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SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF RURAL–URBAN MIGRATION ON FOOD SECURITY IN NIGERIA: A STUDY OF ZURU LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF KEBBI STATE

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Abstract
The paper assessed the socio-economic implications of rural–urban migration on food insecurity in Zuru LGA of Kebbi State, Nigeria. The rate of migration out of Zuru LGA is alarming and has negatively impacted food production and the economy at large. This has invariably resulted in the speedy decline of the rural economy which leads to persistent poverty and food insecurity. The paper analyzed the perceived causes of out-migration on food insecurity, the perception of ways in which migration affects agricultural productivity, and strategies for reducing rural-urban migration. The theory of push and pull factor was adopted for the study. This descriptive study engaged two hundred and fifty (250) respondents through the use of a simple random sampling method. The study found that 50% of the migrants migrated out of Zuru due to unemployment. In addition, 66% of migrants migrate to join family members in the city. The study also found that movement out of Zuru affected hire labor, supply of farm operation, and decreased farm incomes as a result of low productivity, resulting in food insecurity. The study recommended the provision of social amenities, incentives, micro-credit, empowering youths, subsidizing prices of farm inputs, and establishing a bank of agriculture will help to reduce out-migration from Zuru.

Keywords: Food insecurity, Implication, Migration, Rural urban, Socio-economic,

1. Introduction

Migration is considered as the movement of people from one geographical region to another, which may be on a temporary or permanent basis (Adewale, 2005). People migrated based on the prevailing conditions and the reasons for it vary from one person to another depending on the situation that brings about the decision. Migration is a selective process affecting individuals or families with

certain economic, social, educational, and demographic characteristics. The movement of people from rural to urban areas is a common occurrence in Nigeria. The movement posed some problems in the rural as well as in the urban center even though; there are benefits derived from it. In most rural areas, the impact of rural-urban migration was a rapid deterioration of the rural economy leading to chronic poverty and food insecurity (Mini, 2000). These arise mainly due to the excessive drain of youths from the rural populace thus leaving only the older and aged members to constitute the labour force of the rural area (Amrevurayire and Ojeh 2016).

In the past years, rural-urban migration in the developed countries grew during the time of industrialization, when more mechanized farming needed few agricultural workers in the rural area and when there was a demand for labor in urban-based industries. But this is not always the case in developing countries where rural-urban migration are more of a function of rural problems than urban attractions (Kenfe, 2001 in Woldegebriel, 2017).

Agriculture is the major source of income in most rural areas. Evidence has shown that the majority of the population in most rural areas are small-scale farmers providing food for human consumption and raw materials for export and manufacturing industries. Agriculture also serves as a source of employment for most rural people. The major problems of agricultural development in Nigeria as a whole and among households in Kebbi State, in particular, include the use of crude tools and implements, lack of finance or credit facilities, poor transportation network, inadequate land due to land tenure system, problems of pests and diseases, lack of storage and processing facilities, inadequate agricultural education and extension services, negative attitude of people towards farming due to its low reward, rural youth migration and so on (FAO, 2005 in Mbah et.al., 2016).

Apart from smoothing income flows by offering employment during the agricultural lean season, temporary migration to urban centers is undertaken for increasing disposable income which is then invested in a variety of production and consumption uses. However, the relative importance of migration is highly contested specifically as its effects on the local agricultural economy and poverty reduction are enhanced. The movement from rural to urban areas makes a negative impact on the quality of rural life especially when such migrants carry away their needed consumption into the city. The migration of young adults from the rural areas also placed a greater burden on the farmers. For farmers to cover the same area of land as when they had extra assistance, they must work much longer hours thus depriving them of some time for leisure or participation in various social activities. The trend of the movement of rural people into the city has also militated against the agricultural development in these countries (Amrevurayire and Ojeh 2016).

The decline in food production in developing countries such as Nigeria can be linked to the impact of rural-urban youth migration as well as other factors such as economic, soil quality, ecology, climatic conditions, socio-cultural setting, and poor farm management. With the mass migration of youths from rural to urban areas, only a few youths are left behind, consequently, the cost of labour has been on the increase. With this trend, most farmers have found it increasingly difficult to afford the high cost of labour. Even when some can afford it, labour is readily unavailable because many youths have migrated to cities and most of those left behind may not be interested in agricultural activities. Since more youths migrate to urban areas for a better standard of living, many aged people are left to accomplish most tasks associated with farming. No doubt added responsibilities will reduce the productive capacity of the aged ones who already do not have the desired energy to do most farming activities. The objective of the paper was targeted towards assessing the causes and effects of migration on the farming population in Zuru LGA.

2. Literature Review and Theoretical Framework

The Macaulay Institute (2004) identified the push factors, which stimulate migration to include; little work and low pay, drought/crop failure, large family, land inherited by the eldest child, the evolution of mechanized farming, poor services (e.g. transport, schools, doctors, etc.) and little or no entertainment or leisure facilities. Others include isolation, boredom, lack of housing, and generally poor quality of life. Also, the pull factors identified by the Macaulay Institute (2004) are better job prospects and wages, exciting and lots of opportunities, variety of shops, entertainment (e.g. theatres, restaurants, etc.) good services (transport, schools, colleges, hospitals) a range of accommodation available as well as better overall quality of life (Torrey, 2005).

Approximately, 75% of the world's population lives in rural areas and is dependent on agricultural activities to survive (IFAD, 2007). Although, they are often very context-specific common causes of poverty and food insecurity in rural communities include natural disasters (drought and flooding, etc), civil conflict, and structural inequalities. Such phenomena limit these populations' access to resources and opportunities to secure a sustainable livelihood. When local solutions are scarce or non-existent, poor families living in rural areas will often resort to 'sending' a family member to a nearby urban center or abroad in search of remunerated work.

A study conducted by Aworemi, Abdul-Azeez & Opoola (2011) in Nigeria shows that rural-urban migration is a double-edged problem affecting the rural community as well as the urban destinations. They contend that rural community is affected because the youths and adults that are supposed to remain in the community and contribute to the development of agriculture in particular and the community, in general, leave the rural areas for other destinations. They move to urban centers in search of non-existent greener pastures and abandon the farming activities which they believe cannot earn them what they will get in the urban areas. Subsequently, this tends to reduce agricultural production and food availability in the sending communities. This has serious implications for agricultural production since most of the work which would have been done by the youths is now left for the aged to do (Angba, 2003).

IFAD (2007) hypothesized that migration is likely to generate a positive income effect on the sending households, raising the household's ability to access important nutritional inputs like food among others. Furthermore, Fasoranti (2009) in his study on perceptions of rural-urban migration in selected rural communities in Ondo State, Nigeria found that over 80% of the respondent agreed or strongly agreed that the movement of a member of the family to an urban location frees more land space for farming in the rural areas. This eventually may lead to increased cultivation and subsequently increased productivity.

Ohajianya (2005) also concluded in his study of rural-urban migration and its effects on agricultural labour supply in Imo State, Nigeria that farm operations have been affected highly by the absence of a larger proportion of household members at their homes for agricultural labour supply.
However, some studies have found that migrants return to invest in agriculture to boost production in rural areas. There is also a negative effect of migration on the study area concerning farm incomes, even though there is no significant difference between the two types of communities.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

Most studies on migration consider the "push and pull" theoretical framework developed by Lee in 1966 as one of the major theoretical underpinnings for rural-urban migration (Yeboah, 2008). The theory indicates that 'push' factors existing at the point of origin act as catalysts that prompt the decision to emigrate. The push factors include poverty, lack of adequate infrastructure in rural areas, parental neglect, breakdown of family structures, lack of education and employment opportunities, low family incomes, peer influence, and debilitating socio-cultural practices. Push factors are associated with the conditions in the place/area of origin of migrants and seem to be more important in the developing world than the "pull" factors associated with the destination. War, drought, pest invasion, flooding, and other catastrophes could force people to migrate. In rural areas, land degradation and deforestation are directly correlated with their productivity and life condition. When they are not in a position to sustain their life through agriculture, which is highly affected by environmental conditions, then they would prefer to migrate to urban areas and engage in non-farm activities (Dereje, 2002; Kinfe, 2003).

On the other hand, the 'pull' factors' include the perceived availability of jobs and other opportunities at the destination, better infrastructure/social services and food, and freedom from family pressure. Kinuthia (2003) argues that classic "push factors" from rural areas, such as lack of jobs; famine especially in pastoralist areas; drought; various kinds of poverty, and landlessness, have been known to "push" people out of their rural homes in search of better opportunities elsewhere, particularly in the urban areas. The "pull" factors in the urban areas have been the hope to find a job, increase one's income, and educational opportunities, search for better services, and generally improve one's economic well-being. The push and pull theory can be related to the present study as the study area is characterized by infrastructure deficits, unemployment and other factors that make

the area less attractive and can encourage the teeming youth population to move out to other areas, especially the urban areas, in search of better opportunities.

3. Methodology

The study is cross-sectional research that employed a descriptive quantitative survey in which questionnaires were randomly administered to respondents in Zuru LGA. Two hundred and fifty respondents (250) were randomly sampled from the study area. The study employed both primary and secondary methods of data collection of which primary data was sourced through administered questionnaires and secondary data through reviewing existing literature related to the study. The primary data were analyzed quantitatively through the use of a statistical package for social sciences (SPSS version 16.0). The result was presented in the form of frequency tables and percentages (descriptive statistics) with a short report showing an explanation at the end of each table for easy comprehension. Secondary data enabled the researchers to explain and evaluate previous researches on rural-urban migration in Nigeria.

4. Results

TABLE 1: SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS

VARIABLE	RESPONSES	FREQUENCY	%
Marital status of Family migrants	Single (never married)	**220**	**88**
	Married	**20**	**8**
	Divorced	**10**	**4**
	Widowed	**0**	**0**
	Separated	**0**	**0**
	Total	**250**	**100**
Highest level of education of Family migrants	No formal education	**20**	**8**
	Qur'anic education	**30**	**12**
	Primary education	**10**	**4**
	Secondary education	**90**	**36**
	Post-secondary education	**100**	**40**
	Total	**250**	**100**
Occupation before migration	Artisanship	**30**	**12**
	Civil service	**105**	**42**
	Farming	**10**	**4**
	Professional	**85**	**34**
	Unemployed	**20**	**8**
	Total	**250**	**100**
Income from all sources monthly	1000 - 10,000	**135**	**54**
	11,000 - 20,000	**50**	**20**
	21,000 - 30,000	**40**	**16**
	31,000 – 40,000	**15**	**6**
		10	**4**
		250	**100**

	41, 000 – 50, 000		
	51, 000 and above		
Family members out migrated	1	8	16
	2	8	16
	3	6	12
	4	118	36
	Others	110	20
	Total	**250**	**100**
Sex that mostly migrates from Zuru	Female	113	26
	Male	137	74
	Total	**250**	**100**
Age category migrant	1-20	2	4
	21-40	244	88
	41-60	4	8
	Total	**250**	**100**

Source: Field data (2023).

Of the respondents, 88% of respondents are single, 8% are married and 4% are separated. This shows that singles who were never married tend to migrate at a higher rate in Zuru town. The study revealed that 40% of the migrants in Zuru have only secondary education, 36% have post-secondary education, 12% have Qur'anic education, 8% have no formal education and 4% have primary education. This may be connected to the fact that migrants in Zuru town tend to migrate to access post-secondary education. In addition, 42%of the respondents are farmers, 34% are unemployed, 12% are civil servants, 8% are businessmen/women and 4% are professionals. This shows that out-migration from Zuru town will affect agricultural activities.

Furthermore, 36% of respondents reported that 4 family members migrated out of Zuru, 20% reported more than 4, 16% reported 1, 16% also reported 2, and 12% reported 3. The table further reveals that most of the respondents, 74% reported that males constitute those that tend to migrate, while more than a quarter, 26% reported females. This shows that male tends to migrate at a higher rate. In addition, the table reveals that most of the respondents, 88% constitute the age group of 21-40, 8% are within 41-60, and 4% are within 1-20. This shows that the youthful population is the highest level of migrants and such might affect agricultural activity.

TABLE 2: CAUSES OF RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION ON AGRICULTURE IN ZURU

VARIABLE	RESPONSES	FREQUENCY	%
Factors that account for the out-migration of people in Zuru	Conflict	20	8
	Poor health services	20	8
	Poor education services	10	4
	Bad quality of housing	10	4
	Poor crop yield	40	16
	Unemployment	125	50
	Others	25	10
	Total	**250**	**100**
Lack of interest in farming leads to out-migration in Zuru	Strongly agreed	60	24
	Agreed	90	36
	Disagreed	100	40
			100

	Total	**250**	
plans to join family members in the city leads to out-migration in Zuru	Strongly agreed	40	16
	Agreed	165	66
	Disagreed	45	18
	Total	**250**	**100**

Source: Field data (2023).

Table 2 shows that half of the respondents, 50% agreed the Factors that account for the out-migration of people in Zuru **is** as a result of unemployment, 16% attributed out-migration to Poor crop yield, 10% stated other factors like business, 8% to conflict and as well poor health services, and 4% to Poor education services and as well Bad quality of housing. This shows that employment is very important among the Zuru people as they do not take up farming alone as an exclusive means of livelihood. In addition, almost half of the respondents, 40% disagreed with out-migration in Zuru to a lack of interest in farming, 36% agreed and 24% strongly disagreed. Furthermore, the majority of the respondents, 66% agreed that migration from Zuru is a result of plans to join family members in the city, 18% Disagreed and 16% strongly agreed. This is connected to the aforementioned that farming is of utmost importance to the Zuru people as they also mixed farming with other activities and as a result the absence of such made them migrate and as well joined other family members in the city. This is connected to the previous findings that farming is of utmost importance to the Zuru people as they also mixed farming with other activities and as a result the absence of such made them migrate and as well joined other family members in the city.

TABLE 3: EFFECTS OF RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION ON AGRICULTURE IN ZURU

VARIABLE	RESPONSES	FREQUENCY	%
The movement of People out of Zuru affected the hire labor supply for farm operation	Strongly agreed	60	24
	Agreed	170	68
	Disagreed	20	8
	Total	**250**	**100**
The movement of People out of Zuru affected family labour supply for farm operation	Strongly agreed	50	20
	Agreed	185	74
	Disagreed	15	6
	Total	**250**	**100**
out-migration affects agricultural performance in Zuru	Decreased time spent on farming	55	22
	Decreased income from Farming	110	44
	Labour shortage	15	6
	Lower agricultural Productivity	70	28
	Total	**250**	**100**
out-migration affected farm income in Zuru	Increased farm incomes as a result of high productivity	25	10
	Decreased farm incomes as a result of low productivity	145	58
	Farm income remains unchanged	80	32
	Total	**250**	**100**

Source: Field data (2023).

Table 3 shows that the majority of the respondents, 68% agreed that the movement of people out of Zuru affected the hire labour supply for the farm operation, 24% strongly agreed and 8% disagreed.

In addition, the majority of the respondents, 74% agreed that the movement of people out of Zuru affected the family labour supply for the farm operation, almost a quarter, 20% strongly agreed, and 6% Disagreed. This indicates that there is a socioeconomic implication of out-migration in Zuru as it will drastically affect the output of farm products yearly as out-migration continues to persist with time compared to when it is less.

In addition, almost half of the respondents, 44% indicate that out-migration decreased income from farming, more than a quarter of the respondents, 28% indicate that it lowered agricultural productivity, almost a quarter of the respondents, 22% indicate that it decreased time spent on farming, and 6% of the respondents indicate that it serves as a labour shortage to farmers when family members migrate out. This indicates that the most detrimental effect of migration among the farming population in Zuru is that it decreased income from farming and this is a result of the decreased time spent on farming and as well labour shortage which leads to lower agricultural productivity and leads to low income from farming.

5. Discussion of Major Findings

The study investigated the socio-economic implications of rural-urban migration on the farming population in Zuru LGA; focusing attention on the perceived causes of Migration among the farming population and ways in which out-migration affects agricultural performance in the area. It was discovered that a number of socio-demographic characteristics have significant influences on why people engage in migration in Zuru LGA. They include sex, age, marital status, education, occupation, and income. In addition, a significant number of the respondents, 42% are farmers, and 34% are unemployed. This is in line with the findings of Deshingkar & Grimm, (2005) who noted that in Sub-Saharan Africa, a shift from subsistence to cash crop production or manufacturing has resulted in the temporary or permanent exodus of men, and sometimes women, from rural communities to urban areas in search of wage employment opportunities. Furthermore, the findings of this research from Table 1 revealed that 74% of migrants mostly constitute the male population. This contravenes the findings of Hugo, (2003) who found that most of the rural-urban migrants in South-East and East Asia are women who work in the garment factories in the cities.

The findings from Table 2 indicates that 50% of the respondents migrate to cities due to unemployment. This is in line with the findings of Assefa, (1999) who noted that In Ethiopia in particular, due to both economic and non-economic reasons, many people are forced to migrate from one place to another, for example, from economic factors, unpleasantly and intolerable living and working conditions and problems like population pressure, scarcity of farmland, environmental degradation and declining productivity and overall economic deterioration forced several people to migrate from rural to urban area in search of employment, better job opportunities and better living conditions. Furthermore, the research further found that 66% of respondents migrate to cities due to plans to join family members in the city, this is in recognition of the findings of Hugo, (2003) who showed that studies in areas of Bihar that have experienced a doubling of out-migration rates since the 1970s show that migration is now mainly to urban areas and not to the traditional destinations in irrigated Punjab where work availability has declined.

Table 3 reveals that 68% of the respondents agreed that affected hiring labour for the farm operation, 74% agreed that it affects family labour supply, and 58% agreed that it affected farm income, this is in cognizance with the study conducted by Aworemi, Abdul-Azeez & Opoola (2011) in Nigeria which shows that rural-urban migration is a double-edge problem affecting the rural community as well as the urban destinations. They contend that rural community is affected because the youths and adults that are supposed to remain in the community and contribute to the development of agriculture in particular and the community, in general, leave the rural areas for other destinations. They move to urban centers in search of non-existent greener pastures and abandon the farming activities which they believe cannot earn them what they will get in the urban areas. Subsequently, this tends to reduce agricultural production and food availability in the sending communities. The 'lost labour' of able-bodied (migrated) men and women has been ascribed a key role in the process of agricultural decline. This is also supported by Angba, (2003) who found that this has serious implications for agricultural production since most of the work which would have been done by the youths is now left for the aged to do. This also contradicts Fasoranti (2009) in his study on perceptions of rural-urban migration in selected rural communities in Ondo State, Nigeria found that

over 80% of the respondent agreed or strongly agreed that the movement of a member of the family to an urban location frees more land space for farming in the rural areas. This eventually may lead to increased cultivation and subsequently increased productivity. And as well Deshingkar (2004) concluded that a loss of Labour through migration may or may not reduce agricultural production; remittance may or may not increase access to assets by alleviating credit constraints: this in turn may or may not increase agricultural production and household incomes.

6. Conclusion

The major objective of this study was to examine the socio-economic implications of rural-urban migration on the farming population in Zuru Local Government Area of Kebbi State. The data used for analysis in the study were collected from a total of 250 respondents through a questionnaire. The result shows that labour shortage created as a result of out-migration affects agricultural performance negatively in the study area, especially in terms of the long time spent undertaking a specific farm activity, low farm incomes, and low agricultural productivity. Thus, it can be inferred that poor performance in agriculture results in low farm incomes. Furthermore, the causes of rural-urban youth migration were discovered to include inadequate employment opportunities in rural areas, a search for better education, inadequate social infrastructure such as schools, poor medical care services in rural areas, etc. Also, the major effects of rural-urban youth migration, as indicated by the respondents, were a reduction in the agricultural labour force, low agricultural productivity, high cost of labour, reduction of household annual income, unavailability of farm labour and food insecurity in households. In addition, rural-urban youth migration makes farm work to be left mostly for aged parents and makes farm work become more tedious, among other things.

7. Recommendations

Based on the foregoing, the following recommendations are hereby made and if implemented by policymakers and authorities concerned with population migration, would further help to reduce rural-urban migration. The study, therefore, recommends that functional social amenities such as electricity, and pipe-borne water should be provided in rural areas. Good schools and qualified teachers should be made available in the rural areas. Agro-allied industries must be set up in rural areas to reduce rural-urban migration to provide job opportunities for the people of the rural area. Agricultural inputs and farming technologies should be introduced to the rural people to improve the production level. A good road should be constructed for the rural area and credit facilities should be provided for the rural people to improve their production level, which will lead to improvement in their standard of living. To reduce rural–urban migration the government should also develop infrastructural facilities in rural areas such as develop education, health, and rood telecommunication, Develop the agricultural sector in rural areas through introducing new labor incentives, agricultural technologies developing irrigation facilities, increase access to fertilizer and other financial and technical supports including awareness creation is also very important because the agriculture can absorb a lot of labor force and can minimize the motivation to migrate.

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