

Infrastructural Non Decentralization and Rural-Urban Youth Drift: Tackling the Challenges of Insecurity in Osiomangwa LGA Aba, Abia State

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Abstract

The paper examined the impact of rural-urban youths drift as associated with the non-decentralization of infrastructures in Abia state. The study argued that poor decentralization of infrastructures has resulted to the rural-urban drift of youths. And this has resulted to the challenges of insecurity in Aba, Abia State. The unprecedented quest for scarce resources and poverty are socio-economic indicators considered in the study for the influx of youths into Aba metropolis. The Political economy was adopted as the theoretical framework for the study. The study adopted a survey design and largely made use of both the primary and secondary sources of data. 399 questionnaires were administered and 250 were completed and retrieved. Chi-square statistical tool was used to test the hypotheses. The study concluded that the preponderance of insecurity that had bedeviled Aba people over the years, orchestrated by high rate of armed robbery activities, kidnapping, cultism, is the result of rural-urban drift of the youths, poor infrastructural decentralization, poor political will and corruption. It also revealed that a marginal attitude towards the promotion of internally oriented physical developmental infrastructures perpetuates the movement of youths from rural to urban areas. It further revealed that, this movement has some negative implications on the overall socio-economic development of the state. In view of these, the study recommended that both government and non-governmental organizations should inculcate the culture and the principle of decentralization of developmental resources in Aba, Abia State.

Keyword: *Infrastructural facilities, Insecurity, Rural-urban migration, Decentralization*

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Background to the Study

Nigeria is a country found in the midst of abundant mineral, natural and human resources. Of which most of these endowments are deposited and sourced from the rural areas. These areas had always being occupied by people who are predominantly peasants, small-scale commercial and livestock producers (Chima, 2006). The colossal dimensions of problems faced by the rural people are more than what the individuals or groups inhabiting in the rural areas can easily handle or ameliorate (Girigiri, 2000). The persistent of these problems which range from inadequate or non-provision of infrastructural facilities, credit facilities, health care facilities, potable water supply, electricity, tarred and good road network, industries and tertiary institutions have been attributed to neglect and oversight by both military and civilian administrations in the country. Notably, all the rural areas in Nigeria have suffered and are still suffering from long term negligence, distortion and disempowerment of its inhabitants, to the extent that majority of rural dwellers migrate to other geographical areas in search for better opportunities. Cloete (2002) succinctly stated that infrastructures and migration are twofold, interwoven and interdependent concepts. This implies that lack of the former can act as a propeller for the latter.

Nigeria government involvement in the provision of infrastructural facilities dates back to 1917, the period of the promulgation of township ordinance by the colonial masters. The ordinance recognized three levels of settlement in Nigeria. The first class of settlement harboured the white colonists with their workers while, the second class became a place for the relatively middle class people and the third of course the ordinary. The first settlement, the city of Lagos for instance, was distinctively overhauled with heavy physical and material infrastructural facilities at the expense of the other settlements. The prevailing situation continued until 1952 when local government councils in Western Nigeria were established (Olayiwola and Adeleya, 2005). At this point local governments were created to serve as avenues of extending funds to the rural areas. Unfortunately, the funds being remitted were insufficient to run the council headquarters and even the rural areas. Hence, little or no fund was ever made available to run the rural areas.

Regrettably, the above shortcomings were howbeit consolidated by Nigerian national elites prior to the attainment of independence in 1960. This however, became a course set in motion that formed the basis of so many problems in the country. Hence, the study examined how the rural-urban migration of youths as a result of the non-decentralization of infrastructural facilities has become the main source of insecurity in Aba. If security is an absence of the feeling of uncertainty, anxiety, fears of the unknown, harm, danger or threat Oladeji & Foronso, (2007), to what extent are these evident in Aba the main focus of the study?

Aim and Objectives

The aim of the study is to examine how the non-decentralization of infrastructural facilities is associated with the rural-urban drift of youths.

Specific Objectives of the Study are to;

1. Examine if the marginal attitude towards the promotion of physical developmental infrastructures and inadequate decentralization perpetuates the movement of youths from rural to urban areas in Aba, Abia state.
2. Examine how high rate of armed robbery activities is associated with rural-urban migration of youths in Aba, Abia state.
3. Determine whether high cases of kidnapping activities and cultism are related to rural-urban drift of youths in Aba, Abia state.

Hypotheses

1. There is a significant relationship between the non-decentralization of infrastructural facilities and rural-drift of youths in, Aba, Abia State.
2. There is a significant relationship between youth migration and the high incidences of armed robbery, kidnapping and cultism in Aba, Abia State.

Conceptual Review

The Rural Urban Migration and insecurity challenges in Aba

Migration is the movement of an individual or group from one place to another either as a result of marriage, job relocation, natural disaster, war or other forms of displacement. Adewale (2005) holds that the movement of people from one geographical region to the other even if it was on a temporary or permanent basis is what constitutes the process of migration. Nigeria has been experiencing as a matter of fact an incessant movement of people (especially the youths) from rural areas to the urban areas. The reasons for migration vary from one person to another depending on the situation that brought about the decision. Most rural inhabitants migrate as a result of several shortcomings in the rural area. The main point being made here is that, this movement for whatever reason, poses some problems in the rural areas as much as it does to the urban centers even though there could be associated individual benefits derived from it. In most rural areas, the impact of rural-urban migration led to reduced output of agricultural commodities, a rapid deterioration of the rural economy leading to chronic poverty and food insecurity (Mini, 2001). There are enormous implications for urban migration ranging from pressure on state government's ability to respond to social service needs of urban populations, creation of slums and poor sanitary living (UNFPA, 2007).

The term insecurity has been conceptualized differently by various writers and scholars. It is simply a term that is used to describe the absence of security in an area. Abia state was founded in August 27, 1991 under the military regime of the then head of State; General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida (IBB). Aba is a major city in Abia state. It is popularly known as the commercial nerve or backbone of the east of the Niger. The city of Aba has for some years now known no peace. The city has gone through a lot of social upheavals starting with their ugly encounter with the so called Bakassi boys, kidnappers (who maimed and destroyed lives and properties), armed robbers and illegitimate burning of innocent citizens in the name of criminals. The city has also been wrecked of its powerful economic and social activities, due to fast deterioration of infrastructures especially the roads. It is in

views of these that, the study sought to find out how these problems are associated with the level of youths migration in the state.

Theoretical Framework

The political economic theory was adopted as the theoretical framework to guide this study. According to Ake (1981) man must eat, cloth, shelter before he thinks of anything; worship, pursue culture or become an economist or a politician. Just like economic needs is the need of man so do economic productivity the corollary of the primacy of economic need. In other words, man is a worker and a producer. It is through man's productive activities that he is able to obtain the economic means which he needs to sustain life. Given the primacy of material conditions, which political economy holds, human history has been a struggle by man to achieve these material needs, man is forced to enter into social relations with people concerning the social system of production including relations of distribution, exchange and consumption of goods and services (pp.1). Girigiri (1998) held that the decay and squalor in rural Nigeria has fashionably referred to as urban bias. The kind of bias rooted in a relationship established in such a way that few individuals in the state control the production forces (ie; the means of factors of production). As a result of this control the state apparatus, intervene and fulfill the economic interests of the urban inhabitants and some few rural dwellers (pp.177).

On a similar note, Nkrumah (1980) enunciated in his book 'class struggle in Africa' that in all capitalist states, government represents the interest of the exploiting class, the state however, is the expression of the domination of one class over the other classes (pp.17). The prevailing phenomenon portrays that rural poverty and marginalization in Nigeria is an intricate consequence of the class struggle between the controller of government apparatus (the haves) and the have not's. However, this displays the integral relationship between the governing bodies and majority of the poor masses been governed in Nigeria.

Study Methods

The study adopted the Cross sectional survey research design, the most prominent design employed in the social sciences. The study's population was drawn from Osisioma Ngwa, which at the NPC, 2006 population was 245,828.

However, we used Nwankwo (2018) projected population to determine the size thus, Projection formulae ($P_t = P_0 (1 + r)^t$) (NPC, 2006)

Where;

- P_t = Population at time t
- P_0 = Population at 2010 (245,828)
- r = Growth rate (2.6%)
- t = Elapsed time in years (8years)

$P_t = 245,828, r = 2.6\% (0.026), t = 8years$
Osisioma Ngwa at 2018 = 301,863

The Sample size was derived using Taro Yamen

$$N = \frac{n}{1 + n \times \alpha^2}$$

$$301,863 / 1 + 301,863 \times 0.05^2 = 399.4428$$

Sample size for the study = 399

The sample size for the study was 399. The sample size was drawn from selected youths who are non indigenes who reside in Aba. The reason for this is to ensure that our sample targets are persons who migrated and resides in Aba.

A sampling frame of each of the houses in the selected areas and clusters in Aba were developed by assigning a number to each of them. A sample was therefore drawn from each point; one at a time, without replacement to avoid bias until the required 399 respondents in Aba, was drawn. The simple random sampling technique was adopted for this purpose. Having retrieved the questionnaires the researcher discarded those that were not properly filled. At the end we were left with the total of 250 respondents.

Results and Discussion of Findings

Table 1: Socio-demographic Data of Respondents

	Frequency	Percentages
Sex		
Male	187	75
Female	63	25
Total	250	100
Age		
15-24	140	56
25-34	87	35
35-44	15	6
45-54	8	3
Total	250	100
Educational qualification		
Primary	127	51
Secondary	65	26
Technical	36	14
Tertiary	22	9
Total	250	100
Employment/occupation		
Business/trade	192	76
Civil servants	19	8
Skilled worker	39	16
Total	250	100
Religion		
Christian	240	96
Muslim	10	4
traditional	0	0
Total	250	100

Sources: Fieldwork (2018)

Table 1 indicated a review of the socio-demographic data of respondents. The result for the analysis on the socio-demographic demographic data is presented below in this section; analysis at this level entailed the use of simple frequencies statistical analysis using graphical chart; this is informed by the results of the discrete characteristic of the variables of the study. The socio-demographic analysis is aimed at ascertaining the distribution of the respondents of the study through selected characteristics such as the frequencies for their age, gender of the participants, marital status, educational status, religion or nature and category of respondents' employment status.

The table analysis showed that 75% of the respondents are male while 25% are female. The table analysis also showed that 56% of the respondents are in the age cohort of 15-24. It was closely followed by 35% of the respondents who are in the age cohort of 25-34. A smaller representative of the respondents at 6% and 3% falls in the age cohort of 35-4, 40-49 and 45-54.

Table 1 also depicts information on educational status of respondents. It is revealed that majority of the respondents at 51% have attained the primary level of education. It was followed by 26% of the respondents who have the secondary school degree. 14% of the respondents have attained technical education and also 9% of the respondents had tertiary level of education. Table 1, also depicts information on the employment status of respondents and religion of respondents. It indicated that 77% of the respondents are engaged in business and trade. It was followed by 16% of the respondents who are skilled workers. 8% of the respondents are civil servants. 96% of the respondents are Christian. 4% of the representatives of the population are Muslim.

Table 2: Developmental Infrastructures and infrastructural non Decentralization Perpetuates the movement of youths from rural to urban areas in Aba, Abia state

Response	Frequency	Percentages
Agree	25	10
Strongly agree	116	46
Disagree	97	39
Strongly disagree	12	5
Total	250	100

Sources: Field work (2018)

Information on the perception of respondents on whether developmental infrastructures and infrastructural non decentralization perpetuates the movement of youths from rural to urban areas in Aba, Abia state showed that majority of the population representing 46% of the respondents strongly agreed that Developmental infrastructures and infrastructural non decentralization perpetuates the movement of youths from rural to urban areas in Aba, Abia state. It was followed by 39% of the respondents who disagreed. The findings resonates the works of Todaro (1997), McCatty (2004), Nwanna (2004),

Adepoju (1990), Makinwa (1981), Aboyade (1983), and Nwakeze (2004), as cited in Olaniyan and Omonigho (2013) who admitted that government policies have been in favour of urban development, by purposely and continuously creating employment opportunities, educational opportunities and other infrastructural amenities more in the urban areas, compared to the rural areas. There is high rural-urban drift in Nigeria because of the inequalities, in terms of infrastructural facilities, services, social amenities and heterogeneity economic activities in favor of urban centres (Oyeleye, 2013). Although Østby (2015) believes that the actual movement of rural people into the cities creates social upheaval. Rather, overall poor and unequal educational opportunities as well as socioeconomic marginalization of rural-urban migrants are found to spur increased levels of urban violence.

Table 3: High cases of kidnapping and cultism are the Result of Rural-urban drift of Youths in Aba, Abia state.

Response	Frequency	Percentages
Agree	25	10
Strongly agree	109	44
Disagree	99	39.6
Strongly disagree	17	7
Total	250	100

Sources: Fieldwork (2018)

Information on the perception of respondents on high cases of kidnapping and cultism as the result of rural-urban drift of youths in Aba, Abia state indicated that 44% of the respondents strongly agreed that the high cases of kidnapping and cultism as a the result of rural-urban drift of youths in Aba, Abia state. It was strongly followed by 39.6% of the respondents who disagreed. In this instance, studies have pointed to the fact those migrants' women, especially those who are undocumented, are more likely to experience labour market exploitation and are at greater risk of *kidnap* or trafficking (IWPR, 2015: 9). And also, the mass exodus of young men and women from villages to cities in search of greener pastures apart from depleting the number of young people who ought to work in farmlands as farmers in order to increase agricultural produce, has also led to overpopulation, overcrowding of apartments, crime and pressure on the limited social amenities (Nwaorgu, 2010). Few of them are lured into substance abuse and become nuisance to the peaceful co-existence of the society.

Table 4: Impact of Rural urban Migration and High rate of armed robbery Activities in

Respondents	Observed frequency	expected frequency	o-e	(o-e) ² /E
Response	(O)	(E)	Frequency	Percentages
High	58	62	248	0.3
Very high	90	79.8	106	1.350
Low	20	25	336	1
Very low	13	15	12	0.65
Total	22	18	250	3.00
	13	23	-10	4
	12	7	5	4
Sources: Fieldwork (2018)		4	2	1

Table 4 depicts information on the impact of rural urban migration and high rate of armed robbery activities in Aba, Abia state. It showed that 50% of the respondents believe that the impact of rural urban migration and high rate of armed robbery activities in Aba, Abia state is very high. Although 36% of the respondents believe that it is low. 8% and 5% of the respondents believe that it is high and very low. This finding is in line with the statement that youth in the course of migration to urban area sometimes find expression and solace in crime such as (robbery, thug, assassination, cyber-crime, advanced fee fraud, pimping, prostitution among others (Nwaorgu, 2010). The larger effect is that such children and youths grow up in a cycle of poverty with little education and in environments which breed vices like prostitution, armed robbery, drug abuse and thuggery which poses a threat to all right thinking members of society (Dokosi, 2014). This result of high rate of rural-urban drift, which has resulted to various problems like, unemployment, poverty, floods, squatter settlements, pollution (land, air, noise, water and visual), slums, overpopulation, traffic congestion, crimes, and food insecurity inter alia (Oyeleye, 2013). For Ibrahim and Danjuma (2012) the migration of farmers has course clashes between the immigrants and host communities as a result of succession for land and increase in the rate of crimes such as armed robbery, petty thieving, kidnapping and emergence of xudo groups such as Boko Haram. As a result of unemployment and accompanying poverty as the saying goes 'an idle mind is a devil's workshop', most of these jobless people go into crime to be able to survive, urban crime is another issue associated with rural-urban migration. People engage in all kinds of criminal activities like armed robbery, drug trafficking, advanced fee frauds popularly known as 419 cyber scam etc. In order to survive (Egbebo, 2016). Thus, what appeared as a means of survival paradoxically turned out to be a means of their destruction.

On this note therefore, since the calculated value X^2 is 13.1 and table value is 2.9, we reject the null H_0 and accept the alternate H_1 which shows that there is a significant relationship between the non-decentralization of infrastructure facilities and rural drift of youths in Aba, Abia State.

Hypothesis 1. H_0 : There is no significant relationship between the non-decentralization of infrastructure facilities and rural drift of youths in Aba, Abia State.

Also Oyeleye, (2013) who writes that the result of high rate of rural-urban drift, has resulted to various problems like, unemployment, poverty, floods, squatter

Table 5

Respondents	Observed frequency (O)	expected frequency (E)	o-e	(o-e) ² /E
Male	58	62	-4	0.3
	90	79.8	10	1.3
	20	25	-5	1
Female	13	15	-3	0.6
	22	18	4	0.9
	13	23	-10	4
	12	7	5	4
	6	4	2	1

Total

$$\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(o_1 - e_1)^2}{e_1}$$

$$= 13.1$$

To compare calculated value with table value, let us determine the Degree of Freedom (df):

$$\begin{aligned} df &= (R-1)(C-1) \\ &= (4-1)(2-1) \\ &= 3 \times 1 \\ &= 3 \end{aligned}$$

Results

$$\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(o_1 - e_1)^2}{e_1}$$

$$\chi^2 = 13.1$$

Table value of χ^2 at 0.1 level of significance is 2.9
 At $\alpha = 0.10$, $V = 3$ Cal $\chi^2 = 13.1$ Tab $\chi^2 = 2.9$

Square rule: It is a generally accepted chi-square rule that; the hypothesis would be retained if the calculated value in the chi-square table is less than the table value and reject Null hypothesis if the calculated value is greater than the table value.

On this note therefore, since the calculated value χ^2 is 13.1 and table value is 2.9, we reject the null H_0 , and accept the alternate H_1 which shows that there is a significant relationship between the non-decentralization of infrastructural facilities and rural-urban drift of youths in, Aba, Abia State. This gives credence to the works of Dokosi, (2014) who noted that the larger effect is that such children and youths grow up in a cycle of poverty with little education and in environments which breed vices like prostitution, armed robbery, drug abuse and thuggery which poses a threat to all right thinking members of society. Also Oyeleye, (2013) who writes that the result of high rate of rural-urban drift, has resulted to various problems like, unemployment, poverty, floods, squatter

settlements, pollution (land, air, noise, water and visual), slums, overpopulation, traffic congestion, crimes, and food insecurity inter alia.

Hypothesis 2. Ho There is no significant relationship between youth migration and the high incidences of armed robbery, kidnapping and cultism in Aba, Abia State.

Table 6

Respondents	Observed frequency (O)	expected frequency (E)	o-e	o-e)2/E
Male	58	64	-6	0.6
	92	81	11	2
	20	23	-3	0.4
	12	14	-2	0.3
Female	24	18	6	2
	12	23	-11	5
	10	7	3	1
	6	4	0	0
Total			$\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(o_1 - e_1)^2}{e_1} = 11$	

To compare calculated value with table value, let us determine the Degree of Freedom (df):

$$\begin{aligned} df &= (R-1)(C-1) \\ &= (4-1)(2-1) \\ &= 3 \times 1 \\ &= 3 \end{aligned}$$

Results

$$\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(o_1 - e_1)^2}{e_1}$$

$$\chi^2 = 11$$

Table value of χ^2 at 0.1 level of significance is 2.9

At $\alpha = 0.10$, $V = 3$ Cal $\chi^2 = 11$ Tab $\chi^2 = 2.9$

Chi-square rule: It is a generally accepted chi-square rule that; the hypothesis should be accepted if the calculated value in the chi-square table is less than the table value and reject Null hypothesis if the calculated value is greater than the table value.

On this note therefore, since the calculated value X^2 is 11 and table value is 2.9, we reject the null H_0 and accept the alternate hypothesis H_1 . There is a significant relationship between youth migration and the high incidences of armed robbery, kidnapping and cultism in Aba, Abia State.

Conclusion

From the findings made so far, we can conclude that the preponderance of insecurity that had bedeviled Aba people over the years like high rate of armed robbery activities, kidnapping, cultism, is associated with rural-urban drift of youths in Abia state and its environs.

Recommendations

The federal government of Nigeria should of matter of necessity create opportunities for rural industrialization. The availability of raw materials in the rural areas will make for the fast development of rural areas. Countries like China have counted on the availability of industrial raw materials in rural areas to develop and promote those rural areas to world limelight. Provision of rural infrastructures such as rural feeder roads, potable water supply, rural electrification and constant power supply (though a general problem for both urban and the rural areas) should be the first priority of the Government.

- i. Provision of recreational facilities like stadium, parks and sitting of higher institutions of learning in rural areas. This will create jobs in the rural areas and would reduce the level of youth's migration.

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