



Effect of Rural-Urban Migration on Security of Lives Properties in Abuja (FCT), Nigeria

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Abstract

Migration as one of the intractable realities of modern life has over the years in Nigeria had far-reaching impact on the security situation of the nation in general and Federal Capital Territory Abuja in particular. This research interrogates the causes-effects of intra and inters people's movements within the study area. Push-pull theory of migration propounded was adopted as the theoretical framework. As a qualitative research, the study effectively made use of primary and secondary data, and the results of the investigation revealed that: The urge to be travellers, quest for a greener pasture for better living conditions like search for a better employment opportunities, among others, are the major reasons for the persistent rural-urban migration among the rural dwellers in Nigeria, and the resultant effects have been the congestion of the available towns, intimidation and harassment of residents and migrants, rise in unemployment rates, crimes, youth restiveness, prostitution and at the other end, positive social, economic, structural and political developments and integration. The research concludes that the effect of Rural-urban migration are multi-faceted and even the increase in hunger and poverty as a result of the decline in agricultural population and other productive ventures in the rural areas. It is recommended that Nigeria and Abuja in particular, should adopt a long term development plan: "Rural-Urban Integration (RUBAIN)", to open up the rural areas and reduce mass movements of people to FCT.

Keywords: Rural-Urban, Migration, Nigeria, security of lives and properties, Abuja.

Introduction

Over the years, rural-urban migration which has been conceptualized by Omonigho and Olaniyan (2019) as a phenomenon of historically unprecedented movement of people from the rural countryside to the burgeoning cities or urban areas has been one of the most embarrassing problems in the Nigerian development experience. Migration has existed internally to enable resources (labour

and materials) to be taken slowly from the rural areas to provide workforce and materials for industries in the urban areas; consequently, aiding industrial growth in the receiving cities and rural impoverishment in the source areas (Omonigho and Olaniyan, 2013). Experiences in developing or underdeveloped countries (Nigeria inclusive) has shown that the rate of rural-urban migration has ceaselessly outweighed the rate of job creation and had an overweight

on the social and infrastructural amenities available in the urban areas.

Prior to colonialism in Nigeria, the extended families lived a communal life, carried out their daily activities together in one accord and shared their yields adequately following a well comprehended custom (Omonigho and Olaniyan, 2013). Colonial escapades exposed Nigerians to international market by the introduction of cash crops and creation of administrative offices in planned zones which necessitated the investment in socio-economic amenities within these urban areas. This adventure invigorated the quest for paid employment and migration of workforce into these areas and therefore prompted the commencement of ruralurban migration in Nigeria. This according to Nwanna (2004) culminated in an unprecedented increased migration into new cities such as Lagos, Port-Harcourt, Enugu, Jos and Kaduna, among others. Consequent upon this, unskilled labour were required for menial jobs in the urban centers of colonial administration (Ajaero and Madu, 2014).

Upon the occupation of urban centres by the colonial masters, the urban centers became more appealing to young people in huge numbers since superior employment and other socio-economic conveniences resided there. In furtherance, Ajaero and Madu, (2014) maintained that the rural areas were regularly abandoned by the youths, leaving the aging men, women and children to labour on the farms. This had led to increased security challenges in the receiving areas, a decrease in agricultural output and its contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP); lowered standard of living of the

rural dwellers, and desertion of the rural areas.

Migration of the rural masses to the urban areas has over the years occasioned a lot of social and economic difficulties as well as security challenges in the urban and the rural areas. In the argument of Olowa and Awoyemi (2012), persistent increase in rural-urban migration in Nigeria over the years has led to high rate of city congestion, crime and poor infrastructure such as proper sewage system, clean drinking water; electricity and other amenities, chronic unemployment and creation of large slums and shanty towns.

Many developing countries including Nigeria, have attempted to resolve their problems of rural poverty and desertion. In Nigeria, from the colonial period till date, successive administration in the country have tried to reform the rural areas where over 75% of Nigerians live in for the sake of attaining balanced growth and development, and discourage rural-urban migration, all to no avail such that while the national population is growing at an annual rate of 2.8 percent; that of the urban population is growing at 5.5 percent (National Bureau of Statistics, 2017). This rate is among the highest in the world today. Earlier, Nwakeze (2014) posited that several methods to remove rural-urban development gap have been carried out in Nigeria with little success, therefore, the rural areas still remain highly underdeveloped in comparison with the urban areas. Efforts have been made by concerned researchers to attribute the causes of rural-urban migration to discriminatory government policies in favour of urban development, response to disparities in income, employment and other

socio-economic amenities available within the urban and rural areas, with the urban areas being privileged, others related it to spontaneous, emotional, structural, traditional and some other factors like rural urban wage differentials (Olowa and Awoyemi, 2012), reduction in rural agricultural produce, reduction in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the nation, decline in the standard of living, inaccessibility, remoteness, underdevelopment, poverty, drabness, ignorance, hunger and starvation of the rural inhabitants. They also related the consequences of rural-urban migration on the urban centers to serious problems such as overpopulation, insufficient physical and social infrastructural amenities.

Nigerian national security which is a concept that the government, along with its parliaments, should protect the state and its citizens against all kinds of "national" crises through a variety of power projections, such as political power, diplomacy, economic power, military might, and so on has been a containment of diverse manifestations of violence spearheaded by various groups mainly migrants from rural areas to urban areas especially in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja (Wikipedia, 2018).

As Africa's most populous country, Nigeria, with an estimated population of over 200 million and over 250 ethnic groups, has over the years experienced a wide range of migration issues, from massive internal and regional migration to brain drain and a large well-educated population in diaspora (mainly the United States and the United Kingdom) that it sees as key to future development. In the 1950s

and 1960s, the challenges were those of regional politics and high pitched political violence/turbulence in the twilight of and immediately after our national independence, challenges that threatened national integration, culminating into an unfortunate 30month civil war (1967-1970) (Wikipedia, 2017). The 1970s faced the post civil war national reconciliation, reconstruction, rehabilitation and reintegration challenges. During the 1980s and 1990s, we faced the challenges of the extension of military dictatorship with the incalculable damage to and distortion of our national psyche, including the paradoxical attempts to return the nation to democratic rule and fostering a military-oriented constitution and principle of unitary federalism on the nation. Similarly, our foreign policy objective at independence was the liberation and restoration of the dignity of Africans and the emancipation of Africa from apartheid regimes and other forms of colonialism. That dictated our tough stance against the apartheid regime in South Africa. Nigeria was also a foundation member of Organization of Africa Unity (OAU) - now African Union (AU) and an influential member of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) which it spearheaded its establishment in 1973.

Over the years, the nation has made sacrifices and contributions towards the stability of West Africa and Africa in general while metaphorically the nation has been enmeshed in endemic national insecurity. The disturbing issue is; what have we gained from our big brother role, considering that Africa has been the centerpiece of our foreign policy objectives? Probably due to prolonged years of military adventure in

governance, the nation appears to have lost a sense of patience, process and orderliness under a democratic culture, which has exacerbated the dependency syndrome and the nation has gotten used to getting things done in haphazard manner with „immediate alacrity“, which in itself is a security challenge. The political process is stultified by those who should not have been in politics or by thugs to the extent that the nation now produces suicide bombers (Egwu, 2017).

As a consequence therefore, the pride in earning a living is diminished to the extent that nobody seems to care or ask how some people make their money and we have lost respect for our cultural norms and values of honesty, handwork and integrity, which have been the hallmarks of societal recognition and honour. The group in contemporary Nigeria that has stretched the resources, expertise, patience and even the competence of Nigeria's national security apparatuses to the limit, both individually and collectively, is the Boko Haram sect and their sponsors. The sheer number of deaths arising from bomb attacks orchestrated by the Boko Haram far outstrips any other cause of death in Nigeria, including epidemics (Alozieuwa, 2012). In an attempt to achieve national security in Nigeria, government had established the variegated security agencies and introduced security strategies and varied epochs such as the Nigeria Police, the Nigerian Army, Nigerian Navy, Nigerian Air Force, Department of State Security, Nigerian Customs and Immigration Services, Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps, the Joint Tax Force, among others. Unfortunately, these measures had not tackled security issues in

the country especially in the North-East and South-Eastern zones. This couples the recognition made on national security threat to be a major issue for the government and has prompted huge allocation of the national budget to security.

In order to ameliorate the incidence of crime, the federal government has embarked on criminalization of terrorism by passing the Anti-Terrorism Act in 2011, incorporating fundamental surveillance as well as investigation of criminal related offences, heightening of physical security measures around the country aimed at deterring or disrupting potential attacks, strengthening of security agencies through the provision of security facilities and the development and broadcast of security tips in mass media. Despite these efforts, the level of insecurity in the country is still high. In addition, Nigeria has consistently ranked low in the Global Peace Index (GPI, 2017), signifying a worsened state of insecurity in the country and the globe. In his argument, Bankong Obi (2016) exposed that one of the shortcomings of Nigeria's security issues is its pro-realist orientation that accords the deployment of force in resolving national security threats. Thus, the strategy of choice among national security agencies is the use of force in various guises to subdue those identified as threatening national security which has yielded little or no impact in addressing national security issues. Agaptus (2013) wondered why the government's supposed superior force has not rolled back the menace of insecurity which has created the impression that the government is not doing enough to secure the people. This mindset led Bankong-Obi (2016) to attribute Nigeria's intractable security challenges to

government's apathy towards terminating the terror group and inefficiency on the part of the security agencies. The country's nascent democracy has been tested by rampant crime and an unprecedented campaign of terror such that in the South-East, civil unrest threatens safety and stability; gangs who kidnap expatriates for ransom lie in wait on the roads, in bars, and cities; and to the north, the Islamic terrorist group called Boko Haram is growing both in number and brutality hence the group has posed brazen challenges to the government; and to the north, Arewa Youths recently issued ultimatum "leave or die" to Igbo migrants living in the northern Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

Over the years, the incessant rural-urban migration incidence as well as its associated increased security challenges in Nigeria and FCT in particular has become a source of concern to scholars, institutions, agencies, well-meaning individuals as well as the global community. There has been recorded increased rural-urban migration in Nigeria as there has been mass exodus of rural dwellers to the urban cities especially Abuja with its associated security threats which have implications on lives and properties of FCT residential. In the receiving areas, there have been increased over population, increased crime rates and over-stretch of urban infrastructure while in the relinquishing rural areas, there have been decrease in agricultural output and its contribution to

Gross Domestic Product (GDP); lowered standard of living of the rural dwellers, and desertion of the rural areas (rural depopulation) with its own associated

national insecurity contributions. The migration of the rural masses to the urban areas has over the years occasioned a lot of social and economic difficulties as well as security challenges in the urban and the rural areas. In the argument of Olowa and Awoyemi (2012), persistent increase in rural-urban migration in Nigeria over the years has led to high rate of city congestion, crime and poor infrastructure such as proper sewage system, clean drinking water; electricity and other amenities, chronic unemployment and creation of large slums and shanty towns in FCT.

In Nigeria, from the colonial period till date, successive administrations in the country have demonstrated vigorous efforts to reform the rural areas where over 75% of Nigerians live in for the sake of attaining balanced growth and development, and discourage rural-urban migration as well as national insecurity, all to no avail such that while the national population is growing at an annual rate of 2.8 percent; that of the urban population is growing at 5.5 percent (National Bureau of Statistics, 2017). This rate is among the highest in the world today. Unfortunately, what has been reaped according to Olowa and Awoyemi (2012) has been reduction in rural agricultural produce, reduction in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the nation, decline in the standard of living, inaccessibility, remoteness, underdevelopment, poverty, drabness, ignorance, hunger and starvation of the rural inhabitants.

The inability of government to contend with rural-urban migration in order to protect lives and properties of citizens in Nigerian has poised the researchers to investigate into the effect of rural-urban

migration on security of lives and properties; x-raying experiences from the Federal Capital Territory Abuja, Nigeria. Hence, the research raise pertinent research questions as:

1. To what extent has the rising incidence of rural-urban migration affected the security of lives and properties of FCT resident?
2. What possible strategies can mitigate the rising incidence of rural-urban migration and security of lives and properties in FCT?

Objectives of the Study

The broad objective of this study was to uncover the effect of rural-urban migration on security of lives and properties in FCT. Specifically, the study sought to:

1. X-ray the extent to which the rising incidence of rural urban migration has affected security of lives and properties in FCT
2. Proffer possible strategies that can mitigate the rising incidence of rural-urban migration and security of lives and properties in FCT.

Causes and Consequences of Migration

The persons choice to migrate from his origin/rural to that of destination / cities determined on different border reasons. Knowing of the reasons of migration from the rural to urban areas become the areas of interest by different social sciences disciplines (McGee, 1974 Bilborrow et.al, 1984). The reason for migration and selection of the destination areas appraisal become more multifaceted hence the pattern , idea, kind ; the nature and course

varies from time to time , from place to place and from person to person (UN 1984 , Jansen 1970) . Most of the research works in the causes of migration revealed that the ``push`` or ``pull`` factors become more underlying one; and directly linked with economic and non-economic aspects of the migrants. The circumstances that obliged the migrants to leave his/her origin of residences considered as push factors like conflict, famine, crop failure due to some reasons and others . The push factors were/are the more predominated than pull factor in developing countries as reason for migration. The economic base of rural areas solely depended on the agriculture, when the productivity of land declines and the environment not conducive for maintains of the livelihood of the peasants which enforces to depart from rural residences to the cities. The issues of the practical implementation of the principles of democracy become one of driving force for increments of rural urban exodus. The lack or absences of good governance and the principles of democracy may pave the way for rural residences to feel unconfident and enforced to migrate. Such kind of political reasons become one of the reason to rural urban migration in most of developing nations (Aklilu and Tadesse, 1993). A pull factor is impressive relating to the place a person migrates to. It is by and large a good thing that attracts people to a certain place. Some scholars stated it as to the young's 'Bright lights' syndrome, the move of young /rural youth from rural areas in seeking of better opportunity in cities. High possibility of access to employment , enhanced way of life , adequate provisions of social serves-medication, education ,electricity, piped water delivery and others - state of feeling

safe, recreation, relatives relation were/ are considered as some of the pull factors for rural urban migration. Cities are the centers of different attraction like a relative high wage, an advanced soft and hard infrastructure with connection cities facilities and services, enhanced city cultural expression and way of life.

Migration has its own positive and negative consequences on the place of departure and destination. Natural resource depletion, environmental pollution, earning disparities, redundancy, urban expansion, social unrest, population crowding were/are some of the negative effects of migration. Whereas migration has paved the way for development, enhanced process of industrializations, serve as means of livelihood and even more the remittance become sources of family income and mechanism of to escape drought and famine (Dang et.al 2010, Mohapatra et.al 2009).

Concept of Security

Hettne (2010) defined security as a reasonable level of predictability at different levels of the social system, from local communities to the global level. The understanding here is that at the global level, there is a presence of an order which is predicated upon the predictability of the behavior of other members within the system. At the local level, security thus includes the ability of the state to predict the likely implications of any particular condition on its citizens. The recognition lies squarely not on the state's ability to enforce law and order, though that may be important, but in creating the necessary socio-economic conditions that guarantee

fair amount of predictability on the behavior of its citizens. In their own perspective, Nwanegbo and Odigbo (2013) argued that the concept of „security“ is a crosscutting, and multi-dimensional concept which has, over the last century, been the subject of great debate. However, long before that, the history of mankind was interspersed by the frenzied search for the best way of ensuring the security of the people, their properties, territories, states and institutions among others. In all places and countries, security has been considered as a “first order value” worth preserving. The aforementioned notwithstanding, there is no consensus on the definition of security. This is not surprising because as a social phenomenon, it is often approached from different perspectives. Above all, the concept of security has been seen as a situation where a person or thing is not exposed to any form of danger or risk of physical or moral aggression, accident, theft or deterioration. While some security experts argued that the concept of security has always been associated with the safety and survival of the state and its citizens from harm or destruction or from dangerous threats (Mukhtar, 2012).

Those conceptions generally hold that the state is the only institution with the primary responsibility and power for the safety of its territory and its people (Zabadi, 2005). Therefore the concept of security in this study is operationalized within the context of a nation hence the concept of “national security”. Majorly, two contending perspectives tend to provide the basis for the conceptualization of human security. One is a neorealist theoretical framework, which is predicated on the primacy and

centrality of state in conceptualizing security. It tends to explain security from the standpoint of state primary responsibility. Within this context, Buzan (2010) argued that the, straitjacket “militaristic approach to security that dominated the discourse during the Cold War was simple-minded” and subsequently led to the underdevelopment of the concept. For him, human security includes political, economic, social and environmental threats including those that are militaristic. Thus, Buzan (2010) illustrated a tripartite conceptual analysis of security based on international system, state level and individual level but submitted that sovereign states should remain the most effective security provider. The second approach is a postmodernist or pluralist view that seeks to displace the state as a major provider of security but rather places greater emphasis on non-state actors. Advocates of this approach tend to argue that the concept of security goes beyond a military determination of threats. According to Booth (2011), states and implicitly governments must no longer be the primary referents of security because governments which are supposed to be the guardians of their people’s “security” have instead become the primary source of insecurity for the many people who live under their sovereignty. As a result, human security is ultimately more important than state security. While concurring with both, Nwabueze (2012) posited that economic security of the individual is or should be of far greater concern to the government and society than the security of the state. Therefore, security as deducible from the foregoing is a state of reduced or contained threats and tension in which the stability of

a state is not in an imminent danger of disruption from within and outside.

Crisis in Rural Nigeria: An Impetus to Rural-Urban Migration in Nigeria

There is no disputing or denying the fact that rural Nigeria is engulfed in chronic albeit with endemic crisis. The background to the crisis in Nigeria’s rural areas and the socio-economic and political impacts of the crisis dates, at least, back to the colonial era. This was when colonialism exploited the resources of rural areas which increased the levels of rural poverty and thus changing the entire structure of the rural economy (Omonigho and Olaniyan, 2013). By enhancing or even transforming the nature of land holding etc, it further affected the nature and system of social production and productivity, the social and physical provision of infrastructure; the ecology and labor force recruitment as well as worsening the overall poverty level amongst the rural residents (they further maintained). Hence, the crisis in Nigeria’s countryside centres essentially on productivity, food shortages, particularly for the urban parasites, and dwindled per capita income which, no doubt, manifest a serious crisis of poverty, apathy and despair within the rural communities. The nature and extent of rural malaise are, of course, immense and perhaps immeasurable. While rural poverty is not a new phenomenon in Nigeria, it has nevertheless persisted despite the fact that the country is richly endowed in oil and other mineral resources. In a corroborating perspective, Ajaero and Madu (2014) noted that before the discovery and production of petroleum, Nigeria was a state characterized by a relatively narrow rural-urban gap, and

therefore urban bias during that period was hardly a topical issue of debate. But with the emergence of oil as the main pedestal of the economy, urban oriented economy swiftly characterized the political economy and the public policy orientation.

Urban privileged groups, but the wage earners, quickly monopolized and benefited from whatever gains that came along with oil, (Jamal and Weeks, 2015). As Nigeria is predominantly rural, less than a quarter of the over 180 million Nigerians live in towns or urbanized settings. While the trend in the Nigerian oil economy is characterized by rural exodus, Nigeria's rural oriented economy with the vast majority of the population expending their labor force in agricultural pursuits, it is nonetheless characterized with migration economy based on the long history of Nigerian urbanization spree. Whereas the nature of rural crisis in Nigeria has reached such an extent and degree that even the peasant has failed to produce enough food for him, let alone produce in excess to be appropriated by the state. Thus, food shortages, lower productivity, lower income and increased poverty have ravaged the rural Nigeria for a very long period of time. Even though these are partly and directly due to the inability of the peasants to have access to fertilizers for the predominant fertilizer responsive crops, inputs and other infrastructural facilities; however, high marketing costs, labor shortages due to the rural-urban drift, infertile soils, pests, diseases due to the increased chemicalization of the soil and mechanization of agriculture have produced further impetus to new rural crisis. Hence, since the Sahelian drought of the 1970s, rural Nigeria has continued to capture the

attention of scholars on the unprecedented trends of rural poverty and its consequences on the rural residents and the national economy as a whole (Mortimore, 2016). But despite all the seeming attempts to alleviate rural poverty by both the state and international agencies through many ambitious and in most cases overzealous programmes they have nevertheless failed to transform rural life; either through agriculture or industrialization strategized either through the dualistic paradigms of „top-down“ or „bottom-up“ development approach. While a plethora of constraints could certainly be identified as factors responsible for the current rural malaise in Nigeria, the solutions seem to be as elusive as ever since both the domestic and international dimensions of the issue were completely jettisoned. Thus, the general embarrassment resulting from the failure to arrive at appropriate solutions to the problems has plunged the entire policies and strategies ineffective and ineffectual. The structure of Nigeria's rural economy has made it even more vulnerable with increased state intervention in the rural agricultural economy, particularly through the introduction of a variety of agricultural programmes and strategies. In addition, accelerated land alienation in the rural areas has accentuated rural crisis and therefore become a serious trend that affects the entire peasantry. Thus, with large tracts of land forcefully acquired by the state and held by the urban bourgeoisie in direct league with foreign partnership, have been transformed into commercialized and mechanized farming. This constitutes one of the factors that brought about the state-peasant stand-off in the recent times (Nwakeze, 2014).

As the land so acquired is so extensive, the rural inhabitants have inevitably been transformed and turned into wage labor captivity particularly in the River Basin and Development Authority (RBDA) and Agricultural Development Project (ADP) areas where land had been acquired for diverse purposes. With agricultural pursuits becoming more and more unbearable and unaffordable by the rural peasantry due to, among others, high costs of inputs, fertilizers, labor etc the peasants have, by and large, been systematically forced out of farming and to pathetically abandon farming by selling or mortgaging their farmlands to move out of the rural environment for the frivolous urban life, for wage labor and other lumpen-proletarian works. Nwakeze (2014) further stated that the Bakolori peasant revolt was a clear demonstration of a response on how the state actually alienated land from the peasant resulting in the 1980 peasant massacre by the state coercive agents

Over time, the rural labour structure has experienced a radical change. As captured by National Bureau of Statistics Report, (2017), the Sample Survey carried out between 2010 and 2012 indicated that 80 percent of rural dwellers were generally employed in agricultural activities; however, agricultural employment in the rural areas dropped from 80 percent (2013 – 2016) to 65.5 percent in 2017; furthermore, wage labor is predominantly in use with 50 percent seasonally acquired through migrant labor. This, more often than not, indicates that of the migrant workers, 70 percent had land in their places of origin where 30 percent were landless. Of permanent workers less than 10 percent had their own

land, the rest being landless (NBS, 2017). However, within this period, rural urban migration of the rural labor force had completely shortened the agricultural pursuits and productivity in the Nigeria's countryside as what had predominantly been left to cater for land were mostly the aged women and children. This unsettlement resulted partly from the large scale projects undertaken as they were all accompanied with ecological upset in the fragile rural areas. The threat of desertification makes movement of the people inevitable. However the deforestation through woodland clearance makes soils to erode and land to deteriorate which also threaten people to live nearby and engage in productive activities.

While the crucial question of what is the nature and magnitude of rural crisis must be stressed, it should therefore be noted that rural communities in Nigeria have continued to suffer immeasurable crisis as manifested in multifaceted forms and dimension, crisis of nature, crisis of state intervention, crisis of maladjustment and so on ad infinitum. As poverty has become endemic, a norm rather than exception in Nigeria rural society, it has continued to persist over time, at least since colonialism while the decades of flag independence have not produced any concrete and tangible demonstration of its alleviation (Udo, 2012). Thus, he argued that neither through programmes of development aids nor local drive for industrialization and transformation of agriculture has ameliorated the crisis from the rural sector of the economy even during the bubbling economy of the 1970s. The solutions so far advanced and implemented by the policy to

the rural problems seem to be as elusive as ever. Whereas the ecological constraints associated with low rural productivity, are generally caused by infertile soils caused sequel to their chemical pollution through intense application of fertilizers, pesticides etc, erosion sequel partly to intense deforestation in attempts to introduce new agricultural programmes like the large scale RBDAs, ADPs and dam constructions. Other ecological constraints consisted of droughts and floods while pests and diseases are directly associated with public policy which sanction pollutions into the hitherto „natural soils“ relatively immune from the foreign incursions. Corroborating the position above, Adeyemi (2016) aptly observed that the crisis of labor shortages in the rural Nigeria is demonstrated and manifested by rural-urban migration, as rural ecological constraints become highly unbearable to the rural residents.

However, what further bedevils the rural setting is the wrong diagnosis of the problems of the rural areas applied, which in turn produces the wrong results which is sequel to the faulty understanding of the problems in the first place. For example, the so-called traditional farm management is adduced to be the causal factor for the so-called technical backwardness, caused by the vicious circle of inputs scarcity and the ageing farm population without giving further impetus to the young in agricultural pursuits (Ajeagbu, 2016). Consequently, the rural environment has become highly characterized by low or under-investments of resource. The result of this has invariably caused serious scarcity of credits thus bringing about low farm prices sequel to, among others, the vacillating price policies

and unfavorable terms of trade between rural and urban sectors. However, the huge marketing costs, caused by inadequate rural infrastructures, have put further assaults on the rural conditions of living. The worsening of the rural socio-economic condition is not only a crisis affecting it but the national economy per excellence.

While the direction of policies and attitudes, over time, of colonial and postcolonial regimes as well as the donor institutions has brought about a plethora of issues militating against the rural society, a catalogue of crisis has, by and large, emerged. These include the perfunctory public policy attention paid to the rural small scale peasant farmers, particularly in the irrigated project sites which place too much emphasis and dependence on public investments with the large-scale enterprises and urban bourgeois farmers being the central focus. But as against the advocacy for a change from the „economy of affection“ to the so-called capital intensive large scale economy characterized by export crops and machinery etc, the state interventions, over time, have been fashioned out on capital intensive projects without forecast to the social, economic and ecological consequences (Ajeagbu, 2016). Reforms on such interventions were, however, advanced towards the social provision of the basic human needs as advocated by the ILO, which in essence, has turned out to be a further modification of denials of rural needs despite the strong advocacy for the relative rural self-reliance and redistribution of resources equitably. The rural economy is, of course, broader than and therefore not synonymous to farming. Other ingredients that make up the

entire rural economy consist of livestock production, forestry, fishing, marketing, hunting, services, manufacturing etc. Within this diversity of activities in the rural society, Adeyemi (2016) succinctly shows the assumptions attached to the non-farm activities and their impacts-it often seems to be assumed that a decline in rural non-agricultural activity will accompany urbanization and the transformation of agriculture. But such an assumption does violence to the multifaceted structure of rural economies. Diversification is very much and is also ultimately related to ecology.

Even though the peasant mode of production has been outmoded, as it cannot make any dramatic change and increases in production and productivity, it is equally accepted that the introduced technology is highly inappropriate to the state of affairs of the rural realities or indigenous farming systems. In other words, the technology is highly inappropriate for the rural farming system and for the generality of the rural farmers whose understanding of the technology and resources is highly analogue to the generally accepted designs of the transformation of rural society (Adeyemi, 2016). The dependency nature of the rural environment on the urban policy and bureaucratic tangling has, however, produced undesirable constraints on the efficiency of labor and other productive processes. It must be stressed that public policy on agriculture has by and large shown great disaffection towards the small scale farmers; particularly those on the rural areas, as the inputs, credits and other facilities concretely show its bias in favour of the large scale urban arm-chair farmers at the

expense of the predominant peasant population. Thus, the improvement of the peasantry is, anyway, an inevitable historical outcome, the penetration of the capitalist forces into the countryside under colonial and past-colonial conditions (Adeyemi, 2016)

Theoretical Framework

This study is theoretically anchored on the Push and Pull Theory Propounded by Everett Lee in the year 1966. The Push and Pull theory proposes the motivations for rural-urban migration by considering how the relationship between two points-origin and destination are affected by push factors and pull factors. According to the theory, push factors exist at the point of origin and act to trigger emigration; these include the lack of economic opportunities, religious or political persecution, hazardous environmental conditions, and poor infrastructural facilities, among others. On the other hand, pull factors exist at the destination and include the availability of jobs, religious or political freedom, and the perception of a relatively benign environment. Push factors and pull factors are complementary in the senses that migration can only occur if the *raison d'être* to emigrate (the push) is remedied by the corresponding pull at an attainable destination.

By way of theoretical relevance, this theory explains that rural-urban migration in Nigeria and the south-eastern region in particular is caused by push factors and the corresponding pull factors. The push factors motivate the rural dwellers to emigrate the rural areas as a result of such acute shortage or inexistence of basic amenities such as

roads, electricity, portable water, famine, drought or crop failure, poor medical care, natural disasters, poverty, unemployment, and general infrastructure that add rhythm to life in the rural areas while in contrast, those factors are existing in abundance in the urban areas (the pull factors). Therefore, addressing these push factors in the rural areas would contain the incidence of rural dwellers migrating to urban areas. Hence, so long as the push factors continue to persist in the rural areas, the incidence of rural urban migration will continue to rise, and consequently, threaten national security.

Methodology

The data for the study were obtained through the administration of structure questionnaire. A reconnaissance survey of the study area was used to select the two area councils (LGA's) for the study. The selection was based on the following criteria; One area council was chosen from each of the two Federal constituencies (Federal constituency 1 include Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) and Bwari, Federal constituency 2 include Abaji, Gwagwalada, Kuje, and Kwali). The LGA that was chosen has the highest population in each of the federal constituencies in FCT, because of the heterogeneity of the population so as to enable a good sample of the population without bias. Therefore, the following area councils were selected; AMAC and Gwagwalada.

Systematic random sampling was employed to select the wards from each LGA's for the administration of the questionnaire. All the wards in the selected area councils were arranged alphabetically and every third ward was selected for questionnaire administration. The selected wards are Gwako, Kutunku and Quarters in Gwagwalada area council while Gui, Jiwa, Karshi and Wuse in AMAC. A stratified random sampling techniques was adopted for the selection of respondents in each of the household, questionnaire was administered to the head of the household or the most senior. Yamane, (1967) sample size of a given population determination formula was used to calculate the number of questionnaire that was administered.

Research Findings

In the course of this research, several revelations were made as follows:

1. Poor rural infrastructural facilities, rural poverty and quest for improved standard of living are major factors accounting for the persistent incidence of rural-urban migration in Nigeria. In the rural areas of Nigeria, there exists pitiable living conditions, acute/absolute rural poverty, dilapidated rural infrastructure, illiteracy coupled with ailing health care facilities which consequently push the rural dwellers to evict the demoralizing areas and locomote into the fashionably luxurious urban centres for better living conditions. This menace is as elucidated in the below table.

Table 1: Factors inducing persistent increase in rural-urban migration in Nigeria

| Push Factors in the Rural Areas | Pull Factors in the Urban Areas |
|--|---|
| Agriculture: Increased agricultural inefficiency as a result of land and environmental degradation. | Agricultural workers moved to the towns and cities to work in factories that required unskilled labor and became better off. |
| New Inventions: New inventions required lower skill levels and cheap ready-made goods. Skilled workers who traditionally worked in rural areas, such as blacksmiths and carpenters, were displaced and needed new employment. | Opportunities exist for employment in new emerging industries and factories in the urban areas. |
| Infrastructure: There is acute shortage of infrastructural facilities that add rhythm to the lives of rural dweller; also, as people moved from rural areas and population levels dropped less money was spent on roads, bridges, construction, schools and hospitals | There is abundance of infrastructural facilities like electricity, good roads, portable water supply, street lighting, recreational centers, etc in the urban areas. The infrastructure of towns and cities increased as new building and convenient facilities were made available to the increasing population. |
| Cultural Factor: there is absence of tourist centers and less or no money is spent on cultural facilities such as museums, libraries and art galleries. | There is abundance of tourist centres, parks, stadia among others and as such, people move to cities to enjoy new recreational resources and cultural facilities |
| Goods and Services: Goods and services available to rural communities are limited | City and town living provides easy access to goods and services that ensure convenience and variety |
| Excitement and adventure: Traditional rural communities are considered old fashioned and boring | People move to towns for adventure and the bright lights of the city |
| Education: low quality educational services as less money is spent on educational resources in rural areas | Educational facilities in towns and cities offer a range of choice and access to education for all ages and easy access to colleges and universities providing better education |
| Health and Medical Care: low quality health care as there are fewer doctors and medical facilities in rural areas | Good health care and hospitals in easy reach of city dwellers |
| Freedom: Activities can be restricted in rural areas due to resistance to change and adherence to traditional values | Religious and political activities can be carried out more safely and with greater acceptance in larger towns and cities. |
| Opportunities: Limited new opportunities in rural areas. | Big companies offering new employment opportunities, career advancement and high wages are generally based in major towns and cities |
| Lack of investment: Limited amounts of government money is spent on rural areas | Government money is made available to highly populous areas |

Source: Author's field work 2024

From the table above, it can be deduced that the poor rural infrastructural facilities, rural poverty and quest for improved standard of living are major factors that give impetus to the rising

incidence of rural-urban migration to FCT, Abuja Nigeria.

2. The rising incidence of rural urban migration has significantly induced security challenges in FCT, Nigeria. Rural urban

migration in the Nigeria has culminated over the years into social, economic, environmental, physical insecurities and other severe problems such as congestion in the urban centers which has increased the spread of communicable diseases in the centers, insufficient physical, and social infrastructural amenities such as; electricity, health, educational, recreational facilities, motor able roads, pipe borne water, housing among others. This has caused overstretched use of physical and social infrastructural facilities in Abuja. This menace has degenerated into traffic congestion, unemployment, high crime rate - advance free fraud (419), hired assassins, armed robbery, alcoholism, drug abuse,

prostitution, hooliganism, health hazard from pollution; air, water, land grabbing and noise, for example, toxic smoke from industrial plants and vehicles, inadequate refuse collection and disposal system, poor drainage system which results to flood and overflowing gutters and therefore causing cholera epidemics, growth of slums leading to shanty settlements, and long distance to work as well as serious traffic jam which makes commuters spend number of hours on the road to work and in other places, cultural change, juvenile delinquency, and decline in social values. The above is security challenges in the region as induced by rural-urban migration are tabulated below:

Table 2: Security Challenges in Abuja induced by Rural-Urban Migration (2009-2023)

| Year | Theft | Armed robbery | Kidnapping | Pick pocketing | Fraud |
|------|-------|---------------|------------|----------------|-------|
| 2009 | 127 | 81 | 27 | 124 | 243 |
| 2010 | 196 | 95 | 34 | 110 | 349 |
| 2011 | 231 | 121 | 91 | 214 | 337 |
| 2012 | 124 | 134 | 95 | 113 | 410 |
| 2013 | 289 | 114 | 53 | 225 | 349 |
| 2014 | 111 | 171 | 58 | 320 | 298 |
| 2015 | 901 | 243 | 34 | 221 | 149 |
| 2016 | 108 | 273 | 53 | 318 | 343 |
| 2017 | 927 | 319 | 62 | 320 | 289 |
| 2018 | 702 | 289 | 76 | 417 | 319 |
| 2019 | 774 | 212 | 77 | 319 | 332 |
| 2020 | 254 | 210 | 84 | 421 | 298 |
| 2021 | 348 | 456 | 78 | 255 | 320 |
| 2022 | 585 | 582 | 87 | 565 | 564 |
| 2023 | 284 | 525 | 64 | 245 | 172 |

Source: Nigerian Police Force, FCT command (2023).

Conclusion

It can be inferred from the discussions that majority of migrants from the rural enclaves of the Nigerians migrated to FCT,

to continue their education while others migrated in search of employment, basic amenities, to join relatives, and get married. This means, until the imbalance or disparity in socio-economic development between

the rural and urban areas are removed, no amount of persuasion or coercion can put a stop to rural-urban migration and its multiplying effects on the lives and properties of FCT residents. Some of its consequences include but not limited to: gloomy village life, failure of youths to learn their culture and desertion of the village by the youths leaving behind mainly the aged and children among others. The political violence, social insecurity and crimes in the region and Nigeria in particular are traceable to a high rate of unemployment among youths who constitute the economically active groups, political machinery and the largest population of every nation which necessitates rural-urban migration.

Needful but sad to say that the greater percentage of Nigerians are ignorant and poverty-stricken despite all the abundant resources in the country, hence the insecurity challenges. It is right to conclude that, the continuous epidemic revolution of crimes and terrorism, which we have experienced in the past few years in the country, may not be unconnected with the alarming rate of youth unemployment. It is disheartening to note that a majority of Nigerian youths are unemployed; and the few ones in employment are confronted with so much of socio-economic pressure from hordes of dependants.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this research, the following recommendations are put forward:

- The Federal governments of Nigeria should adopt regional integration in rural development as possible

strategies to mitigate the rising incidence of rural-urban migration. A concerted integrated effort should also be made towards financing the rural enterprises and encouraging effective and efficient agricultural activities. Persistent efforts towards improving the urban areas without converting the rural areas would aggravate the already problematic situation posed by rural-urban migration in the FCT, since higher number of youths will migrate to the urban appealing areas.

- Integrated security approach should be adopted by the state governments of every region in order to ensure palpable results in fighting security challenges in the region. Accordingly, the thirty-six state governments should integrate intense efforts by establishing regional vigilante groups, regional police and similar regional security agencies that will marry efforts to fight security challenges throughout the region to avoid migration to urban areas.

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