

Rural Migration and Industrial Development in Bayelsa State

Adedoyin Oluwatoyin Omidiji

Department of Geography
Faculty of Social Sciences
Niger Delta University
adedoyinomidiji@ndu.edu.ng
08036686201

Imbazi Woyengitari PhD

Department of Sociology
Niger Delta University
Wilberforce Island
Bayelsa State

DOI: 10.56201/ijgem.vol.12.no2.2026.pg27.43

Abstract

This study examined the relationship between rural migration and industrial development in Bayelsa State, Nigeria. The research adopted a quantitative survey design to analyze measurable patterns of migration, industrial growth, and their socio-economic and spatial implications across different locations within the state. The study population comprised rural migrants, urban residents, and industrial workers in Yenagoa metropolis. A stratified sampling technique was employed to select participants from eight industrial communities to ensure spatial representation and objectivity. A total sample size of 400 respondents was used to enhance statistical reliability and generalizability of findings. Primary data were collected through a structured Likert-scale questionnaire covering variables. The instrument was administered with the assistance of trained field assistants to ensure accurate data collection and a high response rate. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics (frequencies, percentages, and mean scores) and inferential statistics (Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient). The findings revealed a significant positive relationship between socio-economic factors and rural–urban migration ($r = 0.577$, $p < 0.05$), indicating that poor rural conditions significantly drive migration. The study also established a strong positive relationship between rural–urban migration and industrial development ($r = 0.628$, $p < 0.05$). Furthermore, a significant relationship was found between adaptation challenges and integration into industrial life ($r = 0.480$, $p < 0.05$), highlighting structural constraints faced by migrants. The study concludes that rural–urban migration in Bayelsa State is both a product of socio-economic disparities and a catalyst for industrial development, though moderated by adaptation challenges. It recommends balanced rural development, decentralized industrialization, skill acquisition programmes, and inclusive urban planning policies to promote sustainable regional development.

Keywords: Rural Migration, Industrial Development, Urbanization, Bayelsa State, Economic Opportunities, Migration Challenges

1)Introduction

Rural migration is a global phenomenon that has been increasingly recognized for its social, economic, and demographic implications. In the context of Bayelsa State, located in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria, rural migration has had significant impacts on both rural and urban areas, particularly regarding industrial development. Bayelsa, known for its rich natural resources, especially petroleum, has witnessed considerable changes in its demographic structure due to the influx of people from rural areas in search of better employment opportunities and improved living standards. Understanding the relationship between rural migration and industrial development in Bayelsa is crucial for addressing the challenges of urbanization, economic growth, and infrastructure development.

The state's industrial development, largely driven by the oil and gas sector, has been the primary attraction for rural dwellers seeking employment opportunities. Bayelsa's economy is primarily dependent on oil extraction and refining, but it also has potential in other sectors such as agriculture, trade, and services. However, the concentration of private industries in urban areas, particularly in Yenagoa, the state capital, has contributed to significant rural-urban migration. This migration often brings with it both opportunities and challenges, including strain on infrastructure, changes in socio-economic dynamics, and pressure on the environment.

Historically, rural migration has been seen as a consequence of limited opportunities in rural areas, such as inadequate healthcare, education, and employment opportunities (Olayide & Ogundele, 2020). These deficiencies push rural dwellers to migrate in search of better livelihoods. However, migration is not solely motivated by economic factors; it is also influenced by social, political, and environmental conditions. The Niger Delta, as a region, is characterized by a complex interplay of these factors, which has further compounded the challenges faced by rural dwellers. Environmental degradation, caused by oil exploration activities, has also contributed to the displacement of rural populations, making industrial cities in Bayelsa attractive destinations.

The migration patterns in Bayelsa State are not limited to the search for employment; they are also driven by a desire for improved social services such as education and healthcare. Moreover, the presence of industries in urban centers has been a major driver of rural migration, as industries provide employment opportunities that are perceived to be more stable and lucrative than those in rural areas (Adebayo, 2018). As industrial development intensifies, it creates new economic activities and growth opportunities that encourage migration from rural to urban areas.

However, the process of rural migration in Bayelsa has also created several challenges. The influx of rural migrants into urban areas has put pressure on the already overstretched infrastructure. With the state's industrial hubs being concentrated in urban centers, there is limited planning for the accommodation of new settlers. The lack of proper infrastructure in terms of housing, healthcare, transportation, and education in urban areas leads to poor living conditions for many migrants, resulting in the emergence of informal settlements (Uduak & Ekemini, 2019). Additionally, the migration trend has led to an increase in unemployment, as urban industries are unable to absorb the rapidly growing population of job seekers.

Despite the potential benefits of rural migration to industrial development in Bayelsa State, it has also raised a number of concerns. Rural migration, while contributing to urbanization and the growth of industrial hubs, has also led to a range of socio-economic challenges that threaten the sustainability of industrial development. In particular, the concentration of migrants in urban areas has strained existing infrastructure, leading to inadequate housing, poor sanitation, and overburdened social services. As Bayelsa continues to industrialize, the lack of comprehensive

planning and integration of rural migrants into the urban economy has led to persistent challenges in terms of poverty, unemployment, and social inequality.

One major issue is the mismatch between the skills of rural migrants and the requirements of the industries in urban areas. While rural migrants move to urban centers with hopes of securing employment, many find themselves underemployed or unemployed due to the lack of skills required for the industrial jobs available (Okpala, 2017). The industrial development of Bayelsa, particularly in the oil and gas sector, requires highly specialized skills, and most rural migrants, who have limited education and training, are ill-equipped to meet the demands of these industries. Furthermore, the rapid urbanization fueled by rural migration has resulted in increased pressure on land and housing markets in Bayelsa's urban centers, particularly in Yenagoa. The urban population is growing at a faster rate than the available housing stock, leading to the proliferation of informal settlements. These settlements often lack basic amenities such as clean water, proper sanitation, and electricity, creating a fertile ground for the spread of diseases and social unrest (Bassey, 2019). The increased demand for housing and land also exacerbates land conflicts, particularly in areas where industrial development projects are being pursued.

In addition to the housing and infrastructure challenges, rural migration has also impacted the environment. The rapid growth of industrial areas and urban populations has contributed to environmental degradation, as industries and settlements encroach on forests, wetlands, and agricultural lands. This environmental impact is particularly significant in Bayelsa, where oil exploration activities have already caused widespread damage to the ecosystem. The presence of industries, particularly in areas prone to oil spills and gas flaring, has further worsened the environmental conditions, displacing many rural dwellers in the process (Bassey & Okere, 2020). Another problem arising from rural migration is the social inequality it engenders. While some rural migrants may find employment in urban industries, many others are left without adequate opportunities. This unequal access to jobs and social services has led to the creation of a large underprivileged population in urban areas, exacerbating social tensions. The gap between the wealthy industrial elites and the poor migrant communities continues to widen, creating a socio-economic divide that threatens the stability and cohesion of urban society (Udoh & Aribigbola, 2018).

Moreover, there is a lack of government policies that specifically address the challenges of rural migration and its impact on industrial development. While the government has focused on industrial growth and infrastructure development, there has been limited attention given to the integration of rural migrants into the urban economy and the provision of support services such as housing, healthcare, and education. Without such policies, rural migrants are often left to fend for themselves, leading to the emergence of informal settlements and an increased burden on social services.

Given these challenges, the study of rural migration and industrial development in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State is both timely and necessary. The relationship between migration and industrialization in the state is complex, and understanding this relationship will be crucial for policymakers, urban planners, and development practitioners.

2) Conceptual Review

Rural Migration

Rural migration, defined as the movement of people from rural area to another area is a significant demographic phenomenon observed globally, especially in developing countries. In the context of Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, rural migration refers to the influx of people from rural areas to urban

centers like Yenagoa in search of better economic opportunities, improved living conditions, and access to better education, healthcare, and social services. The phenomenon is particularly notable in the Niger Delta region, which has experienced rapid urbanization driven by the oil and gas industry, alongside environmental challenges in rural areas. Migration, as a process, has been theorized extensively, with the push-pull theory being one of the most widely recognized models to explain the driving forces behind rural migration.

The push-pull theory, first proposed by Ravenstein (1885) and later expanded by Lee (1966), suggests that migration is influenced by push factors in the origin area (e.g., poverty, lack of infrastructure, and poor access to social services) and pull factors in the destination area (e.g., employment opportunities, better living conditions, and more social services). In the case of Bayelsa State, the push factors are strong, including environmental degradation from oil spills, the absence of basic amenities in rural areas, and a lack of sustainable economic opportunities in agriculture. These conditions encourage rural dwellers to migrate to urban centers like Yenagoa, where industrial development, particularly in the oil sector, offers employment and the promise of a better standard of living.

Migration in this context is both a response to environmental and socio-economic pressures and an opportunity to access higher wages, better education, and improved healthcare. However, migration also brings about a series of challenges, particularly in urban centers, where the rapid influx of people often leads to overcrowding, strained infrastructure, and environmental degradation (Adebayo, 2018). These challenges must be examined within the broader framework of industrial development, which both attracts rural migrants and exacerbates urbanization-related issues.

Industrial Development

Industrial development refers to the process of transformation from an economy primarily based on agriculture to one focused on industrialization, including manufacturing, construction, and service industries. In the context of Bayelsa State, industrial development is largely driven by the oil and gas sector, which has been a major source of economic growth for both the state and the broader Niger Delta region. The industrial sector in Bayelsa is not limited to the oil industry but also includes other growing sectors such as construction, manufacturing, and agriculture, which are all crucial for the state's economic diversification.

Industrial development in Bayelsa has led to the growth of urban centers like Yenagoa, where industrial activities provide employment opportunities for many rural migrants. However, while industrial development has the potential to generate wealth and improve infrastructure, it also comes with its own set of challenges. For example, industries in Bayelsa, particularly those related to the oil sector, often face criticism for their negative environmental impact, such as oil spills, gas flaring, and deforestation. These environmental concerns not only harm the local ecosystem but also disrupt agricultural activities, exacerbating the socio-economic disparities between rural and urban populations (Bassey & Okere, 2020).

Industrial development has also contributed to the urbanization of Bayelsa State, as people move from rural areas to urban centers in search of better economic opportunities. The concentration of industries in urban areas attracts rural migrants, but the rapid influx of people into already overcrowded cities can lead to urban challenges such as inadequate housing, poor sanitation, and lack of essential services. This, in turn, has strained local resources, resulting in a significant gap between the benefits of industrialization and the challenges posed by rapid urban growth.

3) Theoretical Review

For the theoretical foundation of this study, we adopt Ravenstein's Laws of Migration, which provides valuable insights into the patterns and causes of rural migration and its relationship with industrial development.

Ravenstein's Laws of Migration (1885) offer a framework for understanding the factors that drive migration, particularly in rural-to-urban movements. The key elements of Ravenstein's theory include:

1. Migration is motivated by economic factors. In the context of Bayelsa, this is evident as the rural population migrates to urban areas primarily for better economic opportunities, particularly in the oil and gas sector. Migrants are attracted to industrial centers where they expect to find higher wages, job security, and improved living standards.
2. Urban centers attract more migrants than rural areas. As industrial development progresses in Bayelsa, particularly with the expansion of the oil industry, urban centers like Yenagoa experience significant population growth. These cities become hubs for job seekers, leading to rapid urbanization. The concentration of industries in urban areas acts as a magnet for rural dwellers seeking employment.
3. Migration is generally short-distance. Most rural migrants in Bayelsa move to the closest urban center, driven by the proximity of industrial opportunities. While some may migrate to far-off cities in search of opportunities, the majority tend to move within the state or region to capitalize on the economic benefits offered by the oil sector.
4. Economic opportunities in urban centers increase migration. As industrial development creates more jobs and economic growth in urban areas, the flow of rural migrants intensifies. In Bayelsa, the oil industry has created a demand for labor, prompting rural residents to migrate to cities to take advantage of new economic prospects.

Ravenstein's laws provide a useful lens for understanding the rural migration patterns in Bayelsa. Migration is driven by economic opportunities in urban areas, particularly in the industrial sectors,

4) Empirical Review

Tesema (2024) examined the rise of rural-to-urban labour migration into Ethiopia's industrial parks, focusing on young rural women employed in foreign garment companies in the Bole Lemi Industrial Park near Addis Ababa. Drawing on qualitative fieldwork in two firms, the study analyzed the socio-economic factors shaping women's agency, aspirations, and decisions to migrate into industrial employment. Findings indicate that industrial-park expansion creates a powerful pull for first-generation industrial workers seeking income, autonomy, and improved life chances, but that employment realities (wages, working conditions, and urban living costs) complicate these aspirations. The study concluded that industrial parks can accelerate labour reallocation from rural areas into manufacturing, but sustaining industrial employment requires stronger worker protections and improvements in job quality. Recommendations emphasized raising wage viability, improving housing/transport supports, and strengthening labour standards to reduce turnover and stabilize the industrial workforce.

Nyoni and Kollamparambil (2022) evaluated whether internal rural-urban migration improves the welfare of households that remain in rural areas in South Africa. Using National Income Dynamics Study (NIDS) panel data and a quasi-experimental impact evaluation design, the authors apply multiple econometric approaches (including fixed effects, difference-in-differences, propensity-score-matched DID, and DID with instrumental variables) to address selection and endogeneity. Results show that migration is associated with higher subjective well-being among sending

households, explained partly by improved economic well-being—especially increased income per capita and remittance inflows. The authors conclude that gains from migration can outweigh psychosocial costs of separation at the household level. They recommend policies that protect migrants in destination labour markets, lower remittance costs, and support rural households to channel remittances into productive investments rather than short-term coping alone.

Cheng and Selden (2017) analyzed the origins and consequences of China's hukou (household registration) system and its relationship to state development strategy, including industrialization priorities. Using documentary and institutional analysis, the study explains how hukou rules structured population mobility, created spatial hierarchies between rural and urban citizens, and shaped labour allocation during key phases of China's development model. The authors find that migration control was deeply intertwined with development planning—supporting industrial priorities while limiting rural residents' access to urban rights and services. They conclude that migration institutions can profoundly influence industrial development by governing who can move, where labour can be employed, and how benefits of growth are distributed. Recommendations stress reforming mobility restrictions and reducing institutional inequality so that labour migration can support industrial growth without reproducing exclusion.

Tafese, Lay, and Tran (2025) estimated the labour-market impacts of Vietnam's large-scale SEZ program, through which FDI has concentrated in manufacturing-oriented industrial parks. Using a novel SEZ exposure measure constructed from historical satellite imagery and applying a difference-in-differences research design with continuous treatment, the authors assess district-level labour-market outcomes over 2009–2019. The study found that SEZ expansion generates substantial positive labour-market effects consistent with industrialization—shifting employment toward factory-based and related nonfarm work and raising local opportunities where zones expand. The authors concluded that place-based industrial policy, when linked to global value chains, can accelerate structural change by drawing workers out of rural/agricultural livelihoods into industry. Recommendations include complementary investments (skills development, transport, housing, and labour protections) to broaden access and sustain productivity gains from industrial employment growth.

Atack, Margo, and Rhode (2021) studied the joint rise of industrialization and urbanization in nineteenth-century America, explaining how expanding manufacturing demand drew labour toward urban locations—partly through internal migration and labour supply responses. Using a combination of literature synthesis and empirical analysis of historical census data, the authors argue that the “transportation revolution,” especially railroad expansion, increased the demand for manufacturing labour in cities and enabled agglomeration economies that amplified urban growth. Their findings implied that internal population movement and labour reallocation are central mechanisms linking infrastructure, industrial job growth, and structural transformation. The study concludes that industrial development is strongly supported when productivity-enhancing infrastructure raises urban industrial labour demand, pulling workers out of rural sectors. Recommendations emphasize the importance of transport connectivity and complementary investments that reduce mobility frictions and enable workers to match into expanding industrial centres.

5) Methods

i Aim and Objectives

The main aim of this study is to examine the relationship between rural–urban migration and industrial development in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, Nigeria. The specific objectives of the study are to:

- 1 Identify the key factors responsible for rural–urban migration in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.
- 2 Examine the impact of rural migration on industrial development, especially in the urban areas of Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.
- 3 Assess the challenges faced by rural migrants in adapting to industrial and urban life in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

ii Hypotheses

The study was guided by the following null hypotheses:

H₀₁: There is no significant relationship between socio-economic factors and rural–urban migration in Bayelsa State.

H₀₂: Rural–urban migration has no significant impact on industrial development in urban areas of Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

H₀₃: Rural migrants do not face significant challenges in adapting to industrial life in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

iii The Study Area: Yenagoa

Yenagoa is the capital city of Bayelsa State, located in the core Niger Delta region of southern Nigeria. Geographically, it lies between latitudes 4°49' and 5°23' North and longitudes 6°10' and 6°30' East. The city is situated within a low-lying coastal plain, characterized by mangrove swamps, freshwater swamps, and numerous creeks and rivers, notably the Nun River, a major distributary of the River Niger. Yenagoa has experienced rapid urban growth and population expansion, largely driven by rural–urban migration from surrounding communities seeking employment, education, and improved social amenities. As the administrative headquarters of Bayelsa State, the city hosts major government institutions, commercial activities, and emerging industrial and service-oriented establishments, which have strengthened its role as an urban growth pole in the state. The climate of Yenagoa is humid tropical, with high rainfall throughout most of the year, supporting fishing, small-scale farming, and trading activities in the surrounding rural areas. However, increasing urbanization and industrial development have altered land-use patterns, leading to challenges such as housing shortages, traffic congestion, and environmental degradation. Due to its strategic administrative, economic, and spatial importance, Yenagoa provides a suitable setting for examining the geographical relationship between rural–urban migration and industrial development in Bayelsa State.

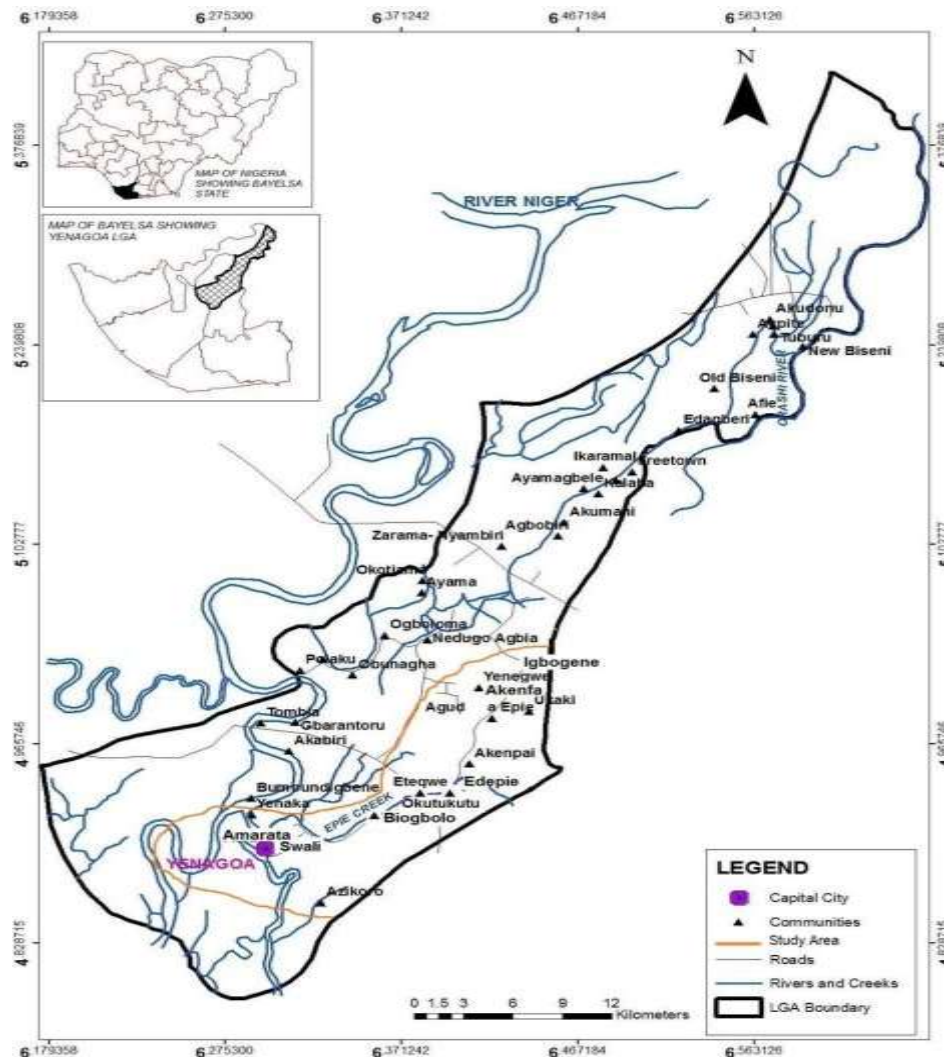


Figure 1 : Yenagoa Local Government Area
Source: Adapted from Koinyan *et al* (2013)

Iv Data collection/Sampling

This study adopted a quantitative research design using a survey method to examine the relationship between rural–urban migration and industrial development in Bayelsa State, Nigeria, from a geographical perspective. The approach was considered appropriate for analyzing measurable patterns of migration, industrial growth, and their socio-economic and spatial implications across different locations within the state.

The study population comprised rural migrants, urban residents, and industrial workers in Yenagoa Bayelsa State. The stratified sampling technique was employed to stratify the study area into 15 communities. A sample size of 400 respondents were chosen using Krejcie & Morgan(1970) formular. To enhance statistical reliability and generalizability of findings, questionnaire were administered proportionally among the chosen communities in Yenagoa metropolis to ensure objectivity and spatial representation. but 387 were retrieve. Primary data were collected through a structured questionnaire designed in a Likert-scale format. The questionnaire captured quantitative data on variables such as reasons for rural–urban migration, employment

opportunities, industrial location, income changes, access to social services, housing conditions, and perceived impacts of industrial development on livelihoods and settlement patterns.

The questionnaire were administered directly to respondents with the assistance of trained field assistants to ensure high response rates and accurate data collection. Completed questionnaires were coded and analyzed using descriptive statistics (frequencies, percentages, mean scores) and inferential statistical (Pearson Moment Correlational Coefficient).

6 Results and Discussion

Out of the administered questionnaire of 400, three hundred and 387 were retrieved and valid for analysis.

I The key factors responsible for rural–urban migration in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State

Table 1: The key factors responsible for rural–urban migration in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State

	N	Min	Max	Sum	Mean	Std. Dev.	Remark
Limited employment opportunities in rural areas encourage people to migrate to urban Yenagoa.	387	1.00	5.00	444.00	3.6694	1.33159	Agreed
Inadequate social amenities (such as electricity, healthcare, and schools) in rural communities influence migration decisions.	387	3.00	5.00	536.00	4.4298	.65608	Agreed
The search for better educational opportunities motivates rural residents to move to Yenagoa.	387	3.00	5.00	529.00	4.3719	.68474	Agreed
Poor agricultural productivity and declining rural income contribute to rural–urban migration.	387	1.00	5.00	480.00	3.9669	1.09494	Agreed
The expectation of improved living standards in Yenagoa attracts people from rural areas.	387	1.00	5.00	519.00	4.2893	1.08350	Agreed
Grand Mean					4.1455		Agreed
Valid N (listwise)	387						

Source: Survey Data (2026) Mean Cut-off Point = 3.00

Table 1 presents respondents' views on the factors responsible for rural–urban migration in Yenagoa. All items recorded mean scores above the cut-off point of 3.00, with a grand mean of 4.1455, indicating general agreement that the listed factors significantly influence migration. Specifically, inadequate social amenities in rural communities recorded the highest mean (4.4298), suggesting that poor access to electricity, healthcare, and education strongly pushes rural residents towards urban areas. Similarly, the search for better educational opportunities (Mean = 4.3719) and the expectation of improved living standards (Mean = 4.2893) were highly rated, indicating that both social mobility aspirations and quality-of-life considerations are major drivers of migration.

Limited employment opportunities in rural areas (Mean = 3.6694) and poor agricultural productivity with declining rural income (Mean = 3.9669) were also agreed upon as important push factors. However, these items showed relatively higher standard deviations, implying some variation in respondents' opinions. Overall, the findings suggest that both economic and social

factors jointly drive rural–urban migration in Yenagoa. Structural deficiencies in rural development appear to significantly influence migration patterns in Bayelsa State. This finding is in line with the work of Tesema, (2024) who found out a rise of rural-to-urban labour migration into Ethiopia’s industrial parks due to employment opportunity and provision of Social amenities

ii **The impacts of rural migration on industrial development, especially in the urban areas of Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.**

Table 2: The impacts of rural migration on industrial development, especially in the urban areas of Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

	N	Min	Max	Sum	Mean	Std. Dev.	Remark
Rural–urban migration has increased the availability of labour for industries in Yenagoa.	387	3.00	5.00	536.00	4.4298	.64325	Agreed
The influx of rural migrants has contributed to the expansion of small and medium-scale enterprises in Yenagoa.	387	3.00	5.00	563.00	4.6529	.51171	Agreed
Rural migration has enhanced productivity in urban industries due to increased workforce supply.	387	1.00	5.00	420.00	3.4711	1.37885	Agreed
The growing population resulting from migration has stimulated industrial growth in Yenagoa.	387	1.00	5.00	467.00	3.8595	1.34354	Agreed
Rural–urban migration has led to increased competition for industrial jobs in Yenagoa.	387	1.00	5.00	463.00	3.8264	1.18798	Agreed
Grand Mean					4.0479		Agreed
Valid N (listwise)	387						

Source: Survey Data (2026) Mean Cut-off Point = 3.00

Table 2 examined the perceived impact of rural migration on industrial development in urban Yenagoa. With a grand mean of 4.0479, respondents generally agreed that rural migration has significant implications for industrial growth. The highest mean score was recorded for the statement that migration has contributed to the expansion of small and medium-scale enterprises (Mean = 4.6529). This suggests that migrants may be actively involved in entrepreneurial activities or provide labour that supports SME growth. Similarly, respondents strongly agreed that rural–urban migration has increased the availability of labour for industries (Mean = 4.4298), highlighting migration as a source of workforce supply for urban industries. Other items such as enhanced productivity (Mean = 3.4711), stimulation of industrial growth (Mean = 3.8595), and increased competition for industrial jobs (Mean = 3.8264) also recorded agreement. However, the relatively higher standard deviations for these variables indicate differences in perception among respondents. In summary, the findings reveal that rural migration plays a dual role in industrial development in Yenagoa: it supports labour supply and enterprise expansion, while also increasing job competition within the urban industrial sector. This finding agreed with the finding of Uduak & Ekemini, (2019), that rural migration significantly affects the socio-economic an industrial structure of the receiving region.

iii **The challenges faced by rural migrants in adapting to industrial and urban life in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State**

Table 3: The challenges faced by rural migrants in adapting to industrial and urban life in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

	N	Min	Max	Sum	Mean	Std. Dev.	Remark
Rural migrants face difficulty securing stable employment in Yenagoa.	387	3.00	5.00	536.00	4.4298	.64325	Agreed
High cost of living in Yenagoa makes it difficult for rural migrants to adapt to urban life.	387	3.00	5.00	563.00	4.6529	.51171	Agreed
Rural migrants experience housing shortages or poor accommodation conditions in Yenagoa.	387	1.00	5.00	420.00	3.4711	1.37885	Agreed
Lack of relevant industrial skills limits rural migrants' employment opportunities.	387	1.00	5.00	467.00	3.8595	1.34354	Agreed
Rural migrants face social or cultural adjustment challenges in adapting to urban industrial life.	387	1.00	5.00	463.00	3.8264	1.18798	Agreed
Grand Mean					4.0479		Agreed
Valid N (listwise)	387						

Source: Survey Data (2026) Mean Cut-off Point = 3.00

Table 3 assessed the challenges encountered by rural migrants in Yenagoa. The grand mean of 4.0479 indicates that respondents generally agree that migrants face significant adaptation challenges. The most strongly agreed-upon challenge is the high cost of living in Yenagoa (Mean = 4.6529), suggesting that urban economic pressures significantly affect migrants' adjustment. Closely related is difficulty securing stable employment (Mean = 4.4298), which underscores the precarious nature of migrant livelihoods in urban industrial settings. Other challenges include housing shortages or poor accommodation (Mean = 3.4711), lack of relevant industrial skills (Mean = 3.8595), and social or cultural adjustment difficulties (Mean = 3.8264). Although these were agreed upon, their relatively larger standard deviations show variability in experiences among migrants. Overall, the results imply that while migration may contribute to industrial development, migrants face economic, structural, and social constraints that may limit their full integration into urban industrial life in Yenagoa. The findings agreed with the work of (Adebayo, 2018), whose work revealed that despite the industrial growth, many rural migrants face significant challenges in securing stable and well-compensated employment and adapting to industrial

Table 4: Descriptive Statistics on Rural–Urban Migration in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State

	N	Min	Max	Sum	Mean	Std. Dev.	Remark
Rural–urban migration to Yenagoa has increased significantly in recent years.	387	2.00	5.00	519.00	4.2893	.87975	Agreed
Most migrants move to Yenagoa in search of better economic opportunities.	387	1.00	5.00	348.00	2.8760	1.53063	Disagreed
Young adults constitute the majority of rural–urban migrants in Yenagoa.	387	3.00	5.00	520.00	4.2975	.73762	Agreed
Migration from rural areas has contributed to rapid population growth in Yenagoa.	387	1.00	5.00	323.00	2.6694	1.58844	Disagreed
Family and social networks in Yenagoa influence the decision of rural residents to migrate.	387	1.00	5.00	369.00	3.0496	1.60650	Agreed
Grand Mean					3.4364		Agreed
Valid N (listwise)	387						

Source: Survey Data (2026) Mean Cut-off Point = 3.00

Table 4 evaluated general perceptions of rural–urban migration trends in Yenagoa. The grand mean of 3.4364 indicates overall agreement that rural–urban migration is evident in the area. Respondents strongly agreed that migration to Yenagoa has increased significantly in recent years (Mean = 4.2893) and that young adults constitute the majority of migrants (Mean = 4.2975). This suggests that migration is both growing and youth-driven. However, respondents disagreed that most migrants move in search of better economic opportunities (Mean = 2.8760) and that migration has contributed to rapid population growth (Mean = 2.6694). These findings are somewhat inconsistent with traditional migration theories that emphasize economic motives and demographic growth effects. Family and social networks influencing migration decisions recorded a mean of 3.0496, slightly above the cut-off, indicating moderate agreement. In summary, while respondents acknowledge increasing migration and youth participation, they are less convinced that economic motives and rapid population growth are the primary outcomes. This suggests that migration dynamics in Yenagoa may be influenced by complex social and structural factors beyond purely economic considerations.

Iv Testig of Hypotheses

H₀₁: There is no significant relationship between socio-economic factors and rural–urban migration in Bayelsa State.

Table 5: Correlation result on the relationship between socio-economic factors and rural–urban migration in Bayelsa State
Correlation

		Socio-economic factors	Rural–urban migration
Socio-economic factors	Pearson Correlation	1	.577**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	387	387
Rural–urban migration	Pearson Correlation	.577**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	387	387

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source: SPSS Version 23 Output of Survey Data, 2026.

Table 5 presents the Pearson Product-Moment Correlation analysis examining the relationship between socio-economic factors and rural–urban migration in Bayelsa State. The result shows a Pearson correlation coefficient (r) of 0.577 between socio-economic factors and rural–urban migration. This indicates a moderate positive relationship between the two variables. The positive sign implies that as socio-economic challenges (such as unemployment, inadequate infrastructure, low income, poor social amenities, and limited educational opportunities) increase, the rate of rural–urban migration also increases. The significance value (Sig. 2-tailed) is 0.000, which is less than the conventional alpha level of 0.05. This means that the relationship is statistically significant, and the probability that this relationship occurred by chance is extremely low. Therefore, the null hypothesis stating that there is no significant relationship between socio-economic factors and rural–urban migration in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State is rejected. This agreed with push and pull theory developed by Lee's (1966) that migrants leave the source region to the destination due to push – pull factors

H₀₂: There is no significant relationship between rural–urban migration and industrial development in Bayelsa State.

Table 6: Correlation result on the relationship between rural–urban migration and industrial development in Bayelsa State.
Correlation

		Inspirational Motivation	Industrial development
Inspirational Motivation	Pearson Correlation	1	.628**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	387	387
Market Sensitivity	Pearson Correlation	.628**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	387	387

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source: Source: SPSS Version 23 Output of Survey Data, 2026.

Table 6 presents the Pearson Product-Moment Correlation analysis examining the relationship between rural–urban migration and industrial development in Bayelsa State (represented in the table as Inspirational Motivation and Market Sensitivity). The result shows a Pearson correlation coefficient (r) of 0.628 between the two variables. This indicates a strong positive relationship between rural–urban migration and industrial development. The positive correlation implies that an increase in rural–urban migration is associated with an increase in industrial development activities within Bayelsa State. The significance value (Sig. 2-tailed) is 0.000, which is below the 0.05 level of significance. This means the relationship is statistically significant, and the likelihood that the observed association occurred by chance is extremely low. Therefore, the null hypothesis stating that there is no significant relationship between rural–urban migration and industrial development in Bayelsa State is rejected.

H₀₃: Rural migrants do not face significant challenges in adapting to industrial life in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

Table 7: Correlation result on the relationship between challenges and adapting to industrial life in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

Correlation

		Challenges	Industrial Life
Challenges	Pearson Correlation	1	.480**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	277	277
Industrial Life	Pearson Correlation	.480**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	277	277

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source: SPSS Version 23 Output of Survey Data, 2026.

Table 7 presents the Pearson Product-Moment Correlation analysis examining the relationship between the challenges faced by rural migrants and their adaptation to industrial life in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State. The result shows a Pearson correlation coefficient (r) of 0.480 between challenges and industrial life. This indicates a moderate positive relationship between the two variables. The positive correlation suggests that the level of challenges experienced by migrants is significantly associated with their adaptation to industrial life. In practical terms, as challenges such as unemployment, high cost of living, housing shortages, lack of relevant skills, and socio-cultural adjustment issues increase, they tend to influence migrants' experiences and integration within the industrial environment. The significance value (Sig. 2-tailed) is 0.000, which is less than the 0.05 level of significance. This means the relationship is statistically significant, and the null hypothesis stating that there is no significant relationship between challenges and adaptation to industrial life is rejected.

5. Conclusion

This study examined the relationship between rural migration and industrial development in Bayelsa State, Nigeria. Based on the inferential findings, the study concludes that there are statistically significant relationships among socio-economic factors, rural–urban migration, industrial development, and adaptation to industrial life in Bayelsa State. First, the study established a moderate positive and statistically significant relationship between socio-economic factors and rural–urban migration. This indicates that socio-economic conditions such as unemployment, inadequate infrastructure, poor social amenities, and low-income levels significantly influence migration decisions. As rural socio-economic conditions deteriorate, migration to urban centres such as Yenagoa increases. Second, the findings revealed a strong positive and statistically significant relationship between rural–urban migration and industrial development. This suggests that migration contributes meaningfully to industrial growth in Bayelsa State, particularly through labour supply, market expansion, and increased entrepreneurial activities. Migration therefore plays a catalytic role in stimulating urban industrial development. Third, the study found a moderate positive and statistically significant relationship ($r = 0.480$, $p < 0.05$) between the challenges faced by migrants and their adaptation to industrial life. This implies that the degree of difficulty migrants experience such as employment instability, high living costs, housing shortages, and skill deficiencies significantly affects their integration into the industrial and urban environment. Overall, the inferential results demonstrate that rural–urban migration in Bayelsa State is socio-economically driven, industrially impactful, and structurally constrained by adaptation challenges. Migration simultaneously serves as an engine for industrial development and a source of socio-economic pressure requiring policy attention.

6. Recommendations

Based on the inferential findings, the following recommendations are made:

1. Since socio-economic factors significantly influence migration, government should prioritize rural development policies. This includes improving rural infrastructure (electricity, roads, healthcare, education), promoting agricultural modernization, and creating employment opportunities to reduce excessive rural–urban migration pressures.
2. Given the strong relationship between migration and industrial development, policymakers should encourage decentralized industrial development across rural and semi-urban areas in Bayelsa State. Establishing agro-based industries and small-scale manufacturing clusters in rural communities can reduce overconcentration in Yenagoa.
3. As adaptation challenges significantly affect industrial integration, skill acquisition programs should be expanded. Government and private sector partnerships should establish vocational and technical training centres to equip migrants with relevant industrial and entrepreneurial skills.
4. To ease adaptation difficulties, urban planning policies should focus on affordable housing schemes, improved transportation systems, and accessible public utilities. This will reduce the cost-of-living burden on migrants and enhance productivity.
5. Industrial policies should incorporate migrant-inclusive strategies such as employment matching services, small business support schemes, and micro-credit access. This will ensure that migration contributes positively to sustainable industrial development.

7. Contribution to Knowledge

This study makes several important contributions to knowledge:

1. The study provides empirical statistical evidence on the interconnectedness of socio-economic factors, rural–urban migration, industrial development, and adaptation challenges within Bayelsa State, a region with limited prior migration–industry research.
2. Unlike many studies that treat migration and industrialization separately, this research establishes a statistically significant link between rural–urban migration and industrial development, demonstrating migration’s dual developmental and structural effects.

8. References

- Adebayo, W. O. (2018). Industrial development and rural migration in Bayelsa State: Challenges and opportunities. *Nigerian Journal of Social Sciences*, 14(2), 45–60.
- Atack, J., Margo, R. A., & Rhode, P. W. (2021). Industrialization and urbanization in nineteenth-century America. *Journal of Economic History*, 81(3), 678–714.
- Bassey, E. E. (2019). Housing and infrastructure challenges in urban Bayelsa: The impact of rural migration. *Journal of Urban Development and Management*, 8(3), 112–125.
- Bassey, E. E., & Okere, R. A. (2020). Environmental degradation and rural displacement in the Niger Delta: Implications for urban migration. *African Journal of Environmental Science and Technology*, 14(5), 256–268.
- Cheng, T., & Selden, M. (2017). The origins and social consequences of China's hukou system. *The China Quarterly*, 139, 644–668.
- Koinyan, AA; Nwankwoala, HO; Eludoyin, OS (2013). Water resources utilization in Yenagoa, Central Niger Delta: Environmental and health implications. *Int. J. Water Res. Environ. Eng.* 5 (4), 177–186
- Krejcie, RV; Morgan, DW (1970). Determining Sample Size for Research Activities. *Educ. Psychol. Measure*, 1970.30: 607–610
- Lee, E. S. 1966. A Theory of Migration. *Demography*, 3(1): 47-57.
- Nyoni, T., & Kollamparambil, U. (2022). The impact of rural-urban migration on the welfare of sending households in South Africa. *Journal of Development Studies*, 58(4), 712–730.
- Okpala, M. I. (2017). Rural migration and the labour market in Bayelsa State: Skill mismatch and underemployment. *International Journal of Economics and Development Studies*, 5(2), 78–92.
- Olayide, S. O., & Ogundele, O. O. (2020). Rural migration and urbanization in Bayelsa State: Socio-economic implications. *Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa*, 22(1), 34–49.
- Ravenstein, E. G. (1885). The laws of migration. *Journal of the Statistical Society of London*, 48(2), 167–235.
- Tafese, T., Lay, J., & Tran, T. T. (2025). *Special economic zones, industrialization, and labor market outcomes in Vietnam* (IZA Discussion Paper No. 16789). Bonn, Germany: Institute of Labor Economics.
- Tesema, M. (2024). *Rural-to-urban labour migration and industrial employment in Ethiopia: A study of young women in Bole Lemi Industrial Park* (Unpublished doctoral dissertation). Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia.
- Udoh, E. J., & Aribigbola, A. (2018). Social inequality and rural-urban migration in Bayelsa State: An analysis of urban poverty. *Journal of Social and Economic Studies*, 12(3), 89–104.
- Uduak, I. B., & Ekemini, A. E. (2019). Environmental consequences of industrial development and rural migration in Bayelsa State. *Journal of Environmental Management and Safety*, 10(4), 55–70.