HUMAN SECURITY AND MIGRATION DECISION OF YOUTHS IN ONDO STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

African countries have a long history of intra-continental migration for various reasons such as seasonal labour and asylum seekers. This kind of regional mobility has been part of the African culture for a considerable period. Recently, however, there is a marked increase in intercontinental migration, especially among youths seeking better lives beyond the shores of Africa where the pasture seemed greener. This migration has become a new reality in Nigeria and particularly in Ondo State. The study investigated the effect of human security on migration among youths in Ondo State, Nigeria using a sample size of four hundred and forty (440) participants. The study adopted simple random sampling to distribute copies of the questionnaire among the six local governments in Ondo State. The combination of both qualitative and quantitative analyses was utilized in the data analysis process. The paper posits that human security significantly affects the migration decision of youths in Ondo State. The findings further revealed that people migrate as a result of unemployment, poverty, poor educational system, insecurity, personal factors among others. The paper, thus, recommended that the government should promote and facilitate investment activities of both private and public investors in the state, primarily aimed at alleviating unemployment levels among the youths. It also recommended the implementation of additional empowerment initiatives by government and private institutions, as this would be valuable in addressing human security issues amongst the youth.

Keywords: Human Security, Migration, Pull-Push Factors, Youths, Investment, Ondo State.

1.0 Introduction

Migration from Africa is increasing, primarily to Europe, North America, Asia, the Pacific, and other parts of the world (Flahaux & De Haas, 2016). Skilled workers, students, semiskilled and unskilled labourers, and recently autonomous female migrants are among those who emigrate to advanced countries (Hatton, 2016). The continent's rapid population growth, uncertain political climate, intensifying ethnic conflicts, persistent economic hardship, poverty, and environmental deterioration all influence the patterns and trends of migration flow into and out of Africa (FitzGerald & Arar, 2018). As a result, the direct practice of African migration destinations is more clandestine and spontaneous (Massey & Taylor, 2004).

Individuals move around the world for economic opportunities or work, for family reunions, to study and for a change of environment. Others flee conflict, persecution, terrorism and violations of human rights. According to the International Organization for Migration (2020), the global number of foreign migrants is estimated to be nearly 272 million, 51 million more than in 2010, with nearly two-thirds of them being labour migrants. Others, on the other hand,

are reacting to the effects of climate change, natural disasters, and other environmental factors (Bradley, 2019). Pisarevskaya, Levy, and Jansen (2020) observed that many people migrate voluntarily and some for greener pastures.

There are numerous reasons why Nigerians relocate to another country. For instance, many Nigerians migrate from areas of scarcity to areas where opportunities are presumed. As a result, external or internal migration in Nigeria is influenced by various factors, such as marriage, business, job, education, security, etc. Nigerians are also known for emigrating to other parts of the world and establishing citizenship or permanent residency. According to Adhikari (2021), the number of Nigerians migrating abroad has increased from approximately 450,000 in 1990 to 1.4 million in 2019. The problem is that Nigerian youth population is rapidly growing and, despite their high level of education and job skills, many youths are unemployed. At the same time, Europe's working-age population is shrinking and some European countries feel the impact of labour shortage in mid-skilled professions. The Nigerian situation of unemployed youths, combined with Europe's lack of mid-skilled labour, make international migration of Nigerian youths to Europe and other parts of the world unavoidable (Adhikari, 2021).

Ondo State has a peculiar situation. The teeming youths, presumed to be a driving force behind the economy, are now leaving the state for other parts of the country and the world. The proclivity of more youths to leave the State is increasing due to human security issues not well addressed in the State. However, several studies have been conducted on human security and migration in Nigeria but there is a dearth of empirical investigation in Ondo State in relating the dimensions of human security to the migration decision of youths in the State. This paper will examine the effect of human security and migration among youths in Ondo State for documentation in extant literature.

2.0 Human security and Migration

Kaldor (2007) opines that there is no real agreement on what can or should constitute the focus of what are still loosely termed human security studies. This is not surprising given the nature of the academic enterprise and the various disciplinary and methodological backgrounds influencing the work of scholars involved in human security. However, the description offered by the Africa Union Non-Aggressive and Common Defence Pact (AUNCDP) is more pertinent to this study, though, since it puts most, if not all, of various facets of the notion into context. In the context of Africa, the AUNCDP defines human security as: The security of the individual in terms of meeting his or her basic needs. It also includes protecting and upholding human rights, good governance, and ensuring that each person has the opportunities and options necessary for full development, it also entails creating the social, economic, political, environmental, and cultural conditions necessary for an individual's survival and dignity (AUNCDP, 2005).

The former UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, examined migration as an expression of human aspiration for dignity, safety and better future. It is a part of social fabric and part of our very make-up as a human family. Humans have been migrating in search of better livelihoods, greater opportunities and improved security (UNDP, 2009).

Human security and migration have been carried out in different parts of the world. The study by Bedaso (2021) on migration and security concluded that there is a relationship between human security and forced migration in the United States of America. Vietti and Scribner (2013) also worked on understanding international migration and human security. The article revealed that human security is a more practical approach to many underlying issues and risks associated with mass migration than the traditional state-security model. Envi and Oluleye (2020) studied migration and human security using both pull and push factors to measure migration. The study was analysed using a qualitative method. The significant finding is that maximizing migration gains and sensibly sharing them necessitate proper regulation, as every significant country has developed with a massive population shift from farms to cities. These scholars have yet to use the proxies of human security considered in this study.

Chamie (2020) studied the trends and policies of international migration during COVID-19. The study used narrative analysis and found a series of general observations and insights that should guide future policymakers at the local, national, regional, and international levels. In Central Asia, Blondin (2018) works on environmental migration using a multifaceted approach. The study used a literature survey through interviews in the Kuhistoni-Badakhshan Autonomous Region of Tajikistan. The paper demonstrated that environmental issues could be a significant driver of out-migration in Central Asia, emphasized the importance of the Soviet legacy of environmental management and post-Soviet socio-economic transformations in understanding these issues, and discussed potential adaptation strategies. Reade, McKenna, and Oetzel (2019) examined the strategic human resource management perspective on the role of multinational enterprises. The study developed research propositions on the likelihood of multinational enterprises' adoption.

Parrish, Colbourn, Lauriola, Leonardi, Hajat, and Zeka (2020) examined the drivers of human migration patterns using a conceptual model. The study looked at the interactions and dynamics of drivers across time, space, and society and concluded that there is a need for more homogeneous applications of conceptual frameworks. Mohamed and Abdul-Talib, (2020) used a systematic literature review using push-pull factors influencing international return migration intentions. The study of Adger, de Campos, Siddiqui, Gavonel, Szaboova, Rocky, Bhuiyan, and Billah (2020) studied the human security of urban migrant populations affected by the length of residence and environmental hazards. The study looked at the human security factors that explain the prevalence of insecurity among recent and established migrants in low-income urban areas using a qualitative approach. The findings indicated that environmental hazards are a growing source of perceived insecurity among migrant populations over time, with longer-term migrants experiencing more insecurity than recent arrivals, implying a lack of upward social mobility in low-income slums.

In Africa, large-scale forced migration is investigated by Bayar and Aral (2019) using the period of 2011 to 2017 and testing various hypotheses. A logistic regression analysis was used in the study to analyze data collected from 48 countries. According to the study, the most critical drivers of mass population displacements are civil and interstate conflicts, a lack of democracy, and poverty. At the same time, climate change indirectly affects the dependent variable. In the Northern part of Nigeria, Kamta, Schilling, and Scheffran (2020) worked on

insecurity, resource scarcity, and migration of camps. The data is used among 204 internally displaced persons at the Bakassi IDP camp in Maiduguri and thereby showed that in some communities, individuals could live with conflict if they could still farm or have other sources of income, such as small businesses. Naser, Swapan, Ahsan, Afroz, and Ahmad (2019) used governance perspectives to work on climate change, migration, and human rights in Bangladesh. The study reviewed and investigated the effectiveness of current governance frameworks for dealing with affected community migration. Most studies have also conducted other security in different fields of study using digitalization and other variables. The paper of Shkolnyk, Frolov, Orlov, Datsenko and Kuzmenko (2022) worked on financial digitalization and economic security.

Maretti, Tontodimamma, and Biermann (2019) researched a scientific review to study environmental and climate migration. According to the research, a massive wave of migration could occur due to climate and environmental conditions. Given the growing importance of the relationship between migration, climate, and environmental change, the international scientific community has shown a rapid increase in interest in these issues over the last ten years. Only

3.0 Materials and Method

A survey research design was used to collect data on human security and migration. The data used was primary data, distributed using a random sampling technique among the youths living in Ondo State, Nigeria. The study was conducted in the three senatorial districts in which two local governments (LGs) were selected from each of the senatorial districts, including Ondo West, Idanre, Owo, Akoko Southwest, Ile-Oluji/Okeigboand Irele local governments. These local government areas were selected because of the considerably large population of youths in these locations.

The study mainly considered the age between 18 to 35 years with the total population, which varies according to the LGs. According to the National Population Commission (NPC), the projected estimated youth population for these local governments are the followings: Owo Local Government (164,192); Irele Local Government (104,143); Ile-Oluji/Okeigbo Local Government (124,603); Idanre Local Government (96,841); Ondo West Local Government (265,000) and Akoko South-West (120,254). Hence, the total population of the study is 875,033. An approximately four hundred (400) sample size was obtained, and an additional 10% non-response was added to the sample size, which makes a total of 440 sample size. It was distributed among the youths of six LGs in Ondo State, Nigeria. The proxies of the dependent variable (migration) and the independent variable (human security) are shown in Figure 1.

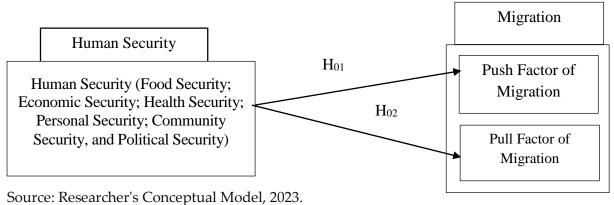


Figure 1: Researcher's Conceptual Model.

From the total sample size, ten (10) per cent copies of the questionnaire were tested, indicating 44 questionnaires were distributed among the youths in Ondo State to test the research instrument's validity and reliability. The result showed that human security and migration proxies are valid and reliable for further analysis since Cronbach's alpha result is more significant than 0.7, indicating a good result.

	No			Bartlett's			
	of			Test of	Composite	Cronbach's	
Variable	Items	AVE	KMO	Sphericity	Reliability	Alpha	Remarks
Human	38	0.912	0.803	0.003	0.875	0.832	Excellent
Security							
Food Security	8	0.971	0.754	0.000	0.988	0.859	Excellent
Economic	6	0.884	0.812	0.001	0.715	0.766	Good
Security							
Health	7	0856	0.781	0.000	0.712	0.867	Excellent
Security							
Personal	5	0.764	0.763	0.000	0.701	0.812	Excellent
Security							
Community	7	0.798	0.710	0.000	0.753	0.841	Excellent
Security							
Political	5	0.791	0.708	0.003	0.817	0.877	Excellent
Security							
Migration	31	0.869	0.890	0.000	0.888	0.715	Good
Push Factor	16	0.853	0.638	0.000	0.909	0.736	Good
Pull Factor	15	0.758	0.749	0.004	0.913	0.764	Good

Table 1: Validity and Reliability Test of the Research Instruments

Where No of items – Number of Items; AVE – Average; and KMO – Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2023.

The qualitative and quantitative approaches were adopted for the study. Interview questions and a structured questionnaire were formulated for the research. The quantitative approach used both descriptive and inferential analysis using bivariate and regression methods. The model is developed as function specifications and models below. The correlation matrix was

conducted using the Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient and was used to test the multicollinearity test of the proxies of human security. However, the interview questions were analysed using content analysis, hence, used to confirm the result of the quantitative analysis conducted using quantitative analysis.

Functional Specifications

The regression models used for the analysis are given as:

$$PSF_{i} = \beta_{\circ} + \beta_{1}FDST_{1} + \beta_{2}ENST_{2} + \beta_{3}HTST_{3} + \beta_{4}PNST_{4} + \beta_{5}CMST_{5} + \beta_{6}PTST_{6} + \varepsilon_{i} \dots Eq (1)$$

$$PLF_{i} = \beta_{\circ} + \beta_{1}FDST_{1} + \beta_{2}ENST_{2} + \beta_{3}HTST_{3} + \beta_{4}PNST_{4} + \beta_{5}CMST_{5} + \beta_{6}PTST_{6} + \varepsilon_{i} \dots Eq (2)$$

As shown in represents constant, is the coefficient of the proxies of human security, FDST = food security, ENST = economic security, HTST = health security, PNST = personal security, CMST = community security, and PTST = political security.

4.0 Results and Discussion

Table 2 explains the level of relationship among the proxies of human security. The study used bivariate analysis, and the value is expected to be less than 0.8, as revealed by Baltagi, Bresson and Pirotte (2006). From the result, the most negligible correlation value is -0.055, and the highest value of 0.548. The analysis confirmed the result of the variance inflation factor (VIF), showing that values range from 2.09 to 2.44, which is lower than the benchmark of 10. The study found that there is no problem of multicollinearity between the proxies of human security.

Variable	FDST	ENST	HTST	PNST	CMST	PTST	PSF	PLF	VIF	1/VIF
FDST	1.000								2.44	0.410
ENST	-0.127	1.000							2.44	0.410
HTST	0.043	0.169	1.000						2.14	0.467
PNST	-0.409	0.019	0.136	1.000					2.24	0.446
CMST	-0.307	0.058	0.348	0.548	1.000				2.34	0.427
PTST	-0.114	0.237	0.483	0.363	0.357	1.000			2.09	0.478
PSF	0.146	0.124	-0.170	-0.081	-0.345	-0.081	1.000		NA	NA
PLF	0.053	0.185	-0.284	-0.003	-0.218	-0.055	0.604	1.000	NA	NA

	Table 2:	Correlation	1 matrix
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Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2022.

4.1 Analysis

Two different hypotheses were formulated and used to examine the effect of human security on migration among youths in Ondo State, Nigeria. The hypothesis was tested following the research hypothesis formulated in Section 3.0 above. Hypothesis one (Table 3) of this study aimed at investigating whether human security will significantly impact the push factor of migration among youths in Ondo State, Nigeria. Considering the signs of the estimated parameters, there exists a positive impact between some proxies of human security, which are food security (FDST), economic security (ENST), personal security (PNST), and political

security (PTST). The signs of the coefficients represent this, that is, 0.163FDSTi, 0.209ENSTi, 0.217PNSTi, and 0.013PTSTi, respectively. In comparison, some other proxies of human security indicated a negative impact, including health security and community security, with a coefficient value of -0.111 and -0.417, respectively.

Meanwhile, the proxies of human security showed a positive impact revealing that as food security, economic security, personal security, and political security increase, the push factor of migration also increases. In contrast, health and community security reduce the push factor of migration. It revealed that health security in the community does not really contribute to why the youth of Ondo State travel out of the state.

$$PSF = 3.364 + 0.163FDST + 0.209ENST - 0.111HTST + 0.217PNST - 0.417CMST + 0.013PTST$$

The adjusted R2 value of 16.3% for this model connotes the ability of all the independent variables to collectively explain about 16.3% variation in the push factor of migration among youths in Ondo State, Nigeria. The remaining 83.7% is accounted for by other factors not included in this model. However, the study decided that the null hypothesis for model one is rejected and thereby concluded that human security significantly impacts the push factor of migration among youths in Ondo State, Nigeria.

Push factor	Coeff	Std. error	Т	Sig	Remarks
Constant	3.364	0.380	8.843	0.000***	
FDST	0.163	0.064	2.538	0.012**	Reject Ho
ENST	0.209	0.058	3.580	0.000***	Reject Ho
HTST	-0.111	0.062	-1.800	0.073	Do not reject
					Ho
PNST	0.217	0.068	3.190	0.002***	Reject Ho
CMST	-0.417	0.064	-6.514	0.000***	Reject Ho
PTST	0.013	0.074	0.182	0.856	Do not reject
					Ho
Adj. R square =	F (6, 380) =	P-value =			
0.163	13.553	0.000			
C D 1	L T' 110	2022			

Table 3: Human Security and Push Factor of Migration

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2022.

As presented in Table 4, model 2 investigated the impact of human security and pull factors of migration among youths in Ondo State, Nigeria. The study used six (6) different proxies to measure human security (independent variable) and the pull factor of migration (dependent variable). From the analysis displayed in Table 4, it was deduced that FDST, ENST, and PNST were positively significant at a p-value < 5%. Other variables, such as HTST and CMST, negatively affected the pull factor of migration. They were negatively significant at 5% significance, while PTST was insignificant at a 5% significance level. The result in Table 4 revealed that as FDST, ENST, and PNST increased, the pull factor of migration also increased. At the same time, HTST and CMST decreased the pull factor of migration, and PTST did not contribute to the impact of the pull factor of migration in Ondo State, Nigeria.

$$PLF_{i} = 2.940 + 0.128FDST + 0.278ENST - 0.321HTST + 0.180PNST - 0.206CMST + 0.072PTST$$

The adjusted r square of 16.8% shows the composition of human security in the pull factor of migration. In comparison, the remaining 83.2% constitutes factors not considered in this study or variables loss to the error term. Therefore, the study rejected the null hypothesis, indicating that human security significantly affects the pull factor of migration among youths in Ondo State, Nigeria. Hence, the study concluded that human security significantly impacted on pull factor of migration among youths in Ondo State, Nigeria.

Table 4: Hullia	in Security and	r f ull ractor of f	vingration.		
Pull factor	Coeff	Std. error	Т	Sig	Remarks
Constant	2.940	0.357	8.248	0.000***	
FDST	0.128	0.060	2.134	0.034**	Reject Ho
ENST	0.278	0.055	5.064	0.000***	Reject Ho
HTST	-0.321	0.058	-5.568	0.000***	Reject Ho
PNST	0.180	0.064	2.830	0.005***	Reject Ho
CMST	-0.206	0.060	-3.434	0.001***	Reject Ho
PTST	0.072	0.069	1.040	0.299	Do not reject H ₀
Adj.R square	F (6, 380) =	P-value =			
= 0.168	13.958	0.000			
0 D	1 1 1 1 1 1 0	0000			

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2022.

Qualitatively, this is an indication that the participants need to be made aware of the population of professional experts in the state. But from the qualitative approach, one participant stated that

... there have been issues with the reduction of staff in most government offices, especially in schools and hospitals so one could not ascertain whether immigration caused the issues or not. (Source: Fieldwork, Focus Group Discussion, 2022)

Other participants listed and explained why they could not ascertain the reduction of the professional.

... well, problems of unemployment have been an issue over the years, government claimed to have recruited but this is not sufficient for these present-day problems in Nigeria. As such, people will migrate to another state or country for better solution (Source: Fieldwork, Focus Group Discussion, 2022)

Results obtained from the focus group discussion and interview supported the findings from the quantitative study. During the discussion, different opinions were stated on how human security affects people's livelihood by shaping gender, socio-economic inequalities, and ethnicity, especially during COVID-19 (Newman, 2022). Reports from different participants revealed that

...there are several issues of insecurity in Nigeria such as Boko haram, herdsmen/farmer crisis, and other security challenges faced in other states, all these alone can make people migrate from one state to another state or another country. (Source: Fieldwork, Focus Group Discussion, 2022)

Other participants mentioned the issues of human rights and injustice in the state, and it was reported that

... no priority is given to people and the youths. Several issues are arising due to social injustices, insecurity, and life obligations.(Source: Fieldwork, Focus Group Discussion, 2022)

The impact of human security on internal and external migration is seen in another aspect, as reported by this participant.

... I understand that human security is not only on lives and properties alone but we can also see it in the lack of medical supplies, safety and protection and valuations of fundamental human rights (Source: Fieldwork, Focus Group Discussion, 2022)

Meanwhile, security should be a traditional concern of government at all levels. It views the security of lives and property as an obligation to life and saves its citizens from civil threats. According to Adejumo (2011), the Nigerian government's casual attitude toward its primary responsibility of ensuring security has failed over the years due to its lack of credibility in upholding the constitutional framework. As such, security is needed as a form of protection, and it should be prioritized alongside human rights, the economy, the environment, drug trafficking, epidemic control, crime control, and social injustices. Purkayastha (2018) also supported those findings by stating that international migrants, internally displaced persons, refugees, and trafficked persons as part of a continuum of migrants who exhibit seasonal, temporary, and long-term migration patterns. The need to migrate due to conflict, environmental factors, escape from poverty, high standard of living and personal needs, quality of education based on self or family influence, and better healthcare. Others are key to human existence and should be done legally to avoid the dangers of illegal migration (Umor & Ndimele, 2020).

Human security impacts the migration of youths in Ondo State due to massive unemployment, poverty, poor educational system, and insecurity such as kidnapping and killings, etc. It is a result of responses obtained from the qualitative and quantitative analysis. Thus, the youths of Ondo State have the propensity to migrate due to issues arising as a result of economic security, personal security, food security, community security, and health security.

4.2 Discussion

The result is supported by Andrasko's (2022) research, which found that a long-term risk planning effort must improve international and regional cooperation and adaptive management of refugee resettlement programs to address the reality of future environmental migration. Urbanski (2022) found that pull migration has a more significant influence on migration. The study discovered that economic, political, and social security significantly determine migration in all countries. It follows the findings of the study. The study also concluded that economic factors significantly determine migration in the state. The findings of Andrasko (2022) significantly impacted human security and migration in Ondo State. Hence, the research has proven that the youths presently in Ondo state have revealed their potential to migrate outside the state or country due to the issues of economic security, personal security, health security, food security, and community security. The findings of

Nikodinovska Krstevska (2022) supported the findings and discovered the role of non-state actors in promoting the human security of migrants in the maritime space in relation. However, the study has established how significant FDST, ENST, PNST, and CMST were the push factor of migration. Also, it has been established that youths of Ondo state have full potential to move out of the state due to the issues arising as a result of the FDST, ENST, PNST, and CMST, and CMST.

5.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

The paper examined how human security significantly influences migration among youths in Ondo State, Nigeria. The study adopted qualitative and quantitative analysis. The quantitative approach obtained mixed results from the two models developed. Models 1 and 2 showed FDST, ENST, PNST, and CMST consistently affect migration. HTST has a mixed result of the significant and insignificant effect of either the push factor or the pull factor. At the same time, PTST insignificantly affects the push factor and pull factors of migration. The qualitative analysis concluded that people migrate due to unemployment, poverty, poor educational system, and insecurity. The result from the two approaches of the analysis showed that human security affected the migration of youths in Ondo State, Nigeria. Thus, the study recommended that government should encourage both private and public investors in the state to reduce the unemployment rate and increase the income of the citizens and, in particular, the youth. Also, it was recommended that more investments should be made in the educational sector of the state and, in particular, tertiary institutions in the areas of policies for the stability of programs, structures and improved facilities by the government of Ondo State. This will inject more confidence in the system and possibility reduces the emigration of youths as further education is one of the significant reasons for youth migration.

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