

Assessing the Influence of Rural-Urban Migration on Economic Development of Bwari Area Council, Abuja, Nigeria

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Abstract

Migration from rural to urban areas is a pervasive phenomenon in Nigeria, driven by a complex interplay of poverty, socio-economic, employment opportunities, financial stability, and a better quality of life. This study aimed to examine the influence of rural-urban migration on economic development of Bwari Area Council, Abuja, Nigeria. A sample size of three hundred and eighty-four (384) respondents was selected through multi-stage sampling technique using cluster, stratified, and simple random sampling techniques. A designed and validated questionnaire was used to collect data and analyzed using multiple regression analysis and Pearson-r correlation coefficient to test hypothesis 1 and 2. The findings revealed that (i) rural-urban migration made a significant positive contribution to the influence of quality of life among youth Abuja ($\beta=.276$, $t=5.645$), employment opportunities ($\beta = .285$, $t = 6.445$) and socio-economic factors ($\beta = 1.054$, $P < .01$) among youth living in Bwari Area Council, Abuja, Nigeria; (ii) there was a statistical significant relationship between rural-to-urban migration and infrastructural transformation in Bwari Area Council, Abuja, Nigeria (0.205^{**}). The study concluded that strengthening rural economies through better agricultural practices, infrastructure development, and employment opportunities can reduce the push factors driving migration. The study emphasizes the importance of considering investment in rural education, healthcare, and social services is essential to improve living standards and reduce migration pressure.

Keywords: *Economic development, Employment opportunities, Infrastructural transformation, Migration, Quality of life, Rural-urban migration, Socio-economic factors*

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Background to the Study

The issue of economic development can be traced to the period of World War II (WWII) (Kesternich, Siflinger, Smith & Winter, 2012). During the period of post-WWII, many developing countries experienced rapid structural transformation from traditional agricultural societies to modern economic development (Sawada, 2022). Accompanied by industrialization is a continual process of rural to urban migration, with labor force shifting toward more productive sectors in cities. Its importance has led to a renewed interest in studying structural change induced by rural-urban migration (Budi-Ors, 2024). This has restricted the attention to work-based migration, emphasizing that the reason for migration is to accumulate human capital and improve economic development when working in a city (that is, work-based migration). In the real world, we have seen families and parents sending children to urban areas in search of greener pasture or taking city jobs for their children in order to improve the household livelihood and financial security, thereby increasing the socio-economic development of the society, thus, the work-based migration became the center of rural-urban migration (Basnet, Timmerman, & van der Linden, 2023). Moreover, those sent by parents and families to the cities to look for greener pasture are expected to accumulate human capital at higher rates to improve the household livelihood and economic development of their societies.

According to Iderawumi and Abiodun (2018), migration primarily affects the region's agricultural sector by altering labor availability, land use, innovation, and production techniques. In addition, it reduces the efficiency of public and social services (Cañal-Fernández & Álvarez, 2022), which leads to a lower level of regional development (Jia, Du, & Wang, 2017). On the contrary, urban residents have generally better access to economic and social opportunities and tend to have greater occupational and geographic mobility (Turok, 2024). However, the excessive concentration of migration flows in a few urban areas puts undue pressure on social services, infrastructure, and housing, which can undermine their efficiency and hinder economic development (Rodríguez-Pose & von Berlepsch, 2018).

Rural-urban migration is a rapid, permanent or temporary geographic movement of people from rural to urban areas due to rural push and urban pull factors (Abeje, 2021). There are various push and pull factors compelling rural settlers to migrate (Tamirat, Tadele, & Assefa, 2024). Push factors are the negative characteristics of the place of origin whereas pull factors are the positive characteristics at the point of destination. The poor economic opportunities, unequal landholdings, low agricultural yields, costly agriculture, inadequate household income, parenting style, low employment opportunities, large family size, insufficient educational and healthcare facilities, religious or political discrimination, marital status, and poor rural social services and amenities, and insecurity, force rural settlers to move toward cities. Nonetheless, the push and pull factor theory suggests that better economic opportunities, urban job opportunities, improved infrastructure, peer influence, better urban income, education and healthcare facilities, religious or political freedom, a relatively moderate atmosphere, recreational facilities, security, better urban social services and amenities, and independent living act as the pull factors (Obijekwu, Muomah, & Enemuo, 2019).

Migrants move to improve their living conditions create overcrowding of cities, suffer from urban poverty and remain unsatisfied (Ahmed & Ishrat, 2020). Nonetheless, studies suggest that major push factors of migration to cities include: uncertain income levels, labor demand from industry, expensive agricultural production, unequal landholdings, oppressive lifestyle and poor health conditions (Rana & Bhatti, 2018). This indicates that the present economic status, poverty level, unemployment opportunities and lack of jobs in the villages and rural communities have significantly stand as a push factor or reasons for the rural migration to the urban cities in search of greener pasture. It is a rapid shift in the response of people to improve economic and non-economic welfare in urban areas (Dazhuan, Long, Qiao, Wang, Sun, & Yang, 2020).

Rural-urban migration is importantly expressed by rural push and urban pull factors (Birhanu & Nachimuthu, 2017). People are pushed by problems to leave their living places due to few job opportunities, lack of enough productive resources, conditional climatic variation related to issues such as drought, famine, degradation, and desertification, lower real income, lower cereals and cash crop yield, shortage of landholding and low level of employment opportunities or aspects which significantly presents negative rural situations that leads the rural people decision to migrates into urban areas (Birhanu & Nachimuthu, 2017). While pull factors are an attraction to urban places due to high wages, high employment opportunities or perspectives, attitudes toward urban life, access to information, access to services, network in the destination, years of schooling and better availability of food (Diogo, 2024).

Migration from rural to urban areas has significant economic and social implications to the society. Despite rapid urbanization, urban area experience challenges such as overcrowding, criminality, high cost of living, transportation, accommodation, and expensive private schools, while rural areas experience other challenges like lack of decent accommodation, aging population, lack of clean water, poor health facilities and dilapidated public schools, thus difficulty in effective policy intervention. It became pertinent to examine rural-urban migration and economic development of Bwari Area Council, Abuja, Nigeria.

The pervasive phenomenon of rural-urban migration in Nigeria is driven by a complex interplay of socio-economic, political, and environmental factors (Ikwuyatum, 2016). This rural-urban migration trend has profound implications for both rural and urban communities, shaping the socio-economic landscape of the nation as a whole. While it presents opportunities for individuals seeking better prospects in urban centers, it also poses challenges that require careful attention and comprehensive policy responses. The conditions in rural areas, including political and socio-economic difficulties, often drive populations to migrate to urban settings (Alarima, 2018). Urban slum dwellers face insecure living conditions and limited access to resources, highlighting the challenges faced by those who move from rural to urban areas (Pat-Mbano & Nwadiaro, 2012), and impacts of migration on population size and distribution (McAuliffe & Ocho, 2024).

The influx of migrants into the cities exacerbates overpopulation, straining urban infrastructure and services, leading to overcrowding, inadequate housing, and increased

pressure on resources, and proliferation of slums and informal settlements with substandard living conditions (Lyu, 2019). The urban job market often cannot absorb the growing migrant population, pushing many into low-paying, insecure jobs in the informal sector, thus perpetuating poverty and social inequality. Also, urbanization exacerbates challenges such as traffic congestion, pollution, and crime, diminishing the quality of life for both migrants and long-term residents. Rapid urbanization will continue to place pressure on the provision of infrastructure, utilities, health care, and education services in Nigeria (Aliyu & Amadu, 2017). It will also stimulate the demand for energy, thus increasing air, water, and land pollution (Raihan & Tuspekova, 2022).

In view of the following, the research intends to answer the following questions:

- i. What is the influence of rural-urban migration on the economic development (quality of life, employment opportunities and socio-economic) in Bwari, FCT Abuja?
- ii. What is the relationship rural-urban migration and infrastructural transformation of Bwari Area Council, Abuja?

Literature Review

A study conducted by Aworemi et al. (2011) showed that rural-urban migration is a double-edged problem impacting the rural community as well as the urban destinations. The findings demonstrated that rural community is affected because the youths and adults that are supposed to remain in the community and contribute to the development of agriculture in particular and the community, in general, leave the rural areas for other destinations. They move to urban centers in search of non-existent greener pastures and abandon the farming activities which they believe cannot earn them what they will get in the urban areas. Subsequently, this tends to reduce agricultural production and food availability in the sending communities. Other studies also revealed that this has serious implications for agricultural production since most of the work which would have been done by the youths is now left for the aged to do (Ayiti & Adedokun, 2023; Niyonzima, 2023).

In the same vein, Mthiyane et al. (2022) assess the negative impact of rural-urban migration in KwaDukuza municipality to improve the living conditions that have been compromised by rural-urban migration. The study adopted the conveniently and purposively sampling techniques to collect data through a semi-structured interview of qualitative method of enquiry and data was analyzed thematically. The result suggests that the high rate of population growth in Ilembe District Municipality is due to the lack of sound economic opportunities in the rural areas. The neglect in regard to the provision of basic infrastructure in the rural areas has also resulted in high rural-urban migration. Rural economic hubs can create rural economic activities and assist in managing rural-urban migration. South Africa continues to see a rise in rural-urban migration due to a lack of suitable and sufficient investment in rural development. Regrettably, due to the country's economic imbalance, the urban influx of individuals looking for better economic opportunities and employment keep increasing. The study recognises the need of managing rural-urban mobility, which poses a substantial danger to rural development as well as burden on urban infrastructure.

Iderawumi and Abiodun (2018) examine the effect of rural-urban migration on education and economic development with reference to Ibarapa East Local Government Area of Oyo State. The finding shows that there is a negative impact of rural-urban migration on education and economic development of Ibarapa East Local Government. Rural-urban migration contributes to the high rate of unemployment. It increases the number of juvenile delinquencies crimes and other social vices in the society, and it has effect on the educational development of the study area. Based on all the findings, recommendation was made that the government should provide social and infrastructural facilities such as good road network, regular supply of electricity and so on for rural dwellers. And also, with the various youth programs, it could be possible to reduce rural-urban migration, most especially when the young ones are exposed to sustainable livelihood activities that they could embark upon.

Recent study by Ying (2024) provides a comprehensive exploration of the economic impacts of rural-urban migration from 2010-2020. The study examines the multifaceted consequences of this migration trend, balancing an in-depth analysis of negative aspects with the recognition of positive contributions. It highlighted the decline in effective rural labour and the resultant challenges faced by migrants in urban areas, including increased housing prices. On the positive side, the migration brings increased labour supply to cities, improvement in incomes for rural migrants, and significant developments in the land market and urban industries. A comprehensive evaluation highlights the need for a balanced approach to urbanization and rural development. Future considerations emphasise potential challenges and propose strategies like optimal land use, income source expansion, and characteristic town development. Striking a balance between rural and urban development is crucial for sustained economic stability. The essay concludes that maintaining this delicate balance is essential to sustain the country's economic development.

Furthermore, Tamirat et al. (2024) attempts to investigate the impact determining the rural-urban migration using cross-sectional field survey data of 187 sample households in 2021 to 2022. the results of binary logistic regression analysis showed that age, educational status, landholding, credit use, soil infertility, access to information, off-farm activity, attitude of rural area and distance to the nearest town were the factors significantly driving rural-urban migration. The results show that rural household food insecurity and poverty at the household level due to lower income could lead to rural-urban migration. Therefore, concerned bodies such as government organizations, non-government organizations, stakeholders and policymakers should pay considerable attention to rural-urban migration, which is a crucial base for driving food security and alleviating poverty.

Tanle et al. (2020) undertook a study to examine and explain the impact of rural-urban migration on rural migrant's households' livelihood (economic well-being) in three communities in Agona West Municipality, Ghana. Snowballing technique was used to select and interviewed 121 respondents to obtain information on the motives of migration and the impact of remittances on household livelihoods. Eight male and female heads of households were purposively selected from each village for the focus group discussion. Frequencies,

percentages, diagrams and tables were used to explain the data obtained. The study identified two types of households; the migrant and non-migrant households. The finding revealed that the better-off migrant households have positive impact on better access to health-care, more education opportunities, and agriculture than the poor migrant households.

Furthermore, Le et al. (2021) provided quantitative evidence supporting the theoretical argument that rural-to-urban migrants contributes to the economic and social sustainability of their sending communities. The study adopted a cross-sectional survey using 300 domestic rural-to-urban migrants and analyzed with multivariate regression analysis. The findings result indicate that rural-to-urban migrants contribute more to the social and economic sustainability of their rural home communities when they have spent longer in their migration destinations and have accumulated skills and knowledge because their experiences foster a sense of responsibility toward their home communities. The result established a relationship between rural-to-urban migrants' characteristics and economic and social development of their home communities. This investigation seemed important because it was expected to clarify the conditions under which rural-to-urban migration stimulates migrants' sense of responsibility and thus their contributions to the social and economic sustainability of their sending communities.

Kanu and Ukonze (2018) utilized the census figure of 140 million according to the national population census of 2006, to establish that over 70% of Nigeria is in the rural areas. The study demonstrated that various environmental and socio-economic factors are easily associated with the rapid rural-urban migration trends in Nigeria. Hence, rural economic development is significantly related to rural-urban migration in Nigeria. The findings revealed that the absence of rural development does facilitate rural-urban migration due to lack of basic social amenities and infrastructures. People in the rural areas have no need to migrate to the urban centers, if basic social amenities and other variables to make them comfortable are provided for in the areas. The study recommended that Government needs to do more to stem rural-urban migration. Government must intensify rural development in Nigeria as expected by majority of the rural populace.

The study assesses the influence of rural-urban migration on economic development of Bwari Area Council, Abuja, Nigeria.

Methodology

Design

The study employed a cross-sectional survey design was utilized for data collection to assess the influence the rural-urban migration and economic development of Bwari area council, Abuja, Nigeria. This method is particularly appropriate for this research because it allows the researcher to sample the opinions using questionnaires and make inferences about their perception of rural-urban migration and its impact on the economic development of Bwari area council, Abuja.

Participants

As at 2025, the study population consists of 500,100 inhabitants in Bwari (National Population Commission and National Bureau of Statistics, 2025). A sample of 384 male and female residents of Bwari Area Council, Abuja, Nigeria were randomly selected using Krejcie and Morgan (1970) sample size estimation formula. Also, Krejcie and Morgan's (1970) sample size estimation table demonstrates that for populations between 75,000 and 1,000,000, the requisite sample size is 384.

Instruments

The study designed a structured and self-responed questionnaire (Rural-Urban Migration Development Scale - RUMDS) to seek answers on the influence of rural-urban migration on economic development in Bwari Area Council, Abuja, Nigeria.

The Rural-Urban Migration Development Scale (RUMDS)

The Rural-Urban Migration Development Scale (RUMDS) is a 20 items scale designed by the researcher under the supervision of the experts. RUMDS is a closed ended questionnaire with 4-point response options ranging from a, b, c, and d. The scale is systematically designed to answer 4 different domains identified in the study objectives. Each domain is designed with 5 questions to answer the four (4) research objectives which include; Quality of Life, Employment, Generation of Wealth, and Infrastructural Transformation. For the purpose of this study, the researcher validated the questionnaire using respondents from Kubwa to ascertain the reliability and validity of the instrument because Kubwa is one of the area councils in Abuja having similar characteristics with Bwari. The overall Cronbach's alpha reliability of the instrument was 0.88 and the Cronbach's alpha coefficients for each domain include: Quality of Life (0.83), Employment (0.91), Generation of Wealth (0.85), and Infrastructural Transformation (0.78).

Data Analysis

The study employed multiple regression analysis and Pearson-r correlation analysis to assess the influence and relationships between rural-urban migration and economic development (quality of life, employment opportunities, socio-economic and infrastructural transformation) respectively.

Results

Hypothesis 1: This hypothesis stated that there will be a significant influence of rural-urban migration on the economic development (quality of life, employment opportunities and socio-economic) in Bwari, FCT Abuja. The hypothesis was tested using multiple regression analysis and the result is presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of simple linear regression analysis showing the influence of rural-urban migration on quality of life in Bwari, FCT Abuja, Nigeria

Variable		R	R ²	df	F	β	t	Sig.
	(Constant)	.278	.075	1,366	26.200		6.923	.000
Rural- Urban Migration	Quality of Life							
	Employment	.362	.083	1,366	22.00	.276	5.645	.000
	Opportunities	.982	.864	2,300	87.62		4.799	.000
	Socioeconomic							

As shown in Table 1, the result revealed that rural-urban migration significantly influenced economic development especially the domains of Quality of Life [$R^2=.075$, $R=.278$, $F(1,366)$, $=26.200$, $p<.01$], employment opportunities [$R^2=.083$, $R=.362$, $F(1,366)=22.00$, $p<.01$], and socio-economic factors [$R=.982$, $R^2=.864$, $F(2,300)=87.62$, $P<.01$] among youth in Abuja. The result showed that rural-urban migration accounted for 7.5%, 8.3% and 86.4% of the total variance observed in quality of life, employment opportunities and socio-economic factors among youth Abuja. The result further showed that rural-urban migration made a significant positive contribution to the influence of quality of life ($\beta=.276$, $t=5.645$), employment opportunities ($\beta=.285$, $t=6.445$) and socio-economic factors ($\beta=1.054$, $P<.01$) among youth Abuja. This means or implies that youth in Abuja who migrated from rural-to-urban city of Abuja had high chances of increasing their employment opportunities and improving their socio-economic status and quality of life. Based on this result, hypothesis one was accepted.

Hypothesis 2: The hypothesis stated that there will be a relationship between rural-urban migration and infrastructural transformation of Bwari Area Council, Abuja. This hypothesis was tested using Pearson-r correlation coefficient to measure the relationship between infrastructural transformation and rural-urban migration and the result is presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Summary of Pearson-r correlation analysis showing the relationship between rural-urban migration and infrastructural transformation

		Infrastructural Transformation	Rural-Urban Migration
Infrastructural Transformation	Pearson Correlation	1	.205**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.0001
	N	384	384
Rural-Urban Migration	Pearson Correlation	.205**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	384	384

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2 -tailed).

As stated in Table 2, the Pearson's correlation coefficient is 0.205**, which signifies a positive correlation. The Pearson-r correlation analysis test demonstrated that there is a statistically significant relationship between infrastructural transformation and rural-urban migration among youth in living in Bwari area council, Abuja, Nigeria. The results showed a statistical significance at $p < .0001$. This implies that rural-to-urban migration has greatly increase the infrastructural transformation of Bwari area council, Abuja, Nigeria.

Discussion

Hypothesis 1: The result of hypothesis 1 showed that rural-urban migration made a significant positive influence of increasing employment opportunities and improving socio-economic status and quality of life of youth living in Bwari area council, Abuja, Nigeria. This means that youth in Abuja who migrated from rural-to-urban city of Abuja had high chances of increasing their employment opportunities and improving their socio-economic status and quality of life. The hypothesis was tested multiple regression analysis, which indicated a statistically significant influence of rural-urban migration on the economic development (quality of life, employment opportunities and socio-economic) in Bwari, FCT Abuja, Nigeria.

The results of this investigation are corroborated by the research of Guan and Guan (2024) who provides an empirical prediction of residential well-being (RWB) and sense of community (SoC) among Chinese rural-urban migrants (RUMs). The RWB represent the quality of life (QoL) of RUMs selected in 15 migrant villages located in three major urban regions of China. The study revealed that improving the living, institutional, socioeconomic, and neighborhood conditions will help to improve the SoC and RWB of RUMs. The findings of these empirical analyses are important to the current study because the community neighborhood conditions or status of rural and urban migrants significantly influence RWB or QoL. Oyeniyi and Adebuseyi (2024) examines the nexus between rural-urban migration and urban extension in Ilesa, Osun State, Nigeria. The study used primary data obtained via Satellite imagery that captured urban expansion in real time. This research utilized historical Landsat satellite images such as Landsat TM of 1994, Landsat ETM+ of 2004, Landsat ETM+ of 2014 and Landsat OLI of 2024 via the USGS Earth Explorer Website. Five major land-use changes were used to depict the effect of emigration that reflects urban expansion in the study area. The study demonstrated that a migration increases a meaningful life for rural people to discourage empowerment by ensuring effective and efficient development of formal settlement and housing for migrants by their employers. This study is relevant to the current study because it recommends a meaningful life or good quality of life for rural people to discourage urban areas.

Ogunmakinde, Oladokun, and Oke (2015) investigated the resultant effects of rural-urban migration to national development with a particular focus on the South western part of Nigeria. It analyzed the causes of rural-urban migration, past efforts of the government in reducing the rate of rural-urban migration in these areas and the socio-economic factors influencing rural-urban migration. The study also reviewed existing literatures on rural-urban

migration. Data were collected from the respondents through a structured questionnaire which was administered on Lagos, Ondo, Ogun, Osun and Ekiti states; all in the southwestern part of Nigeria. The study identified lack of social infrastructure, neglect of the rural community, modernization and others as some of the factors responsible for rural-urban migration. The study therefore proposes that for all round national development, the rural communities have to be developed to meet the standard of the urban centres in order to reduce the rate of rural-urban migration.

Zhang, Chen and Dong (2022) compare quality of life (QoL) between migrants and residents and explore the possible mechanism of how migration influence the QoL among rural and urban adults with rare diseases. A cross-sectional study at national level was conducted in a study sample of 1,150 adult patients in China. The brief version of the World Health Organization Quality of Life instrument was used to measure QoL. Multiple linear regression analyses were adopted to assess the direct association between migration status and QoL after controlling for the confounders that affect QoL. The indirect associations between migration status and QoL, mediated by potential mediators including number of family members living together, individual income, catastrophic health expenditure, and social support, were estimated using the mediation model. The findings among group of rural participants indicated that migration was directly associated with physical QoL ($\beta = 5.07$, 95% CI 2.01–8.13) and environmental QoL (3.95, 1.37–6.53), indirectly associated with physical QoL (0.58, 0.05–1.28) and social QoL (0.50, 0.01–1.16) via individual income, and also indirectly associated with environmental QoL (–0.47, –1.12 to –0.50) via tangible support. On the other hand, neither direct nor indirect associations of migration with four domain scores of QoL were significant among the group of urban participants. The study concluded that among rural adults with rare diseases, migration was found to have positive direct effect on physical and environmental QoL, positive indirect effect on physical and social QoL through increased individual income, and negative indirect effect on environmental QoL via reduced tangible support. By contrast, neither direct nor indirect associations of migration with QoL were significant among the group of urban participants.

Hillary (2024) investigated the relationship between urbanization and youth employment in South East of Nigeria from 2015-2023. The study was carried out in five major urban areas in south east, which include Enugu, Awka, Abakaliki, Aba, and Owerri. Data were elicited using questionnaire, in-depth interview and focus group discussion guide. The findings of the study revealed that there is no positive correlation between urbanization and youth job placement in South East Nigeria and there is no positive correlation between urbanization and youth empowerment in South East Nigeria. The study advocates that though employment opportunities may exist in the urban areas, it is also likely that the youths who migrate to the urban areas in search of better jobs may not be able to secure employment, due to increased competition for the few available jobs in the urban areas secondly urban areas often have higher living costs, which can make it difficult for the youths to support themselves and may resort to social vices such as arm robbery, prostitutions, drug trafficking etc in a bid to survive. The study recommends that Social and infrastructural amenities should be provided in the

rural areas to curtail the rate of Youth migration into the urban areas to search for non-existent job. The government should provide youth empowerment scheme to equip the youths with necessary skills to be relevant in the labor market.

Lyu, Dong, Roobavannan, Kandasamy and Pande (2019) explore the causes of migration from rural to urban areas in the Jiangsu province of China. Rural to urban migration is estimated at provincial scale for period 1985–2013 and is found to be significantly linked with rural unemployment. Further, migration reacts to a change in rural unemployment after 2–4 years with 1% increase in rural unemployment, on average, leading to migration of 16,000 additional people. This implies that rural population takes a couple of years to internalize a shock in employment opportunities before migrating to cities. This original analysis of migration over a 30-year period and finding its clear link with unemployment, and not with better income in urban areas or poor rainfall, thus provides conclusive evidence in support of policy interventions that focus on generating employment opportunities in rural areas to reduce migration flow to urban areas.

Furthermore, Ying (2024) provides a comprehensive exploration of the economic impacts of rural-urban migration from 2010-2020. The study examines the multifaceted consequences of this migration trend, balancing an in-depth analysis of negative aspects with the recognition of positive contributions. It highlighted the decline in effective rural labour and the resultant challenges faced by migrants in urban areas, including increased housing prices. On the positive side, the migration brings increased labour supply to cities, improvement in incomes for rural migrants, and significant developments in the land market and urban industries. A comprehensive evaluation highlights the need for a balanced approach to urbanisation and rural development. Future considerations emphasise potential challenges and propose strategies like optimal land use, income source expansion, and characteristic town development. Striking a balance between rural and urban development is crucial for sustained economic stability. The essay concludes that maintaining this delicate balance is essential to sustain the country's economic development.

Hypothesis 2: The hypothesis stated that there will be a relationship between rural-urban migration and infrastructural transformation of Bwari Area Council, Abuja. This hypothesis was tested using Pearson-r correlation coefficient to measure the relationship between infrastructural transformation and rural-urban migration in Bwari area council, Abuja, Nigeria. The results demonstrated that there is a statistically significant relationship between infrastructural transformation and rural-urban migration among youth in living in Bwari area council, Abuja, Nigeria. The results showed a statistical significance at $p < .0001$. This implies that rural-to-urban migration has greatly increase the infrastructural transformation of Bwari area council, Abuja, Nigeria.

This study coincides with the study conducted by Mela and Maikomo (2024) who investigated rural-urban migration and rural infrastructure on urban poverty in Taraba State using a survey research design. Questionnaires were used in a multi-stage sampling

framework to sample 100 respondents from each of the selected local governments representing the southern, central and northern senatorial zones of the state accordingly. Findings revealed that; rural-urban migrants in Taraba state were living above the poverty line as they earned more than the N1658.23k benchmark by the World Bank. It was also discovered that rural-urban migrants in Taraba state had access to necessities like healthcare, education, and housing options. These advancements in their well-being had a positive impact on their poverty status within the state. The study also found that rural-urban migration significantly reduced the level of rural productivity which could be checked by the provision of rural infrastructure. Based on the findings, the research recommended the elimination of lopsided provision of basic infrastructure and recommended promotion of agricultural mechanization to encourage youth engagement in agricultural activities in the state.

Amrevurayire and Ojeh (2016) assessed the consequences of rural-urban migration on the source region of Ughievwen clan in Ughelli South Local Government Area. The stratified sampling technique on the basis of existing geopolitical wards was used to divide the study area into four (4) zones. Data were generated through primary and secondary sources. The findings of the study show that females migrate more than the males in Ughievwen and migration is high within the age cohorts of 1525 years and 2635 years. The results of hypotheses showed that there is a significant relationship between migration and infrastructural transformation particularly in social amenities (recreation, water, health care, electricity, and road) which was evident at F value of 97.691 which is greater than the critical table value of 2.26 at P0.05. The study recommended that increase in visible and functional infrastructural transformation in the provision of social amenities in the rural areas will result in a corresponding decrease in rural-urban migration. It was recommended that functional social amenities such as electricity, pipe borne water should be provided in the rural areas as a panacea for rural-urban migration.

Muriithi (2024) explores the impacts of rapid urbanization in rural Chaka town and its environs in Central Kenya, thus triggering the transformation of the entire landscape. Using a qualitative research approach that used rapid rural appraisal techniques like transect walks and key informant interviews to collect data, the study reveals a trend towards increased land sub-division and real estate development in the Chaka area, which poses a challenge to traditional agricultural practices and an increase in non-farm activities, which indicates diversification of livelihood strategies by the residents as agricultural practices continue to face challenges, thus causing frustrations with farm-based activities and a decline in productivity. These findings reveal that the changing socioeconomic and environmental landscape in Chaka aligns to some extent with regional and national trends in the complex interactions between urban and rural areas. These findings imply that there is a need for policy interventions focusing on sustainable and balanced agricultural and urban development, the need for integrated land use planning, and skill development for liveable urban living in emerging urban and transformed rural areas.

Chen et al. (2024) explore the spatiotemporal dynamics of rural-urban transformation patterns in China, focusing on the degree of integrated transformation and the coupling between the three tracks. The study utilized the urbanization cube theory, satellite-derived gridded datasets, and the self-organizing map. The study findings show that eastern China has higher levels of integrated transformation and coupling compared to western China. There has been an overall increase in the coupling of China's three rural-urban transformation tracks. Six typical rural-urban transformation patterns were identified across China. Over time, 53.58% of prefectures improved in rural-urban transformation patterns, 3.44% degraded, and 42.98% (mainly in western China) remained unchanged. More importantly, the study highlighted that the increasing and coupling rural-urban transformation in China has reduced inequities in urban and rural well-being. Other studies also demonstrated a relationship between rural-urban migration and infrastructural transformation (Ehirim, Onyenekwe, Chidiebere-Mark, & Nnabuihe, 2012; Garriga, Hedlund, Tang, & Wang, 2023; Gwanshak, Yusoff & Shafie, 2021).

Conclusion

Rural-urban migration in Nigeria is a complex phenomenon with profound implications for both rural and urban areas. The migration driven by economic, social, and environmental factors has led to significant challenges, including urban over-population, the strain on infrastructure, the growth of the informal economy, and rural labor shortages. However, it also presents opportunities for economic growth, poverty alleviation through human capital development, and cultural enrichment in urban settings. Effective migration management requires comprehensive policies that address the root causes of poverty by building financial capability, employment opportunities, better quality of life, and improve the socio-economic factors in rural areas and enhance urban infrastructure and services to reduce rural-to-urban migration and better integrate migrants into urban life. Balancing the pressures and potentials of rural-urban migration is crucial for sustainable development in Bangladesh.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are considered:

1. Developing coherent policies that address migration comprehensively is crucial. This includes coordination between rural and urban development strategies, enforcement of urban planning regulations, and effective governance to ensure that migration benefits both migrants and host communities.
2. To accommodate the growing urban population, cities need better planning and investment in infrastructure. This includes expanding affordable housing, improving transportation systems, and enhancing water and sanitation services. Smart urban planning can help manage population density and reduce the growth of informal settlements.
3. Providing vocational training and education tailored to the demands of urban labor markets can help migrants to secure better jobs. Skills development programs should be accessible to both current and potential migrants to enhance their employment prospects.

4. Developing secondary cities and towns can help distribute the population more evenly across the country. Policies that create economic opportunities in these areas can attract migrants away from overburdened major cities like Abuja.

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