

## **Rural-Urban Migration among Secondary School Graduates in the Southern Senatorial Zone of Kaduna State: Causes and Effects on Agricultural Production**

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### **Abstract**

The study sought to determine the causes of Rural-Urban migration among secondary school graduates in the Southern Senatorial Zone of Kaduna State and how it affects agricultural production. Two research questions and two hypotheses guided the study. The population for the study was 264 comprising of 41 Agricultural Development Project (ADP) Extension Agents and 223 teachers of agriculture in the three educational inspectorate divisions in the area of study. The sample used for the study was 131 respondents. Questionnaire was used for data collection. Data was analyzed using the mean to answer the research questions while the t-test statistic was employed in testing the hypotheses of the study. Major findings include that lack of good road network, poor prices of agricultural products among others are causes of rural-urban migration. Respondents also perceived low agricultural production, poverty, hunger, food insecurity, loss of the most informed and enterprising portion of the rural population among others as effects of rural urban migration on agricultural production. The results of the test of hypotheses showed that there was no statistical significant difference in the Mean Responses of the respondents. It was recommended that government and non-governmental organizations should come up with policies and programs that will lead to the development of the rural areas such as rural roads construction, rural electrification, farm input subsidy, rural health services among others.

**Key words:** Migration; Secondary school graduates; Agricultural Production

### **Introduction**

Human migration involves the movement of people from one place to another. People move from one place to another for various reasons. In the context of this study, rural-urban migration is the movement of people (secondary school graduates) from the

rural areas to the urban centers. Tunde (2009) opined that migration is an inevitable part of human existence. The author further stated that migration has had a long history and its pattern has changed considerably over time. In their submission, Olatunbosun and Adepoju in Tunde (2009) observed that rural-

urban migration assumed prominence in the oil boom era of the 1970s. Fadayomi (1992) reported that rural-urban drift became more intractable with obvious dichotomy in access to modern facility and living standards between rural and urban centers.

Rural urban migration has continued to deprive the Nigerian rural agrarian areas of able-bodied literate youths who are supposed to be an important source of farm labor and more pre-disposed to new and improved methods of farming. Useful natural resources which can be harnessed for economic development abound in rural Nigeria. Akande (2002) observed that Nigeria has a large proportion of both the rural sector and rural people and that the inhabitants of rural Nigeria engage in agriculture. Lending support of this assertion, the Agricultural Development Fund (ADF, 2005) stated that agriculture employs about 80% of the Nigerian rural population. Olatunbosun in Tunde (2009) pointed out that agricultural activity occupies four-fifth of the rural population in Nigeria.

With majority of the Nigerian population (60%) and by extension majority of secondary school graduates resident in the rural areas as pointed out by Gana (2001) where agricultural production is favored, this group of individuals (secondary school graduates) instead of remaining in the rural areas in order to take advantage of the God-given abundant natural resources prefer moving to the cities in search of non-existing white-collar jobs. The rural communities in Nigeria are

characterized by lack of social infrastructure such as portable drinking water, good roads, electricity, health facility among others as a result of rural-urban investment imbalance.

The implication of rural-urban migration is obvious. It remains one of the reasons for which agriculture and the rural area continues to be undeveloped as pointed out by Tunde (2009). In the opinion of Makinwa (1981), agricultural development cannot make any substantial progress if allowed to remain bereft of requisite human capital. As a result of the selective nature of rural-urban migration with regards to human resources, it has been noted to cause major hindrances to rural productivity and farm growth (Colayide, 1975 and Fadayomi, 1994). Migration to the urban areas therefore affects food production and agricultural exports; causing hunger and poverty in the rural areas. It also makes youths to create and live in slums. Also, when in the town without doing anything meaningful to make ends meet, most youths are tempted to go into criminality and other anti-social behaviors.

The ugly trend of concentrating social and economic infrastructure and services in the urban centers to the neglect of the rural areas where most agricultural production takes place thus resulting in the mass movement of the rural labor force should not be allowed to continue. Makinwa (1981) observed that to achieve a reasonable growth rate in the rural sector would require active participation of a sizeable, informed, healthy, economically and socially

motivated population. It is in realization of this that various governments past and present initiated different policies and programs aimed at developing the rural areas and checking the problem of unemployment were put in place. Some of these programs and policies put in place by government in Nigeria include: the National Agriculture and Cooperative Banks, NACB established to facilitate agricultural financing to farmers, the National Accelerated Food Production Program, NAFPP to emphasize agricultural research and extension support to farmers. Others are the Operation Feed the Nation, OFN initiated to build the spirit of dignity of labor and re-engaging idle hands back to land; the River Basin Development Authority, RBDAs and the Directorate of Food Roads and Rural Infrastructure, DFFRRI. The DFFRRI was established to provide the Nigerian rural populace with infrastructural facilities such as roads, electricity, water, boreholes etc. in order to enhance food production, processing and evacuation of their produce to urban markets and to stem the tide of rural-urban migration. Yet another government initiative aimed at improving the rural living condition was the introduction of the Directorate of Employment, NDE. The NDE according to Igbeka (2003) was to address unemployment problem of graduate school leavers. The list of government policies and projects is by no means exhausted in this paper. Some of the policies are still on course while others have since gone moribund. Despite government's efforts in initiating programs, projects and

policies aimed at developing the rural areas, Tunde (2009) stated that the efforts of Nigerian government towards this course over the years have failed to make any meaningful improvement in the rural Nigeria.

The rural area of Nigeria is favorable for agricultural production because of the abundant natural and human resources. Rural Nigeria inhabits over 70% of the total population of the country. Unfortunately, this rural majority are the most neglected with little or no presence of basic social amenities resulting in the mass drift of the ruralites into the urban areas where life is more comfortable. The exodus of people mostly youths from the rural farming areas to the urban centers has implications on agricultural production and poses threat to security of lives and property. There is therefore the need to carry out a study that will look in to the reasons why secondary school graduates migrate from the rural areas of southern senatorial zone of Kaduna state to urban centers. The effects of this trend on agriculture should also be established and possible solutions recommended.

#### **Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of the study was to investigate the factors responsible for rural urban migration among secondary school leavers and how it affects agricultural production in the southern senatorial zone of Kaduna state. Specifically, the study

- i. Identified the factors responsible for rural-urban migration among

- secondary school graduates in the area.
- ii. Determined the effects of rural-urban migration on agricultural production in the southern senatorial zone of Kaduna state.

### Research Questions

1. What are the factors responsible for rural-urban migration among secondary school graduates in the southern senatorial zone of Kaduna state?
2. What are the effects of rural-urban migration among secondary school graduates on agricultural production in southern senatorial zone of Kaduna state?

### Research Hypotheses

HO<sub>1</sub>: There is no significant difference between the mean ratings of agricultural science teachers and extension agents on factors responsible for rural-urban migration among secondary school graduates in southern senatorial zone of Kaduna state.

HO<sub>2</sub>: There is no significant difference between the mean ratings of agricultural science teachers and extension agents on the effects of rural-urban migration among secondary school graduates on agricultural production in southern senatorial zone of Kaduna state.

### Methodology

*Area of the Study:* The area of the study was the southern senatorial zone of Kaduna state. The area has three educational inspectorate divisions and

one agricultural development zone. Southern Kaduna Senatorial zone is in the savanna vegetational zone of Nigeria with large expanse of cultivable land and favorable climate for both arable crop and animal farming.

*Design of the Study:* The study adopted a survey research design. The design was appropriate because the study used questionnaire to collect data from agricultural science teachers and extension agents.

*Population for the Study:* The population for the study was 264 comprising of 223 teachers of agriculture in public secondary schools (drawn from the three educational inspectorate divisions) and 41 Extension Agents (E.As) (of the Samaru Agricultural zone) in the southern senatorial zone of the state. The total number of agricultural science teachers was obtained from the three educational inspectorate divisions in the zone while the total number of agricultural extension agents was obtained from the Samaru agricultural zone. These individuals were used because they are in a better position as experts in agriculture to give possible causes of rural urban migration among secondary school graduates and the effects of the trend on agriculture.

*Sample for the study:* The sample of teachers used for the study was 90 obtained through the proportionate random sampling technique based on the three educational zonal inspectorate divisions in the southern Kaduna senatorial district. This involved sampling the teachers in proportion to the total number of teachers in each of

the educational zones. The zone with the highest number of teachers had more teachers involved in the study than the one with lesser. Based on this therefore, 40 teachers were sampled from Kafanchan inspectorate division, 32 teachers sampled from Zonkwa inspectorate division and 18 teachers sampled from Godo-Godo inspectorate division. All the 41 Extension Agents were involved in the study since they were few giving a total sample size of 131.

**Instrument for Data Collection:** A 36 item questionnaire 'Rural-Urban Migration Questionnaire (RUMQ)' was developed from literature and used for data collection. The instrument was designed to obtain from the respondents ratings of the questionnaire base on the extent to which such items are perceived as causes of rural urban migration and how it affects agricultural production. A five-point rating scale was constructed for the respondent's responses. The scale points and their respective numerical values were: 'to a very great extent', TVGE (5), 'to a great extent', TGE (4), 'to some extent', TSE (3), 'to a little extent', TLE (2) and 'to no extent at all'

TNE (1). The instrument was face validated by three experts and pilot-tested for internal consistency. A reliability coefficient of 0.89 was obtained with Cronbach Alfa technique and the instrument was considered reliable.

**Methods of Data Collection and Analysis:** Data collection was carried out through personal contact with the help of three research assistants. One hundred and thirty one copies of the questionnaire were administered. All the 130 copies were retrieved, giving a 100% return.

The Mean and frequencies were used to answer the research questions. The mean scores were used to determine the level of perception expressed on a 5-point scale for each of the items. A mean rating of 2.50 was used for decision making. The t-test statistic technique was employed for the test of hypotheses of the study. The hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance.

## Results

**Table 1: Mean responses and t-test Analysis of the responses of agricultural science teachers and Extension Agents on factors responsible for rural-urban migration among secondary school leavers in southern senatorial zone of Kaduna state.**

s/ no	Factors	$\bar{X}_1$	SD <sub>1</sub>	RMK	$\bar{X}_2$	SD <sub>2</sub>	RMK	t-cal	t-tab	Dec
1	Search for white-collar jobs	4.64	0.62	TVGE	3.44	0.64	TSE	0.97	1.96	NS
2	Poor road network	3.63	1.44	TGE	3.31	0.72	TSE	0.61	1.96	NS
3	Farming is strenuous	4.17	0.48	TGE	3.72	0.56	TGE	0.67	1.96	NS
4	Lack of pipe-born water	3.46	0.94	TSE	3.40	0.50	TSE	0.87	1.96	NS

5	Lack of good marketing facilities	3.30	0.44	TSE	3.60	0.72	TGE	-1.16	1.96	NS
6	Lack of credit facilities	3.49	0.61	TSE	3.22	0.87	TSE	0.80	1.96	NS
7	Absence of good health facilities	4.21	0.68	TGE	3.19	0.86	TSE	-1.26	1.96	NS
8	Conservativeness of rural life	3.08	0.64	TSE	3.35	0.65	TSE	0.81	1.96	NS
9	Absence of good educational opportunities	3.61	0.46	TGE	3.42	0.53	TSE	0.46	1.96	NS
10	Lack of good storage facilities for farm produce	3.20	0.64	TSE	3.67	0.89	TGE	-1.11	1.96	NS
11	Escalating cost of farm labor	3.21	0.64	TSE	3.15	0.68	TSE	0.77	1.96	NS
12	Misunderstanding among family members or neighbors	3.69	1.08	TGE	3.67	0.75	TGE	-1.52	1.96	NS
13	Poor prices of agricultural commodities	3.81	0.75	TGE	3.03	0.86	TSE	0.21	1.96	NS
14	Low farm productivity	2.67	0.46	TSE	3.98	0.32	TGE	0.35	1.96	NS
15	Farming not a lucrative business	2.92	0.82	TSE	2.97	0.22	TSE	0.79	1.96	NS
16	Lack of commitment to agriculture by government	4.23	1.21	TGE	3.45	0.25	TSE	0.80	1.96	NS
17	Need to change personal status	3.31	0.32	TSE	3.21	0.71	TSE	-1.20	1.96	NS
18	Lack of rural electricity	4.04	0.65	TGE	3.60	0.11	TGE	0.91	1.96	NS
19	Clumsiness of rural life	3.87	0.17	TGE	3.41	0.72	TSE	0.56	1.96	NS
20	Aspiration for better living conditions	3.62	0.55	TGE	2.73	0.66	TSE	0.53	1.96	NS
21	Unjust treatment of school leavers by parents, neighbors, friends etc.	2.64	0.51	TSE	3.22	0.41	TSE	0.97	1.96	NS
22	Inability to meet family demands	4.22	0.70	TGE	3.60	0.31	TGE	0.21	1.96	NS

**KEY:**  $\bar{X}_1$ =Agric. Sc. Teachers;  $\bar{X}_2$ = Extension Agents; SD= Standard deviation; NS= Not significant; TVGE=To a very great extent; TGE= To a great extent; TSE=To some extent; N<sub>1</sub>= Number of agric. Science teachers (=90), N<sub>2</sub>= Number of extension agents (=41).

Table 1 reveals that the Mean scores of used for data collection and the real agricultural science teachers on their limits of the respective numerical values perception on the causes of rural-urban of the points, it indicates that agricultural migration ranged from 2.64-4.64. Based science teachers perceived all the items on the scale points of the instrument listed in the table as causes of rural urban

migration. Data analysis presented in the same table revealed that the Mean scores of extension agents on the same items ranged from 2.73-3.98. The Mean values indicated that the respondents perceived all the items listed in the table as causes of rural-urban migration.

Furthermore, the result of the t-test analysis showed no significant ( $p \leq 0.05$ )

difference between the Mean scores of the two groups of respondents. The null hypothesis was then upheld in all the instances. The study therefore, revealed that the respondents did not vary in their opinion of the items as causes of rural-urban migration.

**Table 2: Mean responses and t-test Analysis of the responses of agricultural science teachers and Extension Agents on effects of rural-urban migration among secondary school leavers on agricultural production in southern senatorial zone of Kaduna state.**

s/ n	Effects of rural urban migration	G		Agric teachers		Extension agents		t-cal	RMK
		Dec	TSE	$\bar{X}_1$	SD <sub>1</sub>	$\bar{X}_2$	SD <sub>2</sub>		
1	Loss of manpower	3.40	TSE	3.45	0.69	3.35	0.94	0.08	NS
2	Decline in the gross domestic product	3.10	TSE	3.06	0.94	3.13	0.01	0.05	NS
3	Decline in food production	3.51	TGE	3.39	0.91	3.63	1.08	0.65	NS
4	Escalating cost of feedstuff	3.59	TGE	3.41	0.89	3.76	1.98	0.32	NS
5	Rural poverty	3.52	TGE	3.63	0.68	3.40	0.93	0.25	NS
6	Food insecurity	3.63	TGE	3.71	0.56	3.55	0.56	0.29	NS
7	Food importation	3.56	TGE	3.71	0.51	3.41	0.90	1.22	NS
8	Decline in export earnings	3.66	TGE	3.64	0.48	3.67	0.78	0.36	NS
9	Loss of the literate population	3.51	TGE	3.72	0.88	3.30	0.45	1.04	NS
10	Increase in criminality	3.41	TSE	3.41	0.62	3.41	0.91	0.41	NS
11	Loss of the most enterprising rural population	2.07	TLE	3.06	0.86	3.15	0.75	0.28	NS
12	Loss of prospective adopters of farming innovation	3.15	TSE	3.10	0.56	3.20	1.02	0.66	NS
13	Hunger	3.23	TSE	2.90	0.76	3.56	0.67	0.75	NS
14	Insecurity of life and property	3.50	TGE	3.15	0.86	3.05	0.91	1.05	NS

**NOTE:** G=Grand Mean; TGE=To a great extent; TSE=To some extent; TLE=To a little extent;  $\bar{X}_1$ =Mean one (Teachers);  $\bar{X}_2$ =Mean two (extension agents); SD<sub>1</sub>=Standard deviation one; SD<sub>2</sub>=Standard deviation two; N<sub>1</sub>= Number of agric teachers (=90); N<sub>2</sub>= Number of extension agents (=41); t-tab=1.96

Table 2 shows that the Grand Mean items to be effects of rural-urban migration to a great extent (items 3, 4, 5, and extension agents ranged from 2.07-3.66. The Grand Means indicated that the two groups of respondents perceived the loss of the most enterprising rural

population) was perceived as an effect of rural-urban migration to a little extent.

The results of the test of hypothesis of no significant difference between Mean scores of agricultural science teachers and extension agents showed no significant ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) values in all cases. The null hypothesis of no significant difference was therefore upheld.

### **Discussion of Findings**

The study has shown that the factors responsible for rural-urban migration among secondary school graduates in the southern senatorial zone of Kaduna state include among others search for white collar job, lack of good health facilities, and absence of good road network, changing self status, aspiration for better living condition, lack of educational opportunity etc. The finding is in agreement with those of Chant (1992), Fadayomi (1992), Bates (2001), Deltan and Rogally (2002) and Tunde (2009). Both authors both authors submitted that factors responsible for rural-urban migration include the search for job opportunities, changing of self identity, conflict, rural urban investment imbalance, and absence of basic social amenities. Absence of good road network for instance, does not encourage meaningful agricultural productivity as cost of importing farm inputs is high and farmers incur high cost in transporting their produces to the markets and most times suffer losses due to the bad nature of the roads. The findings of the study showed that secondary graduates in the area of study migrate to the cities as a result of aspiration for better living conditions. This may not be unconnected

with the fact that secondary school leavers being youths and full of energy would have a dream of a life condition better than what is obtainable in the rural areas.

The findings of the study also showed that effects of rural-urban migration among secondary school graduates on agriculture in southern senatorial zone of Kaduna state include loss of manpower, food insecurity, decline in food production, loss of prospective adopters of farming innovations, loss of literate and most enterprising population, hunger, insecurity of lives and property among others. Similar findings were reported by Essang and Mabawanku (1974), Makinwa (1988), Dyavand (1993), Fadayomi (1994), and Tunde (2009).

### **Conclusion**

The study investigated the factors responsible for rural-urban migration among secondary school graduates in Kaduna state and how it affects agricultural production. It was found out that rural-urban migration among this group of individuals is caused by a number of factors principal among which is rural-urban investment imbalance. Also the study indicated that rural migration has an implication on agricultural production in the area. It results in decline food production, hunger, loss of active and informed manpower among others.

### **Recommendations**

The following recommendations are made based on the findings of the study.



1. Government should evolve policies and programs aimed at developing the rural areas so as to retain secondary school graduates in the rural areas where they can get engaged in meaningful economic activities.
2. Credit facilities should be made available to youths who want to venture into agriculture since lack of capital is found to be a major set-back in any business ventures.
3. Kaduna state government should make adequate arrangement for the prompt and attractive purchasing of farm products produced by farmers to serve as motivation to the youth to go into farm business.

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