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Sokoto Journal of Geographical Studies (SJGS) is a double-blind peer reviewed journal that is being published in **July** and **December** annually, by the Department of Geography Sokoto State University, Sokoto-Nigeria. The Journal provides a platform for researchers and academicians around the world in order to promote healthy intellectual discourse concerning research, preservation and dissemination of academic knowledge. The journal adopts a multidisciplinary approach to scholarship in all areas of Geographical Studies.

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AN ANALYSIS OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC VARIABLES THAT ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN RURAL KANO STATE

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Abstract

This study analyzed some socio-economic variables that enhance the quality of life in rural Kano State. The study covered a total of 335 rural households across the three senatorial districts of Kano State; Kano South, Kano Central and Kano North. Purposive Sampling Technique (PST) was used to select three villages in each of the three senatorial districts. The aim of the study was to identify relationship between some socio-economic variables which enhance the quality of life in the study area. The study area with a population of 2,178 households was administered with a total of 335 copies of questionnaires to the sampled households using the systematic random sampling technique. The data analysis utilized both descriptive (table) and inferential statistical techniques (chi-square test of association). Research findings have shown that some of the socio-economic variables were found to have significant association (Occupation with Income level ($p = 0.000$), age group with family size ($p = 0.000$) and family size with educational level ($p = 0.000$). The study recommends the inclusion of rural people in decision making pertaining provision of infrastructure that improves their quality of life. Furthermore, Non-Profit Organizations, Government and Investors at all levels should show genuine interest by providing financial assistance, improved inputs and better agricultural practices in order to improve the economic quality of rural life.

Keywords: Analysis, Socio-Economic, Variables, Quality of Life and Rural.

Introduction

Quality of life is defined as the social index qualifying a society. Among the arrays defining the rural society is the feeling of psychological and physical wellbeing among its populace (Zaid and Popoola, 2010). It appears that the concept of quality of life is fast becoming a popular worldwide, including Nigeria. At first sight, quality of life is a simple and straightforward construct. Most people have a reasonably clear idea of what sorts of things would enhance their individual quality of life (and probably the quality of life of others too). There is an adage that says, "He who wears the shoe knows where it pinches". The quality of life of a person is what he or she perceives it to be. As for example, higher pay, longer holidays, more satisfaction in our working lives, time to pursue enjoyable and satisfying leisure pursuits, emotional fulfillment in relationships, and having a long healthy and happy life all within a safe, caring and supportive local community are among the things people conceived as what could improve their quality of life.

Rural Nigeria is endowed with abundant productive land, mineral resources and a teeming labor force. Despite the fact that majority of Nigerians reside in rural areas and agricultural production is their mainstay (Shittu, 2007). Quality of life has been identified to be out of reach for the majority of rural dwellers in Nigeria due to lack of access to clean water, health care and good

roads, making the rural areas less enjoyable and difficult to live in (MeluduandBajowa, 2008). Therefore, the rural populace is described as people with poor mental health and closely linked to occupational and environment stress factors (MeluduandBajowa, 2008).

The importance of socio-economic infrastructure on living standards has been noted as nations grow from one stage of development to the next. This exposition is based on the fact that the provision of social and economic infrastructure such as roads, highways, markets, airports, seaports, electricity, schools, libraries, universities, clinics, hospitals, courts, museums, theaters, playgrounds, parks, fountains, and statues is a critical determinant of a nation's growth and development. The deficiencies of the aforementioned amenities have hindered economic development in recent history. Besides the lack of infrastructure and basic services identified to contribute to poor quality of life among rural communities in Nigeria, occupational induced stress remains the major factor limiting positive psychological health in these communities. Farming activities are the major important occupation of people in the rural areas in Nigeria (Mgbada, 2010; Ekong et al., 2010). Some combine these activities with artisan work or public services (Adepojuand Obayelu, 2013). Lack of infrastructure leaves the farmers working with crude technology and stressful processes which greatly affects their quality of life (Nzenwa, 2005).

Several studies were conducted on quality of life in rural areas especially in the field of sociology, psychology, medicine, economics. Some of these studies that were conducted in Nigeria and elsewhere in the world; Adewumiand Olayinka, (2015) in Ikeji-Arakeji Osun State Nigeria; Yetunde, (2010) in Ekiti State Nigeria; Norfazilah, Azmawati and Madihah, (2013) in rural Selangor Malaysia; Agnieszka, (2016) in rural areas of south eastern Poland; Abhishek and Sarvada, (2013) in Lucknow India; Jadranka, Gordana, Dragan, Mladen, Sanjaand Verica, (2014) in rural and urban areas of Serbia. In light of the literature searched, research on rural quality of life in Nigeria mostly focused in the south-western parts of the country and essential infrastructural facilities were not given the needed attention; Adewumiand Olayinka, (2015) and Yetunde, (2010). This is the gap this research intends to fill, which is particularly needful with the growing rural infrastructure and quality of life decay in most rural areas of northern Nigeria. This study explores the relationship between socio-economic variables and people's quality of life.

Review of Related Literature

Quality of Life

Quality of life is a measure of how positively or negatively we perceived our lives as a measure of well-being. This measure is affected by three main environments quality of life (explained below) and is a relative concept. In other words, each and every individual has a different perception of life, even within a group of people living in the same area of the world. Experiences and desires within the three environments quality of life affect it. Built environment quality of life, social environment quality of life, and economic environment quality of life (Mohit, 2013).

- The built environment quality of life is essentially about where you live: your house, the surroundings and the facilities and amenities available to you. In addition, it encompasses the availability of infrastructure, such as electricity supply, telephone lines, running water and sewerage systems. Compare for instance, life in a rural area of Brazil and a town in the UK. The differences in the built environment quality of life would be extreme, and would affect the quality of life in the areas markedly.
- The social environment quality of life involves friends and family and the people you interact with. It also involves entertainment, health (in terms of actual physical

health and the healthcare systems available to you) and personal education /literacy levels.

- The economic environment quality of life looks at money and how money is spent and the employment (or lack of it), that leads to the money being earned or created in the first place. It can also look at how the money is made, including the formal and informal economies.

Thus, we see that the quality-of-life concept has the same components as the concept of sustainable development. Quality of life is by definition, a subjective concept, dependent on cultural perspectives and values. Values, the attributes of our world that we believe are functionally important, morally good, or personally desirable, are derived from our individual perspectives. Age, ethnicity, gender, socio-economic status, education, health, religion, occupation, shapes our perspectives. These differences in personal experience lead us to different beliefs about what is important, good, or desirable. These beliefs, or values, determine not only what we believe makes good quality of life, but also what conditions represent a quality of life problem (Agnieszka, 2020).

For many years, the issue of quality of life and its promotion has drawn the attention of planners in different areas, including urban and rural (Parvin, Kalantari and Davoudi, 2015; Wish, 1986). In the 20th century, lots of discussions have been made regarding the concept of quality of life in social and management studies, especially in low-income classes of people with the poor facilities (Faraji et al., 2006). However, in the last decade, regarding the complexity of today's world, the concept of "quality of life" has gained more attention (Parvin et al., 2015).

Rural Areas

The word 'rural' connotes different meanings to different people depending on their background. What is regarded in developed countries as rural may be regarded as urban in developing countries. However, given certain criteria, rural settlement in Nigeria for instance is regarded as a settlement with less than 20,000 people and whose population predominantly engages in primary production (Aderamoand Magaji, 2010). Rural settlement was also described by Weir and McCabe, (2012) as an area with relatively low development densities, typically less than 1 resident per acre. In reality, the concept of "rural" cannot be narrowly defined. In fact, many definitions of rural exist. The way people think of rural largely depends on where they are from and where they live.

Socio-Economic Indicators of Quality of Life in Rural Areas

Infrastructure

The Cambridge Dictionary defined infrastructure as "the key systems and services that a country or organization requires to function correctly, such as transportation and electricity supplies"(Cambridge, 2010). According to Van-Daleand Mu (2010), infrastructure is "the entire network of roads, railroads, rivers, ports, airports, electric equipment, cables, and so on". When discussing infrastructure, physical infrastructure such as roads, bridges, trains, airports, and water and sewer systems is commonly mentioned. In social aspects, differences occur. Some sources consider hospitals, schools, prisons, and government buildings to constitute infrastructure in addition to physical infrastructure. According to Gustáv, (2005), infrastructure is classified into three types: physical, economic, and policy access. Physical access to infrastructure that allows the movement of people, goods, and information, such as highways and telephones, is referred to as physical access. Economic access is concerned with infrastructure that facilitates money transfer and business, such as banking services, whereas policy infrastructure is concerned with policy frameworks that drive other systems. Gramlich, (1994) defined economic infrastructure as big, long-standing structures such as transportation, electricity, communications, and utility

networks that enable economic activities. Municipal, housing, education, health, justice, and recreational assets all contribute to human growth, quality of life, and living standards. SnieskaandSimkunaite, (2009), separate two forms of infrastructure, such as economic infrastructure and social infrastructure. Examples of economic infrastructure are roads, highways, trains, airports, seaports, power, telecommunications, water supply, and sanitation, while social infrastructure includes schools, libraries, universities, clinics, hospitals, courts, museums, theaters, playgrounds, parks, fountains, and statues.

Socio-Economic Infrastructure and Standard of Living

Development of infrastructure not only leads to growth, but growth also contributes to economic development, creating a virtuous circle (Ndulu, 2006). Furthermore, human capital and infrastructure investments interact, with each improving the returns to the other. DFID, (2002) highlighted the following avenues via which infrastructure investment might contribute to long improvement in the standard of living: Reducing transaction costs and facilitating intra- and cross border trade flows; enabling economic actors individuals, businesses, and governments to respond to new sorts of demand in new locations; reducing the cost of inputs for entrepreneurs or increasing the profitability of current firms; Creating jobs, including in public works (as a kind of social security as well as a counter-cyclical strategy in times of crisis); Improving environmental conditions, for example, leads to better livelihoods, better health, and less vulnerability among the poor. Calderon, (2009) discovered that infrastructure development contributed 99 basis points to per capita economic growth in Africa from 1990 to 2005, compared to only 68 basis points for other structural measures.

Location and Extent

Kano State came into being in the year 1967. Geopolitically, the study area is located in the Northwest geo-political zone of Nigeria sharing boundaries to the west with Katsina State, to the southwest with Kaduna State, to the east with Jigawa and Bauchi States and to the North with Jigawa and Katsina States. The State occupies an area of approximately 20,760 square kilometers, consisting of 1,754,200 hectares of agricultural land and over 92,250,81 hectares of forest vegetation and grazing land (Olofin and Tanko, 2002). The State population of 13,076,892 million people as projected (NBS, 2017). Kano is located between Longitude 8⁰ 45'E and 120 05'E and Latitude 10⁰ 30'N and 13⁰ 02'N and is part of the Sudano-Sahel Zone of Nigeria (Olofin, et al., 2008 as cited by Falola, (2012). Politically, the State is divided into three senatorial zones with 44 Local Government Areas. Kano North Zone consist of 13 local government areas, Kano Central has 15 local government areas and Kano South is made up of 16 local government areas (Figure, 1). The villages used as study sites include; Danhassan, Dukawa and Feginmalu (Kura LGA), Goron- Maje, Chasko and Gwanda (Dambatta LGA), Darki, Indabo and Kausani (Wudil LGA), (Figure 1).

Materials and Methods

The research was designed to collect quantitative data using questionnaires, where a total of 335 respondents (household heads) were used as samples for the study. Purposive Sampling Technique (PST) was used to select three villages in each of the three senatorial districts. The population of household heads in the nine selected villages across the three senatorial districts was 2,178 (Reconnaissance Survey and Traditional Rulers, 2021). This was used as the sampling frame for the study. In order to determine the sample size from the sampling frame, Krejcie and Morgan sample size table was used. Using the criteria, the precise sample size of a population of 2,178 is 335 at alpha (α) = 0.05 level of significance, using the formula:

$$S = \frac{X^2 NP(1 - P)}{d^2(N - 1) + X^2 P(1 - P)}$$

The study sites have disproportionate sample sizes as follows; Darki (48), Indabo (36), Kausani (26), Danhassan (111), Dukawa (38), Feginmalu (27), Chasko (13), Gwauronmaje (21) and Gwanda (15).

Systematic random sampling technique was employed to determine the respondents in each of the study sites. Respondents across the whole study sites were selected at an interval of seven houses each with the exception of Danhassan where respondents' interval was four. The data was analyzed using both inferential (chi-square test of independency) and descriptive (using Microsoft Excel) statistical techniques in result presentation.

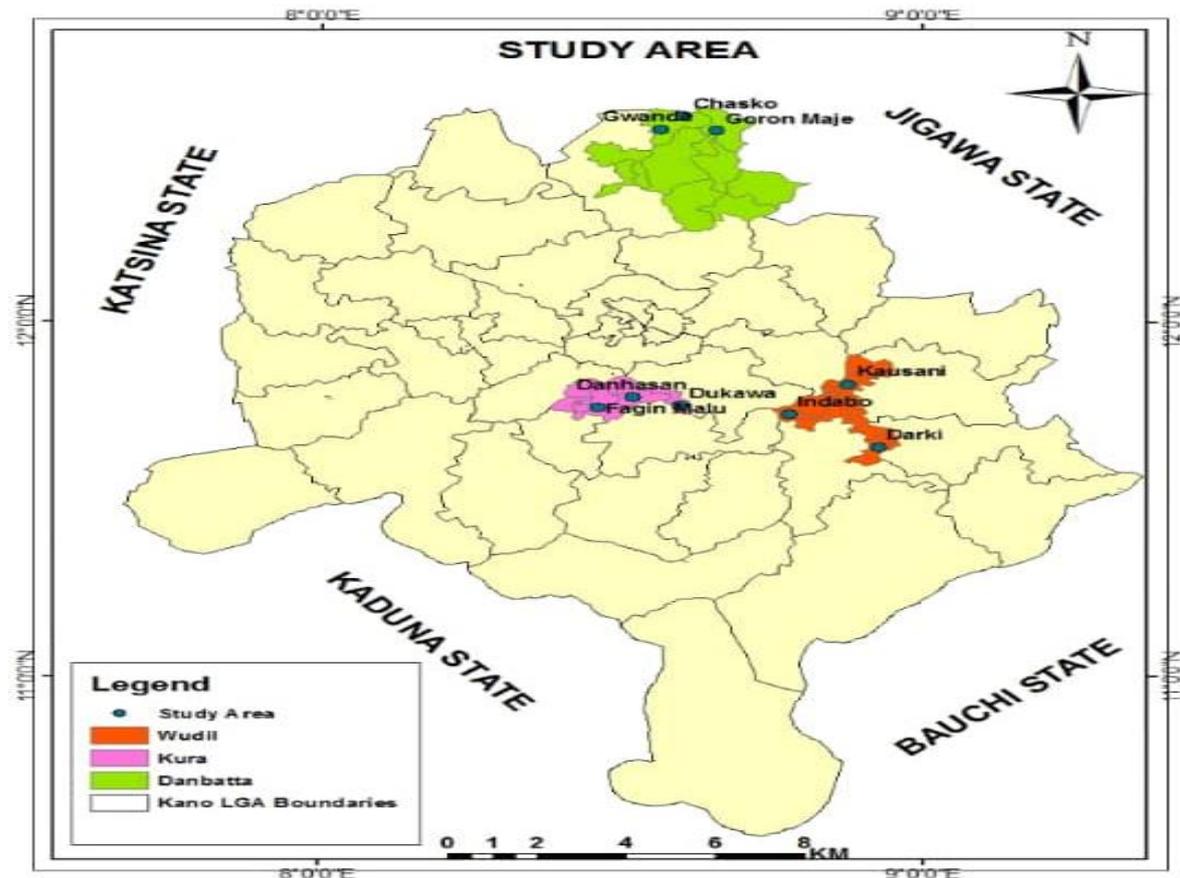


Figure 1: The Study Sites; Dambatta, Kura and Wudil Local Government Areas

Results and Discussions

Demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the respondents were asked and presented in Table 1 which revealed that over 1 in 10 of the total surveyed respondents were married, with 75% of the male respondents having multiple wives, polygamy being widespread across the three senatorial districts. Similarly, the age distribution of the respondents based on the three senatorial districts was presented. The analysis shows that in Kano South, half of the respondents were within the age group of 40-49 (50.0%) followed by respondents within the age of 30-39 years (29.3%), with only very few aged 60 years and above (1.7%). Similarly, in Kano Central it was observed that more than half of the respondents fall within the age bracket of 40-49 (51.7%), followed by those within the age of 50-59 (24.6%). Furthermore, in Kano North senatorial district, the table revealed that more than half of the respondents were within the age of 40-49 (52.5%), followed by respondents within the age of 30-39 (21.8%), and very few (8.9%) from 60 years and above. In a more concise form, the findings revealed that out of the 335 respondents selected for the study, more than half of the respondents were within the age of 40-49 years (51.3%), followed by respondents within the age of 30-39 years which constituted 20.0% of the

total residents, while a very small number (8.4%) was recorded to be within the age of 60 and above and the least (0.9%) being respondents within the age of 18-29 years.

Equally, the result on household size revealed that most of the respondents have large families. Majority of the respondents were reported to be married, with majority having more than 1 wife. The table shows that 9 in 10 of the households surveyed had 5-20 children, with (7.8%) having less than 5 children. This explains why most households are large (with at least 5 members). Large household is still the norm in Africa and have been reported in many other studies. For example, 64.4% of the residents surveyed by Ayoade et al., (2015) lived in households that included seven or more members. Furthermore, distribution of respondent according to their educational qualification is also presented. In Kano South senatorial district, it was reported that majority (56.9) of the respondents had Qur'anic education as their highest level of education while 14.7% tertiary education 11.3% postgraduate education and only very few (7.6%) had primary certificate only. Also, in Kano Central, majority (about 61.9%) of the residents had Qur'anic education, with about 2 in 10 secondary educations, very few (7.6%) had tertiary education and none had postgraduate education. In Kano North also, majority (58.4%) had Qur'anic education, slightly over 1 in 10 had secondary and tertiary education and none was reported to have postgraduate qualification. It is interesting to note that out of the 335 respondents that participated in this study, it was found that majority do not meet up with one of Nigerian's goals for economic development with only 19.1% of the total number of residents having university and post graduate degrees, about 6 in 10 having Qur'anic education and 13.1% having secondary and primary education. This calls for urgent sensitization of the rural dwellers about the importance and the value of formal education. The government and other non-governmental agencies need to key in, as this will go a long way in reducing and if possible, eliminating illiteracy, which will in turn reduce crime rate and poverty in the rural society.

Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

Items	Kano South		Kano Central		Kano North		Total	
Marital Status								
Married	114	98.3	109	92.4	88	87.1	311	92.8
Widowed	02	1.7	09	7.6	13	12.9	24	7.2
Total	116	100	118	100	101	100	335	100
Age Groups								
18-29	03	2.6	00	0.0	0	0.0	03	0.9
30-39	34	29.3	11	9.3	22	21.8	67	20.0
40-49	58	50.0	61	51.7	53	52.5	172	51.3
50-59	19	16.4	29	24.6	17	16.8	65	19.4
60 and above	02	1.7	17	14.4	09	8.9	28	8.4
Total	116	100	118	100	101	100	335	100
Household Size								
Below 5	08	6.9	16	13.6	02	1.9	26	7.8
5-10	21	18.1	61	51.7	34	33.7	116	34.6
11-15	57	49.1	28	23.7	42	41.7	127	37.9
16-20	29	25.0	09	7.6	21	20.8	59	17.6
Above 21	01	0.9	04	3.4	02	1.9	07	2.1
Total	116	100	118	100	101	100	335	100
Educ. Qual.								
Primary	09	7.6	06	5.1	14	13.9	29	8.7
Secondary	11	9.5	22	18.6	11	10.9	44	13.1
Qur'an	66	56.9	73	61.9	59	58.4	198	59.1
Tertiary	17	14.7	09	7.6	17	16.8	43	12.8
Postgraduate	13	11.3	08	6.8	00	0.0	21	6.3
Total	116	100	118	100	101	100	335	100

Source: Fieldwork, 2021

Table 2 presents that a greater proportion (63.3%) of the respondents are farmers, 13.4% of the respondents are traders and only very few (8.4%) involved in tailoring and mechanic businesses. Based on the results, it is clear that the main occupation of rural dwellers is farming such as crop production, animal rearing e.t.c. This result agrees with the findings of Abdulkadir, (2018) that about 85% of rural residents are farmers. Despite being farmers their earning at the end of the farming season could cater adequately for needs which bring low quality of life in the rural areas. Equally, the estimated monthly income of the respondents was presented. The results reveals that in Kano South senatorial district, majority of the respondents (39.7%) earn ₦60,000 and above monthly, followed by 30.2% of the respondents who earn between ₦50,000 - ₦60,000 monthly and the least among the respondents are those that earn less than ₦10,000 per month. In Kano Central Senatorial District, majority of the respondents (45.8%) earn between ₦50,000 - ₦60,000 monthly, 22.8% of the rural respondents earn at least ₦30,000 monthly. In Kano North Senatorial District, it was also reported that most of the respondents (about 50.7%) earn between ₦30,000 - ₦40,000 monthly, 30.7% earn above ₦60,000 monthly, only 0.9% earn below ₦30,000 monthly. The study ostensibly reveals that out of the 9 villages sampled covering all the three senatorial districts and out of the 335 respondents, 38.2% of the residents earn above ₦60,000 monthly, 31.6% earn between ₦50,000 - ₦60,000, 22.8% earn between ₦30,000 - ₦40,000 monthly, and only about 7.4% earn below ₦30,000 monthly. By implication their monthly earning at this economic situation of the country cannot cater for their children medical, school and unforeseen circumstances, as such it will bring about low quality of life in the rural areas.

Table 2: Occupation and Monthly Income of the Respondents

Items	Kano South		Kano Central		Kano North		Total	
Occupation								
Farming	68	58.6	76	64.4	68	67.4	212	63.3
Trading	29	25.0	00	0.0	16	15.8	45	13.4
Public servant	06	5.2	23	19.5	08	7.9	37	11.0
Tailoring	00	0.0	19	16.1	09	8.9	28	8.4
Mechanic	13	11.2	00	0.0	00	0.0	13	3.9
Total	116	100	118	100	101	100	335	100
Monthly Income								
<10,000	09	7.8	00	0.0	01	0.9	10	2.9
10,000-20,000	14	12.1	00	0.0	01	0.9	15	4.5
30,000-40,000	12	10.2	13	11.0	51	50.7	76	22.8
50,000-60,000	35	30.2	54	45.8	17	16.8	106	31.6
>60,000	46	39.7	51	43.2	31	30.7	128	38.2
Total	116	100	118	100	101	100	335	100

Source: Fieldwork, 2021

Chi-Square Cross Tabulation on Relationship between Some Socio-economic Variables

Table 3 presents a chi-square test of association between pairs of the selected socio-economic infrastructural variables in the study area. This was to answer the hypothesis that;

H₀: There is no statistically significant relationship between some socio-economic variables that improve the quality of life in rural area

H_a: There is statistically significant relationship between some socio-economic variables that improve the quality of life in rural area

The table gives the Pearson Chi-square calculated values, degrees of freedom and the respective P-values for each of the three pairwise comparisons. Based on the chi-square results, it can be observed that there is a strong association between Occupation and Income Level; suggesting that the income earned monthly depends on the type of job occupation. This further stressed that the income a farmer earn per month differs significantly from the monthly income earned by a

trader or a civil servant. It is also observed that the P-value corresponding to Age-Group Vs Family Size is also significant at 5% level, revealing that family size is associated to age group. This implies that respondents from the study area who are of older age tends to have larger family sizes than those heads of households at the middle age and below average. Another observation is that there is a strong association between Family Size and Educational Level, since the P-value is less than 0.05. This implies that, based on the findings, the number of graduates per household depend on the family size. Meaning that the larger the family size, the lesser the number of graduates and vice versa. Hence the null hypothesis of no association is rejected. This concludes that the alternate hypothesis is accepted, which states that there is statistically significant relationship between some socio-economic variables that improve the quality of life in rural area at 5% level of significance.

TABLE 3: X²TEST OF ASSOCIATION BETWEEN SELECTED SOCIO-ECONOMIC VARIABLES

Socio Economic Variables	Pearson Chi-square	Degree of freedom	P-value
Occupation Vs Income Level	60.342	16	0.000*
Age group Vs Family Size	58.703	16	0.000*
Household Size Vs Educ. Level	108.068	16	0.000*

Source: SPSS

Conclusion and Recommendations

The socio-economic variables (Occupation against Income Level, Age Group against Family Size and Family Size against Educational Level) were found to have a significant association with each other, by implication; occupation determines ones' income level, the age of an individual determines his family size while family size is directly dependent upon the educational attainment of an individual.

In light of the findings of the study discussed and the conclusions arrived at, this research work recommends among others the following:

1. The inclusion of rural dwellers in decision making process especially with regards to infrastructural facilities that will improve their living standard.
2. Agriculture been the mainstay of the rural economy and most practiced economic activity, there is a need for Non-Profit Organizations, Government and Investors at all levels to show genuine interest by providing financial assistance, improved inputs and better practices in order to improve the economic quality of life.

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