Perception of Demographic Characteristics of Rural-Urban Migrants in Shani Local Government Area of Borno State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT:

This study was undertaken to investigate the demographic characteristics of rural urban migrants in Shani Local Government Areas of Borno State Nigeria. Simple random sampling method was adopted in order to select the number of respondents for this study. A total of one hundred and fifty respondents were selected as respondents to participate in the study. This number was shared among the three zones of Shani A, Shani B and Shani C as classified for the purpose of this study. The sources of the data are therefore both primary and secondary while the analysis of the data collected was presented using charts and percentages. As a matter of fact the research discovered that age count significantly in ensuring migration to urban areas in the study area because majority of the migrants were young as the elderly have lots of responsibilities, males since females need to be under the care of another, educated because opportunities exist for them only the urban centres and the relatively rural rich for security and economic prosperity. The research therefore recommends that skills acquisition centers be established to train youth , loans be provided for agricultural activities and small scale businesses. It is equally necessary to improve the security situation by setting up and according the local vigilantes maximum support to supplement the efforts of police.

Index Terms – Rural, Urban, characteristics, migrants, migration

INTRODUCTION

Rural –urban migration is not a new concept as people have been moving from one place to another since time immemorial for reasons such as famine, war, business among others. it therefore pertinent to note that migration has been part of human existence and will continue to be. The characteristics of potential migrants have long been considered as the factors that determines who migrates and who does not in the rural area in terms of internal migration and even international migration. This is because the causes of migration come in to play in ascertaining who migrate. In this connection migrants characteristic depends on the purpose for their migration such that those who migrate for work purposes can be quite different than those who migrate for family reunification (Simpson, 2017). It is also important to note that each migration flow is predicated on certain characteristics such as age, sex, education, and economic status among others. For instance Labor migrants are mostly young, since they are focused on realizing the expected benefits of migration. Historically, labor migrants were typically working-age men, but, increasingly, migrant flows consist of women and families in search of employment abroad (and in some cases joining families already in the host country) (Simpson, 2017). Marital status is also a significant determinant of migration, where married persons are less likely to migrate due to their responsibilities or even where they succeeded in migrating, depending on the reasons, they are likely to return sooner. Migration may differ as a result of characteristics such age, sex, education, levels of skill and economic status. For example, short-term income fluctuations pull less-educated male immigrants into the urban areas whereas long-term income trends push less-educated male migrants out of their rural areas of origin (2017)]. It is obvious that every discussion of migration whether internal or external will find certain link to demographic characteristics, the only exception is forced migration such as the one resulting from the Boko Haram insurgency in the northeastern region of Nigeria. This kind of migration has no place for demographic characteristics since virtually every member of the population is involved in the movement.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Although rural-urban migration is not a new subject because the growth of our contemporary commercial and administrative centres was predicated on migration especially rural-urban migration which is the focus of this paper. Several measures and policies of government have been rolled out from one government to another with the view of curtailing the out flow of rural population which is considered unhealthy for the urban areas once it goes beyond normal. It is equally not healthy while taking in to cognizance the issue of food security. Unfortunately the efforts of government in rolling out such policies have failed to hold back the rural population because the policies were either not workable or they were designed to benefit the urban elites more than the rural population, or some time they were deliberately made to fail due to lack of commitment by those responsible for the implementation. Most publications on rural –urban migration don't pay attention on the demographic characteristics of the migrants which will enable us to suggest measures that can be adopted in making provisions that can address the problems. Mostly it is believed that the youths are the persons

migrating from the rural areas without considering what features that these young people possess, what features the migrants and even women possesses. This is the aspect which this paper is concerned with.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To understand the age category of most migrants to urban areas and the characteristics that distinguished them from the non-migrants of same age group
2. To examine the socio-economic characteristic of the migrants
3. To examine the characteristics of female migrants

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What is the age category of most migrants to urban areas and what features distinguished them from their non-migrant of same age group?
2. What are the socio-economic characteristics of the migrants?
3. What are the characteristics of female migrants?

HYPOTHESIS

1. Age and sex have no significant association with migration to urban areas
2. Economic class and education have no significant association with migration to urban areas

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Everett Lee's Theory Of Migration

This paper adopted the Lee's theory of migration to explain the migration and taking consideration of the demographic characteristics as intervening factors which is the major focus of this paper. Everett Spurgeon Lee, Professor of Sociology at the University of Georgia is known for his pioneering theory of migration, which is known as the Lee's Theory (Push-Pull theory). Lee first presented his model at the Annual meeting of Mississippi Valley Historical Association, Kansas City, in 1965. In 1966, his seminal work, 'A Theory of Migration', was published in Demography journal. The theory, which draws on principles of sociology, attempts to formalize a 'theory' of migration which would provide a scheme of the factors that could explain the volume of migration between origin and destination. Lee's theory is both simple and has withstood the test of times. Everett Lee has conceptualized the factors associated with the decision to migrate and the process of migration into the following four categories:

1) **Factors at Origin:** There are many factors which motivate people to leave their place of origin to outside area. They are push factors.
2) **Factors at Destination:** There are very attractive forces at the area of destination to which the proportion of "selectivity" migrants is high. According to Lee, such forces are found in metropolitan areas of a country. Pull factors are present in such areas.
3) **Intervening Factors:** There are intervening obstacles like distance and transportation which increase migrant selectivity of the area of destination. These obstacles have been lessened in modern times with technological advances. Lee also refers to cost of movements, ethnic barriers and personal factors as intervening obstacles.
4) **Personal Factors:** Lastly, it is the personal factors on which the decision to migrate from the place of origin to the place of destination depends. In fact, it is an individual's perception of the 'pull and push forces' which influence actual migration. He categorizes these forces into "pluses" and "minuses" respectively. In other words, pluses are pull factors and minuses are push factors. In between them are "zeros" which balance the competing forces.
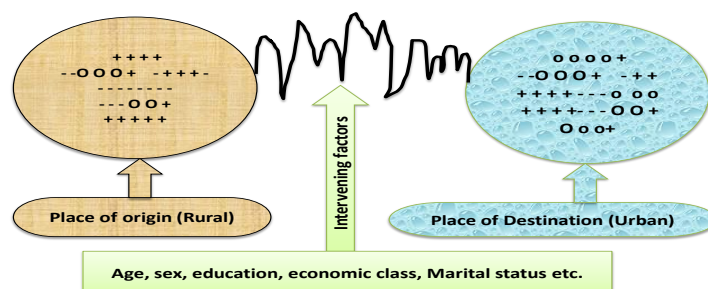

Figure 1: Origin and Destination Factors and Intervening Obstacles in Migration

These are explained in Fig. 1, where the first circle represents the area of origin and the second circle the area of destination. The sign pluses represent the forces that attract people to a place (pull factors) and that of minuses represents the forces that push people from the area. Zeros represent the indifference of the people towards migration. In between these forces are the intervening obstacles.

According to Lee, it is the personal factors or the demographic factors such as age, sex, race and education which along with the pull-push factors and intervening obstacles that determine migration. Further, there are sequential migrants such as children and wives of migrants who have little role in the decision to migrate. Based on the above conceptual framework Lee formulated three hypotheses as demonstrated below. These hypotheses cover the volume of migration, development of streams and counter-streams of migration, and characteristics of migrants to explain why some people migrate and others do not. These hypotheses are mentioned in the following sections:

Volume Of Migration

- The volume of migration within a given territory varies with the degree diversity of the areas included in that territory;
- The volume of migration varies with the diversity of the people in that territory;
- The volume of migration is related to the difficulty of the surmounting intervening variables. In other words, the more is the intervening obstacles the less is the volume of migration.;
- The volume of migration fluctuates with the economy;
- Unless severe checks are imposed, both volume and rate of migration tend to increase with time;
- The volume and rate of migration vary with the state of progress in a country or area.

Streams And Counter-Streams Of Migration

- Migration tends to take place largely within well-defined streams;
- For every major migration stream, a counter-stream also develops;
- The efficiency of the stream (ratio of stream to counter-stream or the net redistribution of population affected by the opposite flow) is high if the major factors in the development of a migration stream are minus factors at origin;
- The efficiency of the stream and the counter-stream of migration tend to be low if the place of origin and the place of destination are similar;
- The efficiency of migration streams will be high if the intervening obstacles are great;
- The deficiency of the migration stream varies with economic conditions, being high in prosperous times and low in times of depression.

Characteristics of Migrants

- Migration is selective. Due to differences in personal factors, the conditions at the places of origin and destination, and intervening obstacles are responded differently by different individuals. The selectivity could be both positive and negative. It is positive when there is selection of migrants of high quality, and negative when the selection is of low quality.
- Migrants respond primarily to the plus factors at destination term to be positively selected;
- Migrants responding primarily to minus factors at origin tend to be negatively selected; or, where the minus factors are overwhelming for the entire population group, they may not be selected for migration; In other words, migrants responding to negative factors at origin tend to be negatively selected.
- When all migrants are considered together, selection for migration tends to be bimodal;
- The degree of positive selection increases with the difficulty posed by the intervening obstacles;
- the heightened propensity to migrate at certain stages of the life-cycle is important in the selection of migrants;
- The characteristics of migrants tend to be intermediate between the characteristics of the population of the place of origin and of the population of the place of destination.

Lee concludes that migration is always selective and influenced by pull- push factors. Areas having plus factors are first selected for migration. It is generally the pull factors which lead to migration to urban areas rather than push factors, even though intervening obstacles do influence migration.

LITERATURE REVIEW

This aspect review the characteristics of rural-urban migrants by considering literatures relevant to this paper and which it is believe that it will significantly to the understanding of the subject of this discussion. The discussion is done under the subheading in the order that follows.

Migration and Sex

According to Li Shi (2008) an analysis of the gender composition of the rural migrant labour force in China shows that almost two thirds are males and only one third are females. One may think that this is due to discrimination against women in the labour market. Such discrimination is one explanation, but is not a major one. Actually, the lower propensity of females to migrate is largely associated with gender division of labour within households, which is heavily influenced by traditional values. It was also observed in a census conducted in India that most women who migrate to urban areas are doing so because of marriage with (51.5percent) mentioned 'marriage' as the main reasons for urban migration while second largest

reason was 'family moved' (29.3percent) and 'employment' was cited only by 4.2 percent of female migrants. 'Education' was the primary reason for 3 percent of females (Mitra and Murayama, 2001). Chinese women continue to carry more responsibility for work in the home, including with respect to the care of children and aged Parents which is same in Africa. Internal migration is an activity undertaken primarily by young adults all over the world (Deshingkar and Grimm, 2004). In Africa also labor migration, particularly greater distance tends to be dominated by young men (De Haan, 2000). A study of rural-urban migration conducted in Ethiopia confirmed that, most migrants are males under the age of 30 (15-30) years (CSA, 1999). Li Shi (2008) also observed that most rural migrant workers are young. In 2004, the RMS-NBS data indicated that 45 per cent were less than 26 years old and only 16 per cent above 40 years of age. Feleke et al (2006) also identified that children constituted certain percentage of migrants from rural to urban areas but most of the migrants are young male and female from different areas and ethnic groups. There is also the consensus among some scholars that young people are more mobile (Adepoju, 1982; De Haan, 2000, IDRC, 1977, Tianshong et al, 2000). Since the discounted value of future earnings would be higher for the younger people than that of the adults and aged categories, youths are more likely to learn new trends, acquire new skills and education to achieve their goals in the urban areas. They are also the category that has no or little burden of sustaining families and can therefore move freely without the fear that they are living behind some heavy responsibilities. In terms of gender it was observed that African and Asian countries where urbanization is still at early stage, migration is characterized predominantly by the movement of males (Bhuyan et al, 2001).

Educational Status

As mentioned earlier, selectivity of migration varies according to education of migrants too. Most studies of rural-urban migration found that, relatively better educated shows the highest propensity to migrate (Deshigkar and Grimm, 2005; Hossain, 2001). This is because they are likely to secure better jobs in the formal sector which can lead to positive changes in their living condition particularly those who have acquired higher education. This however, does not ignore the reality that many uneducated also see opportunities in the urban area especially the informal sector which is more easily penetrable and support a larger number of people than the formal sector.

Marital Status

The decision to migrate by an individual is also influenced by the marital status of such person. Researches indicated that generally those who have no family obligation are more prone to move (IDRC, 1977;Mendola, 2006). This is because those who are married would have to think of whether to move with the family or not and if they are to move with the families how would they cope with such responsibilities particularly at the initial stage in terms of accommodation , feeding and even transportation. On the other hand living the family behind is also what cannot be easily contemplated because those in the village are also struggling with survival problem.

Socio-Economic Status

There are certain studies on migration which observed that families of poorer people (usually from poorly irrigated and rain fed dependant) areas tend to migrate to urbanized location or richer villages (Deshingkar and Grimm, 2005). Those who are mostly affected by problems of limited access to land and other assets are more likely to migrate from rural to urban areas with the hope that their conditions in the urban areas will be better than their rural experience. Equally the fertility of the land might have been eroded and turned unproductive to the level of forcing people to flee to other rural areas or completely move out of the rural areas and subsequently the agricultural sector to urban areas and available opportunities that may exist in the urban areas.

Occupational Status

A study conducted by Feleke et al (2006) stated that most of the rural-urban migrants lack adequate education or required occupational skill to be engaged in the formal sector, and hence the only option is to join urban informal sector. However the educated are also unwilling to remain in the rural areas because there are no jobs for them in the rural areas as in most cases the formal sectors can only support few profession and workers.

METHODOLOGY

This research made use of both primary and secondary data sources, this is because apart from the data directly collected on field, the researcher also used data from works of others and data collected for different purposes by other writers, government or organization. As instruments of research were distributed to the selected sample in order to answer the questions that were raised in the questionnaire. The questionnaire was made up of both open and close ended questions which gave the respondents the chance of selecting from options provided and as well allowed to them give their own inputs regarding how they view the situation. It shall be used to determine the demographic characteristics of rural urban migrants in the study area. Questionnaire were be administered which permitted the respondents to indicate their perception on the issues raised in the area related to the demographic characteristics of rural-urban migrants in Shani L.G.A.. The respondents here were selected through simple random sampling. Although sample frame does not exist but the houses were numbered in order to give every household a chance of being selected in three of the eleven (11) electoral constituencies, with each constituency representing a particular zone in the local government as follows:

a) **Shani (A)** Shani ward, Gwalasho ward, Gwaskara ward and Buma ward
b) **Shani (B)** Kubo ward, Bargu ward, Gora ward and Kombo ward
c) **Shani (C)** Gasi ward, Kwaba ward and Walama ward

Each of such constituencies have thirty (50) respondents comprising of household heads, housewives, young men and young women which will give a

total of 150 respondents in this category. The selected constituencies are to represent **Shani (A)**, **Shani (B) Shani (C).** Research assistants were employed and trained in order to assist in carrying out the interview. Those to be employed were persons who can read and write and understands English and Hausa Language adequately in order to be able to communicate what they were expected to the respondents that have been selected for the research. Data collected in the process of this research was analyzed using the descriptive statistics by employing the use of tabulations, frequency, charts and percentages with help of SPSS.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

A total of 150 questionnaires were distributed to the selected respondents for the purpose of this research and 147 respondents completed and returned the questionnaires which was used in the following presentation and discussion.
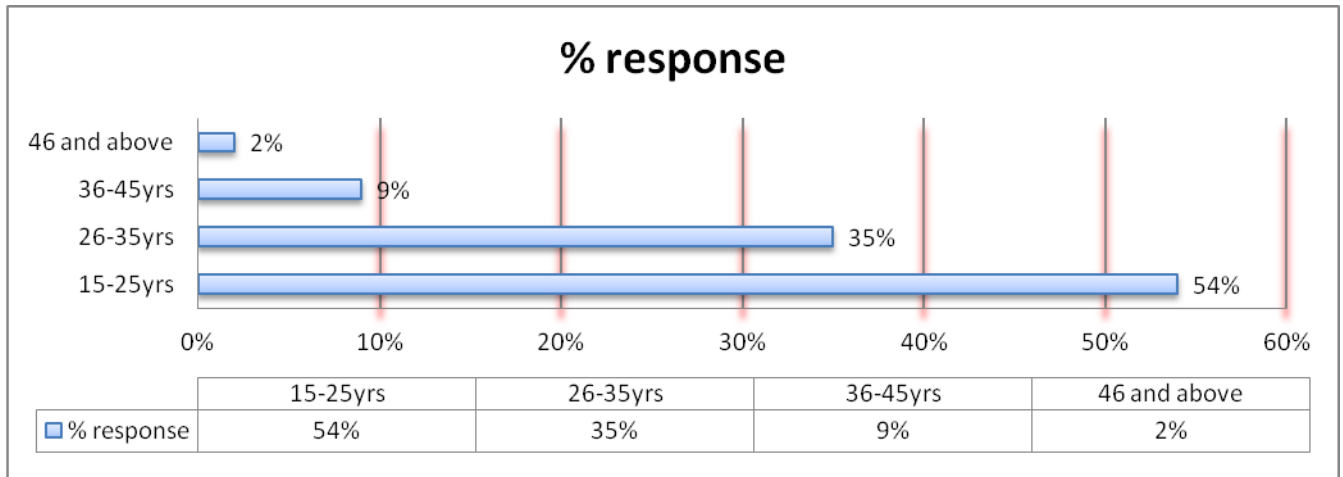

	15-25yrs	26-35yrs	36-45yrs	46 and above
% response	54%	35%	9%	2%

Figure 2: percentage distribution of respondent's perception of the age of migrants from Shani L.G.A. to urban areas
Source: survey 2014

Age counts significantly with regards to issues of migration particularly rural-urban migration which is the subject of this research, respondents differs in their views of the age category that are mostly involved in migration from rural to urban areas in Shani, majority with a percentage of 54% said persons within the age of 15-25 years of age are prone to migrate, followed by 26-35 years having 35%, 36-45 were only 9% while those above 46 years of age has only 2% as shown on figure 1. This is in line with the position that internal migration is an activity undertaken primarily by young adults all over the world (Deshingkar and Grimm, 2004). In Africa also labour migration, particularly greater distance tends to be dominated by young men (De Haan, 2000).
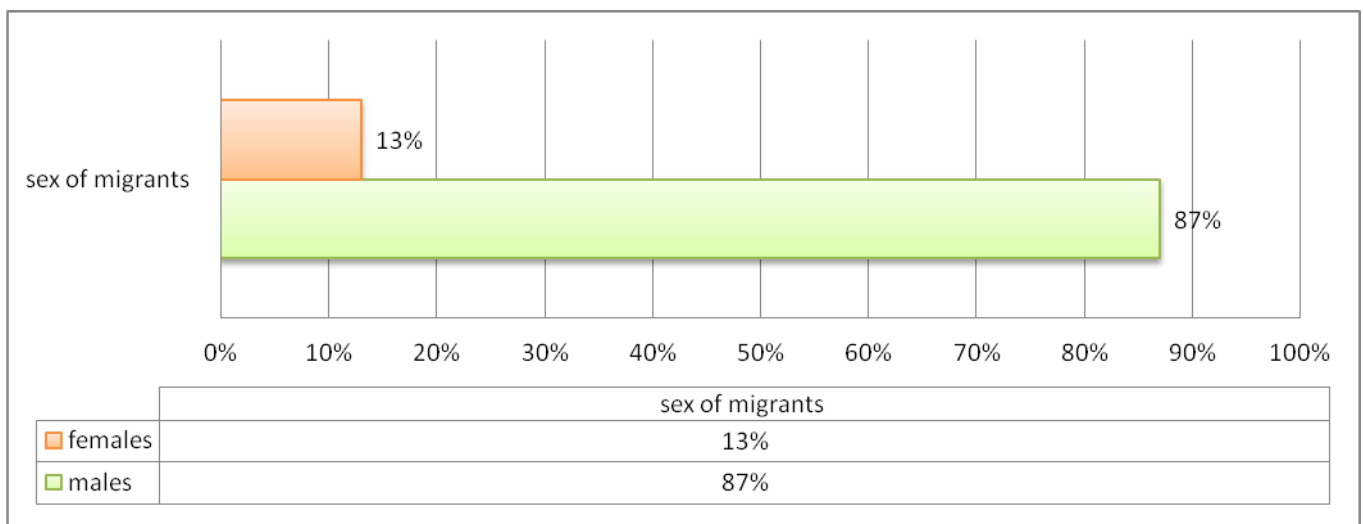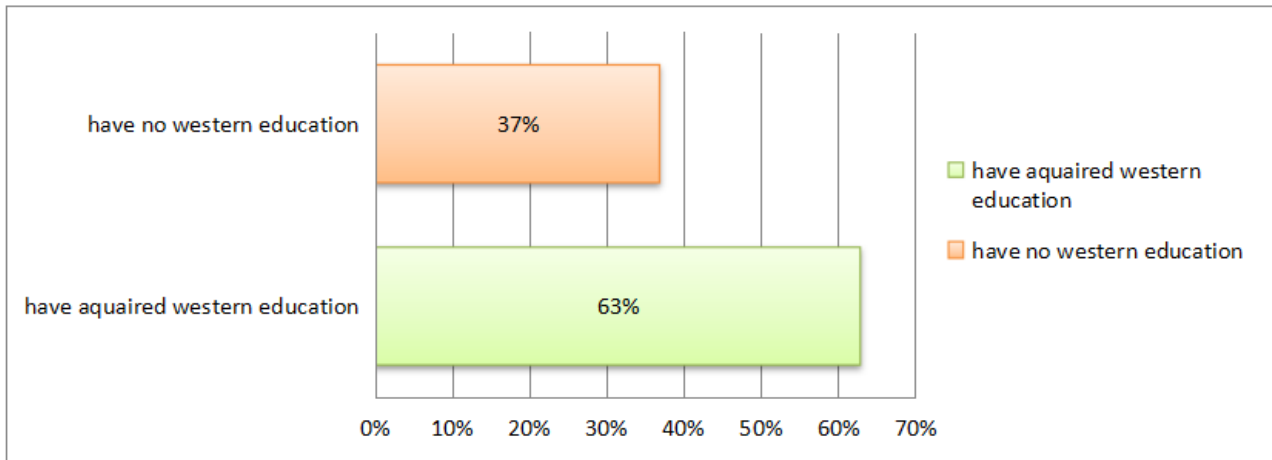

	sex of migrants
females	13%
males	87%

Figure 3: the sex that is mostly involved in rural-urban migration in Shani L.G.A
Source: survey 2014

Respondents confirmed that males were mostly involved in migration to urban areas with a percentage of 87% of respondents while 13% of the respondents were of the view that females embark on migration than men from Shani to urban areas as shown on figure 2 above. Respondents added

that, females can hardly withstand the difficulty of struggle and adjustments in the cities, not all parents can allow their daughters to go to cities on their own without being married. Men can live on their own even without relatives, most females therefore prefer to marry instead of going to the cities. On the other hand females are married out to men in the cities and thus move to the cities while some females go to the urban areas and stay with relatives and in some cases help them in household activities.

Source: survey 2014

Figure 4: Percentage distribution of respondent's perception of migrants in terms of literacy level in Shani L.G.A.

Figure 3, above shows that 63% of the respondents said that the educated are more likely to migrate from Shani to urban areas where they are most likely to secure better living condition and prosper economically. This is in line the research which states that selectivity of migration varies according to education of migrants where studies of rural-urban migration found that, relatively better educated shows the highest propensity to migrate (Deshigkar and Grimm, 2005; Hossain, 2001). However 37% of the respondents said that the uneducated are those that are more likely to migrate to the urban areas. This could be as result of the fact that there are a lot of jobs that the uneducated could do to improve their income and condition of living.
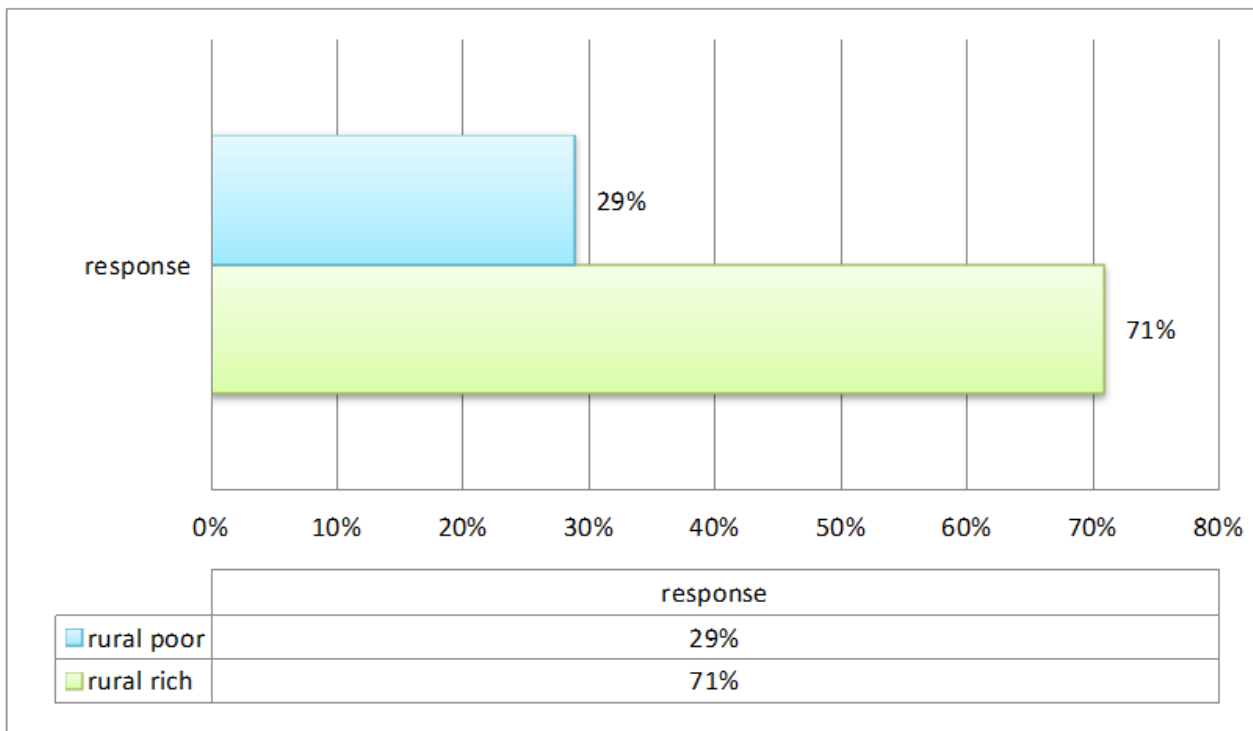
Source: survey 2014

Figure 6: The class is mostly involved in rural-urban migration in Shani L.G.A.

A total of 105 respondents representing 71% were of the view that the rich are more likely to migrate to urban areas as shown on figure 4 , while 42 respondents which is 29% on the same table said the poor are those that mostly migrate from Shani to urban areas. This contradicts Deshingkar and Grimm (2005), whom observed that families of poorer people (usually from poorly irrigated and rain fed dependant) areas tend to migrate to urbanized location or richer villages. Respondents confirmed that the rich can conveniently stay in the cities as they have adequate resources that enable them to acquire what they need for city life. They don't have to depend on relatives or people from their area in order to establish. On other hand for the poor there are so many works in the informal sector which are not attractive to the urbanites and the rich. The poor avail themselves to such opportunities as they are willing to engage in such difficult low paid jobs to start with.

Table1: Crosstbulation Migration Age* Migration Sex

Migrant's age	Migrant's sex		Total
	1.00	2.00	
1.00	60.00	19.00	79.00
	75.95%	24.05%	100.00%
	46.88%	100.00%	53.74%
	40,82%	12.93%	53.74%
2.00	52.00	.00	52.00
	100.00%	.00%	100.00%
	40.63%	.00%	35.37%
	35.37%	.00%	35.37%
3.00	13.00	.00	13.00
	100.00%	.00%	100.00%
	10.16%	.00%	8.84%
	8.84%	.00%	8.84%
4.00	3.00	.00	3.00
	100.00%	.00%	100.00%
	2.34%	.00%	2.04%
	2.04%	.00%	2.04%
Total	128.00	19.00	147.00
	87.07%	12.93%	100.00%
	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
	87.07%	12,93%	100.00%

Table 2: Chi-square Test

Statistics	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)
Pearson Chi-square	18.78	3	.000
Likelihood ratio	26.02	3	.000
Linear-by-Linear Ass.	14.03	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	147		

The cross tabulation1 (table 1) shows that, 40.82% of respondents agreed that migrants ages of 15-25yrs and males migrate more to urban areas and , while 12. 93% failed to agree. 35% of respondents were of the view that migrants within the ages of 26-35 and males tend to migrate. The result also shows that 8.84% of the respondents said males within the ages of 36-45 were involved in migration, equally 2.04% of the respondents said males of the ages of 46 were likely to migrate. Table 2 on the other hand is a chi-square test. If the P-Value, (Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)) for Pearson Chi-square is higher than .05 (P > .05) we conclude that migration depends on age and sex age does not depend on sex, but if the P-Value, (Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)) for Pearson Chi-square is lower than .05 (P < .05), we conclude that age and sex have no significant association with migration. Since the result shows that P= .000< .05 we reject the null hypothesis and conclude that age and sex have significant association with migration age.

Table 3: (Cross tabulation 2) Migrant Class*Migrants Education

Migrant's Class	Migrant's Education		Total
	1.00	2.00	
1.00	93.00	.00	93.00
	100.00%	.00%	100,00%
	89.42%	.00%	63.27%
	63.27%	.00%	63.27%
2.00	11.00	43.00	54.00
	20.37%	79.63%	100.00%
	10.58%	100.00%	36.73%
	7.27%	29.25%	36.73%
Total	104.00	43.00	147.00
	70.75%	29.25%	100.00%
	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
	70.75%	29.25%	100.00%

Table 4: Chi-square Tests

Statistics	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)
Pearson Chi-square	104.67	1	.000
Likelihood ratio	123.10	1	.000
Continuity Correction	100.86	1	.000
Linear-by-Linear Ass.	103.96	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	147		

The cross tabulation2 (table 3) shows that, 63% of respondents agreed that migration is dependent on economic class and education, 7.27% were of the view that the economic class of the migrants is what determine their migration to urban areas while 29.25% were of the view that the non- education are more likely to move from rural to urban areas. Table 4 on the other hand is a chi-square test. If the P-Value, (Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)) for Pearson Chi-square is higher than .05 (P > .05) we conclude that economic class and sex have no significant association with migration, but if the P-Value, (Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)) for Pearson Chi-square is lower than .05 (P < .05), we conclude that economic class and education have significant association with migration. Since the result shows that P= .000< .05 we reject the null hypothesis and conclude that economic class have significant association with migration

CONCLUSION

Demographic characteristics such as age, sex, marital status, economic status and education are important in ensuring who stays or move out of the rural areas. Rural-urban migration is not a new subject because the growth of our contemporary commercial and administrative centres was predicated on migration especially rural-urban migration. Policies of government have been rolled out from one government to another with the view of curtailing the out flow of rural population but to no avail. The study noticed that young men of 15-25 years and relatively rural rich were more likely to migrate out of the rural areas. Contemporary desire for retaining people in the rural sector cannot easily succeed with the current trend of things except by adopting appropriate recommendations of researchers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Having observed that the age group of 15-25 constitute the major migrating group, there is the need to identify and create employments significant to this group in the rural areas with the aim of retaining them to contribute to the development of rural areas and the country at large.
2. Identify and fix major socio-economic threats in the rural areas such as insecurity, bad roads, markets and banks among others with the aim of retaining the rural rich from fleeing the rural areas.
3. Government should understand the need for reducing the concentration of formal jobs in the urban and administrative centres by spreading rural friendly formal jobs to the rural areas.

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