

Migration and Insecurity in Nigeria: Review

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Abstract

Migration is the movement of people from one place to another destination within or outside the country. In the past ages, migration most especially within the country becomes vehicles of uniting citizens as such migration provides of knowledge ideas, skills and technology. But today, internal migration serves as an agent of conflict and insecurity in Nigeria. To mention but few among such conflicts include Maitatsine riot of Kano 1980, Boko Haram of North Eastern Nigeria, the conflict between indigenous peoples of Biafra and Hausa/Fulani in South Eastern Nigeria, Oduduwa People's Congress and Hausa traders in Lagos and Ibadan. Scholars believed that such conflict were stimulated by migration. Therefore, this paper examines the concept of migration and insecurity. The authors used secondary sources of data collection and reflect their ideas on the present topic of discussion. However as contained in this paper are the causes of migration and insecurity in Nigeria as well as theories that support migration. In addition to this, the study adapted the use of Lee's theory of migration as theoretical framework of this study. The Lee's theory which described migration as a product of pull and push factors. More over this study found out that porosity of Nigerian borders, bribery and corruption on the sides of officers of immigration services are the root cause of such acts. Furthermore, the paper recommended the use of modern technology such as CCTV Cameras and recruitment of more personals in curbing insecurity and illegal migrations in Nigeria.

Keywords: Conflicts, CCTV Cameras, Insecurity, Migration.

Introduction

Human mobility which remained quite silent and has effect on national security is the migration of people within and outside the country. Migration is of two (2) types i.e. the internal migration which involves the movement of people from one area of the country to another within the same country while the second movement is the external migration or international migration which involved movement of people from one country to another. The amalgamation of Nigeria under one indivisible geographical entity and the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has provided every citizen irrespective of his background to choose any part of the country he wishes to stay. The reasons that people migrate are determined by push and pull factors, which are forces that either induce people to move to new location or oblige them to leave old residence. Such factors include better livelihood opportunities famine and drought among others include the pull factors are better conditions elsewhere that attract people. Typical example of pull factors are move job opportunities, political and religion freedom. The international organisation on migration

(IOM, 2009), however, indicate that, the term migrant designates a person who voluntarily and for personal reasons move from his or place of origin to a particular destination with the intension of establish residence without being compelled to do so. Stark, (1999), give more explanation on the term migration, to him migration means that one or more family leave residence household for varying period of time and in so doing are able to make new or different contribution to its wellbeing. Therefore, migration of houses to south western and south eastern Nigeria is in line with respond of climatic reliable. More opportunities are so strong in southern Nigeria such as abundant rainfall, better economic opportunities while compared with northern part of Nigeria. However, the Yoruba's and Igbos also migrate to northern Nigeria to engage in trading, vocational works in order to improve their livelihood. Worrisomely, due to increase in population and ethnocentric, migrants suffered serious harms most especially those within the country. Series of conflicts have occurred in Nigeria that were stimulated by migration, such conflicts include the Maitatsine riot of Kano (1980), Boko Haram of North East, as well as Hausas/Yorubas conflicts in South Western and Igbos / Hausa traders conflict of South eastern Nigeria.

Several studies have been conducted in the past and present on phenomenon of migration in Nigeria to mention but few among them include (Black, 2009, Nwanna, 2004, Fatima, 2021) but all these scholars direct their discussion on the importance of internal migration to the economic development of Nigeria. But none of them paid a tension on the implication of phenomenon of migration on the insecurity situation of the country. Therefore, this research attempt to bridge the gap in knowledge by relating migration to the past and present conflicts in Nigeria. This will also help the policy makers and those in position of authority toward formulating policies that will help toward addressing and curbing such insecurity threats related to migration.

The Concept of Migration

The word migration simply refers to movement of person or people from one country, locality, and place of residence to settle in another area. However, the concept refers to movement of people from one place to another and can be within a country or between one country to another. Going by this definition, two types of migration can be identified and these include internal migration and international migration. The movement of people within the country or state is known as internal migration while movement of people between countries is called international migration. Therefore, person who is engaged in any of these migration types is known as migrant. However, Human migration is the movement of people from one place to another place in the intension of setting permanently or temporarily at a new designation (Human migration, www.wikipedia.org) and another development Lucky (2022), also defined the concept of migration "as the permanent or temporary movement of individuals or group from one place to another within or outside the country".

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM, 2022) defined migrant as a person who is moving across international border or within the state away from his/her habitual place of residence regardless of what causes the movement and length of stay.

Theoretical Consideration on Decision to Migrate

Everest Revenstein was the first scholar to highlight the reasons for migration. He postulated that “pull and push” factors are the major causes of migration. He explained that pull factors are those that attract people such as improved jobs, better working condition, economic opportunities, better healthcare services, and better political stability. He further identified the push factors as extreme weather (drought), lack of economic and social condition, lack of safety (war, threat to life, persecution etc.). However, in 1969, Lee reformed Revenstein’s theory and includes elements such as distance, physical environment and political barrier can prevent migration. He later concluded that migration is selective because differences in ages, gender and social class affect how person respond to push and pull factors of Revenstein.

The Neo-Classical Economic Theory/Equilibrium Theory

This theory of migration was proposed by Lewis modified by Tadaro (1976). The theory proposed that there are geographic differences in the demand of labour and supply. There are some economics (areas) where labour is surplus as compared to capital and vice versa, the area with scarce labour supply and therefore high demand will attract migrants. This scenario will pull in migrants from region with surplus labour.

The Segmented Labour Market Theory

The segmented labour market theory proposed by Piore (1979) is closed to the Neo-classical economic theory. Piore observed that the developed world’s economies are structured so as to require a certain level of immigration since those economies are dualistic. The dual natures of the economies operate in this manner. There is on one hand a primary market of a secured and well worker, and on other hand a secondary market of low wages. Consequently, some people are recruited or migrate to fill the jobs in the secondary labour market since those jobs are necessary for the overall economy to function but avoid by host population because of poor working condition.

The Human Capital Theory

Sjaastand (1962) proposed the human capital theory of migration but its explanation and application are attributed to Tadaro (1976) chose to call it the rational choice theory. The human capital rational choice explains that the average person is rational economic being who is looking for maximum returns to his human capital over space and time. The theory presumes that there are differences in wagers and employment opportunities especially, since people desire income maximization, migration occurs because people move from

areas of unemployment and low wages, to those having job opportunities and higher wages.

The Social Capital Theory

Massey and Aysais (2005) postulated the social capital theory. This has been defined as the sum of resource, actual or virtual, which accrues to an individual or group by virtue of possessing a double network of institutional relationship of matured acquaintance and recognition. People gain access to social capital through membership in a network. Kinship, place of origin, friendship, and shared community assets, the theory explains that social networks increase the likelihood of migration reducing cost and risk, through vital information, establishing and further trade links deepen networks mention a few. Part of this theory can be used in describing the destination of migrant choices because information.

The Historical Structuralism View

The historical structuralism theory of migration is basically based on the global inequalities of poverty. Scholars like Siddique (2002) assert that broader social and historical forces have created condition of wide spread inequalities in access to economic resource and political power, across communities in all national regional or sub regions. This force have created on one hand both the weak and powerful within the same political entity in most economies. People from poor's areas are forced to migrate to richer areas to find better livelihood.

Wilbur Zelinskys Mobility Transition Theory

This mobility hypothesis was based on the grand scale, linking, and changes in migration and mobility behaviors to different stages in the modernisation process. The key assumption guiding Zelinskys model is that, there exist irregularities in mobility patterns through space-time in recent history. These irregularities lead to attract the modernization process. At five different stages, based on the historical experiences of Europe these are:

1. Pre modern traditional society- of very limited migration, such as local movement related e.g. to marriage or to marketing agricultural produce.
2. Early traditional society. Mass rural-urban migration, emigration to attractive foreign destination.
3. Late transitional society characterized by a decline in both rural-urban migration and emigration.
4. Advanced society-rural –urban which replaced inter migration

Theoretical Frame Work of the Study

Lee's theory of migration is said to be the best theory to explain the phenomenon of internal migration in Nigeria for the following reasons.

Firstly, the theory acknowledges push factors such as better living condition can push some body to leave his original residence. The rural urban migrants in Nigeria leave the rural areas with poor condition of living and low standard of living to urban areas where they will enjoy social amenities and added more burden to urban population. Secondly, the theory considered pull factors that can attract people to settle in new location or area such as increase in wellbeing, food security, better health facilities. Thirdly the theory takes in to account of climatic variables such as drought, flooding, desertification as push factors of migration. It is true that majority of migrants that visited Lagos, Port Harcourt, Enugu, Jos, are Hausas who migrated from Sokoto, Kano, Zamfara, Katsina, where rainfall last for only 3-4 months and rest part of the year are without rain. These migrants in engages in seasonal migration to southern Nigeria where the involved in petty trading, hawking of electronic materials, water vendors while others have changed from seasonal to permanent migrants. This is because during the dry season in the north there is no much work to do to increase their "livelihoods. The Fulani in the dry season migrate to Yoruba and Ibo lands. In places like looking for green pasture for the animals". This is in respond to climatic changes, hence Lee`s theory of migration is the best described this phenomenon of internal migration.

Insecurity Threat in Nigeria

Cambridge English Dictionary (2022) defines insecurity as feeling of not safe, i.e. when somebody feels that where he is living is not protected. But Wenster English Dictionary sees insecurity as quality or state of being insecure. However, Collins English Dictionary defined insecurity as lack of confidence or assurance. By these definitions therefore, insecurity implies situation when a citizen sees he is not protected by his government. The protection of lives and properties is the primary function of every government and when government cannot provide these services; such government is said to weak and irresponsible government. In Nigeria, some of the threats of insecurity include the following:

- **Boko Haram:** The full meaning of this organisation is Jama'atul Ahlul Sunnah Li Da'awa Wal Jihad. It was founded by Abubakar Yusuf. The said organisation was established in 2009 and the aim of this organisation is to establish Islamic laws in Nigeria. The activities of the organisation became deadly under its military commander in person of Abubakar Shikkau. He led several attacks on military, police and other security agencies including innocent civilians. Several lives and properties worth millions of Naira were destroyed by Shekkau terrorist group in North Eastern Nigeria. Although up till now, military are engaged in war with loyalist of Shekkau and members of Islamic State of West African Province in Sambisa forest in Maiduguri (Borno state) Nigeria.
- **IPOB:** The full meaning of this organisation is Indigenous People of Biafra and it is a terrorist organisation headed by Nnamdi Kanu the activities of the IPOB turns sour between 2002 to date. The organisation has killed many security personnels including civilians. Today, military are at war front with this deadly organisation. The aim of this organisation is to liberate all Igbo lands and becomes Republic, an

independent nation. Their dreams failed as their members were equally killed by the security operatives in South Eastern Nigeria.

- **IMN:** The full meaning of this organisation is the Islamic Movement of Nigeria headed by Sheik Ibrahim Elzakzaky from Zaria. This group has engaged with military on several occasions into fighting that led to the death of thousands of innocent citizens. Sheik Ibrahim Elzakzaky has followers across Northern states of Nigeria. The aim of this organisation is to islamise the country backed by Iranian's government. The organisation has lost some of its members during encounters with the Nigerian military in states such as Zaria (Kaduna) Abuja, Potiskum in Yobe State Nigeria.
- **Banditry and Kidnapping:** These are the recent security challenges facing Nigeria. Bandit is a person who goes to rural areas and collects their valuables such as animals and sold them to collect money in return. Kidnapping is the act of taking people carrying them into the bush or unknown area and demand ransom before releasing them back to their normal places. This activity is usually carried out by Fulanis who lived in rural areas but today kidnapping is done by every tribe and has become a lucrative business in most part of the country.
- **Cybercrime:** This is another security challenge in Nigeria and it is mostly carried out by young people in urban areas known as (YAHOO BOYS). They are computer based and hence use internet to steal people's money from their bank accounts. Today, their activities have spread to all geo-political zones of Nigeria to the extent that no one can declare him or herself free from them.
- **MOSSOB:** An abbreviation for the Movement for the Emancipation of Niger Delta Region. This organisation is headed by Mujahid Dokubu Asari. Their activities turn sour by launching many attacks on military bases, bunkering of petroleum pipelines and kidnapping of foreigners working with Oil Companies like Shell, Chevron, Mobil, Agip, Texaco e.t.c

Challenges Facing Nigerian Borders

The Nigerian immigration service was carved out of Nigeria police force with the aim of controlling illegal immigrants and emigrants flowing in and outside the country. Despite the numerous successes recorded in their field, there are some challenges facing their services and these include:

Large Size of the country and overpopulation: Nigeria as an independent nation comprises about 37 States and (FCT), with 774 Local Government Areas (LGAs) The large size of the country in combined action with high population makes the country not easy to be managed by immigration officers and other security agencies. The population of the country is growing rapidly and hence the present security personals patrolling the border are too small to control the flows of migrants in the country.

Porous Border: The country borders are porous. People leave and enter into the country anyhow. Both the bigger and the smaller borders are illegally managed. The immigration officers cannot effectively control the flows of migrants (illegal and legal) and hence bad

eggs have the opportunities to come in or go outside the country with no proper monitoring of their movement. Because of the porous nature of Nigerian borders, this may be the way terrorist organisations like ISWAP, AL-QAIDAH, BOKO-HARAM were able to penetrate in to the country.

Shortage of Manpower (Staff): The number of staff to manage our borders are few, and this makes it difficult to have effective coverage of national borders.

Modern Equipment: Such as CCTV Cameras, and other items that help security personnel to discharge their duties effectively like communication gadgets are not adequate in most border areas of Nigeria

Biased in Recruitment: Majority of recruitments in the Nigeria Immigration Service are not based on merit, those that have zeal and willing to work are not recruited but only those from upper social classes are considered for recruitment and in turn this bring bad impression in the service.

Bribery and Corruption: There is a serious scandal in recruitment, promotion and posting of staff, this situation has downgraded the status of immigration services.

Migration Stimulated Conflicts in Nigeria

Nigeria has witnessed series of conflicts that have direct relationship with migration. Migration either within or outside, legal or illegal induced so many conflicts across all parts of the country. In the North-western geo-political zone, places such as Kano, Sokoto, and Kebbi among others, the history of the zone will never forget the Maitatsine riot which grounded the whole zone most especially, Kano state. His full name was Muhammadu Marwa Maitatsine, a Cameroon by citizen luckily entered Kano city with the intention of teaching Islam. His teaching was generally condemned by most Islamic clerics in the state. However, Maitatsine went to Kano together with large number of his followers from Garwa in the republic of Cameroon. On arrival at Kano, he gathered supporters generally migrants (Almajiris) young Koranic school students who came to Kano seeking for Islamic knowledge but unfortunately fall in the hand of Maitatsine.

Therefore, Maitatsine is an international migrant together with his teams and on arriving at Kano, he was welcomed by other class of migrants (Almajiris), with this situation migration helps in bringing insecurity to Kano. Had it been the man was denied access to the Nigerian land, such fatal conflict will not have occurred in Nigeria. In view of this, Elizabeth (2018) supported that Buba Marwa supporters were youngs poor men, seasonal migrants who were displaced by Oil boomed and petty seasonal traders.

However, in Kaduna, Zango Kataf crisis of 1992 was also a clear evidence that migration stimulates insecurity be it inside or outside the country. The crisis which had connection with the massive migration of Hausas and Fulanis to the Southern Kaduna area like Lere, Jere and Makarfi looking for a virgin land to cultivate where original settlers of the areas Atyap accused the leadership of the Emir of Zaria of snatching lands and shared them to migrants Hausas and Fulanis. Daily post (2022) reported that the Zango Kataf crisis of 1992 could be traced to the onset of British imperial regime in the Northern region in which Atyap

(major tribe in Zango Kataf) began reporting loss of land to Hausas. Therefore, penetration of Hausas into Katafs area may be the backbone of such deadly conflict.

In another development in the North central region of Nigeria, conflict induced by migration led to death of thousands of people and loss of valuable properties. Most especially in Plateau State (Jos). This Jos conflict is currently taking place in the State despite government efforts of arresting the situation. In Jos, the indigenous tribe in the area (the Berom) have been complaining that strangers like Hausas and Fulani have started taking over their lands as well as the political and economic activities in the area. And hence, start to look for ways of stopping the so-called strangers from moving forward. This revelation was supported by Marie (2021) on the issue of such conflict that, the Berom and other minority tribes in Jos like Afezare, Anaguta have reported that migrants have overtaken their farmlands. She went ahead to report that the Jos crisis has a long historical undertone, and has been over the true ownership of land and attendants struggle for the control of political and economic resources of the area. Therefore, Jos crisis was stimulated by migration of Hausas/Fulanis in the area during the discovery of Tin in the area.

In addition to this, such conflict occurred in South-western Nigeria in places such as Lagos, Sagamu among others. In Lagos, as a result of the migration of Hausas and Fulanis from the Northern States of Nigeria like Sokoto, Kebbi, Kano etc due to prolong dry season and the non-availability of economic activities in the area especially in Northern Sokoto States necessitate the inhabitants of such area to migrate to the South-western State where there is abundant rainfall and surplus labour demand. The inflows of the seasonal and permanent migrants have resulted in the intense conflicts between Yorubas (the original settlers) and the strangers usually Hausas/Fulanis. The attacks of Oduduwa People Congress on Hausa/Fulani during Babangida regime was a clear evidence of such conflict. This finding was further supported by the report of Guardian Newspaper (2022), which reported that city like Lagos is considered as one of the fairly peaceful cities in Nigeria. Certain violent have become increasingly common in Lagos as well, for instance there are rising criminal activities like armed banditry, assaults, theft, gender based violent, cultism as well as drug abuse in Lagos.

Jeremiah (2022) further explained the genesis of crises between Hausa migrants and Yorubas indigenous settlers of South-western Nigeria. He stated that disputed access to land by natives settlers served as basis for violent in South-western Nigeria. In addition to this, another violent crisis erupted in Sagamu between Hausa migrants or strangers as they named them and Yoruba the native people of the area. As a result of migration, Hausas have penetrated deeply in Yoruba towns and engaged themselves in trades such as water vendors, butchers and farmers and the Yoruba sees that Hausas are becoming more popular in their region hence planned an attack on Hausa migrants where lives and properties worth millions of Naira were destroyed. Olubemehin (2012) revealed the causes of Sagamu conflict as "the trade in cattle and Kola nuts brought many Hausas to settle in Remo Yoruba town of Sagamu over the years".

In the South-eastern Nigeria, similar conflicts related to migration have taken place in Aba on 29 February, 2000 as Igbo youths who believed that most of the victims of earlier Muslims and Christian confrontations in the Northern state of Kaduna were Igbos sought revenge by attacking Muslims Hausa migrants and setting their properties ablaze. However, in Onitsha, Hausa migrants were killed by IPOB members and their properties were set on fire. What Igbos done was purely they, build hatred among the major tribes in Nigeria.

Suggestions

The following are authors' suggestions on migration related conflicts in Nigeria:

1. The Nigeria immigration service whose primary objective is to control in and out flows of migrants should be sincere and discharge their duties in accordance with the provisions of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
2. Since the borders are big and many, the immigration unit should adopt the use of CCTV Cameras in all their stations in order to help toward reducing inflows and outflows of undesirable elements. In the county
3. There should be thorough investigation on anybody who intends to live Nigeria and those willing to come into the country. This will help in identifying criminal elements among the migrants.
4. The Nigeria immigration service should liase with the local communities or border communities in policing the border for easy identification of illegal routes.

Conclusion

Migration has become unavoidable act in the history of man right from primitive era to present day. Human are known to migrate from one place to another in search of food, shelter and other ingredients in order to sustain their living. It is true that most of the conflicts that took place in Nigeria and those currently taking place are migration induced conflicts. The paper finds out that most of the deadly conflict that are occurred in Nigeria's are stimulated by migration. The fore most among them include the Kano not of 1980 led by Buba Maitatsine who migrated from neighbouring country Cameroon with his followers and settled at Kano, where he uses young Koranic Students to destabilize the nation peace. However, the current Jos Crises which engulfed thousands of people and properties with millions of Naira were destroyed during fracas. Mentioned should also be made of Hausa/Yoruba crises of south western Nigeria where innocent citizens lost their lives and properties destroyed. The coming of IPOB in the country added burden to citizen. The IPOB not only attacks military formation but carry several attacks on any tribe provided you are not from their land. Others conflicts include the deadly Zango Kataf massacre in Kaduna State as well as Jukuns in Taraba State and Hausa Igbos in Kano. All these conflicts bring nothing into the nation a part from confusion. The issues of stranger and son of the soil is a big obstacle hindering the development of Nigeria as one indivisible entity. Therefore, we should appreciate and copy the lifestyle of USA where every citizen irrespective of his kind

are considered equal and allows to participate in nation building. However, migrants considered criminal elements most especially those on international and within the country migration should be send back to their original land before igniting fire into Nigeria like issue of Maitastsine in 1980 at Kano State.

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