

# Examining the Influence of International Migration and Migrant Remittances in Nigeria

Imaobong Olsson (Psy.D) (Corresponding author)

Graduate School of Behavioral Science

Southern California Seminary

2075 East Madison Avenue, El Cajon, California 92019 USA

E-mail: stanslot2@yahoo.com

Received: November 3, 2023 Accepted: December 13, 2023 Published: December 29, 2023

doi: 10.5296/jsss.v10i2.21568

URL: <https://doi.org/10.5296/jsss.v10i2.21568>

## Abstract

Migration is a common phenomenon, often driven by solid motivations, mainly involving long-term relocation. Residents of less affluent countries frequently migrate to more prosperous nations for improved livelihoods. Remittances, the transfer of monetary and societal supplies from the nations that host immigrants to their nations, are recognized as a significant outcome of international migration. Nigeria, a prominent recipient of remittances, serves as the focus of this study. The findings unveil that lack of food, security, safety, joblessness, and no income force global immigration to be the only alternative for most people in Nigeria who are not from well-to-do families. The methodology employed in this study is triangulation, which involves comprehensively examining various data sources to reinforce the validity and reliability of the research findings. The research is rooted in the neo-classical theory, delving into global immigration with a specific impact on remittances from their home country.

**Keywords:** migration, remittances, Nigeria, neo-classical theory, international migration, economic resources, social resources, livelihood

## 1. Introduction

Migration is a time-honored and persistent phenomenon, as historical records reveal that early migrants undertook extensive journeys for activities like hunting, fishing, and sustaining their communities. Over the centuries, people have been compelled to move for various reasons, including religious, economic, political, and social factors, crossing borders

through different means to establish themselves in new countries. As the global population changes, migration remains a crucial aspect of the human experience (Ceesay, 2017a).

Notably, in 2005, the global count of migrants reached 200 million, constituting 3 percent of the world population. This figure marked a significant increase from 1980, when the number stood at 100 million, and by 1990, the listed migrant population had risen to 150 million (Ceesay, 2017b). Throughout history, diverse factors have influenced human migration, resulting in a complex and enduring aspect of human existence. In recent decades, there has been a notable trend of both regular and irregular migration of African individuals to Europe, utilizing various modes of transportation such as air, sea, and land routes. The motivations behind this migration are multifaceted, encompassing reasons such as escaping conflict and seizing opportunities for individuals and their families to enhance their lives (Ceesay, 2017c).

Despite existing restrictions and migration policies, the influx of migrants to Europe from Africa has steadily increased since the 1960s. In 1960, European countries like Sweden, Belgium, Germany, the United Kingdom, France, and the Netherlands witnessed an annual migration from Africa of 13,000 individuals. This figure rose to 50,000 by 1980 and reached 100,000 by 2000 (Ceesay, 2017a). Research conducted in 2013 revealed that international migration to Europe reached 72 million. The migrant population in Europe was 23 million in both 1990 and 2013, with 18 percent of these migrants originating from Africa (United Nations, 2013). Throughout history, many factors have consistently propelled human migration, rendering it a multifaceted and enduring facet of human existence.

### *1.1 Various Distinct Forms of Migration*

In the context of Africa, we can discern several distinct types of migration. These include:

1. **Rural-to-Urban Migration:** This denotes the migration of individuals from suburban and rural areas to major cities, driven by the pursuit of better opportunities and an improved quality of life (Amin, 1995a).
2. **Rural-to-Rural Migration:** This category encompasses the relocation of individuals from one rural area to another, often driven by agricultural activities, livelihood prospects, or the need to escape persecution (Amin, 1995b).
3. **Urban-to-Rural Migration:** This migration pattern involves individuals relocating from urban areas back to rural settings, driven by various factors such as cultural connections, lifestyle preferences, and a desire to change their living environment (Amin, 1995c).
4. **International Migration:** This form of migration encompasses the movement of individuals across national borders for reasons beyond short-term travel or residence. It frequently involves individuals seeking new opportunities, escaping challenging conditions, or pursuing transformative experiences (Messina & Lahav, 2006). These diverse forms of migration have a significant impact on the socio-economic and cultural dynamics of Africa and the global community.

### *1.2 Statement of the Problem and Research Questions*

Conflicting perspectives intricately characterize the matter of international migration and remittances. International migration and remittances constitute a commendable endeavor, significantly contributing to household and socio-economic development in home countries. Conversely, some assert that international migration, despite its apparent advantages, can result in adverse consequences for the home country as it grapples with the emigration of its citizens. The challenge is to find a middle ground between these divergent viewpoints, recognizing the multifaceted nature of this phenomenon. This study seeks to investigate the impact of international migration, using Nigeria as a case study, to discern the extent to which migrant remittances can be harnessed for the betterment of households and the socio-economic development of the nation.

Research Questions:

1. What are the consequences of international migration and migrant remittances for Nigeria?

### *1.3 Purpose of the Study*

This research explores and analyzes the impact of international migration and migrant remittances on Nigeria. The research seeks to comprehensively comprehend how these phenomena affect the nation's households and contribute to its socio-economic development. By investigating the multifaceted implications of international migration and remittances, this research intends to inform the development of policies and strategies to maximize the benefits and mitigate any adverse consequences in the Nigerian context.

### *1.4 Significance of the Study*

The study holds substantial significance as it delves into the interplay between international migration and migrant remittances in the Nigerian context. By comprehending the effects of these phenomena, the research can inform policymakers, stakeholders, and the broader community about the potential benefits and challenges associated with migration and remittances. The findings are anticipated to guide the development of informed strategies for harnessing the positive aspects of international migration while addressing any adverse consequences, ultimately contributing to the overall welfare and socio-economic advancement of Nigeria.

### *1.5 The Scope of the Study*

This research examines the effect of international migration and migrant remittances, with Nigeria as the focal point. The scope includes an in-depth exploration of the repercussions of international migration on the socio-economic dynamics of the nation, emphasizing the influence of remittances on households and overall development. While predominantly concentrating on Nigeria's experiences, the study may draw insights from global migration trends to understand the subject matter comprehensively.

## 2. Literature Review

### 2.1 Nigeria as a Populated Nation in Africa

Nigeria, recognized as the most densely populated nation in Africa, holds a crucial status as one of the primary beneficiaries of remittances. Nigeria contends with persistent economic challenges despite its role as an oil-producing country and active involvement with OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries). The country grapples with significant issues, such as elevated levels of poverty and a notable income gap between its affluent and underprivileged citizens. Startling estimates reveal that, as of 2001, approximately 70 percent of Nigerians lived below the global poverty mark of one US dollar daily. Furthermore, in the same year, Nigeria secured the 18th position among the top 25 countries globally for remittance receipts (Hernandez-Coss & Bun, 2007a).

#### 2.1.1 Reported on Remittances

In 2004, the Central Bank of Nigeria reported that remittances totaling around 2.26 billion US dollars entered the country, constituting 3.15 percent of the nation's GDP. When considering both formal and informal channels for remittances, Nigeria's overall remittances could be estimated at approximately US\$ 5 billion (Hernandez-Coss & Bun, 2007b).

#### 2.1.2 Statistics

Nigerian migrants are dispersed globally, exhibiting a notable preference for English-speaking nations such as the United States (US), United Kingdom (UK), and Canada. The US hosts the largest contingent of Nigerian migrants, constituting approximately 55% of the Nigerian diaspora, while the UK accommodates around 10%. These two countries collectively play a substantial role in international remittance flows to Nigeria, contributing to an estimated 65% of the total remittances. In addition to the US, the UK, and Canada, European countries like Greece, Germany, Spain, Italy, and the Netherlands are increasingly gaining popularity among Nigerian migrants (Hernandez-Coss & Bun, 2007c).

## 3. Theoretical Framework

The research is grounded in the neo-classical theory, serving as the theoretical framework to gain insights into the impact of international migration and migrant remittances, explicitly focusing on Nigeria. This theory provides a foundational perspective for analyzing the intricate dynamics and implications of international migration and remittances, offering insights into the economic and social factors driving these phenomena. It aids in elucidating the motivations behind migration, understanding the consequences for sending and receiving nations, and highlighting the role of remittances in shaping socio-economic development.

### 3.1 The Neo-Classical Theory

The neo-classical theory emphasizes the rational decision-making of individuals seeking better opportunities and livelihoods in foreign countries. It considers factors such as wage differentials, employment prospects, and economic disparities between home and host nations as critical drivers of international migration. In Nigeria, this theory offers a lens through which to explore the reasons behind the significant outflows of migrants and the

corresponding inflow of remittances.

By employing the neo-classical theory, this study seeks to unravel the multifaceted aspects of international migration and migrant remittances in Nigeria, shedding light on the intricate interplay between economic factors, social implications, and the overall impact on the nation's development. This theoretical framework forms the basis for a comprehensive analysis of the research topic, fostering a deeper understanding of the complexities involved in international migration and its consequences for Nigeria.

At the macro level, the neo-classical theory posits that geographical disparities in the supply and demand for labor primarily drive international migration. It recognizes that countries with an abundant labor force relative to capital tend to experience lower equilibrium wages. In comparison, nations with limited labor relative to capital resources tend to have higher market wages. These wage differentials serve as a significant push factor, motivating individuals from low-wage countries to seek employment opportunities in high-wage countries (Massey et al., 2006a).

The theory anticipates that these migratory movements will eventually lead to a state of equilibrium. As more laborers depart from low-wage countries for better opportunities, the labor supply decreases, and wages in those nations are expected to rise. In contrast, high-wage countries will witness an influx of labor, increasing labor supply, and a subsequent wage decrease. In essence, the neo-classical theory provides a macro-level perspective on the forces propelling international migration. It underscores the critical role that wage differentials play in motivating individuals to move across borders, seeking improved economic prospects, and ultimately shaping the dynamics of labor markets in both sending and receiving countries (Massey et al., 2006b).

The macro-level perspective of the neo-classical theory strongly aligns with the Nigerian context, where the country's low wages and abundant labor force create a compelling push factor for international migration. Nigeria's high population and limited employment opportunities, coupled with poverty and corruption, drive individuals to seek better living standards elsewhere. This situation results in a low market equilibrium wage in Nigeria due to the surplus of labor, while developed countries with higher market wages become attractive destinations (Hernandez-Coss & Bun, 2007a).

For Nigerian migrants, the prospect of earning higher wages abroad acts as a significant pull factor. At the macro level, this dynamic mirrors the fundamental principles of the neo-classical theory and helps elucidate the motivations behind Nigerian international migration. This theory provides a valuable framework for understanding how economic factors, including wage differentials, shape migration patterns and the impact on both home and host countries. The micro neo-classical theory, in contrast, offers an individual-centered perspective on international migration, emphasizing that the decision to migrate is based on personal considerations and involves a cost-benefit analysis. According to this theory, individuals migrate when they anticipate a positive net return, typically in monetary terms, due to their move. This perspective conceptualizes international migration as an investment in human capital (Hernandez-Coss & Bun, 2007b; Massey et al., 2006).

This micro-level neo-classical theory closely aligns with the Nigerian case. Nigerian migrants, as illustrated in this study, do not migrate due to force or political persecution. Instead, their decision to move is grounded in the pursuit of wealth and a desire to improve their living standards, both for themselves and their families back home. It is a voluntary choice driven by individuals who hope to benefit economically from their migration. Family members often support and share in the aspirations of those who migrate. This theory thus provides insights into the personal motivations and rational calculations that underlie international migration, especially in the context of Nigeria.

#### **4. Methodology**

The selected research methodology for this study is triangulation, an approach involving the comprehensive examination of diverse sources to enhance the validity and reliability of the research findings. Triangulation is a research strategy wherein different sources of evidence are compared and combined to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the research focus (Roberts-Holmes, 2005a). This method enables a multi-faceted exploration of the impact of international migration and migrant remittances in Nigeria, facilitating a more thorough and well-rounded analysis of the subject matter. Triangulation reinforces the research by cross-verifying information from various angles and sources, ensuring a robust and credible investigation of the topic.

##### *4.1 Reliability and Validity*

Reliability is essential to guarantee that the study's findings are consistent and dependable. In the context of this research, triangulation is used to enhance reliability by corroborating information from different sources. Triangulation increases the likelihood that the findings are consistent and not merely a result of chance or error (Roberts-Holmes, 2005b).

Validity is crucial in ensuring that the study accurately measures what it intends to measure. The use of triangulation helps enhance the validity of the research findings. By comparing and combining data from various sources, triangulation minimizes the risk of bias and ensures that the results are a true reflection of the research topic (Roberts-Holmes, 2005c).

##### **4.1.1 Approval and Ethical Consideration**

In studying International Migration and Migrant Remittances in Nigeria, the Department of Gender Studies within the Faculty of Social Science at Lund University in Sweden has granted its official approval, permitting the researcher to utilize data derived from different sources such as articles, books, and journals. This endorsement signifies that the study has undergone a rigorous assessment, guaranteeing adherence to ethical guidelines. Furthermore, it underscores our unwavering dedication to the ethical conduct of research in International Migration and Migrant Remittances.

#### **5. Results**

To obtain a comprehensive understanding of the research questions, the researcher will analyze statistical data derived from various sources, encompassing articles, books about international migration, and journals dedicated to migrant remittances.

### *5.1 Evolution of International Migration in Nigeria*

As in Africa and other parts of the world, evidence indicates movement within and outside Africa before colonialism (Ceesay, 2017). However, one notable and intrinsic characteristic of individuals is their proclivity to explore different destinations (International Migration Report, 2002a). Nigerians serve as a noteworthy example of those who embrace this inclination as a leisure activity and for the reasons outlined in the study's background. In the late 1970s, television and video films gained popularity in Nigeria. Many young individuals and their families would gather to watch television and discuss the lives of the individuals featured in the programs they watched. However, these people believed that the conditions in the nations where TV programs and video films originated, notably the USA and the UK, were superior. This preference was mainly due to the English language used in these programs, enabling viewers to understand and extract meaning from what they witnessed. Through their television experiences, the younger generation increasingly became aware that people elsewhere, beyond Nigeria and Africa, were living better lives (International Migration Report, 2002b).

### *5.2 Significant Effort and Accumulate Sufficient Funds*

The objective is to invest significant effort and amass sufficient funds to relocate to the USA or the UK, with the aspiration of achieving success and eventually returning to support their families in attaining the lifestyle portrayed on television. Beyond the influence of poverty and deteriorating economic conditions, the media has played a significant role as a catalyst for most Nigerian decisions to travel (Hatton & Williamson, 2003; Amin, 1995; Messina & Lahav, 2006; Castles & Miller, 2009). Moreover, Nigerians' aspiration to be involved in international migration was fueled by the successful stories of individuals who traveled to Europe and the USA in the late 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s. So, several of these migrants were young men and women who pursued higher education in Europe, North America, and other parts of the world. After finishing their studies, they returned to the country and secured employment opportunities in the government and individual sectors. These returnees held prominent workplace positions, and their incomes were substantial (Akinyemi, 2004a).

During this period, the Nigerian currency maintained a 1:1 exchange rate with the US dollar in the 1980s, and the GDP per capita peaked, as indicated in Table 1. The ability to buy Nigerian money was substantial. Consequently, many Nigerian undergraduates were keen to return to the country directly after completing their education to secure employment (Akinyemi, 2004b). The additional crucial factor was a low employment rate, and it was easy for a student who finished their education to find employment, earn a reasonable income, and experience an improved quality of life. The unemployment rate was 4.3% in 1976 and increased to 6.4% in 1980. These figures were highly encouraging, considering Nigeria's status as a developing African country (Akinyemi, 2004c).

### 5.2.1 Statistics on Nigeria's International Migration

Table 1. Statistics on Nigeria's International Migration Movement from 1960 to 2010

Years	1960	1990	2005	2010
International migration	94,100	447,400	972,100	1,127,700
Yearly ratio of progression in international migratory stock (%)			5.2	
International migrants as a percentage of total population	0.2		0.7	
Female share of international migratory stocks (%)	36.2		46.5	

Table 1 illustrates the international migration trends in Nigeria from 1960 to 2010, encompassing movements of people from different countries such as Europe, Asia, North America, the Middle East, and Africa. In 1960, the number of international migrants from Nigeria stood at 94,100. From 1990, this figure experienced a significant surge, skyrocketing from 94,100 to 447,400, marking a staggering increase of 475%. In 1986, the remarkable uptick can be attributed to various factors, including implementation of the Structural Adjustment Program, a manifestation of neoliberal market reform policies (Allen & McElhinny, 2017).

Additionally, the devaluation of the Nigerian currency (Naira) and the privatization of government-owned enterprises played pivotal roles in shaping the economic landscape. These policies profoundly impacted the country, resulting in extensive job losses, surging unemployment rates, and rampant inflation. Nigerian students studying abroad started to reconsider returning home upon graduation, opting instead to seek employment in their host countries. Meanwhile, graduates within Nigeria faced a challenging job market with limited prospects for employment (Allen & Thomas, 2000).

### 5.2.2 Unemployment and Poverty

The prevailing sentiment of exhaustion and frustration was pervasive, and it became increasingly evident that seeking employment opportunities abroad was the only viable solution. In this context, it is essential to recognize that push factors were primarily the deteriorating home conditions. At the same time, pull factors encompassed the allure of a better lifestyle observed on television and the aspiration to achieve those higher standards (Castles & Miller, 2009).

Numerous Nigerian families found themselves in a state of economic imbalance and required a significant improvement in their financial circumstances. The specters of being without a job and lack impending in the household unit prompted the family's decision regarding whether a person should undertake migration. As the new economic theory supports, the choice to migrate is not an isolated decision but rather a collective endeavor (Massey et al., 2006).



### 5.2.3 Migrant Population

The migration phenomenon led to a significant increase in the migrant population. Those who chose to remain abroad far outnumbered those who returned to their country. The individuals who did return were primarily those fortunate enough to have parents holding high-ranking authority statuses and occupying roles in the private sphere within Nigeria. This prevailing belief was that those in influential positions could leverage their connections to secure employment opportunities for family members returning from abroad. Conversely, those who needed more financial means and influential connections found it challenging to secure suitable employment back home (Adepoju, 2008a). It became evident that most Nigerians abroad engaged in predominantly unskilled labor to sustain themselves and remit funds to support their financially vulnerable families in Nigeria. The devaluation of the Nigerian currency further exacerbated the economic gap between those employed in Nigeria and those working abroad, serving as an additional incentive for more individuals to seek employment outside the country (Adepoju, 2008b).

### 5.2.4 Major Factor

Apart from factors like drug and human trafficking, various other influences have played a pivotal role in shaping international migration trends in Nigeria. By 2010, the number of migrants from Nigeria peaked at 1.1277 million, showcasing an exceptional 1,198.4% surge compared to the levels recorded in 1960 (International Migration Report, 2002). This substantial increase can be attributed to a complex interplay of economic, social, and political dynamics, underscoring the multifaceted nature of the forces driving international migration in the country.

### 5.2.5 The Beneficial Effects of Global Migration and Financial Remittances in Nigeria.

Exploring a Core Inquiry: Does migration foster the advancement of countries of origin, or does it impede such progress? The central focus lies in evaluating whether the advantages gained from remittances surpass the potential drawbacks of the departure of skilled and valuable workers, commonly known as the brain drain (Castles & Miller, 2009a). The interplay between migration and development has become a focal point in discussions and conferences led by the United Nations and the World Bank. These dialogues have resulted in global migration forums, exemplified by gatherings in Brussels in 2007 and Manila in 2008 (Global Process on Migration, 2007).

### 5.2.6 Development through Remittances

In numerous developing nations, much like Nigeria, migrants play a crucial role in promoting development, particularly as remittances continue to surge (Castles & Miller, 2009c). Remittances flowing into Nigeria have witnessed significant growth over the years, and given the country's high unemployment rates, it is evident that migrants are increasingly becoming catalysts for development. They not only uplift their own families from poverty but the funds they send home can also be invested in small businesses, contributing positively to the country's overall GDP.

A noteworthy perspective is that remittances gradually evolve into a new development paradigm. Migrant remittances have contributed to the development at local, regional, and national levels by addressing gaps where official aid programs may have been insufficient (Castles & Miller, 2009a).

Migration serves as a significant demographic response to the conditions of poverty and environmental stress in Africa. Regardless of the individuals involved, their mobility is crucial in alleviating poverty and stress (Castles & Miller, 2009b).

Considering the challenges, one faces when experiencing poverty and struggling to meet basic needs, it becomes evident that migration can significantly alleviate the economic burdens faced by many Nigerian migrants. This standpoint aligns with the perspective of the World Bank, acknowledging that international migration can generate significant welfare advantages for migrants, their countries of origin, and the countries they move to. It's intriguing as it illustrates a mutual benefit scenario. As Nigerians migrate, they not only improve the well-being of their families but also make contributions through tax payments to their host countries, thereby strengthening the labor force in those destinations (Castles & Miller, 2009c).

Remittances sent back to home countries have emerged as a pivotal economic force in developing nations, Nigeria being a prominent example. According to United Nations Development Programme estimates, a substantial portion of the global population relies on remittances. The flow of funds to low- and middle-income countries saw an 8 percent increase between 2021 and 2022, following a notable 10.6 percent surge from 2020 to 2021. With households often maintaining modest income levels, these remittances, as highlighted by Buchholz (2023), play a constructive role in reducing poverty.

In the context of Nigeria, a nation grappling with formidable economic challenges and boasting a substantial population, remittances have evolved into a virtually indispensable driver of economic development. The inflow of funds from overseas not only strengthens individual households but also significantly contributes to the broader socioeconomic advancement of the country, underscoring the critical importance of remittances in shaping Nigeria's economic landscape (Ratha, 2011).

### 5.2.7 Adverse Effects of International Migration and Remittances in Nigeria

A notable drawback of international migration in Nigeria is brain drain (Castles & Miller, 2009a; Adepaju, 2008). This term denotes the migration of skilled professionals from developing countries to more developed nations, and its impact is particularly pronounced in countries facing a significant shortage of skilled medical personnel relative to their population (Castles & Miller, 2009b). Given Nigeria's extensive population and the scarcity of skilled medical professionals, the country grapples with the substantial consequences of brain drain. Furthermore, the migration of human capital from less affluent to wealthier nations extends beyond employment opportunities to educational pursuits, potentially leading to stagnation in the countries left behind (Castles & Miller, 2009c). Additionally, Nwajiuba's study on international migration and livelihoods in southeastern Nigeria reveals the principal

effects of migration at both micro and macro levels, specifically examining remittances and brain drain. The research indicates that 20% and 65% of family needs are met through international remittances, substantially contributing to the Nigerian economy. However, the study also highlights a drawback to this phenomenon, pointing out a significant loss of highly skilled individuals (Nwajiuba, 2005).

The correlation between migration and development, signifying a reciprocal interaction, has been established in research, emphasizing a two-way relationship that promotes international development (Vargas-Silva, 2011). In the specific case of Nigeria, emigration yields negative consequences for immediate development by causing a depletion of the workforce and expertise. Simultaneously, it impacts host countries by augmenting the local population and utilizing resources designated for all residents. Despite the potential for migrants to contribute positively to long-term development, the short-term effects, as underscored by Borjas (2009a), are more likely to be unfavorable.

Assessing the causal effect of remittances on investment faces empirical challenges, primarily due to the connection between remittances and available investment opportunities (Borjas, 2009b). In settings with low-income households and limited investment prospects, remittances often serve as a means for household consumption. In Nigeria, where many families live below the poverty line, and substantial capital is required for viable business ventures, remittances may have a limited or negligible positive role in investment. Moreover, migration is costly and risky for financially constrained African citizens in a country like Nigeria. The prevailing expectation is that migrants accumulate wealth, alleviate family poverty, and return home with recognition and honor, a concept economists term as the net present value of lifetime earnings (Borjas, 2009c).

The reality is sometimes smoother than anticipated. Leaving one's homeland does not guarantee swift employment. In some instances, migrants accumulate debts back home, subjecting them to stressful situations abroad and potentially pushing them toward criminal activities for financial gain (Lahav & Messina, 2006).

## **6. Discussion of Findings**

The findings in this study align with the perspectives of scholars, including neo-classical theorists like Massey, Hernandez-Coss, and Bun, who emphasize that individuals make rational decisions to seek better opportunities and livelihoods in foreign countries. The migration patterns of Nigerians demonstrate a positive influence, offering advantages to both migrant families by alleviating poverty and contributing to the overall economy through an augmented GDP (Castles & Miller, 2009). Furthermore, the research indicates that in 2021, Nigeria experienced a migration rate of -0.29 per 1,000 people, suggesting that the number of individuals departing the country slightly exceeded those arriving. Consequently, the migration trend was negative between 2000 and 2021 (Sasu, 2023).

The movement of skilled workers can yield substantial benefits for their home countries through mechanisms such as remittances, engagement with foreign markets, technology transfer, enhanced skills among returning emigrants, and potentially increased education

within their country of origin. Migration catalyzes development, acting as a powerful force by helping replace resources and solutions. Moreover, the process of economic development can contribute to a reduction in out-migration (Ratha et al., 2011).

The research findings also emphasize the significant impact of remittances on the economic development of the countries of origin for migrants. Beyond the transfer of financial resources, migrants contribute valuable skills and attitudes, termed as social remittances, which play a supportive role in the developmental process. The conventional notion of brain drain is evolving into a concept of brain circulation, bringing benefits to both the sending and receiving countries (Schiff et al., 2006). However, it is crucial to acknowledge that international migration and remittances in Nigeria are associated with adverse effects. Specifically, there is a loss of skilled workers from developing countries to more developed nations, and this trend, commonly described as brain drain, causes challenges for nations experiencing a shortage of skilled workers, such as medical professionals relative to their population (Adepoju, 2008). It underscores the complex and multifaceted nature of international migration and its implications for sending and receiving countries.

### *6.1 Limitations of the Study*

The primary limitation of this study is the availability and completeness of data related to international migration and remittances in Nigeria. The accuracy and reliability of the data sources used can impact the study's findings. The findings of this study may not be readily generalizable to other countries or regions, as migration patterns, economic conditions, and cultural factors can vary significantly. The study focuses on historical data up to a certain point and may need to account for more recent developments in international migration and remittances in Nigeria.

The study focuses on international migration and migrant remittances in Nigeria and does not encompass migration patterns in other countries or regions. While the study examines the economic and social impact of international migration and remittances, it may not explore other aspects of this complex phenomenon, such as cultural or political influences. This study primarily provides a snapshot of international migration in Nigeria at a specific time and does not track long-term trends or changes.

## **7. Conclusion**

The research has aimed to investigate the impact of international migration and remittances in the specific context of Nigeria. With its extensive literature and research on remittances, Nigeria provides a compelling case study for this exploration. Within the confines of this study, our objective has been to scrutinize both facets of the phenomenon, evaluating whether the benefits derived from remittances outweigh the negative repercussions associated with international migration. The answer to this question is contingent on the perspective and the specific aspects under consideration. As revealed in this research, poverty, unemployment, and low wages make international migration an appealing option for numerous Nigerian citizens, particularly those lacking strong connections or hailing from less affluent backgrounds (Massey et al., 2006).

In this context, the positive aspects of international migration and remittances can be perceived as outweighing their negative implications, considering that individuals are willing to make sacrifices and undertake significant risks to attain an improved standard of living. The determination of Nigerians to resort to international migration and remittances as a means of escaping poverty. However, to comprehend the impact of these phenomena on Nigeria, the study has leveraged the neo-classical theory, yielding critical insights into the realm of international migration within the Nigerian context. Several noteworthy observations have surfaced (Hernandez-Coss & Bun, 2007).

Primarily, there are labor-related push factors compelling individuals to seek opportunities in developed countries, driven by the promise of higher wages, improved employment prospects, and an elevated standard of living. Concurrently, pull factors in developed nations attract migrants aspiring to enhance their quality of life. Their decision to migrate is shaped by a cost-benefit analysis that considers conditions in their home country, the associated travel risks, and the potential rewards. For many Nigerians, this decision is perceived as yielding positive outcomes that have improved their quality of life (Amin, 1995). Lastly, the study underscores the substantial benefits of remittances, emphasizing their significant contribution to socio-economic development and the well-being of numerous impoverished households in developing countries, particularly Nigeria. These findings illuminate the intricate dynamics of international migration and remittances and their diverse consequences on individuals, families, and nations (Nwajiuba, 2005).

### *7.1 Recommendation*

Future research endeavors should prioritize enhancing data collection and analysis concerning international migration and remittances in Nigeria. It involves deploying comprehensive surveys, leveraging databases, and relying on reliable sources to ensure accurate and current information. Longitudinal studies spanning several years should be conducted to monitor the evolving trends and impacts of international migration and remittances in Nigeria, considering the dynamic economic, social, and political landscape.

Additionally, there is a need to formulate and implement policies that encourage the positive aspects of international migration and remittances and address the associated negative consequences. These policies should be designed to leverage the economic and social benefits while mitigating challenges like brain drain. Strategies to retain skilled personnel within the country should be explored, incorporating improvements in working conditions, healthcare, and education systems to counteract the brain drain effect.

Promote financial literacy among migrant families to ensure remittances are used for productive investments, such as small businesses and education, rather than mere consumption. Collaborate regionally and globally to address the challenges of international migration, including issues related to brain drain and the impact on sending and receiving countries. Design and implement comprehensive development programs that leverage remittances and the expertise of the diaspora to stimulate economic growth and poverty reduction in Nigeria.

Establish a robust system for monitoring and evaluating the effects of international migration and remittances in Nigeria. It should include periodic assessments of policy effectiveness and the economic and social consequences of migration. Investigate the factors and impacts of reverse migration, where migrants return to their home country, to gain insights into the changing dynamics of international migration. Encourage engagement with migrant communities to understand their specific needs and challenges and involve them in developing and implementing policies and programs related to migration and remittances. These recommendations aim to enhance the understanding and management of international migration and remittances in Nigeria to maximize the positive impact while addressing the associated challenges.

## References

- Adepoju, A. (2008). *Migration in Sub-Saharan Africa. Current African Issues*. Nordiska Afrikainstitutet.
- Akinyemi, P. O. (2004). *The Consequence of Labour Mobility: The Case of Nigeria*. University of Kassel: Germany.
- Allen, K., & McElhinny, B. (2017). *Neoliberalism, Language and Migration*. In C. Suresh (Eds.), *Routledge Handbook of Migration and Language*. NY: Routledge Publication. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315754512-5>
- Allen, T., & Thomas, A. (2000). *Poverty and Development into the 21st Century*. Oxford University.
- Amin, S. (1995). Migration in Contemporary Africa: A Retrospective View. In J. Baker & A. T. Aina (Eds.), *The Migration Experience in Africa*. Sweden: GOTAB Publishers.
- Borjas, G. J. (2006). The New Economics of Immigration: Affluent American Gain, Poor American lose. In Messina, A. & Lahav, G. (Eds). *The Migration reader: Exploring Politics and Policies*. USA: Lynne Rienner Publications.
- Buchholz, K. (2023). *The World's Top Remittance Recipients*. Global Economic Indicators. Retrieved from <https://www.statista.com/chart/20166/top-10-remittance-receiving-countries/>
- Castles, S., & Miller, M. (2009). *The Age of Migration: International Population Movements in the Modern World* (4th ed.). UK: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Ceesay, L. O. (2017). *From Intraregional West African Migration Toward an Exodus to Europe. A Case Study on Ghana*. Anchor Academic Publishing.
- Global Process on Migration (2007). *Global Forum on Migration & Development*. Belgium. Bruylant Bruxelles.
- Hatton, T. J., & Williamson, J. G. (2003). Demographic and Economic Pressure on Emigration out of Africa. *The Scandinavian Journal of Economics*, 105(3), 465-486. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-9442.t01-2-00008>
- Hernandez-cos, R., & Bun, C. E. (2007). *The UK-Nigeria Remittance Corridor: Challenges*

*of Embracing Formal Transfer Systems in a Dual Financial Environment*. World Bank Working Paper No. 92. Department for International Development (DFID), USA. <https://doi.org/10.1596/978-0-8213-7023-0>

International Migration Report. (2002). In A. Messina & G. Lahav (Eds.), *The Migration Reader: Exploring Politics and Policies*. USA: Lynne Rienner Publications.

Massey, D., Arango, J., Hugo, G., Kouaouci, A., Pellegrino, A., & Taylor, E. (2006). Theories of International Migration: A Review and Appraisal. In A. Messina & G. Lahav (Eds.), *The Migration Reader: Exploring Politics and Policies*. USA: Lynne Rienner Publications.

Messina, A., & Lahav, G. (Eds.). (2006). *Introduction, Concepts and Trends*. In *The Migration Reader: Exploring Politics and Policies*. USA: Lynne Rienner Publications.

Nwajiuba, C. (2005). *Global Migration Perspectives: International Migration and Livelihoods in South-Eastern Nigeria*.

Ratha, D. (2011). *Leveraging Migration for Africa: Remittances, Skills, and Investments*. Washington, D.C: The World Bank. <https://doi.org/10.1596/978-0-8213-8257-8>

Ratha, D., Mohapatra, S., Ozden, C., Plaza, S., Shaw, W., & Shimeles, A. (2011). *Leveraging Migration for Africa: Remittances, Skills, and Investments*. World Bank. <https://doi.org/10.1596/978-0-8213-8257-8>

Roberts-Holmes, G. (2005). *Doing your early years research project: A step-by-step guide*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications Inc.

Sasu, D. D. (2023). *Net migration rate in Nigeria 2000-2021*. Retrieved from <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1233163/net-migration-rate-in-nigeria/>

Schiff, M., Ozden, C., Mora, J., Taylor, J. E., Adams, R. H. Jr., Yang, D., ... Mattoo, A. (2006). *International Migration, Remittances, and the Brain Drain*. World Bank Group. <https://doi.org/10.1596/978-0-8213-6372-0>

Vargas-Silva, C. (2011). *Migration and Development: The Migration Observatory*. Oxford University.

### Copyright Disclaimer

Copyright for this article is retained by the author(s), with first publication rights granted to the journal.

This is an open-access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).