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EFFECT OF RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION IN GIWA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF KADUNA STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

This study determined the effect of rural-urban migration in Giwa local government area of Kaduna State, Nigeria. The broad objective of the study is to determine the effect of rural-urban migration in the study area. Purposive sampling technique was used to select migrants from six wards in the study area namely Giwa, Shika, Gangara, Yakawada, Danhamawayi and Kaya. Simple random sampling was then used to sample 80 respondents from the six wards. Data were collected from the respondents using interview schedule and analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The study found that males (86%) and young adults of between 36-45 years were more involved in the migration with half of them single. The push factors of the migration were to seek job (39%) and seek formal and Islamic education (25%). Also, results further showed that there were positive and significant effects of rural-urban migration on agricultural and educational projects of the migrants. It is recommended that amenities that would encourage the stay of the migrants should be provided by government and NGOs to reduce the drift of people to rural areas.

Keywords: Remittances, migrants, rural-urban migration, rural transformation

INTRODUCTION

The phenomenon of rural-urban migration is based on persistent inequality in the allocation of social and economic infrastructure such as electricity, pipe borne water, good roads, health facilities, efficient communication and industries, among others in rural and urban communities. Migration is aided by push and pull factors. According to Braun (2004), People tend to be pulled to the areas of prosperity and pushed from areas of decline. Migrants are normally concerned with the benefits they hope to gain by moving and usually give less thought to the problems that they will incur as a result of the migration process.

Migration is an inevitable part of human existence, with a long history. However, its pattern has changed considerably over time, from the search for space, especially in the middle ages, to that of congestion in large cities (rural-urban migration) in the modern age, especially in the last millennium. A study by Fadayomi (1998) revealed

general persistence of rural-urban and rural –rural migration types but according to Okpara (1983) migrants from rural to urban areas are always many compared to those coming from urban to rural areas.

Migration is a survival strategy utilized by Nigeria's rural poor. Agriculture provides employment and livelihood for the majority of the population, providing work to more than 75 per cent of the world's poor are resident in rural areas and the prevalence of poverty in developing economies is more apparent in rural areas than in the cities (ILO, 2008). Study of effects of migration is vital because it acts as a catalyst in the agricultural transformation process on the destiny of individual migrants, the conditions of family members left behind, local communities, and the originating regions. In 1988, the Federal Government published the first ever agricultural policy document for Nigeria aimed at redressing underdevelopment of agriculture, streamlining

policies in all tiers of government and ensuring policy stability (Opara, 2006).

The most distinct characteristic of Nigeria's rural areas is the widespread involvement of the inhabitants in agriculture. Agriculture is the most important economic sector in terms of its contribution to the GDP of the Nation after Oil. The sector contributes about 41 percent of the country's GDP, employs about 65 percent of the total population and provides employment to about 80 percent of the rural population in 2004 (ADF, 2005).

Recently, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Nigeria expanded 4.18 percent in the second quarter of 2014 over the previous quarter. GDP Growth Rate in Nigeria averaged 0.31 Percent from 2013 until 2014, reaching an all-time high of 8.99 Percent in the third quarter of 2013 and a record low of -9.88 Percent in the first quarter of 2014.

Purpose of the study

The occupational differences between rural and urban Nigeria have grave implications for the heavy dependence of the urban on the rural sector and therefore the need for greater attention to rural and agricultural development. Rural-Urban migration has long been recognized as one of the main problems of rural development in Nigeria. The effects of rural-urban migration in the rural places of origin of migrants may be manifest in two ways. First, the rural-urban migrants send remittances to their relatives in the rural areas and these remittance-receiving households use the remittances for various purposes. Secondly, these rural-urban migrants execute various rural developmental projects in their rural areas of origin.

There is, therefore, a need for studies that will determine the effects of rural-urban migration on rural communities in developing countries especially in Nigeria where rural-urban migration

has been on the increase in recent times. The estimation of the effects of rural-urban migration on the rural communities will aid policy interventions by governments and development agencies in their quest to facilitate the development of these rural communities. On the other hand, studies by Ijere (1994) revealed that rural-urban migration has a positive impact on urban growth and social development, which makes generation of employment opportunities and provision of educational facilities and transportation infrastructure for the migrants. Jibowo (1992) reported that factors influencing people to migrate to rural areas might be as a result of city congestion, traffic, dams, sanitation problems, increasing urban unemployment, increased crime rate and housing problem. These problems are so great in many developing countries that rural development has been a cardinal programme of political campaigns by many politicians.

This study therefore investigated the effect of rural-urban migration rural transformation in Giwa local government area of Kaduna State, Nigeria. Specifically, this study:

1. described some socio-economic characteristics of the migrants in the study area;
2. identification of the major causes of rural-urban migration in the study area
3. investigated the effect of rural-urban migration on rural transformation in the study area,

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study area

The study area was Giwa LGA of Kaduna state, Nigeria. It has an area of 2,066 km² and a current projected population of 360,838 based on 3% growth rate of Kaduna state (UNPFA, 2014). Mean annual rainfall ranges 1000 – 1420mm. Giwa LGA has 11 wards viz Giwa, Gangara, Shika, Yakawada, Idasu, Kakangi, Kudandan, Kadage, Galadimawa, Panhauya and Danmahawayi.



Majority of the population are farmers under small-scale traditional technology. Mixed cropping is more common among farmers. The main crops of the farmers there include maize, sorghum, cowpea and soybeans.

Rurality of a place refers to people living in rural areas as defined by the national statistical offices. It is based on the difference between total population and urban population. In Nigeria, a rural area is defined as an area having a population of less than 20,000 persons according to the 1991 population census which according to Alaneme (2000) masked varying degree of intensity and rurality exhibited in the heterogeneity of Nigeria's case. Giwa local government area was selected for this study because of its inherent characteristics such as its large population, large produce market and being a major transit point of the migrants. The urban-rural migrants in the area constituted the population for the study. Purposive sampling technique was used to select a total of 80 migrants who served as respondents for the study. Interview schedule was used to elicit response from the selected migrants

Primary data through use of interview schedule was used in collecting data from the respondents for this research was achieved through questionnaire which was administered on the respondents to derive information on socioeconomic characteristics, incidence and effect of rural-urban migration. This study utilized a mixed methods approach which includes mixing of quantitative and qualitative data and methods for research studies ((Johnson, Onwuegbuzie, and Turner, 2007). Mixed methods approaches have recently been utilized in development research in Nigeria and have been noted to be user-friendly especially where there is paucity or absence of baseline data or when dealing with research participants with low literacy levels. In the

collection of data for this research, household questionnaire was administered on the respondents who are the household heads so as to derive information.

Descriptive statistics was used to highlight the socio-economic characteristics, causes of rural-urban migration, and the uses of the remittances by the rural receiving households in the rural communities of origin. Also, regression analysis was used to show the effects of rural-urban migration on the rural migrant communities in the study area using the major projects executed by the rural-urban migrants in these rural communities.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The results of the study in Table 1 revealed that a majority (74 percent) of the respondents had their ages between 26 and 45 years, with the highest concentration in the range of 36-45 years. A majority (86 percent) of the respondents were male migrants, while about 14 percent were female migrants. About half (50.0 percent) of the respondents were single, 37.5 percent were married. It may be inferred that most of the rural - urban migrants are single men. Over 40 percent of respondents did not receive any form of formal education, while over a half two-thirds (56 percent) had received one form of formal education or the other.

Over a third (37.5 percent) of the migrants were commercial motorcycle riders with a fifth (21.25 percent) involved in trading while 17.25percent worked as security guards. A third of the respondents' household size was over 20 followed by over a quarter (27.5percent) with household size of 15-19. This might imply that most of the household size of the respondents are somewhat large probably putting pressure on the migrants to migrate in search of "greener pasture" to meet needs back home.

Table 1: Distribution of Socio-economic Characteristics of migrants, n=80

Parameter	Frequency	Percentage
Age		
≤ 25	10	8
26-35	26	32.5
36-45	33	41.25
46-55	11	13.75
Gender		
Male	69	86.25
Female	11	13.75
Marital status		
Married	30	37.5
Single	40	50
Divorced	10	12.5
Household size		
≤ 4	4	5
05-9	18	22.5
10-15	22	27.5
16-19	10	8
≥20	26	32.5
Educational level		
Qur'anic education	35	43.74
Primary education	25	31.25
Post-primary education	15	18.75
Tertiary education	5	6.25
Occupation		
Commercial motorcycle rider	30	37.5
Guard man	14	17.5
Trading	17	21.25
Bus driver	5	6.25
Water seller	11	13.75
Others	3	3.75

Source: Field survey, 2013

Causes of migration

Table 2 shows that the respondents left the rural areas due to factors ranging from inability to secure jobs (38.75 percent), seek education (25 percent), avoid burden of agriculture and lack of infrastructure (12.5 percent), join relative (3.25percent) and illness (1.25 percent).

Table 2: Distribution of migrants based on causes of migration, n=80

Causes of migration	Frequency	Percentage
Illness	1	1.25
To join relative	3	3.75
Avoid burden of agriculture	10	12.5
Seek job	31	38.75
Lack of infrastructure	10	12.5
Education	20	25
Others	5	6.25
Total	80	100

Source: Field survey, 2013

Effects of Rural-Urban Migration

In this study, the estimation of the effects of rural-urban migration in the rural communities is based on the various rural developmental projects executed by the rural-urban migrants in their rural area through the various uses of remittances received from the rural-urban migrants which according to the respondents, leads to the transformation of the rural communities and the improvement in the quality of life of the rural populace.

Consequently, it can be seen that 7 migration variables taken together explained the variation to the extent of 67.50 percent. The remaining 31.40 percent of the variation may be due to other variables which were not included in the study. The t-test of the significance indicated that coefficient of regression were highly significantly for education project (=2.964) and significant for agricultural project (=0.513). So it can be predicted that one unit change in the independent variable of education project and agricultural project land holding leads to corresponding change in the effect of migration on the respondents.

Table 3: Regression analysis results of effects of rural-urban migration

Effect of migration variables	Regression coefficients	Significance level
Buying of food	3.093	0.02*
Remittances/savings	2.614	0.042**
Purchase of household goods	-0.029	0.003***
Education project	2.964	0.000***
Agricultural project	0.513	0.002**
Mosque project	0.097	0.040*
Other projects	-1.552	-0.063

**** = significant at 1.0 percent,

** = significant at 5.0 percent,

* = significant at 10.0 percent

R² = 0.675

Source: Field survey, 2013

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study revealed that the rural-urban migrants embark on and execute some educational and agricultural projects in their rural communities of origin. Both the availability or otherwise of these developmental projects and their various uses are seen by the rural populace as an indicator of rural transformation and socioeconomic development. Consequently, as long as these projects and the uses of the remittances are concerned, they improve the rural populace quality of life and well-being while also improving their joy and satisfaction.

It is expected that the findings of this study will make it easy for local and state governments, non-governmental organisations and policy makers to begin appropriate development interventions to augment the contributions of rural-urban migration in the area. Also agricultural capacities should be improved since agriculture is significant element in the livelihood of the rural population

Also, quality of lives in the rural areas could be improved by provision of social infrastructure and

skills acquisition centers and help in diminishing the tide of rural-urban drift.

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