

Poor Governance and Migration Trends in Nigeria

Okonkwo N. Osmond¹, Akamike Joseph Okechukwu² &
Ejiogu Cynthia Ihuoma³

¹Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences,
Alvan Ikoku University of Education, Owerri

Corresponding Author's email: osmond.okonkwo@gmail.com +2348182230979

²Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, Imo State University Owerri.
akamikeoj@gmail.com. +2348037760253

³Department of Social Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences. Alvan Ikoku University of Education,
Owerri. Imo State
Cynthiaejiogu16@gmail.com. +2348034089045

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Abstract

Poor governance has been identified as a significant factor influencing migration both within and outside the country. The study investigated the ways in which poor governance contributes to migration and suggested potential avenues for improvement. The study employed the descriptive research method; a qualitative analysis approach. It draws on existing literature and policy documents to explore the impacts of poor governance on migration patterns in Nigeria. Findings suggest that poor governance in Nigeria has a positive correlation to migration trends in Nigeria. Economic instability, high poverty rates, and limited opportunities drive individuals to seek better livelihoods abroad. Political instability and conflicts resulting from weak governance also contribute to forced migration. Also, inadequate provision of basic services, such as healthcare and education, prompts individuals to migrate in search of better life abroad. To address these issues, the study recommended policy evaluation as crucial in assessing existing interventions aimed at addressing poor governance and its impact on migration. Evaluating their effectiveness and identifying areas for improvement can lead to more effective governance practices and better migration management. The study also suggested exploring the contributions of the diaspora in shaping governance and migration dynamics.

Keywords: *poor governance, migration trends, Diaspora, political instability, corruption, policy evaluation.*

JEL Code: E02, E6, F22, J2, J6

1. Introduction

In recent years poor governance and migration trends in Nigeria have become tightly woven issues. Nigeria, the most populous country in Africa has faced issues of corruption, weak institutions and socioeconomic inequality all of which have contributed to a lack of opportunities and a deteriorating living standard for its citizens. These underlying governance failures have fuelled a

significant increase in migration both internally and International. According to World Migration Report (2019), lack of education, healthcare, employment and basic infrastructure have compelled many Nigerians to try better opportunities abroad. Poor governance has exacerbated the vulnerability of migrants thereby making them susceptible to human trafficking exploitation and other forms of abuse.

Nigeria's Poor governance is a longstanding issue which has had significant consequences for the country. The problem of corruption within the government has been one of the key factors contributing to its existence. Nigeria consistently ranked poorly on the Corruption Perceptions index (ranking 150 in 2022) indicating very high levels of Corruption in the country. The mismanagement of resources by government officials and embezzlement of public funds have resulted in a severe lack of basic amenities and services for the general population. It created an unhealthy ecosystem for social inequalities, poverty and disenfranchisement among Nigerian citizens. Another important aspect of Nigeria's poor governance is the lack of transparency and accountability in government processes. The opaque nature of governance in Nigeria impedes public participation and inhibits the proper functioning of institutions. This lack of transparency erodes public trust and undermines the legitimacy of governance in Nigeria leading to a sense of disillusionment among the population. The problem of corruption and lack of transparency in governance in general has perpetuated social and economic inequalities in Nigeria contributing to the high levels of migration observed in the recent times.

Nigeria has long been plagued by corruption, mismanagement of resources, and a lack of effective government policies (Adediran, 2015). This has resulted in widespread poverty, unemployment, and a general sense of hopelessness among the population. Many Nigerians see migration as a means of escaping these challenging conditions and seeking better opportunities abroad. The government's failure to address these underlying issues has further fueled the trend, as people continue to leave in search of a better life. Additionally, the lack of infrastructure and basic services, such as healthcare and education, further contribute to the migration patterns within Nigeria, as individuals seek access to these amenities elsewhere (Adedokun & Karzanova, 2019). Poor governance, characterized by high levels of corruption, limited access to basic services, and inadequate infrastructure, has led to a widespread sense of frustration and dissatisfaction among the Nigerian population. This dissatisfaction has fueled the desire of many Nigerians to seek better economic opportunities and improved living conditions abroad (Anifowose, 2005). The lack of efficient and effective institutions and policies to address these issues has further exacerbated the existing challenges.

Corruption has had a negative effect on the Nigerian economy and society at large. Bracing and rampant corruption embedded in the political and bureaucratic systems has inhibited economic progress, increased lost of foreign direct investments (FDI) and stifled job creation and opportunities (Aslam, 2015). Nigerians particularly youth are forced therefore to migrate as a way of escaping the economic and social hardships caused by poor governance.

In addition to corruption, the limited access to basic services, such as education and healthcare, further drives migration. The inadequate provision of these services has left many Nigerians disillusioned and with limited opportunities for personal and professional development

(Anifowose, 2005). As a result, individuals are compelled to leave their home country in search of better education and healthcare facilities, as well as improved living standards.

The prevalence of corruption and limited access to basic services has fueled frustration and dissatisfaction among Nigerians, prompting many individuals to seek improved economic opportunities abroad. Addressing these issues requires the implementation of effective policies, robust institutions, and the commitment of the government to tackle corruption and provide essential services to its citizens.

The primary objective of this study is to investigate the interconnections between poor governance and migration in Nigeria focusing on the impact of corruption on human development and potential solutions to addressing these challenges.

2. Migration Patterns In Nigeria

In Nigeria Migration patterns have shown significant changes over the years. According to Orji & Agu (2018) the country has both internal and international migration due to various factors. Internal migration is primarily caused by the attraction of well opportunities and better living standards in the cities from the rural areas to urban areas. This rural-urban migration is fuelled by factors such as limited access to social amenities and poverty in rural communities. International migration from Nigeria is often prompted by factors such as political instability economic hardships and civil unrest. Many Nigerians seek better economic prospects and jobs abroad and migrate to a variety of destinations such as Europe, North America and the Middle East. The high flow of Nigerian migrants in these regions has led to concerns about the lack of skilled labor and talent (Orji & Agu, 2018). These migration patterns have consequences for Nigeria and the countries they migrant to; affecting economic, social and political dynamics in all concerned regions.

2.1. Internal Migration within Nigeria

Internal migration within Nigeria is a major phenomenon that has been driven by various factors. One of the main causes of internal migration is the uneven distribution of resources across the country. As highlighted by Akintoye and Adeyinka (2012), there is a concentration of economic opportunities and infrastructure in urban areas, particularly in the southern parts of the country, which attracts individuals from rural areas. Moreover, internal conflicts and ethnic tensions have also played a significant role in driving migration. According to Okonkwo (2018), the presence of Boko Haram insurgency in the northeastern region has led to the displacement of numerous individuals, with many seeking refuge in other parts of the country. Additionally, political instability and poor governance have contributed to the internal migration trends. Anifowose (2005) argues that the lack of effective governance and corruption have hindered development in rural areas, resulting in individuals moving to urban centers in search of a better life. The combination of economic, social, and political factors has thus led to significant internal migration within Nigeria.

2.1.1. Rural-Urban Migration

Rural-urban migration refers to the movement of people from rural to urban areas in search of better economic opportunities and improved living conditions. It is a phenomenon that has been prevalent in Nigeria due to various factors, including poor governance. The lack of basic amenities and services in rural areas, such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure, pushes individuals to migrate to urban centers where these facilities are more readily available. Also, inadequate job opportunities and low income in rural areas result in individuals seeking employment in urban areas, where they hope for better prospects and higher wages (Okunola, Umaru & Hassan, 2019). However, poor governance exacerbates the challenges associated with rural-urban migration. Inadequate urban planning and infrastructure development in cities lead to overcrowding, inadequate housing, and increased social problems for the migrants. Furthermore, corruption and mismanagement of resources by the government hinder the effective allocation of funds towards rural development and poverty reduction, thereby perpetuating the cycle of migration (Anifowose, 2005). Therefore, it is crucial for the government to address the issues of poor governance and implement policies that promote rural development and provide incentives for individuals to remain in their communities.

2.1.2. Inter-State Migration

Inter-state migration is another significant trend in Nigeria's migration patterns. According to the United Nations (2019), inter-state migration, defined as movement within the country from one state to another, has increased in recent years. This phenomenon can be attributed to various factors, including economic disparities, political instability, and social unrest. For instance, individuals from states with limited economic opportunities may choose to migrate to states with more prosperous economies in search of better job prospects and improved living standards. Additionally, political instability and social unrest in certain states may push individuals to seek safer environments in other states. The increase in inter-state migration poses challenges for the Nigerian government in terms of providing essential services such as housing, education, and healthcare to the growing population in the destination states (United Nations, 2019). Therefore, effective governance is crucial to address the issues arising from inter-state migration and ensure the well-being of both the migrants and the host communities.

2.2. International Migration from Nigeria

International migration from Nigeria has been severely influenced by the country's poor governance. One of the main reasons for the high migration rate is the lack of economic opportunities and high levels of poverty. The Nigerian government plagued by corruption and mismanagement has failed to create an enabling environment for sustainable economic development. Several Nigerians are therefore seeking abroad excellent prospects particularly in Western countries where they believe that they can get well-paid jobs and a better standard of living. Moreover the government's inability to address security challenges such as violence and terrorism has also contributed to increased migration from Nigeria (Adediran, 2015). Many individuals and families feel compelled to will the country in search of security and stability. Thus poor governance has not only impacted the country's socioeconomic development but has also

influenced migration trends leading to a significant outflow of people searching for a well life abroad (Adediran, 2015).

2.2.1. Factors driving international migration

Factors driving international migration can be attributed to various economic, social, and political conditions. Economic factors play a crucial role in motivating individuals to migrate internationally. High unemployment rates, low wages, and limited job opportunities in the home country push individuals to seek better economic prospects in other nations (Albert-Makyur & Mbanaso, 2022). Moreover, globalization has led to increased competition among countries, which has resulted in the outsourcing of jobs from developed to developing countries. This has caused individuals in developing countries to migrate in search of employment opportunities to support themselves and their families (Cerovic, 2017). Social factors such as political instability, civil unrest, and conflicts also contribute to international migration. Individuals living in regions plagued by violence or instability may choose to leave their home country for safety reasons (Okonkwo, 2018).

2.2.2. Destination Countries for Nigerian Migrants

Nigerian migrants have chosen a plethora of destination countries across the globe as a result of poor governance in their home country. Europe, in particular, has seen a significant influx of Nigerian migrants in recent years. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), countries such as Italy, Spain, and France are among the top destinations for Nigerian migrants (United Nations. 2019). The lure of better economic opportunities and higher living standards has greatly contributed to the preference for these European countries. The United States has also become an attractive destination for Nigerian migrants. The Nigerian Diaspora in the US has continued to grow, with estimates putting their numbers at over 377,000 (Pew Research Center, 2020). Push factors such as political instability, corruption, and poor infrastructure, coupled with pull factors such as economic prosperity and social welfare systems; have made these countries highly desirable for Nigerian migrants seeking a better quality of life.

The lack of effective governance in the country has resulted in widespread corruption, weak institutions, and a failure to provide basic services to the population. According to Anifowose, (2005), the Nigerian government has been plagued by issues such as embezzlement of public funds, nepotism, and a disregard for the rule of law. These corrupt practices have eroded public trust in government institutions and have led to a sense of hopelessness among the citizens. As a result, many Nigerians are seeking better opportunities and an escape from the poor living conditions in their home country. Okonkwo, (2015) argued that the government's failure to provide adequate infrastructure and social amenities, such as reliable electricity, clean water, and good healthcare, has pushed many individuals to migrate in search of a better quality of life.

2.3. Causes of Poor Governance in Nigeria

For many years Corruption has deeply embedded in the Nigerian political system creating a culture of impunity and a lack of accountability among political leaders. Transparency International (2022) report revealed that Nigeria is one of the world's most corrupt countries 150 out of 180

countries listed on the Corruption Perceptions Index. This widespread corruption led to mismanagement and embezzlement of public funds that have impeded the delivery of basic services and infrastructure development in the country. The political elite in Nigeria have used their positions of power to accumulate wealth further exacerbating the inequalities and poverty experienced by the majority of Nigerians. Besides the lack of transparency and accountability in the government, corruption has created a fertile ground for human rights abuses as those in positions of authority abuse their office with impunity (Human Rights Watch, 2019). This culture of corruption and disregard for the rule of law undermines Nigeria's good governance and deters economic development and social progress.

2.3.1. Corruption and Embezzlement of Public Funds

In addition to political and economic instability, corruption and embezzlement of public funds further exacerbate the migration trends in Nigeria. Corruption permeates various sectors of the Nigerian government, from local to national levels, leading to inadequate infrastructure, social services, and educational opportunities for citizens (Anifowose, 2005). Embezzlement of public funds has become a recurring issue, as politicians and government officials siphon money meant for public projects into their personal bank accounts. This diversion of funds not only deprives the Nigerian population of the resources necessary for development but also breeds disillusionment among citizens, fueling their desire to migrate to countries perceived to offer better governance and opportunities (Okunola, Umaru & Hassan, 2019). The prevalence of corruption and embezzlement weakens the trust citizens have in their government and further perpetuates a cycle of poverty and underdevelopment that drives Nigerian citizens to seek better livelihoods elsewhere.

2.3.2. Lack of Transparency and Accountability

Lack of transparency and accountability within the Nigerian government has been a significant contributing factor to the widespread migration trends in the country. Corruption and embezzlement of public funds by government officials have resulted in a significant loss of resources that could have been used to develop infrastructure and create employment opportunities for the Nigerian population (Anifowose, 2005). This lack of accountability has eroded public trust in the government, leading to increased disillusionment among citizens and a desire to leave the country in search of better opportunities.

Overtime, the lack of transparency in the government processes and decision making also encouraged migration. Government policies are often shrouded in secrecy and information about business opportunities, market regulations and immigration procedures are not readily available to the public. This lack of transparency leads to a perception of favoritism and discrimination as individuals with connections or influence is deemed to be provided with a wide range of resources and opportunities. Many Nigerians view migration as an alternative way to escape the opacity and limited opportunities in their home country (Okunola, Umaru & Hassan, 2019).

2.3.3. Weak Institutions and Ineffective Policies

Weak institutions and ineffective policies are major factors contributing to poor governance in Nigeria, which in turn has significant consequences for migration trends. The Nigerian government has historically struggled to maintain strong and functional institutions, leading to a lack of accountability and transparency in decision-making processes (Gyong, 2014). This has resulted in the mismanagement and embezzlement of public funds, further exacerbating the country's economic challenges and societal inequalities. Ineffective policies and inadequate implementation have hindered the government's ability to address key issues such as unemployment and poverty, pushing a significant number of Nigerians to seek better opportunities abroad. The lack of opportunities and reliable institutions at home has fueled disillusionment among citizens and a belief that migration offers a chance for a better life (Gyong, 2014). Therefore, addressing weak institutions and implementing effective policies are essential steps in improving governance and reducing migration trends in Nigeria.

According to a study conducted by Maiangwa, (2009), poor governance manifests in various forms in Nigeria, including corruption, lack of accountability, and inadequate provision of basic services such as health care, education, and infrastructure. These governance failures result in a lack of opportunities and economic growth, as well as significant inequality in the country. As a result, many Nigerians are driven to seek better living conditions and economic prospects outside their home country. Furthermore, poor governance also exacerbates ethnic and religious tensions, creating further insecurity and displacements within the country. According to Ogunniya, (2010), the inability of the government to address these issues adequately, through policies and reforms, has led to a breakdown of trust and confidence in the government among the Nigerian population, prompting many individuals to consider migration as a means to escape the oppressive governance conditions.

3. Impact of Poor Governance on Migration Trends

The impact of poor governance on migration trends in Nigeria is not overstated. The migration from Nigeria is driven in large part by a general perception of poor governance characterized by corruption lack of transparency and weak institutions. The failure of successive governments to address these issues has fueled a sense of dissatisfaction among the Nigerian population causing many to seek well-off opportunities. Poor governance also plays a significant role in exacerbating socio-economic disparities within the country with uneven distribution of resources and development projects often favoring some regions over others. This inequitable distribution of resources creates an environment where people are left with no choice but to migrate in search of better opportunities. Poor governance contributes to high levels of insecurity as weak institutions are unable to effectively maintain law and order. Insecurity continues to push individuals to away from their homes in search of safety and stability.

3.1. Economic Instability and Lack of Job Opportunities

The economic instability and lack of job opportunities in Nigeria have contributed significantly to the migration trends in the country. According to Ugoani, (2020), the Nigerian economy has been characterized by a high level of unemployment, particularly among the youth population, which

constitutes a significant portion of the migrants. The lack of job opportunities further exacerbates the economic instability and pushes individuals to seek alternative solutions elsewhere. The government's poor governance and mismanagement of resources have also contributed to the economic instability in Nigeria. The corruption and misallocation of funds have hindered economic growth and led to a lack of investment in industries that could provide employment opportunities. As a result, many Nigerians are forced to migrate in search of better economic prospects outside their homeland. Thus, economic instability and lack of job opportunities in Nigeria are major factors driving the migration trends in the country.

3.2. Inadequate Provision of Basic Services

Access to education, healthcare, clean water, and electricity often remains a luxury for many Nigerians, especially those living in rural areas (World Bank, 2019). The government's failure to adequately invest in and provide these essential services forces individuals and families to seek better opportunities elsewhere. For instance, the lack of quality education and healthcare facilities in rural areas drives young people to migrate to urban centers and even abroad in search of better educational and job prospects (Okike, 2007). The unreliable and insufficient availability of clean water and electricity had severely hinder economic and social development in communities, further pushing individuals towards migration (World Bank, 2019). Ultimately, the inadequate provision of basic services exacerbates the already dismal living conditions in many parts of Nigeria, prompting individuals to migrate in search of a better quality of life.

3.3. Political Instability and Insecurity

Political instability and insecurity are widely recognized as major contributing factors to the migration trends in Nigeria. The political landscape in the country has been marred by corruption, violence, and a lack of trust in governance systems. The high levels of corruption and mismanagement of public funds have resulted in a widening gap between the rich and the poor, leaving many Nigerians with limited economic opportunities. This, in turn, has fueled frustration and dissatisfaction, leading to social unrest and violence (Gyong, 2014). The rise of extremist groups like Boko Haram has further exacerbated the insecurity situation, with frequent attacks and abductions occurring in several parts of the country. The combination of political instability and insecurity has created an environment of fear and uncertainty, prompting many Nigerians to seek better lives elsewhere (LeVan & Olubowale, 2014). The lack of peace and stability within the country has forced individuals and families to migrate in search of safety and economic opportunities in other countries. Thus, addressing political instability and insecurity is crucial in curbing migration trends in Nigeria.

Poor governance has been identified as a key factor contributing to the migration trends in Nigeria. According to Ugoani, (2020), corruption, lack of political will, and ineffective policies and institutions are some of the indicators of poor governance in the country. The misappropriation of public funds by government officials has led to a lack of basic amenities and infrastructure, further exacerbating the unemployment and poverty rates. This has compelled many Nigerians, particularly the youth, to seek better opportunities abroad. Furthermore, the absence of effective policies and institutions to address the socio-economic challenges faced by the citizens has resulted

in disillusionment and a lack of trust in the government. This has fueled the desire of many Nigerians to migrate in search of stability and better living conditions.

4. Consequences of Migration on Nigeria

One of the major consequences of migration on Nigeria is brain drain. The emigration of highly skilled and educated individuals to foreign countries has resulted in a significant loss of human capital for Nigeria (Anifowose, 2005). Professionals such as doctors, engineers, and scientists are leaving the country in search of better opportunities and higher pay, which undermines Nigeria's development efforts. The departure of skilled individuals exacerbates the country's already struggling healthcare and education systems, as there is a shortage of trained personnel to fill these positions. Another consequence of migration on Nigeria is the increase in remittances. Many Nigerians working abroad send money back to their families, contributing to the country's foreign exchange earnings (Cerovic, 2017). Remittances from Nigerians living overseas have become an important source of income, helping to alleviate poverty and stimulate economic growth in the country. However, this dependency on remittances makes Nigeria vulnerable to fluctuations in the global economy and can have adverse effects in times of economic downturns.

4.1. Brain drain and loss of skilled workforce

One of the consequences of poor governance in Nigeria is brain drain and loss of skilled workforce. Nigeria is known for its significant influx of migrants to other countries, particularly in search of better economic opportunities and improved living conditions. This movement of skilled individuals has resulted in a significant loss of talent and expertise, creating a vacuum in critical sectors such as healthcare, education, and technology. According to a study by Elo and Aghasian (2018), the brain drain phenomenon in Nigeria is primarily driven by factors such as poor working conditions, inadequate infrastructure, and limited career prospects. Many qualified professionals, including doctors, engineers, and academics, are leaving the country in search of more favorable environments that can provide them with greater job satisfaction and professional development opportunities. Consequently, this brain drain not only depletes the country's human capital but also poses significant challenges to the development and sustainability of key sectors in Nigeria.

4.2. Remittances and Their Impact on the Economy

Remittances play a crucial part in the Nigerian economy contributing to its development and growth. Foreign direct investments mainly come from Nigerians working abroad and have a positive impact on the overall economy (World Bank, 2018). Remittances help to alleviate poverty and improve the standard of living for households, some provide a stable source of income and provide families with the necessary support for their basic needs (Cerovic, 2017). Remittances are contributing to the financial sector by increasing liquidity and improving access to credit. Banks and other financial institutions benefit from this increased financial flow thus stimulating entrepreneurial activities and promoting economic development. Remittances have also a positive effect on sectors such as education and healthcare. They enable families to invest in education and improve their human capital, ultimately leading to increased productivity and long-term economic

development (Cerovic, 2017). The inflow of funds contributes significantly to the Nigerian economy reducing poverty, promotion of financial development and improving human capital.

4.3. Social and Cultural Implications of Migration

Social and cultural implications include both positive and negative aspects that affect not only the migrants but also the communities they settle in. On one hand, migration can lead to social and cultural diversity, enriching the host society with new customs, traditions, and perspectives. It can foster cultural exchange and help break down stereotypes. For instance, migrants bring with them their own languages, arts, and cuisines, which can contribute to the cultural vibrancy and diversity of the host community (Jones, 2016). Migrants often possess valuable skills and talents that can fill gaps in the labor market and boost economic growth. On the other hand, migration can also pose challenges to social cohesion, as it may lead to the emergence of segregated communities and potential tensions between migrants and the native population. Furthermore, cultural clashes and perceived threats to local traditions and values can trigger xenophobia and discrimination (Guarnieri, 2014). Thus, it is crucial for policymakers to address these social and cultural implications to ensure that migration is a positive and inclusive experience for all parties involved. Nigeria, being classified as a lower-middle-income country (World Bank, 2019), has faced various challenges, including political instability, corruption, and lack of accountability (Transparency International, 2019). These issues have led to a lack of adequate provision of public goods and services, high levels of poverty, and inequality, which have further exacerbated migration patterns in the country. The failure of the government to effectively address these issues has resulted in a significant number of Nigerians seeking better economic opportunities and improved living conditions abroad (Adedokun & Karzanova, 2019). The lack of transparency and inclusiveness in the decision-making process, as well as unequal distribution of resources, has fueled a sense of frustration and disillusionment among the Nigerian population, prompting many to embark on perilous migration journeys in search of better prospects (Albert-Makyur & Mbanaso, 2022). Thus, poor governance plays a crucial role in shaping migration dynamics in Nigeria and highlights the urgent need for institutional reforms and good governance practices to address the root causes of migration and ensure sustainable development within the country.

5. Addressing Poor Governance and Migration Challenges

Addressing poor governance and migration challenges in Nigeria requires a multi-dimensional approach. First, there is a need for effective governance structures and institutions that prioritize the welfare of the citizens. This can be achieved through policy reforms, transparency, and accountability in public administration. As identified by Abdulraheem (2016), a robust legal framework that guarantees the rule of law and protects the rights of the citizens is crucial. Tackling corruption is essential in reducing the push factors for migration. The government must also invest in social and economic development programs that create employment opportunities and improve living conditions. Adequate investment in education and healthcare will also mitigate the reasons for individuals to seek better prospects elsewhere. Moreover, international cooperation is vital in addressing the issue of migration. Collaboration with destination countries and regional bodies can help facilitate legal pathways for migration and ensure the protection of migrants' rights.

Ultimately, addressing poor governance and migration challenges requires a comprehensive approach that encompasses policy reforms, institutional capacity building, economic development, and international cooperation.

5.1. Strengthening Governance Institutions and Anti-Corruption Measures

Strengthening governance institutions and implementing effective anti-corruption measures is crucial to addressing the migration trends in Nigeria. As corruption continues to plague the Nigerian society, it exacerbates the already dire economic situation and pushes individuals to seek opportunities elsewhere. Studies have shown that corruption significantly hampers economic development, leading to increased poverty levels and limited job opportunities (Ugoani, 2020). By strengthening governance institutions and implementing anti-corruption measures, Nigeria can foster an environment of transparency, accountability, and good governance, which are essential for creating economic opportunities and retaining skilled professionals within the country. Effective anti-corruption measures, such as the enforcement of strict penalties for corrupt practices, can help deter corruption and rebuild public trust in the government (Ugoani, 2020). Strengthening governance institutions and anti-corruption measures will not only address the root causes of migration but also contribute to sustainable economic development and social stability in Nigeria.

5.2. Promoting Economic Diversification and Job Creation

The current heavy reliance on oil as the main source of revenue has led to an over-reliance on a single sector, making the economy vulnerable to fluctuations in global oil prices (Nnadi, 2017). To counteract this vulnerability and create more job opportunities, the government needs to prioritize economic diversification. This would involve investing in sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and services, which have the potential to generate employment opportunities for the growing population. Promoting small and medium-scale enterprises (SMEs) can also contribute to job creation, as they account for a significant portion of employment in many countries (Okonkwo, et al, 2022). By diversifying the economy and creating more jobs, the government can provide alternative economic opportunities that can discourage youth migration and reduce the reliance on remittances from abroad (Central Bank of Nigeria, 2019).

5.3. Enhancing Social Welfare Programs and Provision of Basic Services

In order to tackle the issue of migration in Nigeria, increasing social welfare programs and provision of basic services is important. As noted by Anifowose, R. (2005) the lack of access to basic services such as healthcare education and clean water contributes to the decision of individuals to migrate in search of better living conditions. The government can address some of the root causes of migration by improving the provision of these services. Further investing in social welfare programs can help alleviate poverty and inequality which are key drivers of migration. According to Adedokun & Karzanova, (2019) poverty is a major push factor for migration in Nigeria and improving social welfare programs can provide individuals with the necessary support and resources to overcome poverty. Moreover the improvement of social welfare programs and basic services promotes social cohesion and stability in communities thereby

reducing displacement and migration. The implementation of social welfare programs and basic services is vital to effectively address migration trends in Nigeria.

One of the reasons for migration is the lack of proper structures in the country. According to Albert-Makyur & Mbanaso, (2022), poor governance leads to economic instability and high levels of corruption, thus leaving many Nigerians with limited opportunities for growth and development. This lack of opportunities forces individuals to seek better prospects in other countries, resulting in increased migration rates. Furthermore, inadequate provision of basic amenities such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure, as highlighted by Albert-Makyur & Mbanaso, (2022), contributes to the decision of many Nigerians to emigrate. The limited access to quality education and healthcare and the poor state of infrastructure hinder socio-economic development, worsen living conditions, and restrict opportunities for Nigerians to improve their lives within the country. Consequently, individuals are driven to explore alternative avenues for personal and professional growth, leading to the migration of significant numbers of Nigerians.

5.4. Conclusion

It is evident that poor governance plays an important role in migration trends in Nigeria. The lack of effective governance has resulted in the failure to address pressing economic, political and social challenges that plague the country. Corruption and mismanagement of resources have led to a widening wealth gap and limited opportunities for the majority of Nigerians. Nigerians are therefore forced to migrate in search of improved economic prospects and better living conditions abroad. Also, the lack of basic infrastructure such as reliable electricity and healthcare contributes further to the desire to migrate. With limited access to essential services and a deteriorating quality of life individuals are left with little choice but to pursue better life abroad. These trends have significant implications for Nigeria and the countries which receive Nigerian migrants ranging from economic to social and cultural impacts.

5.5. Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made:

1. Strengthen governance structures and institutions by promoting transparency, accountability, and the rule of law.
2. Implement policies and programs that promote inclusive economic growth, job creation, and entrepreneurship. This includes investing in infrastructure development, supporting small and medium-sized enterprises, and diversifying the economy.
3. Prioritize investments in healthcare, education, water supply, and sanitation, ensuring their availability and accessibility to all citizens.
4. Address the root causes of conflicts and promote peace building initiatives. This involves engaging in effective dialogue, fostering social cohesion, and implementing comprehensive conflict resolution strategies to create a peaceful environment that discourages forced migration.
5. Harness the potential of the Nigerian diaspora by creating platforms for their active participation in governance processes and development initiatives.

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