

Examining the Benefits of International Migration Ventures: The Statistics from Ghana

Isaac Addai

University of Education, Winneba, Ghana

Abstract: - The role that international migrants can play in promoting development in their home countries has been at the core of migration research over the past five decades in Africa. There is however rare research conducted, examining the views of these international migrants on the benefits of their migration venture long after returning to their origin country. Using the Respondent Driven Sampling, the paper investigates the views of former international migrants known in the Ghanaian parlance as *Burgers* as to whether their international migration venture had been beneficial to them long after resettling back home. The mean years after respondents returned to their country of origin is 28. The earliest year of respondents returning was 31 years and the latest year of returning was 25 years as at the time of survey. 69 *Burgers* representing 90 percent of the respondents surveyed on average of 28 years after returning from an international migration to Ghana the country of origin, view their migration venture as not being beneficial to them. The paper is a pace-setter in promoting theoretical advances in the analysis of the impact of international migration on African countries in general and on Ghana in particular.

Keywords: Investigation, International migration, *Burger*, Beneficial, Impact, Years, Ghana.

I. INTRODUCTION

Migration issues have assumed major research concerns in economic sociology in recent times. The (UN General Assembly 2015) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development concern itself for the first time with migration issues by including migration issues within the global development agenda and acknowledging the importance and contributions of migrants to sustainable development by specially referencing migration issues in six of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Migration studies on the African continent have also received increased attention in the last five decades. The role that international migrants can play in promoting economic development in their home countries have been at the core of migration research over these periods. These international migration studies on Africa are cast in potential positive effects in the form of remittances, knowledge transfers and investments by international migrants. Researchers have published the optimistic stance claiming African international migration have been regarded as a strategy to overcome constraints in terms of access to financial, human, and to some extent social capital, especially in countries where credit markets are imperfect and access to formal education is limited, (de Haas 2010). The African international migration research focus is placed largely on remittance-receiving households and empirical studies

examining the individual view of return migrants, long after in their country of origin are relatively rare. Despite the high interest of policy-makers and the considerable amount of research produced over the past decades, there remain gaps in the empirical literature examining how African international migrant-returnees view their migration venture long after their return to the home of origin. A question that to date has been largely overlooked by researchers on the effect of international migration on the African continent. It is the expectation that benefits derived from international migration are worth it over time and returned international migrants from hindsight will value their migration venture long after their return to their country of origin.

This paper thus bring new empirical evidence to the long-ignored question of the differentiated impact of international migration stressing that much scholarship to date overestimates the benefit of international migration in the short-term by over-looking the long term dynamics of international migration in Africa. The paper seeks to bring to the fore by examining the views of international migrant returnees long after their return to Ghana, which is their country of origin on whether their international migration adventure long ago had been a beneficial venture or not. The paper thus contributes to the increasingly active discussion on measurement of international migration benefits and policies in developing countries. It also advances scholarly debate by presenting innovative socioeconomic factors affecting longterm international migration issues of a developing country. The paper does so by calling into question some of the epistemological assumptions underlying international migration studies on Africa and pave the way toward a next generation of a more holistic international migration scholarship on Africa that brings discussions about the long term international migration of people, which integrate understanding of migration systems within the social fields in which they are embedded. The structure of the paper is outlined as follows: the literature review of migration studies on Ghana section is next. The next section briefly adumbrates the analytical framework within which the empirical analysis is couched, followed by the description of the dataset section. The methodology and empirical variables sections respectively follow. The penultimate section evaluates the empirical estimates and a final section offers the conclusion.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

There have been a plethora of migration studies on Ghana by individual researchers (Castaldo et al. 2012), (Ackah and Medvedev 2010), (Adams 2006), (Adams et al. 2008), (Addai 2011), (Adams & Cuecuecha 2013) (Litchfield & Waddington 2003), (Litchfield & Egger 2019), (Mahé & Naudé 2016), Molini et al. 2016), (Abdulai 2016), (Addoquaye & Kwankye 2009), (Agyei & Ofori-Mensah Ababio 2009), (Anarfi & Agyei 2009), (Anarfi & Appiah 2009), (Anarfi & Kwankye 2009), (Awumbila 2007), (Awumbila 2015), (Awumbila & Ardayfio-Schandorf 2008), (Boakye-Yiadom & McKay 2007), (Lattof 2018), (Tufuor, Niehof, van der Horst 2015), (Tufuor & Niehof 2016), (Yeboah, Dodoo, Kwankye, Nyarko, Badasu & Biavaschi 2010). These authors modelled their various studies from the New Economics of Labour Migration (NELM, Stark and Bloom 1985) giving rise to mixed results. Theoretical models such as from the New Economics of Labour Migration (NELM, Stark and Bloom 1985) cannot predict the direction of the impact of migration on origin households. The reason for this is that the impact depends on counteracting factors (Egger & Litchfield 2019). On the national scale, there have been migration issues addressed in the Ghanaian decennial post-independence censuses, the last census being the 2010 census. The various Ghana Living Standards Surveys conducted up to 2017, also dealt with migration issues in Ghana. The University of Ghana Regional Institute for Population Studies in league with the Global Development Network collaborated in 2008–2009 on a nationally migration representative survey. These individual and national migration studies and reviews all focused on internal migration in Ghana, leaving a research gap of international migration studies on Ghana.

III. ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK

This paper investigates the views of former international migrants known in the Ghanaian parlance as *Burgers* as to whether their international migration venture had been beneficial to them long after resettling back home. A *Burger* is defined in the survey as a former international migrant who left for ‘greener pastures’ outside the continent of Africa and was not on any academic scholarship for further studies, who was not repatriated but came back to settle in Ghana, the country of origin on his/her own volition.

IV. DATA

(Heckathorn 1997) originally promoted the Respondent Driven Sampling (RDS) as a variation of the chain-referral sampling methods, like snowball sampling, to sample “hidden” populations such as people living with HIV/AIDS and injection drug users. In migration research, RDS is increasingly used as a tool to sample the “hard-to-reach” migrant populations like undocumented immigrants, foreign migrants, and newly arrived migrants (Tyldum and Johnston 2014). Unlike chain-referral methods that lead to statistical difficulties making inferences from the sample, RDS includes a mathematical model to account for the non-random way in

which the sample was collected (Heckathorn 1997). By applying this model, RDS leads to a weighted sample that has been proven to be unbiased for samples of meaningful size regardless of how the researcher selects the initial “seeds” (Salganik and Heckathorn 2004). As a hard-to-reach population whose members are long-forgotten in the larger population and for whom a sampling frame is not available, RDS is used to connect to a *Burger* through their social networks. The process started by selecting a small number of initial “seeds” (*Burgers*) for contact into the survey. The “seeds” then in turn recommend other survey participants in their social network, and the process continued until the sample size is reached. To get to the new *Burger*, a 5Ghana cedi mobile phone credit charge is given as compensation to the old *Burger* for the actual and potential mobile phone call used to connect and call to introduce the author to the new *Burger*. Incentives are increasingly being used in surveys to motivate and recruit participants. The potential of incentives to coerce or to exert undue influence participation is understandably controversial, particularly in studies where the research is risky and degrading (Grant & Sugarman 2004, Singer & Couper 2008). For a minimal-risk, non-degrading human-subjects survey that fulfills the usual ethical criteria, using incentives often pose no ethical problems (Lattof 2018).

The survey started with two known *Burgers* (seeds) as there is no exact method for selecting seeds (Kubal, Shvab et al. 2014). Estimating sample size for RDS cannot be directly calculated *a priori* since the estimation depends on the network structure data collected during sampling which are used to calculate sampling weights. (Heckathorn 2002; Wejnert, Pham et al. 2012) however posits that by calculating the sample size for simple random sampling and then adjusting the calculation for the design effect (denoted as *deff*), is defined as the ratio of the variance of an estimate to the variance computed under simple random sampling, researchers may generate sampling estimates to assist in planning and implementing their research.

In RDS, the literature recommends a design effect figure between two and ten in order to achieve the same power as a simple random sample (Salganik 2006, Goel and Salganik 2010, Wejnert, Pham et al. 2012). To attenuate higher standard errors that researchers might accept when keeping sample size low in an attempt to conserve resources a design effect of ten is chosen and since two *Burgers* serve as the seeds, a standard error (*se*) of no greater than 0.05 conservative number is chosen. The RDS size for the paper is then generated as:

$$V(\hat{P}_A) = \frac{P_A(1-P_A)}{n} \cdot deff$$

And solving for the required sample size *n* gives:

$$n = \frac{P_A(1 - P_A)}{((\hat{P}_A))^2} \text{. deff generating a sample size of:}$$

$$n = \frac{10(1 - 10)}{((0.05))^2} \text{. } 2 = 72$$

Results are reported based on the criteria in the Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology for RDS Studies (STROBE-RDS) checklist (White, Hakim et al. 2015). These analyses are based on six assumptions about RDS namely: (1) respondents have reciprocal relationships with one another; (2) respondents’ social networks are dense enough to sustain a chain-referral process; (3) each respondent recruits a single peer; (4) respondents recruit randomly from their networks; (5) respondents can accurately report their personal network sizes to data collectors; and (6) sampling occurs with replacement. Quantitative data were collected on *Burgers* in Kumasi using theRDS in 2019. Although the sample size from the model is supposed to be 72, the author ended up with 77 *Burgers* being sampled.

V. METHODOLOGY

The response of *Burgers* regarding their views on their international migration venture long after their return to their country of origin, Ghana is reported in percentage points and the estimates are discussed accordingly.

VI. EMPIRICAL VARIABLES

The variable of interest is the beneficial variable which examined the view of the respondent as to whether her/his international migration expedition embarked on years ago has been a beneficial venture or not as at the time of survey. A variety of explanatory variables are also used and these are now described in turn in Table 1.

Table 1 Description of Variables

Variable	
gender	=1 if respondent is a male, 0 if female
agerange	=1 if respondents age is less than or equal to 69 years,=2 if respondent age is greater than or equal to 70 years
sorjrmn	Place of respondent’s sojourn = 1 if Europe, =2 if North America,=3 if Asia, = 4 if Middle- East
yrsrtrn	number of years since respondent returned home
beneficial	=1 if respondents view his/her international migration venture as beneficial, =0 if otherwise

VII. EMPIRICAL RESULTS AND ANALYSES

The estimates of the empirical results are presented in the various Tables and discussed accordingly.

Table 2: Tabulation of gender

=1 if male, 0 = female	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
0	5	6.49	6.49
1	72	93.51	100.00

Females comprised 6 percent and males comprise 94 percent respectively of the respondents surveyed.

Table 3: Tabulation of agerange

=1 if ≤ 69, 2= if ≥70	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
1	69	89.61	89.61
2	8	10.39	100.00

90 percent of the respondents surveyed were less than or equal to 69 years in age and 10 percent of the respondents were greater than or equal to 70 years in age.

Table 4: Tabulation of yrsrtrn

number of years since back home	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
25	4	5.19	5.19
26	7	9.09	14.29
27	15	19.48	33.77
28	17	22.08	55.84
29	19	24.68	80.52
30	11	14.29	94.81
31	4	5.19	100.00

4 respondents representing 5.19 percent returned to their country of origin 25 years ago, 7 respondents representing 9.09 percent of the sampled returned to their country of origin 26 years ago, 15 respondents representing 19.48 percent returned to their country of origin 27 years ago, 17 respondents representing 22.08 percent returned to their country of origin 28 years ago, 19 respondents representing 24.68 percent of the sampled returned to their country of origin 29 years ago, while 11 respondents representing 14.29 percent returned to their country of origin 30 years ago and 4 respondents representing 5.19 percent of the surveyed returned to their country of origin 31 years ago.

Table 5: Descriptive Statistics

Variable	Obs	Mean	Std.Dev.	Min	Max
yrsrtrn	77	28.156	1.522	25	31

The mean years after respondents returned to their country of origin is 28 years. The earliest year of respondents returning was 31 years ago and the latest year of returning was 25 years ago as at the time of survey.

Table 6: Tabulation of sorjmn

Place of sojourn = 1 if Europe, =2 if North America,=3 if Asia, = 4 if Mid East	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
1	62	80.52	80.52
2	2	2.60	83.12
3	10	12.99	96.10
4	3	3.90	100.00

62 *Burgers* representing 80.52 percent of the respondents surveyed internationally migrated to Europe, 2*Burgers* representing 2.60 percent of the respondents migrated to North America, while 10 *Burgers* representing 12.99 percent of the respondents migrated to Asia and 3*Burgers* representing 3.90 percent of the respondents migrated to the Middle East.

Table7: Tabulation of beneficial

=1 if beneficial, =0 if otherwise	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
0	69	89.61	89.61
1	8	10.39	100.00

69 *Burgers* representing 90 percent of the respondents surveyed on average of 28years after returning from an international migration to Ghana the country of origin, view their migration venture as not being beneficial to them. 8 *Burgers* representing 10 percent of the respondents surveyed, however view their international migration venture as being beneficial to them, *ceteris paribus*.

VIII. CONCLUSION

The role that international migrants can play in promoting development in their home countries has been at the core of migration research over the past five decades in Africa with rare research being conducted to examine the view of the international migrants on the benefits of their migration venture to them personally long after returning to their origin country. From the empirical results migration research should now take into account both the broader and longerterm effects of the international migration experience rather than the current works captured by surveys inquiring about remittance use and impacts. With most of the migration papers on Ghana disseminating scholarly articles on internal migration issues, this paper becomes a pace-setter in promoting theoretical advances as well as new empirical approaches to the analysis of the impact of international migration on African countries in general and on Ghana in particular. Probing further as to why after an average 28 years of return to their country of origin, 90 percent of the respondents surveyed view their international migration undertaking as not beneficial was not pursued and remains a high agenda for future research.

REFERENCES

- [1]. Abdulai, A.-M. (2016). "Internal Migration Determinants: Evidence from Northern Region of Ghana." *Ghana Journal of Development Studies*13(1): 1-17.
- [2]. Ackah C, Medvedev D (2010). 'Internal migration in Ghana: determinants and welfare impacts'. Policy research working paper5273.World Bank, Washington, DC.
- [3]. Adams RH (2006) 'Remittances and poverty in Ghana'.Policy research working paper 3838.World Bank, Washington, DC.
- [4]. Adams RH, Cueuruecha A (2013).The impact of remittances on investment and poverty in Ghana.*World Development* 50:24-40.
- [5]. Adams RH, Cueuruecha A, Page J (2008). 'Remittances, consumption and investment in Ghana'.Policy research working paper series 4515.World Bank, Washington, DC.
- [6]. Addai, I. (2011). "Estimating Remittances in the Informal Sector Labour Market in a Developing Economy: A Micro-Level Evidence on Kayayoo Migrants in Kumasi, Ghana."*The Social Sciences*6(4): 313-317.
- [7]. AddoquayeTagoe, C. and S. O. Kwankye (2009). Returning Home and Re-Integrating as an Independent Child Migrant in Ghana. Independent Migration of Children in Ghana.J. K. Anarfi and S. O. Kwankye. Ghana, Sundel Services: 206-247.
- [8]. Agyei, J. and E. Ofosu-MensahAbabio (2009).Historical Overview of Internal Migration in Ghana.Independent Migration of Children in Ghana.J. K. Anarfi and S. O. Kwankye. Ghana, Sundel Services: 9-44.
- [9]. Anarfi, J. K. and J. Agyei (2009). To Move or Not to Move: The Decision-Making Process of Child Migrants from Northern to Southern Ghana. Independent Migration of Children in Ghana.J. K. Anarfi and S. O. Kwankye. Ghana, Sundel Services: 101-131.
- [10]. Anarfi, J. K. and M. Appiah (2009).The Phenomenon of Independent Child Migration in Ghana in the Context of a Globalised World.Independent Migration of Children in Ghana.J. K. Anarfi and S. O. Kwankye. Ghana, Sundel Services: 45-70.
- [11]. Anarfi, J. K. and S. O. Kwankye, Eds. (2009).Independent Migration of Children in Ghana.Legon, Ghana, Sundel Services.
- [12]. Awumbila, M. (2007).Internal Migration, Vulnerability and Female Porters in Accra, Ghana.Population Association of America. New York.
- [13]. Awumbila, M. (2015). "Women Moving Within Borders: Gender and Internal Migration dynamics in Ghana." *Ghana Journal of Geography*7(2): 132-145.
- [14]. Awumbila, M. and E. Ardayfio-Schandorf (2008). "Gendered poverty, migration and livelihood strategies of female porters in Accra, Ghana." *NorskGeografiskTidsskrift-Norwegian Journal of Geography*62(3): 171-179.
- [15]. Boakye-Yiadom, L. and A. McKay (2007). Migration between Ghana's Rural and Urban Areas: The Impact on Migrants' Welfare. PEGNet Conference. Berlin, Germany.
- [16]. Castaldo A, Deshingkar P. and A. McKay (2012). 'Internal migration, remittances and poverty: evidence from Ghana and India'. Working paper 7. University of Sussex, Falmer: Migrating out of Poverty Research Program Consortium.
- [17]. H. de Haas (2010). Migration and development: A theoretical perspective. *International Migration Review* 44 (1), 227 - 264.
- [18]. Egger E.M, and Litchfield J (2019). Following in their footsteps: an analysis of the impact of successive migration on rural household welfare in Ghana *IZA Journal of Development and Migration* 9:1.
- [19]. Ghana Statistical Service (2013). 2010 Population & Housing Census: National Analytical Report. K. Awusabo-Asare. Accra, Ghana, Ghana Statistical Service: 1-409.
- [20]. Ghana Statistical Service (2017). Ghana Living Standard Survey Round 6 (GLSS 7): Main Report. Accra, Ghana, Ghana Statistical Service.
- [21]. Goel, S. and M. J. Salganik (2010). "Assessing respondent-driven sampling." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*107(15): 6743-6747.

- [22]. Grant, R. W. and J. Sugarman (2004). "Ethics in Human Subjects Research: Do Incentives Matter?" *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy*29(6): 717-738.
- [23]. Heckathorn, D. (2007). "Extensions of respondent driven sampling: analyzing continuous variables and controlling for differential recruitment." *Sociological Methodology*37(1): 151-207.
- [24]. Heckathorn, D. D. (1997). "Respondent-Driven Sampling: A New Approach to the Study of Hidden Populations." *Social Problems*44(2): 174-199.
- [25]. Heckathorn, D. D. (2002). "Respondent-Driven Sampling II: Deriving Valid Population Estimates from Chain-Referral Samples of Hidden Populations." *Social Problems*49(1): 11-34.
- [26]. Kubal, A., I. Shvab and A. Wojtynska (2014). Initiation of the RDS Recruitment Process: Seed Selection and Role. Applying Respondent Driven Sampling to Migrant Populations: Lessons from the Field. G. Tyldum and L. Johnston. London, Palgrave Pivot: 37-48.
- [27]. Lattof, S.R. (2018). "Collecting data from migrants in Ghana: Lessons learned using respondent-driven sampling." *Demographic Research* 38(6): 1017-1058.
- [28]. Litchfield J, Waddington H (2003). 'Migration and poverty in Ghana: evidence from the Ghana living standards survey'. In International Workshop on Migration and Poverty in West Africa. University of Sussex, Brighton.
- [29]. Mahé C, Naudé W (2016). 'Migration, occupation and education: evidence from Ghana'. Working paper 2016-018. UNU-MERIT, Maastricht.
- [30]. Molini V, Pavelesku D and Ranzani M (2016). 'Should I stay or should I go? Internal migration and household welfare in Ghana'. Policy research working paper 7752. World Bank, Washington, DC.
- [31]. Salganik, M. (2006). "Variance Estimation, Design Effects, and Sample Size Calculations for Respondent-Driven Sampling." *Journal of Urban Health*83(1): 98-112.
- [32]. Salganik, M. J. and D. D. Heckathorn (2004). "Sampling and Estimation in Hidden Populations Using Respondent-Driven Sampling." *Sociological Methodology*34: 193-239.
- [33]. Singer, E. and M. P. Couper (2008). "Do Incentives Exert Undue Influence on Survey Participation? Experimental Evidence." *Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics*3(3): 49-56.
- [34]. Tufuor, T., A. Niehof, C. Sato and H. van der Horst (2015). "Extending the moral economy beyond households: Gendered livelihood strategies of single migrant women in Accra, Ghana." *Women's Studies International Forum*50(0): 20-29.
- [35]. Tufuor, T., C. Sato and A. Niehof (2016). "Gender, households and reintegration: everyday lives of returned migrant women in rural northern Ghana." *Gender, Place & Culture*23(10): 1480-1495.
- [36]. Tyldum, G. and L. Johnston (2014). Applying Respondent Driven Sampling to Migrant Populations: Lessons from the Field. London, Palgrave Pivot.
- [37]. UN General Assembly (2015). Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015: 70/1. Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Geneva, United Nations.
- [38]. Wejnert, C., H. Pham, N. Krishna, B. Le and E. DiNenno (2012). "Estimating Design Effect and Calculating Sample Size for Respondent-Driven Sampling Studies of Injection Drug Users in the United States." *AIDS and Behavior*16(4): 797-806.
- [39]. White, R. G., A. J. Hakim, M. J. Salganik, M. W. Spiller, L. G. Johnston, L. Kerr, C. Kendall, A. Drake, D. Wilson, K. Orroth, M. Egger and W. Hladik (2015). "Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology for respondent-driven sampling studies: "STROBE-RDS" statement." *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*68(12): 1463-1471.
- [40]. Yeboah, I., F. Dodoo, S. Kwankye, P. Nyarko, D. Badasu and C. Biavaschi (2010). Development on the Move: Measuring and Optimising Migration's Economic and Social Impacts. Legon, Ghana, Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS) at the University of Ghana and Miami University.