

Assessment of Intra-Urban Migration Pattern in Maiduguri During the Period of Insurgency

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Abstract: This research entitled “assessment of intra-urban migration pattern in Maiduguri during the period of insurgency” covers the period between 2009-2015 and explores new issues in understanding the nature, trend, pattern and effects of intra-urban migration on both the migrants and their destinations. Purposive sampling method was used to explore individual migrants from six selected wards of Gomari air port, Ngomari Costain, Bolori, Mashamari, Maisandari I and Mairi wards. A total of 300 copies of the questionnaire were administered to migrant household heads, 50 copies in each ward. These migrant residents were identified through the ward heads. In addition to this, each of the ward head was also interviewed. Data collected was analyzed using simple descriptive statistics and presented in graphs. Results revealed that the major course of this migration is conflict and insecurity as a result of an extremist Islamic sect popularly called Boko haram as shown by more than 80% of the respondents in almost all the selected wards. Results also revealed that the pattern of migration is non-uniform as people move irrespective of their income or social status. Many people have lost their relatives and loved ones including their homes and businesses or sources of livelihood. There is also a profound effect on the receiving areas (the destination), which include overcrowding and its attendant consequences; construction of illegal and substandard houses which changed the physical appearance of the city; over stretching of utilities, facilities and services such as water, medical facilities, schools etc, the creation of slum and diseases outbreak have also been witnessed.

Keywords: Human Mobility, Migration patterns, Urban dynamics,

INTRODUCTION

Intra-urban migration refers to movement or change of residence of people within an urban area. This is the most common form of migration. For example, people moving from a house in an urban area to an apartment within the same town. The reason for this movement is to improve life style or to move to a more secure and desirable or convenient zones etc.

A group of people may migrate in response to the lure of a more favourable region or because of some adverse condition or combination of conditions in the home environment (Ramana, 1991). The specific stimuli for migrations may be either man made or natural causes. Among the man made causes are; armed conflicts, general insecurity or fear of unknown, lack of job opportunity, change in economic or social status, while natural causes are changes in climate, stimulating a search for warmer or colder lands; volcanic eruptions or floods that render sizable areas uninhabitable; and periodic fluctuations in rainfall (UNDP, 2004).

In the past two decades, factors that affects residential mobility in Nigeria has gone beyond issues related to income or generally economic factors that may inhibit the choice of any residence in a particular location in Nigerian towns. This is because of a steady growth of sectarian locations since the time of the religious conflicts in Kano, the Maitatsine sect riots were the worst political and religious uprising between 1980 and 1983 (Ukiwo, 2003), Yola, Maiduguri, Jos and other towns in Nigeria, has shaped specific choices for residential mobility even in the same city some suburbs are crisis prone and other lesser when compared (Clarke, 1988). Most recent bug in Nigeria is the crisis related to a religious sect, popularly known as Boko Haram; probably an upshot from the Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, this sect have inflicted sufferings to mostly the Northern regions of Nigeria, (Salifu, 2012).

Current trends of this crisis has dictated residential mobility from specific areas of a town or wards that are 'religiously conducive' to either the same religious interests or complete relocation to other towns. For instance states in the North Central geopolitical zone of Nigeria, Jos and Kaduna are a case in point. In Kaduna for instance, Muslims or Christians seldom live in the same environment, except in government housing schemes. In Jos the scenario is the same. Over the years these trends have dictated the choice of residential location. There is however other factors which seem to be secondary, the heterogeneous nature of the Nigerian society defining cultural and special locations, places curved out for rich Nigerians or government reserve areas.

In most Nigerian towns there are cumulative effects of mobility factors on a neighborhood setting, emphasizing the complexities involved in the residential mobility process and its repercussions on some wards or settlements. These have impacts on the environmental quality and circumstances or conditions that surround one especially the locations in which people live or work. Residential mobility may initiate changes in households' social and demographic characteristics or in response to transformation in factors that are related to the location of residence (Dieleman, 2001).

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Intra-urban migration affect cities in many ways such as changes in demography, cultural structure, economic structure, social structure as well as people's psychology. The recent uprising as a result of insurgency in north eastern Nigeria and Maiduguri in particular has created large scale displacement of people within the city which could be simply referred to as a large-scale intra-urban migration and at the same time a forced migration. The consequences of this kind of intra-urban migration include change in population density and its attendant problems, Pollution, traffic congestion, overcrowding, spread of diseases and famine may occur and increases crime rate. And also environmental problems which may modify the physical appearance of the city could happen when some migrants have to shelter themselves with their limited resources which could in turn lead to the creation of unhealthy/illegal houses and slums in and around the city. Therefore, there is the need to assess the pattern and implications of intra-urban migration in Maiduguri in recent past.

According to Sassen, (1988). among the distinct effects of migration are the stimulation of further migration through the displacement of other peoples; a reduction in the numbers of the migrating group because of hardship and warfare; changes in physical characteristics through intermarriage with the groups encountered; changes in cultural characteristics by adoption of the cultural patterns of peoples encountered; and linguistic changes, also effected by cultural adoption.

1.3 Aim and Objectives of the Study

The aim of this study is to examine the pattern of intra-urban migration within Maiduguri Metropolis and the objectives of the study are to:

- i. Examine the socio-economic characteristic of the migrants;
- ii. Identify the factors responsible for this migration;
- iii. Examine the direction of the migration; and
- iv. Identify the effects of these migrants on the affected areas.

1.4 Research Questions

- What are the socio-economic characteristic of the migrants?
- What are the factors responsible for this intra-urban migration?
- Where is the direction of migration?
- What are the effects of these migrants on the affected areas?

1.5 Scope of the Study

This research work covers the aspect of change of residence of people within the city of Maiduguri, particularly during the insurgency period between 2009-2015 and does not cover the internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the immigrants from the affected local government areas. It's therefore, restricted to people who were living in the city prior to the insurgency.

CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATIONS

Intra-Urban Migration

Intra-urban migration is one of many kinds of migration, defined in large part by movement within an area such that commuting to the same employment is still possible (Quigley and Weinberg 1977; Clark 1986). Even with this straightforward definition, variation of who moves and where they move creates many different classes of intra-urban migration. Nevertheless, all of them share basic characteristics that contribute to general theories of intra-urban migration.

Intra-urban migration is local relocation or movement that allows continued commuting (Simmons 1968; Brown and Moore 1970; Clark 1986). Given that the commuting linkage is a major standard for including a county or census tract within a metropolitan statistical area in census data, intra urban migration can be roughly seen as residential relocation within a metropolitan area, i.e., intra-metropolitan moves.

Residential mobility, or mobility, is more ambiguous. Sometimes it means only moves within jurisdictional boundaries, i.e., the opposite of migration, and sometimes it denotes all moves either across or within these boundaries. Additionally, in-migration and out-migration are moves in and out of a particular jurisdiction or area; gross migration and net migration are calculated as the sum of and the difference between in-migration and out-migration.

Classes of Intra-Urban Migration

In any given metropolitan area, population migration can be classified by the origin and destination of moves. Intra-urban migration can be classified according to the location and tenure type of the involved dwellings. In terms of the origin, people can move from outside the targeted metropolitan area, from rented dwellings, from houses owned by family members, or from dwellings they owned before but have been demolished or are now occupied by others. Similarly, at the destination, people can move outside this

metropolitan area, to rented houses, to live with family members, to their own new houses, or to existing houses left by other households.

Although the definition of intra-urban migration excludes relocations whose origins or destinations are outside a targeted metropolitan area, these excluded relocations are necessary to the study of intra-urban migration. Households that move out of the metropolitan area create vacancies that can be occupied by others in the metro; at the same time, those new to the metro will fill the vacancies left by others or created by new construction. Additionally, renting is an important component of housing search and migration.

Causes of Migration

- Poor living conditions generate the urge to migrate
- The population grows while economic development stagnates
- Violence and the abuse of power force people to flee

Laws of migration

Certain laws of social science have been proposed to describe human migration. According to (Jennissen, 2007) the following was a standard list after Ravenstein's proposal in the 1880s. The laws are as follows:

1. Every migration flow generates a return or counter-migration.
2. The majority of migrants move a short distance.
3. Migrants who move longer distances tend to choose big-city destinations.
4. Urban residents are often less migratory than inhabitants of rural areas.
5. Families are less likely to make international moves than young adults.
6. Most migrants are adults.
7. Large towns grow by migration rather than natural increase.

According to (Bauder, 2006). Lee's law divides factors causing migrations into two groups: push and pull factors. Push factors are things that are unfavorable about the area that one lives in. These include, not enough jobs, few opportunities, inadequate living conditions, desertification, famine or drought, political fear or persecution, slavery or forced labour, poor medical care, loss of wealth, natural disasters, death threats, desire for more political or religious freedom, pollution, poor housing, landlord/tenant issues, bullying, discrimination, poor chances of marrying, war, etc while pull factors are things that attract one to another area as job opportunities, better living conditions, the feeling of having more political and/or religious freedom, enjoyment, education, better medical care, attractive climates, security, family links, industry, better chances of marrying etc (Jennissen, 2007).

Effects of migration

Migration can have positive and negative effects on the home and the receiving communities. Below are two tables explaining the positive and negative effects for both the community losing migrants, and the community gaining immigrants.

For the community losing people, there are a lot of advantages and disadvantages. The advantages include; Fewer people to be fed and housed, Reduces pressure on jobs and resources, More income (money) is sent home while its disadvantages are loss of young and most able, loss of working age people, loss of those most likely to have education and skills, Division of families, Elderly population remains, so there's a higher death rate.

For the community gaining people, the advantages include cheap labour, helps overcome labour shortages, immigrants are often prepared to do unskilled jobs, some immigrants are highly skilled and Cultural diversity while its disadvantages are pressure on housing and services, language problems, racial / ethnic tensions, jobs lost to incoming workers, Loss of those most likely to have education and skills, Immigrants tend to place strain on the health service, and they tend to live in low quality housing.

Socio-economic consequences of migration

Among the distinct effects of migration are the stimulation of further migration through the displacement of other peoples; a reduction in the numbers of the migrating group because of hardship and warfare; changes in physical characteristics through intermarriage with the groups encountered; changes in cultural characteristics by adoption of the cultural patterns of peoples encountered; and linguistic changes, also effected by cultural adoption (Sassen, 1988). Anthropologists and archaeologists have traced the routes of many prehistoric migrations by the current persistence of such effects. Blond physical characteristics among some of the Berbers of North Africa are thought to be evidence of an early Nordic invasion, and the Navajo and Apache of the southwestern United States are believed to be descended from peoples of northwestern Canada, with whom they have a linguistic bond. The effects of migration are particularly evident in North, Central, and South America, where peoples of diverse origins live together with common cultures.

Environmental consequences of migration

The final consequence of migration is the environmental problems which destroy the physical appearance of the city. First and foremost, the human-made part of the cities, structural environment is becoming damaged by the migration. Most importantly, immigrants create unhealthy, illegal houses, 'the slums' in and around the city, because they have to shelter with their limited economies. The 23th law of constitution allows migration by saying 'Everybody has the independence of emplacement and traveling'. However, the 35th law which emphasizes that 'using the benefit of ownership must not be crosswise to the society's benefits' is not enough to prevent the migration. Unplanned and unhealthy constructions, slums, negatively affect the whole citizens' lives.

Apart from the problems in the structural environment, natural environment is also harmed by migration. One of these harms can be seen as pollution in the city. As a result of industrialization and urbanization, increase on the population and migration raised and they have been considered as the reasons for environmental problems. The immigrants became a big mass and started to consume natural resources.

In conclusion, the cities and citizens are damaged by the migration; physically, economically, socially and environmentally. The migrants have different habits and come from different background so they can hardly adapt to the new destination, sometimes never can adapt. They cause economic problems both for the government and for the citizens

METHODOLOGY

Data acquired

The data acquired for this research includes: data on intra-urban migration types, its courses, pattern and effects from both primary and secondary sources.

Sample size

Out of the 34 wards in Maiduguri, a total of six wards was selected, these wards include Bolori, Gomari Air port, Mairi, Maisandari I, Ngomari Costain & Mashamari and also a total sample of 300 questionnaires were administered, 50 questionnaire for each ward.

Data Collection Procedure

Purposive sampling method was used in selecting the six wards. These wards were selected for the fact that migrants tend to move much higher towards these areas. From each of the six selected wards, 50 migrant residents were identified randomly through the ward heads and questionnaire is administered to the household heads. In addition to this, the ward heads of the six wards were interviewed using an interview schedule. This ward heads were used to identify the migrant households due to the fact that they were mandated by the government to have the records of all the migrants in their area as part of security measures.

Method of data analysis

For the purpose of this research work, the data gathered was tabulated and analyzed using a simple descriptive statistics of simple percentage and frequency distribution. This method was employed because it is a quick and convenient method to analyze the data of this nature; it also gives detailed explanation of the circumstances found in the study area and aid in drawing reasonable conclusions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Findings indicate that the major factor responsible for this migration is conflict and insecurity of lives and property as indicated by almost 80% of the respondents in each of the six selected wards.

The direction of the migration is always towards the safer side of the city people often move from less secure areas to a relatively secure areas so as to better their living condition. Unlike under normal circumstance where people choose their destination based on their income for example low, mid and high income residential areas in this case people move to areas in respective of their socio-economic status provided the area is secured. These however, greatly alter the physically appearance of the city especially the land use pattern.

The major effects of this migration include overcrowding leading to severe pressure on housing and increase in housing rent rate pursuing untold hardship to the residence. Over stretching of utilities and facilities such as water, electricity and medical facilities has also being recorded as indicates by the word head of these selected areas, also based on personal observations full scale slump is yet to occur but if care is not taken slum condition would soon occur and reserving such would definitely be a difficult task. Few diseases outbreaks such as cholera have being recorded in some areas signaling a major outbreak if care is not taken.

Conclusion

Based on the finding, it is very obvious that Boko Haram insurgency is the immediate cause of this migration and unless they are collectively defeated by both government and the law abiding citizens especially the youth volunteers popularly known as civilian JTF, Boko Haram would continue to be a major threat not only to the north eastern Nigeria but to the entire Lake Chad region causing lost of lives and livelihood. People in this region have already suffered untold hardship. In fact, recently the international community has rated Boko Haram as the most deadly and destructive terror group in the world, more than that of ISIL.

Most people can hardly tell the stories of what trauma they have been through and the few that could tell usually end up in tears. Despite all they have been through, they are still living in abject poverty with little or no assistance from the government. As stated earlier, most of them are traumatized if not psychologically affected.

Recommendations

1. Assistance from government and donor agencies hardly reach this set of migrants except those in the IDP camps, government and donor agencies should therefore device a means of reaching out to this set of migrants so as to ease their suffering.
2. Relevant ministries and agencies such as ministry of land and survey and urban planning board should be charged to adhere strictly to the rules and regulation governing land use pattern and development so as not to alter the physical and esthetic quality of these areas.
3. Basic utilities and service such as water, electricity and medical facilities should be provided in these areas so as to meet the needs of the affected areas.
4. Environmental sanitation should also be improved to avoid the spread of diseases in these areas.
5. Plans should also be made available for post insurgency rehabilitation, reconstruction and resettlement of these people to their normal place of residence.

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