DETERMINANTS OF RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION IN SELECTED COMMUNITIES IN THE BENIN REGION, EDO STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract
The aim of the paper is to investigate household characteristics as determinants of rural-urban migration in some selected communities in the Benin region. Primary data were collected through the use of questionnaire instrument. The questionnaires were administered to household heads in the communities in rural Benin. Purposive sampling was used in selecting fourteen (14) rural communities in seven (7) LGAs that make up the Benin region, which have recorded highly intensive rural-urban migration. A sample size of 821 questionnaires was used and a total of 761 were retrieved. Frequency counts, simple percentage, mean scores, bar charts and tables were used to present the data. Also, multiple linear regressions were used to examine the relationship between socio-economic characteristics of households and the level of rural-urban migration and to predict the possible determinants of rural-urban migration in the region. Results show that family socio-economic characteristics (age, sex, marital status, education status, family size, employment status, income) do not determine the level of rural-urban migration in the study area. However, some of these characteristics showed significance in individual communities. It was recommended that the appropriate authority should as a matter of importance, create public awareness in various communities on the dangers that might befall the communities if household heads continue to encourage their wards to migrate. Also, government should put in place policies that will benefit rural communities, particularly the youth in form of socioeconomic security as well as basic social amenities to prevent rural-urban migration in the Benin region.

Keyword: Rural-urban migration, Household characteristics, Possible determinants

INTRODUCTION
Migration is speedily turning around the economic strength, infrastructural development fortunes and rural labour force of developing countries, with a great deficit on agricultural-based economies. According to the United Nation's estimates, 50% of the projected increase in the world's urban population will come from rural-to-urban migration. Meerza (2010) stated that by 2025, over 1.1 billion urban people in less developed regions will be rural migrants. Clearly, the socio-economic and demographic ramifications of this massive rural-urban migration will have a marked impact not only on urban but also on rural areas alike. Rural household male migrants who are young and energetic may not be available for ploughing, weeding, planting and harvesting which are both time and energy-intensive (Meerza, 2010). This scenario is depicted by the inflow of women into the main scheme of both agricultural and non agricultural sector (Ifaturoti, 1996). Studies on several countries

such as the United States (Martin and Taylor, 2013), China (Meng, 2010; Xin & Dandan (2010), Nigeria (Benjamin and Kimhi, 2002; Awotodunbo, 2008; Ogunlela & Mukhtar, 2009; Oluyole et al. 2013) have shown that it is primarily the young, able-bodied and better educated rural inhabitants who emigrate, leaving substantial gaps in the rural work force. As farming is essentially a family enterprise in most countries of the world, rural-urban migration of able-bodied young workers leaves the burden on the elderly and children in rural areas who tend to be less productive. Thus, approximately 140 million people born in developing countries live outside their country of birth due to migration (World Bank, 2008).

As such, young populace within the active working age and with the necessary education to cope with the challenges of modern environment are forced to migrate to urban centers in search of improved economic opportunities and better standard of living. This scenario has not helped rural productivity and

development as it has left both farming and non farming economic sector activities in the hands of the elderly, the uneducated and very little energetic young men who reside in the rural area perhaps only due to unavoidable circumstances (Adebayo, 1999). A very significant fact rising from the foregoing is the declining availability of an energetic working population that can cope with the task of rural development and farm operations. However, various studies have given insight into the age distribution of farm families in Southern Nigeria. Eze (1993) observed that the mean age of rural households across the various states of South Eastern Nigeria was 53 years. In an earlier study Obibuaku (1983) had found that a large proportion of farmers in South-East Nigeria were advanced in age. Echibiri and Mbanasor (2003) studied on rural age distribution and its interrelationships with household level socio-economic variables in Abia State, the study shows that, they were high predominant of ageing work force in the study area. The authors also addressed certain household-level socio-economic factors including migration, primary occupation and

level of education. The result showed that socio-economic variables strongly influenced adult equivalent labour work force in the study area. In view of the forgoing, this scenario has created much concerned on how socio-economic characteristics of rural households determines rural-urban migration in Nigeria. Therefore, this paper aims at investigating household characteristics: A pivotal role as determinants of rural-urban migration in some selected communities in the Benin Region.

MATERIALS AND METHODS
Study Area
Benin region is in the Southern part of Edo State, Nigeria, and is made up of various communities/villages across seven Local Government Areas, which are predominantly agrarian. The comunities are: Oredo LGA: Iguikpe, Umegbe, EGOR: Egbiri, Unureri; Ikpoba-Okha LGA: Ologbo, Iyanomo; Ovia South-West LGA: Ugbogui,Nikorowa, Orhionmwon LGA: Ugo, Evboesi, Ovia North-East LGA: Ugbogiobo, Evboneka, and Uhunmwode LGA: Igieduma, Oke.
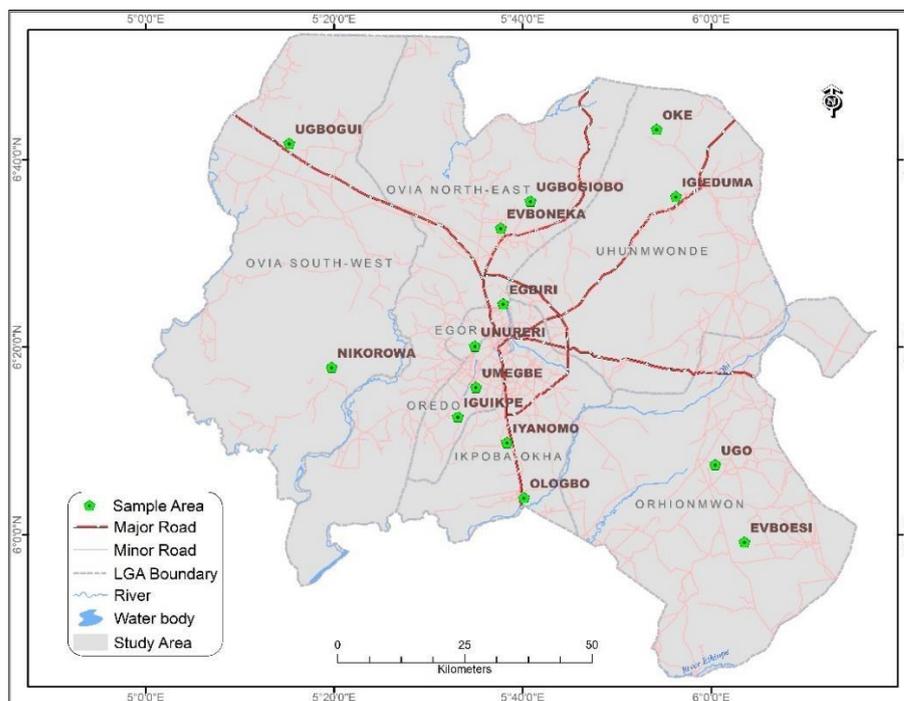

Figure 1 The Benin Region showing the areas selected for the study

Sampling Techniques

Purposive sampling was used in selecting some rural communities in the Benin region which have experienced highly intensive rural-urban migration. Fourteen (14) communities, two each from the seven (7) LGAs that make up Benin Region were selected for this study. The population of the fourteen (14) rural communities were estimated as 164, 325 persons (NPC, 2015). The study adopted Onaiwu (2015) sample fraction of 0.005 of the population to determine sample size of the study. This yielded a sample size of 821 persons. A structured questionnaire was administered to household heads and 761 were successfully retrieved from the study (Table 1)

Table 1 Sample size of selected areas

LGA	Zones	Communities	Population Size	Sample Size	Retrieved
OREDO	A	1. Umegbe	10,431	52	52
		2. Egbiri	17, 485	87	75
EGOR	B	3. Iguikpe	11,173	56	52
		4. Unureri	17,666	88	81
IKPOBA-OKHA	C	5. Ologbo	18,371	92	78
		6. Iyanomo	3, 420	17	17
OVIA SOUTH- WEST	D	7. Nikorowa	11,552	58	56
		8. Ugbogui	11, 106	56	53
ORHIONMWON	E	9. Ugo	11,225	56	53
		10. Evboesi	11,432	57	51
OVIA NORTH EAST	F	11. Ugbogiobo	13,220	66	62
		12. Evboneka	10,748	54	51
UHUNMWODE	G	13. Igieduma	10,014	50	48
		14. Oke	6,479	32	32
Total			164 325	821	761

Data Analysis

Simple descriptive statistical analysis like: frequency counts, simple percentages, means scores, bar chart and tables were used. Also, multiple linear regressions were used to to find out if rural- urban migration was influenced by household characteristics. The Kruskal-Wallis nonparametric test was also employed to examine if the rate of rural-urban migration among the sampled communities differed significantly.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
Sex and Employment Distributions

Table 2 shows that there were four hundred and seventy-three (473) males representing about 62% of the entire sample, while the remaining 38% (approximately) constituted the female respondents. The table also shows that 657 or 86.3% respondents are unemployed. This suggests that majority of indigenes in the Benin region are predominately unemployed adults. In all communities the percentage of unemployed persons exceeds 50% and for most, it exceeds 80%. This shows a high level of unemployment in the region.

Age Distribution

Table 3 showed that about 46% of the overall respondents were within the age group of 51-60 years suggesting that majority of the sampled respondents could be classified as elderly. The study further revealed that 247 respondents (32.5%) were within the age group of 41-50. It was also observed from the table that only a few (1.3%) of all the respondents were below the age of 30 while 10.6% were within the age group of 31-40 years.

It could also be deduced that only 9.7% of the respondents were above the age of 60. In this scenario, it was evidently clear that stronger able-bodied men and women who were supposed t engage in both agrarian and non-agrarian economic activities were few.

Table 2 Sex and employment distribution of respondents

		MALE	FEMALE	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	
		Freq (%)	Freq (%)	Freq (%)	Freq (%)	TOTAL
OREDO	Iguikpe	34 (65.4%)	18 (34.6%)	4 (7.7%)	48 (92.3%)	52
	Umegbe	36 (69.2%)	16 (30.8%)	7 (13.5%)	45 (86.5%)	52
EGOR	Egbiri	44 (58.7%)	31 (41.3%)	6 (8%)	69 (92%)	75
	Unureri	54 (66.7%)	27 (33.3%)	11 (13.6%)	70 (86.4%)	81
IKPOBA-OKHA	Ologbo	54 (69.2%)	24 (30.8%)	12 (15.4%)	66 (84.6%)	78
	Iyanomo	11 (64.7%)	6 (35.3%)	6 (35.3%)	11 (64.7%)	17
OVIA SOUTH WEST	Ugbogui	31 (58.5%)	22 (41.5%)	8 (15.1%)	45 (84.9%)	53
	Nikorowa	32 (57.1%)	24 (42.9%)	9 (16.1%)	47 (83.9%)	56
ORHIONMWON	Ugo	33 (62.3%)	20 (37.7%)	11 (20.8%)	42 (79.2%)	53
	Evboesi	29 (56.9%)	22 (43.1%)	3 (5.9%)	48 (94.1%)	51
OVIA NORTH EAST	Ugbogiobo	36 (58.1%)	26 (41.9%)	5 (8.1%)	57 (91.9%)	62
	Evbonaka	32 (62.7%)	19 (37.3%)	13 (25.5%)	38 (74.5%)	51
UHUNMWODE	Igieduma	29 (60.4%)	19 (39.6%)	7 (14.6%)	41 (85.4%)	48
	Oke	18 (56.3%)	14 (43.8%)	2 (6.3%)	30 (93.8%)	32
	Total	473 (62.2%)	288 (37.8%)	104 (13.7%)	657 (86.3%)	761

Source: Fieldwork, 2016   *.The percentages are in parentheses

Table 3 Age distribution of respondents

LGA	Villages	AGE GROUPS (Freq & %)					
		<30YRS	31-40YRS	41-50YRS	51-60YRS	ABOVE 60YRS	Total
OREDO	Iguikpe	0 (0)	2 (3.8%)	11 (21.2%)	31 (59.6%)	8 (15.4%)	52
	Umegbe	2 (3.8%)	13 (25%)	21 (40.4%)	11 (21.2%)	5 (9.6%)	52
EGOR	Egbiri	0 (0)	14 (18.7%)	26 (34.7%)	31 (41.3%)	4 (5.3%)	75
	Unureri	1 (1.2%)	6 (7.4%)	21 (25.9%)	37 (45.7%)	16 (19.8%)	81
IKPOBA-OKHA	Ologbo	1 (1.3%)	4 (5.1%)	30 (38.5%)	37 (47.4%)	6 (7.7%)	78
	Iyanomo	1 (5.9%)	5 (29.4%)	7 (41.2%)	3 (17.6%)	1 (5.9%)	17
OVIA S_ WEST	Ugbogui	0 (0)	9 (17%)	22 (41.5%)	19 (35.8%)	3 (5.7%)	53
	Nikorowa	2 (3.6%)	6 (10.7%)	24 (42.9%)	21 (37.5%)	3 (5.4%)	56
ORHIONMWON	Ugo	1 (1.9%)	5 (9.4%)	17 (32.1%)	27 (50.9%)	3 (5.7%)	53
	Evboesi	1 (2%)	1 (2%)	19 (37.3%)	26 (51%)	4 (7.8%)	51
OVIA N_EAST	Ugbogiobo	1 (1.6%)	7 (11.3%)	20 (32.3%)	26 (41.9%)	8 (12.9%)	62
	Evbonaka	0 (0)	6 (11.7%)	15 (29.4%)	25 (49%)	5 (9.8%)	51
UHUNMWODE	Igieduma	0 (0)	2 (4.2%)	6 (12.5%)	35 (72.9%)	5 (10.4%)	48
	Oke	0 (0)	1 (3.1%)	8 (25%)	20 (62.5%)	3 (9.4%)	32
	Total	10 (1.3%)	81 (10.6%)	247 (32.5%)	349 (45.9%)	74 (9.7%)	761

Marital Status
Table 4 Marital status of respondents

LGA	Villages	MARITAL STATUS (Freq & %)				
		SINGLE	MARRIED	SEPARATED	WIDOWED	Total
OREDO	Iguikpe	0	48 (92.3%)	1 (1.9%)	3 (5.8%)	52
	Umegbe	2 (3.8%)	47 (90.4%)	1 (1.9%)	2 (3.8%)	52
EGOR	Egbiri	3 (4%)	65 (86.7%)	1 (1.3%)	6 (8%)	75
	Unureri	5 (6.2%)	64 (79%)	3 (3.7%)	9 (11.1%)	81
IKPOBA-OKHA	Ologbo	4 (5.1%)	60 (76.9%)	0	14 (17.9%)	78
	Iyanomo	1 (5.9%)	13 (76.5%)	0	3 (17.6%)	17
OVIA SOUTH WEST	Ugbogui	0	46 (86.8%)	1 (1.9%)	6 (11.3%)	53
	Nikorowa	2 (3.6%)	44 (78.6%)	0	10 (17.9%)	56
ORHIONMWON	Ugo	1 (1.9%)	40 (75.5%)	1 (1.9%)	11 (20.8%)	53
	Evboesi	3 (5.9%)	39 (76.5%)	0	9 (17.6%)	51
OVIA NORTH EAST	Ugbogiobo	2 (3.2%)	44 (71%)	2 (3.2%)	14 (22.6%)	62
	Evbonaka	0	42 (82.4%)	0	9 (17.6%)	51
UHUNMWODE	Igieduma	0	35 (72.9%)	1 (2.1%)	12 (25%)	48
	Oke	1 (3.1%)	26 (81.3%)	0	5 (15.6%)	32
	Total	24 (3.2%)	613 (80.6%)	11 (1.4%)	113 (14.8%)	761

Source: Fieldwork, 2016

Overall, over 80% of the respondents were married while Singles, Separated and the Widowed were at 3.2%, 1.4% and 14.8%, respectively.

Educational Qualification of Respondents
Table 5 Educational qualification of respondents

LGAs	Villages	EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION (Freq & %)					
		Primary	Secondary	Graduate	Post graduate	No formal education	Total
OREDO	Iguikpe	30 (57.7%)	10 (19.2%)	0	0	12 (23.1%)	52
	Umegbe	29 (55.8%)	14 (26.9%)	1 (1.9%)	0	8 (15.4%)	52
EGOR	Egbiri	33 (44%)	22 (29.3%)	1 (1.3%)	0	19 (25.3%)	75
	Unureri	49 (60.5%)	14 (17.3%)	0	0	18 (22.2%)	81
IKPOBA-OKHA	Ologbo	29 (37.2%)	29 (37.2%)	4 (5.1%)	0	16 (20.5%)	78
	Iyanomo	7 (41.2%)	8 (47.1%)	0	1 (5.9%)	1 (5.9%)	17
OVIA S_WEST	Ugbogui	24 (45.3%)	18 (34%)	1 (1.9%)	0	10 (18.9%)	53
	Nikorowa	20 (35.7%)	13 (23.2%)	0	0	23 (41.1%)	56
ORHIONMWON	Ugo	1 (1.9%)	40 (75.5%)	1 (1.9%)	0	11 (20.8%)	53
	Evboesi	25 (49%)	14 (27.5%)	1 (2%)	3 (5.9%)	8 (15.7%)	51
OVIA N_EAST	Ugbogiobo	23 (37.1%)	18 (29%)	3 (4.8%)	0	18 (29%)	62
	Evbonaka	22 (43.1%)	14 (27.5%)	2 (3.9%)	0	13 (25.5%)	51
UHUNMWODE	Igieduma	16 (33.3%)	12 (25%)	1 (2.1%)	0	19 (39.6%)	48
	Oke	13 (40.6%)	9 (28.1%)	0	0	10 (31.3%)	32
	Total	344 (45.2%)	210 (27.6%)	15 (2%)	4 (0.5%)	188 (24.7%)	761

Source: Fieldwork, 2016   *.The percentages are in parentheses

Overall, most of the respondents did not get educated beyond primary school level (70.1%). This shows a largely uneducated population and may explain the high level of unemployment in the region.
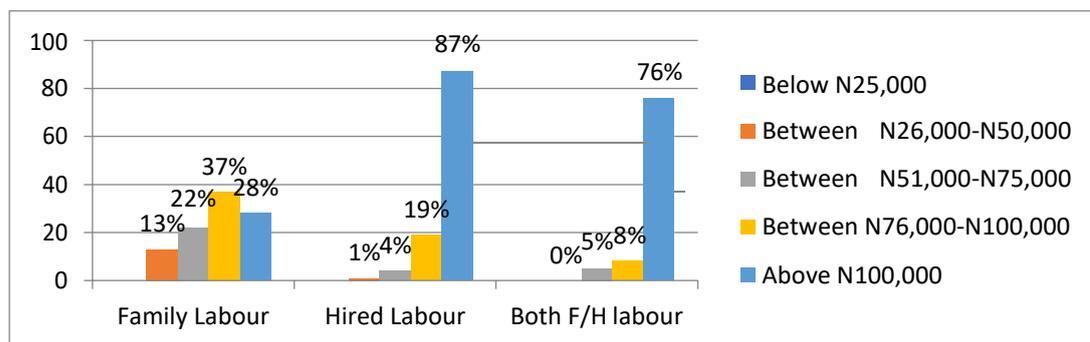
Household Size of Respondents
Table 6 Household sizes

LGAs	Villages	Family/Household Size (Freq & %)			
		0 – 5	6 – 10	More than 10	Total
OREDO	Iguikpe	16 (30.8%)	32 (61.5%)	4 (7.7%)	52
	Umegbe	9 (17.3%)	35 (67.3%)	8 (15.4%)	52
EGOR	Egbiri	24 (32%)	40 (53.3%)	11 (14.7%)	75
	Unureri	17 (21%)	51 (63%)	13 (16%)	81
IKPOBA-OKHA	Ologbo	16 (20.5%)	46 (59%)	16 (20.5%)	78
	Iyanomo	4 (23.5%)	11 (64.7%)	2 (11.8%)	17
OVIA S_WEST	Ugbogui	25 (47.2%)	24 (45.3%)	4 (7.5%)	53
	Nikorowa	19 (33.9%)	34 (60.7%)	3 (5.4%)	56
ORHIONMWON	Ugo	17 (32.1%)	34 (64.2%)	2 (3.8%)	53
	Evboesi	13 (25.5%)	28 (54.9%)	10 (19.6%)	51
OVIA N_ EAST	Ugbogiobo	20 (32.3%)	40 (64.5%)	2 (3.2%)	62
	Evboneka	13 (25.5%)	32 (62.7%)	6 (11.8%)	51
UHUNMWODE	Igieduma	11 (22.9%)	34 (70.8%)	3 (6.3%)	48
	Oke	10 (31.3%)	22 (68.8%)	0	32
	Total	214 (28.1%)	463 (60.8%)	84 (11%)	761

The communities showed large family sizes. Most households (71.8%) have sizes above 5 persons. This suggests some measure of poverty may be prevalent in the region for two reasons: first, most of the people are uneducated, which may also help explain the large family sizes; and second, there is a high level of unemployment, which will stretch any household resources thin.

Overall Average Annual Incomes

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Figure 2 Income Levels of Respondents

In Figure 2, most of the respondents earn at least N100,00 annually from a combination of family and hired labour. Compared with the large household sizes, this is a paltry sum, which on average is only about N10,000 monthly. This is much less than the minimum wage of N18,000 currently in most states or the N34,000 at the federal level.

Respondents' Perceptions on Rural-Urban Migration

Table 7 Respondents perception of rural-urban migration

Question	Response	Zone A	Zone B	Zone C	Zone D	Zone E	Zone F	Zone G	Total	Sig
How will you rate the level of rural-urban migration in your community?	Very High	34 (32.7)	52 (33.3)	29 (30.5)	35 (32.1)	36 (34.6)	37 (32.7)	32 (40)	255 (33.5)	
	High	58 (55.8)	87 (55.8)	50 (60)	69 (63.3)	61 (58.7)	71 (62.8)	47 (58.8)	450 (59.1)	0.504
	Low	12 (11.5)	17 (10.9)	8 (8.4)	5 (4.6)	7 (6.7)	5 (4.4)	1 (1.3)	55 (7.2)	
	None	0	0	1 (1.1)	0	0	0	0	1 (0.1)	

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Zone_ A = Oredo; Zone_B = Egor; Zone_C = Ikpoba-Okha; Zone_D = Ovia South West; Zone_E= Orhionmwon; Zone_F = Ovia North East; Zone_G = Uhunmwode

In all the zones (Table 7), most respondents (92.6%) rated rural-urban migration as either high or very high. In all zones, rural-urban migration is rated by more than 30% of respondents as very high, which shows the extent of the problem in the communities. The p-value of the Kruskal-Wallis test (0.504) was greater than 0.05, which suggested that ratings on the level of rural-urban migration in the selected communities were the same across board.

Relationship between Household Socio-Economic Characteristics and the Level of Rural-Urban Migration

Table 8 presents the results of the OLS regression conducted in each of the LGAs of the region.

Oredo LGA (Zone A)

The coefficient of determination (r-squared) stood at 0.14 suggesting a low explanatory power of the model. The adjusted R-squared showed that only about 7% of the variation in "level of rural-urban migration" was explained by the independent variables (SEX, AGE, MSTAT, EDUQ, FAMSZ, EMPLOY, INCOME) taken together. Overall, the p-value of 0.46 was greater than 5% and it suggested an unfitted model. However, on the individual significance levels, the variable of income passed the significance test at 5%. It meant that a unit increase in income likely determines the "Level of rural-urban Migration" (LRUM) to increase significantly by up to 0.15 units. On the other hand, a unit increase in family size was likely to increase the level of rural-urban

migration by up to 0.18 units, though at 10% level of significance (p-value = 0.08). That suggested that as family size increases, so also the likelihood of rural-urban migration increases. Thus, in Oredo LGA, the household characteristics that significantly affected rural-urban migration were "Level of Income" and Family size".

Egor LGA (Zone B)

The explanatory power of the model was equally low (R-squared = 0.12). Also, only about 7% of variance in the dependent variable (LRUM) was captured by the model, leaving out about 93% unattended to. However, the f-statistics of 2.65 and the corresponding p-value or 0.016 suggested that the overall model was statistically significant at 5%, hence was capable of explaining the variation in the level of rural-urban migration in Egor LGA. On individual variable bases, educational qualification (EDUQ) and level of income (INCOME) had a strong negative relationship with the dependent variable (level of rural-urban migration). That implied that a unit increase in educational qualification was likely to reduce rural-urban migration significantly by 0.001 units in Egor LGA. Similarly, a unit increase in the level of income was likely to lead to a significant decrease in the level of rural-urban migration in Egor LGA by up to 0.001 units.

Ikpoba-Okha LGA (Zone C)

The explanatory power of the model slightly increased to 18%, while the adjusted R-square indicated that only about 11% of the variance in

level of rural-urban migration was explained by the independent variables taken in unison. That suggested that there were other possible factors responsible for rural-urban migration that was not accommodated by the model. However, the overall model was statistically significant at 5% since the F-stat = 2.65 and the overall p-value stood at 0.016. The D.W. statistics at 2.25 showed that there was no issue of serial-correlation in the equation. On the coefficient values of the explanatory variables, the result showed that sex, educational qualification and employment status passed the significance test at 5%, 10% and 10% levels respectively. Thus, gender played a significant role in determining the level of rural-urban migration in Ikpoba-Okha, while one unit increase in educational qualification was likely to reduce the level of rural-urban migration by up to 0.01 units. The output also indicated that an increase in employment may likely lead to an increase in LRUM by 0.3 units, though not at 5% level of significance.

Ovia South West LGA (Zone D)
The output showed a relatively low explanatory power of just 7% which was not desirable. The adjusted R-squared indicated that the model accounted for only 1% of variations in the level of rural-urban migration in Ikpoba-Okha LGA. However, the F-stats was too low at 1.07 and the corresponding probability value was very high at 0.388 (39%) implying that no relationship could be established between the dependent variable (LRUM) and the independent variables (household characteristics). A look at the coefficient values showed that none of the explanatory variables passed the significance test at any level of significance.

Orhionmwon LGA (Zone E)
A low explanatory power of 8% was achieved by the model. The adjusted R-squared value of 0.01 indicated that the model accounted for only 1% of variation in the level of rural-urban migration in Orhionmwon LGA. The Durbin Watson value was too low at 1.14, indicating the presence of auto-correlation in the series. The F-stats appeared too low at just 1.125 while the corresponding probability value was at 35.4% which was well over the benchmark of 5%. That suggested that overall, no relationship could be found between the dependent variable

(LRUM) and the independent variables (household characteristics) taken together. However, a look at the coefficient values showed that only educational qualification passed the significance test at 5% levels (p-value = 0.02< 0.05). Thus, a unit increase in educational qualification in Orhionmwon LGA was likely to cause the level of rural-urban migration to decrease by up to 0.09 units; while the rest independent variables were not of significant importance for the period covered in this study with respect to that particular LGA.

Ovia North East LGA (Zone F)
The OLS output showed an explanatory power of 9% (R-squared = 0.09). The adjusted R-squared of 0.03 indicated that the model accounted for only 3% of variations in the level of rural-urban migration in Ovia North East LGA. The F-stats stood at 1.48 with a corresponding probability value as high as 0.184 (18.4%) implying that overall, there was no significant relationship between the dependent variable (LRUM) and the seven independent variables (household characteristics) taken together. From the column of the coefficient values, the study showed that only INCOME was statistically significant at 5% level. The coefficient value of -0.214 showed that INCOME had an inverse significant relationship with the dependent variable - LRUM. Thus, both INCOME and LRUM moved in opposite direction, an increase in one triggered a corresponding decrease in the other by about 0.214 units.

Uhunmwode LGA (Zone G)
The model achieved a low predictive power of only 7% while the adjusted R-squared value of 0.06 indicated that the model accounted for only 6% of variations in the level of rural-urban migration. The Durbin Watson value of 1.22 indicated the presence of serial-correlation. The F-stats was very low at 0.818 with an overall probability value of 0.576 (57.6%) which was greater than the 5% benchmark. That meant that overall, no relationship could be found between the dependent variable (LRUM) and the independent variables (household characteristics) taken together in that sampled LGA. Also, a look at the coefficient values showed that none of the explanatory variables were statistically significant at 5% levels as none of the p-values were below 0.05.

Table 8 OLS estimation of relationship between family socio-economic characteristics and the level of rural-urban migration in some selected communities in the Benin region

Variables	Zone A (B)	Sig	Zone B (B)	Sig	Zone C (B)	Sig	Zone D (B)	Sig	Zone E (B)	Sig	Zone F (B)	Sig	Zone G (B)	Sig
(Constant)	0.88	0.1	2	0	0.74	0.07	1.914	0	1.7	0	2.206	0	2.008	0
SEX	0.16	0.27	0	0.99	0.42	0.01	0.095	0.46	-0.17	0.25	-0.049	0.71	-0.16	0.33
AGE	0.05	0.5	0	0.88	0.11	0.22	0.1	0.17	0.01	0.61	0.017	0.8	-0.03	0.76
MSTAT	-0.1	0.42	0	1	-0.1	0.19	-0.068	0.5	0.08	0.38	0.134	0.09	0.063	0.51
EDUQ	0	0.31	0	0	-0.1	0.07	-0.052	0.16	-0.09	0.02	-0.006	0.85	-0.01	0.74
FAMSZ	0.2	0.08	0	0.6	-0.1	0.41	0.069	0.45	0.07	0.49	-0.021	0.83	0.02	0.88
EMPLOY	0.18	0.38	0	0.59	0.3	0.09	-0.237	0.2	0.04	0.83	-0.186	0.25	-0.2	0.34
INCOME	0.15	0.01	0	0	0.11	0.18	-0.026	0.78	0.03	0.79	-0.214	0.01	0.079	0.36
	R2	0.14	**R2**	0.12	**R2**	0.18	**R2**	0.07	**R2**	0.08	**R2**	0.09	**R2**	0.07
	Adj. R2	0.07	**Adj. R2**	0.07	**Adj. R2**	0.11	**Adj. R2**	0.01	**Adj. R2**	0.01	**Adj. R2**	0.03	**Adj. R2**	0.06
	F (p-value)	2.14 (0.46)	**F (p-value)**	2.76(0.01)	**F (p-value)**	2.65(0.016)	**F (p-value)**	1.07(0.388)	**F (p-value)**	1.125(0.354)	**F (p-value)**	1.48(0.184)	**F (p-value)**	0.818(0.576)
	D.W.	1.3	**D.W.**	1.54	**D.W.**	2.25	**D.W.**	1.57	**D.W.**	1.14	**D.W.**	1.47	**D.W.**	1.22

Where: Zone_ A = Oredo; Zone_B = Egor; Zone_C = Ikpoba-Okha; Zone_D = Ovia South West; Zone_E= Orhionmwon; Zone_F = Ovia North East; Zone_G = Uhunmwode

Test of Hypothesis

Family socio-economic characteristics (sex, age, marital status, educational status, family size, employment status and income) do not determine the level of rural-urban migration in selected communities in the Benin region.

Table .8a Variables entered/removed[a]

Model	Variables Entered	Variables Removed	Method
1	INCOME, MSTAT, FAMSZ, EMPLOY, AGE, EDUQ, SEX[b]	.	Enter

a. Dependent Variable: LRUM: Rate the level of rural-urban migration in your community (Very High, High, Low, None)
b. All requested variables entered.

Table 8b Model summary[b]

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	.169[a]	.028	.019	.582	1.478

a. Predictors: (Constant), INCOME, MSTAT, FAMSZ, EMPLOY, AGE, EDUQ, SEX
b. Dependent Variable: LRUM

Table 8c ANOVA[a]

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	7.465	7	1.066	3.149	.003[b]
	Residual	2s55.018	753	.339		
	Total	262.484	760			

a. Dependent Variable: LRUM Rate the level of rural-urban migration in your community (Very High, High, Low, None)
b. Predictors: (Constant), INCOME, MSTAT, FAMSZ, EMPLOY, AGE, EDUQ, SEX

Table 8d Coefficients[a]

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	1.564	.154		10.167	.000
	SEX	.035	.052	.029	.677	.498
	AGE	-.061	.014	-.167	-4.372	.000
	MSTAT	.003	.034	.004	.087	.931
	EDUQ	-.016	.016	-.038	-1.024	.306
	FAMSZ	.037	.036	.037	1.001	.317
	EMPLOY	.064	.065	.037	.987	.324
	INCOME	.009	.025	.013	.347	.729

a. Dependent Variable: LRUM Rate the level of rural-urban migration in your community (Very High, High, Low, None)

Table 8b showed the model summary. The coefficient of determination stood at 0.028 which implied that the respondent's sex, age, marital status, educational status, family size, employment status and level of income explained only about 2.8% of variation in the level of rural-urban migration in the Benin region.

Table 8c displayed the ANOVA of the regression estimation. The F-value stood at

3.149 with a corresponding probability value of 0.003 suggesting that although the model had a very low predictive power owing to the low R-square value, the overall significance level was guaranteed at 5% levels. Thus, there was a linear relationship between the dependent variable (LRUM) and all the independent variables (INCOME, MSTAT, FAMSZ, EMPLOY, AGE, EDUQ and SEX) taken together.

Table 8d presented the coefficient values which were used in predicting the behaviour of the dependent variable given a score of the independent. From the table, the coefficient values of the indigene's sex, age, marital status, educational status, family size, employment status and level of income were 0.035, -0.061, 0.003, -0.016, 0.037, 0.064 and 0.009 respectively. Thus, a unit change in sex, marital status, family size, employment status and level of income likely determines the level of rural-urban migration (LRUM) to increase by up to 0.035, 0.003, 0.037, 0.064 and 0.009 units respectively; while a unit increase in indigene's age and educational qualification had the tendency of reducing the level of rural-urban migration (LRUM) by about 0.061 and 0.016 units respectively.

Generally, the null hypothesis that family socio-economic characteristics (age, sex, marital status, education status, family size, employment status, income) do not determine the level of rural-urban migration in selected communities in the Benin region is not rejected. This means that other factors may be responsible for the high levels f rural-urban migration in the region.

However, a look at the corresponding p-values of the coefficients values indicated that among all the independent variables, "age" passed the significance test at 1% level of significance. It therefore, suggested that among all the household related determinants of rural-urban migration, age was the most significant factor in the Benin region. It could be concluded that the older indigenes were less likely to migrate while younger indigenes were more likely to engage in rural-urban migration.

CONCLUSION

There is a high level of rural-urban migration in the Benin region of Edo State, Nigeria. Though all the household characteristics in combination did not appear to explain this high level of migration, depending on zones, different

household characteristics appear to be related to the migration. Sex, age, educational levels and income determine, to some extent, migration in different zones. It is easy, from the household characteristics data, to have a window into the reasons why rural-urban migration is high in the region. First, there is a high percentage of uneducated persons in the area. This means that they have less skill levels and are generally unemployable in most sectors of the economy. This high level of unemployment registered in the area appears to be directly related to the low educational level. The household sizes are also very large, while income levels are very low. This implies a possibly high level of poverty in the region. These are great recipes for the migration process.

The implications of an unchecked rural-urban migration, especially for a developing country where the economy is largely agrarian are dire. With fewer able hands left in the rural areas, less land area may be cultivated and less labour will be available for adequate food production. Already the study found that the Benin region is populated by elderly persons. This is a sign of large scale emigration from the area. Another implication is added pressure to limited resources in the urban centres especially by people who are uneducated, unskilled and would have little to add to the development of the urban area. There is therefore the need to nib in the bud this outmigration trend from the Benin region. Education should be emphasized for the acquisition of knowledge and skills to earn more income. Social amenities in the rural areas should be provided or improved to make them attractive to the young to stay back. These and other proactive measures may stem the tide of rural-urban migration in the Benin region.

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