

HARNESSING THE MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT NEXUS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

Oluwaseyi Victor ADAJA

seyiadaja@gmail.com

Department of Adult Education

University of Ibadan, Ibadan

&

Olumide. E. OLAJIDE, Ph.D

ephraim0307@gmail.com

Department of Adult Education

University of Ibadan, Ibadan

Abstract

Over the years, stakeholders have continued to express concern over the negative effects of migration on the society in terms of brain drain and manpower shortage in the origin countries. There is, however, a change in perception of migration as its roles in shaping the 21st century development have been recognised. Studies have shown that more than a billion people rely on international and internal migrants to escape poverty, economic shock, improved health, education and economic status of their family and communities. This marks a change from the days when migration was seen as a failure of development but rather as an engine of poverty reduction. The huge amount of remittances from migrants has been yielding considerable benefits for promoting sustainable development. There is therefore the need by the government to harness the gains of remittances by coming up with policies that would favour migration and eliminate discrimination against migrants. Protecting the rights of migrants will reap bigger gains for sustainable development, especially, in developing countries. Therefore, this paper explores the relevance of migration to sustainable development in Nigeria.

Keywords: *Migration, Development, Remittances, Sustainable Development*

Introduction

After decades of pessimism and concerns of critical stakeholders on brain drain and manpower shortage occasioned by migration on the origin countries, there seems to be a remarkable optimism in the issue of migration and development by policy makers as governments of migrant sending countries have put renewed hope on migrants as investors and actors of

development (Hein de Haas, 2010). The international communities have begun to focus on harnessing migrants' remittances and development nexus for advancing human and capital development in recent years. The Former United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon in 2013, stressed the need to work together to maximise the positive impact of migration

on development and ensure that the human rights of migrants are respected and protected. Also, Sutherland (2013) stressed the instrumental role of international cooperation in achieving positive outcomes of migration for origin and destination countries as well as migrants themselves.

Literature has shown globally that there is a nexus between migration and development through remittances as people move from one place to another to improve their standard of living, though this assertion has continued to generate academic debate among scholars (World Bank & Adams in Ajaero & Onokala, 2013). Globally, it is estimated that there were about 281 million international migrants as of 2020, which equates to 3.6 percent of the global population (United Nations, 2021). This is however inconsequential of the global population, as those remaining within their country of birth overwhelmingly remains significant. According to International Organisation for Migration/IOM (2017), migration can generate very large benefits for migrants, family and communities if properly utilised. It has the potential to serve as an engine of growth and sustainable development for all parties involved, such as the host and source countries and the migrants themselves. For instance, destination countries, have the potential of rejuvenating their workforces, render economically viable traditional sectors like agriculture and services, promote entrepreneurship, support social security and welfare schemes, and meet the demand for skills for emerging high tech industries while in the migrants' origin countries positive impacts of migration are reflected in capital inflows through

remittances and investments, transfer of technology and critical skills through return migrants, and increase exports and international business facilitated by transnational community relations (International Labour Organisation, 2004). Global Migration Group (2014) reported that for migration to benefit all concerned, it must be wisely managed.

Remittances which have been described as the major link between migration and development, serve as the lifeline of developing economies. It has been defined as the monetary flows connected to migration, that is, cash transfers by migrants or immigrants living abroad to a relation in home countries (IOM, 2016). Remittances represent household income from foreign economies arising mainly from the temporary or permanent movement of people to those economies. It includes cash and non-cash items that flow through formal channels such as electronic wire, or through informal channels, such as money or goods carried across borders. Its importance to economic development cannot be overemphasised, most especially in the developing nations. Remittances from the relative migrants help the poorer recipients meet basic needs, fund cash and non-cash investments, finance education, foster new businesses, service debt and essentially, drive economic growth. According to Pew Research Center/PwC (2019) reports, 70% of remittances are used for consumption purposes, while 30% of remittance funds go to investment related uses. Studies have shown improvement in the general welfare of the recipient's household in Nigeria and other developing countries.

According to the Central Bank of Nigeria (2018) Nigeria is the country receiving the highest remittances from its migrants working across the globe. Globally, remittances are now more than the amount of official development assistance. The surging remittances in Nigeria and other developing nations are often believed to be a more effective instrument for income redistribution, poverty reduction and economic growth than large, bureaucratic development programmes or development aids (Jones, 1998; Kapur, 2003 and Ratha, 2003). Africa check (2021) reported that there are over 15 million migrants from Nigeria in the diaspora. This figure is likely to be higher with the recent trend in migration from the country, especially, among skill migrants. Almost half of Nigerian adults have indicated their willingness to leave the country in the next five years (Pew Research Centre, 2018). Statistics have shown that Nigeria accounts for over a third of migrants' remittance flows to Sub-Saharan Africa. These flows estimated at US\$23.63 billion in 2017, US\$24.31 billion in 2018, and US\$23.81 billion and US\$17.21 billion in 2019 and 2020 respectively (Kolawole, 2021). Most governments of developing countries have shifted their attention towards the importance of remittances on their economy in recent years but little is known about its impact on economic growth and development in most of the developing nations (Adeagbo and Ayansola, 2014).

There is increasing international recognition of the links between migration, growth and development in both destination and source countries. A number of global initiatives such as the Global Commission on International

Migration, the United Nations High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, the Global Forum on Migration and Development as well as ILO and IOM processes can be considered as milestones in exploring these migration and development linkages. Broad consensus has emerged that migration issues need to be integrated and mainstreamed into development policies and poverty alleviation, as well as national employment and labour market policies (International Labour Organisation, 2004). In spite of the recent records of Nigeria as the top remittances recipient country in Africa, the country is yet to make efficient use of remittances for both sustainable development projects and economic growth. Many factors such as political instability, corruption, lack of transparency among others still hamper the appropriate utilisation of remittances for sustainable development projects and economic growth in Nigeria (Adeagbo and Ayansola, 2014). Nigeria lacks coordinated policy that can ensure that the nation harness the potentials inherent in migration due to lack of policy framework on migration. Ajaero and Onokala (2013) believed that migration has become a survival strategy adopted by many people in developing nations to escape poverty. The impacts of migration on the people have remained relevant since migration acts as a catalyst in the transformation process of not only the destiny of individual, but also the conditions of family members left behind and the country at large. It is against this background that this paper explores extant literature on migration and remittances to understand the socio-economic relevance to sustainable development in Nigeria in

order to come up with policy framework that will help the country harness the benefits inherent in it.

Conceptual Clarifications Concept of Migration

According to Amrevurayire and Ojeh (2016), migration is the movement of people from one geographical location to another which may be temporary or permanent in nature. Migration which has been part of human existence occurs as a result of prevailing conditions and the reasons for it differ from one migrant to another depending on the prevailing circumstances that triggered the migrant's decision. Man has been on the move since creation in quest for survival and to exploit both the physical and socio-economic opportunities in his environment for his wellbeing. Migrants have also been compelled to migrate from their usual place of abode in the face of environmental challenges such as flooding, desertification, earthquakes, and similar environmental inconveniences. Furthermore, migrants can also be pushed to relocate from one place to another due to social conflict, warfare, terrorist activities and other social vices (Ikwuyatum, 2016). In 2009, it is estimated that 740 million migrated both internally and internationally (International Organisation for Migration, 2017). Migration is one of the defining features of the 21st century and contributes significantly to all aspects of social and economic development everywhere. It can have both positive and negative impacts on socio-economic development outcomes in origin, transit and destination areas depending on the policies in place (Foresti, Hagen-Zanker and Dempster, 2018). Migration is a

decision that impacts the welfare of the migrants' household, the home community, and in the end the whole economy in various ways.

According to Chikaire, Nnadi, Atoma, Egwuonwu, Echetama (2012) migration is the movement of people from one place to another in search of livelihood in employment, market, education, health and other means of survival which may be temporary or permanent. They maintained that migration occurs as a response to the effects and decline in socio-economic development as well as, cultural, environmental and political factors in areas of origin. According to Adepoju (2003) and Adamu (2009), Agbonlabor and Enilolobo (2013) cited in Ango, Ibrahim, Yakubu and Alhaji (2014), migration whether internal or international maybe a deliberate attempt by the migrant to attract social or economic benefits inherent in it by changing location. International Organization for Migration/IOM (2016) reported that the 2006 Population and Housing Census revealed that more than 10 per cent of Nigerians are lifetime migrants or live in states other than their states of birth. The Internal Migration Survey conducted by the National Population Commission in 2010 revealed that 23 per cent of the sampled population of Nigerians is migrants, having changed residence within 10 years, and 2 per cent are return migrants. This shows that a large number of Nigeria's population is on the move internally. These migratory flows are mostly influenced by a desire for better economic prospects and social facilities.

Migration, whether internal or international has a profound effect on socio-economic, cultural and political

development on both the origin and destination areas which could be negative or positive. Michelle cited in Ayeomoni (2011) stated that there has been notable change to British socio-cultural values as a result of migrants' activities from different nations and different cultural groups especially, from African countries at different points in time in their history. Immigrants in Britain have often done so because of the political and socio-economic development in the country. Migrants from African countries brought their own cultural beliefs and languages that have influence the British society in the cause of migration. These include, music, the food they eat, books, political and religious beliefs. More than before, migration touches both the origin and destination countries and migrants themselves in an era of deepening globalization. Migration has helped improved people's lives in both rural and urban areas.

According to International Organisation for Migration (2017), migration can generate very large benefits for migrants, family and communities if properly utilized. The wage migrants earn in urban centers or abroad can be multiple of what they could earn doing similar job in the rural areas or home country. However, the earning by migrants could also lead to considerable advancement in the welfare of the migrants' family through remittances. Also, communities both rural and urban areas, can also benefits widely and contribute to community development and poverty reduction. For example, the remittances sent by migrants back home could provide significant capital flow and a relatively stable source of income. Though there

could be a problem of brain drain when significant numbers of highly skilled migrants leave their countries to seek employment or establish business in the destination countries or urban areas. There could also be brain gain through the return of migrants who gained skills in the urban areas or destination countries through temporary migration (International Organisation for Migration, 2014). Migration should, however, be given a top priority by government, politicians and international communities in order to harness the economic, political and socio-economic prosperity inherent in it. The growing concern of interconnectivity between people and states must be enhanced so as to making migration, both internally and externally safe and better regulated adventure.

Types of Migration

Different types of migration are noted in literature and these are inter alia. Mwageni (2007) identified emigration, impelled migration, step migration, returning seasonal migration, chain migration, internal migration, external migration and immigration as the type of migration. However, all the types of migration can be grouped into two major types since migration occur within the scope of these major migration patterns. They include:

- **Internal Migration**

Internal migration is the migration of people within the country. The characteristics and patterns of a country's internal migration are vital indicators of the pace and process of its development (Weeks, 2008). The movement of people within national boundaries is very difficult to measure. People constantly move from

one place to another; and these movements are diverse in nature. The distances covered vary from a few kilometers to several kilometers. Moreover, the duration of stay involved in the new location may vary from a few hours to several years. Many movements are casual, such as commuting to and from the place of work, shopping, visiting, and travelling for business or for pleasure etc. In comparison to international migration, internal migration is often absent from policy discussions, even though it clearly has the greatest implications for poverty and poor people. Within internal migration, there is a four-way classification according to the pattern of movements within and between rural and urban areas. These include:

- Rural to Urban migration
- Urban to Rural migration
- Urban to Urban Migration
- Rural to Rural Migration

Rural to urban migration has been described as the most significant of all as it contributes to the transfer of labour force from the traditional agricultural sector to the urbanized industrial sector, and is directly linked to urbanization. Rural-to-urban migration is a response to diverse economic opportunities across space (Mitra and Muruyama, 2011). Ofuoku (2012) believed that while rural-urban migration is temporary, urban-rural community migration tends to be permanent since most people who are involved in this migration pattern are predominantly return migrants. He was of the view that urban to rural migration is likely to occur more among married males between the range of fifty years and above. Bovenkerk in Ekong (2003) conceptualised return migrants as people

who return after emigration to their community of origin. William cited in Ofuoku (2012) identified some factors that are likely to propel urban-rural migration. These include crisis, old age, transfer, retirement, invasion of pests and diseases as likely correlates of urban-rural migration in Nigeria.

Urban to urban migration is related to the concentration of population in large towns and cities which may be the result of step migration from rural areas to any small towns and then small towns to large cities. Urban-Urban migration to Ouchou and Gould (1993) is mostly common among transferred workers, self-employed persons, traders and business people relocating elsewhere for better opportunities. This type of migration flow usually takes place from the centre to the periphery and has implications for urban deconcentration. However, in many developing countries like Nigeria, rural to rural migration is also significant, especially among women who move primarily due to marriage, or familial reasons. According to Ottong (1991) rural-rural migrants contributed nothing to either host community or to their community of origin. He blamed their non-contributory role on two major factors; poverty and claims of indigeneship. Rural-rural migrants are mostly unskilled labourers who could engage only on primary occupation of farming, fishing, hunting, lumbering, wine taping and other menial jobs. In spite of the much attention given to migration globally, studies have shown that rural-rural community migration has been grossly neglected, simply because it involves only the local people and the poor.

- **International Migrations**

International migrations occur when people cross the political boundary of their home country and enter another. International migration is as old as human history, whether voluntary or forced upon people by famines, conquests and diverse types of persecution. International migrants change residence across national boundaries. An international migrant is a person who moves to a different country. Every year, millions of people migrate internationally for a variety of reasons. Some do so for business, while some go on vacations. Still other people leave their homeland with no intentions of moving back. No study of migration is complete without a study of international migration, which has had an important bearing on the population growth of several countries. International migrations can be classified into the following types:

Forced migration: This is a migratory movement in which an element of coercion exists, including threats to life and livelihood, whether arising from natural or man-made causes (e.g. movements of refugees and internally displaced persons as well as people displaced by natural or environmental disasters, chemical or nuclear disasters, famine, or development projects) (International Organisation for Migration, 2017).

Circular migration: This is the fluid movement of people between countries, including temporary or long-term movement, which may be beneficial to all involved, if occurring voluntarily, and is linked to the labour needs of countries of origin and destination (IOM,2017).

Irregular/undocumented migration:

This is the movement that takes place outside the regulatory norms of the sending, transit and receiving countries. It is entry, stay or work in a country without the necessary authorisation or documents required under immigration regulations. From the perspective of the sending country, the migration is irregular if, for example, a person crosses an international boundary without a valid passport or travel document, or does not fulfill the administrative requirements for leaving the country. However, the term illegal migration is usually applied only to cases of smuggling of migrants and people trafficking (IOM, 2017).

Concept of Development

The term development has been conceptualised in different ways by different development experts. Todaro in Olajide (2016) was of the view that the lack of universal conceptualisation of development is because it is value loaded. It is often confused with economic growth as measured solely in terms of annual increases in per-capita income or gross national product, regardless of its distribution and the degree of people's participation in effective growth. Development is both a physical reality and a state of mind in which society has secured the means for obtaining a better life (Todaro and Smith 2006). Through this process, the society ensures growth in wealth acquisition and mental enrichment and the betterment of the quality of lives of the people in the society. Gran cited in Olajide (2006) defined development as the liberation of human potentials through social and practical process so that people acquire the maximum socially feasible and practical control over all the available

resources needed for the realisation of basic human needs and security. This implies that the poor in particular, is free to effectively and meaningfully participate in social, political and economic interactions for economic advancement and people empowerment. In other words, development is about liberation of human potential towards people's absolute control over resources to meet their human basic needs. Development is, therefore, for the people and by the people. Society for International Development, (2021) defined development as a process that creates growth, progress, positive change or the addition of physical, economic, environmental, social and demographic components. The purpose of development is a rise in the level and quality of life of the population, and the creation or expansion of local regional income and employment opportunities, without damaging the resource of the environment.

United Nations Development Programme/UNDP (1990) defined development as a process of enlarging people's choice which encompasses, among others, opportunities for being creative and productive as well as to acquire self-actualisation and self-respect. This implies that human beings are borne with certain potential capabilities and functioning. Sen in Todaro and Smith (2006) explained these functioning as what one can do such as participation, relative to the freedom of choice and control of one's own life on the one hand, and capabilities as the freedom of choice of functioning relative to one's personal characteristics on the other. In other words, development is about activating people's borne abilities into action for change in their lives. It should be noted

that the purpose of development is to create an ambling environment in which all people can expand their capabilities. On the other hand, Balogun, (2002) believed that development is concerned with change but it is not simply the same as change. He noted that development is concern with those progressive changes which are rooted in and sprang out of previous situations. This means that development is not making everything new but a new emerging from the old (Oyebamiji and Adekola, 2008). It is the capacity and creative ability of the people to effectively transform and utilize the available resources in their environment to transform their lives. From this view, Olajide (2016) asserted that development involves the reduction or elimination of poverty, illiteracy, diseases, malnutrition, joblessness and attitudinal change by the people in the society.

Concept of Remittances

Remittance which could be financial or non-financial has been part of human activity and has been historically connected to migration (Adeagbo and Ayansola, 2006). Remittance from migrants has remarkably increased in recent years in a way that it has become essential and significant particularly for poor and developing countries of the world (Kihangire and Katarikawe 2008; Odozi, Awoyemi and Omonoma 2010; Piot-Lepetit and Nzongang, 2014). There has been huge concentration of scholars on remittance as it has become an external source of funding for many developing countries. Various international organisations such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the European Union Commission (EUC), World Bank (WB) and National financial

institutions have beamed their search light on its relevance to sustainable development, particularly, in developing countries (Dercon 2009).

Remittance has been conceptualized in different ways by different scholars and financial institutions. According to International Organization for Migration (2006) remittances are the monetary flows connected to migration, that is, cash transfers by migrants or immigrants living abroad to a relation in home countries. According to Kihangire and Katarikawe (2008), remittance is defined as money sent home by migrants working abroad to their home countries. It has also been defined as a portion of migrant workers' earnings sent to their countries of origin and this could be in cash or gifts (Odozi, Awoyemi and Omonona 2010; Chukwuone 2007; Quartey 2006). International Labour Organisation (2000) also defined remittance as part of migrant workers' income remitted back from their employment countries to their countries of origin. Similarly, Tewolde (2005) argued that remittances are financial and non-financial materials that migrants receive while working overseas and sent back to their households in their countries of origin.

Remittance has been increasing extensively in developing countries but less attention has been given to it, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa. It has been argued that remittances have been the second largest source of external funding aside the direct foreign investment (DFI) and official development assistance (ODA) of some developing countries (World Bank 2013; Odozi et al. 2010; Mphosa 2005; Sander and Mambo 2003;

Gammeltoft 2002; Orozco 2000). Remittances provide support for the welfare of the relatives left behind thus contributing to the eradication of poverty in the recipient country (Adams and Page, 2005; Gupta, Pattillo and Wagh, 2009). Despite the enormous benefits of remittances on the performance of developing countries, the impact of remittances on economic growth is still ambiguous (Kumar, Stauvermann, Patel, and Prasad 2018). Some literature noted that remittances exert a positive influence on economic growth (Upadhyay and Upadhyaya, 2008; Catrinescu, Leon-Ledesma, Piracha, and Quillin 2009; Jawaid and Raza, 2012; Nyamongo, Misati, Kipyegon and Ndirangu, 2012; Meyer and Shera, 2017; Pradhan, Kumar, Stauvermann, Patel, and Prasad, 2018).

Migration, Remittance and Socio-Economic Development

The socio-economic contribution of migrants is a hotly debated issue, while some analysts contend that migrants pose a net drain on resources and threaten local employment, others argue that they do not compete for the same jobs and provide cheap labour that boosts economic growth. The same arguments apply to internal migrants and the evidence suggests that circular migration in particular has win-win outcomes for sending and receiving areas (Deshingkar and Akter, 2009). Remittances have been identified as the major socio-economic gains of internal and international migration for government, individuals/households and community in general. Iheke (2012) asserted that remittance has become significant source of revenue for both government through tax and fees. At household level, remittances help increase

income and consumption level of the household, increase saving and asset accumulation, and improve access to health care services, better nutrition and education (Kannan and Hari, 2002; Yang 2003; IMF,2005 and Jongwanich;2007). Also at village/community level, income from remittance can help stimulate local commodity markets and local employment opportunities. Remittances have proved to be less volatile, less procyclical, and therefore, a more reliable source of income (for agricultural production and other household uses) than other capital flows to developing countries or rural communities, such as foreign direct investment (FDI) and development aid (Gammeltoft, 2002; Keely and Tran, 1989; Puri, and Ritzema, 1999 and Ratha, 2003).

It is noteworthy that Nigerians abroad were recorded to have remitted US\$23.24 billion in 2019 but with sharp decline to US\$16.8billion in 2020. This decline has been attributed to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic ravaging the whole world (World Bank, 2020). Remittances from migrant relatives, either internal or international, are often the main component of rural households' incomes. Unlike aid, remittances flow directly to individual households and unlike loans they incur no debt. Besides contributing to household livelihoods, remittances can foster longer-term development through investment in education, land and small businesses. In some places, migrants' associations channel part of the remittance inflows into community development projects, such as schools, health centres and wells (Iheke, 2016). Although few scholars have denied the direct contribution of migration and remittances to the livelihoods and survival of families

left behind, the extent to which migration and remittances can bring about sustainable human development and economic growth in migrant-sending areas and countries has been the subject of debate over the past four decades (Haas, 2007).

However, there exist a lot of empirical findings to support the fact that remittances from migrants have contributed substantially to the socio-economic development of many countries of the world, Nigeria inclusive. For instance, the study of Glytsos's (1993) on migration and remittances in Greece shows that apart from the change in socio-economic of most recipients' household, migrant remittances contributed to the economy of their country of origin. According to Glytsos (1993), remittances contributed to economic growth, employment (74,000 jobs were created) and capital formation. Also, Odozi et al.'s (2010) study of remittances in Nigeria reveals that poverty is alleviated among households that received remittances than non-recipients' households. This finding corroborates earlier studies that remittances reduce poverty level of the recipients' households (Dercon 2009; Brown and Jimenez 2007; Zoch 2007). Similarly, Sanni(2007) maintained that Nigeria recorded a growth of 0.4% in 1996 on the proportion of remittances in total GDP but later increased to 8.5% in 2007 and 14% (Word Bank, 2020).

Consequently, Holmval's (2006) study of remittances in the Philippines showed that remittance is the main source of income of recipients household and they spend it mostly on basic household consumptions. Englama (2007) also argued that remittances often increase the

consumption of social amenities like education, health, housing among others and this invariably produces a positive impact on human development. Englama (2007) stated that “large remittances flows improve a country’s creditworthiness for external borrowing, this is because the inflow would effectively reduce the country’s debt/exports ratio, thereby, improving the country’s credit ratings and access to international capital markets. For examples, Malians remittances built up to 60% of the infrastructure in Mali. Mexican 3-for-1 programme raised more than \$4.5m for about 400 community projects and economic development programme (Englama, 2007). Israel is also known for positive usage of remittances for economic development while the government of India raised US\$11.0 billion from Diaspora bonds through the State Bank of India (SBI). Commission of Filipinos overseas also contributed to the economic development of their country by supporting education, welfare, health, livelihood and infrastructural projects (Sander, 2003). Deron (2009) study revealed that remittances reduced poverty rate from 35% to 27% in Tanzania. Similarly, Brown and Jimenez’s (2007) study showed that remittances reduced poverty level by 11% in Fiji and 41% in Tonga. The Central Bank of Nigeria is uncertain about the actual amount of money remitted to the country due to its lack of methods to measure informal/unofficial ways through which remittances enter the country. Despite the high remittances inflow into Nigeria, poverty and inequality are still prevalent in Nigeria, and the country is yet to make efficient use of remittances like other developing countries, such as Philippines

and Mexico (Adeagbo and Ayansola 2014; Central Bank Nigeria, 2019).

Migration has been identified as a powerful poverty reduction tool for migrants, their families and wider communities thus contribute to delivering the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The specific vulnerabilities of migrants are often overlooked in policies and programmes, limiting opportunities for positive development outcomes across the globe (Foresti, Hagen-Zanker and Dempster, 2018). The relationship between migration and development is increasingly recognised, though it remains underexplored. Migration can contribute to positive development outcomes and, ultimately, to realising the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the 2030 Agenda). The concept of migration and sustainable development can be considered to have a positive relationship when it fulfills the assumption that migration can bring changes towards the improvement of human and social life, both at macro and micro level of development. Sustainability means a capacity to maintain some entity, outcome or process over time. The inclusion of migration in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development confirms and reinforces the important nexus between migration and development. By integrating migration into the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations, the need for migration to work for development and for development to work for migration, while not neglecting its potential negative impacts has been recognised by the various international organizations (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development/ OECD, 2017).

Migration as a component in sustainable development is relatively new. It is a process that has become an integral part of broader transformation process which is manifested in development. Migration and sustainable development is part and parcel of each other. They are inseparable parts of each other. Limiting the opportunities for citizens to migrate can slow down development in many areas. Migration has the capacity to balance the distribution of wealth between countries and increase the sustainability of resources (Muslih and Shainima, 2021). The debate on migration and sustainable development is still fundamentally limited to facilitating remittance flows. This is because the concept of sustainable development is complex, consisting of several interrelated dimensions. World Economic Forum (2018) asserted that remittance from migration has lifted many families out of poverty, improve health and nutritional conditions, increase educational opportunities from children, improve housing and sanitation, promote entrepreneurship and reduce inequality. It also influences efforts to increase the ability, skills, knowledge, ideas and values that migrants transit to their homes. All these revelations mean that the sustainable development goals 2030 agenda on migration specific target calls on countries to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people including formulation and implementation of migrants' friendly policies. Since migration has become an important part of livelihood, there is the dire need for government to come up with measures aiming at harnessing the potentials and nexus between migration

and sustainable development for poverty reduction in developing countries.

Conclusion and Suggestions

Literature and empirical studies have shown that there is a huge nexus between migration and development most especially in the area of poverty reduction and employment generation. However, despite the huge remittances inflow to Nigeria, there is little or nothing to show for it both in the areas development projects and economic growth. Political instability, corruption, lack of transparency, lack of base line data and lack of existing policy frame work on migration are some of the major factors underpinning the relevance of migration to development.

In view of this, the following suggestions are made:

- There is the need for policy-makers to consider migration as part of national and local development planning and strategies.
- Nigerian government should compare notes with other countries like Mexico, Greece and Philippine where remittances are being harnessed for economic development in order to maximise and utilise remittances for socio-economic development.
- Government should come up with policies that would favour migration, eliminate discrimination against migrants and their rights.
- Government should strengthen its foreign policies through regional and international cooperation so as to protect the interest of Nigeria migrants.
- The Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM) should be

strengthened so as to engage migrant on skill transfer and protect their interest in the destination countries.

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