



RURAL- URBAN MIGRATION AND ITS EFFECTS ON SELECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS OF RIVERS STATE NIGERIA.

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ABSTRACT

In developing countries and state like Rivers State with just one major city like Port Harcourt ,rural –urban migration (Urbanization) affects development in both the urban and rural areas. Hence, this study aimed at examining the effect of urbanization on economic development of rural areas in the four Ogoni Local Government Areas of Rivers State. The study used both descriptive and inferential statistics to find answers to the research question specifically it examined the causes of urbanization, effect of urbanization on house hold income inequality and poverty incidence. Means of a five point likert scale was used to determine causes of urbanization, Coefficient of variance was used to measure the degree of income inequality among the households. The result indicates that urbanization is greatly influenced by push and pull factors but push factors were higher and has reduced income inequality among households in the rural areas. However, results from the binary logit regression indicate that urbanization has positive and significant impact in household’s incidence of poverty. It was therefore, recommended that government should spread development, build satellite towns, relocate some industries, higher institutions and provide social infrastructure in the rural areas to reduce or manage the current urbanization trend.

Keywords: Urbanization, rural - urban migration, poverty incidence, household, income inequality.

INTRODUCTION :

Urbanization is characterized by two major factors, environmental and human factors. Environmental factors are regarded as the transformation of rural areas or villages into towns as a result of industrialization or expansion. Human factors are the process of migration of people from rural areas to urban areas in search of better opportunities. For the purpose of this work, I looked at urbanization from the human factor, which is the migration of people from rural to urban areas. Rural – Urban migration (Urbanization) has multidimensional impacts covering the social, political and economic spheres. It has both positive and negative effects. Rural urban migration has been historically connected with industrialization and economic growth (Bhahacharga, 1993).

In underdeveloped countries, two-third or more of the people live in rural areas and their occupation is agriculture (Jhingan, 2016). Almost all underdeveloped countries have a dualistic economy, and migration has been a trend in survival strategy for many rural dwellers across the developing countries especially Africa.

The experience of development in the present day developed nations (Western Europe and the United States) was that of a gradual reallocation of labour out of agriculture into industry.

So, in their circumstances, urbanization and industrialization were synonymous. But the experience of less developed countries has been different because what is being witnessed is a massive migration of rural population into urban areas despite the rising levels of urban unemployment and underemployment (Wilson, 2018).

Aim and Objectives of the study

The main objective of the study is to examine the impact of urbanization on selected local government areas of Rivers State.

The specific objectives of the study are to

- I. Identify causes of Rural - urban migration (urbanization)
- II. Assess the effects of rural - urban migration on house hold poverty in the rural areas

Conceptual Literature

Urbanization

Chambers concise Dictionary (1996) defines urbanization as making a district town like. The Encyclopedia dictionary of sociology (1991) says it is the spread of urban influences, including certain culture patterns associated with cities.

The oxford advance learner's Dictionary, 8th edition (2012) says of an area, country, etc Having a lot of towns, streets, factories etc rather than countryside of people living and working in towns and cities than in country.

Dickson (1956) views urbanization generally as a shift from agricultural activities to industrialized activities.

Urbanization refers to the population shift from rural areas to urban areas, the gradual increase in the proportion of people living in urban areas and the ways in which each society adapts to this change. Wikipedia.

Urbanization is also seen as a process whereby populations move from rural to urban areas, enabling cities and towns to grow. It can also be termed as the progressive increase of the number of people living in towns and cities, it is highly influenced by the notion that cities and towns have achieved better economic, political and social growth compared to the rural areas (Devi, 2009)

Majority of people move to cities or town because they see rural areas as places with hardship and primitive lifestyle, this leads to people leaving the rural areas to more developed cities which is referred to as urbanization (<https://www.conserve.energyfuture.com>).

Urbanization in this work, is the migration of people from rural areas especially the four Ogoni local government areas of Rivers State (Khana, Gokana, Tai and Eleme) to developed urban cities. (Port Harcourt)

Urban Area

Urban area refers to the surrounding of a city. Most inhabitants of urban areas have nonagricultural jobs, urban areas are very developed, with the presence of industries, commercial buildings, roads, bridges, railways and factories with dense population of humans, who migrate from the rural areas (encyclopedia).

Google search engine (Wikipedia) see urban area as a settlement with high population density and infrastructure of built environment, urban areas are created through urbanization.

Urban area in this study refers to developed, industrialized city both within and outside the state, for the purpose of this study Port Harcourt is an urban city.

Rural area

This is a geographical area that is located outside towns and cities, rural areas have low population density and small settlements with agriculture as their main occupation.

Cunningham and Saigo (1997) said in rural areas, most residents depend on agriculture or other ways of harvesting natural resources for their livelihood.

In Nigeria, rural area is different from urban area in terms of the volume of agricultural and non-agricultural activities that place in the two sectors. The most outstanding feature of rural areas in Nigeria is the large involvement of dwellers in agriculture Iruonagbe (2009)

In conclusion a rural area can be seen as areas devoid of many social amenities whose major business is agriculture and craftsmanship whose location is outside the urban city.

Rural economy

Nigeria's rural population is about 72.2 million of 140 million, which is equivalent of 52.7 percent of the nation's population which is increasing yearly by an average of 1.2 percent (2006 population census).

Agriculture which constitute about 45 percent of Nigeria's gross Domestic product (GDP) is the main source of rural livelihood which is practiced on subsistence level (IFAD, 2009).

Nigeria's rural population is predominantly large with 79% of the total population living and working in rural communities. 54 million of the 79 million people living in the rural areas are women (Nigeria Rural poverty portal, 2010).

According to Okafor and Onokerharaye cited in Onwumele and Kkuase (2011) Nigeria's rural economy system comprises of five major components, which includes: human resources, Agricultural activities, non-agricultural activities, primary production and natural resources, more than 80 percent of the rural labour force is engaged in subsistence farming at small level (Edo and Ikelegbe, 2014). It is important to note that rural economy contribute largely to a nation's economic development.

Development

The term development has been changing over the years. For instance, the early 1950s, it was seen strictly as an economic issue. Thus, in economic terms, development traditionally meant achieving sustained rate of growth of income per capita to enable a nation to expand its output at a rate faster than the growth rate of population (Wilson, 2018). Economic development was also seen in terms of planned, alteration of the structure of production and employment so that agriculture share both declined while that of manufacturing and service industries increased.

According to the world commission on environment and development, "sustainable development is the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". (Encyclopedia Americana, 2001).

Rural Development

Useful natural resources abound in large quantities in the rural areas which can be harnessed for socio-economic development.

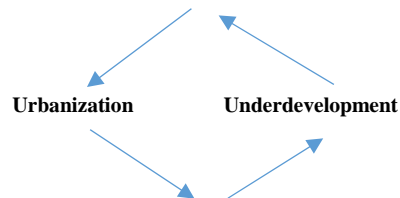
Nigeria/Rivers State has a huge proportion of both rural sector and rural people which is an important characteristics of developing nations (Akande, 2002).

Agriculture is the most important economic sector in terms of its contribution to the GDP of the country after oil. This sector contribute about 41 percent of the nation's GDP, employs about 65 percent of total population and provides 80 percent employment in the rural areas (ADF 2005).

Interrelationship between urbanization and rural development

Directly opposite the neoclassical and NELM visions of urbanization and development is the vicious cycle interpretation

In the study area, urbanization makes the rural area commercially dead, in a scenario that looks like giving out all its man power to the urban and having little or nothing left behind in exchange for remittance but the struggle for survival in the city also takes up the remittance and hinders the migrants from sending remittance back to their source and even when they do it is not constant which leave the remaining people behind in a state of misery that leads to increase crime which further pushes out more people and hinders development.



Researcher's model of Urbanization and Underdevelopment in rural areas

Rural poverty

Most approaches to rural development, at least in terms of set goals, have continued focus on poverty. Many scholars, including Harriss (1982) viewed this as an important aspect in the pursuit of rural development. Rural development was mostly concerned with macroeconomic growth and how to stimulate output in production with the believe that this will automatically reduce poverty. Rural development have often focused directly on the issue of poverty by addressing basic needs of the poor in terms of food, health oral education etc.

Methodology

This study adopts both qualitative and quantitative research design to determine the impact of urbanization on Rural Economy; A case study of Ogoni Kingdom which is now divided into four local government areas of Rivers state. The justification for the choice of the survey design is made clear by Passer, Smith, Atkinson and Muir (2003) who observed that survey is an efficient method for collecting large amount of information about people's opinion and lifestyles.

Analytical Techniques

Descriptive and inferential statistics were used for analysis of the study data. Descriptive statistics such as bar charts, and tables were used for the presentation of the household demographic properties. Mean score of 5- point Likert Scale was used to identify the causes of urbanization and provide answer to research question 1. while Logit regression analysis was used to answer research question2.

Result :

Research Question 1: what are the causes of rural urban migration in the rural areas ?

Table 1: Causes of rural – urban migration in rural areas

| Questions | SA | A | Undecided | DA | SA | Average | Remarks |
|---|----|----|-----------|----|----|---------|----------|
| Population growth is a cause of urbanization in the village | 46 | 62 | 3 | 21 | 18 | 3.65 | Accepted |
| Lack of job opportunity is responsible for urbanization | 59 | 37 | 4 | 24 | 26 | 3.5 | Accepted |
| Expansion of trade and commerce contribute to urbanization in this village | 41 | 54 | 12 | 31 | 12 | 3.54 | Accepted |
| Insecurity is responsible for urbanization | 76 | 49 | 0 | 18 | 7 | 4.13 | Accepted |
| Lack of social amenities lures people to urban areas | 54 | 42 | 12 | 24 | 18 | 3.60 | Accepted |
| Desire for change of life style is responsible for urbanization in this village | 61 | 33 | 17 | 29 | 10 | 3.71 | Accepted |
| Pollution is a cause of rural urban migration in this village | 25 | 18 | 31 | 28 | 52 | 2.70 | Rejected |

| | | | | | | | |
|--|----|----|----|----|----|------|----------|
| Lack of Government support is responsible for urbanization in this village | 32 | 25 | 31 | 34 | 28 | 2.99 | Rejected |
| Poor Agricultural output is the cause of urbanization in the community | 41 | 21 | 5 | 47 | 36 | 2.40 | Rejected |

Population growth, lack of job opportunities, expansion of trade and commerce, insecurity, lack of social amenities and desire for change of life style was seen as some major contributors to rural urban migration, these parameters scored above the 3.0 bench mark and were accepted as causes of urbanization although insecurity/ communal crisis ranked highest among reasons for rural urban – migration. Pollution, lack of Government support were rejected as not being significant enough to cause migration.

Research question 2: what is the impact of rural – urban migration on household incidence poverty in the rural area of the study area?

Table 2: Impact of rural – urban migration on household incidence

Dependent Variable: AHE

Method: ML - Binary Logit (Newton-Raphson / Marquardt steps)

| Variable | Coefficient | Std. Error | z-Statistic | Prob. |
|--------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|--------|
| HHS | 0.637795 | 0.167590 | 3.805676 | 0.0001 |
| MOBILE | 0.418448 | 0.203547 | 2.877520 | 0.0404 |
| ELETRICITY | 0.361014 | 0.494173 | 0.730543 | 0.4651 |
| SANITARY | 1.017076 | 0.409819 | 2.481766 | 0.0131 |
| C | 1.410124 | 0.712630 | 1.978760 | 0.0478 |
| McFadden R-squared | 0.147784 | | | |
| Restr. Deviance | 199.1882 | | | |
| LR statistic | 29.43673 | | | |

Source: E-view Computer print out

From the result presented in Table 2 above, the relationship between Household size (HHS) and incidence of poverty is positive and statistically significant.

The McFadden R^2 value is 0.14778. This implies that rural urban migration accounted for about 15% chance in the household incidence of poverty. Other variable outside the model accounted for the remaining 85% variation in the level of poverty in the rural area.

The LR statistics has value of 29.43673 with p-value of 0.000006. this implies that the model employed for the analysis actually captures the relationship between urbanization variables and household poverty in the rural areas.

Discussion :

The relationship between rural- urban migration and rural poverty was found to positive and statistically significant in three indicators of urbanization and insignificant in one indicator. Overall, the impact of rural - urban migration on rural poverty level is significant. This implies that rural urban migration in the Ogoni area is actually under developing the people. The findings of this study contradicts the findings of Chan(2018) who used logit model and family size, family population burden coefficient and family age as rural urban migration (urbanization) variables and found the impact of urbanization on poverty negative in China. Cali and Menon(2012) also found negative effect of urbanization on poverty. However, the result is in line with the findings of Fan, Chen-Keng ,and Mukerjee(2005) which found negative and significant effect of urbanization on rural poverty in China. migration in the rural areas is caused by absence of social amenities, insecurity, population explosion, expansion of trade and commerce, search for employment opportunities, and desire for change of life style.

Migration had positive and statically significant impact on rural household poverty incidence and accounted for about 15% variation in the incidence of poverty in rural household.

Conclusion :

Rural – Urban migration (Urbanization), contrary to wide believe has negative effect on the economic development potential of the rural areas in Ogoni. The major reason for the negative effect of urbanization on development could be attributed to many factors including brain drain, insecurity, and high income inequality in the rural areas. One predominant pattern that is characteristics of the rural areas is large family size and high proportion of families headed by people with low or no educational qualifications. In the mist of this structure, those with higher qualifications will seek opportunities outside the rural areas and those left behind are people with low productivity.

Recommendations

- Government should provide social amenities in the rural areas. This will reduce the rural –urban migration in the Ogoni area and reduce the incidence of household poverty.
- Development should be spread to rural areas, Government should encourage development of satellite towns
- Government should relocate some higher institutions and industries to rural areas thereby will fostering development in the rural areas
- Government should invest in entrepreneurship development in the rural areas. This will create employment, generate income and reduce the incidence of poverty among rural dwellers
- The government should provide assistant to small scale farmers in the rural areas. Expansion of the credit guarantee schemes and soft loans to rural farmers will improve rural farmers productivity and reduce poverty in the rural areas
- Provision of security in the rural areas will reduce the spate of urbanization in rural areas.
- Youth development through skill acquisition will reduce unemployment and enhance security in the rural areas.

Citing of cottage industries in the rural areas will create employment opportunities in the rural areas

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