

Effects Of Rainfall Variability On Water Supply In Ibadan South West Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria

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Abstract: The effect of rainfall variability on water supply in Ibadan South West L.G.A was investigated in this study. Data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics, correlation and regression analysis. The result of the analysis shows that there is a weak positive relationship between annual rainfall received and the public water supply in the study area during the selected (1997-2011) years. The results obtained from the computation of correlation were used to test for the validity of the first hypothesis. The result shows that the calculated value (3.807) is greater than the tabulated value (2.167). Therefore we reject the null hypothesis which states that there is no relationship between rural water supply and rainfall variability in the study area to accept the alternative hypothesis which states that there is a relationship between rural water supply and rainfall variability in the study area confirming that water availability and water supply is vulnerable to climate change and rainfall variability. The study recommends that the people, civil society organizations, government as well as non governmental organizations should rededicate their efforts of ameliorating the adverse effect of climatic change and rainfall variability on water supply through massive development of ground water sources and rain harvesting techniques.

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Key words: Water supply, Water demand, Climate change, Water adequacy level, Rainfall distribution pattern.

Introduction

Water makes life possible as without water, life and civilization cannot develop or survive. Water is a vital need to man just as air and food are. In fact, apart from air that we breathe, water is the most important element to man. An average man requires about 1.5litres of water daily for drinking. Apart from drinking, man requires water for various other uses such as cooking, washing, sanitation, agriculture, industrial production and hydroelectric power generation, etc. As the standard of living increases, so does the need for demand for water increases. International Water Management Institute (IWMI, 2007) conducted an assessment of water management and found that one fifth of the world's people live in areas of physical water scarcity, one third of the world's population does not have access to clean water and that 1.6 billion people live in areas experiencing economic water scarcity.

The only natural input to other sources of water (surface and ground water) is rainfall. The total quantity of water available at any given time is an important consideration. Rainfall is relied on for both surface and groundwater (Taylor, 2011). Long term fluctuations in rainfall distribution pattern around the world have been linked to the effects of climate change (Scott, 2004) and Taylor (2011) which underscores the point that climate change will affect rainfall distribution and weather patterns. Climate change is a powerful force in shaping the life of poor people.

Climate change has caused a shift in the seasonal variability of rainfall and thus a shift in the normal timing and length of wet and dry season and increase in seasonal fluctuation of the water bodies (Odjugo, 2010). In Nigeria, changing rainfall patterns have been observed by various scientists. Anyadike (1993), Nnaji (2001,1999) and Adjugo (2009) observed an unusual changes in the occurrence of wet and dry season regimes.

The situation of water supply and management in Nigeria is complex as majority of people are poor and have sometimes have to travel several distances in order to get portable water for their household (Nnodu, 2008). An understanding of the dynamic relationship between rainfall variability and water supply is critical to developing future water projects. In view of the above, this study is aimed at investigating how rainfall variability affect water supply in Ibadan Southwest Local Government area of Oyo State, Nigeria.

Methodology

Ibadan Southwest Local Government is one of the 33 local government areas in Oyo State, Nigeria and is about 234 m above the sea level. It is within the forest savannah eco-climatic zone. It has an average annual rainfall of about 1225mm, average annual maximum and minimum temperature of 34.8⁰C and 24.3⁰C respectively. The raining season commences around the end of the third dekad of March and ends around the first dekad of November. The area is mainly drained by Ona River, which is characterized by dry

valleys that are usually covered by flood during the periods of high rainfall. Ibadan Southwest has many autonomous communities: Apata, Odo-Ona, Dugbe, Aleshinloye to mention but few (Figure 1). The area is

densely populated with about 282,585 inhabitants and landed area of 40 km² (NPC, 2006). The economic activities include farming, trading, commercial services and civil service.

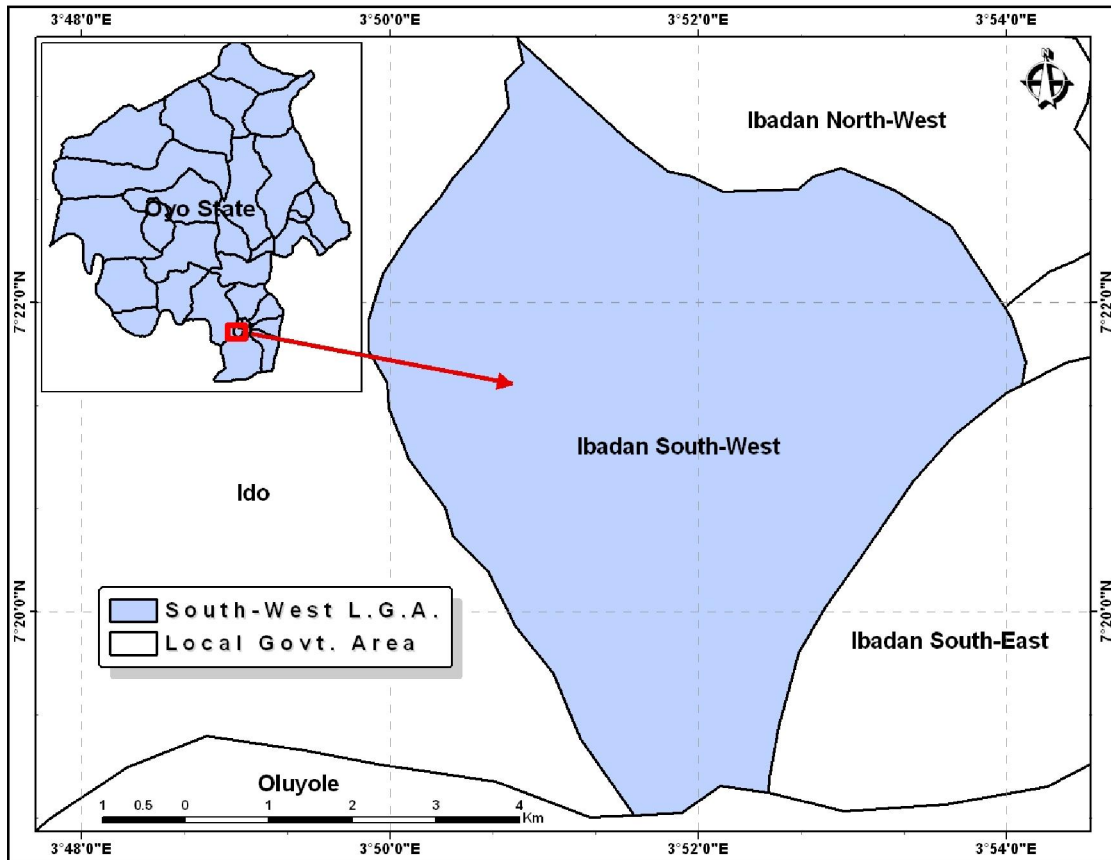


Figure 1: Map of Oyo State showing the study area.

Data were collected from primary sources using questionnaire, oral interviews and personal observation. This includes data on water demand sources of water supply and water adequacy level. Within the local government area, communities were randomly selected to ensure a representative coverage. A total of six communities were selected and 40 structured questionnaires were distributed among the randomly selected households to make a total of 240 pieces of the questionnaire. Secondary data, such as rainfall data in the last 15 years (1997-2011) were obtained from the agrometeorological unit of the Institute of Agricultural Research and Training (IAR&T), Obafemi Awolowo University, Ibadan. Data on volume of water supplied to the areas by Oyo State Water Cooperation was also utilized in this study. Tables, graph and figure were used to enhance illustrations. Descriptive statistics, correlation and regression analysis were used. They were used to test

the two hypothesis (Ho and Hi) at 0.05 significance level.

Ho: There is no relationship between rural water supply and rainfall variability in the study area.

Hi: There is a relationship between rural water supply and rainfall variability in the study area.

Analysis of variance (ANOVA) was applied to determine if there is a significant difference on available sources of water among communities.

Results and Discussion

It was discovered that water demand by each household is almost similar from zone to zone which shows that the people are with similar water needs with 52.92% of the population needing 401 to 600 liters of water per day while 22% consumes over 800 liters of water per day (Tables 1). This shows that the people in the local government area are of similar socioeconomic status.

Table 1: Average quantity of water demand per household per day (n = 40)

Water demand(lts)	Zone						Total	Percentage
	1	2	3	4	5	6		
200 – 400	9	8	10	11	7	8	53	22.08
401 – 600	20	22	25	19	20	21	127	52.92
601 – 800	6	6	3	6	8	6	35	14.58
> 801	5	4	2	4	5	5	22	10.48

Source: Field survey (2011)

Zone 1 – Apata Zone 2 – Odo-Ona
 Zone 3 – MKO Way Zone 4 – Oke-Ado
 Zone 5 – Iyaganku Zone 6 – Eleyele

The same trend was found in terms of water supply adequacy level where 35.83% of the respondents believed that the public water supply is fairly adequate (Table 2) and little number (6.25%) of people believe the water supply is very adequate. The frequency distribution of different households in the zones within the local government to various sources of water is as shown in Table 3. The public water supply cannot meet quantity of water demanded by the inhabitants of the areas. This is as shown in the table as larger percentage of the people (24.17%) relied on buying water from water vendor. It could be observed that people in the local government maximize the utilization of surface water (Ona River) and its tributaries probably for washing and bathing although

not safe for drinking (Adetayo, 2007). It was shown from the table that 15 % of the responding households obtained water through the public water supply, 20.83 % through wells, 10.42 % through borehole, 22.03 % through stream water and 7.5 % through rain water harvesting. This indicates that rain water harvesting is not a popular source of water in the study area. This is in accordance with several researches that have revealed that in developing countries, the demand for water is hardly met (Ayoade, 1984; Chinos and Nyelong, 2005; Glantz, 1982) and according to European Commission (1998), the fulfillment of human kind's basic need for supply of safe drinking water remains an important part of today's challenges in developing countries.

Table 2: Water adequacy level in the study area

Level of adequacy	Zone						Total	Percentage
	1	2	3	4	5	6		
Grossly inadequate	3	4	3	4	4	3	21	8.75
Inadequate	7	9	10	10	11	11	58	24.17
Fairly adequate	15	14	15	14	14	14	86	35.83
Adequate	12	10	10	9	9	10	60	25.00
Very adequate	3	3	2	3	2	2	15	6.25

Source: Field survey (2011)

Table 3: Sources of water available

Water availability	Zone						Total	Percentage
	1	2	3	4	5	6		
Public water supply	6	7	6	7	5	5	36	15.00
Water vendor	8	9	10	9	11	11	58	24.17
Well	6	7	8	8	10	11	50	20.83
Borehole	4	3	5	4	5	4	25	10.42
Stream / River	12	10	7	10	7	7	53	22.03
Rain harvesting	4	4	4	2	2	2	18	7.50

Source: Field survey (2011)

The relationship between public water supply and rainfall amount was shown in Appendixes. It was discovered that there is a weak but positive correlation ($r = 0.321$) between public water supply and rainfall in the study area while the regression equation $Y = 1.361$

$\times 10^7 2226.41X$, (where X is Rainfall and Y is Water supply). This statistical test is showing that public water availability in Ibadan Southwest local government area is less vulnerable to climate change and rainfall variability. Annual rainfall against annual

water supply for the period of 15 years (1997-2011) is presented in Table 4. Regression graph (Figure 2) was also used to further confirm the relationship between rainfall and water supply.

The results obtained from the computation of correlation were used to test for the validity of the first hypothesis. The result shows that the calculated value (3.807) is greater than the tabulated value (2.160) at 0.05 significant levels. Therefore we reject the null hypothesis which states that there is no relationship between rural water supply and rainfall variability in the study area to accept the alternative hypothesis which states that there is a relationship between rural water supply and rainfall variability in the study area confirming that water availability and water supply is vulnerable to climate change and rainfall variability. The result is in accordance with the investigation of Eldredge *et al* (1998) on changing pattern of water supply for western Sudan using annual and monthly series.

Table 4: Annual Rainfall (mm) against Annual Water supply (m³/yr) for the period of 1997-2011

Year	Rainfall (mm)	Water supply (m ³ /yr)
1	1289.4	16507624
2	1003.1	16804426
3	1751.6	15923620
4	1405.5	13649262
5	1261.6	14263647
6	1498.1	17624236
7	1528.1	17045042
8	1146.8	16613624
9	1465.4	16604786
10	1526.0	17246846
11	1224.1	16624892
12	1319.3	15862487
13	1424.7	18893418
14	1831.0	18862467
15	1471.9	18663642

Source: Agromet. Station of Institute of Agricultural Research and Training and Oyo State Water Corporation.

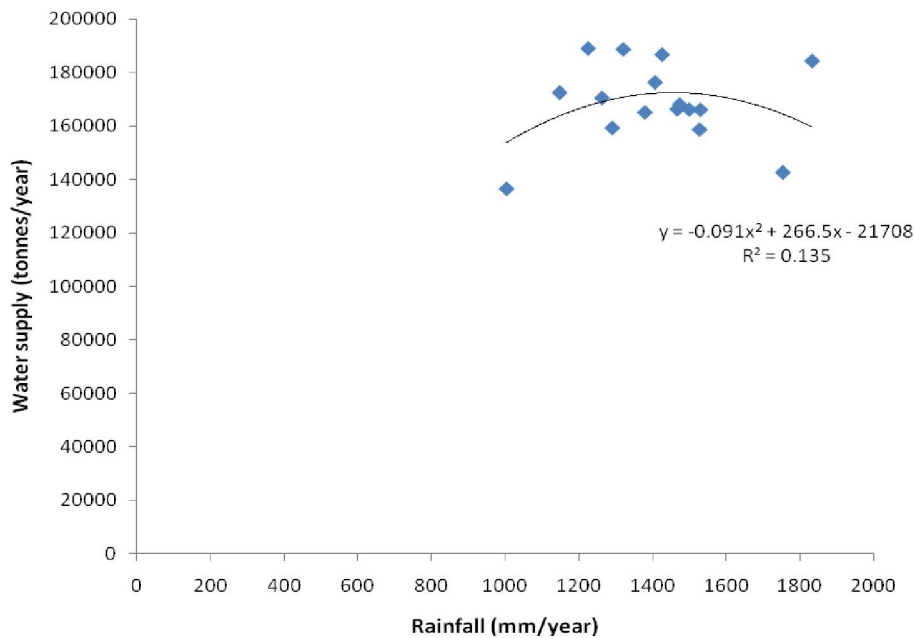


Figure 1: Regression graph of Rainfall received and Water Supply within the Study Area.

Conclusion and Recommendation

It was revealed in the study that there are variations in the annual rainfall received in the study area. It was also revealed that there is a weak positive correlation between rainfall and water supply through the public means although inadequate for public use. This shows that public water availability in Ibadan

Southwest local government area is less vulnerable to climate change and rainfall variability. The coping strategies identified are mere survival strategies (vendor, well, borehole, etc.), which may not meet the required standard for optimal use of water.

With the large number of people relying on well and borehole for their sources of water, it is however

important to note that excessive borehole and well water withdrawal may cause reduced water table through draw down effect, hence, the source of recharge into the groundwater is essential to water resource evaluation and planning, especially in mitigating the effect of variation in rainfall distribution. Due to greater dependence on the immediate environment for water supply, one promising strategy may be to develop water abstraction technologies that allow continued use of aquifers during the transition period or even throughout the year. It is hereby recommended that laws protecting water resources be enforced and further research efforts should be intensified in the area of water supply and management. Government should help in protecting and maintaining existing watersheds and intensify efforts in providing potable water for the people. An improvement in rain harvesting techniques, construction of rain catchments, back-up tanks should be encouraged.

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