



EFFECTS OF RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN KAURA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF KADUNA STATE

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Abstract

The study examined the effects of rural-urban migration on agricultural product in Kaura Local Government Area of Kaduna State. The study made use of primary source of data in the form of structured questionnaires to elucidate required information from respondents. Purposive random sampling technique was used to identify respondents in all the nine villages in Kaura LGA. Simple descriptive statistics was used to analyse data generated. Results obtained shows that 68% of the respondents fall within the youth age bracket of 15 – 45 years. 45% had education up to tertiary level. On the nature and causes of rural – urban migration, 43% and 27% blamed it on difference in economic opportunities and poor infrastructures between the two divides. Majority of the respondents (64%) agreed that the major effect of the movement is loss of labour force in the rural area, while 31% opined that it leads to decreased in crop yield in the rural area. Improved standard of education was also identified in the study by 36% of respondents as a mitigation measure. That rural – urban migration leads to negative effects on crop yield thereby aggravating increased food crop prices. It is therefore recommended that standard vocational Agricultural, educational institutions should be established in the rural area to migrate rural-urban migration. In addition, infrastructural facilities such as roads, electricity, water and health facilities should be provided in the rural areas in order to retain young people and promote improved agricultural productivity.

Key Words: Agricultural production, Farmers' perception, Facilities, Migration, Rural Areas.

1. Introduction

According to Braun (2004), people tend to be pulled to the area of prosperity and pushed away from area of decline. Migrants are usually concerned with the benefit they hope to gain by moving out and they usually give less thought to the problem they may face as a result of the migration process. Migration is an inevitable part of human existence, with long history.

Useful natural resources, which can be harnessed for social- economic development, abound in Nigeria particularly in the rural areas. Agriculture is the most important economic sector in term of its contribution to the GDP of the nation after oil. The sector contributes about 41 percent of the country's GDP. It employs about 65 percent of the total population and

provides employment to about 80 percent of the rural population (ADF, 2005).

Rural-urban migration has long been recognised as one of the main problems of rural development in Nigeria. Yet, a government effort to deal with it has not been very successful (Nwosu, 1979, Makinwa, 1975 and 1988). In relation to agriculture, by far the greatest problem has been heightened by a large section of the Nigeria population which has taken to other non-agricultural occupation in the urban areas (Nwosu, 1979).

The massive movement of people from rural to urban area is a common phenomenon that existed in the past even now. According to FAO (2006), studies in several African countries have conclusively shown

that it is primarily the youth who emigrate, leaving substantial gap in the agriculture and rural labour forces. As farming is essentially a family enterprise in most African countries, the out – migration of able-bodied young workers leaves the burden on older and younger persons in rural areas who tend to be less productive.

Migration means movement of people from one place to another, which involve permanent and semi-permanent changes in the place of normal residence. Migration has been largely seen as a resonation to improved economic conditions at place of origin and destination. Within this perspective, both the decision to move and choice of destination are determined by the perceived availability of better socio-economic opportunities (Minin, 2006).

According to Makinwa (1981), the greater the difference in economic opportunities between urban and rural areas, the greater the flow of migrants from rural to urban centres and vice versa. In Nigeria, it has been found that lack of job opportunities to earn ready cash during the off season in the farming calendar has engendered. Migration among rural farmers and it is the chief determinant of urbanization.

Bedu (1984) stated some factors that are responsible for rural-urban migration. These factors include: climatic hazard, drought and fire disasters that endanger life and property of the people are more prominent in rural areas. Furthermore, there is also the desire to obtain money for some purposes such as payment of taxes, purchase of certain highly valued consumer goods and payment of dowry, building and maintenance of houses and payment of children's school fees.

The people also migrated from rural to urban centres simply due to the presence of social amenities that make life more comfortable in towns. There is also the issue of extended family system, which enables members to visit their relations in the cities whereby they become attracted as a result of available and better amenities that can make them to stay and search for white-collar jobs. Also, internal forces of violence in some countries have caused large number of rural

people to seek the comparative safety of the cities of their respective societies (Rodenburg, 2015).

Migration is the movement of people from one geographical area to another on temporal or permanent basics. It is broadly considered relocation of resident either permanent or for specific duration of time under different reasons (Ekong, 2003). According to Smith and Zope (1970), migration is the movement of people from one place to another. In pre-agricultural times, most of the migrations were by groups, and the movement from one place to another did not bring wholesale and distribution of social relationships. Amam (1974) stated that when people migrate within a country from rural to urban places it represents a classic definition of urbanization' it is a way by which population can be shifted from the villages or countryside to the cities.

Rural- urban migration is a double-edge problem affecting both rural and urban communities. Aworemi, Abdul-Azeez (2011) contends that the rural community is affected because youths and adults who are support to remain and contribute to the development of agriculture in particular and the community in general leave the rural areas for cities. The loss of labour of able-bodied men and women could likely lead to a decline in agricultural production (Regmi & isdell, 2002). However, Deshingkar (2004) observed that, a loss of labour through migration may or may not reduce agricultural production, remittance may or may not increase access to assets by alleviating credit constraint: this in turn may or may not increase agricultural production and farmers' incomes. Declining labour availability in agricultural communities is likely to reduce agricultural productivity and an increase in local wage rate a situation similarly observed by (Hossain, 2011). Fazoranti (2009) observed that decreased labour availability has also brought about introduction of harmful chemicals to supplement the labour force and the use of machines which have the possibility of destroying the soil structure.

Agricultural practice involves people, their available resources and institutions. However, its greatest problem has been low production in Kaura Local Government. This has been heightened, among other

things by the desertion of farming by a large proportion of population in the study area which has been taking out to other non-agricultural occupation in the urban areas. In recent years, the volume and pace of rural-urban migration in Kaura Local Government has greatly increased and this has left great effects on agricultural production. Based on this problem, the study is geared towards investigating the effects of rural-urban migration on agricultural production in Kaura Local Government of Kaduna State with the main objectives to examine the causes of rural – urban migration and to proffer solution to effects of rural-urban migration in the study.

2. Methodology

3.1 Study Area

Kaural Local Government was carved out of Jama'a Local Government. It is situated between latitudes $9^{\circ}35'$ to $9^{\circ}50'N$ of the equator and longitudes $8^{\circ}23'$ to

$8^{\circ}47'E$ of the Greenwich meridian. It is bounded in the southern part of the state, and it share boundaries with Zango Kataf Local government in the North-East and Jama'a Local Government in the South-West. Kaura local government has a total land area of 485km², with a 2016 population projection of 235,700 persons.

The weather is categorized under Aw of Koppen's classification, this means it is characterised by two distinct seasons, wet and dry. The wet season commenced from May to October, a period of six months. The dry season spans November to April. Mean annual rainfall ranges between 800 to 1,400mm with peak period in August. Temperature in Kaura is generally high all year round. This is partly because of its location within the tropics. Kaura LGA is underlain by axisol or tropical ferruginous soil which in combination with the conducive climate makes the area very suitable for agriculture.

Figure; 1



Figure; 2



Source; Kaduna State Urban Planning and Development Authority

3.2 Method of Data Collection

The research made used of primary data in the form of structured questionnaire designed to collect information on socio-demographic characteristics, causes and effects of rural-urban migration on agricultural production and methods to be adopted

in reducing rural urban migration. Kaura LGA is made up of 9 villages namely, Chicham, Anturun, Tachira, Zankan, Biniki, Chikka, Kukum Daji, Agban and Mallagum. Purposive random sampling technique was used to administer questionnaires to farmers in each village. Table 1 gives detail of sampling frame.

Table 1: Distribution of Sampled Respondents

S/N	Village	No. of Farmers	No. of Questionnaires Administered	No of Questionnaires Retrieved	Response Rate %

1	Chicham	220	21	20	11
2	Anturu	222	22	22	12
3	Tachira	200	20	20	10
4	Zankan	208	21	20	9
5	Biniki	283	28	27	10
6	Chikka	150	15	15	12
7	Agban	167	17	16	15
8	KukumDaji	300	30	29	12
9	Mallagum	250	25	25	9
	Total	2,000	199	194	100

Source: Field Survey (2021)

Method of data analysis

The research made use of simple descriptive statistics to analysed data retrieved. This was done using mean, percentage scores. Results are presented using tables, graphs and charts

Results and Discussion

Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

The result of analysis for socio-demographic characteristics of respondents in Kaura LGA is presented on table 2. Results on table two shows

that majority of the respondents (38%) falls within the active age grade of 31 to 45 years. The implication here is that when this able body youths move out of the area, farming will be negatively affected as observed by Fasoranti (2009), Agesa and Kim(2001). In the same vein, 75% of the respondents are male. This male dominance seems to feature in most agricultural related researches (Nwosu, 1979; Makinwa, 1981; Ekong, 2003 & Binbol & Audu, 2015) just to mention a few. This also implies that agriculture to a large extent is still a male dominated occupation in Nigeria.

Table 2: Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents in Kaura LGA

S/N	Variable	Classes	Response	Percentage
1.	Age	15 – 30	59	30
		31 – 45	73	38
		46 – 60	47	24
		61 and above	15	08
2.	Gender	Male	145	75
		Female	49	25
3.	Educational status	Primary	20	10
		Secondary	77	40
		Tertiary	87	45
		No formal education	10	05
4.	Occupation	Farmer	58	30
		Artisan	38	20
		Civil servant/Retiree	78	40
		Student	20	10
5.	Income level	10,000 – 20,000	21	11
		21,000 – 30,000	35	18
		31,000 – 40,000	32	16
		41,000 – 50,000	66	34
		51,000 and above	40	21

Source, authors field work (2021)

Further analysis of the educational status of respondents shows that only 05% had no access to any formal education. This is in consonance with the view of Makinwa (2005), that rural-urban migration usually involves educated, young and mostly males. The occupational status of respondents shows that though different percentages belong to specific profession, all are involved in agriculture. Table 2 further reveals that a combine 89% earns above 21,000:00 Naira, out of this, only 21% earn above 51,000:00 Naira from agricultural production.

Table 2 shown that 30 percent of respondents are farmers, 20 percent artisan, 25 percent retired, 15 percent civil servant, while 10 percent students. This implies that majority of respondents are farmers and may have known how rural-urban migration affect agricultural activities.

Nature of Rural – Urban Migration in Kaura LGA

The nature of rural – urban migration in Kaura LGA was also examined and findings presented on table 3. Results on table 3 shows that 43% rural – urban migration is

Table 3, Nature of Rural- Urban Migration in Kaura LGA

S/N	Variable	Classes	Response	Percentage
1.	Causes of migration	Diff. in economic opportunity	85	43
		Poor infrastructures	52	27
		Internal violence	24	12
		Climate variability	19	10
		Others	15	08
2.	Time of migration	Dry season	120	62
		Wet season	35	18
		During conflict	34	15
		Festive season	10	05

Source, author's field work, (2021)

Causes by differences in economic opportunities, 27% are of the opinion that lack of infrastructure in rural areas is the main cause of rural – urban drift. 12 and 10% respectively believed that rural violence/insecurity and climate variability contributes to migrations to the urban centres. While 8% were of the view that people migrate for more than one reason. This is in agreement with the study carried out by Makinwa(1981) who asserted that the greater the difference in economic opportunities between urban and rural areas, the greater the flow of migrants from rural to urban centres and vice versa.

Findings for suitable time of migration shows that majority of respondents (62%) moved into urban centres during the dry season. This season is mostly an idle one in the rural area when agricultural activities must have been completed. The youths migrate in massesto the urban centres in search of temporary jobs which in most cases may translate to permanent settling in the urban centre. This mass

exodus during the dry season is commonly referred to as “Chin rani” in the study area. The 18% that opted for rural – urban migration during the rainy season tied it to insecurity. When this figure is added to those who said they moved during conflicts, it therefore means that 33% out migrate as a result of insecurity in the rural areas. Respondents said this is highest during the wet season when farmers – herders clash are rampant.Damina (2014) observed that the out flow of economically active people from Kaura local Government tend to have negative effects on crop production.

Effects of Rural – Urban Migration in Kaura LGA

The result for the analysis of the effects of rural – urban migration is presented on table 4. Finding on table 4 shows that 64% of the respondents agreed that the movement of youths from villages to cities constitute a great lost to labour force for agriculture. When probed further if the migration has any effects

on the farm size, respondents were quite divided in their answer.

Table 4, Effects of Rural – Urban Migration in Kaura LGA

S/N	Variables	Classes	Responses	Percentages
1.	Lost in labour force	Yes	125	64
		No	69	36
2.	Effects on farm size	Increase in farm size	37	19
		Increase in fallow lands	46	24
		Increase demand for labour	51	26
		Decrease in crop yield	60	31
3.	Effects on labour	Reduced labour supply	70	36
		Increase in labour cost	49	25
		Increased mechanization	40	21
		Reduced labour quality	35	18

Source; authors field work, (2021)

19% of respondents opine that rural – urban migration leads to increase in farm size. Their argument is based on the fact that relatives of migrating youths who stayed back in the village for one reason or the other often annexed their plots. This will be seen by them as a positive effect of rural – urban migration. The insignificant percentage of respondents associated with this practice shows that it is definitely not a popular practice in the study area. A greater majority (31%) however, maintained that rural – urban migration leads to decrease in crop yield. Fewer hands are left to tend the fragmented plots using crude

implements. This finding agreed with the works of Damina (2014), Makinwa (2005) and Binbol and Audu (2015). The general effects of rural – urban migration on agricultural activities in Kaura LGA were identified by respondents as; it leads to reduced labour supply, attested to by 36% of the respondents. 25% identified increased in labour cost as an after mat of migration. The remaining 21 and 18% said migration effects are best felt in increased mechanization of rural agriculture and a general reduction in the quality of labour on farms.

Identified Curbing Measures for Rural – Urban Migration in Kaura LGA

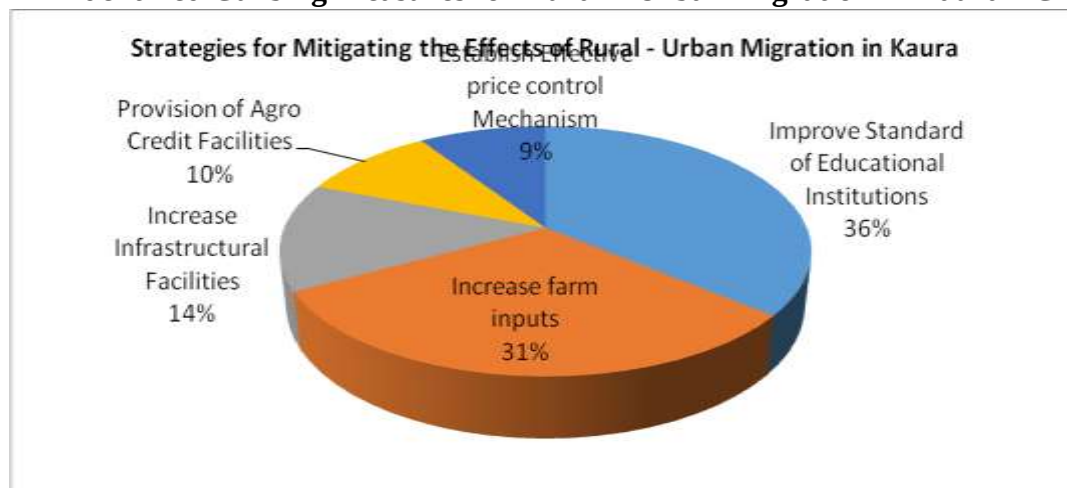


Figure 3: Strategies for Mitigating the Effects of Rural – Urban Migration in Kaura.

Source; authors field work, (2021).

The research went ahead to sample respondents opinion as to what can be done to mitigate the

identified youth migration into the urban centres. The result is presented in fig. 1. Finding in fig.1 shows that

36% of the respondents believed that the establishment and provision of standard educational institutions can go a long way to curb the incessant migration. They argue that majority of the youths move out in the name of seeking for standard education. Others (31%) are of the opinion that if enough farm inputs such as herbicides, fertilizers and standard machineries are provided, it will make agriculture interesting and rewarding in the rural areas. Thereby, youth outward migration can be checked. Another school of thought who believed that youths migrate mostly during the dry season and festive period suggested that the provision of infrastructural facilities in the rural areas can also go a long way to check the urban drift. The remaining percentages of respondents believed that the agro credit facilities (10%) and the establishment of an effective price control mechanism can help mitigate rural – urban migration among the youths.

Conclusion and Recommendations

It has been established that several factors and indices such as age, occupation or economic opportunities has great influence on rural-urban migration. The study has revealed that it has a great influence on agricultural production especially with regards to reduction in crop yield and supply, increase in food crop prices, farmland sizes and also in labour supply in rural areas. Therefore, as a mitigating strategy, it is recommended that standard functional and vocational educational institutions and adequate infrastructural facilities such as roads, water, electricity, schools and health should be provided to attract people to stay and work in the rural areas and be fully engaged in agriculture as a sustainable means of livelihood.

Agriculture is the foundation of the rural economy. It is the supplier of food to both rural and urban markets,

because it does contribute to generation of foreign exchange through export of farm products and supply of raw materials needed in the urban centres. Thus, for a total transformation of the rural areas, agriculture which is the main stay of the rural economy should be improved to check mate rural-urban migration. It is therefore recommended that:

1. Establishment of agro-based, functional standard educational and credible financial institutions in the rural areas.
2. There should be provision of quality and functional infrastructural facilities such as roads, schools, electricity, water, health to rural areas.
3. Government should make agricultural credit facilities accessible to farmers at affordable rate(s).
4. There should be provision of essential farm inputs as fertilizers, and agro-chemicals for farmers.
5. Effective agricultural crop price control system in partnership with the rural clientele.
6. Traction technology or mechanized equipment should be made available at affordable price or on loan to farmers.
7. Re-establishment of agricultural marketing boards to assist in regulation of prices of agricultural products, in order to offer farmers good award for their crops. Thus, making agriculture attractive to youths.
8. The government should work with the farmers to set up genuine cooperative societies. The societies should be used as a channel for equitable distribution of loans and other farming equipment to local farmers.

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