

Rural Households' Sources of Water and Willingness to Pay for Improved Water Services in South-West, Nigeria

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Abstract : Households' source of water is one of the core development indicators recently gaining pre-eminence in Nigeria. This study examined rural households' sources of water, Willingness to Pay (WTP) and factors influencing mean WTP. A cross-sectional survey which involved the use of questionnaire was used. A dichotomous choice (DC) with follow up was used as elicitation method. A multi-stage random sampling technique was used to select 437 rural households. Descriptive statistics and Tobit model were used for data estimation. The result revealed that about 70% fetched from unimproved water sources. Most (74.4%) respondents showed WTP for improved water sources. Age ($p < 0.01$), sex ($p < 0.01$), education ($p < 0.01$), occupation ($p < 0.01$), income ($p < 0.01$), price of water ($P < 0.01$), quantity of water ($p < 0.01$), household size ($p < 0.01$) and distance ($p < 0.01$) to existing water sources significantly influenced rural households' WTP for these services. The inference from this study showed that rural dweller sources of water is highly primitive and deplorable. Governments and stakeholders should prioritize the provision of rural water at an affordable price by rural dwellers.

Keywords : households, source of water, willingness to pay (WTP), tobit model

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