

THE IMPACT OF RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION ON AGRICULTURE IN MAIHA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF ADAMAWA STATE

BY

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ABSTRACT

This study vividly examined the impact of rural-urban migration on agriculture in Maiha local Government Area of Adamawa State. The paper used both primary and secondary sources of data. The paper used survey research design. The researcher distributed questionnaires to respondents and were retrieved and analyzed through descriptive statistics. While secondary data were collected from journal/publications and other published materials from text books and official gazette. The findings of the study clearly revealed that rural-urban migration is a recurring phenomenon and outrageous detrimental menace plaguing agricultural production in Maiha Local Government. Most people that migrate to urban areas in the dry season do not return in the raining season to engage in farming. There is a tremendous decay in moral values of the youth in rural communities that made them to run away from their parent coupled with high level of poverty that is in manifestation in rural communities of the study area. The findings spelt out clearly that lack of social infrastructure such as; roads, good water, education, electricity, health facilities, network services and high cost of farm implements as the outstanding factors that push rural dwellers away, while their presence in the city pull them to urban centers. On this strength of the findings above, the following recommendations were put forward to curtail rural-urban migration. Policy makers should put in place a mechanism to track the influx of labor to urban areas by making farming activities more attractive to the rural farmers through subsidizing farm tools and implements. Religious leaders, traditional leaders and guardians should train the youth on good societal values and norms. Rural areas should be developed, through the provision of functional social amenities that will create an enabling environment for the peasantry to stay in their habitat of origin and engaged in agricultural activities to ensure food security in the country at large.

Keyword: rural, urban, migration and agriculture

Introduction

Back to the creation of state at about 3500 BC, the mobility continued with different magnitude and nature, migration has been a key response to environmental, social, political and economic changes which has direct effect on the nation's economy. However, the rate at which it occurs in Nigeria is alarming such that a study by the United Nation revealed that by the year 2030 half of the country's population will be in the urban areas. This would bring a tremendous negative impact on the country's primary sector which is agriculture (UNFPA, 2007).

The socio-economic setting of Nigeria is clearly dichotomized into rural and urban households, the rural population major in agriculture as their economic mainstay, cultivating such food crops

as maize, cassava, yam, sorghum rice, millet, fruits, vegetable, pulses, cocoa, timber and rubber among many other crops and livestock while the urban sector majors on trading and public service with few elements of manufacturing. The most important sector of Nigerian population is the rural areas, this is because the rural sector is the major source of capital formation for the country and a principal market for domestic and raw materials for industrial process. Notwithstanding agriculture which prior to discovery of oil was the mainstay of Nigerian economy with activities concentrated in the rural areas was far relegated to the background leading to the country's mono-economy status (Amerevrayire, 2016).

Migration follows a variety of patterns on space dimension which include urban-urban, urban-rural, rural-rural and rural-urban. Rural-urban migration implies the movement of people from rural to urban areas mostly in search for opportunities due to rural-urban inequality in wealth and better quality of life found in urban centers. The rural communities in Maiha Local Government Area of Adamawa State have been vividly experiencing drift of its population into neighboring cities and towns around such as; Local Government headquarter, Mubi town and State headquarter. Also, to faraway cities such as; Ogun, Enugu and Lagos as a result of push and pull factors coupled with the decadence of moral values among the youth as well as poverty that has embedded rural communities in the Local Government, which led to decline in agricultural productivity.

Indeed, no matter substantial and colossal amount of funds injected into agricultural program. Agriculture will not be fully harness without developing the rural habitat through the provision of infrastructures and also, reviving and inculcating good moral values among the youth to enable them imbibe the spirit of farming, in order to ensure food security.

Statement of the Problem

Rural communities in Maiha Local Government are seriously bedeviled with massive movement of people from their habitat to the urban areas. This mass migration of labor force from the rural areas which is predominantly engaged in agriculture is perceived to be the main cause of labor shortage for its practice in general. Whereas agricultural activities is labor intensive tremendously. Able-bodied men and women who should engage in farming occupation has abandon their main role and engaged themselves in petty trading in urban areas. Thereby causing miserable food insecurity both in the rural and urban areas greatly.

Indeed, the perceived impetus of influx movement of the people from rural to urban most especially the youth is as a result of push and pull factors coupled with decay in moral values among the youth as well as poverty that is vividly manifested in almost all the rural areas under study; Vokuna, Kuna Vendi, Mamzari, Kapule, Muzugame and Jaba, which drastically affect the livelihood in the rural areas as well as agricultural productivity in general.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study is to assess the impact of rural-urban migration on agriculture in Maiha Local Government Area of Adamawa state.

Other Specific Objectives are as follows: -

- i. To examine the underlying factors that push and pull people from rural to urban centers.
- ii. To provide concrete policy solutions that can be used by government to stave off and curtail the outstanding menace that is plaguing agricultural development in rural areas.

Research Questions

- i. Is rural-urban migration a recurring phenomenon in Maiha Local Government?
- ii. How do government intervene on this outstanding menace of rural-urban migration on agriculture in rural areas of Maiha Local Government?

CONCEPTUAL DISCOURSE

Rural Areas

The meaning of rural areas varies depending on who is defining them and specific country situations. Its meaning differs significantly between developed countries, countries in transition, and those in the developing world. Nwanze (2000) defined rural areas as areas with population thresholds of between 5,000 and 10,000, who are primarily dependent on agriculture and/or natural resources for their livelihoods. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2001), defines rural area as whatever is not urban is considered rural. Typical rural area has a low population density and small settlements, characterized by agricultural activities coupled with vast forests.

Other definitions have included qualitative and quantitative characteristics. For example, USDA (2005) described rural as areas comprising of open country and settlements with fewer than 2,500 residents; whereas compared to urban areas, rural areas are inhabited by people owning more rural-specific assets such as farmland, livestock, and irrigation per person than urban people (IFAD, 2001). The conditions of rural people can profoundly affect agricultural production and productivity, denying them opportunities to reduce poverty or improve their living conditions.

Urban Areas

An urban setting could be conceptualized broadly on the basis of population density, concentration of administrative bodies and infrastructure and diverse set of livelihood and income generation activities. Urban areas are characterized by high population density when compared to other areas. While some cities are defined by municipal boundaries, many urban centers have not been designated as such. They are usually characterized by the presence of administrative structures such as; government offices and courts and a relative concentration of services such as hospitals and financial institutions such as banks. In an urban setting, the forms of livelihood and income generation activities is diverse and unlike rural areas that are bound mainly with agricultural production (Wilson, 2016).

Migration Trend

Migration is broadly defined as a relocation of residence from one area to another, due to some reasons (Hussian, 2001). Migration to Adewale (2005) is considered as the movement of people from one geographical region to another, which may be on temporary or permanent basis. According to Anyawuocha (1993) migration is movement of people from one place to another to settle there for sometimes. While Ireugbe (2003:10), viewed migration as an inward and outward movement of people from one place to another. He further added that migration in developing countries is very rampant during dry season due to non-irrigated farmland.

Udo (1982:13) opined that migration is the permanent or semi-permanent change of residence from one administrative unit to another or from one country, province, state, district to another. He further state that, the movement may involve short or long distance from about ten (10)

kilometers to one thousand (1000) kilometers. He also observed that migration is an important component of population in some countries especially the growth of many towns in tropical Africa. Migration is a selective process affecting individuals or families, with certain economic, social, educational and demographic characteristics (Adewale, 2005). Indeed, migration exerts a critical influence on population size, composition and distribution (Knox and Marston, 2004). Over the years migration dynamics has changed from the search of space especially, in the middle age to that of congestion in large cities in the modern age (Nwajiuba, 2005). Migration follows a variety of patterns on space dimension which include: urban-urban, urban-rural, rural-rural, and rural-urban (Eze, 2016).

Rural-Urban Migration

Rural-urban migration is the movement of people from the countryside to the city. It can either be voluntary or forced. In most developing countries, especially in Sub Saharan Africa, a shift from subsistence to cash crop production or manufacturing has resulted in the temporary or permanent exodus of men and sometimes women (Dao, 2002). Guger (2002:11) also opined that, rural-urban migration as an agent of population determinant, it plays a dominant role in depopulating the rural areas and threatening the explosion of urban areas. Robert (1990:6) observed that rural-urban migration is voluntary and involuntary change of residence by people at any period of time. While Abubakar (1995:17) opined that, voluntary movement is when migrant deliberately move to meet their various demands or search for better life in the city such as; employment, education and related desired opportunities.

Rural-urban migration is a movement of people from village to town (Olabode, 1970:5). While Protherom (1970:2) viewed rural-urban migration as a permanent movement of population from less developed or stagnant region to a more developed and growing region. Rural-urban migration is the change of place of living as a result of graduation, marriage, lack of marriage, employment opportunities or bonanza, natural disasters, political racial rejection and lack of social amenities (Clerk, 1981). Rural-urban migration is the way or chance to see new ways of life. It is a movement of people across a political boundary of an individual or group of people from place of residence to another (Williams, 1980).

Harris and Todaro (1976) explains rural-urban migration as a response to the expected rather than current income differential between rural and urban areas. In other words, workers would continue to migrate from rural to urban areas until wages they expect to earn in urban areas are equal to the wages they expect to earn in the rural areas. Most individuals, motivation to migrate from rural to urban areas reveals that primary motivation is indeed economic considerations (Bapil 1986).

According to Okpara (1983) rural-urban migration are always many tremendously compared to those coming from urban to rural areas. The movement from rural areas makes negative impact on the quality of rural life especially when such migrants carry away their need consumption into the city. Migration of young adults from rural areas also place a greater burden on farmers that are left in rural areas.

Methodology

In this study survey design was adopted and questionnaires were used mainly for data collection. A survey involves a large population in which everyone is potentially a source of data and each

person is entitled to similar standard questions. Burton (2005), describes survey as ways of producing information to describe and predict attitudes, opinions, values and behaviors based on what people say or see and what is contained in records about them. Surveys are basically used for systematic structured set of data, which may be obtained through observations, the use of questionnaires and interview schedules. Observations enable the researcher to get firsthand information on the objects of study particularly in natural setting. Questionnaires on the other hand enable the researcher to gather detailed information from a number of individuals within a specific area. Survey helps to describe the unit of analysis. It also helps to prevent creation of variation among the unit of analysis since it makes use of naturally occurring variations already existing among units.

Instruments for data collection used in the work includes structured questionnaires comprising of both open ended and closed ended questions. These were used to collect information from respondents and were used in answering the research questions. Data analysis involved descriptive and inferential statistics, the data was then presented in the form of tables as frequency distributions and percentages. Simple percentage table were drawn to quantify the data obtained from the respondents. Inferences also were made below the table to provide the explanation and elaboration from the responses.

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

This paper presents the analysis and interpretation of results that is the empirical results of the study and findings of the study. It explores the perceptions of respondents on the impact of rural-urban migration on agriculture. It vividly examines the outstanding impacts of rural urban migration on agricultural labor availability, agricultural performance and productivity as well as the prime factor fueling rural urban migration in the area under study

Table 1: Most people that migrate to urban areas in the dry season do not return in the raining season to rural areas in Maiha Local Government to engage in farming.

Response	Frequency	Percentage%
Strongly agree	95	63.3
Agree	52	34.7
Undecided	3	2
Disagree	-	-
Strongly disagree	-	-
Total	150	100

Source: field survey, 2021

Table 1 above shows that, 63.7% of the respondents strongly agree with the aforementioned assertion, 34.7% agree that most people migrate to urban areas in the dry season do not return to their communities during raining season. While, 2% of the respondents did not respond.

In view of the result in table 1 above, the main analysis is that, most of people that migrate from rural areas do not return back to their respective villages in Maiha Local Government to engage in farming occupation, due to the ugly nature of their habitat of origin.

Table 2: Lack of infrastructure is the outstanding factor that is behind rural-urban migration in this community.

Response	Frequency	Percentage%
Strongly agree	142	94.7
Agree	8	5.3
Undecided	-	-
Disagree	-	-
Strongly disagree	-	-
Total	150	100

Source: field survey, 2021.

Table 2 show various views of respondents as follows, whereby 142 respondents which represent 94.7% strongly agree with the aforementioned question. While 8 of the respondents which represent 5.3% agree that, lack of infrastructure is outstanding push factor that is behind rural-urban migration in their communities. In view of the tremendous response in table 2 above, the main analysis is that, absence of good infrastructure in all the communities under study; Vokuna, Kuna Vendi, Mamzari, Kapule, Muzugume and Jaba is the impetus of the outstanding menace of rural-urban migration in Maiha Local Government, which vividly hamper agricultural production greatly.

Table 3: presence of social amenities in urban areas is the pull factor fueling rural-urban migration in this community.

Response	Frequency	Percentage%
Strongly agree	138	92
Agree	12	8
Undecided	-	-
Disagree	-	-
Strongly disagree	-	-
Total	150	100

Source: field survey, 2021.

From the table 3 above, 138 respondents which is equivalent to 92% with great emphasis strongly agree with assertion, while 12 respondents which is equivalent 8% agree that presence of social amenities in urban areas is pull factor fueling rural urban migration in their communities. Hence from the above responses, it is clearly spelt out that, presence of social amenities is pulling people from Vokuna, Kuna Vendi, Mamzari, Kapule, Muzugame and Jaba rural communities to urban centers, while absence of social amenities in those rural areas is pushing them from their hamlet immensely.

Table 4: Decay in moral values among the youth in coupled with poverty causes rural-urban migration in this community.

Response	Frequency	Percentage%
Strongly agree	79	52.7
Agree	43	28.7
Undecided	5	3.3
Disagree	23	15.5
Strongly disagree	-	-
Total	150	100

Source: field survey, 2021.

Table 4 above shows that 79 respondents which represent 52.7% strongly agree with the assertion, 43 respondents which represent 28.7% agree that poverty causes rural-urban migration in their communities. While, 5 respondents which is equivalent to 3.3% remained adamant. Notwithstanding, 23 respondents which is equivalent to 15.5% disagree that decay in moral values among the youth coupled with poverty is the prime cause of rural-urban migration in their communities.

From the above responses, it could be concluded that decay in moral values among the youth coupled with poverty is one the causes of rural-urban migration in Maiha Local Government rural communities. Since, 52.7% of the respondents strongly agreed with the assertion.

Table 5: High cost of farm implements causes rural-urban migration in this community.

Response	Frequency	Percentage%
Strongly agree	77	51.3
Agree	47	38
Undecided	-	-
Disagree	26	17.3
Strongly disagree	-	-
Total	150	100

Source: field survey, 2021.

Table 5 above show that, 77 respondents which is equivalent to 51.3% strongly agree with question, 47 respondents which is equivalent to 38% agree with the aforementioned question. While, 26 respondents which is equivalent to 17.3% disagree that high cost of farm implements causes rural-urban migration in their communities.

From the above responses, it could be analyzed that high cost of farm implements also make people to abandon their habitat of origin to urban areas and engage in white collar jobs, invariably agriculture suffers great consequence.

Findings

- i. It was discovered that Most of people that migrate to urban areas in the dry season do not return in the raining season to engage in farming.
- ii. Lack of infrastructure is the outstanding factor that is behind rural-urban migration in this community.
- iii. Decay in moral values among the youth in coupled with poverty causes rural-urban migration in this community.
- iv. High cost of farm implements causes rural-urban migration in this community.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study concludes that rural-urban migration is a recurring phenomenon in Maiha Local Government. The push and pull factors play an outstanding role in fueling rural-urban migration in the study area tremendously and consequently made agricultural productivity labor intensive, since the youth who are the workforce abandon farming and helter-skelter run to urban areas due the ugly nature of their habitat and decadence in moral values. The findings clearly revealed beyond reasonable doubt that, the impetus of rural-urban is vividly as a result negligence of the government to cater for rural areas and provide them infrastructures, such as; good road, water, education, health facilities, electricity, network and other laudable social amenities that would

encourage the rural dwellers stay in their communities. The findings by and large, buttressed that the implication of rural-urban migration which causes high labor shortage virtually lead to massive reduction in agricultural output, of which is the genesis of Nigerian dependency on imputation of food items from other countries. Consequently, Nigeria cannot able to feed itself due to effects of rural-urban migration on agriculture immensely.

The paper recommends the following thus:

- i. The paper recommends that government should make farming activities attractive to the rural farmers by subsidizing farm tools and implement to rural farmers.
- ii. Government should improve the infrastructural facilities of rural areas so as to enables the rural populace to leave comfortable in rural areas.
- iii. Religious leaders, traditional leaders and guardians should train the youth on good societal values and norms.

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