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INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS REMITTANCES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN EDO STATE, NIGERIA: 2000-2025

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ABSTRACT

The study in an effort to identify the nexus between international migration and economic development, had the primary task of ascertaining whether international migration had brought about economic development in Nigeria, with particular focus on Edo State, south-south of the country, from 2000-2025. Although this issue has seldom been tackled in regular or academic literature, it reflects the author's keen awareness that, in an era of globalization, migrants' remittances inflow, are the most tangible and least controversial link between international migration and economic development as reflected in variables such as, material needs, human capital development, social security and infrastructure. The paper seeks to provide an insight into the socio-economic and political variables operating in the source and destination of such movements, with particular emphasis on economic dimension of international migrants' remittances and economic development in Edo State – Nigeria. The study uses the qualitative approach to data analysis, it relies on, data gathered through primary and secondary sources, and is reinforced with the argument theoretical framework of analysis. The findings reveal that, the various challenges of international migration confronting Nigerian migrants from Edo States might be occasioned by the high resort to illegal and irregular migration which could be directly looked to the low level of education and the high poverty level of most potential migrants in the state. In the end, this study concludes that, international migration in Nigeria and specifically in Edo state is one human venture a large number of Nigerians are increasingly involved in as a veritable means of making out a living and to achieve a better life.

KEYWORDS: International Migration, Migrants Remittances, Economic Development

INTRODUCTION

International migration has increasingly been at the forefront of scholarly discourse and policy articulation worldwide, primarily due to its significant impact on numerous contemporary global issues with far-reaching implications for the international system.

These issues include, among others, world peace and security, population shifts and international labor mobility, environmental degradation and national calamities, international migration crises, refugees, and humanitarian needs. However, the far-reaching repercussions could be positive or negative.

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Nigeria, like other states in the global system, seeks viable ways to capitalize on the global phenomenon by building different levels of synergy with other world players to foster development, whether political, economic, environmental, or cultural, both globally and nationally.

Migration typically involves the movement of people from one location within a political community, such as a state or country, to another, primarily to reside there. As succinctly expressed by Theophilus et al. (2021). human beings have a natural tendency to migrate due to the quest for a better life". For these reasons, migration has been an integral part of human history. If it relates to Nigeria, one will realize that they are prevalent and have serious consequences.

Nigerians are currently getting increasingly involved in international migrations, most especially people from Edo State, within the age brackets of 18-60 years, to places outside the shores of the country. Most often, the advanced reasons include the high rate of unemployment, hunger, and other human insecurity challenges as push factors. At the same time, the desire for employment, educational pursuits, family reunions, religious obligations, and sheer adventure can be described as pull factors. The various reasons, no matter how plausible they may seem, do not preclude one from taking a critical look at the methods or avenues they employ to achieve them.

The position of apologists of developmental optimism in relation to international migration, represented by scholars like Odozi (2010), Rather 2013, Todaro (1997), and Taylor (1999), is that migrants are agents of change, innovation, and investment due to their remittances and acquired wealth of knowledge and skills, which are often applied to enhance development at the home front.

Migrants' remittances inflows are the most tangible and least controversial link between international migration and economic development as reflected in variables such as material needs, human capital development, social security, and infrastructure. This explains why, from a historical perspective, Edo State shares geographical proximity and cultural affinities, which makes migration across the existing borders and across nations easy.

In this study, attention is focused on voluntary international migration, based on the understanding that it is a result-oriented, directional, and volitional activity undertaken by individuals. It must be a product of a rational decision-making exercise, free from the influence of external force, which distinguishes it from forced or involuntary international migration. Although several reasons, political, economic, social, or cultural, etc, are given as rationalization for international migration by those undertaking it, emphasis is on the economic dimension, hence, the choice of the title as international migrants' remittances and economic development in Nigeria: A focus on Edo State 2010-2020.

Significance of the study

This study has both theoretical and empirical relevance. From the theoretical perspective, the work has indulged in tremendous literature study which in a great deal provided ideas to both teachers and students of international relations in the area of international migration and its relationship with economic development. The vast literature that exist as well as diverse theoretical explanations on international migration and its relationship with economic development tend to focus extensively on its legal and regular form. This tends to affect available data on international migration patterns and outflows, and migrants' remittance inflows to and utilization in Edo State. The theory used in this study outside providing an opportunity for researchers not only to be guided on the issue of illegal and irregular international migration and its relationship with economic development in the State, has also provided a platform or avenue for criticisms and further development of new theories on the issues being discussed In the area of empirical or policy significance, the study strives to influence State policy making and implementation machinery to come up with appropriate policies and programs as interventional measures in the process of international migration to be able to engender economic development in Edo State, Nigeria based on information and data provided in the study by way of comparison with what is obtainable in other climes with records of high developmental feats through robust and effective management and regulation of the phenomenon of international migration to bring about desired developmental agendas.

Literature Review and Theoretical Framework of Analysis

Existing literature is replete with instances of movement by people and groups across political boundaries in world history that were not necessarily at the level of the state. As long as there were identifiable political communities. With borders, frontiers, and established political systems around which cleavages were built, to that extent, migration was trans-border, no matter how rudimentary, in the early times. The biblical account of the exodus of Jews from the ancient Egypt of the Pharoahic time (1200 B.C), and the Greeks' extensive movement in the Mediterranean region from around 800 B.C (Brzozowski, 2012), provides good example.

With the emergence of Treaty of Westphalia in 1648, and the entrenchment in central Europe of a new political order allowing for the co-existence of state in the region based on the following political sovereignty, territorial integrity, non-interference in the internal affairs of other states, and the creation and recognition of national citizenship, Subsequent human migration flows have been explained along national or international dimensions. The rise of nationalistic, mercantilist, and imperialistic consciousness in Europe between the 15th and 20th centuries, brought in a new wave of international migration with its unique characteristics and dynamics. Starting with the age of exploration to that of industrial revolution, tremendous international movements were witnessed, as nationals of the then powerful nations of Europe, like Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom (UK) and the Netherlands, embarked on mass movements to places in the so-called new worlds (Cronton, 2013 & Kissinger, 2014).

Additionally, the trans-Atlantic slave trade, in which a large number of able-bodied Africans were forcefully taken into captivity for slave labor in the new worlds, (an example of forced migration), while many Europeans also migrated to the Americans to seek greener postures, (an example of voluntary migration).

A much longer dimension is being provided by globalization as an impetus, to contemporary international migration, with the seeming elimination of limiting barriers earlier encountered in time past. In spite of Sasikumar's (2008) position that globalization does not encompass any opening up of national boundaries for human mobility across borders, it tends to account for the strong Moroccans' presence in Belgium, Jamaicans in their number in the United Kingdom, Indians' spread all over the industrialized countries of the world, and the growing Nigerian migrants population in West Africa, central Europe, north America and recently Asia.

International migration in Nigeria and specifically in Edo State is one human venture many Nigerians are increasingly involved in as a veritable means of eking out a living and to achieve a better life. A good number of them often leave the shores of Nigeria to countries spread over the major continents of the world. They include countries like the United States of America (USA), Canada, the United Kingdom (UK), Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, Russia, China, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Sudan and Libya to mention a few, for different reasons, ranging from self-actualization to socio-economic gains.

The seeming high level of emigration has become worrisome because of the danger dimension it has taken against the backdrop of the inherent danger or challenges they are often confronted with especially by those involved in irregular international migration.

Quite a sizable number of migrants from Edo state due to economic situation in the state, have resorted to illegal and irregular international migration as escape measures against poverty, hunger and other human security challenges, to other countries they feel their predetermined desires and aspirations could be easily realized, without an adequate fore-knowledge of the economic and social conditions of the places they eagerly move to. This has exposed them to dysfunctional activities of intermediaries whose nefarious activities have caused several deaths, and injuries, physical and emotional, to unsuspecting potential migrants that often seek their interventions to be able to accomplish their desires.

From the procurements of entry visa, legally or illegally, at the beginning of the whole process of international migration to the eventual arrival at the different places they find themselves, gory tales are often being told by most of these migrants, who are victims of abuse and rips-offs, both at home and foreign fronts. Those successful enough to arrive at their new abodes in foreign lands, often dwell within the informal underworld sectors of the economies of the countries,

because of the kind of work they usually engage themselves in, to be able to meet their financial obligations to their principals.

Several perspectives have been given to international migration by different scholars; economic, political, environmental or cultural. It is economic when the desire or aspiration has a potential to improve on livelihood through improved return on human labor or income, condition and terms of work. Political reasons include the threat to live and property, occasional conflict and war, fleas from prosecution and the fear of prosecution on ground of crimes committed, and dissenting ideological or religious views. Environmental reasons also consist of non-human occurrences like epidemics, natural disasters (volcanic eruptions, droughts, and famine). Cultural or social reasons include the fulfillment of religious obligations (pilgrimages), educational attainment, and family re-union. They fall into what could be regarded as efforts at self-actualization.

In the word of Goldscheider (1971) for instance, a legal migrant is that person with the requisite legal and practical permission to undertake a migratory exercise from one point of domicile to another, while the absence of such legal and practical permission, makes the migrant equally illegal and undocumented. There is usually the possibility for an illegal migrant to attain a status of legal status having been able to satisfy specific requirements as determined by the authorities of host countries.

Based on the fore-given scholarly opinions, a comprehensive and working definition of international migration would mean the conscious and voluntary movement of persons or groups from one place to another across national borders boundaries, in pursuit of identifiable goals and objectives for which they sought for alternative domicile, permanently or partially. Countries are categorized into three major groups as given in the report by global Commission on international migration (2005).

a. Migrants sending countries: These are countries from which people migrate to other countries from season to another. They are mostly in the third world and developing countries. Examples include Nigeria, Mali, Indian, Mexico, Morocco and Ghana.

b. Migrants receiving countries: These are countries with developed or developing economies, serving as destination points to migrants. Examples include the UK, USA, Canada, Germany, Nigeria, Indian and Japan.

c. Transit countries: This set of countries is often used by potential migrants as connecting and embankment points to places desired during migration. They serve as lunch-boards to people, mostly into illegal and irregular international migration. Examples are countries like Morocco, Libya, Algeria and Cape Verde.

Some countries which were at the early post world war two (WWII) years, regarded as migrants' senders are fast becoming migrants receiving states, (Indian, South Korea, Mexico and China). This could be because of their ability and willingness to manage and administer international migration for national economic, development, through functional developmental policies, programmes, and philosophy. There is the belief that international migration could be a catalyst and/or an impediment to economic development depending on angle of perspectives. The understanding is that with proper and adequate management, administration and regulation, nationality and internationally, international migration could bring about gains capable of translating into economic development, no matter the level of application.

International migration, therefore, tends to impact on both host and sending countries in different ways: There is the tendency for it to address the critical labor shortages in specific areas of specialization or unattractive work description seen as debasing: Ability to create jobs as entrepreneurs, or investors, and contributing to tax volume and social security in host states.

in spite of this set of gains, migrant especially those within the illegal and irregular category, are most vulnerable to a number of negative repercussions and dispositions at destination points; job insecurity, consignment to poor conditions and terms of work because of their illegal status and not protected by existing national laws, susceptible to high level of discrimination on ground of nationality, race and religion amongst others.

Generally, the major derivatives from international migrations could be positive and negative notes depending on the position of the country in the divide. As migrant sending or receiving countries, the following effects are visible either on the migrants themselves or in the society in (Theophilus et al 2021).

International Migration and Economic Development: The linkages

De Haas (2008) argued that international migration should be considered as a process naturally linked to economic development has come up with number of established "migration myths" which to him have evolved in public perception and in policy circles. There appear to be exceptions to these myths based on available literature and empirical evidence. On the contemporary age of unprecedented level of international migration, there had been periods of intensive international migration, which could be best explain within the frontier of trans-nationalism, which is defined as the process in which migrants create and maintaining multi-dimensional social relations that entwine their origin and destination.

A few sending countries often mobilize the privileges to bring about popular identification with national intent for development of concerned states, (Nyberg-Sorensen, 2022). Plausible instruments used include the following as given by Zoomers (2008) tax reduction programmes, provision of adequate social infrastructure, investment opportunity, re-integration programmes. In world history, precisely in the 19th and 20th century (Zlotnik, 1998; Nyberg-Sorensor, 2002) equally the current ratio of migrant's population to world population was equal at between 2.5% of 3%. What is outstanding is the increase in international migrants' crises resulting to the high influx of migrants/refugees into Europe which is consequent upon wars and conflicts in the middle east and the horn of African in recent times.

As argued by Theophilus, Alagh, Dede, Abunimye, Odey and Chiwar (2023), it is rarely the poorest that migrate internationally, since large sums of money are often needed to fund the high costs of international migration mostly across continental regions of the world. It is more of a desire for better life and self-actualization, especially when it is voluntary. Despite successful attempts at alleviating poverty in low-income countries, they have not directly led to a reduction in the incidence of international migration as evident in Africa and Asia. The reverse has been the case.

On the various state's investment in skill acquisition for their respective nationals; it has often been brain-drain instead of brain-gain. Underdeveloped and developing countries are losing their skilled manpower to developed wealthy nations. For example, many students sponsored to the developed world for academic upliftment often do not return for national use. The skilled labor that also migrate to the advanced economies most times remain there at the detriment of their home countries.

Lastly, Diaspora involvement in economic and social development, in sending countries, is fast becoming a common occurrence.

There exist two competing approaches to assessing the link between international migration and economic development, optimistic and pessimistic, as noted by Taylor (1999) and De Haas (2008). The optimistic approach argues that international migration often brings about economic development. This is highly realizable through migrants' remittances and utilization in such areas as:

i) Remittances contribution to the formation of human capital through investment in education and health

ii) Remittances economic impact on national macro-economic level, as instrument for increasing gross national income and reserves. This tends to increase per capita income and national reserves.

iii) Remittances are important and stable source of income for millions of capital incomes and reduce poverty level, (Ghosh, 2006).

iv) The increase in private investment in physical capital due to migrants' ability to establish businesses at the home front (Canales, 2005)

The pessimistic approach argues that international migration does not positively impact on the economic development of migrants sending economies. Most migrants' remittance inflows are believed to be used for subsistent purposes (catering for day-to-day expenses) Martes and Soares (2006). This position of migration pessimists as it effects on most sending countries into which the underdeveloped or developing countries fall is elaborately captured in Papadimitriou submission that international migration tends to contribute to.

The evolution into an uncontrolled depletion of their already meager supply of skilled manpower and the most healthy, dynamic and productive members of their population.

Though these opposing approaches do compete for supremacy, the optimistic perspective tends to receive wider acceptance (De Hans, 2008). Developmental pessimistic may be too skeptical and narrow in perspective in their postulation

because a number of migrants receiving nations have been able to maximize international migration, especially in the area of skill acquisition and brain-gain to enhance economic development, such countries as earlier noted include India, China, Mexico and the Philippines.

The direct effect of international migration on sending countries is migrant remittance inflow, which Ratha (2013) as noted earlier, regards as the least controversial link to economic development as seen as a veritable means to engender improvement in livelihood of the large number of recipient of migrant's remittance at both micro and macro levels, through investment in education, health, housing and infrastructure. The total of global migrants' remittances figure by the World Bank 2014 stood at 436 billion USD, signifying an increase of about 44 of upon 2020 figure.

Theoretical Framework of Analysis

Though migrants from Edo State are involved in legal, regular and documented international migration, the number is quite infinitesimal, which is a major limitation of most theories of international migration discussed earlier in the study, since they tend to focus more on this form of migration with minimal attention on illegal, irregular and undocumented international migration, in which most migrants from Edo State are involved. In determining the theoretical framework of analysis for this study, the debt financed migration theory is employed to explain the dynamics if international migration in Edo State with other states in the federation, to determine the level of economic development arising from the linkages between the major variables.

The Debt-Financed Migration Theory

The resolve to employ the theory of debt-financed migration as the major theory for this study is informed by its primary focus, which is on irregular/illegal international migration. Majority of the movements from Edo State, Nigeria, by the teeming youths to foreign destinations, are carried on within the ambience of illegal, irregular or undocumented international migration, since it is quite difficult for them to fulfill the basic documentary and financial requirements. The major proponents of this theory are Guide Friebel and Sergei Gurlev (2004). The theory introduces the issue of financial constraints facing potential migrants and the intervention of intermediaries to provide financial credit and connections for the process of international migration only to be paid for such services by the migrants at destination points under certain disheartening conditions.

This theory is premised on the environment, as evident in most developing or underdeveloped economies, where the level of unemployment, poverty and general discontent, is quite high, thereby leading to the show of desperation often exhibited by potential migrants. Embarking on legal and regular international migration processes becomes a tall order if not a far-cry.

One of the basic assumptions of this theory is that potential migrants have financial/wealth constraints undertaking long-haul migration which could be cross- continental. This is often quite an expensive venture. The situation in Edo State is best captured by this scenario. A second assumption is that the potential migrant seeks the intervention of an intermediary to provide the fund and connection to affect the movement to the foreign destination, where repayment to the intermediary is made under specified debt/labor contract, containing expected re-payable amount and duration of time under the most appalling terms.

The voluntariness in consenting to such debt/labor contract by the potential migrant with supposed full information about the terms, environment and condition of operation at the destination point. This is usually couched with deceit and manipulation to create a slave master/owner relationship where rights and privileges are denied to unsuspecting migrants.

The fact that the migrant enjoys safety at the destination point so long as he/she remains within the safe custody of the intermediary's connections or network, operating within in the illegal sector of the destination country in which they operate. This tends to keep the migrant in perpetual servitude to the principal who directs every activity the migrant is involved in, at the place of engagement.

Another assumption is that the migrant's labor, in the absence of collateral in the source country, becomes what the intermediary or agent holds on to at destination point. This tends to bring forth the brutish actions by the intermediary in course of protecting his or her investments for effective gains which are outrageous. The strength of this theory is that it is self-explanatory and elaborately presents the existing conditions in most Third

World and developing countries facing serious unemployment, poverty, hunger and hardship while the area of limitation is in the focus more on illegal/irregular international migration. It does not follow that every migrant is illegal. This renders the application of the theory based on its assumptions to limited area of international migration. The effort is quite appreciated because it provides explanations to the linkage between human-trafficking and migrant-smuggling on one side and illegal and undocumented international migration on another, culminating in such negativities like international prostitution, sex slavery, forced labor, maltreatment and abuse.

METHODOLOGY

Since the focus of this work is to determine the impact of international migration on economic development in Nigeria, with Edo State as the case study, from 2000 to 2025, the primary sources of information were the respondents' responses to questionnaires administered to them. These formed the demographic information from which statistical data were derived.

Another primary source was the researcher's personal observation, which was non-participatory, regarding the structure and dynamics of international migration in Edo State, as well as some foreign places of engagement by Nigerian migrants, mainly from the state, in their search for greener pastures.

Secondary information and data were sourced from relevant existing literature on the subject matter, obtained from the libraries of universities and other academic institutions. Scholarly journals, such as the African Journal of Migration, Nigerian Journal of International Affairs, and Mediterranean Journal of Social Science, Government gazettes, World Bank (WB), the United Nations (UN), the African Union (AU), the International Organization for Migration (IOM)

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

The Nature and Dynamics of International Migration in Edo State

The people of Edo State, especially Benin from observation, are quite adventurous with a very high rate of migration. From the early time of independent Nigeria, Midwest- Bendel-Edo migrants' directions were towards the UK, US and Canada. A new dimension both in direction and process of international migration in the state emerged from the closing years of 1980s when the desire to embark on international migration in the state, amongst its teeming youths to foreign destinations became sporadic. The push factors remained the same, but the pull factors changed tremendously. It has been more about seeking greener pasture in foreign lands. The sought for higher education, skills acquisition and self-actualization gave way for the strong desire to survive in foreign lands using every available means. It has become an enterprise in desperation, owing largely to the high level of poverty in the state and the low level of educational background of potential migrants, the intervention of intermediaries has increased tremendously. Then it was more of male desire to emigrate. However, the entrance of the female-folks in international migration Introduced the issues of sponsorship and human trafficking to international migration in Edo State. The established pioneer female migrants in Belgium, the Netherlands and Italy having made quite a lot of money in the trade of prostitution, decided to expand their base and returns. Several of them came back to Benin City to recruit unsuspecting young girls who were mostly secondary school dropouts and petty traders into the lucrative business of international prostitution. These Intermediaries, who were operating under the name 'trolleys, were given much money to move the new form of human cargoes to Europe. That was the beginning of an unholy alliance between the "madams" who became sponsors and the so-called trolleys, providing the mechanism and channel for the business to thrive.

Large sums of money were expected as repayments from these potential female migrants (recruits) at destination points by their sponsors who provided connections and protection within the informal sector of the various economies in which they operated. These nefarious activities became syndicated both at home and on foreign fronts. Strong impetus was further created by the colossal fund generated and at the disposal of the major beneficiaries.

Because of the high-level patronage from Edo State, these migrants are being confronted with enormous challenges leading to serious abuses and maltreatment of these girls in the hands of their sponsors (Madams), who employ extra-legal means in recovering the various outrageous repayment sums under questionable circumstances.

The sponsors, through their agents at the home front often resort to fetish means to instill fear and compliance. Native Doctors and Medicine Men are used to conduct oath-taking under ritualized processes to forestall deviance and nonconformity with the terms of contract between them and their clients. Though much has been given about the female folks, it does not mean that the male folks are not equally involved in illegal and irregular international migration, from many migrants' remittances coming into the state, some level of improvement is evident in the standard of living amongst dependent family and household members in the areas of providing education, accommodation and other needs at the home front. There is still much to be desired in the

Location of Migrants

translation of these funds to corresponding economic development, in the State and by extension Nigeria. Much of recognizable economic development in the State are manifestations of the gains of international migration as shown by returnee migrants who having been equipped with needed financial and human spatial, engage in various economic activities like property development, trading, public transportation, hospitality businesses etc.

Recently as found out, new destination points are being opened outside the traditional zones in places like Denmark, Russia and South Africa. Even transit points in Morocco, Libya, Cote D' Ivoire, and Ghana are fast becoming posts for international prostitution pending when they can effectively secure passage to European countries as shown in the figure.

Table 1: Migrants' first destination country and destination country

Country	%	Country	%
Libya	36.2	Italy	29.6
Ghana	9.6	Spain	8.3
USA	5.8	United Kingdom	7.1
United Kingdom	5.0	USA	6.2
Malaysia	4.6	Ghana	5.8
Spain	3.8	Germany	5.4
UAE	3.3	Malaysia	5.0
Germany	2.9	UAE	3.8
South Africa	2.9	South Africa	3.3
Italy	2.5	Turkey	2.9
China	2.1	China	2.5
Morocco	2.1	Canada	2.5
Turkey	2.1	Ukraine	2.1
Ukraine	2.1	Libya	1.7
Canada	1.7	Australia	1.2
Kenya	1.2	France	1.2
Cameroon	1.2	Netherlands	1.2
Australia	0.8	Scotland	0.8
Tunisia	0.8	Portugal	0.4
France	0.8	Brazil	0.4
Japan	0.8	Finland	0.4
Belgium	0.8	Poland	0.4
Saudi Arabia	0.4	Japan	0.4
Ivory Coast	0.4	Belgium	0.4
Togo	0.4	Chile	0.4
Mali	0.4	Denmark	0.4
Scotland	0.4	New Zealand	0.4
Finland	0.4	Benin Republic	0.4
Poland	0.4	India	0.4
Chile	0.4	Singapore	0.4
Denmark	0.4	Austria	0.4
Netherlands	0.4	Switzerland	0.4
Benin Republic	0.4	Saudi Arabia	0.4
India	0.4	Kenya	0.4
Singapore	0.4	Morocco	0.4
Switzerland	0.4	Senegal	0.4

Table 2 consists of the various countries Edo State migrants as returnees, on vacation as well as those in their residential domains abroad.

Table 2: Length of stay in the first destination country and destination country

First destination			
No response < 1 year 1 – 5 years 6 – 10 years > 10 years	6 78 124 20 12	2.5 32.5 51.7 8.3 5.0	2.66 ± 3.17
Destination at present			
No response < 1 year 1 – 5 years 6 – 10 years > 10 years	3 38 153 30 16	1.2 15.8 63.8 12.5 6.7	3.50 ± 3.29

Entries in Table 4.2 show that a greater proportion (36.2%) of migrants had Libya as their first destination, 9.6% Ghana, 5.8% USA, 4.6% Malaysia while 3.8% first arrived in Spain, UAE 3.3% and 2.9% South Africa. On the other hand, Table 3 shows that a greater proportion (29.6%) of migrants had Italy as their destination country, 8.5% Spain, 7.1% United Kingdom, and USA 6.2%. Furthermore, 5.8% of migrants reside presently in Ghana, 5.4% in Germany, 5.0% in Malaysia, 3.8% in UAE and 3.3% in South Africa. From these findings, there is a clear indication that a good number of migrants had Libya as their first destination country before transiting to other parts of the world (especially Europe). By implication, migration flows into Libya have steadily increased due to its strategic positioning between Africa and Europe. According to UNHCR (2013), most migrants claim to be drawn to Libya by the opportunities in generating income. Some arrive and work for a few years before returning to their country of origin with a pool of savings, some repeat the pattern over and over again at different points in their lives, and some are passing through only long enough to generate the necessary funds for their onward journey to Europe, their final destination. Furthermore, irrespective of the quest of many migrants to leave the African continent, some still seek greener pastures in some African countries as seen in the results. By implication, migrants' choice of first destination country or destination country will largely be influenced by several factors such as the rationale behind migrants' decision to travel, the available opportunities and the connections that can be explored.

Entries in Table 4.3 show that a greater proportion (51.7%) of migrants stayed in their first destination country for 1-5 years, 32.5% stayed less than a year, 8.3% stayed 6 – 10 years and 5.0% stayed over 10 years. The mean number of years of stay in the first destination country was (2.66 ± 3.17). On the other hand, Table 4 shows that a greater proportion (63.8%) of migrants stayed in their destination country for 1-5 years, 15.8% less than a year, 12.5% stayed for 6 – 10 years and 6.7% stayed over 10 years. The mean number of years of stay in the destination country was (3.50 ± 3.29). Based on UNDESA (1998) criteria, an international migrant who changes his or her place of usual residence for at least one year is defined as a long-term migrant, while a person who changes his or her place of usual residence for more than three months but less than one year is a short-term migrant. Following the above, the results show that a large proportion of international migrants in the study were long-term migrants with just a few being short-term migrants.

METHODS OF FUND REMITTANCE BY MIGRANTS TO THE HOME FRONT

Figure 1: below presents the method of fund remittance to the home front by Edo State Migrants

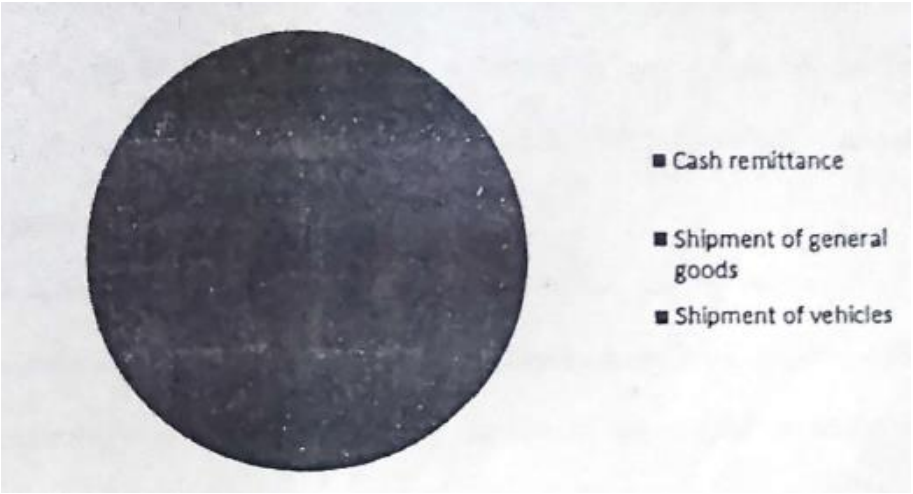


Fig. 1: Method of Remittances by Edo State Migrants

This table consists of the various channels money and materials are sent by Edo State migrants to the home front. They include cash remittances made through the formal and informal money transfer methods. A common means of material remittance is the shipment of goods of various kinds through the country's ports which are put into direct use or converted to cash for use also. Another common means of remittance transfer is through the importation of motor vehicles such as cars, trucks and bikes which are either put into use directly or sold to yield incomes for use at the home front by dependent family/household members.

This does not mean that migrants do move funds along personally on their visit home, but the main concern is third party involvement.

Areas of financial commitment by Edo State migrants

The various areas of financial commitment by migrants are shown in the figure 5.3 below:

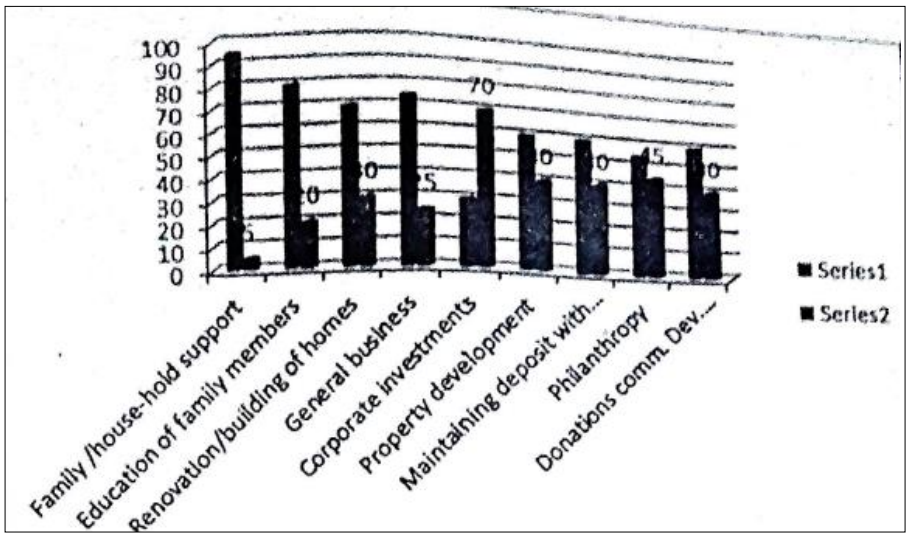


Figure 2: shows the various areas migrants' remittances are put into use at the home front.

They are outlined in nine categories to cover all aspects of economic developmental activities that are involved in by the migrants themselves and their dependent family/household members with impact cutting across micro and macro levels in the society.

Challenges Faced by Migrants from Edo State

Migrants, including those from Edo State, face numerous challenges during their journey and in destination countries. Some of their challenges include exploitation and abuse by smugglers, traffickers, and other individuals who take advantage of their vulnerability, physical and emotional abuse, including beatings, rape and other forms of violence. Migrants may be detained or imprisoned in inhumane conditions, often without access to necessities like food, water, and medical care, among others. Equally, in destination countries, migrants may face hostility and discrimination from local populations, making it difficult to integrate and access basic services, the struggle to access essential services such as health care, education, and social services due to lack of language barriers, documentation or discriminatory policies.

On a careful look at the set of regrets by Nigerian migrants, a number of underlying factors could be taken as being responsible. They are explained as follow:

- The inability to achieve self-actualization through international migration by most migrants from Edo State is a reflection of the low educational background as shown in data obtained. This makes it quite clear that most of the people undertaking movement to foreign lands fall within the low educational group. The fact remains that education plays a strong role in self-actualization because it opens the door to the various means by which it could be accessed.
- The issues of premature severance only applied to the few that were engaged in gainful employment in the civil and public service. Unless serious plans are made to secure the future such benefits like retirement benefits and provision would surely elude those within this fold
- Prostitution whether practiced locally or internationally is a debasing profession with a lot of negative social repercussions. There is much psychological effect that goes with it. That of sex slavery is an added disservice to the victim. Prostitution and sex slavery go hand in hand with human trafficking and so long as there are sponsors combing the nooks and crannies of the state, unsuspecting persons would always fall for their intrigues and chicanery.
- The dearth of marriage partners could be linked to cultural values and the tradition of the Edo nation. A prostitute is seen as a social neglect and most up-and-doing families would frown at their members getting involved with such persons. The profession outside being debasing has its gutter attitude and disposition, which decent people often find repulsive and nauseating. There seems to be a vulgar sub-culture which pronouncedly permeates virtually all aspect of practioner's lives.
- Such extreme cases of the contact of serious diseases like pneumonia, and other climate induced health conditions are consequences of the "red light" syndrome identifiable with prostitution in most European cities. The near nudeness of the girls exposes them to much health hazards. The issues of late marriages and child-bearing consequent upon the hassles of living faced by most male migrants, could be directly linked to the problem associated with residency regularization, which tends to make most illegal migrant itinerary, just to avoid the long arm of the law.
- The bitter experiences in most conditional inter-racial marriages are most about abuse, mistreatment and maltreatment from the giver of the benefits accruing from being married to nationals of foreign countries.
- Most migrants have unpalatable stories to tell at the end of the day. Where children result from such union, parentage rights and benefits are often skewed toward nationals against migrants. Most migrants resort to doing demeaning jobs like morgue/mortuary hands, dish- washing and sewage disposing, just to be able to survive. These jobs are regarded as migrant jobs since most nationals would not accept to do such them. Most illegal and irregular migrants often dwell under the yoke of exploitation, abuse, and under-remuneration, by their employers.
- Recently, due to the fraudulent activities of clearing agents in the country's sea-ports, importers are being swindled of their hard-earned money. Goods are lost to shady deals often entered into by dubious agents. This is quite worrisome.
-

Another most painful challenge is the fact that those upon whom high trust is reposed often dis-appoint these migrants in areas of fund administration and project execution thereby resulting in emotional and psychological stress.

Figure (4.4) consists of the numerous challenges being faced by migrants from Edo State both at home and on foreign fronts. These limitations are felt more by migrants involved in illegal and irregular international migration. They tend to hinder the realization of set goals and aspirations of migrants and by extension economic development in the state.

Table 4: Responses on the limitation of the challenges of international migration confronting Edo state migrants and on economic development in the state (N=400)

Items	Responses				Total (%)
	Yes		No		
	F	%	F	%	
Activities of sponsors (Human traffickers)	320	(80)	80	(20)	400 (100)
Use of dangerous illegal routes to travel	260	(65)	140	(35)	400(100)
Loss of goods and vehicles to unscrupulous clearing agents	240	(60)	160	(40)	400(100)
International prostitution	280	(70)	120	(30)	400(100)
Racial discrimination	360	(90)	40	(10	400(100)
Language barrier	320	(80)	80	(20)	400(100)
High cost of fund remittance	240	(60)	160	(40)	400(100)
Residency and regularization	300	(75)	100	(25)	400(100)

Source: Researcher's fieldwork

From table 4.4, it was observed that 320 respondents, representing 80 percent of the sample size of 400, agreed that the nefarious activities of human traffickers known in local parlance as sponsors were a major hindrance in the realization of their aspirations through international migration, and by extension economic development in the country, while 80 respondents representing 20 percent disagreed.
260 respondents representing 65 percent agreed that migrant smuggling was a huge challenge, while 140 respondents representing 35 percent disagreed 240 respondents representing 60 percent saw losses incurred in the hands of fraudulent clearing agents in the country's seaports a major limiting challenge while 160 respondents also representing 40 percent disagreed. The challenge of international prostitution was up- held by 280 respondents representing 70 percent as a limitation to economic development in the country, while 120 respondents representing 30 percent disagreed. The limitation of racial discrimination enjoyed a large percentage of 90 coming from 360 respondents while 40 respondents representing 10 percent disagreed with the belief that it was a limitation.

The barrier created by language in international migration as limitation to economic development in the country was upheld by 320 respondents making up 80 percent while 80 respondents representing 20 percent disagreed. The high cost of remittance was seen by 240 respondents representing 60 percent agreed that it was a limiting challenge while 160 representing 40 percent disagreed. Residency regularization was seen as a limiting challenge of international migration on economic development by 300 respondents representing 75 percent while 100 respondents representing 25 percent disagreed.

SUMMARY

Movement as a vital aspect of human action gave rise on a higher level and scale to human migration which entails the movement of people from one point to another in the bid to satisfy existential and other needs, which ordinarily would be unrealistic if such movement is not undertaken. International Migration goes beyond this to mean the movement of people across national boundaries to seek partial or permanent domicile as a veritable means to the realization of the set goals and objectives.

This study was embarked upon to fulfill established objective, to ascertain whether international migration had brought about economic development in Edo State, Nigeria with particular reference to: remittance inflow on poverty alleviation, ascertain whether migrants' remittance inflow has affected the access to education and health-care, determine the impact of migrants' remittance inflow on unemployment and inequality, and lastly, to determine whether government intervention in the process of international migration engendered high economic development.

This study is structure into; introduction, literature review, international migration and economic development: the linkages, theoretical framework of analysis, methodology, the nature and dynamism of international migration in Edo State, methods of fund remittance by migrants to the home front, challenges faced by migrants from Edo State, summary, conclusion and recommendation.

CONCLUSION

The study lent credence to the assertion that international migration had brought economic development to Edo State and Nigeria. This was based on the high level of migrant's remittance inflows that were seen to have been directed into economic uses in the area of human capital development (poverty alleviation, access to education and healthcare, creation of employment and minimizing inequality to the increase in income. It was made clear that the various challenges of international migration confronting Nigerian migrants from Edo State might be occasioned by the high resort to illegal and irregular migration which could be directly linked to the low level of education and the high poverty level of most potential migrants in the state. The frightening desperation often exhibited could also be responsible. However, with appropriate policy formulation and implementation by the government, the desired economic development would be achieved.

RECOMMENDATION

From the body of information derived, it was revealed that a lot of Nigerian migrants from Edo State are involved in illegal and undocumented international migration. As a result of this, they are constantly being confronted with several challenges both at home and foreign fronts that are in no small measure militating against the effective realization of their aspirations through international migration.

It is true that effort is being made by the government in partnership with other non-governmental organizations in this regard, much more, has to be done. The following would serve as recommendations, being areas deserving more state effort, as intervention to ameliorate the effect of the challenges of international migration on migrants.

The establishment of an information agency, purely on international migration, to educate the people of Nigeria especially potential migrants from Edo State, on the dangers of illegal and irregular international migration. Amongst the dangers are loss of lives, sexual abuse, social rejection, psychological trauma, drug-use and abuse and many others.

The provision of an enabling environment for investment by Edo State migrants, in the state. This could be emboldened through the establishment of finance investment outfits to provide specialized services in the various areas of investments: capital sourcing, man-power requirement and development, raw materials product procurement, general trade and production. Though, some similar outfits already exist to provide some of these essential services, the reach is quite low. More information should be made available to the public on their activities.

The level of State- Diaspora relation should be taken above the ordinary. Effort should be geared towards reaching out to Edo State migrants in the diaspora to identify with the state's developmental strides. Though a lot has been done in this regard at the federal level, much is desired in Edo State to engender economic development. Mexico, Israel, India and South-Korea provide good examples of countries that have been able to achieve economic development, through State-Diaspora cooperation.

Since technical education is quite vital in securing descent and adequate jobs opportunity abroad, much effort should be directed at re-orienting the people to the usefulness of technical skills acquisition. Such artisan trade lines like welding. automobile mechanics and electrical works should be encouraged. Government should go beyond the current state of affairs to make it a prerequisite for assistance.

Effort should be explored to bring about a reduction in the cost of fund remittance. The charges of the commercial banks in connivance with their principals like Western Union and Money Gram are quite high. The bitter experiences in the hands of scams masquerading as informal practitioners in fund remittance transfer business are becoming worrisome, in the state.

There should be means whereby land could be made available to intending investors in the area of property development, since more migrants tend to be involved in this line of business. This is an area where minimal risk is involved with no requirement for high managerial skill. Professionals in house-building abound in the society in the intricate areas of the business. Once land is made available at affordable rates housing and accommodation issues would be fully addressed.

More effort should be directed at creating State assisted credit facility providers as corporate entities to give soft loans at manageable rates and terms to desiring Nigerian migrants.

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