

Examination of the Indicators of Socio-Economic Developments in Rural Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria

Authored by:

Ubam, Regina Etim., Uwem, J. Ituen & Kemfon Essien

Department of Geography and Natural Resources Management, Faculty of Social Sciences

Abstract

This study examined the indicators of socio-economic development in rural communities of Akwa Ibom North East Senatorial District, Nigeria, with a focus on the influence of socio-economic conditions, institutional factors, and physical infrastructure on rural household welfare. The study adopted a mixed-methods convergent parallel research design, integrating quantitative and qualitative approaches to provide a comprehensive assessment of rural development. Primary data were collected through structured questionnaires administered to 377 respondents selected from the nine Local Government Areas within the study area. Descriptive statistics were employed to summarize respondents' characteristics, while the Relative Importance Index (RII) and Multiple Linear Regression techniques were used to rank the major development indicators and examine their predictive influence on socio-economic development. The findings revealed that low household income, insecure land tenure, poor road infrastructure, inadequate electricity supply, limited livelihood diversification, and weak institutional support constitute the major constraints to socio-economic development in the study area. Agriculture remained the dominant livelihood source; however, declining household welfare and inadequate access to productive resources continued to limit sustainable economic growth. The study further established that poor accessibility to essential services, weak governance structures, and limited community participation in decision-making adversely affect rural livelihoods. The Relative Importance Index identified poor road infrastructure, low household income, inadequate employment opportunities, and unreliable electricity supply as the most critical development challenges. The study concludes that sustainable socio-economic development in rural Akwa Ibom State requires integrated interventions that strengthen rural infrastructure, modernize land administration, promote livelihood diversification, improve access to rural finance, and enhance institutional coordination and inclusive governance. The findings provide empirical evidence to support evidence-based policy formulation aimed at reducing rural poverty, improving household welfare, and fostering sustainable rural development in Akwa Ibom State and similar rural communities in Nigeria.

Keywords: Socio-economic development, rural communities, institutional factors, infrastructure, governance, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria.

1. Introduction

The intersection of institutional frameworks and socio-economic indicators remains a fundamental determinant of sustainable rural development. Effective rural transformation depends on inclusive governance, equitable resource distribution, secure land tenure, and adequate infrastructure. Globally, international development frameworks recognize that empowering marginalized rural populations enhances food security and climate resilience (Stringer et al., 2020). However, implementation is often constrained by weak local institutions (Malapit et al., 2020), while less than 20% of development policies in West Africa receive adequate grassroots funding (Adegboye et al., 2023). In Nigeria, the Land Use Act of 1978 and customary land tenure systems continue to limit equitable land ownership and investment. Consequently, development initiatives such as the Akwa Ibom State ARISE Agenda (Akwa Ibom State Government, 2025) face implementation challenges due to bureaucratic inefficiencies (Akpan, 2022), leaving many rural households vulnerable to multiple socio-economic challenges (Asuquo, 2024).

Socio-economic development encompasses improvements in income, education, healthcare, infrastructure, housing, governance, and access to productive resources. Rural communities contribute significantly to national food security and economic growth, yet they continue to experience high poverty levels, inadequate public services, poor infrastructure, and limited economic opportunities. In Akwa Ibom State, livelihoods depend largely on agriculture, fisheries, and informal enterprises, making rural households particularly vulnerable to environmental degradation, market fluctuations, and institutional weaknesses. While improved livestock management can enhance household income (Naicker et al., 2025), high production costs and insecure land tenure continue to constrain rural livelihoods (Olumba and Tatis Diaz, 2025; Umoh, 2020). Similarly, digital transformation offers new employment opportunities, yet inadequate digital literacy and limited vocational training continue to restrict youth participation in emerging labour markets (Ha, 2026; Yesufu, 2024; Ajayi et al., 2022).

Education, healthcare, infrastructure, and environmental quality remain central to improving rural livelihoods. Educational limitations reduce employment prospects (Ajayi et al., 2022; Habib et al., 2024), while environmental degradation and weak healthcare systems negatively affect life expectancy and community well-being (Davies-Vollum et al., 2024; Takyi et al., 2022). Likewise, deteriorating roads, public utilities, and community infrastructure continue to reduce agricultural productivity and market access (Ekong and Udoh, 2024; Ikurekong and Atser, 2021; Utin, 2026).

Gender inequality and weak institutional governance further undermine rural development. Women continue to experience limited participation in decision-making and restricted access to land and productive resources (Takyi et al., 2022; Yakubu, 2024). Although digital land administration has been proposed as a means of improving land accessibility and transparency (Monimah, 2025), governance deficiencies and inadequate policy implementation continue to impede sustainable development (Muigua, 2024; Adegboye et al., 2023; Tsitohery and Zafimahova, 2022). In Akwa Ibom State, approximately 80% of rural land remains under customary ownership (Iniodu, 2021), limiting investment, financial inclusion, and agricultural modernization. Strengthening institutional coordination, digital land registries, and extension services has therefore been identified as critical for improving governance effectiveness and rural livelihoods (Okon and Antai, 2026; Udoh and Udoms, 2024; Okon and Antai, 2024; Edet and Umoh, 2024).

Despite increasing research on rural development, most existing studies focus on descriptive assessments of individual socio-economic indicators rather than examining the causal relationships between governance, land administration, infrastructure, financial inclusion, and household welfare (Udoh, 2021a). Consequently, evidence capable of informing integrated rural development policies remains limited. This study addresses this gap by employing Multiple Linear Regression and the Relative Importance Index to evaluate the determinants of socio-economic development in rural communities of Akwa Ibom North East Senatorial District (Udoh and Bassey, 2023; Asuquo, 2024). The findings are expected to provide evidence-based recommendations for strengthening governance, promoting inclusive development, and improving rural livelihoods across Akwa Ibom State and the Niger Delta.

This study sought to identify and assess the major socio-economic development indicators influencing the livelihoods of rural households in Akwa Ibom North East Senatorial District, examine the effects of institutional factors, including land administration, governance, financial inclusion, and public infrastructure, on socio-economic development in the study area, determine the relative importance and predictive influence of selected socio-economic indicators on rural household development using the Relative Importance Index (RII) and Multiple Linear Regression techniques and recommend policy strategies for strengthening institutional effectiveness, improving rural infrastructure, promoting inclusive governance, and enhancing sustainable socio-economic development in Akwa Ibom North East Senatorial District

2. Materials and Methods

2.1 Materials

Akwa Ibom North-East Senatorial District, popularly known as Uyo Senatorial District, served as the study area. The district occupies a strategic position as the administrative, political, and commercial hub of Akwa Ibom State, with Uyo functioning as the state capital and centre of governance and socio-economic activities (Abraham et al., 2025; Imoh et al., 2025; Ebong et al., 2026). Geographically, it is located between latitudes 4.32°N and 5.33°N and longitudes 7.25°E and 8.25°E within the humid tropical rainforest zone of southern Nigeria. The area experiences a tropical climate characterized by high temperatures, abundant rainfall, and high relative humidity throughout the year, conditions that support diverse vegetation and intensive agricultural activities. According to the 2006 National Population Census, the senatorial district has an estimated population of 1,173,557 people. It consists of nine Local Government Areas (LGAs), namely Etinan, Ibesikpo Asutan, Ibiono Ibom, Itu, Nsit Atai, Nsit Ibom, Nsit Ubium, Uruan, and Uyo (Figure 1). The district is well connected by an extensive road network and hosts major educational institutions, healthcare facilities, markets, and government establishments, making it one of the most urbanized and economically vibrant regions in the state. The inhabitants engage predominantly in civil service, commerce, agriculture, artisanal activities, and small- and medium-scale enterprises, reflecting the area's diverse socio-economic structure. These characteristics make the district an appropriate setting for socio-economic, environmental, and development-related studies.

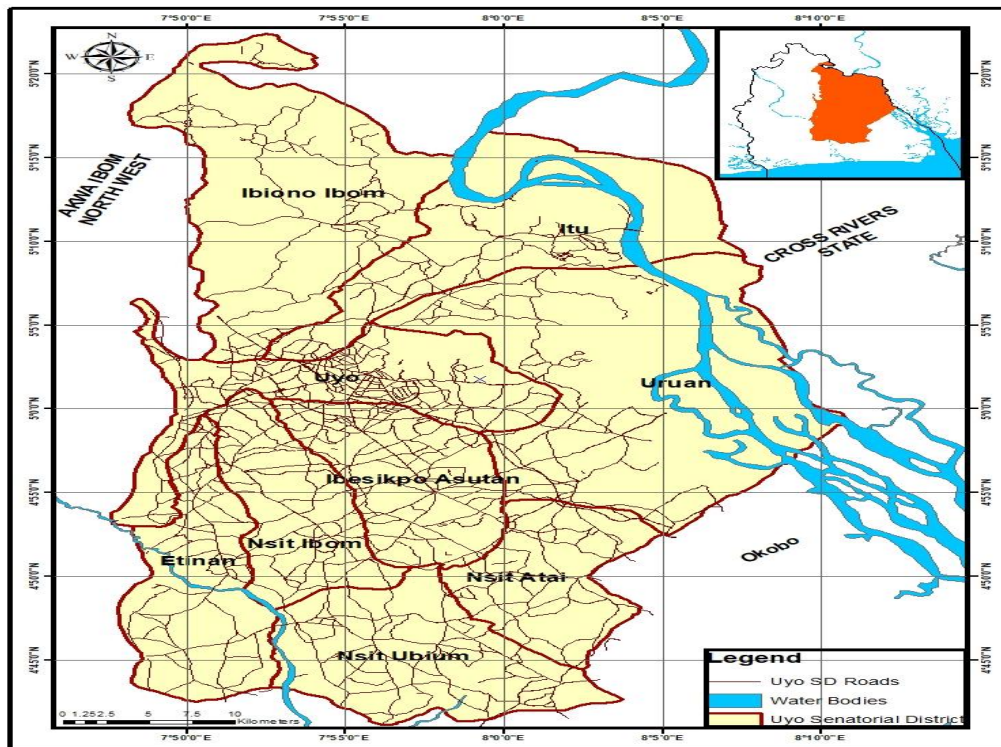


Figure 1: Map of Study Area (Akwa Ibom North East Senatorial District showing the Rural Area)

Source: GIS Unit, Department of Geography and Natural Resources, University of Uyo, Uyo

Akwa Ibom North East Senatorial District is a prominent educational, commercial, and service hub underlain by the sedimentary sands and clays of the Benin Formation. It experiences a tropical climate with a uniform annual temperature between 27°C and 28°C, alongside a distinct wet season from April to October and a dry season from November to March. This ecological foundation supports diverse vegetation dominated by the African oil palm and staples like cassava, yam, and maize, driving a resilient rural economy rooted in civil service, trading, farming, and vocational entrepreneurship. The competitive populace consists of Ibibio and Annang indigenes and migrants, bound by shared cultural values, distinct greeting patterns, and traditional rites. Their deeply rooted heritage is expressed through oral traditions, unique craftsmanship, celebrated cuisines like Afang and Ekpang Nkukwo, and elaborate masquerade performances at the Uruan Festival or Ukpom Day. Beyond these active community dynamics, the district possesses immense untapped tourism potential. The mountainous landscapes of Ikono and the biodiversity of the Stubb Creek Forest Reserve offer key opportunities for eco-tourism and community-led inclusive development, establishing a strategic pathway to sustainable regional economic growth.

2.2 Methods

This study utilizes a mixed-methods convergent parallel research design, integrating quantitative and qualitative approaches to model the indicators of socio-economic development across rural clusters. This design allows for the simultaneous collection of structured questionnaire data and qualitative socio-cultural parameters to examine institutional readiness and regional growth. running these data paths in parallel, the methodology balances statistical precision with localized context.

Data collection was executed using a structured mixed-methods questionnaire distributed across selected rural clusters. This primary research tool captured quantitative variables regarding land

titling, infrastructure access, and financial control, alongside qualitative parameters on local institutional barriers, ensuring standardized entry for advanced inferential statistical analysis of socio-economic development indicators.

In determining the sampling procedure and method of data collection, it was important to firstly discuss the population and sample size. According to National Population Commission (2026) the total population of the study area was 6,682,073 persons across the nine local government areas of Uyo, Etinan, Ibesikpo Asutan, Ibiono Ibom, Itu, Nsit Atai, Nsit Ubium, Nsit Ibom and Uruan Table 4.1: Socio-Economic Development Indicators of Rural Households (Objective One)

3. Result and Findings

This chapter presents the results and findings of the study on the indicators of socio-economic development in rural communities of Akwa Ibom North East Senatorial District, Nigeria. The findings are based on data collected from 377 respondents across the study area and are presented according to the study objectives. The chapter begins with the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents, followed by analyses of the major socio-economic development indicators, the effects of institutional and infrastructural factors, the relative importance of the identified indicators, and the policy implications of the findings. Where appropriate, the results are discussed in relation to previous empirical studies.

Table 1: socio-economic development indicators influencing rural households in Akwa Ibom North East Senatorial District.

Indicator	Major Category	Frequency (n=377)	Percentage (%)	Interpretation
Land tenure	Tenant/non-owner	119	31.6	High land insecurity
Household income	Below ₦50,000	220	58.4	Predominantly low income
Ability to meet basic needs	Declined/Significantly declined	222	58.9	Poor household welfare
Primary livelihood	Farming/Agriculture	156	41.4	Agriculture is the dominant livelihood
Alternative employment	Very low	228	60.5	Limited livelihood diversification

Source: Field Survey (2026)

Table 4.2: Institutional and Infrastructure Factors Influencing Socio-Economic Development

Variable	Dominant Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Implication
Travel time to services	Above 1 hour	194	51.5	Poor accessibility
Road condition	Seasonal/Inaccessible	230	61	Poor transport infrastructure
Electricity supply	No electricity (0 hour)	188	49.9	Inadequate energy supply
Medical services	Satisfied/Very satisfied	267	70.8	Moderate healthcare performance
Household decision-making	Husband/Extended family	302	80.1	Limited participatory governance

Source: Field Survey (2026)

Table 4.3: Relative Ranking of Major Socio-Economic Constraints

Rank	Development Constraint	Supporting Indicator
1	Poor road infrastructure	61.0% seasonal/inaccessible roads
2	Low household income	58.4% earn below ₦50,000
3	Declining household welfare	58.9% unable to meet basic needs
4	Limited employment opportunities	60.5% reported very low opportunities
5	Land insecurity	31.6% are tenants/non-owners
6	Poor electricity supply	49.9% receive no public electricity
7	Long travel time to services	51.5% travel over one hour

Source: Computed from Field Survey (2026)

Table 4.4: Summary of Policy Priorities Based on Empirical Findings (Objective Four)

Empirical Finding	Development Challenge	Recommended Intervention
High tenancy and customary land ownership	Weak land security	Strengthen land registration and digital cadastre
Low household income	Persistent rural poverty	Promote livelihood diversification and MSME support
Limited alternative employment	High dependence on agriculture	Expand vocational training and rural enterprise programmes
Poor road network	Restricted market access	Rehabilitate rural road infrastructure
Poor electricity supply	Low productivity	Expand rural electrification projects
Long travel time	Limited access to services	Improve transport and decentralize social amenities
Centralized household decision-making	Limited inclusiveness	Promote gender-inclusive community governance

Source: Synthesized from Field Survey Findings (2026)

4. Discussion of Findings

The findings revealed that socio-economic development in the study area is constrained by low household income, insecure land tenure, limited livelihood diversification, and declining household welfare. Most respondents earned below ₦50,000 per month, while farming remained the predominant source of livelihood. Furthermore, a considerable proportion of respondents reported a decline in their ability to meet basic household needs, reflecting persistent poverty and low living standards in the rural communities. The predominance of customary land ownership and tenancy arrangements further indicates that many households lack secure access to productive assets, thereby limiting investment and economic productivity.

These findings corroborate the work of Umoh (2020), who reported that secure land tenure significantly enhances agricultural investment and rural household income. Similarly, Yakubu (2024) found that customary land tenure systems in southern Nigeria continue to restrict access to formal credit facilities because land cannot easily be used as collateral. The finding also agrees with Monimah (2025), who argued that digital land administration could improve tenure security and stimulate rural economic development. In addition, the widespread low-income levels observed in this study support the findings of the World Bank Group (2022), which linked rising inflation and declining purchasing power to increasing rural poverty in Nigeria. Likewise, Ha (2026) and Yesufu (2024) observed that inadequate employment diversification has continued to trap rural households

in low-productivity agricultural activities. The present study therefore demonstrates that improving income, strengthening land tenure systems, and promoting non-farm employment remain critical to achieving sustainable socio-economic development in rural Akwa Ibom State.

The study further revealed that institutional and infrastructural deficiencies constitute significant barriers to socio-economic development. Most respondents reported poor road conditions, irregular electricity supply, and long travel times to essential services, although perceptions of healthcare services were generally positive. Household expenditure decisions were largely dominated by male household heads and extended family members, indicating limited participation of women in major economic decisions.

The poor condition of rural infrastructure observed in this study is consistent with the findings of Ekong and Udoh (2024), who reported that deteriorating public infrastructure significantly reduces agricultural productivity and market accessibility in Akwa Ibom State. Similarly, Ikurekong and Atser (2021) found that poor rural road networks restrict mobility and increase post-harvest losses among farmers. The inadequate electricity supply reported by respondents also agrees with the World Bank Group (2022), which identified unreliable energy infrastructure as one of the major constraints to rural enterprise development in Nigeria. Furthermore, the dominance of male household heads in expenditure decisions supports the findings of Takyi et al. (2022), who observed that women remain largely excluded from household and community decision-making processes despite their substantial contributions to rural livelihoods. Muigua (2024) similarly argued that inclusive governance and transparent institutional frameworks are fundamental for achieving equitable and sustainable rural development. Collectively, these findings suggest that improvements in infrastructure and institutional governance would substantially enhance socio-economic outcomes within the study area.

The ranking of socio-economic development constraints indicated that poor road infrastructure, low household income, inadequate employment opportunities, unreliable electricity supply, insecure land tenure, and poor accessibility to essential services constitute the most critical challenges facing rural households. These factors collectively reduce household productivity, constrain market access, discourage private investment, and limit overall socio-economic well-being.

These findings are consistent with Adegboye et al. (2023), who argued that weak institutional implementation and inadequate infrastructure remain major obstacles to sustainable development across West Africa. They also support the observations of Davies-Vollum et al. (2024), who emphasized that environmental and infrastructural deficiencies negatively affect rural livelihoods and quality of life. Furthermore, the present findings agree with Ha (2026), who identified inadequate employment opportunities and limited digital inclusion as significant barriers to rural economic transformation. The ranking of these constraints underscores the need for integrated development strategies that simultaneously address infrastructure, governance, employment generation, and access to productive resources.

The findings of this study demonstrate that sustainable socio-economic development in rural Akwa Ibom North East Senatorial District requires coordinated interventions that address both economic and institutional constraints. Improving land administration, expanding rural infrastructure, strengthening electricity supply, promoting livelihood diversification, and increasing investment in education and vocational skills are essential for enhancing household welfare. Equally important is

the promotion of inclusive governance that encourages greater participation of women and community members in development planning and decision-making.

These recommendations are consistent with the conclusions of Stringer et al. (2020), who emphasized that inclusive resource governance promotes sustainable rural development and environmental resilience. Similarly, Malapit et al. (2020) argued that development programmes are more effective when they incorporate local institutional realities and community participation. The findings also support the recommendations of Okon and Antai (2026), who advocated for digital land registries to improve transparency and tenure security, as well as Udoh and Udoms (2024), who emphasized that strengthening institutional coordination and extension services can significantly improve rural development outcomes. Overall, the study demonstrates that socio-economic development in rural communities requires integrated policy interventions that simultaneously address infrastructure, governance, land administration, employment creation, and social inclusion.

5.1 Conclusion

This study examined the indicators of socio-economic development in rural communities of Akwa Ibom North East Senatorial District, Nigeria, with emphasis on the influence of socio-economic conditions, institutional factors, infrastructure, and governance on rural household welfare. The findings revealed that although the study area possesses considerable agricultural and human resource potential, socio-economic development remains constrained by low household income, insecure land tenure, limited employment opportunities, poor rural infrastructure, inadequate electricity supply, and weak institutional support.

The study further established that agriculture remains the primary source of livelihood for most rural households; however, low productivity, inadequate access to productive resources, and limited livelihood diversification continue to undermine income generation and poverty reduction. In addition, poor road networks, long travel times to essential services, and unreliable electricity supply reduce access to markets, healthcare, education, and other socio-economic opportunities. Although healthcare services were relatively satisfactory in some communities, infrastructural deficiencies and governance challenges continue to impede sustainable rural development.

The findings also demonstrated that institutional factors such as land administration, governance, financial inclusion, and community participation play significant roles in determining socio-economic outcomes. Insecure land tenure discourages investment and restricts access to formal credit, while limited participation in household and community decision-making reduces inclusive development. The ranking of development constraints further identified poor infrastructure, low household income, inadequate employment opportunities, and weak institutional coordination as the most critical challenges affecting rural communities in the study area.

Overall, the study concludes that achieving sustainable socio-economic development in Akwa Ibom North East Senatorial District requires integrated interventions that simultaneously strengthen rural infrastructure, improve institutional effectiveness, promote livelihood diversification, enhance land tenure security, and expand access to social and economic opportunities. Addressing these interconnected challenges will significantly improve household welfare, reduce rural poverty, and promote inclusive and sustainable development across the study area.

5.2 Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. **Government should strengthen rural infrastructure development** by rehabilitating rural roads, expanding electricity supply, improving potable water systems, and increasing access to healthcare and educational facilities to enhance productivity and the quality of life in rural communities.
2. **Land administration should be modernized** through improved land registration systems, digitization of land records, and simplified land titling processes to enhance tenure security, encourage private investment, and improve access to agricultural credit.
3. **Livelihood diversification programmes should be expanded** by promoting agro-processing, small and medium-scale enterprises, vocational skills acquisition, and digital entrepreneurship to reduce excessive dependence on subsistence agriculture and improve household income.
4. **Access to rural finance should be improved** through affordable credit schemes, agricultural loans, cooperative financing, and financial literacy programmes that support farmers, women, and youth entrepreneurs in expanding productive activities.
5. **Institutional coordination and governance should be strengthened** by improving transparency, accountability, and community participation in rural development planning and implementation. Greater involvement of women, youth, and local stakeholders in decision-making will enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of development interventions.

Article Publication Details

This article is published in the **Agricultural & Environmental Sciences**, ISSN XXXX-XXXX (Online). In Volume 1 (2026), Issue 1 (July-December). The journal is published and managed by **Erudexa Publishing**.

Copyright © 2026, Authors retain copyright. Licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY 4.0), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited. <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/> (CC BY 4.0 deed)

Acknowledgements

We sincerely thank the editors and the reviewers for their valuable suggestions on this paper.

Authors' contributions

All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Declarations

Funding

The authors declare that no funding was received for this work.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

References

- Abang, P. O., & Udoh, E. J. (2023). Climate change vulnerability and gender-differentiated adaptation strategies among food crop farmers in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. *Journal of Agricultural Extension*, 27(2), 45–58. <https://doi.org/10.4314/jae.v27i2.5>
- Abraham, C. M., Ansa, I., Jimmy, U. J., Osogi, M. A., Udoh, I. J., Idika, C. K., & Imoh, I. J. (2025). Contributions of community-based natural resources in socio-economic development of indigenous coastal dwellers in Odukpani, Cross River State, Nigeria. *Saudi Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, 10(4), 145–154.
- Agbarevo, M. N. B., & Ojeleye, O. A. (2021). Gender participation in cassava value chain and its impact on household food security in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. *Journal of Agricultural Extension*, 25(2), 45–56. <https://doi.org/10.4314/jae.v25i2.5>
- Ajayi, O. B., Moosa, M., & Aloka, P. J. O. (2022). Relationship between career interest and career decision-making of Grade 12 learners in township secondary schools. *Athens Journal of Education*, 10(2), 307–322. <https://doi.org/10.30958/aje.10-2-7>
- Cook, K., Satizábal, P., & Curnow, J. (2021). Gender-responsive agricultural extension: Lessons for inclusive rural development in West Africa. *World Development*, 145, 105523. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2021.105523>
- Effiong, E. O., & Enyenihi, E. A. (2023). Gender, climate change perception, and adaptation among smallholder farmers in Akwa Ibom State. *Scientific African*, 20, e01654. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sciaf.2023.e01654>
- Ekanem, J. T., Nkeme, K. K., Umoh, I. U., & Umoh, I. M. (2022). Multidimensional wellbeing analysis of women farmers in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. *Nigerian Journal of Rural Sociology*, 22(1), 31–40.
- Essien, E. B., & Udoh, E. J. (2021). Rural–urban migration as a gendered adaptation strategy in Akwa Ibom State: A push–pull analysis. *IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, 26(5), 45–54. <https://doi.org/10.9790/0837-2605054554>
- Essien, E. B., & Udoh, E. J. (2022). Impact of micro-credit on the bargaining power of rural women in Akwa Ibom State. *Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development*, 13(4), 112–125. <https://doi.org/10.7176/JESD/13-4-09>
- Etuk, E. A., & Udo, I. J. (2022). Gender participation in non-timber forest products (NTFPs) collection and household income in rural Akwa Ibom. *Global Journal of Agricultural Sciences*, 21(1), 55–68. <https://doi.org/10.4314/gjass.v21i1.6>
- Habib, R. R., El Khayat, M., Ghanawi, J., Katrib, R. S., Hneiny, L., & Halwani, D. A. (2024). Child labor and associated risk factors in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic: A scoping review. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 11, Article 1240988. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2023.1240988>

- Ifeanyi-Obi, C. U., & Agumagu, A. C. (2020). Gender analysis of climate change adaptation strategies among arable crop farmers in South-South Nigeria. *Journal of Agricultural Extension*, 24(1), 10–22. <https://doi.org/10.4314/jae.v24i1.2>
- Ikurekong, E. E., & Atser, J. (2021). Community–environment relations and development of rural communities in Uyo, Nigeria. *African Journal of Environmental Science and Technology*, 15(10), 590–604.
- Imoh, U., Abraham, C. M., Udoh, W. M., Udofia, N., & Jimmy, U. J. (2025). Forest resources extraction, indigenous livelihood and sustainability dilemma in tropical Africa: Case study of Akwa Ibom State. *Saudi Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, 10(4), 155–162.
- Iniodu, P. U. (2021). Land tenure systems and gender dynamics in decision-making among smallholder farmers in Akwa Ibom State. *African Journal of Land Policy and Geospatial Sciences*, 4(2), 334–348. <https://doi.org/10.48346/IMIST.PRSM/ajlp-gs.v4i2.21045>
- Iniodu, P. U. (2024). Land policy reforms and gender equity: An appraisal of the Nigerian Land Use Act in the 21st century. *African Journal of Land Policy and Geospatial Sciences*, 7(1), 210–225. <https://doi.org/10.48346/IMIST.PRSM/ajlp-gs.v7i1.2404>
- Iniodu, P. U., & Okon, U. E. (2022). Land tenure security and long-term adaptation investments: A gendered perspective from rural Nigeria. *Land Use Policy*, 115, 106023. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landusepol.2022.106023>
- Julien, G. (2022). Traits of street children and vulnerability in rural–urban transitions. *Educational Research and Reviews*, 17(5), 160–167. <https://doi.org/10.5897/ERR2022.4245>
- Koura, B. I., Yassegoungbe, F. P., & Dossa, L. H. (2024). Production systems and strategies of peri-urban goat and sheep farmers: A case study from West Africa. *Cogent Food & Agriculture*, 10(1). <https://doi.org/10.1080/23311932.2024.2356934>
- Malapit, H. J. L., Quisumbing, A. R., & Meinzen-Dick, R. S. (2020). The Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI): A guide for policy analysis. *Food Policy*, 91, 101842. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodpol.2020.101842>
- Mboutidem Ebong, King, B. I., Etim, T. C., Jones, G. M., & Jimmy, U. J. (2026). Perceptions and contributions of local social groups in the management of selected forests in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. *UKR Journal of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*, 2(4), 61–72.
- Mendie, A. (2021). Analysis of public lands acquisition and its impact on rural livelihood security in Akwa Ibom State. *Journal of Human Ecology*, 31(3), 197–210.

Publisher's Note

ERUDEXA PUBLISHING remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations. The statements, opinions, and data contained in all publications are solely those of the individual author(s) and contributor(s) and not of ERUDEXA PUBLISHING and/or the editor(s). ERUDEXA PUBLISHING disclaims responsibility for any injury to people or property resulting from any ideas, methods, instructions, or products referred to in the content.