

Perception of the Motives and Impact of International Migration on Nigeria

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This study focused on international migration motives and its impact on Nigeria using migrants transiting through Aminu Kano International Airport Kano and Nnamdi Azikwe International Airport Abuja. The study adopted a survey method in which 929 migrants were sampled. Systematic sampling method was used to select respondents for the administration of questionnaire as passengers came and register for their flights. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used in the analysis of the data. The result of the findings indicated that about 28% of the migrants were aged between 30 and 34 years; about 84% of the migrants were males and about 49% of them obtained up to tertiary level of education. Although, about 37% were going to Asia, a significant number (27%) were going to Europe while about 22% and 11% were travelling to North America and South America respectively. About 42% of the migrants mentioned that they were going for business, while about 24% were going for pilgrimage. Similarly, about 15% were going for employment pursuit. The results also showed that about 70% of the migrants paid over N200, 000 for their journey. Based on the findings, the study concluded that brain drain is the major negative effect of international migration on Nigeria, while remittance of money back home by the emigrants to their relatives is the most important perceived positive effect of migration. The study therefore, recommended that policy makers should be formulating and implementing policies that would bring about more employment opportunities by encouraging investment through policies that would attract foreign investors.

Keywords: International migration, Migration, Motives of migration, Pull factor and Push factor.

Introduction

Migration is one of the most important issues affecting the world in recent years. Globalization in the form of free trade and open borders for people, capital and ideas seems

to have encouraged international migration. According to Kingler *et al* (2017), the movement of people from one country/continent to another has had a significant impact on the flow of ideas, innovation, economic development, trade and investment. The spread of ideas and knowledge is vital for the new economic landscape of the world. Nijkamp *et al* (2012) reported that the recent rapid increase in the number of foreign-born passengers and the massive waves of migrants have led to heated debates in many developed countries regarding the impact of immigrants and the subsequent social and economic shocks in their host countries. Migration impacts on both the place left behind and, on the place, where migrants settle. People have many reasons as to why they might want to move. These reasons may be economic, social, political or environmental. For migration to take place, there are usually push and pull factors at work. Push factors are reasons that make people to move. This may be their own experience of life in one place, which gives them good reasons to leave it. Often, push factors are negative happenings such as unemployment, crop failure, floods, droughts, war, poor educational opportunities, or services and amenities.

On the other hand, pull factors are expectations which attract people to a new place. These are usually positive things such as job opportunities, a better standard of living, better education or better health care. Corroborating a similar view, De Haas (2010) indicated that mass migration not only occurs due to wage differences between rich and poor regions or countries, but also due to other numerous factors that have been identified in the form of push and pull factors. The push and pull factor have become the dominant model in the migration literature, because they have incorporated not only the important factors that have any impact on migration decision-making, but also able to integrate other theoretical insight. Studies have shown that migrant source countries are concern about the loss of their working population and the effect of brain drain (King, 2012; Ghesiet *et al*, 2011).

Today, migration has been on the increase due to political unrest in many developing countries (World Bank, 2016). The receiving countries experience not only specific forms of migration like asylum seekers, temporary and permanent residency settlers, economic migrants, labor migrants, knowledge migrants, tourist who become permanent settlers, social migrants, and international students but also different types of immigration at the same time. This has not only presented series of challenges for policy makers aiming to develop a balance form of migration policy, but also fueled heated political debates on the desirability or acceptability of migrants. Nijkamp *et al* (2011) and Goldin *et al* (2011) both noted that the world is living in an age of migration. For example, the United Nations' (UN) population division in 2013, noted that about 3.2% of the world's population live

outside their countries of origin. European countries host a large number of such migrants reaching a total of 72 million people (United Nations, 2013). Studies by De Haas and Plug (2006) and Gamlen (2006) shows that migrant source countries (mostly developing countries) are more concerned about brain drain effect, and the loss of their talented and young workforce. However, the positive impact on the developing countries shows that increasing emigration may be used to develop diasporas, thus giving the countries of origin inter alia the opportunity to foster economic development through different channels such as remittance of money back home, bilateral and international trade (Gamlen, 2006). The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (2009) also noted that in developed countries, public opinion has sometimes turned against migration and most developed countries are concerned about the economic externalities of migrants on native capital, labour market, wages and public finance (social benefits). Many policy makers in these developed countries believed that immigration is an economic burden, because immigrants may create social tension and increase criminality. For example, the UNDP (2009) highlighted that international immigration has had a substantial impact on the cultural diversity and socio-economic enrichment to most societies in terms of an increase of social capital, the diasporas, contribution to innovation, and the intensification of international linkages through trade and foreign direct investment. A study by Widmaier and Dumont (2011) has indicated that the composition of migrants by personal characteristics (gender, education, skill) culture and socio-economic characteristics differ substantially from population in the country of residence.

Available literature shows that migration happens as a result of a process of economic development and wage differences. Therefore, individuals migrate to regions of higher wages to maximize their income. In such a case, the country of origin also enjoys benefits as follows: first, the migrants reduce the ratio of labor to capital; and, second, the migrants make up for their absence by sending remittances to their home countries (De Haas, 2010). An important aspect of international migration is the direction of migration flow (Aroca *et al*, 2015). Factors such as postcolonial ties, language, cultural similarity, etc. can cause considerable migration flows. Migration from countries that were colonized by a host society can adopt to the host society easily because of their common language and the possibility of having friends and relatives in the host society. Moreover, once migrants establish their network, a set of interpersonal ties that connect migrants in the host society acts as a pull factor for families and relatives from the same ethnic group, encouraging them to migrate to this particular country rather than to pursue an alternative option.

Throughout migration network, migrants are able to increase their expected returns by increasing the experience and social capital of their former ethnic group members. To recognize the socio-economic impact of migrants in a country, we need rational and scientific evidence-based studies to effectively monitor and identify the economic elements of international migration that plays a significant role. This study aims to present a concise international migration motives and impacts with specific reference to Nigeria using Kano International Airport and Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja as case study.

Conceptual Clarification

Migration

Migration involves change of residence either permanently or temporally. It can be within a country or across international boundaries. The concept of migration involves both space and time. For the definition of international migration, the space criterion does not raise difficulties since it is clear that the places of departure and destination belong to two separate countries and that the consequences of the movement, which forms the basis for the change of usual place of residence is made at least once across a national boarder. From this spatial point of view, international migration consequently appears as a change of usual country of residence. If for any reason the individual cannot or does not declare their new usual place of residence in the country of destination, there will be no record of this change of country of administrative residence and the individual will not be included in the de jure population of the country of destination. In this case, there will be no account related to international migration (European Commission for Economics, 2001). Under international migration, it is not the occupation of stay in or away from the concerned country that matters, but rather, a person will be considered an international emigrant for a specific country if he or she leaves the country and transfers his or her usual place of residence outside the country for more than a minimal duration of time (UN, 1998). In contrast, a person will be considered an international immigrant in a specific country if he/she enters the country and settle for more than the same minimal duration. In both cases, the transfer of usual place of residence will not be for specific reasons like tourism, health and business and therefore, no international migration will be counted in these cases (European Commission for Economics, 2001). The context in which immigration and emigration occurred are frequently very different among individuals (Bertocchi *et al*, 2008). For example, emigration is a right and internationally recognized. In whichever way it occurs, emigration is seen as a right that is internationally recognized (refer to the 2nd art of the

Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, which say that “any person has the right to leave any country including his own”).

Theoretical Framework

This study is anchored on the neoclassical microeconomic theory. Harris and Tadora (1970) put forward the neoclassical theory, which attempt to explain the mechanism of labor migration. The neoclassical microeconomic theory assumes that labor migration happens not only because of wage differences, but also because migrants take a rational cost benefit decision. This cost-benefit estimation relates to the personal intention deciding whether to migrate or not, and personal characteristics (as age, gender, etc), as well as the choice of the alternative destinations. Apart from wage differences and employment opportunities, migration behavior also includes financial costs such as travel cost, the period of unemployment in the destination country, and psychological costs (leaving family and friends) (Bauer & Klaus, 1998). Thus, the greater the differences in expected returns for migration between the country of origin and the country of destination, the larger the dimension of migration flows will be.

The new economics of migration theory indicates that migration is a family-based decision, and people migrate not only to maximize their income, but also to minimize their migration risks (Stark 1991; Stark & Bloom 1985). Unlike individuals, families are in a position to control the risk inside their households by diversifying the allocation of household resources. For example, a family will probably send the physically-able members of their family abroad for work, and invest in higher education of the others. If the higher education fails to yield result, they can rely on the remittances from the others who are working abroad. Therefore, in contrast to the neoclassical theory of migration where return migration is considered a ‘failure’ factor, in the new economics of migration theory, the returnees are considered a ‘success’ factor. This is because those who achieved a maximum benefit from their respective migration behavior return home with accumulated savings or knowledge (Cassarino, 2004).

Nowadays, various developed countries are in desperate need of unskilled and cheap labor from migrants due to the change in the labor market pattern (the high participation of women in full-time and part-time jobs, higher education, etc.) and demographic change patterns (concerning single parents, divorced, elderly people, etc.). These jobs are located at the bottom of the social hierarchy and are low-paying jobs in which natives are not interested. Therefore, low-skilled (and mostly undocumented) migrants have often filled such vacant positions.

Overall, the theoretical discussion on human mobility expands rapidly, but there is not a single theory that can cover the full complexity of migration flows. For examples, increase in the diversity of migration in our expanding global economy has made the nature of migration more complex in all aspects – motivation for migration, and types of migrants (students, workers, tourists, etc.). Therefore, migration studies involve a broader intellectual discussion that includes, individuals and households (related to the migration decision), economic, social, environmental, and political circumstances.

Materials and Methods

Description of Study Area

Both Mallam Aminu Kano international airport (latitude $12^{\circ}02^{\prime}N$ and longitude $8^{\circ}35^{\prime}E$) and Nnamdi Azikwe International Airport, Abuja (latitude $9^{\circ}00^{\prime}15^{\prime}N$ and longitude $7^{\circ}16^{\prime}E$) are located in Northern Nigeria (See fig. 1). Abuja is the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) of Nigeria and is home to the embassies and consulates of most countries that maintain diplomatic ties with Nigeria. It is also the headquarters of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). It also serves as a regional headquarters of the organization of Oil Producing and Exporting Countries (OPEC). On the other hand, Kano is the largest commercial state in Northern Nigeria and in terms of population, it is the largest in the country. The projected 2016 national census report estimated the population of Kano state at 13,076,892 (Nigeria Data Portal, 2016). Kano is noted for its famous markets and it is the most leading industrial centre in the North. Giant industrial plants including textile, auto motor assembly, bicycle assembly, tricycle assemble plant and many agro-base industries and plastic industries are found in the state. It is linked by rail, road, and airport to all parts of the country and internationally. Although, there are other airports in the Northern States of Nigeria with international routes, Kano international airport and Nnamdi Azikwe international airport Abuja were purposively selected for this study because they are the only two major airports in the north which passengers travel out and into Nigeria on daily bases and therefore, could provide data for this study. The airports have both domestic and international wings.

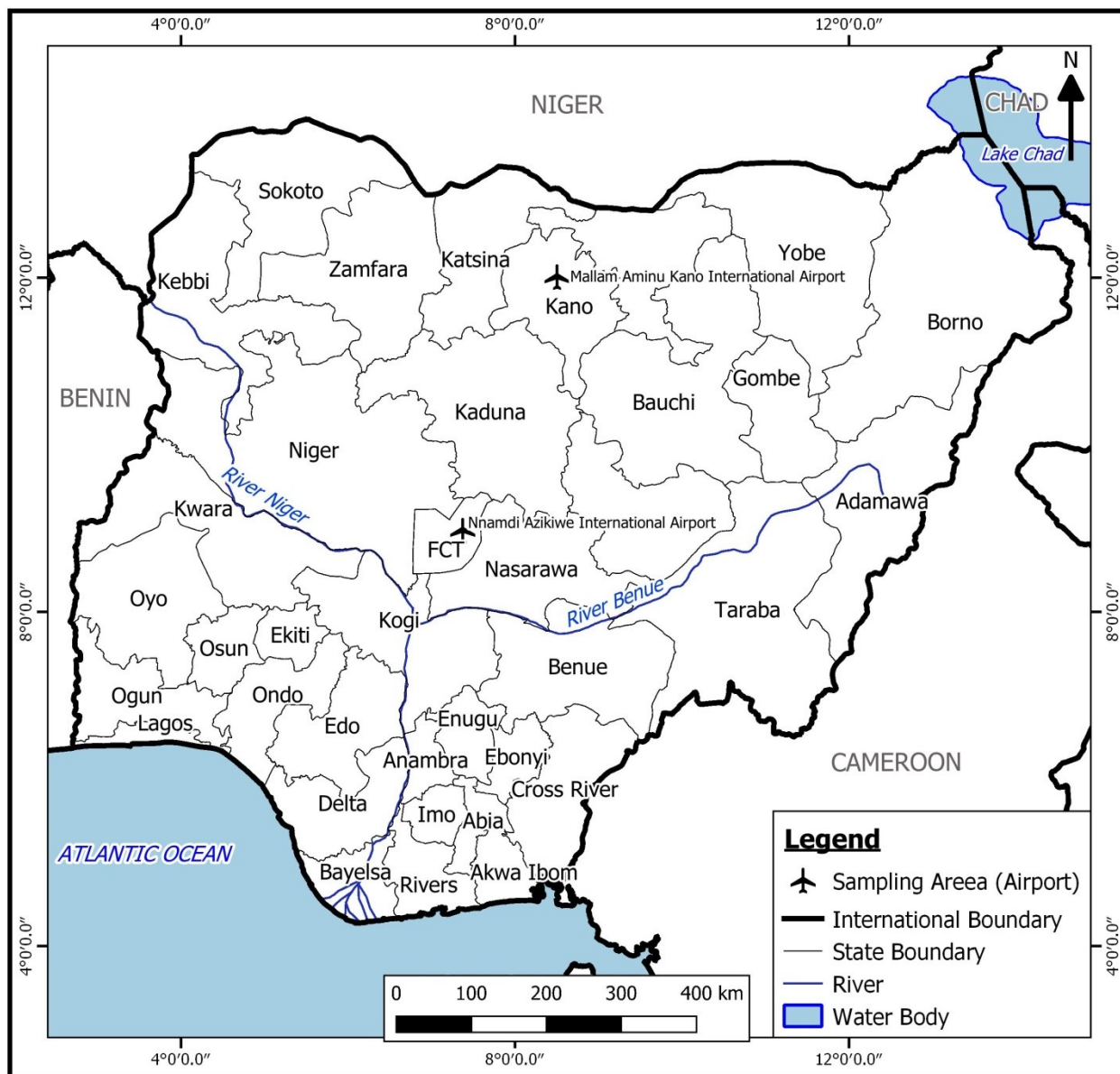


Figure 1: Map Study Area

Data Collection

The study adopted a questionnaire survey and employed a descriptive method of analysis using percentage counts, and tables. The questionnaire was administered on international travellers selected using systematic sampling method as they come and register for their flights. This was done at an interval of five passengers on daily basis for three months (2nd January to 31st March, 2019). These months were selected in order to avoid periods such

Hajj pilgrimage. Some of the airport staff assisted in administering the questionnaire during late evening flights and early morning flights. Systematic sampling technique was adjudged to be the best for this study because it is logically homogeneous and sample units are uniformly distributed over the population. An estimated 40,000 passengers passed through the two international airports during the time of the study out of which, about 4,000 were systematically selected for the study. The choice was guided by the sample size criteria proposed by Krycie and Morgan (1970), which noted that about 20% of the population can be used as sample size for a behavioral study. However, the study used about 10% of the population (those that filled the questionnaire and identified themselves as migrants), because majority of the passengers are not migrating to other countries.

From the retrieved questionnaires, only 929 were adjudged to be complete while the remaining were incomplete and were therefore not used in the study. The data were collected and processed using Microsoft Office Excel.

Result of the Findings

The demographic characteristics of the respondents indicates that majority of them are aged between 25 and 34 years. Only 3.2 % are aged 50 years and above (Table 1). Similarly, about 99 % of the respondents are Nigerians.

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents by age

Age group	Respondents	
Percentage		
<18	00	00
18– 24	177	19.1
25 – 29	215	23.1
30 – 34	261	28.1
35 – 39	109	11.7
40 – 44	90	9.7
45 – 49	47	5.1
50 above	30	3.2
Total	929	100

Source: Field Study 2019

Table 2 shows the marital status of the respondents. About 56 % of the respondents are singles as against about 41 % that are married. Also, about 84 % of the respondents are male, while 16 % are female. The educational level of the respondents shows that more than 60 % attained a higher level of education beyond secondary school.

Table 2: Distribution of Respondents by Marital Status

Marital status	Respondents	Percentage
Single	517	55.7
Divorced	08	0.8
Separated	11	1.3
Widow	09	0.9
Widower	04	0.4
Married	380	40.9
Total	929	100

Source: Field Study 2019

Table 3 shows that most of the respondents (about 96 %) are migrating on temporary basis. Similarly, the majority of the travellers (about 43 %) are going on business trips (Table 4). Contrary to the initial assumption of the study that a significant number of the travellers would be migrating for medical tourism, only about three percent are travelling on health grounds.

Table 3: Migration status of Respondents

Migration Status	Respondents	Percentage
Permanent	4.0	4.3
Temporal	889	95.7
Total	929	100

Source: Field Survey 2019

Table 4: Reasons for migrating

Reasons for migrating	Respondents	Percentage
Health	41	4.4
Religion/Pilgrimage	220	23.7
Official	49	5.3

Business	399	42.9
Employment Search	139	14.9
Education	67	7.3
Visit	14	1.5
Total	929	100

Source: Field Survey 2019

Table 5 shows the destination of the migrants. From the distribution, majority of the respondents (about 37 %) are going to Asia, while about 27 % and 22 % are going to Europe and North America respectively.

Table 5. Destination of the Migrants.

Continent	Respondents	Percentage
Asia	345	37.1
Europe	251	27.1
North America	204	21.9
South America	49	5.3
Other African Countries	35	5.9
Australia	25	2.7
Total	929	100

Source: Field Survey 2019

Table 6 indicates the estimated cost of the journey. From Table 6, about 50 % of the respondents spent over N200,000 to reach their destinations, while about five percent of the respondents spent between N50,000 and N100,000 to travel to their respective destinations.

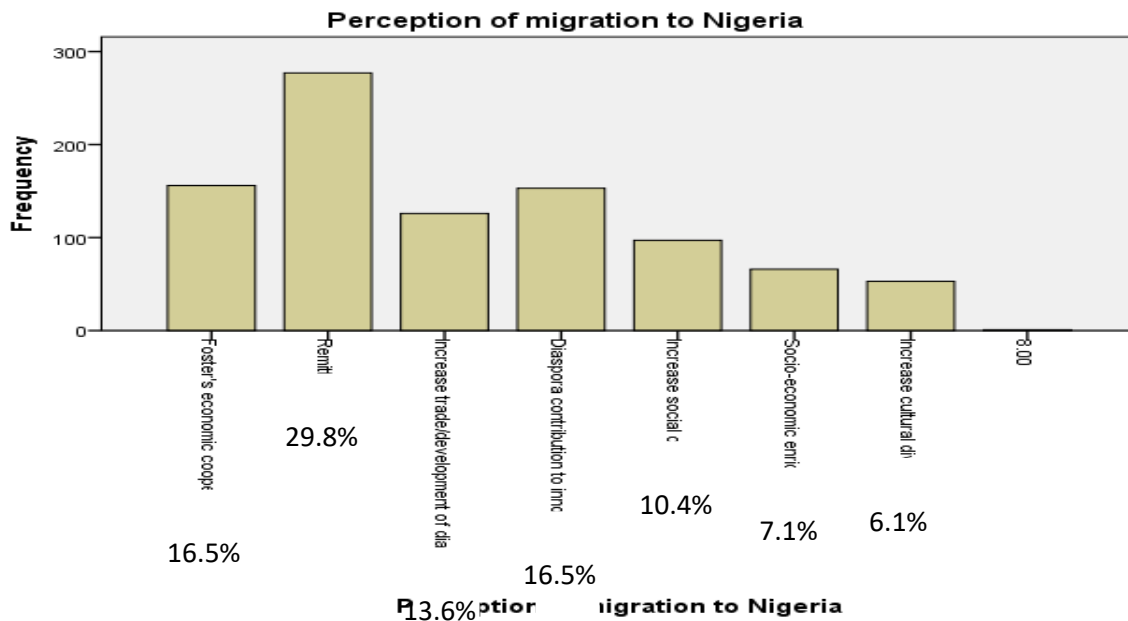
Table 6: Cost of Travelling

Estimated cost of journey	Respondents	Percentage
N50,000 - N100,000	44	4.7
N101,000 - N150,000	98	10.5
N151,000 - N200,000	140	15.1
N201,000 - N250,000	181	19.5
N251,000 - N300,000	14	23.0
Above N300,000	252	27.2
Total	929	100

Source: Field Survey 2019

(\$1=N320)

Figure 2 presents the perception of the respondents on the greatest impact of migration on Nigeria. From figure 2, about 30 % indicated that the greatest impact is remittance of money back home to relatives. Another 16 % see fostering of economic cooperation as their greatest positive effect. About 30 % also noted that diaspora’s contribution to - innovation, increase trade and development as greatest positive impact to Nigeria. Increase social capital, socio-economic enrichment, and increase cultural diversity are also significant positive impact of migration on Nigeria.



Perception of migration to Nigeria

Figure 2: Perception of Positive Impact of Migration to Nigeria

Source: Field Survey, 2019

Table 7 shows the respondents perception by greatest negative impact of migration on Nigeria. From the table, the most important negative impact is brain drain (about 77 %) followed by committing crime abroad (about 11 %) and drug trafficking (about four percent) respectively. Prostitution and unauthorized businesses abroad constitute about five percent and two percent respectively. From Table 7, only brain drain was reported mostly in the literatures as a negative consequence of migrating from the developing countries. However, the other items reported on the table are potential crimes committed by migrants, which tarnish the image of Nigeria Worldwide.

Table 7: Perception of Negative Impact of Migration on Nigeria.

Effect	Respondents	
	Percentage	
Brain drain	717	77.2
Crime abroad	104	11.2
Prostitution	49	5.2
Drug trafficking	40	4.3
Others	18	2.0
Total	929	100

Source: Field Survey, 2019

Discussion

The results show that most of the migrants are relatively young between 25 and 34 years of age. Although, migration through these international airports is considered legal, this relatively younger generation of migrants could also reflect those who move out of the country through illegal routes across the Sahara Desert to Europe in search of greener pastures (pull factor). The United Nations (2013) and Widmaier and Dumont (2011), both noted that the composition of migrants according to personal characteristics differs substantially from the population of the countries of residence. This is because migrants concentrate more on metropolitan areas with higher agglomeration advantages where most active working ages of between 24 and 49 years and have higher education lived. In some cases, the proportion of women in the migration flows has also increased. Recent migration policies of some countries have indicated immigration point systems. A good example of these countries are Australia and Canada. They have designated facilities for the flow of higher educated and skilled migrants and to increase the legal barriers for low-skilled migrants (Dacquer & Marfouk, 2004). About 24 % of the migrants reported that they were going on pilgrimage. This high number of pilgrims in the study might probably be those going to Asia for lesser Hajj (Saudi Arabia). The significant number (about 15 %) who indicated they were going out for employment search is high. This is not unconnected with the prevailing hard economic situation in the country, which has forced many to look for opportunities of employment outside the country. This may also include a significant number of those who reported having tertiary education certificates.

Similarly, about 23% of the respondents are migrating to Europe, which is in agreement with the World Bank's (2016) survey on migration that showed a very higher number of migrants from sub Saharan African countries to Europe. Also, the high cost of travelling

can be attributed to the very low value of the Nigerian Naira compared to the US Dollars, which has push up the cost of flight tickets. The study further shows that brain drain is the highest negative effect of migration on Nigeria. The world migration stock in 2016 corroborated a similar view that migrants sending countries are concerned about the brain drain effect on their economies and the loss of their talented and young workforce. However, some studies on the economic impact of migration on sending countries, especially developing ones like Nigeria have shown that emigration may be used to develop diasporas. Developing diaspora will give the countries of origin inter alia the opportunity to foster economic development through different channels such as remittance. The work of De Haas and Plug (2006) and Gamlen (2006) supported this view.

Conclusion

This study looked at motives and impact of international migration and views of passengers/ transiting through Aminu Kano and Nnamdi Azikwe International airports in Nigeria. The aim was to present a concise international migration motives and impact on Nigeria. Migrants through these airports are mostly businessman, pilgrims and those travelling in search of employment opportunities among others. Precisely, 95.5% of those passing through these airports are traveling on temporary basis majorly to Asia, Europe and North America with a substantial travelling cost of about \$1000. Also, remittance of money back home is perceived to be the most important effect while brain drain is the greatest negative effect on the country. Migration in a nutshell is worth encouraging because of new ideas. Diasporas contribution to innovation, increase capital, trades, economic cooperation and investment significantly contribute to economic development despite its negative perceptions.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made:

- i. There is need for government to formulate and implement policies that would bring employment opportunities for the youth. This will prevent the loss of working populations and the effect of brain drain.
- ii. Government should continue its effort of encouraging direct investment. This will create more industries and reduce dependence on foreign goods that can be produced locally for domestic consumptions.

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