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Abstract

Understanding the contributions of CORE Project's off-farm interventions on household welfare is important because these interventions are in response to effects of risky income and jobless on household welfare in Rusizi District. This includes inability to obtain household basic needs like food, shelter, clothes and minimal investment., The purpose of this paper was to evaluate the relationship between off-farm economic activities and the welfare of the beneficiaries of CORE project in Rusizi district of Rwanda. This paper employed correlation research design. The target population of this study was 33,835 direct project beneficiaries from Rusizi District corresponding to the sample size of 166 respondents obtained by using Kothari's (2004) formula. Questionnaire and guided interview were used as data collection instruments. The findings revealed that people who are engaged in off-farm activities are likely to earn more as presented by 77(50.9%) of respondents. This study also presented that one of the off-farm activities preferred most is tailoring as mentioned by 32(21.1%) of respondents. The findings also revealed that food security was mentioned highly by 33(21.7%) in terms of welfare indicators achieved as a result of off-farm activities. Nevertheless, this paper shows that there is a statistical significance positive relationship between off-farm economic activities and welfare of beneficiaries in CORE Project ($r = 0.293$, $P = .000 < 0.01$). This paper also recommends that financial institutions working in Rusizi district should give loan facilities to the local citizens so as to enable them to start their own investment particularly in small off-farm income generating activities.

Key words: *Off-Farm Activities, Welfare Beneficiaries and Core Project, Rwanda*

1.1 Introduction

Globally, De Janvry, Sadoulet and Zhu (2005) disclosed that non-farm employment has a positive employment consequence on agricultural productivity because the income attained from the sector can be later invested in on-farm and will advantage the farmer to practice farming on time. Moreover, Stampini and Davis, (2009) predicted that non-farm gains has improved the use of variable inputs in rural Vietnam, where smallholder farmers having off-farm incomes invested more on agricultural inputs like seeds, fertilizer and other farm services including labor. This shows that off-farm activities have become an imperative share of farmer's overall income in the developing countries as agriculture sector is quite uncertain because farming depends on many factors beyond farmer's control. This shows that there is no guarantee of valuable returns from farming and because of this; different farmers have adopted different sources of earnings so as to sustain their sources of income and reduce household's risk of depending on a single source (agriculture). Promoting off-farm work is another way of increasing family income and a self-sustaining approach of the farmers to build up the households' overall income and strengthen welfare (Alasia *et al*, 2009).

In Africa, multiple scholars and researchers have indicated that the most of the rural dwellers are active farmers and do depend on agriculture but to boost their income, they end up involving in other income generating activities (Adepoju & Obayelu, 2013). But Mezid (2014) highlighted that though rural farmers are involved in off-firm undertakings as a mechanism to the deteriorating agriculture produce, families are earning more, and according to (Ovwhigo, 2014), off-farm activities are supplementary of complimentary activities that farmers can practice during off-season or on season to support themselves such as in tailoring, carpentry, casual labor, welding, art craft, petty trading, traditional dancing, transportation business and so many to mention. Off-farm therefore can be defined as to all the income generating activities excluding crop and livestock production. Off-farm activities preclude the seasonality effect of agricultural production and generate an incessant source of income to secure the life needs.

In Rwanda, farming is the most dominant practice for a higher percentage to most rural dwellers and offers the chance for inspiring growth and development, triumph over poverty, and achieving food security. World Factbook, (2018) indicates that the agricultural sector contributes 30.9% to GDP and employs about 70% of the Rwandan economically active population. Though this is the case, farmers tend to extend their sources of income just to cope with the risks, distribute extra labor, answer to different types of market letdowns, obtain a smooth flow of income and exert coping mechanisms (Karttunen, 2009 & CSO, 2012). Thus, off-farm sector is regarded as one of the main income diversification mechanism mostly promoted by rural smallholder farmers as it offers survival and employment chances to the highly increasing population particularly in the form of labor and self-employment.

MINAGRI (2005) indicated that land possession is very limited and small yet considered as the principal source of food diet and exchange on market to feed non-farming populations. Thus calls for extra analysis on other possible ways favorable and applicable in Rwanda which can provide people with another option rather than depending on the agriculture sector. According to the (EICV4, 2016), annual number of non-farm jobs in Rwanda was at 146,000 while the EDPRS2 target is 200,000. Though it shows a significant improvement (60% increment) from the 90,000

average jobs recorded 2006-2011, there is still a big gap to be closed so that those solely depending on farming practices can get other sustainable source of income.

1.1. Problem Statement

Araya Teka and Sung-Kyu Lee (2020), stated that Sub Saharan Africa has about 224 million undernourished people counting to about 20% of the global undernourished population. In 2015, 20.8% of the population were undernourished and this has soared extremely to 22.7% in 2016. Sub Saharan Africa countries worked hard to curb down the poverty level, food insecurity and undernourishment in the region and achieve the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals. As part of their development agenda, governments have injected numerous agricultural package programs desired to boost the productivity of the smallholder farmers and improve the welfare of rural people. Contrarywise, experiences of some countries and empirical findings showed shreds of evidences for the weak effect of the induced house hold-based agricultural package programs on the household's poverty, consumption, income, nutrition, social values and welfare in general.

Rwanda being one of the countries that profoundly relies on agriculture and to respond to the challenges associated with low productivity of Agriculture, Rwanda opted to promote off-farm farm economic activities as a compliment and according to the ministry of agriculture (MINAGRI, 2017), 30% of households in rural areas are doing off-farm economic activities. Therefore, this study highlighted the contributions of off-farm sector to the household welfare, key welfare indicators impacted by the off-farm interventions, household's earnings from off-farm activities relationship between off-farm economic activities and the welfare of the beneficiaries as well as challenges facing the sector.

1.2 Objective of the paper

The objective of this paper was to evaluate the relationship between off-farm economic activities and the welfare of the beneficiaries of CORE project in Rusizi District, Rwanda.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Determinants of participation in off-farm activities

Multiple investigations in off-farm sector have showed that demographic characteristics, resources and household monetary abilities are regarded as the most motivating factors pushing smallholder farmers to get involved in off-farm activities. Ibekwe, *et al.* (2010) conducted a study in South-east Nigeria in 40 villages covering 200 households to assess the factors behind involvement in off-farm enterprises and found out that size of the land, nature and levels of education, access to markets, age and time invested in on-farm activities are critically important aspects shaping off and on-farm revenues. They further mentioned that the magnitude of the farm size is completely related to the returns from on farm activities but negatively associated with off-farm income.

Bedemo *et al.*, (2013) investigated factors behind participation in off-farm work in western Ethiopia and the study findings shows that variables on household characteristics, farm land and access to credits are the prime factors encouraging smallholder farmers to get involved in off-farm economic activities. Zahonogo (2011) investigated the reasons driving involvement in non-farm activities in Burkinafaso and the study results pointed out that participating in non-farm activities

is mostly associated to age, skills, levels of technology and the land size available. It is also due to a number of active labor forces in the household and the amount of rainfall available.

2.2 Off-farm work and farm production

Due to the limited access to agricultural credits and shift from subsistence farming to modern agriculture, production remains a challenge to less advantaged farmers thus forcing farmers to largely depend on household's savings. Over the last few decades, some investigations have studied the influence of off-farm undertakings on farm investment whereas scholars studied the outcomes of off-farm initiatives on numerous facets of farm production conclusions.

Bahamondes (2003) conducted a study in Chile on poverty and environment patterns and concluded that non-farm employment allowed agricultural intensification and finally reduces pressure on the natural resource base. Same findings were highlighted by Gasson (1988) who proposed that off-farm activity was repeatedly reserved to buy machinery, fund farm arrears and solve other family needs. Generally, the significance of off-farm on agriculture and people's welfare might be indefinite as diversification boosts household's financially.

2.3 Barriers facing off-farm industry

It is extensively recognized that there is entry challenges in off-farm industry due to the fact that it requires sound capital to finance desired investment, it may request investment in buying equipment, knowledge and skills acquisition as well as operating license fees. If such barriers persist, smallholder farmer's chances of getting involved multiple income generating opportunities through off-farm activities are minimal. The nature of wealth and assets possessions by farmers can determine the kind of non-farm activities a farmer involves in and but the fear is that this can affect the income (Reardon & Taylor 1996). Due to this, poorer farmers allocate much of their time in little compensating off-farm works whose entrance hurdle is insignificant.

Ideally if off-farm works are positively associated with farm revenues, better-off farmers are encouraged and optimistic of expanding their sources of income into off-farm sector than less advantaged farmers due to the fact that better-off individuals are less risk averse.

2.4 CORE Project and barriers facing off-farm industry in Rusizi District

CORE is a World Vision project which intends to considerably boost the incomes of youth and women by supporting their run enterprises and cooperatives from Rusizi and Nyamasheke Districts by 2018. Furthermore, CORE aims to easy access to financial services by laying favorable environment which supports establishment and management of youth and women led cooperatives, promoting access to financial services for youth and women cooperatives and entrepreneurs, promoting access to information technology for development (ICT4D) services to support marketing and market analysis, increasing off-farm entrepreneurship among youth and women and through and through developing community-based and government implemented monitoring systems that are vigorous enough to predict the impact and monitoring economic growth of the project beneficiaries.

CORE project applies systems strengthening mechanism to supporting the economic opportunities of youth and women, strengthening the capability of local government officials and organs in both Nyamasheke and Rusizi. In addition, CORE implements a noteworthy amount of its activities through local implementing partners, ensuring that the capacity of community-based organizations

is strengthened to support the economic ventures of women and youth without outside support. Lastly, CORE project targets 33,835 direct beneficiaries distributed in 11 Sectors.

Reports shows that 69.5% of women in Rusizi are involved in small scale farming, possessing less than 1 hectare of land while 35.2% are working in non-farm wage employment including , 28.4% and 6.8% men and women respectively. Persistent farm-based employment locks women, especially women in the most vulnerable households, in a cycle of subsistence employment that often limits professional skills acquisition. While youth have a more favorable scenario: 63.8% of youth in Rusizi are “economically active;” the age range for this assessment is 14-35. During assessments conducted in Rusizi district, district officials shared that youth face rampant under-employment challenges within the district. Those youth that are trained frequently leave the district in pursuit of better economic opportunities in Kigali or in neighboring districts. Given these constraints, Rusizi need additional vocational training support so that women and youth can be more engaged in economic activities.

In 2012, there were only 143 registered cooperatives in Rusizi District. Of these cooperatives, only 46 in Rusizi were trade or service-based, the lion share of cooperatives in Rusizi district are in the agricultural sector. The limited number of non-farm cooperatives means that entrepreneurs in the district face higher individual financial risks and do not benefit from the purchasing power afforded by collective bargaining. Additionally, cooperatives are often able to receive higher loan amounts with lower interest rates because they have a lower risk composition (due to increased collateral) than individual entrepreneurs. As a result of this paradigm, entrepreneurs often engage in low risk/low return ventures, limiting differentiation within the district. Due to limited differentiation, entrepreneurs in these districts are often forced to compete against each other on sole the basis of price. Local trader price competition often leads to a reduction in profits and creates a “zero sum” business climate incomes and household discretionary spending is fixed due to high levels of subsistence so local markets can only support a fixed number of businesses. Those that are the most vulnerable people with least access to cash and capital are also the most economically underutilized women and youth.

Market information on non-cash crop commodities is extremely scarce. One example of this gap in information is in the recorded use of the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Affairs (MINAGRI) *e-Soko* tool. E-soko was developed in partnership of the government of Rwanda and World Bank to provide an SMS-based information platform for farmer cooperatives to access market prices for commodities and livestock. In Rusizi district, no farming cooperatives currently use the e-Soko tool. As a result of incomplete market information, non-farm entrepreneurs are often left guessing what the price of their product may be when it is sold to consumers. Many non-farm cooperatives commence commercial activities without completing an in depth market analysis, which would provide details on the demand for their product in nearby markets. During a recent stakeholder assessment in Rusizi district one respondent shared that “Bukavu (DRC) needs everything and can buy anything produced in Rwanda.” As a result of incomplete market information, many entrepreneurs and cooperatives produce products that are not demanded at the expected price point. Women and youth often face higher information exclusion because they are often not as economically engaged as their male counterparts.

3. Methodology

Correlation research design was employed in this paper to determine the relationship between off-farm interventions and welfare of the beneficiaries. The target population of this study was 33,835 direct project beneficiaries from Rusizi District corresponding to the sample size of 166 respondents by using Kothari's (2004) formula. Questionnaire and guided interview were used as data collection instruments. The simple random sampling technique was used to the respondents of the study. To maintain the validity of the research instrument was maintained by distributing the research instruments to the expert respondents in the area of the study while reliability was maintained by making pilot study that provided reliability of the research instrument and got 86.2% using Cronbach's Alpha and considered to be reliable as it was greater than 70% as recommended. The IBM SPSS software version 21 was used in data analysis.

4. Research Findings

4.3.1 Households earnings from off-farm economic activities

This part highlights the findings related to the level of households' earnings from off-farm economic activities promoted by CORE Project in Rusizi District.

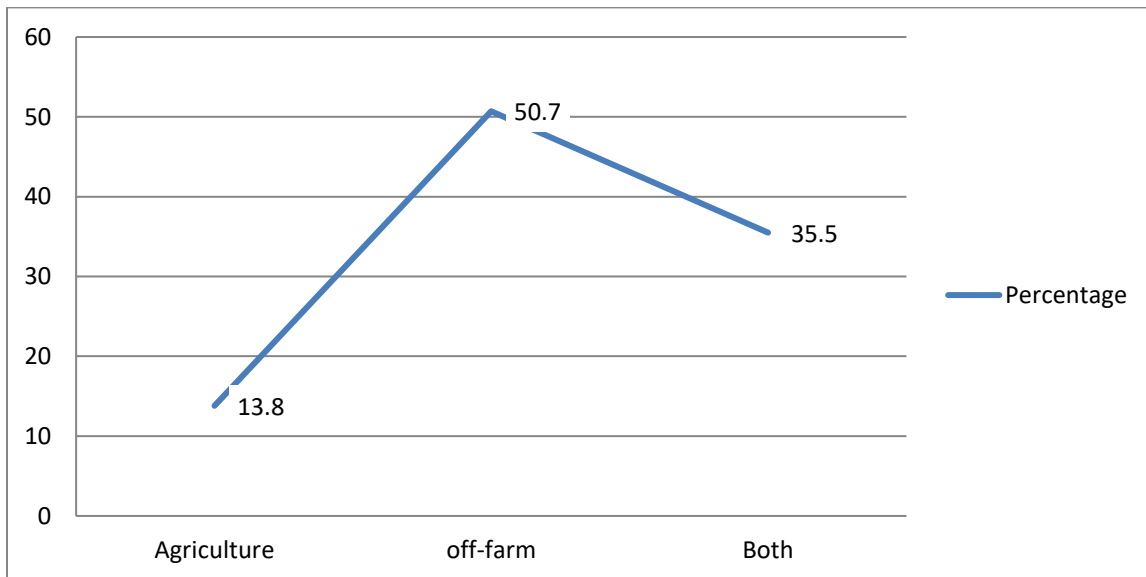


Figure 1: Respondents' main source of income

Figure 1 presents the respondents' main source of income. The table shows that majority of respondents get their income from off-farm activities as indicated by 77(50.7%) of respondents. This means that most of the beneficiaries of CORE Project in Rusizi district are participating in various off-farm activities serving as their main source of earnings. According to Ibekewe *et al* (2010), people decide to perform off-farm activities due to having insufficient size of the land and adequate level of education. Ibekewe *et al* (2010) also added that having access to markets and time to invest in off-farm activities are critically enabling factors to get revenue from such

activities. This was followed by 54(35.5%) of respondents who are involved in both activities (agriculture and off-farm activities). This means that some beneficiaries of CORE Project have more than one source of income and it was also mentioned that revenues obtained from off-farm activities can be used to boost agriculture as well. However only 21(13.8) of respondents take agriculture as their core source of income. This implies that doing agriculture also support them to get income for surviving and that not all the project beneficiaries quickly responded to the project call of promoting off-farm activities in Rusizi district. According to Gamage (2016), agriculture may become a secondary source of income when the land is limited and make people to perform some other activities. On the other hand, Gamage (2016) also said that in case, the land is sufficient, agriculture becomes the primary source of income and can enable farmers to achieve other household assets.

Table 1: Respondents’ kind of off-farm activities

Off-farm economic activities	Frequency	Percentage
Welding	15	9.9
Tailoring	32	21.1
Plumbing	7	4.6
Decoration service	19	12.5
Handcraft	19	12.5
Small trading	10	6.6
Shoe making	6	3.9
Hair dressing	9	5.9
Weaving	7	4.6
Carpentry	6	3.9
Restaurant	14	9.2
Repairing equipment	8	5.3
Total	152	100.0

Table1 depicts the respondent’s responses on various off-farm economic activities promoted by beneficiaries of Core project in Rusizi district. The majority of respondents 32(21.1%) indicated that the best off-farm activity practiced is tailoring due to the fact that it attracts both female and male, it is less costly to start the business as well short training time compared to the others. This implies that tailoring is considered to be a source of income in the journey of improving the welfare of CORE Project beneficiaries in Rusizi district. Vishnusajeevan (2017) revealed that in tailoring, people can earn money by working from home and can save people from paying some extra amount on renting house or paying transport towards the working place. 19(12.5%) of respondents indicated that they take decoration service and handcraft as their main source of income to improve their welfare.

15(9.9%) of respondents indicated that their source of income which improves their welfare is welding while 14(9.2%) of respondents indicated that they are managing restaurant as their source of income. This means that off-farm activities like restaurant and welding also enhances the lives of Core project beneficiaries. Tsepiso and Rantso (2016) explained that investing in non-farm activity like welding helps to get the supplementary income which supports the actual lives of beneficiaries. However, the minority of respondents presented that they have shoe making and carpentry as off-farm activities as indicated by 6(3.9%) respectively. This also means that there are some beneficiaries of CORE Project that survive because of making shoes and wooden

materials. Daniel (2018) indicated that getting income from carpentry requires having potential for lucrative for returns. Daniel (2018) also added that any lack of business acumen can set back even the most skillful craftsman. This implies that, self-employed carpenter can put himself in the most advantageous possible for long term success.

Table 2: Respondents’ motivation in off-farm activities

Motivations in off-farm activities	Frequency	Percentage
Availability of capacity building sessions	39	25.7
Stable markets for off-farm products	23	15.1
age factor	18	11.8
Low performance of agriculture	16	10.5
Level of education	8	5.3
Land ownership	2	1.3
Historical background	4	2.6
Availability of raw materials	6	3.9
Support from NGOs	36	23.7
Total	152	100.0

Table 2 presents the responses of CORE Project beneficiaries related to the factors that motivated people to get involved in off-farm activities. The findings shows that majority 39(25.7%) of respondents who practice off-farm activities is because they got trained and gained skills and knowledge used to make various off-farm activities. According to Findeis and Jill (2017), training, field visit exchanges and study tours, national workshops as well as meetings for policy-makers play significant part in capacity building among people doing off-farm activities. This was followed by 36(23.7%) of respondents who indicated that they do off-farm activities because of support given by various NGOs. This implies that the support of NGOs plays a significant impact in promotion of off-farm activities. If this support is channeled well, it can significantly impact a big number of people.

Similarly, 23(15.1%) of respondents mentioned that having stable market of off-farm products motivated them to get involved in such economic activities. This was followed by 18(11.8%) of respondents that indicated that they do off-farm activities because of age factor that do not allow them to make agriculture as their source income. This means that CORE Project beneficiaries do off-farm activities based on their choice and capacity of performance in order to sustain their welfare. According to Misgana (2020), there is a positive influence of age to the off-farm activities mostly at younger and older ages; the participatory in off-farm activities gets decreased as age increases. However, only 2(1.3%) as the minority of respondents indicated that they decided to do off-farm activities because they had and that the money obtained can improve their agriculture.

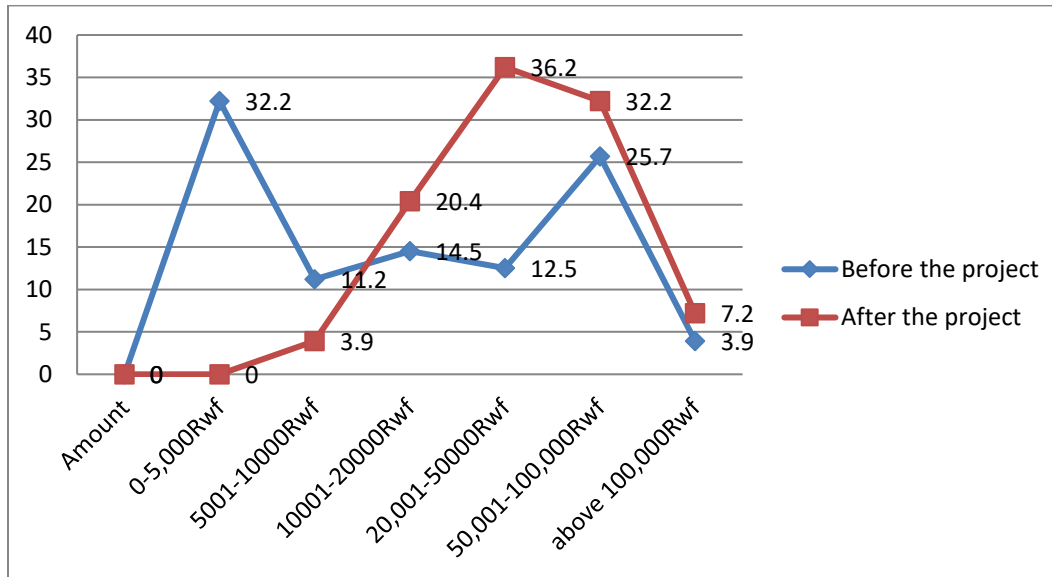


Figure 2: Respondents’ income earned per month before and after Core project

Figure 2 presents the responses of beneficiaries in CORE Project. The respondents gave their views on amount earned before and after the CORE Project intervention. The majority of respondents 49(32.2%) indicated that before project their income was from 0-5,000Rwf per month while after CORE Project, majority 55(36.2%) were earning between 20,001-50,000Rwf. This means that CORE Project did a significant impact on the beneficiaries’ welfare as shown in table that the income earned increased. This was followed by 39(25.7%) of respondents who indicated that before the project, they earned between 50,001-100,000Rwf per month while 49(32.2%) of the respondents earned from 50,001-100,000Rwf after the project. With such increase in income earned, CORE beneficiaries were able to provide for their families hence improved welfare. According to Anang and Yaboah (2019), education level, access to credit and farming experience are one of the factors that can increase the income earned from doing off-farm activities. Anang and Yaboah (2019) also added that enhancing the formal education especially in rural areas, improves the income of off-farm activities for the beneficiaries.

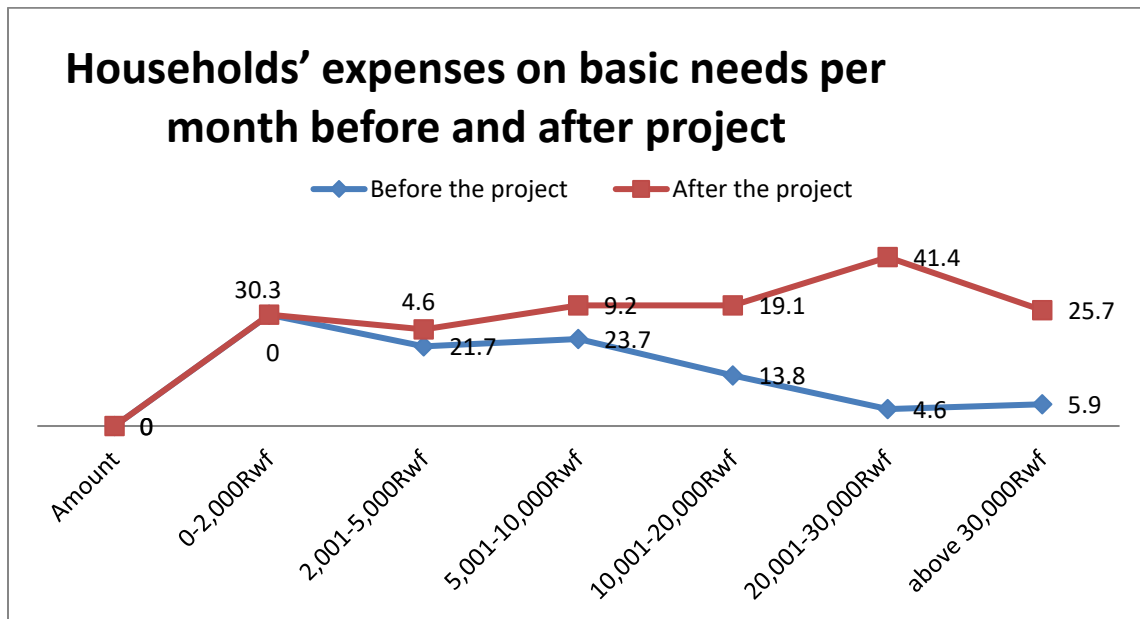


Figure 3: Households' expenses on basic needs per month before and after project

Figure 3 presents the responses of beneficiaries in CORE Project. The respondents gave their views on amount spent by a single household on basic needs before and after the CORE Project. The majority of respondents 46(30.3%) indicated that before project their expenses ranged from 0-2,000Rwf per month while after CORE Project, majority 63(41.4%) were spending between 20,000-30,000Rwf. This implies that CORE Project did a significant impact on their beneficiaries' welfare as shown in table that the expenses on basic needs of a single household increased as a result of increased income. This was followed by 36(23.7%) of respondents who indicated that before the project they spent between 5,000-10,000Rwf per month while 39(25.7%) of respondents spent from 30,000Rwf and above. Meanwhile, the more the income earned, the more families become independent and capable of providing for themselves. According to Matshe (2014) and Haggblade (2015), the off-farm activities support the households to generate some incomes which also results into poverty reduction more especially in less developed countries.

4.2 Key welfare improvement indicators celebrated by the beneficiaries of Core project

The findings shows that the majority 33(21.7%) of respondents are food secure which is one of the factors leading to the improved welfare. Fraange and Gammage (2018) explained that availability, accessibility and utilization as well as stability of foods are considered to maintain the food security and contribute to the people's welfare. This was followed by 31(20.4%) of respondents got bought different family assets like domestic animals, furniture, bicycles and others of which all do contribute to the improved welfare. This is due to the impact of CORE Project interventions.

On the other hand, 28(18.4%) of respondents are employed while 26(17.1%) of respondents started different investments. According to Mary (2020), family investment enables parents to keep control over the family asset to sustain the family welfare and growth of family wealth.

The study also revealed that 19(12.5%) increased their families' consumption spending on basic needs while 15(9.9%) of respondents indicated that their family income increased as a result of

participating in off-farm activities. Yodanis (2015) indicated that the family consumption may significantly be affected by family income, wealth, expectations and family size. Omalley (2016) also added that any increase of family income, directly increases the quantity consumed by the family automatically impacting wealth and welfare.

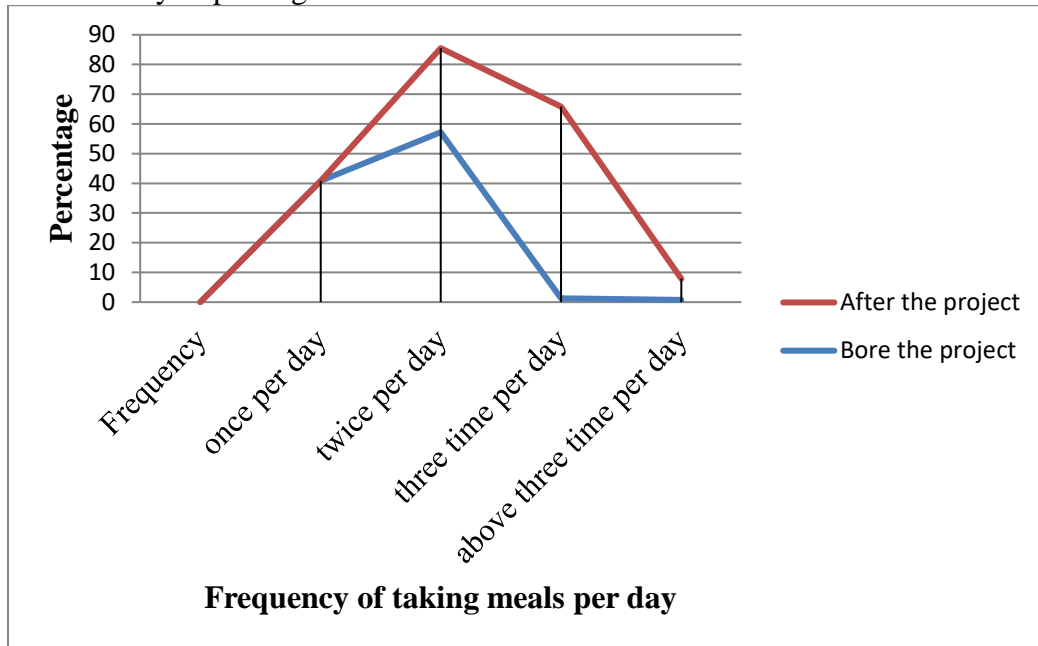


Figure 4: Frequency of taking meals per day and after among respondents

Figure 4 shows the frequency of meals taken by CORE Project beneficiaries per day by comparing the situation before and after the project, the researcher wanted to evaluate whether there is a change in meals taken per day or not. The findings shows that majority of respondents 87(57.2%) were taking meals twice per day before the introduction of CORE Project while after the introduction of the project, majority of respondents 98(64.5%) take up to three meals per day. This simply shows how CORE Project has made significant changes in lives of its beneficiaries. Gunnar (2018) supported the findings and explained that eating at least three times per day, improves one’s health and wellbeing. However, Gunnar (2018) also said that the quality of food in management of hunger and loss of weight.

4.3 Relationship between off-farm economic activities and welfare of beneficiaries of Core project

The relationship between variables is presented in this section. The study also presents the challenges faced by beneficiaries of CORE Project and some effect came as the results of CORE Project.

Table 3: Respondents’ achievement due to Core project

Achievements	Frequency	Percentage
Built a house	15	9.9
Rehabilitated a house	25	16.4
Bought a domestic animal	12	7.9
Bought a plot of land	18	11.8
Able to pay for medical care	46	30.3
Able to save on monthly basis	11	7.2
Started small income generating activity	6	3.9
Improved agriculture	4	2.6
Access to business loans	15	9.9

Table3 presents major indicators measured to establish the achievements of CORE Project beneficiaries realized as a result of engaging in off-farm economic activities. The result revealed that majority 46(30.3%) of respondents are able to pay for medical care followed by 25(16.4%) of respondents managed to rehabilitate their houses. On the other hand, the results shows that 18(11.9%) of respondents indicated that they bought a plot of land while 15(9.9%) indicated that they built a house and have access to loans. This implies that participating in CORE Project has a significant role to its beneficiaries.

Table 4: Relationship between off-farm economic activities and beneficiaries’ welfare in Core project

Correlations			
		Off-farm economic activities	Welfare of beneficiaries
Off-farm economic activities	Pearson Correlation	1	.293**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	152	152
Welfare of beneficiaries	Pearson Correlation	.293**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	152	152

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level 2-tailed)

The findings from the Table 4 indicates that there is a statistical significance relationship between off-farm economic activities and people’s welfare thus P-value = .000 which less than 0.01 as the level of significance and Pearson coefficient of correlation $r = .293$. This also implies that there is

a positive impact in promoting off-farm economic activities on people’s welfare. Ahmed (2018) revealed that the sex of the household head has a significance impact on the family members’ welfare where his/her literacy management help in enhancing the family income.

Table 5: R Square result of off-farm economic activities and beneficiaries’ welfare in Core project

Model Summary									
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics				
					R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change
1	.392 ^a	.354	.137	.44016	.154	8.972	3	148	.000

a. Predictors: (Constant), Availing raw materials to the beneficiaries, Linkages to micro-financing institutions, Beneficiary training program

From the Table which the result of R Square related to the impact performing in off farm economic activities on beneficiaries’ welfare in Core project where equation of the line $y = \beta + \alpha_1 X_1 + \alpha_2 X_2 + \alpha_3 X_3 + \epsilon$ thus y: dependent variable as beneficiaries’ welfare performance, x: independent variable as off-farm activities and R Square was 0.354. This also implies that there are 35.4% of beneficiaries’ welfare can be affected by the level of performing off-farm activities and the remaining 64.6% of beneficiaries’ welfare can be explained by other factors. This is also associated with the fact that the project was in its first 3 years of implementation hence a short period of time for bigger changes. According to Anley and Bogale (2017), farmers who participate in non-farm activities play a considerable role in improvement of their family members’ welfare rather than those who did not participate.

5.0 Summary of findings

The responses from respondents indicated that there is a statistical significance positive relationship between off-farm economic activities and welfare of beneficiaries in CORE Project thus P-value =.000 less than 0.01 as the correlation significance level and Pearson coefficient correlation $r = 0.293$. The findings also indicated that there is a significant impact of off-farm economic activities on beneficiaries’ welfare in Core project in Rusizi district where the findings showed the R square of 0.354. This implies that the independent variables that make off-farm economic activities explain 35.4% variation from expected and actual results of dependent variable considered to beneficiaries’ welfare of Core project in this study. The findings further presented that there are still some challenges facing off-farm economic activities such as lack of capital, having limited skills and time to invest in off-farm activities, community attitudes or perception on locally made items, competition from established industry and historical background where majority 68(44.7%) of respondents mentioned the challenge related to the lack capital as a hindrance to venture into off farm activities effectively.

6.0 Conclusion

The study concludes that the effective promotion of off-farm economic activities, may directly improve the level of beneficiaries' welfare in CORE Project in Rusizi district. On the other hand, if all highlighted challenges are not properly addressed, the gains from off-farm activities will be affected leading to the negative impact on the welfare of the beneficiaries. The study also concludes that there is a statistical significance relationship between off-farm economic activities and welfare of beneficiaries in CORE Project in Rusizi District.

7.0 Recommendations

Basing on the findings established, the recommendations are addressed to Rusizi district administrative staff, financial institution in Rusizi district, CORE Project staffs and beneficiaries of the CORE Project.

7.1 General recommendations

1. The administrative staffs of Rusizi district should work hand in hand with CORE Project staff in order to facilitate the effective implementation of off-farm economic activities among project' beneficiaries.
2. The financial institutions and MFIs working in Rusizi district should ease the processes and requirements of getting loans just to enable citizens have capital to start or boost their businesses/investments which in the end leads to the improved household's welfare.
3. In the next phase of the project, Men should also be considered as they have a considerable role in supporting youths or women involvement in the project activities.
4. The project lifetime should be at least 5 years not 3 years, this promotes a sense of stability and time to adjust without pressure or get used to the donor needs and requirements.
5. The CORE Project staff should support the project' beneficiaries to get professional trainings that help them to get adequate skills in order to perform various off-farm activities effectively.
6. The beneficiaries of CORE Project should work cooperatively in order to unify their capacity and skills in order to get various opportunities given by CORE Project and also to become competitive in their working area.
- 7.

Suggestion for Further Research

The researcher suggests that further study can be conducted to find out the influence of modern agriculture on people' welfare in rural areas in Rwanda. This will help to identify, the extent through which people' welfare can be affected due to doing modern agriculture as their main source of income in comparison with the influence of off-farm activities.

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