

**Factors Associated With The Youths' Rural-Urban
Drift In Kwara State, Nigeria.**Listed in ULRIC
ULRICH**Adesiji G.B, Omoniwa V, Adebayo S.A, Matanmi B.M and Akangbe J.A**
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This paper examined the factors associated with drift of youths from rural to urban areas in Kwara State, Nigeria. Data were collected with structured interview schedule from 120 youths from four zones of Agricultural Development Programme (ADP) of Kwara State, Nigeria using multistage sampling technique. Data were analysed using both descriptive and inferential statistics such as frequency counts, percentages and chi-square. The results showed that majority (71.7%) of the youth were between age of 15 and 20 years. It was also discovered that more than half of the respondents (51.7%) were male and majority (90.8%) were in secondary school. Sizeable number of the youth (92.4%) had been to the nearby cities many times. Furthermore, respondents identified social amenities (43.3%) as the main source of attraction to the city and their main reason for leaving the village is because of the absence of social amenities (58.3%). It was also discovered that the reason for elders' refusal of the youths leaving the villages for town was because of the reduction in agricultural labour force (20.8%) and fear of the youth joining bad gangs (16.7%). The impact of drift on the youth is that it has improved their standard of living (43.3%). However, the respondents indicated that the effect of rural-urban drift on the farming activities would result into low agricultural production (54.2%) and led to diversion into other non-agricultural occupations (45.8%) for their parents. Also the results showed that drift has effect on the entire village in terms of depopulation (50.0%) and low rate of development (31.7%). Chi-square analysis result revealed that; age and educational level have significant influence on the drift of youths from rural to urban area at $p=0.05$ while gender, length of stay in the village and marital status of the youths have no significant relationship with their drifts. It is therefore recommended that social amenities should be provided in the rural areas so that the youths will not be attracted to the cities and tertiary institutions should be located in strategic places in the rural areas so as to enable the youth to further their education

and still stay closer home as well as attracting the more educated people to rural areas and bring about development.

Keywords: Urbanization, Migration, Push and Pull factors, City, Kwara State.

1. Introduction

Migration has become a dominant face in the lives of people throughout the world both people in the city and those who are in the rural areas. It is a process of population concentration it implies a movement from a state of less concentration to a state of areas, concentration Tisdale (2003). The major occupation in most rural areas of the world is farming. The impact of rural-urban drift is on agricultural production and this includes value, type, cost and availability of labour, farm age level of farm management. Hence (2002) supported that loss of able bodied men from rural areas may result in reduction of the amount and variety of turned produced. Adedeji (1999) observed that rural-urban drift adversely affects the production of basic food crops and that returned migrants tend to face via farming since income accruing from it is small. Papohonda (2000) summarized mass movement of people from the rural areas to cities brings urban rural depopulation and the emigrants are usually the most productive, their loss to cities means loss of potentials to the rural areas. The general objective of this paper is to identifying factor associated with drift of youth from rural to urban areas in Kwara State, Nigeria and the specific objectives are to:

- i. Investigate the personal characteristics of the youths in Kwara State
- ii. Determine the number of times the youths have been to the city
- iii. Assess reasons why elders' in the village will not support youths migration to the urban area.
- iv. Investigate the effect of rural-urban youths' drift on the city, farming activities and the entire rural area.

2. Methodology

The study was carried out in Kwara State, Nigeria. Kwara State agricultural development programme (KwADP) has four zones namely: Zone A with the headquarters in Kiama, Zone B with the headquarters in Patigi, Zone C with the headquarters in Maletu and Zone D with the headquarters in Igbaja. The list of villages under each zone was collected from the agricultural development programme (ADP) office and three villages were randomly selected from each of

the zone. Ten youths from each of the villages were randomly selected giving a sample size of one hundred and twenty (120) youths.

Primary data for this study were collected through the use of structured interview schedule to elicit information from the respondents. The instrument was face – validated by the experts and some lecturers in the department to ensure its validity. The measuring instrument for the study was pretested using 20 farmers each from two villages different from the villages in study areas. A split – half method of reliability was used to determine the reliability of the instrument using Guttman Split-half. A reliability coefficient of $r = 0.69$ was obtained, which shows that the instrument was reliable. Both descriptive and inferential statistics were used in analyzing the data. Descriptive statistics like frequency and percentages while chi-square was used in testing the hypothesis.

2.1 Study Hypothesis

There is no significant relationship between selected personal characteristics and the factors associated with the rural-urban drift of the youths.

3. Results And Discussion

3.1 Personal Characteristics of the Youths

Table 1 shows the descriptive analysis of the respondents' personal characteristics investigated in the study. More than half (51.7%) were males while 48.3% were females. This indicates dominance of male folk among the rural youths in the study area. Close to three quarter of them (71.7%) are between 15 and 20 years of age. A few of the respondents (1.7%) had to formal education while 7.5% and 90.8% had some primary and secondary education respectively. This middle education of the respondents is suggestive of their potential capability to migrate to the urban areas either to look for white collar job or to further their education in higher institutions since there is no tertiary institution in the village. Also, almost all the respondents (99.1%) had lived in the rural area for nothing less than sixteen years. The implication of this is that the youth would have been fed up with the rural lives and would be eager to explore the opportunities that abound in the city which they would have had about from their peers in the urban areas.

Table 1: Distribution of Youths According to Personal Characteristics (N=120)

<i>Characteristics</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Age(Years)		
<15	-	-
15-20	86	71.7
21-25	24	20.0
26-30	10	8.3
>30	-	-
Gender		
Male	62	51.7
Female	58	48.3
Marital Status		
Single	-	-
Married	105	87.5
Widowed	15	12.5
Separated	-	-
Educational Level		
No formal Education	2	1.7
Quranic Education	-	-
Primary School	9	7.5
Secondary School	109	90.8
Tertiary Education	-	-
Years in Village		
≤5	-	-
6-10	1	0.8
11-15	-	-
16-20	91	75.8
>20	28	23.3

Source: Field Survey 2008

3.2 Number of Youths' Visit to the City

From Table 2 below, it is seen that vast majority of the respondents had been to the city many times (92.4%) while 7.6% of them had visited the town once. This shows that the youth in the villages are familiar and attracted to the life in the city.

Table 2: Number of visit of respondents to the city.

NO OF TIME	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Once	-	-
Twice	9	7.6
Thrice	-	-
Many times	111	92.4
Total	120	100

Source: Field Survey 2008

3.3 Youths' Source Of Attraction To The City

Results in table 3 reveals that majority of the youth were attracted most to the city because of the presence of social amenities (43.3%) and 40.0% of them believed that city life would improve their ways of life while 4.2% moved to the city as a result of peer pressure. One tenths (12.5%) of the respondents were attracted to the city due the employment opportunity. Absence of social amenities was the main reason the respondents leave the village. This means that the youth can bear and adjust to other condition in the rural areas if there is availability of social amenities. The implication of this is that mass movement of youth will continue as long as the social conditions of the rural areas are not taking proper care of.

Table 3: Source of attraction of the respondent to the city

Source of attraction	Frequency	Percentage%
Social amenities	52	43.3
Employment	15	12.5
Improve my way of life	48	40.0
Peer pressure	5	4.2
Total	120	100

Source: Field Survey 2008

3.4 Reason for leaving the village by the respondents.

The results in table 4 reveal that very low percentage (6.7%) of the respondents actually left the village as a result of the rigour farming activities are involved with but more than half of them indicated that they would leave rural areas as a result of absence of social amenities in the village. Only 10% of the respondents indicated that the reason why they would leave rural area for the city is as a result of boredom life of the rural areas while 25.0% said it was due to peer pressure that they would leave the village for the city.

Table 4. Main reason for leaving the village by the respondents.

Reasons	Frequency	Percentage
Rigor involved in farming	8	6.7
Boredom	12	10.0
Peer pressure	30	25.0
Absence of social amenities	70	58.3
Total	120	100

Source: Field Survey 2008

3.5 Reasons for elders' refusal of the respondents' movement from the village

Table 5 shows that reduction in agricultural labour force is the main reason for elder's refusal of the youth movement from the village (20.8%). Next to this is the elder's fear of the youth joining bag gang in the city (16.7). Another major reason is the prevailing hardship in the city (4.2%) and tendency for the youth to forget the village (8.3%). Literatures show that the youths constitute the larger percentage of labour on the farm and once they leave the village, the elders will depend more on hired labour which become more costly and may not be available. This is in support of the findings of Hence (2002) which says loss of able bodied men from the rural areas may result in reduction of the amount of variety of food produced.

Table 5: Reasons for elders' refusal of the respondents' movement from the village

Reasons of the Elders	Frequency	Percentage
Reduction in agric labour force	25	20.8
Fear of joining bad	20	16.7
Revealing hardship in cities	5	4.2
Tending to forget the village	10	8.3
Total	120	100

Source: Field Survey 2008

3.6 Effects of Youths' Rural-Urban Drift

Results in Table 6 show close to one quarter (23.3%) of the youth believed that their literacy level would increase when migrate from the village to the cities while 20.8% and 12.5% indicated improvement in their social interaction patterns and increment in their incomes respectively as the effects rural-urban drift would have on the city. It can be inferred from this result that there is need to improve the social life in the village environment so that the youth in the village can enjoy the same social amenities in the cities, so that the youth will not be too adamant to leave the villages for the cities, also tertiary institution should be provided to enhance the youth to further their education and pursue their career without having to leave the village community.

Also, table 6 further shows that more than half (54.2%) of the youth agreed to the fact that there would be negative effect on farming activities in terms of decrease in the production while 45.8% indicated that their would be diversion to other occupation by their parents since their

would be drastic reduction in the labour force coupled with the fact that there would be no enough hands to assist in the tedious farming activities.

The table shows 18.3% of the respondent stated that the effect of rural-urban drift is reduction in agriculture production while 31.7% stated slow rate of development as the effect. Half of the respondents (50.0%) stated that the effect of rural-urban drift on the rural area is depopulation. This is in agreement with Mohammed-Bello(1999) who stated that despite the sub-saharan Africa's agrarian image, the rural peasant population is diminishing in relative size and significant. It is also in support of the work of Papohunda (2200) which reported that mass movement of the people from the rural areas to cities brings about rural depopulation and force, the emigrants are usually the most productive, their loss to cities means loss of potentials to the rural areas.

Table 6: Effects of Youths' Rural-Urban Drift

<i>Effect</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Improve literacy level	28	23.3
Increase my income	15	12.5
Improve standards of living	34	27.5
Farming activities		
Decrease in production	60	49.2
Occupation diversion	55	45.8
No impact	-	-
Entire Rural Area		
Low production	22	18.3
Depopulation	60	50.0
Slow rate of development	38	31.7

Source: Field survey 2008

3.7 Testing of Hypothesis

Table 8 presents result of tested hypothesis .Analysis reveals a significant relationship between age($X^2 = 0.035$, $P < 0.05$) and factors associated with the rural-urban drift. This may be explained by the fact that the respondents are youth and this is the time that they will want to explore the life in the city and also any little thing thrill and attract them. Also, a significant relationship was established between educational level of the respondents and factors associated with the rural-urban drift ($X^2 = 0.009$, $P < 0.05$) . This could be due to that fact that there is no higher institution in the villages and since the vast majority of the respondents (90.8%) are in secondary school,

they would want to further their education in the city. However, no significant relationships were established between gender, marital status and length of stay in the village of the respondents and factors associated with the rural-urban drift.

Table 7 :Chi-square analysis of selected personal characteristics of respondents and factors associated with the rural-urban drift

Variables	X ²	p-value	Decision
Gender	2.883	0.698	Not significant
Length of stay in the village	21.397	0.000	Not significant
Marital status	1.349	0.948	Not significant
Age	22.954	0.035	Significant
Educational level	15.185	0.009	Significant

5% level of significance

4. Conclusion

Rural-urban drift has a remarkable impact on agriculture production because it brings a drastic reduction in the proportion of those engaged in agriculture, leaving mostly the old people. There is also an increase in the cost of hired labour because of the scarcity of able bodied youth in the villages. However, majority of the respondents attributed their action to the absence of social amenities in the village environment; as a result, they are attracted to the cities. Since it is the absence of social amenities in the rural area that push the youth out of the rural area and the presence pull them to the urban city, it is therefore recommended that social amenities and services such as bank and insurance, effective communication system, good roads and health care etc should be provided in our rural areas so that our youth can have access to the same thing their counterpart are enjoying in the cities and this will reduce the rate they migrate to the city.



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