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## RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION AND CRIME IN ANAMBRA STATE (A STUDY OF ONITSHA METROPOLIS), 2014-2022.

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### ABSTRACT :

This paper examined the impact of Rural-Urban Migration on Crime in Anambra State (A Study of Onitsha Metropolis (2014-2022)) has the specific objective which was to examine whether rural-urban migration leads to prostitution and robbery in Onitsha Metropolis. The specific objective of the Study was used to draw the Research Question for the Study. The hypothesis was formulated which guided the Study. The Study was anchored on Urban Bias theory by Lipton. As a way of generating data for the Study, the researcher adopted survey research design which helped to get the opinion of the selected sample for the Study. The Population of the Study was one hundred and twenty four thousand nine hundred and forty two (124,942) while Taro Yamane formula was used to draw 399 respondents. The major finding of the study revealed that rural-urban migration leads to crimes like prostitution, robbery, kidnapping. It was therefore recommended that the identified causes of rural-urban migration which leads to crimes like prostitution, robbery, kidnapping be nipped in the bud through proper development of rural areas.

**Keywords:** Rural-Urban, Migration, Crime, Onitsha, Anambra State, Metropolis.

### Introduction

In most countries of the world, especially in the developing world, urbanization has become an integral part of the growth and development process. Unfortunately, many developing countries, including Nigeria, are still experiencing urbanization and its associated problems, which they hardly can control or manage (Clement, 2023).

Nigeria is one of the countries in the world with very high rural-urban disparity (ie, having a sharp difference in standard of living between the rural and urban centres). Although the country is generally characterized by poor standard of living, the rural communities are disproportionately more disadvantaged than urban centres due to government neglect of the rural area. Consequently, the number of rural inhabitants that migrates to urban centers with high hopes of seeking for greener pasture therefore becomes unprecedented, (Fakokunde, Shekwolo, Akise & Kullah, 2020). To that effect, the growth in the size of cities (urban centers) often leads to higher crimes. However, the term migration connotes a form of population movement that takes place when a person changes his/her place of residence either temporary or on permanent basis, though the length of time and distance to be covered is determined rather arbitrarily, and set of criteria used (Ikezie & Oli, 2020). Migration entails a change of usual residence based on whether the movement is within or cross-cultural in scope. Administratively, internal boundary or crossing a national boundary in which case is identified as international migration.

It is quite disheartening that despite the fact that Nigeria is endowed with available mineral resources, the country and its people are still classified among the very poor or under developed country with no fewer than 54% of the citizens living at poverty level (Gwanshak, Yusoff & Shafie, 2021).

Today, it is seen that multiple environmental disturbances like the recent flood disaster in many part of the country especially the reverie areas, kidnapping of political opponents, religious differences and cultural factors are among the resultant effect of Nigeria underdevelopment struggles (Aakriti, 2023). According to Alarima (2018), there is a continuous debate on whether rural-urban migration is advantageous or disadvantageous for an individual from the place of origin and where he chooses to reside as his destination. The answer to this question may depend on who are the migrants? Why are they migrating? From where are they migrating? Suffice it to say that no one would deliberately want to leave his comfort zone and start moving to an area where he knows things are not favourable, except otherwise for the purpose of tourism or the like.

Connealy (2020) opined, the rates of rural-urban migration create imbalance in the economic analysis of demand and supply. Together, rapidly increasing supply and larding demand growth tend to convert a short run problem of skilled labour into a long run situation and may create chronic and rising urban surplus labour. This is exactly what is happening in Onitsha North Local Government Area, where there is large influx of people leaving rural areas and thereby giving rise to high demand and supply in the urban area to the detriment of the rural area. This is because, as people moved massively from the rural areas to urban centers, the demand for goods in the rural areas declined greatly.

All the efforts made by government to reduce the level of rural-urban migration in Nigeria through improved agricultural system and establishment of schemes such as Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI) and Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) failed. The primary purpose of these programmes was not achieved. This is because of political instability and poor implementation of policy which has affected the rural dwellers, hence making them to migrate.

However, the actual cause of failures of these policies could be seen principally on lack of government commitment in providing sufficient rural infrastructure, such as electricity, good road network and quality water supply, hence, giving rise to the citizens' lack of interest on the said projects. Today, poverty is on the increase in geometrical proportion making standard of living very difficult for the citizens. These in no small measures have made the youths in the rural areas to continue to migrate to urban or cities to the detriment of the rural areas, thereby leading to urbanization and consequently resulting to high rate of crime, insecurity and many other social vices in the society (Abazie, 2021).

It is on this basis that the researcher decides to embark on the study on Rural-Urban Migration and Crime in Anambra State (A Study of Onitsha Metropolis (2014-2022)

### ***Objectives of the Study***

The broad objective of this study is to examine Rural-Urban Migration and Crime in Anambra State (A Study of Onitsha Metropolis (2014-2022). Specifically, this Study is;

To examine whether rural-urban migration leads to prostitution and robbery in Onitsha Metropolis

### ***Research Question***

How does rural-urban migration lead to prostitution and robbery in Onitsha Metropolis?

### ***Hypotheses***

- **Ho:** Rural-urban migrations do not lead to prostitution and robbery in Onitsha Metropolis
- **Hi:** Rural-urban migrations lead to prostitution and robbery in Onitsha Metropolis

### ***Scope of the Study***

The scope of this study is Rural-Urban Migration and Crime in Anambra State using Onitsha Metropolis as a Study. The research will cover the period of 2014-2022, which covers the first and second tenure of Governor Willie Obiano's administration which was when crime like kidnapping and robbery flowed like other times in Onitsha North Local Government Area.

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## **Conceptual Clarifications**

### ***Rural-Urban Migration:***

Rural-to-urban migration is when people move, either temporarily or permanently, from a rural area to an urban city. It occurs at both the national and international level, but internal or national migration takes place at a higher rate (Selod & Shilpi, 2021). This type of migration is voluntary, meaning that migrants willingly choose to relocate. However, rural-to-urban migration can also be forced in some cases, such as when rural refugees flee to urban areas.

Rural areas comprises of open country and settlements with fewer than 2,500 residents. On the other hand, urban areas comprise larger places and densely settled areas around them, National Bureau of Statistics (2019), urban areas do not necessarily follow municipal boundaries.

Specifically, rural areas refer to geographical areas that lie outside the densely built-up environment of towns, cities and the sub-urban villages and whose inhabitants are engaged primarily in agriculture as well as the most basic of rudimentary form of secondary and tertiary activities (Agusioma, Nyakwara, & Mwititi, 2019).

Rural area, which is the opposite of an urban area, refers to the country side whose population engages mainly in primary production activities like agriculture, fishing, and rearing of livestock (Ele, 2006). About 90 percent of the rural labour workforce engages directly or indirectly in agriculture (Nyagba, 2022).

Rural areas are a key sector in every nation's economy and their rapid development and modernization have gained the attention of policy makers and governments all over the world. This is because a sizeable majority of the population lives therein therefore; the future of the country depends largely on it.

The American Bureau of Census classifies a group of people living in an area as having a population of not more than 2,500 people as rural, whereas in Nigeria, the Federal Office of Statistics defines a community with less than 20,000 people as rural. According to folayan (2021), rural areas can be easily identified by various criteria, apart from population. Such criteria include the level of infrastructural development i.e. road networks, educational institutions, water supply, electricity, health facilities, communication, etc. Other criteria used include Occupation, Housing, Extent of community planning etc.

Typically, rural dwellers are less vocal, characterized by a culture of poverty, as most people live barely above subsistence level (Nwokocha, 2023). Rural areas in developing countries are usually deprived of the basic needs of life such as housing, medical care, postal communication, education, transport etc.

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Ahmad and izar (2022) defined rural development as the provision of social, cultural and physical infrastructure. The logical basis of this concept is that, the provision of such socio-economic amenities like schools, hospitals, recreational facilities, good road network, electricity and pipe-borne water are capable of transforming the rural communities and eventually making them attractive for habitation.

Current findings in the field of rural development have led to the conclusion that rural-urban migration could be reduced with the involvement of the rural communities and rural beneficiaries of a rural development project at all stages or phases of the project (Nwankwo, 2023).

The people's contributions in form of ideas, financial and human resources will serve as a motivating factor for them to see to the complete success of the programme and since the local people know and understand their environment and conditions better than the policy formulators and decision makers who operate from outside, it is better to involve them.

## ***Crime***

According to Connealy and Nathan (2020), crime is an action or omission which constitutes an offence and is punishable by law. Connealy and Nathan further opined that crime is the intentional commission of an act usually deemed socially harmful or dangerous and specifically defined, prohibited, and punishable under criminal law.

Most countries have enacted a criminal code in which all of the criminal law can be found, though English law-the source of many other criminal-law systems—remain unmodified. The definitions of particular crimes contained in a code must be interpreted in the light of many principles, some of which may not actually be expressed in the code itself. For example, many legal systems take into account the mental state of the accused person at the time the alleged crime was committed. Most legal systems also classify crimes for the purpose of assigning cases to different types of court. Social changes often result in the adoption of new criminal laws and the obsolescence of older ones (Tseloni, 2022).

## ***Rural-urban migration and crime***

Rural-urban migration is one of the most distressing problems facing the Nigerian socio- economic development. A situation where the desire for better employment, business opportunities and education pushes both young and old out of the rural areas to the urban areas. Rural-urban migration represents a phenomenon of unprecedented movement of people from the rural countryside to the urban cities (Aldhukair, & Abunar, 2021).

Historically, migration existed internally across city boundaries to enable excess labour to be taken slowly from the rural areas to provide workforce for industries in the urban areas and therefore aid industrialization and economic growth. However, over time, the rate of rural-urban migration has rapidly outweighed the rate of job creation in developing and underdeveloped countries with overstretched available social and infrastructural facilities in the urban areas (Albert & Christopher, 2022)

An individual's choice to migrate from his origin/rural to that of destination / cities determined on different border reasons. Knowing of the reasons of migration from the rural to urban areas become the areas of interest by different social sciences disciplines (Alhegazi, Waghule, & Dahan, 2022).

The reason for migration and selection of the destination areas appraisal become more multifaceted hence the pattern, idea, kind, the nature and course varies from time to time, from place to place and from person to person (Eze, 2024). Most of the research works in the causes of migration revealed that the "push" or "pull" factors become more underlying one; and directly linked with economic and non-economic aspects of the migrants.

Nweke (2012) argued that the critical part which cities play in the lives of the citizenry together with the important and far reaching problem created by urbanization, lends heavy substance to the issue of setting up, as a matter of the utmost urgency, a dynamic and effective administrative machinery to administer the various service programmes and thus, minimize the ever-increasing range of the problems of urban life. When large number of people moves from rural to urban centers, the makes room for urbanization which invariably leads to crime like prostitution, kidnapping, robbery and other social vices.

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## Theoretical Framework

### *Urban Bias Theory*

The urban bias theory was propounded by Michael Lipton in 1977 and it posits that the development process in the third world is systematically biased against the countryside and the bias is embedded in the political structure dominated by the urban groups (Ades and Glaeser, 1995).

According to Lipton, the rural areas are poor because they are politically powerless therefore in this regard it shows that urban bias led directly to rural poverty.

Poverty in the rural areas has been attributed to the urban bias as attributed by Michael Lipton considering the fact that urban bias has resulted in the uneven distribution of national resources this has caused poor agricultural and infrastructural reforms in the rural areas.

Urban bias has amounted to rural to urban migration that causes rural areas to continue to be poor whereas agricultural produce from rural areas fetches little on the urban markets.

Urban bias results in distinctly anti-rural policies in many developing countries that perpetuate rural poverty; however, it is an injustice to primarily dwell on the notion that urban bias is the main cause of poverty as many governments have actively supported agricultural producers and rural citizens, thereby improving standards of living.

To begin with, urban bias refers to a theory in which economic development is hindered by groups who, by their location in urban areas and cities are able to pressure governments to protect their interests at the expense of rural areas.

The growth of urban bias led to distorted sectorial development in world economies as the isolation of large segments of the rural population from the fruits of economic development and economic growth due to the high costs of urban development. Political, labor unions, students, laws, civil servants, and manufacturers are often said to have an urban bias and discriminate against rural areas.

### *Relevance of the Theory to the Study*

The Urban Bias Theory by Michael Lipton was most concerned with the poor rate of rural areas as a result of government negligence to the rural populace and the concentration of developmental programs in the urban centers. However, works of other researchers who adopt the macro social approach to the study of urban crime have identified a number of inequalities between the rural and urban areas.

Given this, neighborhoods characterized by high levels of poverty or economic deprivation, residential mobility, ethnic heterogeneity, family disruption, poor housing conditions and low level of education are factors which give rise to rural-urban migration and the result is high crime in urban centers.

In a developing society like Nigeria (Onitsha Metropolis to be précised), when the rural area is left unattended with little or no government presence, the effect will always be constant migration of people to the Urban centers where people will find greener pastures. Just as already discussed, the effect will be increase in Crime and other social ills in the society.

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## Methodology

This research adopted a survey design. Survey instrument was considered the most appropriate for this study as it focuses on people's opinion. It also has the tendency to reach a larger number of concerned respondents. The study was carried out in Onitsha Metropolis is situated in Anambra state, South-east geopolitical zone of Nigeria. The headquarters of the Local Government Area is in the town of Onitsha and the Local Government Area is made up of several districts and streets which include; Odakpu, Anatogu Street, Limca road, Old market road, Oguta road and Awka Road. The estimated population of Onitsha North Local Government Area is put at 281,543 inhabitants with the area mostly populated by members of the Igbo ethnic group. The Population of Onitsha Metropolis as at the 2006 census was 124,942 (NPC, 2006). This figure formed the Population used for this Study. 399 respondents out of the 124,942 population formed the sample size used for the study. Taro Yamane formula was used to obtain the sample size. Data used in this work was collected using both primary and secondary sources. The instrument used for data collection in this study was a structured questionnaire which generated through the Research Questions. For the reliability of the Instrument, the researcher adopted pilot test which was not the actual sample size used for the study. The researcher adopted the use of chi-square in the testing of the hypotheses.

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## Data Presentation and Analysis

For this study, Three hundred and ninety nine (399) questionnaires were administered to the respondents, three hundred and fifty (350) were duly retrieved while, the remaining forty nine (49) were either not properly filled and some not retrieved. Hence, the analysis was done using the retrieved questionnaire of 350.

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## Analysis of Research Question

### *QUESTION:*

How does rural-urban migration lead to prostitution and robbery in Onitsha Metropolis?

Table showing responses on the Research Question

S/N	ITEM	VHE	HE	UN	LE	VLE	N	$\bar{x}$
1	Rural-urban migration causes over population in Onitsha Metropolis	200	100	0	40	10	350	5.37
2	Do you believe that search for job opportunities is the reason for rural urban migration?	340	6	2	2	0	350	4.95
3	Rural-urban migration causes urbanization, hence leading to high increase in house rent	250	80	5	10	5	350	4.6
4	Incessant armed robbery in Onitsha Metropolis is an indicator of rural-urban migration	296	50	0	4	0	350	4.82
5	Rural urban migration has given rise to prostitution and other vices in Onitsha Metropolis	350		0	0	0	350	5

Source: Field survey, 2023

{Key: To get the mean score, multiply each item number by the figure. Example, (200X5)+(100X4)+(0X3)+(40X2)+(10X1) all divided by 350}

From the above table, in item 1, responses on rural-urban migration causes over population in Onitsha Metropolis, 200 respondents were of VHE, 100 respondents were HE, none was undecided, 40 were LE while 10 were VLE, and hence it was accepted

From question 2 on do you believe that search for job opportunities is the reason for rural urban migration? 340 respondents were of VHE, 6 respondents were of HE, 2 respondents each were undecided and LE while none was VLE, hence it was accepted

In question 3 from the table above, it was asked to find out if rural-urban migration causes urbanization, hence leading to high increase in house rent, this was accepted as a greater number of the respondents were of HE and VHE respectively.

Furthermore, on the question if incessant armed robbery in Onitsha

Metropolis is an indicator of rural-urban migration. This was accepted as most of the respondents were of VHE

Finally, all the respondents agreed that rural-urban migration has given rise to prostitution and other vices in Onitsha Metropolis

### Testing of Hypothesis

#### Hypothesis

**H<sub>01</sub>:** Rural-urban migrations do not lead to prostitution and robbery in Onitsha Metropolis

#### ANOVA with Friedman's Test

		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	Friedman's Square	Chi-Sig
Between People		645.278	349	1.849		
Within People	Between Items	2431.621 <sup>a</sup>	4	607.905	1136.575	.000
	Residual	563.579	1396	.404		
	Total	2995.200	1400	2.139		
Total		3640.478	1749	2.081		

Source: Field Survey, 2023

From the Friedman test result above we have a significance value of < 0.05,

#### Decision Rule

The researcher therefore rejects the null hypothesis and conclude that rural-urban migrations leads to prostitution and robbery in Onitsha Metropolis.

### Discussion of Finding

During the discussion, it was observed that from the age range of the respondents, it was clear that young men and women between the ages of 20-45 are prone to migration and the reasons behind their movement is simply to search for greener pasture. So looking at it from the angle development, one will understand that most of the youths want to migrate to urban centers for better living which unfortunately finds themselves engaging in various forms of crime such as illegal crime, prostitution, drug trafficking, human trafficking, ritual and armed robbery to mention but few.

### Recommendation

This Study therefore made the following recommendations;

That the identified causes of rural-urban migration which leads to crimes like prostitution, robbery, kidnapping be nipped in the bud through proper development of rural areas like industrialization, rural electrification, provision of good water supply, good road network etc.

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