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Urbanisation and Household Food Insecurity in Nigeria: an Econometric Analysis

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Abstract

Food security in the context of rapid urbanisation is a topic of immersed concern world over. It has also become an emerging developmental issue in most developing countries. However, little attention has been focused on how urban growth affects urban household food insecurity. As Nigeria is currently undergoing rapid urbanisation, the problems of food insecurity often seen as rural phenomenon has not been well articulated. Achieving urban food security amidst rise in urban population therefore require understanding the linkages between urban growth and food consumption pattern. Thus, this paper investigated effect of urbanisation on urban household food insecurity in Nigeria using cross sectional data. The extent of urbanisation among households in the study area was captured through urbanicity index generated using principal component analysis model. In order to reflect the multidimensional nature of food security, this paper uses a combined measure of food security indicators namely per capita expenditure and dietary diversity index to categorise households into different levels of food insecurity status. In addition, multinomial logit regression model was used to identify factors that influences the probability of household being in any of the food insecurity level. From the results, most households were in middle urban category suggesting urban effect differential in the study area. Furthermore, combined indicators revealed different levels of food insecurity status across urban categories. Factors such as sex of household head, educational status, household size and urbanicity index among others significantly determined the probability of household being food insecure. Relevant policy interventions geared towards securing sustainable food security among urban households were brought to fore.

Keywords: Dietary diversity, Food expenditure, food insecurity, Nigeria, Urban household, Urbanicity index