

MIGRATION AND SEARCH FOR ECONOMIC WELL-BEING: THE DYNAMICS OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE THIRD WORLD

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Abstract

The issue of migration has been a paramount issue in relation to the Third World development. The question is; why do people migrate? What is the force behind migration? The above questions serve as the basis of this paper. Utilizing analytic approach, we shall examine the interconnection between migration (internal and international migration), the search for economic well-being and the Third World development. We shall also find out whether migration has actually assisted or contributed in the development of the Third World or hindered it. It is obvious to say that migration is the double-edged sword as far as the Third World (developing or underdeveloped world) is concerned.

Key words: Migration, economic, economic well-being, development and Third World

Introduction

Every minute of the day people migrate from one area to another or from one country to another. Most often, the movement is from the rural to urban areas or from the underdeveloped countries to the developed countries in search of greener pasture or related reasons. On 6th February, 2014, a report had it that about 1000 migrants travelling to Europe were rescued by Italians Navies in ship wreck at Mediterranean Sea. The migrants were from Africa, Middle East and Asia. Sometimes last year a similar report was also given and about 400 young men from the aforementioned areas died while routing to Europe. Today, the Mediterranean Sea can simply be described as the burial site for migrants from the Third World, especially the migrants from the African

descent. Why taking such a risky move without even considering the dangers ahead? This is quite puzzling.

At present, many nation-states are seriously fastening their borders thereby making migration difficult. Today, the process of procuring the Visa is no longer easy. It has been made more difficult. Before one could undergo the protocols involved, one must have exhausted all he or she has even without guaranteed of securing the visa. In African continent, and Nigeria in particular, the rate of migration to America and Europe is very high. So many people leave the country on daily basis to Europe and America. Oftentimes, some institutionalized medium like visa lottery and other enticing means are used to pull so many people away from Africa, Middle East and Asia. Many Nigeria youths are always eager and ready to travel abroad no matter the risk.

Considering the above situation, we shall examine migration in relation to the Third World and its development. One may ask: Why do people migrate? Why do people leave their homeland and choose to be migrants in a foreign land despite the impending dangers or huddles? Is there any imbalance or balance between the state of origin of the migrant and his or her destination in terms of remittance? The above questions serve as the basis of this work. In this research work, we shall employ analytic to examine the relationship between migration, search for economic well-being and development in relation to the Third World. This paper is divided into four parts. First part is centered on the conceptual analysis of the terms, "migration" and "Third World". Second part studies migration and search for economic well-being. Third approach studies migration, development and the Third World. Fourth is evaluation and conclusion.

Conceptual Analysis

The terms to be defined here include migration, economy, search for economic well-being, development and the Third World.

The term, *migration*, according to *Chambers 21st Century dictionary*, is defined as the movement of animals from one location to another. This involves travelling over long distances by well-defined routes, in response to seasonal changes. With regard to people, it is to leave one's place and settle in another, especially, another country, often regularly.

The word, *economy* is from the Greek word *Oikos* meaning "house" and *nemein* meaning "control", which means the organization of money and resources within a nation or communities etc, especially in terms of the

production, distribution and consumption of goods and services or careful management of money or other resources, avoiding waste and cutting down on spending.

The term, *well-being* is the state of being healthy and contented. Therefore, economic well-being implies being economically healthy and contented or the desire to be economically healthy or contented. Therefore, search for economic well-being means one desire to be wealthy or economically buoyant. Finally, the Third World refers to the developing or underdeveloped countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.¹

Above is the dictionary meaning or general understanding of the key words used in the work. Perhaps, there are other academic or scholarly approaches to the definition. The topic, *“Migration and Search for Economic Well-Being: the Dynamics of Development in the Third World,”* has made it incumbent that we seek additional methodological assistance or understanding of the concept employed. In this case, we have to go beyond the mere dictionary definitions.

Meaning of Migration

Migration is referred to as the movement of animals, plants and/or human beings. Migration, therefore, could be seasonally or otherwise. Our concern here is human migration not plant or animal migration. Migration, therefore, is commonly defined as the “permanent change” of residence by an individual or a group.⁴ This “permanent” attached to the definition seems to pose a serious problem, that is, the problem of deciding what is “permanent”.⁴ The term “permanent” definitely showcase the idea of temporary because the opposite of permanent is temporary. Well, as it pertains to migration, it is not the words and opposite of paradigm. Rather, it brings to human consciousness that not every human movement is migration. When actually does migration occur since there are other types of human moves which are not classified as migration? For example, commuting which refers to the daily or weekly move to visit our people at home. Another is tourism which resembles migration but its temporary characteristics differentiate it from migration. But the criterion that migration be a “permanent” move differentiates migration from every other type of human moves.⁵

Perhaps, many authors have tried to explain migration based on “permanent” and “temporary” migration. This brings about the view that there is nothing objective about the definition of migration. Each country handles the issue of migration on the level of favourites. This is based on what they gain from the migrants. Some countries, in their migration policies, give their migrants

6months or one year. For instance, Australia distinguishes between permanent immigrants, long-term temporary immigrants who stay at least 12 months usually for work, business and education, and short-term temporary visitors and at the same time be seen as a classical country of immigration because of its tradition of nation-building through migration.⁶ With this, Australia is known for her nation-building through migration. In the case of German Federation Republic, in 1960 when they started to recruit those they called guest-workers. Some of them were given a few months only as seasonal workers, later one year, 2 years, 5 years and finally, permanent residence permit.⁷

In the statistics of international migration, for example, a person is usually classified as an immigrant if he has stated his intention of settling in the country of his entry for at least one year.⁸

Still, Boyle sees migration as crossing the boundary of a political or administrative unit for a certain minimum period.⁹ Migration, as well, could be seen from two perspectives, namely, internal migration and international migration. Internal migration refers to a move from one area to another within a country, while international migration means crossing the frontiers which separate one of the world's approximately 200 states from another.¹⁰

Though many scholars have argued that both internal and international migrations are one and the same, therefore, they should be analyzed together. This approach to the understanding of migration can be misleading. For them, international migration may be over short distance and between culturally similar people, while internal migration can span great distance and bring together different people.¹¹

The Dynamics of Migration

Still on migration, international migration has been categorized so as to assist states improve the control of the migrants. Castles outlined it thus: First category is the temporary labour migrants. They are known as guest-workers or overseas contract workers. These are men and women who migrate to sake for employment or work and send money home (remittance). They live for a limited period (from a few months to several years).¹²

Second category is the highly skilled and business migrants. These are people with qualifications as managers, executives, professionals, technicians or similar, who move within the internal labour markets of transnational corporations and international organizations, or who seek employment

through international labour markets for scarce skills. Many countries dream to have or welcome such migrants thereby have special skilled and business migration programme for them to encourage them. ¹³

Third category is irregular migrants. Not every country allows such people. These people enter a country illegally in search of employment, without the necessary document and permits. Some countries' immigration tacitly allowed them for easy or cheaper labour. ¹⁴

Forth category is refugees. Going by the 95 United Nation Convention on the Status of Refugees, a Refugee is a person residing outside his or her country of nationality, who is unable or unwilling to return because of a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. In this case, Refugees are given either temporary or permanent residence status. Different between the Refugees and the migrants according to UNHCR, is just more of social needs and cultural impact in their place of settlements. ¹⁵

Fifth is the Asylum-seekers. People who move across borders in search of protection, but who may not fulfill the strict criteria laid down by the 1951 convention. According to Zolberg, both political and economic motivation for migration are linked to the generalize and persistent violence that has resulted from rapid processes of de-colonization and globalization under conditions determined by the developed countries. ¹⁶

Sixth is Forced migration: this includes not only refugees and asylum seekers but also people force to move by environmental catastrophes or development projects (such as new factories, roads or dams). ¹⁷

Seventh category is family members or family reunion or family unification migrants: people migration to join who have already entered an immigration country. Some countries like USA, Canada, Australia and most European Union (EU) member states recognize in principle the right to family reunion for legal immigrants, while those that operate under labour system deny the right to family reunion. In this case, families may enter illegally. ¹⁸

Lastly are the Return migrants: these are people who returned to their countries of origin after many years outside their countries. Some countries have special scheme or programme for such people. Often they are looked on well as they may bring with them capital, skills and experience useful for

economic development. Some countries also fear them thinking that they may act as an agents of social destruction, culture or political change.¹⁹

According to Castles, none of these categories are explicitly based on the, ethnicity or origins of migrants. The exception to this are few countries which gives preference to people considered to be returning to an ancestral homeland such as “partials” to Britain, “ethnic Germans” to Germany, Jews to Israel, or Nikkeijin from Brazil to Japan.²⁰

Castles’ classification of migrants is clearly the case in the world today especially in African countries that are ravaged with one challenge or the other.

Third World and Its Derivation

Moving a bit from the concept of migration, may we examine or analyze the term “Third World”. Obviously, the term “Third World” has a controversial origin. Arguably, the term is a Eurocentric. Now, let us examine its derivation.

The term “Third World” originated from the system of three estates in France. The term “Third World” was used to refer to one of the three estates in France. In France, there were three estates, namely; Lord spiritual, Lord temporal and the third estate.²¹ The third estate comprises the commoners (poor, less-privileged, slaves, etc.). These are people of lowest class in society. In 1952, a French demographer, Alfred Sauvy coined the Term “Third World” to refer to the third estate in France before the French Revolution. The term “Third World” has economic (poor), political (powerless) and socially (marginalized) connotations.²² In the 1960s, some scholars began to use the term “Third World” to refer or describe the conditions of ‘underdeveloped’ or ‘developing’ countries.²³ The use of the term “Third World” came to its climax in the 1970s when it passed through the academic circles and has its current use till date.

Three-taxonomy of the World

The paramount question remains: Is the classification of the world into the First, the Second and Third World inherent in the nature of the world or man-made? Which world is the First, the Second, and the Third World and why? Under what criterion was the world divided? The fact remains that the events of the world today has put a question mark on the division of the world into the First World, the Second World and the Third World.

From the circumstances surrounding the origin of the “Third World” we observe that it is a derogative term used to depict some segment of the universe that is both politically and economically underdeveloped. These terms appeared in human history as a result of political and economic conquest coupled with colonization imbroglio. The disintegration of the Soviet bloc in 1990s has left the classification of the world debatable or challenged. Shu-yun writes:

...the Second World has disappeared following the disintegration of the Soviet bloc; the newly industrializing countries have left, or about to leave, the Third World: the North-South gap narrowed significantly: the idea of Third World solidarity has been eroded by persistent nationalism: and the condition of internal colonialism has blurred the boundary between the First World and the Third World. ²⁴

The history of the world, as we know, has been moving on the current of conquest and domination paradigm. Over the centuries, economically and politically powerless countries were being conquered and dominated by the highly politically and economically developed countries. Similarly, the basis of the three-world taxonomy is seen from the world political and economic powers around 15th to 19th centuries. The global expansion of capitalism, so to say, from Europe created a Third World that includes Eastern Europe and Russia, Latin America, Africa and Asia (except Japan). Moreover, with the decolonization (nationalist movement) that set in Latin America in 19th and after the Second World War in the Middle East, Africa and Asia, there was emergence of new states. These new states got their political independence. But the fact remains that political independence, in these new states, were not followed by economic independence. The Third World came as a result of economic and political exploitation and colonialism Stavraino stated thus:

... the devastating impact of the Great Depression of the 1930 on Latin America, the Western control of oil production in the Middle East until the 1970s, the specialization in exportation of cash crop at the expense of traditional food product in Africa and the strong presence of multinationals in many Asia countries; the emergence of the socialist bloc and its separation from the capitalist world economy detached Russia and Eastern Europe from the Third World. The ‘Third World’, therefore, comprises at present the following portion of the globe: all the Latin America, all of Africa except South Africa, and all of Asia except Japan and Israel. ²⁵

Though there are other efforts made by different institutions to classify the world based on the degree of economic development. Such is seen from the

one given by the World Bank which categorized the world into four. They include 'low-income' lower-middle income' 'upper-middle income' and 'high-income'²⁶

On the other hand, the First and the Second World were categorized based on their economic and political viabilities. Stavrianos writes:

The Russian Revolution in 1917 and the socialist transformation in Easter Europe after the Second World War represented efforts to achieve repid industrialization without resort to capitalism. The initial success seemed to suggest the viability of socialism as an alternative path of development. This was followed by the Cold War, characterized by political, military and ideological confrontation between the socialist camp. The clear division between the two camps gave rise to the notion of the First World, that is, the advance countries led by USA, in contrast with the Second World consisting of Soviet bloc countries. In such an antagonistic atmosphere, those countries which wanted to remain neutral between the capitalist camp and socialist camp were termed the Third World. Therefore, to the concept of the Third World was added the meaning of Non-alignment.²⁷

From the above analysis, we are meant to understanding the following:

- That the Third World countries are Africa, Middle East and Asia countries,
- That these Third World countries are as well called Non-aligned countries because of their neutrality during the Second World War.
- That they are called the "Third World" because they are economically poor, politically powerless and socially marginalized.
- That the term "Third World" originated from one of the three estates in France known as third estate.

The next question would be; how does migration or the movement within and across the borders affect the Third World countries (Africa, Middle-East and Asia)? Put it differently, how does the move from the Third World to the developed countries assist or hinder the development of the Third World? Or is the movement across the borders reciprocal in the inter-countries development? What stands as the force behind migration?

Migration and Search for Economic well-being

There has been an argument that man migrates because he is naturally or inherently restless- that man is always in motion. But this argument, to some extent, has been also countered by another argument that man by nature is

sedentary until he is forced to move by external forces.²⁸ These two arguments left us with double barreled questions on the migration issue. Why do some people migrate or leave their country of origin to live in another country and other do not? Many people migrate on daily basis mostly from the developing or underdeveloped country (Third World) to the developed country.

To explain this first fact, the concept of “push” and “pull” factor²⁹ have been used to explain the migration phenomenon. Oftentimes, people are being pushed by circumstances to live their state or country of origin by things like exhaustion of natural resources, famine, violence, or political instability. Or they may be pulled by attraction in their region of their destinations by such thing like better employment, attractive environment; good communication gadgets, etc. Before one thinks of migrating to another region he or she first weight the circumstances in his or her region of origin as well as the attractions or advantages and disadvantages of every the prospective region of destination. Certainly, push and pull factors play in important role in migration. The concepts are evidently explicit in the explanation of migration in the developing or underdeveloped word; unlike in the highly developed countries.³⁰ Amongst all the pull factors, economic factor is considered as the underpinning factor in migration.

In Asia, the Middle East and Africa pull migration is self-evident. Like I said earlier, 1000 migrants from Africa, Asia, and Middle East were rescued in Mediterranean Sea while travelling to Europe by Italian Navies. Then, why do people from the developing world embark on such risky adventure if not for the search economic well-being? Hugo, Perhaps, opines that the most obvious cause of migration is the disparity in level of income, employment and wellbeing between differing areas.³¹ Furthermore; the Neo-classical economic theory has it that the main cause of migration is individual’ effort to maximize their income by moving from low-wage to high-wage economies.³² The natural drive for self-preservation in human beings, that is, the desire to live comfortably, stands out as the fundamental principle for migration. International migration, that is, the movement across the borders, also has its basis on the principle of self-preservation (protection and betterment of one’s live). As we said earlier on the categories of migration, for instance, irregular migrants maybe are not comfortable in their countries or state of origin, consequently, they decide to leave despite the odds or the risk involved.

Migration, the Third World, and Developed

The central focus here is to see whether the search for economic well-being has contributed in the development of the Third world or developing

countries. Both the internal and the international migration have been one and the same as far as the development of the Third world is concerned. Historical trends have shown that migration is often a result of economic and social development. In turn, migration may contribute to further development and improved economic conditions, or alternatively may help to perpetuate stagnation and inequality. Much depends on the character of migration helps to erode traditional boundaries between language, culture, ethnic groups and nation-state.³³ The fact remains that migration is the carrier of developing as well as conflict in relation to culture, language, politics, social milieu and economy. As people migrate across the borders or even within their country in search of wealth, better employment, etc; they move with their individual languages and cultures. This leads to language, political, social and economic modifications, change and improvement. The reciprocity nature of migration makes development possible.

Migration can either assists or hinders development. As we said earlier, migration is of two dimensions, namely, internal and international migration. Internal migration is the movement from rural areas to urban areas or a movement from state to another within a country. It does not involve crossing a border. In this movement, the migrants leave the rural areas to urban areas, and these movements bring about a lot development in the settled environment and leave the state of origin underdeveloped. Internal migration in general and rural urban migration in particular was thought to be a desirable process by which surplus rural labor was withdrawn from traditional agriculture to provide cheap manpower to fuel a growing modern industrial complex.³⁴ the process was deemed socially beneficial (at least on the basis of historical evidence; since human resources were being shifted from locations where their marginal social products were often assumed to be zero to places where these marginal products were not only positive but also rapidly growing as a result of capital accumulation and technological progress.

Herrick, however, reflected the prevailing view about the desirability of internal migration when he asserted that "in the absence of any movement, when rural fertility exceeds urban fertility, the agricultural labor force will grow faster than industrial employment. Movement from the country to the towns, which is necessary if strictly balanced growth of the two parts of the labor force is to occur, becomes even more important if an increase in the industrial sector is among the goals of the developing economy."³⁶ Only a few years later, however, Jolly seemed to be echoing a changing perception of the migration issue among economists when he noted that "far from being

concerned with measures to stem the flow, the major interest of these economists [those who stressed the importance of labor transfer] was with policies that would release labour to increase the flow. Indeed, one of the reasons given for trying to increase productivity in the agricultural sector was to release sufficient labour for urban industrialization. How irrelevant most of this concern looks today"³⁷

On the contrary, migration today is being increasingly viewed as the major contributing factor to the ubiquitous phenomenon of urban surplus labor and as a force that continues to exacerbate already serious urban unemployment problems caused by growing economic and structural imbalances between urban and rural areas. Migration exacerbates these rural-urban structural imbalances in two major direct ways. First, on the supply side, internal migration disproportionately increases the growth rate of urban job-seekers relative to urban population growth, which itself is at historically unprecedented levels, because of the proportions of well-educated young people who dominate the migrant stream. The presence tends to swell the growth of urban labor supply while depleting the rural countryside of valuable human capital second, on the demand side, most urban job creation is more difficult and costly to accomplish than rural employment creation because of the need for substantial complementary resource inputs for most modern-sector industrial jobs. Moreover, the pressure of rising urban wages and compulsory employee fringe benefits in combination with the unavailability of "appropriate" (usually more labor-intensive) production technologies means that a rising share of modern-sector output growth is accounted for by increase in labor productivity. Together, this rapid supply increase and lagging demand growth tend to convert a short-run problem of manpower imbalances into a long-run situation of chronic and rising urban surplus labor.³⁸

But the influence of migration on the development process is much more pervasive than its obvious accentuation of urban unemployment. In fact, the significance of the migration phenomenon in most developing countries is not necessarily in the process itself or even in its effect on the sectoral allocation of human resources. It is in the context of its implications for economic growth in general and for the "character" of that growth, particularly its distributional manifestations, that migration research has assumed growing importance in recent years. We must recognize at the outset, therefore, that migration substantially in excess of new job opportunities is both a symptom of and a factor contributing to Third World underdevelopment. Understanding the causes, determinants, and consequences of internal

migration is thus central to a better understanding of the nature and character of the development process. It is also essential for formulating of the nature appropriate policies to influence this process in socially desirable ways. A simple yet crucial step in underlining the centrality of the migration phenomenon is to recognize that any economic and social policy that affects rural and urban real income will directly or indirectly influence the migration process. This process in turn will itself tend to alter the pattern of sectoral and geographic economic activity, income distribution, and population growth. Since all economic policies have direct and indirect effects on the level and growth of either urban or rural income or of both, they all will have a tendency to influence the nature and magnitude of the migration stream.

Although some policies may have a more direct and immediate effect (e.g., wages and income policies, employment promotion programs), there are many others that, though less obvious, may in the long run be no less important. Indeed among these policies, for example, would be alterations in the system of land tenure, commodity pricing, rural credit allocations, taxation, export promotion, import substitution, commercial and exchange rate policies, the geographic distribution of social services, the nature of public investment programs, attitude toward private foreign investors, the organization of population and family planning programs, the structure, content, and orientation of the educational system, the structure and functioning of urban labor markets, and the nature of public policies toward international technological transfer and the spatial allocation of new industries.³⁹ There is thus a clear need to recognize the central importance of internal migration and to integrate the two-way relationship between migration and population distribution on the one hand and economic variable on the other into a more comprehensive analytical framework designed to improve development policy.

In addition, we need to understand better not only why people move and what factors are most important in their decision-making, but also the consequences of internal migration for rural and urban economic and social development. If all development policies affect and are affected by migration, which are the most significant and why? What are the policy options and trade-offs among different and sometime competing objectives (e.g., curtailing internal migration and expanding educational opportunities in rural areas)? In short, unless we are able to begin to quantify the relative effect of different economic policies on the nature, character, and magnitude of such migration and to ascertain what factors influence a person's decision to move in different countries and regions, we will be unable to formulate policies to

deal effectively with the dual problems of rapid urban population growth and rising urban marginalism.³⁹

Perhaps, internal and international migrations are one and same. They are part of the same process. According to Skeldon, many scholars argued that internal and international migrations are part of the same process, and should be analyze together, that rigid destination can be misleading.³³ taken a look at the international migration, which is a movement across the borders. International migration can either assist or hinder the Third world development. But negative aspect this emigration is the idea of "brain drain." Migration may hinder the Third World development. The problem with emigration is that it drains the developing world her vibrant youths, skilled and brilliant technocrats. These are the people that were trained within the four walls of the Third World or developing countries. Human and material resources used to train them were that of the Third World, but these people migrated to the developed world and spent their whole life time as immigrants. At the old age or retirement, they came back to their country of origin to contribute nothing.

Conclusion

The work considered migration in connection to the search for economic well-being and the Third World development. In the work, push and pull factors are used to examine peoples' migration from the developing or underdeveloped word to the highly developed countries like Northern America and Eastern Europe. Most of the migrants to the developed countries are the key developers of the developing or underdeveloped world and this makes the development of the Third World impossible or difficult. Based on this, one could say that the two patterns of migrations, namely, internal and international migration have either been an axis to the Third World development or hindrance to it. For the developing or underdeveloped countries, the "brain drain" issues, as pertain to the international migration, have posed itself as a serious issue to be tackled. The Third World loses millions of able-bodies men and youths that hold the key to development to the highly developed countries through migration. My submission is that Third World countries in their migration policies should make the movement to urban areas less attractive by standardizing or improving the conditions of rural areas. The developing or underdeveloped countries should regulate the migration of its middle age citizens to tap their potentials for development. Some developed countries have made remittances difficult through their migration policies. Some of the migrants from the Third World find it difficult to send home cash. Today, the hallmark of the international migration is

globalization, which has not been favourable to the Third World countries. The components of globalization, namely, communication, language, policies, economic, technology, etc. are solely depending on the manipulations and operations of the developed world. The internal migration which should have been a great axis to the Third World development also poses a great challenge.

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