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Effect of Workdays Lost to Presumptive Malaria on Households' Poverty Status among Food Crop Farming Households in Rural South West, Nigeria

**BY**

\*Adekanye J.O, Adeoti A. I, Adepoju A.O and Awoyemi T.T  
Department of Agricultural Economics  
University of Ibadan, Ibadan.

\*Corresponding Author: [drjamesadekanye2020@gmail.com](mailto:drjamesadekanye2020@gmail.com)

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**ABSTRACT**

*This study examined the influence of Workdays Lost to Presumptive Malaria (WLPM) on poverty status of Food Crop Farming Households (FCFHs) in rural South West, Nigeria. The primary data were collected with well-structured questionnaire administered on 395 FCFHs randomly selected using multistage sampling technique. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, Foster-Greer-Thorbecke and two stage probit least square regression model at  $\alpha_{0.05}$ . The results show that 88.6% of the households were male-headed, age was  $56.41 \pm 9.34$  years. Years of schooling and farming experience were  $4.80 \pm 4.65$  and  $29.53 \pm 10.78$ , respectively. Only 37.2%, 45.1% and 24.6% have access to electricity, extension services and agricultural credit, respectively. The annual farm income was  $\text{₦}452,711.70 \pm 153,704.70$  (equivalent to  $\text{₦}37,725.97$  per month). In a year, an average of 73.49 workdays (valued at  $\text{₦}58,358.5$ ) was lost to presumptive malaria per household. The Mean Per Capita Household Expenditure (MPCHE) per month was  $\text{₦}5,605.89$ , the poverty line (i.e 2/3 of MPCHE) was  $\text{₦}3,737.26$ . FGT model results indicate that poverty incidence, depth and severity were 0.425, 0.031 and 0.004, respectively. The incidence of poverty increased with increased in WLPM. In the 2SPLS analysis, the coefficient of WLPM was positive ( $\beta=0.0607$ ) and statistically significant ( $p\text{-value} = 0.049$ ), implies that increase in WLPM increase the probability of households being in poverty. The result of the Wald test of exogeneity suggests that the WLPM is truly endogenous to household poverty status. Therefore, WLPM had an increasing effect on poverty status of the respondents. The study recommended that, poverty interventions should adequately incorporate strategies on malaria prevention and control; and be extended to rural areas as a way of poverty reduction among rural populace. Also, the national health insurance scheme needs to incorporate rural farming households and people in the informal sector to reduce the out-of-pocket spending on malaria treatment as a poverty reduction strategy.*

**Key words:** Presumptive malaria, Poverty status, Farming households, South West, Nigeria.

**Introduction**

Agriculture holds the key to rural development, poverty reduction and overall economic development (Oluwafemi *et al.*, 2010). It is the bedrock of every nation for the role it plays in providing food for the populace, employment opportunities, export revenue and contribution to the nation's Gross Domestic Product (Oparinde and Daramola, 2014). The proportion of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) attributed to agriculture holds between 30 and 40% (CBN, 2009).

The food crop sub-sector contributed about 28% to GDP representing about 75-76% of the share of the agricultural sector's contribution to GDP (CBN, 2012).

The food production role of the agriculture sector depends largely on crops production subsector as all the staples consumed in the nation comes from crop production, 90% of which is accounted for by smallholder farmers (CBN, 2012). In Nigeria, agriculture is characterized by a large number of smallholder farmers with small holdings ranging from 0.05 to 3.0 hectares of land area, low capitalization and low yield per hectare (Ogundari and Ojo, 2007). Nigeria's agriculture is also labour intensive and rain fed, which requires farmers to timely prepare land, plant, weed and harvest to ensure that the crops' growth stages coincide with the most favourable growth conditions. The success of agricultural livelihoods therefore depends on the health of the workforce.

Liverpool-Taise *et al.*(2011) reported that there was a pervasive inefficiency and low productivity among Nigeria farmers: most smallholder farmers produce significantly below their production frontier and profit margins from agricultural enterprises are generally low. This low return in agricultural production has prevented a substantial reduction of poverty, especially in the rural areas in Nigeria. According to Oseni and winter (2009), the poverty rate has decreased in recent years but the general belief is that the current poverty level should not be as high as it is, where more than 80% of the rural households in Nigeria relate their poverty status to problems in the agricultural sector.

Good health and productive agriculture are important in the economy of a country especially in the fight against poverty. Health enhances work effectiveness and the productivity of an individual through increase in physical and mental capacities (Ajani and Ugwu, 2008). However, health capital is affected by a number of preventable diseases such as malaria, musculoskeletal disorders, HIV/AIDS, injuries, yellow fever, typhoid fever, schistosomiasis, onchocerciasis, diarrhea, among others (Ugwu, 2006). Olatunji *et al.* (2013) reported that the productivity of farmers is affected by a number of occupational hazards and health problems such as malaria, musculoskeletal disorders, farm injuries, yellow fever, diarrhea, respiratory diseases and skin disorder.

Malaria is a major public health problem in Nigeria. It remains an important cause of morbidity and mortality. Nigeria accounted for 32% of the global estimate of 655,000 malaria deaths in 2010 (WHO, 2012). An estimated 97% of the country's approximate population of 160 million residents is at risk of malaria. Children under age 5 and pregnant women are the groups most vulnerable to illness and death from malaria infection in Nigeria. It accounts for about 60% of all outpatient attendance and 30% of all hospital admissions, seven (7) out of every ten (10) patients seen in Nigeria hospitals are ill of malaria (FMoH, 2007). A typical bout of malaria lasts

from about 10 to 14 days with 4 to 6 days of near complete incapacitation and a recuperation period of 4 to 8 days characterized by fatigues and weakness (Berman *et al.*, 1999). In addition to the direct health impact of malaria, there are also severe social and economic burdens on communities and the country as a whole, with about 480 billion Naira lost to malaria annually in the form of treatment costs, prevention efforts, loss of work time, and so forth (FMoH, 2012).

Malaria and agriculture are intimately related because agricultural environments provide suitable conditions for breeding of mosquitoes. The peak of malaria transmission has been found to coincide with the peak of planting and harvest seasons when demand for labour is suppose to be high. With this, vast expanse of land goes uncultivated and substantial harvests are lost because workers are sick.

There are many ways through which the relationship between malaria and poverty operates. Poverty sustains the conditions where malaria thrives, and malaria impedes economic growth and keeps communities in poverty. At the household level, poor housing can expose people to contact with infective mosquitoes. Simple preventive measures such as insecticide-treated bed nets are unaffordable to the poorest if they must pay for them. Lack of resources prevents people from seeking timely health care. Poverty reduces one's ability to purchase health inputs like medical care and nutritious foods which in turn negatively impacts one's health status (Fuchs, 2004). According to Ajani and Ugwu (2008), achieving self-sufficiency in food production and the much desired growth in agricultural sector of the economy will continue to elude Nigeria if health issues in agriculture are not properly addressed.

This study was not an epidemiologic or clinical study of malaria. Following Leighton and Foster (1993) and Attanayake *et al.* (2000), the study focused on "perceived" or "self-reported" malaria. That is, what people perceived to be "malaria" and what health workers typically, presumptively diagnosed as "malaria" and not with the prevalence of malaria as measured by presence of parasites in the blood that are not manifested in illness symptoms. Presumptive self-diagnosis of malaria implies diagnosing the illness based on symptoms associated with the illness without other confirmatory tests. This method of diagnosis gained a lot of popularity because most presumed malaria treatments in endemic areas especially in sub-Saharan Africa like Nigeria were already done at home (Chukwuocha, 2016). Although, WHO (2010) recommended universal testing before the treatment of the suspected cases of malaria, however, malaria rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) are not yet widely available in Nigeria (Anonymous, 2013) and so, presumptive diagnosis continues to be the most common method for determining a patient's malaria status (Uzochukwu *et al.*, 2011). Also, NPC/NMCP ICFI (2012) reported that nearly 60% of Nigerians seek treatment for malaria at drug shop outlets in the private healthcare sector, while Ajayi *et al.* (2008) equally affirmed that just 20% of malaria cases get to the health centres; others are treated with self-medication, prescriptions procured from herbalist homes or patient medicine stores.

Although, malaria is commonly recognized as a disease of poverty (Gallup and Sachs, 2001; Sachs and Malaney, 2002). The disease thrives in poverty and also impedes economic growth and keep households in poverty (Teklehaimanot and Mejia, 2008). However, the link between malaria and poverty at the micro or household level remain unclear. Given that malaria is endemic throughout Nigeria, and that 40% of people in the country are living below poverty line of 137,430 naira (\$381.75) per year (NBS, 2020), malaria incidence may increase significantly in Nigeria because many may not be able to afford the newly introduced drugs due to poverty (Yusuf *et al.*, 2010). Though the causal effect of malaria on poverty has been increasingly documented (Fosu and Mwabu, 2007; Somi *et al.*, 2007; de Castrol and Fisher, 2012), the empirical evidence regarding the two-way causality between malaria and poverty is still limited. Hence, this study empirically examined the relationship between presumptive malaria and poverty in rural areas of South west, Nigeria. Specifically, the study examined the influence of workdays lost to presumptive malaria illness on poverty status of food crop farming households in rural South west, Nigeria.

### **Literature Review**

Researchers have made efforts at examining the causal relations between health status of individuals and poverty. Claeson *et al.* (2001) posited that just as poverty is a cause of, it is also an effect of ill health. Poverty exposes individuals/household to several deprivations which translate into poor health outcomes. At community level, poverty makes individuals perform harmful cultural norms, and run into challenges which include poor sanitation, inadequate access to clean water as well as community organization, which may give rise to poor health outcomes. In addition, the health condition of the poor is adversely affected by the provision of poor quality health services and decreased access to health services due to poor transportation networks. The health of the poor also deteriorates more rapidly than that of their rich counterparts because of the exclusion of the poor from using health facilities as they are faced with high out-of-pocket expenses. Conversely, poor health outcomes lead to loss of income, thus causing poverty. The unhealthy persons tend to be uncreative and may have fewer earning opportunities which in turn lower their income/wealth (Bloom and Canning, 2000).

Godlonton and Keswell (2005) examined the influence of health status on poverty and found that families which had more unhealthy folks were more susceptible to poverty than those with fewer unhealthy individuals. Whitehead *et al.*(2001) observed that health expenditures influence poverty by means of three main media; first:, untreated illness, where the most dangerous effects are felt by those denied health services for the reason of their inability to afford the cost. Such people are prone to prolonged suffering and worsening health conditions. The second category is reduced access to care. Studies have shown that high Out-of-Pocket expenditures cause an indiscriminate reduction in access to care (Mbugua *et al.*,1995). The third category is catastrophic expenditures and long-standing poverty. People purchase health care even if doing so will cost

them fortune and their long-term incomes, as health expenditure are most of the time compulsory payments (Whitehead *et al.*, 2001). Tipping (2000) reveals that the poor usually defer seeking treatment until a tragic condition arises, as a consequence of poor financial status. This hindrance often leads them in the long run to seek treatment at more costly facilities, mostly at hospitals instead of primary health facilities. The negative impacts of high OOP expenditures are therefore worsening health and high medical cost.

Kimani (2014) probed into the consequence of the out-of-pocket health expenses on household poverty in Kenya. He concludes from his study that a reduced access to health care and untreated illness worsens health conditions (of the poorer). It leads to health-poverty trap which is a state of being ensnared into low productive capability and income dispossession due to poor health conditions and related health costs. In such a situation, households become unable to invest in health and nutrition. This further causes more ill health and malnutrition, which calls for medical attention, hence more health expenditures. Some are forced to sell assets and deplete household savings in order to meet health care expenses, thus driven into poverty or deeper into it, if they are already poor.

ECA (2005) reported that malaria top the list of prevailing and difficult infections affecting poor countries, especially the tropical and sub-tropical zones, and poverty may promote its transmission. Poor farmers also play some significant roles in malaria transmission, they are also deficient inadequate asset base to cushion its impacts; they are more dangerously affected by the malaria illness. Because children are more prone to malaria attacks, a significant amount of adults' time (mostly women) is diverted to taking care of the sick children. Recurring episodes of the disease attacks in farming households results in decreasing farm production, farm income as well as increasing poverty. Malaria is considered the single greatest cause of poverty in several developing nations of the world, not just because it deprives the impoverished from accessing basic necessities of life, but because it also de-empowers them, robs them of their rights and marginalizes them (WHO, 2000).

Yusuf *et al.* (2010), using a multilevel analysis, examined poverty and fever vulnerability in Nigeria. Data were extracted from the Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey in 2008; where under-five children data were extracted from the 25,004 children's records in the data set. A two-level random effects logistics model was fixed. The fever prevalence was the highest (17%) among children from the poorest class, compared to the 15.8% among the middle class and the lowest among the wealthiest (13%) class. They observed that malaria and poverty nexus are complex, and that poverty encourages the environment for malaria to thrives, and malaria also inhibits economic development and holds communities in poverty.

Booyesen *et al.*(2001) and Jackson (2002) submitted that there are two bi-causal relationships between malaria and poverty. On one hand, poverty enhances the spread of the illness and conversely, illness increases poverty of the affected households. In the first case, poverty promotes the susceptibility of people to malaria disease, due to poor nutrition and

lowering of immune systems. It is also related to unsafe housing conditions and poor sanitation practices due to insufficient knowledge and poor access to means of protection like the use of mosquito nets. In the second case, several bouts of malaria can make households and individuals move into deeper poverty where its primary impact is noticeable mainly on the incomes and the expenditures of individuals and households.

Asenso-Okyere *et al.*(2009) reported the existence of a vicious circle of malaria and poverty, which reduces economic opportunities for the majority of people worldwide. Certainly, the loss of human capital and lower productivity due to malaria illness results in a poorer economic growth rate. This will eventually have negative effects on the impoverished that are already trapped in a sadistic circle of poverty and malaria. Since malaria aggravates poverty, which is a precursor of poorer economic development, then the linkage of malaria to poverty is eventually to poorer economic development. Lower income due to decreasing productivity as a result of ill health from malaria will eventually leads to poor economic development that will escalate poverty. The health, efficiency and welfare outcomes of malaria illness differ in severity.

## Materials and Methods

### Study Area

The study was carried out in south west, Nigeria. The zone falls on Latitude 6<sup>0</sup> to the North and Latitude 4<sup>0</sup> to the South. It is marked by Longitude 4<sup>0</sup> to the West and 6<sup>0</sup> to the East. Total population of the area as at 2006 was 27,581,992 (NPC, 2006). The zone is bounded in the North by Kogi and Kwara States, in the East by Edo and Delta States, in the South by Atlantic Ocean, and in the West by Republic of Benin. It composes of six states: Ekiti, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Osun and Oyo. The geographical location of south west Nigeria covers about 114, 271 kilometer square, which is approximately 12 percent of Nigeria total land mass. There are two distinct seasons, the rainy season, which lasts from April to October and the dry season which starts from November and ends in March. The distribution of rainfall varies from about 1000mm to about 2000mm. Important cash crops such as cocoa, kolanut, citrus, coffee, rubber and oilpalm are grown in the region. Savanna parts of the region produces food crops such as tubers, grains, plantain/banana and vegetables.

Although, malaria is endemic throughout Nigeria (Yusuf *et al.*, 2010). The choice of south west Nigeria is premised on the fact that the zone is located along forest zones of the southern Nigeria and guinea / derived savannah, thus the vegetation lies within the rain-forest belt of Nigeria. The climate is hot and humid which favours the proliferation of the mosquito vectors (Babalola *et al.*, 2009). Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (2013 ) indicated that South west is the zone with the lowest number of households with at least one Insecticide Treated Nets (ITNs) or Long-lasting Insecticidal net (LLIN) in Nigeria.

### **Sampling Procedure**

A four-stage sampling technique was used. The first stage was the random selection of Oyo and Osun states from the six states in South west, Nigeria. In the second stage, four (4) and three (3) rural Local Government Areas (LGAs) from Oyo and Osun states, respectively were randomly selected based on probability proportionate to size of rural LGAs in each of the states. The third stage was the random selection of five villages from each of the LGAs, making a total of 35 villages in all (i.e. 20 and 15 villages from Oyo and Osun state, respectively). In the fourth stage, a random selection of four hundred and twenty (420) food crop farming households from the thirty-five villages selected for the study was carried out. This was achieved by making a list of food crop farming households in each of the selected villages from which a random selection of 10% of food crop farming households were done in each of the selected villages. Out of the four hundred and twenty (420) questionnaire administered on the respondents, twenty-five (25) were discarded for incomplete information and inconsistency. Consequently, data from 395 (224 and 171 from Oyo and Osun states, respectively) questionnaire were analyzed for the study.

### **Method of Data Collection**

Primary data used for this study were obtained from the respondents with the aid of structured questionnaire. The data collected from the households include socio-economic and demographic characteristics, farming activities, malaria related information such as cause of malaria, mode of transmission, symptoms and practices of households to malaria prevention. Also obtained were data on the number of episodes of malaria attacks suffered by the households in 2014, type /place of treatment, distance to the nearest health centre, cost of treatments, transportation, subsistence, as well as days of incapacitation due to malaria attacks and workdays lost by the caregiver(s). During the interview, efforts were made to ensure that people reported malaria episodes based on symptoms as close as possible to accepted clinical symptoms. The following symptoms were taken as indicative of malaria: fever, headache, chills/shivering, abdominal pain, diarrhea, nausea / vomiting, bitter taste, loss of appetite (anorexia), lassitude (general body weakness), muscular pain and joints pain (Tangpukdee *et al.*, 2009; Looareesuwan, 1999).

### **Method of Data Analysis**

Statistical tools used in data analysis include descriptive statistics, FGT model and Instrumental Variable probit least square model (or two-stage probit least square). The descriptive statistics included frequency, means, percentages and standard deviation. These were used to profile the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents. FGT model was used to generate the poverty indices while the Instrumental Variable probit least square model was used to analyze the influence of workdays lost to presumptive malaria on households' poverty.

### Poverty Measurement and Decomposition

The poverty measure that was used in this analysis is the class of decomposable poverty measures by Foster, Greer and Thorbecke (FGT). They are widely used because they are consistent and additively decomposable (Foster *et al.*, 1984). The P-alpha poverty measure was used to generate the poverty indices for the respondents in the study area. This include the head count index  $P_0$ , Poverty gap index  $P_1$ , and poverty severity index  $P_2$ . The general formula for this class of poverty measures depends on a parameter  $\alpha$  which takes a value of zero for the head count, one for the poverty gap and two for poverty squared gap in the following expression:

The FGT index is presented below:

$$P_{\alpha} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^n \left( \frac{Z - Y_i}{Z} \right)^{\alpha}$$

Where:

$n$  = the number of poor (below the poverty line) households in the population of size  $n$ ,

$N$ = Number of households in the reference population / total sampled population

$y_i$  = monthly per capita expenditure of household  $i$

$Z$ = the poverty line defined as 2/3 of Mean monthly per capita expenditure.

The FGT index allows for the quantitative measurement of poverty status among sub-groups of a population (i.e incorporating any degree of concern about poverty) and has been widely used (Kakwani, 1990).

By setting the value of  $\alpha$  to zero, one, two respectively, the FGT poverty measure formula delivers a set of poverty indices.

$\alpha = 0$  is the Headcount index ( $P_0$ ) measuring the incidence of poverty (proportion of the total population of a given group that is poor, based on poverty line);

$\alpha = 1$  is the poverty gap index measuring the depth of poverty, that is, on average how far the poor is from the poverty line;

$\alpha = 2$  is the squared poverty gap measuring the severity of poverty among households, that is, the depth of poverty and inequality among the poor.

### The Poverty Threshold / The Poverty Line

Some of the studies on poverty in Nigeria that adopted the per capita expenditure approach on poverty include (Adeyonu *et al.*, 2012; Obayelu and Awoyemi, 2010; Okunmadewa *et al.*, 2005; Olaniyan, 2002; Omonona, 2001).



Following Foster *et al.*(1984), Poverty line was computed as 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of the mean per capita monthly expenditure of all the members of the sampled households; that is, the amount spent on food, clothing, housing, energy, water, education, health care, transport, communication, etc. by the household:

$$\text{Per capita household expenditure (PCHE)} = y = \frac{\text{Total Household expenditure}}{\text{Household size}}$$

$$\text{Mean per capita household expenditure (MPCHE)} = \frac{\text{PCHE}}{\text{Total number of surveyed households}}$$

Poverty line (z) = 2/3\*MPCHE.

Where \* is a multiplicative sign.

The non-poor threshold is the region greater than or equal to two-thirds of MPCHE while the poor threshold is the region less than two-third of MPCHE.

### Econometric Specification

#### Two-stage Probit Least Squares (2SPLS) Regression Model.

Somi *et al.* (2007), and de Castro and Fisher (2012) pointed out the possibility of two-way relationship between malaria and poverty, therefore, the presence of ‘endogeneity. Following Tenzin *et al.*(2013), presumptive malaria is proposed to increase the workdays lost to illness and increases household expenditure on medical treatment. Thus, increases poverty.

The first equation of poverty status (Y) as a function (f) of workdays lost to presumptive malaria (M) is as shown in equation 1:

$$Y = f(M, W) \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

Where W is a vector of independent variables. In some cases, the household poverty will expose household members to illness and also reduce the strength of households to attends promptly to their health needs which will increase the workdays lost to illness. This leads to the reversed causality of household poverty and presumptive malaria as indicated by the equation 2 below:

$$M = g(Y, T) \dots \dots \dots (2)$$

Where T is a vector of the other independent variables.

The model above shows a two-way causality between presumptive malaria and household poverty status which raises endogeneity and simultaneity problems (Nasution *et al.*, 2014; Tenzin *et al.*, 2013). Thus, the application of the ordinary least squares (OLS) is not suitable, because it will produce biased estimates and inconsistency. The usual remedy for the existence of an endogeneity problem is the adoption of instrumental variable (IV) estimation.

Since the dependent variable poverty status is binary, in line with Brueckner and Largey (2006), a two-stage probit least squares (2SPLS) estimation method is adopted. This method is similar to the regular two-stage least squares (2SLS) model used for estimating continuous variables (Wooldridge, 2006). The only exception in this case is that while in the first stage, OLS estimation is computed for workdays lost to presumptive malaria, which is a continuous variable; the second stage uses probit estimation to model poverty status after including the exogenous variables and replacing the endogenous variables with fitted values from the first stage. This technique applies the process described by Maddala (1983).

Following Alvarez and Glasgow (1999) the non-recursive two-stage choice model of this nature is specified as follows;

$$Y^* = \gamma_1 M + \alpha_i W_i + \mu_1 \dots\dots\dots(3)$$

$$M = \gamma_2 Y^* + \beta_i T_i + \mu_2 \dots\dots\dots(4)$$

where presumptive malaria (estimated as workdays lost to presumptive malaria) is a continuous variable defined by M, poverty status is a dichotomous variable defined by Y\*, W and T are vectors of independent variables, the measurement error is defined by  $\mu_1$  and  $\mu_2$ , and the coefficients to be estimated are  $\gamma_1, \gamma_2, \alpha_i$  and  $\beta_i$ . However, Y\* cannot be measured directly but rather by measuring the poverty status of households as 1 or 0 (poor = 1, 0= non-poor), so the value of the Y is as follows:

$$Y = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } Y^* > 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } Y^* \leq 0 \end{cases}$$

From the above equations, a reduced form equation becomes:

$$Y = \lambda_i W_i + \pi_i T_i + v_2 \dots\dots\dots(5)$$

$$M = \lambda_i W_i + \pi_i T_i + v_1 \dots\dots\dots(6)$$

In the approach of a two-stage probit least squares (2SPLS), each endogenous variable is estimated using a reduced form equation. Equation 6 is estimated using ordinary least square while equation 5 is estimated using probit analysis.

The parameter of the reduced form equation is used to generate a predicted value for each endogenous variable. The predictive values are substituted into each endogenous variable in equations 3 and 4. Then the equation is estimated with the predicted value of the reduced form equation as an instrument in the right hand side of the equation. It has been shown that the estimated original model equation in the second stage showed consistent results (Alvarez and Glasgow, 1999). The advantage of using the 2SPLS approach is that it can be applied to either a binary dependent variable with a continuous endogenous regressor on the right hand side or a continuous dependent variable with a binary endogenous regressor on the right hand side. However, according to Greene (2000), the major drawback of 2SPLS is that the standard errors produced are biased and their correction is difficult. This implies that statistical inference would not be legitimate.

However, a solution to this shortcoming is to use the consistent 2SPLS parameter estimates along with bootstrapped standard errors. Bootstrapping is a statistical technique where the sampling distributions for the parameter estimates of interest are simulated through an iterative process (Mooney and Duval, 1993; Mooney, 1996). The advantage of bootstrapping is that it allows for the creation of confidence intervals for statistics where sampling distributions are unknown or in the case of the 2SPLS, are difficult to estimate.

Analysis and estimation of the above equations was carried out simultaneously using STATA software because it combines the two steps (First and Second-Stage regressions) into one step and the output is given in one step.

### **Measurement of variables**

#### **Dependent variables**

Y=Households Poverty status (1= poor, 0 = non-poor)

#### **Independent variables for the poverty equation**

The explanatory variables included in the model are similar to those used in previous related studies (Sanusi *et al.*,2013; Adewunmi, 2013; Akinbode , 2013; Igbalajobi *et al.* 2013; Akerele and Adewuyi, 2011; Apata *et al.*, 2010; Ibrahim and Umar, 2008 )

X<sub>1</sub>=Age of household head (years)

X<sub>2</sub>=Squared age of household head (years)

X<sub>3</sub>=Household size (in number)

X<sub>4</sub>=Dependency ratio (number)

X<sub>5</sub>= Room density (number)

X<sub>6</sub>=Years of schooling of household head (number of years)

X<sub>7</sub>=Years of farming experience (years)

X<sub>8</sub>=Farm size cultivated by the household (hectares)

X<sub>9</sub>=Access to extension services (if access=1, 0=otherwise)

X<sub>10</sub>=Access to credit (if access=1, 0=otherwise)

X<sub>11</sub>=Connected to electricity (If connected=1, 0=if otherwise)

X<sub>12</sub>= Malaria financial cost (prevention and treatment) to the household (Naira)

X<sub>13</sub>= Workdays lost to presumptive malaria by the household (measured in manday), this was instrumented for (Using access to ITNs/LLINs, distance to health centre and malaria awareness campaign)

#### **Ethical considerations**

Written informed consent was obtained from all the heads of the households participated in the data collection process and assurance given to them that all information received would be handled confidentially. They were informed that participation is voluntary and also assured of their right to withdraw from the interview at any time they would wish during the interview. The survey was also anonymised so that household or individual information is not identifiable.

Ethical clearance for the study was obtained from the Osun State Specialist Hospital Osogbo Health Research Ethics Committee (Clearance number: HREC/27/04/2015/SSHO/027).

## Results and Discussion

### Socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the respondents

The result of the analysis shows that 88.6% of the households' head were male, age was  $56.41 \pm 9.34$  years, 88.4% were married, household size was  $7 \pm 2$  persons and farm size was  $1.72 \pm 0.56$ . Years of schooling were  $4.80 \pm 4.65$  which is far below the universal basic education of at least 6 years (primary school) with 37% of them had no formal education. Years of farming experience was found to be  $29.53 \pm 10.78$ . Only 37.2%, 45.1% and 24.6% of them have access to electricity, extension services and agricultural credit, respectively. The annual farm income was  $\text{₦}452,711.70 \pm 153,704.70$  (equivalent to  $\text{₦}37,725.97$  per month). All these were illustrated in Table 1.

**Table 1: Socio-Economic Characteristics of food crop Farming households (n=395)**

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Sex of the household head</b>		
Male	350	88.6
Female	45	11.4
<b>Age of Household head (years)</b>		
Less than 45	49	12.4
45-54	106	26.8
55-64	152	38.5
Above 64	88	22.3
<b>Mean</b> : 56.41		
<b>Std. Dev</b> : 9.34		
<b>Marital status of household head</b>		
Married	349	88.4
Widow/Widower	46	11.5
<b>Household size</b>		
2-5	111	28.1
6-9	266	67.3
Above 9	18	4.6
<b>Mean</b> : 6.52		
<b>Std. Dev</b> : 1.63		
<b>Household head's years of Schooling</b>		
0 (No formal education)	146	37.0
1-6	142	36.0
7-12	100	25.3
Above 12	7	1.8
<b>Mean</b> : 4.80		
<b>Std. Dev</b> : 4.65		
<b>Farming experience (years)</b>		
1-10	11	2.8

	96	24.3
11-20		
21-30	93	23.5
31-40	142	36.0
Above 40	53	13.4
<b>Mean</b>	: 29.53	
<b>Std. Dev:</b>	10.78	
<b>Farm size (Hectares) cultivated</b>		
Less than 1	13	3.3
1-1.5	120	30.4
1.6-2.0	193	48.9
2.1-3.0	57	14.4
Above 3	12	3.0
<b>Mean</b>	: 1.72	
<b>Std. Dev:</b>	0.56	
<b>Household access to electricity</b>		
Access	147	37.2
No access	248	62.8
<b>Household access to extension</b>		
Access	178	45.1
No access	217	54.9
<b>Household access to credit</b>		
Access	97	24.6
No access	298	75.4
<b>Household's farm income</b>		
<b>(₦ / Annum)</b>		
Less than 200,000	8	2.0
200,000-299,999	58	14.7
300,000-399,999	97	24.6
400,000-499,999	100	25.3
500,000-599,999	68	17.2
600,000-699,999	35	8.9
700,000 and above	29	7.3
<b>Mean</b>	: 452711.70	
<b>Std. Dev:</b>	153,704.70	

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Source: Field survey, 2015.

### **Estimation of Workdays Lost to Presumptive Malaria**

Table 2 shows that the average workdays lost to presumptive malaria sickness in the study area was  $51.28 \pm 19.92$  days with minimum and maximum values of 11 and 112 days, respectively. The work-days lost to care-giving was estimated at  $22.21 \pm 13.48$  days. This implies that the bulk of the workdays lost (69.8%) is actually due to malaria sickness of the adults and older children who provides source of family labour on the farm while the remaining 30.2% of workdays lost to presumptive malaria is attributable to care-giving alone.

**Table 2: Average workdays lost to malaria sickness and caregiving**

Form of Workdays lost	Workdays lost	Std dev.	As % of total workdays lost to malaria	Minimum	Maximum
Workdays lost by the sick persons	51.28	19.92	69.8	11	112
Workdays lost by the care-givers	22.21	13.48	30.2	0	70
<b>Total workdays lost</b>	<b>73.49</b>		<b>100.0</b>		

Source: Field survey, 2015.

### Determination of poverty line and FGT Decomposition Results

Table 3 shows the summary of households' expenditure on food and other non-food basic items. The Mean Per Capita Household Expenditure (MPCHE) for the households stood at ₦5605.89 with the 2/3 of MPCHE amounting to ₦3,737.26. Hence, households were classified as poor if their MPCHE fall below ₦3737.26k and non-poor if their MPCHE is equal or above the poverty line of ₦3737.26k.

### Poverty Decomposition

The FGT results reveal a poverty incidence, depth and severity of 0.425, 0.031 and 0.004, respectively (Table 4). It implies that 42.5% of the households were poor. Poverty depth value of 0.031 implies that an averagely poor household in the study area had 3.1% deprivation of income (i.e had to mobilize resources up to 3.1% of the poverty line more per person per day in order to break out from poverty). The severity of poverty index value of 0.004 shows the seriousness of poverty. It implies that the core poor were about 0.4% worse off compared to the averagely poor. Therefore, the study has found that poverty is prominent amongst the sampled households in the study area.

### Poverty Incidence by Workdays Lost to Presumptive Malaria

Table 5 shows the variation observed in the poverty incidence as workdays lost to presumptive malaria increased. It was observed that as workdays lost increased, poverty incidence also increased. It also implies that the more the poorer the group, the more the workdays lost to presumptive malaria. This might not be unconnected with their inability to afford preventive measures and poor treatment when sick of malaria. These findings concur with Ochi *et al.*(2015) who linked increased poverty among households in agricultural communities with an increase in workdays lost to malaria illness.

**Table 3: Distribution of Average household monthly expenditure**

Monthly expenditure	Average value (₦)	Percentage
<b>Food</b>	<b>20945.57</b>	<b>60.0</b>
Health care	2133.08	6.1
Rent allowance (Housing)	1022.36	2.9
Clothing	1667.09	4.8
Children education	2483.80	7.1
Transport	2758.73	7.9
Water	147.80	0.4
Electricity	431.77	1.2
Kerosene	1011.24	2.9
Energy: Fuel / Gas / Charcoal	146.33	0.4
Petrol for generator	99.49	0.3
Batteries for radio / torchlight	188.38	0.5
Toiletries	545.16	1.6
GSM maintenance	1131.09	3.2
Other expenses	207.09	0.6
<b>Total Non-food expenditure</b>	<b>13973.41</b>	<b>40.0</b>
<b>TOTAL (Food + Non-Food)</b>	<b>34,918. 98</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Mean Per Capita Household Expenditure (MPCHE)</b>	<b>5605.89</b>	
<b>Poverty line (2/3 MPCHE)</b>	<b>3737.26</b>	

Source: Field survey, 2015.

**Table 4: Poverty Incidence, Depth and Severity among the households**

Poverty index	Value
Poverty incidence ( $P_0$ )	0.425
Poverty depth ( $P_1$ )	0.031
Poverty severity ( $P_2$ )	0.004

Source: Field survey, 2015.

**Table 5: Workdays lost to Presumptive Malaria and Incidence of Poverty among Households**

Workdays lost to Presumptive malaria	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Total	Poverty Incidence P(0)
Less than 40	23	5.8	0.260870
40-59	89	22.5	0.382022
60-79	139	35.2	0.402878
80-99	87	22.0	0.448276
Above 99	57	14.5	0.578947
<b>Total</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>100</b>	

Source: Field survey, 2015.

### **Effects of Presumptive Malaria on Household poverty.**

The appendix section presents result of partial correlation for the choice of instruments for the workdays lost to presumptive malaria. The instruments proposed include distance to health centre, distance to water source, environmental sanitation practice, access to mosquito net (ITNs or LLINs), participation in malaria awareness campaign, use of local herbs, and housing type of household (poor or good). The results of the partial correlation analysis reveal that, distance to health centre, access to mosquito nets and participation in malaria awareness campaign had significant and the highest coefficients of correlation value of 0.2165, -0.2103 and 0.1284, in that order, with the workdays lost to presumptive malaria and they were, therefore, used as the instruments for workdays lost to presumptive malaria in the 2SPLS analysis.

### **Factors that Affect the Number of Workdays Lost to Presumptive Malaria**

The first stage regression model results (Table 6) show that age and age squared of household head, dependency ratio, extension services, connection to electricity, distance to health center, and use of mosquito nets were the variables that significantly affect the number of workdays lost to presumptive malaria. The coefficient on the age of household head was negative ( $\beta=-4.9046$ ) and significant at 1%. This implies that when the age of household head increased by one unit, the workdays lost to presumptive malaria decreased by 4.9%. This is possible because of the likelihood of increasing immunity due to recurrent bouts of malaria. However, the coefficient of age squared of household head was positive ( $\beta = 0.0470$ ) and significant at 1%, implying that the inverse association of age with workdays lost to presumptive malaria were weakened over time possibly due to a decrease in immunity or tolerance level with age; thus, they becomes more susceptible to malaria attack.

The coefficient of the dependency ratio, which measures the proportion of non-working (majorly, the children and adults) members of the household to the working members was negative ( $\beta=-27.3232$ ) and statistically significant at 1%. This implying that these categories of household members are enjoying special protection from malaria attacks, since majority of them are not really involve in farming activities and back home, there were preventive measures against mosquito bites. Hence, increase in this variable reduces the workdays lost to presumptive malaria by the households.

The co-efficient of access to extension services was found to be positively ( $\beta=12.0908$ ) and significantly associated with workdays lost to presumptive malaria; this is because the more farming households had contacts with extension services, the likelihood of increasing farming activities, and the greater the exposure to mosquito bites leading to malaria attacks, hence the more workdays lost to malaria attacks. Conversely, the coefficient of access to electricity was negative ( $\beta=-7.2031$ ) and significantly related to workdays lost to malaria. This implies that access to electricity reduced the number of workdays lost to malaria. This might not be unconnected with the fact that availability of electricity to power electric fan improves comfort inside bed nets (VonSeidlein *et al.*, 2012; Hughes, 2014), thus encourage the use of mosquito nets. Heat inside bed is the reason given by some people in the previous researches for poor usage



of mosquito nets (Pulford *et al.*, 2011). Also, electric fan drives away mosquito before reaching its intended victim (Hughes, 2014).

Distance to health centre had negative coefficient ( $\beta=-0.3600$ ) and significant at 10% level. This is contrary to the *a priori* expectation that the longer the distance to the health centre, the more difficult for people to access health services, hence the more the prevalence of malaria. It however implies that some of the health centres in the study area were either ill-equipped or had no competent personnel. Also, some of the rural people might not even go to the health centres when they perceived malaria but resorted to self-medication which eventually prolonged the workdays lost to malaria.

Access to mosquito nets had negative coefficient ( $\beta=-10.4898$ ) and significant at 1% level. Access to and sleeping under mosquito nets (ITNs or LLINs) reduced the frequency of mosquito bites; hence, less malaria attacks reduced workdays lost to malaria.

The coefficient on financial cost of malaria was positive ( $\beta=0.0015$ ) and significant at 1%. An indication that households who were more exposed to malaria, lost more workdays to malaria and would have spent more on malaria treatment.

### **Results of instrumental variable probit least square (2-stage probit least square)**

Table 7 shows the factors associated with household's poverty status in the study area, using the estimates of the second stage regression for poverty with bootstrapped standard errors. The correlation between the errors of the two equations was statistically significant (The likelihood Ratio Test for  $H_0: \rho=0$  against  $H_1: \rho \neq 0$  gave a  $p$ -value of 0.0001). That is, the likelihood function of the 2SPLS model was significant (Wald  $\chi^2(13) = 42.39$ , Prob >  $\chi^2=0.0001$ ), indicating the strong explanatory power of the model. Thus, rejecting the hypothesis that the two dependent variables are not jointly determined. This justified the use of Two Stage Probit Least Square (2SPLS) technique.

The result of the Wald test of exogeneity (at the bottom of the table 7) of the instrumented variable ( $\rho=0$ ):  $\chi^2(1)= 9.42$  Prob >  $\chi^2 = 0.0021$  was statistically significant at 1% level. Hence, the rejection of the null hypothesis of no endogeneity. That is, the null hypothesis that workdays lost to presumptive malaria is exogenous is rejected at 1% level of significance, which also justifies the use of the 2SPLS.

The coefficient of workdays lost to presumptive malaria was positive and significant at 1% level, indicating that a unit increase in workdays lost to presumptive malaria will increase the likelihood of household being in poverty by 0.06 percent. This finding has implication for increased poverty among households in malaria prevalent agricultural communities, as it may give rise to a no-win situation of '*low agricultural investment- low crop output- high poverty continuum*'. Workdays lost to presumptive malaria therefore constitutes an important poverty dimension that cannot be ignored. This finding is in line with the conclusion of Ochi *et al.*(2015).

The coefficient of age of the household's head was positive and significant at 5% level. This implies that a unit increase in the age of household's head will increase the probability of

household being in poverty by 0.37%. This implying that, as household heads get older, they become economically inactive which in turn affects their productivity and income, thereby increase the level of poverty. However, the coefficient of the squared age of household head was negative and statistically significant at 5% level. This implies that, as a person becomes older, there is likely more sources of transfer income which can reduce the level of poverty.

Table 6: Factors that Affect the Number of Workdays Lost to Presumptive Malaria

<b>Workdays lost</b>	<b>Coefficient</b>	<b>Std Error</b>	<b>Z</b>	<b>P-value</b>
Constant	154.0205***	28.0732	5.49	0.000
Age of Household head	-4.9046***	0.8772	-5.59	0.000
Age squared	0.0470***	0.0076	6.17	0.000
Household size	0.7171	0.8334	0.86	0.390
Dependency ratio	-27.3232***	9.6393	-2.83	0.005
Room density	3.2269	2.0119	1.60	0.109
Years of schooling	0.1910	0.3441	0.56	0.579
Farm Experience	0.0275	0.1841	0.15	0.881
Farm size cultivated	0.8111	1.8773	0.43	0.666
Access to Extension Services	12.0908***	1.9454	6.22	0.000
Access to Credit	3.3917	2.2658	-1.50	0.134
Connected to Electricity	-7.2031***	1.7394	-4.14	0.000
Financial cost of Malaria	0.0015***	0.00008	17.34	0.000
Distance to Health Centre	-0.3600*	0.1925	-1.87	0.061
Access to Mosquito Nets	-10.4898***	3.2049	3.27	0.001
Malaria Awareness Campaign	2.7074	4.9128	0.55	0.582

Source: Field survey, 2015.

Access to extension services was found to be negative and significant at 1%. The negative coefficient of extension services implies that household's access to extension services reduce the probability of household becoming poor. This finding agrees with Umeh and Asogwa, 2011; Ogbonna *et al.*, 2012, who found that availability of extension services improved farmers' productivity and profitability and hence reduced poverty. Also, the coefficient of access to electricity was found to be positive and significant at 10%. That is, access to electricity increases the probability of the households being in poverty. This indicated that households with electricity supply were subjected to high tariffs and thus increasing their likelihood of being poor.

The coefficient of malaria financial cost to the household was found to be negative and significant at 1%. This implying that as households increased their spending on adequate malaria prevention and prompt treatment, there is tendency for reduced workdays lost to the presumptive malaria and this will reduce the probability of households being in poverty.

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

Despite the current efforts by government to eradicate rural poverty in the country, poverty still remains a serious problem in the study area given that about 42.5% of food crop farming households in the study area were still below the poverty line. Therefore, the study has found that poverty is prominent amongst the sampled households in the study area, in which workdays lost to presumptive malaria was one of the determinants. Our analyses revealed further that presumptive malaria, defined in terms of workdays lost to presumptive malaria negatively affects household income and increases poverty. The result suggests further that the endogeneity bias between workdays lost to presumptive malaria and household poverty status is due to reciprocal causation.

Therefore, poverty alleviation policies should be seen as having the potential additional effect of reducing the prevalence of malaria. Hence, we recommend that poverty interventions should adequately incorporate strategies on malaria prevention and control. Similarly, if malaria is indeed a cause of poverty, then malaria control activities are much more than just a public health policy, but also a poverty alleviation strategy. Therefore, current efforts towards malaria prevention and control, such as free distribution of mosquito nets (ITNs or LLINs), intermittent preventive therapy (IPTs) for pregnant women, adequate supply of ACT as first line treatment for malaria must vigorously be pursued and make sure it is adequately extend to rural areas as a way of poverty reduction among rural populace. Also, the national health insurance scheme need to be re-designed to incorporate the rural farming households and the people in the informal sector, as a way to reduce the out-of-pocket spending on malaria treatment.

**Table 7: Second stages results of determinants of poverty with corrected standard errors**

Variables	Coefficient	Bootstrap standard error	z-stat	P- level
Workdays lost to presumptive malaria	0.0606***	0.0180	3.37	0.001
Age of household head	0.3659**	0.1577	2.32	0.020
Square age of household head	-0.0032 **	0.0014	-2.30	0.022
Household size	0.1992	0.1283	1.55	0.120
Dependency ratio	1.2496	1.0636	1.17	0.240
Room density	-0.4718**	0.2135	-2.21	0.027
Years of schooling of household head	-0.0400	0.0416	-0.96	0.336
Farm experience of household head	-0.0082	0.0157	-0.52	0.602
Farm size cultivated	-0.2487	0.1974	-1.26	0.208
Access to extension	-0.8357***	0.2624	-3.18	0.001
Access to credit	0.1582	0.2055	0.77	0.442
Connected to electricity	0.3100*	0.1662	1.87	0.062
Malaria financial cost to the household	-9.55e-05***	2.79e-05	-3.42	0.001
<i>Constant</i>	-12.2444**	4.9387	-2.48	0.013
<i>/Athrho</i>	-1.2057	0.6999	-1.72	0.085
<i>/lnsigma</i>	2.6821	0.0322	83.24	0.000
Rho	-0.8354	0.2115		
Sigma	14.6150	0.4709		

No of obs. = 395  
 Replications = 49  
 Wald chi2(13) = 42.39  
 Prob > chi2 = 0.0001  
 Log Likelihood =1810.10

Source: Field survey, 2015.

\*\* and \*\*\* Significant at 5% and 1% respectively.

The standard errors are estimated using the bootstrap method with 50 replications in the pooled OLS regressions.

Wald test of exogeneity of the instrumented variable (*/athrho* = 0): chi2(1) = 9.42 Prob > chi2 = 0.0021

Instrumented: Workdays lost to presumptive malaria

Instruments: age agesquare hhsizе depratio roomdensity yrsschl farmexp farmsize extension credit electricity finacialcost disthcentre itns malcampaign.

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\*Adekanye J.O. Adeoti A. I. Adepoju A.O and Awoyemi T.T

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Effect of Workdays Lost to Presumptive Malaria on Households' Poverty Status among Food Crop Farming Households in Rural South West, Nigeria  
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**APPENDIX**

Correlation values of instrumental variables with workdays lost to malaria

Variable	Partial Correlation	Semi-partial Correlation	Partial Correlation <sup>2</sup>	Semi-partial Correlation <sup>2</sup>	Significance Value
Distance to health centre	0.2165 ***	0.2045	0.0469	0.0418	0.0000
Distance to water source	0.0603	0.0557	0.0036	0.0031	0.2351
Environmental sanitation	-0.0517	-0.0477	0.0027	0.0023	0.3091
Access to mosquito nets (ITNs or LLINs)	-0.2103***	-0.1984	0.0442	0.0394	0.0000
Participating in malaria awareness campaign	0.1284**	0.1193	0.0165	0.0142	0.0113
Use of herbs	0.0216	0.0199	0.0005	0.0004	0.6708
Housing type (poor or good)	-0.0553	-0.0511	0.0031	0.0026	0.2767

Source: Field survey, 2015.