

PATTERNS AND PROCESSES OF IRREGULAR MIGRATION AMONG YOUTH IN NIGERIA

BY

IKUTEYIJO, Lanre Olusegun
Supervisors

Prof. (Mrs) O.I. Aina (Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria)

And

Dr. Bonny Ibhawoh (McMaster University, ON. Canada)

A Post-field Presentation at the Department of Sociology
McMaster University, Hamilton, ON, Canada



November 29th 2011



Acknowledgements

- I am grateful to The Center for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) for the award of the African Graduate Research Grant, under whose auspices I am here in Canada.
- I appreciate my supervisor (Dr. Bonny Ibhawoh), who is also present today.
- The presentation addresses only three of the objectives as the quantitative analysis is ongoing.

Background of the study

- Irregular migration is a topical issue globally
- All countries fall into one or more of the categories of origin, transit and destination
- Most research works have presented the issue from the policy makers' perspectives
- Previous studies concentrate on stock and flow
- There is a need to have a socially embedded understanding of the issue of irregular migration

Statement of the problem

- The youth are noted for being highly mobile
- There are enormous push factors to lead Nigerian youth to irregular migration
- Irregular migration has given the country a bad image
- It also undermines the security of the country
- Not much empirical studies done on migration intentions of youth and experiences of migrants

Objectives of the study

- Explore the experiences of returned irregular migrants in Nigeria
- Examine the treatment of irregular migration in the Nigerian criminal justice system
- Study the activities of state and non state actors in the management of irregular migration in Nigeria
- Investigate the knowledge, attitude and practices (KAP) of selected youths in Nigeria as regards irregular migration

Securitization of borders



(Duvell, 2008)

Mayah, 2010



Europe by road :

Duvell 2008

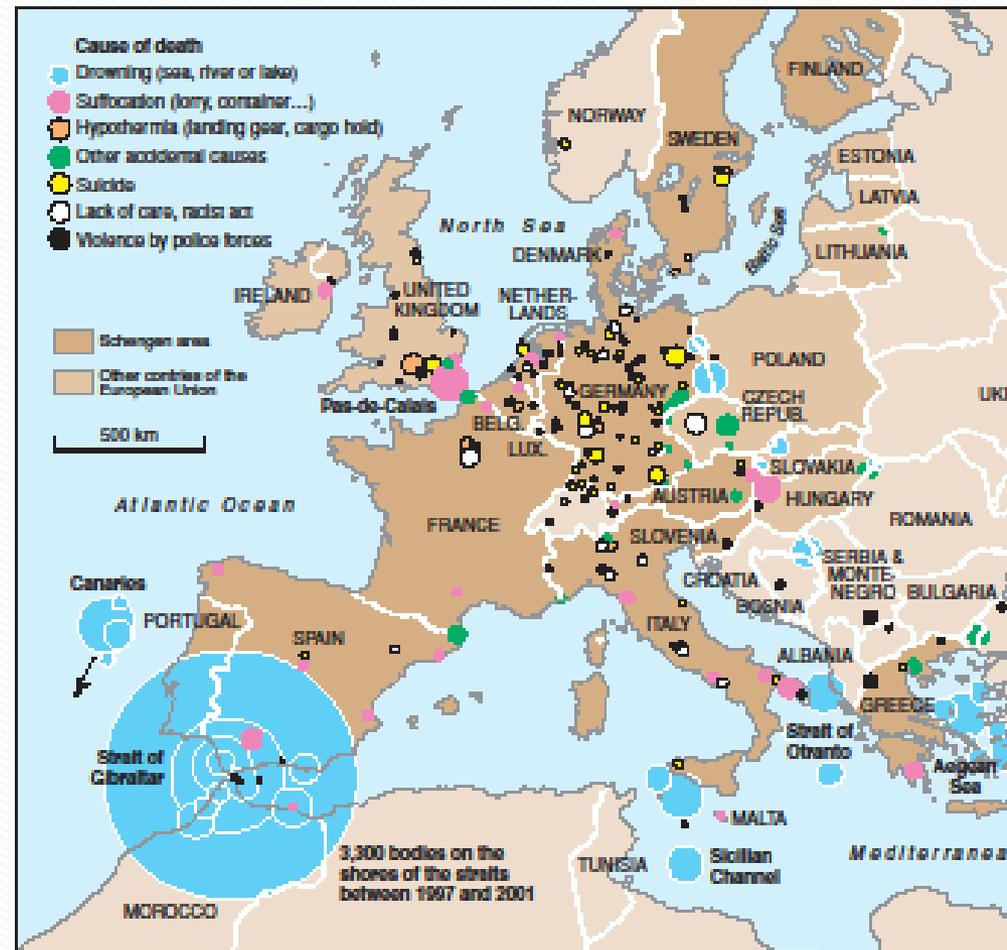


Mayah, 2010



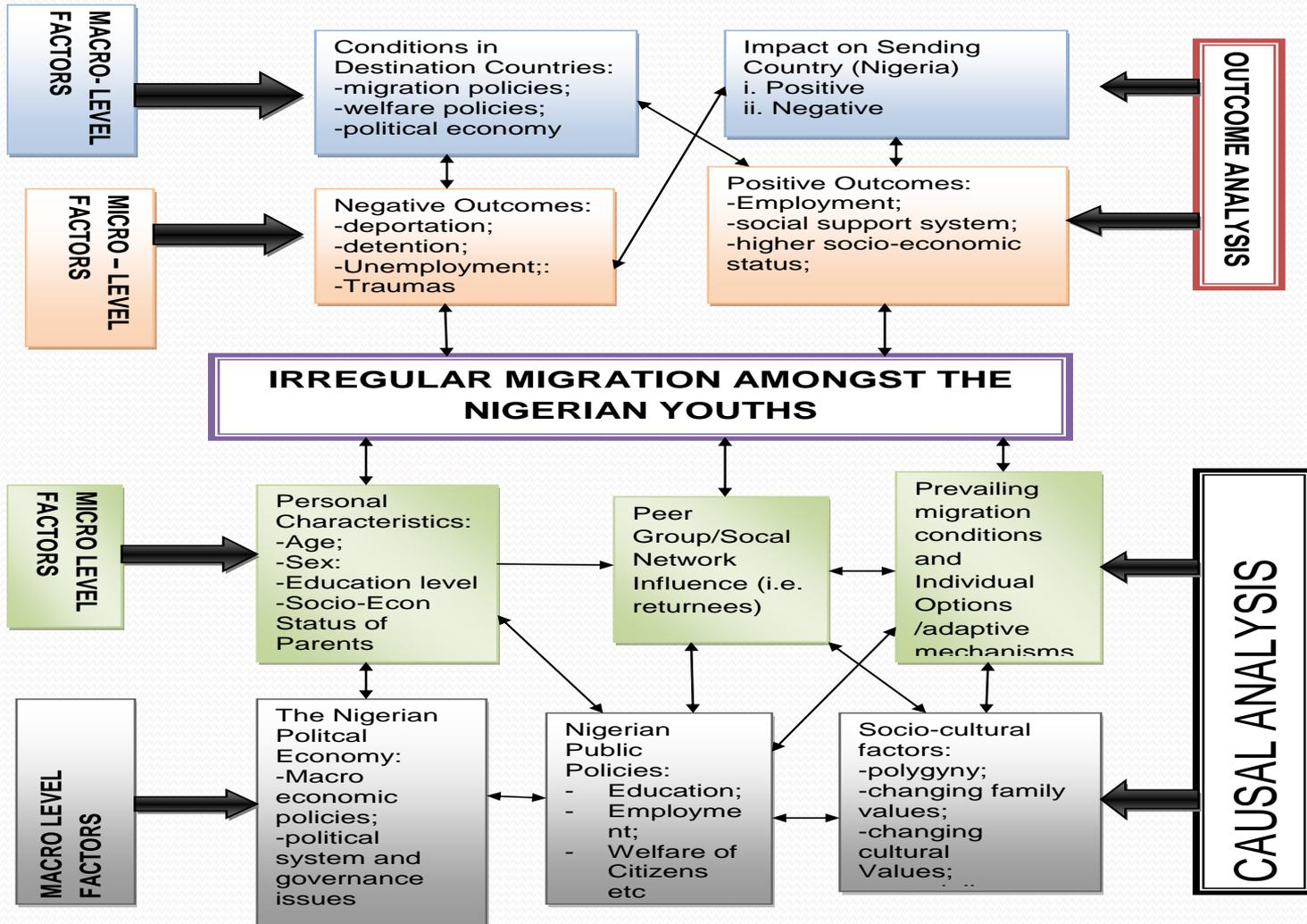
Theoretical frameworks

- Political economy theory
- Labeling theory
- Network theory



Conceptual framework

SCHEMA FOR UNDERSTANDING CAUSAL/OUTCOME ANALYSIS OF IRREGULAR MIGRATION AMONGST THE NIGERIAN YOUTHS



Study propositions

- Individual values and expectations are major motivating factors for irregular migration
- Income and unemployment opportunity differentials are motivating factors for irregular migration
- Access to information through the migrants' network is a vital determinant of irregular migration

Study propositions (cont'd)

- Returnee irregular migrants will experience major socio-economic challenges after their return
- Efforts at alleviating irregular migration by governmental and non governmental organizations have been reactive rather than proactive

Methodology

-Youths defined from age 18-35 years

Mixed methods involving:

- Interviews with governmental and non-governmental actors
- Life histories of returnee migrants
- Focus group discussions with “vulnerable youth”
- Questionnaire with selected youth

Methodology (cont'd)

- Data analysis
 - Qualitative data analyzed using Nvivo9
 - Thematic outlines according to research objectives
 - Quantitative data analyzed using Stata with bivariate (cross tabulations and chi-square) and multivariate analyses.

Preliminary Findings

A. Life histories:

- Returnee migrants have similar socio-demographic background
- Similar motivations to travel which was mainly economical
- Decisions of all influenced by social network
- The girl's vulnerabilities and ignorance exploited by traffickers (Human Rights issues)
- The men went on their own volition (Human smuggling)

Findings (Contd)

- Travel documents:

The girls were given fake documents by the traffickers while 2 of the men travelled without any form of document, 2 others traveled with real documents but under false guises.

- Destination

The girls were heading for various destinations in Europe but only 1 got to Italy, 2 others were “resold” in Libya where they were repatriated.

Satisfaction with return

- One of the girls, who got to Italy was not happy about return because she was almost through with her 'ransom' before deportation
- Other girls expressed disappointment about their return but were glad to have been rescued.
- Present activities
- Not all were engaged; two were based in Cotonou while others are still to find gainful employment

Findings

- Criminal Justice System
 - Criminal and penal code used to address cases of irregular migration prior 2003
 - The law was inadequate
 - The Palermo Convention informed the basis for the Anti-trafficking Law
 - NAPTIP was established (1st in Africa)

Challenges of NAPTIP

- Funding
- Inadequacy of the act, last amended 2005
- Inadequate synergy with other agencies and NGOs
- Combination of prosecution and counseling, given antecedents of most law enforcement agencies in Nigeria.
- Political intervention
- More concentration on criminal justice aspect over human rights aspects

Nigeria Immigration Service

- Plans to initiate voluntary assisted return with some destination countries
- The SWITZ model
- Improvement in the process of deporting migrants
- Signed bilateral agreements with some countries like United Kingdom, Spain, Turkey, Switzerland
- Emphasis on AVR due to the processes many left home through

Challenges if NIS

- Staff welfare
- Teething problems with biometric passports
- Pending Immigration Law and National Migration Policy
- Training of personnel

Non-governmental organizations

- WOTCLEF
- Established by a former 1st Lady in 1999
- Caters for victims of trafficking and child labour
- **Challenges**
- Funding
- Political patronage

IDIA Renaissance

- Caters for victims of trafficking
- Partnership with several organizations in Europe on voluntary return projects for irregular migrants
- Lobbied for the passage of AHTL and CRA in Edo State
- Assist in family tracing and reunion
- Gave their 1st shelter to NAPTIP
- Edo girls most unwilling to return due to stigma

Challenges

- Funding: No supports from the state government despite the status of the state in HT
- Political patronage
- Ineffective training of returnee on skills acquisition

Conclusion

- The management of irregular migration in Nigeria requires more concerted efforts
- NGOs should be more empowered
- NAPTIP should be well funded
- Relevant laws should address social reality
- Root causes of irregular migration be addressed
- Speedy conclusion of the Nigerian Migration Policy
- De-politicization of government efforts at tackling irregular migration



Thank you for the attention!