

EXODUS OF NIGERIAN PROFESSIONALS OUT OF NIGERIAN SHORES: “SIGNIFICANT BACKDROPS ON NIGERIAN ECONOMY”

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Abstract: *This paper investigated exodus of Nigeria professionals out of Nigerian shores: Significant backdrops to Nigerian economy. Port Harcourt International Airport was chosen for this study because, it is established in Nigeria. It is a major place where Nigerians travels to foreign countries in the world. One research question and one hypothesis guided this study. Population of this study is 200 which comprised 140 males and 60 female staff of Port Harcourt International Airport River State. Stratified random sampling technique was used to select 40 male staff in works and logistics department of Port Harcourt International Airport River State. On the other hand, 45 female staff was selected in security and accounting departments of Port Harcourt International Airport River State., which gave a total sample size of 85 staff selected as sample size in Port Harcourt International Airport River State. Researcher developed questionnaire titled “exodus of Nigeria professionals out of Nigerian shores: Significant backdrops to Nigerian economy” was used, with four rating scale of strongly agree, agree, dis agree and strongly disagree. The instrument was validated by two specialists in Business Education, Madonna University Okija Campus, Anambra State. Cronbach alpha statistics was used to determine the reliability coefficient of this study at 0.78 and 0.97, which shows that the instrument was reliable for this study. Mean and standard deviation were used to analyze the data generated. Chi Square -test of independent was used to test the hypotheses. The findings of this study also, revealed unemployment, inadequate industries to absorb teeming population of graduates in Nigeria as the major causes of backdrops on Nigerian economy. It was recommended from this study that government should reduce unemployment through provision of industries that will absorb teeming population of graduates in Nigeria. This would reduce unemployment among youths in Nigeria. It was also, recommended from this study that high charges for acquisition of land, business premises and social amenities such as; electricity, internet services should be reduced in favor of Nigerian youths. These would reduce tremendous exodus of Nigerian youths out of Nigerian shores in search of white cola jobs in Diaspora’s countries of the world. The Study revealed that no significant difference was found between boys and girls in Personality adjustment and Self -concept.*

Keywords: *Manpower Training and Development in Nigeria, Population Explosion in Nigeria, High Cost of Goods and Services, Delayed Salaries of Civil Servants, Risks taken by Nigerians On their Way to Diasporas Countries in the World, Ordeals Nigerians Face In Diasporas Countries of the World, Insecurity,*

INTRODUCTION

Flash back on the 16th century, when Nigerian economy was a bit manageable Nigerian’s did

not talk about travels to stay permanently in abroad. Some Nigerians then who were in leadership position in Nigeria and some traders

of Nigerian origin traded or contracted business with the white men but, It is not in their mind to leave or abandon Nigeria as their father land. The major aim some of those Nigerians traded with the white men in different countries of the world were to bring socialization, industrialization and development of Nigeria with infrastructures that could boost Nigerian economy. The trade Nigerians had with the white men liberated Nigerians from the shackles of illiteracy, idolatry, unemployment and underdevelopment (Uruakpa, 2005). Explicitly, trade and other interactions some Nigerians had with the white men brought white Christian missionaries whom their missions were to propagate the Gospel and convert many souls to God. Other benefits Nigerians have achieved from the visit of white Christian missionaries to Nigeria include: Education, hospitals, and good hygienic practices. However, Nigerian industrialization started between 17th century and 18th century in Nigeria.

Manpower Training and Development in Nigeria

Today, Nigeria has to some extent, waxed strong on manpower training and development. In Nigeria, there are industrialized states and local governments in Nigeria. However, many higher educational institutions in Nigeria have not relented in training, educating and graduating skilled work force that are

intellectually and physically capable in different skills and crafts.

Population Explosion in Nigeria

In this 21st century, there is increase in population of people in Nigeria. Increase in population of Nigeria has led to increase in number of graduates and handicraft men observed in various states, local government and communities in Nigeria. Increase in population of Nigerian graduates, handicrafts skilled men and women has caused structural and technological unemployment. Some adult's male and female graduates from Nigerian higher education institutions, have no paid jobs. Some youths who did not choose to school in Nigeria, have finished apprenticeship training but they are jobless. Joblessness observed among some Nigerian youths in which majority of them are graduates, have brought untold hardship in Nigeria. It is on this premise, insecurity, unemployment, famine, poverty and chronic unemployment have engulfed some Nigerians who are intellectually and physically capable to work but have no job to fend for their personal needs, their immediate families and their extended family's needs. This untold hard ship emanating from bad economic condition of Nigeria, trigger off frequent movement of professional in Nigerians to diasporas cities in search of better livelihood (Zohry 2022 & UNDP, 2023).

Nigerian Public Sectors

Many public sectors in Nigeria are trending on daily basis but, cannot employ teeming Nigerian youths seeking for white cola jobs in Nigerian. Some civil and public servants in Nigeria, have refused to retire as at when they are due, due to selfish or personal interest which continues to cause more woes on Nigerian economy.

High Cost of Goods and Services

Many Nigerian youths are regretting because no good means of lively hood. This is because of bad conditions of Nigerian economy. Many goods and services are escalated with high prices to the extent that some Nigerian who may have needs for them cannot afford them.

Delayed Salaries of Civil Servants

In Nigeria, many civil servants are owed for many months. Delayed salaries of civil servants have caused both civil servants to engage into protest in Nigeria but, to no avail. Daunting economic condition of Nigeria has caused poor delivery of instructions due to frequent movements of academicians in search of jobs in universities abroad. In the same vein, medical services are lucrative business abroad. Many doctors and nurses have left Nigeria in search of better paid medical jobs in diasporas countries of the world like UK, USA, China, Kanada among others. These backdrops have caused many deaths of people seeking healing from government hospitals in Nigeria. In the same vein, some Nigerians are half beck because of inadequate teaching and learning equipment and

facilities in Nigerian public primary, secondary and tertiary education institutions in Nigeria. These anomalies, have caused Nigerian trained professionals in different fields of life endeavors to seek for employment opportunities in diasporas countries of the world (Daire & Oyetunde, 2019).

Risks taken by Some Nigerians On their Way to Diasporas Countries in the World

It is evident that many Nigerian youths have abandoned Nigerian economy to seek for better greener pastures in abroad. Evidence abounds that 90% of Nigeria youths are in abroad. Some Nigerian youths that have not yet travelled, are clamoring, preparing grounds for their movement to abroad. Some Nigerian youths have taken several risks to travel abroad. Some Nigerians youths have boarded sea boats to travel; some Nigerians smuggled themselves out of Nigeria in search of favorable employment (Akuyuli, 2020). So many risks taken by some Nigerians in order to get to abroad are enormous and encompassing. Some Nigerians get capsized in big seas, Atlantic oceans and sometimes fall prey to wild animals on their ways to abroad on foots.

It is without doubts that some Nigerians in Diasporas communities do not take those aforementioned risks to travel abroad. Some obtained visas, seek genuine approval to embassies for their travels, while some that were unable to succeed from getting visa, add more to

insecurity and bad economic conditions in Nigerian economy.

In Nigeria, frequent flights of Nigerian youths have reduced the manpower capacity that would have boosted Nigerian economy. Most Nigerian airports are like market places. There are palpable fears that some foreign embassies resident in Nigeria are becoming so fraudulent, still, Nigerians persist to seek travel tickets multiply on daily basis (Kolapo & Ojo, 2012). Travels over- seas has been trending in Nigeria right from the 19th century. Some Nigerians travels abroad to trade, some travels because they wanted to school abroad, while some travel to engage themselves into white cola jobs in abroad. Today, paid jobs have become lucrative in Diaspora's countries of the world. However, many Nigerians have travelled abroad in order to obtain life sustaining jobs (Ferddeke & Liu 2012)

Ordeals Nigerians Face In Diasporas Countries of the World

In diasporas countries of the world many Nigerians have been engaged in one job or the other so as to get their daily bread. It is without doubt that some Nigerian that engaged them into promiscuous living have been arrested, some Nigerians whom their cases are minor are released while some are sent to jail. However, majority of Nigerians have been repatriated back to Nigeria, while some are band not to travel to some countries in the Diasporas. Some

Nigeria who came from abroad with nothing have engaged themselves into menial occupations such as: Transportation, restaurant businesses, car sales, sales of groceries, medical and in house fixtures and fittings businesses, while some have regained health and financial resources to travel to new countries in the world (Ogunyemi, 2021).

Speedy movement of some skilled professionals out of Nigeria have caused inadequate delivery of education services as many erudite professors have left the shore of Nigeria in search greener pastures in academics overseas. Some Nigerian professionals in medical services, teaching in secondary and primary schools, urban and rural development, engineering, geology, mining and petroleum extraction have left Nigeria too (Christan, 2024) (Adediran et al, 2022).

Exodus of Nigeria Professionals is in the alarming rate in Nigeria. Many indigenous public institutions or organizations have crumbled due to inadequate manpower and skilled professionals to reactivate them. Adequate manpower, especially experts in technology, engineering and medicine are nowhere to be found in Nigeria. Many countries are paying reasonable amount of money to them in order to keep them in their country and their companies as well.

Insecurity

Threats of insecurity are devastating like the threats of climate change. Many Nigerians have

decided to spent their God given lives abroad because of insecurity of lives and property. Majority of Nigerians abroad have refused to come back home to avoid being killed. Some Nigerians are afraid of being kidnapped because, they are afraid of being tortured in the deans of kidnappers, while some have refused to come back home because of big amount of money that would be demanded by kidnappers when they are kidnapped. These have caused crises in the economy of Nigeria because, majority of Nigerian elites have decided to stay unreturned from abroad due to insecurity. Insecurity has caused frequent run out of investors out of Nigeria (Boyce e tal 2012, Igwenma, 2018).

Frequent Power Outages

Frequent power outage, poor road network, and inadequate internet broad band in Nigeria. Some professionals in manufacturing and service delivery fields have lamented over poor power supply, bad roads and poor internet facilities in Nigeria. Many business men have relocated to Ghana, South Africa, Togo where electricity power is steady and with reduced tariffs. These have caused reduction in manpower and industrialization of Nigeria. These have caused Nigeria leaders to go into borrowing to fix her economy. However, electricity is the major booster of economy. Frequent power supply is pivotal for effective management of industries in Nigeria. Today both foreign and indigenous

industries have left Nigeria due to frequent power outage which tremendously gulped them huge amount of financial logistics to procure motor spirits and diesel to power their generators. In the same vein, many foreign industries have left Nigeria due to high charges in securing a pace of business in Nigeria. Despite migrations of Nigerians to diasporas countries of the world, power outage are its high tariffs are major causes of flight of investors and their industries out of Nigeria (Bakare 2011, Henry, 2013 & Clement, 2016).

Furthermore, many industries that are in need of technicians, technologists and other skilled professionals are at the verge of collapsing because, many Nigerian professionals who would have helped to boost the economy of Nigeria have flown abroad adding more value to the economy of countries where they are in diasporas countries of the world.

Statement of the Problem

Speedy movement of some skilled professionals out of Nigeria have caused inadequate delivery of education services as many erudite professors have left the shore of Nigeria in search greener pastures in academics overseas. Some Nigerian professionals in medical services, teaching in secondary and primary schools, urban and rural development, engineering, geology, mining and petroleum extraction have also left Nigeria too to add more wealth to their lives.

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Methods

This paper investigated exodus of Nigeria professionals out of Nigerian shores: Significant backdrops to Nigerian economy. Port Harcourt International Airport was chosen for this study because, it is established in Nigeria. It is a major place where Nigerians travels to foreign countries in the world. One research question and one hypothesis guided this study. Population of this study is 200 which comprised 140 males and 60 female staff of Port Harcourt International Airport River State. Stratified random sampling technique was used to select 40 male staff in works and logistics department of Port Harcourt International Airport River State. On the other hand, 45 female staff was selected in security and accounting departments of Port Harcourt International Airport River State., which gave a total sample size of 85 staff selected as sample size in Port Harcourt International Airport River State. Researcher developed questionnaire titled “exodus of Nigeria professionals out of Nigerian shores: Significant backdrops to Nigerian economy” was used, with four rating scale of strongly

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coefficient of this study at 0.78 and 0.97, which shows that the instrument was reliable for this study. Mean and standard deviation were used to analyze the data generated. Chi Square -test of independent was used to test the hypothesis.

Results

What are the economic effects of loss of Nigerian loss on her Technocrat abroad?

Table 1: Shows the economic effects of Nigerian loss of her Technocrat abroad

S/N	Statements	X	S.D	X	S.D	Mean
1.	Unemployment	2.60	0.20 Agree	2.40	0.30	Agree
2.	Reduction in income	3.10	0.10 Agree	2.50	0.20	Agree
3.	Poverty among youths and the aged in Nigeria.	2.80	0.00 Agree	2.60	0.10	Agree
4.	Famine	2.70	0.30 Agree	3.10	0.20	Agree
5.	Balance of payment deficit	3.30	0.10 Agree	3.00	0.30	Agree
6.	Reduced foreign Investment in Nigeria	3.50	0.40 Agree	3.10	0.20	Agree
7.	Inflation on goods and Services.	3.10	0.50 Agree	3.20	0.10	Agree
8.	Decline in government revenue.	3.40	0.10 Agree	3.10	0.30	Agree
9.	Adverse effects on small scale businesses in Nigeria.	3.20	0.40 Agree	2.60	0.60	Agree
10.	Decrease in innovation and advancement in technology.	3.90	0.50 Agree	4.10	0.30	Agree

Total **27.10** **2.60** **Agree** **27.00** **2.60** **Agree**

Test of Hypotheses

Table 3: Shows hypothesis test on the Effects of Nigerian loss of her technocrats abroad

	N	X	S.D	D.f	X0- cal	Xe-tab	Decision
Male staff	80	27.10	2.60	0.05	40.6	3.84	Rejected
Female Staff	90	27.00	2.60				

In table 3: Calculated Xo value is 40.6 which is greater than the table value of Xe of 3.84. Since the calculated Xo is greater than the Xe table value, the null hypothesis was rejected. This shows that there is no significant difference on the opinion of male and female Port Harcourt International Airport River State on the effects of Nigerian loss of her technocrats abroad.

Discussion of Findings

Frequent run out of Nigerian Professionals to the diasporas countries of the world are alarming. Some Nigerian professionals in medical services, teaching in secondary and primary schools, urban and rural development, engineering, geology, mining and petroleum extraction have left Nigeria due to poor economic condition of Nigeria (Christan, 2024) (Adediran etal, 2022). (Zohry 2022 & UNDP, 2023). explained that joblessness observed among some Nigerian youths in which majority of them are graduates, have brought untold hardship in Nigeria. It is on this premise, insecurity, unemployment, famine, poverty and chronic unemployment have engulfed some Nigerians who are intellectually and physically capable to work but have no job to fend for their personal needs, their immediate families and their extended family's needs. This untold hard

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Despite frequent movement of Nigerian professionals abroad, ((Bakare 2011, Henry, 2013 & Clement, 2016). Boyce e tal 2012, Igwenma, 2018), opined that insecurity and power outage have caused frequent run out of investors with their industries out of Nigeria.

Recommendations

The following recommendations guided this study

1. Nigerian government should reduce high charges levied on foreign investors in Nigeria This would attract more industries

References

in Nigeria thus, boosting Nigerian economy.

2. Embargo placed on employment in Nigeria should be made open. This would reduce unemployment among youths in Nigeria.
3. Nigerian government should equip security agencies with adequate arms and ammunitions. These would enable government to chart a new course on insecurity in Nigeria.
4. Electricity tariffs and other tariffs on social amenities should be reduced to the barest minimum in Nigeria. This would encourage establishment of more industries in Nigeria thus, reduce unemployment in Nigeria.

Conclusion Frequent movement of Nigerian professionals out of Nigeria has caused underdevelopment in Nigeria. Many Nigerian experts are employed abroad. Some of them do not think of coming back home because of better working conditions, security and immeasurable state of social amenities in the Diasporas communities where they are seeking refuge from. In Nigeria, inadequate provision of social amenities, insecurity, high interest charges on borrowed funds, unemployment and chronic poverty have caused Nigerians to seek for better paid jobs iin diasporas communities.

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