



# Evaluation Of Fishermen And Fish Traders In Transactional Sex For Fish Marketing In Coastal Areas Of Ogun Waterside Local Government Area, Ogun State, Nigeria

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**Keywords** : *Transactional-sex, coastal, Ogun waterside, socio-economic.*

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# Evaluation Of Fishermen And Fish Traders In Transactional Sex For Fish Marketing In Coastal Areas Of Ogun Waterside Local Government Area, Ogun State, Nigeria

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**Keywords** : *Transactional-sex, coastal, Ogun waterside, socio-economic.*

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Fish is one of the most important foods on the planet earth. It is a rich source of protein and easily accessible compared to other sources of protein such as egg, milk, meat etc. Fish is the most important animal protein food available in the tropics and it constitute about 40% of animal protein intake in Nigeria (Eyo, 1992). Coastal communities are the first to benefit from the different fish species that forage for food in estuaries, marshes, wetlands and bar areas (Cantoria, 2010). A constant but subtle theme in human development in the regions surrounded by water is the use of fish and dependence on fish and other aquatic lives for sustenance, trade, and livelihood and for the environment (Williams, 2004). With an estimated 200 million people directly dependent on fisheries and aquaculture by 2008, the sector contributes significantly to livelihoods around the world (FAO/IFAD/WB, 2009). The current estimates from the big number projects for employment in small scale capture fisheries in developing countries alone reach 25 to 27 million with an additional 68 to 70 million engaged in post harvesting (FAO/World Bank and World Fish, 2008).

As women form the majority that engaged in post harvesting in many countries, revised estimates of employment in the fisheries could indicate that the sector is predominantly a female one, challenging the long held notion that fisheries is a male dominated vocation. Preliminary BNP data for nine significant fish producing countries based on available statistics and case studies revealed that 47% of the labour forces in fishery sector (including post harvest) are women (FAO/World Bank and World Fish, 2008). The major role women play in the fishery sector is to preserve and process the fish so as to retain some freshness. Consumers' acceptability depends on the freshness of the fish. Freshness of fish can be maintained by processing and preservation, through which spoilage can be slowed or stopped (Tobor, 1985). The women

get involved in activities such as frying, smoking, drying, just to extend the fish's shelf life and satisfy a proportion of the fish demanding ever growing population because according to Tobor (1990) increase in Nigeria's population with restrictions to fish importation has put stress to limited supply of fish.

In modern times, fish in these region surrounded by water has been a source of stability and instability and over time, the same resource may cause either (Williams, 2004). One of the instabilities is transactional sex which has silently crept into the fishery sector without much being done about it. Transactional sex however means the exchange of sex for money, goods or services. Transactional sex affects mostly women in that it is a way of life for many poor women in developing countries (Robinson and Ethan, 2008). According to Weeratunge and Synder (2009) much of the researches on gender differences and inequalities in capture fisheries in Africa and Pacific remain descriptive of the gender division of labour within the sector. They emphasize the need to move beyond this perspective by identifying emerging research on globalization, market changes, poverty and trends in gendered employment in the fishery sector.

In the fishery sector, the women mostly affected by transactional sex are chiefly in the post harvest sector and are not called sex workers but fish traders. This they are called because they can't pay fishermen enough, so they exchange sex for fish (Laura, 2010). The above has been affirmed in recent studies in Botswana, Swaziland, Malawi, Zambia and Tanzania. Another reason given for it is the acute food insecurity (Laura, 2010). Ben (2006) reported that transactional sex is likened to prostitution and that it has come to stay in the Pacific Islands where nearly the whole world goes to fish because of its water. There, the women or ladies spend days with purse seiners in their harbour, gets ride back home and also get cash, fish and other material goods.

An ever increasing population, lack of employment, crowded housing conditions, low educations, low educational opportunities and sustenance at all cost has left many at the mercy of transactional sex. Women are mostly affected by the above and this reaches far to the fishery sector where they process, transport and retail fish (Christophe and Mertenb, 2007). To anyone in business, profit maximization is the most eligible reason. Hence, the fish traders probably engage in transactional sex to really maximize their profit. The need to survive has led many such as single mothers, divorced and widows to transactional sex as they are very prone to poverty. This study therefore describe the socio-demographic features, identify the reasons of transactional sex between the fishermen and fish traders and know the effects of transactional sex on the health and economic status of the respondents of respondents in the study

area. The exploitation of both fishing and transactional sex in places where they constantly create new vulnerabilities is another reason for taking up the project work to reveal the risk involved in the partnership between transactional sex and fishery sector.

## II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

### a) Description Of The Study Area

The study was carried out in Ogun state, a south-western part of Nigeria. Ogun state has a total land area of 16,762km which is about 2% of the country's land mass. It is bordered in the south by Lagos state and Atlantic Ocean, the north by Oyo and Osun State, the east by Ondo State and the West by republic of Benin (Oloruntoba and Adegbite, 2006).

Rainy season in Ogun state starts around middle of March and continues until late October. Dry season starts around middle October and continues until February in most part of the State. The State is warm throughout the year with a temperature of between 28OC and 35 OC. Humidity is between 85% and 95% (Oloruntoba and Adegbite, 2006).

Ogun state is predominantly inhabited by people who belong to the Yoruba ethnic group, the largest ethnic group in the West African Coast and one of the largest and longest established ethnic groups on the African continent (Oyesiku, 1992).

Ogun state has marine biotopes covering 12, 482, 640 Ha, lacustrine biotopes totalling 4, 404.35 Ha and estuarine biotopes of 767.3km<sup>2</sup> (Ayansanwo, 1999).

Ogun waterside Local Government Area has a total land area of 734.35km<sup>2</sup> and a population of 72,935 people (2006 census). Ogun waterside is the only area of Ogun state with a coastline on the might of Benin and which borders Lagos lagoon. It is bounded in the west by Ijebu East local government area and in the east by Ondo and Lagos lagoon. Its coordinates in Nigeria are 6O29'N4 O 24'E6.483 O N4.4 O E ([www.ogunministryoflocalgovtandchieftaffairs.com](http://www.ogunministryoflocalgovtandchieftaffairs.com)).

### b) Study Population

Respondents targeted for the study were fishermen and fish traders in Ogun waterside Local government area, Ogun state, Nigeria.

### c) Data Collection Technique And Sample Size

Fifty fisherfolks (50) were randomly selected from four locations, Enu waya, JK Camp, Okun-Elefon and Mosafejo from the study area based on activities. 50 questionnaires were administered to the respondents to get information on the socioeconomic activities, factors that are determinant to transactional sex in fisheries activities and the effects of transactional sex on the health and economic status of the respondent in the study area.

### III. MEASUREMENT OF VARIABLES

The following variables were measured:

#### a) Socio-Demographic Features Of Respondent

*i. Age:* this is obtained in years and measured at interval level and numeric values of 1 is used for ages 18-24years, 2 for 25-35years, 3 for 36-45years, 4 for 46-55years and 56-65years.

*ii. Sex:* respondents were distributed according to their roles and measured at numeric level of 1 is for male and 2 for female.

*iii. Marital Status:* respondents were measured at numeric level of 1 for single, 2 for married, 3 for separated/divorced and 4 for widowed.

*iv. Household size:* it refers to the number of people living under the same roof as the respondent, numeric value 1 stands for 1person, 2 for 2people, 3 for 3people, 4 for 4people, 5 for 5people and 6 for 6people and above.

*v. Education type:* numeric value of value 1 is for formal and 2 is for informal

*vi. Education level:* numeric value of 1 is for No formal education, 2 for primary education, 3 for Secondary education, 4 for NCE, 5 for HND, 6 for B.Sc, and 7 for Post graduate.

*vii. Religion:* this refers to respondent's belief measured at numeric value of 1 for Christians, 2 for Muslims and 3 for Traditional.

*viii. Month of fish abundance:* numeric value of 1 is used for April-June and 2 for September-December

*ix. Season of fish abundance:* numeric value of 1 is used for rainy season and 2 for dry season.

*x. Mobility Period:* numeric value of 1 stands for a period of 1-2 weeks, 2 for 3-4 weeks, 3 for 1-2 months and 4 for 3 months and above.

*xi. Seasonality of trade:* refers to the effects of different season on the fish trade and numeric value of 1 stands for seasonal and 2 for not-seasonal

*xii. Level of involvement:* numeric value 1 stands for full involvement while 2 is for part involvement.

*xiii. Year of fishing:* numeric value of 1 stands for 1-10years, 2 for 11-20 years, 3 for 21-30 years and 31-40 is denoted by 4.

*xiv. Water body fished in:* numeric value of 1 for coastal, 2 for lagoon and 3 for marine.

#### b) Determinants Of Transactional Sex

*i. Source of capital:* numeric value of 1 stands for personal savings, 2 for loan from cooperative, 3 for loan from friends, 4 for loan from relatives, 5 for personal savings and loan from friend, 6 for personal savings and loan from personal savings and 7 for personal savings and loan from cooperatives.

*ii. Amount loaned:* numeric value of 1 is used for N5,000 - N 10,000, 2 for N11,000 - N20,000, 3 for N 21,000 - N 30,000, 4 for N 40,000 - N 50,000, 5 for N51,000 – N100,000 and 6 for N101,000 and above.

*iii. Returns per time on investment:* numeric value of 1 stands for varied while 2 stands for no response.

*iv. Form of loan repayment:* numeric value of 1 stands for cash, 2 for kind and 3 for cash and kind.

*v. Type of kind payment:* numeric value of 1 connotes fish sale, 2 for sex, 3 for friendship and 4 for domestic work.

*vi. Convenience:* numeric value of 1 connotes very convenient, 2 for convenient and 3 for not convenient.

*vii. Penalty Involved:* numeric value of 1 is used for presence of penalty while 2 is for no penalty

*viii. Relationship between fisher-folks:* numeric value of 1 stands for Yes, 2 for No and 3 for No response.

*ix. Basis of trade transaction:* numeric value of 1 stands for credit, 2 for payment and 3 for both credit and payment.

*x. Factors leading to Transactional Sex:* the possible listed factors were rated using numeric value of 1 for Greed, 2 for Pleasure, 3 for Poverty, 4 for Social Status, 5 for No response and 6 for To get fish for sale.

*xi. Rating for each factor:* numeric value of 1 was used for Strongly Agreed, 2 for Agreed, 3 for Undecisive, 4 for Disagree and 5 for Strongly Disagree.

#### c) Effects Of Transactional Sex

*i. Sex outside marriage:* numeric value of 1 is used for Yes, 2 for No and 3 for No response.

*ii. If Yes, reason?:* numeric value 1 stands for pleasure and 2 stands for exchange medim.

*iii. Ever traded sex?:* numeric value of 1 is used for Yes, 2 for No and 3 for No response.

*iv. Ever used protection?:* numeric value of 1 is for Yes, 2 for No, 3 for No response and 4 for Not Always.

*v. Protection used:* numeric value of 1 stands for condom, 2 for no protection, 3 for traditional protection and 4 for withdrawal.

*vi. Awareness of STI'S:* numeric value of 1 stands for Yes, 2 for No and 3 for Not sure.

*vii. Ways of erasing STI:* numeric value of 1 stands for faithfulness to one's partner, 2 stands for condom use and 3 for traditional means.

*viii. Effects:* suggested effects are commercial loss for fishermen, exposure to STD, unwanted pregnancy, abortion, transfer of communicable disease and lack of respect between transactors. The different effects were rated with description to way of response. 1 stands for Strongly Agreed, 2 for Agreed, 3 for Undecisive, 4 for Disagree and 5 for Strongly Disagree.

### Statistical Analysis

Data generated from the questionnaires were pooled and subjected to Descriptive and Inferential analyses. SPSS model 16.0 software package was used to process the data derived.

#### Results

#### Descriptive Analysis

*Table 1* : Socioeconomic characteristics of the respondents in the study area

	F	%
<b>AGE</b>		
25-35yrs	10	20.0
36-45yrs	22	44.0
46-55yrs	10	20.0
56-65yrs	8	16.0
Total	50	100.0
<b>SEX</b>		
Male	30	60.0
Female	20	40.0
Total	50	100.0
<b>MARITALSTATUS</b>		
Single	6	12.0
Married	36	72.0
Separated/divorce	6	12.0
Widowed	2	4.0
Total	50	100.0
<b>SEASON OF FISH ABUNDANCE</b>		
Raining season	41	82.0
Dry season	9	18.0
Total	50	100.0
<b>SOURCE OF CAPITAL TO START BUSINESS</b>		
Personal saving	8	16.0
Loan from cooperative	19	38.0
Loan from friends	16	32.0
Loan from relatives	2	4.0
Personal saving and Loan from friends	4	8.0
Personal saving and loan form cooperative	1	2.0
Total	50	100.0
<b>LOANED CAPITAL</b>		
.00	7	14.0
N5,000.00-N10,000	3	6.0
N11,000.-N20,000	6	12.0
N21,000-N30,000	6	12.0
N51,000-N100,000	9	18.0
N101,000- Above	19	38.0
Total	50	100.0



TYPE OF KINDNESS	F	%
.00	19	38.0
Fish sale	16	32.0
Sex	2	4.0
Friendship	6	12.0
Help with domestics works of group member	3	6.0
Total	46	92.0
System	4	8.0
Total	50	100.0

*Table 2* : Reasons for going into transactional sex in fish marketing from the study area

	F	%
<b>Poverty</b>		
SA	17	34.0
A	21	42.0
UD	6	12.0
D	6	12.0
Total	50	100.0
<b>Greed</b>		
SA	33	66.0
A	8	16.0
D	7	14.0
SD	2	4.0
Total	50	100.0
<b>Pleasure</b>		
SA	2	4.0
A	30	60.0
D	17	34.0
SD	1	2.0
Total	50	100.0
<b>Inadequate capital</b>		
SA	7	14.0
A	33	66.0
UD	7	14.0
D	1	2.0
SD	2	4.0
Total	50	100.0
<b>Generosity</b>		
SA	11	22.0
A	4	8.0
UD	22	44.0
D	10	20.0
SD	3	6.0
Total	50	100.0
<b>Special likeness for fishermen</b>		
SA	20	40.0
A	12	24.0



UD	8	16.0
D	10	20.0
Total	50	100.0
<b>Traditional effect</b>		
SA	1	2.0
A	12	24.0
UD	17	34.0
D	18	36.0
SD	2	4.0
Total	50	100.0

*Table 3* : Resultant effects of transactional sex in fish marketing according to the respondents from the study area

	F	%
<b>Commercial loss on the part of fisherman</b>		
SA	6	12.0
A	32	64.0
D	11	22.0
SD	1	2.0
Total	50	100.0
<b>Exposure to sexually transmitted disease</b>		
SA	17	34.0
A	23	46.0
UD	2	4.0
D	8	16.0
Total	50	100.0
<b>Unwanted pregnancy</b>		
SA	11	22.0
A	24	48.0
UD	7	14.0
D	8	16.0
Total	50	100.0
<b>Abortion</b>		
SA	4	8.0
A	18	36.0
UD	8	16.0
D	20	40.0
Total	50	100.0
<b>Lack of respect between transactors</b>		
SA	9	18.0
A	27	54.0
UD	9	18.0
D	3	6.0
SD	2	4.0
Total	50	100.0

Statistical Analysis

Table 4 : Resultant effects of transactional sex in fish marketing according to the respondents from the study area.

	SA	A	UD	D	SD
Commercial loss on the part of fisherman	6 (12.0)	32 (64.0)		11 (22.0)	1 (2.0)
Exposure to sexually transmitted disease	17 (34.0)	23 (46.0)	2 (4.0)	8 (16.0)	
Unwanted pregnancy	11 (22)	24 (48)	7 (14)	8 (16)	
Abortion	4 (8)	18 (36)	8 (16)	20 (40)	
Lack of respect between transactors	9 (18)	27 (54)	9 (18)	3 (6)	2 (4)

Table 5 : ANOVA of effects of transactional sex on respondent in the study area.

a)

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	63.290	8	7.911	11.290	.000(a)
	Residual	28.730	41	.701		
	Total	92.020	49			

b)

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	3.220	.744		4.326	.000
	Poverty	.492	.233	.352	2.117	.040
	Greed	-.038	.148	-.034	-.256	.799
	For pleasure	-.153	.167	-.118	-.917	.365
	Inadequate capital	.733	.186	.450	3.937	.000
	Generosity	.471	.154	.405	3.058	.004
	Threat	-.186	.162	-.156	-1.151	.257
	Special likeness for the fishman	-.267	.198	-.227	-1.352	.184
	Tradition effects	-.464	.201	-.308	-2.308	.026

a Dependent Variable: Transsex

Table 6 : Test of significant difference on the reasons, occurrence and effect of transactional sex on respondent in the study area.

	SEX	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t	Sig.
Reasons	Male	30	18.3667	4.80290	-1.474	.147
	Female	20	20.4000	4.73953		
Transactional sex	Male	30	4.2667	1.41259	.798	.429
	Female	20	3.9500	1.31689		
Health	Male	30	11.3333	10.14833	-1.085	.283
	Female	20	14.6500	11.22157		



#### IV. DISCUSSIONS

The study site was chosen because apart from its relevance to fisheries, it is more of a rural area. This relates with the works of Varga (1996), Webb (1997), Luiz and Roets (1998) who affirmed that transactional sex occurs in township, rural areas and semi urban areas. 50 respondents selected for the interview is as a result of the sensitivity of the work. Previous work done on transactional sex by Minki et al (2004) required that small geographical locations be used for such studies. The ages of the respondents ranged between 36 and 45 years and formed 44% of the study population that were more informed about the occurrence of transactional sex possibly because it thrives more within that age group. This goes in line with the study done by Nzyoku et al (1997) which found out that young people were more prone to transactional sex activities. As against the findings from the work of Ali et al (2008) which revealed that the percentage of people involved in fish marketing fall within the age bracket of 20-30 above is about three times that of those within age bracket 40-50 above, this study recorded the same percentage of 20% for both age brackets.

Multiple sex partners confessed by some of the respondents as seen in the case of polygamy for men and women having extramarital affairs though in a monogamous relationship is a very good medium for transactional sex to occur. Castle and Konate's 1999 study supports this view as a socio-cultural factor that is present in Nigeria. From responses given to the interview guide by respondents, tradition believers especially men are most prone to transactional sex, Muslim men were more prone to it while Christians are less prone group due to different beliefs held by the different religious group on man-woman relationship. This is in accordance with the findings of Minki et al (2004) where they discovered that in eight out of the eleven countries they worked on, tradition believers are more prone to transactional sex than Christians while in seven of the eleven countries, Muslims are more engaged in transactional sex than Christians. The countries are sub Saharan African countries among which are Nigeria, Togo and Kenya to mention a few.

From findings, married women are less likely to engage in transactional sex when compared to single or once married women such as divorced, separated and widowed considering the admitting of transactional sex occurrence by the different female group. In six of the twelve countries on which Minki et al (2004) worked on specifically Nigeria, Togo, Kenya, Guinea, Niger and Zambia, percentage of ever married women engaged in transactional sex is 80% lesser than never married women. Also in countries like Chad, Mali, Zimbabwe and Central African Republic, percentage of ever married women involved in Transactional sex is 60%

lesser than those of single women. The works of Jonathan and Ethan(2008) also reflects that transactional sex is very present in the midst of divorced and separated who see themselves as survivals exchanging sex to survive.

The work of Adewale and Ikeola (2005) revealed that volume of market and income generated depends on seasonality of trade which also depend on seasonality of production supports what this study found out. In table 1, 82% of the respondent agreed that fish is more abundant in rainy season which implies more trade and more income at that time.

In support to findings made from this study, women are the major marketers of fish and they do so at small scale level or with little capital (Adewale and Ikeola 2005). They however have to lend money from friends, relatives, and fishermen if they want to make the business grow as formal credit institutions hardly lend out money to females (Moll et al 2001). Credit most times goes from fishermen to traders and rarely from traders to fishermen, these were affirmed on the field and work done by Adewale and Ikeola (2005) supports this. This creates a cordial relationship between the fishermen and fish traders and transactional sex could eventually result. Considering the large household size majorly recorded in my findings, women from poor household may see transactional sex as a way of augmenting what is being given them by the household head. This approves what is observed in Burkina-Faso by Minki et al (2004) that probability of women from poor household engaging in transactional sex is 118% higher than those from rich household and because poor household most times have large population.

According to WHO (2006), poverty, gender inequality are reasons that make people vulnerable to involvement in transactional sex and hence the risk of HIV/AIDS contraction. This could be seen from Table 2 where most percentage of the study population strongly agreed (34%) and agreed (42%) to poverty as a factor that could predetermine transactional sex and also the power the men has over them since they supply fish to the women for marketing because they are the ones who source it from the wild and could determine on what basis they dispose it. Research carried out by Minki et al (2004) suggests adverse economic conditions as a factor that could lead to transactional sex. This agrees with what is perceived on the field as the economic condition of most of the female respondent doesn't meet up to what is seen as their necessities.

The livelihood/survival strategies employed by the fish traders depend to a large extent on their age, educational background, income level, experience in the trade and seasonality of trade among others. Work done by Adewale and Ikeola (2005) supports this implying that all this factor work together to either suggest

Transactional sex to the trader or not. Whether or not to resolve to Transactional sex at times of constraint, factors such as indigenous knowledge, credit transaction, social capital, dependence on female friends for loan and network of trust helps the fish trader make her decision. The strict division of labour between fishermen and fish traders has made fish trade a source of income for women in the fish marketing sector, however institutional and cultural constraints notably lack of infrastructure and finance, polygamous household among others limit their economic activities and livelihood and hence make these women diversify as a survival strategy into things that could include transactional sex, Clark (1994).

According to Udong et al (2009), there was no formal financial and infrastructural support for the sector and these works translate to high transaction cost and low income creating a barrier to the women's success and livelihood security in the fishery sector. This could make them embrace transactional sex as a survival means. It could be seen in the analyzed filled interview guide that most of these women get the fish they sell on credit and only make payment after sales.

According to Clark (1994), household upkeep and children education lies mostly on women's shoulder in the rural community, hence most of the women in the market place struggle by all means to secure household livelihood, household upkeep and children's education and since they earn little, transactional sex is embraced. This was affirmed on the field. Considering the reasons why male and female go into transactional sex in the study area, the analysed data using t-test got for it a significant difference of 0.147 (Table 6) Of the reasons leading to transactional sex, poverty is very significant with a value of 0.040 from Table 5b. The present age of unemployment and poverty in Southern Africa may make many women rely on sexual exchange to support themselves financially (Ogden, 1996 and Schoepf, 1992) Even outside the African world, work done by Barker et al (1998) and Johnson (1997) on survival sex (sex for money or gift exchange) in United States of America reveals that it is done at times just to survive poverty. Greed has no significant ( $p > 0.05$ )  $F_{cal} = 0.799$  (Table 5b).

The significance of pleasure is little with a value of 0.365 from Table 5b.

Inadequate capital is greatly significant as it has a value of 0.000 from Table 5b. Work of Udong et al (2009) affirms that lack of infrastructure and finance, polygamy and patriarchy limit their economic activities and livelihood strategies and as a result, most women diversify as a survival strategy.

Generosity as one of the reasons for going into transactional sex in marketing fish in the study area was statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) with a value of 0.004 (Table 5b).

Threat as a reason for engaging in transactional sex has little significance of 0.259 (Table 5b). According to Janet (2002), women are at risk for violence because of factors that link resources exchange with sex.

Special likeness between fishermen and fish traders as a reason for transactional sex was significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) of 0.184 from Table 5b.

Use of traditional spell to bring about transactional sex has significance of 0.026 from Table 5b.

When frequency of involvement in transactional sex was analysed for both male and female respondent, there was no significant difference as a value of 0.429 was gotten using t-test from Table 5b.

The implication transactional sex had on the health of both the male and female respondent has a significant value of 0.283 from Table 6.

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