

CZECH UNIVERSITY OF LIFE SCIENCES PRAGUE

Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences



Czech University of Life Sciences Prague

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AgriSciences**

**The reasons and causes of migration
from Nigeria abroad**

BACHELOR THESIS

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Declaration

I hereby declare that I have done this thesis entitled the “The reasons and causes of migration from Nigeria abroad” by myself, all texts in this thesis are original and all the sources have been quoted and acknowledged by means of complete references and according to Citation rules of the FTA.

In Prague, 29/04/2020

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Omolola Grace Irere.

Acknowledgment

I would like to thank God for his Grace and strength to complete this work.

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List of abbreviations used in the Thesis

FAO	Food and Agricultural organization
FTA	Faculty of Tropical AgricScience
GCIM	Global Commission for International Migration
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GER	Gross Enrolment Rate
HRH	Human Resources for Health
ICF	International Coach Federation
ILO	International Labor Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMI	International Migrant Institute
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IRIS	Institu de Relations Internationales et Strategiques
MPI	Migration Policy Institute
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
NPC	National Population Commission
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UN DESA	United Nation Department of Economics and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
USA	United State of America
USD	United State Dollar
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organization

PWC Price Waterhouse Coopers

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Abstract

The number of emigrants in Nigeria between has rapidly increased during the last two decades. The specific objectives of this thesis is to get the overview of the main causes and reasons for mass migration of Nigeria citizens abroad and to determine the rate and causes of migration of Nigerian citizens within the regions of the country, and also to determine the most popular destinations of Nigerian migrants. Finally, the thesis provides an overview causes of migration abroad and the effect of migration on youths. All data were analyzed and compared using secondary data.

The Nigerian citizens are motivated to migrate mostly by the following reasons: to seek greener pasture, to get quality education and a better standard of living, and to live in a safer environment with better security and good governance. This study helps to highlight the opportunities and advantages migrants receive abroad and how they influence the remittances sent to the country.

Keywords: Nigeria, mass migration, unemployment, poverty, remittances, education development.

1. Introduction

The number of international migrants worldwide has continued to grow rapidly in recent years, reaching 258 million in 2017, up from 220 million in 2010 and 173 million in 2000, African being the 4th largest continent with the higher migration rate with 25 million immigrants spread across the world (United Nations & Department of Economic and Social Affairs 2016). In a factor of high rate of poverty and unemployment in developing countries and demand for talented young workers in many developed economies, global migration of people is likely to continue (Isbell & Ojewale 2018). In this modern world, international migration has become a reality that touches nearly all countries across the globe. Modern transportation has made it easier, cheaper and faster for people to move in search of jobs, opportunity, education and better life (United Nations & Department of Economic and Social Affairs 2016). As giant of Africa, Nigeria plays a major role in international migration, but surprisingly it has been ignored in most migration and development literatures, Beyond various issues of trafficking and other illegal means of leaving the country (De Haas 2008). Nigeria represents one of the more mobile countries in Africa in terms of across-the-border migration. Populations moving from Nigeria to East, West, and Southern Africa, as well as Europe and North America at large, inaugurate a famous and vibrant diaspora leaving the country with strong family ties across all globe (Augustine & Sunday 2015). As a matter of fact, Nigeria has witnessed a ‘reverse migration transition, transforming itself from a net immigration to a net emigration country over the past years (De Haas 2008), nevertheless Nigeria is also surprisingly an important destination country for migrants in the West African region. Nigeria, a country known for her rich culture and tradition as found it as a thing of pride having at least one member of an household living or working outside the country, this paints a picture of prosperity and unlimited opportunities for the rest of the household (Olajide 2014). The connotation of migration through the Central Mediterranean route is remarkable. First, the migration of young and educated workers from a region where human capital is already a scarcity will create a brain drain in an already impuissant region (Kirwin 2018). International migration across the world has been playing important roles in the economy (Darkwah & Verter 2014). In recent years, there has been a sudden increase in the inflow of remittances by migrant households in developing countries. Remittance inflows increased from US\$432 billion in 2015 to US\$516 billion in 2016 (Ajefu & Ogebe 2019). Remittances are deemed to be an important and stable source of income for households in many countries because it

is least affected by economic decline and remains a stable source of family income and they have indeed transformed the way of life in many communities (Augustine & Sunday 2015).

2. Objectives

2.1. Main Objective

Significant increase in migration from Nigeria can be traced to the post 1981 decrease in oil prices and economic downturn alongside with political repression transformed Nigeria from a net immigration to a net emigration country. According to official estimates, at least 800,000 Nigerians are believed to live abroad, but the real figure is likely to be far higher. Likewise, insurgency in the northeastern part of Nigeria leading to general insecurity has led to increased migration ([IMI 2019](#)). More than 80% of younger population migrate due to declining quality of academics and lack of job opportunities. The main objective of the thesis is to assess the reasons and causes for the mass migration of Nigerian population abroad and within the country

2.2. Specific Objectives

1. Overview of the main causes and reasons for mass migration of Nigeria citizens abroad
2. Determination of the most popular destinations of Nigerian migrants
3. Overview of the main effects of migration on children and youth

3. Methodology

The objectives of the thesis were attained from analyzing secondary data resources, including institutional sources and scientific journals such as: World Development, International Migration Institute, Comparative Migration Studies, current Africa issues, National Institute Economic Review, Population studies, Ethnic and Migration studies, Information Technology for Development, Social Science and Medicine, Human Resources, Asian and African studies, Modern African studies, Social Sciences, European Journal of population, Immigrant and Refugee studies, Population Economics, Political Geography, African Trade, Economics and Business, Political Geography, Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies: Scientific databases including , Science Direct, Web of Science, Google Scholar, and Scopus were used. Moreover, the reports and the statistical

databases such as UNDP, WB, IMF, UN, FAO, ILO, IMI were used. The sources included in literature review was written in English. All the sources have been quoted and acknowledged by means of complete references and according to Citation rules of the FTA

4. Literature Review

4.1 Information about Nigeria

4.1.1 Nigerian demography

Nigeria is a country situated in the western part of Africa with a population of over 186 million citizens (IOM 2017) with a high population growth (Clement 2018). The population density is 188.9 citizens/km² (Iheke 2016), which makes it the most populated country in Africa. More than half of Nigerian citizens lives in the urban part of the country with the estimated urbanization rate of 4.3%. Nigeria has over 250 ethnic groups speaking more than 500 dialects, the varieties of customs and tradition among them makes the country beautiful and rich in culture. The three major ethnic groups dominates the country - Yoruba's, Igbos and Hausas s (IOM 2017) . The map of Nigeria is shown in figure 1.



Figure 1: Map of Nigeria

Source: Afolayan (2009)

Nigeria is known to be a country with the largest economy in West Africa and the second largest in Sub-Saharan Africa next to South Africa (IARAN 2016). The country has great geographical dissimilation, with its topography categorized by two main forms of land: the lowlands and highlands (NPC & ICF 2019). Population has a built-in prospect for rapid growth through natural increase (Clement 2018). However, in a country such as Nigeria where migration glide have had little influence on the demographic activities in the country, we embrace the hypotheses that migration will remain comparatively constant throughout most of the projection period(IARAN 2016).

4.1.2. Nigeria economic situation

Nigeria is the eighth largest oil producer in the world, but its success has been subvert in recent years by conflict interest of ethnic and religious groups, political instability, corruption, and an indisposed economy ([SAHO 2008](#)). According to the World Bank, Nigeria's gross domestic product (GDP) increased at an average rate of 7% per year. Following the oil price collapse in 2014-2016, combined with adverse production shocks, the (GDP) growth rate reduced to 2.7% in 2015. In 2016 during its first downturn in 25 years, the economy contracted by 1.6%. Since 2015, economic growth remains stagnant. Growth averaged 1.9% in 2018 and remained stable at 2% in the first half of 2019 ([World Bank 2019](#)). Real GDP is estimated to grow by 2.3% in the end of 2019 and 2.4% in 2020 as application of the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan acquired pace. However, the glide in oil prices from late 2018 incorporated with an output cut inflicted by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries creates a snag risk to the economic outlook. Agriculture was the centerpiece of Nigeria's economy before the uncovering of oil in January 1953. Until that point, the country had depended entirely on agricultural production for food and agro-industrial raw materials for international exchange income through the commodity trade. Nigeria has numerous natural resources ranging from solid minerals (crude oil, gold, tin, iron ore, niobium, lead, zinc, lime stone, salt) to arable land with different kinds of agricultural products such as palm oil, cocoa, groundnut, beans, melon, corns, rice, among others (Kemi 2019). At the time of independence in 1960, agriculture provided profitable employment and an adequate livelihood to more than 90 percent of the population (NPC & ICF 2019). In terms of governance, Nigeria returned to the democratic system of government in 1999 after over three decades of

military autocracy. The country has experienced successful changes in government through the electoral process (Akinyemi & Isiugo-abanihe 2014). There is a current economic agenda tagged vision 20:2020 which Nigeria is become one of the top 20 world's largest economy in year 2020.

4.2. Definition of migration

Defining migration has become a controversial activity over the years, It has been defined in diverse ways by different Authors, For example Dingle and Drake defined migration as a evokes visions of “heroic” movements of whole populations over long distances (Dingle & Drake 2007). Ram defines migration as a form of geographical or spatial movement, which involves a change of usual residentiary of a person between clearly defined geographical units (Gautam 2006). Migration in a layman's language is the movement of a person from one destination to another. While UN defines who a migrant is as ‘ *any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a State away from his/her habitual place of residence, regardless of the person's legal status; whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary; what the causes for the movement are; or what the length of the stay is* ’ (UN 2020). Migration has come to play a significant role in relation to some basic social foundations such as politics, economics, geography and culture. However, movement and human uncertainty has had a phenomenal effect on literatures as well. The appearance of a new kind of writing, called literature of migration is the prove of this impact (Pourjafari 2014).

According to World Economic Forum (2017), migration can be divided into various types:

- Internal Migration: ‘ *Migration occurring within a country from crossing political boundaries, either within a state or between states, whether urban to rural, urban to urban, rural to rural, or rural to urban. This form of migration also includes movement between villages, blocks and districts* ’.
- International Migration: ‘ *Migration occurring across country boundaries* ’ Such migrants are known as immigrants and emigrants. This also includes continent-to-continent migration.

According to FAO, migration includes economic migrants, displaced persons, refugees and asylum seekers, returnees and people moving for various purposes, including family reunification (FAO 2017).

“Every act of migration involves an origin, a destination, and an intervening set of obstacles”
(Amaral 2018)

4.2.1. Migration Theories

Migration theories are categorized based on diverse perspectives. It is clear from the aforementioned that migration is too diversified and multifaceted to be described in a single theory (Rizvi *et al.* 2011). Hence, there is no one general theory of migration. It is unlikely that any one general theory could incorporate all specific experimental focus. It is useful to briefly differentiate between the sorts of explanations most often invoked. Nowadays, there is an emphasis on analyzing migration processes by involving three separate and distinct levels as shown in figure 2; the macro, meso and micro level (Massey *et al.* 2010).

At macro level, theories accentuate the basic, objective state which act as "push" and "pull" factors for migration. Pull factors would comprise of migration legislature and the labor market situation in receiving countries. Instinctive displacement would be explained through factors such as state subjugation or fear of simplified violence (Boswell 2002). The diverse results in wages causes workers to shift from low-wage, labor-surplus districts to high-wage, labor-scarce districts. Migration will cause labor to become less limited at the destination and rare at the distributing end. Capital is predicted to move in the contrary direction (De Haas 2010). Countries with a large establishment of labor relative to capital have a lower equilibrium market wage, while countries with a limited establishment of labor relative to capital are categorized by a high market wage, as illustrated graphically by the confidential interconnection of labor supply and demand curves. The developing differentiation in wages causes workers from the low-wages countries to move to the high-wage countries (Massey *et al.* 2010).

At meso-level of migration, it lies in between the decision of the two former theories, for example, family bonds, social networks, peer groups and remote minority communities (Boswell 2002). Meso theories helps to explain these differences. They reject the macro emphasis on push and pull factors, instead locating migration flows within a difficult system of linkages between states. Meso level theories perceive the migration flow as being derived from the system of linkage between states. Conditions that generate the migratory movement are the relations between two areas and not objective indicators (Olejárová 2007). There are two concepts that are mainly important for

meso theories: systems and networks. Migration is expected to occur within a migration system, i.e. a group of countries that are linked by economic, political and cultural bond as well as migration flows (Wimalaratana 2017).

At micro level, Neo-classical migration theory views migrants as individual, lucid actors, who decides to move on a cost benefit analysis basis. Supposing free choice and full retrieve to information, they are anticipated to go where they can be most productive, meaning, where they are able to earn the highest amount of wages. This ability obviously varies on the specific skills a person possesses and the specific structure of the labor markets (De Haas 2010). In this strategy, individual rational actors decide to move because a cost-benefit calculation leads them to anticipate a pragmatic net return, usually monetary, from movement. International migration is hypothesized as a form of asset inhuman capital (Massey et al. 2010). This cost-benefit evaluation relates to the individual purpose and personal characteristics such as age and gender, determining whether to move or not, while it also relates to the choice of other destinations. Apart from wage differences and employment opportunities, migration compartment also includes financial costs such as travel cost, the period of unemployment in the destination country, and emotional costs (departing from family and friends) (Gheasi & Nijkamp 2017)

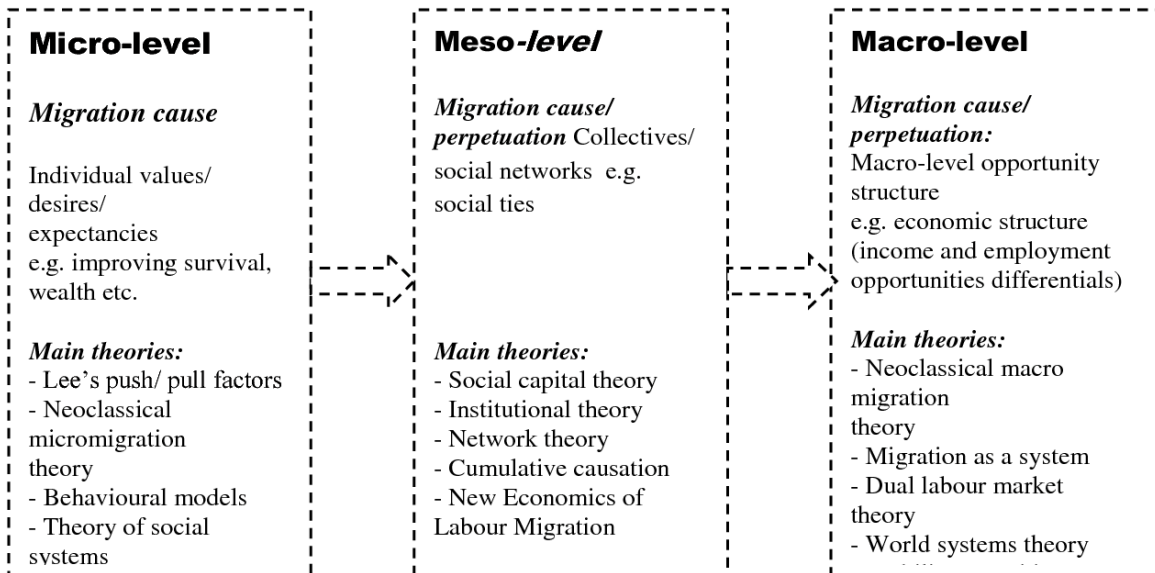


Figure 2: Migration theories

Source: (Massey et al. 2010)

4.3. History of international migration in Nigeria and reasons of migration in history

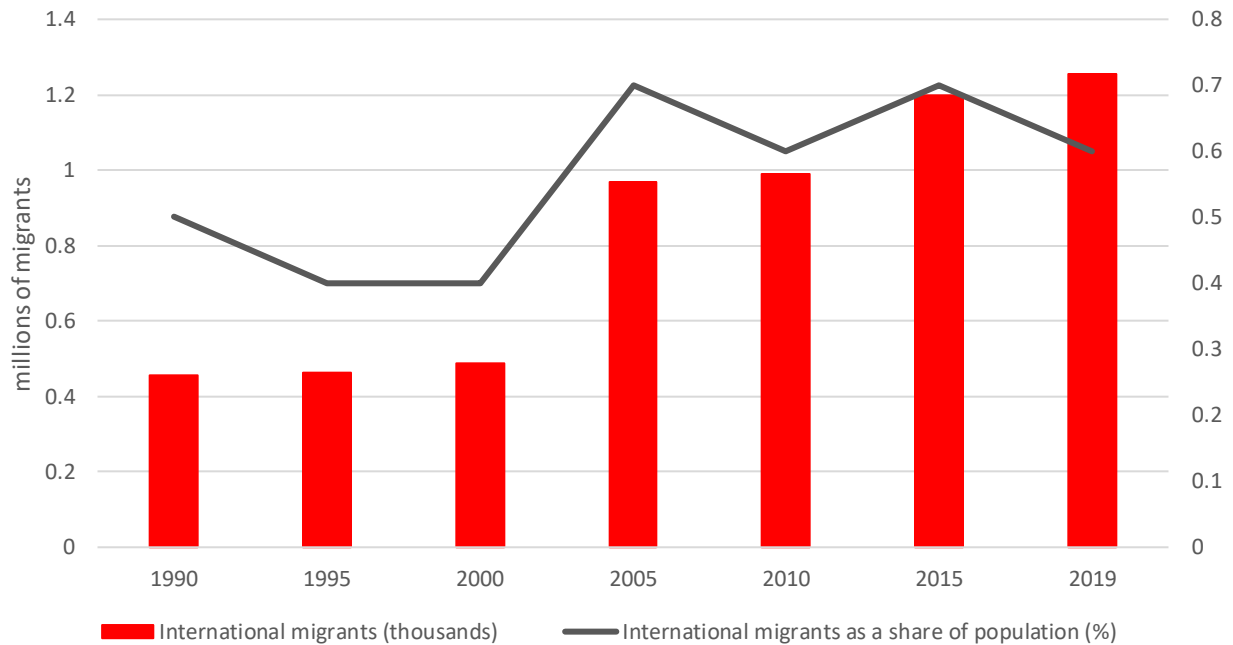
International migration all over the world has played a vital role in most economies. The model of this movement has been changing the size, structure and coherence of labor markets, culture, political situations, and people in many countries across the globe over the years (Darkwah & Verter 2014). International migration in Nigeria pre-dates the colonization of Nigeria, regardless of the limit faced in classifying the movement as either internal or international and of getting accurate data. The former problem arises from the fact that Nigeria could not have been recognized as a nation as of this era, as different ethnic groups and/or nationalities lived under different kingdoms and empires within the topographical space now referred as Nigeria (Afolayan et al, 2008). West Africa colonization changed the face of migration in the subregion completely, an era now referred to as the colonial era in the migration history of the region. The introduction of the colonialist impeded the trans-Saharan trade and seasonal mobility of the people, giving chance to slave trades, which led to the transportation estimate of 12 million Africans (significantly from West Africa) across the Atlantic to the new world and the Caribbean in the 15th century (Ikwuyatum 2012).

During the colonial era, like rural-to-urban migration, migration to and from other African countries, Nigerians have migrated to the UK, primarily to get a higher education. A considerable amount of them would stay. After independence in 1960 this numerous highly skilled migration to the UK continued, though an emerging number of Nigerians moved to the US for study, business and work (Hein, De 2006). Conflicts and forced population displacement in Nigeria and Africa generally are neither special nor confined to the 21st century development. In historical viewpoint, violent conflict and forced migration in Nigeria crossed through three distinct eras, namely, pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial eras. Each historical period is known for its own idiosyncratic causes and penalties (Adesote 2017). Since the year 1990, there have been considerable increase and in the pattern of migrant from the region to Europe and North America, from countries such as Nigeria, Senegal, and Ghana. This comprises of professionals in the areas of medical health and erratic migrants who tend to work in the informal service sector, construction and agriculture, while some are self-employed entrepreneurs (Ikwuyatum 2012).

The influx of foreign dealers with a condition for manual labor instinctively advanced to the development of local West Africans in an organized slave market. Therefore, the extrinsic demands for labor were accompanied by corruption in local culture. Numerous amounts of slave traders increased rapidly and raised their profits from selling their family members and relatives (Museckaite & Obialo 2008). The political and economic crises that deluged several countries in West Africa in the 1980s, which affected the upsurge and prototype of migration in the sub-region. The civil wars in Sierra Leon from 1991-2001, Liberia between 1989-1996 and 1999-2003, Guinea from 1999 -2000 and Cote d'Ivoire since 2002, led to the loss of over a quarter million lives and the focus of a population of over 1.1 million refugees and internally displaced persons in the sub-region. The crisis in Cote d'Ivoire really affected the model of migration in the sub-region, as hundreds of thousands of migrants from Burkinabe left the country (Ikwuyatum 2012).

4.3.1. Migration in the last two decades

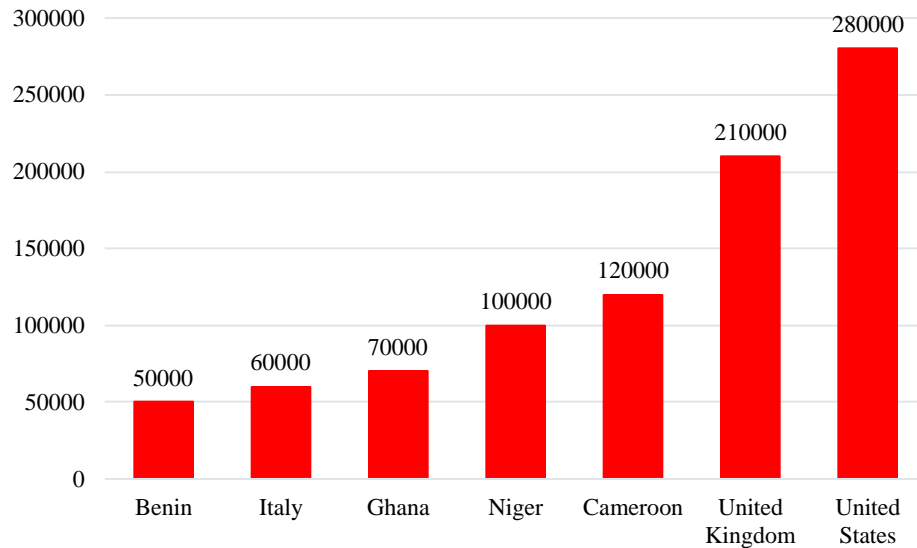
The number of emigrants in Nigeria between 1990 and 2013 has increased significantly from 465,932 to 1,030,322 with about 61.4% living in the more developed regions of the world in 2013. The proportion of emigrants from Nigerians to more developed regions increased from 33.8% to 52% and 56.7% in 2000 and 2010 respectively (Isiugo-Abanihe 2014). According to IOM “*This pattern is likely to remain the same for many years into the future, especially as populations in some developing subregions and countries are projected to increase in coming decades, placing migration pressure on future generations*”. International migrant statistics for Nigeria between 1990-2017 is shown in Graph 1. Nowadays, 1,256,400 Nigerian citizens is working abroad (UN DESA 2020).



Graph 1 International migrant statistics for Nigeria (1990-2017)

Source: UN DESA (2019)

The majority of Nigerian citizens is working in USA, UK, Cameroon, Niger, Ghana, Italy and Benin as shown in Graph 2 (Nevin & Omosomi 2019). Nigerian migrants from Nigeria all over the world do so for various reason, some mentioned in this study. Majorly employment seems to be the major reason for migration, about 10.7% of highly skilled professionals trained in Nigeria worked abroad as of 2000, USA and Europe having the largest share (Isiugo-Abanihe 2014). Nigerians migrating for study purposes keeps increasing, majority of Nigerian health professionals live and work abroad. 4,856 or 13.6% of Nigerian physicians works outside the country, nearly 90% live and worked in the USA and UK. Estimated number of 12,579 or 11.7% of professional nurses trained in Nigeria lived and worked abroad (Darkwah & Verter 2014).



Graph 2: Top country destinations for Nigerian emigrants in 2017

Sources: Nevin & Omosomi (2019)

4.3.2. Remittances

Migration, economic growth and development are interwoven in various ways. Migration has contributed to poverty reduction, national security, political stability and a reduction in unemployment in many sending countries like Nigeria (GCIM 2005). Cross-border migration generates significant economic gains for the migrants in the first place, and then for both the sending and receiving countries (Darkwah & Verter 2014).

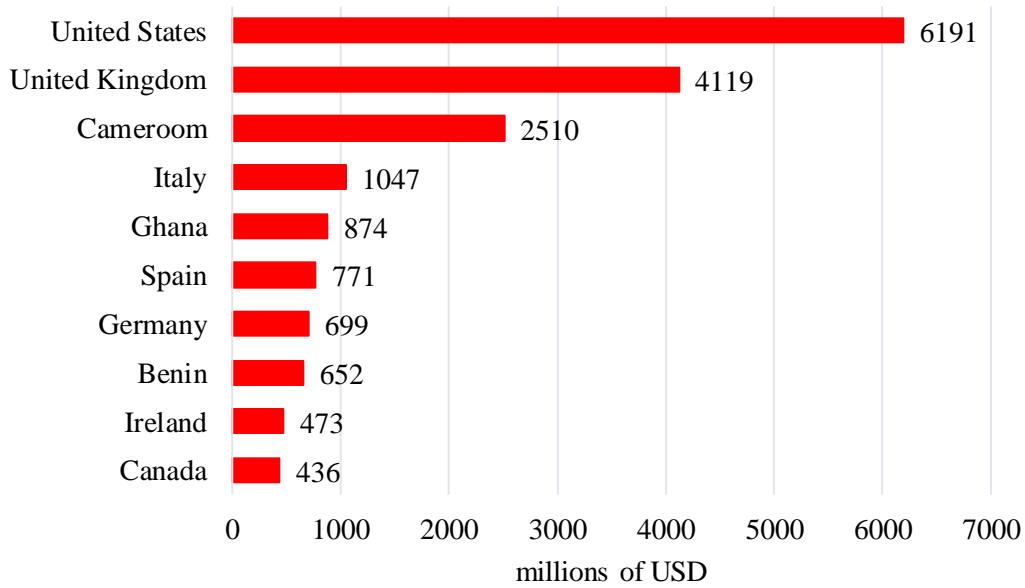
Currently millions of dollars are being remitted annually to countries of origin by West African immigrants in USA, Canada and Western European countries such as the UK, Spain, Italy, France, Belgium, Portugal. In the sub-Saharan Africa, remittance from Nigerians abroad is the highest. Nigerian is ranked by World Bank as the fifth highest remittance receiving nation (Table 1), nearly 65% of officially recorded remittance flows to the region (Isiugo-Abanihe 2014).

Table 1: Top Countries Receiving Remittances in the World (2005 – 2015)

2005	USD Billion	2010	USD Billion	2015	USD Billion
China	23.63	India	53.48	India	68.91
Mexico	22.74	China	52.48	China	63.94
India	22.13	Mexico	22.08	Philippines	28.48
Nigeria	14.64	Philippines	20.56	Mexico	26.23
France	14.21	France	19.90	France	23.35
Philippines	13.73	Nigeria	19.75	Nigeria	18.96
Belgium	6.89	Germany	12.79	Pakistan	19.85
Germany	6.87	Egypt	12.45	Egypt	16.58
Spain	6.66	Bangladesh	10.85	Bangladesh	15.38
Poland	6.47	Belgium	10.35	Germany	15.36

Source: Ayuba (2019)

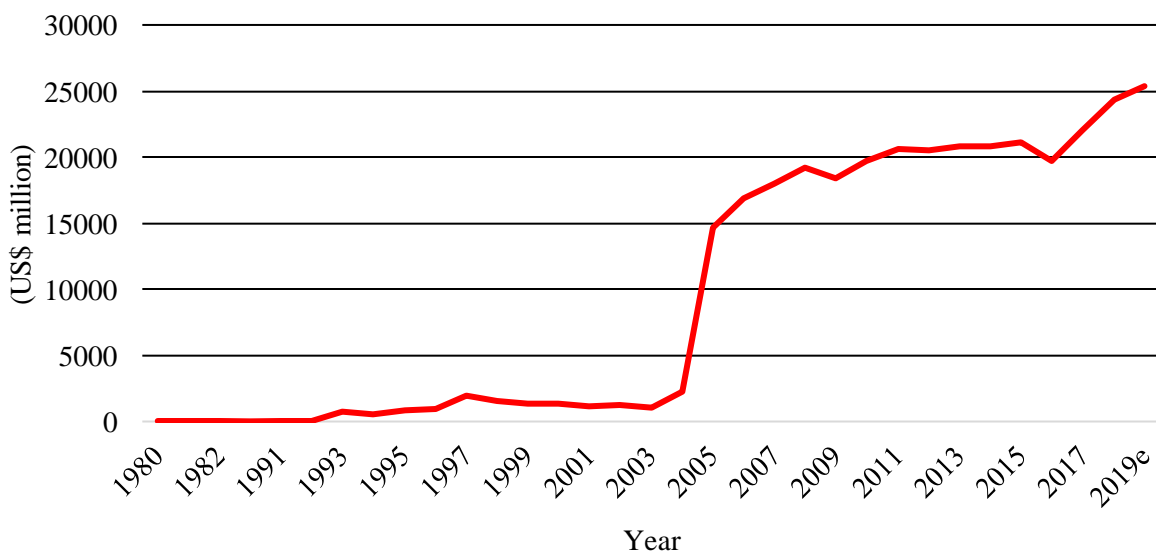
From the table above, it is illustrated that Nigeria received remittances of 14.64, 19.75 and 18.96 billion US dollars (USD) in 2005, 2010 and 2015 respectively. The table also shows that Nigeria ranked fourth place in the world in terms of remittance receipt in the year 2005 but by 2010 and 2015 Nigeria was overhauled by other countries which makes it the sixth in the world. However, despite the drop in the ranking the remittances received have increased by about 4 billion USD (Ayuba 2019). A study by (Darkwah & Verter 2014) shows that the Nigerian emigration is positively associated with international migrants (workers) remittances to Nigeria. Statistically significance at 0.01 level suggests that a 1% increase in migrants' remittances will influence or pull Nigerians to move to other countries by 0.05% for economic benefits. Remittance inflows to Nigeria by top 10 sending countries are shown in Graph 3.



Graph 3: Remittance inflows to Nigeria by sending countries in 2017 (USD millions)

Sources: Nevin & Omosomi (2019)

The Graph 4 below, explains the flow in the remittance since 1980 to 2019, and this proves that the remittances has increased from till now and has improved the economy by influencing the status of each household this remittance are been sent to.



Graph 4 Remittances inflows

Source: [World Bank \(2019\)](#).

4.4. The main reasons of Nigerians migration to abroad

Various studies on international migration have proved that economic features play a very vital role in a person's decision to migrate to another country. The precolonial era in Nigeria, transborder migration was specifically involuntary because many people were migrated forcefully due to slave trade. During this era, many citizens from various developing countries were also unwillingly migrated to the western world especially to the Americans. In this new Era, globalization has made migration inevitable (Darkwah & Verter 2014)

Political reasons

The political history of Nigeria is pointed with episodes of social conflicts. From ethnic, sub-ethnic, religious to political conflicts, every geopolitical zone of the country has one or more troubled spots. These conflicts are as an outcome of so many basic problems. precisely, the interaction of economic disparity, political prejudice, ethnic bigotry, religious narrowmindedness, and the class of the World's economy, may be view as being accountable for these conflicts. It is however relevant to state that many of the prolonged conflicts in present day Nigeria have their backgrounds in the pre-colonial and colonial histories of the country (Akanji 2012). Nevertheless, the 3rd and final quarter of the 20th century, the post-independence period witnessed sensitive labor migration from different parts of the country to the administrative and economic of the country and to more diverse destinations than ever before. This influenced the sequence of migration, as varying political economy of Nigeria, in patterns of civil war, reconstruction, the growth of natural resources and founding of main administrative centers contrived migration decisions of people. For instance, various government policies led to an uneven development, of creation of more employment openings and provision of basic amenities, infrastructure and facilities in urban areas than in the rural areas. Therefore, opportunities for employment were outside the people's initial productive pursuit, of agriculture (Ikwuyatum 2012).

According to William (2015)' 'Insecurity is the state of being subject to danger or injury''. There is an extreme increase in violence, terrorism and many more, in Nigeria today. Unruly set of people are raising the tempo of their campaign in various parts of the country. We are aware of series of attacks such as, shooting and killings, kidnappings, armed robbery, bombing and many more. All

these occurs in every part of the country (Williams 2015). One of these unruly group of people are called The Boko Haram; this group are sect who believed that they are dedicated to an Islamic jihad teaching a Prophet called Muhammed. Some researchers even considered Boko Haram as an extension of the Maitatsine riots of the 1980s and the religious tensions which followed in the late 1990s (Adenrele 2012). Before 2009, Boko haram did not aim to coup the government in a violent manner, but its leader frequently censured the northern Nigerian Muslims for involving in what he perceived as an illicit, non-Islamic state and advised a doctrine of withdrawal. The group surprisingly acquired many followers specially when its leaders continually spoke against police cruelty and corruption with harsh treatment from the government. The sect revolution actually increased to a peak in July 2009 when there was a reported widespread police and military oppression of Boko Haram's rejection to follow motor-bike helmet law in some northern states of Nigeria (Adenrele 2012). Another aspect of insecurity is accident, it is a horrible incident that happens randomly, sometimes indeliberate and causes major injuries or even death. The current global epidemiological statistics shows that Nigeria is one out of the 5 countries in the world with the highest number of mortalities per accident rate.

Saying corruption is rampant in Nigeria is to undermine the obvious. Corruption in Nigeria, as it currently displays, should more suitably be termed systemic. There is little uncertainty that globalization has built dissimilarities and inequities resulting in the movement of the poor to the rich countries of the world. In connection with this, came the commercialization of humanity, which is like modern day slavery. In previous times, slavery and slave trade existed in different forms: people became war captives, offenders were punished with enslavement, and in few cases individuals in needy circumstances sold their family members. Yet, in whatever form it took, it was immediately realized by most people that the practice was the vilest of offense against humanity. One would have assumed that, with the vast improvements in the knowledge of human nature and the background, any form of abuse that looks like slavery would be loathed automatically (Agbu 2003).

Socio-economic reasons

Unemployment is a major problem distressing the lives of Nigerian youth causing exasperation, depression and reliance on family members and friends, who also have their own

problems to attend to. The high level of unemployment among the youths in Nigeria has increased the level of poverty and insecurity in the country. Unemployment is a worldwide economic situation, causing poverty and lack among the people (Ajufo 2013). Unemployment has also contributed to the reasons why the youth migrate out of the country. Youth unemployment has various security implications for almost every country in Africa, since Distress often leads young persons to fall victim to warlords, criminal gangs, or illegal migration syndicates (Emeh 2012). Beyond unemployment, the government has also failed to provide basic amenities such as electricity, security, good roads, and health care services which has become motivating factors for emigration, especially among the middle class (Isbell & Ojewale 2018). In 2010, unemployment amidst youth in the 15–24 years old age group was 39.9 per cent while among the youth in the age 25–34 years old group, 23.3 per cent were unemployed (Isiugo-Abanihe 2014).

In the past decades, poverty has always been related to income, which remains at the essence of the notion today. Nevertheless, income itself is no less difficult a concept than poverty. Many more resources such as assets, income in kind and grants to public services and employment should be credited to arrive at a inclusive but accurate measure of income (Ehrenpreis 2006). Poverty is a multi-faceted prodigy. World Bank summarizes the different dimensions as a lack of opportunity, lack of empowerment and a lack of security (WB 2000). The doors of opportunities remain closed to the less privileged masses, and this makes them realistically inactive in the society. Their lack of liberation limits their ability to choose in almost everything and their insecurity makes them

According to the NBS report, the percentage of people living in “*absolute poverty*” in Nigeria increased from 54% in 2004 to 60.9 per cent in 2010. Poverty rates differ in diverse parts and regions of the country. The report shows that the north-western and north-eastern geopolitical zones of the country encountered the highest rates of poverty of about 77.7 % and 76.3 %, singly, as the south-western geopolitical area had the lowest rate of poverty (NBS 2012).

Environmental reasons

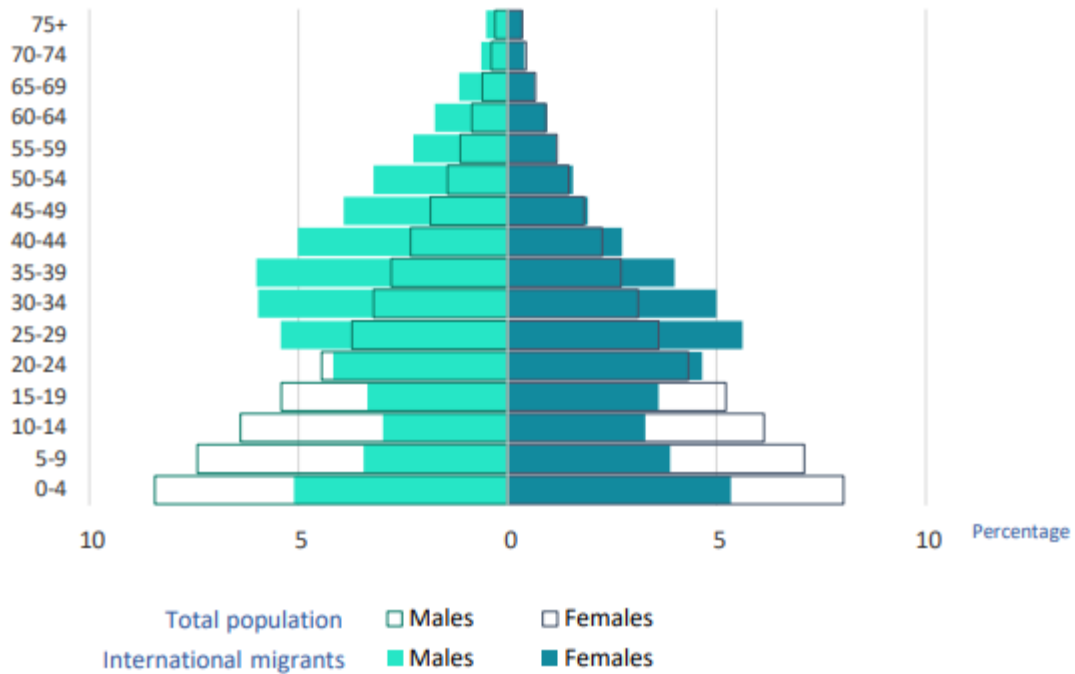
In the subfield of environmental migration, there is a developing consensus that the broader context in which environmental change occurs is fundamental in deciding the extent to which and ways in which environmental change itself may cause migration or other forms of alteration.

Erosion and flooding are two main destructive environmental hazards in Nigeria during every raining season. They are made more critical by climate change causing rise in sea level and leaking of coastlines (Adekola 2016). The oil spillage in Niger delta is another environmental hazard that led to migration. Oil and environmental hazards are rooted in the insufficient social relations of production and distribution of profits from oil, and its adverse influence on the frail ecosystem of the Niger Delta. It involves the Nigerian state and oil companies on one side and about six million people of the projected eight hundred oil manufacturing communities focused in the seventy thousand square kilometers, on the other (Okwechime 2013). The contrary effects of oil exploration on human health result from the direct contact of the inhabitants to hazardous pollutions which are burned during the oil production process and this can be in the form of unfinished ignition of gas flares, and the absorption of heavy metals from oil spillage through drinking water (Binuomoyo & Ogunsola 2017)

4.4.1 Profile of international migrants

The Graph 5 shows the age and sex distribution of international migrants in Nigeria in 2019 and illustrates the number of international migrants in a particular age group divided by the total number of international migrants. Based on the recent statistics 31% of all migrants are children and youth between 0-19 years, 65% of migrants is 20-64 years old and 4% are older than 65 years ([UN DESA 2019](#))

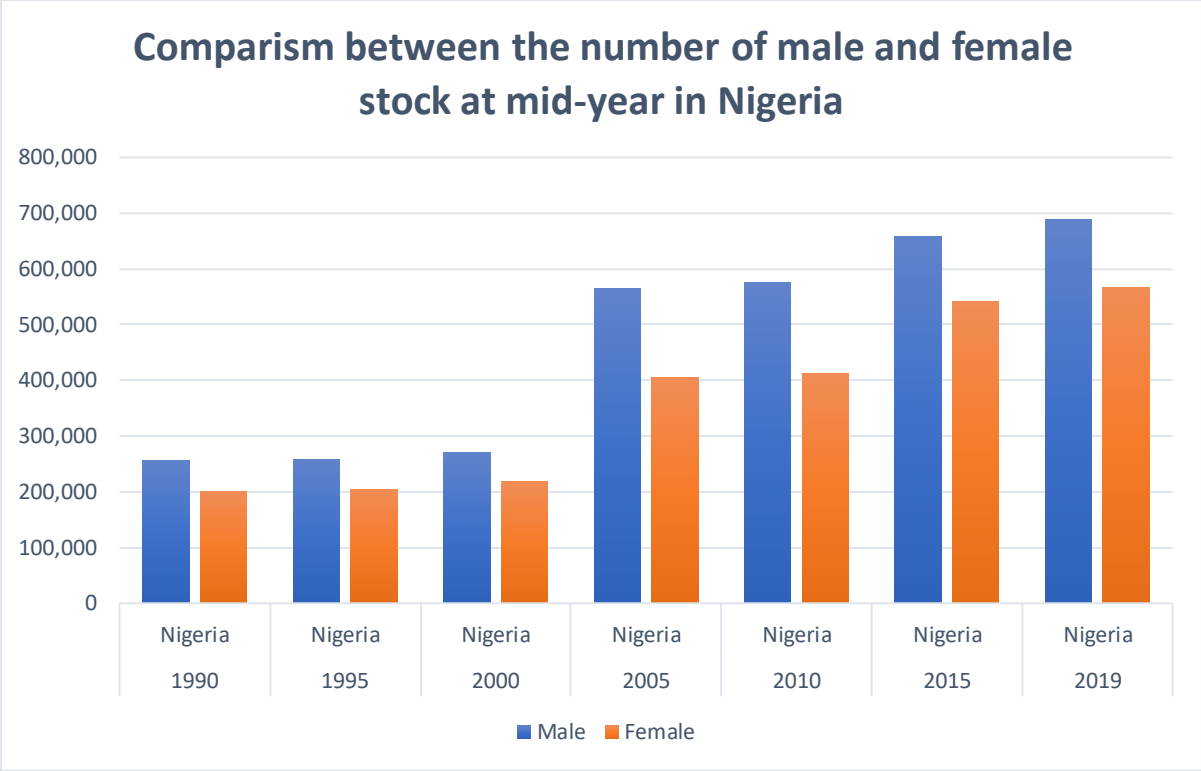
Age and sex distribution of international migrants and of the total population in Nigeria, 2019 (percentage)



Graph 5 Age and sex distribution of international migrants and of the total population in Nigeria in 2019 (%)

Source:([UN DESA 2019](#))

Graph 6 illustrates that more females migrates than the male in Nigeria with a percentage of 45.1% compared to the sub-Saharan Africa and the World. Data also shows the number of migrant women and girls divided by the total number of international migrants.



Graph 6 Comparison between the number of male and female stock in mid-year in Nigeria

Source: ([UN DESA 2019](#))

4.5. Effect of migration on children and youth in African

Occasionally, for months, young African men and women put to risk everything, including their lives, to take on the dangerous trip across dozens of borders and the treacherous waves of the Mediterranean Sea in pursue of a better life in the western world. Many dies along the way, some turned back and some who finish the journey realize that life may not be easier across the border. But with few jobs and indistinct prospects at home, millions of youths and young adults in Africa still choose to migrate, often surreptitiously ([Mutume 2006](#))

Over the past few years, discussions on migration in Europe have become ever gloomier, closely focusing on how to stop African migration towards the European Union. Specifically, in the heated media arguments on illegal migrants, the discussion basically focuses on the so-called enormous exodus from Africa to Europe (Kaag *et al.* 2019)

In terms of child labour, little or no attention has been given to children in the international debate on migration, children and young people are big investors. One third of boys and girls in West and Central Africa do manual labor, many in dangerous and hazardous conditions. Statistics according to UNICEF and ILO shows, there has been little decrease in the overall percentage of children who work. Attempts to reduce child labor have had varied success, partly because programs and policies were not suitably based on the realisms of the lives of children and their families, partly because of a lack of proof of effectual interference. Based on a better knowledge of the difficulties of motivations and choices made by children and their families, child labor programs supported by UNICEF are developing more effective approaches ([UNICEF 2019](#)). The effect on child labor varies, in part, on the ability configuration of migrants and on adult reaction to wage differences. Understanding these effects aid to create policies that can enable developing countries to escape the vicious cycle of poverty resulting from underinvestment in education, an under-skilled labor force, and child labor (Mendola 2016)

Education has become a factor for foreign migration at university level. People especially from Africa move to go to university abroad. For a lot of youths, there are universities available in their home countries. However, some of the youths in developing countries often consider universities to provide a low-quality education that will not propel them into good careers in future. For some youth they believe the ‘right education’ can only be obtained abroad. The expectation of studying in a developed country has become a key part of some societies and indicates a transition to

adulthood along with good qualifications. The idea of international migration structures educational choices, such as what kind language to study, and which courses to take, in order to motivate later migration (Browne 2017). In spite of the progress made in the past few decades, there are still over 6 million 46 primary school-age children out-of-school in West Africa, due to multiple reasons: incompetent and deficient supply of schools, unnecessary and poor quality of teaching and learning, and high rate of financial constraints to respond to the high social request for education mixed with the rapid growth of school population. According to Nonnenmacher & Yonemura (2018), primary net enrolment rate ranges from 99% in Sierra Leone to 38% in Liberia; other countries still have a big challenge in reaching universal primary education are Burkina Faso (69%), Guinea-Bissau (68%), Mali (56%), Niger (62%) and Nigeria (64%). The contribution in secondary education and above remains very low. In most of the countries in the region (except for Cabo Verde and Ghana), more than half of the young youth are not in secondary school. Only a percentage of students go to upper secondary school in Guinea-Bissau. Tertiary gross enrolment rate (GER) ranges from 22% in Cabo Verde to 2% in Niger and Sierra Leone. Another trait of this region is that gender inequality is very high. For instance, in Niger, only 16% of girls contribute in lower secondary school as faced to 23% of boys, and only 3% of girls contribute in the upper secondary level contrasted to 6% of boys (Nonnenmacher & Yonemura 2018)

Access to health care still signifies a challenge among local populations in the WHO African region. While Africa has seen a quick development in coverage of major health services, such as provision of insecticide-treated bed nets for children, antenatal care and skilled birth attendance, inequality remain among and within countries and reporting gaps remain huge for many critical services. The region is experiencing challenges to reach the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) fundamental health services objective of 80 percent population coverage. Migrants may not have full access or benefit from their host countries healthcare system compared to other population. Even in countries where the legislation clearly confirms a range of rights irrespective of legal status, including access to free essential healthcare, these rights are not always withstood. Research shows the problems migrant face due to language barrier, documentation and negative attitude of health care providers (WHO 2018). Another aspect is the health workers who migrate from Africa due to poor promotion potentials, inadequate management support, heavy workloads, limited access to good technology and even to medicines have all been frequently cited as ‘push factors’ motivating health workers to leave their country of origin (Connell et al. 2007)

4.6. Effect of migration on children and youth in Nigeria.

Child labor refers employment of children below 18 years in work or engaged on regular basis with the aim of earning a livelihood for themselves and family. The influence of child labor is massive, nevertheless, despite the hazards connected with child labor, yet this workforce is withstood and fortified in many agrarian societies as suitable measure for training of the child in order to grow up as hardworking and productive member of the society (Ifeanyichukwu et al. 2016). The number of child labor is multiplying in Nigeria, in 1995, the total number of child labor was twelve million while by 2006 which is 11 years after, the number of child labor under the age fourteen has risen to fifteen million. The International Labor Organization quotes that about 25% of Nigeria's 80 million children under the age of fourteen are engaged in child labor and as of now 43% of Nigerian children are said to be to trap into child labor. Children are working in different fields such as farms, domestic help, fishing, mining, armed conflict, street hawking, and child trafficking. The number of child labor engaged in street hawking is a very popular form of child labor in Nigerian major cities, these children working from morning to evening and as a result of this, they do not have the time to go to school or most of them end up dropping out of school. Assumptions has it that many child laborers in Nigeria may have abused physically, mentally, sexually and psychologically. They work long hours under dangerous and hazardous circumstances with little or no paid benefits (Osment 2014). Child trafficking which is related to child labor is a worldwide prodigy. Though there are no accurate data on the number of children being trafficked out of Africa, over a million children are being illegally moved out the continent on a yearly basis, and of this number several hundred are from West Africa alone. The root causes of trafficking are diverse and often interconnected. These include poor governance, conflict or lack of effectual protection against discrimination and poverty. The trafficking of children for the aim of domestic service, prostitution and other types of abusive labor is a widespread prodigy in Nigeria. In view of the covert nature of trafficking, adequate and reliable figures are hard to get (Adesina 2014)

Nigeria is one of the countries with the largest stocks of human resources for health (HRH) in Africa but, like the other 57 HRH crisis countries, has intensities of nurses, midwives and doctors

that are still too low to efficiently deliver adequate health services (1.95 per 1,000). In last few years, migration to foreign countries has reduced and the primary problem for Nigeria is inadequate production and unbalanced distribution of health workers ([WHO 2020](#)). In the case of Nigeria, the medical brain drain suggests a great challenge for public health care systems. It broadens the health care debt from educating and training young medical professionals in the country who ends up leaving the country. Nigeria loses up to tens of millions of dollars per year from training doctors who migrate abroad. However, the scarcity of medical professionals contributes to uneven access to health care within and between countries as well as poorer population health outcomes. Globally Nigeria ranks one of the worst countries regarding maternal health outcomes. Although it only signifies 2% of the global population, it unduly contributes to nearly 10% of global maternal deaths. Due to its high rate of maternal mortality ratio, Nigeria also ranks as a leading contributor to all maternal death numbers in Sub-Saharan Africa in spite of its comparatively high gross domestic product (Imafidon 2018). The main factors backing this challenges have been recognized and these includes, insufficient resources and abandoned health systems, Poor human resources planning and management structures, poor working conditions characterized by: heavy workloads; lack of professional autonomy, poor supervision, long working hours; unsafe workplaces, inadequate career structures; poor remuneration/unfair pay, poor access to needed supplies, tools and information; and no access to professional development opportunities, internal and international migration of health workers and many more (Uneke *et al.* 2012)

In Nigeria, the National Youth Policy definition of youth is any individual between the ages of 15 and 29. In spite of this, the country's national youth service sets an upper age limit of 30 for any form of youth participation. The education and liberation of youths are at the essential of social development. Young people do not only reflect the realisms of a society, but they also represent the future. If well raised, society benefits, but if abandoned and malnourished, the results are always damning. Nigeria has a dominates population of youths which continues to drive the country's exponential protrude projected at 400 million by 2050 – by then, Nigeria will be the third most populous country worldwide. Education, both informal and formal, is key to defining the present and future risk of the country. Since the first stage of socialization and knowledge a child

acquires is the family, parents and guardians must build a strong foundation for morals and values, character and dignity, important of learning and growing. Where the family does not take responsibility, the state cannot successfully take responsibilities and vice versa ([Okoli 2019](#)). The number of young people with secondary education, comprising graduate yield at the postgraduate diploma and bachelor's degree levels, and at the master's degree and PhD levels, is not only poor, but declining, with total figures of 90,579, 69,300 and 39,506 in 2002,2003, 2004 and 2005, respectively. The number of Nigerian students who chose to study abroad has drastically increased in recent years, with many of these students becoming permanent residents. According to census-based data in receiving countries, a considerable amount of the highly skilled persons who were trained in Nigeria work abroad due to the efficiency of their home country (Afolayan 2009).

5. Conclusion

Nigeria has experienced a lot of setback since her independence, this set back including the movement of people, Nigerians are spread across the globe all over the world. There is certainly nothing wrong with migrating especially when you want to experience a change of environment, but in Nigeria, mostly this is not the case. The push and pull factors affecting migration can be traced down to it political instability. Nigeria reasons for migrating includes poverty, unemployment, corruption, insecurity and many more. Due to globalisation, Nigerians do not only migrate to Europe, USA and other continents but they migrate also to the most African counties. The most popular destination of most Nigerians are the United Kingdom and the United states with about 184,000 and 252,000 migrants respectively as at 2015. The rate in which Nigerians migrants over the years has increased by about 62%.

Remittances are playing a major role in the economy of Nigeria through the upgrade of the household receiving the remittance. Remittance helps in the alleviation of poverty among the family members of migrants and helps to develop the country, migrants do not only contribute by sending money and other stuff home, but they also help in sharing knowledge they have acquired in the abroad when they return back home, this knowledge can be in various forms, agriculture techniques, medical advice , knowledge of software and many more.

Child labour in Nigeria has become a common practice among households in the rural part of the country due to lack of access to basic facilities like the educational sector, poverty has also become major factor for child labour, as if an household is unable to sponsor a child to school due to lack of money, the child is left with no choice but to either hawk or work on the family's farmland or transported to other countries to engage in illegal activities. All these factors are influenced by the inability of the government to provide the basic amenities needed for children, youths and adults to function properly or partake in various roles in the country which leaves them sometimes we no choice but migrating from the country.

The health sector is a very important part of the country and this sector has been neglected with no choice but to seek greener pastures which leads to the brain drain whereby the of highly trained or qualified medical personnel emigrates from the country, aside the fact that trained people leave the country , people die on a daily basis in Nigeria due to lack of good health care facilities, poor

power supply and many more. Most times people do not have the necessary finance to travel legally and this caused them to take illegal route just to migrate from the country because they believe the process does not really matter but the gain and opportunity which awaits them overseas is far better than the prospect of their home country, this is why there are more refugees in most countries than legal migrants.

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