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Full Length Research Paper

Determinants of demand for none agricultural rural employment (NARE) in Uganda: The case of the influx of motor cyclists (bodaboda) in Ntungamo District

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Agriculture is an important sector in Uganda's economy because of its contribution to employment, exports and Gross Domestic Product. However, agricultural production has been declining over the past three decades. One of the reasons for this decline has been attributed to gross shift of the young and energetic youths as they seek for non-agricultural rural employment. The current study sought to investigate factors responsible for this trend using the increasing motorcycle riding business in Uganda as a case study. A sample of 226 riders was selected using simple random sampling from one sub-county. Findings showed that both push and pull factors were significant in explaining demand for non-agricultural rural employment. Whereas there are inhibitive low agricultural prices and land tenure systems, the study found attractive conditions in non-agricultural employment such as quick returns and social infrastructures that pull the youths from agriculture. The study recommended that the government and national research systems ought to develop an attractive environment to make agriculture "cool" for the youths as has been suggested in some circles. This could involve developing quick maturing crops, social amenities and mechanization of agriculture at a small scale level that targets the youths.

Keywords: Pull factors, push factors, rural employment, bodaboda, Uganda.

INTRODUCTION

Agricultural sector forms a substantial proportion of Uganda's economy because it employs 64.7% of the working population and contributes 22.3% of the GDP (UBOS, 2014). At least 72 percent of the labor force and 87 percent of the poor who work are involved in agriculture related activities. However, Uganda's agricultural sector has been plagued with underperformance. The agricultural productivity and the overall growth rate in the sector have been declining over the last two decades due to high costs of production, use of rudimentary tools, limited and sometimes irrelevant extension services, over dependency on nature, lack of access to markets, poor land tenure systems and limited application of technology and innovation. The majority of the victims of this agrarian crisis in Uganda are peasants living in rural areas and as a result many people have been engulfed in the cycle of poverty with many increasingly becoming unable to feed themselves (Mkandawire & Matlosa, 1993). Due to these challenges, there has been considerable economic diversification over the last 20 years, with households today significantly more likely to have multiple sources of income. As a consequence, about 43 percent of Ugandans obtain their income from non-agricultural enterprises (MFPED,

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2014). From the 1990s, one of the most important non-agricultural sources of income in Uganda is that of riding motor cycles popularly known as “bodaboda”. It is estimated that about 2.9 percent of the total population derives their livelihood from this activity. Majority of these are between the ages of 25-29 years (UBOS, 2014). The Bodaboda as a mode of transport began in the late 1960s at the Uganda-Kenya boarder at a place called Busia in Eastern Uganda (Malmberg, 1994). The term was imported from the English language “boarder to boarder” in which motor cycles were used to move the people with their goods and services from and to Kenya. Since then, the bodaboda transport has spread to the entire East African region because of its convenience and ability to maneuver through heavy traffic jam and rural poor roads (Malmberg, 1994). Many youths have joined the business for employment in trading centers and peri-urban areas where essential services such as health, education, water, fuel and markets are relatively better leaving the rural agricultural activities to their spouses and the elderly whose productivity is low. The bodaboda business has so expanded that it could become the second largest mode of employment in Uganda after agriculture (Standard Bank Report, 2013). As a result, majority of the youths have shifted their source of livelihood from agriculture which is the mainstay of Uganda’s economy to this lucrative none agricultural rural employment.

The shift into the Boda-Boda business has been precipitated by the challenges faced by the youths which range from inadequate employment opportunities, inappropriate vocational training, inadequate access to reliable markets, agricultural production resources and limited support from government and other farming organizations (FAO, 2013; World Bank, 2014; Lucy and John (2016). Scholars such as Davis and Pearce (2000) assert that the demand for non-agricultural employment emanate from push factors such as population growth, scarcity of arable land and decreasing access to fertile land which has led to declining farm productivity and farming returns. Akpan (2010) while finding out the determinants of youth participation in agriculture in the southern region of Nigeria have outlined a number of impediments ranging from insufficient access to tractors & other farm inputs, insufficient land for farming, lack of agricultural insurance, poor returns to farming investment, lack of ready market and continuous poor agricultural harvest**.** The collapse of financial institutions characterized by lack of agricultural insurance system forces people to spread risks to non-farm activities. This form the fact that agriculture still depends on nature and in circumstances of changes in climatic conditions, there are adverse effects. This has led to the development of off-farm activities (Zahonogo, 2011). This assertion had earlier been confirmed by Kimhi (1998) who found that environmental variables had considerable effects on the participation in non-farm activities and that, as a result, these rendered poor households capable of mitigating the effects of the fluctuations of their farm income by engaging in a diversification of sources of income. Adekunle, et al. (2009) have previously asserted that the attitude and perception that youths have on agriculture has done a lot in shifting them to non-agricultural employment. They argue that perceptions of better jobs in urban areas, inadequate social amenities in agrarian areas and poor rural standards of living are the principal factors for the shift to non-agricultural employment in peri-urban areas. Although the shift to non-agricultural employment has been blamed on the push factors, recent empirical studies pinpoint pull factors as principal causes of this increasing phenomenon. Akpan (2010) has identified pull factors such as greater job opportunities due to the available manufacturing industries in cities and general easy life in urban areas. Davis and Pearce (2000) further identified pull factors such as high returns on labour in the off farm employment, lower risk compared to on-farm activities, economic opportunities, and general easy urban life that appeals to younger people. In addition to pull and push factors, studies have shown that people’s demographic characteristics have a profound effect on their willingness to either continue in the agricultural sector or seek employment elsewhere. These social and demographic characteristics have been empirically found to be age, education, marital status, household size and youth dependent ratio (Akpan, 2010). The foregoing literature therefore shows that factors determining the demand for non-agricultural rural employment can be categorized as either push and pull factors or as social, economic and environmental factors.

Whereas the determinants of rural non-agricultural employment and its adverse effects have been established in academic literature, there has been little focus on a specific urban activity where people shift to after quitting agricultural employment. This is necessary for comparing conditions between the agricultural and non-agricultural employment. In an attempt to address this paucity of knowledge, the current study intends to establish both the push and pull factors to non-agricultural rural employment with a special emphasis on boda-boda employment in the semi-urban areas.

This study makes use of migration conceptual framework to explain the determinants of demand for non-agricultural rural employment. It is hypothesized that the youths shift from agriculture and seek for non-agricultural employment due to both pull and push factors (Lewis, 1954; and Harris and Todaro, 1970). The push factors are all those unfavorable conditions in the agricultural and rural sector such as declining soil fertility, lack of land, lack of markets and information and oppressive political policies that work against the youths. On the other hand, the pull factors are those conditions in urban areas such as better employment opportunities, better social amenities, information and general “easy life”

that work in favor of youths.

DATA AND METHODS

Study area and population

The study was conducted in Nyakyera sub-county in Ntungamo district located in western Uganda. At least 85 percent of the population in the sub-county depends on subsistence agriculture. The sub-county was purposively selected because of its rural nature and the fact that bodaboda is the most common mode of transport in the area with a total of 681 motorcycles majority of which are used as bodabodas. A sample of 242 bodaboda riders was selected using Krejcie and Morgan (1970) table. A simple random sampling technique was used to get the respondents.

Data analysis

Both primary and secondary data were collected. This involved qualitative and quantitative data collection methods. Quantitative data were gathered using questionnaire, while qualitative data were collected through key informant interviews and Focused Group Discussions. The quantitative data collected were analyzed using SPSS (23) statistical software and the results are explained using descriptive statistics and Pearson Chi square test for possible explanation of statistical significant difference between variables with 95% confidence interval and 5% degree of freedom that is, P value of less than 0.05 is considered to be significant. Qualitative data were analyzed by using content analysis.

RESULTS

Demographic characteristics

In this study, the unit of analysis was the individual bodaboda rider. We got response from 226 respondents out of the sample size of 242 constituting a response rate of 93%. It should be noted that the bodaboda business is a male dominated activity and indeed all the 226 respondents were males. This implies that the mean, mode and median were all equal to one whereas the standard deviation was 0.00. In terms of age, it was discovered that the majority of the riders are in the age bracket of 20-29 years (49.6%). For education, majority (52.7%) were primary school drop outs followed by those who did not attend formal education at all (18.6%). From the study it was clear that as education increases, the percentage of people employed in the bodaboda business declines as observed in table 1. Only 5.8% of the respondents had reached tertiary education level.

Diversification of income among the motor cyclists

One of the reasons for the increasing demand for non-agricultural income is to guard against the risks associated with the agricultural sector. Although the majority of cyclists did not have another source of income, it is clear from the study that farming still remains a major source of income for the motor cyclists who choose to diversify their incomes. It was noted that 41.2% of the respondents are engaged in agriculture in addition to riding the motor cycles whereas 47.3% of the respondents had only bodaboda as their source of income. Only 4.9% and 6.6% were noted to get some incomes from the shops and other activities respectively as indicated in table 2.

The study also showed that there is a correlation between age and demand for off farm rural activities (r=0.296). Majority of the young and unmarried bodaboda riders were found to be engaged only in the bodaboda. This implies that as bodaboda cyclists advance in age, they tend to diversify their sources of income. This owes to the fact that married cyclists increase their labor force upon getting wives and find it easier to engage in a multiplicity of activities such as agriculture and retail shops. These findings are in agreement with a number of scholars such as; De Janvry & Sadoulet(2001) and Escobal (2001) who found out people's demographic characteristics such as their education, age and their marital status important factors influencing demand for off farm activities.

Ownership of motor cycles and duration spent in the business

It was established that majority of the respondents (63.3%) do hire the motor cycles whereas the rest either individually own motor cycles or combine resources to buy one motor cycle that they ride in shifts. In such cases, one person uses it during the day and hands it over to another person in the evening. It was further established that majority of the respondents (44.2%) had been riding the bodaboda for more than three years at the time of data collection. The cross tabulation of ownership and duration spent in the business (table 4)showed that majority of those who had spent more than three years were still hiring the motor cycles. The argument was that the motor cycles are expensive and to buy them, one needs to sell their immovable assets including land. It is therefore clear that even when people try to seek for non-agricultural incomes, the means for such incomes are not readily available.

Push and pull factors to the BodaBoda

The important question for this study was to find out whether the pull and push factors are significant in

Table 1. Demographic characteristics.

Variable	Categories	Freq	Percent	Cumulative Percent	Std Dev.
Age	Below 20	32	14.2	14.2	.85744
	20-29	112	49.6	63.7	
	20-39	62	27.4	91.2	
	40-49	17	7.5	98.7	
	50 and above	3	1.3	100	
	Total	**226**	**100**		
Education	None	42	18.6	18.6	1.04379
	Primary	119	52.7	71.2	
	O level	34	15	86.3	
	A level	18	8	94.2	
	Tertiary	13	5.8	100	
	Total	**226**	**100**		
Marital status	Single	118	52.2	52.2	.56749
	Married	100	44.2	96.5	
	Divorced	8	3.5	100	
	Total	**226**	**100**		

Source: Primary data.

Table 2. Diversification of income.

		Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent	Std. Dev.
Other income sources	Only bodaboda	107	47.3	47.3	.83991
	Farming	93	41.2	88.5	
	Shop	11	4.9	93.4	
	Others	15	6.6	100.0	
	Total	**226**	**100.0**		

Source: Primary data.

Table 3. Correlation between age and demand for off farm activities.

		Age of respondents	Off farm activities
Age of respondents	Pearson Correlation	1	.070
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.296
	Sum of Squares and Cross-products	165.420	11.319
	Covariance	.735	.050
	N	226	226
Off farm activities	Pearson Correlation	.070	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.296	
	Sum of Squares and Cross-products	11.319	158.726
	Covariance	.050	.705
	N	**226**	**226**

Source: Primary data.

explaining the demand for of farm income using bodaboda riding as a case study (table 5). These factors under study included land availability and access, market accessibility for agricultural products, the inherent nature of agriculture as compared to off farm activities and the available social amenities in non-agricultural sectors. Findings reveal that these factors are significant in explaining the demand for bodaboda riding as a non-agricultural source of income as seen in table 5. The push factors ranged from lack of access to fertile land,

Table 4. BodaBoda ownership and duration spent in the business.

		Time spent in bodaboda				
		One year	Two years	Three years	More than three years	**Total**
Ownership	Self owned	6	15	16	21	58(**25.7%)**
	Hired	19	47	10	67	143(**63.3%)**
	Partly owned	2	8	3	12	25(**11.1%)**
Total		27(**11.9%)**	70(**31.0%)**	29(**12.8%)**	100(**44.2%)**	226(**100%**)

Source: Primary data.

Table 5. Statistical significance of pull and push factors.

	Land	**Market**	**Nature of agric.**	**Services**	**Nature of bobaboda**
Chi-Square	184.973[a]	146.920[b]	135.832[c]	163.071[a]	144.088[d]
df	14	13	10	14	9
Asymp. Sig.	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5. The minimum expected cell frequency is 15.1.
b. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5. The minimum expected cell frequency is 16.1.
c. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5. The minimum expected cell frequency is 20.5.
d. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5. The minimum expected cell frequency is 22.6.

Table 6. Response on land availability and accessibility Response.

I have no land at all		**Freq**	**Percent**	**Valid Percent**	**Cumulative Percent**	**Mean**	**Std. Dev.**
Valid	Strongly disagree	113	50.0	50.0	50.0	2.0442	1.31919
	Disagree	52	23.0	23.0	73.0		
	Neutral	15	6.6	6.6	79.6		
	Agree	30	13.3	13.3	92.9		
	Strongly agree	16	7.1	7.1	100.0		
	Total	**226**	**100.0**	**100.0**			
Agricultural land is not fertile							
Valid	Strongly disagree	28	12.4	12.4	12.4	3.3938	1.49064
	Disagree	54	23.9	23.9	36.3		
	Neutral	30	13.3	13.3	49.6		
	Agree	29	12.8	12.8	62.4		
	Strongly agree	85	37.6	37.6	100.0		
	Total	**226**	**100.0**	**100.0**			
Land is owned by the whole family							
Valid	Strongly disagree	16	7.1	7.1	7.1	4.2965	1.15304
	Disagree	7	3.1	3.1	10.2		
	Neutral	9	4.0	4.0	14.2		
	Agree	56	24.8	24.8	38.9		
	Strongly agree	138	61.1	61.1	100.0		
	Total	**226**	**100.0**	**100.0**			
My family cannot allow me to use their land							
Valid	Strongly disagree	98	43.4	43.4	43.4	2.0487	1.26573
	Disagree	77	34.1	34.1	77.4		
	Neutral	12	5.3	5.3	82.7		
	Agree	20	8.8	8.8	91.6		
	Strongly agree	19	8.4	8.4	100.0		
	Total	**226**	**100.0**	**100.0**			

Source: Primary data.

lack of information on markets for agricultural products and the nature of rural agriculture that requires too much labor and the long duration thatfarmers have to endure before the returns are realized. In fact, majority of the

Table 7. Response on markets.

Response		Freq	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent	Mean	Std. Dev.
There is no market for agric. products							
Valid	Strongly disagree	15	6.6	6.6	6.6	3.8628	1.35113
	Disagree	36	15.9	15.9	22.6		
	Neutral	25	11.1	11.1	33.6		
	Agree	39	17.3	17.3	50.9		
	Strongly agree	111	49.1	49.1	100.0		
	Total	**226**	**100.0**	**100.0**			
Prices for agricultural products are too low							
Valid	Strongly disagree	10	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.1422	1.16007
	Disagree	22	9.7	9.8	14.2		
	Neutral	11	4.9	4.9	19.1		
	Agree	65	28.8	28.9	48.0		
	Strongly agree	117	51.8	52.0	100.0		
	Total	225	99.6	100.0			
Missing		1	.4				
Total		**226**	**100.0**				
There is limited information on prices for agric. products							
Valid	Strongly disagree	41	18.1	18.1	18.1	2.0841	.90284
	Disagree	156	69.0	69.0	87.2		
	Neutral	9	4.0	4.0	91.2		
	Agree	9	4.0	4.0	95.1		
	Strongly agree	11	4.9	4.9	100.0		
	Total	**226**	**100.0**	**100.0**			
Prices for agric. Products fluctuate							
Valid	Strongly disagree	21	9.3	9.3	9.3	3.5487	1.17750
	Disagree	32	14.2	14.2	23.5		
	Neutral	8	3.5	3.5	27.0		
	Agree	132	58.4	58.4	85.4		
	Strongly agree	33	14.6	14.6	100.0		
	Total	**226**	**100.0**	**100.0**			

Source: Primary data.

respondents (50%) disagreed not having land at all whereas the majority (37.6%) pointed out land not being fertile for agricultural production. The pull factors on the other hand ranged from all those social and economic opportunities that exist in the semi-rural areas that persuade the young people from the agricultural activities. They included the accessibility of better medical care, entertainment and opportunities for getting other paying jobs especially for the educated youths.

Land availability and accessibility

Findings from the study (table 6)indicated that lack of land (Mean=2.0442 and Std. Dev.=1.31919) though a cause of demand for bodaboda is not the major issue. A large percentage of the respondents disagreed not having land at all but strongly pointed out loss of soil fertility (Mean=3.3938 and Std.Dev. =1.49064) and traditional ownership of land (Mean= 4.2965and Std. Dev. =1.15304) where land is owned by the entire family as the principal causes of the agrarian crisis that results into shift in the non-agricultural rural employment.

Markets for agricultural products

In addition to lack of markets for agricultural products (Std. Dev. 1.35113 and Mean 3.8628), other issues surrounding markets included low prices (Std. Dev.=1.16007 and Mean=1.16007) and price fluctuations (Std.Dev.= 1.17750 and Mean=3.5487). However, respondents disagreed having limited information on markets and prices (Std. Dev. =.90284, Mean=2.0841). Sixty nine percent (69%) disagreed that there is limited information on markets and prices (Table 7).

Pull factors into non-agricultural rural employment

The major pull factors ranged from the available social amenities such as schools and medical care that exist in

Table 8. Response on pull factors.

Response							
I came looking for clean running water		**Freq**	**Percent**	**Valid Percent**	**Cumulative Percent**	**Mean**	**Std. Dev.**
Valid	Strongly disagree	24	10.6	10.6	10.6	2.5133	1.23731
	Disagree	148	65.5	65.5	76.1		
	Neutral	2	.9	.9	77.0		
	Agree	18	8.0	8.0	85.0		
	Strongly agree	34	15.0	15.0	100.0		
	Total	**226**	**100.0**	**100.0**			
There are good schools in the trading Centre							
Valid	Strongly disagree	10	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.2389	1.19833
	Disagree	24	10.6	10.6	15.0		
	Neutral	9	4.0	4.0	19.0		
	Agree	42	18.6	18.6	37.6		
	Strongly agree	141	62.4	62.4	100.0		
	Total	**226**	**100.0**	**100.0**			
There is access to entertainment							
Valid	Strongly disagree	9	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.2257	1.21379
	Disagree	28	12.4	12.4	16.4		
	Neutral	8	3.5	3.5	19.9		
	Agree	39	17.3	17.3	37.2		
	Strongly agree	142	62.8	62.8	100.0		
	Total	**226**	**100.0**	**100.0**			
Bodaboda gives quick money							
Valid	Strongly disagree	9	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.1903	1.22714
	Disagree	29	12.8	12.8	16.8		
	Neutral	11	4.9	4.9	21.7		
	Agree	38	16.8	16.8	38.5		
	Strongly agree	139	61.5	61.5	100.0		
	Total	**226**	**100.0**	**100.0**			
Bodaboda is a clean business							
Valid	Strongly disagree	10	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.2168	1.22270
	Disagree	27	11.9	11.9	16.4		
	Neutral	8	3.5	3.5	19.9		
	Agree	40	17.7	17.7	37.6		
	Strongly agree	141	62.4	62.4	100.0		
	Total	**226**	**100.0**	**100.0**			

Source: Primary data.

the trading centers to the nature of the bodaboda riding which respondents considered as clean while at the same time giving quick returns as compared to agriculture. As indicated in table 8, the major social services that pull young people to the trading centers include entertainment especially sports and access to good schools. However, access to clean and running water was not a major pull factor. This is because under the gender division of labor in rural areas, fetching water is not a core duty of husbands and therefore cannot affect their migrations.

From the results in table 8, the nature of the bodaboda business (Mean=4.2168, Std. dev. =1.22270); quick daily incomes (Mean=4.1903, Std. Dev. =1.22714), access to entertainment (Mean=4.2257, Std. dev. =1.21379), Access to good schools (Mean=4.2389, Std. Dev. =1.19833) as the major pull factors. Access to clean running water with Mean 2.5133 and Std. Dev.1.23731was however noted to be among the least pull factors.

DISCUSSION

The correlation between age and demand for off farm activities can be explained by the desire to spread risks owing to the fact that the old and married respondents were found to have extra responsibilities of feeding their

families. For this category, non-farm activities do notprovide full-time employment but are rather taken up to augment household incomes during slack seasons of agricultural activities. This is used as a stop gap measure to take care of their families in case incomes in bodaboda are low. This is also explained by the fact that the husbands leave their wives in rural areas in the farm activities as they seek for easy to do activities in the trading centers. The study found a link between other demographic characteristics such as education with the demand for the bodaboda business. As previously found by Akpan (2010), the non-farm employment in the rural area was largely dominated by the youths who did not go far in the formal education. This is because it is considered as one of the few available options outside agriculture for the less educated. Even the few who had completed tertiary education considered it as a temporary job helping them to survive as they look for other employment opportunities. Of the thirteen respondents who had completed tertiary education, eleven of them constituting 84% strongly agreed that they were temporarily riding bodaboda as they look for jobs that suit their qualifications due to economic opportunities in urban areas.

There was a significant relationship between access to markets for agricultural commodities and participation in farm activities hence it influenced demand for non-agricultural rural employment. It was established that the youths perceive agricultural products as having no markets and constant price fluctuations. These findings are in agreement with (FAO, 2013) and recent findings by Lucy and John (2016) who found significant positive relationship between youth access to markets for agricultural products and their participation in agriculture. Access to marketing information regarding input and output prices, price fluctuations and changes in consumer demand go a long way in keeping youths in the agricultural employment (Kimaro, 2015). Although lack of reliable markets for agricultural output was noted to have aninfluence on the demand for non-agricultural employment, it was discovered that respondents had access to market and price information which is a major departure from studies by FAO, 2013 and recent study by Lucy and John,2016 which showed that rural youths face constant lack of market information and that rural young women cannot access markets due to social and cultural restrictions. This is perhaps the liberalization of both the print and electronic media in Uganda that has enabled the youths to access information. In fact, it was discovered that most cyclists have radios on their motor cycles and were able to listen to news at all times during work.

Like many other findings such as, Adekunle et al., (2009); Daudu et al. (2009), Davis and Pearce (2000) and Akpan (2010), the study found lack of land as an influential factor for the increased demand for off farm activities. However, the study finds important departures from earlier studies. The traditional land tenure systems in which land ownership is transferred to the youth upon obtaining an independent family has done a lot in pushing the youths off the agricultural employment. This is because of lack of full land ownership and freedom for the young unmarried youths to optimally use the family land. It was further noted that land has lost fertility for those who individually own. It can therefore be deduced that in as much as land shortage is the principal cause of the agrarian crisis, at times the problem is exacerbated by the traditional methods of access to land that result into unequal distribution of powers and loss of soil fertility. Although each individual member of the household can access land, the communal nature of land ownership limits their ability to engage in profitable agricultural enterprises such as perennial crops. This is because the youths do not know the part of the land that will be transferred to them upon obtaining their independent families.

In addition to push factors, the pull factors were found to significantly affect the demand for bodaboda riding. From the results, the major pull factors into the bodaboda industry were the relatively “white collar” nature of the bodaboda business, quick returns, access to entertainment in the trading centers and access to good schools. These findings seem to agree with Davis and Pearce (2000) and findings by Akpan (2010) who identified greater job opportunities, general easy life in urban areas that appeals to the youths, high quick returns on labour in the off farm employment and lower risk compared to on-farm activities as major pull factors out of the agricultural sector. Because of greater access to information, some youths especially the educated expect employment opportunities that are in line with their trainings and therefore get absorbed into the motor cycle riding temporarily. Access to clean running water was however found to be weak in explaining the shift by the youths into the activity. This perhaps emanates from the traditional gender division of labor in which fetching water is not one of the core duties of men.

CONCLUSION

While focusing on one off farm activity, this study has demonstrated the factors that push young people out of agriculture in preference for this activity. By analyzing the prevailing conditions in the two sectors, the study is able to give policy prescriptions on maintaining the youths in the agricultural sector. For example, the study has revealed that one of the fundamental factors for the increasing demand for the off farm activities in the desire for quick returns. Through the national agricultural research systems, there is need for continuous development of quick maturing crop varieties. There is

need to develop technologies that make agriculture “cool” for the youths as it has been suggested in some circles inorder to make them get the lifestyles prevailing in other sectors. Based on the findings of the study, many policy implications can be drawn. The entry barriers to agriculture such as the traditional land tenure systems need revision in order to facilitate the participation of youths in high paying agricultural practices. In addition, policy measures that enhance skills development and value addition to agricultural output should be adopted in order increase returns in farming. Non-farm activities such as riding bodaboda should only come in to supplement farm incomes. Currently majority of the youths who are partially engaged in agriculture have left it to their spouses and are only using it to supplement non-farm incomes. Finally, infrastructural development should be at the forefront of government policies so as to create similar social amenities and reverse the trend of labour movements.

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