The Nexus of Drivers of Population Mobility and Socio-Economic Development in Uyo Capital City

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ABSTRACT

This paper examined the nexus of drivers of population mobility and socio-economic development in Uyo capital city. The increase in the geographical mobility of business men and women and students as a result of perceived opportunity for a better life, high income and better quality of health care and education facilities among other factors especially among entrepreneur has been associated with drivers of movement in the study area. Data for the study was generated through focus group discussion and population appraisal questionnaire (PMAQ) administered to 384 respondents using snowball technique. Multiple correlation technique was employed to examine the relationship between drivers of population mobility and socio-economic development, findings revealed that among other factors that drive population mobility in the area is economic factor as the foremost. Also, there exist a high linear relationship between the drivers of population mobility and socio-economic development. The increase drivers of population mobility have brought to the fore the establishment of many businesses in the study area. The study recommended that heads of household that make up the capital city should come together in agreement that no land should be sold to anyone without the signatory of the chief in charge of the area in order to checkmate fraudulent behaviour by land owners, thereby encouraging potential investors in the area, also no construction of residential or office building should be erected without due approval from relevant authorities, to control indiscriminate construction in the city and in the water way.

Keywords: Drivers, Population Mobility, Push and Pull Factors, Socio-economic Development.

1. INTRODUCTION

Population mobility is old as old as human history and dates back to the ancient past, when there were hardly any clear-cut parameters for defining the concept as applicable to modern practice (Kennedy, 2021). The movement of man has been believed to be induced by the uneven distribution of resources and opportunities, so people move in search of better living conditions for themselves and for their loved ones or escaping dramatic situations in their homeland.

These two major drivers were the fundamentals of the 'push and pull' theory that was first proposed by Lee in 1966, encompassing economic, environmental, social and political factors pushing out from the individual homeland and attracting him/her towards the destination country. Lee's theory has the merit of being one of the first trying to identify in a modern and scientific way the drivers of such a complex phenomenon after Ravenstein first addressed them in Scotland in 1885. Historically, mobility has been deeply engrained in African societies. Kopytoff (1987), for example, uses the term 'internal African frontier' to denote the process of expansion of African agricultural societies.

Nineteenth-century travel literature abounds with examples of people moving around (Klute 1996). Poor people moved from city to city in search for charity in the West-African savannah states (Iliffe 1987) and pilgrims on their way from West Africa to Mecca were the nuclei of numerous population groups in the British Sudan and Ethiopia (Abu-Manga 1999) and (Delmet 2000). Oral histories in most African villages start with the dangers encountered by the founders of the village while en route to its present location.

As an important aspect of social history, population mobility has been given some level of scholarly interrogation globally. In Nigeria, because of the country's evolution and diverse ethnic groups scattered all over the country. Because of the perennial problem of ethnic conflict, Oluyemi Anderson (2021), Henderson (2020), and Ezeh, Bongaarts, and Mberu (2012) have beamed their searchlight on the phenomenon for clues on the role they play on economy. Zapata and Guedes (2019) opined that population mobility have changed globally in recent times, both in quantity and quality, international migration is now accompanied by new types of mobility (refugees and displaced persons) caused by war, persecution and environmental disaster.

IOM (2013) and Van de Walle (1982) conceived migration as a form of geographical or spatial mobility between one geographical unit and another generally involving a change in usual residence from the place of origin or departure to the place of destination or arrival. The political boundary clause raised in some definitions has left us grouping for where to place movement of humans that existed in the pre-colonial era, when no clear- cut political boundaries in the modern sense existed. From this strict terminological stand point, migration can be said to be an aspect of population mobility as it involves movement of persons not only internationally but within a state. Therefore, for justice to be done to this research the word migration will be used alongside population mobility reason being that migration is also a form of population mobility.

Alarima (2019) and Oyeniyi (2013) conducted a study on drivers of migration in Nigeria. Alarima (2019) employed a multistage sampling technique in the selection of 240 of the respondents (youth) from three local three local government areas of Osun state, using both descriptive and inferential analyses discovered that, poor electricity supply in the rural areas, bad condition of roads, absence of pipe-borne water was push factors driving the youth away from their communities into urban areas also better employment opportunities, superior wages in the urban areas, improved living condition are pull factors that attract rural youths to the urban centre as . people tend to be pulled to the areas of prosperity and pushed from areas of decline. People hope to gain by moving and usually give less thought to the problems they will incur as a result of the movement. Oyeniyi (2013) on other hand opined that, people are driven by motivations that occasionally overlapped and, at other times, diverge Altanchimeg, Nam and Sarantuya (2021) examined the Push and Pull Factors Affecting the Migration of Mongolians to the Republic of South Korea

The results of the study showed that the major push factor was an economic one, for which the main motives for migration were low or instable income, the economic downturn and poverty. Likewise, the pull factors were also economic, whereby the motivation to migrate to South Korea was driven by high wages, wellbeing, the opportunity to save and/or social factors, such as access to quality education, the cultural experience and joining family members who had already settled in the country.

Agu,Orji and Onodugo (2017) conducted a study on migration motivation, migrant characteristics, migration outcomes using survey data. The study followed a structured methodology with the 2006 National Population Census providing the sampling frame. The findings of the study suggested that Migration from rural areas to cities is increasingly commonplace in Nigeria and is closely connected to the country's economic growth. It was deducted that individuals migrate from the countryside to the urban areas and to overseas to earn cash. The study argued that although economic incentives are important, they do not fully explain migration decisions among Nigerian migrants and considered non-economic factors.

Thus, three major kinds of migration motivations were highlighted in the study: individual economic motivation, which is simply the desire of individuals who migrate to improve their economic position; family-support motivation, which is an altruistic economic motivation in which individuals migrate to provide for family members and remit back to countries of origin; and personal development which encompasses non-economic incentives and benefits.

Ayuba (2018) employed Todaro's Model of Migration in making cogent analyses of the trends, drivers and implications of irregular migration in Nigeria. The study utilized secondary data. The study indicated that forced displacements caused by conflicts, lack of adequate better job opportunities, and general impression about living conditions in developed countries are some of the factors identified as drivers of migration. Similarly, travelling by road through the deserts of Agadez in Niger Republic, Mali and Algeria through Libya and crossing of the Mediterranean from Libya to Italy via boats were identified as regular routes for their regular migrants.

Furthermore, the study identified various political and social factors which induce migration. Among these are bad leadership style, corruption, social unrest, human rights violations, political instability, environmental factors, ethno-religious conflicts and civil discord in the countries of origin. Also, the study pointed out that the real or perceived opportunity for a better life, high income, greater security of life and property, better quality of health care facilities and quality education at the destinations induce migration. Other factors identified were improved transportation system which invariably lowers the costs of movements; improved communication system, greater information availability and the need to join relatives are among the factors, which amplify push-pull factors.

Agreeing with the study, a more recent statistics by the UN (2013) identified employment, education, marriage, and escape from poverty, violence, conflict and environmental change as the key drivers of international migration, particularly among the youths. The study elucidated that, the key factors that facilitates irregular migration in Nigeria as identified in the literature is pervasive poverty. Based on the findings of the study, a more holistic approach which entails tackling socioeconomic challenges facing the country such as high rate of poverty, unemployment among the youths, increasing conflicts, humanitarian crises with their attendant consequences of corruption and mismanagement of resources were recommended. Wajim (2019), Nweke (2019), Biler and Kraler (2005) and Torum (2002) investigated drivers of Labour migration in Nigeria.

The findings, revealed that, the push and pull factors play a vital role in the decision to migrate in Nigeria. Push factors, which causes migration include: political fear, lack of food, unemployment, wars hardship, and fear of witchcraft could also influence movement of labour. Similarly, the pull factors are the desire to better life, job opportunities, improved living conditions, desire for qualitative education, better housing, improved medical facilities and a good network of roads unemployment, poverty and insecurity. supporting this, Deshingkar (2004) posited that urban and rural areas all over the developing world are becoming more closely linked socially, economically and politically.

In the view of Williams (1970), some factors such as crisis, old age, transfer, retirement and invasion of pests and disease are correlates of migration asserted that migration is influenced by factors.

1.1 Objective of the study
The objective of this paper is to identify the drivers of population mobility and its impact in the socio-economic development of Uyo capital city.

1.2 Hypothesis
There is no significant relationship between drivers of population mobility and socio-economic development in Uyo capital city.

1.3 Study Area
Uyo urban lies within longitudes 07° 50' E and 08° 05' E and latitudes 04° 50' N and 05° $10'$. It is bounded in the north by Ikono, Ibiono Ibom and Itu Local Government Area, in the south by Ibesikpo Asutan, Nsit Ibom and Etinan Local Government Areas, in the east by Uruan Local Government Area and in the west by Abak Local Government Area. It covers a total land mass of 155.856 square kilometers. The limit of the capital city however exceeds some of the boundaries of Uyo Local Government Area and covers approximately 314.65 square kilometers and its made up of four clans namely Oku, Etoi and Offot and Ikono Ibom clan. Uyo is one of the largest commercial cities southwestern Nigeria after port Harcourt and Calabar, with an estimated population 305,961 in 2006 and 42,900 in 2016 (AKGS online 2019).
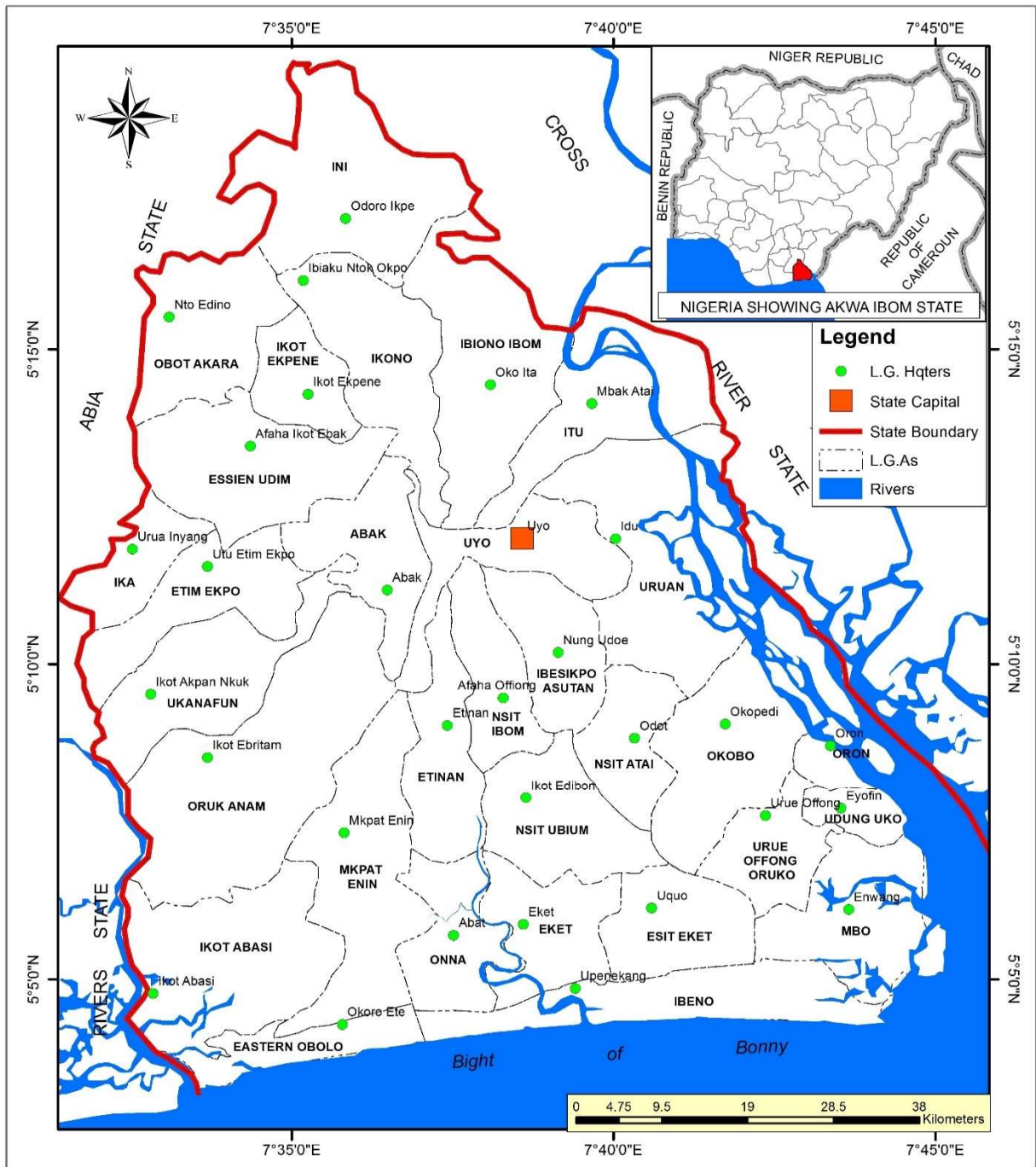
Figure 1: Map showing the Study Area
Source: Ministry of Lands and Town Planning (2022)

2.1 Sample size

Bill (2004) opined that the infinite population sampling formula could be used to determine the sample size. Thus, the sample size of 384 was derived for this study using Bill's sample size determination formula as shown below.

$$\frac{Z^2*(p)*(1-p)}{c^2}$$ ....(1)

Where: Z = 1.96 Z value (1.96 for 95% confidence level)

p = 0.5 percentage picking a choice, expressed as decimal (.5 used for sample size needed)
c = 5% confidence interval, expressed as decimal (0.05).

Therefore:

$$\frac{1.96^2*(0.5)*(1-0.5)}{0.05^2}$$ ....(2)

ss = 384.16

The Conservative sample size for the study was 384.

Respondents were randomly selected for the study from the three stratified zones. The selected samples were given a copy of questionnaire. Snowball technique involves using initial contacts to identify other potential respondents was adopted; it is often used to obtain a sample when there is absence of a sampling frame (Clark-Carter, 1998).
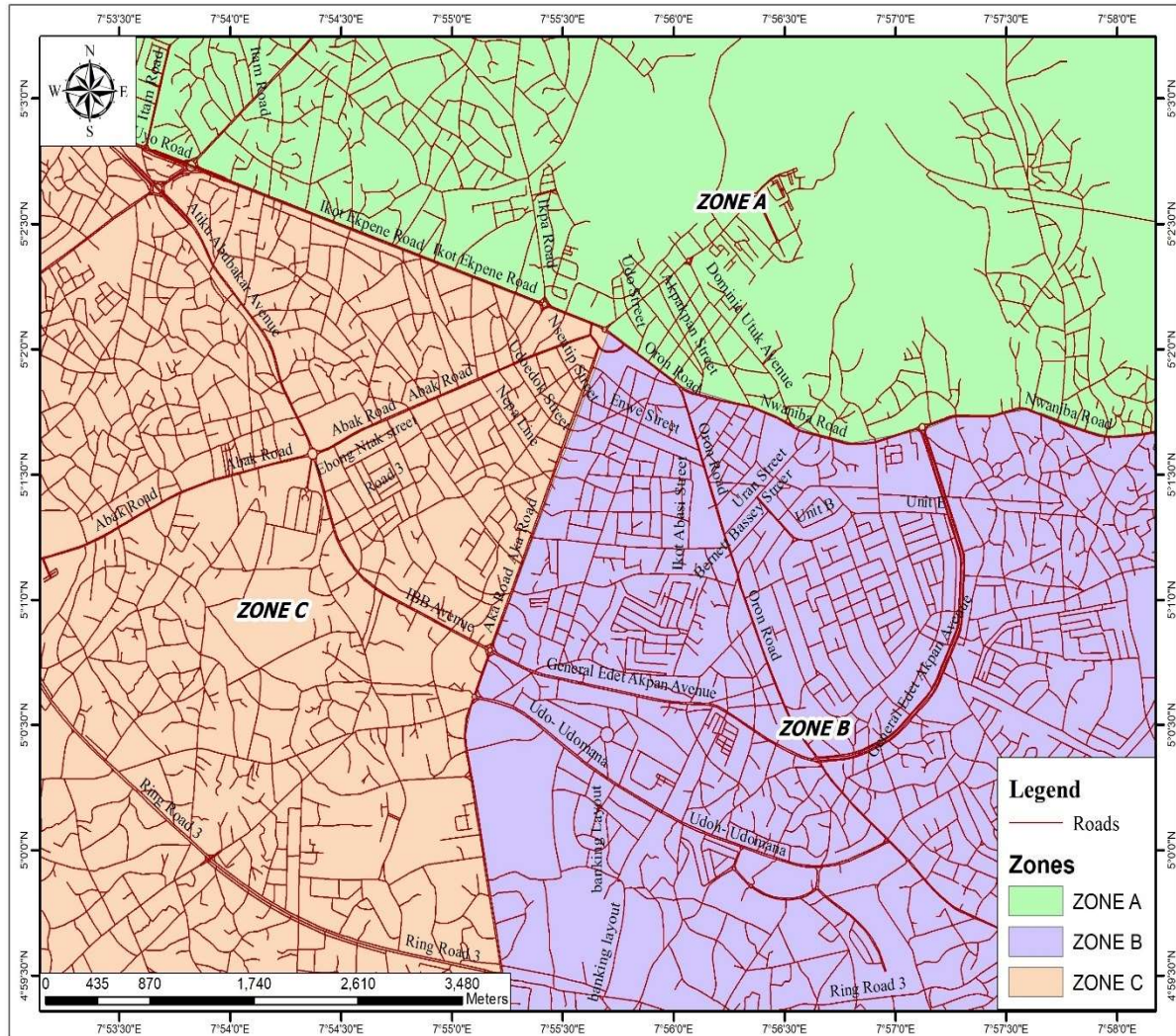
Figure 2: Uyo Showing Study Zones
Source: Ministry of Lands and Town Planning (2022)

3. METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION

Two key instruments were used for data collection. These included;

3.1 Focus Group Discussion (FGD)
Focus group discussion is a form of group interviewing in which a small group usually 10 to 12 persons is led by a moderator (interviewer) in a loosely structured discussion of various topics of interest (Mishra, 2016). This was used to elucidate data for the study.

3.2 Population Mobility Appraisal Questionnaire (PMAQ)

The population mobility appraisal questionnaire was used to generate quantitative data for this research. Specifically, causes of mobility, pattern of mobility, impact of mobility confirmed during the focus group discussion and challenges of population mobility were incorporated into the questionnaire and administered to the suspected movers. The Population Mobility Appraisal Questionnaire (PMAQ) was used to generate the data.

The following variables were used to examine drivers of population mobility.

Table 1: Drivers of Population Mobility

Variable	Instrument
Push Factor	
Conflict in place of origin/political instability	Questionnaire
Unemployment and no source of income	Questionnaire
Banishment from place of origin	Questionnaire
Health	Questionnaire
Have no farmland	Questionnaire
Often oppressed and victimized/perceived bitterness of life in host area	Questionnaire
Pull Factor	Questionnaire
Road infrastructure	Questionnaire
Educational purpose	Questionnaire
Employment availability	Questionnaire
Serenity of host areas (less crime rate, security)	Questionnaire
Marriage	Questionnaire
Economic purpose	Questionnaire
Comfort	Questionnaire
Access to services	Questionnaire
Amenities	Questionnaire

Source: Urbanski (2022)

3.3 Techniques of Data Analysis

Descriptive and inferential statistics were the major method of analysis used.

4. RESULTS

Drivers of population mobility in the study

Responses on the drivers of population mobility by the respondents are shown in table 4

Table 2: Responses to Items in the Questionnaire

S/N	Items	(SA)	(A)	(N)	(D)	(SD)
	Some persons who move to Uyo from other areas do so for commercial reasons	124 (32.3%)	92 (24%)	76 (19.8%)	58 (15.1%)	42 (10.9%)
	Low standard of living and lack of economic opportunities in rural areas are the causal factors of movements from such areas into Uyo city	104 (27.1%)	100 (26%)	98 (25.5%)	42 (10.9%)	40 (10.4%)
	Higher Education is an important reason why people move to Uyo, hence, unavailability of Institutions of higher learning in rural areas also triggers this kind of movement	114 (29.7%)	88 (22.9%)	90 (23.4%)	69 (18%)	33 (8.6%)
	High extent of urbanism in the capital city compared to that obtained in the source regions is one factor that encourages population mobility	142 (37%)	83 (21.6%)	35 (9.1%)	74 (19.3%)	50 (13%)
	Some persons who move from rural areas to Uyo capital city do so to serve as domestic staff or apprentices	95 (24.7%)	105 (27.3%)	45 (11.72%)	70 (18.2%)	74 (19.3%)

Source: Field Survey (2022)

The result as shown in table 4 indicated that the major driver of population mobility in Uyo capital city is economic factor. It can be said clearly that respondents are being drawn to the study area because of economic factor.

4.1 Test of Hypothesis
There was need to ascertain the socio-economic impact of drivers of population mobility in the study area, hence this hypothesis was tested.

Ho: Drivers of population mobility does not significantly impact on the socio-economic development of Uyo capital city.

4.2 Multiple Correlation Analysis

Table 3: Summary of multiple correlation Analysis of the Drivers of population mobility on soci0-economic development.

Parameters	Values
R	.967
R^2	.932
Adjusted R^2	.912
B	.615
Beta	.967
T	1.403
Significant T	.255
F	.542
Significant F	.107

Analyses by Author 2022

Information on the relationship between drivers of population mobility and socio-economic development was subjected to multiple correlation analysis using SPSS version 20. The results indicated that the R which was the correlation between the observed and predicted dependent variable (socio-economic development) was 96.7% and R-Square or coefficient of determination indicated that the combined drivers of population mobility contributed 93.2% (0.932 x 100) of the variation in the level of socio-economic status. The magnitude and influence of these variables were shown by its B and Beta values which indicated that a unit rise in the drivers of population mobility would result to a corresponding increase in socio-economic development of the area understudy.

It further indicated that the linear relationship between drivers of population mobility and socio-economic development was high. The proportion of variance in the dependent variable (socio-economic development) which was explained by the independent variable (population mobility) was 91.2%. The computed F-value of 0.542 was greater than the significant F-value of 0.107 and this indicated that the correlation was significant and therefore the null hypothesis, H_0 was rejected and H_1 accepted. The H_1 states that there is a significant relationship between drivers of population mobility and socio-economic development was accepted.

Hence, there is a significant relationship between the drivers of population mobility and socio-economic development is very high, it was concluded that drivers there is a significant relationship between drivers of population mobility and socio-economic development.

5. DISCUSSION

Based on the finding from Focused Groups Discussion (FGD) conducted for this study, it was discovered that people move into the study area for several reasons, ranging from political to social. Among these are economic factors, social unrest, human rights violations, environmental factors, ethno-religious conflicts and civil discord in their place's origin. The findings showed that the real or perceived opportunity for a better life, high income, greater security of life and property, better quality of health care facilities and quality education at the study area induced movements into the area. Because of low and insatiable income, the economic downturn and poverty in the rural area, a lot people from the rural area have moved into the study area.

The results emanating from the explanation of the people showed that, although many factors have been identified to drive population mobility, economic opportunities are seen as the major driver of population mobility in the study outside academics. Findings from the study revealed that the just concluded strike action by ASSU that led to the shutting down of the University of Uyo located in Zone A of the study area, which is one of the major drivers of population mobility, affected many sectors of the economy that depend on the university for survival, especially books and stationary sellers, printers, fruit and vegetables sellers around the university. So many shops were shut, as the students who were the main people patronizing were no longer found to do so. So many landlords were said to be sick, and had no money to pay for their medical bills, as they could no longer draw rents from the students.

In general, one can say based on the result of the study that, drivers of population mobility in Uyo Capital city have a direct or indirect relationship with Socio economic development. Findings also revealed that the real or perceived opportunity for a better life, high income, greater security of life and property, better quality of health care facilities and quality education at the study area induced movements. Because of low and insatiable income, the economic downturn and poverty in the rural area, a lot people from the rural area move into the study area.

Findings revealed that the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) frequent sit at home order in the east, has led to the movement of Igbo business men and women with their businesses into the study area, considering the fact that the study area has been experiencing relative peace for the past seven years. These movements have led to the emergence of businesses like supermarkets, electrical shops, water factory, fuel stations, hotels, whole sell businesses of all sort thereby creating employment opportunities in the area. The importance of small business like the ones created by these men and women from the east within a local economy is that, a lot of persons in close proximity to the business have been hired, thereby boosting local employment rates. With their earnings, workers purchase goods and services, and money is fueled back into other local business. The entrance of these businesses in the study area adds to the socio-economic development of the area. This is because taxes from this business helps in boosting the tax income for local governments, thereby bringing in more money to repair roads, develop schools and improve public services

With reference to the result on Table 1, it was noticed that most of the respondents who were either migrants or indigenes of the study area were of the opinion that migrants contributed immensely to the socio-economic development of the capital city, moreover, these drivers of population mobility basically involved all push and pull factors responsible for the mobility of persons into the capital city of Uyo.

Thus, they have a significant relationship with elements of socio-economic development because most of these factors are economically or occupationally instigated and are related to the hope of making a living or finding greener pastures in the study area. In addition, empirical results in the first hypothesis which revealed the relationship between drivers of population mobility and socio-economic development was subjected to multiple correlation analysis using SPSS version 20. The results indicated that the R which is the correlation between the observed and predicted dependent variable (socio-economic development) is 96.7% and R-Square or coefficient of determination indicates that the combined drivers of population mobility contributed 93.2% (0.932 x 100) of the variation in the level of socio-economic status.

The magnitude and influence of these variables are shown by its B and Beta values which indicated that a unit rise in the drivers of population mobility will result to a corresponding increase in socio-economic development of the area understudy. It further indicates that the linear relationship between drivers of population mobility and socio-economic development is high. The proportion of variance in the dependent variable (socio-economic development) which is explained by the independent variable (population mobility) is 91.2%. The computed F value of 0.542 is greater than the significant F value of 0.107 and this indicates that the correlation is significant and therefore the null hypothesis, H_0 is rejected and H_1 accepted. The H_1 states that there is a significant relationship between drivers of population mobility and socio-economic development was rejected. Therefore, there is a significant relationship between drivers of population mobility and socio-economic development. This result is in agreement with the view of Nweke, 2019 who asserts that the motivation for population mobility appears to be fundamentally for economic reasons such as employment or engagement in economic activities.

Figure 3:Picture of market women who move to the rural areas daily and back with agricultural produce.

5. CONCLUSION

Population mobility in Uyo capital city has played a vital role in the socio-economic development of the region. As people come together to converge in the area, it has led to the emergence of tertiary industries such as shopping mall, logistics, accommodation. Also, factories and enterprises are attracted to the city and the development and expansion of the area has led to the development of the surrounding area.

In addition to this, the income earned by labour force plays a vital role in promoting the economic and social development of the capital city. Thus, the factors affecting population movement in and out of the study area also affects the dynamics of development particularly in the areas of socialization and economy.

6. RECOMMENDATION

Heads of villages that make up Uyo capital city should come with rules that will regulate the buying and selling of properties in the area so as to check criminality and encourage the influx of highly skilled individuals into the region to invest, in order to further engender socio-economic development. The study recommends that community heads as well as individuals should protect the rights of migrants since they are contributing to the socio-economic development of their destination region.

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