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WOMEN, MIGRATION, DECENT WORK AND VULNERABILITIES IN AFRICA: AN INVESTIGATIVE ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT: This study investigated women, migration, decent work and vulnerabilities in Africa. Essentially, it is on record that for the last few years more female migrants have been migrating independently for work, education and as heads of households. Despite these improvements, female migrants may still face stronger discrimination, are more vulnerable to mistreatment, and can experience double discrimination as both migrants and as women in their host country in comparison to male migrants. Nonetheless, male migrants are also exposed to vulnerabilities in the migration processes. For example, records have it that every day, women across Libya who have been subjected to forced marriages, sexual abuse, and other dire situations, leave their home countries for the prospect of a better life and with longing for Europe's safety, they are willing to face an equally perilous route ahead, with the constant risk of being returned to Libyan detention centres, where they are abused, starved, and tortured (Palmucci, 2021). It is based on this that this study was carried out using investigative analysis of women victims who are presently returnees to their home country (Nigeria). Through identified women returnees from some of these countries, most especially Libya, 15 women returnees interacted to share their experiences while outside the country for greener pastures. These 15 women returnees were able to link the authors of this study to other 29 women returnees to Nigeria in the last three to two years.

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On investigating the reasons for migration among the migrant women, the result revealed that 9 of the respondents indicated “Need for better life” was the reason for their migration; 6 of the respondents indicated “Need to raise capital to run business back home in their home country (Nigeria)” 6 of the respondents also indicated that insecurity in their home country was the reason for their migration; only 1 of the respondents indicated that the need to support parents and siblings financially was the reason for their migration; Similarly 3 of the respondents indicated that Denial of Visa to travel out of the country was the reason for their migration; 3 of the respondents indicated that poor economy in Nigeria was the reason for their migrate; 2 of the respondents that extreme poverty in the country was the reason for migration to other African countries, en route to Europe; 1 of the respondents indicated that the Need to support children and husband and aged father was the reason for migration etc. Similarly, the results also revealed that based on the challenges these returnee migrants were asked to have been experienced; after migration, 5 of the respondents indicated Psychological harassment while looking for job; 8 of the respondents indicated that inability to secure decent jobs was a major challenge they were faced with; 4 of the respondents indicated low wages was the major challenge they were faced with; 7 of the respondents expressed that the major challenge they were faced with was sexual harassment; 3 of the respondents indicated that inability to secure good health care in the country of stay was the challenge they were faced with while 7 of the respondents were of the view that Covid-19 Pandemic Challenges was a Challenge they were faced. Above all, the findings of the study revealed that a larger percentage of the women returnees reported they experienced several forms of sexual harassment, health harassment, economic harassment and social harassment,

It is recommended therefore that since this situation is well known to the international community, there is need for full implementation of the legislation towards gender-sensitive asylum procedures in Europe and in some well-developed African Countries and possibly in some of these closest countries to Europe, though it is still unfortunate to note that most of these migrant women are usually reluctant to report cases of abuses suffered during their journey, possibly due to fear of retaliations. However,

there is need for adequate psychological support and provision of therapeutic process by EU to African women arriving in Europe and also by African countries closest to some of these European countries. In conclusion, it is established that women are faced with enormous challenges while transiting from Africa to Europe that predispose them to various forms of vulnerabilities.

INTRODUCTION

Migration was long regarded as something that men do. Several studies show that, until recently, migration was dominated by single men (de Haan, 2000, cited in Masanja, 2013). The migration of females in the world is hardly two centuries old (Ravenstein, 1885 cited in Masanja, 2013). This is reflected in the fact that feminization of migration is one of the recent changes of population movements. In Africa, female migration is also largely a new phenomenon (Masanja, 2013). The traditional pattern of migration within sub-Saharan Africa which used to be male-dominated, long-term, and long-distance is increasingly becoming feminized. Anecdotal evidence reveals a striking increase in migration by women, who had traditionally remained at home while men moved around in search of paid work (Masanja, 2013). A significant share of these women is made up of migrants who move independently to fulfill their own economic needs and not simply joining a husband or other family members (Masanja, 2013).

Essentially, the increase in independent female migration is not confined by national borders. Women – both single and married – are now migrating independently in search of secure jobs in rich countries, as a survival strategy to augment dwindling family income, thus redefining traditional gender roles within families and societies (Adepoju, 2006d, cited in Masanja, 2013). Professional women from Nigeria and Ghana, for example, now engage in international migration, often leaving their spouses at home to care for the children. Female nurses and doctors have been recruited from Nigeria to work in to other parts of the Sub-Saharan region and abroad, while their counterparts in Ghana are taking advantage

of the better pay packages outside the region such as the UK and United States to accumulate enough savings to survive harsh economic conditions at home (Masanja, 2013).

Accordingly, based on the UN Population Division in 2002's records, there has been a steady growth in migration with an estimated 175 million migrants today (Kawar, 2013). Also, 60% of those migrants live in more developed regions and 40% in less developed regions. Almost one in every ten persons living in a more developed country is a migrant. In contrast, nearly one in every 70 persons in developing countries is a migrant (Kawar, 2016). However, taking a closer look at some specific countries like the Arab Gulf Region, it was found out that migrant labour consists of 60% of the population in Bahrain, 91% in the United Arab Emirate, 80% in Kuwait and 90% in Qatar (Kawar, 2016).

However, women migrants were unseen, their experiences overlooked (Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, 2020). Essentially, women's national and international mobility are largely individual paths of emancipation and empowerment. Along the way, women are integral part of the job market and fully contribute to the economic and social dynamics of their home and host countries (Friedrich Ebert foundation in Tunisia, 2020). They contribute to their family and community development by sending money to build schools and houses, to cover health and education expenses, especially family events like baptisms, marriages, and deaths (Friedrich Ebert foundation in Tunisia, 2020). They are known to also support the community through associative and technology transfer projects. Yet, migrant women most often have inhumane and degrading working conditions and are exposed to all types of abuse, exploitation, slavery, and human trafficking (Friedrich Ebert foundation in Tunisia, 2020).

Despite the difficulties and constraints, migration offers women new opportunities and financial independence in addition to improved status within their homes and communities. Over and above, female migrants are now major contributors to their home country economies through their private remittances (Kawar, 2016). And despite the potential for improving their lives there are many disadvantages and risks that women face as compared to men (Kawar, 2016):

- During the decision to migrate many women may have unrealistic expectations, lack of proper information on the migration process and procedures and on employment opportunities. They may also lack the know-how and ability to cover expenses. Thus, they may end up in irregular and exploitative situations.
- As compared to men, women migrant workers have been found to tend to be concentrated in a more limited number of occupations.
- The migration of women is mostly not unrelated to career advancement and skill acquisition. It is established that there is a significant number of migrant women possess skills and qualifications often not recognized or unneeded in the types of work that they perform. In fact, many studies show that migration involves deskilling for some groups of women. For example, many Filipino women with college degrees work in domestic service or the entertainment industry.
- In comparison to men, most migrant women end up performing the 3D jobs and are in isolated situations with limited opportunities to build networks. Which may them has limited access to information and social support.
- Women more than men are known to occupy jobs within the informal sector which is not covered by any labour legislation or social protection.
- Women migrants themselves have been identified to lack knowledge of their rights, fear the authorities and are not organized.

However, the broad objective of this particular study is to investigate:

1. Why Nigerian women continuously migrate to Europe en route African countries,
2. What challenges were they faced with either in Europe or other African countries after migration, how they dealt with them,
3. How they think their future is likely to be after migration,
4. Types of jobs they were involved in and how decent were the jobs,
5. Various forms of vulnerabilities they were faced with.

So, in this vein, the attention of this study was directed at women returnees, either from African countries or Europe.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. Why do women continuously migrate to Europe En route African Countries?
2. What challenges were women forced with either in Europe or other African countries after migrate?
3. How do women think their future is likely to be after migration?
4. What types of jobs were migrating women involved in and how decent were the jobs?
5. What were the various forms of vulnerabilities faced by women after migration?

LITERATURE REVIEW

Theoretical Framework

Theories of Migration

Everett Lee's Theory of Migration

Everett Lee's theory of migration is found very relevant to this study. Everett Lee in his A Theory of Migration divides the factors that determine the decision to migrate into four categories (cited in <https://www.sociologydiscussion.com/demography/migration-demography/top-3-theories-of-migration/3148>):

1. Factors associated with the Area of Origin: Accordingly, there are many factors which motivate people to leave their place of origin to outside area, usually called Push factors;
2. Factors associated with the Area of Destination: With this, there are very attractive forces at the area of destination to which the proportion of selectivity migrants is high. And such forces are found in metropolitan area of a country. Accordingly, pull factors are present in such areas;
3. Intervening Obstacles; Here, there are intervening obstacles like distance and transportation which increase migrant selectivity of the area of destination. These obstacles have been lessened in mod-

ern times with, technological advances. Lee is said to have referred to this as cost of movements, ethnic barriers and personal factors as intervening obstacles;

4. Personal factors; Here and lastly, it is the personal factors on which the decision to migrate from the place of origin to the place of destination depends. Essentially, it is an individual's perception of the 'pull and push forces' which influence actual migration. He categorizes these forces into "pluses" and "minuses" respectively. In other words, pluses are pull factors and minuses are push factors. In between them are "zeros" which balance the competing forces. The sign pluses represent the forces that attract people to a place (pull factors) and that of minuses represents the forces that push people from the area. Zeros represent the indifference of the people towards migration. In between these forces are the intervening obstacles.

However, according to Lee, it is the personal factors such as age, sex, race and education which along with the pull-push factors and intervening obstacles that determine migration. Further, there are sequential migrants such as children and wives of migrants who have little role in the decision to migrate.

Lee has formulated three hypotheses within the conceptual framework of the above noted four factors.

These are:

1. Characteristics of Migrants: The following are the characteristics of migrants:

- (1) Migration is selective.
- (2) Migrants who respond primarily to plus factors at destination tend to be positively selective.
- (3) Migrants who respond primarily to minus factors at origin tend to be negatively selective, or where they are overwhelming for the entire group, they may not be selective at all for migration.
- (4) When all migrants are considered together selection for migration tends to be bimodal.

- (5) The degree of positive selection increases with the difficulties of intervening obstacles.
- (6) The characteristics of migrants tend to be intermediate between the characteristics of the population of the place of origin and those of place of destination.
- (7) The higher propensity to migrate at certain stages of the life-cycle is important in the selection of migrants.

2. Volume of Migration:

The volume of migration is determined by the following factors:

- (1) The volume of migration within a territory changes with the degree of areas included in it.
- (2) It varies with the diversity of the people.
- (3) It is related to the difficulty of overcoming the intervening variables.
- (4) It varies with fluctuations in the economy.
- (5) It varies with the state of progress in a country or area.
- (6) Unless severe checks are imposed, both the volume and rate of migration tend to increase with time.

3. Streams and Counter-streams of Migration:

The following factors determine streams and counter-streams of migration:

- (1) Migration tends to take place largely within well-defined streams.
- (2) For every major migration stream, a counter-stream also develops.
- (3) The efficiency of the stream and the counter-stream tends to be low if the place of origin and the place of destination are similar.
- (4) The efficiency of the stream will be high if the major factors in the development of a migration stream are minus factors at origin.
- (5) The efficiency of the stream will also be high if the intervening obstacles are great.
- (6) The efficiency of a migration stream changes with economic conditions of the country, being high during prosperity and low during depression.

On a final note, Lee concludes that migration is always selective and influenced by pull-push factors. Areas having plus factors are known to be first selected for migration. It is generally the pull factors which lead to migration to urban areas rather than push factors, even though intervening

obstacles do influence migration (<https://www.sociologydiscussion.com/demography/migration-demography/top-3-theories-of-migration/3148>).

CHARACTERISTICS OF FEMALE MIGRATION IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Knowledge of socio-economic and demographic characteristics of female migrants in Africa, partially in sub Saharan countries has been identified to be very important for the analysis of the causes, selectivity, patterns of their movements, and their implications. Essentially, most discussed characteristics that are of particular to women are stated below (e.g. age, sex, education, and occupational status; as cited in Masanja, 2013):

Age and Female Migration

Migrants often are known to be younger than non- migrants in the same area, for example, in 19 of 22 countries studied using Demographic Health Surveys (DHS) data on urban women of reproductive age, a larger percentage of migrants than non- migrants were below age 25 (D'avano, 1992; Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health Center for Communication Programs, 1996; Posner and Mbodji, 1989; Thailand National Statistical Office, 1993). Accordingly, Female migrants are known to be typically very young with many women making their first move as teenagers. Migration among women tends to peak at ages 15 to 24 (Brockerhoff, 1995; Findley and Williams, 1991 cited in Masanja, 2013).

Sex and Migration

Presently, Women are beginning to comprise most of the flows to cities in Africa (Mamdani et al., 1993; Peil, 1985 cited in Masanja, 2013) a reversal of earlier patterns in the region (Brockerhoff, 1995; Findley and Williams, 1991 cited in Masanja, 2013).

Marital Status and Migration

In sub-Saharan Africa, three categories of women moving to urban areas independently may be distinguished; young unmarried women with little

formal education who typically work at first as housemaids; educated young unmarried women in search of commensurate employment; and separated, divorced and widowed women whose position is precarious in patriarchal societies. However, the marital status of rural-to-urban migrant women varies widely by country, and there appears to be no pattern. In Senegal, Mali, and Kenya migrants are mostly single women (Findley and Williams, 1991; Gui and Sun, 1991; Mckinney, 1993; Yamashita, 1996 cited in Masanja, 2013). In some African cities, a substantial percentage of recent female migrants are unmarried or married but not living with their husbands (Brockhoff, 1995). In other countries of Africa, for example Ghana and Tanzania, married women are more likely than single women to migrate from the countryside to cities (Findley and Williams, 1991 cited in Masanja, 2013).

Occupation and Migration

In developing countries, particularly in sub-Saharan African women typically have a narrower range of job opportunities and are most often found in assembly industries such as garment manufacturing and in domestic services (Chant and Radcliffe, 1992). Some have little choice but to become sex workers (Phongpaichit, 1992 cited in Masanja, 2013).

Vulnerabilities of female migrants

Research is however, beginning to bring women out of the shadows of migration and studies find that, they move not so much to follow husbands or partners but like men, to find work. In sub-Saharan Africa, women produce up to 80 percent of food grown for local consumption, yet only 8 percent hold title to the land on which they work. This anomaly makes women migrate to urban areas as a survival strategy. The low status of migrant women usually follows them to their destinations (urban centres). Their lack of education compared to men limits their opportunities and they most often find themselves holding marginal jobs characterized by low wages and little security. Employers tend to see migrant women as inexpensive, docile and expendable. As a result of such conditions, women who migrate to urban centres of ten become prisoners of their low status both as migrants and as women.

EMPIRICAL STUDIES

Testimonies of migrant women in some selected countries in Africa

Based on the reviews of the work of Friedrich Ebert foundation in Tunisia (2020), some testimonies were given by some sampled women in the work of Friedrich Ebert foundation in Tunisia (2020) with respect to their experiences as migrant labourers outside their country homes. Two (2) of these testimonies from Toulaye and Sophie are stated below as cited in Friedrich Ebert foundation in Tunisia (2020):

Case 1: toulaye-harassment at work, mobile reality:

In this testimony, it was established that Toulaye was said to have lost both her job and her husband so, as a mother of three, she moved to Italy in 2010 to provide for her family. It was reported that she has suffered sexual harassment at work in both her native Senegal and in Italy.

Accordingly, Toulaye graduated in finance and landed a salaried position in a bank in Senegal. But after resisting her superior's sexual advances, she was unfairly dismissed. "I quit from the bank where I was working in Senegal because one of my immediate superiors had designs on me. He knew I was married, but he kept making indecent proposals. When he realized that he would never get his way, he found a reason to have me dismissed." Her workstation got robbed, and despite being seriously wounded, she got fired without compensation.

As such, Toulaye could not do anything against this unfair dismissal because at the time, her husband, whom she lost after, was not working, and the family could not afford a lawyer. After her husband died, Toulaye decided to emigrate, leaving her children behind with a heavy heart. She had to find a job and support her family. Since Italy doesn't recognize Senegalese diplomas, Toulaye had to put her diplomas aside and search for a job, any job: She had to earn money to survive and support her family in Senegal. "I've done a lot of odd jobs, babysitting, caring for the elderly, trading, and sometimes domestic work. [...] I don't have a particular occupation. Every time I see a job offer and feel I can do it; I go for it. Sometimes, I have a little free time even when I am under contract. I take those opportunities to do some house cleaning or babysitting on the side."

Toulaye's visa eventually expired, and this made her to into the world of undocumented migrants, forced to live in hiding and hide to work. She then started to work as a domestic – and her real problems began. “I was put in touch with a Tunisian woman whom I worked for as a cleaning lady. She lived with her husband and two children and was always blackmailing me and threatening me, saying, “ If you leave this house, the police will send you back to Senegal. Then one day, she started making sexual advances to me, and as I refused, she made me leave the house in the middle of the night without paying me the month and a half wages she owed me.” Toulaye's illegal situation deprived her of any recourse, and her employer knew it. Toulaye is up against Italy's migration policy, which has become more coercive and repressive. Undocumented migrants are denied protection from any labour law. They have no entitlements and are at the mercy of crooked employers.

On a final note, Toulaye was said to have equally faced with LEGALITY WITHOUT JUSTICE. Accordingly, her ordeal was not over. With this agency, she was hired to care for an old man who lived in a very large house. Toulaye suspected that he was observing her all over the house, including in the toilets. “One day, I noticed the same object that was in his office sitting in the bathroom. Unsure of what it was, I put a towel over it –and before I had finished showering, he knocked on the door to ask why I had covered the object. Then I knew it was a camera!” When Toulaye complained to her agency, they did nothing. On the contrary, concerned about keeping their client, they advised her to forget the matter so she would not get into trouble with justice.

Case 2: Sophie-a life without life in Mauritania

In this case, the unsuccessful job search by Sophie in Senegal (her home country) led Sophie,³⁷ single, and graduated hairdresser, to try her luck abroad. Learning about employment opportunities in Mauritania, she didn't think twice. “When I got there, I realized that the reality was quite different, “Hairdressing didn't pay as much as they had told me”.

HASSLES AT THE BORDERS – According to Sophie, in respect of her she noted that to reach Mauritania, she travelled overland to Rosso in Senegal and crossed the river. She had her vaccination card and 50 euros. But

getting into Mauritania was painful and full of frustrations, especially from customs officers and the police. The paperwork costed a fortune according to her. Then, after changing euros into Ouguiyas¹ at the bank, Sophie had to shell out 1,000 Ouguiyas for a photograph, 500 for photocopies, 1,000 for the police to return her ID card, and another 1,000 for the police officer to open the exit gate. Her savings were gone – and that was not the end of it. The memory of “the lady who does the body search tells you to take off everything right down to your bra, and she has all your luggage emptied out – down to your underwear – and jokes about it with her colleagues”.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study adopted Descriptive Survey design. This was so because the authors of this study were interested in describing the experiences of the selected returnee migrant women in the study.

Area of the study

This study was conducted within Nigeria. At the initial stage of data collection for the study, the respondents were identified within Ibadan metropolis. The initial 15 returnee migrants were personally known to the authors of the study. Subsequently, through referral methods, other migrant women who were of Nigerian Origin, but had to return back to the country as a result of one challenge or the others were equally linked up for the purpose of the study. As a result, the contacts were able to add another 29 other migrant returnees aside the 15 returnee migrant women identified earlier in the study.

This effort led to reaching up to seven States, which included Osun, Ogun, Ondo, Edo, Plateau, Benue, Ebonyi, and Delta States, in order to contact these other returnee migrant women

Population of the Study

Since, it was obviously impossible to know the population of the study, the authors limited their study to the identified returnee migration women.

Sample and Sampling Technique

A total of thirty-four (34) respondents was used in the study. The characteristics features of these respondents are clearly displayed in table 1 below.

Research Instrument

The study adopted in-depth interview and the use of simple questionnaire format. First, for the interview method, semi-structured interview was actually used and this gave the interviewers (authors) more freedom to ask questions on the issue of migration and its associated challenges, and this has equally made the respondents to narrate their stories with flow. Importantly, this semi-structured interview enabled interviewers to get the general picture of their life trajectories. Life-history type of research technique was found appropriate also for this study (See Tegegne, 2009). The life-history research technique has proved indispensable in bringing out the subjective experiences of migrant women (Miles, 1993: 86 cited in Tegegne, 2009). Essentially, the authors of this study listened carefully to their stories showing interest. Importantly, questions were formulated based on the story told by the respondents.

Procedure for Data Collection

Though, this study was a descriptive survey, however, the study was in-depth in nature.

There were two (2) sets of respondents in the study. The first set of respondents were those known to the authors while the set of respondents were those known to the first set of respondents as colleagues while sojourning outside the country.

Statistical Data Analysis

Collected data in the study were subjected to descriptive statistics. The data were analyzed using frequency distribution and percentage. However, the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) version 21.0 was used for the data analysis.

RESULTS

The results of the study are presented in this section.

Table 1. Socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents including reasons for migration and reasons for returning

S/n	Age	Level of education	Marital status	No. of children	No. of child after migration	State of origin	Reasons for migration	Reasons For coming back
1	46	Nce	Married	2	None	Ondo	Need for better life	Inability to travel to europe
2	48	School certificate	Married	4	None	Benue	Need for better life	Inability to travel to europe
3	55	Ond	Married	3	None	Osun	Need to raise capital to run business	Indecent work experience
4	28	School certificate	Single	1	None	Edo	Need for better life	Indecent work experience
5	29	Hnd	Single	1	None	Edo	Need to raise capital to run business	Inability to raise enough capital to run business
6	40	Hnd	Separated	2	1	Delta	Insecurity in the country	Exposure to dehumanizing experiences such as sexual assault, and sexual violence
7	36	Nce	Single	None	None	Oyo	Need to raise capital to run business	Exposure to dehumanizing experiences such as sexual assault and sexual violence
8	31	Ond	Single	None	None	Ondo	Need to support aging parents and siblings financially	Need to come home to start business

S/n	Age	Level of education	Marital status	No. of children	No. of child after migration	State of origin	Reasons for migration	Reasons For coming back
9	49	University diploma	Married	4	None	Edo	Need for better life	Need to just come home
10	45	First degree	Married	3	None	Ondo	Insecurity in nigeria	Physical and sexual violence
11	38	School certificate	Married	2	None	Oyo	Extreme poverty in the country	Physical and sexual violence
12	27	Ond	Single	None	1	Gombe	Poor economy in nigeria	For marriage
13	24	School certificate	Single	None	None	Plateau	Insecurity in the country	Insecurity in the country travelled to
14	38	First degree	Divorced	3	None	Delta	Need for better life	Inability to survive as expected
15	40	Hnd	Married	2	None	Edo	Denial of visa to travel to europe	Inability to cross to europe
16	41	University diploma	Married	5	None	Osun	Need for better life	Inability to cross to europe
17	37	School certificate	Married	4	None	Edo	Poor economy in nigeria	Inability to cross to europe
18	48	Ond	Divorced	2	None	Edo	Need to raise capital to run business in home country	Exposure to physical and sexual violence
19	40	Nce	Widow	2	None	Ondo	Need to support aging mother and children financially	Need to come home after raising enough capital to support children and aging mother

S/n	Age	Level of education	Marital status	No. of children	No. of child after migration	State of origin	Reasons for migration	Reasons For coming back
20	46	Nce	Married	5	None	Ekiti	Denial of visa to travel out of the country	Deportation from Italy
21	33	First degree	Single	1	None	Ogun	Need to secure future for oneself and children yet unborn	Exposure to physical and sexual violence
22	29	Hnd	Married	4	None	Osun	Insecurity in the country	Need to come back home
23	24	Ond	Married	2	None	Kogi	Extreme poverty in Nigeria	To start business
24	31	Hnd	Separated	2	None	Edo	To raise capital to run business in home country	Need to support children financially and to provide necessary support
25	37	First degree	Married	3	None	Ondo	Need to support children and husband and aged father	Indecent work experiences
26	58	Ond	Separated	4	None	Delta	Denial of visa to travel out of the country	Indecent work experiences
27	40	Nce	Married	3	None	Delta	To secure future for oneself and the family	Inability to cross to Europe
28	42	Nce	Married	2	None	Oyo	For better life	Inability to cross to Europe
29	52	Ond	Married	1	None	Osun	For better life	To further education after raising enough money

S/n	Age	Level of education	Marital status	No. of children	No. of child after migration	State of origin	Reasons for migration	Reasons For coming back
30	44	School certificate	Divorced	2	None	Ekiti	Insecurity in the country	Inability to cross to europe
31	43	School certificate	Single	1	None	Kogi	To raise capital to run business in nigeria	To start business
32	47	School certificate	Married	2	None	Benue	Poor economy	Deportation from south africa
33	26	Jss 3	Single	1	None	Delta	For better life	Exposure to physical and sexual violence
34	35	Ond	Single	None	None	Osun	Insecurity in the country	Exposure to more heinous crimes and insecurity

Source: Authors' Field Work, 2021

The result in table 1 above showed vividly that the minimum age of the returnee migrant women in the study was 24yrs while the maximum age was 55yrs, with a mean age of 37.6yrs. In terms of levels of education, only 1 of the returnee migrant women was a holder of Junior Secondary School Certificate; 8 were holders of Senior Secondary School Certificate; 16 were holders of OND/NCE/University Diploma while 9 of them also were holders of First Degree/HND. Based on the marital status of the returnee migrant women 10 were single; 16 were married; 2 were separated; 3 were also divorced while 3 of the respondents were divorced.

Further, with respect to number of children that the respondents had given birth to, where necessary, 4 of the respondents indicated none; 6 of the respondents indicated they had one child each; 10 of the respondents indicated they had two children respectively; 5 of the respondents indicated they had three children respectively; Similarly 5 of the respondents indicated they had four children respectively while only 2 of the respondents indicated they had five children respectively.

Similarly, when asked of the number of children they have had after migration, 30 only 2 of the respondents indicated they had one child respectively while 32 of the respondents indicated they had no child respectively. In terms of state of Origin of the respondents, it was very clear to note that the respondents were spread from South-West to South-East, to South-South, to North Central and North-East.

Test of Research Questions

Research Question 1:

Why do Nigerian women continuously migrate to Europe En route African Countries?

Table 2. Descriptive Analysis of Responses to why Nigerian women migrate

			Percentage
1	Need for better life	9	26.5
2	Need to raise capital to run business in home country	6	17.6
3	Insecurity in the country	6	17.6
4	Need to support aging parents and siblings financially	1	2.9
5	Denial of visa to travel out of the country	3	8.9
6	Need to secure future for oneself and children yet unborn	1	2.9
7	Poor economy in nigeria	3	8.9
8	Extreme poverty in the country	2	5.9
9	Need to support children, husband and aged father	1	2.9
10	Need to support aging parents and children financially	1	2.9
11	Need to secure future for oneself and the family	1	2.9
12	Need to support aging mother and children financially	1	2.9
	Total	34	100

Source: Authors' Fieldwork, 2021

The result to the Research question one is obtained in table 2 above. From the table 2 above, based on the reasons for migration, 9 of the respondents indicated "Need for better life" was the reason for their migration; 6 of the respondents indicated "Need to raise capital to run business back home in their home country (Nigeria)" 6 of the respondents also indicated that insecurity in their home country was the reason for their

migration; only 1 of the respondents indicated that the need to support parents and siblings financially was the reason for their migration; Similarly 3 of the respondents indicated that Denial of Visa to travel out of the country was the reason for their migration; 1 of the respondents noted that the need to secure future for oneself and Children yet unborn was the reason for migration; 3 of the respondents indicated that poor economy in Nigeria was the reason for their migrate; 2 of the respondents that extreme poverty in the country was the reason for migration to other African countries, en route to Europe; 1 of the respondents indicated that the Need to support children and husband and aged father was the reason for migration; I responded that the need to support aging parents and children financially was the reason for migration; 1 of the respondents emphasizes that the need to secure future for oneself and the family was the reason for migration while another 1 of the respondents indicated to support aging Mother and children financially was How reason for migration 1

Research Question Two:

What Challenges were you faced with either in Europe or other African Countries after migration. This research objective was tested by frequency distribution. And the result is shown in table 3 below above:

Table 3. Descriptive Analysis of Challenges Faced within African countries or Europe after Migration

S/n	Challenges faced with in african countries or europe after migration	Frequency
1	Psychological harassment while looking for job	5
2.	Inability to secure decent job	8
3	Low wage	4
4	Sexual harassment	7
5	Inability to secure good health care	3
6.	Faced with covid -19 pandemic between year 2020-2021	7
	Total	34

Source: Authors' Fieldwork, 2021

Based on the challenges these returnee migrants were asked to have been experienced; after migration 5 of the respondents indicated Psychological harassment while looking for job; 8 of the respondents indicated that inability to secure decent jobs was a major challenge they were faced with; 4 of the respondents indicated low wage was the major challenge they were faced with; 7 of the respondents expressed that the major challenge they were faced with was sexual harassment; 3 of the respondents indicated that inability to secure good health care in the country of stay was the challenge they were faced with while 7 of the respondents were of the view that Covid-19 Pandemic Challenges was a Challenge they were faced.

Research Question Three:

How do you think your future is likely to be? The responses to the research objective three are stated in Table 4 below:

Table 4. A Descriptive Analysis of Respondents Hope for the Future

Hope for the Future	Frequency
Excellently Bright	13
Satisfactorily Bright	12
Moderately Bright	5
Cannot Say/Do Not Know	4
Total	34

Source: Authors' Fieldwork, 2021

The result in table 4 above indicated the likely future of the respondents for migrating to other countries. It was clearly revealed that 13 of the respondents expressed that their future seem is to be excellently bright; 12 of the respondents expressed that their future was satisfactorily bright; 5 of the respondents indicated that their future was moderately bright; while 4 of the respondents expressed cannot say/Do not know with respect to their future life.

Research Question Four:

What were the types of jobs you were involved in and how decent were the jobs?

The answer to this research objective four is displayed in table 5 below:

Table 5. Descriptive Analysis of the Types of Jobs involved in after Migration and the Decency of the Jobs

S/N	Types of Jobs	Decency of the Jobs
1	House Help	Not Decent
2	House Help	Not Decent
3	House Help	Not Decent
4	Factory Worker	Not Decent
5	Teaching	Decent
6	House Help	Not Decent
7	Waitress	Not Decent
8	Restaurant Operator	Decent
9	Waitress	Not Decent
10	House Help	Not Decent
11	Factory Worker	Decent
12	Factory Worker	Not Decent
13	Factory Worker	Not Decent
14	Restaurant Operator	Decent
15	Food Vendor	Decent
16	House Help	Not Decent
17	House Help	Not Decent
18	Factory Worker	Not Decent
19	Teaching	Decent
20	Factory Work	Not Decent
21	Food Vendor	Decent
22	Food Vendor	Decent
23	House Help	Not Decent
24	House Help	Not Decent
25	Shop Assistant	Decent
26	Factory Work	Decent
27	Factory Work	Not Decent
28	Restaurant Operator	Not Decent
29	Shop Assistant	Not Decent
30	Shop Assistant	Not Decent
31	Restaurant Operator	Not Decent
32	Restaurant Operator	Not Decent
33	Restaurant Operator	Not Decent
34	House Help	Not Decent

Source: Authors' Fieldwork, 2021

The result in table 5 above revealed that 24 of the migrant women reported that the jobs were involved in were not decent while only 10 of the respondents reported that the jobs, they were involved in were decent.

Research Question Five:

What were the various forms of vulnerabilities faced by women after migration?

Table 6. Descriptive Analysis of Various Forms of Vulnerabilities Faced with after Migration

S/n	Age	Level of education	Marital status	Forms of vulnerability experienced				Total
				Economic Vulnerability	Sexual Vulnerability	Social Vulnerability	Health Vulnerability	Forms of vulnerabilities
1	46	Nce	Married	Experienced	Experienced	-	Experienced	3
2	48	School certificate	Married	Experienced	Experienced	Experienced	-	3
3	55	Ond	Married	-	Experienced	Experienced		3
4	28	School certificate	Single	Experienced	-	Experienced	-	2
5	29	Hnd	Single	Experienced	-	Experienced	Experienced	3
6	40	Hnd	Separated	Experienced	-	Experienced	Experienced	3
7	36	Nce	Single	Experienced	Experienced	Experienced	-	3
8	31	Ond	Single	Experienced	Experienced	Experienced	Experienced	4
9	49	University diploma	Married	Experienced	Experienced	-	Experienced	3
10	45	First degree	Married	Experienced	Experienced	-	Experienced	3

S/n	Age	Level of education	Marital status	Forms of vulnerability experienced				Total
				Economic Vulnerability	Sexual Vulnerability	Social Vulnerability	Health Vulnerability	Forms of vulnerabilities
11	38	School certificate	Married	-	Experienced	Experienced	Experienced	3
12	27	Ond	Single	-	Experienced	Experienced	Experienced	3
13	24	School certificate	Single	Experienced	Experienced	Experienced	Experienced	4
14	38	First degree	Divorced	Experienced	Experienced	Experienced	Experienced	4
15	40	Hnd	Married	Experienced	-	Experienced	Experienced	3
16	41	University diploma	Married	Experienced	-	Experienced	Experienced	3
17	37	School certificate	Married	-	Experienced	-	Experienced	2
18	48	Ond	Divorced	Experienced	Experienced	-	Experienced	3
19	40	Nce	Widow	Experienced	-	Experienced	Experienced	3
20	46	Nce	Married	Experienced	-	Experienced	-	2
21	33	First degree	Single	Experienced	-	Experienced	Experienced	3
22	29	Hnd	Married	Experienced	-	Experienced	Experienced	3
23	24	Ond	Married	-	Experienced	Experienced	Experienced	3
24	31	Hnd	Separated	-	Experienced	Experienced	Experienced	3
25	37	First degree	Married	-	Experienced	Experienced	Experienced	3

S/n	Age	Level of education	Marital status	Forms of vulnerability experienced				Total
				Economic Vulnerability	Sexual Vulnerability	Social Vulnerability	Health Vulnerability	Forms of vulnerabilities
26	58	Ond	Separated	-	Experienced	Experienced	Experienced	3
27	40	Nce	Married	Experienced	Experienced	-	Experienced	3
28	42	Nce	Married	Experienced	Experienced	-	Experienced	3
29	52	Ond	Married	Experienced	Experienced	-	Experienced	3
30	44	School certificate	Divorced	Experienced	Experienced	-	Experienced	3
31	43	School certificate	Single	Experienced	Experienced	Experienced	-	3
32	47	School certificate	Married	Experienced	Experienced	Experienced	-	3
33	26	Jss 3	Single	Experienced	Experienced	Experienced	-	3
34	35	Ond	Single	Experienced	Experienced	Experienced	-	3

Source: Authors' Fieldwork, 2021

The results in table 6 above showed the various forms of vulnerabilities the returnee migrate women had experienced after migration. These vulnerabilities reflect the harassments faced by the returnee migrate women.

These vulnerabilities include economic vulnerabilities, sexual vulnerabilities and health vulnerability. However, it was clearly shown that only 3 (8.8%) of the respondents had experienced all the forms of vulnerability that is, economic vulnerability, sexual vulnerability, social vulnerability and health vulnerability. Similarly, 28 (82.4%) of the respondents had experienced at most three forms of vulnerability while only 3 (8.8%) of the respondents had experienced at most two forms of vulnerability.

DISCUSSION

The study was directed at investigating women, migration, decent work and vulnerabilities in Africa: an investigative analysis. Essentially, the result of the study showed that the minimum age of the returnee migrant women in the study was 24yrs while the maximum age was 55yrs, with a mean age of 37.6yrs. In terms of levels of education, only 1 of the returnee migrant women was a holder of Junior Secondary School Certificate; 8 were holders of Senior Secondary School Certificate; 16 were holders of OND/NCE/University Diploma while 9 of them also were holders of First Degree/HND. Based on the marital status of the returnee migrant women 10 were single; 16 were married; 2 were separated; 3 were also divorced while 3 of the respondents were divorced. Also, the result of the study showed that with respect to number of children that the respondents had given birth to, where necessary, 4 of the respondents indicated none; 6 of the respondents indicated they had one child each; 10 of the respondents indicated they had two children respectively; 5 of the respondents indicated they had three children respectively; Similarly 5 of the respondents indicated they had four children respectively while only 2 of the respondents indicated they had five children respectively.

On investigating the reasons for migration among the migrant women, the result revealed that 9 of the respondents indicated “Need for better life” was the reason for their migration; 6 of the respondents indicated “Need to raise capital to run business back home in their home country (Nigeria)” 6 of the respondents also indicated that insecurity in their home country was the reason for their migration; only 1 of the respondents indicated that the need to support parents and siblings financially was the reason for their migration; Similarly 3 of the respondents indicated that Denial of Visa to travel out of the country was the reason for their migration; 1 of the respondents noted that the need to secure future for oneself and Children yet unborn was the reason for migration; 3 of the respondents indicated that poor economy in Nigeria was the reason for their migrate; 2 of the respondents that extreme poverty in the country was the reason for migration to other African countries, en route to Europe; 1 of the respondents indicated that the Need to support children and husband

and aged father was the reason for migration; I responded that the need to support aging parents and children financially was the reason for migration; 1 of the respondents emphasizes that the need to secure future for oneself and the family was the reason for migration while another 1 of the respondents indicated to support aging Mother and children financially.

With respect to the challenges these returnee migrants were asked to have been experienced; after migration, 5 of the respondents indicated Psychological harassment while looking for job; 8 of the respondents indicated that inability to secure decent jobs was a major challenge they were faced with; 4 of the respondents indicated low wage was the major challenge they were faced with; 7 of the respondents expressed that the major challenge they were faced with was sexual harassment; 3 of the respondents indicated that inability to secure good health care in the country of stay was the challenge they were faced with while 7 of the respondents were of the view that Covid-19 Pandemic Challenges was a Challenge they were faced.

Further, on the need to know from the respondents on the likely future life of the migrant women after migrating to other countries, it was clearly revealed that 13 of the respondents expressed that their future seem is to be excellently bright; 12 of the respondents expressed that their future was satisfactorily bright; 5 of the respondents indicated that their future was moderately bright; while 4 of the respondents expressed cannot say/Do not know with respect to their future life.

In wanting to understand the types of jobs the respondents were involved in and how decent the jobs were, the result in table 5 above revealed that 24 of the migrant women reported that the jobs were involved in were not decent while only 10 of the respondents reported that the jobs, they were involved in were decent.

Also, on the need to know the various forms of vulnerabilities the returnee migrant women had experienced after migration. These vulnerabilities reflect the harassments faced by the returnee migrate women. And these vulnerabilities include economic vulnerabilities, sexual vulnerabilities and health vulnerability. Importantly, it was, clearly shown that only 3 (8.8%) of the respondents had experienced all the forms of vulnerability

that is, economic vulnerability, sexual vulnerability, social vulnerability and health vulnerability. Similarly, 28 (82.4%) of the respondents had experienced at most three forms of vulnerability while only 3 (8.8%) of the respondents had experienced at most two forms of vulnerability.

Essentially, the women interviewed in the study were identified to be economically vulnerable in varying extents. These women were found to have fully supported themselves economically which is not necessarily the case back home as they depend on family or husbands in exchange to the domestic work they do. Clearly, some of these women had difficulty finding cash-generating jobs for the main reasons such as low availability of jobs in the supply side and being less competitive in the demand side of the formal job

In a similar vein, 25 (73.5%) of all the women interviewed and interacted with were identified to have experienced various forms of sexual assault. In summary, these women were identified to be highly vulnerable to risks of rape, pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

Further, on the experience of health vulnerability which has to do with health risks both arising from the environmental hazards and also sexual vulnerability. As a result of the status of these migrant women, they reported that they had limited access to health care services in the countries they found themselves. However, 25 (73.5%) of the migrant women reported that they had experienced some forms of health vulnerability. In another vein, with respect to social vulnerability, 25 (73.5%) of the women interviewed reported that they had problem of adapting to the new environments.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In as much as the problem of migration among cannot be eliminated completely, there is need for proper attention to the plight migrant women usually go through while migrating from their native countries to other countries, just in the name of survival or better life.

However, there is need for some recommendations in order to ameliorate suffering of migrant individuals particularly women. Accordingly,

since this situation is well known to the international community, there is need for full implementation of the legislation towards gender-sensitive asylum procedures in Europe and in some well-developed African Countries and possibly in some of these closest countries to Europe. However, it is unfortunate to note that, reports or studies have it that most of these migrant women are usually reluctant to report cases of abuses suffered during their journey, possibly due to fear of retaliations. Above all, there is need for adequate psychological support and provision of therapeutic process by EU to African women arriving in Europe. Further, there is also a need for adequate psychological support and provision of therapeutic process by EU to African women arriving in other African countries closest to some of these Europe such as LIBYA, MORROCO, EGYPT e.t.c. In conclusion, it is established that migratory women are faced with enormous challenges while transiting from Africa to Europe that predispose them to various forms of vulnerabilities.

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