

ANALYTICAL STUDY OF THE IMPACT OF EDUCATION ON THE SENUFO HOUSEHOLDS' INCOME IN SOUTHERN MALI

Kone Raoul Porna, Prof. (Dr.) Manoj C. Shastri

Research scholar, Department of Education, Gujarat University,
Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India
pornaraoulk@gmail.com

Professor, Department of Education, Gujarat University, India
manojshastri2001@gmail.com
Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India

Abstract

This paper conducts an analytical study to investigate the profound impact of education on the household incomes of the Senufo community in southern Mali. Recognizing the pivotal role education plays in socio-economic development, this study aims to examine the association between household income and educational attainment in the Senufo's community. Using a linear regression technique to calculate Pearson correlation, the researcher explores the determined association between variables. Correlational analysis indicates that the degree of correlation between the level of households' education and their income is moderately positive. The finding of the study contributes to the existing literature on the socio-economic dynamic of rural Senufo community, offer valuable insights for policymakers and educators seeking to enhance the status of education in the community.

Keywords: Senufo community, Education, Household income, Mali.

INTRODUCTION

Education plays a significant role in driving global development, acting as a fundamental element of socio-economic advancement. Education is acknowledged as a crucial element in enhancing the economic and social welfare of individuals and communities.

The southern region of Mali exhibits a wide range of landscapes and a rich cultural diversity, making it an intriguing setting for examining the capacity of education to bring about significant changes within the local community. The Senufo people are an autochthonous community residing in southeastern Mali, as well as a West African ethnolinguistic group that occupies the northern region of Ivory Coast and the western region of Burkina Faso. The Senufo people possess a wealth of varied cultural traditions, yet they also confront numerous obstacles including poverty, conflict, and environmental deterioration. Nevertheless, the degree and characteristics of the connection between education and income differ depending on the specific circumstances and groups involved. The Senufo people, known for their abundant cultural legacy and agricultural way of life, offer an intriguing opportunity to examine the diverse effects of education on economic prosperity. In order to attain inclusive growth and sustainable development on a global scale, it is crucial to comprehend the unique dynamics within indigenous communities.

The research seeks to clarify the relationship between the education level of Senufo households and their monthly income. For that, researcher asked the question What is the association between households' incomes and education level in Senufo community?

The research hypothesis announced that the household income is significantly associated with the level of education in Senufo community.

LITERATURE REVIEW

There has long been debate on the impact of education on the socioeconomic status of the populace. Discourse revolves around how education affects household income and the fight against poverty. Numerous studies and research have demonstrated the strong correlation between education and economic well-being. The impact of education on household income and poverty levels is a widely acknowledged phenomenon.

The question of how education affects communities' ability to live better lives is multifaceted and involves education levels, quality, and equity, among other factors like the socioeconomic and political context of the area or the problem itself. There is no favorable ground for any of the mentioned factors in the African context.

In developing countries, household income is primarily earned or measured at the household level rather than the individual level, and the household's level of education is considered a better explanatory variable for average household income (Gaurav Datt, et al. 1997). Education exerts a beneficial influence on the income of young households. The extent to which household income improves is contingent upon the educational attainment of the households. Greater educational attainment correlates with higher income levels (Nguyen et al., 2021). People who have pursued higher education typically have access to a broader range of employment opportunities, including sectors that offer higher salaries. The reality of the rural environment is quite different, as education not only increases household income but also exacerbates income inequalities in rural areas. The impact of education on household performance is well-established, as households whose heads have obtained higher qualifications or professional training tend to earn higher incomes (Van Vu, 2020). The rural environment is typically lacking in sufficient economic opportunities. Entrepreneurship should provide the solution to employability, but it also relies on education, which enables individuals to develop their critical thinking skills and fosters creativity. Skills are crucial for innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic growth. The research conducted by the World Bank demonstrates a positive correlation between the level of education and entrepreneurial activities. The analysis has demonstrated that the higher the level of education, the better the financial situation of the household (Trzcińska & Zalewska, 2023).

Therefore, it is possible to increase the income level of poor households by improving their access to education (Hung Van Vu, 2020).

Education plays a pivotal role in shaping individuals' skills, knowledge, and abilities, which in turn impact their employability, job prospects, and income potential. Households with lower levels of education often face limited opportunities and are more vulnerable to low-paying and precarious jobs. Higher levels of education are typically linked to lower poverty rates. The most susceptible group comprises households with either primary education or no education.

The effect of education on the incomes of households engaging in independent activities is truly remarkable, and it extends well beyond the realm of professionally compensated activities. The study by Mirriam and Ephraim (Matita & Chirwa, 2009) found that education had a significant impact on agricultural production activities and income for households involved in maize and tobacco production. However, this influence was not observed in commercial activities so, trade and education have a mitigating impact on inequalities (Olupona, 2023). The determinants of household income encompass household size, the extent of livelihood engagements, annual leisure time, and the duration needed to reach productive land (Ho et al., 2023).

The lack of education has been recognized as a contributing factor to household poverty, while on the other hand, poverty serves as the underlying cause for the lack or inadequacy of education within households. Rural households are the most susceptible, with certain regional variations being indicative of the circumstance.

Education not only influences peoples' earnings but also exerts a significant effect on poverty rates. Individuals with greater educational attainment have a higher probability of securing secure and lucrative employment, resulting in increased income and a decreased likelihood of experiencing poverty. Poverty hinders economic development. Education is advocated as the primary tool to combat poverty. The likelihood of experiencing household poverty diminishes as the educational attainment of the household's primary decision-maker rises (Sarwar, 2011). Precautions to break the cycle of poverty often emphasize the need for families to make sacrifices, such as investing in education, improving family health, and increasing productivity to generate income. One of the most alarming challenges confronting the rural environment is the issue of "poverty" and the lack of access to resources (Mujawar, 2017). Education has the potential to disrupt the ongoing cycle of poverty that is passed down from one generation to the next. Offspring born into low socioeconomic households and with restricted access to education are more susceptible to perpetuating the cycle of poverty. Education yields various advantages, encompassing a direct impact on income as well as positive externalities that contribute to poverty reduction. Income growth significantly contributes to reducing poverty, whereas income distribution does not have a significant impact on poverty reduction.

METHODOLOGY

Primary data are collected using the questionnaire to examine the relationship between the level of education of Senufo households and their monthly income. The survey was conducted between February and March 2023 in the rural commune of Kadiolo. The study participants were selected using simple random sampling. The study sample is 200 heads of household aged from 23 to 74 years old. A descriptive analysis was carried out to determine the general characteristics of respondents. The linear regression technique is used to analyze the correlation between variables.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Characteristics of the population of study

The study involved 200 Senufo households living in the Kadiolo Rural Commune. Only the heads of household were interviewed using a questionnaire. All were men, aged between 23 and 74, with an average age of 39.78.

There are 115 (57.5%) heads of household aged between 23 and 39, 74 (37%) aged between 40 and 39 and 11 (5.5%) aged 60 and over.

The lowest number of children per household was 0 and the highest was 12 children. The average household size was 4.68. Heads of households married to several wives are significant, 73.5% compared to men married to a single wife, 26.5%. Heads of household who are totally illiterate represent 24.5% while those with primary education represent 26.5%. Those with vocational training accounted for 19.5%. Few heads of household had attended secondary or upper secondary school or university.

Table 1: Education level of heads of households

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Totally uneducated	49	24.5	24.5	24.5
Primary education	53	26.5	26.5	51.0
Secondary education	26	13.0	13.0	64.0
Higher secondary education	29	14.5	14.5	78.5
Vocational training	39	19.5	19.5	98.0
University	4	2.0	2.0	100.0
Total	200	100.0	100.0	

Source: Authors' calculation

Characteristics of livelihood activities of households

In the Senufo community, there is currently some diversification of activities. Households may have up to two or three income-generating activities, divided between the members of the household. Non-wage-earning households are more numerous in this respect.

The main occupations of the heads of households identified by the survey are agriculture, livestock breeding and trading, general trading, grain resale, carpentry, welding, car and motorbike mechanics, shoemaking, bricklaying, gold panning, car driver, accountant, police officer, security guard, teacher, doctor, electrician, and tailor. To facilitate data management, occupations have been grouped into four sectors of activity: employees, shopkeepers or traders, farmers, and those carrying out other self-employed activities (Others Independent activity).

However, among the sample population, agriculture remains the activity practised by a large proportion of heads of household (35%). It is important to note that a transformation is underway in the activities of the Senufo community in southern Mali. The Senufo were identified by their attachment to working the land (agriculture). Several income-generating activities are currently on the list of activities practiced (25%). However, agriculture is practised by many families as a means of subsistence since income from the various activities does not cover all household expenses. Trade is practiced by (24%) heads of households, this activity is encouraged by the study area's proximity to two neighboring countries, with cross-border smuggling fueling this activity. Clandestine gold panning is a recent activity that attracts a large number of people. Some households are involved in this activity. Young people attending school are particularly attracted to this activity. There are fewer employees in the sample (16%). This category includes civil servants, company workers and others who have a fixed salary at the end of the month.

Table 2: Occupations of Senufo's households

Head of households' occupations	Responses	
	N	Percent
Trader	48	24.0
Farmer	70	35.0
Others independent activity	50	25.0
Employee	32	16.0
Total	200	100.0

Source: Authors' calculation

Correlational analysis of variables

The skewness statistic of 0.324 for level of education suggests that the distribution is slightly positively skewed, meaning that there are more individuals with lower levels of education than higher levels of education.

The skewness statistic of 1.545 for monthly income suggests that the distribution is moderately positively skewed, indicating that there are more individuals with lower monthly incomes than higher monthly incomes. The Pearson correlation coefficient that measured the linear relationship between two variables indicates the existence of a moderate positive relationship between monthly income and level of education (.0579). As the level of education increases, monthly household income also tends to increase. In other words, people with a higher level of education tend to have higher monthly incomes. The significance level (p-value) of the correlation is 0.000, which is less than 0.01, the chosen alpha level. This means that the correlation is statistically significant and that we can reject the null hypothesis that there is no association between monthly income and level of education. It then becomes clear that education level is significantly associated with household income in the Senufo community. The correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (two-tailed), which means that we can be 99% sure that the correlation is not due to chance.

Table 3: Variables' Correlation test

		Level of Education	Monthly income
Level of Education	Pearson Correlation	1	.579**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
Monthly income	Pearson Correlation	.579**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

b. Listwise N=200

CONCLUSION

This study examined the relationship between the level of education of Senufo households and their monthly income using linear regression analysis. Data were collected from 200 households living in rural areas (rural commune of Kadiolo). Correlational analysis indicates that the degree of correlation between the two variables is moderately positive. In the Senufo community, the majority of households have a relatively low level of education, and this has an impact on household income. Poverty and education are partly linked, so improving the economic situation of households depends on a strong commitment to the development of education in the community.

REFERENCES

- [1] Datt, G., Jolliffe, D., & Sharma, M. (1998). A PROFILE OF POVERTY IN EGYPT: 1997.
- [2] Gaurav Datt, D. J. and M. S. (1997). A profile of poverty in Egypt. *Citeseer*, 36.
- [3] Ho, V. M., Pham, H. M., & Dinh, V. D. (2023). Factors affecting incomes of ethnic minority households: a case study in Khanh Vinh district, Khanh Hoa province. *Journal of International Economics and Management*, 23(2), 33–44. <https://doi.org/10.38203/jiem.023.2.0067>
- [4] Matita, M., & Chirwa, E. (2009). *The impact of education on self-employment, farm activities and household incomes in Malawi*.
- [5] Mujawar, J. A. (2017). *Relationship between Education and Poverty : A Case of India*. August, 0–9. <https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.30346.57288>
- [6] Nguyen, H. D., HO, K. H., & Can, T. T. H. (2021). The Role of Education in Young Household Income in Rural Vietnam. *Journal of Asian Finance, Economics and Business*, 8(2), 1237–1246. <https://doi.org/10.13106/jafeb.2021.vol8.no2.1237>
- [7] Olupona, T. (2023). *Tolulope Olupona Western Illinois University Electronic copy available at : https://ssrn.com/abstract=3485523*. May.
- [8] Sarwar, M. (2011). Munich Personal RePEc Archive Impact of education on poverty reduction. *Munich Personal RePEc Archive*, 31826.
- [9] Trzcińska, K., & Zalewska, E. (2023). A Comparative Analysis of Household Incomes of People with Different Levels of Education in Poland and the USA. *Folia Oeconomica Stetinensia*, 23(2), 387–401. <https://doi.org/10.2478/fofi-2023-0037>
- [10] Van Vu, H. (2020). The impact of education on household income in rural Vietnam. *International Journal of Financial Studies*, 8(1). <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijfs8010011>