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COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF PRE AND POST-MIGRATION LIVELIHOOD OUTCOMES OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH ABSENTEE HEADS IN OSUN STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

Migration is often linked with a deleterious impact on rural area production and development. Although, the change of location for better opportunities also affect the lives and livelihoods of the migrant households' in the rural communities. The study was a comparative analysis of the pre and post-migration living outcomes of absentee households' heads in Osun State, Nigeria. A multistage sampling procedure involving the simple random sampling was used to select 120 absentee household heads. Data collected with interview schedule was subjected to descriptive statistics, t-test and correlation analyses. Findings showed that more men (76.7%) migrated, leaving women to become the interim household heads. It was found that migrants have a higher average monthly income level (¥44,400). Prior to migration, most families were in the lower financial well-being category (83.3%), while only 55% remained in that category after migration. This follows the result of the t-test which revealed that a significant difference (t=0.00; p<0.05) exists between the well-being of migrant's household before and after migration. Thus, it was concluded that unless the rural push factors are removed, rural-urban migration will continue at an increasing rate because benefits and opportunities acquired in the process influence the well-being of the rural households. The study recommends that enabling environment, facilities and opportunities should be created in the rural communities to transform livelihoods and improve the wellbeing of the people via interventions by national and international agencies.

Keywords: Rural, urban, migration, absentee heads, wellbeing

Introduction

Migration is regarded as the movement of person(s) from one ecological region to another region, which might be of temporary or permanent origin. The motives for movement differ depending on the circumstances that brought about the decision. Migration is a selective process affecting individuals, families, or households with certain economic, social, educational and demographic characteristics (Adewale, 2005). According to Marie-Laurence and De Haas (2016), causes of migration are been attributed to; population growth rate, poverty, conflict, environmental stress, desire for improved income among others. Schoumaker et al. (2015) asserted that study, work, and the family were the major factors responsible for migration among African youths. Due to the frequent migration of the people from one location to another regularly, Africa is termed as the continent on the move (Asma, 2015). However, internal migration follows a variety of

patterns on space, ranging from urban-urban, urbanrural, rural-rural, and, rural-urban migration (Eze, 2016). In the last decade, Nigeria witnessed a net migration rate moving from -0.303 to -0.295 between 2019 and 2020 (Macrotrends, 2011). Rapid urbanization amid low development is part of a broader pattern in sub-Saharan Africa. Nigeria urbanized faster with urbanization rate of 35% in 2014. Due to influx of 43 million people to Nigeria's cities from 1990 to 2010, urban population is expected to rise to 55% by 2020 and to 71% (278 million) by 2050. (World Bank Group, 2016). This implies that several numbers of the Nigerian population are moving outside the country to European, Asian, Gulf and other African countries (Bakewell and De Haas 2007, Schoumaker et al. 2015, Marie-Laurence and De Haas 2016). Urbanet (2018) also noted that several people move from the rural area to several urban areas, including but not limited to Lagos, Ibadan, Port-Harcourt, and, Kano with each of them having an annual

population growth of 20%. Invariably, the migration of people from an origin into another destination is not without its attendant social, educational and demographic consequences (Amrevurayire and Ojeh, 2016), on the migrants, and livelihoods of rural dwellers left behind by the migrants. Nwokocha (2009) noted that migrant's recipients are hardly aware of the impending human additions, yet, strive to accommodate the migrants in line with the African extended family tradition and hospitality, at times at severe costs.

Lall et al. (2017) pointed out that African cities are usually crowded, disconnected, and, costly. According to their findings, this is fundamentally due to scanty economic activities, infrastructure or housing and commercial structures that characterize sub-Saharan African countries. They lack "formal housing in reach of jobs, and without transport systems to connect people living far away". Thereby residents tend to "forgo services and amenities to live in cramped quarters near their work". Campbell (2019) stated that about two of every three persons in Lagos lives in a slum and less than 10% have access to pipe borne water, and for those who do, is often riddled with sediments and unsafe to drink. The movement of the people from the rural to urban areas grants them opportunities which can help to transform the lives of the people left behind and it have a great impact on the livelihood outcome. Nyberg-Sorensen et al. (2002), noted that the search for a better and more secure livelihood drives many migratory movements for survival stake in refashioning resources dispersed in space into family livelihoods for improvement. Livelihoods involving the geographic dispersal of household members can reduce poverty by redistributing resources across space and within a household (Waddington, 2003). Although, livelihoods in the rural areas could suffer setbacks and negative impacts due to migration, but benefits obtained from the urban centres could also be utilized to improve the livelihood outcome in the agrarian communities. Maharjan et al. (2013) pointed out that there is an impact of migration on inputs and production outputs in rural farm families such as neglect of subsistence farming with the discoveries of alternative sources of income. In most rural households, the condition of the livelihood outcome before migration is not as good after migration. This is because allowances send by migrants to their rural households are used to improve their livelihoods. Whitehead (2002) asserted that access to migration has opportunities and its consequences impact the livelihood transformation due to better access to resources and assets that their livelihoods depend on to flourish. Mosse et al. (2002) provides evidence from tribal western India that poorer families are more likely to migrate altogether, whereas, individual adults will migrate from richer (more food secure) households, sending remittances to support the family. De Haan (2000) asserted that the job type, distance and opportunities are the central reasons for migration stream and who profits and benefits from the migration process.

Remittances from migrants are a vital source of earning in most developing nations, at both country and household levels, especially in mountain areas (World Bank, 2016). The impacts of migration on the livelihoods of rural households based on asset indicators have remained relevant since migration acts as a catalyst in transforming migrants' lives and the conditions of family members left behind, of local communities of the wider sending regions (Ajaero and Madu, 2014). Households make decisions about migration is based on the profits (like remittance flows, higher local incomes or the spreading of risks) and the costs of migration (like travelling costs or the lack of labour forces) (Lindley, 2008). Migrants transfer money to their relatives in rural areas to improve their lives and livelihoods. Remittances improve chances of access to resources of which access land for livelihoods especially in the rural area can be a major motivating factor for migration (Tacoli and Mabala, 2010). Rural-urban migration is considered as a strategy that creates economic and social links between the migrant and their rural household to become less vulnerable to shocks, risks or local constraints in their livelihood (Ellis, 2000). Even though there is much research on the negative impact of migration on the livelihoods in the agrarian communities as the people move to urban areas, but there is less emphasis on how benefits acquired from the cities has been used to improve the livelihood outcome of the people. This makes it important to know perhaps families of migrants achieve improved livelihood outcomes post-migration. In this view, the study examines pre and post-migration livelihoods outcomes for households with absentee heads in Osun State.

Methodology Study Area

The research was conducted in Osun Sate. Osun is an inland State in South West Nigeria with Its capital in Osogbo. Osun is bounded in the North by Kwara State, East by Ekiti and Ondo States, South by Ogun State, and in the West by Oyo State. Osun State is located on latitude 7°.59' and Longitude 4°.56'. The total land area is approximately 9,251km with an estimated population of 3,416,959 as at 2006 but projected to be 5,521,901 by 2021 at 3.3% annual population growth rate (NPC, 2006). Farming is the primary livelihood of the people in Osun State. They produce cocoa, palm oil and kernels and some food crops such as yams, cassava, and maize etc. They engage in agro-processing and there is the presence of local food industries. Many of them are into trading activities and due to the presence of mineral resources; mining is also a means of livelihood in the study area. Osun consists of 30 Local Government Aareas (LGAs), with the major ethnic group as the Yoruba tribe consisting of various sub-ethnic groups such as; Ife, Ijesha, Oyo, Ibolo, and Igbomina and a handful of others from other parts of Nigeria. Based on this, Osun is a fair representation of the tribes in South-Western Nigeria; it is also located in the inner parts of the South-Western region of Nigeria justifying the presence of numerous rural settlements within the State - An important factor informing the choice of Osun as a case study.



Figure 1: Map of Osun State indicating some communities in the study Area Source: Google Earth (2021)

Sampling Procedure and Sample Size

A multi-stage sampling was used to select 120 respondents as the total sample size for the study. Osun is divided into three agricultural zones (OSSADEP) which are Osogbo, Iwo, and Ife-Ijesha. The first stage involved a simple random sampling of Iwo zone from the three agricultural zones in Osun State. The second stage involved a simple random selection of two blocks from the seven blocks in Iwo zone. The blocks selected were Iwo and Ejigbo, from which two cells each were selected to make four cells. In the third stage, two villages were selected using simple random sampling to make eight villages. Lastly, fifteen households were selected using the simple random sampling technique from the selected eight villages giving a total of 120 respondents.

Measurement of variables

The dependent variable, which is the wellbeing of the migrants' family before and after the migration of the family household heads was measured using the adapted CBA-MI financial wellbeing scale (Version 1). The adapted CBA-MI well-being scale consists of four constructs which are measured with 5 points scales stated thus:

- 1. Difficulty in meeting living expenses: Very Difficult = 0, Difficult = 1, Neither Difficult nor Easy = 2, Easy = 3 and Very Easy=4
- 2. Improvement in living situation: Not at all=0, Very little=1, Somewhat=2, Very Well=3 and Completely=4
- 3. Extent at which financial advantage better living condition: Never =0, Rarely =1, Sometimes=2, Often=3 and Always=4
- 4. Perception of financial freedom and improved wellbeing: Disagree Strongly=0, Disagree=1, Neither Agree nor Disagree=2, Agree=3 and Agree Strongly=4
 The Well-being Score was generated from the aggregate of the components of the well-being and used in computation and testing of the hypothesis. The independent variables were measured thus: Gender at nominal level where Male=1, Female =2; Religion at nominal level where Christianity =1, Islamic = 2, Traditional=3; Household size as number of persons in the households; Age in years; Level of education at ordinal level, no formal education =1, primary school

=2, secondary school =3, Tertiary Institution =; Position of respondents at an ordinal level, - Father =1, Mother =2, Child =3; Current income level at the interval level; Amount generated per month in naira; and Changes and improvement that occur in livelihood outcomes at the nominal level.

Data Collection

An interview schedule was used to elicit information from the respondents, that is, the household heads. In order to determine the reliability of the instrument, the test conducted was the test-retest method. Ten respondents each were selected from two different locations; Ipetumodu and Ikire to make twenty respondents from those responses at the interval of three weeks. The two sets of scores were correlated and coefficients (r) of the scales equal to 0.81 which confirmed that the instrument is reliable for the study.

Data Analysis

Descriptive statistics in the form of frequencies mean and percentages were used to analyze the data and presented in tables and charts. The hypotheses were tested using Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) for the first hypothesis and Test of Difference for the second hypothesis. The study hypothesized that there is no significant relationship between socioeconomic characteristics and the well-being of migrant's family, and no significant difference between the wellbeing of the migrant family before and after migration.

Results and Discussion

Socio-economic Characteristics of respondents

The result in Table 1 shows that 51.7% of the respondents were between 31 and 50 years old, and the mean age of the respondents was 33 years. The implication is that respondents are in their active years and expected to earn income to support themselves and their families. Result also shows that many (53.3%) respondents have household size within the range of 6 to 10 persons with a mean of 6 persons. This shows that rural families in the study area comprise much of larger families, thus; resulting in higher household expenditure, with negative spill-over effect on

household livelihoods outcomes. Furthermore, 66.7% of the respondents sampled were female. This may be because after the male household migrates, there will be more females with the responsibility of standing as the interim household head. This confirms the findings of Moses et al. (2017), who noted that the male migrate more than their female counterparts. More males are likely to migrate with the aim of generating more income from the activities they do and send allowance home to improve the standard of living of their families. Meanwhile, females were most times left behind to take care of the households and nurture the children on behalf of the father. Table 1 also shows that the majority attained secondary school education (50%),;the quest to obtain higher education or to use the certificate to seek jobs in the cities by the respondents also influence most households heads migration to a new location for benefits and opportunities. The findings further revealed

that half of the respondents had post-migration income within the range of N40,000 - 60000, with an average monthly income of N44,400; an amount larger than the national minimum wage as at the time of carrying out the study. These earnings allow the migrated have a little more to give out to their families because it is higher than what they made on average in the rural areas, even when they are engaged in local formal jobs that their qualifications can offer. Table 1, also showed that many (51.7%) of the respondents were mothers in the families, as household responsibilities shift to the wives of absentee household heads. The mothers assume the position of responsibility and decision making on behalf of the father for the households. There are certain responsibilities and decisions required to move the household forward that cannot wait for the return of the household absentee.

Table 1: Socio economic	characteristi	cs of respond	ents
Variable	Frequency	Percentage	Mean
Age (years)			
<31	54	45.0	33 years
31-40	36	30.0	
41-50	26	21.7	
>50	4	3.3	
Gender			
Male	40	33.3	
Female	80	66.7	
Religion			
Christianity	64	53.3	
Islam	48	40.0	
Traditional	8	6.7	
Household size			
<6	56	46.7	6 persons
6-10	64	53.3	•
Level of education			
No formal education	8	6.7	
Primary level	26	21.7	
Secondary level	60	50.0	
Tertiary level	26	21.7	
Position of respondents			
Father	14	11.7	
Mother	62	51.7	
Child	44	36.7	
Monthly income			
20,001-40,000	50	41.7	44,400.00
40,001-60,000	60	50.0	
>60,000	10	8.3	

Source: Field survey, 2019

Wellbeing of the migrant family before migration

Entries in Table 3 shows that only 10.4% of the respondents were able to meet their cost of living expenses, while, more than half (58.4%) found it tough to cope with their living expenses. This was in the last 12 months that time of hardship is long enough to prompt people to migrate for better opportunities and benefits that can improve their standard of living. Many (54.2%) can barely handle unexpected expenses within their household before migration and 19.20% cannot at all

meet the unexpected expenses. Any unforeseen circumstances that require financial commitments will definitely affect the migrant family because unexpected of economy instability, price fluctuations and inflation rate. Therefore, there could be sudden and unexpected demand and expenses that can affect the wellbeing of the people. Members of families are encouraged to migrate because of their belief that their continued stay in the village will not bring financial success (Gugler, 1991). The finding also shows that more than 70% disagree that they were on top of their day to day finances and being comfortable with their spending. The implication is that people just manage the available resources for survival and they are not happy with their inability to meet up with their expenses and spending. In the overall categorization of wellbeing, majority (83.3%) of the migrant's family had lower wellbeing before migration, while; only 16.7% had higher wellbeing. This is an

indication that the households are only struggling to meet their needs which prompted the head that are saddled with the responsibility of catering for the family need to go in search of financial freedom. Oginni (2019) indicated that there are rural push factors which include; low income from agriculture, poverty, lack of job opportunities and high conflict levels in rural areas have pushed the majority of rural dwellers into the city.

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Table 3: Wellbeing of family before migration of household heads					
In the last 12 months, how difficult was it for you to meet your necessary cost	Very	Difficult	Neither difficult	easy	Very easy
of living expenses	difficult		nor easy		
1. In the last 12 months, how difficult was it for you to meet your necessary cost of	14.20	44.20	27.50	10.40	0.00
living expenses like housing, electricity, water, health care, food, clothing or transport?					
How well do the following statements describe you or your situation?	Not at all	Very	Somewhat	Very	Completely
		little		well	
2. I could handle a major unexpected expense	19.20	54.20	24.20	2.50	0.00
3. I can enjoy life because of the way I'm managing my money	33.30	46.70	11.70	8.30	0.00
4. I am securing my financial future	19.20	45.0	15.80	16.70	3.3
How often do the following statements apply to you?	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always
5. My finances control my life	16.7	11.7	29.20	26.70	15.80
6. I have money left over at the end of the month	30.00	38.30	24.20	7.50	0.00
7. Giving a gift for a wedding, birthday or other occasion would put a strain on my	5.80	14.20	42.50	19.20	18.30
finances for the month					
When it comes to how you think and feel about your finances, please indicate	Disagree	Disagree	Neither agree	Agree	Agree
the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements	strongly		nor		strongly
			disagree		
8. I feel on top of my day to day finances	22.50	54.20	17.50	5.80	0.00
9. I am comfortable with my current levels of spending relative to the funds I have	33.30	40.80	20.00	5.80	0.00
10. I am on track to have enough money to provide for my financial needs in the future	14.20	26.70	20.80	25.00	13.4
Source: Field survey, 2019					

Table 4: categorization of Wellbeing of migrant's family before migration

Category	Frequency	Percentage	
Lower financial wellbeing	100	83.3	
Higher financial wellbeing	20	16.7	
Total	120	100.0	

Source: Field survey, 2019

Wellbeing of migrant family after migration

Using CBA-MI reported financial wellbeing scale by Comerton-Forde et al. (2018) to identify families in the lower and higher financial wellbeing category, and, comparing it with results from Tables 3 and 4. The findings in Table 5 show that 46.37% of the respondents found it easier to meet their necessary cost of living expenses after migration. This could be because they have more funds and access to opportunities in their new location which they can use to transform their families living conditions. Ajaero and Onokala (2011) asserted that remittances derivable from the migration process that reflect the level of socioeconomic development that can be traceable to rural urban migration. In fact 46.37% of the respondents indicated that after migration they can completely handle their unexpected expenses very well. About 50% of the respondents strongly agreed that they are now on top of their day to day activities expenses and are more comfortable with their current level of spending, which enabled them to give gifts to

others as well as being on track to financial freedom and sustainability. Households use the allowances and remittances sent to them primarily for basic needs such as food and clothing and investing in children's education, health care, food security and sanitation (World Bank, 2005). Table 6 shows that there was an increase in the wellbeing of migrant families after the migration of the household head. This is due to the movement of more families from the lower financial well-being category into the higher financial well-being category post-migration. The percentage of families having higher financial wellbeing rose rapidly from 16.7% to 45.0%. This implies that migration of the household head has benefited a fairly good number of the migrants' families. This may be due to remittances migrants send to their rural families. This is in line with the findings of Dustman and Mestres (2010), who stated that most migrants regularly remit money to their family and these remittances help reduce their financial burdens.

Table 5: Wellbeing of family after migration of household head financial well-being scale	-being scale				
In the last 12 months, how difficult was it for you to meet your necessary	Very	Difficult	Neither difficult	ult Easy	Very easy
cost of living expenses	difficult		nor easy		
1. In the last 12 months, how difficult was it for you to meet your necessary cost	17.30	21.00	15.33	34.17	12.20
of living expenses like housing, electricity, water, health care, food, clothing or transport?					
How well do the following statements describe you or your situation?	Not at all	Very little	Somewhat	Very	Completely
				well	
2. I could handle a major unexpected expense	11.60	30.00	14.20	26.80	17.40
3. I can enjoy life because of the way I'm managing my money	00.9	18.30	36.70	27.30	11.70
4. I am securing my financial future	10.00	13.5	40.00	21.50	15.00
How often do the following statements apply to you?	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always
5. My finances control my life	28.80	24.20	16.20	10.80	20.00
6. I have money left over at the end of the month	2.30	5.00	34.20	27.50	31.00
7. Giving a gift for a wedding, birthday or other occasion would put a strain on	38.70	20.50	16.50	10.00	14.30
my finances for the month					
When it comes to how you think and feel about your finances, please	Disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor	or Agree	Agree
indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following	strongly		disagree		strongly
statements					
8. I feel on top of my day to day finances	2.50	9.00	18.00	25.70	44.80
9. I am comfortable with my current levels of spending relative to the funds I	10.0	14.70	12.00	29.30	34.00
have coming in					
10. I am on track to have enough money to provide for my financial needs in the	7.8	10.70	15.80	25.30	40.4
Tuture					
Source: Field survey, 2019					

Table 6: Wellbeing of migrant family after migration

	Frequency	Percentage	
Lower financial wellbeing	66	55.0	_
Higher financial wellbeing	54	45.0	
Total	120	100.0	

Source: Field survey, 2019

Perceived improvement in the livelihood outcome of the migrant family

The essence of migration of the people is to enhance wellbeing for themselves and their families. The findings in Figure 1 show the perceived improvement that occurred in the livelihood outcome of the people. Majority (85%) of the respondents noticed an increase in their income: this could be because of higher earnings they obtained from their activities in the cities. Semyonov and Gorodzeisky (2008) indicated that households receive more remittance benefits for a higher standard of living. Majority of the respondents (more than 70%) also indicated that they were able to engage in additional investment and income sources. The more investment opportunities that the household heads were exposed to after migration gave chances to earn more income that can enhance the household's livelihoods back at home. Livelihood outcomes improved as a result of migration, thereby, affecting the wellbeing of the migrant family. More than 60% also noted that there was an improvement in the food security and market link for sale for their produce/products. The increased income aids in acquiring of livelihood assets, thereby helped to improve their primary livelihoods; which is agriculture and that assisted in boosting the food

supply and availability, thereby improving food security. Deshingkar and Start (2003) noted that caste may contribute to exclusion of certain types of people from positive migration streams. Labour migration may also be a way for relatively prosperous households to further enhance their livelihood security.

Social exposure and network identified by 62% of the respondents show that they increased the connection base and networking opportunities. De Haan (2003) asserted that caste identity is vital in the personal connection and networks that intervene the migration of migrants to Calcutta. Hugo (2002) argues that family control of female migrants can still be exercised via strong social networks that have developed between origin and destination. Palloni et al. (2001) tested the hypothesis that family ties and networks have a positive impact on the experience and outcomes from migration; they found that diffuse networks encourage migration. Khan (2003) reported how slum dwellers in Bangladesh who migrate from rural areas precisely because they lack support or are unable to access kin networks, may form alternative exchange networks based on informal resources available in the slum, with similar households in the urban destination.

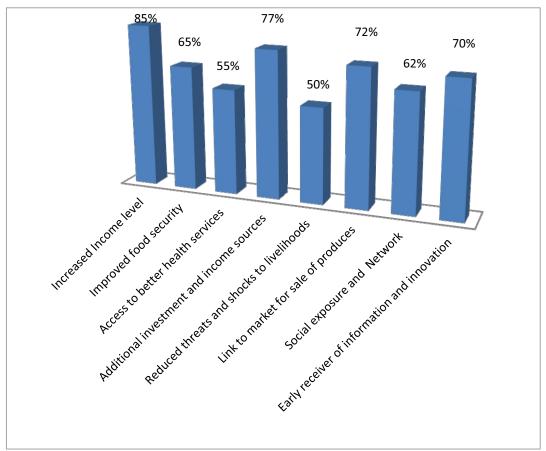


Figure 1: Changes in Livelihood Outcomes of the migrant family Source: Field survey, 2019

Hypotheses Testing

H0_i: There is no significant relationship between socio-economic characteristics and the wellbeing of migrant family: The correlation analysis result in Table 7 showed that a negative and significant relationship exists between household size and wellbeing of migrants' families. This implies that a household with larger members face the risk of poverty, as there will be more family members to share the limited family earnings with. The larger the size of households, the poorer their wellbeing. There is no significant relationship between age and wellbeing of migrant families; this is because regardless of the age that the

people migrated, they can still obtain certain benefits that can improve wellbeing of the migrant families. The level of education has a positive and significant relationship with wellbeing of migrant family. The higher the education status of the respondents, the more years they would have spent in school. The higher degree could aid in getting better opportunities that could transform the standard of living of their families. The income level after migration also significantly influenced the wellbeing of the people. The increase in the income of the households helps them to acquire assets and access services that can improve the livelihood outcome.

Table 7: Correlation analysis of selected socio-economic characteristics and wellbeing

Variable	Coefficient	p-value	Decision	
Age	0.063	0.635	NS	
Household size	-0.252	0.041	S	
Education (years spent in school)	0.416	0.011	S	
Income level	0.357	0.032	S	

Source: Field survey, 2019

H0; There is no significant difference between the wellbeing of the migrant family before and after migration of the household head: The result in Table 8 showed that there is a significant difference between the wellbeing of migrant families before and after migration of the household head. This implies that the well-being of the migrant family has improved greatly after migration compared to the living condition before the

migration. The indication is that more people could be encouraged also to leave for cities to meet their counterparts in the cities to seek better opportunities. The movement of people could led to labour drain from the agrarian communities and affecting agricultural production, but the migrant families' standard of living is improved as a result of benefits acquired from migration.

Table 8: T-test analysis for the wellbeing of migrant family before and after migration

Variable	t	df	p-value	Decision
Wellbeing before and after migration	4.002***	119	0.000	S

Source: Field survey, 2019

Conclusion

The findings of the study showed that the wellbeing of the migrant families enhanced after migration. The incentives offered by migration bring about transformation in livelihood outcomes such as increased income, food security, access to services, better living condition and less vulnerability to risk and threats. The migrant family felt secured, liberated and on top of handling their day to day expenses. They found it easier and comfortable to meet their basic needs in life in the last 12 months. The pull factors encouraging rural households' heads to find a better living in the cities will continue to push people out of rural to urban areas. It is therefore recommended that government and community should work hand in hand to create development and enabling environment to resolve pulling factors to encourage people to stay in the agrarian communities. Development agencies and investors should intervene by investing in activities that can transform the wellbeing of the people. This will improve the living condition of the agrarian communities and better their livelihood outcome for sustainable development.

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