

## Determination of Socio-economic Factors Influencing Youth Rural-Urban Migration in Sokoto State, Nigeria

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**ABSTRACT** The study examined the factors influencing youth rural-urban migration in some purposively selected Local Government Areas of Sokoto State, Nigeria, due to abundance of youth that ever migrated to the cities. A structured questionnaire was used to solicit information from one hundred and twenty randomly selected migrants. Both descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyze the data using SPSS 16.0 version. The result of the study shows that majority of the migrants were male (100%), single (72.5%), above the age of 18 years, and literate. The study also reveals that majority of the migrants migrated to Kaduna State of Nigeria due to lack social amenities and employment in their original place of residence and for educational pursuance. The findings further reveal that majority of the migrants practiced temporary migration by coming back home at the onset of the raining season. It is evident from the findings that the migrants engaged themselves in one form of business or the other that generates certain amount of money worth than remaining home idle. The Chi-Square analysis reveals a non-significant relationship between the age of migrants and the reason for their migration in search for better employment ( $\chi^2=10.83$ , P-values=0.37). Based on the findings of the research, it is concluded that, though migration of the youth to the cities has detrimental effects on the agricultural productivity but the income generated helps a lot in solving some domestic financial problems. It's recommended that Government and Non Governmental Organizations should encourage high quality rural labour force that provides high salaries and benefits, low income tax rates, better housing, social amenities and sanitation to the rural areas.

### INTRODUCTION

Globally, the nexus between migration and development has remained an issue under vigorous academic debate. Therefore, the process of people migrating to other areas in search of a better life is not a novel one (Ajaero and Onokala 2013). As a result, migration is termed as a powerful symbol for regional inequality, in terms of economy, opportunities and living standards (Ishtiaque and Ullah 2013). According to UN report (2013), despite the lack of reliable data on internal migrants, it's assumed that 40% of the migrants originated from the rural areas and many of them are youth with high propensity to migrate. Migration has also been identified as a survival strategy utilized by the poor, especially the rural dwellers (Ajaero and Onokala 2013). Aromolaran (2013) reported that in most rural areas in Nigeria, the potential labour force that could have contributed to the improvement of the rural economy has moved into the cities in search of better standards of living and benefits they presumed could exist in urban centres. In an attempt to obtain such benefits by the youth of the rural populace in the urban areas, many decided to migrate to the cities to quest for bet-

ter livelihood. Migration could also be a strategy to diversify income sources and coping with the risks associated with nature and manmade, this makes families to encourage younger members to migrate, purposely to have higher earnings potential and also the likelihood to remit money to members of the family at home (Herreri and Sahn 2013).

Migration as a global phenomenon is caused not only by economic factors, but many other factors such as social, cultural, environmental, political, natural disasters, health etc. In many developing nations, there had been a rapid growth of urban areas far more than that of rural areas. Nigeria is a typical example of such scenario where there is tremendous expansion of urban areas due to rural-urban migration (Aworemi et al. 2011). The unavailability of livelihood requirements especially the social amenities and job opportunities in the rural areas leads to massive migration of the energetic able bodied youth to the urban areas in search for greener pasture.

Though rural-urban migrants do not often benefit from the same political, social and economic rights as other urban citizens, they often find themselves in insecure, low-paid jobs, or

become concentrated in vulnerable areas such as slums and deprived housing estates, with high levels of criminality and violence but still help their households to increase their income and consumption levels, as well as their capabilities to face socio-economic shocks through the remittance sent home (GSDRC 2013). Based on GSDRC (2013) migration can act both as a way of moving out of poverty, and a cause of social exclusion. According to National Geographic Xpeditions (2013), migration is the movement from one place in the world to another for the purpose of taking up permanent or semi permanent residence, usually across a political boundary. Migration occurs at a variety of scales, such includes intercontinental; intracontinental; interregional; and rural to urban migration. Migration is the movement of individuals from one geographical space to another, involving permanent or temporary residence or settlement due to certain reasons such as natural disasters; physical conditions; worry of insecurity; differences in economic opportunities; differences in social amenities and change in standing such as high level of education and wealth (UN 2013).

Migration being considered as the selective process affecting individuals or families with certain economic, social and demographic characteristics has led to serious problems to both the urban and the rural areas (Olayiwola 2002). The effects of rural-urban migration on the rural areas is mixed, as potentially productive labour is drawn away from the village which hinders households' abilities to make the fullest use of the productive resources such as land, and thus leads to labour scarcity, and vicious cycle of poverty in rural areas of Nigeria (Ehirim et al. 2012). While the urban areas where most of the migrants settled temporarily or permanently are faced with challenges in terms of competition for scarce resources, employment, and committing of some social vices. According to Adesiji et al. (1998), when the energetic and productive members of the rural populace migrated to the cities, the original place of residence experience low food production and the latter may be faced with over population, thus, causing a lot of livelihood problems such as, unemployment, high rate of crime, prostitution, outbreak of diseases etc.

Despite the efforts of the government towards sustaining the socio-economy of rural

people through the introduction of many agricultural programmes such as Green Revolution (G.R). Rima river basin authority (R.R.B.D.A.) Fadama development programmes (Fadama I, II, III), etc. for the betterment of rural life, the rural people still see it necessary to migrate to the urban cities for certain reasons best known to them, which consequently has adverse effect on the livelihood of the people left behind in the rural areas such as the aged and very young people who has diminished productivity level.

In view of the vital role the youth played in assisting household heads left in the rural areas, it becomes imperative to examine the socio-economic factors responsible for their migration to the cities as a means of generating needed information for future rural areas development strategies by government, communities and non-governmental organizations. Specifically, the study investigated the socio-economic factors influencing youth rural-urban migration; the prevailing conditions that leading to youth migration to the urban areas; the cities migrated to and businesses engaged in by the migrating youth; type of migration practiced by the migrants; and the perceived income of the migrating youth.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

### The Study Area

The study was carried out in Sokoto State, Nigeria. The State has 23 Local Government Areas with Sokoto as the State capital. The study Areas has a population of 3,696,999 million people (NPC 2006). The study area is located between longitude 4° 8' E and 6°54' and latitude 12° N and 13°58' N. The area has a total land mass of 28,232,375sq kilometres. Sokoto State is bordered to the north by Niger Republic, Zamfara State to the east and Kebbi State to the south and west (Fig. 1).

The major occupations of the people include farming, fishing and trading. The major tribes of the area are Hausa/Fulani and many minor tribes such as Yoruba, Igbo and other Nigeria and Niger Republic tribes are found. Agricultural production accounts for a greater percentage of the total employment in the study area and as result, over eighty percent (80%) of the inhabitants of the State practiced one form of agricul-

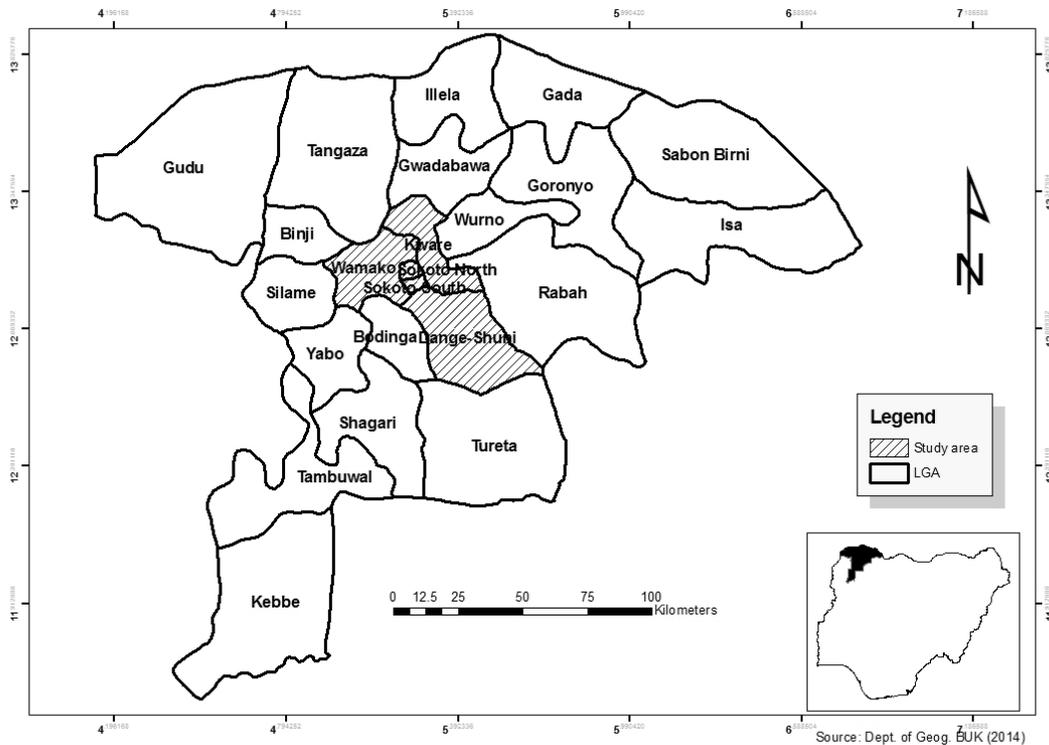


Fig. 1. Map of Sokoto State showing the study area

ture or the other in which different crops and livestock are produced at subsistence level (Bashir 2010).

The climate of the study area is characterized by long dry season (October-May) with a short rainy season (May-October), (Singh et al. 1996). Rainfall starts by late May and ends in late September or early October with annual rainfall ranging from 400mm to 700mm, which is erratic and poorly distributed. The State has an average temperature of 28.3°C; the warmest months are February to April, where temperatures exceed 45°C. During the harmattan period, a dry cold dusty wind is experienced between November to February with a minimum temperature of about 19°C (Singh 1995). The vegetation of the study area falls within the Sudan Savannah agro-ecological zone which is characterized by scattered trees that have scaly barks and most of which are thorny in nature. The soil of the study area is predominantly sandy to sandy-loam with low fertility level particularly poor in

primary nutrient like nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium (Fadoyomi 1998).

### Sampling Procedure and Sample Size

The sample frame for the study consisted of all the Local Government Areas of the State. Three Local Government Areas (L.G.As) were purposively selected for the study because of the high number of youth that ever migrated to the cities. The selected Local Government Areas are Wamakko, Kware and Bodinga. From each of the selected L.G.As, four districts were selected and ten respondents were randomly selected from each of the districts, making the sample size of the study to constitute one hundred and twenty respondents.

### Data Collection and Analysis

Both primary and secondary data were used for the study. The primary data were obtained

through administration of copies of structured questionnaire to the respondents and the secondary information was restricted to textbooks, journals, seminar papers, internet sources and past student projects/thesis/dissertations. The data obtained were subjected to both descriptive statistics (percentages and frequency distribution) and inferential statistics (Chi-square).

### Measurement of Variables

The study considered two sets of variables; dependent variable which was socio-economic factors influencing migration and independent variables which include the reasons for migration, type of business engaged in by the migrants in cities and the perceived income of the migrants. Age of the migrants was measured in years; marital status of the migrants was measured as single, married, divorced and widow; educational attainment of the migrants was measured based on Qur'anic education, primary school education, secondary school education, tertiary education, adult education and never attended school; Household size of the migrants was measured based on the number of the people in the house; perceived Income of the migrants was measured in Naira; and the youth rural-urban migration was measured based on reasons for migration such as lack of basic social amenities, search for job, household food security, looking for better education etc.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Socio-economic Characteristics of the Migrants

#### Age

As indicated in Table 1, majority (72.5%) of the migrants fell within the age range of 18 – 23years, 22.5% of the migrants were within the age range of 24 – 29 years while only 5% of the migrants were within the ages of 30-35 years. This shows that majority of the migrants were within their youthful stage of development, a stage when a child begins to operate independently from their parents, and it is assumed that at this age, a ward could be allowed by the parents to travel out. The implication of this finding is that the young migrants have the strength and risks bearing ability associated with such population movement. This statement is in accordance with

UN (2013) that majority of the youth moving out of the rural areas to urban centres were between the ages of 12- 24 years where majority of them tend to engage more frequently in temporary forms of migration.

#### Gender

As shown in the findings of Table 1, all (100%) of the migrants were males. This finding could be due to the fact that in this part of the country, based on the custom, tradition and culture only males are allowed to migrate outside their communities to search for work for sustenance of the family and also involved in tedious work while females are left with child bearing and the household chores (Ango et al. 2011). Ajearo et al. (2013) in their research reported that majority of the migrants were males comprising about 71% of the rural-urban migrants. The major reason for their dominance is because there is more pressure on the males to succeed, therefore, they usually migrate earlier in life and when they have stabilized, they may come back to take their family members or to marry. Herrari and Sahn (2013) were also in agreement and reported that younger sisters are less likely to migrate since they assume expanded responsibilities for performing household chores when replacing older siblings who have previously migrated. On the other hand, Rajan (2013) report contradicted the findings

**Table 1: Distribution of migrants based on socio-economic characteristics (n=120)**

<i>Variables</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Age (yrs)</i>		
18-23 years	87	72.5
24-29 years	27	22.5
30-35 years	6	05.0
<i>Marital Status</i>		
Single	87	72.5
Married	33	27.5
Divorced	0	00.0
Widow	0	00.0
<i>Educational Attainment</i>		
Qur'anic education	30	25.0
Primary school education	73	60.8
Secondary school education	17	14.2
Tertiary education	0	00.0
<i>Migrants Household Size</i>		
9 – 13 people	66	55.0
14 – 18 people	43	35.8
>18 people	11	9.2

where he posits that the percentage of female (30%) migrants in India is more than that of males (27%) this is because migration is considered as widely employed survival strategy among the Indians youth and alternate route towards engaging in the market and economy.

### *Marital Status*

The findings in the Table 1 also shows that majority (72.5%) of the migrants were single, while 27.5% were married. This finding indicated that majority of the migrants were single which makes it easy for them to travel back home or send proceeds of their labour to parents at home due to less responsibility of caring for wife and children. This finding is in conformity with the findings of Abdur-Rokib and Abdul-Goni (2011), Ehirim et al. (2012), Pradhan (2013) that the single people among the members of the society migrated more than the married migrants, which could be attributed to the fact that those that were married may find it difficult to move without their household members.

### *Educational Attainment*

As indicated in the findings of Table 1, 60.8% of the migrants had attained primary school education while 25% of the migrants attained Qur'anic education and only 14.2 of the migrants attained secondary school level education. The result of

**Table 2: Distribution of migrants based on reasons for migration (n=120)**

<i>Reason for migration</i>	<i>Frequ- ency</i>	<i>Percen- tage</i>
Search for better employment	96	80.0
Change of environment	45	37.5
Further education	42	35.0
To learn trade	48	40.0
Look for money through labour	39	32.5
Join family members in the city	6	5.0
Better housing in the city	12	10.0
To improve livelihood welfare	54	45.0
Better transportation in the urban areas	39	32.5
Social status of one's parent	0	0.0
Escape from punishment	0	0.0
Lack of free movement	0	0.0
Crop failure and famine	15	12.5
Lack of social facilities	111	92.5
Total	507*	

Source: Field Survey, 2012  
Multiple response

the study also implies that none of the migrants were illiterate as they had attained one form of education or the other but none was found to have attained higher institutional certificate. This finding is in line with Pradha (2013) who in a similar study in India reported that almost all the respondents in his study area were literate except very few (1.1%).

### *Migrants Household Size*

The findings in the Table 1 further indicated that 55% of the migrants were from a household size of 1 – 13 people, 35.8% were from a family size of 14 – 18 people while only (9.2%) of the migrants were from a household size of 19 people and above. This showed that most of the migrants from the rural areas of northern Nigeria were from large household size (1- more than 20 family members), which might be the reason behind unavailability of enough resources to cater for the whole members of the family. This therefore makes it difficult for the head of the household to provide adequate sponsorship for the education and other trainings for all the members of the family, rather the members provide cheap farm labour for the family. This finding is in agreement with Ehirim et al. (2012) who reported that the household size of a rural people is always much when compared to its counterpart living in the city because of their dependence on the family as a source of farm labour.

**Table 3: Distribution of migrants based on places of migration and business engaged in (n=120)**

	<i>Frequ- ency</i>	<i>Percen- tage</i>
<i>Places Migrated to</i>		
Niger state	9	7.5
Kano state	27	22.5
Sokoto city	9	7.5
Kaduna state	33	27.5
Zamfara state	12	10.0
Lagos state	15	12.5
Abuja	9	7.5
Kebbi state	6	5.0
<i>Nature of Business Engaged in</i>		
Labourer	12	10.0
Commercial motorcyclist	21	17.5
Trading	63	52.5
Commercial car riding	9	7.5
Studies	15	12.5

Source: Field Survey, 2012

The findings of Osundo and Ibezim (2013) were in disagreement of the findings, where they reported that the household members in their study area (the Southern Nigeria) was small (1- more than 10 family size) which has negative implications on farm labour supply.

### Prevailing Conditions Leading to Migration of the Youth

Migration literatures proved that people migrated out of their original places of residence due to certain reasons that affect them differently. As indicated in the findings in Table 2, majorities (92.5%) of the migrants migrated to the cities due to lack social infrastructural facilities in their places of residence, 80% of the migrants migrated to search for better employment, 45% migrated to improve livelihood welfare, 40% of the migrants migrated to learn trade, 37.5% migrated purposely to change environment, 35% migrated to further educational career, 32.5% of the migrants migrated to look for money through labour as well as better transport in the urban areas respectively. The findings further revealed that 12.5% of the migrants travels to the cities because of crop failure and famine experienced in the original place of residence, 10% migrated for better housing in the city, while only few (5%) of the migrants migrated to join family members in the cities. The findings imply that majority of the migrants migrated to the cities due to lack of social amenities, search for better employment, to improve livelihood welfare and for the purpose of furthering education which are not available in their original place of residence but consequently found in the cities. This finding is in agreement with Aromolaran (2013) who reported that the important factors responsible for youth rural-urban migration includes education needs, acquisition of skill in various vocations, seeking for means of livelihood, boredom in agriculture inadequate social amenities and expulsion due to offence and crime committed.

**Table 4: Distribution of wards based on the type of migration practiced (n=40)**

<i>Nature of migration</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Temporary migration	35	87.5
Permanent migration	5	12.5

Source: Field Survey, 2012

### Places of Migration

The findings in Table 3 revealed that 27.5% of the migrants migrated to Kaduna State, 22.5% migrated to Kano State, 12.5% migrated to Lagos State, 10.5% migrated to Zamfara State, and 7.5% migrated to Sokoto city, Abuja and Niger States respectively while only 5.0% of the migrants migrated to Kebbi State. As indicated in the findings, most of the migrants migrated to Kaduna State due to information obtained from those people that ever migrated that Kaduna State has abundance social infrastructural facilities, high rate of job opportunities, better educational facilities, its serene environmental nature as well as its closeness to their homes. This finding reveals that migration of the youth is being motivated and encouraged by the community members that ever migrated. This finding is in agreement with Pradhan (2013) that majority of the migrants have migrated through the influence and contact by other villagers. The visible change in the financial status of previous migrants was found as the motivating factor of migration pattern among the younger migrants.

**Table 5: Distribution of migrants based on perceived income per month (n=120)**

<i>Amount earned / month (₦)</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Less than or equal to ₦ 10,000	3	2.5
₦ 10,100 – ₦ 20,000	15	12.5
₦ 20,100 – ₦ 30,000	12	10.0
₦ 30,100 – ₦ 40,000	24	20.0
₦ 40,100 – ₦ 50,000	15	12.5
More than ₦ 50,000	30	25.0
No response	15	12.5

Source: Field Survey, 2012

### Businesses Engaged in by the Migrants in the Cities

As shown in the findings of Table 3, most (52.5%) of the migrants engaged in petty trading, 17.5% of the migrants were commercial motorcyclist, 12.5% went for educational pursuit, 10.0% engaged in labour work while 7.5% of the migrants were commercial car riders. The findings implied that majority of the migrants engaged in one form of business or the other that provides them with certain amount of money which is used and some are remitted to their parents at home. The finding also indicates that

none of the migrants were involved in office or government work (civil service) due to the nature of their low educational background. This finding is in line with Ehirim et al. (2012) that the rural people migrating to the cities only end up in petty businesses and labour work.

#### Type of Migration Practiced by the Migrants

As indicated in the findings of Table 4, majorities (87.9%) of the migrants returned home after a while and 12.1% of the migrants stayed where they have migrated to for life. This implied that majority of the migrants operated temporary migration by returning home most especially at the onset of the raining season to assist their parents in farming activities, while those that do not return home at the onset of rainfall could be due to furthering of their educational career or have established and got married in the new environment. This type of migration operated in the study area is in contrast with the type operated in the southern part of Nigeria where the migrated youth do return home only during the festive periods. Based on Geographic Xpeditions (2013) migration is of two types, the permanent and the semi permanent migration, usually across a political boundary. Generally, Okpara (1983) opined that migrants from

the villages to the cities either stay in the cities to practice permanent migration or often go home frequently to pay visit to their people, thus practicing temporary migration.

#### Perceived Income Generated by the Migrating Youth

The findings in Table 5 depicts that 25% of the migrants earned more than ₦ 50,000 per month, 20% of the migrants earned between ₦30,100 – ₦40,000 monthly, 12.5% earned between ₦10,100 - ₦20,000 and between ₦40,100 – ₦50,000 respectively. Ten percent (10%) of the migrants earned between ₦20,100 - ₦30,000 monthly while 2.5% of the migrants earned below or up to ₦10,000. This implies that the businesses engaged in by the migrants was an income generating venture when compared with those idle in the villages where youth are only fully engaged during the rainy season of the year. This makes it easy for migrants to remit certain amount of the monies redeemed to their parents purposely to fill the gap of their absence and at the same time reduce the level of poverty affecting family members at home. This finding is in accordance with Osundu and Ibezim's study (2013) that most of the migrants earned monthly income of between ₦5,000 – ₦31,000.

**Table 6: Relationship between some selected socio-economic characteristics of the emigrants and selected reasons for migration**

<i>Variable</i>	<i>χ<sup>2</sup>-value</i>	<i>Df</i>	<i>P-value</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Age and reason for migration Searching for better employment	0.83	10	0.37	NS	Reject H <sub>0</sub>
Relationship between age Furthering education	11.03	10	0.36	NS	Accept H <sub>0</sub>
Relationship between age and Lack of social infrastructure	4.48	10	*0.92	S	Reject H <sub>0</sub>
Relationship between marital Status and searching for better Employment	3.79	10	0.05	NS	Accept H <sub>0</sub>
Relationship between marital Status and furthering education	0.76	10	0.39	NS	Accept H <sub>0</sub>
Relationship between marital Status and lack of social Infrastructure	0.96	2	*0.62	S	Reject H <sub>0</sub>
Relationship between educational Level and search for better Employment.	3.54	2	*0.51	S	Reject H <sub>0</sub>
Relationship between educational Level and to further education.	5.08	2	*0.61	S	Reject H <sub>0</sub>
Relationship between educational Level and lack of social infrastructure.	0.96	2	*0.62	S	Reject H <sub>0</sub>

NS – Not significant, \* – Significant, Significant Level 0.5%

Out of this amount, some were used for self- upkeep while the remaining was remitted home.

### Hypothesis Testing Result

The result of null hypothesis between some selected socio-economic characteristics (age, occupation, marital status) of the migrants and some selected reasons (search for better employment, further education and lack of social infrastructure) for migration, using Chi-Square analysis revealed a non significant relationship between the age of migrants and the reason for their migration to search for better employment ( $\chi^2 = 10.83$ , P-values = 0.37). This finding implied that the age of the migrants had no influence on their migration in search for better employment outside their communities (Table 6).

Also indicated in the Table 6, Chi-square analysis result proved a significant relationship between the age of migrants and lack of infrastructural facilities warranting their migration to the cities ( $\chi^2=4.48$ , P-values = 0.92). This indicated that the null hypothesis is rejected. This implied that the age of the migrants had influence on leaving their original place of residence. This is because the rural communities lacked social amenities which are the important factors that determine the rate of development of a community and reduction of the rate of migration of the able body youth to the cities.

The Chi-square analysis result in Table 6 further revealed that there is significant relationship between the educational level of the migrants and searching for better employment in the urban area ( $\chi^2= 3.54$ , P-values = 0.51). Implying that the level of education of the migrants had influence on their searching for better employment in the cities. The finding also indicated that the level of education of the migrants determined the type of employment to search for. Those migrants with educational qualification beyond secondary school are expected to obtain a better job.

### CONCLUSION

Youth rural urban migration was found to have a direct bearing with the socio-economics of the migrants due to number of reasons. These included migration of the energetic group of the rural residents to urban centres because of push factors like lack of job opportunities, social amenities and infrastructures in rural areas and also

to make better livelihood more than that of their original place of residence. The findings of the study indicated that all the migrants were males of 18 years and above, mostly single with certain level of western and Qur'anic education. The rural youth relocated to urban centres to search for jobs not for better livelihood alone but also to make remittance back home in rural areas to support family members financially in order to meet the cost of food and other necessities for the welfare and to improve the socio-economic status of the household. The results of the hypothesis test revealed that there is relationship between the ages of migrants and their reasons for migration to the cities while migrant's marital status was not significantly related to their reasons for migrating to the urban centres.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the above the following recommendations are suggested:

1. Government and Non Governmental Organizations should encourage high quality rural labour force that provides high salaries and benefits, low income tax rates, better housing and rural electrification and sanitation to the rural areas.
2. Government should encourage a conducive environment for private sector investment in agricultural and industrial entrepreneurship purposely to provide the rural populace with better job opportunities and social infrastructures.
3. Rural facilities such as schools, hospitals, pipe bone water, roads and market facilities; and the agricultural sector should be improved to enable the rural populace live a very descent and comfortable live.
4. Government and nongovernmental organizations should endeavour to establish skill acquisition centres in the rural areas purposely to stem the rate of rural-urban migration.
5. Community members should endeavour to form cooperatives organizations and cottage industries that help in engaging youth in to self-help projects and employment to the rural youth.

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