Rural-Urban Migration Pattern in a Developing Nation of Nigeria: The Pros and Cons (Case Study of Plateau State)

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Abstract

n a developing country such as Nigeria, Rural-urban migration dominates the system of movement of people due to the high neglects of rural development Lby government, stakeholders and development partners. The phase of migration can progress or retrogress national development from a diverse approach. This study was conducted in Plateau state of Nigeria to examine the movement patterns, impacts and adjustment strategies rural migrants' harness for their stay in relocated urban centres. A mixed-method and descriptive research method was applied on 1325 sampled respondents through purposive and snowball sampling technique. A Likert scale was used to examine the migration pros and cons while ordinal regression analysis was used to analyze the underlying factors of rural-urban migration. The findings established, temporary migration pattern dominated the urban centres with all category of persons involved and reasons for their engagement. Overall, it was found that rural migrants significantly influenced rural communities, urban centres and population dynamic with positive and negative impacts, as well as migrants' adjustment pattern were critically based on environmental, social and economic adaptation. An Intervention strategy was suggested on infrastructural development, population regulations, mechanized farming, social investment schemes and strategic urban planning that would bring development to the Nation's localities.

Keywords: Adaptive, Migrants, Migration, Pattern, rural-urban, Nigeria

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Background to the Study

For an elongated time in history; mobility of people was seen to be for improvement of their homes, neighbourhoods, socio-economic benefit and better health. However, it may not be always true, especially in cities of developing countries where inequalities continue to reign and movement remains indefinable for population marginalization (Patel, Joseph, killemsetty and Eng., 2020). Several explanatory factors, such as rural-to-urban migration, wage differences, geographic distances between rural origins and urban destinations, culture of migration among certain communities, push factors in rural origins, and pull factors in urban destinations have often focused on the consequences of destinations at the aggregate level, including migration's effects on labour market equilibrium (Greenwood, et al., 1986; Gabriel., et al., 1993) and demographic dynamism (Pandit, 1992). Internal migration is believed to lead to improvements in livelihood conditions, financial gain (Krieg, 1997) and well-being (Mberu, 2016) but many migrants suffer from such movements that has weakened friendship and family ties (Mberu, 2016). There are numerous reasons for rural migrants to move to city which may be assumed to be a positive gain in the aspect of getting a better job opportunities, increase in income, seeking for new neighbourhoods with good schools, social amenities and cultural diversities. For the purpose of this discussion, we established this fact that migrants experience differences in their mobility to urban cities for social, cultural, religious and economy value which may posit to be progression or retrogression to national development, especially in developing country like Nigeria. Over several decades of nationhood, the history of rural to urban migration is assumed to be changing faces, right from the tradition of slave-trade, agricultural movement and urbanization that patterned to be seasonal, temporal as well as permanent migration. In the light of this research paper, these three (3) research questions will be the focus of our discussion as we converse for national development after many years of independence.

- 1. What are the patterns of rural-urban migration?
- 2. What are the pros and cons of rural-urban migration in national development?
- 3. How do rural migrants adjust to urban centres livelihood?

The main purpose of the research is to systematically examine the pattern of rural-urban migration and its pros and cons in developing countries like Nigeria. A Case Study of Plateau state.

Patterns of Rural-Urban Migrants and its Pros and Cons in developing Nation

The pattern of migration movement in this 21st century reveals that cities are urbanized, most especially in Sub-Sahara Africa. In 2015, almost 472 million Africans lived in urban areas (AFDB, et al., 2016). However, the estimated number of internal migrants is 763 million, together with the international migrants. The Population Division (UN DESA, 2013) stated that "Every seventh person in the world is a migrant" (United Nation (UN), 2016; International Organization for Migration (IOM), 2016). This trend of migration overtime reflects the history of the continent of Africa in the process of development that started with slave trade, to people willing to move in order to change location, and both voluntary and involuntary movement keep springing up (Gwanshak., et al., 2021). The rural-urban migration is seen as a selective process affecting individuals or families with certain economic, social, educational and demographic characteristics. This is a natural process of transferring surplus labour from the rural communities to the urban industrial areas. Migrants move to urban areas for specific reasons and thereafter support their families left behind to improve their welfare. Rural-urban migration is one of the most important processes shaping settlements, socio-cultural attributes, economic and political structures of the national territory of Nigeria. This is because there has been a substantial increase in the scale, diversity and complexity of population movements between geographic regions of the country in the last three to four decades (National Population Commission, [NPC] 2010; Ajaero and Madu, 2013; Akpoko and Adefila, 2014 and Amrevurayire and Ojeh, 2016). Nigerian rural-urban migration has been increasing over the past 25 years, between 1985 and 1990 over 3 million Nigerians migrated from rural areas to urban centres, while over 5 million Nigerians migrated between 2001 and 2005. This shows over 75% increase in the rural-urban migration for every period of five (5) years (NPC, NBS., 2016).

The pattern of mobility is based on seasonal, temporary and permanent from rural hamlets, village, communities and small towns to urban cities. Evidence of common occurrence of such movements has multiple impacts on other people, society and population at large. The rural populace moves out in large numbers temporarily or permanently to towns and cities to seek out new opportunities to improve their livelihoods and better standard of living. To Chowdhury, Haque, Kamal, Islam, Khan, Islam and Uddin (2012), migration is the movement of a person involving a permanent change of residence. It is a social process conditioned by changes in the structure of the economy and that of the society. Several literatures on internal migration has focused on the spectrum between commuting, very short term migration, seasonal migration, long term migration and permanent migration. In general, poor people move shorter distances because of their limited resources, skills, networks and market intelligence (Gwanshak, *et al.*, 2021). Bryceson et al, (2003) showed that mobility patterns are highly differentiated according to levels of income, size and type of settlement migrants' reside.

Rural-urban migrations, notwithstanding, pose problems to a great extent to rural areas as well as to the urban centre yet, the advantages supersede the problems encountered according to Horizon 2020; Campbell, 2018; Deng and Law, 2020. In most rural areas, poor rural economy lead to low productivity, low agricultural productivity, food insecurity which result to poverty (Amrevurayire and Ojeh, 2016). And this unfortunately has been the case in recent years, increase of urban unemployment problems resulted to decline in wages (Alarima, 2018; Tindgarukayo, 2014 and Todaro, 1976). Migrants susceptible to multiple problems make adaptability uncomfortable to mostrural migrant in urban centres. Ajaero and Mozie, (2011) and Onakalo, (2013), in their opinion stated that unequal wealthy distribution creates prejudice in the development of infrastructures, assets, purchasing capacity economic activities and all sort of services within the urban centres while rural areas continued to suffer neglect and deterioration in obtaining facilities for service.

According to Okorafor et al, (2014), urban centres have large number of migrants residing on the basis of either permanent or temporal in their relocated environment which could spring up to over population, unplanned sprawl of towns, transport congestion, sanitation and slums are amongst the major challenges experienced in the urban centres as stated by Sati, (2016). On the other hand, rural communities experience constant movement of people out of their villages to city centres which brings about decline in size and density in the communities as well as turns out to be issues of poverty, poor social lives and under populated, especially among the younger ones (Awumbila et al, 2015; FAO, 2014; Gingsburg et al, 2014; Ikwuyatum, 2016). These young men of able-bodies that suppose to till the land for cultivation of crops for their households, have abandoned farming for menial jobs in the urban areas (Malik, 2015) and contribute to surplus labour force of constantly increase unemployment rate creating imbalances in structure of rural and urban environment (IOM, 2014). Urban centres continual accommodation of large influx of migrants have consequently lead to over population; facilities began to decay and deterioration of urban settings which is currently experiencing infrastructural over-use against its capacity; poor roads, accommodation issues, congestion in service places, illegal settlements spring up and further, deterioration of public utilities such as drainage system, poor sanitation, lack of quality drinking water supplies, piles of garbage and other solid waste, constrained mobility alter layouts (Okpara, 2008; Okorafor, 2014). As Okpara, (2008) revealed that about 60% of residents in certain urban cities in Nigeria became unplanned because of unregulated settlements among migrants. In Lagos, also others cities in South-Eastern Nigeria are characterized with bedlam, sprawling with filth and stench from uncleared refuse and drainage. It is regrettable that some major cities in Nigeria, especially, Plateau urban centres, lack essential social services (epileptic power supply, clean water, high traffic jam etc).

Plateau State is considered to be a miniature of Nigeria because of the representation of all tribes, ethnic groups and culture. Significant number of Nigerians live in the state with more than fifty (50) ethnic groups and cultural heritages. It is assumed to be peaceful, hospitable and accommodative as well having a conducive weather condition that equates European cities (Bamboye, 2007; Akpoko and Adefila, 2014). The influx of people within and away from Plateau continue to increase tremendously cutting across internal and international migration. However, Plateau State has experienced religious conflict/crisis, ethnicity, herders and farmers attacks among others; forcing people to leave their agricultural dwelling places to urban centres that may be seen as retrogress to the growth and development of the state but also stood as progression to urbanization in certain location within the state. About 74 villages and 16 urban centres were recorded in the state according to National Population Commission [NPC] (2014) with a specification of not being exceptional, legal or administrative centres, a threshold population of 20,000 people to be a criterion for outlining a place to be urban centre (National Urban Development Policy, 2006). Migrants' population continuous increase due to rural to urban mobility, low mortality and high fertility experience has changed the pattern of migration (Bloch et al, 2015; Farrell, 2018).

Methodology

Plateau State is located in the North Central Region of Nigeria and lies between latitudes 8° 37¹ N and 10° 30¹ N and longitudes 7° 40¹ E and 8° 37¹ E. Plateau State was carved out from Benue-Plateau State in 1979. There was a further split in 1996 when Nasarawa state was

carved out, following the creation of additional states in Nigeria. The State has an area of land covering 26,901 square kilometres (Timothy, 2006). The population of the study area according to the National Bureau of statistic [NBS], 2011 is 3,572,229 with a density of approximately 154 persons persquare kilometre, less than th national average population density of approximately 168 persons persquare kilometre.

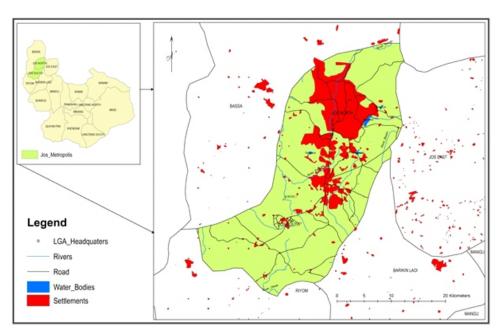


Figure 1: Urban Centre of Jos Plateau

Source: NRSC, 2021

The study exploited mixed design of qualitative and quantitative method as well as descriptive research. One-thousand three hundred and twenty-five (1325) sample size retrieved under which information collected was actualized through the use of a structured research questionnaire, interviews and field observation on people residing in both rural and urban communities. The data collected for this research from respondents were based on the pattern of their migration, pros and cons of rural-urban migration as well as migrant adjustment level in urban centres. Stakeholders such as chairmen of LGAs, traditional rulers and opinion leaders contributed to the information gathering through interviews while ethnographic observation was applied in areas that had difficulties to obtain reliable information. These data were systematically analyzed after collection and coding.

Descriptive format was used in presentation of information gathered. Thus, multiple regressions statistical method was used to reached the analytical finding of the research through the aid of SPSS application version 23.0

Results and Discussion

The findings of the study highlighted that the pattern of rural-urban migration among seasonal, temporary and permanent migration was discovered that temporary migration had

the highest percentage of (55.7%) which Brauw (2007); Deshingkar and Akter(2009); Deshingkar and Grimm (2005); Ha et al (2009) and Lam et al, (2007) have substantially agreed that the nature of people's movement in the last two decades have changed. People's movement is based on temporal intention that after certain period the tendency of return to home origin is there. Plateau state rural migrants are mostly engaged in temporary migration pattern (Figure 2). However, the choice of temporary migration were basically based on the culture of the people in the study region where majority believed that the place of origin is the last home for everyone. It is a tradition for the people to ensure their remains returned to their place of origin after their demised. Besides, individuals interviewed gave their different reasons for choosing to migrate for temporal purpose. Others stated reasons for their movement after which when achieved, they returned home and these include health treatment, study, marriage, money, acquisition of skills among others.

Figure 2: Pattern of Migration in Jos Plateau

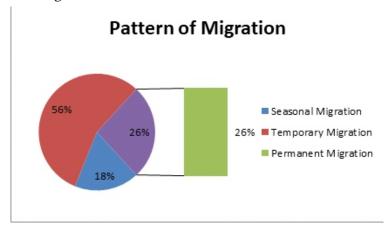


Figure 3: Pros of Migration on Rural Communities

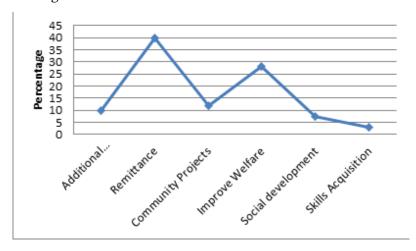


Figure 4: Cons of Migration on Rural Communities

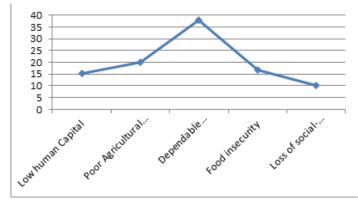


Figure 5: Pros of Migration on Urban Centres

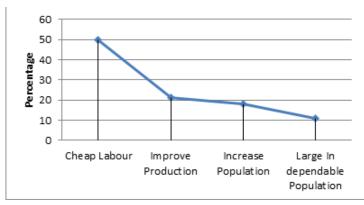
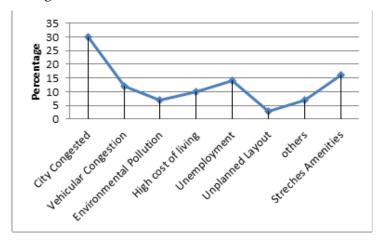


Figure 6: Cons of Migration on Urban Centre



The study revealed on figure 3 the pros and cons of migration in communities, villages and hamlets in Plateau State and was discovered that 39.9% of migrants sent remittance from urban centre for either to their direct family or the community for development while Adam, (2006) and World Bank, (2005) agreed that remittances comes to people in the rural communities of which is of beneficial to the communities. Migrants' remittances are critical resources needed for development of local communities and villages and stands as agents of regional and national development in African countries. Households receiving remittance from their family member in urban centres changes their livelihood in the village. Many rural communities have transformed from rural to semi-urban and by and large became urban cities. Other pros of rural-urban migration are improved welfare; community projects, additional educational attainment, social development and skill acquisition are part of the pros of rural to urban migration in the rural communities in plateau state (table 3). For cons of rural-urban migration (figure 4), 38% of the population of rural communities live a life of dependency and is been regarded as dependent population. In addition, poor agricultural output, food insecurity, low human capital and loss of social-cultural values are part of the cons of rural to urban migration.

To urban centres pros of rural-urban migration (figure 5) revealed that 50% of the respondents agreed to the fact that cheap labourers for industries, schools, domestic workers, labourers urban dwellers engage due to migration. 21% reported of improvement in production, 18% stated increase population in the city centre while 11% of the respondents stated large independent population. Therefore, significantly, cheap labour was the major pros owners of business/establishment enjoy while cons (figure 6) of Urban centres revealed 30% of vehicle congestion is experienced in urban centres as the cons of migration, followed by 16% over utilization of social amenities, 14% unemployment issues and 12% city congestion while 10%, 7%, and 3% were the lowest responses towards the cons of rural migrants in urban centres of Plateau State. Moreover, ethnographic study of the migrants residing in urban centre revealed, the pros of rural-urban migration are social, economic and political benefit of jobs of skilled workers which filled the vacuum space, economic growth sustained, maintaining or taking care of age population. And cons revealed less payment to work that might cause relatively poor productivity, non-innovation and poor profit. Integration of rural migrants is difficult; friction and organised crime are part of cons among rural area in urban centres. Social expectation is being increased, improved education as well as marital lives continues to increase on a daily basis with natural increase of birth whereas, discrimination among ethnic groups and minorities led to civil unrest or crises/conflicts among people in the urban centre as severally experienced in Jos Plateau which might encourage fundamentalism.

Table 1: Adaptive Strategies of Rural-Urban Migration in Urban Centres.

Description	Frequency	Percentage
Accommodation		
Squatting	167	43.4
Job Opportunities		
Labourer Jobs	203	52.7
Social Norm		
Make friends	163	42.3
Social Service		
Avoid Paying Bills	158	41.0
Climate		
Change clothing's	118	30.6
Collective adaptive Change		
Economy	137	35.6

Table 1 revealed the adaptive strategies rural migrants employed in making adjustment in the urban centre. 43.4% of the total respondents on adaptation in urban centre squat with either relative or migrants alike. This agreed with Boure, (2001), claimed high proportion of squatter's experience in the urban centres and International Organization for Migration [IOM] (2017) indicated that, high levels of urbanization translated into increase level of squatters. Residing under bridge, co-habit and lodge in a hotel form the least part of accommodation strategies applied by migrant as adaptive processes. In aspect of job opportunities, 52.7% were labourers while other migrants, find menial jobs as adaptive. 42.3% of rural migrants make friends in urban centre as social norms. More than 56.1% of migrants tend to pay less of the social services they enjoyed. For acclimatization to urban centre weather, the study found out 30.6% change clothing through buying tick clothing's, cardigans, sweaters, mufflers among other things to adapt to the weather season, most especially during harmattan periods (October-February). Furthermore, of the findings revealed that 35.5% of economic factor was their biggest challenge in the process of adapting in urban cities.

However, the result of the analysis revealed that the R² value is 0.77 which indicated significant relationship exist between the pros and cons of rural-urban migration which is at 77% and ANOVA result shows significance of the pros and cons of migration. The table 2 of coefficients.

Table 2: Coefficients^a of the Pros and Cons of Rural-Urban migration

	Unstandardized		Standardized			Co-linearity	
	Coefficients		Coefficients			Statisti	CS
		Std.					
Model	В	Error	Beta	t	Sig.	Tolerance	VIF
(Constant)	1.855	.084		22.08	.000		
Additional Education	017	.021	028	814	.416	.594	1.684
Remittance	034	.019	055	-1.782	.075	.738	1.356
Community Projects Improve welfare	.160	.022	.256	7.379	.000	.587	1.702
Social Development	052	.019	083	-2.765	.006	.782	1.278
Skill Acquisition	.039	.020	.063	2.003	.045	.703	1.423
Low Human Capital	005	.022	008	212	.832	.504	1.985
Poor Agriculture	033	.023	052	-1.451	.147	.546	1.831
Dependable Population	.020	.016	.042	1.285	.199	.666	1.501
Food Security	.037	.016	.069	2.293	.022	.776	1.289
Loss of Culture	015	.018	027	799	.424	.605	1.654
Cheap Labour	007	.016	013	425	.671	.741	1.350
Improve Production	.022	.018	.041	1.191	.234	.603	1.658
Increase Population	.012	.018	.023	.636	.525	.556	1.798
Large dependent Population	009	.018	017	506	.613	.612	1.634
City Congestion	.015	.018	.029	.845	.398	.605	1.653
Vehicular Congestion	075	.020	133	-3.808	.000	.577	1.734
High Cost of living	.028	.020	.048	1.361	.174	.563	1.776

a. Dependent Variable: What is your pattern of movement from rural to urban city

Revealed the regression model of the variables of pros and cons of rural-urban migration shows that improve welfare (0.000), social development (0.006), skill acquisition (0.045), food security (0.002) and vehicular congestion (0.000) were having a strong significant of the pros and the cons of rural-urban migration. Therefore, the rural communities have progress from where they were, to benefit of their movement to urban centre of Jos Plateau, even though experience food scarcity to a great extent. It also implies to urban centres, where its significant was of vehicular congestion in the city centre.

Conclusion

The importance of rural-urban movement cannot be overemphasized as it has been noted to play a crucial role in national development over many years. Rural-urban migration has been seen to be on the increase periodically in Nigeria. Though the distance in migration in general are thought to be reliant on certain factors whereas mobility patterns were determined largely to be temporary yet this migration pattern elicits pros and cons to both the rural as well as the urban centres. The rural areas are seen to experience development in family livelihood or as a community through improved welfare, community projects and increased educational, social and skill acquisition prospects thus all these confers a life of dependency on the rural population eventually breeding poor agricultural output, food insecurity and loss of social-

cultural values. Cheap and available labour force for businesses, organizations as well as domestic jobs in urban centres, economic growth to the nation are experienced in Urban centres yet these yield vehicle congestion, city congestion, reduced wages/payment for work causing poor productivity and eventually less innovations. Moreover, rural migrants develop measures to adapt to the conditions in the urban centres thus create an enabling environment. If infrastructural, industrial development, social investment and empowerment schemes would be effectively introduced to the state and country in a broad perspective, it would stand as a yardstick to curtail rural-urban migration challenges and bring progress to nationhood after many years of independence.

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