

Role of Rural-Ward Migration in Economic Development in Jos South Area of Plateau State, Nigeria

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Abstract

Migration is a decision that impacts the welfare of the household, the home community and in the end the whole economy in various ways. Nigeria is among the few countries of the world characterized by contradictory socio-economic and development scenarios, despite her enviable human and material resources. Various push and pull factors have implications on Nigeria's underdevelopment, and it affects rural areas severely than urban areas which perhaps underlay rural poverty, hence migration becomes a safety net. The study aimed at examining the reversal flow of people from urban to rural area and its effects on rural economic development particularly in Jos South local government area, Plateau State. The study employed structured questionnaire as the major research instrument. It was randomly administered among 318 sampled population in the study area. The household constitutes the unit of observation in the three districts namely, Du, Kuru and Vwang. In addition, focus group discussions (FGD) were held among the communities in order to collect relevant data for the study. Data were analyzed by using simple measures of central tendencies such as calculation of the mean, averages, frequencies and percentages. Also, Linkert scale of measurement was employed to assess the role of rural-ward migrants in economic development. On the aggregate, provision of farm inputs was fair 163(51.3%); marketing of farm products was fair 168(52.8%); establishment of cooperative societies was good 198(62.3%); skill transfer to rural dwellers was rated fair 153(48.0%); innovative ideas was fair 148(46.5%); and remittances was fair 188(59.1%). On the basis of the findings, the study recommends among other things that government should increase discriminate investments in the rural areas in terms of provision of infrastructural facilities in order to encourage movement of people from the congested urban areas into the hitherto neglected and deprived rural areas and by so doing, it will not only countervail rural urban migration but also improve spatial balance in our developmental efforts.

Keywords: Rural Ward Economic Development Migration Infrastructure

1. Introduction

Migration involves taking a decision that affects the welfare of the household, the home community and in the end the whole economy in various ways (Azam and Gubert, 2006). It can be internal and international which is a common feature of both developing and developed countries. It is one of the components of population dynamics. In Nigeria However, migration can be traced through three main phases namely the pre-colonial, colonial and post-independence. Historically, migration in Nigeria was largely confined to pastoral and fishing migration and the expansion of farmers practising shifting cultivation which was practised in the rural areas. In the north, seasonal movement was associated with specific trades such as entertainers' musicians, potters, weavers and dyers (Roger 2003). Migration is also associated with ethnic groups. For instance the Gbagis around the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), the Mumuyes (Taraba State) and the Tivs (Benue State) have all engaged in migration and expanded their territories in recent years, often causing considerable conflict in the process (Roger, 2003:11). Much of the migrations which featured predominantly in the pre-colonial era took the form of sporadic, massive movements arising from political and forced movements of population. The migrants were mostly Hausas and Fulanis (Kwaire, 2000). Moreover, migration in the past was characterized by the movement of people to the Jos Plateau, Adamawa, Idanre hills in Ondo State and Mambila highlands due to slave raiding and trading activities that culminated in forced migrations during the pre-colonial era. It marked the genesis of internal migration in many parts of Nigeria particularly in the middle belt with the forced human movement to the coastal areas of Niger Delta and Calabar (Nwosu, 2003)..

British colonial administration in Nigeria had vested interest in promoting trade and western education. With the effective occupation of the country, they took various steps to achieve the goals. It started with stoppage of inter-tribal warfare to set peace, monetization of the economy by introducing industrial cash crops such as cocoa, coffee, cotton, rubber, ground-nut and palm produce in exchange for pound sterling. This singular development stimulated both inter and intra group migration across the country. The exploitation of tin mining in Jos Plateau

and and coal mining in Enugu areas stimulated migration of young, able-bodied men from different parts of Nigeria (Makinwa and Adebusey (1997). The provision of infrastructural facilities such construction of roads, and bridges, railways, harbours, and ports were built to facilitate evacuation of resources from interior to the coast. The societies were opened up to commerce during the colonial period, people that hitherto confined to their places of habitual residence began to move en mass from their remote inaccessible places to major side of the roads and railways (Oyeniya (2010). It should be remarked that colonial rule altered pattern of migration to a very large extent in the country.

Afolayan, *et al* (2008:11) remarked that post-independence period witnessed heightened labour migration from several parts of the country to the administrative provincial headquarters. This affected the direction of flow of migration since there is a change in political structure and economy of Nigeria in terms of civil war, reconstruction, the exploitation of natural resources and creation of states and local governments affected migration decision-making of people. There is observable lopsidedness in the spatial pattern of development a situation where basic infrastructural facilities such as tarred roads, electricity, pipe-borne water, schools and colleges, health care are localized in the few urban centres thereby creating opportunities for influx of labour from rural hinterlands. Also, the cash-cropping system of the colonialism had brought about movement of people to the cocoa and rubber plantation belts of south-western and south-eastern parts of Nigeria, and to the groundnut belt of northern Nigeria for migrant labour from the middle belt region of Nigeria. Moreover, the cause of human mobility had not always been economic, civil war but ethnic conflicts had spurred the dislocation of minorities from their destination back to their home region (NISER, 1998)

Blench (2003) remarked that by the late 1980s, some other changes in the economic and political policies of the country resulted in changes in the pattern of migration in Nigeria. One in particular is the adoption of the Structural Adjustment Programme in (SAP) 1986. This dictated a shift from the official policy of full employment to substantially reduced government spending on critical services, such as health, education and housing (Afolayan and Adelekan, 1998). This government policy encouraged many Nigerians to engage in international migration to affluent and developed countries in search for greener pasture. Of recent, the *Boko Haram* uprising began in Bauchi in July, 2009. Subsequently, it spreads gradually to Borno, Yobe, Kano, Katsina and Adamawa States in the northern parts of the country. *Boko Haram* is a combination of Hausa and Arabic words, which connote 'western education' and 'something that is forbidden'. The outbreak in Bauchi was attributed to the reaction of state government's refusal to grant them freedom to practice their religion as well as win souls to the sect. The insurgency is spreading across the country destroying lives and properties culminating in mass relocation of people from affected areas (Gwamna and Amango 2011)

Movement of people is a common occurrence in Nigeria and such movements have multiple impacts on other people and society at large. The movement poses some problems in the rural as well as in the urban centre even though there are benefits derived from it. In most rural areas, the impact of rural-urban migration was a rapid deterioration of the rural economy leading to abject poverty and food insecurity (Mini, 2001). This arises mainly due to excessive drain of youth from the rural areas thus leaving the aged people to constitute the labour force of the rural area. Braunvan (2004) remarked that people tend to be pulled to the areas of prosperity and pushed from areas of decline. The migrants have also been known to introduce new innovation to the village, helps to locate better market in town for farm products; improved seedlings varieties are brought by the migrants who also teach local farmers modern methods of disease control (Fasoranti, 2008). However, certain trend of movement is emerging over the years in Jos South local government area, Plateau State. More settlements are springing up in the study area. Obviously, this new trend of migration has bearing with the economic development of the study area and this forms the basis for this study.

2. Recent Studies on Migration and Development

Nigeria is among few countries of the world characterized by contradictory socio-economic development scenarios a situation where the majority of the people are suffering in the midst of plenty. Despite her enviable human, capital, natural oil and gas resources, the country and its peoples are still classified among the very poor ((Nwokocha 2007; Okunmadewa 2001). The rural areas that constitute the majority suffered more from deprivation and neglect than urban areas which perhaps underlay rural poverty and migration of all sorts remain a safety valve. Akinyele, (2005) had remarked that with no fewer than 54% of Nigerians are living below poverty line.

Akinyemi, (2000) explored migration dynamics and changing rural-urban linkages in south-western Nigeria, using a multi-stage systematic sampling technique and modelled the linkages through the use of logistic regression model to examine the correlation of migrants to rural- urban linkages in terms of infrastructure

ownership and development in both areas of participation in homestead association, intention to return home, and political participation. The study revealed a strong relationship between migrants' empowerment and rural-urban linkages. Migrants with higher income as well as high educational status are more likely to support homestead. Those with lower status are less likely to contribute to the homestead. Those who are empowered have very high tendencies to influence rural development. They are more likely to participate in village associations, politics, own property in their home towns.

Gbemiga, (2005) investigated socio-economic factors influencing movement of people from urban centres to rural areas in Nigeria with particular focus on Oyo State of Nigeria. Purposive sampling technique was used to sample 160 migrants in rural areas for the study. Data were generated from the respondents using interview schedule. The results showed that most of the respondents left the urban centres for the rural areas because of their inability to secure jobs, transfer to rural areas in their places of work, retirement and high cost of living in the urban centres. Moreover, there was a significant relationship between lengths of stay of migrants in the rural areas and their ages; the lengths of stay on migration by the single, married, widowed and divorced migrants since the calculated F-ratio (3.04) exceeds the tabulated F-ratio (2.74). It is recommended that government should encourage the drift of people to rural areas by making available basic amenities that would encourage the prospective migrants to remain in rural areas.

Taylor and Dyer (2006) employed micro-economy modelling techniques to explore the short term and long-term impacts of international migration on rural communities in Mexico. The findings illustrate the complex ways in which international migration influences rural economies, stimulating some production activities while causing others to contract, and transforming the structure of the rural economy over time. The findings presented here illustrate the importance of indirect effects of international migration on sending economies and it includes general-equilibrium wage and price effects as well as dynamic investment effects.

Shettima (1997) remarked that forced migration results either from a planned or unplanned movement following either civil strife or collapse of infrastructure most especially water dams, bridges and other buildings which can result in relocation people. This type of movement often raises major concerns about human rights and involved compensation claims in developed economies but hardly documented in Nigeria partly because it occurs mainly in rural areas and the attenuated state of the statistical services. Moreover, there are people who have been forced to migrate from their home and cannot return for fear of persecution because of their race, religion, nationality, and possibly their membership in a social and political organization. This set of people is known as *refugees*. However, none of the recent studies accessible namely, (Akinoyemi, 2000; Okunmadewa, 2001; Afolabi, 2004; Gbemiga, 2005; Akinyele, 2005; Taylor and Dyer, 2006; and Abuh, 2011; Shettima, 1997; and Nwokocha, 2007) paid attention to how rural-ward migration affects economic development particularly in Jos South local government area of Plateau State and this constitutes the gap in knowledge that the study intends to fill.

3. Theoretical Framework of Study

The principal motive behind migration has been centred on the wage differential among regions. This is well-established in migratory studies (Todaro, 2000) explained that as long as there are differences in wages earned, labour would move from low wage region to a higher wage area. This is the driving force behind rural-urban migration since there is inequality between the rural and urban sector real wage rates. The decision to migrate is often based on the comparison between the returns to labour in the rural agricultural sector and wage rate in the manufacturing and service sectors of the urban economy. Also, the number of job vacancies in the urban area is often considered. A larger wage gap between the two areas results in a greater incentive for rural workers to migrate to the cities. Moreover, the rural-urban income divide arising from an institutionally urban minimum wage imposed by the government or negotiated by trade unions can create opportunity for rural labour to migrate into the urban areas.

The centripetal and centrifugal forces otherwise known as push-pull are factors that could either attract or discourage people to migrate. Ghaffari and Singh, (2000) remarked that the push factors are those that compel a person due to different reasons to leave that place and go to some other place. For instance, low productivity, unemployment and underdevelopment, poor economic conditions, lack of opportunities for advancement, exhaustion of natural resources and natural calamities may compel people to leave their native place in search of better economic opportunities. In most developing countries, due to population explosion land-man ratio has declined resulting in significant increase in unemployment and underemployment. The pull factors refers to those factors which attract the migrants to an area such as bright opportunities for better employment, higher wages, facilities, better working conditions and amenities. De Haas, (2007:13) observed that there is generally city ward migration where rapid growth of industry, commerce and business take place. Sometimes the people

are also attracted to cities in search of better cultural and entertainment activities thus, pull factors operate not only in the rural-urban migration, but also in other types of domestic as well as international migration. Those who are pushed into migration are simultaneously pulled by the expectation of finding something better elsewhere. De Haas (2008) described this migration theory as the most comprehensive attempt at integrating both endogenous and exogenous factors together.

A good deal of scholarly effort has been directed at explaining why people in rural areas of developing countries leave home and little effort however, has gone into explaining why those who depart continue to be active in the affairs of their home communities, or why they come back even though forms of return-oriented mobility, from seasonal labour migration to temporary visits by permanent migrants are common in poor villages all over the world. Although most studies, (Prabir, 1998; King 2001; and Lambert 2002) indicated that non-economic factors predominated the migrants' decisions to return home. The return is crucial for the continued vitality of rural communities with high out migration rates. Out-migration is primarily motivated by economic factors. In large number of developing countries, low agricultural income, agricultural unemployment and underemployment are considered basic factors pushing migrants towards prosperous and dynamic areas with greater job opportunities. Population pressure on available cultivable land resulting in a high man-land ratio has been widely recognized as one of the important reasons of poverty and rural out migration (Kainth, 2009). In other words people migrate due to compelling circumstances which pushed them out of the place of origin or they are lured by the attractive conditions in the new place.

4. Methodology

4.1 Reconnaissance Survey of the Study Area

A reconnaissance survey cum preliminary physical field observation of the study area was undertaken. The purpose was to familiarize with the environment, determine the sample size, and select the sampling frame for the study. The visitation to the study area has helped to make some spot assessment of some phenomena in the study area.

4.2 Data Selection

In order to achieve the set objectives of this study, data were being collected from the respondents. The data required for this study include the followings:-

- i. Socio-economic characteristic of the respondents which include gender, age-group, marital status, household size, level of education, occupation and level of income.
- ii. Duration of migration be it whether temporary or permanent
- iii. Origin and destination of migrants
- iv. Reasons for migration
- v. Data on the influence of migration on the rural economic development.
- vi. Data on types of migrations, rural-rural, rural-urban, urban-rural and urban-urban.

4.3 Sources of Data

The main research instrument is the questionnaire which was administered in the selected communities in the study area. The questionnaire was divided into three sections, Section A, consists of questions designed to obtain information on socio-economic and demographic attributes such as sex, age, marital status, occupation, education attainment, household size. Section B, is on rural ward migrants which generates data on the number of people that have migrated into the household, where they come from, purpose of migration, period of migration and home visit. Section C, is on the migrants' contribution to economic development. Moreover, focus group FGD discussion was conducted among the members of the communities to augment data collected from questionnaire survey. Secondary data were generated from existing official statistics from both national and international publications, including journals, books, conference papers, thesis and dissertations, National Population Commission (NPC), government official gazettes and relevant ministries such as the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Immigration Office.

4.4 Sample Size and Sampling Techniques

The study covers three districts in the study area. Purposive sampling method was adopted in the selection of the community since not all the communities are rural areas. Krejcie, and Morgan's (1970) sampling table was adopted where population size range between 3,500 and 3,999 was represented by 346 sample. Hence, this represents the sample size of 3,652 populations of the sampled communities. However, some 318 samples were made available for the data collection and analysis. The study made use of the household as a unit of observation. Beaman and Dillon, (2009) defined household as a group of people living in the same dwelling space who eat meals together, have at least one common plot together or one income and acknowledge the

authority of a man or woman who is the head of household. In each household, the head was chosen as point of the sample and where the head is not available the eldest person was selected to represent the household. The random sampling technique was adopted to select the households in each community.

4.5 Methods of Data Analysis

Descriptive statistics was employed in the analysis of the data collected from the field. The data were summarized into tabular forms using measures of central tendencies such as frequency, percentages and mean. It was used to analyse the basic socio-economic characteristics of the respondents such as ages, marital status, educational attainment, household size, and occupation. Also, Linkert scale of measurement was employed to assess the contribution of the rural ward migrants to economic development using variables such as provision of farm labour, marketing of agricultural products, establishment of cooperatives, skill transfer, innovative techniques and remittances.

5. Socio-Economic Characteristics of the Respondents

5.1 Distribution of the Respondents by Their Traits

The study investigated the socio-economic characteristics of migrants in the study area. The result is presented in Table 1. It shows that (58.0%) of the respondents are males while some (42.0%) are females. The high percentage of males might be attributed to the fact that males are often recognized as the head of the households. In the absence of male head of a household, the eldest person responds to the interview. This method adopted in administering the questionnaires explains the little difference in the sex of the respondents. This explains little disparity in the sex status of the respondents. Regarding the marital status, some (58.0%) are married while (24.0%) are spinsters. The divorced individual constituted some (10.0%), and the widowed (8.0%). Early marriages and selecting male heads of each household accounted for the high percentage of the married respondents. The age distribution shows that (36.0%) are between ages 36-40 years, (28.0%) fall within age-group of 31-35 years and only (2.0%) are above 46 years of age. Majority of the respondents are within the ages of 31-40 years and this constitutes some (64.0%). The home-coming might be attributed to unemployment in the urban areas and looking inwards for means of livelihood in the rural communities. About (51.0%) of the respondents have attained secondary education while (26.0%) had primary education. This result indicates that majority of the respondents are literate. The rate of unemployment is high thus, labour could decide to move anywhere not minding rural or urban area to get job for their livelihoods.

Table 1: Characteristics of the Respondents By Districts

Traits of Respondents	Correspondents By Districts						Total	
	Du		Kuru		Vwang		Freq	
	Freq	%	Freq		Freq		Freq	
Sex:-								
Male	64	34.4	38	20.4	84	45.2	186	58.0
Female	39	29.5	38	28.8	55	41.7	132	42.0
Marital Status:-								
Married	71	38.2	42	22.6	73	39.2	186	58.0
Single	15	20.0	25	33.3	35	46.7	75	24.0
Divorced	5	23.8	5	23.8	11	52.4	21	7.0
Separated	4	44.4	0	0	5	55.6	9	3.0
Widowed	8	29.6	4	14.8	15	55.6	27	8.0
Age-Group:-								
0-20 Years	9	47.4	0	0	10	52.6	19	6.0
21-25	0	0	6	40.0	9	60.0	15	5.0
26-30	9	20.9	19	44.2	15	34.9	43	14.0
31-35	35	39.3	13	14.6	41	46.1	89	28.0
36-40	22	19.3	28	24.6	64	56.1	114	36.0
41-45	23	69.7	10	30.3	0	0	33	10.0
Above 46 years	5	100.0	0	0	0	0	5	2.0
Level of Education:-								
Informal education	4	23.5	8	47.1	5	29.4	17	5.0
Primary	26	31.0	34	40.5	24	28.6	84	26.0
Secondary	63	39.1	30	18.6	68	42.2	161	51.0
Tertiary	10	19.6	4	7.8	37	72.5	51	16.0
Others	0	0	0	0	5	100	5	2.0

Occupation:-								
No response	0	0	0	0	5	100	5	2.0
Farming	53	39.3	39	28.9	43	31.9	135	42.0
Schooling	4	21.1	5	26.3	10	52.6	10	3.0
Trading	13	21.3	19	31.1	29	47.5	61	19.0
Artisan	14	42.4	4	12.1	15	45.5	33	10.0
Civil servant	19	29.2	9	13.8	37	56.9	65	20.0
Household size:-								
0-5	5	4.9	0	0	0	0	5	2.0
6-10	77	74.8	10	13.2	20	14.4	107	34.0
11-15	8	7.8	48	63.2	93	66.9	149	47.0
16-20	4	3.9	18	23.7	21	15.1	43	14
21-25	4	3.9	0	0	5	3.6	9	3.0
Above 26	5	4.9	0	0	0	0	5	2

Source: Authors

It is obvious that education makes labour to be mobile. Distribution of respondents by occupation indicates that (42.0%) engaged in farming activities as their primary occupation while about (55.0%) engaged in trade and commercial activities. The high proportion of respondents in farming is not unusual in any rural community. Similarly, trading of the farm produce should naturally follow suit. About (47.0%) of the respondents has household size of between 11-15 members while some (34.0%) have a size of 6-10 members. The households consist of extended families but living under the same roof with a common source of livelihood. It is essentially a major characteristic of rural families not only in Nigeria but in most developing countries of the world. The large family is viewed to supply the needed manual labour on agricultural farms.

5.2 Causes of Rural Ward Migration

The study examined the causes of rural ward migration. The result is presented in Table 2. It shows that some 63(20.0%) migrated into the rural area in order to engage in some economic activities such as black smith, tailoring, petty trading, basket weaving, barbering, and farming. The respondents that came to rural area because of education constitute some 92(29.0%). This tends to contradict expectation but it might be the true situation for some persons to behave in such a manner judging from late access to western education. It reveals that about (16.0%) migrated into the study area because of marriage. In recent times, the culture demands that one should have wife or husband within places of origin. The retirement constitutes some (35.0%) of the sampled population. It is widely acclaimed that migrants of all sorts are closely tied to their places of origin. In other words, they would return home either dead or alive.

Table 2 Reasons for Rural-Ward Migration

Reasons	Responses By Districts						Total	
	Du		Kuru		Vwang			
	Freq	%	Freq.	%	Freq	%	Freq.	%
Engage in economic activity	26	41.3	15	23.8	22	43.9	63	20.0
Education	17	18.5	18	19.6	57	62	92	29.0
Marriage	13	25.5	10	19.6	28	54.9	51	16.0
Retirement	47	42	33	29.5	32	28.6	112	35.0

Source: Authors

The movement from rural to urban areas makes an impact on the quality of rural life especially when such migrants carry away their need consumption into city (Gbemiga, 2005:14). This type of migration has implications on both the place of origin and destination. The impact of rural-urban migration often results in rapid deterioration of the rural economy leading to abject poverty and food insecurity. This is partly due to excessive drain of youths from the rural areas thus leaving the aged persons to constitute the labour force of the rural area. While in the place of destination (urban areas) many migrants end up in shanty towns and slums, typically on outskirts of large cities. The outcome of which is high structural unemployment and under employment (Mini 2001).

5.3 Sources, Duration and Period of Migration

We investigated the places where the migrants come from, the duration of residence and periods they use to engage in migration and the result is presented in Table 3. It reveals that (44.5%) of the migrants have spent between 6-10 years in the study area, while some (32.8%) have spent less than 5 years. The migrants that have

spent some 16 years constitute about (4.1%). The implication is that rural ward migration occurs not too long and this is an indication that if the rural areas are well-developed, served with essential infrastructural facilities it will go along way to stem the tide of rural-urban migration in this country.

Table 3: Sources, Duration and Period of Migrants in the Study Area

Sources, Duration/Periods	Responses By Districts						Total	
	Du		Kuru		Vwang			
	Freq.		Freq.		Freq.		Freq.	
Sources:-								
Rural areas	26	32.9	11	13.9	42	53.2	79	25.0
Urban areas	34	26.0	32	24.4	65	49.6	131	41.0
Others	43	39.8	33	30.6	32	29.6	108	34.0
Duration :-								
0-5	31	9.7	38	11.9	45	14.2	114	32.8
6-10	50	15.7	19	6.0	72	22.6	141	44.3
11-15	22	6.9	19	6.0	9	2.8	50	15.7
Over 16 years	0	0	0	0	13	4.1	13	4.1
Regularity:- of Visit:-								
Annually	35	11.0	33	10.4	67	21.1	135	42.5
0-3 years	41	12.9	14	4.4	54	17	109	34.3
4-6	27	8.5	19	6.0	18	5.7	64	20.1
7-10	0	0	10	3.1	0	0	10	3.1
Periods of Visit:-								
During farming season	48	38.4	24	19.2	53	42.4	125	39.0
During festivals	4	21.1	0	0	15	78.9	19	6.0
Election Period	12	38.7	19	61.3	0	0	31	10.0
After school	19	16.1	28	23.7	71	60.2	118	37.0
During community crisis	5	50.0	5	50.0	0	0	10	3.0
Others	15	5.0	0	0	0	0	15	5.0

Source: Authors

The marital status of the migrants might also be a contributing factor to the length of residence since married couples would not like to stay away from their families. It reveals that some 131(41%) of the rural ward migrants came from urban places such as Barkin-Ladi, Gindiri, Pankshin, Garkawa, Abuja, Keffi, Zaria, Bauchi, Nassarawa, Kaduna, Makurdi, Enugu, Lagos and Okene areas.

The recent reversal flow of people from urban to rural areas could be attributed to urban congestion, political violence, insecurity of life and properties, environmental crises such as noise and pollution of all sorts that are prevalent in cities and towns can cause people to return to their home communities. Some (25.0%) migrated from rural areas namely, Kwata, Foron, Fan, Bakin, Heipang, Nimbria, and Fobur areas. This type of rural-rural migration is very common particularly among illiterates that often engaged in artisan activities and farm labourers. It could be mixed with other motivations and circumstances such as elections, festivals, weddings, funeral outings and chieftaincy coronations. Perhaps most importantly, visits by migrants are intricately linked to the provision of material support to dependants (Knodel and Saengtienchai 2005:15).

Migrants maintain close contact with their various home communities by embarking on regular visits and eventually result in permanent settlement.. About (42.5%) of the respondents claim to be at the village annually and some (34.3%) affirmed to visit home within 3 years interval. While some other respondents (20.1%) visited home within 6 years duration and the remaining (3.1%) of the respondents reported having migrants who visit within 9 years.. A number of factors appear to influence the frequency of migrant's visits home, distance clearly plays a role. The type of work influences their availability to visit home, especially when the distance required many hours of travel. Those who are self employed like the farmers, petty traders and artisans can easily take time off than those who are government employees. Financial constraints influence the ability to take time off work as well as to afford the expenses of a trip back home.

Considering the periods of rural ward migration, some (39.0%) of the sampled population claimed that most people often timed their migration to coincide with the wet season when labour is needed on farm. This trend of in-migration may be extended to dry periods when harvesting of most crops usually commence. About (10.0%) also migrated into the community during political election in order to exercise their franchise in their respective wards. It is observed that (6.0%) of the respondents engaged in rural ward migration for cultural festivals while

(3.0%) migrated into the study area during community crises. In recent times, major crises invaded Plateau State with massive attack on the residents of Dogon Nahawa, about 20 kilometres south Jos – State Capital of Plateau State by persons purported to be Fulani cattle rearers thus, culminating in forced migration in to the peaceful communities (Machunga, 2013).

5.4 Role of Rural Ward Migrants in Economic Development

The study examined the roles of the rural ward migrants in economic development in the study area; the result is present in Table 4. The provision of farm labour was rated (48.7%), (23.3%), (25.2%), and (2.8%) in that order of performance. On the aggregate, it implies that their impact with respect to the supply of farm labour is considered to be fair 163(51.3%) in the community. This level of performance could be attributed to the fact that migrants do invest in agriculture often do so with zeal. In such situation, the agricultural output is expected to be optimal. The marketing of agricultural commodities was rated (47.2%), (24.5%), (27.1%), and (1.2%) in that order. On the aggregate, it is considered to be a fair performance 168(52.8%) in the area of buying, selling, transport and distribution of agricultural products in the study area. Nchuchuwe and Adejuwon (2012) had earlier remarked that subsistence farming would always generate small marketable surpluses resulting from low productivity.

Table 4: Roles of Rural Ward Migration in Economic Development by District

Roles	Assessment of Roles Rural Ward Migrants									
	Poor (0-44)		Fair (45-59)		Good (60-69)		V.Good (70-100)		Aggregate Ratings	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq	%	%	
Provision of farm labour	155	48.7	74	23.3	80	25.2	9	2.8	51.3	Fair
Marketing of farm product	150	47.2	78	24.5	86	27.1	4	1.2	52.8	Fair
Establish cooperatives	120	37.7	57	17.9	80	25.2	61	19.2	62.3	Good
Skill transfer	165	52.0	92	29.0	56	17.7	5	1.3	48.0	Fair
Innovation techniques	170	53.5	98	31.0	26	8.1	24	7.4	46.5	Fair
Remittances	130	40.9	112	35.2	46	14.5	30	9.4	59.1	Fair

Source: Authors

The establishment of cooperative societies was rated (37.7%), (17.9%), (25.2%) and (19.2%) in that order of performance. Put together, some 198(62.3%) of the respondents viewed establishment of cooperatives to be encouraging as against (37.7%) in the study area. Cooperative societies form an integral part of communal efforts geared towards rural socio-economic transformation usually through individual member's participation (Oke, *et al*, 2007). The cooperatives are relatively active in the study area since they render services such as the financial assistance to members. There are multi-purpose cooperatives such as Nenas, Nbwei, Ntyang in Du district; Nerat and Gasen in Kuru district; Wunato, Ryeipeng, Sgwo Danyuruku, Vwana and Dangfa in Vwang district. As regards skill transfer to the rural dwellers, the performance was rated as (52.0%), (29.0%), (17.7%) and (1.3%) in that order. On the aggregate, some 153(48.0%) rated skill acquisition to be fair. This indicates that their impact on skill transfer needs to be improved in the community which could otherwise have broken the vicious circle of low education and skills, low productivity and poverty. Labour migration poses a variety of challenges and opens up opportunities for training and the deployment of skilled labour (ILO, 2008).

Innovation in production was rated as (53.5%), (31.0%), (8.1%) and (7.4%) in that order. On the aggregate, some 148(46.5%) rated innovative ideas to be fair in the study area. It should be realised that innovative ideas in production techniques are paramount to increase agricultural productivity in the rural areas. Gallina (2004) argued that migrants should have stayed at least ten years in order to make an optimal contribution towards economic development. Temporary migration could lead to negative circularity particularly in the developing economies (Singla 2012:2). The rural ward migrants are noted for remitting cash, donation, and gifts or engage in fund raising towards economic development in the study area. The respondents rated remittances as (40.9%), (35.2%), (14.5%) and (9.4%) in that order of performance. Some 188(59.1%) of the respondent express a good contribution to the development of the study area.

6. Recommendations

Policy coherence requires a mechanism whereby the roles of the key institutional actors such as government ministries, and agencies are coordinated in order to improve the effectiveness of policies related to migration. The operational strategy in this situation allows allocation of responsibilities in a well-defined manner to avoid duplication and redundancy for different sets of actors. Also, adequate funding and efficient management are major prerequisites for achieving effective coordination. In addition, sufficient awareness is needed among the

actors as to the inter-ministerial and inter-disciplinary nature of migratory issues. A major obstacle to the improved coordination of migration and development plans is the lack of appropriate indicators and quality data to measure the pattern of migration in any region. There should be at the federal, state and local government levels ministries, departments and agencies directly responsible for migration matters.

The current draft policy on migration placed more emphasis on international migration and remittances from abroad than internal migration and its impact on development. While the contributions of those in diaspora are undoubtedly important, internal migration is equally of considerable concern for economic development process in terms of its impact on urbanization and rural transformation. The management of all patterns of migration must go hand in hand if an objective of the new policy is to maximize the benefits arising from migration.

The National Economic Planning Commission is saddled with primary responsibilities to ensure adequate planning and pursues viable policies that promote development. It is responsible for providing basic information on the Nigeria's economy for meaningful planning, and collaborates with other ministries on development issues in order to ensure balanced development programmes such that it will progressively reduce unemployment and under-employment problems. There is need to strike a balance urban-rural employment opportunities and wage differentials as these are some of the centrifugal forces that are responsible for pushing the rural dwellers to urban centres.

There is urgent need for the government in this country to increase discriminatory investments in the rural areas in terms of provision of infrastructural facilities such as tarred roads, electricity, pipe-borne water, irrigation schemes, tourist centres, health care and educational facilities in order to encourage movement of people from the congested urban areas into the hitherto neglected and deprived rural areas and by so doing it will improve spatial balance in our developmental efforts.

7. Conclusion

This study examined the role of rural ward migration in economic development in Jos south area of Plateau State, Nigeria. It is obvious that internal migration in the country can result in developmental equilibrium between rural and urban areas by making rural communities economically viable. All hands must be on deck to ensure that rural-urban migration is discouraged while encouraging urban-rural migration. This could be achieved through demonstrable political will and vision since resources are often allocated to regions from the political power at the centre. In recent times, rural communities have evolved strategy to combat unemployment, abject poverty and neglect by engaging themselves in non-farm economic activities such as basket-making, tailoring, black-smith, weaving, barbing, and processing of agricultural products. It is gratifying to note that our governments recognized the contribution of small and medium scale enterprises (SMEs) to rural economic development but the policy has not been translated to action as one would expect. It has to be reinforced such that the scheme will achieve its laudable goal of alleviating rural deprivation.

In order to maximize positive effects of migration on rural economic development, a number of measures contained in the draft of national policy on migration should be implemented particularly issues affecting internal migration which occurs on a relatively greater scale and is crucial for understanding patterns of migration and economic development in this country. Moreover, migrants are encouraged to form cooperative societies which can be used to attract attention of government and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to develop rural infrastructural facilities such as schools, colleges, roads, pipe-borne water, cottage hospitals and electrification in the rural communities. This can enhance rapid rural socio-economic transformation as well as boosting the morale of rural dwellers thereby discouraging the exodus of people into the few urban centres in the country.

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