AN APPRAISAL OF PEOPLE'S PERCEPTION ON INTERNAL MIGRATION AMIDST COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN SAMARU, SABON-GARI LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, KADUNA.

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Abstract

This paper appraises internal migration amidst covid-19 in Samaru community, a total of 149 copies of questionnaires were considered for the study, stratified random sampling technique was adopted. Frequency, percentages and Charts were used in analyzing the responses to the questionnaire. Findings revealed that high percentage (57%) of the respondents have attained tertiary level of education, 48% respondents are of the view that security is the main reason why people travel during corona lockdown, majority of respondents that comprises of 41% strongly agreed that covid-19 does not move but rather people move it, a large number of the respondents(53%) have travelled out of the state during the pandemic

Introduction

Migration is defined as the movement of people from one geographical location to another which may be temporal or on a permanent basis. People migrate base on a prevailing condition and the reason varies from person to person depending on the situation that brought about the decision (Frey, 2007). Migration is a selective process affecting individuals or families with certain economic, social, educational and demographic study (Brown and Ford, 2003). Internal migration or domestic migration is human migration within one political entity, usually a nation-state. Internal migration tends to be travel for education and for economic improvement or because of natural disaster or civil disturbances.

*d*espite the fact that they are aware of how Covid-19 can be easily transmitted, quite a large number of the respondents (52%) are aware that movement can increase the spread of Covid-19.Majority of the migrants are aware of the risk in commuting yet they take the risk due to security and favorable condition. There is a need for a shift in emphasis on the overall planning strategies from the existing lapses, there is the need for government to expand the distribution of palliatives and other stimulus packages for the vulnerable in a transparent manner and this will encourage people to abide by lockdown orders. Government should also improve the welfare of Security personnel with the provision of hazard allowances and other incentives.

Keywords: *People's perception; Internal; Migration; Covid-19; Pandemic*

According to (|Brannan, 2004) people tend to be pulled to the areas of prosperity and pushed from areas of decline. Migrants are usually concerned with the benefits, they hope to gain by moving and usually give less thought to the problems that they will incur as a result of of the process. Some of these problems may impact more on the non-migrant left behind in the rural areas, also adverse physical conditions such as flood, land slide, erosion and earth quake (Henkerman, 1999). Disease, Pest, Insect, Soil infertility contribute largely to the reason why people leave their environment for another according to Bouvler and Stain (2008).

Mberu (2005) examined the pattern of rural-rural migration and rural-urban migration in Nigeria using a multi-nominal logistic regression model which predicts the independent and collective association between individual, household and regional variables and migration from rural areas to rural and urban destination.

Mberu and Micheal (2011) worked on patterns of internal migration and Sexual initiation among never-married Nigerian Youth aged 15-24, the findings highlight the direct importance of youth migration in understanding and addressing the challenges of pre-marital sexual behavior and the need for behavior change policies and programs to be sensitive to the complex contextual nuances across youth groups in one country.

Corona Virus also known as Covid-19 is a viral disease that originate from Wuhan, Hubei province of China in December 2019. The World Health

Organization (WHO) has declared Covid-19 pandemic as a global health emergency which affects the society, the economy and the environment (WHO, 2020). Genomic analysis revealed that the SARS-CoV-2 is phylogenetically related to severe acute respire\tory syndrome-like (SARS-like) bat viruses, bats could therefore be the possible primary source. Although the intermediate source of origin and transfer is not clearly known, the rapid human to human spreading capability of the virus has been established.

More than two hundred (200) countries have reported confirmed covid19 cases including China, USA, Italy, Spain, Iran, Switzerland, South Korea, India, Taiwan, UAE, Germany, Sweden, Singapore, Sri Lanka and a host of African countries including Nigeria. As far as Covid19 infected patients is concerned, USA is at the top list followed by Spain (Indranil and Prasenjit, 2020).

The researchers have a number of motivations to research into the issue of migration of individuals during the period of corona virus pandemic. Hundreds of countries have now implemented coronavirus-related travel restrictions and border shutdowns, creating an unprecedented impact on mobility. Covid-19 poses a grave threat to the people living in crowded refugee camps where the term social distancing carries little meaning and large numbers of people are stuck in transit and particularly vulnerable to covid-19 (John 2020). Response to covid19 crisis progress would unravel putting migrants and their families as well as the foundations of our global economy at risk (Anna and Amanda, 2020).

The federal and state government of Nigeria has made a lot of efforts in curtailing the spread of corona virus which includes the restriction of inter-state travels, this new restrictions follow a sharp increase in covid-19 cases. Notwithstanding, even with the efforts of the government a lot of people are finding their way to travel through illegal means, considering the outflow of internal migrants in mass and the families of such migrants welcoming them without putting into consideration the risk involved, this and other reasons prompted the researcher and necessitated the study.

Aim

The aim of the study is to assess people's perception on migration amidst corona pandemic in Zaria local government area. The aim can be achieved through the following objectives;

1 Examine the socio economic status of respondents.
2 Assess the bases of migration amidst Covid-19 pandemic in the study area.
3 Evaluate people's perception on internal migration amidst corona crisis in the study area.

Study Area

Samaru is found in Sabon Gari LGA located between Ahmadu Bello University, Basawa and Bomo. It is a growing urban settlement within Zaria located approximately between latitudes 11° 10` and 11° 11` N of the Greenwich Meridian and longitude 7° 37' and 7° 40' E of the Equator Fig. 1. Samaru has a climate similar to Zaria as a whole with a distinct variation in rainy and dry seasons (Sawa and Abdulhamid, 2009). Samaru is predominantly residential. Samaru had 12,978 people with 7,417 males and 5,561 female based on the 3.0 growth rate of the 1991 census. Samaru area has experienced tremendous growth marked by numerous historical events that have taken place in the past and also in the present time.

Figure 1; Zaria showing Samaru (study area) Ikonos (2008)

Methodology

The data for this study was collected through primary and secondary sources. Questionnaire administration, interview and field observation constitutes the major instrument used in information collection and stratified random sampling technique was adopted. The area was stratified into 6 and the samples were selected from each of the stratified area base on their population. Frequency, percentages were used in analyzing the responses to the questionnaire while Tables and Charts were used in the presentation of the results. At 95% confidence level, 8% margin error and a total population of 12,978 the sample size of 149 copies of questionnaires were considered for the study. The size of the sample population of each ward is determined by the formula below;

$n/N \times Q$

Where n = population of ward

N = total population of wards

Q = Total number of questionnaire

Table 1 below shows the number of sample selected from each stratified area.

S/N	Locality	Population	Sample size
1.	Samaru main town	3980	45
2.	Hayin dogo	3677	41
3.	Danraka	1341	15
4.	Samaru new Extension	1298	15
5.	Hayin danyaro	1687	19
6.	Ogba	995	11
	Total	12,978	146

Source- Authors fieldwork 2020

The data collected were analyzed using measure of central tendencies such as mean, average and percentages. Responses to the questionnaire were pooled, edited and scored. Linkert scale was used, nominal values were assigned to the items according to scales, and questions for people's perception of internal migration amidst covid19 crisis are assigned score of 1-4 for —Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Agree, and Strongly Agree.

The researcher encountered difficulty in the cause of the research which ranges from hostility from some respondents, inability to persuade some of the uneducated respondents, challenges in carrying out study due lockdown restriction, health risk that mandated the researcher to wear protective gears and sanitizers to protect the researcher in case of coming in contact an unknown Covid19 case.

Data Presentation and Discussion.

This section begins by analyzing the socio economic status of respondents' followed by the causes and consequences of internal migration and lastly the perception of people on internal migration amidst covid-19 crisis.

Table 2; Socio Economic Status of Respondents

		Frequency	Percentages
	Gender		
	Male	89	60
	Female	60	40
	Age		
	18-25	20	14
	26-40	76	51
	41-60	43	29
	61-above	9	6
	Marital Status		
	Married	99	66
	Single	50	34
	Divorced	0	0
	Occupation		
	Civil Servant	64	43
	Student	33	22
	Business	47	32
	Others	5	3
	Education		
	Primary	14	10
	Secondary	47	30

Tertiary	82	56
Islamic	6	4
Total	149	100

Source- Authors fieldwork 2020

Table 2 above shows the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents which reveals that 60% of the respondents are males while 40% are females, the dominance of male could be as a result of willingness and patriarchal nature of men and the socio-cultural practice of purdah where women are limited to the home. Age distribution reveals that 51% of the respondents are within the age bracket of 26-40years while the least which is 6% are those within the age range of 61 and above. Marital status of the respondents indicates that 67% are married while 33% are single this indicates that majority of the respondents are married, the occupational distribution of respondents shows that 43% of them are civil servants, 32% are engaged in business, 22% are students while3% are involved in other occupation like farming and artisans, from the findings majority of the respondents are civil servants. The study reveals that high percentages (57%) of the respondents have attained tertiary level of education.
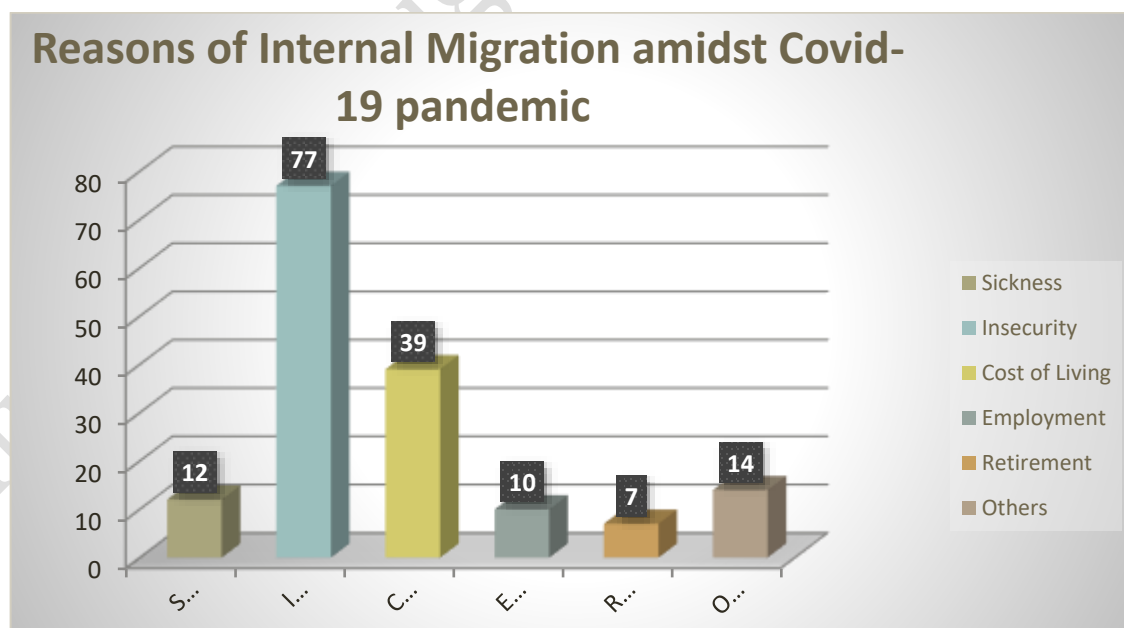

Figure 2; Reasons for internal Migration amidst covid-19 pandemic.

There are numerous reasons for internal migration during the covid-19 pandemic despite the closure of state borders people tend to travel back to their destination, this study sampled peoples view on the reasons for such travels. Majority of the respondents (48%) are of the view that insecurity is the in reason why people travel during corona lockdown, insecurity in terms of fear of contracting the virus, insecurity in terms becoming stranded since the lockdown restrictions has no time frame. In terms of favorable condition of living, high cost of living is the second factor (24%) according to the research which tend to make people migrate. This conforms to the findings of Williams (1970) which reveals that some factors could send one off place. The most important factor in his research that motivates migration can be looked from the economic perspective; people migrate to another area with the hope of a better life and good standard of living.

Table 3; Internal migration during covid-19 crisis

	Yes		No	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Have you or anyone around you travelled out of the state during this crisis?	79	53	70	47
Does the global high incidence of covid19 scare you?	96	64	53	36
Are you aware of how covid-19 can be transmitted?	137	92	12	18
Can you travel again if need arises during this covid-19 pandemic?	66	44	83	56
Are there problems associated with internal migration during covid-19 period?	93	62	56	38

Source- Authors fieldwork 2020

Table 3; are questions on internal migration/ movement during covid-19 pandemic. A large number of the respondents (53%) have travelled out of the state during the pandemic despite the fact that they claim to be aware of how Covid-19 can be transmitted. Also most of the respondents (92%) are scared of the global high incidences of covid-19, the respondents believe there are problems associated with internal migration some mentioned the problems such as banditry along minor route as people smuggle pass, accident due to

high speed and bypassing security checkpoints, and the risk of travelling with an un-known covid-19 victim among others.

Table 4; People's Perception on internal Migration amidst Covid-19 pandemic.

Strongly Agree(SA), Agree (A), Strongly Disagree(SD) and Disagree(D),

	SA	A	SD	D
Most people with covid-19 show no symptoms at all	37 25%	63 42%	15 10%	34 23%
Covid-19 does not move but people move it	61 41%	46 31%	13 9%	29 19%
Travel restriction can curtail the spread of covid-19	22 15%	66 44%	22 15%	39 26%
Covid-19 is fake	6 4%	31 21%	60 40%	52 35%
Travelers are at a high risk of contracting covid-19	30 20%	77 52%	18 12%	24 16%s

From Table 4, indicate that majority of the respondents, 42% and 25% agreed and strongly agreed to that most people with covid-19 show no symptoms at all, compared to those that disagreed and strongly disagreed with 23% and 10% respectively. On the transmission of covid-19, majority that comprises of 41% strongly agreed that covid-19 does not move but rather people move it, while the least proportion of respondents that make up 9% strongly disagrees. This is an indication that the percentage of learned people in the study area has played a role on people's awareness that covid-19 is been transmitted as people commute. Majority of the respondents (44%) agree that travel restriction can curtail the spread of covid-19. Large proportions of the respondents (52%) agree that Travelers are at a high risk of contracting covid-19 while 12% strongly disagree. The highest proportion (40%) of respondents strongly disagree that covid-19 is fake, that implies that the majority of the respondents believe that the pandemic is real.

Conclusion

It is of relevance to note that majority of the respondents are males, the information gotten from field study revealed that high percentage of the

respondents have attained tertiary level of education. In the analysis, most of respondents are of the view that security is the main reason why people travel during corona lockdown, majority of respondents strongly agreed that covid-19 does not move but rather people move it, the movement is normally through internal migration, a large number of the respondents have travelled out of the state during the pandemic despite the fact that they are mostly aware of how Covid-19 can be easily transmitted and most of the respondents are scared of the global high incidences of covid-19, the respondents believed there are problems associated with internal migration some stated the problems as such; banditry along minor route as people smuggle pass, accident due to high speed and bypassing security checkpoints, and the risk of travelling with an un-known covid-19 victim among others. It is widely agreed that travel restriction can curtail the spread of covid-19 and travelers are at a high risk of contracting covid-19. Most of the respondents are aware that movement can increase the spread of the disease.

Recommendations

There is a need for a shift in emphasis on the overall planning strategies from the existing lapses, most of the migrants are aware of the risk in commuting yet they take the risk due to security and favorable condition .ii. There is the need for government to expand the distribution of palliatives and other stimulus packages for the vulnerable in a transparent manner; these will encourage people to abide by lockdown orders. iii. Government should improve the welfare of Security personnel with the provision of hazard allowances and other incentives. iv. Migrant's right should be protected in the short and long term.

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