

**The Effects of Youth Illegal Migration on  
Family Members in Egor, Oredo and Ovia  
North East Local Government of Edo State**



**BY**

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**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK  
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UNIVERSITY OF BENIN  
BENIN CITY**

**DECEMBER, 2022**

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**A RESEARCH PROJECT WRITTEN IN THE DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIAL WORK, FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES,  
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**DECEMBER, 2022**

## CERTIFICATION

We the undersigned certify that this project work was carried out by MICHAEL CHIBUIKE EZE of department of Social Work, Faculty of Social Science, University of Benin, Benin City.

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*Head of Department*

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**Date**

## **DEDICATION**

This project work is dedicated to God almighty for his grace and faithfulness and most importantly for seeing me through my four year program in this great institution. Also, to my Mom, siblings and loved ones for their unending support.

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With God nothing is impossible. I give thanks to the one who created me in his image, the almighty God for granting me the knowledge, ability, strength and divine help to carry out this study to fruitful end.

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## **ABSTRACT**

Migration has been at the center of global discourses with Nigeria a much talk-about involved country. Generally, migration whether legal or illegal is a decision that impacts the welfare of households and societies in various ways which might be positive or negative. To this end, this study examines the effects of youth illegal migration on family members.

The study employed the review of literature on the concept of illegal migration and other works so as to understand the effects of illegal migration of youths on family members. The population for the study was drawn from Egor, Oredo and Ovia North-East local governments in Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria. The paper revealed the causes of illegal migration, its effect on the family and the country as a whole and its implication for social work practice.

This work made use of questionnaire in collecting data from the study area. In order to curb the issue of youth illegal migration in Nigeria, the researcher recommends that policymakers or legislators, and other stakeholders in government should make provision for infrastructural development, better social welfare policy and programmes, and economic succor. Also, social workers should be included in the mainstream of decision making body to help in the formulation and implementation of favourable policies and programmes to address the issue of poverty, insecurity and other precipitating factors causing youths to migrate illegally.

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background to the Study

Since the beginning of creation, humans have always involved themselves in movement activities and this has been a major feature in the history of Africa and the entire globe (Akanji, 2012). Therefore, migration can be traced as far back as the existence of man, most especially when man desired to go in search of food during various famine seasons, and to satisfy other wants (Ebiri, 2017). For instance as rightly noted by Omorogiuwa and Egharevba (2018), the slave trade of 1500AD marked a period of migration in Nigeria society.

The rate of migration has increased in the past decades. In 1965 there was an estimated 75 million international migrants worldwide (Castles & Miller, 2009) and the United Nations [UN] estimated that the number would increase to 232 million in 2013 (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs [UNDESA], 2013). According to Eurostat (2015) a total of 3.4 million people migrated to the European Union countries, out of which 1.7 million came from non-European Union countries.

Migration could be internal, that is within the country or international, outside the country. Internal migration refers to human movements within one geopolitical entity, usually a nation while international migration refers to the movement of humans

from one country to another (West, 2016). To this end, migration whether internal or international is influenced by two factors which are the “Pull” and “Push” factors (Ebri 2017). The pull factors operating in the receiving states include but are not limited to the sincere presence of democratic government and the rule of law, socio-economic development, vast employment opportunities with higher incomes, quality education, favorable policies, better access to medical facilities, better working and living conditions as well as respect for human rights (Adepoju, 2009). As stated by Patricia (2017) young migrants usually engage in migration due to several reasons including poverty and hardship in the nation state, unfavorable economic and political institutions, lack of opportunities, lack of quality education, and dissatisfaction of the standard of living and these form the push factors.

Moreover, according to Netting, Kettner, McMurtry, and Thomas (2012) social work is a “dualistic professional model,” meaning that there are two levels of social work practice; these two levels are typically referred to as the micro level and macro level. At the micro level social work concern itself with working with individuals and their families while at the macro level intervention, social workers are expected to contribute to the nation’s migration reform and treatment of immigrants (Wim, 2012). This is in line with the position of Hepworth, Rooney, Rooney and Strom-Gottfried (2013) social work profession strives to improve the quality of life of all as well as

promoting social justice, it extends beyond serving individuals, families, and groups to serving organizations, communities, and society at large.

However, the difficulty of obtaining legal authorization to migrate has pushed so many into illegal migration in a bid to satisfy their want for better living (Guild & Van, 2010) and it is the duty of social workers to assist the government using their professional expertise in curbing the issues of illegal migration in the society at both micro and macro levels of practice.

To this end, as noted by Gebrehiwot and Fekadu, (2012) migration is a household decision and a livelihood strategy in the family, which focus on minimizing risks and diversifying household income. Hence this research work seeks to explore the perceived effect of youth illegal migration on the family. It also seeks to explore the implications of the findings to social work.

## **1.2 Statement of Problem**

Nigeria has become increasingly involved in migration to Europe, the USA, Asia and South Africa at least since the 90s; thus this shows that migration has being a constant phenomenon in the Nigerian society, though the destination can change overtime (Sanket, Dilip, & Elina 2010). One of the most recent situation reports on Nigerian migration trends have been predominantly focused on the escalation of Boko Haram violence which has resulted in mass displacement of Nigerians in north-eastern part of the country, thus leading to migration (Rebecca 2019). By implication, migration

as a result of internal displacement has led to separation and alteration of the existing family structure and relationship (Azam & Gubert 2006).

Migration usually takes different paths; some migrants move with their families, others may join a migrant family member and some may end up being separated permanently from the family (Hooper & Salant, 2018). Thus, Oliver (2013) stated that in any context of migration, family separation and potential reunification may be a concern. Nowadays due to socioeconomic and political reasons, more people are migrating out than people are migrating into the country (Fayomi, 2013).

To this end, Oliver (2013) noted that any context of migration has a significant effect on the family. As rightly stated by Gibson, McKenzie, & Stillman (2013) through remittance, migration of family member(s) bring about an increase in the family income which therefore ease the budget constraint for family members in the home country thereby increasing their standard of living. Illegal migration is a dangerous and desperate journey often embarked on through the Mediterranean Sea to the advanced countries of the world for greener pastures (Hall, 2011). The risky nature of the journey and the recurring news of youths drowning in the Mediterranean Sea have led to loss of lives which in turn affects the family (Yakeen, 2017).

Summarily, numerous studies including Antman (2012), Małgorzata (2017), Ikuteyijo, (2011), Chukwuedozie &Patience (2013) Gibson, McKenzie & Stillman. (2011) have explored migration, its causes. However, of all these aforementioned

studies, none has particularly focused on the perceived effect of youth illegal migration on the family members. Hence in a bid to fill this gap, this study seeks to explore the effects of youth illegal migration on the family members in Egor, Oredo and Ovia North East local government of Edo state.

### **1.3 Significance of the Study**

The significance of this study is rationalized on both theoretical and practical bases. Theoretically this study is aimed at exploring the extent of migration amongst youths, the causes of youth illegal migration and its effects on family members. It is in view that this study will constitute a scientific body of knowledge that will aid future researchers who would carry out similar research.

Practically, the findings of this research work will be beneficial to the society as it will assist the government, relevant agencies and members of the society at large in further awareness about illegal migration amongst youths. More so, this study is viewed to show how social workers can assist the government ministries, policy maker and non-governmental organizations in re-evaluating existing policies so as to come up with possible means of curbing illegal migration in the society. Finally, the findings will further encourage the inclusion of social work profession in relevant ministries and agencies to help proffer solutions to social problems in the society.

#### **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

This research work seeks to achieve the following objectives:

1. To examine how the reaction to youth illegal migration differ for family members who live in the rural and urban areas
2. To identify the effects of illegal migration amongst youth on family members.
3. To suggest the possible solutions to youth illegal migration.
4. To identify the social work implications of youth illegal migration and its effect on the family.

#### **1.5 Research Questions**

1. What are the causes of youth illegal migration?
2. What are the effects of youth illegal migration on family members?
3. What are the possible solutions to ameliorate illegal migration amongst youths?
4. What are the social work implications of youth illegal migration and its effect on the family?

#### **1.6 Scope of Study**

This study covers the youths between the age of 20 and above residing in Egor, Oredo and Ovia North East Local Governments of Benin City, Edo State. This study is conducted using 150 respondents of which 50 youths were randomly selected in each of the local government including Egor, Oredo and Ovia North East local government, Benin City, Edo state.

## 1.7 Operationalization of Key Concepts

The key concepts of this work are used in the context and perspective of this study; hence there will be an extent of deviation from the conventional meanings.

***Causes:*** This refers to something that gives rise to an action, phenomenon or condition.

***Effects:*** A change which is as a result or consequence of an action or other causes.

***Family:*** A family is a group of people who, in most cases, live together. They share their money and food and are supposed to take care of one another. Its members are either genetically related (like brother and sister) or legally bound to each other, for example by marriage.

***Family members:*** This refers to the group of people that makes up a family unit.

***Illegal:*** Illegal, or unlawful, typically describes something that is explicitly prohibited by law, or is otherwise forbidden by a state or other governing body.

***Illegal migration:*** Illegal immigration refers to the migration of people into a country in ways that violate the immigration laws of that country, or the remaining in a country of people who no longer have the legal right to remain. Illegal migration is the act of foreign nationals arriving in or crossing the borders into a country in violation of its immigration law.

***Migrants:*** A person that travels to a different country or place, often in order to find work.

***Migration:*** Human migration is the movement by people from one place to another with the intentions of settling, permanently or temporarily in a new location. The movement is often over long distances and from one country to another, though internal migration is also possible.

***Families in rural areas:*** In this study, this refers to families living in the rural setting or areas of the society

***Families in urban areas:*** In this study, this refers to families living in the urban setting or areas of the society

***Families' level of education:*** In this context, it is used to describe the difference in educational attainment of families and its members.

***Household:*** In this study, it is used interchangeably with family; hence it refers to people living together.

***Social Worker:*** A social worker is a professional who has been trained to help people who are at a mental, psychological, emotional, cultural, physical, economic or social disadvantage through linking people and structures to address life challenges and enhance wellbeing.

**Youth:** Youth is the time of life when one is young, and often means the time between childhood and adulthood (maturity). It is also defined as "the appearance, freshness, vigor, spirit, etc., characteristic of one who is young.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Review of Relevant Concepts**

##### **Concept of Migration**

Migration can be traced to the existence of the first set of humans on earth. Migration has taken various patterns such as slave trade, colonization, urbanization, industrialization and globalization (Iheanacho & Ughaerumba 2015). Movement of persons (migrants) from one place to another has been a trend adopted by various individuals. International Migration in Nigeria can be traced as far back as the pre-colonial era, precisely the slave trade era in which humans were seen as commodities to be traded and transported to Europe as slaves (Ebri, 2017).

However, the colonial era also experienced International Migration as various ethnic groups and other Africans transported themselves from one place to another spreading the information and educating their fellow individuals on the ideology known as nationalism at that time and also moved from one place to another for trade purposes. During this colonial and postcolonial period, a policy to sponsor Nigerians abroad was also introduced so as to build up leaders who will lead and develop the nation-state since the British (Europeans) opened the eyes of Africans to western education (Afolayan, Ikwuyatum & Abejide, 2012).

According to Omorogiuwa and Egharevba (2018) international migration is a global phenomenon that is growing in scope, complexity and impact; therefore it is both a cause and effect of broader development process. International Migration is mostly influenced by economic reasons which can be for employment, trade purposes, high favorable standard of living and fair weather condition for agriculture among other reasons (Fayomi, 2013). Hence, the movement of individuals (migrants) from one boundary to another has been on its increase. Adetunji (2014) reveal migration to be a process of moving across borders. This migration activity can be engaged nationally and regionally (WHO, 2007). Furthermore the European Union (2011) posited that, the number of migrant grows continually as it is evidently seen in recent times. West (2011) reveals that Africa in which Nigeria belongs has the largest source of migrants. As rightly noted by Omorogiuwa and Egharevba (2018) international migration brings about both growth and decline in socio-economic development of a nation state; thus the increasing remittance of foreign earnings from migrants in developed countries boosts the efforts of developing countries towards economic growth. To this end international migration will always be on its increase as it is likely to be inevitable due to the interconnected nature of nation-state and the nature of the international system.

## **2.2 The Concept of Illegal Migration**

Illegal immigration, in the last ten years, has known an incredible expansion, particularly with the emergence of globalization (Rezouni, 2010). Illegal immigration is

defined according to the United States Immigration Services as: “Immigration across national borders in a way that violates the immigration law of the destination country. An illegal immigrant is a foreigner who either has illegally crossed an international political border, or a foreigner who has entered a country legally but then overstays his/her visa.” Recently, it has been noted that there is a rising trend in illegal migration worldwide especially from poorer to richer countries (Jennissen, 2009). Thus, most migrants within and outside Africa are illegal immigrants. However, those found in Nigeria appear to be on increase in recent times (Ebert, 2014)

One of the benefits of globalization is the improvement of transportation system. Hence, the various transportations for easy movement makes individuals engage in International Migration easily. With the improvement in transportation system, illegal migration has become rampant across borders of nation states around the world. Adetunji (2014) also reveals International Migration to be the movement of individuals across national boundaries. As a result one of the reasons behind the migrants’ movement from one nation-state to another is the desire for a better life than the previous or the present status.

Summarily, illegal migration in Nigeria is multifactorial and it is on the rise in the recent time. It will continue to be a major and unstoppable factor of global life until the different push and pull factors associated with migration, including the social and economic disparities are eliminated (Jennissen, 2009). According to Aseffa (2013)

illegal Migration will always be at its increase as countries remains interdependent on each other directly or indirectly. Also as various individuals begin to identify their various destinations where they are convinced their destinies lies due to the attractive “pull” factors and various “push” factors in their home countries. Therefore, with the increasing demand for labor by various nation states most especially from the developed world, illegal migration might be inevitable.

### **2.3 Causes of Illegal Migration among Youths in Nigeria**

Youth Migration can be influenced through the “pull” factors operating in the receiving states. These factors are but not limited to the sincere presence of democratic government and the rule of law, socio-economic development, vast employment opportunities with higher incomes, quality education, favourable policies, and a better access to medical facilities, better working and living conditions as well as respect for human rights (Adepoju, 2009).

Due to increasing poverty, Nigerians migrate to Europe and other desired nation-states to seek a good standard of living and for better opportunities as various individuals believe that there are better opportunities outside the nation state (Ebiri, 2017). The major factor for explaining Nigerians outward migration is the sharp economic and political differences between Nigeria and the neighboring West African countries and also between the developed countries (Afolayan et al, 2008). This reveals why most Nigerians jump at opportunities given by various countries through visa

lotteries. According to Haas (2007) education and labor (employment opportunities) reasons have been the drives of youth illegal migration in Nigerian, though others still migrate for other reasons. UNESCO (2006) also affirms that, Nigeria is popularly known as a nation state for sourced skilled migrants reacting to various “pull” factors of various destinations and in many cases reacting to the “push” factors experienced in the nation state.

On the other hand, “Push” factors are conditions in immigrant’s nation-state of origin that act as a dissatisfactory and driving tool for International Migration or pressure tool encouraging emigration from citizens own nation state (Rezouni, 2010). This explains that the Nigerian youths are dissatisfied with various factors in the country; these factors can be poverty and hardship in the nation state, political conflict, famine, natural disaster, lack of opportunities, lack of quality education, insecurity, and dissatisfaction of the standard of living previously or presently experiencing (Adepoju, 2009). As reported by Idio et al (2015), Nigeria’s deficiencies which can stand for “push” factors of migration may include industrial development, lack of job varieties, discouraging income and above all the absence of various resources for productivity, lack of social amenities. Also poor working conditions such as poor infrastructural system, inadequate social amenities, the devalued national currency, decreasing standard of education and irresistible corruption in public sectors, general insecurity till date to mention a few (Afolayan, Ikwuyatum & Abejide,, 2012). In Nigeria the presence

of various political conflicts, lack of decent jobs and discouragement of various professional skills of individuals are the reasons why youths migrate.

Conclusively, as rightly stated by Idio, Rogers and Akadi, (2015), Political instability, political crisis, civil wars are “push” factors to migration. For instance, the experiences of various insurgencies in Borno state of Nigeria has made her residents run away or migrate whichever way to Cameroon to avoid been killed or experience any form of attack. Fayomi (2013) also supported various push factors that can hinder immigration and cause emigration of citizens; civil wars, community conflicts, drought, famine. This also applies to Nigerians leaving the nation state as a result of finding escape route to Europe and other destination countries and nation-states with the hope of a better life. Reasonable amount of Nigerian citizens risk their lives through the Meditanean Sea and Sahara desert with a mission and desperation to leave the nation state due to these discussed “push” factors experienced in the nation-state (Sote, 2016). In this regard Oluwadare (2016) stated that about 30,000 Nigerian illegal/irregular emigrants seeks greener pastures by illegal means to Europe through the high sea in Italy while others are stranded at the borders in Libya, Niger Republic to mention a few. Hence these movements are due to the push factors in the migrant’s home nation state.

## **2.4 Effects of Illegal Migration of Youth in Nigeria**

Literature confirms that Nigeria's migration activities of highly skilled individuals became identifiable in the 1960s as highly skilled and potential skilled individuals as students travel abroad to get their educational experience which often leads to them staying behind as they get attracted to their destinations (due to the precise of pull factors) (Anuforo, 2006). This has not changed however; it has been on its increase. The economic crisis in their respective years in Nigeria has also led to various massive migrations of individuals into various nation-states (regionally and outside the region). These experiences have made Nigeria more of emigration nation-states than a nation state of destination as it has been known to be (Ebiri, 2017). Presently, migration is now seen as a trend in the nation state as Nigerians now see it as a responsibility for them to find out their destinies out of the shores of the nation state to various perceived and desired destinations within West African states or other countries outside of the region (Haas, 2007)

According to Ebri (2017) Migration is a consequence associated with conditions which leads to lack of skilled personnel, lack of man power and expertise due to the high rate of individuals (usually youths) leaving the nation state for their various destinations. As stated by Dendo (2008) When these smart and sophisticated individuals leave the nation state due to these two (2) factors known as "push" and "pull" the sending state suffers as it lacks various improvements and developments such as in

industries and other sensitive fields in the nation-state. All these skills are then benefited and transferred to the destination countries. Nigeria as a state of origin suffers high rate outward migration (emigration) of highly skilled and intellectual individuals such as doctors, engineers, lecturers to mention a few (Fayomi, 2013). In concordance to this Anuforo, (2006) noted that majority of these highly skilled migrating Nigerian youths see it as unnecessary to associate back with their home nation state through investments and most importantly feel reluctant and discourage in bringing their skills to develop the nation-state reducing the low level of industrialization in Nigeria.

According to Idio et al (2015) Nigeria lost over 10,000 academics (including youths) that would have developed the Nigerian educational system to its maximum. This event was traced to the Babaginda administration between 1986 and 1990. The literature reveals that this administration brought about the drastic emigration of skilled individuals out of the nation state due to the obvious and perceived push factors of Migration at that time. These “push” factors or situations in the Nigeria state with poverty and hardship as the leading phenomenon are responsible for the massive Migration (emigration) of trained youths or professionals such as doctors, surgeons, engineers, professors and other various experts in needed fields to foster development in the country (Fayomi, 2013).

To this end Fayomi (2013) revealed that Nigeria’s inability to develop is traced to the loss of manpower as well as the appropriate skill and expertise to develop the

economy. Revealing that when a nation state's labour force grows with the needed and quality skill there is bound to be productivity in the nation state. But in a situation whereby Nigerian youths (both skilled and unskilled) engage in migration from the nation-state the reverse is said to be the case.

## **2.5 Impacts of Illegal Migration of Youths on Family Members**

The impact of migration on sending communities, especially on family members left behind, has long been debated (Antman, 2013). However, migration is a decision that impacts the welfare of the household, the home community, and in the end the whole economy in various ways (Azam & Gubert 2006). The effect of a family member's migration on those who stay behind can be either positive or negative, depending on individual circumstances (Sylvie, 2015). They include:

### *Poverty alleviation through remittance*

As reported by Sylvie (2015) labor migration is viewed as economically benefiting the family in the home country through financial transfers; thus remittances can ease liquidity and budget constraints and thereby improve households' long-term welfare. As rightly stated by Démurger and Li (2013) the migration of a family member usually brings additional income to the family through remittances and can therefore ease the budget constraint for family members in the home country or region; Thus, the income effect can enable larger investments in education and health care, create new opportunities to invest in businesses, and raise the living standard of family members

who remain behind (Démurger & Li, 2013). According to recent research, it is reported to be a growing body of evidence suggesting that the income from remittances is disproportionately spent on education and health rather than everyday consumption (Adams 2005, Adams et al. 2008, World Bank 2006, Valero-Gil 2008, Nagarajan 2009). First, there is the possibility that remittances sent from abroad will relax the household budget constraint and result in an increase in child schooling, child health, and a corresponding decrease in child labor. Once in school, the children of migrants may be more likely to finish their education, as the increased income from remittances provide additional financial resources and better prospects towards gaining more education (Cox-Edwards & Ureta 2005, Yang 2008, UNDP, 2012).

#### *Family breakdown or fragmentation*

Migrants do not always move with their entire family. More often, they leave the rest of their family behind: their spouse, children, and parents. The rigid migration policies, uncertain living conditions in the destination country or region, and the high cost of migration are among the reasons why many people engage in illegal migration especially the youths (Gibson, McKenzie & Stillman, 2011). Although remittances are a potentially important means of easing family budget constraints and alleviating poverty, the most vulnerable populations may be hurt by a family member's migration (Ye, Wang, Wu, He & Liu, 2013). When people migrate for work, the groups that are most likely to be left behind are women, children, and the elderly (Yang, 2008). To this end,

Sylvie (2015) stated that migration also entails the absence of an economically active family member and the loss of that member's time inputs to household production; thus, this absence may translate into disrupted personal care for dependent family members, including children and the elderly, and a greater burden of responsibility for work and household chores among family member.

*Reduced family production and income*

Another dimension to consider when assessing the effect of migration on the family left behind is the duration of migration. The expected impact is seen in both short term and the long term basis (Adams, 2008). In the short term, migration may have a disruptive effect on the family because of reduced inputs to household production. As migration is costly and does not necessarily lead to immediate employment at destination countries, it may even translate into reduced income for the family that has to finance the migrant. In the long term, the forgone household production may be compensated for by a reallocation of labor among family members who stay behind. Yet, it is uncertain whether financial transfers rise or fall with the duration of migration. However long-term migrants are likely to earn a higher income and as a consequence may be able to afford to send larger remittances. Hence, their commitment to their family may weaken over time, leading to reduced financial transfers (Gibson, McKenzie & Stillman, 2013).

*Psychological and emotional cost as well as disrupted family bounding.*

At its best, migration can be a rewarding experience that is made in the interest of the household welfare, but in most cases moving to another country and being separated from one's immediate family takes place at considerable emotional cost (D'Emilio, Cordero, Bainvel, Skoog, Comini, Gough, Dias, Saab, & Kilbane, 2007). As noted by (Kahn et al. 2003), migration increases the risk for family breakdown, fragmentation of social networks and psychosocial stress. The emotional impact is not just limited to the migrants themselves, but also to the family left behind. Especially in poorer households where the whole family cannot afford to emigrate together, they emigrate one member at a time resulting in eroded family structures and relationships.

According to D'Emilio Cordero, Bainvel, Skoog, Comini, Gough, Dias, Saab, and Kilbane, (2007), for instance the longer the separation between the migrating parents and their children, the more children lose parents' reference in the management of the household, their authority and their role as providers of love and material care. Parents are gradually replaced by other family members, or the children take upon themselves the task of parenting. Hence, same way as children are affected by parents' migration, the feelings of rejection, abandonment and loss caused as a result of youth migration cannot be compensated by the material gifts and remittances sent from abroad. Though to some extent the recent technological advances in terms of e-mail and affordable telephone calls might allow the transnational families to form and foster

social ties even at a distance, it still does not make up for loss relationship bonding (UNDP, 2012).

Summarily, even though migration is usually a voluntary and planned choice of the individual, the reality might turn out to be very different from the original expectations. Migrants and their families are usually faced with socio-economic and psychological effects as a result of migration of one or more family members (Sanket, Dilip, & Elina, 2010).

## **2.6 Illegal Migration and Implications for Social Work Practice**

Migration has been shown to impact on the individual experiences of people and families within their immediate social environment (Foster, 2010; Furman et al., 2009); thus has shown that there are implications for social work education, training as well as practice. As a helping profession, it is charged with the responsibility of improving the overall wellbeing of people and the society at large (Moore, 2018). This is because illegal migration has adverse effect on both the migrant and the society. Therefore, it is crucial that social work professional work to ensure that every loophole as regards illegal migration amongst the youth is curbed.

On this note social work according to the international federation of social workers (IFSW ,2014) defines social work as a practice based profession and an academic discipline that promotes social change and development, social cohesion and the empowerment and liberation of people; Principles of social justice, human rights,

collective responsibility and respect for diversities are central to social work. Underpinned by theories of social work, social sciences, humanities and indigenous knowledge. Social work engages people and structures to address life challenges and enhance wellbeing.

Migration either of refugees or labour- has got various impacts on the social system, policies and life in general (Omorogiuwa & Egharevba 2018). Hence, social work plays a significant role in maintaining and restoring individual social functioning in response to the inherent impact of illegal migration. As earlier stated, the major factor precipitating peoples' engagement in illegal migration is the lack of socio-economic development among other reasons. In the Nigerian state the issue of migration has been a trend in Nigeria for graduates, experts and hustlers. The hustlers most especially who are in search for a greener pasture most times walk through the porous borders out of the nation state (Akinyemi, 2013). Therefore, it is the duty of social workers to liaise with the government to provide favorable development policies not aimed to suit the whims and caprice of a selected few but for the good and progress of the society at large. Social workers play important role in providing public awareness, advocating for resources and education, community organizing, and planning and delivering peace and reconciliation programs planning and delivery (Al-Qdah & Lacroix cited in Omorogiuwa and Egharevba, 2018).

As noted by Hepworth, Rooney, Rooney and Strom-Gottfried (2013) social work profession strives to improve the quality of life of all as well as promoting social justice; thus extending beyond serving individuals, families, and groups to serving organizations, communities, and the society at large. Hence social workers as a broker, human right activist and a solid promoter of social justice in a bid to curb youth engagement in illegal migration will concern themselves primarily with linking people and relevant structures to address the push and pull factors of migration. More so, social workers are reputable in collective actions and multi-disciplinary practice (Moore, 2018). Therefore, social workers work with all stakeholders involved in migration control to ensure that illegal migration is reduced or totally eliminated (if possible) in the Nigerian society.

Conclusively, according to Baker (2003), social work is an applied science of helping people achieve an effective level of psychosocial functioning and effecting societal changes to enhance the wellbeing of all people. The term psychosocial supports the fact that social workers work to improve sociological and psychological functioning of individuals in the society. Therefore, social work profession strives to improve the quality of life of all as well as promoting social justice and human right in the society. Social workers work with individuals and their families to ensure optimum social functioning. Hence social workers aid the family left behind in providing solutions to their problems and also assisting in providing active communication network amongst

family members. On this regard the implication of illegal migration to the practice of social work is inseparable.

## **Theoretical Framework**

### **2.7 The Human Needs Theory**

The human needs theory is a theory in psychology proposed by Abraham Maslow in 1943 in his work "A theory of human motivation in psychological review". This theory was greatly popularized in the works of Abraham Maslow, John Burton, Marshal Rosenberg and Manfred Max-Neef. Maslow used a classification system to reflect the universal needs of the society as its base to study how humans intrinsically partake in behavioral motivation. Maslow used the terms physiological, safety, belonging and love, esteem and self-actualization to describe the pattern through which human motivations generally move. This theory holds that in order for motivation to occur at the next level, each level must be satisfied within the individual themselves. As stated by Deckers and Lambert (2018), this theory is a key foundation in understanding how drive and motivation are correlated when discussing human behavior. Each of these individual levels contains a certain amount of internal sensation that must be met in order for an individual to complete their hierarchy. Maslow's hierarchy of needs is often portrayed in the shape of a pyramid with the largest, most fundamental needs at the bottom and the need for self-actualization and transcendence at the top.

The major factor for explaining Nigerians outward migration is the sharp economic and political differences between Nigeria and the neighboring West African countries and also between the developed countries (Afolayan et al, 2008). According to this theory, individuals' most basic needs must be met before they become motivated to achieve higher level needs. Also Wills (2014) further stated that the general goal of this theory is to attain the fifth level which is self-actualization; thus this theory is based on the supposition that man has basic needs and that the inability to meet these needs propels man to go to different lengths in a bid to survive. Hence, due to increasing poverty, Nigerians migrate to Europe and other desired nation-states to seek a good standard of living and for better opportunities as various individuals believe that there are better opportunities outside the nation state (Ebiri, 2017).

When the basic needs of a person or group including food, shelter, clothing and other needs accruing to good living are not met, there is bound to be conflict; thus proving that, there is an innate tendency in man to cause conflict. In this regard Deckers and Lambert (2018) holds that it only requires an iota of dissatisfaction for it to be triggered off. In effect, youths are more likely to engage in illegal migration when their basic needs are not met and there is no favorable environment to aid motivation amongst them. To this end, families on the other hand are at the receiving end as they may suffer loss of a member which may result to some psychological and emotional damage. At its best family welfare is improved as remittance reduces family poverty,

though there will be a disruption in family structure. This is corroborated by Ye, Wang, Wu, He & Liu (2013) as they asserted that although remittances are a potentially important means of easing family budget constraints and alleviating poverty, the most vulnerable populations may be hurt by a family member's migration.

## **2.8 Modernization Theory**

Modernization theory originated from the works of a German sociologist Max Weber on which the basis of the theory was developed by a Harvard sociologist Talcott Parsons. It is used to explain the process of modernization within societies. It is a model of a progressive transition from a pre-modern society to a modern society. Modernization theory postulates, that the poor are poor because they cannot take advantage of existing opportunities for self-advancement because of social values and attitudes that derive either from their cultural heritage or from their persistent poverty, or else, conversely one believes that the poor remain persistently poor because too few opportunities exist for them to improve their lot and that avenues for self-advancement are historically linked to the advancement of the more privileged sector of society at the expense of the underprivileged. In the second case, the cause of poverty is regarded as being structural rather than cultural (Derman & Poultney, in Emmett, 1989: 4).

In contrast to the structuralist analysis and interpretation of poverty, development and underdevelopment, the humanist approach emphasizes empowerment of people as a prerequisite for development. Despite the unprecedented change and

progress in some developing countries over the past few decades, both modernization and dependency theories have contributed little to effecting significant development to rural communities worldwide. It is estimated that some 800 million individuals continue to be trapped in what Chambers (1983: 1) terms “absolute poverty: a condition characterized by malnutrition, illiteracy, disease, squalid surroundings, high infant mortality and low life expectancy such as to be beneath any reasonable definition of human decency.

According Haas (2008) it is impossible to separate development from migration. In his work, he identified 7 laws of migration some of which are; “(1) Most times the natives in their territory have less degree (educational qualifications) than the fellow counterparts (migrants) (2) There is a relationship between the level of technology, number of migrants and distance travelled (3) Migration has always been influenced by economic motives.” With regards to Haas (2008) modernization theory posit that the poor remains persistently poor because they cannot take advantage of existing opportunities or too few opportunities exist for them to improve their avenues for self-advancement because of social values, thus turning to migration whether legal or illegal to ensure improved standard of living. The forceful desire for opportunities and improvement of one’s life most times influences and motivates migration (both legal and illegal). This explains why Nigerian youths due to their inability to access the available opportunities and resources are dissatisfied with various factors in the country

and due to the difficulties associated with proper and lawful migration they engage in illegal migration.

This to a very large extent has affected the families left behind as the youth engage in illegal migration. As asserted by Omorogiuwa and Egharevba (2018) remittance from migrants has gone a long way to influence the economic wellbeing of the family and also transformed the economic status of families who have migrants as relative; thus serving as the major positive impact of migration (legal or illegal). Also families are affected as they are faced with psychological cost which may result to family breakdown, fragmentation of social network, feeling of abandonment and even loss of lives which cannot be compensated by the material gifts and remittances sent from abroad. To this end, though to some extent the recent technological advances in terms of e-mail and affordable telephone calls might allow the transnational families to form and foster social ties even at a distance, it still does not make up for loss relationship bonding (UNDP, 2012).

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.0 Introduction**

Research methodology refers to the processes and procedures used in obtaining and utilizing data or information. In this chapter, the methods and techniques used in collecting and analyzing information or data by the researcher are identified. Also the various techniques, methods and process used by the researcher in the collection and documentation of both the primary and secondary data are analyzed.

#### **3.1 Research design**

The research design adopted for this study was the survey method, which has to do with the formal way of obtaining the same information from various respondents through the use of questionnaire.

#### **3.2 Population of Study**

The population of this research consisted of all youths in Egor, Oredo and Ovia North East Local Governments of Benin City, Edo State.

#### **3.3 Sample Size and Sampling Technique**

The random sampling technique was adopted in this study. The sample size of this study consisted of 50 youths randomly selected from each of the local government respectively (Egor, Oredo and Ovia North East) to make up for 150 youths who served as the respondents. For the effectiveness of the sampling technique, the benchmark or

basic criterion usually employed is to ensure that a sample provide faithful representation of the totality from which it was selected.

### **3.4 Instrument of Data Collection**

A structured or fixed response questionnaire was the instrument that was adopted in this study. The questionnaires which were administered to respondents included a predetermined set of closed-ended questions. The questionnaire was divided into two parts. The first part (Part A) sourced for the socio-demographic information from respondents while the second part (Part B) was used in providing answers to questions relating to each of the objectives as will be contained in the questionnaire.

### **3.5 Method of Data Collection**

The method of data collection adopted for this study was the survey method of data collection, which has to do with the formal way of obtaining the same information from various respondents through the use of questionnaire. This involves instruments or processes that ask different question types to a pre-defined sample to conduct data collection and increase the survey response rate.

The questionnaire used for this study were administered personally by the researcher using the face to face method of administration as it was shared among youths residing in Egor, Oredo and Ovia North East local government of Benin City, Edo State as respondents to get their own perception or view about the subject matter.

The distribution and collection of the questionnaire is made easier for the researcher because of the assistance from his friends in the department.

### **3.6 Validity and Reliability of the Research Instrument**

The test instrument was used to measure the effect of the problem as identified in the research type and the research evaluation. However, in a bid to ascertain the content validity of the instrument of research (questionnaire), it was presented to my supervisor and other experts in the field and their comments and suggestion were taken into consideration for the validity of the research instrument.

### **3.7 Method of Data Analysis**

The data collected was processed through editing, coding and tabulations. During editing, the data was checked for their completeness and accuracy. By the way of tabulation, the data processed through editing and coding was transformed into tables and further summarized into with the aid of descriptive statistics which involves the use of frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation. In this regard conclusions and recommendations were made in relation to the findings obtained from the analysis.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

#### 4.0 Introduction

This chapter is focused on the presentation, analysis and interpretation of the data gathered in the course of this study. First, we present and analyze data for sample background (demographic) variables, thereafter, we present and analyze data of the substantive issues in the study and discuss the findings. Out of the total 150 questionnaire sent to area of study, a total of 138 questionnaire were appropriately filled and returned and was used to analyzed the data respectively.

#### 4.1 Socio- Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

**TABLE 4.1: Distribution of respondents by Local Government**

<b>Local Government Area</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Oredo	47	34.1
Egor	45	32.6
Ovia North East	46	33.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source:** Field Survey, 2022

Table 4.1 above shows demography of data by local government in which 50 questionnaires were sent to each local government head quarter in Benin metropolis. Respondents from Oredo local government had 47 representing 34.1%, Egor local government had 45 respondents representing 32.6% and Ovia North East local government had 46 respondents representing 33.3% respectively.

**TABLE 4.2: Distribution of respondents by demography**

<b>Demographic Characteristics</b>	<b>Categories</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Sex</b>	Male	76	55.1
	Female	62	44.9
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Age</b>	20 – 25	63	45.6
	26 – 30	42	30.4
	31 years and above	33	23.9
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Religion</b>	Christian	124	89.6
	Islam	9	6.5
	Others	5	6.3
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Occupation</b>	Employed	58	42.0
	Unemployed	80	58.0

**Source:** Field Survey, 2022

**Sex:** As highlighted in the above table, 76 respondents are male and this represents 55.1% of the total respondents, while 62 of the respondents are females representing 44.9%. Thus, male constituted larger proportion of the respondents.

**Age:** As revealed in the table above, the respondents between 20 – 25 years of age are 63 representing 45.6%. 42 of the respondents fell between 26-30 years representing 30.4% and 33 of the respondents fell within age group of 31 and above representing 23.9%.

**Religion:** The table also shows the different religion of the respondent whereby 124 respondents are Christians representing 89.6%, 9 respondents are Islam representing 6.5% and 5 respondents are neither Christians nor Islam representing 6.3%.

**Occupation:** In the same vein, the table shows that 58 respondents are employed representing 42.0% and 80 respondents are unemployed representing 58.0% respectively. Thus; the study shows that majority of the total respondents are unemployed.

#### 4.2 Presentation of Substantive Issues in the Study

**Table 4.3(a): Extent of Youth Illegal Migration**

S/N	Statements	A (%)	SA (%)	D (%)	SD (%)
1.	The rate of illegal migration amongst youths in Nigeria is on the increase	41 (29.7)	58 (42.0)	20 (14.5)	19 (13.8)
2.	More youths has migrated illegally in recent times than before	46 (33.3)	55 (39.9)	30 (21.7)	7 (5.1)
3.	Youth illegal migration in Nigeria has proven to be on increase due to the porous channels or boarders	39 (28.3)	63 (45.7)	19 (13.8)	17 (12.3)
4.	Youths in Nigeria engage more in illegal migration than the elders	34 (24.6)	75 (54.3)	18 (13.0)	11 (8.1)

**Table 4.3(b): Extent of Youth Illegal Migration**

S/N	Statements	N	Mean Score	SD DEV
1	The rate of illegal migration amongst youths in Nigeria is on the increase	138	3.52	1.43
2	More youths has migrated illegally in recent times than before	138	3.60	1.39
3	Youth illegal migration in Nigeria has proven to be on increase due to the porous channels or boarders	138	4.23	0.96
4	Youths in Nigeria engage in illegal migration than the elders	138	2.68	1.45
	<b>GRAND MEAN</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>3.51</b>	<b>1.31</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Criterion mean = 2.5

From table 4.3 above, the respondents strongly agreed that the rate of illegal migration amongst youth is on the increase (mean = 3.52); more youths have engaged in illegal migration recently than before (mean = 3.60); porous borders has cause youth illegal migration in Nigeria (mean = 4.23); youth in Nigeria engage in illegal migration than the elders with (mean = 2.68).

The data revealed that item 1-4 had a mean score of 3.52, 3.60, 4.23 and 2.68 respectively compared against the criterion mean of 2.5 which is used for making empirical conclusion on the study. With an overall mean (Grand mean) of 3.51 which is above the criterion mean of 2.5. The findings on the extent of youth illegal migration show that there is an increase of youth illegal migration in Nigeria. This is supported by Omorogiuwa and Egharevba (2018) who asserted that international migration brings about both growth and decline in socio-economic development of a nation state. As a result international migration (legal or illegal) will always be on its increase as it is likely to be inevitable due to the interconnected nature of nation-state and the nature of the international system.

**Table 4.4(a): Causes of Youth Illegal Migration**

S/N	Statements	A (%)	SA (%)	D (%)	SD (%)
1.	Poverty, insecurity and quest for improved living standard is a leading cause of youth illegal migration	40 (30.1)	70 (50.7)	18 (13.0)	10 (7.2)
2.	Favorable governmental policies in foreign country precipitates youth illegal migration	42 (30.4)	75 (54.3)	12 (8.7)	9 (6.5)
3.	The need for better education and employment opportunities increases youth engagement in illegal migration	50 (36.2)	72 (52.2)	9 (6.5)	7 (5.1)
4.	Corruption and poor infrastructural developments leads to youth illegal migration	32 (23.2)	58 (42.0)	29 (21.0)	19 (13.8)

**Table 4.4(b): Causes of Youth Illegal Migration**

S/N	Statements	N	Mean Score	SD DEV
1	Poverty, insecurity and quest for improved living standard is a leading cause of youth illegal migration	138	3.13	1.42
2	Favorable governmental policies in foreign country precipitates youth illegal migration	138	2.25	1.70
3	The need for better education and employment opportunities increases youth engagement in illegal migration	138	3.24	1.82
4	Corruption and poor infrastructural developments leads to youth illegal migration	138	3.33	1.2
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	138	<b>3.72</b>	<b>0.84</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Criterion mean = 2.5

From the table above, the respondents strongly agree that poverty and quest for improved living standard is a leading cause of youth illegal migration (mean = 3.13). This is followed by favourable government policies (mean = 2.25). Then we have the need for better education and employment opportunities increases youth engagement in illegal migration (mean = 3.24) and corruption as well as poor infrastructural development leads to youth illegal migration (mean= 3.33).

The data revealed that item 1-4 had a mean score of 3.13, 2.25, 3.24 and 3.33 respectively compared against the criterion mean of 2.5 which is used for making empirical conclusion on the study. With an overall mean (Grand mean) of 3.72 which is above the criterion mean of 2.5. The findings on the causes of youth illegal migration show that item 1- 4 are some of the causes of youth illegal migration. This is in consonance with Ebiri (2017) who asserted that due to increasing poverty, Nigerians migrate to Europe and other desired nation-states to seek a good standard of living and for better opportunities as various individuals believe that there are better opportunities outside the nation state. Also Adepoju, (2009) stated that socio-economic development, vast employment opportunities with higher incomes, quality education, favourable policies, and a better access to medical facilities, better working and living conditions as well as respect for human rights are also leading causes of youth illegal migration. Gibson, McKenzie and Stillman (2011) further stated that the rigid migration policies, uncertain living conditions in the destination country or region, and the high cost of

migration are among the reasons why many people engage in illegal migration especially the youths

**Table 4.5(a): Effects of Youth Illegal Migration on Family Members**

S/N	Statements	A (%)	SA (%)	D (%)	SD (%)
1.	Poverty alleviation through remittance from migrants brings about improved family welfare	58 (42.0)	57 (41.3)	18 (13.0)	5 (3.7)
2.	Illegal migration brings about psychological and emotional stress emanating from loss of family member	45 (32.6)	78 (56.5)	13 (9.4)	2 (1.4)
3.	Family breakdown and distorted social network is an effect of youth illegal migration	39 (28.3)	80 (58.0)	10 (7.2)	9 (6.5)
4.	Illegal migration brings about improved long-term family welfare	25 (18.1)	35 (25.4)	50 (36.2)	28 (20.3)

**Table 4.5(b): Effects of Youth Illegal Migration on Family Members**

S/N	Statements	N	Mean Score	SD DEV
1	Poverty alleviation through remittance from migrants brings about improved family welfare	138	2.23	0.86
2	Illegal migration brings about psychological and emotional stress emanating from loss of family member	138	3.61	0.79
3	Family breakdown and distorted social network is an effect of youth illegal migration	138	2.29	1.09
4	Illegal migration brings about improved long-term family welfare	138	2.56	0.82
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	138	3.64	0.91

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Criterion mean = 2.5

In table 4.5 above, the respondents strongly agree that the poverty alleviation through remittance from migrants brings about improved family welfare (mean=2.23), and illegal migration brings about psychological and emotional stress emanating from loss of family member (mean= 3.61). Family breakdown and distorted social network is an effect of youth illegal migration (mean= 2.29) and illegal migration brings about improved long-term family welfare (mean= 2.56).

The data revealed that item 1-4 had a mean score of 2.23, 3.61, 2.29 and 2.56 respectively compared against the criterion mean of 2.5 which is used for making empirical conclusion on the study. With an overall mean (Grand mean) of 3.64 which is above the criterion mean of 2.5. With regards to the main objective of the study, the findings on the effects of youth illegal migration revealed that Poverty alleviation through remittance from migrants brings about improved family welfare. It also show that illegal migration brings about psychological and emotional stress emanating from loss of family member, Family breakdown and distorted social network, and improved long-term family welfare are some of the effects of youth illegal migration on the family. This corroborates with Sylvie (2015) who asserted that the effect of a family member's migration on those who stay behind can be either positive or negative, depending on individual circumstances.

**Table 4.6(a): Possible Solutions to Youth Illegal Migration**

S/N	Statements	A (%)	SA (%)	D (%)	SD (%)
1.	Favourable migration policies should be made to ensure easier procurement of legal migration authorization	50 (36.2)	58 (42.0)	21 (15.2)	9 (6.6)
2.	Improved security and boarder control by the government will help in reducing youth illegal migration	40 (29.0)	70 (51.0)	21 (15.0)	7 (5.0)
3.	Appropriate improvement in the educational sector to improve awareness of the adverse effects of illegal migration	42 (30.4)	65 (47.1)	20 (14.5)	11 (8.0)
4.	Improved infrastructural development, employment opportunities and better standard of living will help in reducing youth engagement in illegal migration	42 (30.4)	80 (58.0)	13 (9.4)	3 (2.2)

**Table 4.6(b): Possible Solutions to Youth Illegal Migration**

S/N	Statements	N	Mean Score	SD DEV
1	Favorable migration policies should be made to ensure easier procurement of legal migration authorization	138	3.95	1.99
2	Improved security to improve the confidence of the citizens on their safety	138	3.32	1.82
3	Appropriate improvement in the educational sector to improve awareness of the adverse effects of illegal migration	138	3.75	1.94
4	Improved infrastructural development, employment opportunities and better standard of living will help in reducing youth engagement in illegal migration	138	3.25	1.80
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>2.68</b>	<b>1.54</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Criterion mean = 2.5

As shown in table 4.6 above, Favourable migration policies should be made to ensure easier procurement of legal migration authorization (mean=3.95), followed by Improved security to improve the confidence of the citizens on their safety (mean= 3.32). This is followed by appropriate improvement in the educational sector to improve awareness of the adverse effects of illegal migration (mean = 3.75). Lastly, we have improved infrastructural development, employment opportunities and better standard of living will help in reducing youth engagement in illegal migration (mean = 3.25).

The data revealed that item 1-4 had a mean score of 3.95, 3.32, 3.75 and 3.25 respectively compared against the criterion mean of 2.5 which is used for making empirical conclusion on the study. With an overall mean (Grand mean) of 2.68 which is a little above the criterion mean of 2.5. The findings on the possible solutions to youth illegal migration revealed that respondents believed that there are solutions to the problem of youth illegal migration in Nigeria as they agreed to the fact that favorable migration policies should be made to ensure easier procurement of legal migration authorization, improved security to improve the confidence of the citizens on their safety, appropriate improvement in the educational sector to improve awareness of the adverse effects of illegal migration and an improved infrastructural development, employment opportunities and better standard of living will help in reducing youth engagement in illegal migration. Thus is supported by Blanco (2017) who asserted that migration is a complex issue which requires and demands steadfast commitments for all

stakeholders and actors in the migration process and solution, hence Nation-states, regional and international organizations and the global communities should work to proffer political, economic, legal and ethical solutions to illegal migrations.

**Table 4.7(a): Social Work Implications of Youth Illegal Migration and its Effect on the Family**

S/N	Statements	A (%)	SA (%)	D (%)	SD (%)
1.	Social workers inclusion in the decision making body of the government as regards migration will reduce illegal migration	33 (24.0)	68 (49.3)	18 (13.0)	19 (13.7)
2.	Advocacy by social workers on infrastructural development will reduce youth engagement in illegal migration	49 (36.0)	58 (42.0)	20 (14.0)	11 (8.0)
3.	Social workers as brokers should assist youths in obtaining legal authorization for migration as to curb youth illegal migration	55 (40.0)	55 (40.0)	19 (13.8)	9 (6.2)
4.	Awareness by Social workers on the effects of youth illegal migration to serve as deterrent on the issue of illegal migration	40 (29.0)	80 (58.0)	18 (13.0)	0 (0.0)

**Table 4.7(b): Social Work Implications of Youth Illegal Migration and its Effect on the Family**

S/N	Statements	N	Mean Score	SD DEV
1	Social workers inclusion in the decision making body of the government as regards migration will reduce illegal migration	138	3.92	0.50
2	Advocacy by social workers on infrastructural development will reduce youth engagement in illegal migration	138	4.07	0.47
3	Social workers as brokers should assist youths in obtaining legal authorization for migration as to curb youth illegal migration	138	3.52	0.78
4	Awareness by social workers on the effects of youth illegal migration to serve as deterrent on the issue of illegal migration	138	4.24	0.50
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>3.92</b>	<b>0.57</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Criterion mean = 2.5

As observed in table 4.7 above, the respondents strongly agree that when social workers are in strategic positions in the decision making, they can help in combating illegal migration (mean= 3.92). Advocacy by social workers to ensure improvement in infrastructural development and equitable allocation of resources to ensure improved standard of living will reduce youth engagement in illegal migration (mean = 4.07). social workers, as brokers have role to play by assisting youths and their families in reaching the appropriate authorities to provide help in the obtaining legal authorization for migration (mean = 3.52), and the Social workers should provide awareness of the

adverse effects of youth illegal migration to serve as deterrent to youths on the issue of illegal migration (mean = 4.24).

The data revealed that item 1-4 had a mean score of 3.92, 4.07, 3.52 and 4.24 respectively compared against the criterion mean of 2.5 which is used for making empirical conclusion on the study. With an overall mean (Grand mean) of 3.92 which is above the criterion mean of 2.5, the findings on the social work implication of youth illegal migration show that all the items are some of the various roles of social workers in reducing or preventing youth illegal migration. As stated by Moore (2018), social work is a helping profession that is charged with the responsibility of improving the overall wellbeing of people and the society at large. The findings revealed that social workers can play an important role in reducing or if possible eradicating youth illegal migration in Nigeria through the inclusion of social workers in the decision making body of the government on issues relating to migration and public welfare. The findings also revealed that through advocacy, public awareness campaigns (education) and other valuable means, social workers can significantly contribute in proffering solution(s) to youth illegal migration in Nigeria. This is substantiated by the definition of social work by Hepworth, Rooney, Rooney & Strom-Gottfried (2013). They asserted that social work profession strives to improve the quality of life of all as well as promoting social justice which extends beyond serving individuals, families, and groups to serving

organizations, communities, and society at large. Thus, revealing that social workers can play a significant role in curbing the issue of youth illegal migration.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5.1 Summary of Findings

Migration cannot be removed from the history of man, families, villages and nation-state (Ebiri, 2017). Therefore this has been a major feature in the history of Africa and the entire globe generally (Akanji, 2012). In this regard, the findings of the study revealed that there has been an increase in the level of youth illegal migration. It also revealed some of the causes of youth illegal migration in Nigeria. In consonance with the findings, Fayomi (2013) asserted that migration is mostly influenced by economic reasons which can be for employment, trade purposes, high favorable standard of living and fair weather conditions for agriculture among other reasons. However, Gibson, McKenzie and Stillman (2011) stated that the rigid migration policies and the high cost of migration are among the reasons why many people engage in illegal migration especially the youths.

#### **The causes of youth illegal migration**

According to the findings, the causes of youth illegal migration are mainly because,

- There has been an increase in poverty and youths migrate in search for a good standard of living and for better opportunities as various individuals believe that there are better opportunities outside the nation state.

- Also, youths migrate as they are in search for a more better quality of education.
- The youths tend to migrate as they want a favorable government policy socio-economic development, vast employment opportunities with higher incomes, and a better access to medical facilities.
- Illegal migration is as a result of rigid migration policies.

### **The effects of youth illegal migration on family members**

With regards to the main objective of the study, the findings on the effects of youth illegal migration revealed that,

- Poverty alleviation through remittance from migrants brings about improved family welfare
- It also show that illegal migration brings about psychological and emotional stress emanating from loss of family member
- Family breakdown and distorted social network
- Improved long-term family welfare

More so, the findings of the study, families are affected as they face psychological trauma as a result of the loss of a member due to illegal migration which aimed to satisfy personal and family needs. To this end Ye, Wang, Wu, He & Liu (2013) revealed that although resources remitted from abroad are potentially important means of easing family budget constraints and alleviating poverty, the most vulnerable populations may be hurt by a family member's migration. With regards to the findings

of this study, it has been established that social workers through their professional skill of advocacy and activism, and other roles where they act as educators, policy formulators and coordinators, social workers can work to ensure change and social justice aimed at curbing or if possible eradicating the issue of youth illegal migration in Nigeria.

## **5.2 Implications of the study to social work practice**

Youth engagement in illegal migration has its root in the weak and unstable economy of the Nigeria society, the lack of favourable welfare policies and programs and the looming corruption in the society. These negative characteristics of the country affects families as the youths or members engage in illegal migration so as to proffer solutions to their problems and improve their living standard. This is where this study exposed gaps for social workers to fill. Social work is a profession which is strongly focused on addressing and promoting social change and development, empowerment, dignity and worth of person, social justice, human right, knowledge of human relationship, equitable distribution of nations resources and advocates of humane policies, social workers should be included in the mainstream of efforts aimed at curbing youth illegal migration in Nigeria.

The findings of this study revealed the importance of social work in assisting families in dealing with the adverse effects of member engagement in illegal migration.

The findings revealed that families are faced with psychological stress, loss of family member and family breakdown. These are social-psychological issues which require social work intervention to ensure proper management and positive adjustment of family members as they are faced with these conflicts. On a general note, social workers are greatly important in reviving the nation's economy. This will be evident in the participation of social workers in the implementation and formulation of welfare policies aimed at fostering better living standard for Nigerians.

### **5.3 Conclusion**

The major objective of the study is aimed at exploring the effects of youth illegal migration on family members. The research findings revealed the causes of youth illegal migration which can be generally grouped as the push and pull factors of migration. Although majority of the youth will travel out of the country at the slightest opportunity that presents itself either for work or for study, the findings of the study shows that illegal migrants are faced with severe effects such as loss of lives, imprisonment, health challenges and family fragmentation or breakup and as a result, families are also affected by the negative outcomes of youth illegal migration.

Also, migration has done a lot for migrants and their families, but the findings of this study revealed that youth illegal migration should be discourage considering the

negative impact on the migrants and their families. To this end, appropriate measures should be taken to properly address the increasing illegal youth migration in Nigeria; thus the government and other major stakeholders are expected to provide immediate solutions to the endemic problem of youth illegal migration in Nigeria.

#### **5.4 Recommendations**

This study culminated in useful ideas and information which if judiciously utilized would yield laudable result in the campaign against illegal youth migration in Nigeria.

- Firstly, policy makers or legislators and the government in general should make provision for infrastructural development, better social welfare policy and programs, and economic improvements such as higher income earning jobs, educational (especially tertiary education) facilities, sanitation, health services, electricity motor able roads (including the farm roads), pipe borne water, good housing condition, financial institution, small and medium scale industries etc which will help in addressing the push factors of youth illegal migration and improve the living standard of the citizens and their families.
- Appropriate and systematic adjustment in the structure of the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) should be made to assist citizens seeking legal means of migration and also to help mobilize and improve on their services as regards

the illegal routes used by illegal migrants. This involves stronger boarder security and control team with the capability of curbing youth engagement in illegal migration

- Social workers should be included in the mainstream of decision making body to help in the formulation and implementation of favourable policies and programs to address the issue of poverty, insecurity and other precipitating factors of youth illegal migration. Since most of the illegal migrant are usually low income earners who dwell in the rural parts of the country, social worker should also be included in community health delivery services to reach out to families in rural areas. This would be aimed at assisting families and their members in proffering solutions to the psychological stress and other negative impacts associated with youth illegal migration. As a means of rehabilitating repatriated migrants, social workers should also play a leading role in the rehabilitating team.

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**APPENDIX**  
**QUESTIONNAIRE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK**  
**FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE**  
**UNIVERSITY OF BENIN**  
**BENIN CITY**

I am a final year student of the above named institution. I am conducting a research: **“The effects of youth illegal migration on family members”**, in fulfillment of the requirement for the award of a bachelor of social work degree (BSW).

Please feel free to respond as your anonymity will be ensured and your response will be strictly confidential. I wish to indicate that the purpose of this study is purely academic and your response to the questions will contribute greatly to the success of this study.

**Instruction:** Please tick (√) in the appropriate box applicable to your response

**SECTION A: Demographic Data**

1. Age    20-25 [ ]    25-30[ ]    30 and above[ ]
2. Sex    Male [ ]    Female [ ]
3. Religion    Christianity [ ] Islam [ ] others [ ]
4. Occupational Status    Employed [ ] Unemployed [ ]

**Keys: Agree (A), Strongly Agree (SA), Disagree (D), Strongly Disagree (SD)**

**SECTION A**

	<b>EXTENT OF YOUTH ILLEGAL MIGRATION</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>SD</b>
1.	The rate of illegal migration amongst youths in Nigeria is on the increase				
2.	More youths has migrated illegally in recent times than before				
3.	Youth illegal migration in Nigeria has proven to be on increase due to the porous channels or borders				
4.	Youths in Nigeria engage more in illegal migration than the elders				

	<b>CAUSES OF YOUTH ILLEGAL MIGRATION</b>	A	SA	D	SD
5.	Poverty, insecurity and quest for improved living standard is a leading cause of youth illegal migration				
6.	Favourable governmental policies in foreign country precipitates youth illegal migration				
7.	The need for better education and employment opportunities increases youth engagement in illegal migration				
8.	Corruption and poor infrastructural developments leads to youth illegal migration				

	<b>EFFECTS OF YOUTH ILLEGAL MIGRATION ON FAMILY MEMBERS</b>	A	SA	D	SD
9.	Poverty alleviation through remittance from migrants brings about improved family welfare				
10.	Illegal migration brings about psychological and emotional stress emanating from loss of family member				
11.	Family breakdown and distorted social network is an effect of youth illegal migration				
12.	Illegal migration brings about improved long-term family welfare				

	<b>POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO YOUTH ILLEGAL MIGRATION.</b>	A	SA	D	SD
13.	Favourable migration policies should be made to ensure easier procurement of legal migration authorization				
14.	Improved security and boarder control by the government will help in reducing youth illegal migration				
15.	Appropriate improvement in the educational sector to improve awareness of the adverse effects of illegal migration				
16.	Improved infrastructural development, employment opportunities and better standard of living will help in reducing youth engagement in illegal migration				

	<b>SOCIAL WORK IMPLICATIONS OF YOUTH ILLEGAL MIGRATION AND ITS EFFECT ON THE FAMILY</b>	A	SA	D	SD
17.	Social workers inclusion in the decision making body of the government as regards migration will reduce illegal migration				
18.	Advocacy by social workers on infrastructural development will reduce youth engagement in illegal migration				
19.	Social workers as brokers should assist youths in obtaining legal authorization for migration as to curb youth illegal migration				
20.	Awareness by Social workers on the effects of youth illegal migration to serve as deterrent on the issue of illegal migration				