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THE CHALLENGES OF TRANS-BORDER MIGRATION ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA: AN ASSESSMENT 2010-2018

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ABSTRACT

The challenges of trans-border migration on national development in Nigeria, has been a major issue of concern. Trans-border migration has been in existence since the beginning of countries and colonies. People move from place to place and what distinguishes just any migration from trans-border migration is the movement across borders. Despite the efforts of the immigration agency and the military in Nigeria, the borders are still very porous. Consequently the study examined the challenges of trans-border migration on national development in Nigeria. The study adopted the survey research design with interview guide as the major instrument to gather information. A total number of 14 questions were asked, 7 questions were administered to the citizens leaving around the border area and another 7 questions were administered to the Customs and Immigration officers working at the border. A total number of 24 people were interviewed, Civilians and security officers from Nigerian Seme border post and 24 demographic questionnaires were also administered at the two border posts. . This study is anchored on two vital theories namely; liberal choice and structural theories and neo-classical macro theory. The research found out that there are a lot of illegal activities happening at the Nigerian borders which the citizens and security This study is anchored on two (2) vital theories namely; liberal choice and structural theories and neo-classical macro theory officers are aware of. This study also found out that people migrate across the borders to seek a better standard of living and the border security officers sometimes aid smuggling of illegal goods into the country. The study recommended that funds should be mobilized to provide secured border posts with modern surveillance equipments, while trading activities so close to the border should be strictly regulated.

KEYWORDS: Trans-border, Human Security, Migration, National Development.

1. INTRODUCTION

The word “Trans-border” centers on migration and border related issues. Trans-border migration is the moving, crossing or extending across a border. A border is the outer edge of something; it could also be referred to as the frontier area separating political and geographical regions. They are artificial line, that is, constructed lines that forms the boundary of a country. Every state is allowed to exercise power within its territory. The definition of a State shows how significant the frontier area of a country is. A defined boundary clearly shows a state’s jurisdiction. A state can however be defined as a defined territory with a population of people and a government that has sovereignty and is allowed to use force on anything country that threatens it. Migration is defined simply as the movement of people and goods from one place to another for a particular period of time. Migration is divided into; Immigration and emigration. Immigration is the movement of people into a particular place for a period of time or even for a life time. An example is the movement of people from Ghana into Nigeria. Individuals that engage in this are called immigrants. For the case of emigration, people move out of a place, for example the movement of people out of Nigeria to other countries. There are various reasons why people migrate some of which are; to find better employment opportunities; to find a bigger market for business; to find better payment for services rendered, to begin a family in a place other than the country of origin; to find a better standard of living.

Migration has gone beyond just people moving around for the purpose of trade or permanent residence, it now involves the security of a nation and the rules of engagement between human beings. Due to the fact that migration is a very important concept in the world now as it affects nations, policies have been formulated and strategies have developed to regulate and control the way people move across their borders. It is important to note that in the aspect of migration there is something called push and pull factor, where there is a push factor; there is automatically a pull factor. The push factors are similar to reasons why people leave a country while the pull factors are also similar to the reasons for going to the destination country. Push factors include; Political warfare or political unrest in the origin country, environmental pollution, poor housing and standard of living, lack of employment opportunities, poor health care facilities, death threat, epidemics, desertification and natural disasters, abuse of human rights, lack of proper basic and social amenities. Pull factors includes; available job opportunities in the destination country, better medical care, stable government, stable economy, better security, better educational system, chances of finding courtship, better relaxation and enjoyment in the destination country especially countries overseas that attract tourists, the geographical distance of the destination country.

The challenges of migration have grown to be a major aspect of human existence and it is now a matter of concern for countries due to the fact that national security is on the line. Every independent nation has a defined territory. A country is also allowed to protect itself from external aggression and internal insurrection. Globalization has caused many countries to be aware of some social vices that greatly affect a nation's national security and development (Adeyinkq, 2014). Globalization has also brought about various threats to the world, many of which are transnational organized crimes such as; smuggling, human trafficking, child trafficking, arms trafficking, terrorism which is now a major concern in the international system. Trans-border and cross-border crimes, illegal migration through land, air and seas, asylum seeker flows, strong socio-economic differences, mismanaged refugees and many more. Countries have become aware of these threats and are now on the defense against the attacking influences of migration flow (Addo, 2006).

Nigeria is a very large country in West Africa; she also has one of the largest military in Africa. It is enshrined in the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria that the military is charged with the responsibility of defending the country against threats. The military is so large yet the Nigerian borders are very porous. The movement of people across the borders are not properly managed and controlled. The Nigerian airport is another problem because it doesn't have enough facilities and it is regarded as sub-standard. The issue of trans-border migration further connotes; the flight of human intelligence/ strength and labor; The inflow of various kinds of individuals that could be members of terrorist organizations and could also bring along with them different types of diseases. This however means that, in as much as this trans-border migrations cause's brain drain, it also causes a large number of African Diasporas in other countries in various continents of the world. In the aspect of population, some may say that people leaving the country would at least reduce the population of people, it is not the case however in Nigeria as a large number of people leave the country but a larger number of migrant from other countries come into Nigeria which leaves us with the problem of over population.

National development as stated before is very essential in every nation. The term "National Development" refers to a state's maturity and growth that characterizes a nation-state. The problems of trans-border migration cannot be solved unilaterally; however, the cooperation with other countries and their immigration institutions will be of great help in Nigeria's border management.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

Trans-border migration has become more complex in national development in Nigeria. The major problem is transnational criminal activities. This transnational crime includes; trafficking of small arms and light weapons, human trafficking, drugs trafficking such as narcotics as well as cross border armed attacks. The death rates of people due to transnational crimes are on the increase and it greatly affects the development of any nation. Annually, thousands of people (men, women and children) are reportedly smuggled; thousands of migrants are also saved from the sea all because "they seek a better life outside Nigeria and other African countries". Many of them become refugees and live worse than they used to back in their origin country, why then leave? As a result of these ugly trends, the development of Nigeria keeps diminishing. Statistics have shown that an overall 8516 deaths were recorded in 3,840 critical incidence between June 2006 and September, 2015. The issue with trans-border migration on national development in Nigeria is one big aspect the Nigerian government needs to take serious. Trans-border migration brings along with it various transnational crimes, the in flocks of people and goods into the country causes the economy to have too many mouths to feed and this people do not contribute to the economy and they bring a lot of problems with them. All these therefore form the problem this study sought to investigate.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Migration in Nigeria

“Today, the number of people living outside their country of birth is larger than at any other time in history. International migrants would now constitute the world’s fifth most populous country if they all lived in the same place” [UNFPA]. This shows the implication of today’s migration. The rate at which people migrate from their individual countries to other countries threatens today’s society due to the rising trans-national threats and other negative vices in the present world. It also assumes that if every migrant were gathered to live together, they could constitute the world’s fifth most populous country.

Various scholars have different approaches to the origin of migration. Some people believe that migration started as far back as the time of Christ. When Jesus was on earth, there were many accounts of him leaving one state to another spreading the gospel. Many believe that once you leave a particular place to another whether state to state or town to town, it is migration. Migration does not only include human migration but also goods and services. The concept of migration is not a new discovery as a target of a study. Various experts in fields such as; economics, sociology, geography have in ancient times developed interest in migration. Each expert viewed this concept (migration) from different perspectives and that also contributed to the numerous definition of migration you find in articles and textbooks.

Migration occurred as a result of different things. Some migrated to find better standards of living, better health care for tourist experiences and so on. During the times of war in the 1900s many individuals and family migrated to avoid being killed. However, during the period between the two world wars (1914-1918, 1939-1945) respectively, it was noticed that international migration diminished and was majorly in the part of the economic stagnation, insecurity and climate. During the 1900’s also, specifically the great depression of the 1930s there were scarce jobs and the working class migrants were seen as competitors with the citizens of those countries. The government of those countries then decided to make policies to limit the flow of people into the countries. Government officials were also placed at the border areas to also control the flow of migrants. The Second World War is another period that had a great impact in the history of migration. One effect of the war was the displacement of over 1 million people within the continent of Europe. Many of the refugees were victims of persecution and later gained permanent or temporary residence in Europe. After the Second World War, it was recorded that the ‘British government offered work permits to 90,000 workers from refugee camps in various locations’. Other refugees moved to other European countries such as France, Belgium and so on.

Historically, migration in Nigeria was mainly restricted to pastoral and fishing migration. It involved farmers who mostly practiced shifting cultivation. In shifting cultivation, the farmer was to cultivate on a piece of land for a period of time after which he will harvest, after harvesting the land will be left alone without cultivation so the soil could regain its nutrient. Thus, the farmer had to cultivate on another land and the circle continued. In the north, periodic movement involved particular trades like; the entertainers, weavers and dyers. Rural-urban migration was not rampant but this changed rapidly after the colonialists came into Nigeria. Transportation was improved and many industries were established. This however increased the demands for labour. At that period also, railways were built. The North-South line began and traders found it as a way to move their goods around such as cola-nut. Colonialism also brought other forms of migration such as ‘forced migration’. Many Nigerians and Africans in general were forcefully moved to European countries to work as slaves. During the francophonization of Africa for example, Africans were recruited into the French army and were made to fight wars for the French people, Metonou (2017).

In the attempt to assimilate the French education in Africa, some Africans were taking abroad to study. In Nigeria also, during the time of colonization, some Nigerians level of poverty in Nigeria and many of this citizens will not be blamed for trying to seek better opportunities. Many Nigerians have also been internally displaced. For example, many victims of the Boko Haram attack have been displaced, they no longer have their shops or even their houses. Nigeria faces various complications related to reasons for migration. According to a 2007 World Bank report, these includes translating the benefits of reforms into welfare improvements for its citizens, improving the domestic business environment, extending reform policies to states and local governments, focusing on non-oil growth, increasing the maintaining infrastructure investments, strengthening domestic institutions, tackling unrest in the Niger Delta, and increasing the quality of social-sector spending.

Shaw’s (1975) said that:

Migration is “the relatively permanent movement of persons over a significant distance”. However, the inclusion of the qualifiers “relatively” and “significant” in this formulation is perhaps indicative of a larger definitional problem. Apart from the “distance” (“spatial”) dimension, migration also has a “time” (“duration-of-residence”) dimension, although neither is referred to per se in currently applied definitions. Migration is nowadays defined as involving a change in place of abode, which criterion has practically replaced the notion of “permanence” (denoting the “time” dimension). Similarly, the criterion that the distance of the move should be “significant” has generally been replaced by the requirement that the boundary of a

“migration-defining area” must have been crossed before a move can be classified as migration.

This mostly suggest that migration of nowadays involves the permanent change in places of residences which also includes the period of stay. In literal sense, “permanent residence”, “time” are very important as denoted from the definition. It is however important to note that some people do not migrate for permanent residence but sometimes other factors could constitute their reasons for migrating such as wanting to find a spouse or for better medical health care. Many things could contribute to why an individual or people will want to migrate and that is why there is push and pulls factors.

In Wallenstein (1974) world system theory, he attempted to connect the process by which countries with international migration”. This theory affirms that the main cause of migration is the presence of unequal development between the developed countries of the world and the auxiliary agricultural countries. Thus, his theory therefore explains that the top central countries are developing by exploiting the smaller countries. This theory “realizes that migration is the natural consequence of globalization and market penetration across national boundaries (Wallenstein, 1974). The theory also observes that globalization, cheap air transportation and growth of multinational companies and so on, lead to the enhancement of migration (Joly, 2000). Globalization has been argued by various scholars as to being one of the root causes of migration. Globalization has brought great inequality between countries and that is why in today’s generation, there are developed and under-developed countries. There are also super powers, middle powers and lower powers. There is a great struggle for power in the international community. Due to the fact that some countries are more developed than the other, individuals may at some point decide to move to these developed countries to seek greener pastures. There has also been growth of various multinational companies and Inter-governmental Organizations which has also encouraged migration.

2.2 Dual Economy Model of Development

This theory has a very significant role in the economic development of a country. According to this theory therefore, migration from one country to another is majorly because of the differences in wages and employment opportunities. This therefore shows that migration is an individual decision whereby, the decision made is for the purpose of income maximization. As a result, the continuous migration over a long period of time is due to the extended instability that exists between these countries (Lewis, 1953 and Tadaro, 1980). The theory above focuses on migration and the economy. It implies that migration between countries is majorly due to the differences in wages and employment opportunities. In the under-developed countries, un-employment rate is on the very high side and even when you get a job the pay is very low. In many governmental institutions such as schools and hospitals, sometimes the government owes salaries of workers for 6 months to a year and even longer. All this contributes to why anyone will want to leave such countries to more developed countries. This theory however does not point out other reasons for migration. Wages and employment opportunities are just one of a hundred reasons why people migrate.

2.3 Perpetuation Theories of Migration

In this theory, networks are seen as very important factors in migration. It is understood that interpersonal ties connect this migrants. It suggests that the interpersonal ties connect migrants, past migrants and legitimate citizens of the origin and destination countries and in turn, it fosters circular migration and decreases migration risk. (Tilly and Brown, 1967). One can critique this theory from the area that an inter-personal tie does not involve all migrants. Some individuals’ claim that people that live outside their origin countries sometimes bond when they meet, this claim is quite absurd because these people are from different countries and might have little or nothing in common and they moved to the destination country for different reasons.

2.4 The Dual Labor Market Theory

According to this theory, the labor markets of industrialized countries have a “dualistic structure”. This dualistic structure comprises of the skilled and un-skilled workers. The skilled workers make up the primary segment while the un-skilled workers make up the secondary segment. The skilled workers are compensated for their work appropriately but the un-skilled workers are not paid as high the skilled workers. The industrialized countries are the developed countries such as the European countries, America and even China. This theory says that these developed countries have a double structure which includes skilled and un-skilled workers. The skilled workers are the trained workers and are properly paid but the un-skilled workers have little or no knowledge and not as well paid as the skilled workers. This theory also fails to acknowledge other parts of migration. A significant justification for these theories is the fact that migration has no universally accepted definition of migration, as long as people have different ideologies there most likely wouldn't be any general definition of migration.

Most of the theories view migration from different perspectives. Migration is a very complex phenomenon and still does not have any universally accepted definition. There are two main types of migration by the demographers (people who study human population and how they change); (internal migration) and (international migration). Internal migration: this is the change in location or place of residence within a national boundary. Examples includes; between provinces, cities and states. According to them, an internal migrant is someone who moves to a different administrative territory. International migration: here, it refers to change in location or place of residence over national boundaries unlike the internal migration. International migrants could be refugees, asylum seekers, legal or illegal immigrants. The general definition of migration are; immigration and emigration. Immigration; is the movement of people into a country for the purpose of permanent residence. According to Thomas, immigration is a necessary condition for diffusion of skills particularly in developing countries as there is immense need of skilled personnel's. Immigration involves the movement of people from particular countries that they are not originally from. That is, they do not possess citizenship of that country. This movement could be for various reasons like permanent residences. One theory of immigration differentiates between the pull and push factor. The push factor is said to be the main reason for immigration from the country of origin. In the aspect of economic migration which is usually the labour migration, the differences in wage rates are common. If there is much value on the wages in the new country than the value of the wages in one's origin country, the individual may decide to migrate as long as the costs to pay are not too much. Transportation technology, another aspect that over the years, has encouraged immigration.

Emigration on the other hand is the movement of people out of their country of origin or national region for the purpose of permanent residence in another country. Just as the push factor is the main reason for immigration, the pull factor is also the main reason for Emigration. For instance, job opportunity is a pull factor and this will cause a person to leave his country (emigration) to another country to seek employment. The concept of migration is not new to the world. However, what is new is the changing nature of migration, that is, what migration is turning into in the 21st century, its dimensions and challenges. Migration has its positive impacts as well as its negative impacts. In the world today, the negative impacts are beginning to outweigh the positive impacts, which is subject to deliberations. Migration might have been of great benefit to some individuals but has also brought destruction to many, like the people that migrated and ended up being used as slaves. Besides the impacts of people, migration also has its impacts of nations, in the aspect of development, integration and security. The concept of migration needs to be handled from a different perspective beyond how it used to be in the 1800s and 1900s because migration has evolved from what it was 50 Or 100 years ago.

2.4.1 The Concept of trans-border migration

According to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 13-2), “Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country”. This leaves us with the question of, if a migrant's (emigrate) right is acknowledged what about the relating right to immigrate. Presently in the social sciences, there is no generally acceptable definition of trans-border migration. The purpose of the concept comprises of the meanings of the words “trans”, “border” and “migration”. The term “trans” is a Latin word which means through or across and is defined as; the location on the other side of anything; the designation or transfer through something; the movement through any space, crossing it. The term “border” means; the outer edge of something; the decorative strip around the edge of something; the line or frontier area separating political or geographical regions.

Migration is another term and it has the following meanings; moving a place to live to another place for a while; changing a platform from an environment to another one. Trans-border migration shows migration as not just limited to

internal migration but extending beyond that to crossing borders. Trans-border migration has great implications in the origin countries. The Implications in the aspect of the economy, and development. People moving from poorer to richer countries accounts for the largest share of documented trans-border migration. Trans-border migration of people has become a source of growing political controversy. The challenge of trans-border migration has gained a lot attention in recent times. Faist (2016) viewed migration across borders as being a reflection of global inequalities. This clearly means that according to Faist, there is some form of global inequality and this has pushed people to migrate to different places.

2.5 Human Security

Human security is a prominent challenge to national security and national development of any country in the world. Trans-border migration has threatened human security in many ways. The threats to human security associated with trans-border migration are trans-border crimes. The trans-border crimes range from smuggling, internet fraud, trafficking of women and children, trafficking of drugs, proliferation of small and light weapons and in recent time weapons of mass destruction among others. These activities associated with trans-border crimes affect Nigeria's national security which in turn affects the national development of the country (Afolabi, 2016). Smuggling involves the individuals engages in it evading custom duties thereby reducing government revenue. The crimes associated with trans-border migration includes; smuggling, fraud, trafficking of child and women including drug trafficking and the proliferation of small and light weapons.

2.5.1 Smuggling

Some security agents were interviewed and most of them came to the conclusion that, Nigeria's border areas are liable to crime of different kinds. They trigger the theme of frontier of lawlessness, insurgency, illegal trade, and rebellion against government policy (Newspaper 2016). It is very surprising that the borders could be so porous even with the large military in Nigeria and the presence of the Nigerian Customs, Immigration, NDLEA and the Police at the border lands and yet the crime rate is very high. West Africa which comprises of countries such as Nigeria and Benin Republic among others are under attack from international criminal networks that are using the sub-region as a key global center for the distribution and use, and increased production of illegal frugs (Brown, 2013). The control of movement of people and goods across the borders is very difficult for security agents due to the porous level of the border. Security agents at the border like seme-border almost on a daily base have confrontations with smugglers in which people end up being killed. There are also many illegal routes linking Nigeria and Benin Republic and this increases the case of smuggling. Many times, the some of the Nigerian borders have been closed by the government for some period of time to curb the activities of smuggling.

2.5.2 Internet Fraud/ Money Laundering

It is difficult to attribute a specific characteristic mode of operation to multiple groups and independent operators implicated in the 'business' that has contributed to internet scam, as their activities do not only range from "seemingly legitimate business solicitations" to "illicit propositions for the collusion of money laundering". (Garuba, 2010). Technology is probably the best thing that has happened to us. Many feel it is a curse but the truth is the technology is not the problem but the people that use it and how they use it. Individuals and groups have taken advantage of the Importance of the internet. Money laundering, which could be a trans-border crime involves transferring huge amount of money in another country. Many individuals including government officials are involved in money laundering.

2.5.3 Human trafficking/ Drug trafficking

The border is a very common path through which human beings and drugs are trafficked. In West Africa, the introduction of drug trafficking has been traced to Nigeria. Nigeria is highly populated and many criminals usually disguise as Nigerians and commit all sorts of criminal activities. The first arrest of drug traffickers was in 1983, death penalty was also introduced for drug traffickers during General Mohammadu Buhari military regime (UNODC, 2015; Stephen, 2016). The border between Nigeria and Benin Republic served as an alternative route for the traffickers. After the introduction of the death penalty, there was a lot of tension arising from this criminals and it pushed them to Ghana. The issues with drug trafficking resulted to the establishment of NDLEA to tackle the issues with illicit drugs, but to the agency no longer has a very good reputation due to the corrupt practices of its officials. Today it has been recorded that activities of this drug lords and "drug pushers" have extended beyond Europe to include many other African countries. Many of the individuals involved in this criminal activity most times hire people to carry put their evil deeds which makes it difficult for security officials to catch the actual criminals and worst of all, make it difficult detect their movement.

Human trafficking on the other includes, women trafficking, and child trafficking, men are also sold to become slaves. This trend stated as far back as the Roman times. Children were sold, mutilated and abandoned. Women and men were sold to become slaves and sex workers. It is also understood that during the time of colonization, Nigerians were not only shipped through the sea, which is the Atlantic Ocean, they were also moved out of the country through the borders. Many Nigerians worked as slaves in Benin Republic and these people were trafficked using the border. However, after the problem of human trafficking began to spread, and due to the fact that there was no proper law to punish offenders that engaged in human trafficking, the anti-human trafficking law was enacted in 2003.

2.5.4 Proliferation of small and light weapons

It is surprising to see the amount of weapons in circulation in Nigeria. In recent times even petty thieves now carry arms about. During the civil war, the Biafrans were able to sustain the war with the Nigerian army for so long. At that period, France was supplying Biafra with weapons through Cote D'ivoire if not they wouldn't have been able to fight back. France is a European country which is far from Nigeria but they were able to supply weapons to Nigeria through a country close to Nigeria and these weapons were moved into the country through the borders. Boko Haram for instance has weapons being supplied to them almost on a daily basis. It was reported one time in 2014 that they were getting weapons into Nigeria from Mali. The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is also on the increase. These negative effects of trans-border migration which trans-border crimes have been established to be a major effect affects Nigeria in various ways; lives and properties are being threatened on a daily basis, the fact that one crime leads to more crimes, smuggling increases sub-standard products that are detrimental to people's health.

The economy of the country is also affected because revenue that is supposed to be generated from custom duties are being evaded by smugglers. In as much as trans-border migration has its negative effects, its positive effects cannot be overlooked. Trans-border migration enables people explore other countries. People are able to leave their origin countries to other countries in the world. It was stated that a negative effect of trans-border migration is the reduction in government revenue due to the issues of not paying customs duties, however, it does not necessarily mean that customs duties are not paid at all. In other words, customs duties that are paid due to trans-border migration generates a certain level of revenue for the government.

The inflow of people into Nigeria increases the rate of man power in the country. Many Togolese in Nigeria are tillers, and house builders, this in turn means there is a high number of man power in the country. Trans-border migration also fosters good relationships between countries. Nigeria has to be in a good relationship with its neighbours. True security is being at peace with your neighbours (Obama, 2017). Trans-border migration has economic, social and political implications in the origin and host countries. The Diasporas in the hoist countries send remittances home which in some cases are very substantial. While migration has economic, social, and cultural implications for the sending and host societies, remittances the migrants send home are perhaps the most tangible and least controversial link between migration and development (Ratha, 2007).

An official estimate was derived which showed that migrants from the developing countries (often referred to as third world countries) sent over \$315 billion to their origin countries in 2009, three times the size of official development assistance (Ratha, 2010). These remittances from the migrants have in time become an importance source of external income in most of the developing countries. Migration is a decision that impacts the welfare of the household, the home community, and in the end the whole economy in various ways (Azam and Gubert 2006). Sometimes in the origin countries migration reasonable and positive impacts. Many believe that migrants have access to new businesses and have the chance to tap knowledge and resources provided by the international community of migrant Diaspora. It is important to state that the international community of migrant Diaspora is not a bed of roses as sometimes they are being exploited.

Some of the greatest challenges Nigeria faces today is the porosity of the borderline, issues that arises from trans-border migration and other national security issues. Trans-border migration has its pros and cons, unfortunately, its disadvantages are beginning to overshadow the advantages. Trans-border migration and other activities that occur around the borderlines of Nigeria has aided crimes and national security challenges which in turn affects the national development of Nigeria and till date, no specific solutions to the issues arising from trans-border migration has been made.

2.5.5 National Development in Nigeria

Development is said to be what every country in the world aspire to attain. Lawal (2011) postulated that development is a vital necessity to the growth and sustenance of any vibrant nation. Thus, for development to be achieved security, economic and political stability must be guaranteed at various level of government which in turn make the citizens accept and support the governing process. According to Meier (1988), development is an act of rising to the highest value the Gross National Product through the process of accumulating capital and industrialization. Seers (1979) gave a definition for development by postulating certain questions such as; what has been happening to poverty, unemployment and inequality. To Seers, if all three elements (poverty, unemployment and inequality) are at a relatively high rate, then there is absence of development, and vice versa. National development cannot be achieved in one day, sometimes it could take decades before a reason level of development can be achieved in a country. Most people do not understand the basic idea of what national development is. There have been mistakes in trying to develop the country but through the wrong approach. For instance, after the civil war in Nigeria, there was a general call for national development, the head of state at that time, Gen Yakubu Gowon, moved for national integration. In trying to develop the country however, he failed to look beyond just national integration. Many leaders have limited their scope in trying to develop the nation. National development involves all areas of the country ranging from trade to security, integration, Peace Building, Peace Making, Peace Keeping to many other areas of the country.

National Development also involves a nation's relation with other countries. There is a general understanding that no country can develop in isolation. The relation of a country with other countries of the world has a way of affecting that country. For instance, Nigeria's relation with the United States of America has brought some sort of aides for Nigeria. Also, Nigeria's relation with China has also brought various agreements that have in turn affected the Nigeria's economy positively, thereby improving a country's status. Migration has found a way into the heart of a country in the sense that migration can in every way affect a country's pace at which it is developing either positively or negatively. In the positive area, migration has helped many African countries through the African Diasporas.

Migration has also brought its problems such as the rate of transnational crime in today's society. Migration has caused a lot of people to be displaced; it has also cost a lot their lives. The flow of people across borders have become so alarming that makes you wonder if there is something constantly chasing people. Migration could affect a nation's security which is a challenge for national development. Migration could also affect a country's economy in areas where the country becomes over populated which is also another challenge for national development. Nigeria faces all this issues which has stunted the growth of the country. National development is very important, and anything that can positively or negatively affect a country's national development should be taken as serious.

2.6 Gaps in the Literature

The study would critic the first view on migration, as being a reflection of "global inequalities". This view does not emphasis the fact that even people leaving in developed countries migrate to other developed countries and even under-developed countries. Some people migrate to find life partners also has nothing to do with global inequality. The approach by Clarke, J.I as migration "involving a change of residence of substantial duration" could be critiqued by pointing out that Clarke did not include other aspects and reasons for migration. Migration doesn't only include changing residence for substantial duration. Some individuals move across border every day, some others stay for a very short period of time before moving somewhere else. The assertion made by Gosh (1996) as regards migration being the movement of labour across international boundaries being caused by economic factors could be critiqued by arguing that migration could also be as a result of political and even cultural factors. There are various factors that could contribute to the movement of labour across international boundaries and economic factors are just one of many. "There is no unanimity over the meaning of migration' though many consider it as movement involving a change of residence of substantial duration" (Clarke, 1965). Analyzing this definition, it is evident that there is exclusion in the temporary movement of tourist, and the constant movement of citizens around the state. The definition talks about movement involving change of place of habitation but migration however does not only include human movement and change in residence. It is however understood that the originator of this definition, Clarke, already stated that there is no general definition for migration.

3. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This division of this research analyzes two theories which can be used as the philosophical as well as the theoretical foundation of this research work. The significant of having a theoretical framework is to explain and interpret

and to back up your study using particular theories what will guide the research towards the direction that is best suitable to explain it.

This study is anchored on two (2) vital theories namely; liberal choice and structural theories and neo-classical macro theory and these theories will be used to explain some observable fact or occurrence because its basic tenets are fundamental to the understanding of the subject under study. Liberal Choice and Structural Theories; According to Gosh (1996), the movement of labor across international boundaries is caused by economic factors. He suggested two models of migration theories which included the classical theory and the core-periphery conflict theory. The classical theory was also referred to as (liberal) and the core-periphery conflict theory as (structural). In the case of the “classical theories, workers move from low wage gaps, then, according to the structural theories, migration widens wage and unequal income which is as a result of the differences in the economic and political status of various countries (Gosh, 1996). This theory states that international movement of labour is caused by economic factors. In the classical theories proposed above, labourers move from low wage gaps to higher one’s and the structural theories is basically the differences in countries’ economic and political situations. The statement above by Gosh center around people wanting to move to places of better income

Neo-classical macro migration theory on the other hand explains migration as an area of economic development. This theory emphasizes on internal migration and how the reason for internal migration is due to the geographic differentiation in the supply and demand of labour. And this is majorly between the rural traditional agricultural zone and the urban modern manufacturing zone. “Neo-classical macro migration theory sees rural-urban migration as a constituent part of the whole development process, by which surplus labor in the rural sector supplies the workforce for the urban industrial economy (Lewis 1954). By prerequisite “is a well-known fact of economic history that material progress usually has been associated with the gradual but continuous transfer of economic agents from rural based traditional agriculture to urban oriented modern industry” (Todaro 1969), neo-classical migration theory is strongly established in “developmentalist” modernization theory based on the study of purposeful views explaining and viewing development as a “linear, universal process consisting of successive stages” (Rostow, 1960).

The theories above help understand trans-border migration beyond just people moving across borders but also how this sort of migration could affect the origin country and destination country. It helps understand the various areas of a country that trans-border migration can affect. Theories are formulated to help paint a clearer picture of particular phenomenon. The two theories above I believe have shown trans-border migration and migration in general in different aspect and how they affect a nation’s national development.

4. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The research questions was answered using inferences drawn from the focus group discussions outlined above as well as other secondary data sources.

4.1 Research Question One

What causes individuals to migrate to other countries? From the responses of both the citizens living within both borders, we infer that people migrate because of their quest to find better living and employment opportunities in other places considered better than their present locations. This finding is supported by the dual economy model of development which suggest that migration from one country to another is majorly because of the differences in wages and employment opportunities. Also, people could also migrate due to safety concerns inherent in their locations. As pointed out by some of the residents, they intend to migrate soonest due to the danger of living within the border. This finding is consistent with the Push Hypothesis of the situation-oriented approach of migration which postulates that negative factors such as bad healthcare, natural disasters and safety issues can cause people to migrate.

4.2 Research Question Two

What are the opinions of the people living in areas close to the borders of Nigeria on the role the custom officers play in curbing the issues as regards trans-border migration? Findings from the discussions show that the people living within the border area attest to the fact that the federal government has not been doing enough through the custom officials as regards curbing the issues inherent in trans-border migration. According to some of the participants, the federal government should re-orientate the customs and immigration officials at the border. Some others suggested that government should train the customs officials so that they can adequately discharge their duties. This assertion is suggestive of the fact that the role of customs official in curbing the issues as regards trans-border migration has not been

efficient enough, hence the negative remarks by the residents. According to some of the participants, some of the customs officials take bribes and indulge in illicit activities.

4.3 Research Question Three

What are the opinions of the immigration and custom officers on the rate of migration across the borders of Nigeria? According to the customs and immigration officers who participated in the discussion, the rate of migration is very high. According to them, the rate of people coming through the Nigerian borders is very high. Also, they noted that the percentage of the people coming into the country is more than the people leaving. It is so high such that most of the officers often wonder what the attraction is in light of the many developmental challenges bedeviling the country at present. However, they pointed out that though migration is very high in Nigeria, it is almost identical in most developing nations of the world. The officer stationed at both borders therefore attributed the problem of overpopulation in Nigeria as a result of a higher immigration rate while also conceding that Nigerians who emigrated do so due to their quest for a better life.

4.4 Research Question Four

How can the government tackle the issues that arise from trans-border migration? The overwhelming recommendation from the customs and immigration officers who participated in the discussion is that the federal government should pay close attention to why people leave the country and why other foreigners come into the country. Also, the federal government should make policies that will help the country and help custom and immigration officers work smoothly. Some also suggested that Nigerians need to stop engaging themselves in criminal activities such as smuggling, and by so doing would enable the government tackle other issues.

5. SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS

The study was set out to examine the effects of trans-border migration on national development in Nigeria. Specifically, the study sought to ascertain the causes of trans-border migration, determine the opinion of people leaving in areas close to the borders of Nigeria on the role the custom officers play in curbing the issues as regards trans-border migration, determine the opinion of the immigration and custom officers as regards the rate of Nigerians migration to other countries and the rate of foreigners coming into Nigeria and examine the role of the government in tackling trans-border issues. To achieve these objectives, the study used the Seme and Idiroko borders as case study.

The theoretical foundations of the study were hinged on perpetuation theory of migration, cumulative causation theory, situation-oriented approach, and the dual labour market theory. The findings revealed that all the theories view migration from different perspectives. Furthermore, relevant literature was reviewed but findings revealed that not much, in terms of previous studies had been done on the case studies. Using the survey research design, the researcher collected data from focus group discussions held within the case studies. The collected responses were analyzed using SPSS and subjected to in-depth qualitative analysis.

Based on the primary and secondary data analysis, the following findings were made:

1. People migrate into and out of Nigeria because of their quest to find better living and employment opportunities in other places considered better than their present locations, as well as because of perceived safety concerns.
2. The federal government has not been doing enough through the custom officials as regards curbing the issues inherent in trans-border migration. Some of the customs officials take bribes and indulge in illicit activities and as such should be trained and reoriented.
3. The rate of migration is very high, with the percentage of the people coming into the country are more than the people leaving.

5.1 Conclusion

This study concluded that trans-border migration negatively affects national development through smuggling activities; trade in illegal arms, over population of cities, and inflation. The study also concluded that unless actions are urgently put in place by the federal government to address identified issues, things could get out of hand in the nearest future. For even government officials to identify that things are currently underperforming at the borders is a cause for

serious concern. Thus, concerted efforts have to be made by the government of the day to strengthen regulatory framework for immigration and operations at the borders.

5.2 Recommendations

The findings of this research work provide useful insights into the state of affairs at the borders and the critical issues that need to be attended to in light of the national development goals of the country. Specifically, the following recommendations are consequently proffered by the researcher:

1. The federal government should re-orientate the government officials at the border in consonance with the objectives of her immigration policy (customs and immigration).
2. Trading so close to the border should be stopped or rather reduced, or strictly regulated.
3. The federal government should make more policies and rules that would efficiently govern the operations at borders and deploy trained security personnel. The federal government should also restructure the border.
4. The federal government should ensure that the custom officers, the immigration officers and even the soldiers that work at the border comply strictly to the rules of the country because as found in the study, they collect bribes and allow traders bring illegal goods into the country.

5.3 Contributions to Knowledge

This study has contributed to knowledge by empirically proving that trans-border migration has great effects, positively and negatively on Nigeria's national development. This study has also empirically proven that vices such as smuggling, trafficking of small and light arms as well as drug trafficking have been the reason for increased trans-border crimes.

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