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EFFECT OF FORCED RELOCATION ON FARM SIZES IN SOUTHERN CROSS RIVER STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract: This article examines the effect of forced relocation on farm sizes in southern Cross River State, Nigeria. The objective of the study was to examine farm sizes of the displaced population in the study area. Relevant literatures were reviewed in line with the study objective. Paired sample t- test was deployed to determine the difference between farm sizes of displaced persons before and after relocation. The result of the test revealed significant relationship between the sizes of the farms before and after relocation. The result further shows that the mean farm size before relocation was 1214.30 whereas farm size after relocation was 1987.80 for the 40 respondents studied. The study concluded that the influx of displaced population in the study area has led to increase in food production and better standard of living.

Keywords: Relocation, farm size, camp, food production.

Introduction

Redressing the lopsidedness occasioned by Forced Relocation of human population away from their home either temporary or permanently is imperative on economic, social, and moral grounds. These movements are usually triggered by different factors such as civil unrest, repression, conflicts, natural and human induced factors. The phenomenon of forced relocation results in an unpleasant social, economic and environmental consequence that often times affect human well- being. Forced Relocation has been in existence throughout human history, hence a source of concern to people all over the world. Consequences on socio-economic livelihood are obvious (colher, 2003). It is gender related in its effect on mankind (Verma, 2001). This is may have prompted Mudiaga, (2015) to highlight its effect on human health. In Nigeria, over 300,000 persons were relocated from Maroko Lagos State in a massive displacement exercise (SERAC, 2006).

Forced Relocation is capable of affecting the distribution of productive activities and availability of land to a displaced population. Undoubtedly, land is central to the sustainable livelihood and it is the main source of food production, cultural, religious and other activities. In cross River State, the presence of the displaced persons in the two locations of Ekpri Ikang and Akwa Ikot Eyo Edem has influenced the farm sizes of both communities. Land especially for cultivation is central to the sustainable livelihood of rural dwellers. This is why if there is no ownership right to land the economic strength of the people is weakened. This is made worse particularly when household sizes are increasing (Adu-Aryee, 2001; Alula, 2009). Land lease agreement that is on-going in the area by the host communities has denied the displaced people the opportunity of increasing their farms which has inadvertently influence their income and sustenance.

This has posed serious challenge as part of the land is uncultivable due to long distance trekking of at least 20km to access it. Farmlands' location at Obutong and Ikot Nakanda (Local Government Headquaters), requires several hours to access. However, studies by Hodder, (2002) revealed that in Ethiopia and Mozambique, the challenges confronting displaced persons were that of insufficient land for cultivation or fallow land for rotation, which necessitated this study. The study examines the effect of forced relocation on farm sizes in southern Cross River State, in order to determine the farm sizes of displaced population in the area.

The study area

The research location is Ekpri Ikang in Bakassi Local Government Area and Akwa Ikot Eyo Edem in Akpabuyo Local Government Area both in Cross River State, Nigeria. Bakassi lies between longitude $8°26^1$ and $82^0\ 8^1$E and latitude $4^0\ 43^1$ and $4^0\ 55^1$ north of the equator. It is bounded in the east by the Republic of Cameroon, in the south by Equatorial Guinea and the Bight of Bonny, in the west by the Cross River estuary and north by Akpabuyo Local Government Area. The resettlement camp is centrally located in the area. It is surrounded by Obo twenty, Edighi-edim villages and Ikang creeks to the north, Ifiang, Ikot

ISSN- 2394-5125 VOL 8, ISSUE 02, 2021

Inwang and Akwa Ubom to the east and Ikot Effiom, Ikot-Inwang and Ikot –nkese to the west. The Bakassi resettlement camp at Ekpri Ikang occupies an area of about 3500sq/km. Akpabuyo lies between longitude $8^0\ 25^1$ and $8^0\ 32^1$E and latitude $4^0\ 5^1$ and $5^0\ 40^1$N of the equator. Akpabuyo lies within the vegetation belt of southern Nigeria and shares the atlantic coastline with Bakassi to the east and Republic of Cameroon to the west. Akpabuyo measure approximately 28.5 square kilometers. It is an agrarian area and is drained by Kwa river.

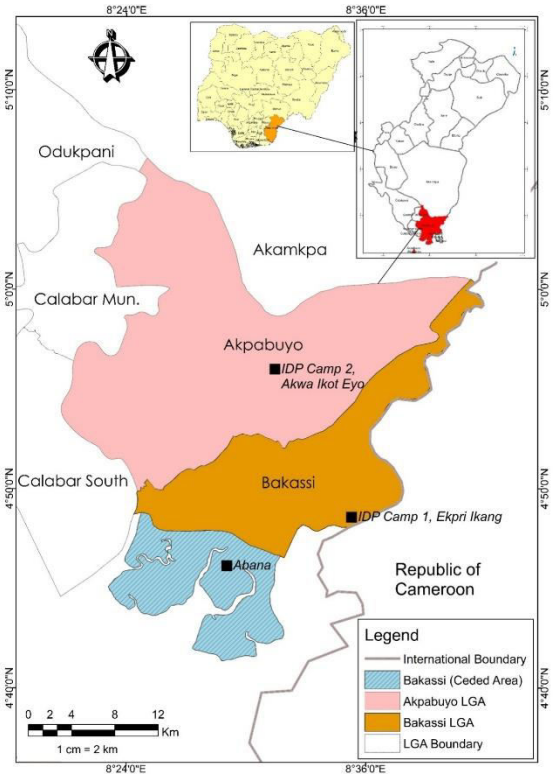

Fig. 1: Study area showing Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Ekpri Ikang and Akwa Ikot Eyo in Southern Cross River State, Nigeria.

Source: office of the surveyor General of Cross River State.

Methodology

The data for the study were collected through interviews, direct field observation and measurement.

Interviews were conducted with farmers of the host communities and displaced persons who expressed their independent opinions and views on sizes of their farms. The study purposively deployed 40 persons among the displaced population who shared their views on their farm sizes before and after forced relocation. The 40 persons were selected due to easy access to their farmlands. The study also employed the use of Global Positioning System (GPS) to track and determine the coordinates of the various farm sizes of the displaced population before and after forced relocation.

Determination of the actual farm sizes after relocation was done with GPS using Germain-Etrex-Legend H model of GPS. After obtaining the appropriate sizes of the farms, the data was subjected to paired sample t- test using IBM SPSS version 21. The farm sizes before forced relocation was estimated from the current farm size. The essence of the interview was to determine whether their farm sizes were larger or smaller than the current farm size. The average farm sizes were about 50m x 100m.

Data presentation and analysis

The table presented below shows the various farm locations and sizes before and after relocation. The study revealed that in Akwa Ikot Eyo Edem and farms around Local Government Headquarters, the farm sizes covered a total area of 17,596 square kilometers before relocation and 30,930 square kilometers after relocation. Furthermore, at Ekpri Ikang farms, a total of 14,170 square kilometres was acquired for cultivation before relocation and 13,782 square kilometres after relocation.

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Similarly, farms near Obutong acquired land area of 16,304 square kilometers for farming, while the area of 20,800 square kilometers was used for farming after relocation of the displaced population. Furthermore, the table revealed that a total of 20,800 square kilometers of land were acquired after relocation and 16,304 square kilometers before relocation. The spatial distribution of the various farm locations as indicated in fig.2 further gives insight into the effect of forced relocation on farm sizes in Southern Cross River State relocated population.

Table1: Effect of forced relocation on farm sizes in the study area.

Location Farm	Name of village	Respondents: farm size before (m^2)	Respondents: farm size after (m^2)
Lat.04^{0}50^1.645^{11}N Long.008^{0}30^1.912^{11}E Elevation 45m asl	Akwa Ikot Eyo Edem farms around The LG HQtrs	5200	7400
		5560	7400
		746	6100
		770	5000
		1050	5000
		1110	2100
		726	1100
		788	220
		1098	1050
		550	560
04^{0}47^1.876^{11}N 008^{0}31^1.077^{11}E Elevation 27m asl	farms at Ekprilkang	2200	10000
		1100	548
		5100	1112
		450	1450
		550	700
		660	450
		700	256
		654	656
		656	2100
		2100	5510
Lat.04^{0}47^1.367^{11}N Long.008^{0}31^1.866^{11}E Elevation 5m asl	Farm at Obutong	0	580
		0	580
		0	580
		0	580
		2510	580
		5100	1160
		5100	1160
		1010	1160
		0	1160
		0	580
		0	580
		1080	1160
		0	1160
		0	1160
		0	580
		500	580
		500	1160
		0	2100
		0	2100
		1004	2100
		N 40	N 40

ISSN- 2394-5125 VOL 8, ISSUE 02, 2021

N North	SD 1647.749	SD 2333.59
E East	X 1214.10	X 1987.80
Asl above sea level	SEM 260.53	SEM 368.97
m^2 square meters		

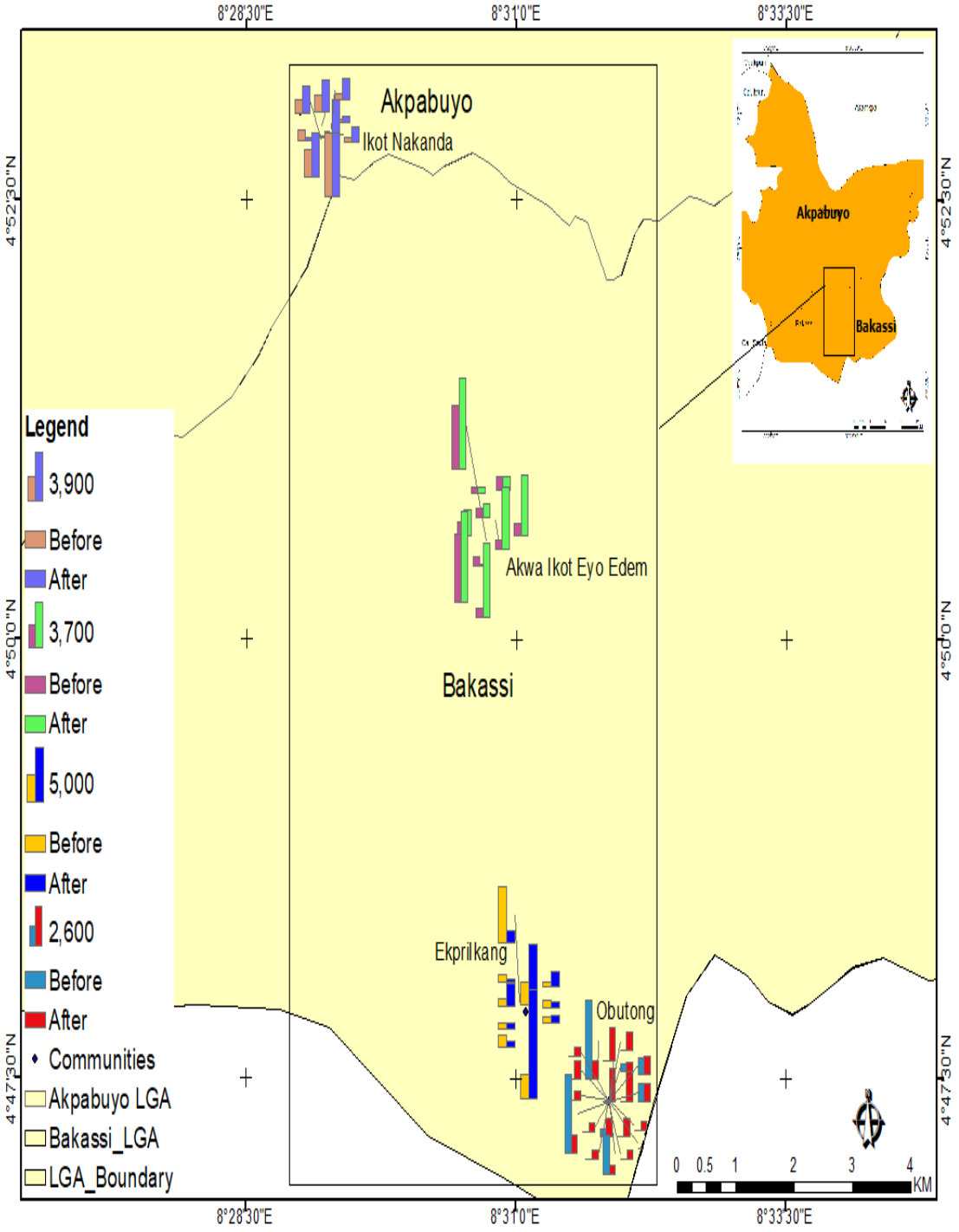

Fig. 3: Showing spatial locations of selected farmlands of relocated population in the study area.

Research hypothesis

There is no significant difference between farm sizes of displaced persons before and after forced relocation.

Results

The paired sample statistics output in **Table 2** shows that the mean of the farm size before is 1214.30 m^2 and 1987.80 m^2 after relocation. The paired samples correlation analysis **(Table 3)** revealed significant relationship between the sizes of the farms before and after relocation. This corroborates the views of Tavonga (2014) on the Effect of Agricultural Practices in Resettlement Area of Mashonal and Central Province in Zimbabwe. The study revealed that land was not fully utilized in the area prior relocation. That relocation has made agricultural lands to be fully utilized through the adoption of new agricultural practices to meet their food security requirement. Similarly, this finding agrees with the views of Oseni (2013) that most displaced persons have increase their farms sizes more than former habitation. He further noted that such persons were the ones whose standard of living has significantly improved more than their former locations. As further shown in **Table 4**, based on the means of the pair of farm sizes and the direction of the t-value ($t(39) = 2.207$, $p = 0.033$). This may have prompted Moyo, (2005) to note that change from one agricultural practice to another among the displaced people has made cope with the increasing needs of the family. Therefore, there is sufficient evidence to conclude that there is a statistically significant difference between farm sizes of displaced persons before and after forced relocation in Southern Cross River State, Nigeria.

Table 2: Paired Samples Statistics

		Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Pair 1	Farm Size Before (m2)	1214.30	40	1647.734	260.530
	Farm Size After (m2)	1987.80	40	2333.594	368.974

Table 3: Paired Samples Correlations

		N	Correlation	Sig.
Pair 1	Farm Size Before (m2) & Farm Size After (m2)	40	.422	.007

Table 4: Paired Samples Test

		Paired Differences					t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
					Lower	Upper			
Pair 1	Farm Size Before (m2) - Farm Size After (m2)	-773.500	2216.378	350.440	-1482.332	-64.668	-2.207	39	.033

Conclusion

From the result that emanated from the findings, the study revealed that there is a significant difference between farm sizes before and after relocation. This is because the displaced population engaged in agriculture especially by the assistance offered them particularly by government and donor agencies. This however necessitated the need to increase farm sizes in order to cater for their increasing needs. Moreover, the presence of the displaced population has not impoverished the rural landowners rather it has

enhanced their capacity in different farming practices. Similarly, the presence of the displaced persons in the new location has made labour cheap and easily accessible. Arising from the above, forced relocation does not lead to impoverishment in some locations as many thoughts, rather it made food readily available and thereby reducing poverty. This increase emanates from the need to increase food and to cope with increasing challenges confronting families of displaced persons. However, the increase in farm sizes of the displaced population have impacted on the soil in terms of nutrients loss, and decrease in physical and chemical properties in the soil. Again, long-term monoculture and continuous cropping common in the area has led to deterioration of soil ecological environment. Nevertheless, even with attendant effect of increase of crop production occasioned by the influx of more persons, the presence of the displaced population in the study area has led to increase in food production and better standing of living.

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