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Migration, Displacement and Governance in Nigeria: Issues, Challenges and Prospects

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Abstract

Migration and displacement have become pressing global concerns, posing significant challenges to governance and development. This paper examines the complex interplay between migration, displacement, and governance in Nigeria, highlighting the issues, challenges, and prospects. It explores the causes and consequences of migration and displacement, including the impact on social, economic, and political systems. Anchored on New Economics of Labor Migration theory, the study adopts a descriptive-analytical design, relying on qualitative data obtained from credible secondary sources and analyzed through content analysis. Findings revealed that despite the opportunities presented by globalization, Nigeria's migration governance is impeded by pervasive corruption in public institutions, weak political institutions with limited autonomy, among other structural and systemic barriers. The absence of visionary, ethical, and inclusive leadership continues to hinder the establishment of transparent and accountable governance structures capable of delivering development outcomes. The study concludes that without leadership transformation and migration governance reform, Nigeria's development efforts will remain stalled, regardless of globalization's potential benefits. The study recommended that government should address the root causes of conflicts and promote peace building initiatives. This involves engaging in effective dialogue, fostering social cohesion, and implementing comprehensive conflict resolution strategies to create a peaceful environment that discourages forced migration. Also, there is need to strengthen governance structures and institutions by promoting transparency, accountability, and the rule of law

Keywords: Migration, Displacement, Governance, Development, Human Rights, Sustainable Development.

Introduction

Migration has become increasingly central to the agendas of governments around the world. With more people on the move than at any other time in history, many governments are facing significant pressures, both domestically and internationally, to find ways of adapting and responding to rapidly shifting realities. In many cases, policies and practices that may have been adequate in previous years are proving insufficient to meet new challenges. Migration flows are being driven by a wide range of factors. Globalization, for example, has contributed to rapid changes in areas such as transportation, information and communication technologies (ICTs), income and wealth distribution, and the structure of global labour markets, all of which have contributed to new flows, forms and characteristics of international migration, including higher percentages of women on the move. At the same time, other drivers of migration, such as conflict, insecurity, fragile states, and environmental change are also contributing   significantly to the global numbers and motivations of

migrants. These shifts and changes have highlighted the need for new approaches and responses to issues of migration, not just from States, but also from the wide array of other public, private and non-state actors and institutions that shape the landscape of migration governance.

The growing recognition of migration's potential to contribute to processes of development has also sharpened the focus on how migration governance can best contribute to unlocking this potential. Related to this, there has also been an increasing emphasis on the need to protect and advance the human rights of migrants, regardless of their motivations or legal status.

In recent years poor governance and migration trends in Nigeria have become tightly woven issues. Nigeria, the most populous country in Africa has faced issues of corruption, weak institutions and socioeconomic inequality all of which have contributed to a lack of opportunities and a deteriorating living standard for its citizens. These underlying governance failures have fuelled a significant increase in migration both internally and International.

According to World Migration Report (2019), lack of education, healthcare, employment and basic infrastructure have compelled many Nigerians to try better opportunities abroad. Poor governance has exacerbated the vulnerability of migrants thereby making them susceptible to human trafficking exploitation and other forms of abuse. Nigeria's Poor governance is a longstanding issue which has had significant consequences for the country. The problem of corruption within the government has been one of the key factors contributing to its existence. Nigeria consistently ranked poorly on the Corruption Perceptions index (ranking 150 in 2022) indicating very high levels of Corruption in the country. The mismanagement of resources by government officials and embezzlement of public funds have resulted in a severe lack of basic amenities and services for the general population. It created an unhealthy ecosystem for social inequalities, poverty and disenfranchisement among Nigerian citizens.

Another important aspect of Nigeria's poor governance is the lack of transparency and accountability in government processes. The opaque nature of governance in Nigeria impedes public participation and inhibits the proper functioning of institutions. This lack of transparency erodes public trust and undermines the legitimacy of governance in Nigeria leading to a sense of disillusionment among the population. The problem of corruption and lack of transparency in governance in general has perpetuated social and economic inequalities in Nigeria contributing to the high levels of migration observed in the recent times. Nigeria has long been plagued by corruption, mismanagement of resources, and a lack of effective government policies (Adediran, 2015). This has resulted in widespread poverty, unemployment, and a general sense of hopelessness among the population. Many Nigerians see migration as a means of escaping these challenging conditions and seeking better opportunities abroad. The government's failure to address these underlying issues has further fueled the trend, as people continue to leave in search of a better life. Additionally, the lack of infrastructure and basic services, such as healthcare and education, further contribute to the migration patterns within Nigeria, as individuals seek access to these amenities elsewhere (Adedokun & Karzanova, 2019). Poor governance, characterized by high levels

of corruption, limited access to basic services, and inadequate infrastructure, has led to a widespread sense of frustration and dissatisfaction among the Nigerian population.

This dissatisfaction fueled the desire of many Nigerians to seek better economic opportunities and improved living conditions abroad (Anifowose, 2005). The lack of efficient and effective institutions and policies to address these issues has further exacerbated the existing challenges. Corruption has had a negative effect on the Nigerian economy and society at large. Bracing and rampant corruption embedded in the political and bureaucratic systems have inhibited economic progress, increased loss of foreign direct investments (FDI) and stifled job creation and opportunities (Aslam, 2015).

Statement of the Problem

The increasing complexity and frequency of migration and displacement pose significant challenges to governance, security, and sustainable development globally. Despite the growing importance of migration and displacement, governments, international organizations, and civil society often struggle to effectively manage these phenomena, leading to social, economic, and humanitarian crises. Nigerians particularly youth are forced therefore to migrate as a way of escaping the economic and social hardships caused by poor governance. In addition to corruption, the limited access to basic services, such as education and healthcare, further drives migration. The inadequate provision of these services has left many Nigerians disillusioned and with limited opportunities for personal and professional development (Anifowose, 2005). As a result, individuals are compelled to leave their home country in search of better education and healthcare facilities, as well as improved living standards.

The prevalence of corruption and limited access to basic services has fueled frustration and dissatisfaction among Nigerians, prompting many individuals to seek improved economic opportunities abroad. Addressing these issues requires the implementation of effective policies, robust institutions, and the commitment of the government to tackle corruption and provide essential services to its citizens. This study aims to explore the issues, challenges, and prospects of migration, displacement, and governance, with a view to identifying effective strategies for managing these complex phenomena

Objectives of the Study
i.   To examine the causes and consequences of migration and displacement.
ii.   To analyze the governance structures and policies related to migration and displacement
iii. To identify the challenges and opportunities in managing migration and displacement
iv.   To develop recommendations for effective governance and management of migration and displacement.

Research Questions
i.   What are the key issues and challenges surrounding migration and displacement, and how do   they impact governance and development?

ii.   How effective are existing governance structures and policies in managing migration and displacement, and what gaps and challenges exist?

iii.   What opportunities and strategies can be employed to improve the governance and management of migration and displacement?

iv.   What policy and programmatic interventions can be implemented to ensure the protection and   dignity of migrants and displaced persons, while promoting sustainable development and security?

Conceptual Review of Migration

Migration is the movement of people away from their usual place of residence to a new place of residence, either across an international border or within a State. There is no universally agreed definition of "migration" or "migrant", but there are several widely accepted definitions that have been developed in different settings. For example, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs define a long-term migrant as a person who lives outside their country of origin for at least 12 months. For demographic purposes, there are two types of migration: internal and international

Internal (National) Migration within Nigeria

Internal migration is when people move within the same country. Rural-urban migration   is when people move specifically from rural areas to urban locations within the same country. Internal migration within Nigeria is a major phenomenon that has been driven by   various factors. One of the main causes of internal migration is the uneven distribution of   resources across the country. As highlighted by Akintoye and Adeyinka (2012), there is a concentration of economic opportunities and infrastructure in urban areas, particularly in the southern parts of the country, which attracts individuals from rural areas. Moreover, internal conflicts and ethnic tensions have also played a significant role in driving migration.

According to Okonkwo (2018), the presence of Boko Haram insurgency in the northeastern region has led to the displacement of numerous individuals, with many seeking refuge in other parts of the country. Additionally, political instability and poor governance have contributed to the internal migration trends.

Anifowose (2005) argues that the lack of effective governance and corruption have hindered development in rural areas, resulting in individuals moving to urban centers in search of a better life. The combination of economic, social, and political factors has thus led to significant internal migration within Nigeria

Here we have two types of internal (national). These include; inter-State   migration and intra-state migration.

i.   Inter-State Migration

Inter-state migration is another significant trend in Nigeria's migration patterns. According to the United Nations (2019), inter-state migration, defined as movement within the country from one state to another, has increased in recent years. This phenomenon can be attributed to various factors, including economic disparities, political instability, and social

unrest. For instance, individuals from states with limited   economic   opportunities   may choose to migrate to states with more prosperous economies in search of better job prospects and improved living standards. Additionally, political instability and social unrest in certain states may push individuals to seek safer   environments in other states. The increase in inter-state migration poses challenges for the Nigerian government in terms of providing essential services such as housing,   education, and healthcare to the growing population in the destination states (United Nations, 2019). Therefore, effective governance is crucial to address the issues   arising from inter-state migration and ensure the well-being of both the migrants and the   host communities.

ii.   Intra-State Migration

Intra-state migration is another significant trend in Nigeria's migration patterns. According to the United Nations (2019), intra-state migration, is defined as movement within the country or state has increased in recent years. This phenomenon can be attributed to various factors, including economic disparities, political instability, and social unrest. For instance, individuals from states with limited economic opportunities   may   choose   to migrate to other Local Governments within the State with more prosperous economies in search of better job prospects and improved living standards. Additionally, political instability and social unrest in certain Local Governments may push individuals to seek safer environments in other Local Governments. The increase in   intra-state   migration poses challenges for the Nigerian government in terms of providing essential services such as housing, education, and healthcare to the growing population in   the   destination states (United Nations, 2019). Therefore, effective governance is crucial to address the issues arising from inter-state migration and ensure the well-being of both the migrants and the host communities.

International Migration from Nigeria

International migration occurs when people cross State boundaries to live in another country for a minimum length of time International migration from Nigeria has been severely influenced by the country's poor governance. One of the main reasons for the high migration rate is the lack of economic opportunities and high levels of poverty. The Nigerian government plagued by corruption and mismanagement has failed to create an enabling environment for sustainable economic development. Several Nigerians are therefore seeking abroad excellent prospects particularly in Western countries where they believe that they can get well-paid jobs and a better standard of living. Moreover the government's inability to address security challenges such as violence and terrorism has also contributed to increased migration from Nigeria (Adediran, 2015).

Many individuals and families feel compelled to will the country in search of security and stability. Thus poor governance has not only impacted the country's socioeconomic development but has also influenced migration trends leading to a significant outflow of people searching for a well life abroad (Adediran, 2015).

Patterns of Migration in Nigeria

In the light of the foregoing, the following are the patterns of migration under the internal (national) migration

i.   **Rural-Rural Migration**: This type of migration involves people moving from one rural area to another. Reasons for rural-rural migration may include:
- Agricultural opportunities (e.g., seasonal farming or better land availability)
- Marriage or family ties
- Environmental factors (e.g., natural disasters or soil degradation)
- Access to better infrastructure or services (e.g., healthcare or education)

ii.   **Rural-Urban Migration**: Rural-urban migration refers to the movement of people from rural to urban areas in search of better economic opportunities and improved living conditions. According to Okunola, Umaru & Hassan, 2019, it is a phenomenon that has been prevalent in Nigeria due to various factors, including
- Job opportunities and better employment prospects
- Access to education, healthcare, and other services
- Improved infrastructure and amenities (e.g., electricity, water, and transportation)
- Increased economic opportunities and higher standard of living

iii.   **Urban-Urban Migration**: This type of migration involves people moving from one urban area to another. Reasons for urban-urban migration may include:
- Job opportunities or career advancement
- Better living conditions or amenities (e.g., housing, transportation, or entertainment)
- Access to specialized services or education
- Personal or family reasons (e.g., marriage, family ties, or lifestyle preferences)

iv.   **Urban-Rural Migration**: This type of migration involves people moving from urban areas to rural areas. Reasons for urban-rural migration may include:
- Desire for a quieter or more peaceful lifestyle
- Lower cost of living or affordable housing
- Connection to nature or agricultural lifestyle
- Retirement or lifestyle change

Factors Driving National and International Migration/Displacement

Factors driving international migration can be attributed to push or pull factors. Push such as economic, social, and political conditions. Economic factors play a crucial role in motivating individuals to   migrate internationally. High unemployment rates, low wages, and limited job opportunities in the home country push individuals to seek better economic prospects in other nations (Albert-Makyur & Mbanaso, 2022).

Moreover, globalization has led to increased competition among countries, which has resulted in the outsourcing of jobs from developed to developing countries. This has caused individuals in developing countries to migrate in search of employment opportunities to support themselves and their families (Cerovic, 2017).

Social factors such as political instability, civil unrest, and conflicts also contribute to international migration. Individuals living in regions plagued by violence or instability may choose to leave their home country for safety reasons (Okonkwo, 2018).

The pull factors such as drought, wars, crises, flood, famine, pest infestation, insect infestations, earthquake and volcanic eruption compels people to migrate or brings about displacement.

Concept of Displacement

Forced displacement (also forced migration or forced relocation) is an involuntary or coerced movement of a person or people away from their home or home region. The UNHCR defines 'forced displacement' as follows: displaced "as a result of persecution, conflict, generalized violence or human rights violations".

A forcibly displaced person may also be referred to as a "forced migrant", a "displaced person" (DP), or, if displaced within the home country, an "internally displaced person" (IDP). While some displaced persons may be considered refugees, the latter term specifically refers to such displaced persons who are receiving legally-defined protection and are recognized as such by their country of residence and/or international organizations.

Forced displacement has gained attention in international discussions and policy making since the European migrant crisis. This has since resulted in a greater consideration of the impacts of forced migration on affected regions outside Europe. Various international, regional, and local organizations are developing and implementing approaches to both prevent and mitigate the impact of forced migration in the home regions as well as the receiving or destination regions. Additionally, some collaboration efforts are made to gather evidence in order to seek prosecution of those involved in causing events of human-made forced migration. An estimated 100 million people around the world were forcibly displaced by the end of 2022, with the majority coming from the Global South.

Governments, NGOs, other international organizations and social scientists have defined forced displacement in a variety of ways. They have generally agreed that it is the forced removal or relocation of a person from their environment and associated connections. It can involve different types of movements, such as flight (from fleeing), evacuation, and population transfer.

The International Organization for Migration defines a forced migrant as any person migrating to "escape persecution, conflict, repression, natural and human-made disasters, ecological degradation, or other situations that endanger their lives, freedom or livelihood".

According to UNESCO, forced displacement is "the forced movement of people from their locality or environment and occupational activities," with its leading cause being armed conflict.

According to researcher Alden Speare, even movement under immediate threat to life contains a voluntary element as long as an option exists going into hiding, or attempting to avoid persecution. According to him "migration can be considered to be involuntary only when a person is physically transported from a country and has no opportunity to escape from those transporting him [or her]." This viewpoint has come under scrutiny when considering direct and indirect factors which may leave migrants with little to no choice in their decisions, such as imminent threats to life and livelihood.

Concept of Migration and Displacement Governance

Migration governance, a multifaceted and ever-evolving field, encompasses the policies, laws, and institutions that regulate the movement of people across international borders. It's a complex area shaped by a dynamic interplay of national interests, international cooperation, and the fundamental rights of migrants themselves. Effectively managing migration flows requires a nuanced understanding of the push and pull factors driving migration, the challenges faced by migrants, and the impact of migration on both sending and receiving countries.

Migration governance operates on multiple levels. At the national level, individual states establish their own immigration laws and policies, determining who is allowed to enter, the conditions of entry, and the rights and obligations of migrants once they arrive. These policies vary significantly depending on a nation's economic needs, security concerns, and societal values. Some countries adopt relatively open migration policies, while others maintain strict controls.

The regional level involves cooperation between neighboring countries or groups of nations sharing similar migration challenges. Regional agreements and initiatives can facilitate coordinated border management, harmonize immigration policies, and promote the rights of migrants within a specific geographic area. Examples include the European Union's migration policies and the various regional agreements in Africa and Latin America.

At the international level, the governance of migration involves a multitude of actors, including international organizations, such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), as well as intergovernmental agreements and treaties. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), adopted by the UN in 2018, provides a significant framework for international cooperation in migration management. This global framework promotes a comprehensive approach, addressing migration challenges holistically while upholding the rights and well-being of migrants

A Theoretical framework

A theoretical framework for migration provides a structure to understand and analyze the causes, processes, and consequences of human movement. It helps researchers identify key factors influencing migration decisions and patterns. A common framework, the push-

pull model, highlights factors in origin (push) and destination (pull) areas that   motivate migration.

The theoretical framework of this paper anchors on the New Economics of Labor Migration (NELM) which was primarily developed by Oded Stark and David E. Bloom. They introduced this theory in their 1985 American Economic Review article.   The theory holds that Migration decisions are made by families or households to   diversify income sources and minimize risks.

NELM shifts the focus from individual decision-making in neoclassical economics to the household as the primary decision-making unit for migration. It emphasizes that migration decisions are often driven by the desire to reduce risk and overcome market constraints within a household, rather than solely by individual wage differentials.

Methodology

This study adopted a qualitative research design, specifically utilizing content analysis as the method for data analysis. The study relies primarily on secondary data sources. These include government publications, official reports, leadership speeches, political party manifestos, legislative records, policy documents, national development plans (e.g., the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan), media publications, and academic journal articles.

These texts were purposefully selected based on their relevance to transformational leadership, good governance, and development discourse in Nigeria. This study was organized from introduction, conceptual issues, theoretical framework, data presentation and analyses, summary, conclusion and recommendations.

Results and Discussion of Findings

The collected data were annualized par graphically according to the research questions
 One of the findings on migration and displacement reveals that, migration from Nigeria is driven in large part by a general perception of poor governance characterized by corruption lack of transparency and weak institutions. The failure of successive governments to address these issues has fueled a sense of dissatisfaction among the Nigerian population causing many to seek well-off opportunities. Poor governance also plays a significant role in exacerbating socio-economic disparities within the country with uneven distribution of resources and development projects often favoring some regions over others. This inequitable distribution of resources creates an environment where people are left with no choice but to migrate in search of better opportunities. Poor governance contributes to high levels of insecurity as weak institutions are unable to effectively maintain law and order. Insecurity continues to push individuals to away from their homes in search of safety and stability.

More also, one of the findings reveals that brain drain have a major consequences in Nigeria. The emigration of highly skilled and educated individuals to foreign countries has resulted in a significant loss of human capital for Nigeria (Anifowose, 2005). Professionals such as doctors, engineers, and scientists are leaving the country in search of better

opportunities and higher pay, which undermines Nigeria's development efforts. The departure of skilled individuals exacerbates the country's already struggling healthcare and education systems, as there is a shortage of trained personnel to fill these positions. Another consequence of migration on Nigeria is the increase in remittances. Many Nigerians working abroad send money back to their families, contributing to the country's foreign exchange earnings (Cerovic, 2017). Remittances from Nigerians living overseas have become an important source of income, helping to alleviate poverty and stimulate   economic growth in the country. However, this dependency on remittances makes Nigeria vulnerable to fluctuations in the global economy and can have adverse effects in times of economic downturns.

Finding also reveals there is Social and Cultural Implications of Migration in Nigeria. Social and cultural implications include both positive and negative aspects that affect not only the migrants but also the communities they settle in. On one hand, migration can lead   to social and cultural diversity, enriching the host society with new customs, traditions, and perspectives.   It can foster cultural exchange and help break down stereotypes. For instance, migrants bring with them their own languages, arts, and cuisines, which can contribute to the cultural vibrancy and diversity of the host community (Jones, 2016). Migrants often possess valuable skills and talents that can fill gaps in the labor market and boost economic growth. On the other hand, migration can   also pose challenges to social cohesion, as it may lead to the emergence of segregated communities and potential tensions between migrants and the native population. Furthermore, cultural clashes and perceived threats to local traditions and values can trigger xenophobia and discrimination (Guarnieri, 2014).

Also, another finding reveals that, Nigeria, being classified as a lower-middle-income country (World Bank, 2019), has faced various challenges, including political instability, corruption, and lack of accountability (Transparency International, 2019). These issues have led to a lack of adequate provision of public goods and services, high levels of poverty, and inequality, which have further exacerbated migration patterns in the country. The failure of the government to effectively address these issues has resulted in a significant number of Nigerians seeking better economic opportunities and improved living conditions abroad (Adedokun & Karzanova, 2019).

The lack of transparency and inclusiveness in the decision-making process, as well as unequal distribution of resources, has fueled a sense of frustration and disillusionment among the Nigerian population, prompting many to embark on perilous migration journeys in search of better prospects (Albert-Makyur & Mbanaso, 2022). Thus, poor governance plays a crucial role in shaping migration dynamics in Nigeria and highlights the urgent need for institutional reforms and good governance practices to address the root causes of migration and ensure sustainable development within the country.

Challenges of Good Migration Governance in Nigeria

For many years Corruption has deeply embedded in the Nigerian political system creating a culture of impunity and a lack of accountability among political leaders.

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Transparency International (2022) report revealed that Nigeria is one of the world's most corrupt countries 150 out of 180 countries listed on the Corruption Perceptions Index. This widespread corruption led to mismanagement and embezzlement of public funds that have impeded the delivery of basic services and infrastructure development in the country.

The political elite in Nigeria have used their positions of power to accumulate wealth further exacerbating the inequalities and poverty experienced by the majority of Nigerians. Besides the lack of transparency and accountability in the government, corruption has created a fertile ground for human rights abuses as those in positions of authority abuse their office with impunity (Human Rights Watch, 2019). This culture of corruption and disregard for the rule of law undermines Nigeria's good governance and deters economic development and social progress

i. Corruption and Embezzlement of Public Funds

In addition to political and economic instability, corruption and embezzlement of public funds further exacerbate the migration trends in Nigeria. Corruption permeates various   sectors of the Nigerian government, from local to national levels, leading to inadequate infrastructure, social services, and educational opportunities for citizens (Anifowose, 2005). Embezzlement of public funds has become a recurring issue, as politicians and government officials siphon money meant for public projects into their personal bank accounts. This diversion of funds not only deprives the Nigerian population of the resources necessary for development but also breeds disillusionment among citizens, fueling their desire to migrate to countries perceived to offer better governance and opportunities (Okunola, Umaru & Hassan, 2019). The prevalence of corruption and embezzlement weakens the trust citizens have in their government and further perpetuates a cycle of poverty and underdevelopment that drives Nigerian citizens to seek   better livelihoods elsewhere.

ii. Lack of Transparency and Accountability

Lack of transparency and accountability within the Nigerian government has been a significant contributing factor to the widespread migration trends in the country. Corruption and embezzlement of public funds by government officials have resulted in a significant loss of resources that could have been used to develop infrastructure and create employment opportunities for the Nigerian population (Anifowose, 2005).

This lack of accountability has eroded public trust in the government, leading to increased disillusionment among citizens and a desire to leave the country in search of better opportunities. Overtime, the lack of transparency in the government processes and decision making also encouraged migration. Government policies are often shrouded in   secrecy and information about business opportunities, market regulations and immigration procedures are not readily available to the public. This lack of transparency leads to a perception of favoritism and discrimination as individuals with connections or influence is deemed to be provided with a wide range of resources and opportunities. Many Nigerians

view migration as an alternative way to escape the opacity and limited opportunities in their home country (Okunola, Umaru & Hassan, 2019)

iii. Weak Institutions and Ineffective Policies

Weak institutions and ineffective policies are major factors contributing to poor governance in Nigeria, which in turn has significant consequences for migration trends. The Nigerian government has historically struggled to maintain strong and functional institutions, leading to a lack of accountability and transparency in decision-making processes (Gyong, 2014). This has resulted in the mismanagement and embezzlement of public funds, further exacerbating the country's economic challenges and societal inequalities. Ineffective policies and inadequate implementation have hindered the government's ability to address key issues such as unemployment and poverty, pushing a significant number of Nigerians to seek better opportunities abroad. The lack of opportunities and reliable institutions at home has fueled disillusionment among citizens and a belief that migration offers a chance for a better life (Gyong, 2014).

Therefore, addressing weak institutions and implementing effective policies are essential steps in improving governance and reducing migration trends in Nigeria. According to a study conducted by Mai'Angwa, (2009), poor governance manifests in various forms in Nigeria, including corruption, lack of accountability, and inadequate provision of basic services such as health care, education, and infrastructure. These governance failures result in a lack of opportunities and economic growth, as well as significant inequality in the country. As a result, many Nigerians are driven to seek better living conditions and economic prospects outside their home country.

Furthermore, poor governance also exacerbates ethnic and religious tensions, creating further insecurity and displacements within the country. According to Ogundiya, (2010),the inability of the government to address these issues adequately, through policies and reforms, has led to a breakdown of trust and confidence in the government among the Nigerian population, prompting many individuals to consider migration as a means to escape the oppressive governance conditions.

Summary of Findings

The study found the following based on the analysis of poor migration governance in Nigeria:

i. The study revealed that corruption remains systemic and deeply entrenched in leadership circles. Despite various anti-corruption campaigns, corruption continues to undermine governance in Nigeria. According to Transparency International (2023), Nigeria ranked 145 out of 180 countries, reflecting a widespread lack of transparency and accountability among public officials.

ii. Also, the study unveiled that political leadership lacks vision and long-term planning. Most Nigerian leaders prioritize short-term political gains over strategic, long-term development. The failure of initiatives like Vision 20:2020 and frequent policy reversals illustrate a lack of visionary and good governance needed to manage migration trend.

iii.   The public service is weak and ineffective due to poor institutional effeteness: The Nigerian civil service lacks autonomy, professionalism, and competence. According to the World Bank (2023), only 34% of migrants trust the institutions managing migration issues to deliver efficient and fair services, reflecting poor and ineffective governance.

iv.   There is a growing disconnect between leaders and citizens: Survey results from Ogundiya, (2010) show that 67% of Nigerians feel excluded from governance processes, believing that political leaders are unresponsive to public needs. This communication gap undermines democratic legitimacy and public trust. As a result, many Nigerians are driven to seek better living conditions and economic prospects outside their home country

Conclusion

It is evident that poor governance plays an important role in migration trends in Nigeria. The lack of effective governance has resulted in the failure to address pressing economic, political and social challenges that plague the country. Corruption and mismanagement of resources have led to a widening wealth gap and limited opportunities for the majority of Nigerians. Nigerians are therefore forced to migrate in search of improved economic prospects and better living conditions abroad. Also, the lack of basic infrastructure such as reliable electricity and healthcare contributes further to the desire to migrate. With limited access to essential services and a deteriorating quality of life individuals are left with little choice but to pursue better life abroad. These trends have significant implications for Nigeria and the countries which receive Nigerian migrants ranging from economic to social and cultural impacts.

In the light of the foregoing therefore, sustainable migration governance requires a holistic approach that considers the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of migration. It must promote safe, orderly, and regular migration, while protecting the rights and well-being of all migrants. This requires international cooperation, national policy reforms, and a commitment to fostering inclusive and equitable societies. Sustainable migration governance is not simply about managing migration flows, but about harnessing the positive contributions of migration while mitigating its potential negative impacts. This includes acknowledging the interconnectedness of migration with other global challenges such as climate change, conflict, and inequality. A forward-looking approach necessitates an adaptive governance framework capable of responding to the evolving global landscape.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made:

i.   First, there is a need for effective governance structures and institutions that prioritize the welfare of the citizens. This can be achieved through policy reforms, transparency, and accountability in public administration.

ii.   Strengthening Governance Institutions and Anti-Corruption

iii.   Promoting Economic Diversification and Job Creation

iv.   Enhancing Social Welfare Programs and Provision of Basic Services

v.   Technological Advancements and Migration Governance

vi   Implement policies and programs that promote inclusive economic growth, job creation, and entrepreneurship. This includes investing in infrastructure development, supporting small and medium-sized enterprises, and diversifying the economy.

vii   Prioritize investments in healthcare, education, water supply, and sanitation, ensuring their availability and accessibility to all citizens.

vii.   Address the root causes of conflicts and promote peace building initiatives. This involves engaging in effective dialogue, fostering social cohesion, and implementing comprehensive conflict resolution strategies to create a peaceful environment that discourages forced migration.

v.   Harness the potential of the Nigerian diaspora by creating platforms for their active participation in governance processes and development initiatives.

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