

## **Rural-Urban Migration and Nigerian National Security: Experiences From South-East**

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### **Abstract**

*Migration as one of the intractable realities of modern life has over the years in Nigeria had far-reaching impact on the security situation of the nation in general and south-east region in particular. This paper interrogates the causes-effects of intra and inters people's movements in the study area. Push-pull theory of migration propounded was adopted as the theoretical framework. As a qualitative research, the researchers effectively made use of secondary data and the results of our investigation revealed that: The urge to be travelers, quest for a greener pasture for better living conditions like search for a better employment opportunities, among others, are the major reasons for the persistent rural-urban migration among the people of the south-east region of Nigeria, and the resultant effects have been the congestion of the available towns, intimidation and harassment of residents and migrants, rise in unemployment rates, crimes, youth restiveness, prostitution and at the other end, positive social, economic, structural and political developments and integration. The paper concludes that the impacts of Rural-urban migration are multi-faceted and even the increase in hunger and poverty as a result of the decline in agricultural population and other productive ventures in the rural areas of the region are its results. It is recommended that Nigeria and south-east region in particular, should adopt a long term development plan: "Rural-Urban Integration (RUBAIN)", to open up the rural areas and reduce mass movements of people to only urban areas.*

**Keywords:** *Rural-Urban, Migration, Nigeria, National security, South-East.*

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### **I. Introduction**

Over the years, rural-urban migration which has been conceptualized by Omonigho and Olaniyan (2013) as a phenomenon of historically unprecedented movement of people from the rural countryside to the burgeoning cities or urban areas has been one of the most embarrassing problems in the Nigerian development experience. Migration has existed internally to enable resources (labour and materials) to be taken slowly from the rural areas to provide workforce and materials for industries in the urban areas; consequently, aiding industrial growth in the receiving cities and rural impoverishment in the source areas (Omonigho and Olaniyan, 2013). Experiences in developing or underdeveloped countries (Nigeria inclusive) has shown that the rate of rural-urban migration has ceaselessly outweighed the rate of job creation and had an overweight on the social and infrastructural amenities available in the urban areas.

Prior to colonialism in Nigeria, the extended families lived a communal life, carried out their daily activities together in one accord and shared their yields adequately following a well comprehended custom (Omonigho and Olaniyan, 2013). Colonial escapades exposed Nigerians to international market by the introduction of cash crops and creation of administrative offices in planned zones which necessitated the investment in socio-economic amenities within these urban areas. This adventure invigorated the quest for paid employment and migration of workforce into these areas and therefore prompted the commencement of rural-urban migration in Nigeria. This according to Nwanna (2004) culminated in an unprecedented increased migration into new cities such as Lagos, Port-Harcourt, Enugu, Jos and Kaduna, among others. Consequent upon this, unskilled labour were required for menial jobs in the urban centers of colonial administration (Ajaero and Madu, 2014).

Upon the occupation of urban centres by the colonial masters, the urban centers became more appealing to young people in huge numbers since superior employment and other socio-economic conveniences resided there. In furtherance, Ajaero and Madu, (2014) maintained that the rural areas were regularly abandoned by the youths, leaving the aging men, women and children to labour on the farms. This had led to increased security challenges in the receiving areas, a decrease in agricultural output and its contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP); lowered standard of living of the rural dwellers, and desertion of the rural areas.

Migration of the rural masses to the urban areas has over the years occasioned a lot of social and economic difficulties as well as security challenges in the urban and the rural areas. In the argument of Olowa and Awoyemi (2012), persistent increase in rural-urban migration in Nigeria over the years has led to high rate of city congestion, crime and poor infrastructure such as proper sewage system, clean drinking water; electricity and other amenities, chronic unemployment and creation of large slums and shanty towns. This is axiomatic

with palpable clarity considering the experiences from Onitsha, Nnewi, Awka, Cities in Anambra State, Enugu, Nsukka Cities in Enugu State; Aba, Umuahia, Cities in Abia State and Ezzamgbo, Onueke, Afikpo and Abakaliki Cities in Ebonyi State, all in the South-Eastern Nigeria.

Many developing countries including Nigeria, have attempted to resolve their problems of rural poverty and desertion. In Nigeria, from the colonial period till date, successive administration in the country have tried to reform the rural areas where over 75% of Nigerians live in for the sake of attaining balanced growth and development, and discourage rural-urban migration, all to no avail such that while the national population is growing at an annual rate of 2.8 percent; that of the urban population is growing at 5.5 percent (National Bureau of Statistics, 2017). This rate is among the highest in the world today. Earlier, Nwakeze (2014) posited that several methods to remove rural-urban development gap have been carried out in Nigeria with little success, therefore, the rural areas still remain highly underdeveloped in comparison with the urban areas. Efforts have been made by concerned researchers to attribute the causes of rural-urban migration to discriminatory government policies in favour of urban development, response to disparities in income, employment and other socio-economic amenities available within the urban and rural areas, with the urban areas being privileged, others related it to spontaneous, emotional, structural, traditional and some other factors like rural urban wage differentials (Olowa and Awoyemi, 2012), reduction in rural agricultural produce, reduction in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the nation, decline in the standard of living, inaccessibility, remoteness, underdevelopment, poverty, drabness, ignorance, hunger and starvation of the rural inhabitants. They also related the consequences of rural-urban migration on the urban centers to serious problems such as overpopulation, insufficient physical and social infrastructural amenities.

Nigeria's national security which is a concept that the government, along with its parliaments, should protect the state and its citizens against all kinds of "national" crises through a variety of power projections, such as political power, diplomacy, economic power, military might, and so on has been a containment of diverse manifestations of violence spearheaded by various groups mainly migrants from rural areas to urban areas especially in the South-Eastern Nigeria (Wikipedia, 2017).

As Africa's most populous country, Nigeria, with an estimated population of over 180 million and over 250 ethnic groups, has over the years experienced a wide range of migration issues, from massive internal and regional migration to brain drain and a large well-educated population in diaspora (mainly the United States and the United Kingdom) that it sees as key to future development. In the 1950s and 1960s, the challenges were those of regional politics and high pitched political violence/turbulence in the twilight of and immediately after our national independence, challenges that threatened national integration, culminating into an unfortunate 30-month civil war (1967-1970) (Wikipedia, 2017). The 1970s faced the post civil war national reconciliation, reconstruction, rehabilitation and reintegration challenges. During the 1980s and 1990s, we faced the challenges of the extension of military dictatorship with the incalculable damage to and distortion of our national psyche, including the paradoxical attempts to return the nation to democratic rule and fostering a military-oriented constitution and principle of unitary federalism on the nation. Similarly, our foreign policy objective at independence was the liberation and restoration of the dignity of Africans and the emancipation of Africa from apartheid regimes and other forms of colonialism. That dictated our tough stance against the apartheid regime in South Africa. Nigeria was also a foundation member of Organization of Africa Unity (OAU) - now African Union (AU) and an influential member of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) which it spearheaded its establishment in 1973.

Over the years, the nation has made sacrifices and contributions towards the stability of West Africa and Africa in general while metaphorically the nation has been enmeshed in endemic national insecurity. The disturbing issue is; what have we gained from our big brother role, considering that Africa has been the centerpiece of our foreign policy objectives? Probably due to prolonged years of military adventure in governance, the nation appears to have lost a sense of patience, process and orderliness under a democratic culture, which has exacerbated the dependency syndrome and the nation has gotten used to getting things done in haphazard manner with 'immediate alacrity', which in itself is a security challenge. The political process is stultified by those who should not have been in politics or by thugs to the extent that the nation now produces suicide bombers (Wikipedia, 2017).

As a consequence therefore, the pride in earning a living is diminished to the extent that nobody seems to care or ask how some people make their money and we have lost respect for our cultural norms and values of honesty, handwork and integrity, which have been the hallmarks of societal recognition and honour. The group in contemporary Nigeria that has stretched the resources, expertise, patience and even the competence of Nigeria's national security apparatuses to the limit, both individually and collectively, is the Boko Haram sect and their sponsors. The sheer number of deaths arising from bomb attacks orchestrated by the Boko Haram far outstrips any other cause of death in Nigeria, including epidemics (Alozieuwa, 2012). In an attempt to achieve national security in Nigeria, government had established the variegated security agencies and introduced security strategies and varied epochs such as the Nigeria Police, the Nigerian Army, Nigerian Navy, Nigerian

Air Force, Department of State Security, Nigerian Customs and Immigration Services, Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps, the Joint Tax Force, among others. Unfortunately, these measures had not tackled security issues in the country especially in the North-East and South-Eastern zones. This couples the recognition made on national security threat to be a major issue for the government and has prompted huge allocation of the national budget to security.

In order to ameliorate the incidence of crime, the federal government has embarked on criminalization of terrorism by passing the Anti-Terrorism Act in 2011, incorporating fundamental surveillance as well as investigation of criminal related offences, heightening of physical security measures around the country aimed at deterring or disrupting potential attacks, strengthening of security agencies through the provision of security facilities and the development and broadcast of security tips in mass media. Despite these efforts, the level of insecurity in the country is still high. In addition, Nigeria has consistently ranked low in the Global Peace Index (GPI, 2017), signifying a worsened state of insecurity in the country and the globe. In his argument, Bankong-Obi (2016) exposed that one of the shortcomings of Nigeria's security issues is its pro-realist orientation that accords the deployment of force in resolving national security threats. Thus, the strategy of choice among national security agencies is the use of force in various guises to subdue those identified as threatening national security which has yielded little or no impact in addressing national security issues. Agaptus (2013) wondered why the government's supposed superior force has not rolled back the menace of insecurity which has created the impression that the government is not doing enough to secure the people. This mindset led Bankong-Obi (2016) to attribute Nigeria's intractable security challenges to government's apathy towards terminating the terror group and inefficiency on the part of the security agencies. The country's nascent democracy has been tested by rampant crime and an unprecedented campaign of terror such that in the South-East, civil unrest threatens safety and stability; gangs who kidnap expatriates for ransom lie in wait on the roads, in bars, and cities; and to the north, the Islamic terrorist group called Boko Haram is growing both in number and brutality hence the group has posed brazen challenges to the government; and to the north, Arewa Youths recently issued ultimatum "leave or die" to Igbo migrants living in the northern Nigeria.

In the South-Eastern Nigeria, over a hundred persons have so far been reportedly killed by some Fulani herdsmen at Nimbo in Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area of Enugu State. According to Vanguard (2017), no fewer than 500 heavily-armed Fulani herdsmen sneaked into the community and lunched attacks on about seven villages in Nimbo Ngwoko, Ugwuijoro, Ekwuru, Ebor, Enugu Nimbo, Umuome and Ugwuachara. Ten residential houses and a church, Christ Holy Church International, aka Odozi Obodo, were also said to have been burnt by the herdsmen just as vehicles and motorcycles were destroyed and domestic animals killed. In other cities like Onitsha, Aba, and Abakaliki, there have been over congestion of cities, over population, increased prostitution, kidnapping, armed robbery, cultism among other vices which are traceable to the quest for better quality of life by low-skill and low-wage workers as well as high-skill and high-wage workers from the less developed rural areas to the more developed urban areas, especially among the poor. In this regard, rural-urban migration results from the search for perceived or real opportunities as a consequence of rural-urban inequality in wealth. This inequality and/or urban bias in development according to research findings over the years results from the overwhelming concentration of wealth, assets, purchasing capacity, economic activities, and variety of services in the urban centres as well as the continued neglect and degradation of rural environments or areas. Consequently, increased national insecurity has been inevitable.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Over the years, the incessant rural-urban migration incidence as well as its associated increased security challenges in Nigeria and the South-Eastern geo-political zone in particular has become a source of concern to scholars, institutions, agencies, well meaning individuals as well as the global community. There has been recorded increased rural-urban migration in the South-Eastern Nigeria as there has been mass exodus of rural dwellers to the urban cities of Onitsha, Enugu, Aba, Umuahia, Okigwe, Owerri, Onueke, Ezzamgbo, Afikpo and Abakaliki with its associated security threats which have implications for national security. In the receiving areas, there have been increased over population, increased crime rates and over-stretch of urban infrastructure while in the relinquishing rural areas, there have been decrease in agricultural output and its contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP); lowered standard of living of the rural dwellers, and desertion of the rural areas (rural depopulation) with its own associated national insecurity contributions. The migration of the rural masses to the urban areas has over the years occasioned a lot of social and economic difficulties as well as security challenges in the urban and the rural areas. In the argument of Olowa and Awoyemi (2012), persistent increase in rural-urban migration in Nigeria over the years has led to high rate of city congestion, crime and poor infrastructure such as proper sewage system, clean drinking water; electricity and other amenities, chronic unemployment and creation of large slums and shanty towns. This is axiomatic with palpable clarity considering the experiences from Onitsha City in Anambra State, Enugu City in Enugu State and Aba in Abia State all in the South Eastern Nigeria.

In Nigeria, from the colonial period till date, successive administrations in the country have demonstrated vigorous efforts to reform the rural areas where over 75% of Nigerians live in for the sake of attaining balanced growth and development, and discourage rural-urban migration as well as national insecurity, all to no avail such that while the national population is growing at an annual rate of 2.8 percent; that of the urban population is growing at 5.5 percent (National Bureau of Statistics, 2017). This rate is among the highest in the world today. Unfortunately, what has been reaped according to Olowa and Awoyemi (2012) has been reduction in rural agricultural produce, reduction in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the nation, decline in the standard of living, inaccessibility, remoteness, underdevelopment, poverty, drabness, ignorance, hunger and starvation of the rural inhabitants.

The inability of government to contend with rural-urban migration in order to mitigate national insecurity in Nigerian has poised the researchers to investigate into the impact of rural-urban migration on national security; x-raying experiences from the South-East Region of Nigeria. Hence, the researchers raise pertinent research questions as:

1. To what extent has the rising incidence of rural-urban migration affected national security in South-East Region of Nigeria?
2. What possible strategies can mitigate the rising incidence of rural-urban migration and national insecurity in South-East Region of Nigeria?

### **Objectives of the Study**

The broad objective of this study was to uncover the impact of rural-urban migration on national security drawing experiences from South-East Region of Nigeria. Specifically, the study sought to:

1. X-ray the extent to which the rising incidence of rural urban migration has affected national security in South-East Region of Nigeria.
2. Proffer possible strategies that can mitigate the rising incidence of rural-urban migration and national insecurity in the South-East Region of Nigerian.

### **Research Hypotheses**

HA<sub>1</sub>: The rising incidence of rural urban migration has significantly induced security challenges in South-East Region of Nigeria.

HA<sub>2</sub>: Integrated security approach and regional integration in rural development are possible strategies to mitigate the rising incidence of rural-urban migration and national insecurity in the South-East Region of Nigeria.

### **Rural-Urban Migration: Meaning, Types, Causes, Consequences**

An attempt into demystifying the concept of rural-urban migration must first make recourse to the meaning of migration for better understanding. According to Udo (2012), migration can be seen as a process by which people permanently or semi permanently change their residence from one administrative unit say district, country, state, etc to another and involves relatively short distance under 10km or may cover very long distance exceeding 1,100km. The definition above is elaborating and covers the rudiments of migration since it exposes the nature of migration which may be permanent or semi-permanent (going back to their home) after some years. Moreover the distance covered by migrant can either be short or long. Short distance is usually associated with domestic migration and long distance with international migration. Therefore, migration is the permanent or temporary locomotion of people from one geographical location to another. It is of various nature, rural-urban migration, rural-rural migration, urban-rural migration and urban-urban migration. The interest of this research is however, on rural urban-migration.

Rural-urban migration in the view of Omonigho and Olaniyan (2013) is a form of so-called internal migration which means a movement within a country and which stays in contrast to international or intercontinental migration. According to them, it refers to the movement of people from the countryside respectively the rural areas into the cities, often the metropolitan cities of a country. Hence, it involves the movement of people from rural areas to urban centers. It is the movement of individuals from one geographical space to another, involving permanent or temporary residence or settlement. Migrants in this category include young school leavers, petty traders, civil servants and others. In the developed countries, rural-urban migration was associated with complimentary development in agricultural and industrial protection in the sense that merchandised agriculture generated surplus labour, which migrated into the cities to meet the rising demand for labour. In the industrial sector therefore the movement of people from rural-urban area has characterized the process of urban growth in the new world particularly the united stated of America. It is obvious that these developments always show their two sides: one side or the area of destination gains population whereas the other side respectively the area of origin loses people.

However, In Africa, Nigeria inclusive, rural-urban migration is entirely different from that in Europe and North America in the sense that there is yet to be an agrarian revolution in Africa and the movement to cities do not reflect the demand for labour instead, the cause of rural urban-migration in Africa is reflected by the availability of modern facility and infrastructure (Ajaero and Madu, 2014). In any country, whether developed or developing have four types of rural-urban migration as posited by Protheno (1965) cited in Adeyemi (2016) to include daily migration, seasonal migration, short term or periodic migration and finally, long term and definite migration. According to him, daily movement is one of the earliest forms of migration, and it is practiced mostly in Europe, America and Africa. It refers to the movement from rural or peri-urban fringes to centrally located commercial and industrial areas on daily accounts. Daily movements have already caused problems particularly in large cities such as Lagos by straining made transport. But today, the factor of distance has been overcome by rapid advancement in transcript technology. Seasonal migration on its own hand is carried out seasonally. Agricultural purposes and festivity are sometimes the reasons for the seasonal movement, and it is very common in West Africa because it is an agrarian society. The migrants or the people concerned may return home after the seasons are over e.g. period of maize, tomatoes etc. Short term or periodic migration entails where migrants stay in the town for periods of time up to two years; migrants here are predominantly adult males whose aim is to earn a specific sum of money for the acquisition of specific skills, wife, among some other durable goods. On the other hand, long term migration involves where the migrants in this group and those in the last two above are often accompanied by wives and families (Ajaero and Madu, 2014). This type of rural-urban migration results in the servitude of migrants linked with the rural area. This may occur initially and may follow several periods or urban employment. The migrants stay at destination at much longer time. In fact, the migrants in this group and those in the last two above are often accompanied by wives and families.

Several factors account for this unprecedented movement. Adeyemi (2016) in his own contribution submitted that there must be a reason or reasons for rural-urban-migration-either that something is chasing the people off from their gift location or there is an attraction to where they are going to (push or pull factors). Hence, he articulated the factors to include: natural disasters like floods, famines, drought, earthquakes etc, could build people to migrate out of rural enclaves to urban burgeons ; physical conditions like climate, soils, relief especially when such conditions are unfavorable; insecurity arising from wars, clashes among clans, example: the Ezza/Effium crisis affected migration to Ezzamgbo and even Abakaliki town, political instability, ethno-tribal cum religious crises; differences in economic opportunities like jobs and business transactions, education and wealth, might make individuals to migrate from rural to urban centers; differences in social amenities like supply of water, roads, electricity etc. folks tend to move to where these amenities are present. The above position is aptly comprehensive as it underscores the push and pulls factors in rural-urban migration in Nigeria especially in the South-Eastern region. Ozumba (2017) corroborated the above with his push and pull analogy of factors causing rural-urban migration. In his argument, push factors are the reasons why people leave rural locations in the countryside, such as poverty and unemployment while pull factors are the reasons why people moved to urban locations in towns and cities such as new technology, greater opportunities, better facilities and increased wealth.

Consequently, rural-urban migration has exerted significant effects on the relinquishing side (rural areas) and on the reception centres (urban areas). With these push and pull factors in mind one could imaginatively decipher that there are crucial changes and results in both areas of origin and destination caused by these movements from the countryside to the city (Udo, 2012). According to him, the increasing numbers of people moving towards the large urban areas cause three things to happen: first, urban growth which means that towns and cities are spatially expanding. They cover an increasing area of land, mainly because there aren't enough housing facilities in the city itself so that new incomers often have to move to shanty towns that are increasing in size and number as is the case in Onitsha, Enugu and Aba; second, urbanization which refers to the fact of a significant increase in the proportion of people living in cities when compared with the total population; third - rural depopulation which usually means that large numbers of working age people migrate from the countryside to earn more money in the city. But then, they leave behind the very old and the very young, causing further problems in rural development as the young, skilled adults are missing.

Contrarily, it can be exposed that rural-urban migration also exert a level of positive effect on the rural areas namely by the fact that many migrants once settled in a city remit to their family in the rural area of origin, money that could contribute to further development in the village of origin. In this angle, rural-urban migration in the rural places of origin of migrants may be manifest in two ways. First, the rural-urban migrants send remittances to their relatives in the rural areas and these remittance-receiving households use the remittances for various purposes. Secondly, these rural-urban migrants execute various rural developmental projects in their rural areas of origin.

In Nigeria, most migrants coming from a particular rural community to live in an urban area usually form rural community associations in the urban area. These community associations in the urban areas

articulate, from time to time, the developmental needs of their rural communities of origin and contribute resources to execute projects such as road construction and the award of educational scholarships to students in the rural areas. A combination of these rural community projects executed by the rural-urban migrants and the uses of remittances by rural remittance-receiving households serve as indicators of the positive impact of rural-urban migration on the population concerned. At this point, it is sacrosanct to state that attraction to urban areas is high because people think that they will have better opportunities to work there. Indeed, for some of them life becomes better and living conditions improve. However, a lot of migrants end up in poverty because many cities are not able to absorb the large influx of new residents in a proper way. This leads to the formation of various associations of rural-urban-migrants in the urban areas for better welfare. In the south-eastern region for instance in the south-eastern region, air pollution, crime and congestion have been unarguably associated negative consequences slums, poverty and lower quantity and quality as well as issues like poverty, insufficient sanitary conditions, sub-standard housing, growth of slums and shanty towns increasing air pollution, congestion, crime or insecurity (Omonigho and Olaniyan, 2013). Additionally Olowe and Awoyemi (2015) noted that rural urban migration has a gender aspect in many countries as most migrants are young male adults. Usually urban job markets offer a large share of occupations available to rural male migrants coupled with the fact that men bear lower risks of vulnerability than women when migrating. Adeyemi (2016) advanced that other consequences of rural-urban migration is natural resource depletion, environmental pollution, earning disparities, redundancy, urban expansion, social unrest, population crowding among others. Therefore, rural urban migration contributes to an increase in crime rate within urban centers. Excessive or rampant rural to urban migration increases the rate of unemployment, which reduces the standards of living among urban communities. In addition, rural to urban migration affects women in rural areas because they are forced to attend to many chores at home and in farms. Rural to urban migration leads to the concentration of services and facilities, such as education, health and technology in urban centers, which disadvantages rural communities. It also causes psychological effects, such as the stress that result from traffic, high living costs and taxes.

As a way of advancing panacea for the menace, Adeyemi (2016) adduced that since we recognize that this kind of migration is a major drawback, solutions need to be provided so as to prevent the incidence of over population at the receiving regions. He thus suggested that the menace can be mitigated through the provision of social amenities as water, electricity, cinemas, roads and telephones in rural areas can go a long way in reducing the rate at which youth move to urban areas; transportation of traditional agriculture to fashionable agriculture which will enable the youth to interact in agriculture because the system can make farming interesting; establishment of industries that can absorb the agricultural working population and reverse labour movement can go a long means in reducing rural-urban drift; establishment of instructional establishments such as schools and alternative establishments of higher learning in rural areas which can also facilitate to scale back movement to urban centers; establishment of corporate branches of government departments, business firms and financial institutions ought to be inspired to establish their branches in rural areas; and provision of recreation facilities: If recreational facilities like stadia, swimming pools, cinema homes, amusement parks, etc are created obtainable in rural areas, this can cut back the propensity of the youths moving to urban areas.

### **Security: A Conceptual Explication**

Hettne (2010) defined security as a reasonable level of predictability at different levels of the social system, from local communities to the global level. The understanding here is that at the global level, there is a presence of an order which is predicated upon the predictability of the behavior of other members within the system. At the local level, security thus includes the ability of the state to predict the likely implications of any particular condition on its citizens. The recognition lies squarely not on the state's ability to enforce law and order, though that may be important, but in creating the necessary socio-economic conditions that guarantee fair amount of predictability on the behavior of its citizens. In their own perspective, Nwanegbo and Odigbo (2013) argued that the concept of 'security' is a crosscutting, and multi-dimensional concept which has, over the last century, been the subject of great debate. However, long before that, the history of mankind was interspersed by the frenzied search for the best way of ensuring the security of the people, their properties, territories, states and institutions among others. In all places and countries, security has been considered as a "first order value" worth preserving. The aforementioned notwithstanding, there is no consensus on the definition of security. This is not surprising because as a social phenomenon, it is often approached from different perspectives. Above all, the concept of security has been seen as a situation where a person or thing is not exposed to any form of danger or risk of physical or moral aggression, accident, theft or deterioration. While some security experts argued that the concept of security has always been associated with the safety and survival of the state and its citizens from harm or destruction or from dangerous threats (Mukhtar, 2012).

Those conceptions generally hold that the state is the only institution with the primary responsibility and power for the safety of its territory and its people (Zabadi, 2005). Therefore the concept of security in this study is operationalized within the context of a nation hence the concept of "national security". Majorly, two

contending perspectives tend to provide the basis for the conceptualization of human security. One is a neo-realist theoretical framework, which is predicated on the primacy and centrality of state in conceptualizing security. It tends to explain security from the standpoint of state primary responsibility. Within this context, Buzan (2010) argued that the, straitjacket “militaristic approach to security that dominated the discourse during the Cold War was simple-minded” and subsequently led to the underdevelopment of the concept. For him, human security includes political, economic, social and environmental threats including those that are militaristic. Thus, Buzan (2010) illustrated a tripartite conceptual analysis of security based on international system, state level and individual level but submitted that sovereign states should remain the most effective security provider. The second approach is a postmodernist or pluralist view that seeks to displace the state as a major provider of security but rather places greater emphasis on non-state actors. Advocates of this approach tend to argue that the concept of security goes beyond a military determination of threats. According to Booth (2011), states and implicitly governments must no longer be the primary referents of security because governments which are supposed to be the guardians of their people’s “security” have instead become the primary source of insecurity for the many people who live under their sovereignty. As a result, human security is ultimately more important than state security. While concurring with both, Nwabueze (2012) posited that economic security of the individual is or should be of far greater concern to the government and society than the security of the state. Therefore, security as deducible from the foregoing is a state of reduced or contained threats and tension in which the stability of a state is not in an imminent danger of disruption from within and outside.

### **The Concept of National Security**

National security as a concept defies consensual conceptualization among scholars, researchers and institutions. For instance, Anyadike (2013) posited that national security is the requirement to maintain the survival of the state through the use of economic, diplomacy, power projection and political power. Accordingly, the above conceptualization suggests that in order to possess national security, a nation needs to possess economic security, energy security, environmental security, etc. Security threats involve not only conventional foes such as other nation-states but also non-state actors such as violent non-state actors, narcotic cartels, multinational corporations and non-governmental organizations; some authorities include natural disasters and events causing severe environmental damage in this category (Anyadike, 2013). Measures taken to ensure national security include: using diplomacy to rally allies and isolate threats; marshalling economic power to facilitate or compel cooperation; maintaining effective armed forces; implementing civil defense and emergency preparedness measures; ensuring their silence and redundancy of critical infrastructure; using intelligence services to detect and defeat or avoid threats and espionage, and to protect classified information; using counterintelligence services or secret police to protect the nation from internal threats. In view of the above, Ogbo (2015) argued that national security is the ability of a nation to protect its internal values from external threat. Ogbo’s view above implies that a nation has security when it does not have to sacrifice its legitimate interest to avoid war, and is able, if challenged, to maintain them by war. However, such a definition suffers from myopic view of security. The danger of looking at national security from narrow angle according to Nweke (2016) is three-fold; but we shall concern ourselves with the first two; first is the tendency to equate “defense” with “security” and to bestow undue responsibilities to the military as if the armed forces alone are the guardians of national security. This tendency in turn creates in the minds of the armed forces that it is only through them that security, stability and progress can be achieved. Secondly, national security has been used by civilian statesmen as political rhetoric or slogan for rallying the citizens in the face of perceived internal or external threats to the governments in power and for bolstering their local influence and political base (Adebayo, 2016). Consequently, Dyke (2017) adduced that there is no doubt that national security embodies the sovereignty of the state, the inviolability of its territorial boundaries, and the right to individual and collective self-defense against internal and external threats including the social, economic and political welfare of its citizens. The state is secure only when the aggregate of people organized under it has a consciousness of belonging to a common sovereign political community; enjoy equal political freedom, human rights, economic opportunities, and when the state itself is able to ensure independence in its development and foreign policy. Therefore, in Nigeria’s own case, national insecurity has been a cog in the wheel of the nation’s developmental efforts. The nation’s physical insecurity situation has claimed the lives of millions of people, enormous properties worth billions of naira, and in the economic sphere, poverty, hunger and unemployment has induced various crimes; hence, relegating the prestige and honour of the state to the background. This has consequently led to the high locomotion of people from the rural areas to the urban areas in search of greener pastures. The outcome has been incessant crimes and other security challenges in the receiving areas.

### **Causes, Dynamisms, Consequences and Solutions to National Insecurity in Nigeria**

Several factors account for the rising incidence of national insecurity in Nigeria one of which is that security expertise is limited to contend with the high level of terrorism in its varying dimensions. Adebayo

(2016) in support noted that training as well as resources for building that type of intelligence gathering capability is lacking. In a more critical oriented view, Aliyu (2012) critically outline three important variables that define the nexus of the causes and problems militating against national security issues in Nigeria which he cited as poverty, inequality and mass unemployment. The idea, it is worth mentioning here, is to show that these indicators are actually the fundamental security threats which have engendered insecurity in the country today. Unlike in advanced societies where economic power offers political leverage, in Nigeria the reverse obtains, with one dominant social class determining, to use the words of Harold Lasswell, who gets what, when and how. Therefore, economic problems including poverty, unemployment and inequality, structural politics of exclusion, and a discriminating social system in which an individual will never realize his potentials without a “godfather” provide the cannon fodder of radicalization, social tension, conflict, violence, and the ultimate break down of law and order as we are presently witnessing in Nigeria today (Dyke (2017). Elesin (2012) on his own view earlier showcased terrorism, armed robbery, kidnapping and other criminalities as a quick survey of the security challenges in Nigeria. He argued that militants in the southeastern parts of the country also contribute, in no small measure, to the security challenges facing the country. Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) masterminded several bomb attacks in country including that of October 1st, 2010 when two bombs exploded near the Eagle Square venue of the 50th independence anniversary celebrations, killing many and injuring several others. The ex-militants had demonstrated enough capacity to cripple Nigeria’s oil production when they reduced crude oil production which forced the federal government to resort to the Amnesty Programme. The current secession movements manifested under different umbrella like IPOB, MASSOB, NDM, Arewa Youths Movement, among others have evidenced the level of insecurity in the nation.

In addressing the challenges to the survival of democracy and national security issues in Nigeria, it is pertinent to consider security issues and problems that have affected or capable of affecting the attitude, confidence and cooperation of all groups and segments that makes up the Nigerian federation. It is also necessary to explore the gaps and gray areas in the national constitution that are responsible for various problems and crises and how these gaps can be addressed. Some of the major security problems currently confronting the nation have been identified to include: political and electioneering conflicts, socio-economic agitations, ethno-religious crises, ethnic militias, boundary disputes, cultism, criminality and organized crimes. However, these problems either by individually or collectively constitute threats to the peace, security and development of the country. Invariably, they have implications for the continuity and survival of the nation's nascent democracy. Beyond the effects of national security concerns on the economic fortunes of the country, the nature of the security challenges facing the country also have implications for the country's political system. Equally, social cohesion among various groups and interests is important in the process of national political development. Therefore, the constituent parts of the country must be and indeed feel that they are being carried along in the process of national governance (Abiz, 2008). Experience has also shown that widespread discontent and loss of confidence in the system have ways of affecting national political stability. Invariably, continuing escalation of violence and crises across the country will impinge on the survival of our democracy (Abiz, 2008). Accordingly, there is the challenge to rethink and improve on policy and institutional means of dealing with security concerns arising in the country. At the political level, the federal, state and local governments should evolve programmes of cultural and political education and orientation that seek to enthrone the fundamentals of democracy so that the political contestants as well as the generality of the citizens imbibe principles and practices essential for sustainable democracy. Such programmes must also address specific tendencies that create security breach and concerns in the country.

While appreciating the various efforts of the government and many others unmentioned efforts in tackling national security issues and challenges in the country, the present situation in the country still evidences that all the efforts made by the government have really not met a total desired results. That is because in spite all the human and capital efforts, insecurity has continued unabated and this is traceable to the unresolved varying dimensions of crises in the rural Nigeria which have given impetus to rural urban migration.

### **Crisis in Rural Nigeria: An Impetus to Rural-Urban Migration in South-Eastern Nigeria**

There is no disputing or denying the fact that rural Nigeria is engulfed in chronic albeit with endemic crisis. The background to the crisis in Nigeria’s rural areas and the socio-economic and political impacts of the crisis dates, at least, back to the colonial era. This was when colonialism exploited the resources of rural areas which increased the levels of rural poverty and thus changing the entire structure of the rural economy (Omonigho and Olaniyan, 2013). By enhancing or even transforming the nature of land holding etc, it further affected the nature and system of social production and productivity, the social and physical provision of infrastructure; the ecology and labor force recruitment as well as worsening the overall poverty level amongst the rural residents (they further maintained). Hence, the crisis in Nigeria’s countryside centres essentially on productivity, food shortages, particularly for the urban parasites, and dwindled per capita income which, no doubt, manifest a serious crisis of poverty, apathy and despair within the rural communities. The

nature and extent of rural malaise are, of course, immense and perhaps immeasurable. While rural poverty is not a new phenomenon in Nigeria, it has nevertheless persisted despite the fact that the country is richly endowed in oil and other mineral resources. In a corroborating perspective, Ajaero and Madu (2014) noted that before the discovery and production of petroleum, Nigeria was a state characterized by a relatively narrow rural-urban gap, and therefore urban bias during that period was hardly a topical issue of debate. But with the emergence of oil as the main pedestal of the economy, urban oriented economy swiftly characterized the political economy and the public policy orientation. Urban privileged groups, but the wage earners, quickly monopolized and benefited from whatever gains that came along with oil, (Jamal and Weeks, 2015). As Nigeria is predominantly rural, less than a quarter of the over 180 million Nigerians live in towns or urbanized settings. While the trend in the Nigeria's oil economy is characterized by rural exodus, Nigeria's rural oriented economy with the vast majority of the population expending their labor force in agricultural pursuits, it is nonetheless characterized with migration economy based on the long history of Nigerian urbanization spree. Whereas the nature of rural crisis in Nigeria has reached such an extent and degree that even the peasant has failed to produce enough food for him, let alone produce in excess to be appropriated by the state. Thus, food shortages, lower productivity, lower income and increased poverty have ravaged the rural Nigeria for a very long period of time. Even though these are partly and directly due to the inability of the peasants to have access to fertilizers for the predominant fertilizer responsive crops, inputs and other infrastructural facilities; however, high marketing costs, labor shortages due to the rural-urban drift, infertile soils, pests, diseases due to the increased chemicalization of the soil and mechanization of agriculture have produced further impetus to new rural crisis. Hence, since the Sahelian drought of the 1970s, rural Nigeria has continued to capture the attention of scholars on the unprecedented trends of rural poverty and its consequences on the rural residents and the national economy as a whole (Mortimore, 2016). But despite all the seeming attempts to alleviate rural poverty by both the state and international agencies through many ambitious and in most cases overzealous programmes they have nevertheless failed to transform rural life; either through agriculture or industrialization strategized either through the dualistic paradigms of 'top-down' or 'bottom-up' development approach. While a plethora of constraints could certainly be identified as factors responsible for the current rural malaise in Nigeria, the solutions seem to be as elusive as ever since both the domestic and international dimensions of the issue were completely jettisoned. Thus, the general embarrassment resulting from the failure to arrive at appropriate solutions to the problems has plunged the entire policies and strategies ineffective and ineffectual. The structure of Nigeria's rural economy has made it even more vulnerable with increased state intervention in the rural agricultural economy, particularly through the introduction of a variety of agricultural programmes and strategies. In addition, accelerated land alienation in the rural areas has accentuated rural crisis and therefore become a serious trend that affects the entire peasantry. Thus, with large tracts of land forcefully acquired by the state and held by the urban bourgeoisie in direct league with foreign partnership, have been transformed into commercialized and mechanized farming. This constitutes one of the factors that brought about the state-peasant stand-off in the recent times (Nwakeze, 2014). As the land so acquired is so extensive, the rural inhabitants have inevitably been transformed and turned into wage labor captivity particularly in the River Basin and Development Authority (RBDA) and Agricultural Development Project (ADP) areas where land had been acquired for diverse purposes. With agricultural pursuits becoming more and more unbearable and unaffordable by the rural peasantry due to, among others, high costs of inputs, fertilizers, labor etc the peasants have, by and large, been systematically forced out of farming and to pathetically abandon farming by selling or mortgaging their farmlands to move out of the rural environment for the frivolous urban life, for wage labor and other lumpen-proletarian works. Nwakeze (2014) further stated that the Bakolori peasant revolt was a clear demonstration of a response on how the state actually alienated land from the peasant resulting in the 1980 peasant massacre by the state coercive agents

Over time, the rural labour structure has experienced a radical change. As captured by National Bureau of Statistics Report, (2017), the Sample Survey carried out between 2010 and 2012 indicated that 80 percent of rural dwellers were generally employed in agricultural activities; however, agricultural employment in the rural areas dropped from 80 percent (2013 – 2016) to 65.5 percent in 2017; furthermore, wage labor is predominantly in use with 50 percent seasonally acquired through migrant labor. This, more often than not, indicates that of the migrant workers, 70 percent had land in their places of origin where 30 percent were landless. Of permanent workers less than 10 percent had their own land, the rest being landless (NBS, 2017). However, within this period, rural urban migration of the rural labor force had completely shortened the agricultural pursuits and productivity in the Nigeria's countryside as what had predominantly been left to cater for land were mostly the aged women and children. This unsettlement resulted partly from the large scale projects undertaken as they were all accompanied with ecological upset in the fragile rural areas. The threat of desertification makes movement of the people inevitable. However the deforestation through woodland clearance makes soils to erode and land to deteriorate which also threaten people to live nearby and engage in productive activities. While the crucial question of what is the nature and magnitude of rural crisis must be stressed, it should therefore be noted

that rural communities in Nigeria have continued to suffer immeasurable crisis as manifested in multifaceted forms and dimension, crisis of nature, crisis of state intervention, crisis of maladjustment and so on ad infinitum. As poverty has become endemic, a norm rather than exception in Nigeria rural society, it has continued to persist over time, at least since colonialism while the decades of flag independence have not produced any concrete and tangible demonstration of its alleviation (Udo, 2012). Thus, he argued that neither through programmes of development aids nor local drive for industrialization and transformation of agriculture has ameliorated the crisis from the rural sector of the economy even during the bubbling economy of the 1970s. The solutions so far advanced and implemented by the policy to the rural problems seem to be as elusive as ever. Whereas the ecological constraints associated with low rural productivity, are generally caused by infertile soils caused sequel to their chemical pollution through intense application of fertilizers, pesticides etc, erosion sequel partly to intense deforestation in attempts to introduce new agricultural programmes like the large scale RBDAs, ADPs and dam constructions. Other ecological constraints consisted of droughts and floods while pests and diseases are directly associated with public policy which sanction pollutions into the hitherto 'natural soils' relatively immune from the foreign incursions. Corroborating the position above, Adeyemi (2016) aptly observed that the crisis of labor shortages in the rural Nigeria is demonstrated and manifested by rural-urban migration, as rural ecological constraints become highly unbearable to the rural residents. However, what further bedevils the rural setting is the wrong diagnosis of the problems of the rural areas applied, which in turn produces the wrong results which is sequel to the faulty understanding of the problems in the first place. For example, the so-called traditional farm management is adduced to be the causal factor for the so-called technical backwardness, caused by the vicious circle of inputs scarcity and the ageing farm population without giving further impetus to the young in agricultural pursuits (Ajeagbu, 2016). Consequently, the rural environment has become highly characterized by low or under-investments of resource. The result of this has invariably caused serious scarcity of credits thus bringing about low farm prices sequel to, among others, the vacillating price policies and unfavorable terms of trade between rural and urban sectors. However, the huge marketing costs, caused by inadequate rural infrastructures, have put further assaults on the rural conditions of living. The worsening of the rural socio-economic condition is not only a crisis affecting it but the national economy per excellence.

While the direction of policies and attitudes, over time, of colonial and postcolonial regimes as well as the donor institutions has brought about a plethora of issues militating against the rural society, a catalogue of crisis has, by and large, emerged. These include the perfunctory public policy attention paid to the rural small-scale peasant farmers, particularly in the irrigated project sites which place too much emphasis and dependence on public investments with the large-scale enterprises and urban bourgeois farmers being the central focus. But as against the advocacy for a change from the 'economy of affection' to the so-called capital intensive large scale economy characterized by export crops and machinery etc, the state interventions, over time, have been fashioned out on capital intensive projects without forecast to the social, economic and ecological consequences (Ajeagbu, 2016). Reforms on such interventions were, however, advanced towards the social provision of the basic human needs as advocated by the ILO, which in essence, has turned out to be a further modification of denials of rural needs despite the strong advocacy for the relative rural self-reliance and redistribution of resources equitably. The rural economy is, of course, broader than and therefore not synonymous to farming. Other ingredients that make up the entire rural economy consist of livestock production, forestry, fishing, marketing, hunting, services, manufacturing etc. Within this diversity of activities in the rural society, Adeyemi (2016) succinctly shows the assumptions attached to the non-farm activities and their impacts-it often seems to be assumed that a decline in rural non-agricultural activity will accompany urbanization and the transformation of agriculture. But such an assumption does violence to the multifaceted structure of rural economies. Diversification is very much and is also ultimately related to ecology. Even though the peasant mode of production has been outmoded, as it cannot make any dramatic change and increases in production and productivity, it is equally accepted that the introduced technology is highly inappropriate to the state of affairs of the rural realities or indigenous farming systems. In other words, the technology is highly inappropriate for the rural farming system and for the generality of the rural farmers whose understanding of the technology and resources is highly analogue to the generally accepted designs of the transformation of rural society (Adeyemi, 2016). The dependency nature of the rural environment on the urban policy and bureaucratic tangling has, however, produced undesirable constraints on the efficiency of labor and other productive processes. It must be stressed that public policy on agriculture has by and large shown great disaffection towards the small scale farmers; particularly those on the rural areas, as the inputs, credits and other facilities concretely show its bias in favor of the large scale urban arm-chair farmers at the expense of the predominant peasant population. Thus, the improvement of the peasantry is, any way, an inevitable historical outcome, the penetration of the capitalist forces into the countryside under colonial and past-colonial conditions (Adeyemi, 2016)

#### **Rural Urban-Migration and National Insecurity in Nigeria: the South-East Region Experience**

The menace of rural-urban migration has significantly encumbered national security agenda in Nigeria particularly the south-east in variegated dimensions. Adefolalu (2010) asserted that the rural areas in Nigeria especially in the south-eastern region have been affected by several incapacities in various levels of severity such as: inaccessibility, seclusion, underdevelopment, poverty, drabness, boredom, ignorance, depopulation, hunger, and all types of sicknesses. The above conditions are however as fresh today as they were in 2010 when Adefolalu articulated them. It is the general consensus amongst writers such as Udo (2012), Adeyemi (2016) and Ajeagbu (2016) among others that migration from rural to urban areas leads to a reduction in the number of rural populace which has atrocious effects on rural agricultural output and thus cripples the pace of development in the rural areas. Migration of youths takes away the glamorous social life in the rural areas, leaving the area in a gloomy desertion. The youths migrate from the villages taking along their energy and vigour, and leaving behind the feeble old men, women and children to labour on the farm since farming is their major occupation. This has led to a reduction in agricultural produce with its consequential effect on the gross domestic product of the nation, lowered funds for development, income and standard of living of rural inhabitants, underdevelopment, and total desertion of the rural areas. Rural areas in the south-eastern region lack socio-economic facilities including: pipe borne water, electricity, motor able roads, industries, high paid employment and undergo a lot of deprivations which all attest that the rural areas in the south-eastern region to a vicious circle of poverty. Lykke (2002) earlier affirmed that one big worry about rural-urban migration is that it is most likely the highly educated and most agile people that migrate from rural to urban areas, leaving behind the very frail and mainly uneducated people who are not able to combat poverty successfully. This he alleged adds to a rise in the differences in the standards of living of the rural and urban inhabitants.

Ajeagbu (2016), agreed that the drift of the rural populace to the urban areas in the south eastern Nigeria has led to social, economic, environmental, physical, and other severe problems such as congestion in the urban centers which has increased the spread of communicable diseases in the centers, insufficient physical, and social infrastructural amenities such as, electricity, health, educational, recreational facilities, motor able roads, pipe borne water, housing among others. This has caused overstretched use of physical and social infrastructural facilities. Others consequences have been articulated to include; traffic congestion, unemployment, high crime rate - advance free fraud (419), hired assassins, armed robbery, alcoholism, drug abuse, prostitution, hooliganism, health hazard from pollution; air, water, and noise, for example, toxic smoke from industrial plants and vehicles, inadequate refuse collection and disposal system, poor drainage system which results to flood and overflowing gutters and therefore causing cholera epidemics, growth of slums leading to shanty settlements, and long distance to work as well as serious traffic jam which makes commuters spend number of hours on the road to work and other places, cultural change, juvenile delinquency, and decline in traditional values (Ajeagbu, 2016). This menace has given considerable impetus to national insecurity in the region and the nation in general. For instance, looking at accommodation problem the agony of people who live under the bridges in urban areas of Onitsha, Aba, Enugu and even Abakaliki cannot be overemphasized. Addressing the problem, Udo (2012) lamented that the sun smites them by the day and the moon by night and attributes accommodation problem, to the dearth of urban housing in the urban areas were accommodations are in short supply, high rate of rent, and rapid urban growth which has seriously aggravated the shortage of dwelling units in the region, resulting in over-crowding, slum, and squatter settlement. Similarly, urban unemployment, it has been observed that unemployment is a global problem and it has also been suggested that the exponential growth of urban areas in this present day has brought in its wake, untold hardship on the rural-urban migrants; this results in under employment, disguised unemployment, and even mass unemployment, and consequent exploitation of labour. There is unarguably, great deal of unemployment in these over populated cities and as such, they usually resort to violent crimes, such as armed-robbery, vandalism, and so on in the urban areas. As a consequence, armed-robbery is rampant due to the fact that many people are unemployed/underemployed. Moreover, in the area inadequate infrastructural amenities, southeastern urban areas has infrastructures such as electricity, good roads, pipe-born water, among others but due to rapid growth of the migrating population, these infrastructures become inadequate in the sense that they could not go round; for this reason, people struggle for the available ones. Finally, in the area of beginning in the urban areas, observers and social thinkers argued that migration to the urban areas creates the emergence of city or urban beggars. Rural urban migration has give rise to the large army beggars who daily assemble on our streets to beg for arms. Experts say destitution is a social problem which has many causative factors namely the moneys economy that is bringing fluctuating fortunes, the extended family system, sickness and such like factors are salient features or by products of materialization some of these factors have triggered off a situation whereby the very poor among us are allowed to drift to the street to beg for arms in total disregard for the value we hitherto cherished. And it is highly responsible for lunatics, single mothers and abandoned babies in the urban areas. Lunatic pregnancy and single ladies in the urban areas is a consequence of rural to urban migration. Rural urban migration causes the availability of greater percentages of mad people in the urban areas.

## II. Theoretical Framework

This study is theoretically anchored on the Push and Pull Theory Propounded by Everett Lee in the year 1966. The Push and Pull theory proposes the motivations for rural-urban migration by considering how the relationship between two points-origin and destination are affected by push factors and pull factors. According to the theory, push factors exist at the point of origin and act to trigger emigration; these include the lack of economic opportunities, religious or political persecution, hazardous environmental conditions, and poor infrastructural facilities, among others. On the other hand, pull factors exist at the destination and include the availability of jobs, religious or political freedom, and the perception of a relatively benign environment. Push factors and pull factors are complementary in the senses that migration can only occur if the reason deter to emigrate (the push) is remedied by the corresponding pull at an attainable destination.

By way of theoretical relevance, this theory explains that rural-urban migration in Nigeria and the south-eastern region in particular is caused by push factors and the corresponding pull factors. The push factors motivate the rural dwellers to emigrate the rural areas as a result of such acute shortage or inexistence of basic amenities such as roads, electricity, portable water, famine, drought or crop failure, poor medical care, natural disasters, poverty, unemployment, and general infrastructure that add rhythm to life in the rural areas while in contrast, those factors are existing in abundance in the urban areas (the pull factors). Therefore, addressing these push factors in the rural areas would contain the incidence of rural dwellers migrating to urban areas. Hence, so long as the push factors continue to persist in the rural areas, the incidence of rural urban migration will continue to rise, and consequently, threaten national security.

## III. Findings/ Implications

In the course of this research, several revelations were made as follows:

1. Poor rural infrastructural facilities, rural poverty and quest for improved standard of living are major factors accounting for the persistent incidence of rural-urban migration in South-East Region of Nigeria.

In the rural areas of south-eastern Nigeria, there exists pitiable living conditions, acute/absolute rural poverty, dilapidated rural infrastructure, illiteracy coupled with ailing health care facilities which consequently push the rural dwellers to evict the demoralizing areas and locomote into the fashionably luxurious urban centres for better living conditions. This menace is as elucidated in the below table.

**Table 1: Factors inducing persistent increase in rural-urban migration in south-east region of Nigeria**

<b>Push Factors in the Rural Areas</b>	<b>Pull Factors in the Urban Areas</b>
<b>Agriculture:</b> Increased agricultural inefficiency as a result of land and environmental degradation.	Agricultural workers moved to the towns and cities to work in factories that required unskilled labor and became better off.
<b>New Inventions:</b> New inventions required lower skill levels and cheap ready-made goods. Skilled workers who traditionally worked in rural areas, such as blacksmiths and carpenters, were displaced and needed new employment.	Opportunities exist for employment in new emerging industries and factories in the urban areas.
<b>Infrastructure:</b> There is acute shortage of infrastructural facilities that add rhythm to the lives of rural dweller; also, as people moved from rural areas and population levels dropped less money was spent on roads, bridges, construction, schools and hospitals	There is abundance of infrastructural facilities like electricity, good roads, portable water supply, street lighting, recreational centers, etc in the urban areas. The infrastructure of towns and cities increased as new building and convenient facilities were made available to the increasing population.
<b>Cultural Factor:</b> there is absence of tourist centers and less or no money is spent on cultural facilities such as museums, libraries and art galleries.	There is abundance of tourist centres, parks, stadia among others and as such, people move to cities to enjoy new recreational resources and cultural facilities
<b>Goods and Services:</b> Goods and services available to rural communities are limited	City and town living provides easy access to goods and services that ensure convenience and variety
<b>Excitement and adventure:</b> Traditional rural communities are considered old fashioned and boring	People move to towns for adventure and the bright lights of the city
<b>Education:</b> low quality educational services as less money is spent on educational resources in rural areas	Educational facilities in towns and cities offer a range of choice and access to education for all ages and easy access to colleges and universities providing better education
<b>Health and Medical Care:</b> low quality health care as	Good health care and hospitals in easy reach of city

**Rural-Urban Migration and Nigerian National Security: Experiences From South-East**

there are fewer doctors and medical facilities in rural areas	dwellers
<b>Freedom:</b> Activities can be restricted in rural areas due to resistance to change and adherence to traditional values	Religious and political activities can be carried out more safely and with greater acceptance in larger towns and cities.
<b>Opportunities:</b> Limited new opportunities in rural areas.	Big companies offering new employment opportunities, career advancement and high wages are generally based in major towns and cities
<b>Lack of investment:</b> Limited amounts of government money is spent on rural areas	Government money is made available to highly populous areas

**Source:** As Developed by the Researchers

From the table above, it can be deduced that the poor rural infrastructural facilities, rural poverty and quest for improved standard of living are major factors that give impetus to the rising incidence of rural-urban migration in South-East Region of Nigeria.

2. The rising incidence of rural urban migration has significantly induced security challenges in South-East Region of Nigeria. Rural urban migration in the south eastern Nigeria has culminated over the years into social, economic, environmental, physical insecurities and other severe problems such as congestion in the urban centers which has increased the spread of communicable diseases in the centers, insufficient physical, and social infrastructural amenities such as; electricity, health, educational, recreational facilities, motor able roads, pipe borne water, housing among others. This has caused overstretched use of physical and social infrastructural facilities. This menace has degenerated into traffic congestion, unemployment, high crime rate - advance free fraud (419), hired assassins, armed robbery, alcoholism, drug abuse, prostitution, hooliganism, health hazard from pollution; air, water, and noise, for example, toxic smoke from industrial plants and vehicles, inadequate refuse collection and disposal system, poor drainage system which results to flood and overflowing gutters and therefore causing cholera epidemics, growth of slums leading to shanty settlements, and long distance to work as well as serious traffic jam which makes commuters spend number of hours on the road to work and in other places, cultural change, juvenile delinquency, and decline in social values. The above is security challenges in the region as induced by rural-urban migration are tabulated below:

**Table 2: National Security Challenges in the South-East Nigeria induced by Rural-Urban Migration (2002-2017)**

Year	Theft	Armed robbery	Kidnapping	Assignations	Fraud
2002	9127	81	27	124	243
2003	6796	95	34	210	349
2004	5231	121	91	214	337
2006	3124	134	95	313	410
2007	7289	114	53	225	349
2008	6111	171	58	320	298
2009	1901	243	34	221	349
2010	1082	273	53	318	343
2011	3927	339	62	320	289
2012	3702	289	76	417	319
2013	9774	212	77	319	332
2014	2254	210	84	421	298
2015	32548	4456	78	8555	320
2016	4585	5782	87	565	564
2017	5284	8525	64	245	872

**Source:** Adapted with Updates from Tella (2015).

3. Integrated security approach and regional integration in rural development are possible strategies to mitigate the rising incidence of rural-urban migration and national insecurity in the South-East Region of Nigerian. This study observed that considering the numerous efforts of government (both national and the region of study), rural-urban migration and national insecurity have persisted with their attendant implications. But if the state governments of the region collaborated through integrated efforts, rural-urban migration and national insecurity would be curtailed.

#### IV. Conclusion

It can be inferred from the discussions that majority of migrants from the rural enclaves of the south-eastern Nigeria migrated to continue their education while others migrated in search of employment, basic amenities, to join relatives, and get married. This means, until the imbalance or disparity in socio-economic development between the rural and urban areas are removed, no amount of persuasion or coercion can put a stop to rural-urban migration and its' multiplying effects in the region and the entire Nigeria. Some of its' consequences include but not limited to: gloomy village life, failure of youths to learn their culture and desertion of the village by the youths leaving behind mainly the aged and children among others. The political violence, social insecurity and crimes in the region and Nigeria in particular are traceable to a high rate of unemployment among youths who constitute the economically active groups, political machinery and the largest population of every nation which necessitates rural-urban migration. Needless but sad to say that the greater percentage of Nigerians are ignorant and poverty-stricken despite all the abundant resources in the country, hence the insecurity challenges. It is right to conclude that, the continuous epidemic revolution of crimes and terrorism, which we have experienced in the past few years in the country, may not be unconnected with the alarming rate of youth unemployment. It is disheartening to note that a majority of Nigerian youths are unemployed; and the few ones in employment are confronted with so much of socio-economic pressure from hordes of dependants.

#### Recommendations

Based on the findings of this research, the following recommendations are put forward:

1. The governments of the South-Eastern Region of Nigeria should adopt regional integration in rural development as possible strategies to mitigate the rising incidence of rural-urban migration and national insecurity in the region. The five state governments of Ebonyi, Enugu, Imo, Anambra and Abia should integrate intense efforts to transform the rural areas holistically, by making available sufficient socio-economic and infrastructural amenities such as: higher income earning jobs, educational (especially tertiary education) facilities, sanitation, health services, electricity, motorable roads (including the farm roads), pipe borne water, good housing condition, financial institutions small and medium scale industries and other basic socio-economic services for the rural dwellers. A concerted integrated effort should also be made towards financing the rural enterprises and encouraging effective and efficient agricultural activities. Persistent efforts towards improving the urban areas without converting the rural areas would aggravate the already problematic situation posed by rural-urban migration in the region, since higher number of youths will migrate to the urban appealing areas.
2. Integrated security approach should be adopted by the state governments of the region in order to ensure palpable results in fighting security challenges in the region. Accordingly, the five state governments of Ebonyi, Enugu, Imo, Anambra and Abia should integrate intense efforts by establishing regional vigilante groups, regional police and similar regional security agencies that will marry efforts to fight security challenges throughout the region. The initiation and formation of the south-east "Ebubeagu" security outfit should be seen as a welcome development and should be supported by all to succeed.

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