Urban-Rural Migration in Delta State, Nigeria: Implications for Agricultural Extension Service

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Abstract - This study was conducted to examine urban-rural migration in Delta State, Nigeria and its implication for extension service. Data were collected from 180 respondents who were purposively selected. It was discovered that most of the migrants were males, mostly in the age range of 50 years and above; mostly married and had one form of formal education or the other; had average household size of 6 persons. Most of them have spent 6-10 years in the rural area and their migration was mostly prompted by retirement. The selected socio economic variables of the migrants had significant relationship with the decisions of the migrants to engage in agricultural activities. Implications of the findings for extension service include identifying and training the migrants on the current skills and technologies of agriculture, taking advantages of their level of exposure to make them opinion leaders and identifying them a year to their retirement and giving them training in agricultural enterprise of their choice for their post retirement life.

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I. Introduction

Generally, migration is a regular occurrence in the life of a nation. While rural-urban migration is mostly temporary, urban – rural migration tends to be on permanent basis. Observations indicate that most people that are involved in urban-rural migration are return migrants. Return migrants are people who return after emigration to their community of origin (Bovenkerk, 1974; Ekong, 2003). People migrate in response to prevailing conditions or situations. The decision to migrate or move is always informed by the prevailing situations. Movement of people tend be a selective process affecting individuals or families with certain economic, social, educational and demographic characteristics (Adewale, 2005).

In the present decade, Adewale (2005) suggest that urban-rural migration is one of the important modes of migration. Previous studies concentrated on rural and rural-urban modes of migration. For instance, Okpara (1983); Fadayomi (1998); Ekong (2003) discovered that rural-urban and rural-rural types of migration were predominant in developing societies. However, studies by Okpara (1983) reveal that rural-urban migrants out number rural-rural migrants.

According to Ekong (2003), Fadoyomi (1998); Afolabi (2007), rural-urban migration negatively impacts on agricultural productivity through loss of productive members of the rural communities. It is expected that a reversed trend in migration will help to mitigate this problem of negative impact on agricultural productivity. Williams (1970) observed that some factors such as crisis, old age, transfer, retirement and invasion of pests and disease are correlates of urban-rural migration. Jibowo (1992) opined that urban-rural migration is influenced by factors like congestion, traffic jams, sanitation problems, increasing urban unemployment, increased crime rate and accommodation (housing) problem. These factors are actually prevailing in Nigeria currently and every Nigerian, especially those from the Niger Delta Region in which Delta State is located, wishes that these problems are addressed.

The discovery of petroleum in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria has fuelled rural-urban migration to the detriment of the agricultural sector of the economy of the region. A lot of people in the rural areas were prompted by the petroleum industry to migrate from rural to urban areas to seek employment. This means deficit in agricultural productivity in the Delta State.

Fadayomi (1998), Ekong (2003), Afolabi (2007) observed that rural-urban migration negatively impact on agricultural productivity through loss of productive citizens of rural communities. Urban-rural migration has generally increased agricultural outputs while the population of economically active persons in agriculture also increased between 1970 and 2000 (Majid 2004). While the trend in growth of agricultural productivity suggest improvements in China and the rest of Asia, it is not so in Sub-Sahara Africa (Afolabi, 2007). Urban-rural migrants are also involved in educative and health related occupations and trading. People who have lived in the urban are cosmopolitan in nature. This is because of their interaction with others from other places. In the rural areas, people are engaged in agriculture related activities such as farming and processing. Other rural occupations include artisanal activities like blacksmithing, bicycle repairing, etc.

This study will unveil the occupations urban-rural migrants are engaged in and the results will form a guide for agricultural extension service in their programme planning.
II. Objectives

This study was undertaken to examine urban-rural migration in Delta State and its implications for agricultural extension services. The specific objectives of this study were to:

i. ascertain the demographic characteristics of the migrants;
ii. determine their length of stay in the rural areas
iii. identify the causes of their migration to rural areas
iv. ascertain the jobs the presently engage in, in the rural area.

Hypothesis
Ho: involvement of urban-rural migrants in agriculture is not influenced by their demographic characteristics.

III. Methodology

This study was conducted in Delta State, Nigeria. The state consists of 25 local government areas which are grouped into Delta North, Delta Central and Delta South Agricultural Zones by the Delta State Agricultural development programme (the public agricultural extension agency). The urban areas in the state include Asaba, Agbor, Sapele, effurun, Ughelli, and Warri.

Two local government areas were randomly selected from each of the 3 agricultural zones selected. At the second stage, 3 rural communities were randomly selected from each selected local government area which gave a total of 18 rural settlements. From each rural settlement selected to have a sample size of 180 respondents.

Data were collected from the respondents with the use of questionnaire and interview schedule administered to formally educated respondents and the respondents who had little or no formal education respectively. The instrument was subjected to reliability test. The retest was done 3 weeks after the retrieval of the instrument for the first administration. The result of the correlation between the first and second responses showed a high level of correlation for the questionnaire ($r = 0.831$) and the structured interview schedule ($r = 0.791$).

The data collected were subjected to descriptive statistics such as frequency counts and percentages. The hypothesis was tested with the use of logistic regression technique.

Though, logistic regression model is similar to linear regression model, it was best suited for this study because the dependent variable was dichotomous. The binary response in this study was whether the respondents were engaged in agriculture related activity or not, i.e. yes or no. The logistic model was implicitly stated as:

$$\ln \left( \frac{Pi}{1 - Pi} \right) = \beta_0 + \sum_{j=1}^{n} \beta_j x_{ji} + \epsilon$$

The empirical model specifying engagement in agriculture related activity by the ith farmer is explicitly specified

$$\ln \left( \frac{Pi}{1 - Pi} \right) = \beta_0, \beta_1 X_1, \beta_2 X_2, \beta_3 X_3, \beta_4 X_4, \beta_5 X_5, \epsilon$$

Where:
- $y$ = engagement in agriculture (dummy)
- $\beta_0$ = constant term
- $X_1$ = gender (dummy)
- $X_2$ = age (years)
- $X_3$ = quantity status dummy
- $X_4$ = education (year of schooling)
- $X_5$ = Household size (no of persons)
- $\epsilon$ = error term

Engagement in agriculture was regressed against the defined demographic characteristics of the urban-rural migrants.

IV. Results and Discussion

a) Demographic characteristics of urban-rural migrants

Most of the urban-rural migrants were males (70.0%) and majority of them were in the age range of 60-69 years (27.2%), most of them were married (78.9%), about 82.1% of them had one form of formal education or the other. Most (31.1%) of them had household sizes of between 5-7 persons (Table 1).

The results indicate that most of the respondents were retirees who still have responsibilities as married men, considering the fact that most of them had fairly large household size. The retirement pension paid to retirees is lower than the salary they used to earn. Those who worked in private enterprises in the urban do not receive pensions, as only gratuity is paid to them. The fact that most of them had one form of formal education or the other means that education would have guided their decision to migrate to rural areas which most likely are their places of origin. Education is also suspected to inform their decision to be engaged in one activity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>70.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>30.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
20-29 38 21.1
30-39 26 14.4
40-49 19 10.6
50-59 19 10.6
60-69 49 27.2
70 and above

Marital Status
Married 142 78.9
Single 38 21.1

Formal Education
No formal education 32 17.8
Primary education 44 24.4
Secondary education 51 28.3
Tertiary education 53 29.4

Household size (no. of persons)
1 36 20.0
2-4 52 28.9
5-7 56 31.1
7-9 20 11.1
Above 9 16 8.9

From these activities they earn and save money, in order to be afloat financially. These results are congruent with those of Adewale (2005) who discovered that most of the urban-rural migrants in Oyo State, Nigeria were males who were mostly married and had one form of formal education or the other.

b) Length of stay of migrants in rural areas

Table 2 indicates that most (34.4%) of the urban-rural migrants have been living in the villages for 6-10 years, while 20% have spent 1-5 years since their return. This implies that most of the migrants migrated to the rural areas almost recently. Their movement and stay in the villages may have been informed by the presence of motorable roads and electricity. Most of the villages now have health centers and people have started having the awareness about friendly physical and biological environment of the villages.

Table 2: Length of stay of migrants in rural areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of years</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-5</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>20.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-10</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>34.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-15</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>13.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-20</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>15.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above 20</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>16.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

d) Causes of urban-rural migration

Most of the migrants (46.1%) were pushed to rural areas by retirement while 26.1% were by urban unemployment (Table 3). The implication is that most urban-rural migrants embarked on return migration. Most retirees return to their villages of origin after retirement, to avoid financial insolvency of the household as life in the village is cheaper than in the urban. This is especially so with those who already built houses in their villages.

Prolonged unemployment among the youth in the urban forces them to migrate back to the rural areas where life is simple, especially when their hosts tend to become hostile or exhibit some element of hostility towards them. Guatam (1999) observed that those people migrating in India are careful enough to take all precautions so that they will be sure of their host and job before they leave rural areas to urban for job.

Table 3: Causes of migration from urban to rural areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Causes</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>26.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost of living</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirement</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>46.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnic crisis</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congestion</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illness</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

d) Occupations engaged in on movement to rural areas

Table 4 indicates that most (54.4%) of the urban-rural migrants were involved in agriculture and agriculture related activities or occupations while 20% of them were into trading. Ekong (2003) defined rural as an area of settlement in which half or more than half the adult working population is engaged in farming. This finding confirms the rurality of the rural areas the respondents migrated to. The major occupations in rural areas is farming and other agriculture related activity like processing. Most families have enough land to sustain farming activities – crop, livestock and fish farming. Most retirees take up agriculture related activity after retirement in order to keep their body busy for fear of early death. They hold the belief that on retirement if one stays at home everyday doing nothing, the body organs deteriorate faster as they are not put to full use. According to Gautam (1999), urban-rural migrants acquire land and engage in farming on getting back to the village after saving money for such while working in the urban area.

Table 4: Occupations engaged in on movement to rural areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farming/processing</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>54.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trading</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>20.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil service</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>12.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
e) Influence of demographic characteristics on decision to engage in agriculture

The logistic regression result showing the influence of demographic variables on decision of urban-rural migrants to engaged in agricultural occupation is presented in table 5.

Gender ($X_1$): the results show that gender had a negative coefficient, but was significant. This implies that the male household heads, though engaged in agricultural activities, are less involved than their wives. This is as a result of the fact that women put in more interest in farming than men. This is congruent with Uzokwe and Otuoku (2006) who discovered that women have taken over almost every farm operation from their husbands.

Age ($X_2$): this variable was also found to have significant, but negative coefficient. This result was according to a priori expectation. It implies that older people are the less likely they will take decision to engage in farming as they become weaker as they become older.

Marital status ($X_3$): marital status had positive and significant relationship with decision to engage in farming. This is in consonance with a priori expectation. This means that the respondents had responsibilities. This signifies much load on their shoulders. For this reason they decide to engage in farming.

Table 5: summary of logistic regression results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Coefficient</th>
<th>Standard Error</th>
<th>Wald Statistics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Constant</td>
<td>0.047</td>
<td>1.322</td>
<td>0.035 *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender ($X_1$)</td>
<td>-0.026</td>
<td>0.477</td>
<td>0.002 *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age ($X_2$)</td>
<td>-0.467</td>
<td>0.702</td>
<td>0.443 *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marital status ($X_3$)</td>
<td>0.096</td>
<td>0.562</td>
<td>0.029 *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational ($X_4$)</td>
<td>0.015</td>
<td>0.114</td>
<td>0.018 *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household size ($X_5$)</td>
<td>0.096</td>
<td>0.562</td>
<td>0.029 *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$R^2 = 0.892$</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*significant (p<0.05).

Education ($X_4$): education had positive and significant relationship with decision to engage in farming. This was expected. This implies that the more the years of schooling, the more the likelihood they were informed enough to know the importance of agriculture in their micro economy.

Household size ($X_5$): household size had positive and significant relationship with decision to engage in farming. This is consistent with a priori expectation. It implies that the larger the household size, the more the likelihood to make a decision to engage in farming or agricultural activities. Most of the urban-rural migrants had large household sizes. This implies that there were many people to feed and cater for. Having this in mind the decision to engage in farming becomes easy.

The result of the logistic regression analysis confirms that some demographic variables influenced urban-rural migrants decision to engage in farming. It also shows that the demographic variables explained 89.2% variation in the decision to engage in farming (dependent variable).

f) Implications for extension service

Several implications for extension services can be deduced from the findings of this study. One of the objectives of extension programme is aimed at increasing arable crop production through encouragement of people to become involved in farming. Most of the urban-rural migrants are retirees and those who are unemployed. It is therefore, necessary for extension officers and planners to identify these sets of urban-rural migrants, with the objective of encouraging them and design a programme of training for them. The training programme is expected to make them acquire current skills and technologies in farming.

This programme will have the advantages of re-integrating them into the farming community and making them to have a sense of belonging as they always feel not recognized because of their status as retirees and unemployed. Once they are re-integrated into the farming system the feel relevant in the social system once more. Most of the retirees had one form of formal education or the other and expectedly had more experience than non-migrants. For this quality the extension service can take the advantage of making them opinion leaders in farmers’ groups in the various rural communities. Villagers very well respect the views of those who have lived and worked in the urban, especially those who had tertiary education.

Making them opinion leaders will aid extension agents in their persuasive exercise with the farmers who did not migrate from their rural communities. This is particularly beneficial when these farmers are conservative. The extension service can even put up a system where they will collaborate with ministries, government agencies and private firms to identify those who are to retire a year later. After this is done, pre-retirement training on agricultural practice can be organized for them, based on their agricultural enterprises of interest. This implies preparing them for post retirement life.

V. Conclusion

Most of the urban-rural migrants are retirees and are interested in farming. It is conceivable that it would be beneficial to encourage these retirees who have migrated from urban areas to rural areas, in agricultural activities. It is expected therefore, that the results of this study and implication deduced could be passed on to agricultural extension agencies for necessary actions as the retirees also make their contribution to agricultural development.

References Références Referencias

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