
INSIGHTS ON PUBLISHING IN HIGH IMPACT JOURNALS

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Outline

- Research problem
 - Justification
 - Approach
 - Findings
 - Submission
 - Dissemination
 - Demo...
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Why the research?

- ❑ Requirement for your degree program.
- ❑ Solve a felt or anticipated need/problem.
- ❑ Not all problems can be solved through research, be intentional – statement of the research problem.
- ❑ Research problem must be about human aspirations.
- ❑ In summary, *research problem* is the difference between what ought to be and what is.



Motivate your study

- ❑ Given the research problem, what are the viable solutions – literature review.
 - ❑ What is the gap? – your contribution.
 - ❑ Study objectives.
 - ❑ Hypothesis to be tested or questions to be answered.
 - ❑ Novelty of your study – there is no novelty in factors affecting, characterization of, determinants of, drivers of, effects of etc.
 - There is novelty in improving food security, calorie and micro-nutrient intake, poverty alleviation, food as medicine, food and child cognitive ability, KAPs, WTP/WTAC etc
 - ❑ Who are the target users of your study findings and how.
 - ❑ Culminates to the introduction chapter comprising;
 - ❑ The research problem, the gap(s), objectives, hypothesis - as a minimum.
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Approach

- You can only research about things you have an idea about – theory/concept.
 - Puts to question about the newness of research
 - Without proper theoretical/conceptual framework – logic leaves the room.
 - Research is about people – target group (the sample) e.g., farmers, workers etc.
 - Establish associations/causality between the research problem (dependent variable) and the hypothesized solution (independent variable(s) – data.
 - Make sense of data – analysis
 - People live somewhere on the globe – study area e.g., Kenya, county etc.
 - Apply the 'right' principle – right people, right data, right place, right time, right methods - justification.
 - Limitations of the study – no approach is perfect e.g., studies using cross sectional data have weak external validity.
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Findings/ results

- By objective – test your hypothesis/ answer your research questions.
 - Report significant findings only (at 5% and 1% levels) e.g. empowerment increased farm income by 5%.
 - Discuss the implication of your significant findings e.g.,
 - Farmer empowerment is an important driver in alleviating income poverty thus empowerment initiatives (policy or development programs) are relevant.
 - Conclude/ recommendations – from the significant findings that have an action orientation.
 - Institute policies/ programs that are pro-farmer empowerment (affirmative action in agriculture).
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Study title, abstract and introduction

- ❑ The title should be brief and informative – problem and solution
 - ❑ Abstract should be brief but comprehensive and informative
 - ❑ The research problem.
 - ❑ Approach
 - ❑ Key findings
 - ❑ Conclusion
 - ❑ Recommendation
 - ❑ Revisit introduction and include a brief of the study novelty, key finding(s) and recommendation(s).
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Journal identification

- ❑ Journal should be authentic – irreducible minimum
 - 1) Impact factor issued by Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) of Thomson Reuters.
 - 2) Digital Object Identifier (DOI) issued by crossref or an equivalent issuer.
 - 3) Credible publishers e.g., Elsevier, Taylor & Francis, Springer, Wiley, PLOS, FRONTIERS etc.
 - 4) Recognized by major indexing authorities including scimago, scopus
 - 5) Editors are recognized globally and are active in research – their published work is available e.g., Greene, Wooldridge.
 - 6) Owned by known professional associations whose details are readily available online e.g., Agricultural Economics by IAAE, AfJARE by AAAE etc.
 - 7) Peer review process is double blinded –correspondence is available.
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Journal identification

- ❑ Study should be within journal's scope.
 - ❑ Follow the journal guideline religiously e.g. if allows 10% plagiarism level, include report of below 10% indicating the program used and if there were eliminations e.g., references.
 - ❑ Submit draft including all required attachments in the right format e.g., tables separately.
 - ❑ After which, pray.
 - ❑ You are lucky to get comments – address each sufficiently and provide a comprehensive report of how each comment was addressed.
 - ❑ Avoid defending your arguments for the sake of it – you are at the mercy of the reviewers/ editor/ supervisor.
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Findings dissemination

- ❑ Go back to the defined users of your study findings.
 - ❑ Good practices in using PPT;
 - ❑ 5 by 5 by 15 principle in your PPT – 5 words per bullet, 5 bullets per slide, 15 minutes per presentation (each slides takes about 2 minutes, do your math).
 - ❑ Introduce yourself.
 - ❑ Tell your audience what you are about to tell them – study title/theme
 - ❑ Tell them - introduction, approach, **key findings, implications** – guided by audience profile e.g., policy makers may not be keen on econometric modelling.
 - ❑ Tell them what you have told them – conclusions, recommendations, limitations
 - ❑ Order your message strategically – start and end with your key message.
 - ❑ Everything in between is 'noise' and easily missed/forgotten.
 - ❑ Demo...
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Empowering smallholder farmers in Kenya

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Introduction

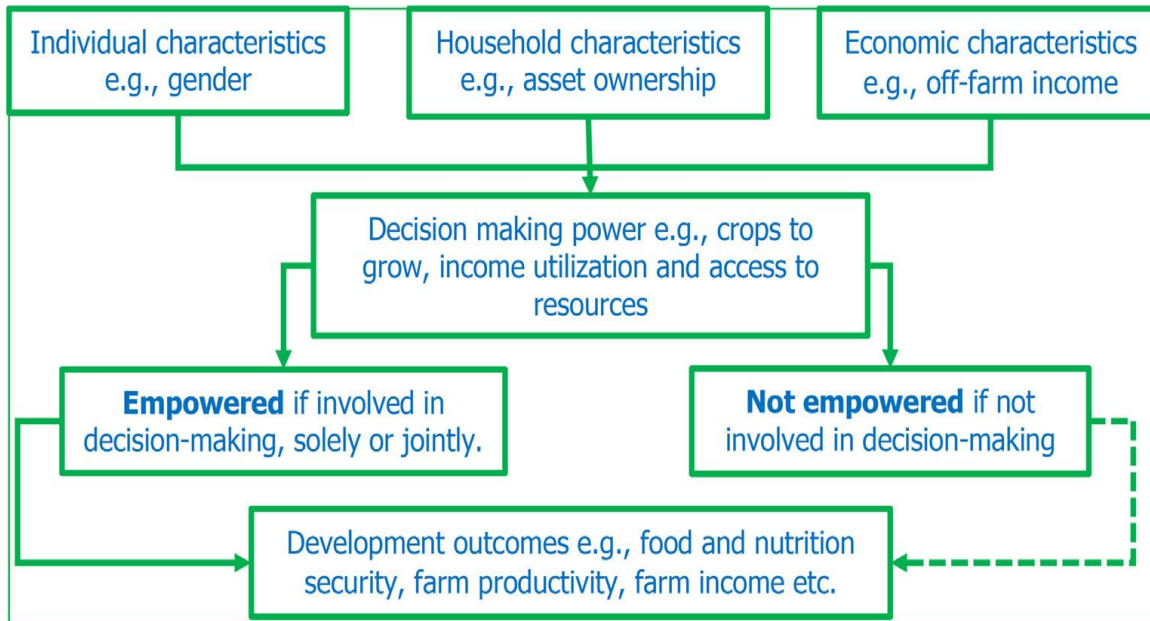
- ❑ Paradox - agriculture is more effective in poverty eradication (Christiaensen et al., 2006), but
- ❑ Half of the poor live in SSA and are smallholder farmers (World Bank 2020; Ogutu and Qaim 2019).
- ❑ Owing to various challenges one of which is gender inequality;
 - ❑ Females have been found to work longer hours than males (Murray *et al.* 2016), they earn 23% less income than males from the same activities (UNDP 2020).
- ❑ A viable pathway of addressing gender inequality is empowerment as it is associated with desirable benefits such as
 - ❑ Dietary diversity, household nutrition, and farm productivity (Kassie et al., 2020; Jones et al., 2020; Murugani and Thamaga-Chitja, 2019; Diiro et al., 2018).

Introduction

- Existing literature focuses on female empowerment leaving out the equally important aspect of male empowerment (Sell and Minot 2018; Sraboni et al. 201, Enete and Amusa 2010).
 - This study fills this gap by focusing on male and females farmers.
 - Understanding the determinants of farmer empowerment in agriculture is an important ingredient in designing responsive policies and programs.
 - The hypothesis tested is whether gender has a bearing on farmer's empowerment in agriculture.
 - The key findings are that,
 - Only a tenth of the farmers in the study area were empowered and
 - Empowerment in agriculture was gender heterogeneous.
 - Therefore, empowerment in agriculture initiatives need to be cognizant of such heterogeneities and compensate for them.
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Methodology

Conceptual framework



Drivers of empowerment in agriculture.

Source: Adapted from Osanya et al. (2020) and Sell and Minot (2018).

Empirical framework

- We estimate a Tobit model following Tobin (1958) since the dependent variable (empowerment in agriculture) is a score limited between zero and one and continuous in between.
- The empowerment in agriculture index (I) for the i^{th} farmer is a function of demographic factors (X) and is modelled as;

$$I_i = \beta_0 + \beta_i X_i + \varepsilon_i$$

- For the maximum likelihood estimator, mfx are reported.

Independent variable and data sources

- Empowerment in agriculture index - a score ranging from 0 – 1, A higher score implies a higher level of empowerment.
 - Resource, production, leadership, income, and time domains were adopted (Alkire et al. 2013; Malapit and Quisumbing (2015).
- Domain adequacy (=1) if a farmers made a decision singly or jointly with spouse or adult of the opposite sex in the household e.g., on allocation of farm income.
- Each domain contributed 1/5 points to the index ($I_i = \sum_1^n X_i$).
- Survey data was collected from 835 smallholder farmers in Kisii and Nyamira Counties.
 - Two stage sampling was used to select 48 groups in a first stage and 960 farmers in a second stage - response rate was 87%.
- The choice of the two counties was justified by the observation that 42% and 33% of the population in Kisii and Nyamira counties is poor, compared to a national average of 36% (Kenya National Bureau of Statistics [KNBS] 2018).
 - Despite the two despite being high potential agricultural zones – e.g., receives rainfall of between 1500-2100 mm on average throughout the year, making farming the main economic activity.

Findings

Empowerment level and farmer characteristics				
<i>Variables</i>	<i>Overall</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>\bar{x} difference</i>
Empowerment in agriculture (score 0 -1)	0.409 (0.009)	0.282 (0.014)	0.446 (0.009)	-0.164***
Resource (weighted dummy)	0.047 (0.003)	0.046 (0.006)	0.048 (0.003)	-0.002
Leadership (weighted dummy)	0.066 (0.003)	0.051 (0.006)	0.070 (0.004)	-0.019**
Time (weighted dummy)	0.129 (0.003)	0.122 (0.007)	0.131 (0.004)	-0.009
Production (weighted dummy)	0.099 (0.003)	0.033 (0.005)	0.118 (0.004)	-0.085***
Income (weighted dummy)	0.056 (0.003)	0.013 (0.004)	0.069 (0.004)	-0.056***
***, ** (1% and 5% significance levels)				

- ❑ Empowerment index was 41% - significantly higher among male farmers by 16%.
- ❑ Considering the 80% empowerment threshold (Alkire et al., 2013), only 11% of the farmers were empowered out of which, 5% were females.
- ❑ Male and female farmers were not statistically different with regard to the resource and time domains - it is difficult for other household members to change ownership of land title deed once issued and access to credit (indicators for the resource domain) neither can they influence how one spends their time.
- ❑ All the domains (other than time) were limiting - contributed less than half of their 20% possible contribution to empowerment in agriculture.

Drivers of empowerment in agriculture

Tobit Estimates of the Drivers of Empowerment in Agriculture			
<i>Variables</i>	<i>Overall</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
	<i>Mean marginal effects</i>		
Gender of household head (man=1)	0.125*** (0.040)		
Commercialization (score 0 - 1)	0.077** (0.036)	0.105*** (0.041)	-0.003 (0.060)
Education of the household head (years)	0.003 (0.002)	0.003 (0.003)	0.001 (0.003)
Access to government extension services (yes=1)	0.042*** (0.016)	0.044 *** (0.018)	0.044* (0.026)
Value of assets (log KES)	0.052*** (0.009)	0.064*** (0.012)	0.028** (0.013)
Social network intensity (number)	-0.001 (0.001)	0.000 (0.001)	-0.003** (0.002)
Marital status (married = 1)	-0.008 (0.039)	-0.017 (0.046)	0.030 (0.066)
F statistic	25.94***	9.70***	1.84*

*Standard errors are in parentheses and clustered at the group level. Significance levels are reported at the 1% (***), and 5% (**) levels. Dependent variable is the empowerment in agriculture index. Exchange rate was 1 US\$ = 100 KES.*

- ❑ Males were 13% more likely to be empowered than females – higher adequacy level on production and income domains (patriarchy).
- ❑ Empowerment improved with commercialization and access to government extension services among male farmers.
- ❑ Asset value (proxy for wealth) was important for both categories – richer people have bigger say in decisions.
- ❑ Social networks reduced empowerment among female farmers – risk mitigation strategy among the poor.

Conclusions

- ❑ The finding that 89% of the farmers were not empowered underpins the need to understand the key drivers of empowerment.
 - ❑ Male farmers were more likely to be empowered possibly due to the patriarchal nature of most rural farming households in Kenya.
 - ❑ Agricultural policy and development programs should be gender responsive.
 - ❑ Asset value (proxy for wealth) was a significant driver of empowerment.
 - ❑ The need for asset accumulation initiatives e.g., incentives to savings such as interest.
 - ❑ Strong social network ties among women is an indication of disempowerment – strategy for poverty mitigation.
 - ❑ Entry point for policies and programs whose aim is to reduce poverty.
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Thank you
