

## **FORCED MIGRATION FROM HISTORICAL AND ARTISTIC PERSPECTIVES: THE NIGERIAN EXAMPLE**

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### **Abstract**

From the beginning, man has always migrated at some point because of his insatiable nature. It is therefore established that migration is inevitable in the life of man. However, some migrations are forced on the migrant and these are caused by certain factors. This paper is a qualitative research paper and it looks at forced migration from historical and artistic perspectives with reference to Nigeria. It traced human migration from pre-historical period to post-independence Nigeria. Works of artists like Chike Aniakor, Dele Jegede, Ifeyi Uchechukwu and Ugochukwu Egbujor were analyzed in relation to forced migrations. Two research questions guided the study; (1) what factors have aided forced migration in Nigeria? (2) To what extent has forced migration affected development in Nigeria? Everett S. Lee's theory of migration (1966) was analyzed to support the study. Data were sourced from primary and secondary sources which include artistic representations. Findings show that search for favorable environment as a result of insecurity in Nigeria is one of the factors responsible for forced migration among other factors. Again, migrants

have worked assiduously to the development of their new environment to the detriment of their homeland. It was recommended therefore that the government must rise above the situation and put a stop to the several issues of kidnappings and killings by bandits and terrorists to avert cases of forced migration

**Key Words:** Forced Migration, History, Visual Arts, Insecurity

### **Introduction:**

Migration has shaped the history of the world and has also changed the destiny of many. Nations all over the world grew out of migrating tribes in search for better environment and settled at some point to grow in to a nation. Also, some tribes have remained perpetual migrants as they move from place to place without permanent settlement like the cattle nomads. Historians have been able to document the movement of man from the beginning till date. Although some of these migrations are necessitated by factors like search for better conditions of living and natural disasters such as epidemics, hurricanes, and earth quakes, others are forced on the people through man-made disasters like wars, slavery, and insurgencies, just to mention a few. Therefore migration is often necessitated by a cause which could be man-made or natural. But in all, Africa as a continent has suffered the greatest force migration through the then trans-Atlantic slave trade and bad governance in contemporary time. Rossi (2018: 1) clarifies that “in historical times, African migrations can be divided into two broad sub-fields looking at respectively: people moving because they were forced to and people choosing to move on their own free will”. Forced migration on the Nigerian people within this historical context has resulted to both internal and external migrations.

The study takes a look at forced migration from historical and artistic perspectives in the Nigerian context. It surveyed from pre-historic through colonialism and post-colonialism periods. Although colonialism started long before the European colonization of Africa (see Blakemore: 2023), the study acknowledges that colonialism occurred at different dates across the globe, therefore the dates associated here with pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial periods are in relation to the Nigerian state.

### **Definition of Forced Migration:**

Migration is a movement from one point of settlement to another. It may involve humans, animals or even other natural phenomenon. It can be permanent, temporal or seasonal. It could also be within a country, from country to country or continent to continent. Natural causes have made migration a prominent aspect of life as humans attempt to avoid life threatening disasters. Migration can be voluntary by the migrant. It can also be involuntary by the migrant depending on the prevailing circumstances within the environment. Oluwole (2023: 204) affirms that: “the International Organization for Migration defines forced displacement as any person who migrates to escape persecution, conflict, repression, natural and human-made disasters, ecological degradation, or other situations that endanger their lives, freedom, or livelihood”.

### **Theoretical framework:**

This paper is situated on Everett S. Lee’s theory of migration (1966). In this theory, Lee defined that there are two major reasons that determine migration and these reasons are what he called ‘the push and pull factors’. The push factor is what forces one to migrate from home place and the pull

factor is what attracts one to a destination. However these two factors have in between what Lee called the Intervening obstacles and Personal factors. Singh (2023: no page) describes factors at home place (the push factor) to include the social and economic condition at the hometown of a migrant and other factors such as war (insecurity), while factors at destination (the pull factor) include the social and economic condition of the destination, alongside better education, work opportunities and good lifestyle. Continuing Singh defines intervening obstacles as the problems and barriers which a migrant encounters while migrating from one place to another, while personal factors determine the ability of a person to migrate. This study therefore investigates the push factors and how they have affected development in Nigeria especially in contemporary time.

### **What is History?**

History is the record of past events as it relates to man and his environment. It is the ability to record the happenings as they relate to man from pre-historic to the present in order to ascertain the level of human development. Morphakis (2020: 1) upholds that:

History is narratives. From chaos comes order. We seek to understand the past by determining and ordering ‘facts’; and from these narratives we hope to explain the decisions and processes which shape our existence. Perhaps we might even distill patterns and lessons to guide – but never to determine – our responses to the challenges faced today.

The importance of history can never be undermined because we dwell in an ever changing world. And because of the importance of history, efforts are made to trace histories of events just to come to conclusions over issues that may have been argumentative. History is very necessary as it enables us to record rate of development in our lives. This perhaps explains why Nwaezeigwe in Egoronu (2016: 248) affirms that:

The history of a people is like the stream of life from which the character, form and structure of their identity, their backwardness and progress are drawn. It affords a people the platform on which to predict their future. Thus, just as every stream has a source, so every group of people has a beginning, the course of a stream, the course of their history and the mouth, the end of an era”. No nation or people who toys with the knowledge of their past expects a future built on a strong foundation of unity, identify (sic), pride and sustainable development. In other words, the past is what gives the present the legitimacy of existence and the present, the platform to launch into the future.

### **Visual Art:**

Visual art is a branch of the arts that concerns with the sense of sight. Though, the impact of visual art on the perceiver goes beyond mere looking as visual art has its power to control and dominate its audience through its intrinsic values. It is certain that the values are of importance to the understanding of visual art; however of all the values of visual art as stated by Adams (2003: 3) which includes religious, nationalistic and psychological values, psychological value remains the upmost as it has held the audience enthralled most of the time either to make them understand the work or make them react to the work and most times even violently. According to Adams (2003: 3), “In London in the early twentieth century, a suffragist slashed Velázquez’s *Rokeby Venus* because she was offended by what she considered to be its sexist representation of a woman.” This is so because, as Adams puts it, “Our reactions to art span virtually the entire range of human emotion. They include pleasure, fright, amusement, avoidance, and outrage.” Therefore the use of

visual art in this study is to reflect on the artists' perspectives in relation to the study and their documentation of the events discussed herein.

### **Migration from Historical and Artistic Perspectives:**

#### **The Early Period (Pre historic – 10,000 B.C.):**

Historical discourses have shown that migration is a constant feature in human history. In George Quest's *The March of Civilization* (1979), he observes that man needed to wander to satisfy his craving which is basically food. According to him, "man's first and greatest need is food. For centuries Early Man wandered from place to place in search of wild fruits, grains, and the small creatures on which he relied for food" (p. 1). As such humans have migrated in search of greener fleece or better living conditions. More than 200,000 years ago, there have been evidences of Homo erectus travelling beyond Africa to explore parts of Eurasia (see: Groeneveld, 2017: 1). Rossi (2018: 1) reiterates this:

It is likely that the human species started spreading on the planet within and outside of Africa between 2 and 2.5 million years ago. Although the earliest stages of human migrations are the subject of intense debate, most hypotheses concentrate on movement that occurred in the African continent.

The Mesolithic era saw the dwindling of nomadic life style and man started to afford a more permanent shelter due to the development of agriculture as he began the cultivation of crops and domestication of animals. This signifies the beginning of civilization period. Hence people started to come together to form cities, and cities grew to become nations. Adams, (2003: 29) opines that:

The Mesolithic era followed the end of the Ice Age and the development of a more temperate climate in about 11,000 b.c. With the retreat of the glaciers, forests expanded. Animals that had been hunted in the Paleolithic era died out or migrated, and people began to congregate around bodies of water, where fishing became a major source of food. By the end of the Mesolithic period many nomadic hunter-gatherer societies were becoming settled agricultural communities.

#### **The Later Early Period (10,000 – 2,200):**

From the beginning, most nations of the world have a historical account of their migration and subsequent settlement at their present place. Quest (1979) again notes that there is account of wandering tribes that settled in the Nile valley before 10,000 B.C. that later blended to what we know today as Egyptians. Again, Quest's (1979) narrative on the history of the peoples of Europe indicates that they migrated from Asia into Europe. According to him:

The Medes and Persians belonged to another branch of the white race – a branch known as Aryan. Almost all the peoples of Europe, including the English are also members of the Aryan family. It is probably that the original home of the Aryan branch of the human race was far to the north of India. There, in central Asia, to the east of the Caspian Sea, they dwelt about four thousand years ago. During the succeeding centuries group after group drifted southwards into India. Other groups wandered westward to various parts of Europe (P: 27).

#### **The pre- colonial period (1415 – 1620):**

Migration in the pre-colonial period unlike the early period witnessed the discoveries of more continents and expansion of the then known world. And by this period, more advanced modes of

travelling have been developed which made migration easier. Migration outside the continent of Europe during the pre-colonial period again, witnessed the exploration of the globe by adventurous Europeans especially the Portuguese who set out for discoveries that led to their contact with other continents like America, Africa, Australia and Asia. This exploration was perhaps necessitated by utmost need for raw materials to support the industrialization of Europe as this was the primary interest upon discovery of abundance of natural resources especially in the African continent. The exploration of the new discovered continents of Africa, America, Australia and Asia led to the colonization of these continents by the Europeans who came with trading of goods like gun powder, tobacco, spirits in exchange for gold and other natural resources and later on brought in their political and religious agenda.

Slave trade was the remarkable migration of this period when millions of Africans were forcefully taken away from their home places to Europe and the Americas and as such inflicted on Africa in particular the greatest damage in human migration history which Guterres (2023: 1) described as “the largest legally sanctioned forced migration in human history”. Although the slave trade cut across the sub-Sahara region, Nigeria lost more people to slavery than any other West African country in the history of slave trade.

Conversely, in the African continent, migration during the pre-colonial era was more as a result of inter-tribal war (and captives are sold as slaves to the Europeans for arms and wine), disaster such as drought or search for farm land which can be classified as political and economic factors. Groups rather than individuals are responsible for migration in this period, as Adepoju (1998) elucidates that “these movements were unstructured, occurred in groups, and the migrants were demographically undifferentiated”.

In Nigeria, histories of the different ethnic groups are movements and counter movements. The Yoruba people were believed to have ‘dispersed’ from somewhere in the Middle East (Arabia) to Ile-Ife, from where they further migrated to other Yoruba villages, towns and cities. The Binis were believed to be a sub-ethnic group of the Yoruba who migrated from Ile-Ife; while the Itsekiri, Urhobo and others around the Niger-Delta have been traced to Edo and Awka, among other places. The Bayajida story described as a prince from Baghdad who settled in Daura. His offspring were the founders of other Hausa states. Sarkins and Emirs in these Hausa states were also reputed for sending their wards and children to different centers of Islamic and Arabic training in Sokoto, Kano, and Ilorin, as well as Mali, Songhai, Istanbul and others...The ignoble trade in slaves, especially the predation of the Igbo and Ibibio areas by Itsekiri, Urobo and Efik, led to the displacement of thousands of Igbo and Ibibio peoples who fled into the forest to escape capture and enslavement, and also to the forceful emigration of Igbo and Ibibio peoples (Oyeniyi, 2013: 13-15 ).

The artistic perspective of the forced migration during the pre-colonial period (1415 – 1620) was visually narrated by Ifeyi Uchechukwu (Fig. 1) as callous, wicked and very inhuman. The sculpture measuring 48.5” x 108.9” depicts a European slave driver beating chained semi-nude man and woman captive. This work represents the torture the enslaved Africans went through as the Europeans forcefully “ejected” them out of their homeland. Uchechukwu’s bold effort at capturing the rigors and pains of this torture on the chained figures exhibit the artist’s great skill at naturalism and represents the focal point of the work. This focal point (torture) incidentally has remained the

major aspect of criticism and condemnation that has followed the discourse on Trans-Atlantic slave trade. Thurman (no date) condemned this horrific escapade as he observes that conditions the slaves were forced to go through were unimaginably cruel even while on the ship. In his words:

They (conditions) were so bad that 15 percent of enslaved people died during the two-to-three-month journey. Forced between decks at night, they were chained together and stacked like luggage. Each captive has less space than a body in a coffin. If someone became sick, he or she was usually tossed overboard in the same manner as the corpses. There is little about these journeys that isn't (sic) horrifying to recall.

Fig 1: Ifeyi Uchechukwu, *Slave Trade*, 48.5" X 108.9", Mixed Media  
Source: Chizoba Egornu (2023)

Significantly, Uchechukwu's work is good effort at documenting our history so it can be faced with courage and not lived again, just as Equal Justice Initiative (2022: no page), quoting the words of Maya Angelou, affirms that "History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be unlived, but if faced with courage, need not be lived again".

### **The colonial period (1849 – 1960):**

The entity called Nigeria came into existence from the colonial period, precisely in 1914 when the British people colonized the region and amalgamated the northern and southern protectorate into one and named the area 'Nigeria'. Therefore discourse on factors that have aided forced migration



in Nigeria begins with this period.

Migration by Nigerians within this period was more of internal migration than international migration. The discovery of crude oil, other mineral resources and the establishment of churches and mosques as a result of the introduction of foreign religion became the pull factor among the

people, from rural areas to urban areas. Therefore colonization by the Europeans became the major impact for migration because of job opportunities. There was need for labour for mining sites and the construction of the railway. These activities enabled a forced migration from the rural areas to the urban area within the period. Adesola & Olabiyi (2023: 77) agrees that “economic opportunities and the availability of social infrastructure prevalent in many cities and towns in Nigeria during the colonial period stimulated rural-urban and urban-urban migration”. Tin mining in Jos stimulated movements of young able-bodied men from Eastern and Western Nigeria to Jos in much the same way as coal mining in Enugu stimulated movement from Northern Nigeria to Eastern Nigeria (Oyeniyi, 2013: 18).

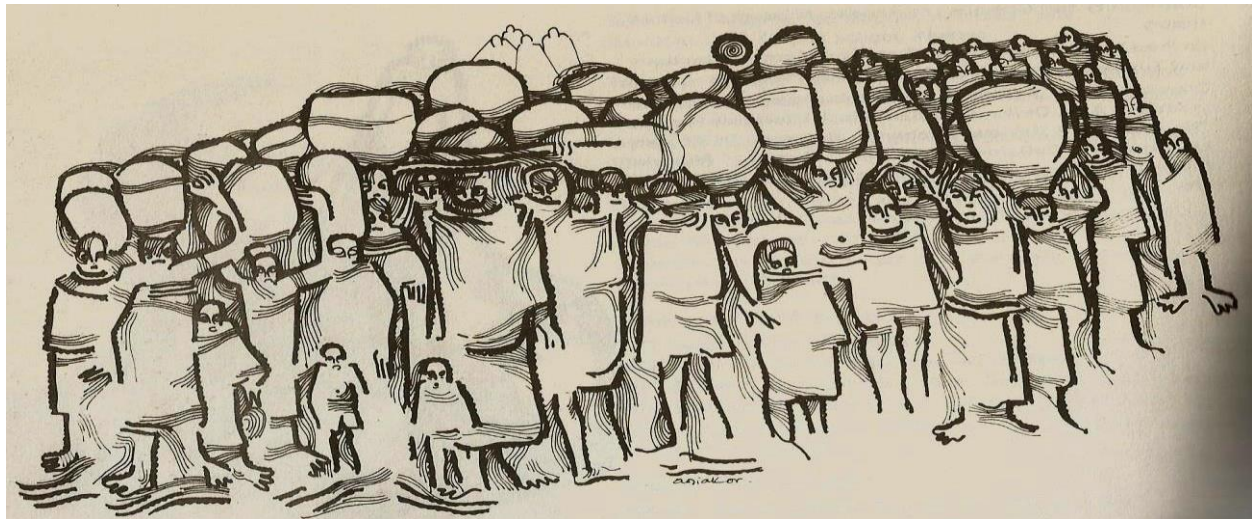
### **Postcolonial period (1960 - present):**

Post colonial Nigeria started at independence in October 1960. Many push factors have contributed to the forced migration of this period. They include political upheavals, inter-communal crisis and terrorism that have remained the nuisance of the later part of the period. There has been continuous negative incidents that continued to beset Nigeria from independence till date. These incidents have continued to erode development of Nigeria. Historically, six years after independence, political controversies in July 1966 resulted to the biggest internal forced migration by the people of South-Eastern Nigeria. A coup and counter coup led to the massacre of thirty thousand civilian men, women and children and hundreds of thousands were wounded, maimed and violated of Igbo extraction in the Northern part of Nigeria (see Achebe 2012: 82). There were also reports of brutal killings of Igbos as well in Lagos and some other Western part of the country and all these killings left many Igbo people very terrified. As such there was a great pull factor to migrate back to the East by Igbos for safety. This recorded the forced migration of the period. According to Achebe (2012: 95) “as we fled “home” to Eastern Nigeria to escape all manner of atrocities that were being inflicted upon us and our families in different parts of Nigeria, we saw ourselves as victims” The forced migration of people back to the South Eastern Nigeria came with its upheaval. It created refugee problem in the South East as many lost their properties while escaping for life. Elucidating on the refugee problem, Effiong (No date: 3) graphically observes that:

Prior to the war (Nigeria-Biafra civil war), a serious refugee problem had already begun to develop when thousands of Easterners (mostly Igbos) were forced to flee the North following the mob massacres that took place there in May, June, July, August and September 1966. The resumed killings brought with it an influx of refugees into Eastern Nigeria from all over the federation of Nigeria. They came back in pathetic and shocking conditions. Most of them had one or the other part of their body either broken or completely missing. Thousands of children arrived, some with severed limbs and others emasculated. The adults bore the full brunt of the killings. Those whose limbs were not severed, brought them back shattered and had to be amputated anyway. Many others had their eyes, nose, ears and tongues plucked out.

In his artistic narrative, Chike Aniakor's *Refugees* (fig. 2) recalls the horrors of the Nigerian civil war that ravaged the South Eastern part of Nigeria from 1967-1970 and the subsequent forced migration from various parts of the country on Igbo people to avert the incessant killings. A pen and ink work that was produced in 1984 and is measured 30cm x 50cm size recalls the agony of a people who were subjected to misery as a result of the civil war. They were faced with hunger, diseases (kwashiorkor) and uncertainty. These are what Aniakor narrated in his *Refugees*. The work shows a large crowd of disconsolate men, women and children who obviously are stranded without shelter. Using suggestive bold and slim lines, Aniakor captures a not sure of whether to move to

the left or to the right, and not sure of when and where their meal will come from situation. A work produced in Uli line rendition that is typical of the artist, Aniakor was able to express hopelessness among the figures as characterize of refugees (Egornu 2019: 171).



The post Nigeria – Biafra civil war era saw a “unified” Nigeria saddled with a greater and more insidious reality. (Nigerians) were plagued by a home-grown enemy: the political ineptitude, mediocrity, indiscipline, ethnic bigotry, and corruption of the ruling class...A new era of great decadence and decline was born. It continues to this day (Achebe; 2012: 243).

Fig 2: Chike Aniakor, *Refugees*, Pen & ink, 30 x 50cm, 1984

Source: AKA’86 catalogue.

### **Factors that aid forced migrations in Nigeria in recent time:**

Search for want have been the factor that aided forced migration from the pre-historic to the colonial period. However, in post-colonial Nigeria, two main factors that have aided forced migration remains insecurity and depraved governance. Post-colonial Nigeria have witnessed a high level of insecurity as a result of insurgency, while depraved governance have brought economic discontentment upon the citizenry including unavailability of basic amenities and these remain the push factors to migration, especially outside the country by Nigerians. Moreover, with regards to access to the labour market, the demands of adjustable new skills mix 4 for livelihoods also threatens the position of several disadvantaged groups in labour market, especially the long-term unemployed and returnees after a period of economic inactivity. (Onyebuchi-Igbokwe, Peters, Egornu, and Okananwa; 2024.)

About the 1990’s, tribal agitations swept across the nation as many groups formed movements to actualize their ambitions. Within the Niger-Delta region came the “Movement for Emancipation of the Niger-Delta” (MEND). This movement announced that they were agitating for the liberation and development of the Niger-Delta region that produces the crude oil of the nation and yet been abandoned by successive governments. This is a region, according to Oluwole (2023), “that is characterized by the absence of infrastructural development, social services, non-oil industries and even petroleum product. There is widespread neglect, social and economic underdevelopment in the region”. Therefore the movement ordered all foreign oil companies to evacuate the Niger-Delta

region or remain at their peril. To enforce their determination, MEND started to kidnap expatriate oil workers and taking them to unknown destinations in the creeks. Many instances abound on this. Nwosu, (2017: 36) reports in his *MEMORIES* column that:

On this day in June 2006, two Filipino oil workers were kidnapped near the Nigerian oil city of Port Harcourt in the Southern Niger Delta. Reports said the incident happened around noon on the fateful day. The two were contract staff of PGS (Petroleum Geo-Services) and workers of Bulford International...Nigerian Police spokesperson Haz Iwendi confirmed that, “the two men were on the platform when they were captured at about noon. There were no attack as such, according to available information so far”...Since the beginning of the year, 31 foreign oil workers, including the two Filipinos, were kidnapped in the Niger Delta.

Fig 3: Dele Jegede, *Niger-Delta: Militancy*, 122 x 7 cm, Latex on Canvas, 2009  
Source: Issues in Contemporary Nigerian Art (2015: 2)

The kidnappings in the Niger Delta signified the beginning of armed agitation, serial kidnappings and forced migrations that have overtaken the nation till this very day. Dele Jegede represented



the agitators in his *Niger-Delta: Militancy* (fig. 3). Jegede shows two masked militants brandishing their guns and firing into the air. The significance of Jegede's work is quite historical in the sense that he has documented the agitation of the Niger-Delta militants in post-colonial Nigeria. In years to come the work will certainly be a referral point that due to the neglect of the Niger-Delta region by successive governments despite the fact that the nation's crude oil is derived from the region, their youths took to arms which drew the attention of the government. It led to establishment of the ministry of the Niger Delta, although the ministry did little or nothing to alleviate the region. It only became a money pipe for Nigerian politicians to enrich themselves.

The kidnapping continued persistently as another group in the northern part of Nigeria came up with another militant sect, *Boko Haram*. The group started to terrorize the nation and by 2014, the

peak of their atrocities which attracted global outrage was the kidnap and forced displacement of secondary school girls in Chibok, Borno State. Ugochukwu Egbujor's *Blood Shed* (fig. 4) narrates the abduction of Chibok school girls in particular and insecurity in general which is one of the factors that have fueled forced migration among Nigerians today. Egbujor's sculpture executed in mixed media has a school girl sandwiched between two goons over the map of Nigeria. The artist narrates that the kidnap of the school girls in Chibok impelled him to execute the work.. Symbolically, Egbujor represented Nigeria with the female figure to show how insurgents and militants have held sway in the country, with each one struggling for greater possession. A closer study of the work leaves the perceiver with pity and remorse as the girl's pain is transferred to the viewer (Ngumah, Egoranu & Chinagorom: 2017).

Fig 4: Ugochukwu Egbujor's *Blood Shed*, Mixed Media, 2014

Source: Chizoba Egoranu (2016)

The many cases of kidnapping and killing in Nigeria have stimulated great migration among the populace. At the kidnap of the Chibok girls, a few escaped from the kidnappers and thereafter some were forced to migrate to the United States of America. According to Mbah (2019: no page), "at least 20 of the girls who escaped from *Boko Haram* have since moved to the US to continue their education". They obviously needed to escape a hostile environment because the unlucky ones among them never saw their families again as they were forcefully turned to teenage mothers by the hoodlums that kidnapped them. Ogwo (2024: no page) in condemnation opines that "recent kidnappings highlight the ongoing threat faced by young people in conflict zones". Agreeing on insecurity as a push factor that aid migration in Nigeria, Olumoyo and Abiri (2023:89) notes that: it is observed that some Nigerians mostly of middle and high economy class decided to *japa* (migrate) due to high rate of insecurity in the country. These groups of emigrant move to other more secured countries not really to hustle but to secure their lives and that of their family.



In recent time, *Japa*, a Yoruba term which means 'to run' became a common slogan among the populace in the bid to express intent to migrate from Nigeria. Depraved leadership by the government has forced many to migrate out of Nigeria to escape the economic discontentment and

human right abuse. The decline in value and purchasing power of the Nigerian currency, increase in petroleum pump prize, and no steady electricity supply, among others became a major issue for desperation to migrate. As such many professional bodies especially in the health and education sectors lost their best members to forced migration as a result of this. Liu (2023: 1) in his paper *Japa, or to flee or to run: Nigerian youth and the urgency of departure* conclude that “casting migration as an act of ‘fleeing’ implies its necessity for survival”.

### **Forced Migration and Development in Nigeria:**

It is certain that forced migration must have its toll on socio-economic development in Nigeria considering the rate at which professionals at different fields leave Nigeria to other countries due to depraved economy and insecurity. Nigeria lost the capacity and capability to attract people from other countries due to economic crisis and poverty. The effect of international migration is not limited to remittances and cash inflows alone. It includes a wide range of development issues, governance and legal protection, employment and social protection, health services and education, tertiary education, knowledge and skills development, and environmental issues. All these come under migration and human development, defined by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP 2021) as a process of enlarging people’s choices which entails two important items, namely, expanding human capabilities and functioning. Nigeria government could not guarantee the safety of her citizens and provide needed basic needs of survival, this paved way for increased or mass exodus of Nigerian citizens (Obani & Odalonu, 2023: 50).

Furthermore, the exit of trained professionals popularly referred to as brain drain in various fields like health, education, banking to mention a few has contributed to regression of the society’s development. These professionals migrate in droves to United Kingdom, Canada, United States and even Saudi Arabia and the government bothers less about the problem. Emigration has stunted the growth of some key industries in Nigeria. Imagine the health sector where the best doctors have emigrated, a tech sector where the best techies are expressing their talents in Europe and America, and an academic system where the best academics have taken their knowledge abroad. Imagine this scenario for every other sector of the economy. According to reports, Nigeria lost over 9000 medical doctors to the United Kingdom, Canada and the U.S.A between 2016 and 2018. With a depleting number of medical doctors, Nigerians annually spend between \$1.2 billion and \$1.6 billion on medical tourism abroad (Olumoyo & Abiri, 2023; 92).

### **Solutions to Forced Migrations in Nigeria:**

It has been established in this study that insecurity and depraved economy as a result of corruption in the government are responsible for forced migration in post-colonial Nigeria and this has contributed to the depleted socio-economic development of the country. Therefore the following solutions if adhered to, will forestall forced migration from Nigeria.

Firstly, insecurity is the main issue to forced migration. From the north to the south of Nigeria, insurgency has over the whole country and the government appears to be clueless and bereft of any solution to this problem. The government must rise above the situation and arrest the insurgents without fear or favour. Where the Nigerian military cannot handle the fight, foreign aid can be sought to fish out these insurgents who have made life very uncomfortable for the law abiding Nigerian people.

Again, the depraved economy is another factor that must be addressed by the government to halt the spate of forced migration among Nigerians. The frustrating multiple taxations by the government is over bearing on the people who cannot even afford a decent meal as a result of hyper-inflation that has taken over the Nigerian economy since the present government came to power. The government must find a solution to stop the relocation of major companies out of Nigeria to neighbouring West African countries because of over bearing economic conditions, and possibly negotiate the return of the companies that have exited the country to create job opportunities for the youths.

Also, the government must find lasting solution to the epileptic power supply in Nigeria. It is sad to note that even with the privatization of electricity in Nigeria, the country cannot boast of constant electricity supply for one stretch week without interruptions. This affects businesses and frustrates investors who would want to come to Nigeria to invest. Constant electric supply is a major force to sustaining the economy of any nation.

### **Conclusion:**

Nigeria is rated as one of the poorest countries in the world today where a certain percent of its populace cannot afford meals to eat despite its rich natural and human resources. And this problem is as a result of mismanagement of its wealth by the politician. As such the people are forced to migrate in search of greener pastures and survival. If this trend is not halted through good and human-faced policies, the country will be heading for extinction and this will be very unfortunate. Therefore the government must arise and act now.

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