Appraisal of the Impacts of Rural-Urban Migration on the Livelihood Security of Rural Households in Nsukka Area of Southeastern Nigeria

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Abstract
This work examines within geographical context, the impact of rural-urban migration on livelihood security in Nsukka area of Enugu state, South Eastern Nigeria. In the survey, questionnaires were used in eliciting data. 4 local government areas, 16 communities and 910 households were covered in the study. Asset Index analytic technique and correlation analysis were used in data analysis. The result of asset index analysis showed variation in livelihood security outcomes of migration across the communities, Anuka had the highest impact score 30.16 and Nkume had the least impact score of 11.04 while the average aggregate score for the whole area is 17.63 which indicates an appreciable positive impact of rural-urban migration on livelihood security generally. The result of the correlation analysis showed a high association between the livelihood indicators; however of salience is the strong positive correlation between income and the rest of the livelihood indices which underscores the underlying influence of monetary remittances on livelihood improvement in the region. Recommendation includes that government should develop social vehicle of re-education, re-motivation of urbanites towards remitting necessary resources back home to improve the welfare of their rural households and as well contribute to meaningful development of their communities.

Key words: Livelihood security, appraisal, geographical, rural-urban, migration

Introduction

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 types of economic activities (Onwudinjo, 2012; Eze, 2016).

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 (Eze and Ikechukwu 2015). 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 migrants' livelihood opportunities and welfare, but also the livelihood improvements of those left behind in the rural area (Eze, 2014).

Ajaero (2013) identified migration 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 young man 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. However, it is identified in a study carried out by Eze and Olumide (2017) in Akoko South West Local Government Area of Ondo State as corroborated by previous studies elsewhere, such as David (1995) study in Passore and Toulmin (1992) study in central mali, that rural-urban migration negatively impacts on rural agricultural productivity.

Rural-urban migration which this paper addresses constitutes one of the currents of internal migration in Nigeria and elsewhere in developing countries. Recently, migrant's remittances and income multipliers they create are becoming critical resources for the sustenance strategies of receiving households as well as agents of regional and national developments (World Bank, 2005).

This paper therefore, examines and brings to limelight the importance of rural-urban migration on sustaining and improving livelihood security and wellbeing in Nsukka area, Enugu state of Nigeria.

Materials and Methods

Study Area

The study area, Nsukka region is situated in Enugu state, southeastern Nigeria. The land surface of the region lies between latitudes 6°30^{l} and 7°6^{l} North and longitudes 6°54^{l} and 7°54^{l}'East and covers a total land area of 3,402 square kilometers (fig. 1). It is located on the northern part of southeastern Nigeria and comprises seven (7) local government areas namely: Igbo-Etiti, Igbo-Eze north, Igbo-Eze South, Isi-Uzo, Nsukka, Uzo-Uwani and Udenu. Nsukka region is chosen for this study because it exhibits as part of the variables homogenous socio-economic and cultural characteristics and falls within the same agro-climatic and other geographic conditions. It is equally highly prone to rural-urban migrations.

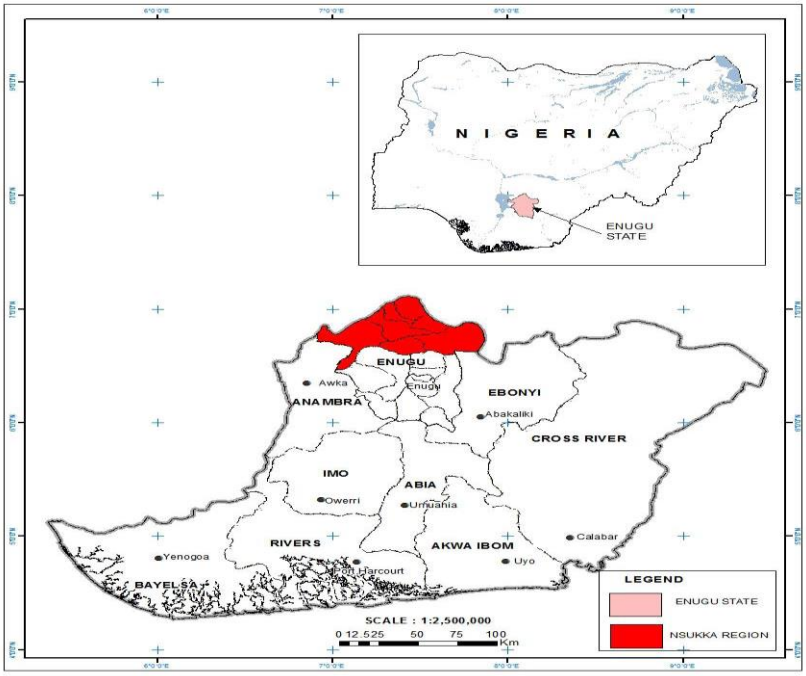


Fig. 1: Map of South-Eastern Nigeria showing the Study Area. **Source:** Administrative Map of Nigeria, 11th Edition, Office of the Surveyor General of the Federation.

Sample Selection

In this study, four local government areas were purposely selected out of seven that make up the region. The four local government areas are Igbo-Etiti, Isi-Uzo, Nsukka and Uzo-Uwani. The choice of these local government areas was based on their geographical locations in the region and their varying levels of population concentration. Isi-Uzo and Uzo-Uwani local government areas are located respectively on extreme eastern and western low-lying, agriculturally rich areas, each having low population size and concentration, while Igbo-Etiti and Nsukka local government areas are located on the Plateau and partly on escarpment, not so favoured with fertile plains for settlement and agriculture like the first two, yet with heavy population concentration. Equally Isi-Uzo and Uzo-Uwani local government areas represent more rural environments while Igbo-Etiti and Nsukka local government areas represent more urban environments. The choice of these local government areas therefore duly reflects the character of the region.

Four communities are selected from each of the local government areas based on population size; thus two most populated communities and two least populated communities are chosen to reflect varying population concentration and sizes.

The sample size was statistically derived using Taro Yamenie's method (Onwe, 1998).

The formula is thus:

$$n = \frac{N}{I+N(e)^2} \quad - \quad - \quad - \quad - \quad - \quad (1)$$

Where n = sample size

N = population size

e = level of significance or allowable error

I = a constant

Data Collection

The main source of primary data was the structured questionnaire while literature from the published sources formed the secondary data. The questionnaires were administered to heads of individual households or their spouses. The questionnaires were used to gather information on the indicators of livelihood security in Nsukka area. The total number of respondents were 910 which was gotten proportionately from the communities based on their population sizes. The population and household sizes of the communities are as presented below in table 1.

Table 1: Population and household sizes of the sample communities

LGAs	Communities/Localities as at 1991 Census	2006 Population (Projected from 1991 Census)	Households (EST. from 2006 Census)
Igbo-Etiti	Aku	73,576	16,340
	Ukehe	51,150	11,360
	Ochima	2626	583
	Onyohor	2008	446
Isi Uzo	Ikem	20,700	4597
	Eha-Amufu	70,618	15,683
	Umualor	10,352	3,172
	Neke	17,051	3,786
Nsukka	Nsukka	110,768	24,600
	Eha-Alumona	50,078	11,122
	Ibagwa Agu	1,808	401
	Anuka	1,075	238
Uzo-Uwani	Adani	24,562	5455
	Nimbo	18,878	4,193
	Ojor	2,042	454
	Nkume	934	207
Total		458226	102,636

Source: Researcher's projected population sizes from 1991 census (at 3% growth rate) and estimates of total households from 2006 population & housing census priority table vol. I.

Data Analysis

Using the asset index analytic approach, a livelihood impact analysis was conducted to estimate the impact of migration on livelihood security across the communities. According to Filmer and Scott (2008), Asset indices formula is as follows:

$$A_i = b_{ii}\ a_{ii} + b_2.a_{2i} + - \quad - \quad - \quad + b_k.a_{ki} - \quad - \quad (2)$$

Where Ai is the asset index of household "I", a_{ii}, a_{zi}….. a_{ki}, are K indicators of asset ownership variables (such as radio, television, corrugated iron roofs), b1, b2 ---- bk, are weights to be used in aggregating the asset indicators into an index. Correlation analysis was used to determine the degree of influence of the livelihood asset indices on one another.

The Features of Indices of Livelihood

The indices of livelihood used for analysis in this study are as follows: economic security, food security, shelter, water and sanitation security, health security and education security (Livelihood Monitoring Unit, LMU (2004). These indicators which are not finite, but selected with eye on the local environment of the study area were designed to serve as a systematic set of sensors that would assess the progress of livelihood systems in the region. The livelihood security indicators are described below:

Economic Security Index

Economic security is intimately related to household livelihood security. It constitutes the rallying point of other indices. Three components of economic security include; the annual household income, the ownership of household assets and levels of savings and debt – all can effectively establish the economic status of households.

Food Security Index

A livelihood analysis of food security at the impact level assesses the quantity and quality of food available to households throughout the year. It also measures a household's capacity to cope with stress periods. Thus the indicators that capture these components of food security as used in this study are as follows: number of square meals a family enjoy per day; percentage of family income spent on food items to feed the household; adjustment of households during famine/lean periods and number of times in a week that family eat protein rich foods as egg, meat and/or fish which brings out aspect of the nutritional quality of the food taken.

Shelter/Water and Sanitation Security Index

The components of this category include the quality of housing and also presence of electricity in the house. Another component is the WATSAN infrastructure which includes the type of latrine used by the household and the type of drinking water system. All these touches on cleanliness of the environment which affects living conditions.

Health Security Index

Several components of health security are considered to be critical in livelihood security assessment. For this study, the components considered are the frequency of illness among all household members and type of medical care accessed.

Education Security Index

This livelihood category considers the overall level of education of the household. Education is seen as a key component to development. It is not just knowledge acquisition, but brings about transformation of an individual to empower him unto functional existence for himself, community and society at large.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The Estimated Impacts of Rural-Urban Migration on Rural Household Livelihoods across the Communities. The estimated

impacts of rural-urban migration on rural household livelihood across the communities is as presented in table I below.

Table 1: The Estimated Impact of rural-urban Migration on Rural Household Livelihoods across the Communities

	S/N	Community	Economic Security		Food Security	Shelter/Water and Sanitation Security			Education Security	Health Security	Aggr.
			Income	Household Assets		Shelter	Sanitation	Water			
Isi-Uzo	1	Eha-Amufu	2.1	0.66	2.57	0.42	2.51	0.33	1.89	0.59	11.07
	2	Ikem	6.221	0.67	5.89	0.86	2.66	0.76	2.01	0.76	19.831
	3	Neke	3.21	0.66	2.669	0.75	2.74	0.85	2.1	0.65	13.629
	4	Umualor	2.21	0.69	4.8	0.55	2.55	0.55	1.91	0.55	13.81
Nsukka	5	Nsukka	3.001	0.7	2.81	4.62	2.52	0.77	2.3	0.61	17.331
	6	Eha-Alumona	4.1	0.66	2.81	0.845	1.71	0.6	2.95	0.70	14.375
	7	Anuka	5.122	2.72	8.85	3.15	4.11	1.11	4.05	1.01	30.122
	8	Ibagwa-Agu	2.99	0.66	2.84	0.42	2.51	0.52	2.77	0.22	12.93
Igbo-Etiti	9	Aku	3.001	0.66	2.797	0.69	4.1	0.6	2.07	0.80	14.718
	10	Ukehe	6.111	0.67	2.746	0.61	5.62	0.71	1.8	0.71	18.977
	11	Onyoghor	4.265	1.71	4.85	2.64	4.77	0.64	2.972	1.04	22.887
	12	Ochima	3.21	0.66	2.82	0.52	3.53	0.72	2.817	0.52	14.797
Uzo-Uwani	13	Adani	4.111	0.86	2.67	0.4	2.42	0.47	2.712	0.67	14.313
	14	Nimbo	7.1	0.71	6.85	0.84	4.77	0.6	3.99	1.00	25.86
	15	Ojor	8.298	2.02	7.08	2.01	1.02	0.75	4.171	0.95	26.299
	16	Nkume	1.309	0.66	2.764	0.61	0.52	0.61	3.789	0.81	11.072

The result of the livelihood impact analysis as presented in table 1 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. 2).

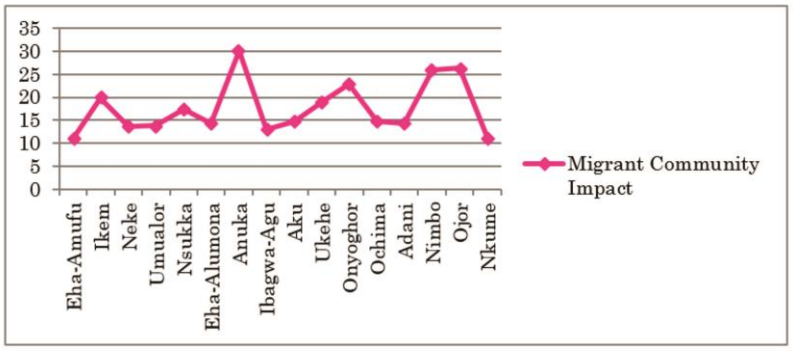


Fig. 2: Impact of rural-urban migration on rural household livelihood across the sampled communities

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 was 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 (see fig. 3). 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.

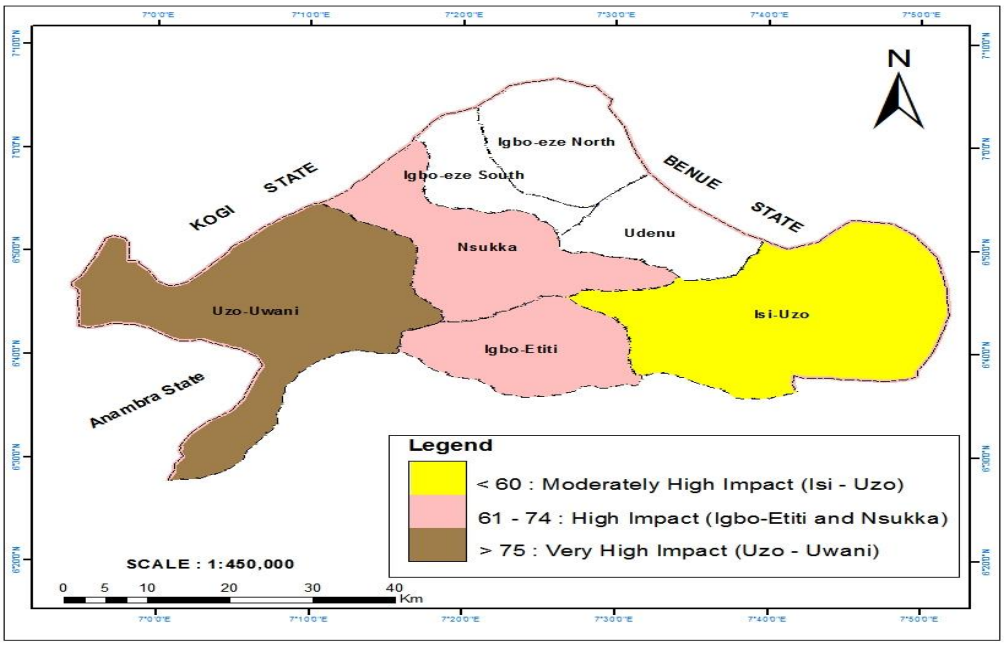


Fig. 3: Nsukka Region showing the Varied Impacts of Rural-Urban Migration on Rural Household Livelihood across the Sampled L.G.As

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. This, therefore, implies that rural-urban migration through remittances by out-

migrants plays a major role in livelihood security and sustenance in Nsukka area. This concurs with the observation of Sada (1983) that migrants provide income and material goods which their home villages would otherwise not have thus permitting greater materials comforts.

Correlation Analysis of Livelihood Indices

Table 2: Correlations Analysis of Livelihood indices

			Income	Assets	Food	Shelter	Sanitation	Water	Education	Health
Spearman's rho	Income	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.634**	.549*	.482	.383	.419	.348	.583*
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.008	.028	.058	.143	.106	.187	.018
	Assets	Correlation Coefficient	.634**	1.000	.612*	.509*	.223	.288	.423	.567*
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.008	.	.012	.044	.406	.279	.103	.022
	Food	Correlation Coefficient	.549*	.612*	1.000	.564*	.211	.345	.592*	.455
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.028	.012	.	.023	.433	.190	.016	.077
	Shelter	Correlation Coefficient	.482	.509*	.564*	1.000	.230	.733**	.417	.622*
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.058	.044	.023	.	.391	.001	.108	.010
	Sanitation	Correlation Coefficient	.383	.223	.211	.230	1.000	.294	.172	.290
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.143	.406	.433	.391	.	.269	.523	.276
	Water	Correlation Coefficient	.419	.288	.345	.733**	.294	1.000	.251	.333
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.106	.279	.190	.001	.269	.	.349	.207
	Education	Correlation Coefficient	.348	.423	.592*	.417	-.172	.251	1.000	.547*
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.187	.103	.016	.108	.523	.349	.	.028
	Health	Correlation Coefficient	.583*	.567*	.455	.622*	.290	.333	.547*	1.000
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.018	.022	.077	.010	.276	.207	.028	.

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

The result of correlation analysis as shown in table 2 shows that income has 63% correlation with asset at both 0.01 and 0.05 levels of significance, 54% correlation with food at 0.05 level of significance and 58% with health equally at 0.05 level of significance. Income equally correlates positively with shelter (48%); water (41%); sanitation (38%) and education (34%) though none of the coefficients is statistically significant. This positive correlation of income with the rest of the livelihood indices both at significant and non significant levels implies that income is vital to all the mentioned livelihood indices, proving monetary remittances as being pivotal to livelihood improvement in the region. On the other hand asset correlates significantly with food (61%); shelter (50%) and health (56%) at 0.05 level of significance and correlates non-significantly, though positively with education (42%), water (28%) and sanitation (22%). The result equally showed that food has 56% and 59% statistically significant correlation with shelter and education respectively and none significant correlation with sanitation (21%), water (34%) and health (45%). On shelter, the correlation result shows that there exist 73% significant correlation with water and 62% significant correlation with health, which correlation underscores the impact of shelter on such rural livelihood indicators as water and health. There equally exist 54% statistically significant correlation between education and health.

Generally, this correlation analysis underpinned the association between livelihood indicators. As a matter of fact some have more association than others as

already illustrated above. In capping up, it is essential to reiterate here that this study reveals migration as having great impact on livelihood indices as shown by the robust outcomes of livelihood impact analysis.

Corroborating these findings Caldwell (1969) and Eze (1991) have each in their separate studies concurred that the remittance system has made it possible for a higher standard of living. The works of Adepoju (1977) as echoed by Makinwa (1981) equally asserts in conformity with these findings 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. In Nsukka region, remittances from rural out-migrants boost their livelihood security, wellbeing and sustenance.

RECOMMENDATIONS

i Government should develop public awareness programme on the need for migrants to always remember their source regions and not spend their resources wastefully or ostentatiously in the urban areas.

ii Government should develop social vehicle of re-education, re-motivation of urbanities towards remitting necessary resources back home to improve the welfare of their rural households as well as contribute to meaningful development of their communities.

iii The rural population that receive remittances should be tutored, motivated and mobilized to engage in productive investment of remittances received. Productive investments of the remittances will result to a more sustained improvement on the livelihood of the rural household.

iv Since remittances have become important source of income as seen from the study, remittances sent through other means such as banks and other formal transfer institutions should be made to attract no interest. This will encourage migrants to send more without having to travel home.

CONCLUSION

Examining the effects of rural out-migration on sustaining the livelihood security of rural households, studies have shown in agreement with the present study, that remittances from migrants generally exert a strong impact on 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 development and exerts strong impact in poverty reduction which implies improved livelihood security as this study confirmed by the use of asset index analytical approach.

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