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CLASSIFICATION OF SETTLEMENTS BY ECONOMIC POTENTIALS IN THE SOUTHERN REGION OF NIGER STATE: A LOCATION QUOTIENT APPROACH

KLASYFIKACJA OSAD WEDŁUG POTENCJAŁU GOSPODARCZEGO W POŁUDNIOWYM REGIONIE STANU NIGER (W NIGERII): PODEJŚCIE OPARTE NA ILORAZIE LOKALIZACJI

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Abstract

Regional economic activities and developments are measured through various techniques where Location Quotient (LQ) is one of the most reliable techniques. This paper classifies the settlements by economic potentials in the southern region of Niger state using the LQ. A structured questionnaire was administered to 1.040 in the 37 rural communities selected from 37 districts in 8 LGAs in the Niger South Federal constituency in Niger State. The data collected was analysed using LQ. Findings of the study in terms of economic potentials of the region, reveals that communities are mainly engaged in basic economic activities; including the cultivation of food crops (rice, maize, beans, millet and yam); cultivation of cash crops (benisead, ground nut, vegetable, cassava and melon), plantation agriculture (palm, kola nut, cashew and sugar cane). Findings in terms of basic economy revealed that Egbako has the highest LQ with an average score of 0.06, and is closely followed by Takuma, Batako, Kusoyaba, Mukugi and Kalmo, with an average LQ score of 0.04 each, while in terms of non-basic economy, the findings indicates that both Egbako and Kuchita have the highest non-basic LQ with an average score of 0.07, which were closely followed by Katcha, Mukugi and Gayankpa settlements with non-basic economic LQ and average scores of 0.04 each. The study concludes that LQ is one of the best techniques in measuring economic potentials of regions. It also recommends LQ for regional economic assessments.

Keywords: economic potentials, Location Quotient, Settlement classification, Regional planning, Southern region of Niger State

Streszczenie

Działalność gospodarcza w regionie oraz rozwój regionu są mierzone różnymi metodami, wśród których iloraz lokalizacji (LQ) jest jedną z najbardziej wiarygodnych technik. Niniejszy artykuł klasyfikuje osady według potencjału gospodarczego w południowym regionie stanu Niger przy użyciu wskaźnika specjalizacji regionalnej LQ. Ankietę zawierającą pytania zamknięte rozdano 1040 osobom w 37 społecznościach wiejskich wybranych z 37 stref ośmiu obszarów samorządowych w okręgu federalnym Niger South w stanie Niger. Zebrane dane zostały przeanalizowane przy użyciu techniki LQ. Wyniki badania w zakresie potencjału gospodarczego regionu pokazują, że społeczności są głównie zaangażowane w bazową działalność gospodarczą, w tym uprawę roślin spożywczych (ryż, kukurydza, fasola, proso i ignam); produkcję upraw rynkowych (benisead, orzeszki ziemne, warzywa, maniok i melony), rolnictwo plantacyjne (palma, orzech kola, nerkowiec i trzcina cukrowa). Najwyższą wartość LQ dla działalności podstawowej uzyskało Egbako ze średnim wynikiem 0,06,

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następnie Takuma, Batako, Kusoyaba, Mukugi i Kalmo, ze średnim wynikiem LQ 0,04. Pod względem gospodarki nie-bazowej zarówno Egbako, jak i Kuchita mają najwyższe LQ ze średnim wynikiem 0,07, a tuż za nimi plasują się osady Katcha, Mukugi i Gayankpa ze średnimi wynikami LQ 0,04. W badaniach stwierdzono, że LQ jest jedną z najlepszych technik pomiaru potencjału gospodarczego regionów. Technikę tę poleca się również do wykorzystania przy sporządzaniu ekonomicznych ocen regionalnych.

Słowa kluczowe: potencjał ekonomiczny, iloraz lokalizacji, klasyfikacja osad, planowanie regionalne, południowy region stanu Niger

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