



Perception of the Causes of Rural Urban Migration in Shani Local Government Area of Borno State

Abdulkarim Umar¹ and Mohammed Bukar²

¹Department of General Studies, The Federal Polytechnic Damaturu, Yobe State, Nigeria

²Department of Social Services, Ramat Polytechnic Maiduguri, Borno State, Nigeria

ABSTRACT

Migration and particularly Rural-Urban migration is among the problems facing most nations especially the developing countries. It refers to the movement of people temporarily or permanently, voluntarily or forcefully to other places for various reasons. The major focus of this work is to determine causes of rural-urban migration in Shani Local Government Area of Borno State, Nigeria. Simple random sampling method was adopted in order to select the number of respondents for this study. A total of one hundred and fifty respondents were selected as respondents to participate in the study. This number was shared among the three zones of Shani A, Shani B and Shani C as classified for the purpose of this study. Factors such as economic reasons, marriage, security, employment, relations in urban areas and education were identified as factors responsible for instigating people in the Shani to rural-urban migration. Finally if the problem of rural urban migration is to be curtailed, then the causes have to be addressed through finding appropriate measures that will provide the rural people with sustainable means of livelihood.

Keywords: Rural, Urban, Migration, Economic Factor, Farmland

1. Introduction

Migration is generally a universal phenomenon that cut across history and societies. It is an inevitable part of human history however its current pattern has significantly changed overtime from search for space in the middle ages to congestion in cities in the modern time. It involves the temporary or permanent movement of people or individuals from one geographical location to another due to one reason or another. Rural – urban migration has continued to play a significant role with regard to the urbanization process of several countries of the world even though the process has slowed down in some countries especially the developed world (1). It has been estimated that currently almost half of the world population lives in the urban centers with the population increasing by one million yearly (2). In a similar report by the (3) the growth of urban population is estimated at 1.8 percent per annum, while total population growth is projected at 1 percent annually, which will result in an urban population of 5 billion or 61 percent by 2030. It is also estimated that the rural population is expected to decline from 3.3 billion to 3.2 billion from 2003 to 2030.

According to (4) migration (Human) is the movement of people from one place in the world to another for the purpose of taking up permanent or semi permanent residence, usually across a political boundary. Migration can be semi permanent if persons involved are embarking on a temporary migration such as labourers or seasonal migration of farmers. It may also be forced or voluntary depending on the situation.

It is however pertinent to note that this paper lean on the emphasis of the causes of rural – urban migration and the repercussions of such migration on rural areas. According to (5) Nigeria is one of the countries of the world with a high level rural – urban dichotomy despite the fact that in general there seems to be inadequate infrastructural facilities even in the urban areas'. The problem of rural areas is fundamentally critical which place them at a heavy disadvantaged state. This has significantly contributed to the decision to migrate by the rural dwellers in search of better conditions. As stated by (6) observed that people tend to be pulled to the areas of prosperity and pushed from areas of decline. It should however be noted that available natural resources which can be harnessed for socio-economic development exists in large scale in the rural sector which seems to be a common feature of most developing countries. It is also clear that most Nigerian rural dwellers are engaged **Structure** in agricultural activities which is the most important economic activity contributing to GDP after oil (7). In a similar report by (8) it pointed out that agriculture contributes about 41% of the GDP, employs about 65% of the population and is the source of employment to 80% of the population of rural dwellers in Nigeria.

The process of migration from rural to urban areas is no doubt crippling the economy of the rural areas, the rural agriculture and in fact

the agricultural sector in general because bulk of what comes from the agricultural sector is from the rural areas. Rural urban migration often has grave consequences as it affects food production, hinders agricultural export, drastically reduce rural demands for urban manufactured goods and available surplus for investments in other sector becomes virtually absent. Migration in the rural areas has created a substantial loss of manpower necessary for agricultural development due to the out migration of able-bodied young persons' to the cities in search of white collar jobs. As pointed out by (9) in Abia Nigeria, 74% of migrants were males, which confirm that more males are involved in migration than females, because they are reasonably free to move and better their living. This also goes in line with the views of (10) that males are mainly involved in migration than females.

2. Statement of the Problem

Migration and particularly rural-urban migration is an area which has been widely written about by several scholars. Government has on its parts been coming up with several policies on the issue trying to control rural –urban migration which might have emanated from recommendations of scholars. However, due to the inadequate support to the policies there seems to be the continued existence of rural – urban dichotomy in the areas of infrastructural facilities which attracts the rural dwellers to the urban centers. Uncontrolled migration of the young able-bodied persons from the rural sector to urban areas leaving behind the aged / elderly persons whose productive capacity has declined. Migration has led deteriorating situation of food security in general culminating in to hunger and malnutrition in both rural and urban areas. It is also greatly responsible for the continuous decline of the contribution of agriculture to GDP due to poor performance and low output resulting from movement of people from agriculture in rural areas to non agricultural sector in cities. Almost all the policies have failed to yield the required result due to the fact that attention has not been adequately given to such program and policies. The government in most cases fails to provide the required fund while the amount released doesn't use to be made available at the right time coupled with poor management. The writer observed that adequate efforts have not been directed toward exploring and addressing the causes of the movements but rather controlling the flow of movements from rural to urban area due to the repercussions on urban areas. The writer therefore set to explore this aspect with the view of adding substance to the field of knowledge. The general objective of the study is to examine the causes of rural – urban migration in Shani Local Government Area of Borno State, Nigeria.

3. Objectives of the Study

- To understand if people migrate from shani to urban areas
- To understand the factors of rural-urban migration in Shani Local Government Area
- To examine the problem of lack of farmlands as a contributing factor to rural-urban migration in Shani Local Government Area

4. Research Questions

- Do people migrate from shani to urban areas?
- What are the factors of rural-urban migration in Shani Local Government Area?
- Is lack of farmlands a contributing factor to rural-urban migration in Shani Local Government Area?

5. Methodology

This researcher made use of both primary and secondary data; this is because apart from the data directly collected by the researcher on field, the researcher also used data from works of others that is, data collected for different purposes by other writers, governments or organizations. The methods employed for primary data collection in this research involved questionnaire and interview. Questionnaire as instruments of research were distributed to the selected sample of 150 respondents in order to answer the questions that were raised in the questionnaire. The questionnaire was made up of open ended questions which gave the respondents the chance of selecting from options provided. It was used to determine the causes of rural urban migration in the study area. The researcher used simple random sampling by numbering the houses to form the sample frame in the selected area. Data collected in the process of this research was analyzed using the descriptive statistics by employing the use of tabulations, frequency, and percentages. People's views and perceptions on the causes of rural-urban migration, was analyzed through qualitative approach.

6. Scope of the Study

The scope of this research is determine by the area of interest, the problems at hand, the resources available and the time allotted for the research. In this connection therefore, the researcher is interested in the causes of rural – urban migration in Shani Local Government Area which is a rural area that has significantly lost young workers to the urban areas in the name of opportunities that seems to be available in the urban areas under government or private sector which is believed to bring changes to migrant's condition.

7. Significance of the Study

Any research being conducted has to be proved that such research is worthy of being conducted considering its impact on government,

organizations, communities or society at large. This research is thus, important in the following ways:

The research will be significant to government or policy makers in designing policies that will address the causes of rural – urban migration. This is because government has been showing growing concern over the issue of rural – urban migration which is causing overpopulation in the urban areas and indeed overstretching of urban resources. Over population has as well led to the increase in social problems of the urban centres such as crime, delinquency, poverty, unemployment, pollution, among others. It will go a long way in providing policy makers with a blueprint on what need to be done in order to curtail the trend of rural – urban migration.

Agricultural outputs has been declining year in year out due to the fact that the young able bodied persons have continue to migrate out of the rural areas to the urban areas and indeed subsequently out of the agricultural sector. It is also clear that agriculture use to be the backbone of the economy in Nigeria before the discovery of the crude oil which has since taken the lead. This research paper explore the factors that causes migration from rural to urban areas, its effects specifically in the rural areas and the ways forward toward reviving the rural sector. It will therefore be part of a contribution to the area of knowledge in this aspect which will also give room for further inquiry and improvement by other researchers.

7.1 Review of Empirical Evidences on Rural-Urban Migration

Migration as broadly defined implies relocation of residence for certain period of time and for various reasons (11). It is seen to incorporate all kinds of movement of people from one place to another. It may involve movement within the same geographical boundary of a country which simply refers to internal migration or international which involves movement beyond the boundaries of a country.

Rural – Urban Migration comprises the movement of persons from the rural areas of a country to the urban areas. Migration may be permanent where migrants don't intend to come back to the areas they left or it may be temporary where the migrants intend to stay for certain period and then return to the original place. People may choose to migrate voluntarily or they may be forced into it. Both at the urban destination and at the rural origin there are demographic, economic, socio-cultural and environmental impacts of migration which is diverse and deep.

7.2 Factors Responsible for Rural-Urban Migration

Factors such as economic, political, environmental, social and cultural factors have influenced the decision to migrate. According to (12) in their study of rural –urban migration in Ethiopia observed that population pressure, famine, poverty, land scarcity and lack of agricultural resources push the rural people to urban areas of the country. Rural – urban migration assumed prominence during the era of the oil boom in Nigeria with people in the rural areas moving out to urban areas in order to seek for a greener pasture and better living condition. As a result of the practical effects of the oil boom people in the rural areas particularly the youth no longer see agriculture as lucrative venture and therefore a reasonable number continue to migrate to the urban areas. This is not unconnected to the obvious fact in access to modern facilities and living standard. Therefore, the factors influencing rural urban migration in less developed countries have been grouped under the mentioned factors (13). Some of these determinants are negative factors pushing people out of rural areas, while others are positive ones motivating people to move to the cities (14).

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7.4 Economically Motivating Factors of Rural-Urban Migration

Most researchers on rural urban migration depicts that the major cause of rural urban migration as economically motivated (15 and 16). Due to the fact that present rural economy in developing countries is characterized by low productivity, fragmentation of land due to chain of inheritance, poor adoption of technology because of poverty, poor resource management, inadequate support, ill government policy, changing climate, disaster etc, has in most cases prompted the rural people to migrate to urban areas in expectation of improved living condition. In this case, we could have the push factors, where there are negative effects of the poor economy in the place of origin or pull factors, where the destination areas are found to be more important in terms of opportunities that could bring a better economy and life style (17, 18, and 19). Yet from the economic point of view, most of the urban areas in developing countries are not promising (20). This is

because they are mostly battling with series of problems that lead to stagnation in development, unemployment, crime, inadequate welfare facilities among others. In a research conducted in Abia state Nigeria it shows that, socio-economic characteristics of migrants determine the likelihood to migrate. The rural-urban migration in Abia is catalyzed by socio-economic factors pointing out that such factors as gender, work experience; occupation, marital status and per capita expenditure have direct bearing on migration (21).

7.5 The Urban Socio-Cultural Lifestyle as a Factor of Rural-Urban Migration

There are as well other factors which are non-economic that contribute to the migration of people from rural to urban areas. However even though such factors may not be economically motivated they depend on the economy of the migrants. People with better income living in the rural areas will be attracted by the urban life as they possess what it takes to cope with the urban life. By migrating they may have the opportunities to benefit from the urban infrastructural facilities, better education, health facilities, pipe-born water e.t.c. Besides this, family conflicts and the quest for independence also cause rural-urban migration especially, of those who are in the younger generation (22). Additionally, the availability of improved communication facilities, such as, transportation, media, the urban oriented education and resultant change in attitudes and values promote rural-urban migration as it is certain to bring change in one's lifestyle (23). People could also migrate due to unfavorable social conditions, segregations and pressure that they receive from the society in their place of origin (24 and 25).

Prospective migrants do have their own perception of the urban life which they always see it as promising due to the stories they gather about the urban life. This may encourage them to migrate out of the rural areas which they see as occupied with problems to the urban areas which they perceived as promising. Migrants to the urban areas in developing countries have been reinforced by oral and written accounts of conditions about urban areas. The Returned migrants are always willing to brainwash people at home about the urban life, their success and their gains than about the problems and obstacles they had faced in the cause of their stay in such areas. Apart from these factors of influence available primary school books use to portray the cities as the only best place to reside. Such images may tend to exaggerate some aspects of reality, so that the potential migrant bases his/her decision to move to cities (26).

7.6 Relatives Residing In Cities as a Factor of Rural-Urban Migration

A substantial number of people migrate to the cities on the ground that they have relatives, friends, neighbors, tribesmen and people from their areas that can to some extent give them support and in fact assist them in securing jobs as they arrive in the cities (27). It is as a result of such that if one person migrate to a place from a particular rural area, it is expected that after certain period when it is believed that he has fully settled to be able to support another, then others are also likely to join him more particularly if his stay has been very successful and there seems to be fundamental realities of prosperity.

7.7 The Urban Informal Sector as a Factor of Rural-Urban Migration

Not all those that migrate to the cities are expected to join the formal sector, indeed a highly substantial number of rural urban migrants are in the informal sector. The urban informal sector, unlike its formal counterpart, encapsulates virtually all activities that are unregulated and small scale in nature. A majority of migrant workers finds work in the urban informal sector which does not open up for high productivity and continue to incarcerate most of them in the poverty circle with highly limited prospects for exiting and freeing themselves from the shackles of poverty (28). That does not mean the migrants who are in the informal sector cannot prosper and be successful a lot have joined the urban informal sector from the rural areas and have grown to be successful owners of business and employers of labour. The majority of the new workers in the urban labor force seemed to create their own employment and start their own businesses. Self-employment comprises a greater share of informal employment than wage employment and represents 70 per cent of informal employment in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), 62 per cent in North Africa, 60 per cent in Latin America and 59 per cent in Asia (29). The self-employed were engaged in a variety of activities such as street vending, building, plumbing, welding, electricians, prostitution, selling different items, daily labourers, barbers, carpenters, mechanics, maids, personal servants and artisans (30).

The majority of the workers entering the urban informal sector are recent rural migrants who are unable to find jobs in the formal sector and the main reason for taking part in the informal sector is to use the little skills they have to earn enough income to sustain their daily lives (31). The informal sector is connected to the formal sector, since it provides opportunities for people who are unable to find employment in the formal sector. Thus, the informal sector is therefore seen as a major cause of rural-urban migration, because it reduces the risk of the migrants being unemployed once they move to the cities (32). This has therefore increased the magnitude of movement of rural people to the cities, indeed a reasonable number move with the intention of finding jobs in the informal sector sometime because they are uneducated or have low level of education.

7.8 Environmental and Political Factor of Rural-Urban Migration

It has been observed by the report of International Organization for Migration (33) that about 192 million people lived outside their place of origin. Overtime, many people have chosen the option of migrating from their areas in order to avert the effect of environmental change that has or is on the way to consume their area. The African continent has long been witnessing migration of different kinds caused by different factors such as the push factors to move within the continent or across the region in such of better situation. However over the last couple of years, deteriorating political, social, economic, armed conflicts, poverty and environmental degradation have made significant contribution in increasing the scale of mass migration and forced displacement in Africa (34). This can be seen in places like Rwanda, Somalia, Liberia, Sudan and of recent Central African Republic and within Nigeria such cases as in parts of Borno, Yobe, Adamawa, Plateau and Nasarawa most of which are significantly as a result of armed conflicts.

8 Factors Responsible for Rural-Urban Migration in Shani Local Government Area

Table 1.1 Factors Responsible for Rural-Urban Migration in Shani Local Government Area

Variable	Response	Frequency	N	%
Do people migrate to urban areas from Shani?	Yes	121	147	82%
	No	26		18%
Are there factors for migration in the area?	Yes	131	147	89%
	No	16		11%
Are there economic factors?	Yes	131	147	89%
	No	16		11%
Is urban lifestyle a factor?	Yes	97	147	66%
	No	50		34%
Relatives in urban areas a factor?	Yes	95	147	64%
	No	52		36%
Is marriage a factor?	Yes	91	147	62%
	No	56		38%
Is unemployment a factor?	Yes	87	147	59%
	No	60		41%
Urban informal sectors factors	Yes	82	147	56%
Urban formal sectors factors	No	65		44%
Is lack of farmlands a factor?	Yes	26	147	18%
	No	121		82%
Are there adequate farmlands in the area?	Yes	111	147	76%
	No	36		24%

Source: Survey 2019

8.1 Economic Factors Responsible for Migrating to Urban Areas from Shani Local Government Area

Economic factors plays a significant role in virtually every aspect of human existence, it is also certain that it causes rural-urban migration as indicated on table 1.1 which confirmed that most respondents with a percentage of eighty nine percent (89%) agreed that economic factors influence the migration of people from rural to urban areas and particularly in this case from Shani to urban areas may be because mostly people believe that those in the urban areas are economically better and that jobs can found in the urban areas that will improve one's economic status. Due to the fact that present rural economy in developing countries is characterized by low productivity, fragmentation of land due to chain of inheritance, poor adoption of technology because of poverty, poor resource management, inadequate support, ill government policy, changing climate, disaster etc, has in most cases prompted the rural people to migrate to urban areas in expectation of improved living condition.

8.2 Urban Lifestyle as a Factor for Rural-Urban Migration in Shani to Urban Areas

Majority of the respondents sixty six percent (66%) as revealed by table 1.1 confirmed that the urban lifestyle is responsible for the migration of people from rural to urban areas in Shani with the hope that their lifestyle will also change positively as they use to be attracted by the urban lifestyle being depicted by the urbanites.. however thirty four percent (34%) of respondents did not see urban lifestyle as a factor that encourage migration of people from rural to urban areas. This may not be unconnected with the fact that, there are people who held the view that migration out of the rural areas is negative and should not be supported.

When asked question on what they think were the determinants of rural - urban migration in Shani, respondents cited in their opinion lack of basic rural infrastructures in the communities and rural-urban inequality in resources that makes life better. Respondents further identified that it is the differences in prospects and infrastructure between rural and urban that drew people to migrate. There is no doubt that, apart from better income opportunities, urban areas also offer a chance to enjoy a better lifestyle. The provision of services such as electricity, piped water, better schools, better health facilities, good roads and other public services make urban areas attractive.

8.3 Relatives in the Urban Areas as a Factor for Rural-Urban Migration Shani Local Government Area

The data from table 1.1 shows that sixty four (64%) of the respondents agreed with the position that relatives in urban areas also encourage rural dwellers to migrate to urban areas this is to help them acquire skills, education, learn business or get employed. This is because most young migrants from Shani tend to establish connection of where to stay before taking the decision to migrate, this goes with the reality that migrants need a place to put-off such as with relatives, friends or people from same area before securing a means of livelihood or job. This might be the reason why people migrate to urban areas where they are expecting to get some level of support in respect of accommodation, feeding and connection to secure employment or business.

8.4 Marriage as a Factor Responsible for Women's Migration to Urban Areas from Shani Local Government Area

Though women's involvement in rural –urban migration is not well pronounced, they cannot also be ruled out in the issue of rural-urban migration, since for one reason or the other some women migrate from rural to urban areas but on a smaller scale as compared to males. Table 1.1 shows that majority sixty two percent (62%) of our respondents supported the position that marriage is responsible for women's migration from rural to urban areas. This may be because most men who have migrated to urban areas return the rural areas to get their spouses, in a similar way also those men who happened to be married do take their families with them if they are to embark on migration particularly non-temporary migration.

8.5 Unemployment as a Factor Responsible for Migration from Shani Local Government Area to Urban Areas

Unemployment contributes significantly as a major factor responsible for rural-urban migration in Shani local government area as confirmed by table 1. 1 with ninety one percent (59%), this is in spite of the fact that, respondents were asked about the availability of farm lands in the area which they confirmed that, there are adequate farmland in the area with virtually every household involved in agricultural activities, yet most people see farming not as an employment but as a necessary way of life for the people of the rural areas.

8.6 Respondent's Perception of the Sector that Attracts Rural-Urban Migrants from Shani Local Government Area

Most respondents, fifty six percent (56%) agreed that most of the migrants from Shani are attracted by the urban formal sector this is indicated by table 1.1. This might be informed by the fact that most migrants that migrate to cities from Shani are doing so with the intention of securing government jobs. They believe that one has job only if he is employed by government. The development may not be far from the situation that those that are educated and not employed by the government to work in the area, the find their way in to the urban areas.

8.7 Lack Farmlands as a Factor for Rural-Urban Migration in Shani Local Government Area

Rural communities generally depends on farming which requires adequate and fertile lands, thus most respondents believed that people don't migrate from Shani to urban areas due to lack of farmlands as shown by 1.1 with a total percentage of eighty two percent (82%). This might not be unconnected with the position that there are adequate farmlands in Shani Local Government Area which if a person has resources productivity can be high.

8.8 Availability of Farmlands in Shani Local Government Area

Table 1.1 reveals that there are adequate farmlands in Shani Local Government Area which mean people that are interested in farming need not to migrate from the area. Majority of the respondents seventy six percent (76%) agreed to this position. Thus migration to urban areas from Shani by this position may be for other factors which should not be land.

4 Summary & Conclusion

4.1 Summary

Considering the information generated from the findings of this research, it is evident that rural-urban migration has several causes. However, the causes are located in both the rural and the urban areas some are natural while others are manmade. Rural-urban migration is certain to continue once the rural-urban differentials have not been taken seriously as a matter of policy to be addressed by government. In as much as there are a lot of policies made by previous and current governments which were tailored towards the development of rural areas expected to reduce rural-urban dichotomy and possible reverse of rural-urban migration. The issue of implementing such policies has to be pursued vigorously and have to ensure removal of all factors which constitute stumbling blocks to the successful implementation of the policies.

4.2 Conclusion

Finally the paper arrived on the conclusion that as far as Rural-Urban Migration is concerned in Shani Local Government Area it is predicated on economic factors, relatives in urban areas, marriage, unemployment, urban formal and informal sector and urban lifestyles, however lack of farmlands do not cause migration from Shani to urban areas. Efforts could therefore be geared toward addressing such issues which are fundamental to the problem. There is the need also to examine the effects of Rural-Urban migration of women in the area to specifically explore the difficulties encountered by women.

4.3 Recommendations

- 4.3.1 Rural-urban migration is mostly triggered by rural push factors visa-a-vis urban pull factors. Therefore, rural development strategy should focus on these factors by identifying and providing them in order to reverse the trend since these are factors associated with urban. It should also include adequate and timely supply of fertilizer, herbicides, improved seeds and tractors at affordable price.
- 4.3.2 People should be informed in good time of possible drought or flood disaster in the area in order to know what types of crops to plant, when and where. This is because the result of the research has shown that some migrate due to such disasters. This is because it was found that some migrate to urban areas due to disaster.
- 4.3.3 The result of this study reveals that some migrants to urban areas are doing so to acquire skills and better their lives, in this case therefore setting up skill acquisition centres in the rural areas for vocational training of the rural people on small-scale industries and other non-farm activities that could generate income. This will help in reducing poverty and unemployment. For the rural household such will be a project of high importance. It will equally helps in keeping the rural people particularly the youth in the areas so that population will not drop.
- 4.3.4 The establishment of small-scale irrigation schemes which reduce the problems of dependence on rain-fed agriculture, which will be of help in producing Horticulture oriented cash crops, which will also supplement the rain-fed products.
- 4.3.5 Migrants from rural areas usually rely on asymmetric information about the urban areas, which in most cases are incomplete, it is therefore imperative to have complete information about the urban areas in order to help in migration decision.
- 4.3.6 The research has also discovered that the social amenities such as electricity, pipe born-water, hospitals, roads etc which are virtually absent in the rural areas are among the factors which pulls people to urban areas. If this disparity is resolved to minimal level, the trend of rural-urban migration is certain to reverse
- 4.3.7 Youths should be motivated to remain in the rural areas through understanding the major factors pulling them to urban areas and pushing them out of the rural areas by making provisions of such factors in the rural areas.
- 4.3.8 Adequate security need to be provided in order to ensure the protection of lives and wealth of the rural people in the areas. This will help in improving the economy of the rural people by making sure that those who have wealth also remain the area as mostly the wealth the possesses were acquired in the rural areas.
- 4.3.9 In order to curtail the problem of lost of labour, a promising future has to be exposed to the youth in the rural areas through providing practical support and assistance that will help them to succeed in terms of agricultural and business loans.
- 4.3.10 Rural service allowances should be given to health workers and those providing essential services in order to retain them not to move to urban areas.

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