

Cross Border Migration and Human Security in Nigeria

Blessing Chugo Idigo

Abstract

Cross border migration is the movement of people beyond their country of origin. The main objective of the study was to examine cross border migration and economic security in Nigeria. Specifically, the study examined if cross border migration enhanced or deteriorated poverty alleviation in Nigeria. The study also looked into the question of whether cross border migration contributed to the spread of diseases in Nigeria. The data collated were analyzed using descriptive and content methods. Classical migration theory was the theoretical framework on which this study was anchored. The study revealed that cross border migration did not alleviate poverty in Nigeria; and that cross border migration contributed to the spread of diseases. The study concluded that cross border migration did not enhance economic security, but rather deepened poverty incidence, contributed to the spread of diseases and heightened the incidence of cross border criminality in Nigeria. Among the recommendations is that the government of Nigeria, in collaboration with international governmental agencies, such as European Union and United Nations, should assist in addressing migration issues by reducing the cost of migration, formulating policies regarding the processing of travelling documents, and lowering remittance costs to encourage migrants to remit money back home through normal channels. Governments of Nigeria should regulate migration by formulating policies that will address illegal migration, migrants flow and associated health and human rights issues, reduce migration of the teeming youths by creating conducive environment for learning and business, provide infrastructural facilities, and enthrone good governance, among other measures.

Keywords: cross border migration, human security, Nigeria

Introduction

Cross-border migration is the movement of people across national boundaries. It is the most dynamic feature of population distribution since the creation of the universe (Okereke, Abdullahi & Shuaibu, 2023). In the advanced capitalist economies, cross border migration is seen as a normal phenomenon accelerated by globalization, while in Sub-Sahara Africa it is

seen as a common feature which predates colonialism. Free movement of people and trans-border security have been the crucial point of various regional and sub-regional organizations across the world. Recent pieces of evidence had indicated that human movement and security issues in West Africa have been in existence even before colonialism. The factors that have engendered migration include trade, search for pastures, urbanization, agriculture, mining, industrial production, armed conflict, environmental insecurity, land degradation, drought, and rural poverty, among others (Department for International Development, 2004).

According to Adebajo and Kunle (2023), for a very long time, nations have procured weapons to protect their security. However, in recent times, people's perception of insecurity has shifted from concerns about the dangers arising from war to the challenges of daily existence. People's understanding of security has been broadened to include safety from constant threat arising from diseases, crime, hunger, economic recession, poverty, political repression, environmental degradation, drought, etc. Security also incorporates protection from sudden and hurtful disruptions in the pattern of our daily life (United Nations Development Programme, 1994).

During the pre-colonial times in West Africa, cross border migration was involuntary as people were forcefully taken away from their countries due to the slave trade. During this period, many people from West Africa were taken away as slaves to work in advanced countries, particularly in the plantations of Europe and America (Okoye, 2022). In the contemporary world, globalization has made mobility easy and unavoidable (Florence, Francisca, Obiageli & Sandra, 2021). The post-independence era witnessed increased frequency and intensity of economic and political relations among states, with the objective of attaining sustainable peace and security, which is a pre-condition for socioeconomic and political advancement. Over the years, this mindset shaped, guided and promoted the formulation of policies that centre on socio-economic, political and security cooperation and unity of the citizenry of the West African sub-region, particularly those of Nigeria and the Republic of Benin.

The economic boom of the 1970s and 1980s further attracted people to Nigeria from the sub-regions; this later changed with the deteriorating socioeconomic conditions and deepening poverty of the mid-1980s that provoked an extensive movement of people from the country. The introduction of Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) led to job crises in the labour market, creating sustained pressure for emigrants, hence Nigeria and Benin citizens began to look elsewhere across their borders for better wage differentials, high income, diversification, better job

opportunities, good living standards and access to good Medicare, etc. It is based on these dynamics that this study on cross border migration and human security in West Africa, with specific focus on Nigeria (covering the period, 1999 to 2022) is carried out.

Statement of the Problem

Migration is a highly diverse and complex phenomenon that traverses societies, cultures, and races. It is a phenomenon that has continued to impact and contribute to the transformation of many countries, changing the racial, ethnic, language and socio-cultural composition of their population (Aliome, 2019). It is a phenomenon that cuts across every aspect of people's social existence. Earlier works by United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (2005) and Castles & Miller (2009) have shown that about 97 percent of the world population in the year 2000 were not international migrants, yet their communities, environment, and ways of life were affected by migration. In Sub-Saharan Africa, it is a phenomenon that predates colonialism and took a greater dimension after countries have gained independence (Nwafor, 2019). Cross border mobility plays an essential function across the globe; it is one of the strong factors that drive globalization in recent times. The nature of this flow has become dynamic in terms of its structure, size and impact on the labour market, political situation, and culture of the affected countries.

However, there are series of controversies about the impact of cross border migration on the original countries of the migrants, on their places of destination, as well as on the people who are involved in the movement, especially as it relates to human security. Studies have revealed that host communities think that a high level of cross border migration posed big threat to their economic wellbeing, social order, cultural and religious values, and political stability (Campbell, 2003). Interaction between states is also affected as mobility is likely to create political tensions that can affect the cordial relationship between the two countries. Also, unrestricted movement across the border can mount pressure on the infrastructural facilities in the host communities, through frequent and increased use of health and educational facilities, and government housing.

Furthermore, the hostility and resentment meted out to the migrants by the natives who believe that they are losing their jobs to immigrants who are desperate and ready to work for low wages in several climes resulted in xenophobic attacks (Aluede, 2017). There are other worrisome situations migrants find themselves in: some experience ugly and dehumanizing incidences of sexual exploitation during transit, at times they even lose their lives in boat mishaps; some are often kept in poor hygienic

environments, making them vulnerable to infectious diseases. Now in Africa, human insecurity has intensified: a whopping 800 million people in the continent live below poverty line, and the figure is still rising; environmental challenges, such as drought, haunt Southern and Central Africa and the Horn of Africa, greatly decreasing the continent's food production output. Msuya (2019) averred that:

Africa has high incidents of conflicts and instability. Currently, Ivory Coast, the Great lakes region, Somalia, Darfur (Sudan), and the Horn remain highly volatile. Africa currently has the largest contingent of UN peacekeepers – 17,000 strong in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). In addition, Africa is ravaged by various diseases, and is currently the global epicenter of the dreaded HIV/AIDS.

In West Africa, Nigeria inclusive, the ECOWAS protocol, while reflecting human security concerns in its free movement provisions in the sub-region, fails in its implementation as it concentrates more on the traditional military threats to state (national security) and pays little attention to the non-military threats, such as poverty, low-income, unemployment, spread of infectious diseases, persistent food crisis, climate change, flood, drought, political repression, etc., that affect individuals.

Meanwhile, a number of research findings posit that there is a correlation between cross border migration and economic security (Osimen, Anegbode, Akande & Oyewole, 2017; Okeke & Richard, 2014; and Idowu, 2014). Despite agreeing that human security in Nigeria responds to cross border migration, these studies vary in terms of their appraisal of the effects. These conflicts make it implausible to employ the available evidence, findings, and recommendations for sound policy formulation and implementation on cross border migration and human security management in Nigeria. For instance, Anegbode, John, Clement and Oyewole (2017) averred that all the cross border migration variables it employed hurt human security in Nigeria in both long and short terms which implies that growing cross border migration will hamper human security in Nigeria; but findings from studies like those of Adeola and Fayomi (2015) and Olakunle and Ake (2015) conclude that cross border migration enhances human security in Nigeria. This disagreement makes imperative a broad-based enquiry into the shades of cross border migration in Nigeria and their resultant effects on human security in the country. In the light of the above, this study seeks to provide answers that would help in clarifying the real connection between cross border migration and human security in Nigeria.

Review of Related Literature

Conceptual Review

Cross Border Migration

Cross border migration, according to Adebajo and Kunle (2023), is the movement of people beyond their country of origin. People migrate beyond the international border because of prevailing conditions in their home environments. These adverse conditions include political instability, drought, scarcity of land, soil infertility, unfavourable climate, among others. Cross border migration is on the increase. According to United Nations estimation, the number of persons/migrants living outside the country of origin has reached 175 million, more than twice the number a generation ago (United Nations Population Division, 2002). In 2013, there were 232 million migrants in the world representing 3% of the global population (United Nation Population Division, 2013). In Nigeria, available figures indicated that the number of migrants was about 477,135 in 1991. It was projected to have increased to 1.1 million in 2010 (UNDP, 2009).

Cross-border migration is naturally complex. It can affect a nation-state politically, culturally and socio-economically; it can strengthen or weaken it. In other words, cross-border migration can bring progress or decline in socio-economic development of a nation-state. Florence, Francisca, Obiageli and Sandra (2021) argue that West African states, among other countries in the globe, have a trace of migration in their respective histories.

Cross-border migration deals with two (2) states: the host states and the home states. Cross-border migration, which is a characteristic of globalization, plays a positive role in international trade. However, it has been associated with transnational crimes. It was associated with the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the United States of America, an event that raised security consciousness amongst nations in the international system (Kehinde, Gbenga & Afolabi, 2019). Cross-border migration affects countries separately; the way it impacts on the developed world is different from the impact it has on the developing world (Nwagwugwu, 2015). Cross-border migration can trigger transfer of knowledge, innovation, creativity, and technology.

Cross-border migration in its real sense is beneficial to all parties, most especially the host states; however, there are fears connected with the undocumented and irregular entries of most migrants in and out of the state, as this can cause insecurity in the states involved. Migration can

bring about brain gain to a nation as entry of the right migrants into the labour force of a state can bring innovation and creativity into that particular state. Qualified immigrants with the right skills, expertise and creativity have contributed significantly to the productivity and economic growth of their host countries. There is documented evidence, for example, that the United States of America (USA) has largely benefited immensely from cross-border migration. Immigrants in many developed countries are from different nationalities with diverse cultures, beliefs, and customs.

According to Nwafor (2019), the rate of cross-border migration will continue to increase as countries remain interdependent, directly or indirectly, and as individuals identify their various destinations where they are convinced they are destined to be due to attractive “pull” factors in those destinations and various “push” factors in their home countries. Lastly, with the increasing demand for labour by various states, most especially in the developed world, cross-border migration will take new dimensions.

Cross-border migration, as examined in this study, is the movement of nationals of other West African states to Nigeria and Benin Republic (South-South migration) and also the movement of Nigerians and Beninese or people from other African countries to the developed countries (South-North migration). Cross-border migration is seen as a reaction to the “pull” and “push” factors exposed to migrants (emigrants and immigrants) as they are expected to act as human beings first before acting up as migrants. Cross-border migration of individuals can be voluntary or involuntary.

Human Security

Human security is a concept that identifies the security of human lives as the central objective of national and international security policy. It contrasts with and grew out of increasing dissatisfaction with the state-centered concept of security as an adequate conceptual framework for understanding human vulnerabilities in the contemporary world and military interventions as adequate responses to them. As Kaldor (2007) explains in her introduction to her work, *Human Security*, human vulnerability is universal, threatened by ‘new wars’ where actors are no longer safe; ‘new wars’ that do not follow the rules of conduct of ‘old wars’, and that cannot be won by the means of old wars. Moreover, these new wars are entangled with other global threats including disease, natural disasters, poverty, and destitution. However, our security perceptions, drawn from the central understanding of the Second World War, do not diminish insecurity; rather they make it worse (Kaldor, 2007). Similarly,

Haq (1995) proposes human security as a new model of security:

...the world is entering a new era in which the very concept of security will change – and change dramatically. Security will be interpreted as: security of people, not just territory. Security of individuals, not just nations. Security through development, not through arms. Security of all the people everywhere – in their homes, in their jobs, in their streets, in their communities, in their environment.

UNDP report (1994) defines ‘human security as safety from chronic threats such as hunger, diseases, and repression. It means protection from sudden hurtful disruptions in the pattern of daily life whether in homes, in jobs or communities’. In a similar vein, Human Security Report (2005) defines human security as the protection of communities and individuals from internal violence.

The concept of human security has become broadly used since the mid-1990s. While initially used primarily with reference to state policies and the search for new international security and development agendas after the end of the Cold War, it is increasingly being used in policy advocacy by civil society groups on a wider range of contemporary issues, from civil war to migration to climate change (O’Brien & Gasper, 2010). Academic institutions have developed research programs and degree programs inhuman security. Hitherto human security is a contested concept. There are multiple formulations of its definition and divergent efforts to evolve associated global agendas. Efforts to promote human security for the foreign policy of states and institutionalize it at the United Nations (UN) have generated controversies. A large literature has emerged challenging, defending, or explaining the meaning and the added value of the concept. Many practitioners in international affairs, in both security and development fields, remain doubtful of its practical usefulness and political relevance.

Empirical Review

Okereke, Abdullahi and Shuaibu (2023) examined the remarkable ways cross-border human trafficking through Idiroko and Seme borders affect safety of individuals in Seme-Idiroko border communities and border protection in the border posts. The study was built around the deterrence theory by classical scholars in order to clearly understand how severity, certainty and celerity of punishment can deter potential offenders from indulging in the crime of compromising border security. Using the Rakash sample size formula, a sample of 397 was determined from a population of 46,105 respondents drawn from NAPTIP, NCS, and NIS in both Ogun and

Lagos States; ONSA, Abuja and residents of Idiroko, Seme, Kpodji-Ague and Igolo border communities. Also, 15 respondents were tentatively selected for the sample size of the study using purposive sampling method.

Data were collected using structured and open-ended questions as well as in-depth interview. Data were also collected from secondary sources. Data from questionnaire were analyzed using weighted average, while data from in-depth interview were analyzed using narrative-analytic technique. Data from secondary sources were analyzed using relational-content analysis. Findings showed, among other things, that the higher the level of cross-border human trafficking through Idiroko and Seme borders, the poorer the state of border security in Lagos and Ogun States.

Adebajo and Kunle (2023) have noted, among other things, that the disruption of international stability caused by climate change is a growing concern. It has not only contributed to the spread of desertification, but it is also responsible for the movement of Fulani herdsmen over the borders of West African countries. In Nigeria, notably in the North Central region, violent clashes between farmers and herdsmen have resulted in the deaths of thousands of people, destruction of property, and forced relocation of a large number of people. In this article, research was conducted on climate change, trans-border migration, and violent acts committed by Fulani herders in Nigeria. Environmental scarcity theory was employed as an explanatory framework. The desk research method which relied on secondary sources of data was used. Despite the fact that steps have been taken to reduce the effects of climate change, no tangible outcomes have been obtained. Furthermore, international movement by herdsmen continues, with all of the attendant harmful effects on human life.

Okoye (2022) examined cross-border migration and economic security in Nigeria. The data collated were analyzed using descriptive and content methods. Classical migration theory was the theoretical framework on which this study was anchored. The study revealed that cross-border migration did not alleviate poverty in Nigeria but contributed to the spread of diseases, such as the Hydro Immune Virus among women and the Ebola Virus Disease in Nigeria. Again, cross-border migration facilitated by the ECOWAS protocol increased the incidence of cross-border criminality in Nigeria. The study concluded that cross-border migration did not enhance economic security, but rather deepened poverty incidence, contributed to the spread of diseases and heightened the incidence of cross-border criminality in Nigeria.

Florence, Francisca, Obiageli and Sandra (2021) examined Nigeria Immigration Service and The Challenge of Cross Border Human

Trafficking in Nigeria, 2011-2019. Using structural functionalism theory as my analytical framework and on the strength of data generated from secondary sources through the interrogation of the hypothesis, poor border management has negatively affected the capacity of Nigeria immigration service to curb cross border human traffic from 2011-2019. This study found out that there are about 1400 footpaths unknown to security agencies; the borders are not manned and unprotected. Moreover, inadequate personnel has equally contributed to poor border management. However, the researcher recommends that Nigeria immigration service cannot be solely responsible for the prevention of cross border human trafficking; it should liaise and network with other sister security departments. Such cooperation will help in filling intelligence gaps, minimizing costs of intelligence collection, and establishing diplomatic relations among states.

Kehinde, Gbenga and Afolabi (2019) examined gender dimension of cross border migration in rural border communities of Ipokia local government area, Ogun State, Nigeria. The study specifically examined socio-economic characteristics of migrants, pattern of migration between male and female migrants and reasons for cross border migration in the study area. Multistage sampling technique was used in selecting 184 migrants (both male and female of equal size) in the study area. The study revealed that the mean age of male migrants was 41 years while that of female migrants was 36.3 years. Also, larger percentage of male (75%) and female (51.1%) migrants earn above Nigeria's minimum wage (₦18,000). This was an indication that cross border migration has positive effect on migrants' standard of living. Major reasons for cross border migration (push factor) for male migrants included poor income, bad economic condition, poverty and few employment opportunities and unfavourable climatic condition, while poor income and poverty were major reasons adduced by female migrants. Moreover, good access to land, commerce and better income reasons were the major considerations for choosing destination area by male migrants while good access to land, marriage, need to join family members and better income were the considerations for choosing destination area by female migrants in Nigeria (pull factors). The study concluded that despite the increase in cross border migration into the study area, patterns and reasons for cross border migration vary between men and women.

Aliome (2019) aims at showcasing the synergy between migration and national security and by extension addresses the question of whether migration represents a threat to national security or not. Of course, common response to this question is that migration could be a vehicle for

importing terrorists, criminals and for spreading infectious diseases. The nefarious activities of the dreaded terrorist group known as Boko-Haram which has made lives and properties insecure in Nigeria could be attributed to the incursion of migrants from the Republics of Niger and Chad to Nigeria. Therefore, the burgeoning migrant smuggling and human trafficking industries do not only undermine the sovereignty of our country but also weaken the public confidence in the integrity of government policy. This, undoubtedly, impacts on our resource allocation and complicates our conceptual model of integration and national identity. The study adopted content analysis techniques and comparative analysis while data collected through secondary sources were analyzed through expository mechanism. Rational decision theory provided the theoretical framework for the study. As panacea to mitigate the inflows of migrants and curtail the challenges posed by the porous nature of Nigeria's borders, the Nigeria government should articulate and develop more sustainable socio-economic cum security policies to prevent labour and refugee migrants. Nigerian government should also adopt environmental peculiarity surveillance paradigm to combat the incursion of migrants by improving on her border security personnel, equipping them with sophisticated hardware and weapons, work on her legal framework for punishing corrupt border personnel and simultaneously intensify border patrol. Nwafor (2019) examined the trend of trans-border migration and the pull and push factors in Nigeria. In order to achieve the main aim of this study, data were sourced from secondary materials published in the forms of textbooks, newspapers, magazines and other documentary texts. Findings from the study show that the migration crisis presents a big challenge for Europe and is steering discussions among the member states on the issue of demographic pressure as the result of the ageing European society, concerns over national identity and migrant integration, and questions regarding the economic impact of migration on the member states, as well as the importance of finding a common asylum policy and sufficiently managing the external borders of the EU.

Aluede (2017) examined foreign policy of Nigeria and criminal activities in shared borders between Nigeria and Benin Republic covering a period from 1960 to 2013, which is slightly related to this study in terms of focus of the study. To maintain security between the two countries, Aluede (2017) stressed that the linkages between Nigeria's foreign policy towards its neighbours and behaviours of global actors regarding cross-border crimes in Nigeria-Benin Republic borders should be expanded. Also, close and open border policies; effective border management; and strict border control were recommended as solutions to border insecurity in Nigeria, which is largely related to the findings of this study in terms of issues

relating to strategies for mitigating the negative effects of cross-border human trafficking through Idiroko-Seme borders as they affect security in Lagos and Ogun states.

Gap in Literature

The empirical review on cross border migration and economic security in Nigeria has shown conflicting findings. A number of the findings posit significant influence from cross border migration and economic security in West Africa (Ngboanwaji, 2011; Adeola & Fayomi, 2012; Blum, 2014; Addo, 2006; Quartey & Blankson, 2014; Popoola, 2006; Osimen, Anegbode, Akande & Oyewole 2017; Okeke & Richard, 2014; Idowu, 2011). Despite agreeing that economic security in Nigeria responds to cross border migration, the findings of these studies vary in terms of the direction of the effects. These conflicts make it implausible to employ the available evidence, findings, and recommendations for sound policy formulation and implementation on cross border migration and economic security in Nigeria. For instance, Okeke, Orji & Richard, 2014; Addo, 2006; Ngboawaji, 2011; Isiwu, Ngwu, Chukwu, Sancho and Ojiya, (2018) averred that all the cross border migrations it examined have a negative effect on economic security in Nigeria in the long and short run, which implies that growing cross border migration will hamper economic security in Nigeria, as against the perception from studies like Yannick & Kaiogueng (2018) and Quartey & Blankson (2014) that cross border migration enhances economic security.

As part of the review on cross border movement, questions have been raised regarding the ECOWAS Protocol on Free Movement of Persons. In this regard, opinion appears divided as to whether the implementation of the protocol has achieved its objectives or heightened cross border criminality within Nigeria. The majority of the observers were of the view that the implementation of the protocol has not achieved its objectives. They identified several factors responsible for the non-actualization of the objectives. They include poor implementation, lack of commitment to integration by the political leaders, unemployment, lack of infrastructural facilities, corruption, etc. These explanations are not sufficient enough for a proper understanding of the discourse. Most studies in extant literature however have paid less attention to determining whether cross border migration accentuated by ECOWAS protocol engenders cross border criminality. Thus, the need for this study.

Again, the review indicated a strong disagreement on the effect of cross border migration on economic security in Nigeria. This disagreement comes in forms of the direction of the relationship as well as the level of

significance of the relationship. Some of these studies, such as Dude (2014) Zimbabwe; Yannick & Kaiogueng (2018) Cameroon; Quarterly & Blankson (2014) Ghana; Antwi, Mills & Zhoac (2013) Ghana; Philip, Vanlandingham, Monda-Taylor & Hens-Peter (2016) Malawi; Isodory, Mureithi & Sumpter (2015) Kenya, were done in environments outside that of Nigeria. Also, most of the extant works reviewed by the researcher used only one variable of economic security for instance (Falomi, 2013; Popoola, 2014; Ozden, Testaverd & Wagner, 2018; Mawadza, 2008; Yannick & Kaiogueng 2018; Quartey & Blankson, 2014; Tusarat, 2008; Tamins, Hallemerian, Mutille & Haiday, 2011; Lagarde, Sachim, Enel, Holmgreen, Pison & Pial, 2003; Sagguri, Mahapatra, Ghosh & Johrin 2012).

Even the studies on Nigeria, such as Ubebi, 2019; Popoola, 2014; Blum, 2014; Falomi, 2013 & Mobolaji & Alabi, 2017, also employed only one economic security variable. Again, some of the studies did not use robust methodology to explore the relationship between cross border migration and economic security, and also the time frames considered in some of the past studies were short and not expansive enough. These observed shortcomings have contributed to the knowledge gap in the literature, thus warranting a more systematic and comprehensive study, such as the current one on cross border migration and economic security in Nigeria.

Theoretical Framework

This study adopted the Classical Migration theory. Hence, this study was anchored on the Neo-classical migration theory. Because these theories highlight different factors responsible for migration, a combination of them will give a better insight into the causes and complexities of cross border migration.

Though the theory has several strands, each explains the reasons for migration. The economic evaluation of migration includes the redistribution of labour, the search for better opportunities, the search for greener pasture, better livelihood, and education etc, For instance, Adam Smith, the father of Economics, and Lebhast (2005) posit that the labour movement is due to disparities in the labour market at different places. However, Ravenstein (1889), in Ravenstein's law of migration, argued that the search for better opportunity is the main motive for migration. Consequently, several studies have been proposed to explain the causes of international migration.

The Neo-Classical Theory: According to the neo-classical theory of migration, the movement of labour is due to discrepancies in real wage

between countries and migration of labour brings stability in the international labour market which eliminates the wage disparities between the countries. The neo-classical theory explains both the general (macro) and the specific (micro) aspects of migration. The Neo-classical macro theory of migration dates back to Hicks (1932). According to this theory, the unequal distribution of capital and labour at the universal (macro) level causes inequity in wages and learning standards and this leads to migration. The migrant moves to a place in search of a better opportunity or a conducive environment where wages, employment and other economic conditions are more favourable.

The Neo-classical micro approach of migration (the theory of New Economics of Migration) considers both labour market as well as the conditions of other markets such as the capital market, unemployment, insurance market as a motive for migration. This theory also considers the tactics behind migration as well as highlights the significance of the financial transport of migration in terms of socio-cultural changes. Furthermore, this theory also helps one to understand why individuals of a particular community are prospective migrants. It also posits that poor people are less prone to migration compared to the wealthy due to the high cost of migration (Tom, 2003). However, mass mobility does not only occur due to wage differences, as Neo-classical economists tend to believe, as a means of International price equalization between rich and poor regions but also there are other factors identified in the form of push and pull factors.

Theory Application

The relationship between cross border migration and economic security in Nigeria is better explained using the classical migration theory of which the study was anchored on, the neo-classical migration theory and the push and pull approach which are strands of the classical migration theory. The theoretical framework unraveled the hidden relationship between cross border migration and economic security. It exposed the interaction between the variables under study. The application of this theory to this study lies in the following:

- (1) The theory reveals the relationship between cross border migration and poverty; it also enables one to determine whether cross border movement alleviates poverty in Nigeria
- (2) The theory shows whether cross border migration contributes to the transmission of infectious diseases (HIV, Tuberculosis, and Ebola) in Nigeria.

- (3) The theory also reveals how ECOWAS protocol on the free movement of persons has enhanced cross border criminality in Nigeria.

The Neo-classical migration theory and the push and pull approach which are strands of the classical migration theory is apt for this study. Associated with migration and the quest for economic security are shady practices such as trafficking, illicit drug peddling and smuggling of goods and services; these are fall-outs from desperate efforts made by some migrants trying to escape from poor wages and from the low-income economic environments to high-wage labour environments. The desire for more income is not the only drive for migration; political insecurity, ecological factors, cultural differentiation, amongst others, are also contributory factors. In Nigeria, these factors are considered adequate justification for the steady mass exodus of citizens to Western Europe, Asia, and North America.

People move away from their original locality because of negative factors such as inequality in wages, precarious living standards, unemployment, poverty, the spread of diseases, crime, lack of economic opportunities and inadequate basic infrastructures, flood, violence, terrorism, etc. to another place in search of a more favourable and conducive environment for better income, good education, healthy environment for living, good Medicare, religious and political freedom, better job employment opportunities, and a safe environment etc. Mobility in Nigeria and Benin Republic is often a result of some of these factors. When people migrate, they may gain employment in their countries of destination and as such earn income and their consumption expenditure may likely increase and also they will have enough earnings to remit back home and for investment, thereby helping to reduce poverty. Again, migration could also lead to the transmission of infectious diseases or the acquisition of safe hygiene practice. Migration could lead to the transmission of infectious diseases like HIV, Tuberculosis, and Ebola during the migratory process because of the overcrowded nature and poor living condition of migrants during transit and in destination countries.

Methodology

Research Design

This study adopted qualitative research design in interrogating the implications of cross border migration (Independent variable) on economic security (Dependent Variable) in Nigeria. The data for this study were gathered from secondary sources, such as textbooks, journals, National

Bureau of Statistics of Nigeria, official website of World Bank, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), International Labour Organization (ILO), Migration Policy Institute, Department for International Development (DFID), United Nations Statistics Division and Official Website of ECOWAS, etc.

Data Analysis

***Hypotheses One:** Cross border migration enhanced poverty in Nigeria.

Observation and discussion on cross border migration and poverty rate in Nigeria

The analyses showed the influence of cross border migration on poverty. The rate of poverty in Nigeria as depicted in Figure 4.3 witnessed an infrequent fluctuation throughout the time frame of the study (1999 to 2017). The fluctuation in the trend of poverty was on the negative in 1999 and 2015 through 2017. These wings seemed to move in a relatively opposite direction with the net migration, which suggests a latent negative relationship. This implies that cross border migration which encourages the sizeable number of Nigerian population to migration out of Nigeria did not alleviate poverty. This is in consonance with the works of Pekovic (2017), De Haas (1999), Connors (2012) and Hossain (2013) which revealed that international remittances negatively affect poverty.

The Neo-classical migration theory of Hicks (1932) & Lehbast (2005) and the Push-Pull Approach of Lee (1966) on the distribution of labour and the search for better opportunities do not seem to hold in Nigeria. Also, this result is inconsistent with the findings of Adams and Page (2009), Anyanwu and Erihijakpor (2010), whose studies revealed that international migration had a strong impact in alleviating poverty. However, these results are also in accordance with the findings of De Haas (1999), Connors (2012), Hossain (2013), and Pekovic (2017), whose works revealed that remittances from international migration have a negative impact on poverty. This suggests that as population movement decreases poverty increases. By implication this means that remittances from cross border migration may have created dependency and increased consumption of imported goods; it may also have lowered work efforts, as relatives of the migrants may not have put in much efforts on productive ventures that will yield more income but rather hoped on their remittances from a migrant relative abroad. Furthermore, remittances could also increase inflation as more remittances will push more foreign exchange into the economy; this will drive the economy toward consumption of

foreign goods rather than productivity, and will invariably dampen the economy. Furthermore, since migrants are within the productive age, the country of origin will suffer from reduced labour supplies, especially the agricultural household that relied heavily on family labour for their productive activities.

Remittances sent can also dampen the country's export and may lead to an appreciation of the external value of its currency; 'Dutch disease' (Ghosh, 2006:59). Also, the interest to remit money back home for Nigeria does not hold; as remittances from the cross border migration did not fulfill its objective. This also implies that remittances back home may not have been invested in productive ventures and as such makes no positive impact in cushioning poverty. Again, the hopes and aspirations of the migrant can be dashed as remittances fail to fulfill the aspirations to invest in a safe area, channel asset back home and act as shock absorber for the economic recession.

Implications of Cross Border Migration on Economic Security in Nigeria

The findings indicate that cross border migration did not alleviate poverty in Nigeria. The consequences of poverty include an increase in the number of destitute, beggars, prostitutes, and paupers (Kuhe, Chiawa, & Abioiyar, 2016). Poverty appeared to have led to increase in the rate of crime in the society, increase in child labour, child abandonment and abuse, increase in infant, child and maternal mortality rates and reduction in life expectancy of most adults. For instance, the rate of crime in the country has been on the increase with cases of crimes and offences reported to the police increasing from 253,098 in 1999 to 258,655 in 2000 while in 1999 the infant mortality rate was 115 per 1000 live birth and maternal mortality rate was 10 per 1000 live births in the same year. An under-five mortality rate of close to 190 per 100,000 live births and 46 years as life expectancy at births were all registered in 1999 (World Bank Development index, 2018).

The involvement of males in Nigeria labour market has produced an increasing population of female-headed households and single parenthood, which tend to negatively affect family welfare (Dodson, 1998). The emigration of unskilled labour has led to the stagnation of agriculture in rural areas in countries of origin, causing food shortages and decrease in the production rate of commercial crops and plunging the communities into deeper poverty. In Nigeria, large herds of cattle bought from remittances led to overgrazing and soil erosion, food shortage, clashes and consequently resulting to poverty instead of creating wealth.

The situation is appalling for young women, many who have migrated to escape forced marriage and poverty, as they encounter specific obstacles in the labour market, much of which is linked to the patriarchal nature of the society. They may find work in household settings and small businesses. More frequently, many girls are oppressed because they are young, easily manipulated, not conscious of their rights, and afraid to expose their inattentive employers. In the most horrible situations, they work for longer hours a day, are beaten, badly fed, poorly remunerated, and become sex slaves to pay for their basic needs. The prostitution in which these unsuspecting girls indulge in compound their problems and expose them to infectious diseases, such as HIV, Tuberculosis, among others. With the increasing rate of poverty, crime, prostitution, violence and exploitation, many migrants from Nigeria are not better off in the host countries than they were in their home countries. By migrating, their lives became more impoverished and they became human rights victims with no legal rights. Life across the border has resulted to pauperization, stigmatization, marginalization and social exclusion.

***Hypothesis Two:** Cross border migration does not contribute to the spread of diseases in Nigeria

Observation and discussion on Cross border Migration and the Spread of HIV in Nigeria

There is a gender difference in the rate of prevalence of HIV infection. From 1999 through 2005 the prevalence was higher for women than men in Nigeria. Women recorded 3.3% in 2001, 3% in 2002, 2.8% (2003), 2.6% 2004, 2.5% in 2005. It equalized in the year 2006 with 2.3% for both males and females. From 2006, it had a steady plunge through 2006 where it was 1.6%. This suggests that the spread of HIV was higher in women between 1999 and 2006 but probably have received adequate care that contained the spread. This trend implies that the prevalence of HIV was higher among women in Nigeria although the status of their partner was not known. This indicates that cross border migration may be responsible for the gender differences in the spread of HIV in Nigeria.

The Implications of the Spread of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in Nigeria

The epidemic of the EVD has affected the way of life of the people of the West African sub-region. Its effect has been felt in the areas of health, social life, and migration. Consequently, these effects have implications on the national economy. Any action or inaction taken in mitigating the spread of the EVD will have significant implications in people's way of

life.

Health: The health effects of Ebola Virus Disease are disastrous and when it attacks its victim it causes severe damage to the skin. People get contact with the virus through close contact with blood, secretions, organs or bodily fluids of infected animals. Once this happens, the infection can be transmitted from person to person. Initial symptoms shown by patients include fever, headache, joint/muscle and abdominal pain accompanied by diarrhea and vomiting (Paessler & Walker, 2013). In its early stages, EVD is easily confused with other tropical fevers, such as malaria or dengue, until the appearance of the hemorrhagic terminal phase, presenting with the characteristic internal and sub-coetaneous bleeding, vomiting of blood and reddening of the eyes. If plenty blood is lost, this will lead to renal failure, breathing difficulties, low body temperature, shock and death (Paessler & Walker, 2013).

People living in Ebola-prone areas risk experiencing psychological problems that can affect their health. The outbreak of the disease comes along with its attendant fear, panic, anxiety, and stress. According to Sue Towey (a mental health practitioner), living under constant fear weakens the immune system and can cause cardiovascular damage, gastrointestinal problems such as ulcers and irritable bowel syndrome, and decreased fertility (University of Minnesota, 2014). The health of the health personnel is also at risk. According to AFP, several nurses have died from the Ebola virus while performing their duties. The density of physicians (total number per 1000 population) in these affected countries is sadly insufficient: Guinea (0.100); Liberia (0.014); and Sierra Leone (0.022) (WHO, 2014). Hence, there is a greater challenge on health workers, in terms of working hours and the number of patients, to go the extra mile in providing quality service for patients, including Ebola-infected patients which require extreme caution. In Sierra Leone, the country's chief medical officer admits the difficulties that health workers were facing in fighting the epidemic and suggested that "we still have to break the chain of transmission to separate the infected from the uninfected"; however, there is a negative response among people regarding the existence of Ebola and hostility towards health workers (AFP report, 2014).

Productivity of Workers: The productivity of workers is also affected, as at August 25, 2014, more than 250 health care workers have developed the disease in Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone, and more than 120 have died (WHO, 2014). The demise of these health workers in the affected countries means deprivation of not only experienced and dedicated medical care but also inspiring national heroes. Consequently, any ordinary worker who falls ill and visits the clinic or hospital may not

received equate care and treatment from health workers and may have to spend some amount of his/her productive hours at the health center. Such a situation denies workers the chance of using their working hours for productivity.

Social Life: Another impact of the EVD is on social life, as reported by the Daily Nation in an interview with a Kenyan who returned from Monrovia: “There are no handshakes or hugs. Life has changed a lot, people are uncertain because they know there is an epidemic that has neither a cure nor a vaccine” (Mutambo, 2014:8). In Liberia, the president has restricted the movement of people living in the densely populated West Point slum area, besides, the president has ordered that cinemas, theatres, and night clubs should be shut down to curtail the spread of the virus. In Nigeria, the Federal government and the Lagos government met with some leading pastors with large congregations to take precautionary measures to halt the spread of the virus in the church.

Conclusion

Cross border migration is a diverse phenomenon, since mobility of people is motivated by so many reasons. This study was motivated by the fact that several empirical works seen by the researcher had paid much attention to the impact of migration on national security while giving very little attention to the human security aspect. Thus, this study investigated cross border migration and economic security in Nigeria. The study revealed that cross border migration did not alleviate poverty in Nigeria; that cross border migration contributed to the spread of diseases, such as Hydro Immune Virus among women in Nigeria, Ebola Virus Disease in Nigeria. It also found out that cross border migration facilitated by ECOWAS protocol increased the incidence of cross border criminality in Nigeria. The study concluded that cross border migration did not enhance economic security, but rather deepened poverty, contributed to the spread of diseases, and heightened the incidence of cross border criminality in Nigeria.

Recommendations

Amongst the recommendations is that governments of Nigeria in collaboration with international governmental and non-governmental agencies, such as European Union and the United Nations, should assist in addressing migration issues by reducing the cost of migration and formulating policies regarding the processing of travelling documents as well as lowering remittance cost; the latter will encourage migrants to remit money back home through formal channels, thereby helping to

improve the poverty reducing impact of cross border migration. Also, Governments of Nigeria should regulate migration flow by formulating policy framework that will address migrants flow and illegal migration, reduce migration of the teeming youths by creating conducive environment for learning and businesses, provide infrastructural facilities, fight corruption, re-jig the agricultural and productive sectors, ensure good governance and provide employment for its citizens. Government can also create policies that will ensure that the rights of migrants to social services are protected and that remittances are channelled to more productive uses. When remittances are used for improving the skills and productivity of recipients they will have a far-reaching impact on the standard of living.

Families receiving remittances should be allowed to use it as collateral for accessing loans for education, procurement of fertilizers, machinery, building houses, and factories. Governments of Nigeria should establish mechanisms for the screening of migrants and returnees at the points of entry to know their health status and improve health facilities by providing rapid testing equipment, mobile laboratories, and clinics.

The ECOWAS protocol on the free movement of persons should be reviewed and the issues related to migration should be clearly defined to reduce incidences of cross border crimes.

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Writer's Brief Data



Blessing Chugo Idigo is of Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences, Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Igbariam Campus, Nigeria. *Email:* blessingchugo33@gmail.com



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