

Impact of Rising Migration on Socio-Economic Development of Nigeria (2015-2022)

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Abstract

Since 2015 Nigerians have been experiencing failure of governance which have manifested in persistent insecurity, high inflation, poor socio-economic performance, unemployment, hardship, suffering, poverty, low development, and frustrated hope. Currently, the level of poverty has skyrocketed that people hardly provide for one square meal a day. The inflation rate has increased to 20.77%, the debt profile is 41.62 trillion, unemployment rate has risen to 33.3% while, the GDP growth rate is 3.5%. Consequently, these precarious conditions in Nigeria have led to massive migration of both trained and untrained professional like academics, doctors, nurses, engineers, builders and even students to developed countries. Thus, this study examined the impact of migration on socio-economic development of Nigeria from 2015 to 2021. The study relied on secondary sources of data collection and data collected were analyzed using content analysis. The study is anchored on relative deprivation theory and argued that, poverty is the major driving force for migration of Nigerians to developed countries. The security, economic and political conditions in Nigeria have worsened the surge for people to migrate in search of better living conditions and safety. The study revealed that, Nigeria has lost skilled personnel with capacity of transforming the economy through the wealth of knowledge in their disposal to developed countries. The study concludes and recommended that, government should expedient efforts in tackling insecurity confronting the nation, create more job opportunities and improve the environment to stop people from migrating. Furthermore, good economic policies should be formulated and implemented to revamp the Nigeria economy to compete with developed world.

Keywords: Migration, Nigerian Citizens, Socio- Economic Development, Nigeria.

Introduction

Since the beginning of creation, humans have involved themselves in movement activities. Migration cannot be inevitable from the history of the story of man, families, villages and nation- state. Therefore, migration can be traced as far back as the existence of man, most especially when man desired to go in search of food during various famine seasons. Another reason for migration in those days was the desire for separation from the crowd as well as the seeking for independence. This has been a major feature in the history of Africa and the entire globe (Akanji, 2012). Migration is a feature of social and economic life across many countries, but the profile of migrant populations varies considerably (OECD, 2014).

Migration can be internal or international; internal migration explains the movement of individuals within same geographical territory which in this case can be from rural to urban or from capital of a country to rural settlement while, international migration according to

the United Nations has to do with any person who changes his or her country of usual residence for either of various reasons. Thus, international migration includes movement of many kinds, such as people leaving their countries of origin for economic reasons, to join their families abroad or as refugees. By the same token, an internal migrant includes an internally displaced person, a trader who relocated his or her business to another part of the country, a transferred civil servant or a citizen of a country on deployment for national engagement, like Nigerian university graduate who is deployed by the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) to serve the nation in another location or state of the federation (Oyeniyi, 2013). Migration is a complex and multidimensional process which involves different motivations, with far-reaching impacts or consequences to the individual and the places of origin and destination. International Migration is a sensitive issue in discussions and debates in the international system. By and large, the most common form of migration found in the entire world is migration within a nation (Nanzip, 2020).

The rising phases of globalization have contributed in influencing the tradition and culture of international migration in our immediate world. This globalization which has unfolded itself in different phases has raised alarm of great benefits and an opportunity around the globe which is propelling Africans to be on the move. These benefits range from job opportunities, international education certifications, interconnectedness, international relations between countries creating avenue for interdependence most especially in the aspect of manpower (Fayomi, 2013). Therefore, as there exist differences in people's desire, it significantly explains part of the variation in the rate of migration. However, prospect for a better life certainly is one of the most important push factors behind people's decision to migrate.

Interestingly, Nigeria remains a major contributor to the net migration in Sub-Sahara Africa (SSA). According to the WDI, Nigeria was responsible for about 17% of the net migration in the region in 2017 (International Labour Organisation, 2019). Various factors (push and pull) are often responsible for the movement of people away from their usual places of residence. In Nigeria, high levels of unemployment, migrant remittances, population growth (Darkwah & Verter, 2014), unstable politics, ethno-religious conflicts and poverty (Adepoju, 2009; Young 2013) are the major factors promoting the massive movement of both men and women across and outside the country (Darkwah & Verter, 2014). Poor economic conditions and high level of poverty also force people to move as they search for better living conditions, especially the youth and young adults (Bezu & Holden, 2014). The existence of inequalities between rural and urban areas in Nigeria in terms of access to economic resources and development also promotes both internal and international migration (Ghebru, Mulubrhan, George & Adebayo, 2018).

Migration in most cases does not only empower the migrant, but is also known for its relationship with the geographical and occupational mobility of labour, as the probability of moving within occupations is often higher with migration (Ghebru et al, 2018). The total number of Nigerian-trained doctors in the United Kingdom (UK) as at late 2022 stood at

10,387 (Afolabi, 2022) The accreditation of the 91 doctors came amidst cries by the Nigerian Medical Association against the brain drain bedeviling the health sector. Apart from doctors, other categories of health workers are also migrating. According to reports, the statistics also showed that between January 1, 2022, and September 30, 2022, about 1,307 Nigerian-trained doctors were licensed in the UK as Nigeria continues to battle one of the worst situations of brain drain in its history. Nigeria currently has the third highest number of foreign doctors working in the UK after India and Pakistan (Afolabi, 2022).

Statement of Problem

The recent wave of Nigerians relocating out of the country represents the largest movement of people out of the country since the end of the civil war, over fifty years ago. What is significant is the profile of those who are relocating. They are primarily skilled youth, including doctors, nurses, engineers, university lecturers and technicians. They also include young people who completed their studies abroad and opted to stay back because the country has nothing to offer them with regard to jobs, opportunities, or even basic safety. Some of them have been educated in elite universities at home and abroad. This demographic is more debilitating for our national developmental prospects and many of them have no plans of returning home in any hurry.

Though, migration could be seen as voluntary or involuntary depending on the situation under which the migrant left. Under involuntary migration, the person has no intention to migrate but was forced to do so (Bell, Alves, De Oliveira, & Zuin, 2010). In Nigeria, there are certain factors fueling this voluntary migration which has never been seen since World War II. These factors include the desire for better career opportunities, heightened insecurity in the country, the need to provide a better future for one's children, the requirement of further education, and poor governance in the country. For instance, there is limited employment opportunities in Nigeria, as the country's unemployment rate rose five-fold (from 6.4% to 33.3%) between 2010 and 2020 (Dakuku, 2022). Inflation has moved from about 7% a decade ago to over 20.52% in August, 2022, thereby forcing more people into poverty (Dakuku, 2022). The security challenge is worsening by the day, with constant escalation of societal tensions by the activities of kidnappers, bandits, secessionists, terrorists, and other forms of criminality. The insecurity level has become a significant concern, with the death toll in nine months reaching 8,281, and 3,490 persons kidnapped in only eight months in 2021. Academic Staff Union of Universities were on strike for almost nine months (February to September, 2022) and students remained at home during the strike.

With this entire incidence, Nigerian government appears unperturbed by the outbound migration of its professionals and young people. The only option to these peculiar Nigerian problems is to migrate to other countries for better lives and personal development. The number of passports issued by the Nigeria Immigration Service rose by 38% between 2020 and 2021. This increased from 767,164 to 1,059,607 passports granted in 2020 and 2021,

respectively (Dakuku, 2022). This is an indication that more people are planning to move out of the country and Nigerian government is not putting anything on ground to stem this tide. Based on this precedence, the study tends to interrogate the impact of rising migration on socio economic development of Nigeria from 2015 to 2022. Specifically, the objectives of this study are:

1. To examine the determinants of migration in Nigeria.
2. To assess the impact of rising migration on socio-economic development of Nigeria with particular reference from 2015 to 2022.

Migration

Migration is simply defined as the movement of people from one location to another in a country or from one country to another for the purpose of establishing a new residence (IOM, 2011; ACP Observatory on Migration, 2011). According to Iheanacho & Ughaerumba (2015) migration can be traced to the existence of the first set of humans on earth. Migration has taken various patterns in the course of slave trade, colonization, urbanization, industrialization and globalization. Movement of persons (migrants) from one place to another has been a trend adopted by various individuals. Although the definition of migration varies from different perspectives, there is a consensus that it involves the movement of people across a recognized political boundary to establish permanent or semi-permanent residence. The period of residence also varies, but most experts believe that six months of residence in a new location is enough to categorize one as a migrant.

About 800,000 Nigerians are resident abroad. However, the actual figure may be higher because most of the Nigerian migrants do not have official records (International Migration Institute, 2021). In their own view, Adhikari, Clemens, Dempster & Ekeator (2021) pointed out that the number of Nigerian migrants abroad has jumped from about 450,000 in 1990 to 1.4 million in 2019. The issue is that the population of youths in Nigeria is greatly increasing. However, in spite of the high educational levels and job skills, a lot of these youths are unemployed in Nigeria. At the same moment, the working-age population of Europeans is decreasing. This has resulted in shortage of labour forces in mid-skill professions in some European countries. The Nigerian situation of unemployed youths and European's case of insufficient mid-skilled labour make international migration of Nigerian youths to Europe inevitable (Adhikari et al., 2021). This is why Clemens (2020) had earlier pointed out the existence of what he called "migration hump" in which people in poor countries will increasingly migrate in large number to rich countries.

Similarly, International Migration Institute (2021) revealed that yearly remittances from migrant Nigerians abroad are estimated to be about US\$ 5 billion. Adhikari et al, (2021) also added that the remittances from Nigerians abroad has increased in 2019 to US\$ 25 billion, which is 5% of the country's gross domestic product and four times Nigerian foreign direct investment earnings.

It is as a result of the fact that migration of Nigerian youth abroad is likely to continue and the increasing rate of remittances coming into Nigeria from Nigerian migrants abroad that Adhikari et al. (2021) calls for partnership on migration between Nigeria and other Western nations so that Nigeria can benefit and increase its economic growth at home. This is related to the earlier view of Penninx (2004) when he called for integration policy for immigrants and he asserted that it is the failure of the integration process that leads to negative perception of migration/immigrants and its attendant consequences.

Furthermore, World Bank's document on migration and remittance in 2011 listed that the estimates in 2010 were as follows: total population of migrant was 215.8 million, which is 3.2% of the global population. The number of international migrants all over the world increased in 2013 by 33%. Out of this number, 59% of migrants targeted to enter developed nations. A significant change in the migration pattern was witnessed in the last half of the century because women constitute about 50% of these migrants (United Nations Population Fund, 2013). This has earlier been noted by Thapan, (2008) when he said that women constitute half of the migrants the world over. In spite of this, women migrants are still seen as accompanying partners instead of independent migrants. Facts emanating from Nigeria has shown that young ladies do migrate to different countries unaccompanied (Adepoju, 2015).

Migration movements into Western Nations from different nation, Nigeria inclusive, have a variety of historical facts and take different patterns. Firstly, uneven development, unstable political systems, availability and affordability of modern communication media and transportation system have raised the pressure on migration and supply-driven migration movements. Secondly, demographic and economic developments within European nations themselves have produced new demand-driven movements into some European nations. As a result, the facts of immigration are to some extent the same but the perception is not the same everywhere (Penninx, 2004).

Generally, migration has economic, demographic, and social effects both for nation of origin and nation of destination (Divisha, 2017). In addition, there are many reasons why people decide to move from their place of abode (origin) to another environment (point of destination). Individuals usually move away from places of lack to places that are presumed to have opportunities. As such, human beings are pushed by several factors to migrate-push factors cum pull factors. In actual fact, it was Lee (1966) who grouped factors causing migration into two segments, and called them push and pull factors. The push factors are usually those conditions/situations which are discomforting to a person within the environment in which he/she resides while the pull factors are conditions/situations which lure an individual to other environments. The push factors include insufficient job opportunities, unsafe environment, poor crop harvest, insufficient rainfall, desertification, flooding, persecution, slavery, natural disaster, death threats, poverty and war. Indeed, there is a significant correlation between poverty and migration as was noted in section 4.8.1 of Nigerian National Migration Policy (Adepoju, 2015). Evidently, Nigeria has

abundant and varied resources which portray it as a rich nation, but these resources are mismanaged, pushing the inhabitants to extreme poverty. As the poverty is biting hard and the population is increasing, the people seek for various strategies to survive. One of such strategies is migration, an age-old strategy for human survival. On the other hand, the pull factors include better job opportunities, higher wages, more wealth, better services, attractive climate, safer/less crime, political stability, security, better crop yields and less rate of natural disasters (Nanzip, 2020). In all, migration and its processes are usually heterogeneous and should be addressed holistically (Bell et al, 2010).

Socio-Economic Development in Nigeria

Socio-economic development in any nation state refers to meaningful improvement in the state's economy and most especially the comfortable standard of living of her citizens. For the fact that every administration in a nation-state holds a duty of bringing socio-economic development in the nation state, citizens expect to see progress as an administration transfer to another. In the developed countries, their government speaks 95 per cent of the mind of her citizens as evidenced through the socio-economic development strategies of the country. For a nation-state to be respected in the international system there must be a high level of socio-economic development in the state. This development involves the effectiveness of all sectors that makes up the government (Patrick et al, 2014) cited in Okeoghene, (2017).

Socio economic development as a compound term can be deduced from the following terms which are the; society which is referred to as state, the economy which reveals the production activities and the circulation of money in the just mentioned state while development as a term refers to the reasonable improvement and progress of the state as regard the economy. Looking at the progress of an economy, there must be a reasonable level of productivity which is supposed to be carried out by the workforce (public or private institutions). For an effective nation- state to be productive there must be a reasonable number of skilled individuals on the needed fields to produce the compound aim which is socio economic development. Skills that feature critical and creative thinking are highly recommendable and when a nation state lacks these skilled individuals the socio-economic development is truncated or moves at a low space. Uju & Joy (2014) cited in Okeoghene (2017) stressed that socio-economic development is necessary for the health and safety of a nation state. Sen (1983) cited in Babalola (2015) also contributed to the validity of the study revealing socio economic development to be a positive process and progress that initiates sustainable development in the lives of her beneficiaries which are obviously the lives of her citizens.

Development is a progressive process; it is associated with growth and advancement. In this study it is associated with the growth of nation- states. Rodney (1978) cited in Fayomi (2013) reveals that the human society sees development as the physical development which is mostly associated with the quality and quantity of production in a nation state, her

technology status, cultural development and the psychological directions of individuals. Development is also associated with productivity, producing and expanding positively at a reasonable pace (Kuhnen, 1987) cited in Okeoghene (2017). Development is also a tool used in measuring the status and progress of a nation state.

Development is a vital key for highly respected recognition of a state in the international system. Every nation state in the international system has level and positions. These are determined by the level and position of development the nation-state attains. As earlier stated, literatures also revealed that development does not take a static position as it is a process. In the international system no one ever attains a height of development as it is been maintained by doing the needful to be there. The development of a nation-state shows in the living standards of her citizens (Adah & Abasilim, 2015). Development is also evident in a nation-state when there are varieties and opportunities present for the citizens such as in products, health care facilities, education, housing among other thinkable choice that fits into the political, economic, social and environmental areas of the nation-state. The increased productivity through effective labour force is also an evidence of development in that specific nation- state (Oladiran, 2014).

Thus, Socio-economic development explains the affordable lifestyles as well as the suitable living standards of individuals in that society. Socio-economic development in a nation-state cuts across improvements in various areas of the state, which includes the educational system, employment, social amenities provisions among other areas. All these just mentioned improvement can be identified later as pull factors for reasonable migration activities in a state. Socio-economic development is associated with positive transformation in a state's economy. Socio-economic development cuts across all areas of state sectors showing proves of improvements.

From the foregoing, assessing Nigeria, literatures reveal that the nation- state is blessed with resources but has not attained the height it is expected to attain due to mismanagement of resources and her low productive status. The socio- economic status of Nigeria is therefore faulty with many issues which can be related to the push factors. It has been feasted upon by insecurity issues led by various violence as well as political crisis and corruption in various sectors and areas of the Nigerian government sectors. . The deficiencies of various institutions in the Nigerian state are responsible for her unworthy socio-economic status. Every responsible government administration focuses on how to build up her socio-economic development status.

Theoretical Framework of Analysis

There are various theoretical frameworks of analysis on issues of migration, but this study adopted the relative deprivation theory. The theory posits that when people are aware of the differences between their income when compared with those of their neighbours or other families within the migrant's community of origin; it becomes a major issue for migrating and migration. As a result, Stark (2019) pointed out that, people would rather

have high income than low income because high income actually confers high rank. Therefore, the motivation to migrate is greater in places with greater level of social/economic inequality. In other words, migration of people involves two stages. Firstly, migrants invest in human development and then, attempt to make profit from their investments. Secondly, successful migrants apply their income in providing good education for their kids and better houses and comfort for their families. Similarly, when emigrants are highly skilled and successful, they do serve as motivation for peers, friends, relatives and potential migrants, who wish to attain the same successful level if given the opportunity. From the foregoing, poverty and deprivation are the major driving forces for Nigerian youth's migration to Europe, America, Asia, and Southern/Northern Africa. Most of them move out of the country with high expectations. In some cases, their parents sell their lands or other valuable properties to assist them in this process of migration (Olajide, 2018). In order to elevate themselves above poverty, these families sometimes gather all their assets/resources together to assist their siblings and/or children travel abroad. Chikanda (2019) noted the same situation among the Zimbabweans where reduction in the economic condition of the people actually led to large scale migration. Hence, poverty is the major driving force for migration of Nigerians to Westerner nations; because 70% of Nigerians live below the poverty line. The economic and political conditions in Nigeria have worsened the surge for people to migrate in search better living conditions and safety.

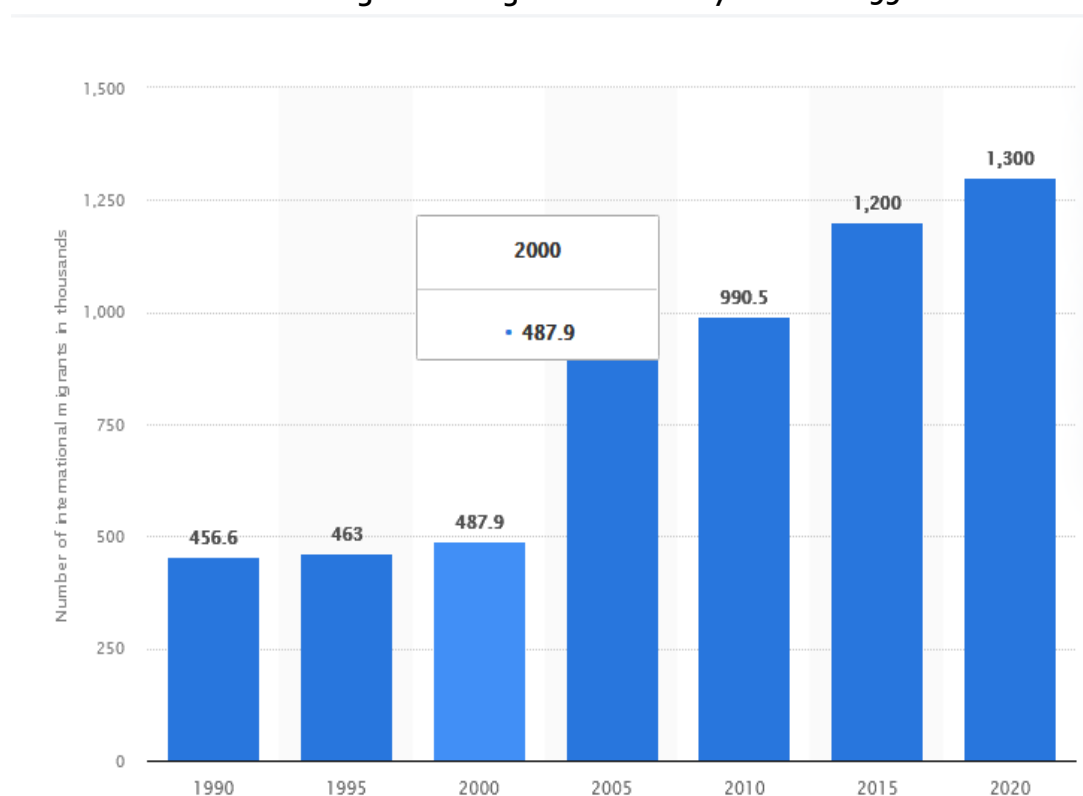
Determinants of Migration in Nigeria

Migration has grown to a reasonable level due to the demands and emergence of new phases of globalization. From literatures there are various factors responsible for irregular/illegal international migration in Nigeria; these are pull and push factors.

Pull Factors: Migration can be influenced through the "pull" factors operating in the receiving states. These factors are but not limited to the sincere presence of democratic government and the rule of law, socio-economic development, vast employment opportunities with higher incomes, quality education, favourable policies, better access to medical facilities, better working and living conditions as well as respect for human rights (Adepoju, 2009). Other factors are; higher employment, more wealth, better services, good climate, safer & less crime, political stability, more fertile land, lower risk from natural hazards (BBC, 2022) Nigeria has always been one of the poles of attraction for the citizens of the West African neighbouring countries due to her oil boom and the sensed growth of the economy in the 1970s (Chhangani, 1983; IOM, 2009). According to Onwuka (1982) although Nigeria is not as developed as the image of a blessed nation- state; the nation-state still attracts immigrants from the sub regions. The question asked is how skilled are these individuals? How can they complement the nation- state's labour force effectively for maximum productively as we observe in various nations- states in the likes of South Africa among others?

Fayomi (2013) also confirms the statement revealing also that the 1970s experience in Nigeria paved way for Nigerian state being a destination nation- state due to the crude oil found. This created job opportunities and other menial jobs for Africans who seek them (Van, 1998 cited in Fayomi, 2013). Similarly, Nigerians emigrate to Europe and other desired nation-states to seek good standard of living and for better opportunities as various individuals believe that there are better opportunities outside the nation- state. An overriding factor for explaining the influx of migrants into Nigeria and out of Nigeria is the sharp economic and political differences between Nigeria and the neighbouring West African countries and also between the developed North and Nigeria (Afolayan et al, 2008). This reveals why most Nigerians jump at opportunities given by various countries through Visa lotteries.

Number of International Migrants in Nigeria in selected years from 1990 to 2020



Source: Doris Dokun Sasu (Statista 2022)

According to Haas (2007) education and labour (employment opportunities) are reasons that have been the driving forces of international migration of Nigerian emigrants, though others still migrate for other reasons. UNESCO (2006) also affirms that, Nigeria is popularly known as a nation-state for sourced skilled migrants reacting to various “pull” factors of various destinations and in many cases reacting to the “push” factors experienced in the nation-state. Also, Nigeria is a destination nation-state most especially for West Africans due to perceived pull factors By West Africans.

Push Factor: Push factors are conditions that act as a dissatisfactory and driving tool for migration or pressure tool encouraging emigration for citizens from own nation-state. This explains that the citizens are dissatisfied with various factors in their home countries, these factors can be poverty, lack of services, and lack of safety, high crime, crop failure, drought, flooding and war. According to Idio, Rogers & Akadi (2015) Nigeria's deficiencies which can stand for "push" factors among others are lack of industrial development, lack of job varieties, discouraging income and above all the absence of various resources for productivity and lack of social amenities. By the middle of the 20th century, emigration of professionals, high-level manpower and skilled workers emerged from the developing world to the developed world. Brain drains in Nigeria were becoming prominent as from the 1960s due to poor working conditions such as poor infrastructural system, inadequate social amenities, the devalued national currency, decreasing standard of education and irresistible corruption in public sectors, general insecurity till date to mention a few (Afolayan et al, 2008). In Nigeria the presence of various political conflicts, lack of decent jobs and discouragement of various professional skills of individuals are the reasons why individuals leave their home countries.

Idio et al (2015) also went further revealing that political instability, political crisis, civil wars, insecurity, are examples of international migration "push" factors. For instance, the experiences of various insurgencies in Borno state of Nigeria has made her residents run away or migrate whichever way to Cameroon to avoid being killed or experience any form of attack. Fayomi (2013) also supported that various push factors that can hinder immigration and cause emigration of citizens are civil wars, community conflicts, drought, and famine.

The harsh conditions of most neighbouring West African countries such as the drought in Niger Republic, Chad and Northern Cameroon makes Nigeria a destination nation-state for these West African migrants and these various migrants from the West African regions are peasants, labourers, non-professionals and professional workers migrated to Nigeria in search of employment (Adeola & Fayomi, 2012). This also applies to Nigerians leaving the nation-state as a result of finding escape route to Europe and other destination countries and nation-states with the hope of a better life. For instance, one of the migrants who gave birth on her way to Europe on the sea revealed that she never wanted her unborn child to suffer or live with hardship in Nigeria (Sote, 2016). Reasonable number of Nigerian citizens risk their lives through the Mediterranean Sea and Sahara Desert with a mission and desperation to leave the nation-state due to these highlighted "push" factors experienced in the nation-state (Sote, 2016). Also, about 30,000 Nigerian illegal emigrants seeks greener pastures by illegal means to Europe through the high sea in Italy while others are stranded at the borders in Libya, Niger Republic to mention a few (Oluwadare, 2016).

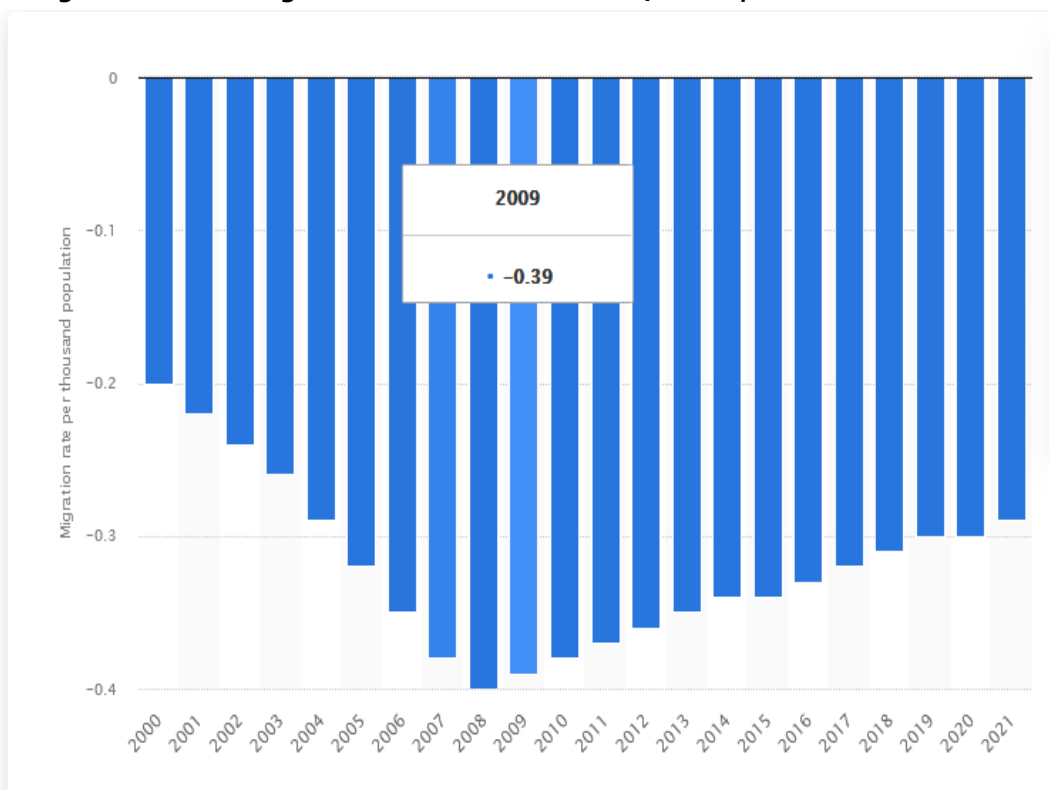
Impact of Rising Migration on Socio-economic Development in Nigeria

Migration can have a range of social, cultural, political and economic effects. It involves

transfer of know-how and skills, financial assets (including remittances), and the transfer of people from one location to another. Migration also has consequences for the individual, the area of origin and the area of destination on the family, household, society, the economy and development as a whole. The economic crisis in Nigeria has led to various massive emigrations of individuals into various nation-states (regionally and outside the region). These experiences have made Nigeria more of emigration nation-states than a nation-state of destination as it has been known to be.

Presently, emigration is now seen as a trend in the nation-state as Nigerians now see it as a responsibility for them to find out their destinies out of the shores of the nation-state to various perceived and desired destinations within West African states or other countries outside of the region (Haas, 2007).

Net Migration Rate in Nigeria from 2000 to 2021 Per 1,000 Population



Source: Doris Dokun Sasu (Statista 2022)

In 2021, the migration rate in Nigeria stood at -0.29 per 1,000 population. This means that the number of people leaving Nigeria is slightly higher than that of those entering the country. From 2015 to 2021, migration rate stood at negative, in 2015 it was -0.34, -0.33 in 2016, -0.32 in 2017, -0.31 in 2018, -0.3 in 2019, -0.3 in 2020 and -0.29 in 2021 (Sasu, 2022). In fact, between 2000 and 2021, the migration balance stayed negative. Nigeria lost the capacity and capability of attracting people from other countries due to economic crisis and poverty. The effect of international migration is not limited to remittances and cash inflows alone. It

includes a wide range of development issues, governance and legal protection, employment and social protection, health services and education, tertiary education, knowledge and skills development, economic growth, financial services and growth, agriculture and rural infrastructural development, and environment issues. All these come under migration and human development, defined by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP 2021) as a process of enlarging people's choices, which entails two important items, namely, expanding human capabilities and functioning. Nigeria government could not guarantee the safety of her citizens and provide needed basic needs of survival, this paved way for increased or mass exodus of Nigerian citizens.

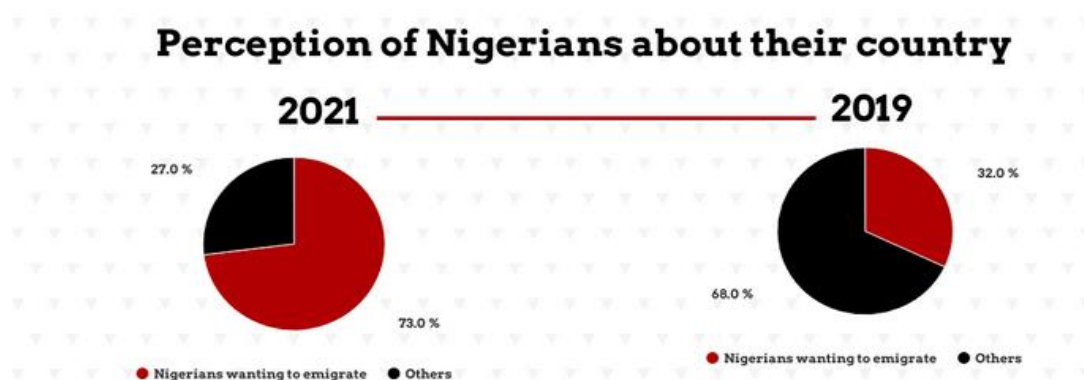
In 2018, 40 percent of Nigerians (83 million people) lived below the poverty line, while another 25 percent (53 million) were vulnerable. With Nigeria's population growth continuing to outpace poverty reduction, the number of Nigerians living in extreme poverty was set to rise by 7.7 million between 2019 and 2024 (World Bank, 2022). While the economy was projected to grow at an average of 3.2 percent in 2022-2024 (World Bank, 2022), the growth outlook is subject to downside risks including further declines in oil production and heightened insecurity. Meanwhile, continued scarcity of foreign exchange and tighter liquidity could affect the economic activity in the non-oil sector and undermine the overall macroeconomic stability. The uncertainty is also expected to be accompanied by high inflation and continued fiscal and debt pressures. Since 2021, the fiscal deficit narrowed to 4.8 percent of GDP in 2021 from 5.4 percent in 2020, due to a modest uptick in revenues, and was financed by borrowing. Public debt stood at \$95.8 billion in 2021, or about 22.5 percent of GDP. Annual average inflation stood at 17.0 percent in 2021 against 13.2 percent the previous year and above the central bank's 6–9 percent target. Inflation was fueled by food price rises at the start of the year and exchange rate pass-through (World Bank, 2022).

According to Obi (2021) to become an economically productive nation, the first thing government needs to do is to invest in education, human infrastructure and capacity development. He is of view that the more educated the people, the better the economy, which in the long run helps national development. To him, human development should be prioritized before physical infrastructure because human capital is too low in Nigeria. Education is an important element of human development, and investment in education is regarded as the best form of human capital development. The 129 universities, plus other tertiary institutions, in Nigeria have not met the demand for tertiary education in the country. Thus, a large number of Nigerians migrate yearly in search of university education. Nigeria government has not taken education seriously which prevent healthy competition in international arena. For instance, in 2017, the NRF budget for research in South Africa was about two billion rand. Meanwhile, that was the same amount that Nigeria budgeted for the entire ministry of Education in Nigeria in the same year, at the prevailing market exchange rates of R1/N29 (Ise Olorunkanmi, Otimi, Adebola, Lawal, Nweke & Adebisi 2021).

The world system has witnessed an astronomical increase in the number of students who have decided to study outside their home countries. By this decision, they become international students. International students have increased in number from 2.1 million in 2001 to over 5.3 million in 2019 (Institute of International Education, 2020). Apart from the increase in the enrolment rate of international students, there is also the emergence of large numbers of new host countries that are educationally attractive to international students. Their emergence has come to challenge the traditional big five educationally attractive host countries in the areas of students' subscription and destination choice. These big five according to Kell & Vogl (2012) are the United States of America, France, United Kingdom, Australia and Germany. Significant changes have occurred in students' migration trends and patterns over some time (Institute of International Education, 2020). These changes are brought about by policies and strategies that are put in place by some countries to attract higher international subscription. The policies such as jobs and career incentives, scholarship/tuition waiver and introduction of courses to be delivered in English language have given a boost to international students' enrollment in the emerging big players in higher education. This enabling environment created by the developed countries lured citizens from developing countries to migrate thereby causing brain drain.

According to Idio et al (2015) Nigeria lost over 10,000 academics that would have developed the Nigerian educational system to its maximum. This event was traced to the Babaginda administration between 1986 and 1990. The administration brought about the drastic emigration of skilled individuals out of the nation state due to the obvious and perceived push factors of international migration at that time. Idio et al (2015) reveals that while the developed industrial countries see the benefits of strengthening her labour force through immigration of qualified individuals from the developing nation-states (known as source nation-states) in which Nigerians are not excluded the developing countries suffer drastic shortage of qualified skilled individuals in the work force as a result of this there is low turnout of productivity. Nigeria as earlier described as a source nation state in this situation is not left out.

But most Nigerians who had the opportunity of travelling out hardly return home due to the perception they have, thereby not contributing to national development for which Nigerian government sent him/ her out. Most of the Nigerian public funds and resources used for Nigerian students in terms of scholarships are now little or no investments as these individuals find it unnecessary and a sort of punishment to return back to Nigeria as they believe they can be worth more than what Nigeria really has to offer. Such an action undermined economic development and loss of technical manpower in various sectors of Nigerian economy.



Source: Akinpelu, Y. (2021) Premium Times, September 4th

However, brain drain occurs when significant numbers of highly skilled nationals leave their countries of origin to seek employment or establish businesses abroad. It has a negative effect on the economies of developing countries, because the skills of remaining nationals are not sufficient to grow industries, academia and other sectors of the economy. Also, brain waste occurs when skilled migrants engage in menial occupations abroad, resulting in deskilling. Brain gain can be achieved through the return of individuals who gained skills abroad through temporary migration. Brain drain of medical personnel (doctors, nurses and pharmacists) may undermine health-care provision and worsen infant and child mortality as well as maternal mortality. For instance, 2,701 doctors trained in Nigeria left the country to work in other countries in 2009–2012 (Tolu-Kolawole, 2021).

According to the Senior Medical Officer of the British General Medical Council as captured in Tolu-Kolawole (2021) between 2015 and July 2021, a total of 4,528 Nigeria-trained medical doctors have moved to the United Kingdom to practice. The figure is aside from the number of Nigerian doctors who were trained in the UK and are practicing there. According to the data made available by the Council, 233 Nigerian doctors passed the examination to practice in the UK in 2015. The number increased to 279 in 2016 while the figure was 475 in 2017. In 2018, the figure rose to 852 while it further increased to 1,347 in 2019. In 2020, the figure was 833 despite the fact that the GMC closed operations during the pandemic. The figure for between January 1 and July 31, 2021 is put at 509 (Tolu-Kolawole, 2021).

Fayomi (2013) asserted that Nigeria's inability to develop is traced to the loss of manpower as well as the appropriate skill and expertise to develop the economy. Revealing that when a nation state's labour force grows with the needed and quality skill there is bound to be productivity obviously experienced in the nation state. But in a situation whereby skilled Nigerians engage in emigration from the nation-state the reverse is said to be the case. Similarly, Idio et al (2015) posited that one of the negative effects of international migration (emigration) on Nigeria is reduction of already low quality skilled manpower.

Nigeria is seen as a source nation-state where the best skills are often sorted by the developed world. This means Nigeria needs potential assets and this can be gotten through

good governance, quality leadership, entrenching meritocracy, ensuring security of lives and properties and good economic policies geared towards development and empowerment of youths. When the youths are empowered and contribute their quota, the economic will bound back. The exodus of Nigerian youths who are at the productive age for economic development is a setback to socio-economic development of Nigeria. Nigerians are captain of industries and great entrepreneur wherever they are found due to enabling environment created by the host countries. Nigerians in the diaspora are also active in transnational transactions and have promoted the flow of trade, capital and technology back to Nigeria. Apart from the Nigerians in the diaspora, a large number of Nigerians trade across West African countries, such as Ghana, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, the Gambia and Cameroon. Most of them establish temporary residence in these countries from where they undertake business trips to Nigeria.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This paper examined the impact of rising migration of socio-economic development in Nigeria. Different factors such as pull and push factors were identified as the drivers of migration in Nigeria. Consequently, able bodied skilled and professional Nigerians that are supposed to contribute their quotas to the socio-economic development of the country have left to developed countries. Thus, Nigeria has lost skilled personnel with capacity of transforming the economy through the wealth of knowledge in their disposal to developed countries. All these have created a lacuna to the progress and development of Nigeria. The challenge before the Nigerian Government is to reverse these brain drains, or at the very least mitigate its effects on social and economic development, while optimizing brain gain and minimizing brain waste of nationals abroad. Underdevelopment is a symptom and a cause of migration not only in Nigeria but also in many developing countries across the globe. For Nigeria to drastically discourage her citizens from moving out of the country, the following measures and recommendations should be adopted in order to discourage Nigerians to migrate in large numbers to other countries for better opportunities and living conditions.

1. First and foremost, Nigerian Government should solve the problems or issues that make people migrate. This could be done by proportionately translating the country's economic growth to developmental projects, such as providing infrastructural facilities, ensuring security of lives and properties, providing better jobs and equal chances to the youths.
2. The Government should strive to reduce high population growth rates through family planning or other birth control measures.
3. The Government should expedient efforts in tackling persistent insecurity confronting the nation.
4. Government at all levels should create more job opportunities and improve the environment to stop people from migrating.

5. Good economic policies geared towards development and empowerment of youths should be formulated and implemented to revamp the Nigeria economy to compete with developed world.

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