

RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION AND HOUSEHOLD LIVELIHOOD ASSETS IN NSUKKA REGION OF NIGERIA

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Abstract

The study appraised the impact of rural-urban migration on rural household livelihood assets in Nsukka region, southeastern Nigeria. It examined as its objectives, the incidence of migratory selection, and the impact of rural-urban migration on rural household livelihood assets. The study is based on survey research design and utilized household survey questionnaires to obtain data. It covered 4 local government areas, 16 communities and 910 households. Analysis of collected data was carried out using simple descriptive statistics such as tables, charts and graphs. The inferential statistical tools used include Principle Component Analysis (PCA), Regression and Correlation Analysis, and Asset index analytical technique. The findings of the research show that 92% of the migrants visited home in the course of a year and 86.3% of migrants made remittances back home. On the use of monetary remittances, result revealed that great percentage of the remittances went to basic necessities as food (50.37%); school fees (35.3%); healthcare (28.1%) and farming (22.3). Asset index analysis revealed that migration remittances have really impacted on rural household livelihood assets across the communities. Across the LGAs Uzo-Uwani experienced the highest impact of migration on rural household livelihood assets, having the highest aggregate score of 77.36 while lowest impact score of 58.39 went to Isi-Uzo. Based on the findings of the study, recommendations were made on how to shore up rural livelihood and equally curtail rural-urban migration. Among the recommendations are that government should network with migrants through migrant associations to help channel their efforts towards more relevant community development projects that will bring more effective improvement in the development and livelihood of communities of origin; the rural population that receive remittance should be tutored, motivated and mobilized to engage in more

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productive investment of remittances received rather than concentrating on immediate consumption.

Key Words: Migration, Rural, Urban, Household, Livelihood, Assets Based.

Introduction

Migration studies is not just about movement but also about the inter connectedness of livelihood of people in place of origin and place of destination of the migrant. As Mandel (1990), has noted, migration is essentially a series of exchanges between places. Metaphors about threads, chains anchors and umbilical links are employed to emphasize this interconnectedness and physical signs of its presence: remittances, brides, journeys home, letters, goods and so on are the links in the chain. It is evident that much migration in various parts of the world is circular; people continue to maintain strong links with their areas of origin and destination. This makes the effect of migration on areas of origin of primary importance and complex (McDowell and De Haan, 2003).

The migration phenomenon in Africa can be better understood within the context of political and historical evolution of African societies. The effects of colonization and decolonization on the economy and indirectly on migration are most visible when examined in the context of the pre-colonial, the colonial and the post-colonial era. West Africa has experienced a variety of migrations caused by population pressure, poverty, poor economic performance and endemic conflicts. Contemporary patterns of migration in West Africa are rooted in socio-economic, political and historical via cultural factors which have shaped the direction of movement and type of economic activities (Onwudinjo, 2012) Nigeria plays a key role in African migration. As Africa's demographic giant, Nigeria has become increasingly involved in international migration to Europe, America, Asia, the Gulf countries and South Africa. Yet, Nigeria is also a source and destination country with respect to migration within West Africa (Adepoju, 2004, Hass, 2006).

Migration follows a variety of patterns which expresses migration on space dimension. They include, urban-urban; urban-rural; rural-rural and rural-urban. This research is centred on rural-urban migration which is one of the patterns that expresses migration on a space dimension. Rural-urban migration constitutes one of the currents of internal migration in Nigeria and elsewhere. It involves the movement of people from rural areas to urban areas on permanent or

semi permanent basis. This type of population movement is abundantly expressed in South-Eastern Nigeria of which Nsukka region is a salient part. It is a type of migratory movement in which the motive is not only to improve the movers livelihood opportunities and welfare, but also the livelihood improvements of those left behind in the rural area.

Rural-urban migration results from the search for perceived or real opportunities as a consequence of rural-urban inequality in wealth (Sorenson, 2004; Madu, 2006). This inequality and or urban bias in development according to research findings over the years results from overwhelming concentration of wealth, assets, purchasing capacity, economic activities, and Variety of services in the urban centres as well as continued neglect of rural areas (Todoaro, 1998, 1985; Ellis, 2003, 2005; and Timalisina, 2007). Nevertheless researches have shown that the determinants of or propensity of migration differ from place to place and among migrants over time. Scoones (1998) and Carney (1998) have each in their classification of livelihood strategies identified migration as a rural livelihood strategy; and according to Ajaero (2008), migration has been identified as a livelihood strategy utilized by the poor especially rural dwellers.

In Nsukka region, rural-urban migration is seen as a viable livelihood strategy and is highly encouraged because of the financial success believed to be associated with it. It is not strange in this region for some kindred to hold meetings to urge a youngman who stays on the village without any overt goal to move out like others and seek success elsewhere. Some micro studies in some communities of the region as Okolo (2008) study in Eha-Alumona community show that migration increases the status symbol of a migrant's household. Parents or relatives do boast of their children or relatives living in one big city or the other. One does not usually expect a higher institution graduate to remain in the village since there is no economic opportunity for gainful employment for him there. He is expected to move out and look for means of livelihood in the urban area, not only to improve on his own wellbeing but the wellbeing of the family left behind. He is expected to seek improvement of the wellbeing of the family that invested so much on him to the extent of having to sell plots of land and some economic trees. School leavers equally seek higher educational opportunities and/or economic opportunities in urban areas. Low skilled workers equally do the same. Thus migration to urban areas from rural areas of Nsukka region is usually expected and sought out for especially for the educated, the business inclined

and technical men. This is moreso as the rural areas of the region as is obtainable in most rural areas of Nigeria are deprived of socio-economic opportunities and infrastructural facilities.

In Nsukka region as is the case in the rest of Enugu state and the rest of southeastern Nigeria, concrete policies that should encourage the flow and efficient use of remittances are generally lacking because of absence of up-to-date empirical evidence regarding the effects of rural-urban migration in the specific contexts. This rarity of research on rural-urban migration and livelihood linkages underscores the need for such studies on how such linkages influence improvement in the livelihood of people in such migration prone area as Nsukka region, southeastern Nigeria. The poor socio-economic and infrastructural conditions already enumerated as observed in Nsukka region evidently encourages rural-urban migration. It is the investigation of these conditions/factors, variables and impacts of rural-urban migration on Nsukka region that this research is focused on.

From the foregoing, rural-urban migration is identified as a livelihood strategy adopted by rural dwellers and it is abundantly expressed in Nsukka region. This variant of the migration process has profound influence on the individual migrant, his household, sources and destination areas and equally holds a significant implication for proper urban planning and rural development. It therefore follows that a systematic insight into the rural-urban migration process and its impacts on rural household assets based would be imperative in designing more effective migration and development policies in Nigeria generally and in Nsukka region in particular. Therefore, the aim of this paper is to appraise the impact of rural-urban migration on the rural household's livelihood assets based in Nsukka region of Nigeria.

Issues in Migration Studies

Defining migration

Giving a concise definition of the migration concept might prove abortive. There are perhaps as many definitions of migration as the disciplines interested in it, each defining it with bias to its discipline leaning. Clarke (1976) and Charles (1975), both conceive migration as human population movements involving a change of residence for a substantial duration. In its most general sense, according to Petterson (1975), migration refers to the relatively permanent movement of persons over significant distances, however Waugh (1995), saw migration as a movement and in human terms refers to permanent change of home. This last definition is clearly

defective since it is not only movements that involve a permanent change of home that are referred to as migration in migration literature. This dearth in agreement has probably forced Prothero and Kosinky (1978) to replace the term with mobility to include all kinds of mobility across space. It is clear from the few definitions so far that for a population movement to be included in the migration process, it must be across space and must at least be semi-permanent. This study therefore adopts the definition that migration refers to any form of mobility of people which involves permanent or semi-permanent change of usual place of residence and activity space of an individual across an administrative boundary (Hossain, 2001; United Nations, 2002, National Geographic, 2005).

Classification of Migration Activities

Irrespective of some arguments that migration is too complex for monolithic classification (Mcdowell and de Haan, 2003); migration classification would seem to be of essence in injecting sharpness, clarity and order in migration research and literature. Migration activities are therefore classified on the basis of scale, duration of stay, processes and patterns (National Geographic 2005). On the basis of scale, migration may be internal (domestic) or external (international). Internal migration describes change of residence within a region, state or country while external or international migration involves a change of residence to a different country. The processes of migration on the other hand are population transfer, impelled migration, chain migration, step and jump migration, return migration and seasonal migration (Macpherson, 2000). Population transfer otherwise called involuntary or forced migration refers to the use of force by government to ensure the movement of a large group of people out of a region while in impelled migration which is also known as reluctant or imposed migration, people leave their abodes because of unfavourable circumstances such as warfare and natural disasters. Chain migration denotes a series of migration within a family or defined group of people in which migration commences with an individual who sends money to bring others to the new location (Machpherson, 2000).

A series of shorter migrations from a place of origin to final destination such as from a village to a town and finally to a city is called step and jump migration. Return migration or circular migration refers to the voluntary movement of migrants back to their place of origin and

seasonal migration involves the movement of people for a period of time in response to labour, climate and other dictates (Millington, 2000; National Geographic, 2005).

In terms of duration of stay or based on time dimension, movement of people may be categorized into visits, short-term migration and long term migration. It has also been categorized as daily, periodic, seasonal, long term and permanent (Gould and Prothero, 1975). Visits refer to movements of less than three months. Short term migration (temporary migration) represents movements between three months and three years duration while movements that last for upwards of three years are classified as long-term or permanent migration. Furthermore, migration follows a variety of patterns which expresses migration on space dimension. They include, urban-urban; urban-rural; rural-rural and rural-urban. Also all migrants are disaggregated into those who move out of a place called emigrants and those who move into a place called immigrants.

All these migration types can be classified into two broad groups based on the motive for migration. They are conservative and innovative migration. Conservative migration is where the mover changes residence to maintain his present standard of living while innovative migration is where the movement aims at improving the living standards and so achieve something new (Peterson, 1958). For instance, in ancient/primitive migrations, movers looked for similar types of environment they abandoned. For example, pastoral peoples usually chose to stay with grasslands, agrarian populations looked for similar agricultural locations. These types of movements are classed as conservative. In modern era, the destination of many migrating agriculturists has often been a town or city and hence, the movement is classed innovating rather than conservative and represents a flight from the land (Elekwa, 2004). These concepts can also be illustrated further using the forced migration typology or population transfer. If the function of the movement as defined by the activating agent is simply to get rid of the people, it tends towards conservative migration, but if the people are moved in order to use their labour elsewhere, and so involve a shift in behavioural patterns the migration is classed innovating (Elekwa, 2004). Since rural-urban migration is a type of migratory movement in which the motive is not only to improve the movers livelihood opportunities and welfare, but also the livelihood improvements of those left behind in the rural areas, it is therefore an innovative type of population movement.

Household Livelihood Assets

Household livelihood assets denote the fundamentals upon which households are able to engage in production, engage in labour market and participate in reciprocal exchange with other households (Ellis, 2000). These stocks of capital which may be natural, physical, human, financial, and social, can be utilized directly or indirectly, to generate the means of survival of the household and or to sustain its material well-being at different levels. Natural capital otherwise known as environmental resources is made up of the land, and biological resources that are utilized by people to establish means of survival. Physical capital comprises of resources that are created by economic facilities such as building, roads, tools, machines and communications. These are also referred to as producer goods. For instance, roads have multiple effects in reducing the spatial costs of transaction in resources and outputs and also facilitate movement of people between places offering different income earning opportunities. Human capital refers to the quality of the population expressed in terms of education, skills and health. Increase in human capital is achieved through pursuing one or more occupations. Financial capital represents stocks of money available to the population through savings, loans, remittances, pensions or other forms of credit facilities which enable individuals pursue their livelihoods. Social capital refers to reciprocity within communities and between households based on trust deriving from social ties. In other words, social capital can be seen as the characteristics of social organizations, such as networks, norms, and trust that facilitate action and co-operation for mutual benefits (McAlsan, 2002).

According to the Department for International Development (DFID, 1999) households assets including both material and social resources and activities required for a means of living. Capability, of individuals includes various factors such as self esteem, security, happiness, stress, vulnerability, power, and exclusion. Household assets may be categorized into natural capital comprising of land, water and biological resources; physical capital such as buildings, roads, tools, machines, communications etc; Human capital in terms of education, skills, and health; financial capital in the form of stocks of money available to the population through savings, loans, remittances, pensions etc; Social capital refers to accessibility and utility networks, relations, norms, institutions. In essence, an individual utilizes available assets with the aid of formal and informal institutions to pursue a livelihood strategy (in this context migration) to achieve livelihood outcomes.

The Methodologies of Migration Studies in Nigeria

Prior to the '60s', most analysis of migration was basically descriptive. The 1960s marked the entrance and the intensive use of statistical techniques. Despite this change, Adepoju (1983) observed that our understanding of the mechanism of the migration system has not been substantially enhanced. Both definitions and concepts are under-standardized, while the methodology used and data presentations remain poor. Most of the migration studies are therefore not statistically eloquent, perhaps, because, a large member of the studies are exploratory and descriptive. As a result such studies have not provided the basis for statistically valid inferences about a universe of interest (Adepoju 1983). However, one would note that much improvement have equally gone into migration research especially in the area of sampling techniques, statistical analysis and presentation of research results, and operational models or frameworks that anchor the researches.

The various methods presently used in migration research in Nigeria can be classified into qualitative and quantitative methods (Onyedikachi, 2011). The qualitative method includes oral interviews, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), in-depth interview of targeted informants and opinion leaders, ethnographic studies and content analysis (Kuteyi, 2005; Oji, 2006; Ikwuyatum, 2006). In addition, Albert (1994) used observation and life history method in the study of urban migration in Sabon Gari in Kano metropolis. The use of questionnaire for data collection is profound in most empirical works. In addition e-mail snow-balling data collection method was adopted by Oji (2006) to collect migration and socio-economic data via the internet. This has been facilitated by the development of information and communication technology (ICT). Also regression analysis has been used in several works in explaining relationships between migration and the physical and socio-economic variables. Mapping as a quantitative method of migration analysis has equally been used to express patterns and flows of migration.

Essentially, data on migration in Nigeria derives from three broad sources: government sponsored surveys; sample surveys in institutions and by individuals and indirect information from censuses. By far, the series of sample surveys conducted by several social scientists over the years serve as the primary source of information on migration in Nigeria.

Opinions have been raised that the 'one shot' surveys which characterizes most of the migration studies are inadequate, considering that migration is a complex process varying over space and time in its scale, patterns and causes and consequences. Makinwa (1981) equally

observes that, in Nigeria, generalities concerning migrants' characteristics and to some extent, migrants' impact on origin especially beneficial effect of urban-rural remittances-are documented. However, generalities are poor building blocks for policy-making; hence there is need for studies to bring out specifics which will form foundations for policy formulation. The present study focuses on Nsukka region bringing out such specific information on the impact of rural-urban migration on rural livelihood and development and in doing so incorporates both the qualitative and quantitative methods in migration research, utilizing all the necessary statistical measures to ensure its validity.

Summary of Review

The high rate of rural-urban migration has remained a topical issue and a challenge to governments and peoples of developing countries especially Nigeria. Bias in development spread in favour of urban areas, to the neglect of rural areas has been indicted for this scenario. Much have also been debated and discussed on the cost-benefit implications of rural-urban migration. Evidence however abound in literature regarding the effects of rural-urban migrant remittances on improving the livelihood and economic status of recipient households and development of communities of origin.

In general, the review of related literature suggests that many studies in rural-urban migration in Nigeria are already out-dated. A greater part of the research has also been carried out outside the southeast region. A few studies in southeastern Nigeria dwelt on Migrant characteristics and some looked at the impact of international migration on livelihood. Moreover, literature reveals that no major research on rural-urban migration has been carried out in the study area, yet she represents a good case study for examining such issues since like the rest of the southeast, she produces a large number of rural-urban migrants. It is therefore evident that rural-urban migration which is seen as the most pronounced, abounding and widespread migration pattern in the southeast particularly Nsukka region is lightly treated, yet its efficacy in household livelihood and assets accumulation in rural communities is unquestionable. This paper was carried out to fill this research gap. More so, this paper equally fills a methodological gap in migration study, by the use of livelihood approach which utilizes asset indices to bring out more clearly the effects of rural-urban migration on household livelihood assets based.

Methodology

Research Design

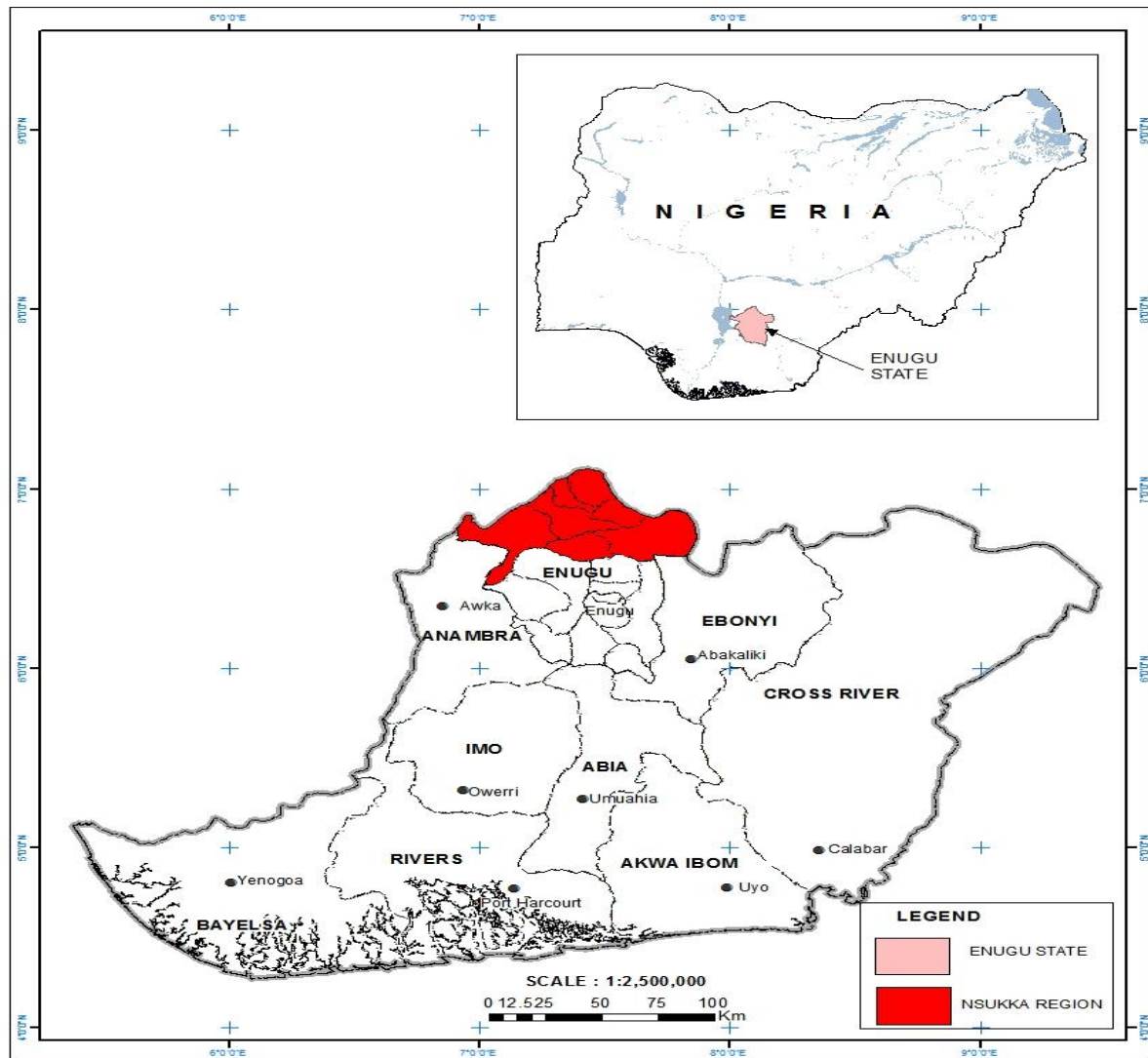
This study adopted the basic survey design. Research design according to Obasi (1999) is simply a plan that specifies how data should be collected and analyzed. The purpose of the research, the nature of the research problem and the various instruments for investigating the problem determine the choice of research design. Survey research studies both large and small population by selecting and studying samples chosen from the population to discover relative incidence, distribution and interrelations of variables under study.

Besides, the choice of the survey research design is adopted for this study because it satisfies the three major purposes for a research of this nature. First, it is designed to answer questions on relationships, facts and features and provides answers to the research problems and research questions. Secondly it is versatile and practical and provides necessary information on which sound decision will be based. Thirdly, besides uncovering data, surveys interpret, synthesize, and integrate these data and point to implications and interrelationships, identify present conditions and pointing out to present needs; hence it is suitable for this research.

Study Area

The study was conducted in Nsukka region situated in Enugu State southeastern Nigeria (Fig. 1). The land surface of the region lies between latitude $6^{\circ} 30'$ and $7^{\circ} 6'$ north and longitudes $6^{\circ} 54'$ and $7^{\circ} 54'$ east and covers a total land area of 3,402 square kilometers. It is located on the northern part of Southeastern Nigeria and is bounded on the east by Ebonyi state, on the northeast by Benue state, on the northwest by Kogi state and on the south west by Anambra state. It comprises seven (7) local government areas namely: Igbo-Etiti, Igbo-Eze North, Igbo-Eze South, Isi-Uzo, Nsukka, Uzo-Uwani and Udenue. The area is made up of 173 autonomous rural communities and Nsukka Urban centre.

Fig. 1: Map of South-Eastern Nigeria showing the Study Area



Source: Administrative Map of Nigeria, 11th Edition, Office of the Surveyed General of the Federation.

Population of Study Area

The population of the study is the entire household in the seven local government areas of Nsukka region which is estimated from 2006 National population commission publication-priority table (vol. I), that shows total number of household per state. The total number of household estimated for Nsukka region is therefore 306, 136 households.

The total population of Nsukka region according to 2006 population census is 1,378,408. With the land area of 3,402 sq.kms, the average population density is 405 per sk.km. The

population density sharply contrasts with that of the Igbo heartland where densities run over 1000 per sq.km.

The most striking feature of the population is the unevenness in its distribution. The pattern of distribution of settlements reveals among other things, a high concentration in the centre (the plateau zone) and low density of settlements in the lowland areas (Fig. 2). It is a remarkable feature of the Nsukka environment that major food producing sectors of the eastern and Western lowlands are also the least densely populated. The normal tendency for the population of predominantly agricultural communities to be concentrated along fertile plains is thus negated in the Nsukka area. This been because, the fertile well-watered plains to the east and west of the plateau are scantily peopled, while the practically waterless watershed is thickly settled. There is therefore, little positive relationship between the physical factors of relief, water supply and soils on the one hand and population distribution on the other (Ofomata, 2001).

Attempting to explain this extraordinary anomaly Ofomata, (2001), maintain that it is reasonable to assume that the earlier settlers in the Nsukka area tended to avoid such obstacles as the forested swamps of the Anambra plains, the deeply incised slopes and seasonally waterlogged sectors of the Cross River plains and the strong relief of the escarpment zone. Settlements thus tended to be concentrated along lines of least resistance on the plateau which also offered good defensive locations during the era of slave trade and intertribal wars.

Not only were the swamps, rivers and dissected slopes difficult to penetrate, but they were also impossible farmlands. The sandy, easy-to-work soils of the plateau which lent themselves more easily to bush clearing and burning were preferred to the heavy, clayey, hydromorphic soils of the eastern and western lowlands.

Table 1 shows distribution of population and households by local government areas in Nsukka Region. Besides the population size and household size, all the rural-urban migrants in the region also belong to the study population.

Nsukka region is chosen for this study because it exhibits as part of the variables homogenous socio-economic and cultural characteristics; falls within the same agro-climatic and other geographic conditions and also excepting one local government area (Isi-Uzo), falls into one political zone in Enugu State, Southeastern Nigeria and that is Enugu North senatorial zone.

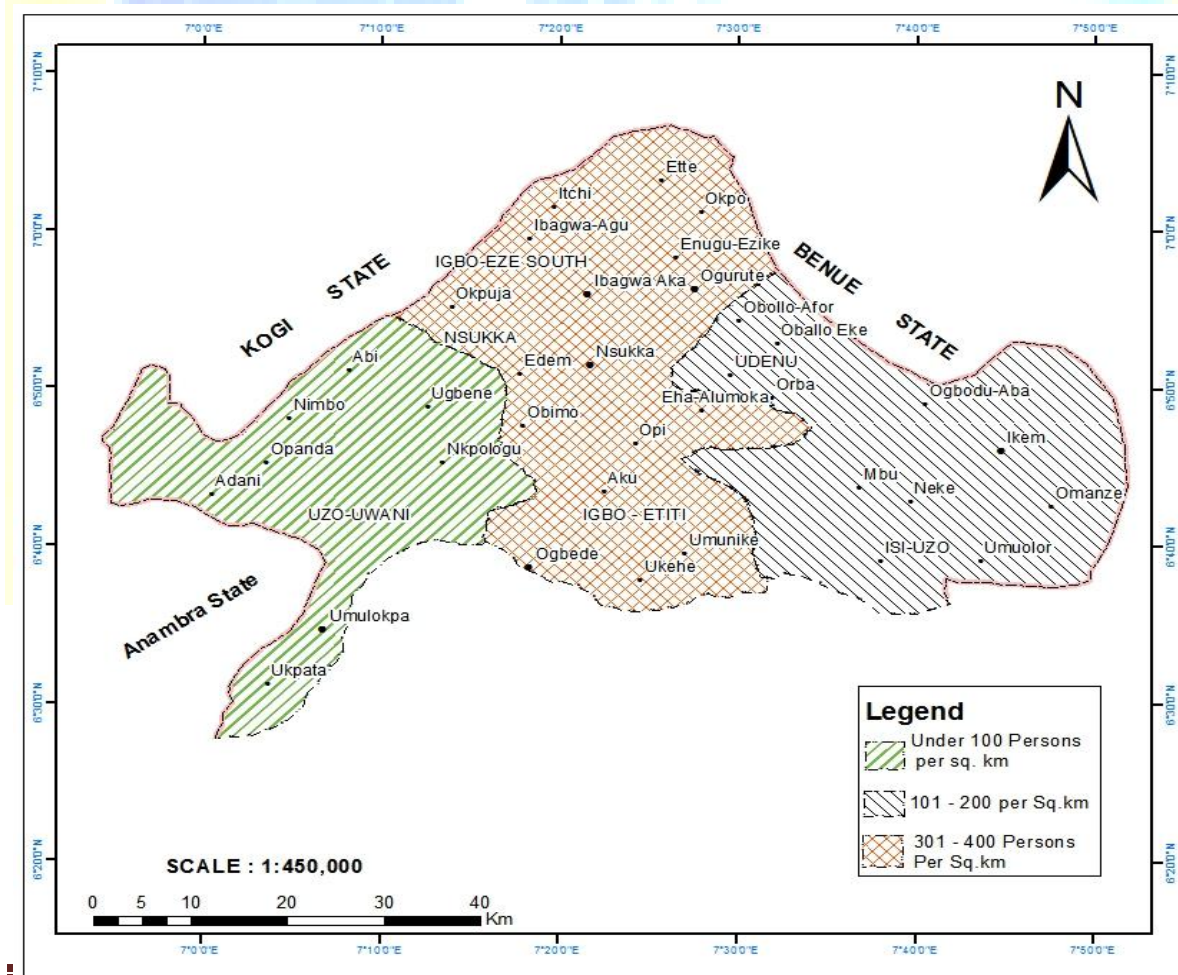
Table 1: The population of the study area: showing distribution of population and households by local government areas in Nsukka region.

LGA	Population (both sexes)	Male	Female	Total number of households (EST.)
Igbo-Etiti	208,333	105,262	103,071	46,270
Igbo-Eze North	258,829	126,069	132,760	57,484
Igbo-Eze South	147,364	72,619	74,745	32,728
Isi Uzo	148,597	72,497	76,100	33,003
Nsukka	309,448	149,418	160,030	68,727
Udeni	178,687	90,306	88,301	39,637
Uzo-Uwani	127,150	63,759	63,391	28,239
Total	1,378,408	678,005	700,403	306,136

Source: National Population Commission (2009)

It is equally a region highly prone to rural-urban migration. The choice of households as the unit for this study is equally based on the fact that they constitute the main focus of the investigation being the unit whose livelihood is essentially affected by out-migration.

Fig. 2: Nsukka Region showing Population Density



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RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS OF FINDINGS

Questionnaire distribution and responses

In the survey, questionnaires administered were completed and returned as shown in table 2 below:

Table 2: Respondents' Responses

LGAs (Communities)	No. Distributed	No. Returned	% Returned
Igbo-Etiti (Aku)	101	100	99
(Ukehe)	101	101	100
(Ochima)	30	29	96
(Onyohor)	22	22	100
Isi-Uzo (Ikem)	80	60	75
(Eha-Amufu)	101	100	99
(Umualor)	70	50	71
(Neke)	70	50	71
Nsukka (Nsukka)	100	100	100
(Eha-Alumona)	100	100	100
(Ibagwa-Agu)	22	20	91
(Anuka)	12	10	83
Uzo-Uwani (Adani)	90	79	87
(Nimbo)	80	58	72
(Ojor)	22	21	95
(Nkume)	10	10	100
TOTAL	1011	910	90

Source: Field survey 2014

From Table 2, it is seen that 90% of the questionnaires distributed on the whole were returned and no community recorded questionnaire returned of less than 71%; thus the level of response was highly satisfactory.

5.1.1 Relationship of the respondents to the migrants

Table 3 below contains data showing the relationship of the respondents to the migrants. It shows that 52.7% of the respondents are parents to the migrants and 33.2% are brothers to the migrants. The rest are children, sisters, spouses, or uncles to the migrants. Only an insignificant 0.9% of the respondents refer to others in their relationship to the migrants (see fig. 3).

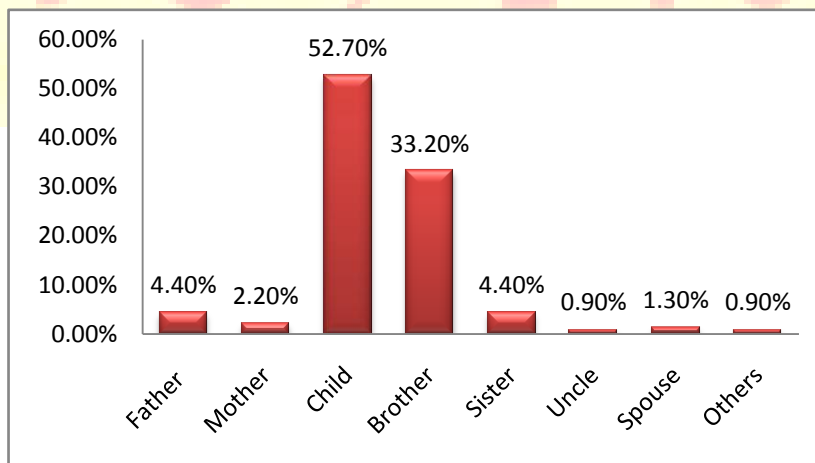
Table 3: Respondents Relationship to the migrants

	Father	Mother	Child	Brother	Sister	Uncle	Spouse	Others	Total
Eha-Amufu	5.00%	2.00%	52.00%	35.00%	5.00%	0.00%	1.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Ikem	3.30%	0.00%	63.30%	21.70%	3.30%	3.30%	1.70%	3.30%	100.00%
Neke	4.00%	4.00%	44.00%	42.00%	4.00%	0.00%	2.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Umualor	2.00%	2.00%	66.00%	24.00%	4.00%	0.00%	2.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Nsukka	7.00%	2.00%	47.00%	37.00%	5.00%	0.00%	0.00%	2.00%	100.00%
Eha-Alumona	3.00%	3.00%	52.00%	34.00%	4.00%	2.00%	2.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Anuka	0.00%	0.00%	70.00%	30.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Ibagwa-Agu	0.00%	0.00%	70.00%	20.00%	5.00%	0.00%	5.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Aku	7.00%	2.00%	48.00%	35.00%	5.00%	1.00%	0.00%	2.00%	100.00%
Ukehe	3.00%	3.00%	53.50%	33.70%	4.00%	1.00%	2.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Onyoghor	0.00%	0.00%	72.70%	22.70%	0.00%	0.00%	4.50%	0.00%	100.00%
Ochima	6.90%	3.40%	24.10%	55.20%	10.30%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Adani	6.30%	1.30%	57.00%	26.60%	5.10%	1.30%	0.00%	2.50%	100.00%
Nimbo	0.00%	1.70%	51.70%	37.90%	3.40%	1.70%	3.40%	0.00%	100.00%
Ojor	14.30%	4.80%	52.40%	23.80%	4.80%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Nkume	0.00%	10.00%	40.00%	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Total	4.40%	2.20%	52.70%	33.20%	4.40%	0.90%	1.30%	0.90%	100.00%

Source: Field survey, 2014

The essence of securing information on the respondent’s relationship to the migrants is to ensure that the respondents are close enough to the migrants to be able to supply reliable and credible information on them. This was accomplished in this study since over 90% of the respondents are of the same nuclear family with the migrants. It is therefore adjudged that information gathered is reliable and trustworthy.

Fig. 3: Respondents’ Relationship to the Migrants



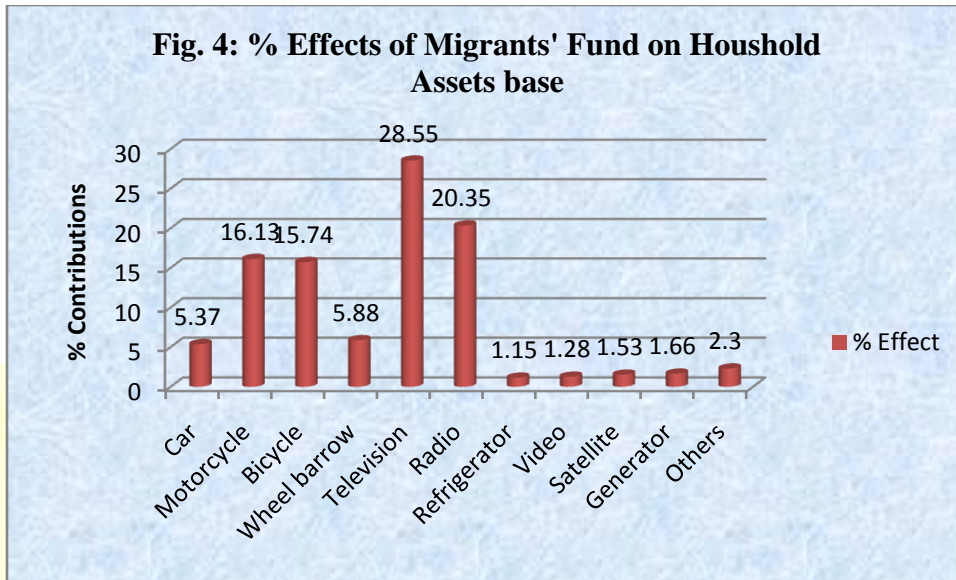
Source: Author, 2015

Impacts of rural-urban Migration on Rural Household Livelihoods Assets**Table 4:** Percentage Shares of Migrant Fund to Household Property Assets Base

Household Assets	Amount Sent by Migrant in the Last 12 Months						Total	% effects
	1000-2000	3000-4000	5000-6000	7000-8000	9000-10000	11000+		
Car	6	11	6	6	0	13	42	5.37
Motorcycle	31	28	21	22	6	18	126	16.13
Bicycle	5	40	34	12	11	21	123	15.74
Wheel barrow	0	21	8	0	13	4	46	5.88
Television	11	14	36	24	22	116	223	28.55
Radio	31	24	38	12	1	53	159	20.35
Refrigerator	1	1	1	0	0	6	9	1.15
Video	3	2	0	3	1	1	10	1.28
Satellite	0	2	3	3	0	4	12	1.53
Generator	1	4	3	1	2	2	13	1.66
Others	1	2	2	1	1	11	18	2.30
Total	90	149	152	84	57	249	781	100

Source: SPSS estimate

The estimation in table shows that television set received the highest share of migrant remittance, having total of 223, which made up 28.55% on the assets base of the household. Radio set received 20.35%, followed by motorcycle with 16.13% and bicycle also with 15.74% respectively. The result shows that wheel barrow and car receives 5.88% and 5.37% of the migrant fund respectively. While households' an item such as refrigerator, video and satellite receives less than 2% each, from the migrants' funds. In sum, the highest effects of migrant contribution in the study area go to ownership of television set, radio set, motorcycle and bicycle.



Source: Author, 2015

Table 6: The Estimated Impact of rural-urban Migration on Rural Household Livelihoods Assets

Community	Economic Security		Food Security	Shelter/Water and Sanitation Security			Education Security	Health Security	Aggr.
	Income	Property Assets		Shelter	Sanitation	Water			
Eha-Amufu	2.1	0.66	2.57	0.42	2.51	0.33	1.89	0.59	11.07
Ikem	6.221	0.67	5.89	0.86	2.66	0.76	2.01	0.76	19.831
Neke	3.21	0.66	2.669	0.75	2.74	0.85	2.1	0.65	13.629
Umualor	2.21	0.69	4.8	0.55	2.55	0.55	1.91	0.55	13.81
Nsukka	3.001	0.7	2.81	4.62	2.52	0.77	2.3	0.61	17.331
Eha-Alumona	4.1	0.66	2.81	0.845	1.71	0.6	2.95	0.70	14.375
Anuka	5.122	2.72	8.85	3.15	4.11	1.11	4.05	1.01	30.122
Ibagwa-Agu	2.99	0.66	2.84	0.42	2.51	0.52	2.77	0.22	12.93
Aku	3.001	0.66	2.797	0.69	4.1	0.6	2.07	0.80	14.718
Ukehe	6.111	0.67	2.746	0.61	5.62	0.71	1.8	0.71	18.977
Onyoghor	4.265	1.71	4.85	2.64	4.77	0.64	2.972	1.04	22.887
Ochima	3.21	0.66	2.82	0.52	3.53	0.72	2.817	0.52	14.797
Adani	4.111	0.86	2.67	0.4	2.42	0.47	2.712	0.67	14.313
Nimbo	7.1	0.71	6.85	0.84	4.77	0.6	3.99	1.00	25.86
Ojor	8.298	2.02	7.08	2.01	1.02	0.75	4.171	0.95	26.299
Nkume	1.309	0.66	2.764	0.61	0.52	0.61	3.789	0.81	11.072

Source: Field work and Researcher's Computation

Using the asset index analytic approach, assets-base impact analysis was conducted to estimate the impact of migration on household assets-base across the communities. The result as presented in table 5.48 shows that Anuka, Ojor, Nimbo and Onyohor have the highest aggregate

impacts of migration on their livelihoods. Anuka has 30.16, Ojor: 26.32, Nimbo: 25.84 and Onyohor: 22.88 aggregate impact scores of migration on their livelihoods. Other communities that show more than average impact according to the result are Ikem, Ukehe, and Nsukka with 19.88, 18.96 and 17.36 respectively. From the result Nkume has the least impact score of 11.04, followed by Eha-Amufu with 11.07 and Ibagwa Agu with 12.96 (see fig. 5.42).

This result was further disaggregated to ascertain the impact of migration on economic security, food security, education security, health security, and shelter, water and sanitation security. On economic security, proxy by share to income and asset, the result proves that Ojor and Anuka have the highest impact while Nkume and Eha-Amufu maintained the lowest. On the other hand, based on food security, Anuka and Ojor again maintained the highest impact leaving Eha-Amufu and Neke at the lowest. Also Ojor and Anuka got the highest impact on education security while Ukehe has the lowest followed by Eha-Amufu. The highest impact on health security went to Onyohor and Anuka leaving Ibagwa-Agu with very little impact. On the impact of migration on shelter, sanitation and water security, the result proves that Anuka has the highest impact, followed by Onyohor and Nsukka while Adani, Eha-Amufu and Ibagwa-Agu trailed behind.

It is observed that the very remote communities as Anuka, Ojor, and Nimbo experienced the highest impact of migration on indices of livelihood thereby sustaining more robust livelihood outcomes; however the poorest livelihood outcomes of migration was equally found in such remote communities as Nkume and Eha-Amufu. So, remoteness and/or being found in more urban or more rural LGAs cannot actually adequately explain these variations. At LGA level, the variation in aggregate impacts are not striking as Uzo-Uwani had 77.52, followed by Nsukka (74.88), Igbo-Etiti (71.36) and Isi-Uzo with the lowest impact score of 58.39 and so Isi-Uzo constitutes the only noteworthy variation at the LGA level. Generally irrespective of the variations in livelihood outcomes of migration across the communities, all the communities revealed appreciable improvements in wellbeing, the average aggregate impact for the whole region being 17.63.

Comparing this result based on Asset index technique and the previous one based on migration impact variables alone using regression analysis, one can notice some differences or even a seeming contradiction. For example in the previous impact analysis based on migration impact variables alone, Isi-Uzo had the highest impact score on livelihood and Uzo-Uwani had

the lowest even though the difference was very slim, however, in the present analysis based on asset indices analytic approach, Uzo-Uwani had the highest impact score on livelihood improvement from migration. The reason is that this technique makes a more holistic assessment based on indicators of livelihood. It encompasses in its assessment more sensitive variables which give a deeper and more holistic insight into impact on livelihood. This therefore implies that having a high migration impact score based on migration impact variables does not automatically translate to robust livelihood outcome; for example usage of monetary remittances to buy food does not translate to a food secure household since the household may still be undernourished and/or mal-nourished. The asset indices analytic technique therefore brings out more clearly and more adequately the impact of migration on livelihood. Generally the aggregate impact scores as estimated for livelihood indices are as follows: Income (66.35); Assets (15.88); Food (65.81); Shelter (19.93); Sanitation (48.06); Water (10.59); Education (44.30) and Health (11.59). Thus economic security represented by income and assets had the highest impact scores followed by food, sanitation and education. The least impact scores went to shelter, health and water.

Fig. 5: Impact of rural-urban migration on rural household Assets across the sampled communities

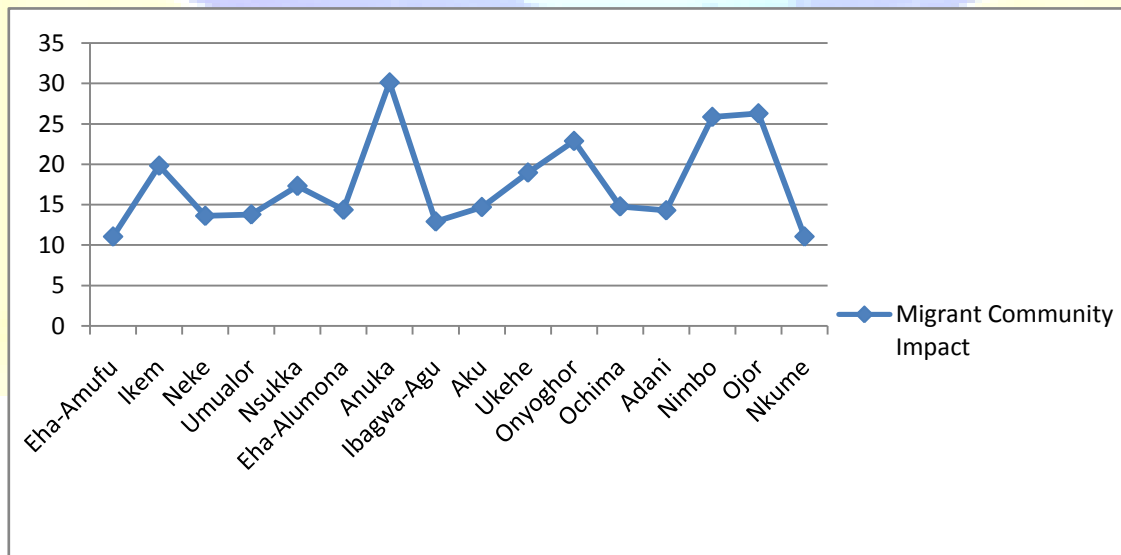
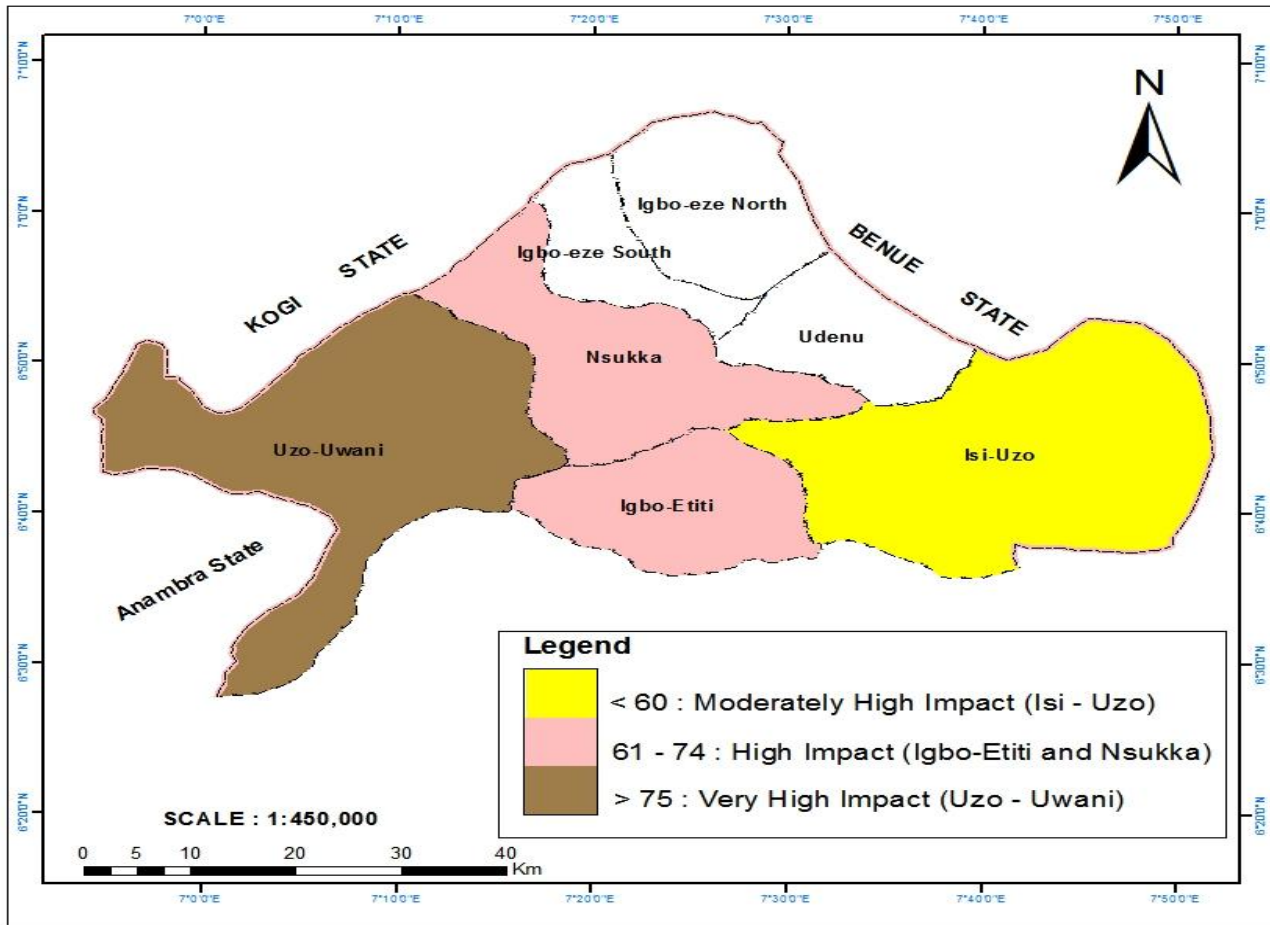


Fig. 6: Nsukka Region showing Impacts of Rural-Urban Migration on Rural Household Livelihood Assets the Sample L.G.As



Source: Field Work 2012

Discussion/Summary of Findings

This study appraised rural –urban migration as a sustainable rural livelihood strategy, examining such issues as livelihood Assets impact of rural –urban migration in Nsukka region.

This study found rate of migration was highest among the unemployed (31%) and farmers (31%), followed by trade and business (20%) and students (15%). From the educational and occupational features of the migrants, it is obvious that they are people with some skills as confirmed by Simons (1976). The high rate of migration among these groups is an indication of poor socio-economic opportunities in the rural source regions. This is confirmed by Echegu (2007) who maintained that the rural-urban drift is aggravated by the increasing disparity in rural versus urban development spread. This is consequent upon the continued concentration of public

utilities in urban centres at the expense of rural areas. Consequently, the socio-economic conditions of most parts of the rural areas in Nigeria are abysmally poor; hence there is a steady rise in the rate of rural–urban drift for decades (Echegu, 2007).

The findings of this research show that there is a high rate of contact between the migrants and their source region as 92% of the migrants visited home in the course of a year. 74.9% remitted money, 81.9% remitted food stuff and wears, 80.2% sent money and materials through other means. These findings were equally confirmed by Adepoju (1974), who found in his own study frequent visits home by most of the migrants; He confirmed also that majority of the migrants remitted money home. Raza. et al (1983), in their own study in Kaduna state confirmed that majority of the migrants maintained strong links with their families and with their village folks through frequent visits and remittances. In his own study Ajaero (2012) found over 70% of migrants – sending households receiving remittances.

This study found that the monetary remittances went to purchase of foodstuff, school fees, healthcare, farming, building projects etc. All these have resulted in improved livelihood of the rural households who would have otherwise being poorer. Confirming this, Adepoju (1995) outlines a number of uses to which remittances are put to, to include; feeding, clothing, education of children, relations at home, trading, farming, savings etc, and Raza et al (1983) equally confirming maintained that the remitted money is used for investments back in the village, household maintenance, helping relatives in their education, healthcare, clothing and so on. Onyefuru (2009) and Ajaero (2012) corroborated these findings. Maknwa(1981), echoing Adepoju (1974), assorted in conformity with the findings of this work that remittances sent by migrants for general maintenance is of great importance to individual households who would have been poorer but for this close economic tie with their urban relatives. Sada (1983) equally maintained that migrants provide income and material goods which their home villages would otherwise not have, thus permitting greater material comforts. This was equally supported by the reports of Adams (1991), that in rural areas of Egypt, the number of poor households reduced by 9.8 percent when remittances formed a component source of their income. Migration is therefore a salient force in maintaining and improving rural household well being in developing countries as illustrated and confirmed in this research.

Even though the use of sustainable livelihood approach in appraising the impact of migration on rural livelihood assets is a novel one as it has rarely been used for this purpose, yet

Scoones (1998) and Carney (1998) have each in their classification of livelihood strategies identified migration as a rural livelihood strategy. The livelihood frame work equally identifies migrants' remittances as one of the contents of financial capital which comprise the stocks of money available to the population (Serrat, 2008). Examining the effect of rural out-migration on sustainability of the assets of the rural people, studies have revealed that remittances from migrants generally exert a strong impact in improving the lives of migrants' households at the source areas by increasing their purchasing power for food, education, health, housing condition and other essential services (Nimi and Ozden 2006, Pozo, 2007; World Bank, 2007). These studies are of the view that migration serves as an additional source of finance for rural household livelihood and assets based and exerts strong impact in poverty reduction which implies improved assets based and livelihood security as this study confirm by the use of asset indices analytical technique.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study and observations, recommendations are made as hereby presented.

- i It is recommended that government should network with migrants through migrant associations; this is because observations and experiences in the study area have shown that many migrants maintained great attachment and commitment to migrant associations in the cities which in most cases are tribal, clan or kindred associations. These associations pool resources together and help in the planning and implementation of various projects at their home towns and villages. Government should therefore motivate and supervise these migrant associations and help channel their efforts towards more relevant community development projects that will bring more effective improvements in the development and livelihood of communities of origin. Government initiatives can spur patriotic activities among the citizenry by implementation of special awards to associations, groups and individuals who excel in leadership and outstanding service to their communities.
- ii The rural population that receives remittances should be tutored, motivated and mobilized to engage in productive investment of remittances received rather than concentrating on immediate consumption as this study illustrated. Productive investments of the

- remittances will result to a more sustained improvement on the livelihood of the rural household.
- iii Seeing that rural-urban migration has become a salient part of rural livelihood strategy as demonstrated by this research, development policy makers should reflect it in designing interventions for poverty alleviation and urban or rural development. This implies that the idea of setting up separate administrative units for urban or rural development should be reconsidered and replaced by an arrangement that sees rural and urban areas as two ends of a continuum in the urbanization process. This equally implies that governments should attempt to fully understand the intricacies and dynamics of the migration process among the important variables in their economic development planning efforts.
- iv Government should institutionalize the process of remittances from migrants.
- v Dearth of physical infrastructure is pronounced in rural areas of Nsukka region as this study found and this is implicated as a force in rural out-migration. Building of good network of roads, water supply electricity and communication system must be vigorously pursued. One of the strong reasons for out-migration is poor market for trading. This could be alleviated through construction of good network of roads to link the rural area to each other and to the urban centres. This will not only enable the rural dwellers bring out their products, but will also enable the urban dwellers travel freely to such rural areas to avail themselves of such goods all at reduced transport costs. This will invariably stem rural out-migration.
- vi One of the major factors indicted for rural out-migration in Nsukka region is lack of job opportunities, yet in the region there exist diverse resources that could be harnessed to enhance industrialization. Special incentives, besides, infrastructural development, should be offered to private firms and companies that are located in rural areas of Nsukka region to boost employment opportunities for the people by harnessing the local resources. Such incentives could include tax reliefs, free lands to site firms, easier access to bank loans. These will boost employment opportunities and downgrade out-migration.
- vii The principal occupation of rural dwellers of Nsukka region as elsewhere is farming. It is therefore suggested that government should awaken effort practically to improve agricultural productivity in the region. The input subsidization strategy of government should be revitalized, so that fertilizers, implements, seedlings and affordable credit

facilities can be made accessible to farmers to retain people in rural regions. Also one suggests a revamping of the farm-settlement scheme for school leavers taking note to deal or avoid the ills that led to its scrapping before. This time, graduates of tertiary institutions should be the candidates while government gives full comprehensive attention for up to three to five years before the beneficiaries could be left to be independent to operate. In Nsukka region for instance, the eastern and western lowlands are potentially rich agricultural region waiting to be effectively harnessed. They therefore constitute veritable sites for farm settlement schemes. All these will lead to increased agricultural productivity absorb rural labour force, attract agro-based industries, thereby creating more job openings and wealth and so restrain out-migration.

- viii This study found that many communities that have educational institutions including tertiary institutions close or within them had less of their migrants migrating on account of pursuit of education. It therefore follows that in order to reduce the tide of rural out-migration more schools and colleges should be established within or close to the rural areas at strategic locations. This should be pursued by both private and public concerns. A follow-up from the above is that vocational training centres should be established in the rural areas for skill acquisition by youths since not all youths are academically oriented. The establishment of such training centres will equally enable the youths acquire training within the rural setting without being entirely de-linked from farming.

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