Out-Migration as a Barrier to Sustainable Development in Nigeria: A Case Study of Dala Local Government Area, Kano State

Sadiq Salisu Umar

Abstract

There is no gain for saying facts that rural areas had constituted economically backwardness in Nigeria, having low standard of living among other problems. A grasp of what constituted the out-migration and its effect to sustainable development both in the long and immediate was offered. In this research work, the causes and consequences of out migration to sustainable development were clearly stated. Survey design was adopted, with the random sampling, the instrument of gathering data was questionnaire and face-to-face interview, while the method of data analysis was descriptive specifically frequency and percentage in which Anova put succinctly, face-to-face interview was conducted to elicit the data. The findings revealed that youths often migrate more than any other age group. A well-defined government projects for integrated rural development which include tackling the problems of social amenities were among others recommendation offered, such as creating job opportunities for rural dwellers and provision of essential but pressing social amenities.

Keywords: Sustainable Development, Out-Migration, Kano State, Poverty

Introduction

Migration is the movement of people from one geographical location to another, involving permanent or temporary settlement. The region where people are leaving is referred to as the source region; whereas the region to which people settled is known as destination/region. While out migration is the movement of people from rural areas (villages) to the urban centers (cities). One noticeable aspect in the society today is the rate at which people migrate from rural to urban centers. While the urban are increasing in population, the rural areas are decreasing in population. The literature of out-migration has come to regard rural-urban migration as Todaro, 1976 stated that the major contributing factor to the ubiquitous phenomenon of urban surpass labor and as a force which continues to exacerbate already serious urban unemployment problems. Population growth in urban areas has soared over last few decades. For instance, the United Nations documented that 40% of the least developed country’s population lived in urban areas in 2000, compared to 26.1% in 1975- specifically, 34% of the 2000 Sub-Saharan African population was urban a jump of more than 62% over the 15 years (Conwell and Linder, 2004). Africa is a continent in transition and one of the features of this transition is that a larger number of persons who were permanently residing in rural areas now migrated into the town and cities. In the recent
century there are certain fundamental changes in the economic, social, and political conditions that took place in Africa, which resulted to migration for better life opportunities.

On his part Olutubosun (1978) defined migration to be moving from a lesser advantaged area, usually to a more advanced community. These communities, sometimes, metamorphosed into cities. This underscores the fact that migration led to movement of considerable number of people to urban, commerce and industrial areas. The super imposition of colonial administration, the importance of taxes, and the change from subsistence oriented economy and the importance of industrial goods all created situations whereby people had to migrate from their homes to various places to search for cash to sustain the entire household, pressing needs and aspirations. In contemporary Africa and developing countries in particular, the trend has been on increasing movement of the population (geometrically) from the rural areas to the urban centers, because of the rapid process of urbanization and industrialization. However, the lopsided nature of development in these countries, most industries and modern amenities, are concentrated in a few urban centers.

According to the figures produced by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), it shows that Nigeria has an estimated population of about 160 million people, as obtained in the 2006 National Population Census. The population implies larger markets for goods and services as well as large full of human resources for development. However, the impact of the migration for the population depends not only on the absolute size but also on its quality control. Arguing further Mabogunje (1978) pointed out that rural areas are less technologically inclined in relation to production, in that the youth lay about jobless and without a proper sense of belonging. This clearly shows that apart from the natural causes of population growth, (birth rate), there has been increased influx of people from the rural areas to cities. For instance in Nigeria, Kano was the largest number of influx in the past five years with a total of about 15 million people. The population of rural areas has decreased as the urban figures take a huge increase; the decrease and increase have correspondent effect. Out-migration from rural to urban in Nigeria occurs with the migration of rural dwellers many of whom are young men and women seeking greener posture in city. The movement to such commercially potential state such as: Lagos, Ibadan, Kano etc often opens up infinite opportunities for migrants to secure jobs and enjoy excellent living.

Nigeria is driving largely by wage employment opportunities, to enjoy the good life, religious study, trade and apprentice and agriculture along river basing regions. The major Western and Northern urban centers in Nigeria with exception of Kaduna, Sapele, Jos and Minna are traditional cities antedating British imperialism but must witnessed population growth during the colonial period. Due to unreliable rainfall in the North, seasoned migration as a common form of migration coupled with migration influenced by Qur’anic scholarship whereby some students on reaching cities resort to begging to make ends meet. In the rest of southern Nigeria and in the Middle Belt region of Nigeria, the developing economic activity in new cities during the colonial period was the major attraction of many rural duelers. These centers have maintained on urban environment since the colonial period with migration increasing during the oil boom of the 1970s but the bust succeeding the boom in the 1980s led to increased urban unemployment and poverty. About 40% of the country’s poor live in urban centers (1) with a resulting rise in urban congestion and spiraling slums.
Out-Migration in Kano State
Out migration in Kano state occurs with the migration of rural dwellers many of whom are young men and women seeking for jobs in order for them to earn a living so as to have better income. Most of such young men and women are from rural areas of Kano, Kaduna, Katsina, Jigawa states. Some come to Kano state as a result of large growth in the commercial sectors others were driven as a result of seeking better opportunities like trade, religious knowledge, apprentice and agriculture. Due to unreliable rainfall in the North, seasonal migration is common form of migration coupled with migration influenced by Qur’anic scholarship. Similarly, rural to urban migration in Dala Local Government Area of Kano state is very common as you can find many people coming from rural areas to Dala local government area poor either working in the rich people’s houses engaging primarily in offering security services for the houses, engaging in petty trading. However, this research was intended to focus on the effects and consequences of out migration in Kano state with reference to Dala local government area. Studies of the consequences of migration are of equal importance as those of the causes of migration. The effects of migration are viewed from two directions. On the one hand, migration causes excessive urbanization, unemployment, income inequalities, ecological stress and population mal-distribution, whereas, on the other hand, migration is a necessary part of economic growth, equilibrator tendencies, facilitator industrialization, improving income distribution and introducing technological change in agriculture and generalize that migration is the human right ensuring choosing one’s destination to improve welfare and economic benefit (Lewis and Standing, 1982). In general rural-urban migration has a number of economic, social, cultural, mental and demographic impacts to both departing and arriving areas.

In this way, economic impact (in many cases of migration economic gain) has been the prime objectives. The economic gain acquired by rural migrants from the cities could be an important asset to be transferred to the rural areas (home area or village) in the form of capital, technology, learning awareness, knowledge, trade, goods or services etc. The survey for Jakarta shows that almost two-thirds of the male and female migrants reported to be better off after migration than before; and their success increased with the duration of their stay (Setherman and Tiffen, 1976) describes the positive value of migration as any work outside the district bring in capital and information as well as investment in transport or shops which in turn can facilitate agricultural profitability. There are also usually positive effects in areas of origin, one of such aspects remittance which migrants send home (Adepoju, 1981). Hence, migration of a family member is used as a means of income diversification against risk. Also, female migrants make remittances to their parents’ households if the later experience income shocks; men insure parents only if there are no other migrant in the household. In general, migrants are everywhere doing all kinds of jobs mostly in the services and informal sectors. They are mainly engaged in the 3-d job difficult, dirty and dangerous (Macxiary 1998) jobs that the urban population does not want because they are too hard or disgracing.

Statement of the Problem
Rural areas constitute the economically backward areas in Nigeria, having low standard of living. The gap between rural areas and urban centers has been widening in recent years (2010-2015). Consequently, therefore the condition of rural people has remained unchanged despite political development. The common dominant feature of rural people in Nigeria are social amenities particularly in the rural areas has not changed Utomi (2003).
The neglect or sideline of rural areas has not only widened the gap between rural and urban centers. Unemployment and desire of youths to move out rural areas, as lead to a serious increase in the out-migration from rural to urban centers. Olatobosun, (1978) has explained the reasons and benefits of out-migrate from rural to urban. Migrant and their communities as some migrate themselves to become apprentices in various craft which they go back to their village and establish themselves. But due to continues and persistent flow of people from rural to urban centers, social amenities are rare, there is rapid increase in population growth without a corresponding increase in the available resources. Therefore, one should expect lots of problem, to arise in the city such as unemployment, over utilization of social amenities, shortage of food supply, housing problems and squalid living resulting from congestion.

Dala local government has been in the centre of Kano state metropolis. Because of it strategic location the area has been experiencing rapid population growth due to possession of markets and business opportunities, it believe a considerable number of in-migrants due to these and other factors, the number of migrants from different towns of Kano state and other state in Nigeria, the area is growing at an alarming rate. Such observations made the researcher anxious to explore the situation and identify the causes and consequences of out migration from rural to urban centers.

**Objectives of the Study**
The main objectives of this study are:-

i) To identify the causes of out migration from rural to urban among migrant in Dala local government area Kano state.

ii) To identify the consequences of out migration from rural to urban among migrants in Dala local government area.

iii) To identify the economic consequences of out migration from rural to urban among migrants in Dala local government area.

**Research Questions**
The following are the research questions for this study:-

i) What are the causes of out migration from rural to urban areas among migrants in Dala local government?

ii) What are the social consequences of out-migration from rural to urban centers among migrants in Dala local government area?

iii) What are the economic consequences of out migration from rural to urban among migrants in Dala local governments?

**Methodology**
This study seeks to use the survey research design. Survey research is an approach concerned with the generating of information from a group or selected individuals sometimes called the sample about issues, phenomena, events, and the relationship concerning a larger group otherwise known as population (Fajoyomi, Oni and Fapohunda, 2003). The research population comprises of migrants living in Dala, Gwammaja, Adakawa, Bakin Ruwa, Dogon Nama, Gobirawa, Kabuwaya, Kantudu, Yalwa, Kofar Ruwa, Kofar Mazuga, Madigawa of local government area. According to preliminary survey conducted by the researcher, there are about 2800 migrants living in different quarters within Dala Local Government are who will serve as the population for this study. In carrying out this study, simple random sampling (SRS) was selected. The 2800 people who serve as the population of the work happen to be 384 out of its population who were involved in the study as sample according to Krejcie &
Morgan (2006). Simple random sampling was used in selecting the sample. Simple random sampling is a technique of selecting sample in which each member of the population has an equal chance of being included in the sample.

The method or technique found to be more suitable and appropriate because the formulas in almost all statistic books assume simple random sampling. Unless you are willing to learn the more complex techniques to analyze the data after it is calculated, it is appropriate to use simple random sampling. To learn the appropriate formulas for the more complex sampling schemes, look for a book or course on sampling. This study used questionnaire as the instrument for data collection. The questionnaire titled “consequences of out-migration from rural to urban migration”. However, questionnaire was used as the means of collecting data due to the fact that information can be obtained at low cost in terms of finance and time duration, it also ensure the uniformity of questions asked and gives time for considered answer and consultations.

The question was design for the migrants living in Dala local government area. The questionnaire was two sections. Sections ‘A’ seek to obtain personal data of the respondents. While section ‘B’ contains questions that seeks to answer the research questions of the study. The questionnaires were administered to the respondents by the researcher with the help of a research assistant who was coached on how to administer the instrument. The instrument were administered to each respondent at their place of meeting i.e. market, houses, gathering, centre, learning centre and the place of work, and the research work lasted for two weeks. The administration of questionnaires was conducted under conducive atmosphere and those who cannot read or did not understand question were guided by the research assistant or the researcher. Respondents were assured of the confidentiality of their responses. In this study, the data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics. Specifically frequency and percentages will be calculated and interpretations will be drawn there from.

Results Presentation and Data Analysis

Research Question One: What are the causes of out migration from rural to urban areas among migrants in Dala local government?

To answer this question frequency count and simple percentage were use.

Table 1.1 causes of out migration from rural to urban areas among migrants in Dala Local Government Area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Options</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentages%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reasons behind their migration</td>
<td>a) Economic</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>47.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b) Family conflict</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>c) Inadequate of essential social amenities</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>19.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>d) Others</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>19.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did you have any business investments in village before you left?</td>
<td>a) Yes</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b) No</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>88.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 1.1 above shows that the reason behind their migration to Dala local government are many, some of which were economic reason which reveals that 162 (47.9%) of the respondents migrated for economic reason, 43 (12.7%) of the migrants migrated because of family conflict, 67 (19.9%) of the migrants as a result of inadequate of essential social amenities in the rural areas, 66 (19.5%) of the respondents migrated for the other reasons.

Statistics shows whether they have any investments in village before they left, 38 (11.2%) of respondents says yes, while 300 (88.8%) of the respondents say no. Information on why they choose Dala local government as their host community indicated that those informed by relatives were 88 (26%), those informed by friends were 108 (31.9%), while who choose on their own were 47 (13.9%), those with other reasons were 95 (28.2%). The table shows responses on whether there is any opportunity explored by the migrants answered in the negative Dala local government, those who say “yes” or answer it positive were 249 (73.7%), while those who say No were 30 (8.9%), those who have other reasons were 59 (17.4%). The table indicated responses on whether it is better standard of living in Dala local government that make s people to migrate, those who say yes were 308 (91.1%), those who say no were 30 (8.9%).

**Research Question 2:** What are the social consequences of out-migration from rural to urban centers among the migrants in Dala local government area?

Table 1.2 Social consequences of out-migration from rural to urban centers among the migrants in Dala local government areas.
Table 1.2 above shows the responses on whether there is improvement in socialization because of rural to urban migration. Accordingly, 143 (42.3%) of the respondents said yes there is remarkable development, while 110 (32.6%) of the respondents said no, 85 (25.1%) of the respondents are not certain about their response. On overstretching essential amenities of Dala Local Government Area, 66 (19.5%) of the respondents said yes, 167 (49.4%) of the respondents did not agree while 105 (31.1%) of the respondents were undecided. On the responses to the vulnerability of family members left behind as a result of their migration, 223 (66.9%) of the respondents said yes, 60 (17.8%) of the respondents said no. Lastly, increase in crime rate shows that 220 (65.9%) respondents of the respondents said yes while 118 (34.9%) of the respondents said no.

**Research Question 3:** What are the economic consequences of out migration from rural to urban among migrants in Dala Local Government Area?

Table 1.3 Economic consequences of out migration from rural to urban among migrants in Dala Local Government Area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Options</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentages%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Showing responses on whether their migration from rural to urban lead them to acquire any occupational skills</td>
<td>a) Yes</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>61.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b) No</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>26.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>c) Not interested</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>d) Others</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Showing responses on whether they have recorded any economic fortunes as a result of their migration</td>
<td>a) Yes</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>54.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b) No</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>25.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>c) Others</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>19.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Showing responses on their opinion, or their comments about poverty reduction among migrants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>a) Friendly</th>
<th>b) Unfriendly</th>
<th>c) Others</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>84.9%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1.3 above shows the responses on whether the job obtained impacted on their income, 287 (84.9%) of respondents say yes, 11 (3.3%) of the respondents say no, 40 (11.8%) of the respondents have other view. On the responses whether their migration from rural to urban lead them to acquire any occupational skills, 208 (61.6%) of the respondents say yes, 90 (26.6%) of the respondents say no, 15 (4.4%) of the respondents were not interested, 25 (7.4) of the respondents have other reasons. On the responses whether they have recorded any social mobility changes as a result of their migration, 185 (54.7%) of the respondents say yes, 87 (25.7%) of the respondents say no, 66 (19.6%) of the respondent have other reasons. Responses on their comment or opinion about Dala local government economic environment, 287 (84.9%) of the respondents say it is friendly, 11 (3.3%) of the respondents say it is unfriendly, 40 (11.8%) of the respondents have other comment or opinion.

Summary of Findings
From the preceding analysis of data, the following findings are deduced:

i) The causes of out migration to urban centers are poverty, search for employment, farm failures and family problems.

ii) The social consequences of out migration to the urban centers are improving socialization of migrants, increasing crime rates in the urban centers, making their families vulnerable to dangers and over-stretching the general urban landscape.

iii) The economic consequences of out migration to the urban centers are providing occupations, improving economic fortunes and reduction of poverty among the migrants.

Discussion of Findings
From the available statistics, as provided by the study analysis, the study looked at selected tables and discussed them in relation to pull-push theory which was used as a theoretical framework in the paper. It is clear that most migrants look at where they wish to migrate in relation to what they wish to achieved, and their prospect for the future, i.e. if they would settle there or not. This is where the pull factor comes into play because in cities, there are various opportunities, which one can attach oneself to and start making progress in life that is what these migrants have seen and decided to take advantage of. In the aspect of the push factor, these economic down turn facilities that are available for use in the rural areas as I have observed in my research many migrants come into the cities to enjoy the amenities, such as good medical services or care, communication and more importantly pipe borne water and electricity. The push factor is like a reflex to the rural migrant because they are forced to seek better livelihood outside the push factor. The consequences of migration are being neglected when people leave rural areas. They create a vacuum, leaving farm work and tradition behind them, also when they get to these by cities they find out that they constitute a problem because three had not been corresponding allocation for them in the city. Consequently, rural-
urban migration have brought about development in both the rural and urban areas, this could be as a result of the fact that, those who actually progress in the city may also go back home and engage in small scale business by producing locally made products such as soap, palm fruits, cultivating, machines for rent to farmers, in the process creating jobs opportunities. But what should be made clear us that the disadvantages migration carries even if you don’t see it now, it is there and sometimes supersedes the advantages.

Having relative in the cities have also contributed to the numbers of migrants in the cities, from my findings, table 4.2 variable 3 indicate that 26% of the migrants population have someone to put up with until probably they can get them starts on their own. It is also shows that (the analysis) people had decided to come not only to Dala Local Government but hope to move on to other parts of the state, because the state is blessed in terms of commercial activities, most of which come from the economic trade and existing opportunities. To conclude the discussion, it is obvious to note that migration is really a trend that should not be considered as an option but solution should be made and must be looked for instead

**Effect of Out-migration to Sustainable Development**

Sustainable development according to Shaker (2015) “is the organizing principle for sustaining finite resources necessary to provide for the needs of future generations of life on the planet.” Shaker (2015) further described it as “a process that envisions a desirable future state for human societies in which living conditions and resources-use, continue to meet human needs without undermining the integrity, stability and beauty of natural biotic system.” The concept development entails modernization through potentially growing opportunities and social amenities within the society, which increase people participation in the socio-economic activities at the societal level. But rural areas are deprived of developmental activities, the infrastructure are not developed, the education, health services, pipe borne water, electricity, good roads are inadequate. The absence of these social amenities prompted mass troop from rural areas to urban areas for greener posture. This has devastating effects to their well-being leading barrier to sustainable development.

Evidences from the research justify and testify that the rural areas are backward with inadequate social amenities, poverty, unemployment, ignorance etc, a genesis for out-migration and a barrier to any meaningful development. What rural areas need is the provision of social amenities through the exercise of strong leadership; a leadership that work to resolve problems that bedeviled the rural dwellers this will enable them contribute their quota towards development of their domiciled areas.

**Conclusion**

From the findings, majority of the respondents gave various problems that they have encountered and are still going through. They have agreed that rural-urban migration has both positive and negative effects, though some made it clear that it was because of the economic opportunities in the cities that made them migrate, they have not yet established themselves in the cities because some face accommodation problems and getting job. Though, some made it clear that it was not just because of economic reasons that they migrated. I also found out that the number of migrants in the city is rather high causing the number of houses available to be less proportionate to the number of people in the town. In the rural areas, however, it has been a case of neglect and younger people who are supposed to uphold the activities in the villages in terms of agriculture are no more in the villages. Some respondents also agreed that there was no serious development especially in the rural areas. The effect of migration is becoming serious and it affects on all spheres of life, because the rate at which
people keep migrating especially to urban centers is continuously on the increase. The current wave of movement to town without the corresponding facilities to accommodate them is pathetic. In order to discourage this trend, thereby reducing rural-urban negative effects the following should be considered.

i) There is the need to continuously expand employment opportunities in the rural areas by investing more money into small and medium scale industries like shoe making and groundnut sales maximum efforts must be geared towards the development of agricultural activities in the rural areas.

ii) There is a need for a well-defined government project for integrated rural development which should include tackling the problem of electricity, providing health care facilities, water and good road etc.

iii) Government should provide modern farming implements to local farmers at subsidized prices, pesticide and insectides, fertilizers and high yield variety seeds and other agricultural inputs should also be sold to farmers at subsidized rates. This will go a long way in mechanizing agriculture.

iv) Recreational centers need to be built and equipped with modern facilities, so that rural dwellers would be in consonance with technological age

References
About the Author

Sadiq Salisu Umar is a lecturer in department of Educational Foundations, School of Education, Federal College of Education, Kano-Nigeria.
Email: sadiqdkw@yahoo.com