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## CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION IN OYO STATE: A CASE STUDY OF IBADAN METROPOLIS

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### ABSTRACT

*In recent years, the rate of rural-urban migration has become alarming as more people drift into the urban centres from the rural areas; it is against this backdrop that this paper examined the causes and effects of rural-urban migration in Oyo state with particular reference to Ibadan Metropolis. A survey was carried out amongst 300 respondents drawn from within the metropolis and the results indicates that the major causes of rural urban migration are; search for better employment, education, availability of social and infrastructural amenities and business opportunities. Others are identified as famine, poverty, unemployment, and inadequate social amenities in the rural areas. While some of the effects of rural-urban migration are; rural-urban migration brings pressure on urban housing and the environment, high rate of population growth in the urban centres, low living standard which reduces the quality of life, survival of the fittest that culminating to social menace, overpopulation which encourages crime rate in the society, low productivity and rural-urban migration slows down the pace of development of the rural areas. It is recommended among others that the Government should provide social amenities and facilities in the rural areas, employment opportunities to cater for jobless people and youth empowerment scheme (YES) programme should be broadened and taking to the rural areas, industrial modernization, technological sophistication, improvement in the quality of education to mention a few. In addition to this Vocational Training Centres should be established in the rural centres for training the productive youths for self-employment.*

### KEYWORDS

Rural-Urban Migration, Youth Empowerment Scheme, Poverty, Unemployment, Vocational Training Centre, Region.

### INTRODUCTION

Nigeria is among the few countries of the world characterized by contradictory socio-economic and development scenarios (Nwokocha 2007). Despite her enviable human and material resources, the country and its peoples are still classified among the very poor (Okunmadewa, 2001) with no fewer than 54% of Nigerians living below poverty level (Akinyele, 2005). Multiple environmental, political, religious and cultural factors have been implicated in Nigeria's underdevelopment (Okafor, 2005). The political factor is considered, in most quarters, as most crucial in understanding the Nigerian crisis. In a way, this paper subscribes to the above position but argues, and in line with systemic analysis, that distortion of Nigeria's development agenda could have resulted from any component given that parts of the society function collectively to sustain the whole with emphasis on interdependence.

Specifically, long years of military dictatorship and the consequent tele-guided mentality impinged negatively on the psyche of Nigerians. Throughout those dark periods, mediocrity displaced excellence in all spheres of life thus leaving the society without laws and values. For the most part, amenities and welfare were not provided as and when due, with rural communities disproportionately more disadvantaged than urban centers. The situation did not improve at those few intervals of military-supervised democracy. With the return of a fairly military-independent democracy in 1999, Nigeria has made little progress in re-situating itself in the realm of sustainable development. Poverty is still a visible aspect of the people's culture. The dilemma is exacerbated by recurring unimaginable level of unemployment and frustration that have increased the army of disenfranchised people incapable of participating directly in the growth process (Okunmadewa, 2001).

Migration is the movement of people from one geographical location to another, involving permanent or temporary settlement. The region where people are leaving is referred to as the source region whereas the region to which people are entering is known as destination region. While rural-urban migration is the movement of people from rural areas (villages) to urban centres (cities). One noticeable aspect in the society today is the rate at which people migrate from the rural to the urban centres. While the urban centres are increasing in population, the rural areas are decreasing in population. (Zainab & Mustapha 2007)

Rural-Urban migration in Nigeria occurs with the migration of rural dwellers many of whom are young men and women seeking greener pastures in the city. The movement to the pre-colonial traditional centers, Lagos, and the cities of the South and Eastern region of Nigeria is driven largely by wage employment opportunities, to enjoy the "good life", religious study, trade and apprentice and agriculture along the river basin regions.

The burden of rural to urban migration in Nigeria is multifaceted and intertwining. As such, an analysis of one decomposable component or consequence, such as unbearable population density, impinges on other issues within the identifiable cycle of burdens. For instance, in examining the immediate effect of rural to urban migration, which is increase in population or at the extreme its explosion, various other subsequent effects are expected to be considered. Population explosion activates the housing challenge both at micro family and macro society levels. Congestion in households and communities has implications for both the health and psychology of victims.

Nigerian cities such as: Lagos, Port-Harcourt, Kano, Onitsha. Ibadan among others are characterized by human traffic, vehicular congestions, environmental pollution, consistent in-migration and spurious expansion of territories to accommodate human additions. This paper argues that although maternal and infant mortality have been identified as accounting for a significant number of deaths in Nigeria (Okolocha et al 1998; Isiugo-Abanihe 2003; Nwokocha 2006)

### EFFECTS OF RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION

As countries pursue development and industrialization drives, the need to build urban centres become certain. It is in this pursuance that leads to somewhat neglect of the non-urban centres. This calls for people in the rural areas desiring to move to the urban centres. Every man wants a standard of living better than where he is now thus; the drive to move to the urban centres becomes obvious. In the developing countries, this passion becomes so great that the movement

becomes rampant. Rural areas are isolated areas of an open country with low population density. Occupation by the rural folks is mostly primary in nature. For instance, farming, lumbering, fishing, quarrying etc. are the major activities offered by the rural people. Most of the industries are being concentrated in the urban centres. It becomes relatively hard for the rural folks to make ends meet. Since the available occupations in the rural areas are mostly primary, they offer a low profit capital and the few elite are not motivated because of the primary nature, and fewer wage offered by the jobs in the rural areas, not much to be desired.

The seasonality of the primary job or the agricultural activity which they are engaged in results to seasonal unemployment and the small scale business industries are been wiped off by the demand for the technological products from the urban centres thus causing structural unemployment. This leaves much people in the rural areas unemployed in most part of the year. Rural areas are characterized with chronic food insecurity widespread and livelihoods are more vulnerable. Rural folks have limited access to basic social services, safe water, roads that are accessible year round, and electricity and telephone services. Poverty is most severe among rural farmers, who are mainly traditional small-scale producers. About six in ten small-scale rural farmers are poor, and many are women. (Okuneye 2008)

Women bear heavy workload in addition to their domestic chores, they are responsible for about 60 per cent of agricultural production. More than half the women who head households in rural areas are among the poorest 20 per cent of the population. The fate of the youth and students in rural area is not promising. They are mostly at disadvantage to their counterparts at urban areas who have easy access to quality education, internet facilities, employment opportunities, better health care and opportunities for advancement. Notwithstanding these disadvantages, the rural folks are facing, they enjoy certain advantages. For instance, living in a rural area allows residents to enjoy the natural environment instead of having to go to recreational sites. In addition, rural people do not have to struggle with the daily stresses of urban life such as being stuck in traffic, dealing with higher rates of crime, and in many cases, paying higher taxes. (Nwokocha 2009)

These absences of stressors can have a great effect on the overall quality of life and as one researcher notes, "People living in rural and sparsely populated areas are less likely to have mental health problems than those living in urban areas and may also be less likely to relapse into depression or mental illness once they have recovered from these in more densely populated areas" (Nigerian wiki 2010). The big question is, are these advantages much enough than the disadvantages to motivate those there to stay there? The big response to the big the question is "NO" since its disadvantages outweigh that of the advantages. These phenomena is the main push factor causing the rural folks to move to areas (urban areas) having comparative advantage than the rural areas (thus from the rural areas to the urban centers) (Okafor 2005).

Urban area is an area with relatively high population density that contains a set of closely related activities. Urban areas are endowed with free-standing built-up area with a service core with a sufficient number and variety of shops and services, equipped with better administrative, commercial, education, entertainment and other social and civic functions. Urban areas generally have advanced systems for sanitation, utilities, land usage, housing, and transportation. Parents in the urban areas have a number of choices available for the education of their children and can often select from a long list of both public and private school districts, which leads to the potential for better education.

It is also worth noting that urban areas offer residents the possibility to choose from a range of employment opportunities at any number of companies or organizations. Aside from this, urbanites have better access to choices in healthcare as well and if they suffer from diseases they have a number of specialists to choose from in their area. Development is mostly concentrated in the urban areas which intend to facilitate interaction between people and businesses, benefiting both parties in the process. There is a widely availability of modern amenities like the internet, telephone and satellite communication facilities in the urban areas.

Majority of the households in urban areas are blessed with technological advancement or products which lead to effective and efficient work done since most of the jobs are done technologically instead of man power. Urban folks are at an advantage of using these technological amenities (internet facilities and computer) to broaden the scope of their knowledge compared to their counterparts at the rural area where these products (technological products) are limited, and in most cases lacking. Again there is unlimited access to financial opportunities to the urban producer. His rural colleague being poor in nature has limited access to financial institutions. The presence of credit available to the urban producers to expand their business and engage in other ventures is one of the advantages the urban folks have over the rural folks who although have the available raw materials, lack the capital and technological expertise which can be provided by the financial sectors. As stated earlier these advantages compel most of the rural folks to move to the urban centers to have access to the numerous advantages endowed in those areas. (Nigerian wiki 2010)

## THE REPERCUSSIONS OF EXCESSIVE RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION

The deleterious consequences of rural-urban migration has led to the demand for urban socioeconomic amenities exceeding their supply, the urban areas often become spectacles of multifarious problems such as overcrowding, congestion, inadequate housing, high rates of unemployment and underemployment, crime and other forms of delinquency. The quality of life at both the areas of origin and destination are, therefore, significantly affected. The repercussion of the ongoing analysis is being discussed below;

*Unemployment in the rural areas:* in the developing world, there are limited job opportunities available, so the influx of people from the rural areas to the urban who are mainly unskilled in profession causes them not fit for the available jobs in the urban which are mainly skilled in nature. Thus there will be a rise in the unemployment and the underemployment rate in the urban areas as well as the rural areas. As the migration happens, the labour force in the rural areas is being reduced and this will go a long way to affect the output that can be produced in the long run.

*Low productivity in output and thus low GDP:* As there are more and more people leaving the rural areas which happen to be the fertile grounds of development of any developing country, there become a limited number of labour forces in the rural centres. This goes a long way to reduce the amount of produce that can be produced to feed the whole nation. The fact that most developing nations rely on agriculture and primary production for their development means that a reduction in agricultural and other primary activities means a reduction in the nation output and hence a low gross domestic product or national income.

*Overcrowding and pressure on social amenities:* if a country is advanced in infrastructure and basic social amenities, there is no point to classify it as developing. To this point, it is common to see most developing countries having limited social amenities and infrastructure. This may include schools, roads, places of convenience, pipe borne water among others. As people troop from the rural to the urban, they increase the usage of these limited amenities in the urban areas. This leads to massive and quick deterioration of the amenities and hence an increase in the cost of repairs and maintenance and thus government expenditure. The increase in the population in the urban areas relative to a constant land area leads to overcrowding at a particular area and most especially the urban areas.

*Increase in social vice and the development of slums:* when people move from the rural to the urban areas, they have in mind that they are coming to work and feed their relatives at home. It becomes a new story when their quest for employment becomes an illusion as there is no job to absorb them. To make ends meet, most people who migrate to the rural areas resort to stealing, armed robbery, prostitution, and "drug pushing" and as they cannot afford a decent house to buy, they settle in a particular place and build houses made of wood, aluminum slate among others.

*Slowdown of development in the rural areas:* as the youth who are the agent of change in the rural areas move to the urban areas, they leave behind the aged and the too young ones who cannot effect any meaningful change or development in the rural areas. This leaves most rural areas in the developing countries almost the same in social setting over decades and jubilees. The aged think of what they will feed on till they die thus are not ready to cause any development, the little ones on the other hand look forward to be helped. Therefore those in whose hands lie the catalyst of change move to the urban centres in such of greener pastures. The feeble ones left at the rural areas cannot work to bring massive change which comparatively could be done by the energetic ones.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To find out the causes and effects of rural-urban migration in the study area.
2. To examine the socio-economic status of the migrants.



3. To proffer solution to the problems emanate from rural-urban migration
4. To make suggestions where necessary.

## STUDY METHODOLOGY

A case study design was adopted in this research where Ibadan Metropolis was chosen as a case study. The data for this study were mainly collected in areas where most of the people have migrated from rural areas. A random sampling method was used to select the respondents. A total of 300 respondents were involved in the study. Primary data for the study were gathered by using structured questionnaires and interviews. Secondary data were obtained from existing literature. The statistical tool used for data analysis is simple percentage.

## RESULTS AND FINDINGS

### *Gender Distribution of Respondents*

Survey data revealed that 75% of the respondents are males while 25% were females. This shows that male migrants constitute the majority among the migrants in Ibadan Metropolis.

### *Age Distribution of Respondents*

Findings from the study showed that 42% of the respondents fell within the age group of 21-30 years, 34% are within the age group of 31-40 years while 24% are within the age bracket of 41 years and above. It can be deduced that 77% of the migrants are in their middle ages.

### *Marital status of Respondents*

Data indicate that a large majority of migrants are single as survey results revealed that 30% were married, 50% were unmarried while 13% and 7% were divorced and widowed respectively.

### *Education Status of Respondents*

Findings from the study also indicate that 22% of the respondents have been to primary school, 42% have attended secondary school. 36% have attended tertiary institutions like universities and Polytechnics/colleges of education.

### *Causes of Rural-Urban migration*

The major causes of rural-urban migration is identified as; search for better wages, education, political and social stability, better technologies, employment and business opportunities. Others are poverty, unemployment, crop failures and famine, inadequate social amenities and facilities in the rural areas such as pipe borne water, electricity, good roads, hospitals, schools, vocational centres.

### *Effects of Rural-Urban Migration*

As more and more people arrive in the urban centre, there will be insufficient jobs for them and the unemployment rate will increase there will be more workers chasing too few jobs this will lead to straining the resources of the government. Rural-urban migration brings pressure on urban housing and the environment as migrants arrive from rural areas they live on the streets and makeshift sub-standard accommodation before establishing themselves. The high rate of population growth in the urban centres also lessens the quality of life because it: destroys resources, such as water and forests, needed for sustenance. Rural-urban migration leads to overpopulation of the urban centres thus encouraging and raising the rate of crime in the society. Rural-urban migration also slows down the pace of development of the rural areas.

## SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION

The key to solving this problem of excessive rural urban migration in restoring a proper balance between rural economic and social opportunities are;

**Provision of basic social amenities:** The governments in the developing countries should implement policies that will enhance the provision of basic social amenities like electricity, portable water, recreational centres, schools, good roads among others in the rural areas. The government of Ghana's initiates concerning the rural electrification project is a typical example concerning this point. As these amenities are provided, they enhance healthy living and opportunity to know what is going on in the world. The recreational centres would be a source of entertainment and relaxation for the dear hardworking farmers and their relatives.

**Improvement in the quality of education:** In an attempt to reduce congestion in urban school as well as some fortunate rural areas, there should be a policy that will lead to the improvement in the quality of education in the rural areas. This should not just be the number of school built but also the quality of teachers, the resources in the school like library, playing field, serene environment and even better structure of the school as far as building is concerned. Well trained teachers must be posted into the rural areas and adequately motivated; teachers bungalows; rural teachers allowances, teachers that will teach what they have to teach and inculcate in their student the passion to believe in themselves.

**Creation of credit and loan scheme:** Especially, farmers and women in the rural areas should be provided with credit facilities and loan opportunities. The fact that "rural" is poor means that these loans should not bear high interest rate. Government should made available loans and credit schemes to the "rural" to expand his farm, business and buy new crops. Again subsidies should be given on fertilizers and basic farm inputs. The government can purchase farm inputs and sell it to the farmers or rural folks at a subsidized rate on credit to be paid in installment, rural banking services and rural microfinance institution in the rural areas to improve their savings and enhance their endowment and introduce them to the financial sector.

**Industrial modernization:** The government should also embark on the establishment of industries, factories and Agro businesses in the rural areas. These industries would serve as a means through which the primary produce can be processed into semi or finished goods. Example the establishment of Akomodan Tomato factory in Ghana has made it possible to process fresh tomato into canned ones; preventing loss of farm produce thus providing a ready market for the farm produce. Further, the government should build silos and other storage facilities into which farm produce would be bought directly from the farmer at a more competitive price and be stored in the storage to feed the available industries and even for export. *Technological Sophistication;* Because simple tools are used for farming, rural farmers cannot produce in large quantities, therefore providing technologically advance input like mower, ploughs, tractors, fertilizers and education in modern farming techniques among others would increase the amount of output and therefore even their wealth. This is because provision of such opportunity can positively impact on the rural folk because they can embark on large scale plantation or commercial farming to increase yield and output and their income. This will make farming to both adult and youth in the rural area attractive hence limiting their desire to get to the urban centre for other employment opportunities.

**Entrepreneurship:** Another possible and vibrant policy that can curb rural urban migration and it adverse effect on unemployment and underemployment in developing countries is the training and coaching of new and potential entrepreneurs in the rural. Funds and material should be made available to trainees and those that are ready to initiate their skills as a startup capital for their various jobs. This will be a source or motivation to establish themselves in the rural area and thus no incentive to move. Again, the youths should be trained and educated to be innovative and their skills should be sharpened to effect positively on their jobs. To this, the "rural" can come out of her shell to produce and thus be well equipped to face the challenges in the rural areas that would compel them to move. Available resources should be utilized in every possible way as this can go a long way to even reduce unemployment and underemployment. This policy should be geared towards the youth because about 80 percent of the migrants to the urban centres are youth.

## CONCLUSION

The rate of rural-urban migration is alarming in recent years and its effects are not only felt by the destination regions alone but also felt by the source regions-as facilities in the destination regions are overstretched, the source regions are virtually deserted. Unless the government provides the basic necessities of life to the rural areas and provide the productive youth in the rural areas with employment opportunities people will continuously drift in to the urban centres from the rural areas in search for better life and employment.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

The following suggestions were made based on the findings of this study:

1. In view of the effects of rural-urban migration the Government should strive to provide social amenities and facilities in the rural areas.
2. The Government should also provide jobs for the citizens in the rural areas.
3. Vocational training centres should be established in the rural centres for training of the productive youths for self-employment.
4. Those youths that passed out of the Vocational training centres should be given micro-loans as a start-up capital.
5. The Government should put in place a broadened Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES) programme and take it to the rural areas.
6. Government should endeavour to modernize the industries by establishing factories and agro-businesses in rural areas.
7. Technological sophistication is essential so that the rural famers can produce in large quantities.
8. Improvement in the quality of education.

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