

RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION AND CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR AMONG YOUTHS IN MAKURDI METROPOLIS, BENUE STATE-NIGERIA

BENUE JOURNAL OF SOCIOLOGY
Volume 9 Issue 2
ISSN: ISSN: 0386
Department of Sociology
Benue State University, Makurdi
Pg: 154 - 155

Timothy Tyowase Anchovur,
Terpase Nomor,
Donald Tarfa Ende,
Fanen Dekera
Department of Sociology,
Benue State University,
Makurdi.

Abstract

Migration of youths from rural to urban areas poses some problems in the rural as well as in the urban centres even though there are benefits derivable from it. One of the problems of rural-urban migration is increase in crime rate. In fact, the alarming rate of criminality alongside massive rural-urban shift among youths has generated a lot of concern among researchers. However, no research study has been able to identify the linkage between youth migrants and criminal behaviour in Makurdi metropolis. This study therefore examined rural-urban migration and criminal behaviour among youths in Makurdi metropolis. Specifically, the study assessed the causes of rural-urban migration among youths, *investigated the factors responsible for the indulgence of migrated youths into criminal behaviour*, and evaluated the effects of rural-urban migration among youths and explored measures that can discourage rural-urban migration among the youths. Structural Strain Theory was adopted for the study. The study also adopted a descriptive research design. Taro Yemane's sample size determination formula was used to get a sample size of 376 respondents that were used for the study. Questionnaire was used for data collection, while frequency distribution and simple percentages were used for data analysis. The study assumed that

Corresponding Author:
Timothy Tyowase Anchovur
Email: tanchovur@bsum.edu.ng

social issues like unemployment, lack of social amenities, and conflicts, are likely to propel the youths to migrate from villages to the cities. The study also assumed that youths who migrate to the city indulge in criminal behaviour when they do not have sufficient means of livelihood. Findings revealed that the causes of rural-urban migration among youths in Makurdi metropolis were unemployment, insecurity, poverty, search for better educational opportunities, and lack of basic amenities. Findings also showed that youths who migrate, most times, do not secure adequate source(s) of livelihood, hence, they indulge in criminality to earn a living. The study recommends, among others, that, the State Government should organize free and extensive vocational training for unemployed youths in both rural and urban areas and empower them meaningfully; and mostly private individuals should create more industries in Makurdi metropolis in order to engage unemployed youths.

Key Words: Criminal Behaviour, Migration, Youths, Rural-Urban Migration.

Introduction

Migration is a global phenomenon and has a long history. Even in the hunting and gathering societies, people changed geographical locations. According to Taylor (2001), the vast majority of the world's migrations originate in rural areas, where most of the world's poverty is also concentrated. Internal migration particularly rural to urban or rural out migration is therefore a recurrent phenomenon. Kakwagh (2019) conceives migration, emphatically human migration to involve the movement of people from one place to another with intentions of settling permanently or temporarily, at a new location. Often, migration to new areas, especially urban centres, create problems such as shortage of housing, limited employment opportunities, increasing cost of living, lack of access to social services, increased crime and expansion of urban informal sectors.

Several reasons account for why people choose to change locations. For instance, some people change locations due to conflict, war, political and/or civil unrest, and economic and cultural reasons. Naturally, people move to urban areas in search of employment and to utilize urban services and facilities. Fakokunde, Shekwolo, Akise and Kullah (2020), observed that the rate at which young people move from the rural areas to the urban

centers in Nigeria in search of greener pastures is alarming. Many of these youths are fleeing from the poverty in the rural areas and populating the urban areas increasing the rate of social vices in their new place of settlement. This can be explained in the light of the push-pull factors. This is further compounded by the gross lack of infrastructural facilities in the rural areas, which makes the standard of living in the rural areas unattractive. Since the industries and social amenities are concentrated in the urban areas, youths migrate into the urban areas to seek employment in the industries and ministries, as well as enjoy the comfort that the social amenities offer.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, literature is replete with evidence that rural-urban migration is the most common form of migration. Evidence also abound that youths constitute a significant proportion of the migrant population. For example, the United Nations (2013) maintained that most internal migrants move from the rural areas to urban centres or from one rural area to another and many of them are youth. In Nigeria, the movement of people from the rural to urban has been identified as one of the causes of rapid urban population growth (Aworemi, Abdul-Azeez, & Apoola, 2011). For instance, in 2014, the population of urban dwellers in Nigeria was 46.94%; 2015, it was 47.78%, 2016, it rose to 48.60 and in 2017, it rose to 49.52 (Indexmundi, 2018). This shows that Nigeria has been experiencing steady growth of urbanization. It should be noted that growing cities provide opportunities for migrants to create livelihoods, engage in entrepreneurship and accumulate assets, thus contributing to human capital development (Awumbila, 2015).

Migration is thus an important component of urban population growth and urbanization process. However, in Nigeria, the capacity of urban towns to plan for and accommodate the increasing number of migrants by providing employment and basic amenities is limited. Rural-urban migration is therefore creating pressure on urban infrastructure, environment, and employment. Indeed, urbanization in Nigeria is being translated into rising slum establishments, increasing poverty and inequality [African Development Bank (AfDB), 2012]. This is largely because most of the migrants from the rural areas are not educated and are unskilled. Thus, most of them end up in the informal sector. Regrettably, in Nigeria,

incomes from the informal sector are very low and intermittent. Due to the low and intermittent nature of the informal sector incomes, most of the migrants seek shelters or become tenants of slum property owners (AfDB, 2012). As a consequence, most Nigerian towns and cities are dealing not only with the proliferation of slums but also with the increasing phenomenon of insecurity and crime. In fact, there is the underlying assumption in Nigeria that rural-urban migration is linked to rising levels of criminal behaviour among the youth.

Youth involvement in criminal activities in Nigeria has assumed a worrisome dimension in recent times. Uyang, Nkpoyen and Basse (2016), observed that there has been an increase in the occurrence of acts of violence and lawlessness, including hostage taking of prominent citizens and expatriate oil workers as well as oil bunkering, arms insurgency, and cultism especially in the Niger Delta region. Nigeria is among the developing countries of the world that is experiencing a prevalence of rising crime waves, criminal intentions and varying degree of delinquencies. The nature of these crimes includes armed robbery, murder, car theft, burglary, gambling, smuggling, human trafficking, kidnapping, drug trafficking, internet scam, advanced fee fraud (419) and other illegal activities.

Nearly everywhere and around Nigerian cities, the atmosphere is inflicted with criminal menace being wrecked on law-abiding members of the Nigerian public by criminals. The highway has become a theatre for frequent robbers, car snatching and murder, while homes of the rich and the poor are targets of daily murderous campaigns by hoodlums. There are reports of crimes committed mostly by the youths at virtually every corner of the country. Youths' involvement in criminality has become an integral part of the nation's daily life (Adebayo, 2013). Youth is an important development phase in human life and the most energetic forces of the society. Different characters, structures, goals, and temperaments have been reflected in their life due to (Konch & Borbora, 2003).

It is obvious that many African countries have engaged in numerous rural development strategies, most of which have failed due to either unsustainable or inconsistent policies, corruption or changes in leadership. In Nigeria, poverty alleviation and economic development programmes such as agricultural development programmes, have failed over the past

three decades because of unsustainable development policies (Ekpebu & Ukpog, 2013). As such, youths migrate from rural areas to urban centres and in Makurdi metropolis, Ngutsav, Adzande, Iroliam, Ogwuche, Gyuse and Ujoh (2019) reports that there has been high level of youth immigration in the last two decades. These movements are either temporary or permanent depending on the reason(s). It has become worrisome that crime rate has been heightened vis a vis continuous migration of youths to the Makurdi metropolis. This has triggered the study on rural-urban migration and criminal behaviour among youths in Makurdi metropolis.

Problem Statement

It has been observed that migration of youths from rural areas to Makurdi metropolis has increased over the past decade and this has resulted to over stretching of available resources which is concomitant to limited opportunities. It is especially worrisome that youth migrants engage in several anti-social behaviours including criminality. Hence, as rural-urban migration continues, crime rate is also on the increase. While research on the relationship between immigration and crime has gained much attention in crime research due to its significance for policy implication, earlier studies (Wilson & Alejandro, 1980) on immigration in western societies have only pointed out the potential impact of immigrants on a community. As such, the community with a high proportion of immigrants is expected to experience more crime activities since the residential stability is weakened. Borjas and Grogger (2009) found that in USA, a 10% increase in African-American immigrations was associated with about a 1.2% increase in incarceration rate during 1960 and 2000. They explained that the additional labour force competed for the limited employment opportunities and lowered wages for the job market, making people more likely to pursue illegal opportunities. Additionally, some research indicated that immigrants with diverse cultural backgrounds and limited economic resources could weaken community institutions (Bankston, 1998). These studies suggest how immigration affects crime may vary with the specific social environment. However, these studies have been conducted in foreign countries and did not establish the factors that necessitate rural-urban migration.

In Nigeria, Kakwagh (2019), studied the link between rural-urban migration of youth and crime in Anyigba Town, Kogi State and established that in Nigeria, the youths migrate from the rural areas to the cities due to the general lack of socio-economic facilities that would vitalize social life. Similarly, Fakokunde et al. (2020), carried out a study on the influence of rural to urban migration on criminal behaviour in Kaduna South, Kaduna State, Nigeria and revealed a significant moderate rating of crime as a result of rural-urban migration in Kaduna South. More so, Alarima (2018), embarked on a study titled, factors influencing rural-urban migration of youths in Osun State, Nigeria; the results which revealed that the poor electricity supply in the rural areas, bad condition of roads, absence of pipe-borne water were push factors driving the youth away from their communities into urban areas.

It is obvious that research efforts have not been directed to understanding the link between rural-urban migration and criminal behaviour among youths especially in Makurdi Metropolis. Therefore, the causes of rural-urban migration as well as the factors that precipitate criminality among youth immigrants in Makurdi metropolis are not known. The pertinent questions for this research therefore are: what are the factors that propel youths to migrate to Makurdi metropolis? Why do youth immigrants engage in criminal behaviour in Makurdi metropolis? Therefore, the study sets out to assess the causes of rural-urban migration among youths, investigate factors responsible for the indulgence of migrated youths into criminal behaviour, and suggest measures that can mitigate rural-urban migration among youths in Makurdi metropolis. The study assumes that social issues like unemployment, lack of social amenities, and conflicts, are likely to propel the youths to migrate from villages to the cities; and that youths who migrate to the city at times indulged in criminal behaviour when they do not have sufficient means of livelihood.

Conceptual Review

Rural-Urban Migration: To properly understand the concept of rural-urban migration, it is pertinent to explain the concept of migration. Migration is considered as the movement of people from one geographical region to another, which may be on temporary or permanent basis. The

movement often occurs over long distances and from one country to another, and within a country or state, which is considered the dominant form of migration globally. Migration within a country or state can either be urban-urban, urban-rural, rural-rural, and rural-urban. However, the predominant form of migration in Nigeria even before the colonial era has been rural-urban migration, which is the major concern of this study (Eze, 2016).

Rural-urban migration results from movement from rural to urban in the search for opportunities due to rural-urban inequality in wealth and better quality of life found in urban centres. Johnson and Ifeoma (2018), defined rural-urban migration as a situation where the desire for better employment, business opportunities and education pushes both young and old out of the rural areas to the urban areas. Rural-urban migration represents a phenomenon of unprecedented movement of people from the rural countryside to the urban cities. Thus, migration is a selective process affecting individuals or families with certain economic, social, educational and demographic characteristics (Adewale, 2005). To this end, Mbah, Ezeano and Agada (2016) explains rural-urban youth migration as the physical transnational of young individuals or group of young people from rural areas to urban centres. Rural-urban youth migration is the most important aspect of labour migration because it affects the structures and composition of the population.

Youths: Youth is the time of life when one is young, and often means the time between childhood and adulthood. It is also defined as the appearance, freshness, vigor, and spirit. Its definitions of a specific age range varies, as youth is not defined chronologically as a stage that can be tied to specific age ranges; nor can its end point be linked to specific activities, such as taking unpaid work for having sexual relations. Youth is an experience that may shape an individual's level of dependency, which can be marked in various ways according to different cultural perspectives. Personal experience is marked by an individual's cultural norms or traditions, while a youth's level of dependency means the extent to which they still rely on their family emotionally and economically (Furlong, 2013).

Youth involves childhood, and the time of life which is neither childhood nor adulthood, but rather somewhere in between. Youth also identifies a particular mindset of attitude, as in “he is very youthful”. For certain uses, such as employment statistics, the term also sometimes refers to individuals from the ages of 14 to 21 (Altschuler, Strangler, Berkley & Burton, 2009). The United Nations defines youth as persons between the ages of 15 and 24 with all UN statistics based on this range, the UN states education as a source for these statistics. The UN also recognizes that this varies without prejudice to other age groups listed by member states such as 18-30. A useful distinction within the UN itself can be made between teenagers (i.e. those between the ages of 13 and 19) and young adults (those between the ages of 20 and 29). While seeking to impose some uniformity on statistical approaches, the UN itself is aware of contradictions between approaches in its own statutes. Hence under the 15-24 definition (introduced in 1981) children are defined as those under the age of 14 while under the 1979 Convention on the Rights of the Child, those under the age of 18 are regarded as children (Furlong, 2013). The UN also states they are aware that several definitions exist for youth within UN entities such as Youth Habitat 15-32 and African Youth Charter 15-35.

Criminal Behaviour: Criminal behaviour is defined by the laws of particular jurisdictions, and there are sometimes vast differences between and even within countries regarding what types of behaviour are prohibited. Conduct that is lawful in one country or jurisdiction may be criminal in another, and activity that amounts to a trivial infraction in one jurisdiction may constitute a serious crime elsewhere. Changing times and social attitudes may lead to changes in criminal law, so that behaviour that was once criminal may become lawful. For example, abortion, once prohibited except in the most unusual circumstances, is now lawful in many countries, as is homosexual behaviour in private between consenting adults in most Western countries, though it remains a serious offense in some parts of the world.

Criminal behaviour occurs when individuals are not properly socialized and thus do not feel bound by the laws, rules, and mores that have been established by society (Encyclopedia of Mental Health, 2016). Because criminal behaviour is most common among persons in their teens and

twenties (as documented above), numerous ecological studies (Furlong, 2013) have examined crime/delinquency rates in association with the proportion of a population that is in the age range of about 15-30. Most of these studies have involved comparing neighbourhoods in large metropolitan areas based on information about population age distributions derived from census data.

Theoretical Framework

Structural strain theory is used for this study. It is a sociological and criminology theory developed in 1938 by Robert K. Merton. Other proponents are Albert K. Cohen (1955), Richard Cloward, Lloyd Ohlin (1960), Neil Smelser (1963), Robert Agnew (1992), Steven Messner, Richard Rosenfeld (1994) and Jie Zhang (2012) (Haralambos, Holborn & Heald, 2008).

The theory is based on the assumption that social structures within society may pressure citizens to commit crime. Its application to the study shows that deviance is traced to tensions caused by the gap between cultural goals and the means people have available to achieve the goals (Uyang et al., 2016). Societies are characterized by both culture and social structure. Culture sets goals while social structures design ways to attain goals. In a well-integrated society, people adopt accepted and appropriate strategies to attain societal goals. Here, the goals and means of the society are in balance. When both goals and means are not balanced, deviance occurs. This imbalance between cultural goals and structurally available means lead individual into crime.

In Nigeria and Benue State particularly, economic success is a goal that everybody strives for achieving. The legitimate means to economic success are education and jobs. The youth and other socially disadvantaged groups in both rural and urban areas do not have equal access to these means because of their socio-economic status. The result is structural strain that on the one hand, serves as a push factor for rural-urban migration and on the other hand, as a precipitating factor for criminal behaviour. They experience these strains because they aim for the same goals as the rest of society, but their opportunities for success are blocked due to poverty and unemployment. Thus, they turn to crime and deviance as a way to achieve economic success.

Methodology

This study adopted descriptive research design where data was collected from the youths as well as adult male and female residents in Makurdi metropolis. Makurdi metropolis has a projected population of 422,159 as at 2021 (World Urbanization Prospects, 2021). The area is chosen as study setting because is dominated by youths who migrate from their various villages to settle in the town.

Taro Yemane's sample size determination formula was used to get a sample size of 376 respondents; while simple random sampling technique was employed to allocate respondents for the study. After sampling the respondents, a 20-item questionnaire was developed and administered on the respondents. The questionnaire items were structured in both closed and open-ended format to reflect the objectives of the study. Data from the field was analysed descriptively. This involved the use of frequency and simple percentages. The assumptions were either all accepted base on the data generated. Data was entered into the computer and analysed using SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) Version 25.

Factors Responsible for Rural-Urban Migration among Youths

Several factors influence migration generally. Greenwood (cited in Ngutsav et al., 2019) classified some of the factors responsible for migration in relation to regional differences between sending and receiving communities or regions and on individual characteristics of migrants. Sometimes, the determinants of migration can also be classified as economic determinants, demographic determinants, gravity variables, labour market determinants, conflict, and environmental determinants (Naude, 2010; Ivan, 2008). Some factors have been broadly categorized it into: push and pull factors. According to Ngutsav et al. (2019), the 'Push' factors are associated with a range of limitations and difficulties which push people to migrate for their better livelihood. Other push factors include: poverty, unemployment, low level of livelihood, insecurity, discrimination by politics and religion amongst others. On the other hand, employment facilities in the host communities, possibilities of economic structure, standard livelihood and standard geographical condition of migrants are considered as important 'pull' factors (Parkins, 2010).

In a closely related sense, Wondimagegnhu and Zeleke (2017) broadly categorized the determinants of rural out migration into three: push factors, pull factors and household characteristics. The push factors include:

conflict, pest infestation, drought, low agricultural yield, population pressure, lack of relief assistance, lack of access to credit, fragmented land holding, live stock ownership, absence of nonfarm, livelihood strategies, traditional and cultural practices while the pull factors include: employment opportunities, better access to services, attractive urban life, networks in destination and access to information. The household characteristics include: age, sex, marital status, education level and family size (Ngutsav et al., 2019).

Data generated for the study showed that the factors that necessitate migration of people, especially youths, to migrate from their villages to settle in Makurdi metropolis as presented in Table 1 were high unemployment in rural areas (29.8%), insecurity in rural areas (26.9%), search for better educational opportunities (22.6%), poverty (12.2%) and lack of basic amenities in rural areas (8.5%). This indicates that there are both pull and push factors compelling or encouraging youth migration from rural areas to Makurdi metropolis. Obviously, youths migrate mainly in search of greener pastures, which are not easily accessible in their rural settings. Therefore, they look at urban centres as places where these opportunities are readily available. Another factor is that crises have also hit many parts of Benue State, which are both internal and external in nature. The external crises are those caused because of Fulani invasion while the internal are communal crises that result from ethnic/communal differences and militia attacks on defenceless civilians and even security operatives. People, because of insecurity in these areas have relocated to major cities in Benue State like Gboko and Makurdi towns where relative peace is being enjoyed. More so, due to limited educational opportunities in the rural areas from where these youths migrate, they tend to search for better opportunities to access advanced educational facilities.

Table 1: Reasons Youth migrate from their villages to settle in Makurdi town

Reasons	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Lack of basic amenities in rural areas	32	8.5
High Unemployment in rural areas	112	29.8
Insecurity	101	26.9
Poverty	46	12.2
Search for better educational opportunities	85	22.6
Total	376	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021.

Factors responsible for the indulgence of migrated Youths into Criminal Behaviour

Rural-urban migration is exacerbating crime in that most youth who migrate find it difficult to cope with the demands of city life. Most of the job seekers do not have any additional skills to be self-reliant. Thus, to ensure their survival, they most often involved in all manner of activities detrimental to both their life and that of the general public (Ugal, Nwagbara & Uyang, 2011).

Poverty is a social condition that leads the youth to crime. The poor are led to crime because of their relative deprivation and acute sense of want. The poor and jobless in Nigeria take to crime as a means of sustenance. The unemployed in Nigeria experience low self-esteem, deprivation, frustration and acute want. According to Adebayo (2013), the condition of the poor and unemployed youths leads them to criminal and deviant behaviour in the society. Bassey (2001), also notes that the unemployed and poor youths are involved in armed robbery, fraud, kidnapping and used for electoral violence. Poverty is one of the reasons why youths engage themselves in criminal activities in our present society. This is because most youths with lack of financial resources fend for themselves in school. Some end up earning their living in the street through obnoxious and criminal means they deem necessary to sustain their living.

Kakwagh (2019), notes that urban centres in Nigeria offers many opportunities for criminal activities like burglary, car/motor cycle theft, robbery, peddling of illicit drugs, and thuggery. These and many other criminal activities are carried out by the youth because of the lack of employable education and skills. Generally, people who have demeaning sources of livelihoods are needy and can easily be bought. This is why most of the migrants are involved in thuggery. The politically influential persons and Godfathers always use them for their political ambition.

Data generated (as presented in Table 2) showed why immigrant youths indulge in criminality. The data specifies that, majority (60.6%) of the respondents said that youth who migrate to Makurdi metropolis most times indulge in criminality because they do not secure adequate source(s) of livelihood while others (18.4%) disagreed that these youths do not indulge in criminality because they most times secure adequate source(s) of livelihood. Other respondents (21.0%) did not know what precipitates

youth indulgence in criminal behaviour. The analysis implies that youths who migrate most times do not secure substantive source(s) of livelihood. This could be due to lack of requisite skills or qualification required for employment. These youths therefore turn to menial jobs that are not done on regular basis. It is noteworthy that immigrant youths who are not educated have tendencies of criminal inclination especially due to limited employment opportunities. They quickly identify gang groups and are gradually initiated into criminality.

It is noteworthy that that immigrant youths engage in various criminal acts in order to fend. Chiganta (2009), observed that most unemployed youths survive by engaging in various activities such as petty trading, borrowing, stealing, casual work, prostitution, pick pocketing and other illegal activities. Some depend on drugs such as cocaine and Indian hemp and others have become drunkards as a result of frustration of being unemployed. Unemployment has been seen as one of the serious impediments to economic growth and progress. Unemployment is associated with street youth and area boys, which encourages criminal activities and behaviours. It presents waste and loss in terms of lower output leading to lower income and poor well-being of the youths.

According to Wosu and Anele (2010), some migrant youths engaged themselves in all kinds of illegitimate activities for survival. Out of desperation for livelihood, they got involved in activities like smoking and sale of opium otherwise called Indian hemp. Other activities are commercial sex, (sexual exploitation), robbery, cultism, political thuggery during elections. Ibrahim et al. (2016), also adds that movement of youth from rural areas may pose a threat to the urban areas as they are caught up with the

Table 2: Showing whether youths who migrate to Makurdi metropolis most times indulge in criminality because of lack of means of livelihood

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Indulge	228	60.6
Don't indulge	69	18.4
Don't know	79	21.0
Total	376	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021.

reality of life in contrast with their high expectation of greener pasture and better life. This reality tends to make youths engage in criminal acts. This is mainly because of their effort to survive in the absence of opportunities, and forcefully attempt to make wealth to meet their high expectations and needs of their rural households. This suggests that as rural-urban migration continues to take place, the crime rate is likely to continue to increase in urban areas, hence the need for greater opportunities and affordable basic facilities for urban population.

Evidence from the current study (as presented in Table 3) suggests that immigrant youths engage in various criminal behaviours such as dubious acts (22.3%), prostitution (21.3%), taking illicit drugs (20.5%), armed robbery (15.7%), cultism (11.2%), others (6.1%) and gang rape (2.9%). The implication of this findings is that most migrants without meaningful engagement resort to dubious acts as a way of earning quick money. They either take tactically from pedestals' pauses in market places where people come to buy commodities or they conjure them to double their money. These dubious gays always stay around population prone areas such as the markets to carry out their criminal activities on daily basis. Young girls on the other hand mostly perpetuate prostitution. People pick them at joints; have sex with them in exchange of money. This act is criminal in the sense that it contradicts or contravenes laws of traditions and that of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Table 3: Types of criminal activities most youths are engaged in Makurdi Metropolis

Criminal activities	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Cultism	42	11.2
Armed robbery	59	15.7
Taking illicit drugs	77	20.5
Prostitution	80	21.3
Gang rape	11	2.9
Dubious acts	84	22.3
Others	23	6.1
Total	376	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021.

Measures to discourage Rural-Urban Migration and Criminal Behaviour among Youths in Makurdi Metropolis

Data on Table 4 presents ways to discourage youths from migrating to urban centres. The data suggested the following: creation of more job opportunities in rural areas (33.2%), creation of social and physical infrastructural in rural areas (18.4%), provision of security (13.3%) and free vocational training and start-up grants (35.1%). The data implies that if there are adequate job opportunities in rural areas, social infrastructure is provided, security and free vocational training and start-up grants are provided in the rural areas, youths will be discouraged to migrate to cities in search for better opportunities. This is hoped, will reduce the pressure on urban centres, hence, reduction in criminality.

Table 4: Ways to discourage youths from migrating to urban centres

Ways to discourage rural-urban migration	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Creation of social and physical infrastructure in rural areas	69	18.4
Provision of more job opportunities	125	33.2
Provision of security	50	13.3
Free vocational training and start-up grants	132	35.1
Total	376	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021.

Review of Research Assumptions

Two assumptions were earlier used to guide the study. The first assumption states that, social issues like unemployment, lack of social amenities, conflicts, are likely to propel the youths to migrate from villages to the cities. Data in Table 1 above affirmed this assumption. According to the data, reasons such as high unemployment in rural areas (29.8%), insecurity in rural areas (26.9%), search for better educational opportunities (22.6%), poverty (12.2%) and lack of basic amenities in rural areas (8.5%), encourage rural-urban migration among youths.

The second assumption states that, youths who migrate to the city at times indulged in criminal behaviour when they do not have sufficient

means of livelihood. Data on Tables 2 and 3 confirmed this assumption. The data specifies that, majority (60.6%) of the respondents said that youth who migrate most times do not secure source of livelihood. Thus, because youths who migrate most times do not secure source of livelihood, they indulge in criminality to earn a living. Such criminal activities were dubious acts (22.3%), prostitution (21.3%), taking illicit drugs (20.5%), armed robbery (15.7%), and cultism (11.2%), among others.

Discussion of Findings

The following major findings were made in line with study objectives. The objective was to assess the causes of rural-urban migration among youths in Makurdi metropolis. The study identified the causes of rural-urban migration among youths in Makurdi metropolis as unemployment, insecurity, poverty and lack of basic amenities. This finding tally with Kakwagh (2019), who acknowledged housing problems, unemployment, and development of shanty quarters and crime as the major problems rural-urban migration of the youth has brought into Anyigba town. Similarly, Khanam (2016), recognised why people do migrate. According to the author, migration is the mutual upshot of both push and pulls factors where both these factors are functioning concurrently. Migrants, in response to the optimistic factors at destination are all the time positively preferred from the origin, whereas migrants responding to the negative factors at derivation are always pessimistically selected from there.

The second objective was to investigate factors that are responsible for youth who migrate to engage in criminal behaviour in Makurdi metropolis. The study observed that because youths who migrate most times do not secure source of livelihood, they indulge in criminality to earn a living. This finding agrees with Ugal, Nwagbara and Uyang (2011) that rural-urban migration is exacerbating crime in that most youth who migrate find it difficult to cope with the demands of city life. Most of the job seekers do not have any additional skills to be self-reliant. Thus, to ensure their survival, they most often involved in all manner of activities detrimental to both their life and that of the public. In addition, according to Adebayo (2013), poverty is a social condition that leads the youth to crime. The poor are led to crime because of their relative deprivation and acute sense of want. The poor and

jobless in Nigeria take to crime as a means of sustenance. The unemployed in Nigeria experience low self-esteem, deprivation, frustration and acute want. This condition of the poor and unemployed youths leads them to criminal and deviant behaviour in the society.

Conclusion

Rural-urban migration, even though has both positive and negative implications, the study found that it precipitates criminality in the end. Though there are several factors that are responsible for migrant youths to migrate and thereafter engage in criminal behaviour, the study concludes that the causes of rural-urban migration among youths in Makurdi metropolis were unemployment, insecurity, poverty, search for better educational opportunities and lack of basic amenities. The study also concludes that youths who migrate most times do not secure adequate sources of livelihood, a factor that encourage criminality among youths as a means to earn a living. Given the negative effects posed by the migration of youths to urban centres, the study suggests that proactive measures should be taken by all stakeholders in order to discourage excessive migration of youths to urban centres and at the same time, limit their chances of engaging in criminal behaviour.

Recommendations

Based on the above findings and conclusion, the study recommended that:

- i. The government should organize extensive free vocational training for unemployed youths in both rural and urban areas. Thereafter grants or soft-loans should be given to them to aid in the start-up business.
- ii. More cottage industries need to be established in Makurdi metropolis in order to engage unemployed youths.
- iii. In order to reduce rural-urban drift, government should cite needed social amenities in rural areas and engage youths in viable ventures to earn a living.
- iv. Benue State government to ensure that life and property of citizens are protected by providing adequate security in the rural areas.

References

- Adebayo, A. A. (2013). Youths' unemployment and crime in Nigeria: A nexus and implications for national development. *International Journal of Sociology and Anthropology*, 5(8), 350-357
- Adeleke A. O. (2005). Socio-economic factors associated with urban-rural migration in Nigeria: A case study of Oyo State. *Journal of Human Ecol.*, 17(1), 13-16
- African Development Bank (2012). Urbanization in Africa. Africa Development Group
- Alarima, C. I. (2018). Factors influencing rural-urban migration of youths in Osun State, Nigeria. *Agro-Science Journal of Tropical Agriculture, Food, Environment and Extension*, 17(3), 34-39
- Altschuler, D., Strangler, G., Berkley, K., & Burton, L. (2009). *Supporting youth in transition to adulthood: Lessons learned from child welfare and juvenile justice*. Centre for Juvenile Justice Reform
- Aworemi, J. R., Abdul-Azeez, I. A., & Poola, N. A. (2011). An appraisal of the factors influencing rural-Urban migration in some selected local government areas of Lagos State. *Journal of Sustainable Development*, 4(3), 136-141
- Awumbila, M. (2015) Linkages between urbanization, rural-urbanization migration and poverty outcomes in Africa. Background paper; World Migration Report/ International Organization for Migration 2014
- Bankston, C.L. (1998). Youth gangs and the new second generation: A review essay. *Aggress. Violent Behav.*, 3, 35-45
- Bassey, A. (2001). *Bureaucracy and national development*. Calabar: Calabar Executive Press
- Borjas, G.J., Grogger, J., & Hanson, J.H. (2010). Immigration and the economic status of African-American men. *Economica*, 306, 255-282
- Chiganta, O. (2009). *Poverty: Its remedies*. Ibadan: Crossy Publishers
- Ekpebu, I. D & Ukpong, I. G. (2013). *Rethinking Agricultural Development in Nigeria: Paradox of oil wealth*. Bloomington, USA: Author House
- Eze, B.U. (2016). The underlying factors of rural-urban migration in southeastern Nigeria: A study in Nsukka region of Enugu state. *IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, 21(7), 46-54
- Fakokunde, M. O., Shekwolo, D. M., Akise, O. O., & Kullah, D. H. (2020).

- Influence of rural to urban migration on criminal behaviour in Kaduna South, Kaduna State, Nigeria. *KIU Journal of Social Sciences*, 6(3), 163-174
- Furlong, A. (2013). *Youth studies: An introduction*. USA: Routledge
- Haralambos, M., Holborn, M. & Heald, R. (2008). *Sociology: Themes and perspectives*. London: Harper Collins Publishers Limited
- Ibrahim, M. K., Ukpong, I. G., & Shaibu, M. U. (2016). Exploring motives for youth rural-urban migration in Kogi East, North Central Nigeria. *Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa*, 18(2), 33-48
- Indexamundi (2018, July 10) Nigeria urban population. indexamundi.com/facts/nigeria/indicators/SP.URB.TOTL.IN.ZS
- Ivan, E. (2008). Internal Migration: A Review of the Literature, MPRA paper no. 8783, University of Cagliari
- Johnson, K. E., & Ifeoma, U. (2018). Rural development as a panacea for rural-urban migration in Nigeria. *Art Human Open Acc J.*, 2(5), 241-244
- Kakwagh, V. V. (2019). The link between rural-urban migration of youth and crime in Anyigba Town, Kogi State-Nigeria. *International Journal of Rural Development, Environment and Health Research (IJREH)*, 3(3), 86-91
- Khanam, T. (2016). Threat perception of the rural-urban migration as a linkage to the rise of crime: Bangladesh Perspectives. *IIUC Studies* 13 pp 69-82
- Konch, K., & Borbora, J. (2003). Involvement of youth attitudes in crime: a study conducted in four jails of Upper Assam, India. *American International Journal of Research in Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences*, 2(2), 166-121
- Mbah, E.N., Ezeano, C.I., & Agada, M.O. (2016). Effects of rural-urban youth migration on farm families in Benue State, Nigeria. *Int. J. Agril. Res. Innov. & Tech*, 6(1), 14-20
- Naude, W. (2010). Determinants of migration from Sub-Saharan African Countries. World Institute for Development Economics Research, United Nations University. *Journal of African Economies*, 19(3), 330-356
- Ngutsav, A. S., Adzande, P., Iorliam, S., Ogwuche, J., Gyuse, T. T., & Ujoh, F. (2019). Determinants of rural-out migration in the River Benue

- Basin. *International Journal of Environmental Studies and Safety Research*, 4(1), 63-81
- Parkins, C. N. (2010). Push and pull factors of migration. *American Review of Political Economy*, 8(2), 6-24
- Ugal, G. A; Nwagbara, E. N, & Uyang, F. A. (2011). Youth unemployment and its consequences in Calabar Metropolis: Need for government intervention. *Global Journal of Social Sciences*, 1&2(10), 75-82
- United Nations (2013). *Population division, cross national comparisons of internal migration: An update on global patterns and trends*. UN Department of Economic and Social affairs, Population Division
- Uyang, F. A., Nkpoyen, F., & Bassey, G. E. (2016). Socio-economic status of youth and involvement in criminal activities in Calabar metropolis of Cross River State, Nigeria. *International Journal of Humanities Social Sciences and Education (IJHSSE)*, 3(1), 79-83
- Wilson, K.L., & Alejandro, P. (1990). Analysis of the labor market experiences of Cubans in Miami. *Am. J. Sociol.*, 86, 295–319
- Wondimagegnhu, B. A. & Zeleke, M. E. (2017). Determinants of Rural Out-Migration in Habru District of Northeast Ethiopia *International Journal of Population Research*, Article ID 4691723
- World Urbanisation Prospects (2021). Makurdi population 2021. www.worldpopulationreview.com, retrieved 29th August, 2021
- Wosu, E., & Anele, A. K. (2010). Rural-urban migration of young persons from selected conflict ridden communities in Rivers State: A sociological approach. *African Journal of Political Science and International Relations*, 4(6), 209-214