

HOUSEHOLD ASSETS AND FOOD ACCESS SECURITY IN AND AROUND MEDIUM-SIZED TOWNS IN TANZANIA.

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INTRODUCTION

Household food insecurity is caused by lack of necessary assets to acquire food. The contribution of these assets varies from one household to another and from location to location depending on the options available, and the household's wealth status.

The objective of this study was to examine the extent to which the ownership of household assets varied in urban, peri-urban and rural areas, and second, to assess the influence of household asset ownership on its food access security

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. To what extent household asset ownership varies in places regarded as urban, peri-urban and rural?
2. Which of the household assets influence food access security in such areas?

TABLE 5.2: PERCENT AFFIRMATIVE DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS FOR DISCRETE-RELATED VARIABLES IN URBAN, PERI-URBAN AND RURAL SETTINGS (N = 279)

Variables	Urban (n = 89)	Peri-Urban (n = 93)	Rural (n = 97)	P Value
Own motorbike	11.2	24.4	15.0	0.051
Own bicycle	31.5	51.1	49.0	0.014*
Have membership in social networks	52.8	47.8	21.0	0.000***
Have access to credit	42.7	36.7	26.0	0.000***
Receive donations	10.1	18.9	29.0	0.005**
Obtain food from open-spaces	33.7	43.3	71.0	0.000***

***, ** and * indicate significance at $p \leq 0.001$, $p \leq 0.01$, $p \leq 0.05$ levels, respectively

METHODOLOGY

This study employed a cross-sectional research design with a three-stage sampling technique.

$$P(Y=1 | X_1- X_n) = 1 / (1 + e^{-(\alpha + \sum \beta_i X_i)}) \dots\dots(1).$$

TABLE 5.1: DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS FOR SELECTED HOUSEHOLD ASSETS IN URBAN, PERI- URBAN AND RURAL AREAS (N = 279)

Variables	Urban (n = 89)	Peri-urban (n = 93)	Rural (n = 97)	P-Value
Age of household head (Years)	40(±12.18)	42.(±12.31)	42(±12.76)	0.517
Years of schooling of household head	9.26(±3.58)	8.84(±4.16)	5.79(±3.33)	0.000***
Household size (Number)	4.72(±2.15)	5.09(±2.12)	5.13(±2.19)	0.365
Number of members earning an income	1.93(±0.902)	1.93(±0.946)	1.78(±1.088)	0.463
Farm size (Hectares)	0.54(±1.703)	1.09(±1.818)	2.33(±2.622)	0.000***
Proportion of consumption expenditure on food (%)	55(±22.73)	64.3(±22.75)	80(±18.23)	0.000***
Number of livestock owned	2(±4.985)	6(±8.185)	5(±6.512)	0.000***

*** indicates significance at $p \leq 0.001$ level.

RESULTS

It was found that asset ownership varied significantly among urban, peri-urban and rural households. Household food access security improved as household head's education ($\beta = 0.213$; $p \leq 0.01$) and number of household members earning income ($\beta = 1.115$; $p \leq 0.05$) increased. On the other hand, food access security worsened as household size ($\beta = -0.408$; $p \leq 0.05$), the proportion of consumption expenditure on food ($\beta = -0.151$; $p \leq 0.001$), and reliance on donations ($\beta = -3.770$; $p \leq 0.01$) increased..

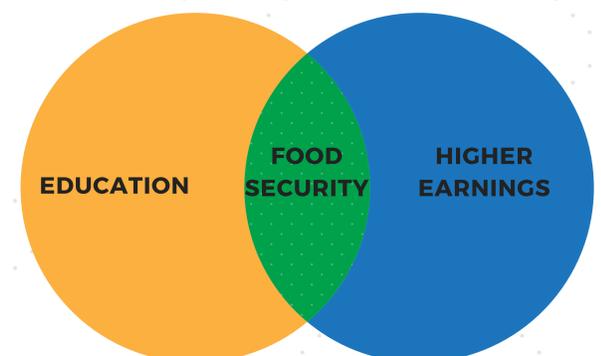


TABLE 5.3: BINARY LOGISTIC REGRESSION RESULTS OF HOUSEHOLD ASSETS ON FOOD ACCESS SECURITY STATUS (N = 279)

Explanatory variables	B	S.E.	Wald	p-value	Exp(B)
Age of household head	0.015	0.028	0.274	0.600	0.986
Sex of household head	0.821	0.962	0.728	0.394	2.273
Household head education	0.213	0.078	7.419	0.006**	1.273
Household size	-0.408	0.158	6.669	0.010*	0.665
Number of members earning an income	1.115	0.444	6.313	0.012*	3.049
Proportion of consumption expenditure on food (%)	-0.151	0.023	41.454	0.000***	0.860
Motorbike ownership	-0.437	0.901	0.235	0.628	0.646
Bicycle ownership	-0.250	0.612	0.167	0.683	0.779
Number of livestock owned	0.027	0.041	0.452	0.501	1.028
Membership in social networks	-0.130	0.758	0.029	0.864	0.878
Ability to access credit	-1.266	0.834	2.304	0.129	0.282
Farmland owned (ha)	-0.062	0.136	0.208	0.649	0.940
Reliance on donations	-3.770	1.368	7.595	0.006**	0.023
Access to food from open spaces	0.758	0.729	1.081	0.298	2.134
Constant	5.539	2.059	7.235	0.007	254.540

***, ** and * indicate levels of significance at $p \leq 0.001$, $p \leq 0.01$ and $p \leq$ respectively.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

Generally, two main conclusions are drawn from these findings. First, household's asset ownership varies significantly in urban, peri-urban and rural areas. Secondly, household food access security improves as a household's age and number of household members earning income increase. On the other hand, food access security worsens as household size, proportion of consumption expenditure on food and reliance on donations increase. Thus, it is **recommended** that households should strive to own assets that will enable them to have higher food access security. Households should, however, control or get rid of the things which impoverish their food access security.