

RESEARCH ARTICLE



DEMOGRAPHIC IDIOSYNCRASIES AND TEENAGE OUTMIGRATION: THE CROSS RIVER STATE EXPERIENCE

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Abstract

The study sought to carry out an analysis of demographic characteristics as determinants of teenage outmigration in selected Local Government Areas (L.G.As) in Cross River State (C.R.S), Nigeria. Two research questions were raised and the study adopted the ex-post facto research design. The population of the study comprised teenagers from 13-19 years numbering 16,561 from selected Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria. From this figure, Southern Senatorial district has 5,421 respondents, Central Senatorial district numbered 6,792 and Northern Senatorial district has 4,358 accordingly. The stratified and purposive sampling techniques were adopted as the strategy for data collection. In other to determine the sample size, 751 respondents were drawn using Taro Yamane methods and a researchers' developed instrument titled "Demographic Idiosyncrasies and Teenage Outmigration Questionnaire (DITOQ)" was used for data collection. Having validated the instruments, Cronbach Alpha Rreliability of Iinternal Cconsistency was established and the index ranges from 0.76 and 0.87. Descriptive and inferential parametric and non-parametric statistical analyses were used and the findings revealed that gender and location are strong determinants of teenage outmigration. It was recommended among others that the Ministry of Non-Indigene Matters, Health, Environment and the Niger Delta Development Commission in Cross River State should narrow their aids to these squatting migrants, since most of the migrants are from the Niger Delta region, most especially in the selected L.G.A of C.R.S, Nigeria.

Key words: Demographic, Idiosyncrasies, Teenage, Outmigration, Cross River State, Experience

1 | INTRODUCTION

Migration is regarded as the movement of individuals from one place to another in search of greener pasture. Most research scholars see outmigration as a means of sustenance to most individuals. The role of migration has remained relevant since migration acts as a catalyst in the transformation process of not only the destiny of individual migrants, but also the conditions of family members left behind, local communities, and the wider sending regions. One significant source of development for the rural populace is migration. Migration can have a range of social, cultural, political and economic effects. It involves transfer of know-how and

skills, financial assets and the transfer of people from one location to another.

According to Chenyue, Zhao, Leahil and Xuelong (2017), migration also has consequences for the individual migrant as the effect is not limited to remittances and cash inflows alone. It includes a wide range of development issues, governance and legal protection, employment and social protection, health services and education, tertiary education, knowledge and skills development, economic growth, financial services and growth of agriculture, rural infrastructural development, and environment issues. All these come under migration and human development, defined by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) as a process of enlarging

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people's choices, which entails two important items, namely, expanding human capabilities and functioning.

Teenage outmigration is the seasonal movement of teenagers between the ages of 13-19 from one region to another in search of job opportunities, forced marriages, schooling and so on. Migration is a form of geographical mobility between one geographical units (origin) to a certain destination generally involving a change of residence from a place to the place of arrival (destination). It involves a permanent or temporary change of residence from one neighborhood settlement (administrative unit); this process is also out migration. Moving to a particular location is defined as immigration (Woodruff & Zenteno, 2007). It has been argued that the outcome of human migration pattern and processes brings more rapid changes to the social, economic, political and other systems at both the homeland of the migrants and the destinations than any other phenomena of the human geography of those environments. This migration remains a global phenomenon and is one of the most important features in recent years. Migration has become a crucial issue one that is likely to dominate policy and political agendas for many years to come. Higher rates of out-migration of adolescents are a particular problem in many remote rural areas and this is highlighted in a number of studies. For example, the survey by Asis (2006), suggests that by age 10 and 16 a higher proportion of girls than boys want to leave the area in which they are brought up either for good or for a few years and then return. Across Selected Local Government Areas, a slightly higher proportion of young girls have left home by each age across the teenage years and into the early twenties. In many rural areas, this gender difference in turn means more women have left the area at early ages than men (Laura, 2004). Gender difference in leaving home and in leaving rural areas reflects a range of factors including the different freedoms afforded men and women in family and community, heterosexual conventions, different patterns of consumption, the gendered nature of employment opportunities and greater emphasis on educational qualifications in the employment sectors dominated by women. While each factor is identified in the literature, no author puts relative weights on the balance of these factors and it is likely that they will

vary in different localities and biographies. Literature on age difference in men and women leaving home routinely notes that this reflects the conventions of heterosexual partnership, in which there is a two-year age gap between men and women in age of cohabiting with a partner.

In an empirical study by Xin and Chikako (2015) on gender and teenage migration impact on parents, the study revealed that in the past 15 years around 160 million Chinese rural workers migrated to cities to work. However, because of restrictions on migrant access to local health and education system, a large cohort of migrant teenagers are left behind in rural villages and growing up without parental care. This paper examines how parental migration affects teenagers' health and education outcomes. Using the rural urban migration survey in China (Rumic) data we are able to measure the share of teenagers' life time during which parents migrated away from home. By instrumenting this measure of parental migration with weather changes in their home village when they were young, they find a sizeable adverse impact of exposure to parental migration on teenagers' health and education outcomes. They also discovered what the literature has always done using contemporaneous measure for parental migration on teenagers' outcomes.

Again, Hongwex and Yuxie (2015) investigated the effects of rural to urban migration on teenagers' well-being in Ghana and the study reveal that about 12.6 million school age rural teenagers who have migrated with their parents and 22 million who have been left behind by the migrants have been affected. Using the propensity score matching methods to estimate the effects of migration in teenagers' 10-15 years old from a 2010 national survey (N=2, 417), it was observed that Teenagers' migration has significant positive effects on their objective well-being but no negative effects on their subjective well-being. There is little difference between the left behind and non-migrant teenagers across multiple life domains. The Rosenbaum bounds tests indicate that the causal effects of teenage migration are sensitive to hidden bias for certain outcomes, but not for others.

In China, for example, Gao, Li, Kim, Congdon, Lau and Griffiths (2010) empirical study found that girls in transnational care are more at risk for unhealthy behaviors such as drinking and smoking than girls

in non-migrant families. Suárez-Orozco, Todorova and Louie (2002), concluded that the investment in girls is sensitive to the household income, in that fewer resources from abroad are used on girls' education, with negative effects on their school success. In Ghana, qualitative evidence suggests that girls do more domestic work and can move or be moved around more easily, which may alter their quality of life. In other contexts, however, the gender differences were found to the advantage of girls when parents migrate. Evidence from Mexico suggests that paternal international migration has a net positive effect on girls' educational attainment, albeit such an advantage ceases to exist when fathers migrate internally (Antman, 2012).

Similarly, Mariam (2016) study on the socio-economic livelihood of the teenagers and women of Karamayong indicated that the burden is particularly heavy in terms of the socio-economic survival of their households. Also, it has increased the work load of women and has put them in a greater risk of abuse such as rape or transactional sex in exchange for work, money and food. This has forced many to migrate to urban centers for employment for better life for their families and themselves which has limited their ability to engage in economic activities to improve their incomes, assets or capabilities and to contribute to the wellbeing of their families and most importantly their teenagers. Due to this migration, the way of life of the teenagers has changed from the traditional way of being teenage bearers in their songs and words. They now compare their livelihood strategies to that of warriors. They believe that just like men were referred to as warriors when they went out to hunt and raid cattle they have also become warriors by becoming the bread winners of their households.

Again, Woldie, Degefa and Gate (2010) conducted an empirical study on causes and impacts of seasonal migration on rural livelihoods and the study was underpinned by the sustainable livelihood framework. Both urban and rural areas as places of destination and rural villages as origins of migrants have been considered. Data were collected using questionnaire survey, focus group discussion, key informant interviews and household case studies. Shortage of farmland, debt, lack of viable non-farm activities locally and the desire to earn additional

income are the major reasons for seasonal migration of labour. Social networks and information flows are also important factors in migration and the research found out that single men are predominantly involved in migration while the participation of women is negligible. The earnings obtained have allowed rural households to supplement their income from agriculture and indirectly contributed to overcoming the problem of farmland scarcity. The timing of movement which coincides with the agricultural slack season at home, makes the impacts of seasonal out migration on agriculture minimal. Rather than viewing it as a livelihood option of the rural poor which contributes to reducing poverty and improving the livelihoods of the poor, migration is still perceived negatively and there has been little awareness of its significance.

Researchers like Chukwuedozie and Ignatius (2014) gave a summary of rural urban migration and livelihood in South Eastern Nigeria. Questionnaire survey on 225 heads of rural households and focus group discussion in each of the five states in the study area were used to elicit information on rural urban migration and livelihoods characteristics of rural populace in the past three years. Descriptive statistics show spatial variations in the impact of migration on livelihood across the region. Financial and food indices are the most influential livelihood indices while two underlying components namely financial security and investments by families of migrants in the rural areas to improve their quality of life together explain 78.07% of the cumulative variance of the PCA in determining the impact of migration on livelihoods. Based on the findings, it is recommended among other things that educational institutions and small and medium scale industries should be established in the study area. The implementation of these measures will translate to improved quality of life in the region.

Londari (2016) carried out a study research on the impacts of migration on the livelihoods of urban settlers in point of Port Moresby in New Guinea. Data were obtained using quantitative method comprising questionnaire surveys. Seven stages in the study area were selected based on population size and spatial equity from a population of almost 40 to 50 thousand people. From each of these stages fifty-six migrant who migrated from the rural villages and

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households were sampled for the study. Multinomial logistic model and cluster analyses were used to estimate and categorize the effects of rural-urban migration. Measures of household capital were derived using principal component analysis or direct from survey responses. Six mutually exclusive livelihood strategies were identified using cluster analysis. This regression analysis shows that rural urban migration has impacted on the livelihood of migrants. There were no significant impacts of migration on the choice of livelihood using multinomial logistic model other than the choice of "urban mixed" livelihood was 5.7 times were likely than agriculture livelihood for those migrating into the urban centers ($P = 0.050$). It is on the basis of this backdrop that the study intends to examine the teenage out migration in Selected Local Government Areas in Cross River State, Nigeria

2 | STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The problem of migration in most part of Cross River State, Nigeria, has been a central issue of concern. This is because the rate of rural to urban migration continues to suppress the rate of job creation and the absorption capacity of both industry and urban social services. Teenagers that are well trained and enterprising in the community often suddenly make a decision to migrate. This decision of these trained and enterprising youths will weaken homes and the community they are pulling out from. Teenage out migration is a decision that affects the welfare of household, the home community and at the end the economy in many ways. The welfare impacts of migration on the pull community are most often, though not always, mainly increased incomes from remittances, ability to enhance consumption, access to monies to start new business and also to tap on the knowledge and resources provided by the international communities. Teenage out migration in most parts of Cross River State is gradually affecting the entire economy which is a measure of the participating portion of rural population. Observably, with more youth migration into urban areas to earn better living, more aged people are left to accomplish the tasks associated with farming, especially women and under aged teenagers. This leads to reduction in

labour supply, high cost of labour, reduction of farm holding, decline in quantity of crops yield, high cost of farm operation, increased cost of farm produce and food insecurity. It is based on the observable gap in knowledge that the present study is contemplated to assess the teenage out migration in selected Local Government Areas, Cross River State, Nigeria. It will corroborate results elsewhere and increase our understanding on the analysis of demographic characteristics as determinants of teenage outmigration in selected Local Government Areas in Cross River State, Nigeria.

3 | RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The main purpose of the study was to carry out a study on Demographic Idiosyncrasies and Teenage Outmigration: The Cross River State Experience. Specifically, the objectives of the study include the following, to;

[noitemsep,nolistsep,topsep=5pt]Determine the gender differences on teenage out migration in selected Local Government Areas of Cross River State, Nigeria. Examine the influence of location on teenage migrant in selected Local Government Areas of Cross River State, Nigeria.

4 | STATEMENT OF HYPOTHESES

The following null hypotheses were formulated and tested at .05 alpha level. Thus:

[noitemsep,nolistsep,topsep=5pt]Male migrants do not differ significantly from their female counterparts on the basis of outmigration in selected Local Government Areas of Cross River State, Nigeria. There is no significant influence of location on livelihood of teenage out migration in selected Local Government Areas of Cross River State, Nigeria.

5 | METHODOLOGY

The design adopted for this study is the ex-post facto research design and the population of the study

comprised teenagers from 13-19 years numbering 16,561 from selected Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria. From this figure, Southern Senatorial district has 5,421 respondents, Central Senatorial district numbered 6,792 and Northern Senatorial district has 4,358 respectively. The study adopted the stratified and purposive sampling techniques were adopted in the study. In other to determine the sample size, Taro Yamane formula was adopted to select a sample of 751. The instrument used to collect data was a questionnaire developed by the researcher titled "Demographic Idiosyncrasies and Teenage Outmigration Questionnaire (DITOQ)". The instrument consisted of two sections (sections A and B). Section A was designed to elicit information on the respondents' demography such as gender, age and location. Section B is presented in a scale that measures migration. It consists of a 30 items four point Likert-type scale. The items are positively and negatively worded. Responses are scaled from Strongly Agreed (SA) to Strongly Disagreed (SD) as a scoring of 4points to 1 point positively worded items. In order to ascertain the reliability of the instrument, it was pilot tested using 40 respondents from selected LGAs of Cross River State, Nigeria. The instrument was validated by three experts and the reliability was ascertained with Cronbach Alpha Reliability method and the results of internal consistency ranged from 0.76 and .87. Descriptive and inferential (parametric and non-parametric) statistical analyses were used.

6 | RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

6.1 | Hypothesis one

Male migrants do not differ significantly from their female counterparts on the basis of outmigration in Selected Local Government Areas. The major independent variable is gender categorised in terms of male and female, while the dependent variable is out migration. To test this hypotheses gender was categorised into male and female and the chi square analysis was employed. The result is presented with independent t-test as presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of chi-square analysis on the opinion of gender and teenage outmigration in Selected Local Government Areas

Sex	Agree	Disagree	N	Cal X ²	df	Cri X ²
Male	234	156	390	9.06	1	3.84*
Female	155	173	328			
TOTAL	389	329	718			

*p<.05

The result with chi square in Table 1 revealed that males who agree are 234 while those who disagreed are 156, totaling 390 while for females who agree are 155 and those who disagreed are 173 with a total of 328. The grand total is 718. The calculated chi-square is 9.06 which is greater than the critical value of 3.84 at 1 degree of freedom. Thus, the null hypothesis is rejected. This implies that male migrants differ significantly from their female counterparts on the basis of outmigration in Selected Local Government Areas of Cross River State, Nigeria.

6.2 | Hypothesis two

Teenagers from urban location do not differ significantly from those of rural area on the basis of the migration in selected Local Government Areas. The major independent variable is location categorised in terms of urban and rural, while the dependent variable is out migration. To test this hypotheses, independent t-test was used as presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Result of location and teenage outmigration in Selected Local Government Areas

Location	N	\bar{X}	SD	df	t-cal	p-value
Rural	443	16.3318	4.39617	716	3.467	.018
Urban	275	17.4618	3.99103			

*p<.05

The result with independent-test in Table 7 revealed that from the 718 respondents sampled, 443 has

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rural dwellers with mean and standard deviation of 16.3318 and 4.39617, while 275 are urban dwellers with mean of 17.4618 and standard deviation of 3.99103. At 716 degrees of freedom the p-value was found to be .018 which is less than the chosen alpha of .05. Thus the null hypothesis is rejected. This implies that there is a significant influence of location on teenage migrant in selected Local Government Areas of Cross River State, Nigeria.

7 | DISCUSSIONS AND CONCLUSION

The findings revealed that gender and location have a significant association on teenage outmigration in selected LGAs of CRS, Nigeria. This study of outmigration in selected LGAs, of CRS, Nigeria is indeed an eye opener. From the findings, one can conclude that the migrants are living at the margin of life which calls for a great and urgent attention. At the end of a successful research the followings were found:

Firstly, more women are found in the business of migration than the men. The former were 70% in attendant while the later were 30%. This is not in line with other studies where men were more in migration than women. The condition of the area alone was not welcoming for the insatiable men.

Secondly, poor settlement layouts and buildings on pipe lines all these were pictorially shown in the study. Furthermore, 100% of the migrants and the supposedly indigenes in most communities in CRS are suffering from one basic need of life or the other. In climax, Nigeria's (as in other developing countries as shown in the population) difficulties in solving negative effects or a double barred effect of immigration is the failure on the part of the local government which happens to be the closest administrator to the people bridging the gap between the federal government and the people. Therefore, there is need for the government to strengthen the informal sector whereby people migrating can easily be engaged in and strengthened by the social safety net. Development project based on the identified needs of each of the urban communities must be implemented to cater for the increase in the migrants.

8 | RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations from the study are stated as follows:

The Ministry of Non-indigene Matters, Health and that of Environment and more so Niger Delta Development Commission in Cross River State, should as a matter of importance, narrow their aids to these squatting migrants, since most of the migrants are from the Niger Delta region, most especially in selected LGAs of CRS, Nigeria, In all of these, the common man and passer-by should not play the left out wing in rendering any voluntary assistance to the migrants for exhibiting such unusual movement from rural to urban.

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