

Rural_Urban Migration: Assessing Residential Relocation Choice of Dwellers of a Marginalised Small Rural Community

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Abstract

Retrogression in development of rural areas has caused many rural dwellers to rethink their choices of residential locations for urban areas. This study was intended at determining reasons for rural residents' relocation choice in Abata-Egba community in Ile-Ife, Nigeria. Data obtained for this study were mainly from primary source. Using systematic sampling, the primary data were collected directly from the field through administration of 47 questionnaires on rural dwellers, of which 39 questionnaires were retrieved. The questionnaire elicited information on socioeconomic characteristics of the dwellers and predetermined factors affecting residential relocation choice. Direct interviews were subsequently conducted on the Community Chief, two aged community members and the youth representatives. Data collected were analysed using descriptive statistics and content analysis. Two perspectives to relocation choice were observable; the youths who were willing to relocate and the aged who were unwilling to relocate. Choice of relocation taken by rural dwellers was attributable to poor rural housing, infrastructure and economy. Improved standard of living through tackling these challenges was suggested to curb migration to neighbouring urban areas.

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1. Introduction

Rural settlements are major centres of primary production, and are typically small in size as well as simple in form and functions (Bollman 2001; Diao et al. 2010; Ajaero and Madu 2014; Salman and Munir 2016). Historically, the Nigerian rural areas have always been dominant scenery in the country mainly because Nigerian rural space has been most extensive. Virtually, the urban spaces of the country in pre-colonial era were few and far apart. There were only two main regions of pockets of cities that were not rural in pre-colonial time (Uchegbu 1998). Due to the establishment of states and capitals as well as Nigeria being a typical of scenarios where there is tremendous expansion of urban areas due to increasing urban population, several towns and cities have been evolving in the country (Oyewale 2004; Agbola and Adegoke 2011).

Nigerian rural area is commonly distinguished from its urban counterpart based on three factors which are predominant agricultural practices, small and homogeneity of population and inadequate existing infrastructure. Population is the main criterion to distinguish between rural and urban settlements of Nigeria due to the fact that some Nigeria towns and cities combine elements of urban and rural life to varying degree (Oyewale 2004). Underdevelopment of rural landscape in terms of housing, infrastructure, primordial agricultural practices, less industrialisation, poor economics and commerce are however evidence that the rural areas of nowadays cannot only be distinguished from urban areas by population. For these constitute major marginalisation confronting rural communities as well as the occupants, thus having the capacity to influence their choices of relocation.

Relocation choice between locations is made on the basis of what social, economic and political benefits accrue to individuals or groups regarding leaving for new locations. In the context of this study, relocation choice has to do with residential change which is operationalized as change in the place of residence of individuals. As classified by Peterson (1958), residential change is classified to be either voluntary or involuntary. For voluntary residential change, a residential relocation involves individuals who voluntarily change their places of residence based on factors of preference and/or ability such as job opportunities, career progression, status moves and family life cycle changes reflect the voluntary core of such moves. Involuntary relocation is that which is necessitated by stressful conditions such as temporary or permanent evacuation due to natural or manmade disasters, job relocation, forced move due to political crisis, war, communal conflicts, among others. Recent studies (e.g. Carling 2002; Hathaway 2007; Colburn 2008; Carling and Collins 2017; Collins 2017; Erdal 2017) have evolved new focuses on concepts of aspiration, desire and drivers of migration in an attempt to better understand the phenomenon of migration.

Evident in literature is that retrogression in development of locations has caused many people to rethink their choices of residential locations for better locations. This thought is substantiated by economic model of migration which stated that people choose to relocate when the present value of all future gains regarding the relocation outweighs the costs (Sjaastad 1962). This describes situations in literature whereby a number of rural-urban migration cases have been recorded among various section of rural population in developing countries (Lall et al. 2006). The rural areas have been undergoing a process of deagrarianisation which entails the quest of younger workers leaving agriculture and rural areas to urban centres, particularly in

the last 50 years as a result of population pressure, poor agricultural resource base, imbalance or disparity in rural and urban development and rural marginalisation (Olujimi 2001; Madu 2005; International Fund for Agricultural Development 2009).

Researches have further proved that the choice taken by people to migrate from places of origin to destination is as a reaction to physical, social, economic, and political issues identified as drivers of migration (Carling and Collins 2017; Van Hear et al. 2017). Van Hear et al. (2017) emphasised that the interactions of predisposing, proximate, precipitating and mediating drivers whose combinations define the people relocation choices based on certain conditions, circumstances and environment. These drivers, with respect to rural-urban drift, are obtainable as poor and inadequacy of social and economic facilities including housing, health care, educational opportunities, transportation system, electricity and pipe borne water supply, as well as the degrading perspectives of rural areas and poor livelihood of its inhabitants (Nwanna 2004; Adewale 2005; Aworemi et al. 2011; Okhankhuele and Opafunso 2013).

Observing this in Nigerian context, statistics showed that the 75 per cent of rural population in 1974 had reduced to 56 per cent which was an indication of rapid movement of people out of rural areas to urban centres (Aworemi et al. 2011). Rural-urban migration has thus become a common livelihood strategy because of competition for better environmental resources in urban areas; a situation that have left the rural areas with demographically unbalanced proportions of dependent populations such as women, children and the aged (Ajaero 2008). Since rural areas in the country have been marginalised by most government administrations. The reason could be that the government has been unaware of annual internal migration trends and the factors responsible for movement of rural dwellers into urban areas (Amrevurayire and Ojeh 2016). This study therefore assessed the determinants of residential location choice in the rural communities of Abata-Egba in Osun State, Nigeria. The study provided information on how residential relocation choice is determined by a combination of determinants such as socioeconomic characteristics, housing tenure, neighbourhood attributes, and transportation and accessibility in rural areas.

2. Literature review

By convention, migration is a relatively internal or external movement of individuals or families. The movement has both distance and time dimensions which according to Kok (1999) are key subjects of debate among scholars. The theoretical and empirical basis for residential relocation choice is grounded in migration behaviour in available literature. This is because migration is an economic choice where individuals or households decide to migrate from point of origin to destination, provided there is a higher anticipated economic advantage in the latter (Todaro 1997). It is a choice-based process which affects individuals or families with specific socioeconomic and demographic characteristics (Amrevurayire and Ojeh 2016).

Over the past few decades, there has been dramatic increase in the number of empirical studies on migration in developed countries. Discourse on issues including factors affecting migration, consequences and recommendation are plausible to these research locations. As a paradigm, the study of Caro et al. (2012) assessed residential relocation among older adults in United States. These were the aged who experienced declining health and were often faced with difficult choices about possible residential relocation. The research aimed at determining how five distinct dimensions such as functional status, features of current housing,

social networks, features of retirement communities, and financial considerations affected choices of concerned older people to relocate the aged. Although, the survey focused on aged people, the adult children were the actual respondents who constituted the majority that recommended migration of aged ones based on the five dimensions that were considered.

Studies (e.g. Hamid 2010; Miheretu 2011; Caro et al. 2012) in developing countries are of no exception from such discourse. A study by Hamid (2010) in Pakistan assessed the gender perspective of rural-urban migration. The study found out that, overtime, internal migration remained unchanged as female migrants dominated internal migration, with most situations caused by marriage. More so, gender composition of intra provincial move of rural-urban migration revealed that in all provinces female migrants were dominant. Furthermore, the trend of intra and inter provincial move indicated that in all provinces long distance movement of females was on the increase. Not only the share of female migrant in rural to urban migration increased but there seems to be an increasing trend in family migration to cities. The study is however gender based, with little consideration for other socioeconomic attributes.

Another study conducted by Miheretu (2011) established the major causes and consequences of the movement of people from rural to urban areas in Ethiopia where rural-urban migration has been observed to affect development in both urban and rural areas. The study revealed that people migrated out of rural areas in search of employment and to utilise urban services and education. Hence, the out-flow of economically active people from the rural agricultural sector has a negative effect on production in the areas of origin with the receiving area experiencing problems including shortage of housing, unemployment, increasing cost of living, lack of access to social services.

Indigenous studies (e.g. Ajaero and Madu 2014; Ango et al. 2014; Ojeh 2016) are likewise available on rural-urban migration in Nigeria. Assessing rural-urban migration and livelihoods in the south-eastern part of Nigeria, Ajaero and Madu (2014) indicated spatial variations in the impact of migration on livelihoods across the region. It was found that rural livelihood is a major factor of rural-urban migration. Financial and food indices are shown to be the most influential livelihood indices while two underlying components namely financial security and investments by families were used to measure the impact of migration on livelihoods. The limitation of the study is such that rural livelihood is measured based on finance and food security with oversight for other determinants such as housing and infrastructure, among others.

Similar study by Ango et al. (2014) examined factors influencing youth rural-urban migration in selected Local Government Areas of Sokoto State, Nigeria. The results of the study showed that majority of migrants were males, singles and literate within age group of 18-27 years. Drawing on migrant household heads, majority were males and married, and were within the age range of 45-54. The study also revealed that majority of the migrants migrated to Kaduna State due to poor social amenities and limited employment opportunities in their original places of residence. The results further revealed that majority of the migrant's practised temporary migration by returning to their original places of residence at the outset of the raining season. The study however concentrated on an age segment of the population which was the youths. Therefore, the results could not be used in making generalisation and choice about the whole population age group in the study area.

The study in Ughievwen Delta State, Nigeria conducted by Amrevurayire and Ojeh (2016) revealed the consequences of rural-urban migration. The study established that relationship existed between socioeconomic, demographic and cultural factors. The study found out that migration decreased with increase in age and the propensity for migration increased with education. It revealed a different finding in regards to gender, as majority of migrants were females and were within the age group of 15-25 and 26-35 years. In addition, the study anticipated that when social amenities are improved on, and there is likewise provision of new amenities, there is likely going to be decrease in rural-urban migration.

From available migration and residential relocation choice based studies that were reviewed, people are moving out of rural areas to urban areas with residential location choice being a key determinant of migration (Clarke et al. 1989; Kirshenbaum 1996; Kortum et al. 2009). The effects including reduction in workforce, dominant aged population, decrease agricultural outputs and increased poverty have been grave on rural communities (Amrevurayire and Ojeh 2016); a situation demanding urgent attention from the government. Targets at reducing migration among the most disadvantaged rural communities therefore entail studying the underlying reasons people choose to move. This is because an adequate understanding of these reasons will provide ways of critically analysing factors responsible for residential location choices and proffering people-oriented solutions to impending challenges.

3. Materials and methods

Abata- Egba is a village community bounded to the North by Warukin, Eleja, and Joshua, to the East by Ekerenbete, to the South by Ogbagba, Iresi, Abevela and Bolajoko and to the West by Ayeoba. The community is a rural area of Ile-Ife which is an ancient town, the source of Yoruba tribe and the first settlement in South-western part of Nigeria, and located between latitudes 7°28'N and 7°45'N and longitudes 4°30'E and 4°34'E. Ile-Ife has an undulating terrain underlain by metamorphic rocks and characterised by two types of soils, deep clay soils on the upper slopes and sandy soils on the lower parts.

Abata-Egba was founded by elders who came from the family of Ilugbabi in Ile-Ife on a hunting mission in pre-colonial period. They once settled in few homesteads around a node where three paths met which was around the present day Koka. During a war around 1939 and 1945, the elders and people of the land relocated due to fear of invasion of soldiers. Lands and properties were abandoned while they fled in seeking temporary refuge on hilly land surrounded by water. Thereafter the end of the war, they settled on available plain lands sorounded by water bodies, acknowledged as appropriate for living and farming which is the present day settlement.

Data required for this study were both from primary and secondary sources. The primary data were collected directly from the field through administration of questionnaires on rural dwellers. Each questionnaire elicited information on socioeconomic characteristics of the dwellers and predetermined factors affecting residential relocation choice as spelt out in literature. The amount of questionnaires administered was determined based on the number of buildings (a total of 118 buildings) which was estimated during field observation.

A systematic random sampling technique was adopted in the process of questionnaire administration.

The first building that was sampled was chosen using simple random sampling while subsequent buildings were selected at every 3rd interval. Thus, from the estimated 118 buildings, 40 per cent (40%) was selected. This amounted to 47 buildings. One adult in each of the buildings was administered a questionnaire; resulting to a total of 47 adults which constituted the sample size. This sample size is justifiable considering the recommendation made by Agbola and Olatubara (2004) that at least 10 per cent sample from a study population may be considered adequate for research works. Out of the 47 questionnaires that were administered, 39 were retrieved.

Direct interview was conducted for the Village Head as representative for the members of the community and the aged. Interviews were likewise conducted on two aged members of the community (a male and a female) alongside the youth representatives. The data collected using questionnaires were analysed using descriptive statistics such as frequency and percentage distributions. The qualitative data collected during the interview were analysed using content analysis.

4. Results and discussion

The results of the analysis for socioeconomic characteristics of the rural dwellers, factors affecting choice of relocation and rural dwellers' decision to relocate were discussed in this section. Unless otherwise stated, all tables emanated from authors' field survey, 2015.

4.1 Socioeconomic characteristics of respondents

Data obtained and analysed using socioeconomic attributes included gender, age, marital status, occupation, income level and educational level (Table 1). For gender distribution of respondents, 33.3% were males while the females accounted for 66.7%. The high proportion of female gender could be because their businesses were located in their residences while most of the men had gone out for farming and other occupational activities.

Table 1: Socioeconomic Characteristics of Respondents

Attributes	Frequency(%)	Attributes	Frequency(%)
Gender		Formal Education (Years)	
Male	19(33.3)	below 6	28(71.8)
Female	26(66.7)	9-11	11(28.2)
Total	39(100.0)	Total	39(100.0)
Age (years)		Income (₦)	
Below 18	3(7.7)	>10,000	23(59.0)
18-40	16(41.0)	10, 000-20, 000	7(17.9)
41-65	18(46.2)	21,000-31,000	6(15.4)
65 and above	2(5.1)	32,000-42,000	3(7.7)
Total	39(100.0)	Total	39(100.0)
Marital Status		Occupation	
Single	6(15.4)	Schooling	4(10.3)
Married	31(79.5)	Farming	20(51.3)

Widow	2(5.1)	Trading	8(20.5)
Total	39(100.0)	Artisanship	5(12.9)
		Private Sector	2(5.2)
		Total	39(100.0)

The age distribution of respondents showed that 7.7% were below 18 years, 41.0% were within the age group of 18-40 years, 46.2% were within the age group of 41-65 years while 5.1% were 65 years and above. On this note, the analysis justified that adults (people above 18 years) who accounted for 92.7% were the targeted respondents for the study. Apparently, majority of respondents were in their youthful stage which is the independent age group. Regarding the marital status of respondents, it was established that 15.4% were single, 79.5% were married while 5.1% were widowed. As majority of respondents were married, it is observable that most adult population were likely to be married which means any relocation choice made by the family head would affect the whole family or household.

For occupational status, over two third (74.5%) of respondents were self-employed on basic activities including farming, trading and artisanship while few (5.2%) respondents had private sector employment. Students accounted for 20.5% of respondents. This ascertained that the rural dwellers involved in various occupations which were self-provided. Income distribution of respondents showed that 59.0% earned income level below ₦10, 000 daily, 17.9% earned between ₦10, 000 and ₦20, 000, 15.4% earned ₦21, 000 and ₦31, 000 and 7.7% earned between ₦32, 000 and ₦42, 000. It was shown that most of the rural dwellers fell below the minimum wage which was ₦18, 000. It is sure that these people have been living in poverty considering that needs could not be catered for with the income realized. Educational status of the respondents was categorized using the number of years spent in the pursuit of formal education. It was shown that 71.8% of the respondents dropped out of primary school while 17.9% had primary education but dropped out of senior secondary school. It is therefore evident there more illiterates among respondents which is expected to slow down development of the area.

4.2 Determinants of residential relocation choice of rural dwellers

4.2.1 Rural Housing Tenure and Condition

Considering the core issues of rural housing pertaining to Abata-Egba, the existing housing stock is quantitatively satisfactory. cursory observations and findings from the series of interviews conducted revealed that there was abundance of housing units. The first rationale is that housing tenure in Abata-Egba community is by inheritance. The agricultural lands and houses were passed on by the progenitors, inheritances which the villagers were proud of. Meanwhile, these housing units suppassed the few population living in the community. Lands and houses provided strangers and sojourners dwelling in the community were on free rent, while a few proportions of them were tenants operating on cheaper rental cost (₦300 - ₦600 per month) compared to those of neighbouring urban areas.

What demands urgent attention is the qualitative aspect of housing, that which was assessed using housing quality indicator as the condition of housing components and amenities therein (Table 2). Regarding the condition of walls, 76.9% of sampled houses had cracked and mostly dilapidated unplastered or unscreed

walls made up of muds (Fig. 1). About 60.6% of windows and doors were made up of handcut woods which looked old and hagged. More so, 68.8% of houses had sagging roofs with rusted corrugated iron roofing sheets that had been used for covering them since they were constructed several years ago; average age of building perceived being 55 years. Virtually, there were houses with few ceilings (10.5%), as these available ceiled roofs were made of cardboards and cartons. The floors were bare muds without concrete finishes. In terms of facilities, 23.1%, 10.5% and 89.5% of houses had bathrooms, toilets and kitchens respectively, with these facilities mostly located outside the houses. The bathrooms (90.0%) and toilets (81.2%) were constructed with handcut wooden bars and walled with rusted corrugated roof sheets (Fig. 2). The dwellers in houses without toilets and bathrooms made use of the bushes around their houses for sanitation purposes. Most available kitchens (81.8%) were likewise constructed with woods and were in a state of disrepair.

Table 2. Housing Components and Condition

Indicators	Availability		Total	Condition		Total
	Not Available	Available		Bad	Good	
Wall	0(0.0)	39(100.0)	39(100.0)	30(76.9)	9(23.1)	39(100.0)
Window	0(0.0)	39(100.0)	39(100.0)	20(60.6)	19(39.4)	39(100.0)
Door	0(0.0)	39(100.0)	39(100.0)	20(60.6)	19(39.4)	39(100.0)
Roof	2(2.6)	37(97.4)	39(100.0)	22(68.8)	17(31.2)	39(100.0)
Ceiling	35(89.5)	4(10.5)	39(100.0)	26(81.2)	13(18.8)	39(100.0)
Floor	3(7.7)	36(92.3)	39(100.0)	27(81.8)	12(18.2)	39(100.0)
Kitchen	4(10.5)	35(89.5)	39(100.0)	27(81.8)	12(18.2)	39(100.0)
Bathroom	30(76.9)	9(23.1)	39(100.0)	36(90.0)	3(10.0)	39(100.0)
Toilet	35(89.5)	4(10.5)	39(100.0)	26(81.2)	13(18.8)	39(100.0)



Fig. 1. Housing Condition of Abate- Egba



Fig. 2. Condition of an External Bathroom in Abata-Egba

4.2.2 Rural infrastructure and condition

Assessing infrastructure in Abategba, attributes regarding availability and condition of infrastructure were measured based on perception of respondents (Table 3).

Table 3. Community Infrastructure and Condition

Indicators	Availability		Total	Condition		Total
	Not Available	Available		Bad	Good	
Water	7(9.4)	32(90.6)	39(100.0)	31(93.1)	8(6.9)	39(100.0)
Electricity	12(12.5)	27(87.5)	39(100.0)	28(79.3)	11(20.7)	39(100.0)
Health Centre	9(6.2)	30(93.8)	39(100.0)	19(31.0)	20(69.0)	39(100.0)
School	9(6.2)	30(93.8)	39(100.0)	8(7.4)	31(92.6)	39(100.0)
Road	30(74.2)	9(25.8)	39(100.0)	33(88.9)	6(11.1)	39(100.0)
Community Hall	30(74.2)	9(25.8)	39(100.0)	6(14.3)	33(85.7)	39(100.0)
Recreation Facilities	12(25.8)	27(74.2)	39(100.0)	4(14.8)	35(85.2)	39(100.0)

Although, surface and underground water were evident in the community, a very large proportion of respondents (90.6%) indicated that potable water supply was unavailable to them. There were two modern water sources available in the community which were the water pump located in front of the clinic (Fig. 3) and a tap (Fig. 4). These were constructed during the Western Region, the Obafemi Awolowo administration, which was over four decades and they were at this time of study non-functional. The rural dwellers were used to fetching water from streams and nearby rivers.



Fig. 3. A Hand-Pump in Abata-Egba

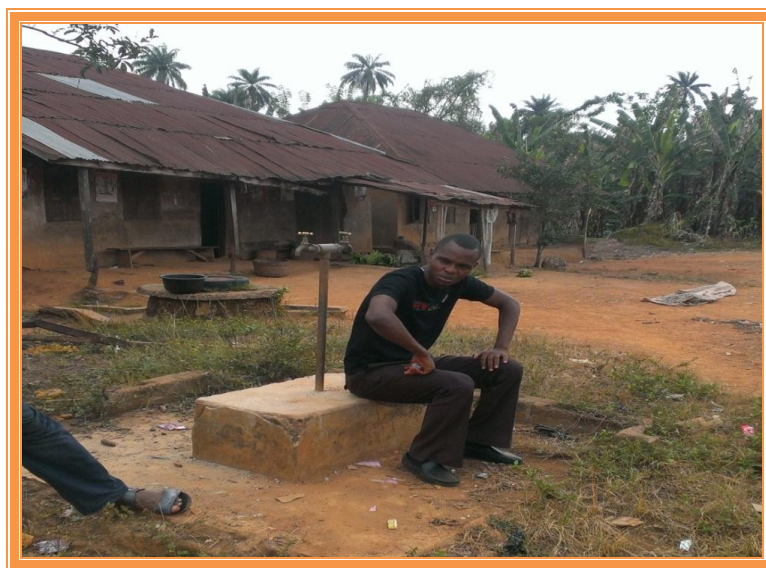


Fig. 4. A Bore-Hole in Abata-Egba Community

Same was the case of electricity supply, as 87.5% indicated no electricity supply. It was those who could afford generators that were able to have electricity. Meanwhile, cursory observing the community and its environ, there were electrical installations such as electric poles, power grids and a transformer (Fig. 5). It was however gathered that those installations had been there over ten years; a rural electrification project embarked on during the administration of Governor Olagunsoye Oyinlola. The project was not completed by

the administration while the rural dwellers perceived it mere white elephant project. It was later gathered that no succeeding administrations had attempted to look towards completing the project. So the community had never had electric power supply.



Fig. 5. Transformer connected to National Electric Power Grid in Abata-Egba

The state of transportation network, an important fabric in any continuum of human settlement, was assessed. It was not surprising that a poor state of roads which were the major transport networks was observable. The major road into the community was untarred and unmotorable (Fig. 6) while houses and communities infrastructure were chiefly connected by dusty footpaths. Over two third of respondents (74.2%) reacted that they always bear a high cost of transporting their agricultural produce to markets due to poor accessibility and sometimes inaccessibility by reason of the poor state of their roads, thus affecting their profit margin.



Fig. 6. Entrance of Abata-Egba Community and the Untarred Major Road

Cursory observation likewise showed that primary health care centre and primary school were available in the community. This observation was supported by the perception of about 93.8% of the respondents. However, what reserchers were inquistive about were condition of and accessibility to these facilities. By respondents' opinions, the available health primary health care centre (Fig. 7) was not functional, as it clinic lacked medical personels, equipment, facilities and drugs. Sick individuals were always rushed down to medical centres in nearby urban areas, mostly a far distance from the community.



Fig. 7. Primary Health Care Centre in Abata-Egba

The primary school (Fig. 8) which was located at almost the entrance of the community was accessible to pupils, but with limited teaching staff. Classrooms were likewise ill-equipped with furniture, and almost left in a state of disrepair. The community hall (Fig. 9) was architectural piece in the village. Many of the respondents (85.7%) perceived it as in good conditions. However, by expert evaluation, the condition of the hall requires rehabilitation. Same goes for the recreation facilites which majority of respondents (85.2%) perceived as in good condition.



Fig. 8. Primary School in Abata-Egba



Fig. 9. Community Hall in Abata-Egba

4.2.3 Rural crimes and insecurity

All humans seek for security and safety of their lives and property in wherever they choose to dwell. This likewise serves as a prime factor while rethinking relocation decision. In essence, the state of crimes and insecurity was assessed in Abata-Egba community. Presented in Table 4 were the diverse kinds of crimes and insecurity that could be present in the community.

Table 4. Crime and Insecurity

Crime and Insecurity	Agree	Disagree	Total
Burglary	0(0.0)	39(100.0)	39(100.0)
Robbery	8(25.8)	31(74.2)	39(100.0)
Kidnapping	3(3.2)	36(96.8)	39(100.0)
Child Stealing	8(29.0)	31(71.0)	39(100.0)
Rape	9(3.2)	30(96.8)	39(100.0)
Land Tussles	31(74.2)	8(25.8)	39(100.0)
Youth Delinquency	8(29.0)	31(71.0)	39(100.0)
Communal Conflict	2(3.2)	37(96.8)	39(100.0)

Findings revealed no burglary in the study area, as perceived by all the respondents (100%). Meanwhile, 74.2%, 29.0% and 25.8% of respondents indicated the evidence of land tussles, youth delinquency and armed robbery respectively. In addition, 3.3% of respondents indicated evidence of rape, 3.2% indicated that there was kidnapping and 2% indicated evidence of communal conflicts. Although there is no community absolutely devoid of crimes and insecurity, it could be inferred from the findings that hardly do the community experience crimes and insecurity. The reasons being, first, it is a rural and small

community with very few population. Second, the social relationship and cohesion in the community was very high. Virtually, everyone knows one another, thus making the community to be somehow safe and peaceful except for invasion of strangers from neighbouring rural communities or urban areas.

4.3 Rural dwellers' decision to relocate

The issue herein analysed was relocation choice and decision of the respondents. The question was 'Were the rural dwellers considering relocating to neighbouring considering the situations they were exposed to in terms of poor housing, and infrastructure, except for relative safety and security available in the community. Since, provided in literature (Sjaastad 1962; Olujimi 2001; Nwanna 2004; Madu 2005; Lall et al. 2006; International Fund for Agricultural Development 2009) were evidence that retrogression in development of locations has caused many people to rethink their choices of residential location for better locations. From the interviews, two perspectives to relocation choice were observable. The perspectives were according to variability in age composition: the youths who were willing to relocate and the aged who were unwilling to relocate.

The youths residing in the community by virtue of vigour were very willing to relocate since they still have more to accomplish in life, especially pertaining to education and employment. The youth representatives expressed their angers and frustrations in the condition they found themselves, comparing their achievements with their contemporaries in urban areas. They stated that most youths had less privileges to secondary and tertiary education since they only have primary school in their community. Some of these youths had relocated to neighbouring towns to further their education. Another was the case of those who migrated to seek urban employment, neglecting the usual farming activities. Nevertheless, the youth representatives expressed that some of the youths would stay in the community if the condition is improved by government, but they still believed some would still migrate to urban centres. Their reason was that the rural areas will always be marginalised in terms of facilities and services. There is no amount of improvement that would be done by government in the community that will meet the standards of urbanised areas.

On the part of the aged, they insisted not rethinking any relocation decision. This was recorded from the interview with the old people in the community. As expressed by the Chief of the community, Chief Abidoye Folorunsho, "truly people had relocated but for some of us, the aged, we still have confidence in this community. This is our place of birth. It is the place of our ancestors. Even if any indigene of this community relocate based on any reasons they still come around because this is their origin". When asked about what could be the best resolve for the community. The chief responded that "we desire that it is time the government stopped playing politics with us. We are a marginalised community. It is during election period that aspiring government always remember there is a community called Abata-Egba. Thereafter they were voted into power they forget the community existed. We plead that the government provide us with functional electricity, potable water, functional new health care centres and equipping the existing one. We also desire the government assist our youths and provide them with jobs. The government should also help the adults and aged ones in their agricultural practices. For us the age, either the government does their part or not, we are not relocating to anywhere. Where is the strength? We are no more youths and we prefer staying in the land of birth and joining our ancestors were our times come".

5. Conclusion

This study assessed rural residents' relocation choice on migrating out of Abata-Egba community, Osun State, to neighbouring urban areas within Nigeria. This entails the processes at play in rural dwellers choice to move or stay in their residential locations with prime focus on reasons the dwellers choose to move. Thus, suggestions offered in this regards could be used in addressing issues of rural-urban drift since they were inferred from responses of the rural dwellers, a bottom-up approach for planners to make recommendations that will inform policy formulation by government. The first problem to be addressed relates poor rural housing of the area. An indication that the housing units are primarily traditional in material, design and construction was much evident in the study. Housing of dwellers of Abata-Egba should therefore be improved on by government in terms of quality. Government should also endeavour to involve the people in all phases of the housing provision and delivery to ensure functionality and sustainability.

This study revealed further that the ill-state of community infrastructure including electricity, water supply and health facilities. The electric transformer, poles and cables which were provided and installed by government which have not been connected to the national grid should be connected. This will improve the peoples' economic sector as well as their educational and health system; hence eliminate making choices to relocate in search of better pastures, especially amidst the youths. Water supply situation in Abata-Egba needs to be adequately improved on as the major source of water supply is stream. There is seasonal variation in this predominant means of water supply as it is seen to fall in quality and quantity, hence, the need for government intervention. This has to do with providing modern means of water supply through the digging of boreholes at strategic points in the village. This will go a long way in meeting the people's needs and preventing various water borne diseases that are caused by unprotected water sources.

Improvement in the rural health facilities will also go a long way in avoiding relocation of the villagers for reasons of obtaining qualitative health care in modern health facilities located in urban areas. Secondary school education should be provided to complement the primary school education. This is to disallow the movement of the youths in rural areas to neighbouring urban communities in the pursuit of secondary education. Modern markets should be made available for the rural dwellers to avoid long distance before they can sell their agricultural produce. More so, rural roads in Abata-Egba are of poor quality especially during the rainy season. Since, good roads enable farmers to access markets for their agricultural produce and also allow for ease of movement of people and goods, providing such roads enhance the stay of rural dwellers. Such roads can likewise attract investors into the rural areas.

Finally, availability and accessibility to finance for small scale production as well as skill acquisition programmes are chief needs of the people of Abata-Egba. Government and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) should endeavour to assist the rural dwellers by providing them with funds that will aid their agricultural practices and primary production. The government should also establish skill acquisition centres in the rural areas purposely to stem the rate of rural-urban migration. The study opined that if the recommendations are properly executed, the living standard of the rural dwellers will improve which is likely to curb migration to neighbouring urban areas.

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