Youths Migration (JAPA) Challenges in Benin City, Edo State Nigeria
By

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Abstract

This study explored Youths Migration (JAPA): Challenges in Benin City. Two objectives were considered in the study which include: the causes of youth migration (JAPA) in Benin City and to ascertain the consequences youth migration (JAPA) in Benin City. The study adopted Economic theory of migration. A cross-sectional research design was adopted because of the nature of the study; the sample size was 200 respondents using Taro Yamani determination formula. The finding of the study established that the following factors were responsible for Youth Migration (JAPA) in Benin City, such as harsh Economic condition, lack of infrastructural development, Peer Pressures, poverty and a host of other factors. In order to mitigate this problem, this study therefore recommends that government agencies as well as non-governmental organizations should embark on provision of Jobs, Infrastructures, lucrative skill acquisitions program, public enlightenment campaigns to address the issue of Illegal migration (JAPA). Attempt should therefore be made towards understanding the youths and also with the support of social workers who are committed to changing factors in the society that diminish the quality of life for all people, especially for persons who are most vulnerable to social problem.

Keywords: Economic, Employment, Migration, Poverty, Youth.

Background of the Study

International migration (JAPA) has become the face of globalization a symbol of the world's growing interdependence. At the same time, the largest generation of youth in history demands attention: they are highly connected through

technology and social networks, they need education and decent jobs, and they want a say in their future. Empowering young people is one of the top priorities of the UN Secretary-General's Five-Year Action Agenda. (Peter Sutherland, 2013).

At the panel on Youth Migration at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, during the 2013 International Youth Day it was agreed that: There is a general lack of awareness on the working and living conditions of young migrants. While migration (JAPA) of young people can open up valuable opportunities, it can also pose risks or leads to unacceptable situations, including exploitation and discrimination. To protect young migrants and ensure that migration (JAPA) leads to their human development as well as contributing to the development of both their home and host countries, the key questions that will be address revolve around the motivation for young to migrate, the key issues and challenges facing young migrants and contribution that youth migration (JAPA) can make to economic and social development of both sending and hosting countries. (UN, 2013).

Benin City, the capital of southern Edo State, has long been a hub for migrants setting off from Nigeria on the long and often unsuccessful trip to Europe. In mid-2018, some 60,000 Nigerian migrants were registered in Libya. Recently, though, some people have started coming the other way. Since April 2017 almost 9,000 Nigerian migrants have returned after being stranded or detained in Libya while attempting to reach Europe, most aided by the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Since 2014 over 600 000 African migrants have arrived in Italy through the perilous Central Mediterranean route, and nearly 120 000 arrived in 2017.Nigeria is an important destination country for migrants in the West African region. The latest available figures indicate that the number of immigrants residing in Nigeria has more than doubled in recent decades, from 477,135 in 1991 to 971,450 in 2005 (NPC, 1991). The number of immigrants is expected to increase to 1.1 million in 2010 (UNPD, 2009). This finding lends credence to the previously cited IMF report (2016) that Africa is increasingly susceptible to social capital flight.

Unsurprisingly, the younger and better educated tended to be much more interested than others in the prospect of migrating, which is further contributing to brain drain in the region (IMF, 2016). In fact, a higher level of education, paired with limited employment prospects, appeared to be a motivating factor for migration (JAPA). Today, there are approximately 232 million international migrants, according to the 2013 UN estimate of global migrant stocks (measuring the number of migrants at a particular point in time). Around 12 per cent of international migrants (roughly one out of eight) are youth (denied here as those between 15 and 24 years of age).

Statement of the Research problem

The United Nations Organization is awakening to the reality of the surge in youth migration (JAPA) and the risks such movement might pose to all at stake by arguing that: Young people make up a significant share of the global number of international migrants. In 2010, there was an estimated number of 27 million international young migrants. While migration (JAPA) can often offer valuable opportunities and contribute to the development of communities and society at large, it can also pose risks and lead to unacceptable situations, including discrimination and exploitation. (UN, 2013).

This realization has left academia with the question: what motivates youth to migrate, the challenges they are facing? This effort will provide us an understanding of the drives, patterns, and flow of youth migration (JAPA) as a way of mitigating its negative socio-economic implications first on the migrants themselves, and provide them with opportunities to curb this flow, then on the sending and receiving societies.

Benin City in the southern part of Nigeria is a hub of illegal migration (JAPA) in West Africa. In a state that battles, low economic activity, where each family needs a family member outside the country, a state heavily influenced by peer group and most of the youths only see greener pastures outside the country. In some cases, the unequal distribution of resources and opportunities influences the flow of migrants (Piore 2019; Todaro 2021). Multiple factors encourage youth to migrate, including direct motives, such as desire for employment and education, but these

motives may also be embedded in ideological components, such as cultural and psychosocial factors and coming-of-age experiences (Massey,2013; Punch 2017).

Objective of the study

This study examined youth migration (JAPA): the challenges and opportunities in Benin City. The specific objectives were to:

1. find out the causes youth migration (JAPA) in Benin City, Edo State Nigeria
2. ascertain the consequences of youth migration (JAPA) in Benin City, Edo State Nigeria.

Literature review

The movement of human populations across the planet has characterized human societies throughout history. (Bauer, Haisken-De New JP, Schmidt CM,2014). Migration (JAPA) is a multidimensional phenomenon and deals with economic, social, and political factors, and can be international or internal. International migration (JAPA) involves the movement of people across political boundaries to a different country than an area of origin, whereas internal migration (JAPA) is the movement of people within the national boundary of a specified country (Mohammed YA, 2016).

The major countries of destination outside Africa are USA, UK, Germany, Spain, Netherlands, France, Italy and Ireland. Within Africa, important destinations include South Africa and some West African countries, Sudan, Cameroon and Gabon. Libya was also a focal point –both as a destination and transit for migrants destined towards Europe. But with the collapse of the Gaddafi regime, many of these migrants were stranded, apprehended and deported. In 2017, about 155 people were repatriated monthly by the IOM in chartered planes to the situation they were running away from. Several were reportedly killed, maimed and robbed of their property. Many simply languish in jail, or in slave like situation. Others who attempted the dangerous trip in rickety boats capsized and died, especially during the most fatal period 2014/2015. Of the estimated 1.2 million asylum and mixed migrants about 4,000 Nigerians were reported dead during the year due to dehydration across the Sahara desert and fatalities on rickety boats across the Mediterranean. UNHCR estimates that in 2016, over 37,000 Nigerians arrived in

Italy via the Mediterranean at which time they constituted about 31 percent of arrivals.

Youth migration (JAPA) is the migration of people across national borders in a way that violates the immigration laws of the destination country. Illegal immigrants are also referred to as unauthorized/undocumented immigrants. Recently, it has been noted that there is a rising trend in illegal migration worldwide, especially from poorer to richer countries. Most migrants within and outside Africa are illegal migrants. However, those found in Nigeria appear to be on the increasing in the recent time (Yakeen A, 2017). Benin City's status as the single most important point of origin of Nigerian irregular migrants' dates back to the 1980s, when a number of Edo youths were recruited for agricultural labor in Italy, although many in fact ended up working as prostitutes (Okonofua, 2004; Damon, Swails, and Laine, 2011)

Migration offers young women and men opportunities to obtain productive and decent employment, improve socio-economic status, learn new skills, and increase human and financial capital. Youth migration is set to increase, giving young people a tremendous potential for enhancing and sustaining development, productivity, and economic stability worldwide. Young people often face limited opportunities for decent work; some confront political circumstances, social situations or life conditions that compel them to leave their country of origin. Others migrate to reunite with their families, get married or pursue opportunities for tertiary education abroad. At the same time, young people are in demand for employment at all skill levels in destination countries. (Global migrant stock in 2013).

Causes of youth migration

Migration has always been an important component of population change on the local, regional, national and global scales. There are many reasons why people decide to migrate to another region or country. These can be push factors such as political instability, civil conflict, forced migration, a lack of job opportunities, bad governance, famine, or pull factors such as stability in the new country, higher pay rates or better opportunities, harsh economic conditions and poor educational systems, security, better medical care (Fernie and Pitkethly 2015).According to the

statistics of IOM (2019), roughly 27 million leave their countries of birth to seek employment aboard as international migration.

Usually, migration is not caused by a single factor but by a set of interacting and synergistic effects caused by a multitude of social, demographic, economic, climatic and biological factors (Hansen and Randall 2013). The majority of Nigerians attempting the journey are young people who say they want to work in Europe because sending Euros home – a stronger currency – will make a big difference to their families. But, many are willing to take the risk. For the second year in a row, Nigerians are the most common nationality crossing the Mediterranean route from Libya to Italy with roughly 37,550 arriving in the European country by sea in 2016 and about 17,000 so far this year.

The causes of illegal migration differ from individual to individual and from community to community (Mohammed YA,2016). Sociologists have long analyzed migration regarding the "push-pull" model. "Push factor" refers to circumstances at home that repel; examples include famine, drought, low agricultural productivity, and unemployment while "pull factor refers to those conditions found elsewhere (abroad) that attract migrants.

Consequences of youth migration

According to some writers some of the consequences of youth migration are below: Migration result in the loss of highly skilled workers and a reduction in the quality of essential services; economic growth and productivity decline with reductions in the stock of high-skilled labour; in places of origin, returns on public investments in education are lower, decline in agricultural productivity in Benin City of origin: The migration (JAPA) of young men and women can affect agricultural productivity by: (i) destabilizing traditional farming systems at household and community levels; (ii) leading to a significant ageing of the labour force and thus to a reduction in labour productivity and farm income; and (iii) adopting land intensification practices, such as shorter fallow periods and increased weeding, to counterbalance the loss of labour productivity (Vargas-Lundius and Lanly, 2017).

Decrease in human capital ("brain drain"): Migration may be characterized by out migration of the most skilled and innovative in the society. This positive selection process for migration can lead to a fall in human capital stocks. This can only be balanced through education and training, which require long-term efforts: the result is a delay in the process of agricultural transformation and commercialization. Nigeria and the agricultural sector become trapped in a vicious cycle of poverty (Uma, 2013).

The absence of parents may increase the vulnerability of youth left behind, and adolescents commonly experience difficulties in their social relations and will isolate themselves in small peer groups who are in a like situation; youth left behind by their parents commonly experience increased demands as they must assume responsibilities previously assumed by their parents. This can lead to declines in academic performance and exit from school altogether; remittances coupled with limited parental supervision may be linked to a higher probability of risky behavior among youth left behind and migration may expose youth—especially young women—to higher risks of abuse, discrimination and exploitation (De la Garza, (2010); Temin, (2013); United Nations (2004).

Reviewing 12 studies conducted between 2003 and 2018, MAC (2018) concluded that immigration had little impact on average wages. Some studies (e.g. Nickell and Saleheen, 2015) had found a small negative impact on average wages while others (e.g. Dustmann et al, 2013) found positive average effects. As with the impacts on employment and unemployment, several studies have found that effects are different for high vs. low skilled/paid workers. For example, Dustmann et al (2013) find positive effects for most workers but negative effects for the lower paid; they found that a 1 percentage point increase in the ratio of migrants to non-migrants leads to a 0.6% decrease in wages for workers at the 5th earnings percentile and a 0.5% decrease at the 10th percentile. Another study focusing on wage effects at the occupational level found that, in the unskilled and semi-skilled service sector, a 1 percentage point rise in the share of migrants reduced average wages in that occupation by about 0.2% (Nickell and Salaheen 2015).

But, many are willing to take the risk and this result to loss of lives i.e reduce population. For the second year in a row, Nigerians are the most common

nationality crossing the Mediterranean route from Libya to Italy with roughly 37,550 arriving in the European country by sea in 2016 and about 17,000 so far this year. More than 2,300 migrants have died at sea on that same Central Mediterranean route in 2017. One in every 49 migrants died on that route last year, according to IOM (International Organization for Migration), the UN Migration Agency. Since 2014, more deaths have been recorded there than on any other migration route in the world. The majority of Nigerians attempting the journey are young people who say they want to work in Europe because sending Euros home – a stronger currency – will make a big difference to their families. Youth unemployment has been as high as 25 per cent in Nigeria or 55 per cent for young women – a major issue in a country where more than half of the population of 182 million is under 30-years of age.

Challenges and opportunities of youth migration

Conditions affecting health in the country of origin and during the journey may include war, torture, loss of relatives, long stays in refugee camps (which may have poor sanitation and overcrowding), imprisonment, and socioeconomic hardship. After arriving in the host country migrants may experience imprisonment, long-lasting asylum seeking processes, language barriers, lack of knowledge about health services, loss of social status, discrimination and marginalization. Kristiansen and colleagues (2017) note that coping with a new language, as well as a new political and social context can be extremely stressful. The effect of migration on the mental health of individuals depends on the magnitude of strains in the recipient country and can be mediated by the migrant's social resources (i.e. social networks, language skills, education level, etc.).

Migration also has health implications for the country migrants have left. Individuals who emigrate for economic opportunities may cause a 'brain drain' in their country of origin, when a large number of individuals with technical skills or knowledge leave, potentially depleting the local infrastructure. This particularly affects healthcare because there are often economic incentives for healthcare professionals to migrate. The World Health Organization (WHO) has long recognized that migration of health personnel from developing to developed countries increases the existing imbalances in the global health workforce and can cause deficiencies in local provision of services in developing countries (Mejia,

2019). This migration is often demand-led when developed countries experience shortages in medical professionals. Hagopian, (2014) estimate that 23% of American physicians received their medical training outside the USA. The majority of foreign trained physicians (64%) in the USA came from middle or low-income countries. In the UK, 31% of doctors and 13% of nurses were born overseas (Glover et al, 2011). While countries of origin may benefit from some remittances (e.g. migrant's wages sent back), the adverse implications for developing countries greatly outweigh these relatively small benefits. To address the problem of brain drain, Pang and colleagues (2012) recommend "a global perspective, agreed ethical principles between countries, and a systematic approach using the convening power of international organizations."

Housing is also a challenge of the 22 cities contributing to this report on migration and cities, an overwhelming 20 of them indicated the need to provide more affordable and social housing, not only for migrants but also for the resident population. In Calgary, the waiting list for housing units has reached 3,000 people, whereas in Paris, the waiting time can be more than 10 years. Cities are under pressure to build affordable and social housing that is financially viable, complies with design and safety standards, and can be delivered in a short amount of time. Surat, for instance, has built 46,856 housing units in the last decade under several slum rehabilitation programmes, decreasing the proportion of its population living in slums from 17% in 2007 to 4.3% in 2017.

Theoretical framework: Economics theory of migration

The New Economics of Migration (NEM) theory has come to challenge some of the assumptions of the neoclassical approach, offering a new level of analysis and different nature of migration determinants and it shifted the focus of migration research from individual independence to mutual interdependence (Stark 1991). The key argument is that migration decisions are not made by isolated individual actors but typically by families or households. Further, the decisions of migrants are influenced by a comprehensive set of factors which are shaped by conditions in the home country. As such, migrant decisions are not based purely on individual utility-maximizing calculations but are rather a household response to both income risk and to the failures of a variety of markets – labor market, credit market, or insurance market (Massey, 1993).

Hence, migration in the absence of meaningful wage differentials or the absence of migration in the presence of wage differentials, does not imply irrationality but rather compels us to consider a set of other variables related to relative deprivation (a household performing relatively worse to other households will be readier to send a member abroad) and risk-aversion and risk-minimization of household income (Stark 1991; Stark 2003). Introducing these concepts, Stark largely had in mind the risk aversion of poor households in developing countries where there are rarely institutional mechanisms present, such as government programs or private insurance markets, and therefore migration provides a meaningful strategy in dealing with different market failures. Remittances play an important and integral part in the new economics of migration research as they directly support the concept of household interconnectedness and the diversification of risk while analytically connecting the empirical study of the causes and consequences of migration (Taylor 1999).

While being able to analyze in parallel the determinants and effects of migration, the NEM has been criticized for sending-side bias and for its limited applicability due to difficulties in isolating the effects of market imperfections and risks from other income and employment variables. Overall, the theory has not received much following or empirical testing. Essentially a social choice account, it has also been critiqued for overlooking dynamics within households (i.e. gender roles) and being too heavily future oriented (Faist 2010).

Research Methodology

For the purpose of this study, the cross-sectional research design was adopted in this study because the data were collected at a particular time. This is the specification of the methods and procedures for acquiring the information needed for the research. It will involve the use of questionnaires. The population of study focuses on youths in Benin City. According to Nigeria Population Commission (N.P.C) 2024, Benin City youths have projected population of 1,147,188 age 18 to 35 years.

Taro Yamani sample selection method was adopted in the study
According to Taro Yamani. $n=N / [1 + (Ne^2)]$,
Where: n is the sample size,

N is the population,

e is the error limit (0.07 on the basis of 95% confidence level)

Therefore: n =1,036,086/ [1 + 1,036,086(0.07²)]

n =1,036,086/ 5,077.8214

n= 200

Hence 200 sample size was adopted for the study.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Table: 1 Socio-Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

		Frequency	**Percentage**
Sex	Male	101	50.5%
	Female	99	49.5.4%
	Total	**200**	**100**
Age	15-19	68	34.5%
	20-29	50	25%
	30-39	38	19%
	40-49	35	17.5%
	50 and above	8	4%
	Total	**200**	**100**
Marita status	Single	95	47.5%
	Married	87	43.5%
	Divorce	18	9%
	Total	**200**	**100**
Education qualification	Illiterate	28	14%
	Primary Education	51	25.5%
	Secondary Education	47	23.5%
	University education	76	38%
	Total	**200**	**100**
Employment status	Unemployed	47	23.5%
	Employed	86	43%
	Self-employed	57	28.5%

	Both employee and unemployed	10	5%
	Total	**200**	**100**

Source: Field work 2024

From Table .1, above established that gender were 101 male and 99 female respondents representing 50.5% and 49.5% respectively. In terms of Age, 89(44.5%) respondents are within the age bracket of 15 – 19, 68(34.5%) of them are between 20 – 29 years of age, 50(25%) of them are between 30 – 39 years of age, 35(17.5%) and 8(4%) of the respondents are between 40 – 49 years and 50 years and above respectively. As regard marital status, 95 (47.5%) of the respondents are single, 87 (43.5%) are married; while another 18 of the respondents indicated they were divorce representing 6.9%. Also, 28(14%) of the respondents had Illiterate, 51(25.5%) possess Primary Education, 47 (23.5%) had Secondary School Result, while 76 (38%) of the respondents were graduate. In terms of respondent employment status 47 of the respondents representing 23.5% are unemployed, 86 (43%) are employed, 57 (28.5%) of them are self-employed, 10(5%) are both employed and unemployed

Table :2 Objective one: find out the causes youth migration (JAPA) in Benin City, Edo State Nigeria

S/N	Question	SA	A	U	D	SD
1	Illegal migration should be stopped in Benin City	16.5% 33	14.5% 29	37% 73	23% 46	9.5% 19
2	Male youth tend to migrate more than female youth in Benin City	13.5% 27	14% 28	20.5% 41	32% 64	20% 40
3	Economic distress is a cause of youth migration in Benin City	34.5 69	41.5% 83	7% 14	7.5% 15	4.5% 9
4	The search for greener pasture is a major factor of youth migration in Benin City	12% 24	9.5% 19	15.5% 31	32.5% 65	34% 78

5	Illegal migration is the most common form of migration in Benin City	36.5% 73	34.5% 69	16.5% 33	7.5% 15	5% 10
6	More of female youth migrants are made sex slaves	29.% 59	18.5% 37	26.5% 53	16.5% 33	19% 18
7	Migration offers youth opportunities to obtain productive and decent employment	15% 30	17.5% 35	14.5% 29	32.5% 63	21.5% 43
8	Peer Group plays a very important role in youth migration	15.5% 31	13.5% 27	28.5% 57	23% 46	19.5% 39
9	Educated youth illegal migrant from Benin City find better job opportunities abroad	24% 48	20.5% 41	9% 16	29% 58	18.5% 37
10	There is a relationship between infrastructural development and youth migration	29% 58	30% 60	10.5% 21	15.5% 31	15% 30
11	There is a relationship between infrastructural development and youth migration	21.5% 43	16% 32	13.5% 27	25.5% 51	23.5% 47
12	There is a relationship between poverty and youth migration	40% 80	37.5% 75	6.5% 13	10.5% 21	5.5% 11
	Total	**574**	**535**	**408**	**508**	**381**
	Average observed responses (to all twelve (12) question)	**47.8**	**44.6**	**34**	**42.3**	**31.8**

Source: Field work, 2024

From table .2, it can be deduced that a total number 33 or (16.5%) and 29(14.5%) of the respondents Agreed strongly and Agreed slightly respectively that illegal migration should be stopped in Benin City. 73 of the respondents representing 37% were not sure, while another 46 of the respondents or 23% disagree while 19 of the respondent or 9.5% of the respondents disagreed strongly. Similarly, 27 or (13.5%) and 28 (14%) of the respondents were Agreed and Agreed Strongly that

male youth tend ot migrate more than female youth in Benin City, but 41(20.5%) respondents were Not Sure, while 64(32%) and 40(20%) of the respondents were Disagreed and Disagreed Strongly respectively. Also, 69 respondents representing (34.5%) respondents and 83(41.5%) Agreed and Agreed Strongly that economic distress is a cause of youth migration in Benin City, while 14(7%) were undecided, only 15(7.5%) and 9(4.5%) of the respondents Disagreed and Disagreed Strongly respectively. Seeking opinion on whether the research for greener pasture is a major factor of youth migration in Benin City, 14 of the respondent representing (7%) Agreed, 19 representing 9.5% Agreed Strongly, 31(15.5%) opted for undecided, while 65 of the respondents representing (32.5%) and 78(38%) were Disagreed and Disagreed Strongly respectively.

73 of the respondents representing 35.5% and 69 representing 34.5% Agreed and Agreed Strongly respectively with the statement that illegal migration is the most common form of migration in Benin City, 33 of the respondents representing 16.5% were undecided, while 15 of the respondents representing (7.5%) and 10(5%) did not agree with the statement hence Disagreed and Disagreed Strongly respectively. The respondent supported the view that more of female youth migrant are made sex slave, as 59 of the respondents representing 29.5.2% Agreed, 53 representing 26.5% Agreed, 37(18.5%) opted for undecided, while 33 of the respondents representing (16.5%) and 18(9%) were Disagreed and Disagreed Strongly respectively.

On whether migration offers youth opportunities to obtain productive and decent employment, 59 of the respondents representing 29.5% Agreed, 35 representing 17.5% Agreed Strongly, 29(14.5%) opted for undecided, while 63 of the respondents representing (16.5%) and 43(21.5%) were Disagreed and Disagreed Strongly respectively. The respondents uphold the assertion that peer group plays a very important role in youth migration, hence 31 of the respondents representing 15.5% Agreed, 27 representing 14.5% Agreed Strongly, 57(28.5%) were for undecided, while 46 of the respondents representing (23%) and 39(0.0%) were Disagreed and Disagreed Strongly respectively.

Seeking opinion on whether the educated youth illegal migrant form Benin City better job opportunities abroad, 48 of the respondents representing (24%) Agreed,

41 representing 20.5% Agreed Strongly, 16(15.5%) opted for undecided, while 58 of the respondents representing (29%) and 37(18.5%) were Disagreed and Disagreed Strongly respectively. 58 of the respondents representing 29% and 60 representing 30% Agreed and Agreed Strongly respectively with the statement that there is a relationship between infrastructural development and youth migration, 21 of the respondents representing 10.5% were undecided, while 31 of the respondents representing (15.5%) and 30(15%) did not agree with the statement hence Disagreed and Disagreed Strongly respectively.

The respondent supported the view that there is a relationship between infrastructural development and youth migration, as 43 of the respondents representing 21.5.2% Agreed, 32 representing 15% Agreed, 27(13.5%) opted for undecided, while 51 of the respondents representing (25.5%) and 47(23.5%) were Disagreed and Disagreed Strongly respectively.

On whether there is a relationship between poverty and youth migration, large number of despondences agree, as 80 representing 40% Agreed, 75 representing 37.5% Agreed Strongly, 13 (65%) opted for undecided, while 21 of the respondents representing (10.5%) and 11(10.5%) were Disagreed and Disagreed Strongly respectively.

Table 3, Objective 2: ascertain the consequences of youth migration (JAPA) in Benin City, Edo State Nigeria

S/N	QUESTION	SA	A	U	D	SD
13	Do provision of infrastructural development encourage youth from illegal migration	25% 50	26.5% 53	9% 18	20% 40	18% 36
14	Does unemployment affect youth illegal migration in Benin City	43.5% 87	38% 78	5% 10	6.5% 13	6% 12
15	If I have chance to migrate I would also do	55% 110	28.5% 57	10.5% 21	2.5% 5	3.5% 7
16	Decent job opportunity in abroad encourage youth to travel illegally	46.5% 93	38.5% 77	5% 10	5.5% 11	4.5% 9

17	If you have the chance, will you stop youth migration in Benin City or you will encourage it	26.5% 53	17.5% 35	7.5% 15	32% 64	32.5% 33
18	there is age range of migrant leaving or arriving Benin City	18.5% 37	8.5% 17	6.5% 13	41.5% 83	42% 84
19	There is advantage and disadvantage of Youth Migration	103	73	9	5	10
20	there are factors that affect the decision to migrate in Benin City	42.5% 85	35% 70	11.5% 23	6.5% 13	4.5% 9
	Total	**618**	**460**	**119**	**234**	**200**
	Average observed responses (to all eight (8) question	**77.3**	**57.5**	**14.9**	**29.3**	**25**

Source: Field Work. 2024

From table3, it can be deduced that a total number 50 or 25% and 53(26.5%) of the respondents Agreed and Agreed strongly respectively that provision of infrastructural development encourage youth from illegal migration. 18 of the respondents representing 9% were undecided, while another 40 of the respondents or 20% disagree, 36 of the respondent or 18% of the respondents disagreed strongly.

Similarly, 87 or (43.5%) and 78 (39%) of the respondents were Agreed and Agreed strongly that unemployment affect youth illegal migration in Benin city, but only 10(5%) respondents were undecided, while 13(6.5%) and 12(6%) of the respondents were Disagreed and Disagreed Strongly respectively. Also, 110 respondents representing (55%) respondents and 57(28.5%) Agreed and Agreed strongly that if they have change to migrate, they would also do, while 21(10.5%) were undecided, only 5(2.5%) and 7(3.5%) of the respondents Disagreed and Disagreed Strongly respectively.

Seeking opinion on whether decent job opportunity in abroad encourage youth to travel illegally, 93 of the respondents representing (46.5%) Agreed, 77 representing (38.5% Agreed strongly, 10(5%) opted for undecided, while 11 of the respondents

representing (5.5%) and 9(4.5%) were Disagreed and Disagreed Strongly respectively. 53 of the respondents representing 26.5% and 35 representing 17.5% Agreed and Agreed strongly respectively with the statement that if you have the chance, you will stop youth migration in Benin City, 15 of the respondents representing 7.5% were undecided, while 64 of the respondents representing (32%) and 33(16.5%) did not agree with the statement hence Disagreed and Disagreed Strongly respectively. Some of the respondent supported the view that there is age range of migrant leaving or arriving in Benin City, as 37 of the respondents representing 18.5 Agreed, 17 representing 8.5% Agreed strongly, 13(6.5%) opted for undecided, while 83 of the respondents representing (41.5%) and 84(42%) were Disagreed and Disagreed Strongly respectively.

On whether there is advantage and disadvantages of youth migration, large number of the respondents supported the statement as 103 of the respondents representing 51.5% Agreed, 73 representing (36.5%) Agreed strongly, 9(1.1%) were undecided, while 5 of the respondents representing (2.5%) and 10(5%) were Disagreed and Disagreed Strongly respectively. The respondents uphold the assertion that there are factors that affect the decision to migrate in Benin City, hence 85 of the respondents representing 42.5% Agreed, 70 representing 35% Agreed strongly, 23(11.5%) were undecided, while 13 of the respondents representing (6.5%) and 9(4.5%) were Disagreed and Disagreed Strongly respectively.

5.1 Conclusion

Based on the findings made in the study, the following measures can be taken to mitigate the problem of illegal youth migration. Since the study has shown that country's low economic, lack of infrastructural development and poverty make young people to migrate, government agencies as well as non-governmental organization (NGOs) should embark on provision of job, infrastructure public enlightenment campaigns to address the issue by focusing on the main causes of illegal migration. Attempt should therefore be made towards understanding the individual self.

In the same vein, both government agencies and non-governmental agencies should also increase awareness of parents on the disadvantages of illegal

migration of youth and therefore help to mitigate the rate of illegal migration in the country. The federal government should embark on immediate and practical poverty alleviation measures as a way of empowering the masses to overcome hunger. These will help families to cater for their members adequately particularly in the areas of feeding and thereby help to reduce illegal migration. The causes and consequences of illegal migration could be seen as deviating from societal norms and values both with the influences of bad friends (peer group), low economic background and unstable homes e.t.c. These identified, have to be critically examined before there could be a control of such acts.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study the following recommendations were made:

i. The Government should create infrastructure for the youth where they can work and be well paid.
ii. The issue of JAPA amongst the youth in Benin City should looked into by the family members and the Government so that youth will be not be trapped by does not really exist that influence them to embark on journey they do not really understand

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