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ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF MIGRATION ON HUMAN SECURITY IN ONDO STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

Human security is very important in the study of migration which presents a relationship between the two concepts. Human security encompasses all aspects of freedom, including psychological, emotional, spiritual, economic, social and cultural well-being. This study examined the impact of migration on human security in Ondo State, Nigeria. The research adopted a survey design and employed a quantitative approach. The push pull theory was used to anchor the study. 387 participants filled questionnaire on the impact of migration on human security. The study revealed that internal patterns, external patterns, socio-political factors and economic factors were all responsible for the high rate of migration of Ondo youths. The study recommends that the creation of conditions that promote human security would reduce the high rate of migration currently affecting the State and country at large.

Keywords: Human Security, Migration, Economy, Youth, Governance, Development

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

In recent times, there are more people living in countries other than the one in which they were born (Bakewell, 2018). The International Organization for Migration (2020), reports that the number of international migrants worldwide is estimated to be almost 272 million globally, 51 million more than it was in 2010 and nearly two third were labour migrants. In Africa, migration is high and continues rise. Migration in the region is mainly directed to Europe, North America, Asia, Oceanic and other parts of the world (Marie-Laurence, 2016). In fact, Africa actually experiences significant migration that is essentially intra-continental in nature, consisting of regional mobility by refugees, undocumented migrants, and seasonal labour migrants (Reem, 2018).

According to Campbell (2019), human insecurity is a factor that promotes migration. This makes human security a fundamental focus in the study of migration (Dube, 2020).Individuals move around the world for economic opportunities or work, to join family, to study or for pleasure and a change of life. Others move to escape conflict, persecutions, terrorism or human right violations (Bradley, 2019).

The movement of Nigerians from one place of origin to another can be attributed to a host of factors. Nigerians are known to migrate to other parts of the world, subsequently settling in those places via citizenship or permanent residency. Nigerian migrants abroad have jumped from about 450,000 in 1990 to 1.4 million in 2019 (Adhikari, 2021). The issue is that the population of youths in Nigeria is drastically increasing. However, in spite of the high level of education and job skills, a lot of these youths are unemployed in Nigeria. This is also evident in Ondo State as the teeming youths who are supposed to be an engine to economic development are now out of the state to other parts of the world. This migration is not limited to age and gender, it is prevalent among the youths of Ondo State who believe in creating better opportunities for themselves and their family members. This study examines the impact of human security on migration Ondo State, Nigeria.

1.1 Objectives of the study

The objective of the study is to examine the impact of migration on human security in Ondo State.

2.0 CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION AND LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 The Concept of Migration

The former UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, examined migration as an expression of human aspiration for dignity, safety and better future. It is a part of social fabric and part of our very make-up as a human family. Humans have been migrating in search of better livelihoods, greater opportunities and improved security (UNDP, 2009). Martin (2013) argued that there are an estimated 230 million international migrants in the world today and this number is expected to double by 2050 and with urbanization and the challenges posed by climate change and armed conflict, these trends of increased human migration are unlikely to slow down soon.

Many definitions of migration specifically state that migration is the crossing of a political or administrative boundary for a certain period of time. Lee (1966) defines migration as a change in permanent or semi-permanent residence; something that involves an origin, a destination and intervening obstacles. However, using this definition would imply that a person moving from one apartment to another, even within a city, is ‘migrating’ which does not conform to the common understanding of the word ‘migration’. Therefore, it can be said

that he provided a definition that considers both the temporal and spatial dimensions of migration.

Alfred (2016) defined migration as the movement of person(s) from one ecological region to another region, which might be on temporary or permanent basis. This implies that a group of persons migrate based on the existing conditions. Thus, the motive for migrating varies from one person to another depending on the circumstances that brought about the decision to migrate. Also, the International Organization of Migration "IOM" (2014) views migration as the movement of people either across international borders or within a territorial state. It was reported that young people are motivated to migrate with the links to have a decent life due to certain lacks created by unemployment (United Nations, 2013).

According to Obery (2017), there is no single definition for migration. Therefore, the definition of a migrant varies from country to country; their political and socio-economic interests, migration laws, and regulations. There are two types of migration: internal migration and international migration. Internal migration is the movement of people from one place to another place in a given country. International migration is the movement of people from one country to another in order to take up employment of establish residence or to increase the living standard.

2.2 Human Security

In the broad sense, human security is more than just the absence of violent conflicts. It encompasses issues such as human rights, good governance, access to education, access to healthcare and the liberty of person to fulfilment their potentials. In the viewpoint of Kofi (2001), every step is directed towards reducing poverty, ensuring economic development, providing social justice, environmental protection, democratization, disarmament, and respect for human rights and the rule of law.

Rabari (2019) views human security as the removal of poverty and deprivation, having a suitable level of life and to guarantee the basic rights of humans. In essence, human security entails the provision of main and basic needs of humans such as food, shelter, education, and health care deemed necessary for the maintenance of human generation. Human security is the right to determine the destiny and free participation in social life.

The Nigerian National Human Development Report (NHDR) for 2015 defines human security as an emerging trend that has evolved over the past two decades from being a traditional notion of national security with heavy investments in military preparedness and response to focusing more on the dimensions that sustain the security of the people through investment in human and community development. The report further states that human security maintains a people-centred view of security which essentially ensures national, regional and global security (NHDR, 2015).

The term 'human security' in this study, refers to the safety of an individual with regard to the satisfaction of the basic needs of life; it also encompasses the establishment of social, political, economic, military, environmental and cultural conditions necessary for the survival, livelihood and dignity of the individual (AU Summit Meeting of July, 2004). Human security encompasses all aspects of freedom, including psychological, emotional, spiritual, economic, social and cultural well-being.

2.3 The Relationship between Migration and Human Security

The connection between human security and migration is visible in the elements of human security and drivers of migration. Human security is all encompassing (Reed, 2009). It brings

about individual stability, sustainability, freedom from fear and freedom from want. Nigerians deserve good health, good education, peaceful and favourable working conditions, stable and progressive economy, political stability, employment and employment opportunities, industries and institutions, peaceful environment and nation to mention but a few.

Many Nigerians migrate within and outside the country in pursuit of human security. The most prevalent among this security is economic security. Economic reason drives people to migrate. Juliana (2021) reveals that economic hardship, insecurity and lack of opportunities have continued to push Nigerians to gamble their lives to other destination. Economic security is one of the main sources to a decent livelihood. As a result, the drive and desire to escape the unfavourable economic, social and even political conditions in Nigeria is prevalent, especially among the youths. Adepoju (2004), states that in an attempt to achieve this dream, many people explore all options whether good or bad, legal or illegal, right or wrong. For those not considering external migration, they are left with two choices either to go down the decent way or any other way. As a result, Nigeria has experienced a significant increase in crime in recent times. Many Nigerians want quick access to money in order to have financial freedom and most believe that migration to a country with a better economy will bring economic prosperity.

3.0 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

3.1 Push-Pull Theory of Migration

This theory is attributed to Ravenstien, an English geographer who used census data from England and Wales to develop his laws of migration in 1889. He opines that migration is governed by push-pull process. The focal point of this theory is that people migrate because of unfavourable conditions in one place which push people out and favourable conditions in an external location that pull them in. In the viewpoint of Makaka (2015), this migration occurs in stages which could be bilateral in population movements and differentials in gender, class and age. This theory is very relevant to this study because it will address the nature and dimension of migration in Nigeria and in particular, Ondo State. It will identify the push factors for leaving the country. Despite the much attention on this theory of migration as been attractive at first sight, it is limited and has difficulties in explaining the causes of migration, return migration as well as immigration and emigration occurring at the same time. It does not acknowledge the personal, family, socio-cultural or the systematic structuring of the world's economy factors to name a few. This criticism renders push-pull theory as narrow in focus and misleading in a way since it predicts that people only move from the poor countries to rich countries with economic advantage as motivation. Khalid (2021) argues that push and pull factors are never the same for everyone and these can change depending on social class, gender, ethnicity, age and physical ability.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

This study adopted a case study research design. The study was conducted in Ondo State, Nigeria. Two Local Government Areas (LGAs) were selected from each senatorial district for this research and these Local Governments are Ondo West and Idanre from Ondo Central Senatorial District, Owo and Akoko South-West from Ondo North Senatorial District, and Ile-Oluji/Okeigbo and Irele from Ondo South Senatorial District. A total number of 387 respondents who are youths were selected to fill the survey questionnaire designed for the study. The study employed stratified random sampling technique in selecting the proportion of the required population needed to gather the data.

5.0 DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

5.1 Pattern of Migration in Ondo State

Table 1.1: Internal Pattern of Migration

Internal Pattern of Migration	Frequency and Percentage Distribution				
	SD	D	U	A	SA
I mostly do rural-urban migration due to economic instability and food accessibility	7 (1.8)	41 (10.6)	136 (35.1)	176 (45.5)	27 (7.0)
I feel my movement within the state will improve the efficiency of labour use.	7 (1.8)	35 (9.0)	182 (47.0)	163 (42.1)	0 (0.0)
I feel my movement increase fast economic growth and reduce poverty	26 (6.7)	75 (19.4)	165 (42.6)	107 (27.6)	14 (3.6)
I feel rural areas benefit from on-migration through remittances	97 (25.1)	88 (22.7)	188 (48.6)	14 (3.6)	0 (0.0)

Where SD indicates strongly disagree; D – disagree; U – undecided, A – agree, SA – strongly agree.
Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2022.

Table 1.1 revealed the internal pattern of migration. 176 respondents (45.5 %) agree that the most internal pattern of migration carried out was on rural-urban migration which is due to economic instability and food accessibility. 182 (47.0%) respondents were undecided as to whether their movement within the state will improve the efficiency of labour use. 165 respondents (42.6 %) were undecided as to whether their movements increase fast economic growth and reduce poverty. 188 respondents (48.6%) were undecided in their response as to whether rural areas benefit out-migration through remittances.

Table 1.2: External Pattern of Migration

External Pattern of Migration	Frequency and Percentage Distribution				
	SD	D	U	A	SA
Higher wages and better employment opportunities are the main reason why I migrated	7 (1.8)	0 (0.0)	103 (26.6)	103 (26.6)	174 (45.0)
I migrated to other countries to look for a better outlook	7 (1.8)	13 (3.4)	68 (17.6)	138 (35.7)	161 (41.6)
Democratic Institutions and environmental degradations are the main issues faced in my country and it contributed to the reasons why I migrated	7 (1.8)	28 (7.2)	130 (33.6)	134 (34.6)	88 (22.7)
I migrated from my country to another country because of insecurity	21 (5.4)	55 (14.2)	96 (24.8)	80 (20.7)	135 (34.9)

Where SD indicates strongly disagree; D – disagree; U – undecided, A – agree, SA – strongly agree.
Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2022.

Table 1.2 revealed the external pattern of migration. The table revealed that 161 respondents (41.6%) strongly agree that wages and better employment opportunities are the main reasons for migration. 174 respondents (45.0%) strongly agree that they migrated to other countries to look for a better outlook. 134 respondents (34.6%) agree that Democratic Institutions and environmental degradations are the main issues faced in their country and it contributed to the reasons they migrated.135 respondents (34.9%) strongly agree that insecurity in their country was a reason behind their migration to another country. The result has indicated economic condition are not favourable and the risk of declining further. Also, job opportunities including wages and salaries are some of the main reasons for youths' emigration.

Table 1.3: Socio-Political Factors

Push Factor Migration Socio-Political Factor	**Frequency and Percentage Distribution**				
	SD	**D**	**U**	**A**	**SA**
Social instability in the state increases the chances of migration.	7 (1.8)	56 (14.5)	47 (12.1)	188 (48.6)	89 (23.0)
Greater risk of instability and internal conflicts are also part of the factors that might increase my chances of leaving the state	21 (5.4)	41 (10.6)	47 (12.1)	182 (47.0)	96 (24.8)
The politicization of religious and ethnic identities has the potential to cause significant levels of conflict within states and might cause reason for my migration.	20 (5.2)	55 (14.2)	94 (24.3)	150 (38.8)	68 (17.6)
Ethnic, religious, racial and cultural persecution can contribute to reasons why I might or will migrate from the state	14 (3.6)	95 (24.5)	67 (17.3)	150 (38.8)	61 (15.8)
The lack of warfare or threat of conflict in the state might cause reasons why I will migrate	42 (10.9)	114 (29.5)	53 (13.7)	117 (30.2)	61 (15.8)

Where SD indicates strongly disagree; D – disagree; U – undecided, A – agree, SA – strongly agree.
Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2022.

Table 1.3 explained the socio-political factor as one of the main causes of push factor of migration. Seven different variables are used to measure the socio-political factors of Ondo state. 188 (48.6%) agree social instability in the state increases the chances of migration. 182 respondents (47.0%) agree that greater risk of instability and internal conflicts are also part of the factors that might increase chances of people leaving the state. 150 respondents (38.8%) agree that the politicization of religious and ethnic identities have the potential to cause significant levels of conflict within states and might cause people to migrate. 150 respondents (38.8%) agree that ethnic, religious, racial and cultural persecution can contribute to reasons people might want to migrate or eventually migrate from the state. 114 respondents (29.5%)

agree that the lack of warfare or threat of conflict in the state might constitute reasons for migration.

Table 1.4: Economic Factors

Economic Factors	Frequency and Percentage Distribution				
	SD	**D**	**U**	**A**	**SA**
People believe in anything that would offer them a better standard of living	7 (1.8)	7 (1.8)	46 (11.9)	115 (29.7)	212 (54.8)
High levels of long-term unemployment	7 (1.8)	0 (0.0)	65 (16.8)	145 (37.5)	170 (43.9)
Poor infrastructures that result to poor services and fall short of inadequacies	7 (1.8)	14 (3.6)	59 (15.2)	164 (42.4)	143 (37.0)
Lack of suitable medical facilities in the state cause reasons for migration	7 (1.8)	47 (12.1)	39 (10.1)	150 (38.8)	144 (37.2)
Extreme poverty and lack of socio-economic upward mobility	14 (3.6)	28 (7.2)	100 (25.8)	101 (26.1)	144 (37.2)
Lack of free or affordable education of an acceptable standard cause migration	14 (3.6)	62 (16.0)	59 (15.2)	121 (31.3)	131 (33.9)
Climate change might cause the reasons why I will or migrate from the state	21 (5.4)	135 (34.9)	134 (34.6)	83 (21.4)	14 (3.6)

Where SD indicates strongly disagree; D – disagree; U – undecided, A – agree, SA – strongly agree.
Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2022.

Table 1.4 explained the Political/ Economic factor as one of the main causes of push factor of migration. Seven different variables are used to measure the political or the economic factors of Ondo state. 212 respondents (54.8%) strongly agree that people believe in anything that would offer them a better standard of living. 170 respondents (43.9%) strongly agreed that high levels of long-term unemployment a political/ economic factor.164 (42.4%) agree that poor infrastructure that results in service that fall short of being adequate are political/ economic factors. 150 respondents (38.8%) agree that lack of suitable medical facilities in the state could lead to youth migration. 144 (37.2%) strongly agree that extreme poverty and lack of socio-economic upward mobility constitute political/ economic factors that could lead to migration. 131 (33.9%) strongly agree that lack of free or affordable education of an acceptable standard causes migration. 135 respondents (34.9%) disagree that climate change might cause the reasons for migration from the state.

6.0 Discussion of Findings

6.1 Internal Pattern of Migration

In Ondo State, the internal pattern of migration primarily revolves around rural-urban migration driven by factors such as economic instability and food accessibility. A significant proportion of respondents see their movement within the state as a means to improve the efficiency of labor use, though there is some indecision on whether this movement truly

enhances economic growth and reduces poverty. Additionally, there is uncertainty regarding the benefit rural areas receive from in-migration through remittances.

6.2 External Pattern of Migration

When it comes to external migration patterns, higher wages, better employment opportunities, and aspirations for a better life are key driving factors pushing individuals to migrate. Economic incentives, alongside concerns related to democratic institutions, environmental degradation, and insecurity in the home country, play significant roles in prompting migration from Ondo State to other locations.

6.3 Socio-Political Factors

Socio-political factors also play a crucial role in influencing migration decisions. Respondents highlight social instability, internal conflicts, politicization of religious and ethnic identities, and the potential for persecution based on various grounds as factors that may drive them to leave the state. Interestingly, the absence of warfare or conflict may not necessarily deter migration, indicating that a range of socio-political dynamics can contribute to people's decisions to migrate.

6.4 Economic Factors

Economic challenges, such as the pursuit of better living standards, high unemployment rates, inadequate infrastructure and services, lack of suitable medical facilities, extreme poverty, and limited educational opportunities, feature prominently as push factors for migration. However, there is some disagreement on whether climate change significantly influences migration decisions in the state.

7.0 CONCLUSION

The broad aim of the study was to assess the impact of human security and migration among in Ondo State, Nigeria. The research assessed the impact of human security on migration in Ondo State.

Research objective examined the elements of human security in Ondo State. Investigation and analysis have revealed that no aspect of human security is enjoyed by the residents of Ondo State. The study revealed that there is a problem with food security in Ondo State as people, especially young people cannot afford three square meals per day. Also, the majority of the residents have access to food but not at affordable cost. The problem of economic security affects the population of Ondo State with no and insufficient income and high rate of unemployment in the State, Nigeria. All these have proven that there is an issue of human security in Ondo State and these issues have contributed to both internal and international migration.

The findings suggest that a confluence of factors, including economic, socio-political, and environmental issues, influences migration patterns in Ondo State. While internal migration is largely driven by economic considerations, external migration is motivated by a mix of economic opportunities, aspirations for a better life, and concerns regarding home country conditions.

Understanding the impact of human security on migration in Ondo State requires a holistic approach that considers the interplay of economic, socio-political, and environmental factors. Addressing issues related to economic instability, social conflicts, inadequate infrastructure, and other push factors is essential for creating conditions that promote human security and potentially mitigate migration pressures.

7.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the foregoing, the following are hereby suggested:

i) The findings have shown that Ondo State is seriously affected with economic security which is a consequence of unsustainable income for many. The unemployment rate in the state is increasing due to little or no factories and industries in the state leading to high rate of migration. The study suggests that governments should encourage both private and public investors in the state in order to reduce unemployment rate and increase the income of the citizens and in particular, the youths.

ii) Findings from the study revealed that insecurity has been a major issue recently in Ondo State as many citizens cannot totally be certain of their safety due to recent terrorist attacks and kidnapping for huge sum of money. The government of Ondo State should improve on community security and security agencies to alleviate fears from the minds of the citizens especially the youths. This will create a more stable society with freedom of movement from one place to another without fears of violent and physical attacks of any form.

iii) The study suggests that more investments should be made in the educational sector of the state and in particular, tertiary institutions. This will inject more confidence in the system and possibly reduce emigration of people, especially youths as the search for quality education is one of the major reasons for youth migration.

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