

RURAL-URBAN ISSUES AND HUMAN CAPACITY BUILDING IN AN ERA OF GLOBALIZATION: THE THIRD WORLD PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT: *This study examined the nexus between rural-urban issues and Human Capacity Building. In today's globalizing world, the issue of human capacity building is very imperative more than ever before. Any country desirous of being relevant in the contemporary world cannot afford to toy with the issue of human capacity building. The high level of competition in the world makes it very inevitable for countries particularly those of the third world to take the issue of Human capacity building seriously because they would lag behind in the scheme of things and would not have anything to offer both at the local and international arena. This situation has brought about a situation whereby countries have been in search of various ways of boosting the human capacity in their various countries. In this endeavour much emphasis is placed on rural –urban issues. It is against this backdrop that this study is embarked upon to interrogate the role of rural-urban issues in human capacity building. Rural-urban migration simply means the movement of people particularly those within the labour force from the rural areas to the urban areas in search of greener pastures. Most times these set of people move to the urban areas to discover there is little or nothing for them to do and in most cases rendered redundant. As they depart the rural areas, they get the rural areas depleted of human resource that could have exploited and tapped the natural resources that abound there. This scenario to a very large extent would negatively affect the country's development. It is against this backdrop that this study is designed to look for ways of ensuring the building of the human capacity through policies that could bring about the reduction or halting of rural-urban migration. This study is qualitative in nature hence data for the study were sourced through secondary means. Conflict theory was used as a theoretical framework.*

KEYWORDS: Rural-Urban Migration, Human Capacity Building, Conflict, Globalization, Development, Third World countries.

INTRODUCTION

Globalization has made it so imperative to interrogate the issue of human capacity building. This is because according to Ajayi (2004:1) 'globalization is perhaps, the most important phenomenon shaping the current environment for economic development'. The (IMF, 1997, p. 45) defined globalization as the 'economic interdependence of countries worldwide through the increasing volume and variety of cross-border transactions in goods and services and of international capital flows, and also through the more rapid and widespread diffusion of technology'. From this, it is has become obvious that for any country to be relevant in the world of today, human capacity building must have to be taken very seriously. A country must boost its productive capacity to be able to export goods and services and earn foreign exchange. This explains why Ajayi (2004:2) opined that 'countries that are likely to benefit more from the global economy are those that can carve a niche for themselves in the production process, that are competitive through the adoption of appropriate policies and are advanced in the development or adaptation of the latest technologies and ideas'.

For a country productive capacity to be improved, the issue of effective policies must be considered and implemented. A country cannot boost its productive capacity without building its human capacity, this is because human capacity building is a precondition for the improvement in a country's productive capacity. This brings us to the rural – urban issues. In developing countries, the issue of rural – urban migration is very rampant. This is because of development differential in rural and urban areas. There is concentration of development projects, social amenities, infrastructure and industries in the urban centers. All these projects are hardly found in the rural areas. This situation among others makes people to migrate from the rural areas to the urban areas. According to Bhattacharya (1993) 'rural – urban migration has been historically connected with industrialization, urbanization and economic growth. These activities are associated with opportunities hardly found in the rural areas but abound in the urban areas'. In order to avail themselves of the opportunities in the urban areas, rural dwellers particularly the young adults migrate to the urban areas leaving behind very young and very old people who constitute the dependent population in the rural areas. This brings about a situation where the urban areas are increasing in population and the rural areas are decreasing.

The migrants having migrated to the urban areas with the hope of securing white collar jobs most times get disappointed because of the non-availability of jobs. Some of this set of people end up being redundant having no meaningful jobs to do, having no meaningful jobs to do this set of people constitute themselves into nuisance in the urban areas, most times engaging in crimes and other social vices. This situation is not favourable for developing countries in this era of rapid globalization; this is a result of the inadequate utilization of the capacity of the migrants. Agriculture which is the mainstay of the economies of most third world countries suffers because most young adults who would have engaged in it had migrated to the urban areas in search of non-existing white collar jobs. For any country to benefit from globalization it has to ensure that the productive capacity of its population is built in such a way as to be able to produce and sell goods and services in areas where they have comparative advantage. According to Toyo (2007:39a) 'an aspect of globalization consists in the advocacy of export orientation rather than import substitution as growth strategy. According to this strategy developing countries should strive to earn foreign exchange by exporting rather than save foreign exchange through import substitution. It is said that contrary to a previous view, it is not only the west that can export manufactures, all countries can do so if they try'. There is no gainsaying the fact that agriculture remains a primary activity among rural population of the countries of the third world. If the young adult populations who are supposed to engage in agricultural activity migrate to the urban centers, it means that the countries involved particularly those of the third world would not have anything to offer in the international economic system and as such would not benefit much from globalization. On this note, Toyo (2007:39b) asserted that 'it was thought that all countries would gain best if each country specialized in producing a commodity using a larger proportion of the resources she was rich in. The resources were natural resources, capital, and workforce. Since the west was capital-rich and other areas were relatively capital poor but land-rich and labour-rich, it would pay all countries best if the west concentrated on exporting manufactures which used proportionally more of capital, while other areas concentrated on agricultural and forest exports which used proportionally more of land and labour power'.

This study is designed to examine the nexus between rural – urban issues and human capacity building as well as productive capacity of third world countries.

CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION

It is very imperative and germane at this juncture to explicate the major concepts in this study. On this note, the concepts to be so clarified are migration, rural – urban migration and human capacity building. This becomes necessary for a proper understanding of the subject matter to be achieved. This is in line with the submission of Sherman and Kolker (1987:6) when they asserted that ‘since the time of Aristotle, the hallmark of intellectual endeavour has been proper definition. To define a field of study, we must decide to what category of things it belongs.’

On Rural – Urban Issues

For a proper understanding of the concept of rural – urban issues, it is very important to view it from the perspective of migration; this will serve as a point of departure for understanding rural-urban issues. Migration has been seen to be a multifaceted phenomenon which in general involves the movement of people from one place to the other. It is a change of residence either permanently or temporarily. We have internal and international migration. Internal migration is the movement of individuals within a country while international migration involves the flow of individuals between countries where national boundaries are crossed. The UN (1970:2) defines migration as ‘. . . a move from one migration defining area to another (or a move of some specified minimum distance) that was made during a given migration interval and that involves change of residence,’ a migrant is also defined as: a person who has changed his usual place of residence from one migration defining area to another (or who moved some specified minimum distance) at least once during the emigrational interval’ (UN, 1970:2).

This study focuses on the internal type of migration flows specifically on rural – urban migration. Rural – urban migration is a movement of a rural resident(s), to an urban destination for different reasons. The area of origin (departure) is a place from which a move is made whereas area of destination (arrival) is a place where the move is terminated (UN, 1970:2). Rural – urban migration can also be made either permanently or temporarily. Temporary migrants are rural family who migrate to destination locations for a specific period of time and coming back to their origin. Permanent migrants are migrants who left their region of origin and start to reside in the destination region on permanent basis.

The effect of Rural – urban migration has raised serious policies issues as regards what should be done to solve the problems associated with the trend. Rural – urban migration constitute socio-economic issues that needs to be seriously addressed, issues associated with Rural – urban migration include rural poverty, urban poverty, housing problem, overpopulation of the urban areas, increase in crime rate in the urban areas, urban transportation problem, environmental quality problem, health hazards, squatter settlements, breakdown in waste disposable arrangements. There is also the problem of what Duru cited in Uyanga (1982:24) called ‘urban hypertrophy’ which he defines as a process characterized by the failure of urban based resources and amenities to provide an adequate level of support for the urban based population. According to Uyanga (1982:26) ‘Rural –urban migration of course is a concomitant process in national development, where the sources of livelihood are gradually shifting from the rural areas to the towns’. As people migrate from the rural areas to the urban areas, they get the rural areas depleted of human resource that could have

exploited and tapped natural resources that abound in the rural areas for human and societal development.

On Human Capacity Building

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) defines capacity building as a long-term continual process of development that involves all stakeholders, including ministries, local authorities, non-governmental organizations, professionals, community members, academics and more. Capacity building uses a country's human, scientific, technological, organizational, and institutional and resource capabilities. The goal of capacity building is to tackle problems related to policy and methods of development, while considering the potential, limits and needs of the people of the country concerned. The UNDP outlines that capacity building takes place on an individual level, an institutional level and the societal level.

- **Individual level:** Community capacity – building on an individual level requires the development of conditions that allow individual participants to build and enhance knowledge and skills. It also calls for the establishment of conditions that will allow individuals to engage in the 'process of learning and adapting to change'

Specifically, capacity building encompasses the country's human, scientific, technological, organizational, institutional and resource capabilities. A fundamental goal of capacity building is 'to enhance the ability to evaluate and address the crucial questions related to policy choices and modes of implementation among development options, based on an understanding of environment potentials and limits and of needs perceived by the people of the country concerned'.

According to the UNDP, capacity building is much more than training and includes the following:

- Human resource development, the process of equipping individuals with the understanding, skills and access to information, knowledge and training that enables them to perform effectively.
- Organization development, the elaboration of management structures, processes and procedures, not only within organizations but also the management of relationships between the different organizations and sectors (public, private, and community).
- Institutional and legal framework development, making legal and regulatory changes to enable organizations, institutions and agencies at all levels and in all sectors to enhance their capacities.

According to the Economic Transformation blueprint for Nigeria Vision 20:2020, 'capacity building is based upon clear and dynamic strategies geared towards policy measures that:

- Strengthen education as the foundation for lifelong learning
- Foster the development of research and development
- Promote worker education and training
- Foster innovation and entrepreneurship
- Facilitate the diffusion of information and communication technology, as well as

- Seek equal access and opportunity for women and other vulnerable groups.

From the foregoing, it shows that human capacity building has to do with the equipping of human beings with the necessary skills and knowledge as well as the provision of an enabling environment for them to be able to have all round empowerment and become useful members of the society and contribute to National Development.

Theoretical Framework

Central to rural-urban issues is conflict. Conflict is inevitable in any human relationship. Though we have various types of conflict as well as sources, we are interested in this study in the conflict that emanates from rural-urban issues hence this study makes use of the conflict theory as a theoretical framework.

According to Dzurgba (2006:2) Conflict theory derives much of its inspiration, impetus and direction from the works of Karl Marx. Although conflict theory has drawn much on Karl Marx's works, the framework of conflict theory is not necessarily Marxian in character. Indeed, conflict theory draws on many diverse sources which include George Simmel, Lewis Coser and Randale Collins. The human relations school of thought made us to understand that conflict is inevitable in all human relationship; with this it becomes very clear to understand that conflict theory has very wide applicability. While the Marxists view conflict as the inevitable consequence of the relationship between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat, this study applies conflict theory to explain issues associated with rural-urban migration.

According to Blau and Blau cited in Agboola (2009:85) 'the most notable expression of conflict theories as an explanation of urban crime has focused on income inequality'. Scholars have argued that frustration is a by-product of income gap that are viewed as unjust by those in subordinate positions Agboola (2009:85). Rural-urban migration brings about a situation where the urban areas become overpopulated with many not having meaningful jobs to do. It is an undisputable fact that virtually all the migrants found their way in urban areas to better their lives economically and otherwise. But unfortunately, when the legitimate means to do that is not available and having seen some live a very comfortable and luxury life, some migrants are lured into crime in order to ward off poverty which in the first place partly drove them to the urban centers. This explains why there is the emergence of all kinds of crime and criminal activities in the urban areas; this has resulted to development problems in most third world countries that have increasing rate of rural-urban migration.

Causes of Rural-Urban Migration

Third world countries have experienced a noticeable increasing rate of migration in recent years, this is as a result of the similarities in the socio-economic and political conditions in the countries of the third world. The determinants for the increment in the rate of migration include but not limited to the following:

1. **Economic determinant:** This is one of the major reasons why people move from the rural to the urban areas. According to Mabogunje cited in Filani and Okafor (2006:18), 'the post-colonial political economy of African States adversely affected rural economies. There was an urban bias in public expenditure and the consequent neglect of rural areas. In addition, higher urban wages attracted unskilled labour away from the rural/agricultural sector'. The concentration of social amenities, infrastructure and industries in the urban centers by successive governments no doubt

brought about the increasing rate of rural-urban migration. On this note Bhattacharya (1993) opined that 'Rural-urban migration has been historically connected with industrialization, urbanization and economic growth. These activities are associated with opportunities hardly found in the rural areas but abound in the urban areas. In order to avail themselves of the opportunities in the urban areas, rural dwellers particularly the young ones migrate to the urban areas leaving behind very young and old people who constitute dependent population in the rural areas.

2. **Conflicts and environmental determinants:** It is apt to state that conflict occurs in all countries of the world. But avoidable conflict is prevalent in third world countries. Most third world countries still have greater percentage of their population in agriculture though in a subsistent manner, as a result land is highly valued. Some of these conflicts emanate as a result of the struggle for land. Land disputes have degenerated in some communities in third world countries into wars. These wars have resulted to the movement of people from one place to the other in most cases the urban areas where there is more government presence. Also, in Nigeria for example, the destruction of the environment in most rural areas in Niger Delta by the oil companies has led to the movement of people from those rural areas to the urban areas.
3. **Education determinant:** All kinds of good schools are located in the urban areas. The desire to attend good schools which in most cases can only be found in the urban areas lead to rural-urban migration. Much attention is paid to the urban areas to the detriment and neglect of the rural areas by concentrating social amenities and infrastructure in the urban areas. The only way the rural dwellers can derive the benefit of those amenities and infrastructure is to move from the rural areas to the urban areas.
4. **Gravity determinant:** The gravity determinants of out migration mainly refer to distance and size of population. The closer the distance is between the rural and urban areas, the higher the rate of out migration from the rural origin (Greenwood and Hunt, 2003, Ivan, 2008). Similarly, the higher the population size in rural origin leads to more inclination to migrate to cities in order to circumvent competition over a given resource such as land.
5. Exaggerated expectations of higher quality city life also motivate and pull rural residents out of their locality: The study done in Northern Ghana by Gusher and Flanagan in 1978 depicted that the exaggeration is conveyed by returned migrant who need to have a positive image about themselves in the minds of others. In this case, movements are done to seek a better economic incentive in urban destinations.

The nexus between rural-urban issues and human capacity building

Issues emanating from rural-urban migration should be of great concern to policy makers in third world countries. One of the issues arising from rural-urban migration is the need to build human capacity. The building of the human capacity on the other hand can lead to the solutions of some of the problems associated with rural-urban migration.

Rural-urban migration has created a lot of issues that need to be tackled. Tackling of these issues would no doubt bring about the much needed development. One of the problems

associated with rural-urban migration is the overpopulation of the urban areas leading to many people chasing few jobs. This leads to increase in level of unemployment which manifest in urban poverty. This scenario does not only lead to urban poverty but also rural poverty; this is because the able bodied young men that would have generated increased economic activities in the rural areas have abandoned the place leaving only the dependent population the very young and very old people. Most times the cause of this unemployment could be as a result of lack of skill and knowledge by these migrants to be able to fend for themselves. It is only when people are well equipped skilled wise and intellectually that they can easily escape the problem of unemployment.

As a result of unemployment and accompanying poverty, as the saying goes ‘an idle mind is a devil’s workshop’, most of these jobless people go into crime to be able to survive, urban crime is another issue associated with rural-urban migration. People engage in all kinds of criminal activities like armed robbery, drug trafficking, advanced fee fraud popularly known as 419, cyber crime etc. in order to survive. A society where these criminal activities thrive can hardly attract development and this in turn will further deepen the level of underdevelopment.

According to Mabogunje cited in Filani and Okafor (2006:25) ‘most of the problems faced by African cities stem from the fact that urban populations are growing faster than urban economies. The problems include unemployment, inadequate housing, traffic congestion, and inadequate urban management’.

The effects of rural-urban migration expose the need to have a policy framework directed towards human capacity building. This will bring about a situation whereby people would be well equipped to be able to engage in legitimate economic activities, this will not only reduce poverty but would also lead to sustainable development.

Strategies for reducing rural-urban migration and enhancement of human capacity building

Any country desirous of achieving development cannot afford to neglect or ignore rural-urban migration issues as well as human capacity building. The world of today due to globalization has become so competitive to the extent that any country that does not want to lag behind would ensure appropriate policies are put in place to enhance human capacity building because building of human capacity is a precondition to the building of a country.

Mabogunje cited in Filani and Okafor (2006:25) opined that for African cities to generate economic development, industrialization should be based on the use of local raw materials. This would provide industries with linkages to other sectors of national economies, create markets for producers, and stimulate economic growth. When rural inhabitants are sure of good and steady markets for their produce, there is the tendency that they would like to continue with their agricultural activities since it generates enough income for them to be able to take care of themselves and their families. This scenario no doubt would reduce the rural-urban migration.

From the foregoing, we discovered that one of the reasons for rural-urban migration is lack of basic social amenities in the rural areas. Human capacity cannot be built in the absence of basic amenities and infrastructure and that is why the UNDP says that capacity building includes human resource development which has to do with the process of equipping

individuals with the understanding, skills and access to information, knowledge and training that enables them to perform effectively. It therefore means that provision of basic amenities, facilities, infrastructure etc. goes hand in-hand with human capacity building. Having said this, government at all levels should try as much as possible to ensure the provision of basic amenities and other infrastructure in the rural areas while at the same time focus adequate attention to building of the human capacity not only of the rural dwellers but also of the urban dwellers. These can go a long way in reducing rural-urban migration and all its attendant consequences.

The basic occupation of the rural dwellers is basically agriculture and as a result government should make agriculture attractive. One way of doing this apart from the provision of social amenities in the rural areas is to assist the farmers to go into mechanized agriculture. This can be done by government providing them with loans as well as lease to them modern farm equipment like tractors, harrowers, ridgers etc. Farm inputs like fertilizer, improved seeds/seedlings, and pesticides should also be made available to them.

According to Aristotle, man is a political animal and as such must act politically. This can only be done if an enabling atmosphere is created. If people at the grassroots/rural areas have adequate political education and enlightenment to actively participate in politics it would provide them with an ample opportunity to take their destinies in their hands and as such be involved in electing their leaders. This scenario no doubt would bring about good governance at that level that could in turn positively impact on their lives. Rural populace should be given free hand to elect their local political leaders in periodic, free and fair elections. Local political participation is one of the surest ways to rural, political cum socio economic development.

Provision of basic amenities goes hand in hand with industrialization. When investors are aware of availability of basic amenities and infrastructure in the rural areas, they would be encouraged to site their industries in the rural areas. If industries are located in the rural areas, employment opportunities would be created and hence the young adults would to a very large extent not see the need to migrate to the urban areas.

The diversification of the economies of the third world countries can go a long way in creating employment. In Nigeria for example, crude oil is the mainstay of the economy. Other sectors are neglected; this no doubt reduces employment opportunities, economic growth and development. There is no better time to consider this option than now considering the fall in the price of crude oil which is presently at about \$40 per barrel.

CONCLUSION

The effects of globalization have made it so imperative for the third world countries to think out of the box to bring about policies that would enable them benefit from globalization. Globalization has positive and negative effects, it is only when countries put their houses in order and generate increased economic activities as well as good governance that they can benefit from globalization. Encouragement of building of human capacity is one of the ways in which a country can benefit from globalization because it is only when the human capacity is built and developed that they can effectively contribute to National Development. Human Capacity cannot be built and developed without the provision of basic social amenities and

infrastructure because they go hand in hand. A country cannot develop by ignoring the rural areas. Therefore, the development of the rural areas is a sine qua non to the development of the country. If the rural areas are developed, it will go a long way in reducing rural-urban migration as well as its attendant consequences.

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