

Socio-Economic Influence of Retirees' Migration on Rural Development in Ekiti State, Nigeria

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Abstract

The study focused on socioeconomic influence of retirees' migration on rural development in Ekiti State, Nigeria. A total of 135 respondents were randomly selected from 18 villages in six LGAs of the State. Findings indicate that the retirees were mostly males, between 61-70 years of age, highly educated but with large family sizes. Factors that push them away from urban to rural areas were urban problems such as stress, stealing and crime and to reduce cost of living in urban areas. The pull factors were to invest in local occupations, benefit from natural resources, contribute to community development, interact with village peer groups, contribute to extended family life, participate in community decision making process, provide leadership in the community, moving closer to family and friends, acts as advisers in community matters, quest to contribute to family development. Retirees influenced rural development in Ekiti State through acting as advisers in the rural community, educating rural people, settling communal problems and giving moral support to the people. They also benefited from rural communities through being self reliant, freedom of movement, accessibility to land and freedom from urban stress. However challenges faced by the retirees include too many activities of family and communities, absence of infrastructures, poor pension payment and inadequate information. The study recommends that retirees' allowance should be of priority to the Federal Government in order to enhance their contribution to rural development and Rural Infrastructures should also be provided to make rural areas comfortable for migrant retirees in Ekiti State.

Key words: Movement, Push and Pull factors, Retirees, Rural Development

1.0. Introduction

Migration has been an important part of human experience throughout the world and has continually played an important role in shaping the populations of cities, states, and regions. Migration is associated with family formation and unification, retirement, and changes in health status. In the United States, over 40 million people, or about 17 percent of the total population, change residence in a year (NIH, 1999).

Migration from rural to urban areas has been a major concern in the past and even presently. However, it is noticed that this movement is not one way, rather, the country witness a lot of in- migration of people especially the retiree from urban cities to rural areas. Ekiti State is not an exceptional in this issue. A lot of people retired from the Federal and State civil services as well as private and corporate organizations and move from urban to rural areas and in most cases to their home towns. This is based on a Yoruba adage which says " *ile ni abo simi oko* " literarily meaning when a labourer works from morning till dawn, he/she is expected to go back home and rest.

It is noticed that the global population is ageing at a rapid rate. For instance, in 1950, according to Lopez *et al* (2006), just over five percent of the world's population was 65 years or older, that number jumped to eight percent by 2006. It is anticipated that by 2030, older adults will comprise 13 percent of the total population—one in eight people will be 65 or older (Lopez *et al*, 2006). According to WHO (2003), and Chan *et al* (2006), developing countries will experience the most rapid growth in ageing, with increases of up to 140 percent, while developed countries will experience increases averaging 51 percent. The United Nations estimates that by 2045 the number of adults 60 years and older will outnumber children under the age of 15.

Not only is the world ageing, but it is also ageing differently. Life expectancy is increasing, with people 85 years and older—especially women—comprising the fastest growing segment of the population in many countries (IFSW, 2007). This population shift has far-reaching socioeconomic and political implications for people of all ages, most especially as they are retired from active job and tend to move out of where they reside to live in rural communities. In Ekiti State, for instance, there is a particular period when these retirees gather together in the State capital (Ado-Ekiti) for a programme usually referred to by them (retiree) as ‘*I am still alive*’. A lot of people gather together during this exercise causing vehicle hold ups within the state capital that makes one to wonder and ask, what is the problem? Who are these people and where do they come from or reside? What are the push and pull factors that motivate retiree migration and what are their effects? What social process motivates older persons to move to rural communities? How do they become socially integrated in their new communities? What are the personal attributes that increases/ decreases likelihood of retirees becoming socially integrated in their new communities? What are the activities engaged in by the retiree in their present place of abode? What social and economic resources do retirees contribute to the communities? It is on this note that the study is carried out purposely to examine the socio- economic influence of Retiree’s migration on rural community development in South- western Nigeria.

Specifically, the study aimed at:

- Investigating the socio- economic characteristics of retirees that increases/ decreases the likelihood of being socially integrated in the rural communities
- Examining the Push and Pull factors that motivates retiree’s migration and their effects.
- Investigating retirees’ contributions to rural development
- Examining the gains and challenges of retirees in rural areas
- Examining the relationship between socioeconomic characteristics and urban-rural migration

2.0. Literature Review

Discussions about migration according to HDR,(2009) commonly start with a description of flows between developing and developed countries, or what sometimes are loosely—and inaccurately—called ‘South–North’ flows. However, most movement in the world does not take place between developing and developed countries. Indeed, it does not even take place between countries. The overwhelming majority of people who move do so within the borders of their own country. There are divergent views of reasons why people move from one place to another.

According to Short (1984) the predominate reasons for migration among the non- retirement is the economy. People tend to move to where there are jobs and employment prospects. Other reasons include escape from social and family restrictions, attraction of the bright city lights and overall feelings of dissatisfaction with the present allied to the promise of better prospects elsewhere. According to Rex (2002), the main factors considered for retirees’ movement from Western or the North Central states and from California to Arizona as well as from Western and Northern Europe to Turkey include climate, scenery/recreation, cost of living, sea and sun (Rex 2002, JTW, 2009).

People who move at retirement age when compared to their peers, on average are relatively active and educated, with relatively high incomes. Net worth, which peaks at retirement, usually accompanies the retirement migrant to their new home, as does their retirement income (Rex, 2002). While the affluent retirees move to places where there are recreational facilities, the others seek for low cost living areas to settle.

In selecting the place to which to move, retirement-age people consider scenic beauty and recreational opportunities. Most retirees want to be close to urban areas, especially for medical care and cultural amenities.

However, large urban areas are unattractive to many retirees because of urban problems, such as crime, and high living costs. Nearly all of the popular retirement destinations have average to below average living costs. Short(1984) identified, unemployment, poor social life, poor social services and lack of individual freedom and repression/ discrimination as major reasons for migration while Adewale (2005) opined that city congestion, traffic, sanitation problems, increased urban unemployment, increased crime rate as well as housing problems are factors influencing urban- rural drift in Nigeria. In Williams (1970) view, crisis, old age, transfer and invasion of pests and diseases formed part of the major factors responsible for urban- rural migration in Nigeria.

Other factors for rural retirement migration includes: Proximity to family and friends and yearn for home. No wonder that song writer says

‘Home, my home
When shall I see my home?
When shall I see my native land?
I will never forget my home’.

And the proverb says ‘East or west, home is the best’. No wonder, it is a common practice in Nigeria that no matter how long a person lived in any place of the world, how affluent or otherwise he/she is, at death the body is usually returned home or native land

Movement however, have some benefits accrued to it. It has the potential to affect not only material well-being but also such things as bargaining power, self-respect and dignity. Empowerment, defined as the freedom to act in pursuit of personal goals and well-being, can be enhanced through movement (HDR, 2009). Mobility can have profound consequences for social, class and ethnic hierarchies in origin communities if lower status groups gain access to substantially higher income streams. Mobility can affect social and political life in countries of origin in a broader sense. Migrants and their descendants may return and become directly involved in civic and political activities. Alternatively, business investments, frequent return visits and/or collective initiatives can affect patterns of participation by others at home.

Evidence that emigrants have spurred the improvement of political institutions in their home Countries are accumulating. Just as migrants enrich the social fabric of their adopted homes, so too they can act as agents of political and social change if they return with new values, expectations and ideas shaped by their experiences abroad.

Migration can stimulate local employment and businesses. It can also affect the level and composition of consumer demand as well as locally available goods and services that are close to homes and work-places.

A lot of countries witness the migration of older adults to rural areas as a result of aging. Aging according to Adamchak et al, (1998) tends to result in the concentration of elderly population with less resources, poor health status and greater proportional poverty in rural communities. This process poses significant development challenges for rural communities. Retirement migration, in contrast, tends to be selective for those with resources, thus contributing to economic growth in the destination communities (Haas and Serow, 1993). Being a retirement migration, destination is a significant boost for the local economy and can help turn declining rural communities to popular, growing places (Serow 2003; Glasgow and Brown, 2006). Participation of older adults in societal development enhances the well-being both of older adults and of communities as a whole.

Older adults make valuable contributions to society, both material and immaterial, and younger generations benefit from their experience. Older adults in some countries actively and effectively produce and promote policies and programmes that improve their quality of life while in some other countries, however, older adults are not organized and struggle to have their interests incorporated in public debate and social policy.

Increased longevity and the growing presence of older adults create new opportunities for both individual and societal development.

3.0. Methodology

The research focused primarily on Retirees in rural communities in Ekiti State Nigeria. A multi- stage random sampling technique was employed in selecting the respondents for the study. Six out of sixteen Local Government Areas (LGA) were randomly selected from the State. From each LGA, three villages/communities were randomly selected. From each community, eight retirees were randomly selected. Thus in the study a total of six LGAs, 18 villages/communities and 144 respondents were selected for the study. Of the 144 questionnaires administered nine were found not to be adequately responded to, hence they were discarded while the remaining 135 questionnaires were coded and utilized for the study. The result was analyzed using frequency counts, percentages, Likert scale as well as probit model.

Probit Regression Model Equation

$$\Pr(Y=1)=F(\beta X)+e$$

$$Y=\beta X+e$$

E = Error term

Variables

X_1 = Age

X_2 = Gender

X_3 = Highest level of education

X_4 = Family size

X_5 = Year of retirement

X_6 = Residence before retirement

X_7 = Occupation before retirement

X_8 = Monthly pension allowance

4.0. Results and discussions

4.1. Socio- economic Characteristics

Table 1 show that the age of the retirees ranged from 48-82 years with over 80per cent being above 60years of age. About 68.1 percent of the respondents were male while only 31.9 were female, 80.74 percent of the respondents acquired tertiary education, and 10.37 percent of the respondents were secondary school certificate holders, while 8.89 percent of the respondents were primary school certificate holders. Majority (71.9%) of the respondents had family size ranging from 6 – 10 members, 23.7 percent had family size within the range of 1 – 5 members while 4.4 percent had family size ranging from 11 – 15 members. Concerning the retirement period, 61.5 percent of the respondents retired between years 2000 – 2009, 18.5 percent retired between years 1990 – 1999 and 11.9 percent retired in 2010 while only 8.1 percent of the respondents retired before the year 1990. 66.67 per cent of the respondents lived in the urban area before retirement while 33.33 percent of the respondent lived in the Sub-urban or local government headquarters before retirement. The study depicts that most of the retirees in Ekiti State are males, acquired tertiary education but with large family size. They formerly reside in urban and sub-urban environments for rural communities in Ekiti State.

The large number of male retirees migration to rural areas is expected as household decision making in Africa is mostly carried out by the head of the family except in female headed households. The high level of education of the retirees might be an added advantage for coping with rural life as well as the ability to contribute significantly to rural development. However, the large family size of the respondents might be responsible for urban-rural migration as income reduces with retirement hence ability to cope with urban life might pose a serious challenge.

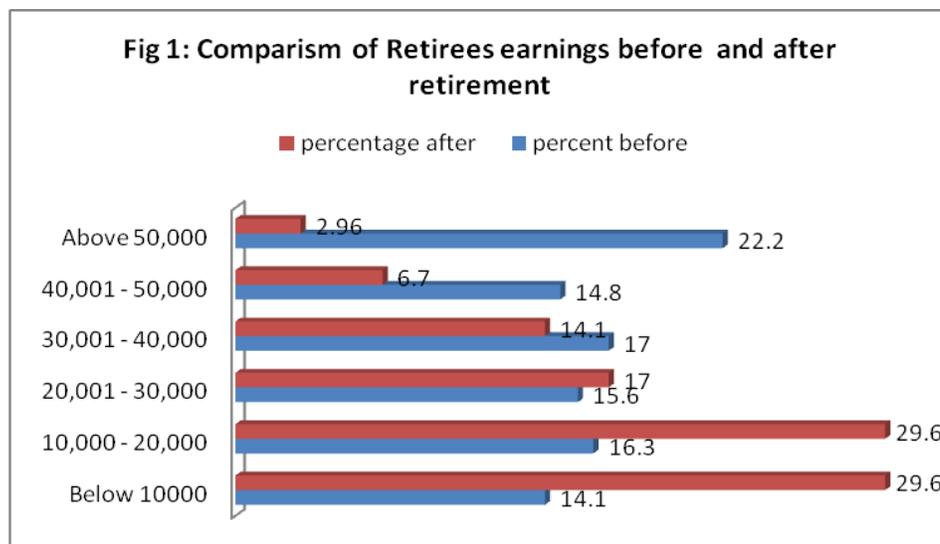
Table 1: Socioeconomic Characteristics of the respondents

Variable	Frequency	percentages
Age		
< 50	1	0.7
51 – 60	25	18.5
61 – 70	94	69.6
71 – 80	12	8.9
>80	3	2.2
Sex		
Female	43	31.9
Male	92	68.1
Highest educational level		
Primary	12	8.89
Secondary	14	10.37
Tertiary	109	80.74
Family size		
1 -5	32	23.7
6 – 10	97	71.9
11 – 15	6	4.4
Year of retirement		
Before 1990	11	8.1
1990 – 1999	25	18.5
2000 – 2009	83	61.5
After 2009	16	11.9
Residence before retirement		
Lagos		
Ibadan	6	4.44
Ife	3	2.22
Akure	6	4.44
Osogbo	30	22.22
Ado	17	12.59
Emure	28	20.74
Ikere	5	3.70
Itaogbolu	4	2.96
Akoko	6	4.44
Okitipupa	5	3.70
Iree	13	9.63
Ede	8	5.93
	4	2.96

Source: Field Survey, 2010.

Distribution of respondents based on the earnings before and after retirement

Fig 1 shows the monthly salary of retirees before retirement. About 22.2 percent of the respondents earned over N50,000.00 monthly, 17 percent earned between N 30,001.00 – N40,000.00, 16.3 percent earned between N10,001.00 – N20,000.00, 15.6 percent, earned between N20,001 - N30,000.00 before retirement, 14.8 percent earned between N40,001.00 – N50,000.00 per Month while 14.1 percent of the respondents earned less than N10,000.00 per Month as their income. However after retirement their allowance/benefits reduced drastically with 59.2 percent of the respondents earning below N20, 000.00 monthly as compared to 30.4 before retirement, while about 10 percent were earning above N40, 000.00 monthly after retirement as compared to 37 percent before retirement. This is expected as they are no longer in active service while the benefits given are meant for their sustenance



Source: Field Survey, 2010.

4.2. The Push and Pull factors of retirees Urban- Rural migration

The push and pull factors necessitating the migration of retirees to rural areas in Ekiti State were subjected to a 5 point likert scale of Strongly Agree, Agree, Undecided, Disagree and Strongly Disagree. Going by the mean of 3points, any variable score below 3 is regarded as not significant Table 2 shows that Investment in local occupations(x=3.88), benefiting from natural resources(x=3.33), contribution to community development(x=4.14), interaction with village peer groups(x=4.13), contribution to extended family life(x=3.98), participation in community decision making process(x=4.13), providing leadership in the community(x=4.15), moving closer to family and friends(x=4.17), acts as advisers in community matters(x=4.21), quest to contribute to family development(x=4.20) are all significant to the factors that pull the retirees to rural communities while the push factors are to run away from urban problems such as stealing and crime(x=4.13), and to reduce cost of living in urban areas. All other factors are not significant (see table 2).

Table 2: The Push and Pull factors of retirees Urban- Rural migration

Reasons For Migration	5	4	3	2	1	Total	Mean
Climate/unfavorable weather condition	55	56	30	138	31	310	2.29
Reduce cost of living in urban areas	120	184	63	78	5	450	3.33
Loneliness/redundancy	95	128	30	96	26	375	2.77
Declining health status	60	140	12	106	31	349	2.58
To run away from urban problem such as stealing and crime	215	308	24	6	4	557	4.13
Can no longer contribute meaningfully to urban life	80	52	27	138	28	325	2.4
Lack of peer group/mate to cheer ideas	100	124	21	124	15	384	2.84
Invest in local occupations	235	212	33	40	4	524	3.88
To benefit from natural resources(scenery and creation)	120	184	63	78	5	450	3.33
Contribute to community development	220	316	9	10	4	559	4.14
To interact with village peer groups	215	308	18	14	2	557	4.13
Contribute to extended family life	190	312	12	18	6	538	3.98
Participate in community decision making process	215	308	24	6	4	557	4.13
Provide leadership in the community	245	276	21	16	2	560	4.15
To move closer to family and friends	245	284	24	8	3	564	4.17
Act as advisers in the community matters	195	356	12	6	0	569	4.21
To contribute to family developments	245	320	6	8	0	579	4.2

Source: Field survey, 2010

<3=Not significant

>3=Significant

4.3. Gains, contributions and challenges of retirees in rural areas

Table 4 shows that 9.6% of the respondents were self reliant after retirement, 57.8% have freedom of movement, 29.6% have access to land, 62.2% gained freedom from urban stress, 66.7% stated that they enjoyed peaceful rural environment. In terms of their contribution to community development, 10.4% of the retirees act as advisers in the rural community, 20.7% engaged in educating rural people, 32.6% were involved in settling communal problems, 26.7% gave moral supports to the people, while 9.6% participated in local politics. However, they encountered some fundamental challenges. About 9.0% faced the challenge of too many activities of family and communities, 57.8% were affected by the absence of infrastructures such as electricity and pipe borne water, 39.3% experienced poor pension payment, 25.9% were not receiving adequate information while 8.9% were having health challenges.

Table 3: Gains, contributions and challenges of retirees in rural areas

Variable	Frequency	percentages
Gain of Retirees from rural communities		
Self reliance,	13	9.6
freedom of movement,	78	57.8
Access to land,	40	29.6
Freedom from urban stress	84	62.2
Peaceful rural environment	90	66.7
Retiree's contribution to community development		
Act as adviser	4	10.4
Educating people	28	20.7
Settling community problems	44	32.6
Moral support	36	26.7
Local politics participation	13	9.6
Retirees local challenges		
Too much activities of family and community	12	8.9
Absence of infrastructural facilities	78	57.8
Poor pension payment	53	39.3
Inadequate information	35	25.9
Health challenges	12	8.9

Source: Field Survey, 2010.

4.4. Relationship between respondents' Socio-economic characteristics and Urban-rural migration

Table 4 revealed that highest level of education, family size, work done before retirement and present monthly allowance have positive relationship with the migration status of the respondents, while other variables were not significant.

The significance of the highest level of education to urban- rural migration might be due to the fact that the respondents are more educated than their counterparts in rural areas hence could contribute to rural development from their wealth of experiences, exposure and knowledge acquired from urban areas. The significance of family size to Urban-rural migration might be necessitated by their large family size as the cost of living in urban areas is usually higher than that of rural areas hence the need to cut down on family expenditure. Also the type of work done before retirement positive significant to Urban-rural migration might be due to the fact that they were occupied while working hence had places to go on daily basis, but this cease at retirement, thus making them redundant and looking for opportunities to be more relevant. The coefficient of the present monthly allowance of respondents being positive might result from the reduction in income. With the large family sizes of most of these retirees, the low income earned might not be sufficient for them to maintain a useful life in urban areas.

Table 4: Probit analysis showing the relationship between respondents' Socio-economic characteristics and Urban-rural migration

Variables	Coefficient	Standard error	Z	p>z
Age	-.2111361	0.3290059	-0.64	0.521
Sex	-.4348056	0.4304463	-1.01	0.312
Highest level of education	.3662649	0.246875	1.48	0.138
Family size	0.0127923	0.3777023	0.03	0.973
Years of retirement	-.1114984	0.2890009	-0.39	0.7
Residence before retirement	0.0098071	0.130133	-0.08	0.94
Work done before retirement	0 .2294405	0.1508876	1.52	0.128
Present monthly allowance	0.2256187	0.1501476	1.50	0.133

Source: Field survey, 2010

5.0. Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations

The study examined the socioeconomic factors influencing Retiree's Urban-Rural Migration in Ekiti State, Nigeria. A total of 135 respondents were randomly selected from 18 communities from six Local Government Areas in the State. A structured interview schedule was employed in eliciting information from the respondents. Data collected were coded and analysed using frequency counts, percentages, Likert Scale and Probit model. Findings shows that most of the retirees involved in Urban-rural migration were mostly males over 60 years of age with majority possessing tertiary education certificates. Most of them retired over 10years ago and have large family sizes. Majority of them reside in urban and semi-urban environment before retirement. There is a significant difference in their earnings before and after retirement with the later being lower than the former. The pull factors of retirees to rural areas in Ekiti State includes: that Investment in local occupations, benefiting from natural resources, contribution to community development, interaction with village peer groups, contribution to extended family life, participation in community decision making process, providing leadership in the community, moving closer to family and friends, acts as advisers in community matters and the quest to contribute to family development. However, the push factors are to run away from urban problems such as stealing and crime and to reduce cost of living in urban areas.

The major benefits derived by Retirees from rural communities includes: freedom of movement, freedom from urban stress, and enjoyment of a peaceful rural environment. On the other way round, retiree contributed to community development, through acting as advisers, educating rural people, conflict resolution and moral supports to the people as well as participating in local politics. However, they encountered some fundamental challenges such as the absence electricity and pipe borne water, irregular pension payment, lack of access to information and health challenges. Based on the above findings it is recommended that there is need for more public enlightenment especially for workers on birth control to reduce burden after retirement. Retirees' allowance should be of priority to the Federal Government in order to enhance their contribution to rural development and Rural Infrastructures should also be provided to make rural areas comfortable for migrant retirees.

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