

Analysis of Rural-Urban Migration in Lokoja, Kogi State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated the consequences of migration in Lokoja. Through the administration of a standardized questionnaire, data was collected from a random sample of 204 respondents. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyze the data collected. The main drivers of rural-urban migration, according to the findings, are need for work (job employment), a desire for a good standard of living, and level of education. People with higher educational degrees, the unemployed, and civil servants were found to be more inclined to migrate to the metropolitan region of Lokoja than those without. The Chi-square test revealed that the effects of the push factors were just as high as the effects of the pull factors ($\chi = 3.532$, $\rho = 0.171$). Further research found that rural-urban migration has a substantial impact on Lokoja's economy, population, housing costs, and the environment. However, the ANOVA test revealed that the effects of rural-urban migration do not significantly vary across the residential neighbourhoods of Lokoja in terms of increase in population size ($F = 0.327$, $\rho = 0.806$), housing costs ($F = 0.585$, $\rho = 0.626$), and waste generation rate and size ($F = 0.354$, $\rho = 0.787$). To stem the flood of rural-urban movement, the study recommends that particular attention be paid to balanced regional development, in which both rural and urban areas are appropriately supplied for.

Keywords: Development, Push-pull factors, Rural-urban migration, Socioeconomic considerations

INTRODUCTION

Migration is the movement of people from one place to another with intentions of settling, permanently or temporarily, at a new location. Migration follows a variety of patterns which expresses movement in space. They include, urban-urban, urban-rural, rural-rural and rural-urban. Rural-urban migration constitutes one of the currents of internal migration in Nigeria and elsewhere. It involves the movement of people from rural to urban areas on permanent or semi-permanent basis (Eze, 2015).

There are various variables that induce rural-urban migration; they can be viewed as a simultaneous examination of factors and determinants that force migrants out of rural regions (push-factors) and factors that entice migrants to urban areas (pull-factors). These factors and determinants are numerous, and they can be divided into economic and non-economic reasons (Fischer, 2009; Ezra & Tesfaye, 2011; Aydiko, 2015). Unemployment or underemployment in rural areas, poor remunerations, and lack of assets, as well as land tenure, which is often linked to inheritance systems that divide land among a large number of individuals, making it less productive, are all economic push factors for rural out-migrations

(Saheed et al., 2018). Rural-urban migration is also linked to economic difficulties in the rural areas, a higher standard of living, and better access to health care and other amenities and infrastructure in urban areas (Njoku and Chikere, 2015; Kanu and Ukonze, 2018).

Rural-urban migration is currently one of Nigeria's most worrisome socioeconomic development concerns (UNDESA, 2019). Nigeria's urban population has grown significantly during the last five decades and is expected to continue to do so in the near future, though at a slower rate (Avis, 2019). The Nigerian urban population is expected to double in the next 30 years, according to projections (UNDESA, 2019). The extension of existing built-up areas and the formation of new and identifiably "urban" settlements have accompanied Nigeria's urban population increase in both absolute and relative terms (Bloch et al., 2015; UNDESA, 2019).

Migration from the countryside to the city causes problems in both rural and urban areas. For example, human and environmental poverty, diminishing quality of life, unused and undeveloped human resources, as well as rapid deterioration of the rural economy, leading to chronic poverty and food insecurity, are all consequences of

outmigration from rural areas (Mini, 2000; Alarima, 2018). Simultaneously, rural-urban migration is associated with urban unemployment problems (Todaro, 1976) and decline in urban wages (Tindigarukayo, 2014).

Many scholars have focused their studies on internal migration in Nigeria and elsewhere, particularly focusing on causes and consequences of rural-urban migration on origin (Ajero & Onokale, 2013, Chukwuedozie & Ignatius 2014, Wondimagegnu, 2012; Liu, 2011). Other researchers have highlighted the effects of rural-urban migration on destination (Saheed et al. 2018; Ibrahim et al. 2016; Njoku & Chikere 2015). They found that rural-urban migration has an impact on the urban economy, particularly in terms of urban employment, cost of living, and impact on the environmental resource base, which is necessary for livelihood sustenance.

It is obvious from the foregoing that many researches have been undertaken on the effects of rural-urban migration, particularly on the source region as well as on destination. However, not much is known about the effects of rural-urban migration on Lokoja. Being a relatively new and still growing capital city, an increase in the human population in the town could have negative implications for the town. It therefore follows that a systematic insight into the rural-urban migration, its determining factors (push and pull), and impacts would be of immense benefits to development planners, policy makers and government on how to design policy that will take care of the push and pull factor of rural-urban migration in the study area.

This study investigated the socioeconomic impacts of rural-urban migration on Lokoja town, Kogi State. In doing that, the researchers analysed the migrants' socioeconomic features, the factors that drive migration to the study area, and the impact of rural-urban movement on the study area.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Area

The research was conducted at Lokoja, Nigeria's first colonial administrative capital and the administrative center of Lokoja Local Government Area (LGA). It lies between latitudes 7° 45' 27.56 "N and 7° 51' 04.34" N and longitude 6° 41' 55.64 "E and 6° 45' 36.58 "E (Figure 1). It has an elevation of about 45 to 125 meters above mean sea level,

situated on the western bank of the Niger River. Lokoja is drained by the Niger and Benue rivers, whose confluence is at the town, as well as the Meme River. Unfortunately, settlement areas close to these waterways, such as Kabawa, Natako, Felele, Adankolo, and Ganaja, experience annual seasonal floods between July and September, when the rivers burst their banks.

Lokoja is located in Nigeria's tropical wet and dry Savannah climate zone, where the weather is hot all year round. The yearly mean temperature is around 33°C and precipitation is lowest (about 2.0mm) in December and highest in September (about 208.8mm). Lokoja is in Nigeria's Guinea Savannah Zone, where the vegetation is a mix of trees and grasslands. Due to human activity, the majority of the trees have been cut down, leaving only few trees and large expanse of open grassland.

Lokoja is a multi-ethnic city with a diverse range of cultures and ethnicities. The Oworo, Bassa Nge, Igala, and Ebira tribes are native to the area, whereas the Igbo, Yoruba, Bini/Edo, Tiv, and Nupe tribes are considered settler-citizens. Lokoja is the capital of Kogi State and its centre for economic, educational, and financial operations too. Since becoming the state capital in 1991, Lokoja has seen a remarkable surge in the population and growth in land area. For example, according to the National Population Commission (NPC), the population was at 82,483 in 1991 and 195,261 in 2006 (NPC, 1991). Lokoja's population is estimated to be 303,481 in 2020, with a 2.6% annual growth rate.

Lokoja is a nucleated settlement with a cluster of homes in the central area. This is due to its physiographic topography, which situates the town between Patti Ridge and the Niger River. However, urbanization has resulted in an explosion of physical expansion away from the city center, leading to the establishment of new residential communities on the outskirts, where the terrain is more favorable and the land is less expensive to build on (Ukoje, 2016). Lokoja connects the country's northern and southern regions as a nodal town. It is a gateway settlement and a resting or stop location for travelers from the northern part of Nigeria heading south and vice versa. It is therefore famous as a fuel-refill and travelers' refreshment stop point. All of these circumstances have resulted in massive influx of people from hinterland into Lokoja

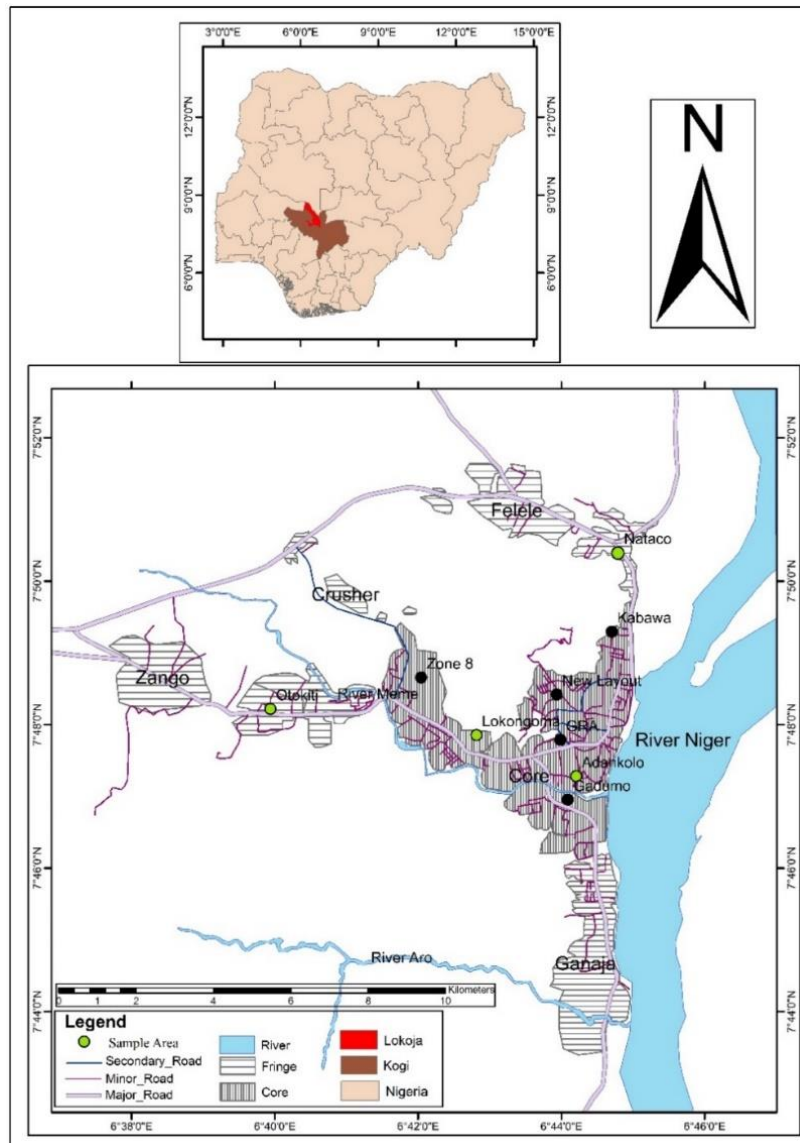


Figure 1 Lokoja Town, Kogi State

Data Collection

Primary and secondary sources were used to collect data for this investigation. Primary data was gathered from 204 respondents via a survey, which was supplemented by structured interviews and on-the-ground assessments. Satellite pictures that were digitized to create the study area map are examples of secondary data.

Rural-urban migrants to Lokoja constituted the study's target demographic, who are spread across the city's many neighbourhoods. A multiple-stage sampling approaches were used to select

samples for the investigation. For starters, Lokoja was divided into two zones: the centre (zone A) and the periphery (zone B) (Figure 1). This was done to allow for a wide range of viewpoints and opinions. The second stage involved selection of areas observed for upsurge of rural-urban migration as well as perceived urban growth. The final stage however, involved a random sampling of rural-urban migrants for administration of the questionnaire. Altogether, a total of 204 respondents were sampled for the study (Table 1).

Table 1 Neighborhoods and their sample sizes

Neighborhood	Zone	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Adankolo	Core	67	32.8
Lokongoma	Core	67	32.8
Natako	Fringe	35	17.2
Otokiti	Fringe	35	17.2
Total		204	100

Data were collected on the following study variables: demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of migrants; factors that motivated rural-urban migration; effects of rural-urban migration on the town; and the influence of demographic and socioeconomic characteristics on rural-urban migration. To make the query and analysis of responses easier, the majority of them used Likert-scale alternatives.

Key informant interviews were conducted with urban managers, opinion leaders and traditional rulers considered to be adequately knowledgeable. The interview was used to gather information on the impact of rural-urban migration on Lokoja.

The raw data generated from the questionnaire were keyed into the SPSS program for application of different analysis to the data. Percentages and weighted mean were used to analyze the data collected from respondents. The percentage represented the information gathered from the respondents in terms of socioeconomic quality and the causes that prompted migration. The Likert-scale responses that measured the effects of rural-to-urban migration on the research area were summarized using weighted mean analysis. The scale was evaluated from very high to very low (Very High = 5, High = 4, Average = 3, Low = 2, Very Low = 1).

The Chi-Square test of difference was utilized to determine if there is a significant difference between the pull and push factors. The consequences of rural-urban migration in Lokoja were studied using a one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) to see if they were consistent among the neighbourhoods in the study area.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Characteristics of Respondents

Gender, marital status, age, level of education,

employment position, and income are among socioeconomic factors considered. About 55.4 percent of respondents were male, and majority (63.2%) of them are relatively young being 46 years old or less in age. The high rate of male that is involved in rural-urban migration could be attributed to the societal demand on men to succeed early in life. Furthermore, the respondents maintained that societal demands like marriage and taking care of family members left behind are the reasons why male tend to migrate to cities than females. Females are usually seen as care givers and as such required to stay at home. The concentration of the migrants at the youthful level may be because it is usually at this age that the males who are the most migratory attend university, learn a trade, engage in business or even get employed after their studies. The marital status of the respondents revealed that 51.5 percent were married, with the remainder 48.5% being single, divorced, or widowed. Most (60.3%) households have only 5 or less persons (Table 2).

Furthermore, the majority of respondents (67.6%) had a tertiary education while 27.9% of the respondents had primary and secondary education. None of the migrants was uneducated. This means that they would be familiar with the subject matter of the study and have well-informed opinions or experience of the issues involved in rural-urban migration in the city. This study also agreed with the finding of Alarima (2018) who found that none of the respondents in his study was illiterate, as they have attained one form of education or the other. The majority of respondents (37.7%) worked for the government, while 28.9% were self-employed, 19.1% were unemployed, and 14.2% worked for non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The bulk of the people who took part in the survey were low-wage workers. Only 36.8% of those polled earned more than ₦50,000, while 63.2 percent earned less.

Table 2 Respondents' socioeconomic profile

Variable	Options	Frequency	Percent
Sex	Male	113	55.4
	Female	91	44.6
Age (years)	Less than 26	7	3.4
	26-35	63	30.9
	36-45	59	28.9
	45-55	68	33.3
	Over 55	7	3.4
Marital status	Single	79	38.7
	Married	105	51.5
	Divorced	16	7.8
	Widowed	4	2.0
Size of family	Less than 3	54	26.5
	3-5	69	33.8
	6-8	57	27.9
	Above 8	24	11.8
Education	Primary	26	12.7
	Secondary	31	15.2
	Tertiary	138	67.6
	Non-formal	9	4.4
Employment	Not employed	39	19.1
	Self-employed	59	28.9
	Civil servant	77	37.7
	NGO	29	14.2
Monthly income (₦)	18-30,000	26	12.7
	31-40,000	55	27.0
	41-50,000	48	23.5
	Above 50,000	75	36.8

Perceptions on Push-Pull Factors and their Impacts

The reasons for migrating vary and can be classified as either push or pull factors based on the motivation of the movement.

Push factors are those that make an individual move out intentionally or forcefully. Lack of job opportunities, a low standard of living, poor supply of social amenities, conflict, crop failure and starvation were among the issues cited by respondents as factors that forced them away

from rural areas. The weighted-mean study (Table 3) revealed that a low standard of living in rural areas (0.96), lack of job opportunity (0.83), and conflict (0.81) were the most significant factors that pushed rural populations to metropolitan regions. Other factors included crop failure, starvation and poor supply of social amenities. This result supports Basil (2016), who found poor infrastructure and income generating opportunities, insecurity of life, conflict, and unfavourable conditions as push factors.

Table 3 Push factors that cause people to leave rural areas

Variable	Weighted mean	Effect	Rank
Low standard of living	0.96	Very high	1
Lack of job opportunity	0.83	Very high	2
Conflict	0.81	Very high	3
Crop failure and starvation	0.65	High	4
Poor supply of social amenities	0.50	Low	5

Pull factors are those factors in the urban areas that pull or attracts the people. Education, better work opportunities, a good standard of life, enhanced social facilities like (electricity, pipe water supply, good schools and better medical facilities), and the presence of family were all mentioned by respondents as reasons for their migration from rural to urban areas. The most major causative factor of rural-urban migration, according to the weighted-mean study, was employment (0.99) (Table 4). Following work, increased social amenities, education, and the presence of relatives are the most important factors in that order. This indicates that those who migrates to the urban areas do so in order to improve on their living conditions. The implication of this is that mass movement to the urban areas will continue as long as the social conditions of the rural areas are not taken into consideration. People are attracted to urban areas

because they think they will have greater opportunities than what is obtainable in the rural areas. This result is in tandem with the finding of Njoku & Chikere (2015) who found that the decision to migrate from rural to urban areas owe to rural income differential and the probability of securing urban employment. In addition, the inadequate provision of social infrastructure in the rural areas which has the second highest weight clearly support findings from scholars like Adewale (2005) and Njoku & Chikere (2015) that social amenities like education, hospitals, schools, etc. are grossly provided in the rural areas and thus propelling them to migrate to cities. It could be inferred that the need for better economic benefits and social infrastructure are principal causes of rural-urban migration among the sampled population.

Table 4 Pull factors that draw respondents to cities

Variable	Weighted mean	Effect	Rank
Employment opportunities	0.99	Extremely high	1
Improved social amenities	0.96	Extremely high	2
Education	0.90	Very high	3
Affluent lifestyle	0.80	High	4
Presence of relatives	0.77	High	5

Source: Fieldwork by authors, 2021

The statistical significance of the difference between the effects of the push and pull components of rural-urban migration was determined using the Chi-Square test of association. To put it another way, the results of this study in Table 5 can be utilized to determine whether the push factors in Table 3 have different degrees or intensities than the

pull factors in Table 4. The estimated p-value of statistical significance (0.171) is higher than the level of significance (0.05). As a result, the effects of push forces are not significantly different to those of pull factors. This means that the push factors are equally as important as the pull factors in the decision to migrate from rural to urban areas.

Table 5 The effects of push and pull factors of rural-urban migration

	Value	df	p-value
Pearson Chi-Square	3.532	2	0.171
Likelihood Ratio	3.597	2	0.166
Linear-by-Linear Association	0.173	1	0.678
N of Valid Cases	204		

Source: Fieldwork by authors, 2021

Impact of Rural-Urban Migration on Lokoja

The results of the weighted-mean analysis of respondents' perspectives on the aspects of Lokoja most impacted by rural-urban migration are presented in Table 5. According to respondents, the

inflow of people from rural areas has impact on the social, economic, environment, physical and cultural aspects of Lokoja. For instance, the economy (0.97) and population size (0.91) were the

most extremely affected aspects. However, individual welfare (0.61) were the least affected. electricity and water supply supplies (0.65), and

Table 5 Variables affected by rural-urban migration

Variable	Weighted mean	Effect	Rank
Economy	0.97	Extremely high	1
Population size	0.91	Extremely high	2
Social/moral standards	0.88	Very high	3
Housing condition	0.86	Very high	4
Environment	0.83	Very high	5
Rate and size of waste generation	0.77	Very high	6
Electricity and water supply	0.65	High	7
Individual welfare	0.61	High	8

Source: Fieldwork by author, 2021

Table 6 shows that some of the socioeconomic impacts of rural-urban migration on Lokoja were positive, while others were negative. The economy was the most positively impacted by rural-urban migration. According to the oral interviews with respondents, rural-urban migration improved the economy of Lokoja as migrants not only generate demand for goods and services as consumers but also provided tax revenue to government. This agreed with Meng & Zhang (2013) findings that rural-urban migrants' tax payment contributes to the rising of urban governments' fiscal revenue. If city governments make use of any such additional tax revenue to provide more public facilities and services through government investment, urban residents' access to social services may be kept constant or even increase. The implication is that when more people move from rural to urban areas, it results in increased diversification, transportation needs and demands, and economic prospects in terms of labor source, increased market for products, and so on.

Most of the socioeconomic impacts of rural-urban migration on Lokoja were negative. The impacts were in the area of employment opportunities, housing cost and affordability, basic social infrastructure and services, the rate of waste generation and access to health care. The respondents believed that rural migrants cause a

reduction in the access of urban residents to jobs as more people now chase the same job. These social and economic problems are related to the unplanned population increases in the town. Furthermore, infrastructure decay, housing challenges, poor sanitary condition and increased number of waste dump sites are evidence of pressure on social services and infrastructure. This result agreed with Kanu & Ukonze (2018) who found that increase in the population size due to rural-urban migration may lead to increase in the consumption of scarce public facilities and services, thereby affecting urban residents' access to social services. The government spends much more on the rehabilitation and maintenance of the decayed infrastructure and also on the provision of new ones to meet up with the change in population size.

Furthermore, inflow rural migrants were rated to be a major source of societal problems such as, high city crime and delinquency. Ogunmakinde et al (2014) observed that rural migrants' inflow threatens the safety and security of local community. Community heads believed that most of the serious crime in his study area were committed by rural migrants. These effects have constituted a menace to the urban area. Some of the effects of rural-urban migration include urban traffic congestion, inadequate electricity and water supply, and growth of slum.

Table 6 The effects of rural-urban migration on selected socioeconomic aspects

Variable	Impact
Tax revenue	Positive
Demand for goods	Positive
Employment opportunities	Negative
Housing cost and affordability	Negative
Crime and delinquency	Negative
Basic/social infrastructures and facilities	Negative
Rate and size of waste generation	Negative
Healthcare accessibility	Negative

Source: Fieldwork by authors, 2021

Variations of the Socio-Economic Impacts of Rural-Urban Migration in Lokoja's Residential Neighbourhoods

ANOVA was applied to population size, housing expenses, and the rate and magnitude of waste generation to determine if the consequences of rural-urban migration are the same across the residential areas in Lokoja metropolis. Table 7 shows that there is no statistically significant difference in the effects from one neighborhood to

the next ($0.806 > 0.05$, $0.626 > 0.05$, and $0.787 > 0.05$), implying that the consequences of rural-urban migration are the same in every residential region of Lokoja metropolis. To put it another way, anytime there is an influx of people from neighboring rural areas, no residential neighborhood is immune to increases in population, housing costs, and the rate and magnitude of trash generation.

Table 9 The effects of rural-urban migration on residential neighbourhoods

Variables		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Population size	Between Groups	0.804	3	0.268	0.327	0.806
	Within Groups	163.882	200	0.819		
	Total	164.686	203			
Housing costs	Between Groups	0.956	3	0.319	0.585	0.626
	Within Groups	108.98	200	0.545		
	Total	109.936	203			
Rate and size of waste generation	Between Groups	1.196	3	0.399	0.354	0.787
	Within Groups	225.49	200	1.127		
	Total	226.686	203			

Source: Fieldwork done by the author, 2021.

CONCLUSION

The consequences of rural-to-urban migration on Lokoja's development were investigated in this study. The push variables had equally as much influence as the pull elements, according to the findings. To put it another way, there is likely nothing in rural areas that prevents people from moving to cities. Furthermore, rural-urban migration has a detrimental impact on Lokoja in terms of higher housing costs and restricted access to basic infrastructure and services, while it has favorable impacts in economic prospects in terms of tax revenue and increased demand for goods. As a result, the research is important for both urban

planning and rural development as it can help the government balance the dynamics of the rural and urban areas through regional planning and policy execution. In general, the uneven distribution of resources is at the root of all forms of migration. Rural development is an essential part of every country's economy, and policy makers and governments around the world are paying attention to its rapid development and modernisation. This means that managing rural-urban migration necessitates an equitable allocation of resources and opportunities. As a result, the study suggests that the government ensures that social and economic development in rural and urban areas are balanced.

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