Socio-Economic Characteristics and Remittance Behaviour of Rural Out-Migrants in Foron District of Jos Plateau, North Central Nigeria

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Abstract: This study examined the impact of socio-economic characteristics of migrants on their remittances behaviour in Foron district of Jos Plateau, North Central Nigeria. It is based on survey research design and utilized household questionnaire to obtain data. It covered 5 villages, 170 households which supplied information on 233 rural out-migrants. The results of the study were analyzed using tables, graphs, charts and some appropriate inferential statistical tools. The study found migration selective of mostly young educated males. It found sex a significant variable in the volume of monetary remittances; volume of monetary remittances was found to vary significantly with level of education and length of period away from source region found to be negatively correlated with volume of monetary remittances. It is recommended among others, a re-education and re-motivation of urbanites towards remitting necessary resources back home to improve the welfare of their rural households as well as contribute to the meaningful development of their communities.

Key words: Socio-economic Characteristics · Out-migrants · Remittances · Behavior

INTRODUCTION

Besides the population dynamics of birth and death or reproduction, the third critical influence on population size, composition and distribution is migration [1]. The history of man from stone age to contemporary times is bound with instances of population movement not only as a means of restoring ecological balance, but also as a means of achieving better condition of living either in search of more or better food, better shelter or security and employment opportunities.

Migration studies are not just about movement but also about the inter-connectedness of place of origin and place of destination. As Mandel [2], has noted, migration is essentially a series of exchanges between places. Metaphors about threads, chains, anchors and umbilical links are employed to emphasize this inter-connectedness and physical signs of its presence: remittances, brides, journeys home, letters, goods and so on are the links in the chain. It is evident that much migration in various parts of the world is circular. People continue to maintain strong links with their areas of origin and destination. This makes the effects of migration on areas of origin of primary importance and complex [3].

Generally, rural-urban migration is a function of several variables which includes income, socio-economic variables, gender factors, age, education etc. [4]; most important is the cost benefit calculation between the sources and destination of the migrants. One school of thought argues that surplus cash from urban areas in terms of remittances helps in terms of the development of social and infrastructural amenities in rural areas. They argue that each current of migration is associated with a contemporary counter-current in forms of rural development including family support [5]. Migration especially the variant of rural-urban migration is known to be selective of people with different socio-economic and demographic features. For example, Eze [6] as confirmed by previous studies found that rural-urban migration streams usually compose mostly of young single educated adult males. How these socio-economic features affect their remittance behaviour has not been a subject of overt and popular study or investigation. This study fills this obvious research gap. The socio-economic features investigated are sex, marital status, occupational status, period away from home and educational level. However, only three of these characteristics namely sex, period away and educational level were directly tested with regards to their impact on remittance behaviour.

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The Study Area: Foron district is one of the districts in Barkin Ladi local government area of Plateau state. Their villages lay scattered within the hills south-west of Bauchi. It lies approximately between latitudes 9°39” and 9°50” North and longitudes 8°54” and 9°9” East. The general topography of the area is that of an extensive plain interspersed by rock outcrops, hills and stone debris which litter the entire surface. The district is on average elevation of 1500 metres and covers a land area of about 850 sq. kms. The district, like most rural areas of Nigeria is devoid of adequate socio-economic opportunities and infrastructural facilities and so exports its educated youths to urban areas, which justifies its being chosen for this study.

Methodology: A survey research design was employed. This involved the use of household questionnaire which was used to get information from household heads on the out-migrants from their households. A two-stage sampling was used. At the first stage, five villages representing one-third of the total number of villages (15) in the district were selected. The villages: Bisichi, Mai-Idon-Toro. Sabon Gida. Bakin Kogi were randomly selected to ensure objectivity in their evaluation while Zabot, for being the headquarters of the district was purposefully chosen.

Systematic sampling was employed in the second stage of the sampling method which involved the selection of households. This was considered good since there were no out-migrants in some households; it was thus easier for the next household to be chosen in place of such households without out-migrants in them. Systematic sampling was also considered good, since the object of study, the out-migrants, were studied without reference to the geographical location of various households which provided the information about them in each village of origin.

On the whole, a total of 170 household heads were interviewed and information was collected on 233 out-migrants. The data was presented and analyzed using tables, charts and graphs. The inferential statistics used are follows:

Chi-square which its model is thus,

\[ x^2 = \sum \frac{O - E}{E} \]  

where 
\[ x^2 = \text{Chi – square coefficient} \]
\[ O = \text{Observed value} \]
\[ E = \text{Expected value} \]

With K-I degree of freedom, K being the number of items in the sample.

Pearson Product moment Correlation Coefficient (\( \rho \))

\[ r_p = \frac{E_{xy} - \frac{(Ex)(Ey)}{n}}{\sqrt{\frac{\sum x^2 (\sum y)^2}{n} \left( \frac{\sum y^2 (\sum y)^2}{n} \right)}} \]
Fig. 1: Age Sex Distribution of Out-migrants

Where $x$ and $y$ are the two sets of observation
Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)

$$x_{ij} = \mu + ai + eij$$

where $x_{ij}$ is the observation in the treatment
$\mu$ is a constant
$ai$ is the mean effect of the $i$th treatment
$eij$ is the error associated with the observation $x_{ij}$.

$$F\ –\ ratio = \frac{MS_{between}}{MS_{within}}$$

Presentation of Results
Age-Sex Distribution:

Table 1: Age-Sex Distribution of Out-migrants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>% Male</th>
<th>% Female</th>
<th>All</th>
<th>% All</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15-19</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1.71</td>
<td>5.16</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>6.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-24</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6.86</td>
<td>4.29</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>11.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-29</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>18.88</td>
<td>8.15</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>27.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-34</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>18.02</td>
<td>2.14</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>20.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-39</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>13.30</td>
<td>3.43</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>16.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-44</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6.86</td>
<td>1.28</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>20.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-49</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7.72</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>5.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-54</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.57</td>
<td>0.43</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59+</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2.14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above table shows that males predominate constituting 75.10% of the total out-migrants which is slightly more than two-thirds of the out-migrants, while females constitute 24.10%. (Fig. 1)

Educational Status:

Table 2: Educational Status of Out-migrants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of education</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Illiterate</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>10.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Education</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koranic education</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>30.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASC, TC II and others</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>27.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCE, OND and others</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>12.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degree /HND</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>13.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Table 2 shows that majority of the out-migrants 57.92%, had primary and secondary education and a relatively small proportion, 10.29% are illiterates; the rest are as shown.

Marital Status of the Out-migrants by Sex:

Table 3: Marital Status of Out-migrants by Sex

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marital status</th>
<th>Single%</th>
<th>Married%</th>
<th>Divorced%</th>
<th>Widowed%</th>
<th>% Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>68.00</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>17.24</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>79.31</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As shown in Table 3 greater percentage of each of the sexes are married. However, the percentage of females married (79.31%) is greater than that for males (68%) while more of the males (27.71%) are single.
Remittances and Selected Characteristics of Out-migrants: Three hypotheses were postulated in this study and they were tested using appropriate statistical tests. The results of the tests are discussed below.

Sex and remittances

The first hypotheses which this study tested read thus:

Ho: There is no significant variation between sex and monetary remittances by out-migrants.

The chi-square ($\chi^2$) statistics was used in testing the hypothesis. The result showed that calculated $\chi^2$ value of 22.0 is greater than the table value of 11.07 and 15.09 at 0.05 and 0.01 levels of significance respectively. Thus the null hypothesis is rejected, which implies that the variation in the monetary remittances between the sexes is statistically significant.

Effect of Period Away from Home on Remittances: The second hypothesis dealt with the significance of period one has stayed away from home/source region on monetary remittances. The hypothesis is stated thus:

Ho: There is no significant relationship between period away from source region and monetary remittances by out-migrants.

The Pearson’s Product Correlation Coefficient ($r_p$) was employed in testing the hypothesis. This is to show the extent of relationship between period one has stayed away from home and monetary remittances. An $r_p$ negative value of -0.73 (a strong negative relationship) was got which means that as period away from home increases, the volume of monetary remittances decreases.

Employing the coefficient of determination ($r_p^2$) a value of 0.5329 was got, which means that 53.29% variation in remittances can be attributed to variation in the length of period away from home. The remaining 46.71% variation depends on other factors.

To test whether the relationship is a random occurrence or significant, a t-test was employed. The result showed that the computed t-value of 16.18 is greater than the theoretical value at 0.05 and 0.01 levels of significant respectively. The null hypothesis is, therefore, rejected. This implies that the relationship between period away from source region and monetary remittances is statistically significant.
Education and Remittances: To determine whether the volume of monetary remittances differ significantly with the level of education of out-migrants, the following hypothesis was formulated:

Ho: There is no significant difference between the levels of education of out-migrants and the volume of monetary remittances.

The Statistical Technique Used Was the Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) Test: The result indicated that the calculated F-Value of 54.83 is greater than the critical value of 2.60 and 3.78 at 0.05 and 0.01 levels of significance respectively. The null hypothesis, therefore, stands rejected. This implies that the volume of monetary remittances by out-migrants differ significantly with their levels of education (Fig. 3).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Most of these findings on the background information giving the characteristics of the out-migrants are in agreement with previous studies and findings. Makiwa [7], in his study “Village-to-Benin Survey”, 1979, confirmed the preponderance of males over females among the migrants and also the fact that a greater majority of the out-migrants have attained a level of education ranging from primary through secondary to university. Jansen [8], after reviewing a number of studies confirmed that, there are more examples in developing countries of male migrants outnumbering female migrants. Fadayomi [9] confirmed this in his study, in Bauchi and also confirmed that the out-migrants are largely concentrated between 15 and 35 years of age. This is equally corroborated by the findings of Ajaero [5] and Eze [6] in southeastern Nigeria.

However, while the previous studies found majority of out-migrants single, this study found majority of them married. This difference is probably due to the different methods of investigation used; while the other studies focused on marital status on first arrival, this study had no such reference point and again majority of the out-migrants in present study, (71%), have spent between 4 to 13 years and above away from home (see table 5) and so may have settled down in the various destinations and probably gotten married, even if they were single on their first arrival.

The research equally found sex of the migrants a significant variable in the volume of monetary remittances. This finding, however, varies with the findings of Fadayomi [9], that personal characteristic such as sex did not have much effect on remittances. One can however, explain this by the fact that most of the females caught in this study were married and so probably pay more attention now to their marital homes than their parental home.

The study found a negative relationship between period away from source region and volume of monetary remittances. Descriptive analysis of the study lends credence to this as it is found that there were 33 out-migrants representing 14.16% of the out-migrants who have not remitted money home since the past 12 months. Further investigation on the personal and other social characteristics of these out-migrants showed that 21 of them representing 63.63% of out-migrants in this group have between 3-10 children and above, all staying at the
destination area and 28 out-migrants representing 84.84% in this group have been away from home for a period lasting between 4 – 13 years and above. Thus, one could suggest, first, that their not making any remittances home could be as a result of their large family size which spares them with no extra money to send home; second, that this could be as a result of the long period this people have spent away from home as this study has found a negative relationship between period away from source region and the volume of monetary remittances. Confirming this, Amin as cited by Eze [10] suggested that, “this (not sending remittances), may be symptomatic of the beginning of migrant’s alienation from original roots…” Also in this group are 5 out-migrants representing 15.15% who are not married and have no children but have stayed between 1-3 years in their various destinations; we may, therefore, have in this group some very recent migrants, some of whom are yet to settle down in their destination areas and perhaps according to Makinwa [7], cannot afford to send money home.

This study also found volume of monetary remittances to significantly vary with levels of education. This finding is in conformity with the inference of Fadayomi [9], that Socio-economic Status in terms of education and household income is positively related to remittance behavior. This finding is also corroborated by the occupational status of the out-migrants which showed that 63.07% of them are in paid employment where level of education may play a great role in what one earns and so what one can spare to remit home.

Thus, from these analyses and discussions, socio-economic characteristics are found to impact significantly on the remittance behavior of rural out-migrants in Foron district of Jos Plateau.

**Recommendations:**

- It is recommended that government should network with migrants through migrants associations by motivating, supervising and helping them channel their efforts towards more relevant community development projects for more improved livelihood of the communities of origin.
- Government should develop public awareness programme on the need for migrants to always remember their source regions and not spend their resources wastefully or ostentatiously in the urban areas.
- Government should equally develop social vehicle of re-education and re-motivation of urbanites towards remitting necessary resources back home to improve the welfare of their rural households as well as contribute to meaningful development of their communities [6].

**CONCLUSION**

Studies have shown that the incidence of rural-urban migration is higher in developing countries than in their developed counterparts. Within the developing countries, there exists a significant selectivity of migration with respect to age, sex, marital status, education, occupation etc and the propensity or incidence of migration differs significantly among these socio-economic groups. On the effect of these characteristics, on their (migrants) remittance behavior, not all the characteristics are usually found to be significantly related, but this study found sex, period away from home and education significantly related to remittance behavior which relates well with some previous findings elsewhere that socio-economic status significantly impacts on remittance behavior.

**REFERENCES**

