

Effect of Rural-Urban Migration among the Youths and its Impacts on Agricultural Development in Kuje Area Council, Abuja, Nigeria

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A persistent issue in the research area is rural-urban migration. Consequently, this research aimed to determine the reasons for and effects of rural-urban migration in Kuje Area Council, Abuja. The study variables were combined using descriptive statistics including frequency, percentage, mean scores, and standard deviation. The following research objectives served as the study's guiding principles: to describe the socioeconomic characteristics of young people; to pinpoint the reasons why young people move from rural to urban areas; to assess the impact of young people's rural to urban migration on agricultural development; and to assess the relationship between youth migration and agricultural production strategies to lower the rate of youth rural-urban migration. A questionnaire was given out and given to 100 rural and urban migrant youths who were randomly selected to learn about the problems. The primary data were gathered through questionnaires and interviews. Members' perceptions of rural-urban migration's causes and effects on agricultural output were considered. From the analysis, it was concluded that rural-urban migration had a significant impact on the socio-economic lives of rural people after analyzing the data gathered. Migration's effects on agriculture included a decline in household agricultural labour sources in both low- and high-migration communities, leading to a high degree of hired labor being used for farm tasks. It has been established that migration severely impacts agricultural productivity, resulting in lower income and food production. According to the findings, economic uncertainty, push, and pull factors contribute to rural-urban migration, which has detrimental effects on the study area's agricultural productivity and way of life. According to the study, efforts should be made to boost local revenue growth and the development of social facilities. The study advised that it is critical to developing desirable and cutting-edge employment prospects in places for rural residents, landless people, and underprivileged communities.

Keywords: Rural-urban, Youths, Migration, Productivity, Agricultural Development.

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INTRODUCTION

In most rural communities, agriculture is the main economic driver. According to statistics, the vast majority of individuals in most rural areas are small-scale farmers who produce food for personal consumption and raw materials for the manufacturing and export industries. For most rural residents, agriculture is also a source of employment. Use of subpar tools and implements, lack of financing or credit options, poor transportation infrastructure, insufficient land due to the system of land tenure, pest and disease issues, a lack of storage and processing facilities, inadequate agricultural education and extension services, and a general lack of trust in farming among the populace are the main issues with agricultural development in Nigeria as a whole and among households in Kuje Area Council of the Abuja in particular (FAO, 2015; Lai-Solarin et al., 2021). Youth migration from rural to urban places can be viewed as the transnational physical movement of young people or groups of young people from rural to urban settings. The most significant part of labor migration is rural-urban youth migration since it impacts on population patterns and makeup. According to Olayide (2019), rural youth migration has been linked to a loss in food production, agricultural and fishing activities, urban congestion, insufficient infrastructure in metropolitan regions, and other factors.

The transmission of a rural-urban youth movement and other aspects like economics, soil quality, ecology, climatic conditions, sociocultural environment, and subpar farm management can be connected to the fall in food production in developing nations like Nigeria. Few young people are left behind due to the youth exodus from rural to urban regions, which has led to a rise in labour costs. Because of this tendency, it has become increasingly challenging for most farmers to pay the high cost of labor (Chinuike et al., 2022). Even when some can, labour is easily unavailable because many young people have moved to cities and the majority of those who are still there may not be interested in agricultural pursuits. Many older people are left to handle the majority of farming-related tasks as more young people move to urban regions in search of a higher standard of living. There is little doubt that older people, who already lack the stamina needed to perform most farming tasks, will be less productive due to their increased obligations. According to Echebiri (2015), the exodus of young people has boosted the involvement of older men and women in agricultural labour. Boque (2012) opined that the availability of labor in agricultural production is typically a function of the population's size, composition, readiness for the labor market, and actual hours worked by an individual. Youth migration from rural to urban regions reduces the rural areas' rate of development.

The effects of rural-urban migration on rural development, of which agricultural growth is integral, lead to two

incongruent findings. On the one hand, some academics contend that there are advantages to migration, including increased productivity, higher wages in rural areas, and increased labor scarcity (Nicholls, 2014). As advantages for rural areas, Nicholls highlights the potential for land consolidation and falling land values. Berge (2016) also noted that migration from rural to urban areas improves labor reallocation, particularly in nations with regional resource disparities, increasing resource use effectiveness. Contrarily, Tadaro and Harris (2017) believe that given the existence of a positive marginal product of labour in agriculture, particularly in the relatively land-abundant economies of Africa, Latin America, and some South Asian countries, a decline in agricultural output is likely to result from rural-urban migration. In the United States, Hathaway (2014) found that the out-migration of young employees to urban regions increases in the average age of the labour force in the rural area of origin. According to him, this is a significant barrier to adjustment that essentially explains the low production and stagnation in the impacted rural areas. The impact of rural-urban migration is typically a rapid decline in the rural economy that results in persistent poverty and food insecurity (Mini, 2020; Alfa et al., 2022). Determining the impact of youth rural-urban migration in Abuja's Kuje Area Council and its impact on the region's agricultural growth is the purpose of this study.

Objective of the Study

The main objective of this study is to evaluate the effect of rural-urban migration among the youths and its impacts on agricultural development in Kuje Area Council, Abuja. The specific objectives are to;

1. Describe the socio-economic characteristics of youths in Kuje Area council, Abuja.
2. Identify the causes of rural-urban migration of youths in Kuje Area council, Abuja.
3. Determine the effect of rural-urban migration of youths on agricultural advancement in the study area.
4. Identify strategies to lower the rate of youth migration from rural to urban areas in the study area.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Concept of Rural-Urban Migration

In countries where the majority of the population is rural, agricultural production systems are increasingly based around large-scale, mechanized farming, and inadequate access to credit and technology puts a strain on the capacity of smallholders to adapt to droughts and climate variability. Rural-urban migration is the result of these transformations and a critical component of urbanization. Economic

development, social, cultural, environmental, and political considerations and their influence on both the areas of origin and the areas of destination, all contribute to migration (Adewale, 2015). Individuals frequently leave a location to avoid persecution, political unrest, violence, drought, and other problems with overcrowding. In addition, unfavorable physical factors like floods, landslides (due to erosion and earthquake), insects and vermin, and soil infertility play a significant role in why people choose to relocate.

Migration from rural to urban areas responds to various geographic economic prospects. Although migration rates have slowed in some countries, historically, it has played a large part in the urbanization process of many nations and continues to be significant in scope (Lall et al., 2013). However, Torum et al. (2002) asserts that migrations are sparked by the interaction of "Push and Pull" variables at the origin and destination locations. Political terror, a lack of food supply, unemployment, armed conflict, and an unsatisfactory standard of living are some of the factors that lead people to migrate. Similar to the push forces, the pull factors include the desire for a better life, job prospects, better living conditions, high-quality education, better housing, better medical care, and an efficient road system. Urban and rural communities are becoming more socially, economically, and politically connected throughout the developing world (Deshingkar, 2004). A significant example of this is the growing mobility of rural communities due to transitory migration and commuting.

Migration Factors

The person's choice to migrate from his origin/rural to that destination/cities is determined by different border reasons. Knowing the reasons for movements from rural to urban areas become the area of interest for different social sciences disciplines (Bilsborrow et al., 2015). The reason for migration and selection of the destination areas appraisal become more multifaceted hence, the pattern, idea, kind; nature and course vary from time to time, from place to place and from person to person (UN, 2015, Jansen, 2017). Most of the research on the causes of migration revealed that the "push" or "pull" factors become more underlying; and are directly linked with economic and non-economic aspects of the migrants. The circumstances that obliged the migrants to leave his/her origin of residence are considered push factors like conflict, famine, and crop failure due to some reasons and others. The push factors were/are more predominated than the pull factor in developing countries as reason for migration. The economic base of rural areas solely depends on agriculture; when the productivity of land declines and the environment is not conducive for maintaining of the livelihood of the peasants it enforces them to depart from rural residences to the cities (Bilsborrow et al., 2015).

The issues of the practical implementation of the principles of democracy become one of the driving forces for the increments of rural-urban exodus. The lack or absence of good governance and the principles of democracy may pave the way for rural residents to feel unconfident and enforced to migrate. Such kind of political reasons become one of the reasons for rural-urban migration in most developing nations (Aklilu and Tadesse, 2013). A pull factor is impressive relating to the place a person migrates to. In general, it is beneficial when people flock to a particular location. Some scholars stated it as the young's 'Bright lights' syndrome – the move of young/rural youth from rural areas seeking better opportunities in cities. High possibility of access to employment, enhanced way of life, adequate provisions of social services (i.e. medication, education, electricity, piped water delivery and others), state of feeling safe, recreation, relatives/relation were/are considered some of the pull factors for rural-urban migration. Cities are the centres of different attractions like a relatively high wage, an advanced soft and hard infrastructure with connection cities facilities and services, and enhanced city cultural expression and way of life (Aklilu and Tadesse, 2013).

Effect of Migration on Agricultural Development

The relationship between migration and agricultural production can be seen in a few key effects. First, the loss of labor due to migration, which might tighten the labor constraint for agricultural output, and second, the money received in the form of remittances from migrants, which could ease credit restrictions and aid in investments in agricultural production (Ojo et al., 2022). These two factors could have a positive, negative, or equalizing influence on agricultural revenue. A significant effect would indicate that migration enhances agricultural production, whereas a negative effect would suggest that the loss of labor brought on by migration lowers agricultural productivity; nonetheless, the finding of a significant effect provides evidence in favour of the New Economics of Labor Migration Theory (NELM) (Rozelle et al., 2009).

Considering that migration been a component of the economy, right from the supply and demand theories and theories of rationality of the individual, it is quite clear that migration is no new thing. It is expected that agricultural households which have lost labour to migration will be able to adapt to shortage of labour. Existing methods of adaptation include transitioning to less labour-intensive farming methods such as less labour-intensive crops and mechanization (Jokisch, 2002). Mechanization has however been found to be inefficient in situations of decentralized small plots –which is the case in most parts of Africa– causing agricultural labour productivity to be below potential (White, 2005). The existing research works of the relationship that lies between

migration and agricultural household at origin of migration have brought to bear diversified views. Rozelle et al. (2019) studied the relationship between migration, remittances and agricultural production, and their findings showed that migration has a significantly negative effect on yields and also that remittances are a positive function of migration in support of the NELM theory; however, the negative effect on agricultural production should be a disincentive for labour migration (Sennuga et al., 2021a).

However, Taylor (2012) in their works had a contrary result showing that migrants acted as financial intermediaries by sending remittances to loosen the constraints on agricultural investments, which had a significantly positive impact on agricultural production, suggesting that the future incentives of the household to participate in migration would be large in this case. Another study with evidence from Kenya using panel data from rural households also supports the NELM theory that migration is associated with negative labour loss effects on crop income but does not find any evidence that the labour lost effects are partially or fully offset by remittances from migrants (Sindi and Kirimi, 2006). The work of Mendola (2008) sought to find out if migration helped in the investment in new technologies by the rural household at origin and found that international migration, which was "high-return" had a positive effect on the household's investment into new agricultural technologies but domestic migration –including both temporary and permanent migration– had a negative effect on investment and productivity in agriculture.

Essang and Mabawonku (1974) conducted one study that examined the effects of rural-urban migration on agricultural development. Their research supported the finding that migration is more common among the most productive age group (15 to 30 years old) than any other. This severely reduces the availability of labor provided by rural families and also expels the people who are crucial to agricultural development programs. There are some drawbacks to rural-urban mobility that foretell significant obstacles to rural productivity and the expansion of the agricultural industry (Fadayomi, 2014). The selectivity of rural-to-urban migration concerning human resources is a prominent indicator of such drawbacks. This supports Makinwa's (1981) assertion that migrants from rural to urban areas tend to be younger, better educated, and primarily male. If necessary human capital is permitted to remain lacking, agricultural development cannot advance significantly. It would take the active participation of sizable, informed, healthy, economically and socially motivated people to achieve a reasonable growth rate in the rural sector. Due to its negative impact on the total productivity propensities of the nation, the type of economic dualism that results from many decades of selective rural-urban drift hinders growth (Djavand, 1993).

Theoretical Framework

There have been several disciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches applied for some time to try and investigate and comprehend the fundamentals of the phenomenon of migration. Many theoretical and empirical researches have focused on the characteristics, causes, and effects of internal and international migration. The basic theories of migration are reviewed and critically analyzed in the following paragraph, paying particular attention to rural-urban migration in developing countries that have some characteristics with Kuje Area Council's situation.

Ravenstein's Laws of Migration

In the 1880s, Ravenstein came up with his concept, which is regarded as a pioneering work in the field of migration, and he created the rules of migration. The generalizations made by Arnold and Piampiti (2019) regarding the traits of migrants, their motivations, and migratory patterns made up this law (Bailey, 2014).

He claims that the majority of migrants travel small distances and that the number of migrants declines as travel distance increases; migrants travelling large distances typically prefer to travel to one of the major commercial or industrial areas; Every main current of migration creates a compensating counter-current; the natives of cities are less mobile than those of rural areas of the country; women appear to predominate among short-distance migrants; the tonnage of migration increases with the development of transport, industry, and commerce; and the economic motives are predominate among push migrants. Migration occurs in stages, i.e., migration was first made to nearby places and then to the most rapidly growing cities; each main popular trend of migration produces a compensating counter-current (Egboduku et al., 2021).

In general, Ravenstein's basic laws have since been formalized and expanded by numerous researchers, and in general, empirical data has confirmed the significance of the economic motive in the decision to migrate, the detrimental impact of distance, and the process of step-migration, at least in some countries.

Lee's Theory of Migration

Lee updated the fundamental push-pull idea in 1966. A "general paradigm into which a variety of spatial movements can be put" was created by him (Lee, 1966). Also, he attempted to draw certain conclusions about the migration-related causes, the amount of migration, emergence of migration streams and counter streams, and the characteristics of migrants.

He categorizes the influences on migration into "push" and "pull" variables, in addition to intervening impediments and personal characteristics. "Push" factors are those that are related to the area of origin, while "pull" factors are those

that are related to the area of destination (Lee, 1966). In addition, Lee proposed that areas of origin and destination have favorable elements that draw people to them or keep them there, negative forces that do the opposite and have no bearing on events (Ibid). Lee postulated that conditions in the origin area would be more significant than those in the destination location. Personal factors "which impact individual thresholds and encourage or delay migration" determine these elements related to the locations of origin and destination (Lee, 1966). The idea of "intervening barriers" placed between the origin and destination is the model's final component. Transport costs, migration regulations, etc., are examples of "friction" in the migration process that may slow or stop migration altogether (in the case of a law). Below is a summary of Lee's findings regarding the volume of migration, the emergence of streams and counter streams, and the characteristics of migrants:

- i. The degree of geographic diversity within a given territory directly affects the amount of migration inside that territory.
- ii. The difficulty of overcoming intervening impediments is inversely correlated with the volume of migration.
- iii. As time passes, both the volume and the rate of migration grow.
- iv. Most migration often occurs along clearly defined streams (from rural regions to towns and then towards major cities, in other words, step-migration).
- v. A counter-stream forms to every major stream.
- vi. The weight of "push" variables at origin was directly correlated with the size of net migration (stream minus counter stream).
- vii. Migration is selective. Simply put, this indicates that immigrants do not represent the local community as a whole.
- viii. Migrants reacting mainly to "pull" factors at destination tend to be favourably selected (highly educated people and the like), whereas migrants responding primarily to "push" factors at origin tend to be negatively selected, or they may not be selected at all if the "push" factors are too great for entire population groups.

The push-pull theory is typically seen as a descendant of neoclassical economic theory and is primarily linked to the European Economic Development of the 19th century (Ocho and Knas, 2014). In the affluent nations of the world, urban-urban migrations have been the focus of the majority of its theoretical formulations. Therefore, it has limited or no relevance to rural-to-urban migration in developing nations (Mazur, 2019). The push-pull theory, however appealingly straightforward, provides a valuable framework for classifying a variety of reasons promoting migration (Jones and Sumner, 2011).

Harris-Todaro Model of Migration

In today's less developed countries (LDCs), a sizable corpus of literature has evolved around the subject. The emphasis was on Todaro (1969) and Harris-Todaro, two influential theoretical works in particular. Therefore, it was logical to assume that policies emphasizing industrialization would improve national revenues and relieve rural overpopulation when economists first concentrated on the issues of population growth and economic development in the LDCs in the early 1950s. Yet, as it became clear that inequality and poverty persisted despite reasonable GNP growth during the 1960s, this viewpoint began to be seriously questioned. Since this challenge, the idea that rural-urban migration in LDCs is "a symptom of and a contributing factor to underdevelopment" has become the new accepted wisdom. The Todaro and Harris-Todaro (1969) model, which established a commonly used conceptual framework for explaining urban unemployment in many LDCs, is largely responsible for the new orthodoxy. The Harris-Todaro model then demonstrates that, in certain parametric ranges, an increase in urban employment may actually result in higher levels of urban unemployment and even lower national product. This presumes that potential migrants do, in fact, respond to the probability of urban employment and treat rural-urban migration primarily as an economic phenomenon (the Todaro Paradox).

The Harris-Todaro model describes migration as an adjustment strategy used by workers to split their time between a variety of labor markets, some of which are located in urban areas and others in rural ones, in an effort to optimize their expected earnings. In general, the model showed that when considering whether to migrate, those migrants would consider the possibility of unemployment in their intended destinations. Although the migrants' present income in their country of origin is higher than in their country of destination, they could nonetheless move. This is due to the migrants' hope for a higher salary that would eventually be able to make up for past losses (Bukari et al., 2014). Ramuhulu (2021) citing Brown and Neuberger (1977) made the hypothesis that some migrants are largely "pushed" out of their current domicile by a confluence of adverse conditions that made a stay there unappealing. Others are "drawn" away from their place of abode by alluring circumstances elsewhere. Similarly, Belay (2011) noted that "migration took place when conditions in the area of origin became intolerable or when the destination appeared appealing".

Migration and the Dual Sector Model of Economic Development

There are two main sectors in the Lewis Dual Sector model: an agricultural/rural sector with zero marginal labor productivity and an urban/industrial sector with a high demand for

labor and higher wages than the rural areas. Lewis believed that the agricultural sector was only used for subsistence, and that it was characterized by surplus labor, low productivity, low earnings, and significant underemployment. It was believed that some rural workers were obsolete or surplus in nature and made little contribution to output. The industrial sector was thought to operate in an urban setting with high levels of investment and modern technology (Sridhar et al., 2010).

According to the Lewis Dual Sector Model, individuals migrate to the industrial sector in search of work since there is excess labor in the rural agriculture sector (Sridhar et al., 2010). In addition, labor transfer is necessary for the urban industrial sector to boost productivity. It is believed that migrants are drawn to the modern sectors because of higher wages. Todaro contends that large rates of rural-to-urban migration are possible even in cities with well-known high unemployment rates. Even if a migrant ends up without a job or earns less in the city than they do in the country, they will still move (Busso et al., 2021). Similar to this, the likelihood of landing a job in an urban area is inversely proportional to the rate of unemployment there (Busso et al., 2021).

Sjaastad's Human Investment Theory

The decision to relocate is seen as an investment decision that takes into consideration a person's expected costs and earnings over time, according to a theory of migration proposed by Sjaastad in 1962. Returns consist of both financial and non-financial components, with the latter also accounting for changes in "psychological advantages" brought on by regional preferences. Costs can be both monetary and nonmonetary, much like expenses. Transportation expenses, property disposal fees, lost pay during travel, and any necessary training for new employment are all considered financial expenditures. Leaving familiar surroundings, acquiring new food practices and social conventions, and other similar things have psychological consequences. Empirical tests have generally been restricted to income and other measurable variables because these are difficult to assess. Again, the realism of these assumptions can be questioned because "perfect information" is not always the case. Sjaastad's strategy is predicated on the idea that people wish to maximize their net real incomes throughout their productive lifetimes and are at least capable of computing their net real income streams both in their current location and in all future locations. The concepts of migration discussed in this chapter generally have their roots in a wide range of academic disciplines. Many fields have different approaches to migration. A significant criticism that may be made of the majority of migration theories is the fact that no one theory can fully explain all instances of migration (Yajalin, 2015). The aforementioned migration theories examined the social,

economic, and other traits of the migrants based on Western experiences. The ideas discussed up to this point, however, will act as the primary theoretical framework for this investigation, and they were evaluated in light of empirical results to ascertain whether or not the western model of migration is suitable for this study (Oduwole et al., 2022).

Conceptual Framework

To pursue higher living standards, migration may be viewed as a crucial aspect of lives in developing nations. The conventional push-pull variables are essential to comprehending the movement of migration from rural to urban areas. The "pull factor" refers to the conditions found elsewhere (abroad) that draw migrants. Examples of "pull factor" conditions include political instability, conflict, a lack of recreational facilities, a lack of social amenities, low income, the inability to acquire skills, a lack of white-collar jobs, etc. Several variables, including urban work prospects, housing circumstances, higher income options, etc., contribute to voluntary rural-urban migration. Notwithstanding these things, there is no denying that living in an urban region gives you the ability to live a better lifestyle (Sennuga et al., 2021b).

Urban regions are popular because they offer services like electricity, piped water supply, and public services. While the reasons for rural movement are significant in and of themselves, so are the mechanisms of that movement. When addressing rural-to-urban migration, it is equally vital to take into account improvements in transportation infrastructure and a growing media awareness of urban areas, assisted by higher educational standards. Another reason for emigration is that people in rural areas see and hear success tales about people who emigrate from their hometowns to urban areas. It is possible for outmigration incentives to be distorted, leading to excessive urbanization. Consequently, it is preferable to concentrate on the causes and effects of the movement rather than the migration itself. Pull factors have historically dominated because metropolitan environments offer higher employment and income prospects. Nonetheless, it seems that motivation factors are now more powerful. These are shown in Figure 1.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The area of study

The research was done in Kuje Area council of FCT Abuja. Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria, situated "North of the confluence of the Niger River and Benue River". The boundaries are with Niger state to the "West and North, Kaduna to the Northeast, Nassarawa to the east and south and Kogi to the southwest". With a land mass of approximately, it is "lying between altitude 8.25 and 9.20 north of the

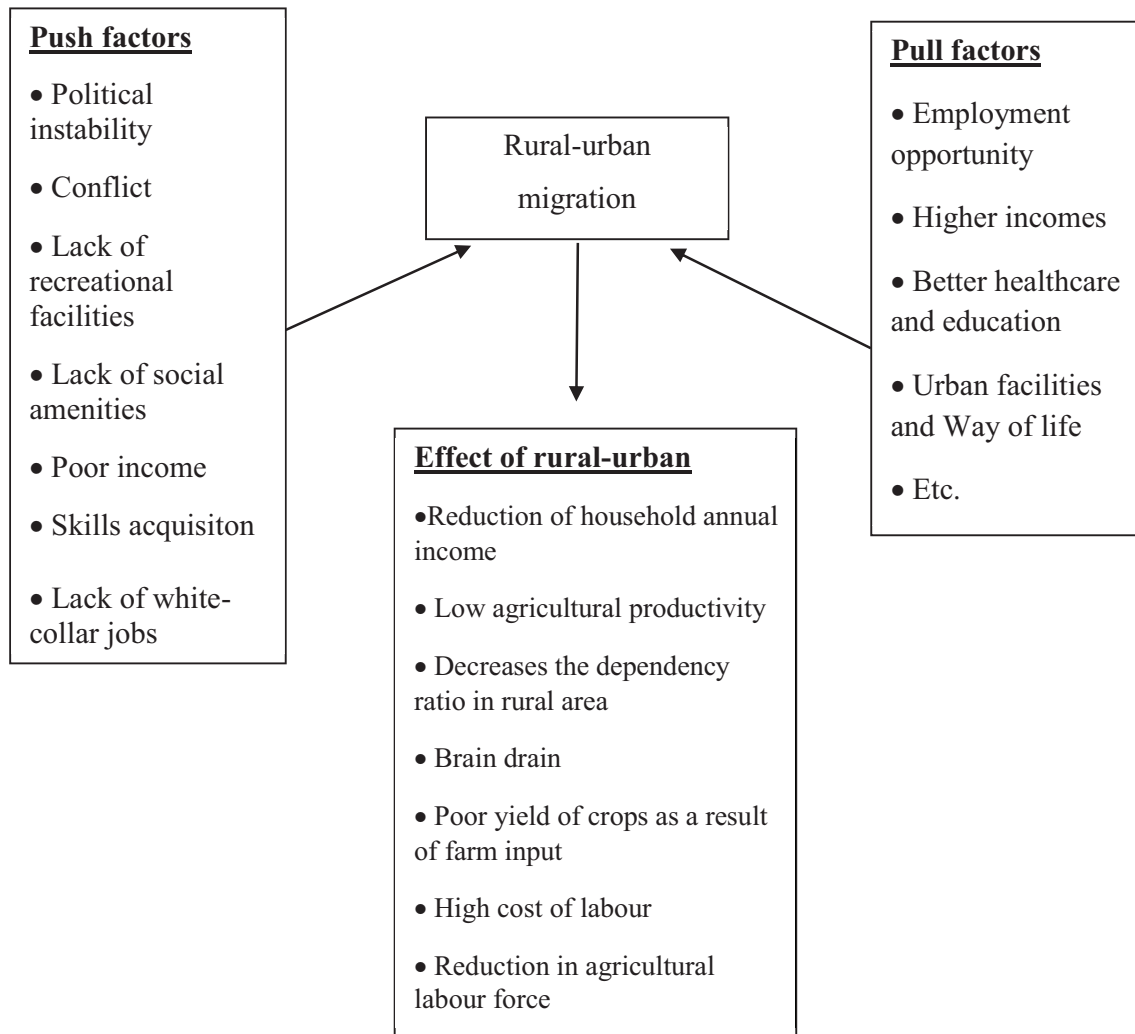


Figure 1. The conceptual framework of the study.

equator and longitude 6.45 and 7.39 east Greenwich meridian. This study was specially conducted in Kuje Area Council of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), in North Central Nigeria, West Africa. The region was specifically picked for the study because it is home to a significant number of smallholder farmers who are still actively involved in farming. The primary agricultural activities carried out by the farmers in the study region are crop growing and production. Several of them raise livestock in addition to growing crops. One of the main crops is peanuts, yam, cassava, maize, and others. They also reared animals like lambs, goats, and chickens. On a very small scale, everything is done (Aluko, et al., 2021)

Population of the Study

This study's population comprised all youths in Kuje Area

Council, Abuja. This population will include both male and female youths within the study area.

Sample and Sampling Techniques

A random sampling technique will be used to select 100 respondents from the districts of the Kuje Area Council in Abuja. Based on the volume of farming operations seen in each district, respondents were chosen for this study from each district.

Procedure for Data Collection

Primary data was gathered for the study through questionnaires given to respondents by the researcher. The researcher and the research assistants collected the questionnaire from the respondents after they must have done filling it out. The survey was afterwards coded in order

to collect the data for statistical analysis, which will be utilized to address the research question posed in this study.

Data Analysis

Descriptive statistics were used to analyze the collected data (measures of central tendency and measures of variations). Based on the questionnaires, data were analyzed using statistical software for social sciences. The replies were summed up, and the degree of similarity and difference was demonstrated using various statistics, in particular mean scores, standard deviations, percentages, and frequency distribution. Tables and figures were used to present the results. To determine whether respondents agree or disagree with the presence of the given variable or factors in the study area related to youth rural-urban migration in Kuje Area council, Abuja, the Linkert scale was utilized.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Social Economic Characteristics of the Respondents

The outcomes in Table 1 represent the socioeconomic characteristics of the youth farmers in Kuje Area Council Abuja. The findings indicate that the majority (61%) were male while 39% were female, 42% of the respondents were between the age of 26-40 years while the others were between the age of 16-25 years. The outcomes also revealed that most respondents were married (53%) while 33% were single and 7% were divorced, 5% were separated, and 2% were widowed. 42% had secondary education, while 37% had tertiary education 12% had primary education while 9% had no formal education. According to Aromolaran et al. (2021), education and migration among young people have a good association. This implies that there is a strong likelihood that there will be significant rural-to-urban migration in the study area because educated youth migrate more frequently than those who are not educated and because education is one of the most important factors influencing young people's capacity to understand contemporary policies, programs, and innovations. Education affects productivity through efficient resource usage, allocation, and choice of inputs for productive activities, all other variables being equal.

The socioeconomic characteristics of the respondents further showed that 37% and 34% of the respondent had a family size of 5-8 persons and 1-4 persons, respectively in their households. 31% of the respondents' farm sizes are of 2-4 hectares while 29% and 26% of them have a farming size of 5-7 hectares and 1-2 hectares, respectively 16% had farm size between 8-10 hectares in the study area. According to the findings, most youths in the research region are more interested in small-scale production, which discourages their continuous practice of agriculture hence

their urban migration. On farming experience, 33% of the youths have farming experience of 1-5years this suggests that most of the youth in the research region have less years of agricultural experience, implying that the respondents lack adequate knowledge and experience in the tasks they carry out, which could be a contributing factor to rural-urban migration. This finding agrees with the findings of FAO (2015) that the causes of rural-urban migration by the youth is not far-fetched from the fact that they do not have much experience in their activities in the rural areas as a result, some underlining factors from inadequate exposure to basic technicalities and applications in carrying out operations.

The major occupation is farming (32%). However, 24% of youths engage in trading, and 21% are both farmers and civil servants in the study area. 37% of the youths have an annual income of 210,000-400,000 Naira, while only 11% earn above 801,000 Naira annually. The low annual revenue produced by this research can be attributed to the fact that the majority of the youths have small land sizes leading to limited farming, and also most of them have short-time farming experience, which also resulted in the low output of farming activities. It shows that with more experience and knowledge the farmers will have, the more their enterprise's productivity and profitability will improve. The results agrees with the findings of Nwaru et al. (2006) that farmers would rely more on their farming experience for improved productivity rather than their educational attainment. In this current research however, it was seen that the majority of the farmers have short farming experience compared to the result of Ogumbameru (2011). This could have also resulted in the small annual income recorded by farmers in this present research.

Causes of Rural-Urban Migration of Youths in Kuje Area Council, FCT Abuja

Rural-urban migration in the study area as depicted in Table 2 shows that, major causes of urban migration of rural youths are seeking for white-collar employment (M=4.29) and education (M=4.03) as well as an effect of the rising intercommunal conflict and farmers herders' conflict in the country (M = 4.04). Other causes include, political instability, lack of recreational facilities, lack of social amenities, poor income, and skills acquisition. This finding agrees with the findings of Yuguda et al. (2012) that over 70% of Nigerian youth migrate to urban areas as a result of poor infrastructure in the search for white-collar jobs to acquire skills and increase income. According to Eze (2014), the push reasons among respondents in the eastern portion of Nigeria were the existence of forced migration, low-income-generating prospects, avoiding unfavourable circumstances, transfer as a factor of migration, and escaping violence and life insecurity. Today, many governments, at least in theory, are growing concerned about good governance. When

Table 1. Socioeconomics characteristics of respondents.

Sex	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	61	61
Female	39	39
Age		
16-25 years	35	35
26-40years	42	42
Marital status		
Single	33	33
Married	53	53
Widow	2	2
Divorced	7	7
Separated	5	5
Level of Education		
No education	9	9
Primary education	12	12
Secondary education	42	42
Tertiary education	37	37
Household size		
1-4 persons	34	34
5-8 persons	37	37
9and above	29	29
Farm size		
1-2	26	26
2-4	31	31
5-7	29	29
8-10	16	16
Farm experience		
1-5years	33	33
6-10years	28	28
11-15years	18	18
16-20 years	08	8
20 and above	13	13

Source: Field Survey 2023

popular democracy, political safety, or the rule of law are absent, people may feel anxious. They would therefore choose to go to cities, where, in general, political consciousness may be higher. Political issues have an important part in the high rate of rural-urban migration in the third world, including the occurrence of civil war, ethnic disputes, and laws that targets particular groups (Tam Cho et al., 2012). Also, due to the ongoing conflict and unrest in the region, residents of border regions and other politically

significant locations frequently move to urban centres. Migration is seen to have a negative influence on the research area's lack of recreational amenities (Mean = 3.12, SD = 0.32). In addition to recreational benefits, Kuje Area Council factors like metropolitan proximity, economic dependency, and community capital also influence which rural people leave and go to the regions, as well as which ones they are drawn to because of the recreational opportunities. The majority of migrants (Mean = 3.86) consented that there

Table 1. Continued (Socioeconomics characteristics of respondents).

Major source of livelihood	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Farming	32	32
Trading	24	24
Civil Service	15	15
Farming and Civil Service	21	21
Handcraft	8	8
Annual income		
100,000-200,000	29	29
210,000-400,000	37	37
401,600000	15	15
601-800000	8	8
>801,000	11	11

Source: Field Survey 2023

Table 2. Causes of Rural-Urban Migration of Youths in the Study Area.

S/N	Factors	SA	A	U	D	SD	Mean	Sd	Remark
1	Political Instability	37	38	12	08	05	3.94	0.09	Agreed
2	Conflict	41	39	05	13	02	4.04	0.41	Agreed
3	Lack of Recreational Facilities	32	24	14	02	08	3.12	0.32	Agreed
4	Education	47	32	05	09	07	4.03	0.44	Agreed
5	Lack of Social Amenities	35	41	07	9	08	3.86	0.35	Agreed
6	Poor Income	32	28	11	17	9	3.76	0.42	Agreed
7	Skills Acquisition	33	26	18	11	12	3.60	0.35	Agreed
8	Lack of White Collar Job	48	38	5	8	6	4.29	0.44	Agreed

Source: Field Survey 2023

is a lack of access to social amenities when asked about it. In connection to this finding, Lemawork (2017) discovered that rural urban migrants have better access to social amenities after moving to the urban areas than they did previously because the rural Kuje Area Council districts lacked adequate social services, especially when it came to health clinics. The majority of migrant respondents (Mean = 3.76) agreed that young people's income from employment is often low. Ravenstein contends that the primary drivers of internal migration are the allure of greater employment opportunities and increased incomes in urban areas. These are predicated on the idea that a person's decision to move is a result of the real wage difference between urban and rural areas and their likelihood of landing a job in the latter. The pay differential typically reflects the difference in income. Although most of the migrants did not express it directly, it is clear that young migrants are partly driven to relocate by a desire to earn money for both their families and themselves.

Informal conversations with many respondents in the study villages revealed a consistent perception that the young villagers frequently leave in the hope that they will make enough money to support themselves. The majority of respondents (Mean = 3.60) agreed that the sample of migrants seek employment in line with skill acquisition. So, the only option for improving one's economic situation is to relocate. Youths from rural and urban migrant communities work in Kuje Area Council's urban informal economy in a variety of jobs such daily labor, street vending, and other sporadic jobs. The study's participants claimed that the majority of them are self- and jointly employed in the neighborhood's street vending activities, while the remaining participants work as daily laborers for various street vendors. According to a study by Adebayo and Adewole (2015), the majority of rural-urban migrants to the urban sites lack the necessary education or occupational skills to work in the formal sector, leaving them with no choice but to enter the

urban informal sector.

Effect of rural-urban migration of youths on agricultural development in Kuje Area Council FCT Abuja

Table 3 shows the effect of rural-urban migration of youths on agricultural development in Kuje Area Council FCT Abuja. The results indicated that the major effect of migration on agricultural development was high cost of labour (M = 4.09), reduction in the agricultural labour force (M = 4.07) and reduction of annual household income (M = 3.86). Other effects included; low agricultural productivity, decreased the dependency ratio in rural areas, brain drain and poor yield of crops as a result of farm input. This finding agrees with the findings of Fadayomi (2014) that rural urban migration significantly affects the rate supply of labour. This is because; youth are energetic and contribute immensely to the pool of labour supply on the farm. It is observed that migration has a negative impact on agricultural production in the research area (Mean = 3.65). This finding is consistent with that of Hindman and Hindman (2014), who found that while labor force migration was rising, the downward trend in returns negatively affected agricultural productivity. Long-term migration to cities or other locations prevents migrants from returning home during the farming season to work and engage in agricultural activities. Their absence could result in low productivity due to labour shortages (Mercandalli and Losch, 2017). In the research of rural-urban migration and its implications on the agricultural labour supply in Imo State, Nigeria, (Imran et al., 2016) also discovered the absence of a larger proportion of household members from their houses had an important effect on farm operations. The average response from the migrants (Mean = 3.60) agreed that the sample migrants migrated as a result of a shortage of farm inputs for the best crop output. So, it may be said that the greater number of farmers who moved away decreased the amount of farm labor available to the communities, which in turn decreased crop productivity. Yet, Eze (2014) analysis also discovered that poor farming yields were the cause of the migrations of roughly 31% of the out-migrants. Lack of farm inputs is impacted by rural-urban migration in a pair of distinct manners. On the one hand, it's bad since it's alleged that the labor force needed for agricultural production is falling due to the departure of physically fit men who are enticed away from the field by the opportunity to make more money and lead better lifestyles in the city. This has led to poorer agricultural production, greater farm labor costs, and higher food commodity prices. This is particularly accurate given that most of our farm work, particularly in rural regions, is still done the old-fashioned way utilizing unrefined tools. As a result, despite the ongoing decline in the agricultural population, farming practices and production incentives have not improved much. In the study area, it has been discovered that migration negatively impacts brain drain (Mean = 3.57).

While emigration from an area with a surplus of educated people results in better chances for those who remain, the immigration of foreign-trained professionals into occupations where already existing too many graduates can exacerbate the underemployment of domestic graduates. Yet, emigration could present issues if there is a shortage of trained workers in the home country. While host regions typically provide rich opportunities, political stability and freedom, a developed economy, and better living conditions (pull factors) that attract talent, source regions typically suffer from a scarcity of opportunities, political instability or oppression, economic depression, health risks, and more (Ullah and Haque, 2020). In the research area, migration is seen to have a detrimental effect on the dependence percentage in rural areas (Mean = 3.57). A higher proportion suggests that working people are under more financial strain and that there may be political instability. While boosting fertility and allowing immigration, particularly of younger workers, have been proven methods for reducing dependency ratios, future job losses due to automation may have an impact on the efficacy of such methods. Due to the vast number of low-income dependents, high dependency ratios inhibit economic growth whereas low dependency ratios encourage it.

Strategies for reducing rural-urban youth migration in the study area

Data in Table 4 revealed the strategies for reducing rural-urban youth migration, which include establishing of Bank of Agriculture in rural areas for easy access to loans for youths (M = 4.08), the establishment of vocational training centres for skill acquisition (M = 3.7), provision of incentives such as microcredit for youths in agriculture (M = 3.66), empowering and integrating rural youths into agricultural-based activities (M=3.84), the establishment of advocacy programme such as youth employment in agriculture (M = 3.71), Provision of improved varieties of crops and breeds of livestock (M = 4.25), use of improved modern technologies such as farm implements (M = 4.02), the establishment of agro-processing centres for value of farm produce (M = 4.13) and provision of basic amenities such as schools, pipe borne water, electricity (M = 4.31). The results, as shown in the table, indicate that all of the methods listed as ways to reduce youth emigration from rural areas were regarded as effective methods if implemented by the respondents; however, the method perceived to be most effective in reducing youth emigration would be the provision of basic amenities such as schools, pipe-borne water, and electricity with a mean score of 4.31. Their findings suggested that if basic utilities were available for young people in rural areas, the majority of them wouldn't be leaving. This outcome is consistent with the report of Fadayomi (2018) that providing monetary grants to youth for empowerment did not totally flatten their migration curve to the city centers as anticipated. Rather, provision of

Table 3. Effect of rural-urban migration of youths on agricultural development in Kuje Area Council FCT Abuja.

S/N	Effect	SA	A	U	D	SD	Mean	Sd	Remark
1	Reduction of household annual income	47	25	9	5	14	3.86	0.68	Agreed
2	Low agricultural productivity	40	21	19	11	2	3.65	0.34	Agreed
3	Decreases the dependency ratio in rural areas	35	27	16	13	9	3.66	0.64	Agreed
4	Brain drain	37	28	6	13	16	3.57	0.47	Agreed
5	Poor yield of crops as a result of farm input	33	27	15	17	8	3.60	0.74	Agreed
6	High cost of labour	47	28	16	5	4	4.09	0.56	Agreed
7	Reduction in agricultural labour force	48	29	13	7	3	4.07	0.36	Agreed

Source: Field Survey 2023**Table 4.** Strategies for reducing rural-urban youth migration in the study area.

S/N	Strategies	SA	A	U	D	SD	Mean	Sd	Remark
1	Developing a Bank of Agriculture in rural areas so that young people can easily acquire loans	42	35	15	5	3	4.08	0.47	Agreed
2	Creation of facilities for vocational training to develop skills	55	21	09	12	3	4.13	0.68	Agreed
3	Giving young people involved in agriculture incentives like microcredit	41	22	14	8	15	3.66	0.55	Agreed
4	Rural youth empowerment and inclusion in agricultural-based activities	37	31	17	9	6	3.84	0.72	Agreed
5	Creation of advocacy initiatives like youth employment in agriculture	39	27	14	6	14	3.71	0.44	Agreed
6	Superior crop and animal breeds are made available.	59	24	7	3	7	4.25	0.75	Agreed
7	Usage of more advanced modern technology, such as farm equipment	42	33	14	7	4	4.02	0.59	Agreed
8	Establishing agro-processing facilities to increase the value of agricultural products	47	35	10	5	3	4.18	0.45	Agreed
9	Providing access to necessities including electricity, water, and schools	55	30	9	3	3	4.31	0.61	Agreed

Source: Field Survey 2023

infrastructure and basic amenities gave more inclusion and belongings to the youth in their environment and were more willing to remain in the rural areas.

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Summary

This study's major goal is to evaluate both factors' effects on rural-to-urban migration in Kuje Area Council, FCT. 100 sampled respondents completed the questionnaire in total, and frequency, percentage, mean scores, and standard deviation were used to evaluate the data. The following summary is provided based on what the results indicate, what the participants said, and what the analysis showed:

- i. Male migrants made up 61% of the study's sample of migrants' demographic features. The majority (42%) of the sample's respondents were aged 26 to 40, according to data on the respondents' ages.
- ii. The vast majority of the sampled migrants (63%) were married, and the majority (42%) had at least a secondary education, according to the socioeconomic characteristics of the respondents. Most survey respondents (37%) belong to families of 5-8 members.
- iii. The respondents' annual income ranged from N210,000 to N400,000, and 32% of their work was in agriculture in the Kuje Area Council, followed by 24% in trading.
- iv. Both push and pull factors are rising in the rural-urban migration trend each year. The number of migrants who were forced to leave their origin, however, exhibited a stronger tendency for growth.
- v. Following their migration status, the migrants left their homes because of push factors like an absence of white-collar jobs (Mean = 4.29), conflict (Mean = 4.04), education (Mean = 4.03), political instability (Mean = 3.94), inadequate social facilities (Mean = 3.86), low income (Mean = 3.76), and the need to develop new skills (Mean = 3.60).
- vi. Regarding the detrimental effects of rural-to-urban migration, it was found that labor costs are high (4.09), the agricultural labor force is decreasing (4.07), household annual income is decreasing (3.86), the dependency ratio in rural areas is decreasing (3.66), agricultural productivity is low (3.65), farm inputs are scarce (3.60), and there is brain drain (3.57).

Conclusion

According to the study, a variety of fundamental causes, including as the hunt for white-collar professions, education, conflicts, political instability, and other things, have an impact on the migration decisions of young people in Kuje Area Council. These parameters were discovered to be highly context-dependent and affected by both household and

individual traits. The study comes to the conclusion that because of a labor shortage and rising labor costs, this migration has a negative impact on the area's agricultural development.

Recommendations

The following suggestions are made in accordance with the methods recommended in this study for minimizing juvenile migration from the study area's rural to urban areas.

1. The government and cooperative organizations should ensure that schools, pipe-borne water, and power are available in the area. This would keep the youth at ease in their rural area and encourage them to participate in agricultural operations.
2. When people mature, they move as a result of push factors. To encourage persons of productive age to enroll in vocational training programs and to update the skills of those who already have them, the government should provide further training to those who already have them. The participants' interest and willingness should, whenever possible, be the foundation of the training.
3. The majority of the migrants' survival and livelihood options are unorganized and extremely unprofitable. Supporting individual migrants may not be possible due to financial constraints, but it is much easier for town administrations and district administrations generally to support migrants in groups. As a result, they should work together to organize migrants and provide them with training based on their skills, knowledge, and attitudes so that trainees can transition from doing informal work to doing formal work and earn more money.
4. Rural-urban migrants require stable jobs in the study region. To be able to mobilize/organize productive migrants into development initiatives such as local road construction, green areas on environmental protection, sanitation, and solid waste removal, converting solid waste areas into recreation areas, etc., the trade and industry office should offer entrepreneurship training in the sector in collaboration with NGOs.
5. Establishing agro-processing facilities to increase the value of agricultural products.
6. Providing young farmers with improved livestock and crop varieties through extension visits to encourage them to pursue careers in agriculture as well as the usage of advanced modern technologies like farm equipment

Conflict of Interests

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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