motive by retrenchment and environmental considerations.

Location -specific capital according to Davanzo and Morrison (1978) is a generic term denoting any or all the factors that tie a person to a particular place.

Thus, it is suggested that location-specific capital determines the direction of migration ( Williams and Mcmillen, 1979). Initial residence exhibits location-specific capital in many ways. There could be the need for the return- migrated to come back to a house, business left behind or for some other reasons.

## **2.5 CAMPBELL AND JOHNSON PROPOSITIONS ON RETURN MIGRATION**

The propositions are grouped into two: Well -tested propositions designated type A, while those with "Unlimited testing" are Type B. Although the propositions were developed and tested in environment very distinct from ours , they still serve as a review of literature on return migrants as it relates to our situations.

### **2.5.1 TYPE "A" PROPOSITIONS**

- (a) Return migration will tend to be greater to those area with a history of large out-migration ( confirmed by Millers, 1973); Richmond, (1966) and Appleyard (1962).
- (b) Return migration increases when labour market conditions deteriorate (Vander Kamp, 1971; Eldridge, 1965).
- (c) Return migrants are older than direct migrants (Campel et al, 1974)

- (d) Return migration consists of a disproportionately large number of females (Campbell et al, 1974)
- (e) Return migrants tend to have higher levels of educational attainment than the non-migrants in the communities of destination (Bugue, 1969)
- (f) Return migrants tend to have higher skilled occupation than the non-migrants in the communities of destination (Hernandez Alvarez, 1968; Tadros, 1968).
- (g) Return migrants tend to have higher incomes than non-migrants in the community of destination (Tadros, 1968).
- (i) The stronger the inter-personalities within groups in the communities of origin of the major stream, the higher the probability of return migration if there are no sanctions against returning (Tadros, 1968, Johnson, 1973)

#### **2.5.2 TYPE "B" PROPOSITION**

- (a) Return migration tend to occur soon after the first migration (Comay 1971).
- (b) The longer a migrant stay in his area of destination, the less likely he is to return (Comay 1971).

- (c) Increasing employment in the community of origin will attract increasing numbers of return migrants. (Tadros, 1968).
- (d) A disproportionate number of the migrants with low "Personal effectiveness" are likely to be return migrants (Lansing and Mueller, 1967).
- (e) Rural migrants whose initial residence was on farm are more likely to return than non-farm residents (Lee, 1974).
- (f) Return migration increases as size of place decreases (Lee, 1974).

## 2.6 MIGRATION MOTIVATION

The decision to migrate can be considered into the following features:

- (a) The decision to leave an area of origin and
- (b) The decision of where to go ( Roseman, 1977; Brown and More, 1970).

The after effect of the first helps to explain out-migration while the causal basis of the second decision helps explain in-migration . When evaluated at point of origin and point of destination respectively (Williams and Mcmillen, 1979).

Byerlee and Eicher (1982) expressed that the decision to migrate can be analyzed in terms of :

- (a) Rural migrants whose initial residence was on farm are more likely to return than non-farm residents (Lee, 1974).
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- (a) Monetary costs and returns related to income and employment in the source and destination areas;
- (b) Non-monetary cost and returns relating to risk, attitudinal characteristics, socialites and expectations.

On Return migration, Engmann's (1972) field investigations in Ghana show that the proportion of the original migrants that return home will depend on age, sex, degree of acclimatization, adaptability to local conditions, original intention for migration, extent of fulfillment of expectations, family obligation at home, level of education, state of market for skills possessed by them, readiness for retraining for other jobs, whether they have land to go to.

## **2.7 CONSEQUENCES OF RETURN MIGRATION**

So some possible consequences of Return migration in Nigeria (Okoye, 1989) in the context of the above related to economic and social circumstances where it almost certainly means urban-rural migration are:

The migrants may start planting crops, employing new production techniques, plaiting hairs and encouraging education. According to (Okoye, 1989). They can break the social rigidities that are incompatible with economic development.

## 2.8 MIGRATION AND LABOUR MARKET

In a society where economic organisation of production emphasizes labour-intensity, labour mobility becomes very important. Carpenter (1980) noted that the higher the residential stability of rural dwellers and return migrants, the lower the turn overs of migrants and larger the pool of potential farm and non-farm workers as the case may be.

The rural sector of Nigeria population can be distinguished from the urban sector in terms of the volume of non-farm occupation within the two sectors.

Oludimu and William (1986); in their study of rural non-farm activities included among others, metal work, blacksmithing, weaving and petty trading as some of the rural non-farm enterprises performed in parts of

Bendel state. Aumba 1990 cited that an international labour organisation (ILO) study in Western Nigeria in 1970 showed rural industries are family owned and labour intensive; also they employ few purchased capital good, and use largely traditional technologies and family labour. Likewise, most skills are obtained through informal education as reported by Diejomaoh and Orimolade, (1971).

As small group of industries (eg. blacksmithery, Carpentry and tailoring) the rural sector of Nigeria population can be distinguished from it has been delineated as using "medium level capital intensive techniques

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(ILO, 1971).

According to Chuta and Liedholm (1979), the evidence available from national censuses, and various regional and rural surveys indicate that non-farm activities provide an important source of primary employment in rural areas of most developing countries. For example, the recent data collected from developing countries including Nigeria, show that one-fifth or more of the rural labour force is primarily engaged in non-farm activities. Although, the rural non-farm percentage ranged from 14 to 49%, it later fell to between 19 to 28%. Women's participation in non-farm activities is often not counted as employed labour even when these activities result in transactions.

It has been Urban unemployment, rapid growth in GNP, Urban unemployment, particularly among young school leavers, poverty among a large proportion of the population, and income inequalities have tended to rise and have therefore, called for strategies designed to/ for more balanced and people oriented programmes. Specifically, greater emphasis came to be placed on ways of bettering the lot of the "working poor in the rural and urban informal sectors (Onah, 1982).

A programme which tries to take care of the above perspective of development is that of integrated rural development, which in a broad

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sense tries to integrate the rural into the social, political and economic life of a country by dove-tailing farm and non-farm industries and enterprises.

Most African governments, including Nigeria, have recently become increasingly aware of and concerned with the need to design effective strategies and policies for developing their small-scale rural establishments. There has also been a growing recognition that small-enterprises are not just an urban phenomenon, but are important components of rural development programme as well ( Liedholm and Chuta, 1976).

The extent of non-farm activities in a rural area can determine the amount of labour supplied in the farms. As much as 30% of working time may be spent on non-farm economic activities (Norman, 1969; Cleave, 1970, Lung, 1967). Norman (1969), suggested that off-farm work is a means of salvaging labour time that has low opportunity cost.

An important issue centres on whether the earnings from non-farm occupation are above that from farm sector (Alimba, 1970).

## **2.9 THE POSITION OF WOMEN IN THE LABOUR MARKET**

Women constitute a substantial proportion of Nigerian workers in the rural informal sector for ages. Albeit, there are variations in work input

by women due to differing production systems, socio-cultural and ecological factors (Arene and Omoregie, 1991).

Viewing women as farmers' wives, house keepers, cooks, and bearers of children, donor agencies have directed funds towards material and child health clinics, family planning programme and home economic projects.

Women constitute a formidable force in rural development because of their numbers and active involvement in agricultural production (UNECA 1974; Olayide et al, 1975).

Information has long been available that West African women play significant roles as farmers, traders and entrepreneurs in their own right, and that these roles are of central importance to the women, their families and the economics of West African countries (Simmons, 1976).

Many studies by eminent scholars have shown that in Africa, women put in more labour hours in Agricultural production than the men and also perform more than 70% of Agricultural activities including cash crop production and processing of food crops as well as animal husbandry (Boserup, 1975; Madsem, 1984; ILO, 1984; Okorji;1986).

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Nigeria, the task of home management, child care, and domestic chores are left exclusively for women according to traditional custom. Women's role in agriculture and other areas have remained largely unmeasured underrated and taken for granted (Okorji, 1988).

Kiselka (1980) in his research estimated that when all these activities are combined of agricultural labour force in Nigeria.

Pala, (1979), attempt to provide a rationale for the role of women in rural development with a historical perspective. Among her important conclusions is the suggestion that the indisputable historical fact of female's roles in traditional economies strongly point to the need to involve women in all current development strategies no matter what current development strategies no matter what economic and political ideologies may prevail in a region or country.

The place of women in rural development is so significant, that women themselves have to come to this realization. It is necessary for them to know the changes that have affected them and how they can adapt to the changes.

Historically, and as a result of processes linked with modernization and socio-economic development. Women's functions as producers have been critical for the welfare of poor families (Burrinic, 1981), maintains rural development with a historical perspective. Among her important

that the extent of women's contributions to domestic economics is emerging load and clear from recent time, using surveys of poor rural household. This shows that women tend to work longer hours and have less time than men. In Burundi, for instance, women rise half an hour earlier and during the day have more than an hour less leisure time than men. In upper volta, the working hours of a sample of rural women exceed those of men by about 27 percent while men on the average have two more hours of leisure per day. The same is found in Botsulars where rural women appear to work 20 percent longer than men and have 20 percent less leisure.

Global estimates in the 1980s suggested that the total female labour force had doubled since 1950. With women constituting one-quarter of the world's industrial labour force and around two-fifths of agricultural labour force (Less Oster Gaard 1986). This trend can be explained by global processes of socio-economic development and social organisation. These are intun generating a larger demand for and supply of women's labour. In addition to this, increasing urban-rural migration is both pushing and pulling more women into economic activities outside the household sphere.

exceed those of men by about 27 percent while men on the average have two more hours of leisure per day. The same is found in Botsulars where rural women appear to work 20 percent longer than men and have

20 percent less leisure. Global estimates in the 1980s suggested that the total female labour force had doubled since 1950. With women constituting one-quarter of the world's industrial labour force and around two-fifths of agricultural labour force (Less Oster Gaard 1986). This trend can be explained by global processes of socio-economic development and social organisation. These are intun generating a larger demand for and supply of women's labour. In addition to this, increasing urban-rural migration is both pushing and pulling more women into economic activities outside the household sphere.

## CHAPTER THREE

### 3.0

## METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 THE STUDY AREA

The study was conducted in Enugu state of Nigeria. Choice of the area is based on the fact that it has equal and more opportunities for both farm and non-farm labour. Enugu state is made up of three agricultural Zones, namely, Enugu, Abakaliki and Nsukka. The state is bounded to the south by Abia state, to the West by Anambra state, to the East by the Cross-Rivers state, and to the North by Kogi and Benue states. It has Nineteen (19) local government areas.

Geo-physically, Enugu state is situated on a rolling flat land characterized by hills and ranges, crees-crossed by numerous streams and rivulvetes or the eastern plains of River Niger. The state falls within the tropical climate of equatorial region, which Nigeria is generally identified with.

Thus, mean temperature ranges from 20<sup>o</sup> c to 30<sup>o</sup> C with a rainfall range of 55 cm to 185cm per annum having peak periods in July and August.

The state is naturally endowed with rich and vast agricultural resources with an estimated population of 3,161,295 (National population census facts, 1991), a land mass of about 9,727.1 square kilometers.

In addition to farming activities of the rural populace, are non-farm activities. The state is bounded to the West by Anambra state, to the East by Cross-Rivers state, to the South by Abia state, and to the North by Kogi and Benue states.



activities like metal work, weaving, tailoring etc.

### 3.2 SAMPLING PLAN

This study was carried out in 10 local government areas of the three zones of Enugu-state. A purposive sampling techniques was adopted. It involved sampling first, the local government areas and secondly, identifying the return migrant women.

A sample frame of return migrant women was compiled in the selected communities. Selection of respondents was restricted to return migrant women of the marital status. Widow, Polygamy, Single and divorced who returned between the year 1987 and 1991.

Women with monogamous marriage were excluded from the list of respondents in order to capture the actual economic position of the respondents. It is believed that women with such marriages culturally do not have full control over their income in their families. While other categories of women are more economically independent and fend for themselves and their dependant.

Finally, the respondents were randomly selected from each of the local government areas as follows:

Nsukka Zone; 22 return migrant women in the following 4 local government areas: Isi- Uzo, Igbo-etiti, Nsukka and Igbo-Eze.

Enugu Zone: 20 respondents from Oji-River, Udi and Nkanu local government areas.

Abakaliki Zone: 20 respondents from Izzi, Ikwo and Ishielu local government areas.

This brought the total number of return migrant women to 62.

### **3.3 DATA COLLECTION**

Data for this study were collected from secondary and primary sources.

Secondary sources include journals, government publications and published and unpublished works. Primary sources comprised of personal interview using a set of structured and unstructured questionnaires. The researcher was assisted by some officials of Better Life for Rural Women Programme, community councilors and church groups.

The questionnaire was structured in such a way as to provide information on the human capital and demographic variables of the respondents, labour force data and cost and returns.

### **3.4 METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS**

Descriptive statistics such as means and percentages were used in analysing the data and achieving Objectives 1 and 2 probit analytical model was used in achieving Objective 3. The model tries to analyze the

key factors that determine access to each sector. A sequential probit model reflecting the four possible choices of sectors was estimated as follows:

follows:

$S_i = 1$  Where  $i$  stands for an individual who became a farm sector employee.

$S_i = 2$  for individual that is a farm sector own account worker.

$S_i = 3$  for individual that is a non-farm sector employee.

$S_i = 4$  for individual that is a non-farm own account worker

The probabilities are:

$$P(S_i = 1) = F(b_1x_i)$$

$$P(S_i = 2/S_i \neq 1) = (1-F(b_1x_i))(F(b_2x_i))$$

$$P(S_i = 3/S_i \neq 1) = (1-F(b_1x_i))(1-F(b_2x_i))$$

$$P(S_i = 4/S_i \neq 1) = (1-F(b_1x_i))(1-F(b_2x_i))(1-F(b_3x_i))$$

Where  $F$  represents the standard normal distribution function, and  $b_1$ ,  $b_2$  and  $b_3$  are the model parameters. The likelihood function of this model can be maximized by maximizing the likelihood function of a dichotomous model twice (Maddala, 1983).

This model formulation assumes that individuals first determine whether they can gain access to the non-farm sector either as employees or own account workers. If they cannot, they subsequently determine their own work status within the farm sector, such a formulation among

Nigerians for work in the non-farm sector. The preference is based on the general apathy towards farm work and the poor perception of the society on farming profession (Arene and Eneh, 1987). The explanatory variables,  $X_i$ , consisting of two sets human capital and demographic variable. Human capital variables consist of schooling and work experience, while demographic variables consist of age and household sizes, because employers may exhibit preference for certain types of workers based on these characteristics.

Objective four was achieved by adopting Kay's method of measuring labour efficiency ( Kay, 1981). The approach was used to measure labour efficiency among workers in each sector. This is labour cost per naira enterprise production. The labour efficiency measure was applied to three sizes of farm and non-farm enterprises. The formulae used was

$$\frac{\text{Total labour cost in Naira}}{\text{Total Value product in Naira}}$$

Labour value implies greater labour efficiency.

Objective five was achieved by employing gross margin analysis. It involved the estimation of costs and returns to the average worker in each sector per annum.

$$\text{Gross margin (GM)} = \text{Total revenue (TR)} - \text{Total variable cost (TVC)}.$$

## CHAPTER FOUR

### PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

#### 4.1 PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESPONDENTS

Some of the personal characteristics of the return migrant women studied are: Age, marital status, household size, educational qualification and work experience.

The a priori expectation is that these variables can influence and also determine choice of labour and access to the specific segments of the labour market.

##### 4.1.1 AGE OF RESPONDENTS

Age has significant impact on all aspect of one's life, as can be observed in decision making and contribution to production. There ages of high productivity and low productivity which invariably influence, labour supply. Infact, it has been observed that the marginal propensity to produce is at peak within the middle aged groups. Table (I) shows that no respondent was 20 years or less, while none was above 51 years of age.

Table 1 Age Distribution of Return Migrant Women in the Study Area

Age Range	Number of Respondents	Percentage %
21 - 30	11	17.7
31 - 40	32	51.6
41 - 50	19	30.07
Total	62	100

Source: Field Survey, 1996.

It was observed that about 69.2% of respondents are within the age range of 21 -40 years. This implies that the majority of the return migrant women are middle aged. This is significant to this study, because at this age, they are very energetic and dynamic, hence, can effectively involve themselves in income generating ventures in the rural areas. This has positive effect on the demand and supply of labour.

This finding also agrees with the study and findings of Nigerian Institute for Social and Economic Research (NISER) as cited by Elui, (1991) that age has some relationship with labour participation of women. Hence, young women are regarded to be more physically capable of working than older women, Also standing, If (1991) in his study, show that India women's labour-force participation rates rise up to the age of 30 years.

The zero percentage of the respondents above 51 years suggests that some of the returnees must have moved based on involuntary reasons, since, the official retirement age in Nigeria for civil servants is 65 years.

#### 4.1.2 MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS

The marital status of an individual especially women has very vital influence over the social and economic position and even in choice and decision making. Table 2 showed that 24.2% of the respondents are single, 32.3% are polygamous, zero percent are divorced while 43.6% are widowed.

Table 2 Distribution Of Respondnts According To Marital Status

Marital Status	Number of Respondents	Percentage %
Single	15	24.2
Polygamous	20	32.3
Divorced	-	-
Widowed	27	43.6
Total	62	100

Source: Field Survey, 1996.

It is significant to note that the widows are the most mobile groups. This by implication shows that death of a male head of the family has serious impact on the family stability especially in this period of economic depression. One can therefore infer that women in this position, decide in the alternative to come back home and establish especially when there are some available family facilities. The zero percentage of divorced women could be attributed to the fact that either they have remarried or that they prefer staying in the urban area due to some social reasons of not being fully integrated in the rural area. Their position in fact, does not allow than access to their husband's facilities. The least return migrants are identified among single persons. These were apprentice and those that have just finished schooling. This has implication in this study in terms of labour supply.

Finally on this one may infer from the nature of the mental status comprising mainly of women of some degree of economic independence. Survey on house hold size showed that there was an average of about 12 dependents per polygamous person, 10 per widowed person, and 2 per single person. This has significant impact on this study as the number of dependents help determine choice of labour and contributions made towards the success of any business venture. Also, one could



infer, from the number, that most of the returnees moved involuntarily as a result of not being able to maintain large numbers of dependant in the urban area. Movement to the rural area will at least help reduce spending on house rents and other related spending.

#### **4.1.3 EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION OF RESPONDENTS**

Education is a very vital tool in the development of any human being. It liberate one from the bondage of ignorance and creates awareness that helps one take reasonable decisions in all aspects of life. Hence, the level of educational qualification of persons helps in determining to some extent the specific segments of the labour market the person enters.

Table 3 shows that the level of the formal education of the respondents are as follows:

infer, from the number, that most of the returnees moved involuntarily 10 or 16.13% had no formal education, 21 or 33.87% had complete as a result of not being able to maintain large numbers of dependants primary school education, 24 or 38.71% had complete secondary and the urban area. Movement to the rural area will at least help reduce Tertiary education while 7 or 11.29% had technical/ vocational training. spending on house rents and other related spending.

#### **4.1.4 EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION OF RESPONDENTS**

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helps one take reasonable decisions in all aspects of life. Hence, the level of educational qualification of persons helps in determining to some extent the specific segments of the labour market the person enters.

Table 3 shows that the level of the formal education of the respondents are as follows:

**Table 3 Distribution of Respondents According to their level of Formal Education**

Level of formal Education	Number of Respondents	Percentage %
No Education	10	16.13
Incomplete Primary Education	-	-
Complete Secondary and Tertiary Education	21	33.87
Technical/ Vocational Education	24	38
	7	11.29
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey, 1996.

The literary level of the return migrant women shows that they are more enlightened than the rural population they have joined. This is very important in this study in relation to participation in rural development programme.

Complete secondary and tertiary education	21	33.87
Technical/vocational education	24	38
No education	10	16.13
Incomplete primary education	-	-
Total	62	100

First, the returnees are more receptive to new ideas and therefore easier to educate

Secondly, they have been exposed to so many ideas they may willingly share and impact to others, hence leading to increase in labour supply and demand an economic growth.

It could also be observed that the percentage that had no formal education is as a result of the past emphasis on male education. This, is also significant in that it influences their choice of labour in the labour market.

#### 4.1.4 Work experience of the Respondents further study on the work experience of the respondents

Work experience provides information on the extent of career building of the respondents. Through this people acquire the skills as well as the physical capital vital for establishing their own business.

The study of work experience of the respondents in both the previous and current job shows an average number of 8 years for most of the respondents, while very few have finished apprenticeships and have fewer years of work experience.

It could also be observed that the percentage that had no work experience is as a result of the past emphasis on male education. This is also significant in that it influences their choice of labour in the labour market.

This has some relevant implication to this study as regards to sector choice. For, instance those that have long training and experience in non-farm sector would on their return try to establish on that rather than going into farm work, Hence, farm sector may not be a waiting place for a better job in the non-farm sector. Then, for those that have finished apprenticeship, their fewer years of work experience and probably low increase shows some transitory trait which may influence their choice of labour in future, though no information was obtained as to whether they will go for farm or non-farm sector.

#### 4.2.1 Rate of Return and Labour Choice Among the Respondents

Survey results indicate that all returnees are by birth or marriage natives of the respective rural area to which they have come back. The return of migrant women have returned to the rural areas where the Agricultural sector employs  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the working population (Adepoju, 1982). In addition to this, Policy makers in Nigeria have instituted various directorate and Programmes whose objectives are among others centered on rural development, specifically the Better Life for Rural Women (sept, 1988).

Therefore, it is not surprising that which may influence their choice of labour in future, though no information was obtained as to whether they

These efforts helps in sensitizing women to development of the non-farm sector of the rural economy which has in the time past been overshadowed by the farm sector. Though, in a research conducted among Soviet Women, Feiga (1979:91) reported that over 80 per cent of the rural women were engaged in cottage industries of various kinds and carried out a number of tasks.

From the above information one can infer that the return migrant women came to the rural areas where there are proper provisions for job in the farm and non-farm sector.

A critical examination of the year of return of the migrants and their corresponding number, in table four (4) shows a reasonable increase in number of the returnees. The years 1987 and 1991 were observed to record highest 14 and 16, respectively.

**Table 4 Distribution of Respondents According to year and number of Returnees.**

Year of Return	Number of Returnees
1987	14
1988	11
1989	10
1990	11
1991	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>

Source: Field Survey, 1996.

This is relevant to this study as it includes years with records of remarkable events that affected the economic life of urban dwellers, 1987 had the resultant effect of the structural Adjustment programme (SAP), of 1986. These was mass retrenchment and unemployment. In 1991, there was state creation and disengagement from services which affected non-indigenes residing in other states.

These made many young women to appear interested in coming back to the rural areas as the jobs which formerly attracted them to the cities are no longer available.

There were, of course, some who returned on retirement reasons, but not on voluntary reasons since in (table 1) there was no indication of ages above 65 years which is the official retirement age. Therefore, retirement-related movements are considered involuntary. The return of migrant women must have moved as a result of the adverse effect of the depressed economy in the recent time. This, conforms with the proposition that return migration increases when labour market conditions deteriorate (Vander Kamp) 1971; Eldridge, 1965)

This has relevance to our study since the return migrant women are mainly able bodied youths that are in their peak of production, who have returned to establish and not to rest and idle away their time. the rural areas as the job which formerly attracted them to the

no to available

There were, of course, some who returned on retirement reasons, but not on voluntary reasons since in (table 1) there was no indication of ages above 65 years which is the official retirement age. Therefore, retirement-related movements are considered involuntary. The return of migrant women must have moved as a result of the adverse effect of the depressed economy in the recent time. This, conforms with the proposition that return migration increases when labour market conditions deteriorate (Vander Kamp) 1971; Eldridge, 1965)

#### 4.3 Reasons For Leaving Urban Area

This is very important, since it will help throw light on the preparedness of the respondents to accept the condition in the rural area and help build the rural economy. The respondents gave so many reasons for coming back to the rural area. Some of these reasons, reflect the choice of place of return and also choice of labour. A look at the table (5) shows a high rating for employment-related reasons.

#### 4.5. Reasons for leaving Urban Area

Table 5: Distribution Of Respondents According To Reasons For Leaving Urban Area

Reasons for Migrating	Number of Returnees	Percentage %
Retrenchment	16	25.8
Unemployment	20	32.3
Completion of Schooling	3	4.8
Stay closer home	17	27.4
Retirement	6	9.7
Total	62	100

Source: Field Survey, 1996.

32.3% of the respondents were unemployed in the urban area, partly because of the State creation and the inability of their State and local governments origin to reabsorb them as there was little or no vacancy.

27.4% wanted to stay closer home because of the high cost of living in the urban area. Some among this class of persons reasoned that staying closer home will enable them have access to their family land and some facilities that will help them establish their business.

This may suggest that birth place can influence labour market direction of migrants, considering availability of facilities.

#### 4.4 Non-Farm Training Received by Respondents

This is necessary in determining choice of sectors among the respondents, since it is most probable that those who received adequate training in non-farm ventures would go into that on returning, considering available facilities. Some of the respondents interviewed had gone for training in non-farm activities like child delivery and health care, hair dressing, weaving and tailoring.

Some among this class of persons reasoned that staying closer home will enable them have access to their family land and some facilities that will help them establish their business.

This may suggest that birth place can influence labour market direction of migrants, considering availability of facilities.

#### 4.4.1 Non-Farm Training Received by Respondents

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Table 6

Distribution of Respondents According to  
Non-farm Training Received.

Nature of Non-farm training received	Number of Respondents	Percentage %
Child delivery and health care	9	40.9
Hair dressing	6	27.3
Weaving	5	22.7
Tailoring	2	9.1
Total	22	100

Source: Field Survey, 1996.

Table 6 shows that 40.9% of the respondents comprise of some persons that received training in child delivery and health care in some private hospitals, while others who were nurses and mid-wives returned as a result of disengagement from service. They were discovered to form major employers of labour as would be discussed later. 27.3% received training in hair dressing, 22.7% trained in weaving and 9.1 in tailoring. This is relevant to this study as it gives the pictures of the nature and type of non-farm activities in the study area.

#### 4.5 Distribution of Respondents According to occupation in Urban Area.

This provides information on the job history of the respondents in respect to work status and the condition of services enjoyed. This will further determine the sector choice among the respondents. The study shows that the respondents were engaged in different types of occupation in civil service, trading, agricultural sector and craft and domestic centre.

Table 7 Distribution of Respondents According to occupation in Urban Area.

Occupation	Number of Respondents	Percentage %
Civil Service	20	32.3
Trading	9	14.5
Craft and Domestic w	18	29.0
Agricultural Sector	15	24.2
Total	62	100

Source: Field Survey, 1996.

Table 7 shows that 32.3% of the respondents were civil servants including teachers, nurses, cleaners and typists. These are mainly wage earners. 29% who were engaged in craft and domestic work were identified to constitute some number of own account worker in the non-farm sector on returning. 24.2% were in Agric sector as gardeners, casual labourers in palm plantation.

#### 4.6 Labour force composition of the Returns Migrants

In Nigeria, female labour participants is not a new phenomenon. Over the years, they like other women throughout Africa have always worked as farmers, traders, civil servants e.t.c. The type of work a Nigerian women engages in depends among other factors on her level of exposure to the developed areas and educational attainment. A woman can thus be working as a wage earner (with a minimum of primary six certificate) or a self-employed (mostly without formal education). Study of the labour force composition (table 8) of the respondents shows that 27 out of 62 respondents are in non-farm sector while 35 respondents are in farm sector.

Table 8 Labour force composition of the Respondents.

Farm Sector			Non-farm Sector	
	No	%	No.	%
Own Account	24	68.6	22	81.5
Employer	11	31.4	5	18.5
Total	35	100	27	100

Source: Field Survey 1996

It is significant to note that within the sectors are some categories of persons based on work status. There are the wage earners who are by this study classed as employees. They constitute fewer number 25.8%, and are of low income and infact use their work status as a training for their later careers. Other categories of persons are the own account workers 74.2%. They are more permanent in their jobs as a result of longer career length they have. They are remunerated not only for their labour, but also for the managerial and physical skills they may possess.

This is very relevant in this study as it is an indication of the extent of

preparedness the returnees are for employment and income generation in their various sectors. This is in line with the research findings of NISER, cited by Elui, (1991) that woman in the modern sector of the economy offer less in terms of hours while their counterparts in private practice put in more. This indicates that self-employed women work for longer periods which invariably means more output in production than formal sectors who have regulated hours and conditions of service.

#### 4.7 Respondents objectives for sector choice

Respondents objectives for sector choice could affect the nature and size of enterprise and invariably the amount of resource allocation for most women who are gainfully employed outside their homes, economic necessity seems to be the motivating factors, for the professionals, self actualization and the need to practice what they have acquired in the process of training could be the main objective.

Table 8 shows that the respondents have so many aims for sectors choice ranging from small initial capital, availability of land of family business, availability of labour sources of income and employment generation.

Table 9 Respondents Objectives for sectors choice

Objectives	Farm Sector				Non-farm Sector			
	Own Account		Employee		Own Account		Employee	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Small initial capital	3	12.5	-	-	4	18.2	-	-
Availability of land	4	16.7	1	9.1	1	4.5	-	-
Transfer of previous experience	2	8.3	3	27.3	6	27.3	2	40
Continuity of family business	5	20.8	2	18.2	2	9.1	1	20
Availability of labour	4	16.7	-	-	4	18.2	-	-
Source of income	3	12.5	5	45.5	2	9.1	3	60
Employment generation	3	12.5	-	-	3	13.6	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>120</b>

Sources: Field Survey, 1996

The result shows that transfer of previous experience has significant effect on choice of sector especially in the non-farm sector. 27.3% own account and 40% employee

some have good number of years experiences in the work of their choice while in the urban area and especially in the own account status gained experience during early observation and participation in the same job as young persons. This is important to this study since long period of experience in a particular job offers expertise role and also determines the quality of labour output.

Availability of land and labour were pertinent factors especially in the farm sector. On further investigation, it was observed that availability of land in particular favoured some of the respondents especially those of the polygamous marriage and widows while the unmarried were disadvantaged. This is because marriage among other factors makes land and other farm inputs available to women according to tradition and custom. It also gives them more social recognition. This has root from the age long custom where by women do not own farm land or have land allocations but can farm on their husband's farmland or family land. This is relevant to this studies it explains why some women who may have desire for farm work may not be able to accomplish their wishes

and thus affect their advancement in the farm sector.

It was also observed that majority of the respondents in both sectors are continuing in the same family business: 20.8% own account farm workers, 18.2% farm employees, 20% non-farm employees and 9.1 own account non-farm workers. This implies that some of the return migrate women are not only in the sectors for career building but also to ensure continuity in family business. This is relevant as it explains why it might not be possible for people to easily change sectors thereby nullifying the idea that some may be using the farm sector as a waiting place while looking for a better job in the non-farm sector.

#### 4.8 Probit Analysis Results

Table 10 indicates that access to the farm sector is negatively influenced by formal education. The strongest effect comes from apprenticeship training, years of secondary schooling in that order. They significantly increase the odds of taking to farming. The reverse is the case for the non-farm sector.

Years of work experience does appear a significant variable in the equation. It is possible that parents occupation can exert some influence in the choice of sector, particularly in the continuation of work in the



farm sector. This point at the existence of carriers in that sector that transcend generations.

Access to farm sectors negatively influenced by age and positively influenced by household size, although these variables are not important in sector choice.

Table 10 Probit Results for Farm and Non-farm sector choice:  
62 Return migrant women

Variables	Coefficient	T. Values	Significant level
Years of Primary Schooling ( $X_1$ )	-0.014	0.125	N.S
Years of Secondary schooling ( $X_2$ )	-0.163	1.488	0.10
Years of Vocational/Technical Schooling ( $X_3$ )	0.015	0.085	N.S
Years of Apprenticeship ( $X_4$ )	-0.762	4.199	0.01
Years of work experience ( $X_5$ )	0.050	1.079	0.10
Age ( $X_6$ )	-0.003	0.114	N.S
Household Size ( $X_7$ )	0.010	0.306	N.S
Constant	0.956	0.878	N.S
Log-likelihood	-22.181		
Likelihood Ratio( $X^2$ )	40.55		
Degree of freedom	7		
% Correct prediction	90.32		
Number of cases	62		

Source: Computed from field survey Date 1996.

Quite different factors are at work for the choice between employee and own account status within the farm sector (table 4.10) and the non-farm sector (table 4.11). None of the education variables, apart from years of work experience, has a pronounced effect in the direction of promoting employment in the farm sector as this sector does not display any formal education qualification.

**Table 4.10 Results for Choice of Status (Employee and Own Account) in the Farm Sector: 35 Return Migrant Women**

Variables	Coefficient	T - Values	Significant level
Years of Primary Schooling ( $X_1$ )	0.008	0.090	N.S
Years of Secondary schooling ( $X_2$ )	0.117	0.800	N.S
Years of Vocational/ Technical Schooling ( $X_3$ )	-0.074	0.380	N.S
Years of Apprenticeship ( $X_4$ )	-0.126	0.421	N.S
Years of work experience ( $X_5$ )	-0.118	1.937	0.10
Age ( $X_6$ )	0.077	1.773	0.10
Household Size ( $X_7$ )	0.108	2.046	0.01
Constant	-1.919	1.194	0.10
Log-likelihood	-17.659		
Likelihood Ratio( $X^2$ )	8.26		
Degree of freedom	7		
% Correct prediction	71.43		
Number of cases	35		

N.S = Not significant beyond 10% level of confidence.

Source: Computed from field survey data, 1996.

Years of work experience which contributed significantly to entry into the farm sector facilities becoming employed in this sector as own account workers as this sector does not require much capital to set up. The demographic factors, age and household size are important factors in status choice in the farm sector. Women continue to be employed in the farm sectors no matter their ages. This might be as a result of cultural barriers in the study area which forbids women from owning title to land, irrespective of their ages. Women in this age bracket as revealed in the earlier part of this chapter are most likely to have young and dependant children who are likely to take to employed status in the farm sector.

Table 12 Probit Results for Choice of Status( Employee and own Account) in the Non-farm sector: 27 Return Migrant women.

Variables	Coefficient	T - Values	Significant level
Years of Primary Schooling ( $X_1$ )	0.209	0.817	N.S
Years of Secondary schooling ( $X_2$ )	0.007	0.045	N.S
Years of Vocational/ Technical Schooling ( $X_3$ )	-0.239	1.005	0.10
Years of Apprenticeship ( $X_4$ )	-0.495	0.975	N.S
Years of work experience ( $X_5$ )	-0.071	1.031	0.10
Age ( $X_6$ )	0.039	1.008	0.10
Household Size ( $X_7$ )	0.005	0.075	N.S
Constant	0.726	0.351	N.S
Log-likelihood	-10.653		
Likelihood Ratio( $X^2$ )	4.57		
Degree of freedom	7		
% Correct prediction	62.96		
Number of cases	27		

Source: Computed from field survey Data, 1996.

Human capital, such as years of vocational/technical schooling and years of work experience, was found to be important characteristics of status choice in the non-farm sector. They influence the choice of being an own account worker. It should be realized that tasks in the non-farm sector involve more advanced technology than task in the farm sector in Nigeria at present and therefore, requires more years of vocational/ technical schooling and work experience to execute them.

#### 4.9 Efficiency of Labour Use Among the Return Migrant Women in the Farm Sector

This has to do with the maximum and effective utilization of limited labour supply within a sector in production process. For the purpose of this study, an approach based on Kay (1981), was applied among the respondents. A labour efficiency measure was applied to three sizes of farm and non-farm enterprises using the formula.

$$\frac{\text{Total labour cost in Naira}}{\text{Total Value product in Naira}}$$

Table 13 Labour Efficiencies Of The Respondents Grouped  
According To Farm Sizes

Farm Size; 0.00 - 1.50ha	Labour Cost ( ₦ )
Product Value ( ₦ )	
2,500	500
18,900	3,000
19,815	4,500
3,000	800
40,000	5,000
23,000	3,000
3,800	600
3,900	650
12,500	2,000
16,600	3,000
TOTAL = 144,015	22,450

Table 14:

Labour Efficiencies Of The Respondents

Farm Size: 1.51 - 3.15 (ha)	
Product Value ( ₦ )	Labour Cost ( ₦ )
13,290	2,800
15,950	1,500
24,000	3,000
15,500	2,500
14,300	2,500
17,770	3,500
14,400	1,500
21,000	4,000
13,900	2,000
24,000	
174,110	25,300

$$\frac{25,300}{174,110} = 0.15$$

Table 15: Labour Efficiency Use Of The Respondents Of  
The Farm Size

Farm Size: 3.15 and above Product Value ( ₦ )	Labour Cost ( ₦ )
29,000	3,000
45,500	5,000
68,000	6,500
46,000	7,000
72,000	10,000
34,000	5,000
60,000	9,000
68,500	10,000
18,000	3,000
16,000	2,700
10,000	3,000
12,000	2,500
14,300	3,000
10,000	2,000
503,300	71,700

$$\frac{71,700}{503,300} = 0.14$$



### Efficiency Of Labour Use Among Respondents In The None farm Sector

Here, the enterprises were sized based on the initial capital used in starting the business. Hence, there are small-scale with initial capital of between ₦1,000 - ₦5,000, medium scale ₦5,000 - ₦10,000 and large scale ₦10,000 - ₦15,000.

Table 16: Efficiency Of Labour Use Among Respondents  
In The Small-Scale None Farm Sector

<u>Small-Scale</u> Product Value (₦)	Labour Cost (₦)
5,800	1,800
6,700	1,750
6,000	1,600
9,500	2,000
1,200	500
5,800	1,500
6,000	2,000
3,000	1,800
2,000	500
6,400	1,500
4,000	1,500
56,400	16,450

$$\frac{16,450}{56,400} = 0.29$$

Table 17: Efficiency Of Labour Use Among Respondents  
In The Medium-Scale None Farm Sector

<u>Medium-Scale</u> Product Value ( N )	Labour Cost ( N )
10,200	3,500
10,720	3,000
3,940	1,000
10,600	2,500
2,780	800
10,000	3,000
4,800	1,500
13,000	3,000
5,000	1,500
71,040	19,800

$$\frac{19,800}{71,040} = 0.28$$

Table 18: Efficiency Of Labour Use Among respondents  
In The Large-Scale None Farm Sector

<u>Large-Sacale</u> Product Value ( N )	Labour Cost ( N )
20,000	6,000
30,000	6,500
76,000	10,000
51,000	9,000
9,000	3,000
6,000	2,000
192,000	36,500

$$\frac{36,500}{192,000} = 0.19$$

Here lower value implies greater labour efficiency. The study shows that the labour efficiency use among workers has some direct relationship with the farm size.

This shows economics of size in relation to the labour input. Larger farms utilized labour most efficiently. This is significant to the study regarding measures to adopt in order to ensure proper labour utilization for greater output. Hence one of the suggestions could be employing more improved methods of mechanization, like increasing the capital investment for workers through the use of large machinery and other labour saving devices.

#### 4.10 Estimation of Costs and Returns to the average Return Migrant Women in the farm and Non-farm Sector per Annum

The cost components are labour planting materials, fertilizer and pesticides. No attempt was made to value land in this study, because most lands are family and communal land on which minimal or no rent is paid. These components when valued in Naira gave a total of ₦477,745 for the variable cost.

A total of ₦4,107,125 products were realized, this includes quantity consumed and quantity given away. The gross return was ₦821,425 - ₦477,745 = ₦343,975.

This was also the case with the non-farm sector that had a total variable cost of N142,750 total revenue of N319,440.

Total revenue minus total variable costs gave a gross margin of N176,690.

It is significant to note that the gross margin for the two sectors are high and attractive compared to what a senior civil servant earns per annum.

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## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5.1 SUMMARY

Information from labour force data bases is almost silent on the extent of protection and income enjoyed by women workers in the segments of the informal labour sector, and the issue of return migration is a recent development and hence is relatively unexplored area. Some positive reactions have been made towards the need to strengthen the economic base of women's activities through community based self-help projects. Hence, a deeper understanding of what women are doing in the informal labour sector of the rural economy and factors influencing their entrance into economic activities should not be limited to mere academic purpose. Although, the practical relevance is undermined by the inappropriateness of recording by official census and other economic data on labour-force participation for effective development plan, there is need for guided facts and figures, to make for the creation of an environment where women can maximally realize their potentials since, they also make contributions to the gross national product.

It is basically on these reasons that it became highly pertinent to investigate the position of return migrants women in the informal farm and non-farm labour market in rural Enugu- state. A total of sixty-two return migrant women were randomly selected from ten local government areas of the three zones selections of respondents were restricted to women of the marital status of widows, polygamy, unmarried and divorced. Primary data were obtained through personal interview using a set of structured questionnaires.

The major findings of this study are outlined as follows:

Majority of the return migrant women are within the age range of 21 - 40 years which implies that the respondents are mostly of middle age group.

There was an average number of about twelve dependents per polygamous person, ten per widowed person and two per single person.

The literary level of the return migrant women shows that they are more educated and enlightened than the rural population they have joined.

There was an average of eight years work experience in both the previous and current job.

The return migrant women are by birth or marriage natives of the respective rural areas they have returned. There are reasonable increase in the rate of return migration with specific emphasis on the years 1987 and 1991, these were years of high rate of unemployment because of the effect of structural adjustment programme and state creations.

Each respondent had reasons for leaving for employment.

The labour force composition of the respondents demonstrated participation in farm and non-farm sectors as the choice may be. Twenty-seven out of sixty two respondents are in non-farm sector. There are categories of persons based on work status, the wage earner or the employee and the own accounts.

Access to the farm sector is negatively influenced by formal education, to put it simply, the more formal education one has, the less likely they are to take up farming. This significantly increases the odds of taking to farming. The reverse is the case for the non-farm sector.

Access to farm sector is negatively influenced by age and positively influenced by household size, although they are not very important in sector choice.

The work status of the respondents is farm labourer, own account, employee, wage earner, etc. The work status of the respondents is farm labourer, own account, employee, wage earner, etc. The work status of the respondents is farm labourer, own account, employee, wage earner, etc.



Work experience does appear a significant variable in sector choice. None of the education variables, apart from work experience has a pronounced effect in the direction of promotion of employment in the farm sector as this does not display any formal education qualification. Work experience that contributed effectively to entry into the farm sector facilitates becoming employed in this sector as own account workers as this sector does not require much capital to set up.

The demographic variables such as age, and household size are important factors in status choice in the farm sector. Women continue to be employees in the farm sector no matter their ages.

Independent farming, especially those of the unmarried group was observed to have become increasingly difficult and as a result, women's agricultural work burdens have increased with relatively small increase in productivity. This emanates from many structural and institutional features that affect women's use of the available land, labour and input resources.

Human capital such as years of vocational/technical schooling and years of work experience, was found to be important characteristics of status choice in the non-farm sector.

Labour efficiency use among workers is positively related to farm size. This implies economies of size in relation to labour input.

The gross margin for the farm and non-farm sectors are high and attractive compared to what any paid civil servant receives per annum.

## 5.2 CONCLUSIONS

Based on the findings of this study it can be concluded that, return migration is a crucial national issue. Although, imposed by adverse circumstances of economic recession. It may be a blessing in disguise. The fears expressed by Adepaju (1982) regarding the increasing drain of family labour pool on labour supply and food production may no longer hold. There is need, therefore, for the revision of government fiscal policy and adequate provisions made for reabsorption of retrenched workers from both public and private sectors of the economy. For employment promotion, government could increase employment intensive infrastructure, construction and rehabilitation which could provide paid employment and vocational training to improve the employability of women.

Finally, there is need for viable economic and regulatory environment that can encourage individual initiative for sustainable economic development.

The bed rock of economic empowerment of Nigerian women lies in human resources development vis-avis promoting knowledge and skills. Women may not take advantage of economic reforms, and or take major decisions in policy making because they are hindered by inequalities in access to and control over resources, including land. Instituting and strengthening a non-discriminatory legislative and institutional frame work for the protection of women's legal rights can help over come hindrances to women's advancement.

### 5.3 RECOMMEDATIONS

Based on the findings of the study the following recommendations are made: Well-intended income generating schemes which teach women to sew, embroider, and exhibit some other "Naturally " endowed domestic skills as emphasized in the aims of Better Life for Rural women should be made commercially viable.

Emphasis on the labour -market position of women should be directed towards promoting and upgrading all levels of skill acquisition from the school stage onwards. This could be achieved through increasing literacy rates especially

among rural women, through on-the-job training and other viable ways.

It is crucial that development policy-makers and planners be adequately informed and furnished with the analyses of the social and economic aspects of the rural production system, as a guide to introducing solutions objectively. This could be achieved through a change in the method of data collection to reflect both farm and non-farm sectors.

Time and labour saving devices need to be introduced to reduce the work burden of rural women.

Emphasis should be placed on women's economic rights, including access to employment, appropriate working conditions and control over economic resources and strengthening their economic capacity and commercial networks. Priority attention should be geared towards the development of rural areas especially in the areas of roads, water supply, electricity and health care services as this will promote production in both farm and non-farm sectors.

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**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS  
UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, NSUKKA**

**RESEARCH TOPIC: AN ANALYSIS OF THE POSITION OF RETURN  
MIGRANT MARKET IN RURAL ENUGU STATE.**

**QUESTIONNAIRE**

Dear Respondent,

This interview is aimed at getting information which will help in the study of the above topic. Your community is among the selected areas chosen for the study. Your co-operations solicited to provide the necessary information required. Therefore, kindly answer the questionnaires below to the best of your knowledge.

Be assured that any information given will be treated as confidential and your name will not appear in the final report.

Thanks for your co-operation.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS  
UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, NSUKKA  
*Okoro, O.*

RESEARCH TOPIC: AN ANALYSIS OF THE POSITION OF  
MIGRANT MARKET IN RURAL ENUGU STATE

Dear Respondent,

This interview is aimed at

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the study. Your co-operations

## INTRODUCTION

Please tick {✓} or fill in the appropriate respond(s)

1. Name of respondent -----
2. Town/ Community-----
3. Age-----
4. What level of formal education did you attain?-----  
-----

5. Marital status (a) Married (Polygamous home) -----  
(b) Single -----  
(c) Widowed-----  
(d) Divorced -----

6. How many are you in the household?-----

7. What was your primary occupation while in the urban area?  
(a) Self non-farm employment { }  
(b) Formal Non-farm government employment { }  
(c) Private non-farm employment { }  
(d) Self farm employment { }  
(e) Formal farm employment { }

8. How long did you work in your employed job in the urban area?

- |               |     |               |     |
|---------------|-----|---------------|-----|
| 3 - 5 years   | { } | 16 - 20 years | { } |
| 11 - 15 years | { } | 21 - 25 years | { } |

9. Were you employed on the basis of your qualification in the urban area? Yes { } or No { }

5. Please indicate the type of occupation you are engaged in

10. Why did you leave the urban city for your present rural area?

- (a) Unemployment { }
- (b) Retrenchment { }
- (c) Retirement { }

11. What is your main rural enterprise?

- (a) Farm { }
- (b) Non-farm { }

12. How much money have you invested in the enterprise?

-----

13. Where did you obtain your capital?

- (a) Own savings { }
- (b) Loan from individuals { }
- (c) Loan from bank { }
- (d) Inheritance { }

14. Were you encouraged into the enterprise because of the easiness in obtaining bank loans as your capital?

- Yes { }
- No { }

15. Do you require labour for your labour?

- Yes { }
- No { }

16. What is your major source of labour?

- (a) Household { }
- (b) Hired labour { }
- (c) Paid labour { }

17. Do you encounter problems with regards to labour acquisition?

- Yes { }
- No { }

18. What infrastructural facilities are available for the growth of your enterprise in the rural area?

- (a) Electricity { }
- (b) Pipe borne water { }
- (c) Good motorable road { }
- (d) Health-care services { }

RESTRICTED TO FARMERS:

19. Why are you engaged in your farm enterprise?
- (a) Availability you engaged in your farm enterprise? { }
  - (b) As innovation in the locality { }
  - (c) Transfer of experience from urban work place { }
  - (d) Restricted to non-farm workers { }
20. If non-farm is your primary occupation why that?
- (a) Continuation of experience from urban work place { }
  - (b) As innovation in the locality { }
  - (c) To utilize available raw material in the localities { }
  - (d) Available capital and market for the enterprise { }
21. Will you invest part of your income from farm to non-farm enterprise?
- Yes { } No { }
22. If engaged in non-farm enterprise will you invest part of your income in farm enterprise?
- Yes { } No { }
23. Are you engaged in farm enterprise for a better job in non-farm sector if available?
- Yes { } No { }
24. If Yes, what is your reason for doing so?
- (a) I am skilled for industrial job { }
  - (b) Cost of hired labour for farm is high { }
  - (c) Income from non-farm sector is higher than farm sector { }
25. Do you make any profit from your sector?
- Yes { } No { }
26. If Yes, what percentage profit do you make?
- (a) 5 - 10% { }
  - (b) 11 - 15% { }
  - (c) 16 - 20% { }
  - (d) Above 20% { }

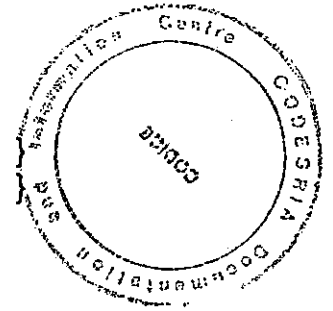
27. Do you make profit from your non-farm sector?

Yes { } No { }

If Yes, What percentage profit do you make?

(a) 5 - 10% { } (c) 16 - 20% { }

(b) 11 - 15% { } (d) Above 20% { }



28. What is the farm size?-----

29. How much do you spend on land acquisition?-----

30. How much do you spend on planting materials?-----

31. How much do you spend on fertilizers?-----

32. How much do you spend on insecticides?-----

33. How much do you spend on labour?-----

34. What crops do you plant on the farm?-----

-----

35. How much do you realize from each crops?-----

36. If livestock producer, how much did you buy the stock?

-----

37. How much do you spend on feeding the animal daily?-----

38. How much do you spend on drugs?-----

39. How much will it cost in the market at present?-----

40. If non-farm, what type of enterprise?

(a) Hair dressing salon { }

30 (b) Weaving { }

(c) Tailoring { }

31 (d) Maternity home { }

33

34

35

41. What is the size of the enterprise?-----

42. How much do you realize daily/ weekly/ monthly?  
-----

43. Are you working for people?

Yes { } No { }

44. Are you an employer of labour-----

41. What is the size of the enterprise?

42. How much do you realize daily/ weekly/ monthly?

43. Are you working for people?

44. Are you an employer of labour?

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