Segregation and Wellbeing of Third-generation Migrants in Akpabuyo, Nigeria


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Abstract

The situation associated with migrant population in any society is not devoid of challenges and is most time tainted with ethnic sentiment and social exclusion. Therefore, this study examined the effect of segregation on the wellbeing of third-generation migrants in Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria. Specifically, it investigated the upshot of employment, socio-political and economic exclusion on the wellbeing of third-generation migrants. Multi-stage sampling technique was adopted in selecting the sample for the study. A structured questionnaire was used to elicit information from 331 respondents. Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient at 0.05 level of significance was used for data analysis. Findings revealed that socio-political, employment and economic marginalization of third-generation migrants negatively affect their wellbeing. Importantly, it accounts for the high level of unemployment and drug addiction, poor access to education and health, low level of income, high crime rate and lack of basic social amenities among third-generation migrants in Akpabuyo, Nigeria. The study recommends that government at all levels should adopt a comprehensive and inclusive policy that would ensure the highest possible level of equality, assimilation, and social cohesion among migrants and indigenous population.

Keywords: Third generation migrant, well-being, unemployment, socio-political and economic exclusion

1. Introduction

Globally, there exist no pure and undefiled indigenous population or settlement. The nature of human’s activities makes immigration an inevitable social phenomenon. Consequently mixed population, resettlement, mixed race, mixed culture, ethnic tensions/conflicts, racial discrimination, segregation, socio-economic exclusion, globalization, migration, herders farmers crisis etc. are concepts that has gained much currency in the 21st century. Prime in Africa and indeed Nigeria is the challenge of segregation, force migration, ethnic conflicts and ethnic cleansing. Nigeria for instance is made of several ethnic and cultural groups, majority of which are Yoruba, Igbo and Hausa. Within these ethnic and cultural groups are over 371 tribes making Nigeria a unique multi-tribal Nation in the World. Majority of these tribal groups place of origin often differ from where they now settle. Some ethnic groups settled where they now leave as early as 13th and 14th centuries. Late settlers arrived between 17th and 18th that centuries. The relationship and history of all hither to co-existing ethnic or racial groups that is aborigines and new settlers is characterized by conflicts emanating from the struggle for scarce resources, superiority, segregation, and marginalization; and this is not without consequence on the well-being of the oppressed groups.

The marginalization and wellbeing of third-generation migrants’ in Akpabuyo Local Government of Cross River State, Nigeria has become a great concern to scholars, the people, and policymakers. The concern has been on how best the migrants’ population can be assimilated in their host communities. This is important because the wellbeing of these migrants population will be translated into a peaceful co-existence between them and host communities. This suggests that their host must accept migrants; and acceptability here is measured on how well migrants can equitably access...
education, socio-political and economic opportunities. It includes cultural and religious assimilation of both communities.

While it is generally observed that third generation migrants in Akpabuyo have been properly assimilated into their respective host communities, more still need to be done in that direction. This is because conflicts between host communities and migrant folks are on the increase in Akpabuyo. Increase in the population size of migrants is often seen as a threat to host communities. Like Israelites in ancient Egypt, different strategies are adopted to curtail the cultural dominance of migrants over the indigene population. Segregation becomes a significant tool for achieving this objective.

For the people, peaceful co-existence between the migrant population referred to as the settlers and their host is the basic thing they want. Peace will give rise to the growth and development of the community. Migrants will be properly assimilated and allowed to contribute their fair share to the development of their abode communities. Policymakers seek adequate knowledge and understanding within the global community on how to properly deal with the challenges of the third generation migrants and how this affects the wellbeing of the indigenes/settlers as the migrant are called in some cases. Within the context of socio-cultural, economic and political spaces available, greater challenges are still being experienced by the third generation migrant as the issue of proper assimilation into their host communities is still a problem. Some advanced/developed economies of the world have developed a more legal and developmental framework used to address the migrants' challenges, thereby keeping the crisis and conflicts associated with this socio phenomenon in check.

The developing economies are still lacking behind when it comes to responding to the challenges confronting the third generation migrants and their wellbeing and that of the host communities often referred to as indigenes. The policymakers' lack of effective response can be attributed to limited opportunities and unfair competition in the sharing and allocations of the available limited economic and political opportunities.

The development of robust legal and economic policy framework is encumbered by prevailing corrupt political class and ethnic champions who exploit the situation to further impose their greed in amassing and plundering the community commonwealth for their selfish interest. While scholars and policymakers may be working to address the challenges confronted by migrant populations and how best their wellbeing and their host can be better protected by formulation of appropriate legal, economic, political and social frame work by reducing crisis and conflicts. The peaceful environment created as a result of these brings about development and growth in the host communities. However, the challenges and the issues of the wellbeing of settlers remain a very volatile issue in Akpabuyo and other Nigerian states, for which if not properly managed can be converted into a weapon-grade arsenal that can wreck untold hardship, reversing every human gain in terms of the development of the society. This has necessitated a need to study the challenges faced by migrants and how it affects their wellbeing.

a) The study's general objective is to examine third generation migrant challenges and settlers' wellbeing well-being in Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria. Specifically, the study seeks to;

b) Examine the extent to which lack of employment opportunity of third-generation migrant relates to settlers' wellbeing in Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria.

c) Investigate if the socio-political and economic exclusion of third-generation migrants has any relationship with settlers’ wellbeing in Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria.

2. Literature Review

Some studies were done in European countries which have shown that most of the "visible minorities" among third-generation immigrant have higher unemployment rates than the natives of those countries. They also have low employment rates, compounded by their skin colour, foreign-sounding names, religion, and parents’ socioeconomic conditions. Baker and Benjamin (1994) and Aydemir and Skuterud (2005) have unanimously found that immigrants in Canada cannot catch up in earnings with the native-born. However, if assimilation is treated as a multi-generational process, the second generation's labour market outcome is a key measure of the success of an immigrant family. Therefore, it is important to distinguish the second generation and analyse how they fare differently in the Canadian labour market from the other generations.

Worbs (2003) study in Germany points out that the most disadvantaged immigrants are from Morocco and Yugoslavia. The origins and third-generation immigrants from these groups have higher unemployment rates or were employed in unskilled jobs than native Germans. Heikkilä (2003), Riala (2009) and Sandelin (2014) show many studies which
mostly focused on one group of specific origins, for instances Russian, Somalis, Vietnamese, etc. They all show that some groups of immigrants from specific ethnicities and backgrounds have an advantageous position in the labour market and some groups haven't the same opportunities as others.

Ekberg and Rooth (2003) researching about third-generation immigrants and native Swedes found that nearly all third-generation immigrants have lower employment opportunities than the native Swedish of the same age (Ekberg and Rooth 2003). A study done by Grans, Bovenkerk and Wrench (1999) in the Netherlands and the UK shows that despite having the same education, age, gender and qualifications for job application, there is still evidence showing unequal access to the labour market between natives and immigrants. This shows that immigrants have a higher unemployment rate than natives.

A study done by Pohjanpää, Paananen and Nieminen (2003), found that 50% and 25% of Somali and European origin immigrants respectively, faced discrimination when searching for jobs. Another study by Paananen (1999), also found that 81% and 64% of Somali and Arab backgrounds respondents reported that they faced discrimination while looking for work and result also shown that some employers do not like to hire visible minorities like Somali even they do not want to give them a chance for an unpaid training place.

Global institutions have recognized the benefits of realistic and proactive migration policies. They also know that these will only be successful if coupled with the socioeconomic, civic and political inclusion of migrants. Many migrants, some after decades of settlement, suffer economic and social disadvantages, are excluded from civic and political participation and face discrimination, racism, and xenophobia. Their marginalization makes them easy targets for scapegoating a lot of research have been carried out on social exclusion of migrants and its impact on their wellbeing (Jacobs, Phalet & Swyngedouw, 2006; Bertocchi & Spagat, 2001).

When looking at Turkish residents’ political participation and associational life in Brussels, Jacobs, Phalet and Swyngedouw (2006) found that although very active in associations and widely represented, Turkish-origin minorities were largely absent from Belgian political life, thereby questioning the extent of their political participation. Bertocchi and Spagat, (2001) found that, other things being equal, being indigenous in Bolivia 16 increases the probability of being poor by 16 percent; in Guatemala, access to education, health care services, water and sanitation, and jobs is likewise shown to significantly differ across indigenous and non-indigenous groups.

In their study, Kristensen and Larsen (2006) revealed that the share of immigrants and descendants living in the "social housing” sector increased, and in 2004 they accounted for 23 percent of all tenants in this sector. This is almost a three times higher share than that of the total population. There is clearly segregation in the housing market between, on the one hand, native Danes and immigrants and descendants from Western countries and, on the other hand, immigrants and descendants from non-Western countries. Furthermore, immigrants and descendants, to a much higher degree than native Danes, live in homes with the lowest standard of modern facilities

Ghosh (2005) study in Denmark shows that the Introductory Social Allowance is experienced both as a material and a moral problem, but among migrants, the deepest feeling is injustice. They feel they are not seen and treated as equals. The study also shows that many migrants, especially Muslims, experience disrespect and misrecognition on part of the professionals working at social security offices, hospitals, schools, and kindergartens.

3. Research Method and Materials

This research design adopted for this study is a survey approach which is an aspect of descriptive design. The choice for this design derives from the fact that it allows participants to air out their opinions on the relationship between the variables under investigation. The sample size of study is 384 selected from population of males and females of varying socio-cultural, economic and political background selected from Akpabuyo Local Government Area using multi-stage sampling technique. In the first stage the purposive sampling technique was used in selecting six wards from the ten (10) wards that make up Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State.

The communities selected are Ikot Nakanda, Ikot Uba, Ikot Oyom, Ikot Effanga and Eto-Mkpe Inameti. In stage two, the snowball sampling technique was used in selecting 15 households each from the selected communities in the study area. This snowball sampling technique was selected because when the first household was identified; such household gave the researcher direction to the next migrant household. In the final stage, from each of the selected households, five respondents were purposively selected from each of the selected household except in Ikot Nakanda, where 6 respondents were selected from 9 households and five form the six households. The main instruments used for data collection was the structured questionnaire and oral interview. Data collected from the field were collated and coded
appropriately, and were analysed hypothesis by hypothesis using Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient. The hypotheses were tested at 0.05 confidence level.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1. Demographic Distribution of Respondents

Out of the 384 questionnaire administered by the researcher in the study area for the study, only 331 respondents representing 86.2% returned questionnaire were properly filled without missing values and mutilation, therefore the said number was used for the data analysis. This return rate was due to the characteristics of the sample, as most of the respondents are usually busy, going about their daily duties.

Out of the 331 respondents used in this study, 181 representing 54.7% were male while only 150 respondents representing 45.3% were female. This result shows that, Akpabuyo Local Government Area has more male migrants than female migrants, a graphical presentation is reported in figure 1.

Figure 1. Gender of respondents

Respondents description based on age reveal that, most of the migrants are 45.6% are between 34 – 41 years; next in the list 39.9% are those between 26 – 33 years; followed by 9.1% of respondents between 18 – 25 years while only 5.4% of the respondents are 42 years and above. A graphical illustration is presented in figure 2.

Figure 2. Age of respondents
Out of the 331 respondents, 139 respondents representing 41.9% were civil servants, 98 respondents representing 29.6% were farmers, 65 respondents representing 19.6%, and only 29 respondents representing 8.7% were students. The result is expected as it is a true representation of migrants in the study area.

![Occupation](image)

**Figure 3.** Occupational status of respondents

The distribution of respondents based on educational qualification shows that, most of the respondents’ 42.5% were B.Sc/HND degree holders; next in the list 35.6% were SSCE/WAEC holders, 11.1% had no formal education, 6.9% were NCE/OND holders, while only 3.6% were Post Graduate holders. A graphical illustration is presented in figure 4.

![Educational status](image)

**Figure 4.** Educational qualification of respondents

4.2. *Analysis of Data*

Lack of employment opportunity of third-generation migrant does not relates to settlers wellbeing in akpabuyo local government area of cross river state, Nigeria. The independent variable in this hypothesis is lack of employment opportunity of third-generation migrant, while the dependent variable is settlers wellbeing. Pearson product-moment correlation was used to test this hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance and the result is presented in Table 1.
4.3. Discussion of Findings

4.3.1. Lack of Employment Opportunity of Third Generation Migrant and Settlers Wellbeing

The result from the first hypothesis revealed that lack of employment opportunity of third-generation migrant significantly relates to settlers wellbeing in Akpabuyo local government area of cross river state, Nigeria. This results goes to show that third generation migrants are not given the same privileges as indigenes of Akpabuyo. Results from the analysis also revealed that in terms of job distribution the study, indigenes are better placed than the migrants. Findings also revealed that the unemployment or underemployment significantly affects the wellbeing of migrants in...
Akpabuyo local government area, this is because the that the calculated r-value of 0.29 is greater than the critical r-value of 0.113 at 0.05 level of significance with 198 degrees of freedom.

The finding is in line with that of Aydemir and Skuterud (2005), whose study found that immigrants cannot catch up in earnings with the native-born. Worbs (2003) study in Germany points out that the most disadvantaged groups of immigrants are from Morocco and Yugoslavia origins and third-generation of immigrants from these groups have higher unemployment rate or they were employed in unskilled jobs compared to native Germans. Ekberg and Rooth (2003) study about third-generation immigrants and native Swedes found that nearly all groups of third-generation immigrants have lower employment opportunities than the native Swedish of the same age A study done by Grans, Bovenkerk and Wrench (1999) in the Netherlands and the UK shows that despite having the same education, age, gender and qualifications for job application, there are still evidences that show the unequal access to the labour market between natives and immigrants.

The researcher conducted Key Informant interview in the study area to ascertain if the employment situation of migrant has an implication on the wellbeing of the settlers in the study area. The average length of the interview was 30 minutes and in each interview the researcher used a semi-structured interview guide and the response of the interviewee was recorded and in situations where the researcher felt necessary, important response was jotted down in a little notebook. The researcher interviewed a local teacher (Mr. Akpadock), whose grandfather migrated from an Annang community, Essien udim and settled in Ikot Oyom argued that with his qualification (master's degree) he is supposed to be working in a better establishment than teaching in a secondary, where his take-home package is not enough to take care of his large family. He furthered maintained that when his situation is compared to those who are real indigenes, they are better of. He argued that even mere NCE holders had better jobs than him. Mrs. Essien, a trader in Ikot Uba maintained that because she and her family are not originally from Akpabuyo, she has not been able to get a job; hence she resorted to petty trading. The response from the interview conducted collaborates with that of the quantitative data which states that lack of employment opportunity of third-generation migrant significantly relates to settlers wellbeing in Akpabuyo local government area of cross river state, Nigeria.

The result from the second hypothesis revealed that Sociopolitical and economic exclusion of third-generation migrant have a significant relationship with settlers' wellbeing in Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria. This result means that third generation migrant suffer socio-political and economic exclusion in Akpabuyo and this has negative implications on their wellbeing. From this result one can denote that migrants are not included in most of the social events that take place in Akpabuyo. Also the results show that migrants are not given the opportunity in taking part in decision making in the Local Government Area. A further analysis shows that third-generation migrants are not allowed to run for political offices or occupy any government position that intended for decision and policymaking.

This findings are in line with that of Brussels, Jacobs, Phalet and Swyngedouw (2006), whose study in turkey found that although very active in associations and widely represented, Turkish-origin minorities were largely absent from Belgian political life, thereby questioning the extent of their political participation. Bertocchi and Spagat, (2001) found that, other things being equal, being indigenous in Bolivia 16 increases the probability of being poor by 16 percent; in Guatemala, access to education, health care services, water and sanitation, and jobs is likewise shown to significantly differ across indigenous and non-indigenous groups. Kristensen and Larsen (2006) in their study revealed that the share of immigrants and descendants living in the “social housing” sector increased, and in 2004 they accounted for 23 per cent of all tenants in this sector. This is almost a three times higher share than that of the total population. There is clearly segregation in the housing market between, on the one hand, native Danes and immigrants and descendants from Western countries and, on the other hand, immigrants and descendants from non-Western countries. Furthermore, immigrants and descendants, to a much higher degree than native Danes, live in homes with the lowest standard of modern facilities.

Ghosh (2005) study in Denmark shows that the Introductory Social Allowance is experienced both as a material and a moral problem, but among migrants, the deepest feeling is that of injustice. They feel they are not seen and treated as equals. The study also show that many migrants especially Muslims experience disrespect and misrecognition on part of the professionals working at social security offices, in hospitals, in schools, kindergartens.

Key Informant interview was also conducted by the researcher in Akpabuyo in order to check the effect of Sociopolitical and Economic exclusion and settlers wellbeing. The average length of the interview was 30 minutes and in each interview the researcher used a semi-structured interview guide and the response of the interviewee was recorded and in situations where the researcher felt necessary, important response was jotted down in a little notebook. The researcher interviewed a local politician (Mr. Bassey), who argued that his political aspirations in the community are
been hindered because people say he is not from the community. According to him "my intentions are clear I have always wanted to run for political position, but anytime I put in my intention to run for a position, all I hear is that I am not from here". He went further "I was born in Ikot Eyo, my parents were born here too. It was my grandparents that migrated to this place when they were young and settled here. I don’t know any other home than Ikot Eyo. But the fact that my grandparents were migrants makes people see me as outsiders. I am only allowed to run for positions where I am a subordinate to someone else”.

A local farmer who was interviewed on his way to his farm, argued that he and his family are excluded from local cultural activities because they are originally not from here. An elderly man (Mr Archibong) from Ikot Eyo is of the opinion that as one of the elder in the community, he is suppose to be among the council of elders, but feels he is been overlooked because of some people say that he is originally not from Akpabuyo. The result from the interview conducted is in line with the findings of the statistical analysis, which states that Sociopolitical and economic exclusion of third-generation migrant have a significant relationship with settlers' wellbeing in Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria.

5. Conclusion

From the comprehensive analysis of both qualitative (interview) and quantitative data (questionnaire), it is evident that there are challenges faced by migrants, even the third generation migrants who were born and spent their entire life in Akpabuyo. Analysing the challenges of third generations in Akpabuyo is a very complex, albeit fundamental issue, as it tells a lot about the integration policies in Akpabuyo and Nigeria as a whole. Even though, their presence constitutes an enrichment for Akpabuyo, and should be valued as such. They are still been treated as outsiders who bring nothing but trouble. For this issues and challenges faced by migrants to be solved there is need for constant and comprehensive attention by researchers as well as policymakers, on a long-term basis, on the affairs of migrants both in the study area, as well as the state as a whole.

In view of the various findings, summary and conclusions of the study, the following recommendations were made:

a) The federal government and policymakers, must adopt a comprehensive inclusion policy, ensuring the highest possible level of equality and social and political inclusion and cohesion between settlers and indigenes, which will help limit the risks of downward assimilation.

b) Too often, conversations around migrants and integration focus on national policymakers. Local governments, however, have an enormous stake in the integration and inclusion in the affairs of migrants. As the level of government closest to the people, the Local Government have the best view of how immigrants are integrated, the challenges they face, how to facilitate their success and how to ensure that the society benefits from that success. While it is important that local governments engage with national and sub-national levels of government to inform broad migration strategies and policies, Akpabuyo Local Government must also focus on taking action on migrant integration and inclusion across all policy areas that are within the local government Area.

References


