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## The impacts of international migration: A case of United States of America and Nigeria

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### Abstract

In as much as *Homo sapiens* existed, members do migrate from one area to another looking for food or escape from disaster and war. International migration comprises movements of over 100 million people each year, in some circumstances the movement is temporary, whereas sometimes resulted to the permanent settlement. The theme of migration becomes crucial to international political discussion both between the receiver countries and that of sending countries. This paper explores the impact of migration between Nigeria and United States of America. Using content analysis, it is concluded that so many reasons have been put by scholars to come up with the reason behind people to migrate to another country, these included economic, political, social, as well as war which make the magnitude of the migration varies depending on the time, moreover, with the emergence of globalization the pattern of migration varies considerably depending on the purpose being referred. This has made the concept a debatable issue by many on its benefit as well as its cost. However, the claim of problems associated with United States of America, scholars have considered migration as significant because it gains from international migrants since its formation.

**Keywords:** migration, population, integration

### Introduction

Generally speaking, in as much as *Homo sapiens* existed, members do migrate from one area to another looking for food or escape from disaster and war (Rosemary *et al.*, 2008) [17]. International migration comprises movements of over 100 million people each year, in some circumstances the movement is temporary, whereas sometimes resulted to the permanent settlement (ILO, 2010). Population movements were regular in every era or epoch, it has increasingly related to pursuit for better living or perhaps livelihood, which lasted for thousands of years. For example, Bantu expansion in Africa or hundred years of Barbarian population movement in Europe is peaked from 3rd to 8th centuries. In the late 20<sup>th</sup> century international migration appeared to be one of the central features of social transformation as well as development around the globe, with the increase in the volume of population migration resulted into more integration as well as global relationships. Moreover, it also brings about social transformation for both migrant-sender and the receiver countries (Castles 2000; Rosemary *et al.*, 2008) [7, 17].

However, the theme of migration becomes crucial to international political discussion both between the receiver countries and that of sending countries. There has been a growing agreement that if migration would be properly managed, it can turn to advantage for all concerned countries in spite of the fact that migration has a bad image, to both emigration as well as immigration countries. Yet both the countries and the migrants themselves would benefit from the movement, even if these benefits are not always easily quantifiable. One benefit of migration to receiving country helps to manage the scarcity of labour, and it would be qualified or unqualified as well, while to sending country the benefits is the transfer of financial capital from the migrants. Definitely these remittances characterise as source of revenue to many developing nations (Ammassari, 2006) [3]. This paper explores the impact of migration between Nigeria and United States of America.

### Theoretical Explanation

This paper employs the use of micro-theory of migration propounded Lee (1966) [11]. He was the first to articulate migration as a push-pull framework on an individual level, considering both side of supply and demand of migration. For him, migration has Positive as well as

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negative features at the origin and destination. Push and pull migrants towards non migration is hindered by intervening factors e.g. migration laws affected by personnel reason for instance greater diversity between people causes into more migration. The push factors which make a person, to migrate to other place are due to diverse reasons, which comprise low productivity, underdevelopment, unemployment, poor economic environments condition, non-existence of opportunities for advancement, collapse of natural resources and natural disasters. Whereas, Pull Factors comprises factors which influence people to migrate to another country such as Opportunities for better service, higher salary, or facilities, better working environments and beautiful amenities (Kyaing, 2014) <sup>[10]</sup>. This theory can explain the scenario of Nigeria and USA and shows what influences people to migrate from Nigeria to USA as well as the benefit each country can gain in return. Based on this research work two question are raise.

- Why People Migrate?
- To What Extent Do Countries Benefited From Migration?

### Methodology

To get the required data and information in this paper content analysis was used to gather all the relevant data and information from books, journals, reports and other related materials that would help to analyse the paper.

### Reason behind Migration of People

As countries turn to globalised world, people are interconnected and their ideas, culture, possessions become mobile, international migration become more increasingly important aspect of global development and individual state policies as well. The percentage of international migrants rose from 150 million to 214 million from 2000 to 2012 (Thrane 2013) <sup>[20]</sup>. International migrations being consider as one of the furthestmost international policy agenda which generates socio-cultural and economic consequences for both sending as well as receiving nations. The recent Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM), report shows that almost 200 million migrants globally, about 60 % of the population are living in developed nations, while 40 % in under-developed countries. It was also believed that one out of each 10 individuals living in industrialized countries is a migrant. Moreover, developed countries each year receive almost 2.3 million migrants which come from developing countries, estimated two thirds of their population growth (Yavuz, n.d). In 2000, Migration is the characteristic of economic and social life across nations; nevertheless the shape of migrant populations differs considerably, because of the diversity of sources of migration (OECD, 2014). Since ancient time, people choose to migrate from their countries in looking for better life due to various purpose which include fleeing from war or conflict, or perhaps environmental degradation, reunite with their family or basically seeking for better life (UNDS, 2012). In traditional migration people used to spend their entire life within native community or neighbourhood but today migration have become progressive where people move in search for security and for better living from one village to city and from their county to another (Castles, 2000) <sup>[7]</sup>. The 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries witnessed the increase of trading state, and at the half of 20<sup>th</sup> century were assumed the increase of migration state. Actually strategic, in

economic as well as demographic perspective, trade and migration are going hand in hand since, wealth and power with stability of nation currently more than ever dependent on its willingness to risk both trade and migration (Hollifield, 2012) <sup>[8]</sup>.

With the advance of Globalization, international migration has transformed various States, societies, culture as well as economies of different nation-states into more increasingly integrated and dependent, with information technological movement of goods, capital and services, as well as ideas become more rapidly from one state and continent into another, so the importance implication of globalization to international labour migration, act as “push” and a “pull” factor which facilitated connections among international labour markets via massive progresses in information, the global economic expansions open an opportunity to many people to have access for better life (ILO, 2010). This scenario has changes the migration policies and makes more countries to look for migrant to make some important institution.

### Benefit of United States as a Receiver Country in Terms of Migration

The significance of International migration to both receiver and the sender country become a debatable issue among scholars. Migrations become one of the major forces influencing international reality and a dominant force of social change as well as cultural interaction between concerned countries. It offers migrants with substantial opportunities to improve. And it also have a various developmental effects on both sender and receiver countries (Antonio, 2011). Nevertheless, International migration can influence labour market deficiencies consequently calming labour constraint for growth. In late 1990s, U.S. companies particularly information and communication sector equipment employed foreign or oversees computer engineers and information specialists from India, China as well as other developing countries to maintain human resources requirements for a rapid growing sector (Solimano, 2001) <sup>[18]</sup>.

### Impact of Migrant to USA

Unites state of American considered international migration as the oldest as well as new experience, and America gains an incredible economic incentive because we endure the best as well as the brightest for people around in the globe, In an increasingly interconnected world and being an American is not a matter of blood or birth it is a matter of faith, is the vital mechanism for American success and at the same globalization had transformed the country from manufacturing into knowledge economic based, (Meissner *et al.*, 2006) <sup>[13]</sup>.

### Competitiveness

this implies that migrants help USA to conserve competitive advantage, particularly in the science and engineering arena for instance, 50% of the American graduate student program whose were enrolled in 2004 were foreigners born, and also immigrant propels entrepreneurship for instance, many entrepreneur in USA are owned by migrants which improve the US economy and provides more jobs to the native citizen such as micro systems, goggle, Hispanic business, silicon Valley in similar study, President Obama had confirmed that the stable stream of hardworking and

talented or brilliant people who has immigrated over the years which has made the United States the engine of the global economy and an example all over globe. According to the census by US Bureau almost 40 million peoples born outside the US country now are living inside the country (Meissner *et al.* 2006; UNDS, 2012)<sup>[13]</sup>.

### Dynamisms

Since the establishment of US migrants continue in estimable contributions to the USA society, moreover, immigrants have contributed in many sectors in America governmental positions, media as well as arts such education, military service as well as intermarriages, for instance, Gary Locke an American-Chinese as a U.S. Secretary of Commerce, Hilda Solis U.S. Secretary of Labour, with Nicaragua and Mexico's parent. Eight members of the US Congress were born abroad, in various places like Cuba, Japan, the Netherlands, Mexico, Taiwan and Vietnam. And also, President Obama is the son of an immigrant father from Kenya, (Meissner *et al.*, 2006; USDS, 2012)<sup>[13]</sup>.

### African Perspective on International Migration

African immigrants to the United States do not only come from one region but from whole continent which constitute homogenous groups. They comprise people with different social-cultural background, ethnic and racial diversity as well as different linguistic. The influx of African immigrants to United States originated at the end of 20th century. This trend was stated after decolonization as various Africans want to United States looking for an education, and has risen progressively over time in which African were regarded as the fastest growing immigrants to USA (Nyamwange, 2014)<sup>[15]</sup>. In similar studies it has been confirmed that almost 30 million Africans represent around 3% of population migrated worldwide, and employment-related migration which normally from South Africa. In 2010, it has been estimated that over USD 40 billion send back home by the African leaving outside their own countries, accounted for 2.6% of Africa's GDP which nearly four times compared with the amount recorded in 1990. In the African region remittances is the major source of net foreign inflows after foreign direct investment (Thrane, 2013)<sup>[20]</sup>.

### Impact of International Migration in Nigeria

MIGRATION, development as well as economic growth are intermingled in several ways. Migration has greatly contributed to reduce unemployment and poverty, national security, and political stability in many countries such as Nigeria, international migration produces significant economic advantages for migrant's countries and receiver nations as well (Antwi & Verter, 2014)<sup>[4]</sup>. Nigeria has a long history of international migration since pre-colonial era with Hausa transnational link or trans-Sahara trade, and transatlantic slave trade which make the beginning of Nigerian migration to other countries for plantation, mining and public administration for other countries and later moving to UK and USA for higher education (Akinrinade & Ogen, 2011)<sup>[2]</sup>. Nigeria is the largest countries in West Africa which produces immigrant to USA accounted for almost 380,000 and reside normally in Texas, Maryland, New York, which consider being the highest Nigerian resident beside Houston and Washington DC. Nigerian that

reside in the USA were usually employed in professional or perhaps managerial occupation, these occupation comprises engineers, law, education and science as well as administrative and managerial jobs particularly financial and human resources (MPI, 2014)

### Labour Migration

Despite these policies and restriction international labour migration mainly low-skilled labour brings about advantage to everyone, received and sending countries equally. Labour migration increases the total output of both countries and their incomes, improving efficiency toward using world's resources between involved countries, also encourage establishment of small business, increases savings, and investment, as well as human capital development in the developed countries, international labour migration also quicken the speed of innovation and also intensify flow of remittances to the backward or poor nations, thus, growth per-capita income to both countries. Under this condition some country transfer labour to the host nations, just like international trade in goods, labour migration permit overseas suppliers to sell their facility to the native buyers which in turn both parties engaged in transaction would benefit from the trade (Wickramasekera 2002; Chang 2007)<sup>[22, 6]</sup>.

### Remittance by Nigerian Migrants from USA

Nigerian expertise is involved actively in national building by initiating Nigerian in Diaspora organization (NIDO) which brings tangible outcome in term of solid personnel as well as institutional linkages for training and other importance policy making process. These expertise are working in civilian labour forces such as educational, social assistance, and health care service (MPI, 2010). In this regard to remittance, Nigerian is among the six countries in the world with highest remittance in the 2012 World Bank report which amounted \$21 billion and in the same year the Nigerian migrant reside in United States of America transfer approximately \$ 6.1 billion in 2012, out of the \$ 2.26 billion total remittance and been regarded as the highest recipient in Africa with 67% (Vanguard, 2013)<sup>[23]</sup>, the remittance become an important aspect for financial expenses, business development, funding some special such as wedding, hajj and Christmas, social security for elderly, disables, orphans as well (MPI, 2010).

Another importance issue to discuss here is the intellectual and skill professional workers known as Brain Drain. Adejoke (2010) estimated that over 21, 000 Nigerian Medical Doctors are working in USA, despite the fact that Nigeria has a serious problem of Medical Doctors at the home.

### Conclusion

International migration has been considered as a universal phenomenon which existed since the evolution of humanity; so many reason have been discussed by scholars on why people migrate to another countries, these reasons include economic, political, social, as well as war which make magnitude of the migration varies depending on the time. Moreover, with the emergence of globalization, the pattern of migration varies considerably depending the purpose being refers; this has made the concept a debatable issue by many on its benefit as well as it is cost. However, the claim of problem associated with United State of America,

scholars have considered migration as significant because it gains from international migrants since its formation. Nigeria has a long history of being a country with the highest source of migrants to the USA which in turn benefited from the remittances send by the Nigerian resident in USA. In the recent policy regarding the international migration in United State of America to expand chances to legal immigrant with high-tech skills, whoever brings benefit to the country has a chance to live in the country. Despite the challenge of this policy from other senators still the policy contributes to the national development in the United State of America and Nigeria as well.

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