

Labour Migration: Causes and Patterns in Nigeria

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Abstract: - This paper examined labour migration: causes and patterns in Nigeria. Labour migration simply connotes migration for the main purpose of employment. Those who are moving from one place to another in search of green pasture or job and those who secured jobs as the result of the movement are called labour migrants or migrant workers. Labour migrants lack legal protection, and insufficient information about their rights makes them vulnerable to exploitation and abuse from recruiters, employers, and authorities. Labour migrants who often work in the informal sector are usually exposed to abuses resulting from xenophobia or fear of strangers and racism especially the international migrants. Findings of this research work revealed that unemployment, poverty and insecurity are the basic causes of labour migration in Nigeria. Unemployment is regarded as the root of poverty in Nigeria. In Nigeria predominantly the graduate unemployment is phenomenally prominent in the recent decades, the state which is essentially as a result of the sharp increase in the tertiary institution turnout. Unemployment, on the other hand, is a situation in which people are actively in need of pay work, they have the requisite skill and ability to do the work but they cannot find it due to some structural factors, seasonal or cyclical. Secondary sources of data were used for the purpose of this paper; and two theories were also reviewed and adopted which include Neo-classical theory of migration and New economic theory of migration. Amongst other recommendations, it's recommended that entrepreneurship centres should be established within the thirty six states of the federation including FCT Abuja that will be responsible for training the unemployed youths in order to reduce the level of migration within and outside the country so that we shouldn't lose our labour force.

Keywords: Labour migration, labour migrant, labour force, causes, patterns, Nigeria

I. INTRODUCTION

Labour Migration entails the movement of people who are seeking for job or potential job candidates from one place to another for the main purpose of securing job that will contribute to the changing of their social status which is a common phenomenon in Nigeria Migration, which is the movement of people over defined space and time, is a phenomenon that has been part of humans from creation. Humans have been on the move in quest of overcoming the earth, and to exploit existing resources and socio-economic opportunities for the wellbeing of humans. In addition, humans have also been forced to relocate from their usual place of residence in the face of environmental shocks, such as, flooding, famine, desertification, earthquakes among others. Furthermore, people can also be forced or compelled ('pushed') to relocate from one place (origin) to the other (destination) due to social conflict and warfare. Under the

latter circumstance, people migrate in search of 'safe heaven' where their safety is significantly assured (Adepoju, 2008; Bakewell and De Haas, 2007; Afolayan and Ikwyatum et al, 2011).

When the migration process occurs within national boundaries of country, it is referred as internal migration and when it occurs across national border or boundaries, it is referred to international migration (Castles, 2012). In essence, migration can be either voluntary or involuntary. Voluntary migration occurs when the decision making is based either on the individual's desire or by the household, that is, when members collectively desire to send a family member into the migration process. In involuntary migration, people are forced to migrate against their desire and will to destinations far from their area of origin or usual place of residence. Examples of forced or involuntary migration include: socio-economic instability, slavery, human and child trafficking, environmental shocks. In modern times and in this era of globalization, socio-economic factors play significant roles in human mobility.

II. CONCEPTUAL EXPLANATIONS

Labour Migration

Labour migration or migrant worker is a marriage of convenience between two concepts:

- i. Demographic concept: 'migration' or 'migrant' and
 - ii. Socio-economic concept: 'labour' or 'worker'.
- Therefore, labour migration is the movement of people from their place of origin to another destination in search of employment.

There is no internationally accepted statistical definition of labour migration. However, the main actors in labour migration are **migrant workers**, which the International Labour Organization (ILO) defines as: "all international migrants who are currently employed or unemployed and seeking employment in their present country of residence." (ILO, 2015). Labour migration simply connotes migration for the main purpose of employment. Labour migrants often work in the informal sector and are usually exposed to abuses resulting from xenophobia (fear of strangers) and racism especially the international migrants. Labour migrants lack legal protection, and insufficient information about their rights makes them vulnerable to exploitation and abuse from recruiters, employers, and authorities.

In 2013, migrant workers accounted for approximately 64 per cent of the world's international migrant population (ILO, 2015). Crossing national borders to work is one of the key motivations behind international migration, whether driven by economic inequalities, seeking employment, or both. According to the ILO global estimates on migrant workers, in 2017, migrant workers accounted for 164 million of the world's approximately 258 million international migrants. Migrant workers contribute to growth and development in their countries of destination, while countries of origin greatly benefit from their remittances and the skills acquired during their migration experience. Yet, the migration process implies complex challenges in terms of governance, migrant workers' protection, migration and development linkages, and international cooperation. Those who migrate to new areas experience certain socio-psychological problems of adjustments with the residents of place of migration. Migration directly impacts the migrants, their families and their employers, and also impacts development indirectly. Development in turn impacts migration. There is no doubt that migration is a very important driver of development (World Bank, 2013). Supporters of allowing free movement of labour argue that labour mobility is a **positive-sum game** rather than a **zero-sum game**.

Labour Migrants/Migrant Workers

Labour migrants refers to those seeking work or employed in the host country, or previously seeking work or employed but unable to continue working and remaining in residence in the host country irrespective of their documentation. In terms of estimating how many migrants are labour migrants, some use legal status, some use motivation, and others general employment. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), "**Labour migrants**" are defined as those who move for the purpose of employment. The Encyclopaedia Britannica defines **Migrant labour** as casual and unskilled workers who move about systematically from one region to another offering their services on a temporary, usually seasonal basis. A "**Migrant Worker**" is defined in the International Labour Organization (ILO) instruments as a person who migrates from one country to another (or who has migrated from one country to another) with a view to being employed other than on his own account, and includes any person regularly admitted as a migrant for employment

The United Nations Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families defines a **migrant worker** as a person who is to be engaged, is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a state of which he or she is not a citizen.

Labour Force

Labour force comprises all persons who are of working age (i.e. aged 15 to 64) and are either 'employed' or 'unemployed' (i.e. seeking employment) during the reference

period, according to national conventions. Employment rate by age group are indicated as follows: people aged 15 to 24 (those just entering the labour market); people aged 25 to 54 (those in their main working lives); people aged 55 to 64 (those passing the peak of their career and approaching retirement) (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), 2019).

IV. VULNERABLE GROUPS OF MIGRANT WORKERS

The 2004 International Labour Conference (ILC) of the International Labour Organization resolution concerning migrant workers in a global economy identified several categories of highly vulnerable migrant workers: women migrant workers, particularly women in domestic service and the informal economy; temporary migrant workers, including seasonal workers; and migrant workers in irregular status, including trafficked workers (ILO, 2004a).

Women

Although migration for the purposes of work can be an empowering experience for some women from traditional societies, it can also lead them into situations of abuse and exploitation. Women migrant workers may be victims of "double discrimination" – as migrant workers and as women. Attention must be paid to protecting women from the problems and conditions they can face, such as sexual exploitation, violence and trafficking, and to the conditions of certain forms of work held predominantly by women migrant workers, such as domestic work. Women migrant workers are often directed into traditional forms of "women's work" and paid less than men for work of comparable skill levels. They may be more isolated than men migrant workers, again, for example, when they perform domestic work. Women migrant workers in some countries are required to undergo pregnancy testing and are then subject to termination of employment and deportation if the result is positive.

Domestic Workers

Domestic migrant workers are mostly women who are among the vulnerable groups of migrant workers. Most are women moving from poorer to richer countries, and most leave their children behind, often in the care of relatives or a caregiver hired locally, creating global care chains. The availability of foreign maids in turn allows women with children in destination countries to work for wages, so that many of the world's women are able to pursue paid employment outside the home (ILO, 2003e, Booklet 1).

In some European countries, such as France, Greece, Italy and Spain, domestic work or housekeeping is the most common occupation open to women migrant workers (Reyneri, 2001). Government policies of origin countries towards women going abroad to be domestic workers range from a liberal approach to highly regulated systems. As noted above, a few countries, such as Bangladesh and Pakistan, completely ban the emigration of low-skilled female workers, to prevent them from being subjected to the abusive

conditions which too frequently exist in domestic work. They generally receive very low wages and have inadequate health insurance coverage, if any at all. They are frequently exposed to physical and sexual harassment, violence and abuse. In some cases they are trapped in situations where they are physically or legally restrained from leaving the employer's home by threats or actual violence, by withholding of pay, or by confiscation of identity documents (ILO, 2003e). In the case of Malaysia and Singapore, domestic workers must undergo periodic pregnancy tests and are immediately deported if they test positive, in contravention of the ILO's Maternity Protection Convention, 2000 (No. 183).

Domestic workers are not being covered by laws on pay and working hours, safety and health, or other working conditions. In many countries, migrant domestic workers do not enjoy equality of treatment in respect of many protections and rights, particularly social protection. Pregnancy or positive HIV status often result in the worker's dismissal, either formally or informally (ILO, 2009e). Non-payment or delayed payment of wages is also a common practice in private households employing domestic workers. Employers often refuse to pay their domestic workers in full until they have completed their contracts (Wickramasekara, 2005a).

Children

Children are involved in the migration process in a variety of ways: they may be left behind by parents who migrate to another country for employment; they may accompany their parents, through either regular or irregular channels; and they may migrate independently, seeking asylum or employment, or to join family members in the destination country. Children who decide to migrate are particularly vulnerable to trafficking, exploitation and abuse, and may fall victim to smuggling networks. Socio-economic and gender inequalities render some child migrants even more vulnerable than others. In rural areas of origin countries the quality of schooling is often poor, and children from poor families do not have the means to access better educational opportunities (Development Research Centre on Migration, Globalisation and Poverty, 2008). These limitations shape children's employment opportunities, and often lead to their working in low-skilled jobs in the informal economy. Child migrants may not completely comprehend the risks involved in migration, leaving them unprepared to face the challenges they may confront at their destination they may be lured into hostile and criminal activities which may likely result to their detention.

Migrant Workers in Irregular Status

Migrant workers in irregular status easily fall prey to extortion and are highly vulnerable to abuse and exploitation by employers, migration agents, corrupts bureaucrats and criminal gangs. According to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, "Migrant irregular workers face the gravest risks to their human rights and fundamental freedoms when they are recruited, transported and employed

in defiance of the law" (UNO HCHR, 1996, p.7). Women in irregular status are doubly vulnerable as they are also at risk of sexual exploitation. The basic human rights of migrants in irregular status are therefore often violated, even though those rights are enshrined in international human rights instruments which have been ratified by most countries (Wickramasekara, 2000).

Migrant workers may enter a destination country in regular status and later fall into irregular status for a variety of reasons, which to some extent may not be their fault. For example, in some cases recruiters give false information; or a migrant worker may lose his or her job (Ellman and Laacher, 2003).

Trafficked Persons

The trafficking of human beings represents a violation of the fundamental rights and core labour standards relating to forced labour, discrimination, freedom of association. Those who are smuggled use the services of smugglers willingly; trafficking involves coercion. According to the ILO Global Report on forced labour, labour trafficking can be attributed essentially to imbalances between labour supply and the availability of legal work in a place where the jobseeker is legally entitled to reside (ILO, 2001c). Smuggling occurs because borders have become barriers between jobseekers and job availability. Trafficking occurs when not only do borders act in this way as barriers to labour supplies meeting demands, but no knowledge is available about proper migration channels, employment is itself illegal and/or underground, and conditions of work below the legal minimum are tolerated or ignored (ILO, 2001c).

Those who recruit people to be trafficked often create the conditions for forced labour by giving migrants false information on the nature or place of work to which they are going, entering into loan agreements with migrants that put them into debt bondage, or facilitating undocumented or falsely documented migration, thereby making migrants vulnerable to threats of deportation. Victims of trafficking usually work in economic sectors where they are hard to detect, such as agriculture, domestic service and the sex industry. The ILO estimates that in 2005 about 2.45 million people were in forced labour as a result of trafficking (ILO, 2005a).

Temporary Migrant Workers

The vulnerability of migrant workers in the workplace and in the wider society is linked to a variety of different economic, cultural and political factors, including the specific features of labour laws and the effectiveness of enforcement mechanisms. Short-term migrant workers, for example, are often limited either *de jure* or *de facto* in their right of access to courts in cases of abuse, such as unfair dismissal. Social protection legislation may in actuality discriminate against temporary migrant workers. The existence of unscrupulous or immoral recruitment is a key feature of the temporary

migration phenomenon in many countries, with all the accompanying abuses such as high fees, debt bondage, false promises of work, false information about the job and fraudulent employment contracts.

Temporary migrant workers may be excluded from wage protection and social security programmes as a result of stringent residence requirements. In addition, some jobs disproportionately filled by migrant workers may be excluded from full coverage by wage laws and benefit programmes: for example, in agriculture, in free trade zones and in private households (Ramirez-Machado, 2003).

V. THEORETICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Researchers have made several attempts to explain labour migration in terms of various theories but attention in this scholarly paper is centred on two theories which include Neo- Classical Theory of migration and New economic theory of migration. The economic evaluation of migration involves both the redistribution of labour and the search of opportunity. For example father of economics known as Adam Smith, unveiled that labour migration is due to the imbalance in the labour market at different locations (Lebhart, 2005).

Neo- Classical Theory of migration

Neo-classical theory of migration reveals that, migration of labour is due to the differences in the real wages between the countries and migration of labour brings equilibrium in the international labour market which wipes away the wage differences between the countries. The neo-classical theory explains both the macro and micro aspects of migration. The neo-classical macro theory of migration dates back to Hicks (1932).

In view of this theory, the unbalanced distribution of capital and labour at the macro level causes inequality in wages and living conditions and leads to migration. The migrants move towards the places where employment, wages and other economic conditions are more favourable to them giving high chances of ending the differences in wages and living conditions between places. The neo-classical micro approach of migration (The Theory of the New Economics of Migration) considers not only the labour market but also the conditions of other markets such as the capital market or unemployment insurance market as reasons for migration. In addition, this theory also considers household strategy behind migration as the actual drive of migration is to change the source of income rather than maximize the income. This theory also emphasises the importance of financial transfers of migration in the context of socio-cultural changes. Moreover, this theory also helps to understand why individuals of a particular community are potential migrants. It also observes that poor people are less inclined to migration compared to the rich due to the high costs of migration (International Labour Organization (IOM), 2003).

Some Nigeria citizens today have left for Abroad in search of jobs, while others are already working there due to

the believe that they will earn more pay than staying in Nigeria to work, some are already workers with the government and other organizations but they deserted the jobs because of the salaries and the working conditions. There lecturers among these people also. This shows that the first thing most individual are looking for in any given organisation is the remuneration and work conditions.

The theory was criticized on the ground that it mechanically reduces migration determinants which is the exclusion of politics and policies, its assumes linearity which shows that the theory is unable to explain differential migration that is why people do not move or why migration ceases before wage differentials equalize, ignores market imperfections, homogenization of migrants in tandem with societies, and static perspective (Arango, 2000; Massey et al., 1998, and de Haas, 2008).

New economic theory of migration

The new economics of migration (NEM) theory has come to challenge some of the assumptions of the neoclassical approach, offering a new level of analysis and different nature of migration determinants and it shifted the focus of migration research from individual independence to mutual interdependence (Stark, 1991). The main focus in this theoretical argument is that migration decisions are not made by isolated individual actors but typically by families or households. Further, the decisions of migrants are influenced by a comprehensive set of factors which are shaped by conditions in the home country. As such, migrant decisions are not based purely on individual utility-maximizing calculations but are rather a household response to both income risk and to the failures of a variety of markets; labour market, credit market, or insurance market (Massey, et al. 1993). Hence, migration in the absence of meaningful wage differentials or the absence of migration in the presence of wage differentials, does not imply irrationality but rather compels us to consider a set of other variables related to relative deprivation (a household performing relatively worse to other households will be readier to send a member abroad, this is very common in Nigeria society especially among the Igbo young men in the south eastern part of the country) and risk-aversion and risk-minimization of household income (Stark 1991; Stark 2003). Stark largely had in mind the risk aversion of poor households in developing countries where there are rarely institutional mechanisms present, such as government programs or private insurance markets, and therefore migration provides a meaningful strategy in dealing with different market failures. Remittances play an important and integral part in the new economics of migration research as they directly support the concept of household interconnectedness and the diversification of risk while analytically connecting the empirical study of the causes and consequences of migration (Taylor, 1999).

This theory was criticized for sending-side bias and for its limited applicability due to difficulties in isolating the

effects of market imperfections and risks from other income and employment variables. The theory has not received much following or empirical testing. Essentially a social choice account, it has also been critiqued for overlooking dynamics within households (i.e. gender roles) and being too heavily future oriented (Faist, 2000).

The above reviewed theories indicate that the impetus for labour migration under the Neo-classical theory migration is as the result of inequality in wages and labour conditions, while in New economic theory, the driving force for labour migration is not based on individual desires for income maximization but on household or families response for the change of their social status from downward mobility to upward mobility.

VI. BASIC CAUSES OF LABOUR MIGRATION IN NIGERIA

Labour migration in Nigeria is driven by the following:

- i. Unemployment
 - ii. Poverty
 - iii. Insecurity
- *Unemployment*

According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) (2012), unemployed workers are those who are currently not working but are willing and able to work for pay, currently available to work and have actively searched for work. Hornby (2010) defines unemployment as “the facts of a number of people not having a job; the number of people without a job; the state of not having a job”. Chinqunta (2002) defines unemployment as a visible idleness where youth congregate at bars and drinking places to converse or smoke marijuana for substantial part of the day. In the view of Akinmulegun (2014), unemployment is regarded as the root of poverty in Nigeria. He argues that unemployment in Nigeria predominantly the graduate unemployment is phenomenally prominent in the recent decades, the state which is essentially as a result of the sharp increase in the tertiary institution turnout. Unemployment, on the other hand, is a situation in which people are actively in need of pay work, they have the requisite skill and ability to do the work but they cannot find it due to some **structural** factors (when the available jobs do not match up well with skills and experiences of the available workers, or due to displacement of the workers), **seasonal** (dramatic change in seasons of work from time to time, like agriculture in dry season or construction in the rainy season), or **cyclical** (when the economy hits a low point in the business cycle and employers lay-off workers) (McConnell, Brue & McPherson 2009).

In addition to this, When people are employed below their qualifications or skills and are not paid according to their grade levels they may sometimes quit their jobs and look for the jobs that can accommodate and pay them based on their qualifications and skills. For example, if a graduate of Sociology is employed with any government Agencies in

Nigeria and placed on Grade level 06 instead of Grade level 08, and he/she is also paid less than the level he/she is supposed to be placed may likely decide to quit the job with time and go to where he/she may be considered appropriately. When a migrant worker also discovered that there are better jobs somewhere and people are well paid in that particular place and jobs, they may decide to migrate to that place in search of the job in order to earn better money. For example, when there are better employment opportunities in Abuja FCT, Kano, Lagos, Dubai, etc. Migrant worker may decide to change environment to any of those places than to remain where things are not working or happening without minding the consequences of the movement at the place of destination and origin.

- *Poverty*

Farraro (2003) sees poverty as the state of human beings who are poor; they have little or no material means of surviving either with little food, shelter, clothes, healthcare, education, and other physical means of living and improving one's life. Nigeria, a sub – Saharan African country, has at least half of its population living in abject poverty (Ojo, 2008). According to Ogwumike, (2002), poverty reduction is the most difficult challenge any developing country is facing, where on the average, majority of the population is considered poor. Poverty can be divided into **absolute** and **relative** states of deprivation. The former is lack of basic needs which could be applied at all times and in all societies, while he later is a state of deprivation due to the relative standards by members of a particular society.

Abur *et al.* (2013) observed that prevailing rate of unemployment, poverty and hunger in the country as the manifestations of economic crisis in the country, which are also due to insincerity in governance, poor leadership, policy inconsistency and deep seated corruption among the leadership class which leaves majority of Nigerians in wallowing in unemployment and abject poverty. And the fact remains that, poverty and unemployment are interrelated issues and are social problems with potentiality of leading to other social problems.

- *Insecurity*

Hassan (2014) unravels that, security challenge is the main issue threatening the survival of Nigeria because of the increasing reports of bombing (a trend that was once only heard it took place elsewhere over the radio, or only watched on television or fictional movies by Nigeria), killing, mass murder, abduction, kidnapping and other crimes against humanity. Corruption is one of the major factors that ushered Nigeria into series of crises including poverty, unemployment and insecurity. Corruption will never allow this country to prosper; Nigerians shall either prepare to fight it to the ‘finish’ otherwise it will ‘finish’ them; it should therefore be fought with all available mechanisms. If not the above tripartite evils will continue to send our able body youths out of some states,

region and the country to the place that is more peaceful where they can secure jobs.

The aforementioned causes of labour migration are grouped into two major factors such as Pull and Push factors which are juxtaposed on the table below:

Push and Pull Factors by World Bank, (2006)

Motivations for migration	Push factors	Pull factors
Economic and demographic	Poverty, unemployment, low wages, high fertility rates, lack of basic health and education.	Prospects of higher wages, potential for improved standard of living, personal development.
Political	Conflict, insecurity, violence, poor governance, Corruption, human rights abuses.	Safety and security, political freedom.
Social and cultural	Discrimination based on ethnicity, gender, religion, and the like.	Family reunification, ethnic (Diaspora migration) homeland, freedom from discrimination

Source: World Bank, (2006)

The above table by the World Bank serves as a justification on the compelling (push) and enticing (pull) factors that motivates labour migration.

VII. PATTERNS OF LABOUR MIGRATION IN NIGERIA

The different patterns of migration as identified by Eze, (2016) includes urban-urban; urban-rural; rural-rural and rural-urban. This scholarly paper will focuses only on rural-urban and urban-rural which are articulated below:

Rural-Urban Migration

The impetus that instigates the pattern of labour migration in Nigeria includes push and pull factors as articulated under the causes of labour migration in Nigeria. According to Torum (2002), the interplay of both "Push and Pull" factors at the points of origin and destination stimulates migrations. The push factors, which cause migration include: political fear, lack of food, unemployment, wars and hardship, etc. Similarly, the pull factors are the desire to better life, job opportunities, improved living conditions, desire for qualitative education, better housing, improved medical facilities and a good network of roads. Urban and rural areas all over the developing world are becoming more closely linked socially, economically and politically (Deshingkar, 2004). In views of Ekong (2003) and Fadoyomi (1998) rural-urban migration negatively impacts on agricultural productivity through loss of productive members of the rural communities. It is expected that a reversed trend in migration will help to mitigate this problem of negative impact on agricultural productivity.

Williams (1970) unveils that some factors such as crisis, old age, transfer, retirement and invasion of pests and disease are correlates of urban-rural migration. Jibowo (1992) asserted that urban-rural migration is influenced by factors

like congestion, traffic jams, sanitation problems, increasing urban unemployment, and increased crime rate and accommodation problem. These factors are actually prevailing in Nigeria currently and every Nigerian wishes that these problems are addressed. The discovery of petroleum in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria has fuelled rural-urban migration to the detriment of the agricultural sector of the economy of the region. A lot of people in the rural areas were motivated by the petroleum industry to migrate from rural to urban areas to seek employment. Afolayan et al (2008) also reported that the arrival of the British in the 19th century marked a turning point and added another angle to intra and inter regional labour migration, as dictated by the colonial political economy. Fadayomi (1998) and Ekong (2003) revealed that rural-urban migration negatively impact on agricultural productivity through loss of productive citizens of rural communities.

Rural-urban migration results from movement from rural to urban in the search for opportunities due to rural-urban inequality in wealth and better quality of life found in urban centres. Rationales for rural-urban migration is as the result of the following job opportunities, better educational, health, transportation, communication facilities and social amenities (Aworemi *et al*, 2011). Rural-urban migration is also associated with economic issues, improved standard of living, improper health services and other amenities and infrastructure in urban centres. With the high level of advantages attach to rural-urban migration so also its disadvantages. Rural-urban migration poses some problems in the rural areas as well as in the urban areas where the population of the rural migrants are concentrated. The movement results to human and environmental poverty, the declining quality of life and the underutilized and untapped wealth of human resources as well as rapid deterioration of the rural economy leading to persistent poverty and food insecurity (Mini, 2000).

The burden of rural to urban migration in Nigeria is multifaceted and intertwining. As such, an analysis of one decomposable component or consequence, such as unbearable population density, impinges on other issues within the identifiable cycle of burdens. For instance, in examining the immediate effect of rural to urban migration, which is an increase in population or at the extreme its explosion, various other subsequent effects are expected to be considered. Population explosion activates the housing challenge both at micro family and macro society levels. Congestion in households and communities has implications for both the health and psychology of victims. Nigerian cities such as Abuja, Lagos, Port-Harcourt, among others are characterized by human traffic, vehicular congestions, environmental pollution, environmental discrimination, resource depletion constant in-migration and expansion of territories to accommodate more people.

The people moving from rural to urban areas constitute certain classes, categories and strata of the society

that are basically plagued with certain social and economic problems in which poverty ranks highest and most fundamental. Debates on rural-urban gap have, since the 1960s, been one of the major focus areas that continued to produce insights on the precarious condition of people in both the rural and urban settlements with attendant consequences in many forms and dimensions.

Urban-Rural Migration

Urban-rural migration simply connotes counter-urbanization which entails the movement of people from the urban areas back to rural areas. This has generally increased agricultural outputs while the population of economically active persons in agriculture also increased between 1970 and 2000 (Majid 2004). Inadequate housing and associated facilities such as water, electricity, waste disposal in the urban areas resulting in millions living in substandard environments called slums and grossly inadequate social amenities, such as, a shortage of schools, poor health facilities and lack of opportunities for recreation among others. Migration to urban areas is placing pressure on limited appropriate housing, resulting in increases in the numbers of urban residents now found to reside in informal housing (Amrevurayire & Ojeh, 2016). Urban-rural migrants are also involved in educative and health related occupations and trading. People who have lived in the urban are cosmopolitan in nature. This is because of their interaction with others from other places. In the rural areas, people are engaged in agriculture related activities such as farming and processing. Some people from urban areas also migrate back to rural areas after retirement from public service or other sorts of works which they were involved; high rate of criminal activities and congestion of the urban areas contribute to the relocation of people to rural areas; creation of factories, constructions of roads, excavation of water piping ways, establishment of companies or government agencies in the rural areas can also prompt the relocation of people to rural areas to look for jobs in such sectors, this process is also termed as counter-urbanization. Though the rural-urban labour migration is the most common pattern of labour migration in Nigeria today especially among the unemployed graduates who have finished their compulsory youth service.

VIII. CONCLUSION

Labour migration is as old as the history of man where man is moving from one place to another looking for work to do in order to survive. Unemployment, poverty and insecurity in Nigeria serve as basic causes for labour migration in Nigeria. While, the patterns of labour migration in Nigeria has been from rural-urban, urban-rural among others which are coupled with the increasing inequalities in resource allocation; socio-economic opportunities between rural and urban population; socio-economic development between regions and places; and the global economy, among others.

IX. RECOMMENDATIONS

- More jobs opportunities should be granted to the teeming unemployed youths in Nigeria in order to curtail the number of youths leaving their place of origin to a place of destination.
- Entrepreneurship centres should be established within the thirty six states of the federation including FCT Abuja that will be responsible for training the unemployed youths in order to reduce the level of migration within and outside the country so that we shouldn't lose our labour force.
- More securities network should be established by the government of the federation in the areas with high level of insecurity so as to minimize the level of people leaving such areas to concentrate on a particular place which may adversely affect the environment.

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