



## Determinants of Rural-Out Migration in the River Benue Basin

Ayila S. Ngutsav<sup>1</sup>; Patience Adzande<sup>2</sup>; Sylvester lorliam<sup>3</sup>; Jonathan Ogwuche<sup>3</sup>; Timothy T. Gyuse<sup>2</sup> & Fanan Ujoh<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Economics, Benue State University, Makurdi, Benue State, Nigeria.

<sup>2</sup>Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Benue State University, Makurdi, Nigeria.

<sup>3</sup>Department of Geography, Benue State University, Makurdi, Benue State, Nigeria.

<sup>4</sup>Urban Base Consulting, Abuja.

### ABSTRACT

This study examined the determinants of rural out migration in Benue Basin. The study used survey research design. A sample size of 851 respondents was used for the analysis comprising of migrants in the Benue Basin across the five states viz: Adamawa, Benue, Nassarawa, Kogi and Taraba states. The study used percentages, graphs and binary logistic regression for the analysis. It was found that rural out migration in the Benue Basin is determined by both push and pull factors and household characteristics of people. It was also found that sex, age, household size, education, conflict, death of family member, lack of credit services, lack of basic social amenities at the sending communities and lack of job (search for job) were strong and significant determinants of rural out migration in Benue basin at 5% level of significance. The study therefore recommended that government should develop the rural areas in terms of formulating policies that would advance the education and health care facilities in rural areas and ensure provision of other basic facilities like electricity and portable water in the rural areas of the Benue basin while there should also be improvement in the establishment of information centers for providing reliable information and opportunities at the sending and host communities.

**Keywords:** Determinants, Internal Migration, Migration and Rural out Migration

### INTRODUCTION

Movement of people from the countryside towards the city is a phenomenon that can be observed in many economically developed or less developed parts of the world. In the so-called Third World, it is one of the main sources of urban population growth, next to natural increase and administrative reclassifications of urban areas (Pacione, 2009). Migration generally is a natural process and practice of humankind. It is an important factor in the advancement of progressive livelihood and overall development of the society (Razj, 1998; Chowdhury, Haque, Kamal, Islam, Khan, Islam & Uddin, 2012). It is a complex, multi-causal, and nonlinear demographic phenomenon that has occurred throughout human history at a variety of scales and touches the lives of many people (Adepoju, 2008; Malmberg 2008; Naude 2010; de Brauw, Mueller, and Lee 2014). It can be defined in terms of spatial boundaries as internal and international. Internal migration is the movement of individuals within a country whereas international migration involves the flow of individuals between countries where national boundaries are crossed. In Africa, international migration has received more attention but internal migration is far more significant in terms of the number of people involved and even the quantum of remittances and its potential in reducing poverty (Bariagaber, 2006). There has been high level of migration in Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa in the last two decades (Naude, 2010). These movements are either temporary or permanent depending on the cause(s). It involves taking a decision that affects the welfare of the households, the home community and in the end, the whole economy in various ways (Azam & Gubert, 2006). The vast majority of the world's migrations originate in rural areas, where most of the world's



poverty is also concentrated (Taylor, 2001). Internal migration particularly rural to urban or rural out migration is predominant in Nigeria.

There are several factors that influence migration generally. Greenwood (1985) asserted that some of the factors responsible for migration are classified based on regional differences between sending and receiving communities or regions and on individual characteristics of migrants. The determinants of migration can also be classified as economic determinants, demographic determinants, gravity variables, labour market determinants, conflict, and environmental determinants (Naude, 2010; Ivan, 2008). Some (Lee (1966), Skeldon 1997) have broadly categorized it into: push and pull factors. The 'Push' factors are associated with a range of limitations and difficulties which push people to migrate for their better livelihood (Begum, 2005, Farid et al., 2009). Other push factors include: poverty, unemployment, low level of livelihood, insecurity, discrimination by politics and religion amongst others. On the other hand, employment facilities in the host communities, possibilities of economic structure, standard livelihood and standard geographical condition of migrants are considered as important 'pull' factors (Parkins 2010; Ghosh, 1985). In a closely related sense, Wondimagegnhu and Zeleke (2017) broadly categorized the determinants of rural out migration into three: push factors, pull factors and household characteristics. The push factors include: conflict, pest infestation, drought, low agricultural yield, population pressure, lack of relief assistance, lack of access to credit, fragmented land holding, live stock ownership, absence of nonfarm, livelihood strategies, traditional and cultural practices while the pull factors include: employment opportunities, better access to services, attractive urban life, networks in destination and access to information. The household characteristics include: age, sex, marital status, education level and family size.

The rate of migration is generally increasing all over the world. In developing or poor countries, people migrate from one area to another due to facilities of employment, security and to fulfill the subsistence need. Islam et al (2009) rightly put that rural poor consider migration as a process to be free from the vicious cycle of poverty. Similarly, migration is considered to be one of the important strategies for the progress and development of rural poor as people migrate from one place to another for the development of their overall living standard and to enhance their social position (Chowdhury, Haque, Kamal, Islam, Khan, Islam & Uddin, 2012). According to Wondimagegnhu and Zeleke (2017), the problem of rural out-migration has been rising in Nigeria and has been attracting the focus of governmental, non-governmental, national, regional, and international agencies. It is a major factor in the Benue Basin, occurring between: rural to urban centres and rural to rural areas. A study by the National Population Commission show the distribution of migrants by area of residence (that is, rural and urban) within the basin indicates that 42.4per cent of the internal migrants were residing in urban areas, while the remaining 57.6 per cent reside in rural areas. In all the states, there are wide differences in distribution of migrants with respect to area of residence. States with a large concentration of migrants residing in urban areas are Kogi and Adamawa while Benue, Taraba and Nasarawa have 72.1, 68.5 and 66 per cent of migrants in rural areas



respectively (NPopC, 2012). This shows that there is a huge wave of rural out migration within the River Benue Basin, which has called for this study. The basic objective of this study is to examine the determinants of rural out migration in the Benue basin.

## Conceptual Review

### Migration

Migration is a broad term which incorporates all kinds of movement of people from one place to another (Haider, 2010). It is a permanent or temporary change of the place of origin to the place of destination. It can take place within or beyond a particular geographical boundary of a country or political territory. It is therefore defined as the people's movement from one territory to another for job or establishment. According to Mahmood (1992), migration is an act of people's movement to an overseas country for a certain period of time and with explicit purpose. To Beijeer (1969), migration is the movement of a person involving a permanent change of residence. Saint and William (1980) mentioned that, migration is a social process conditioned by changes in the structure of the economy and that of the society. Following the Dictionary of Human Geography (Gregory et al., 2009), the concept of migration is generally seen as both the movements across territory and change in residential location. Besides the spatial mobility, it is at the same time also the matter of a change in social status (social mobility) of the moving individual. Mobility between places thus implies different consequences for the individual human being, depending on the socio-economic character of both places and the socio-economic status of the individual him/herself. Migrants are therefore people who have moved/are moving from one place to another (keeping in mind the explanation given above), on which several dichotomal criteria can be applied. Migration can be international or intra-national; temporary or permanent; forced or voluntary and illegal or legal (Gregory et al., 2009). Migration is radically changing the socio-economic, demographic and development profile of developing countries, with far-reaching implications for agriculture-based economies. Migration is regarded as a positive force in economic development by enabling poor rural migrants to come out of poverty (World Development Report, 2009).

### Rural Out Migration

Rural out migration is the movement of people from the countryside towards urban cities or other rural areas. This process often happens depending on the socio-economic, demographic, cultural, political and environmental factors related to the migrant people. All of the factors of migration are included in two broad classifications as Push and Pull factors. Push factors are those that compel a person, due to different reasons, to leave their place of origin and to go to some other place (Kainth, 2009). On the other hand, pull factors indicate the factors which attract migrant to an area (area of destination), like, employment and higher education opportunities, higher wages facilities, better working conditions, among others (Haider, 2010; Kainth, 2009; Farhana et al., 2012; Afsar, 2003; Rokib & Islam, 2009). Other factors include: crisis or conflicts, poverty, natural calamities such as: flood, draught, soil erosion, river erosion, etc and socio-cultural factors like marriage, family conflict, social discrimination, social problems, political chaos,



dominating village elders, better employment, better life living, better education facilities are considered to be the determinants of internal migration (Haider, 2010).

Rural-to-urban migration is a major economic and social phenomenon of nowadays societies (Vercueil, 2004). Migration can help to reduce poverty and increase income, savings and assets. It can lead to the sending of remittances to marginalized sending localities, which can be used to invest in human or in productive assets in sending localities (Deshingkar, 2006). This can play an important role in reducing vulnerability, improving food security, stimulating land markets in sending areas, increase local wages, the demand for local goods and services and generally improving the economy (Deshingkar, 2006). Despite the positive economic and social externalities of large cities, a highly concentrated population brings social costs such as congestion, pollution and crime. The increased demand for housing and overloading of urban facilities sees the poor reside in slums, often lacking access to clean water and sewerage systems.

### **Internal Migration in Nigeria**

Man has always been on the move in order to survive. Three phases of migration are discernible in Nigeria: pre-colonial, colonial and post-independence. Historically, migration in Nigeria was largely confined to pastoral and fishing migration and the expansion of farmers practising shifting cultivation as done in the rural areas. In the north, seasonal movement was associated with specific trades such as entertainers, musicians, potters, weavers and dyers (Roger, 2003). Migration was also associated with ethnic groups. For instance the Gbagis around the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), the Mumuye (Taraba State) and the Tiv people (Benue State) have all engaged in migration and expanded their territories in recent years, often causing considerable conflict in the process (Roger, 2003). Much of the migrations which featured predominantly in the pre-colonial era took the form of sporadic, massive movements arising from political and forced movements of people. The migrants were mostly Hausas and Fulanis (Kwaire, 2000). Moreover, migration in the past was characterized by the movement of people to the Jos Plateau, Adamawa, Idanre hills in Ondo State and Mambila highlands due to slave raiding and trading activities that culminated in forced migrations during the pre-colonial era. It marked the genesis of internal migration in many parts of Nigeria, particularly in the middle belt with the forced human movement to the coastal areas of Niger Delta and Calabar (Nwosu, 2003). Although, there is a paucity of documentation of the human mobility and migration during this era, nevertheless, some studies, such as Alkali (1985) and Armstrong (1955) conveyed the idea that migration flows during the period were dynamic and diverse.

The arrival and establishment of colonial rule in Nigeria by the British created a rapid change; not only was transport infrastructure improved but many industries opened up, creating demand for seasonal or permanent labour. The construction of the railways played a significant role in this; as soon as a north-south rail line was opened, traders began using it for movement of such high-value goods as kola-nuts. The political economy of the country was such that it provided a framework for large-scale migration; deriving



from the need for large labour force for mines, plantations and public administration (Makinwa & Adebusoye, 1997). Labour was recruited through persuasion and coercion (Adepoju, 1996).

Internal migration was promoted, leading to enhanced rural out migration, as people moved over a relatively freer space, to work as either migrant tenant farmers, as farm labour and/or as migrant traders. The items of trade and direction of their trade also changed, from local to imported goods, mostly in a south- north and north-south direction (Udo, 1975). The seasonal movement of nomads that was noted in the pre-colonial era continued, the exception being movement towards viable locations in the south.

Studies on internal labour migration also reveal that migrant labourers from different parts of the country, especially from rural areas moved into regional headquarters, administrative and market centers of Lagos, Kano, Zaria, Enugu, Ibadan, Sokoto, and Kaduna, among many others, in quest of trade and gainful employment (Udo, 1975; Shimada, 1993; Ikwuyatum, 2006). The societies were opened up to commerce during the colonial period. People that hitherto confined themselves to their places of habitual residence began to move enmass from their remote inaccessible places to major side of the roads and railways (Oyeniya, 2010). It should be remarked that colonial rule altered the pattern of migration to a large extent in the country. The post-independence era, witnessed heightened labour migration from several parts of the country to the main administrative and economic centers of the country and to more varied destinations than ever before. This affected the course of migration, as the changing political economy of Nigeria, occasioned by the civil war, reconstruction, the development of natural resources and establishment of main administrative centers affected migration decision-making of people. For example, many of the government policies led to a lopsided development, with the creation of more employment opportunities and provision of infrastructure and facilities in urban centers than in the rural areas. Thus, employment opportunities were outside the people's primary productive activity, of agriculture; and/or were created in areas such as the tin mines of the Jos Plateau, the Enugu coal mines and the coastal industrial/port cities of Lagos, Port Harcourt and Calabar. Also, the cash-cropping system of the colonialist had brought about movement of people to the cocoa and rubber plantation belts of south-western and south-eastern parts of Nigeria, and to the groundnut belt of Northern Nigeria for migrant laborers from the Middle Belt region of Nigeria (Udo, 1975; NISER, 1998).

The creation of states and more local government areas in Nigeria, and the development of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, brought about new dynamics of internal migration within the north central zone of the country. The Federal Government development policies energized the migration of people from rural to urban headquarters; from rural areas to State and Local Government Headquarters; and to the Federal Capital Territory located in the north central region of Nigeria (Afolayan, 1998; Ikwuyatum, 2006). Abuja was for a long time, a sparsely populated area; but with its establishment as the Federal Capital Territory, it has presently become the administrative and an economic nerve center of the country, second only to Lagos as the





major migration-pull center (Afolayan, 1998). High levels of migration were witnessed within the Basin during periods of crisis mostly rural out migration. There were a number of clashes between the Tiv and Jukuns from 1959 up to 2013 which witnessed massive movement of people within the Basin. Many Tiv people that were in Taraba State ran back to Benue creating serious refugee problems. The 2013 crisis affected not the Tivs but also affected both the Jukuns, Hausa-Fulanis as well as the Kutebs leading to massive movement of people. The Maitatsine crisis in Yola and Kano also gave rise to serious migration as people ran for their lives, moving to safe places within the Basin. The Jos crisis of 1994, 2004 and 2008 also led to a high level of migration as many people migrated to places like Abuja, Lafia and Makurdi to continue with their businesses. The recent and current ones are the Boko Haram insurgency in North East of the country that has forced a lot of people to relocate to other places especially within the towns within the Basin which are relatively more peaceful, and the herders-farmers clashes that are affecting states of the Basin. The migration of these herdsmen into the Basin is creating a lot of problems which led to the passage of anti-grazing laws in Benue and Taraba States. These crisis and others not mentioned have increased the level of migration within the Benue Basin and Nigeria as a country especially the rural out migration.

### **Empirical Review**

Wondimagegnhu and Zeleke (2017) analyzed factors that determine rural communities' decision to migrate to internal and international destinations in Habru district of Northeast Ethiopia. Stratified sampling technique was employed to select a total of 200 household heads in three agroecologies of the study area. Structured questionnaires were used as a principal primary data collection method and logistic regression was employed for the analysis. The study showed that intravillage conflict, absence of relief assistant, livestock ownership, farm land size, access to information, and household and individual characteristics including family size, sex, and age of the migrants are the dominant determinant factors for rural out-migration. The study found that migration has positive outcome in improving livelihoods if comprehensive and holistic policies and strategies are in place. The study recommended that there is also a need to strengthen the link between rural development policy and the disadvantaged groups by designing and implementing different livelihood alternatives including reducing pressure on scarce resources particularly land, integrating health and education services, and creating nonfarm employment opportunities.

Danejo, Abubakar, Haruna, Usman & Bawuro (2015) examined the Socio-economic Factors Influencing Rural-urban migration in Wukari Local Government Area of Taraba State, Nigeria. A well-structured questionnaire was used to solicit information from sixty randomly selected migrants and were analyzed using descriptive statistics and chi-square analysis. The study revealed that majority of the migrant migrated to Jalingo, Taraba state capital city due to lack of social amenities and employment in their original place of residence and for educational pursuance. The result further revealed that, the migrants engaged themselves in one form of business or the other that generated certain amount of money. The study recommended that, government and non-governmental



organization should encourage high quality rural labour force that provides high salaries and benefit, better housing, social amenities, low income tax rate and sanitation to the rural areas.

Eshetu and Beshir (2017) examined the central characteristics of migrants and determinants of rural-urban migration in Southern Ethiopia based on snow ball sampling and a survey of 665 sample migrants using descriptive and econometric analysis. The study showed that majority of the migrants left their home at age ranges between 15 and 25 years. The study also found that most of the migrants had basic education. They revealed that the main reasons for rural-urban migration in the study areas were better job opportunities in the urban areas, rural poverty, search for further education, starting new business, to be free from restrictive culture and better urban services. The regression analysis of the Probit model indicated that age, years of schooling, relatives at receiving areas, monthly income at sending areas and family size significantly affect rural-urban migration. The study recommended that policies should be aimed at reducing rural-urban migration so as create viable farm and non-farm activities for rural unbanked youth. Tegegne and Penker (2016) examine households' choice of short-term and long-term migration and its underlying determinants in different locational contexts. Based on the household-centred New Economics Labour Migration (NELM) framework, the study conducted quasi-longitudinal and context-specific structured interviews with 553 randomly selected households in four rural study sites in north-west Ethiopia. The determinants of household migration decisions were analysed in a binary logistic regression and a multinomial logistic regression. The study found a positive relation between migration decisions and household variables such as a higher education status, perceived food insufficiency, female household heads, household-head age, household size, and number of economic activities.

Amin (2011) examined the factors that determine internal migration to Dhaka city, Bangladesh and their impact on migrant's livelihood. He drew a sample of 448 individuals from the rural and urban areas towards Dhaka city. The study showed the factors that affected the internal migration were mainly occupational, educational and climatic. These factors were analyzed and discussed through the migration theories- neo classical theory, new economics of migration theory and network theory. The ordinary least square technique was applied on three regression models which indicated that there were differences due to internal migration regarding to these economic, demographic and environmental factors in Bangladesh. Akhter and Bauer (2014) analyzed the migration process of the rural population of Bangladesh. Heckman Probit model with sample selection was applied in the study to explore the determinants of migration and intensity of migration at farm household level. The farm survey was conducted in the central part of Bangladesh on 160 farm households with migrant and on 154 farm households without migrant including a total of 316 farm households. The study found that main determinants of migration at farm household level are household age, economically active males and females, number of young and old dependent members in the household and agricultural land holding. On the other hand, the main determinants of intensity of migration are



availability of economically adult male in the household, number of young dependents and agricultural land holding.

In a similar vein, Mutandwa, Taremwa, Uwimana, Gakwandi and Mugisha (2011) analyzed factors that determine rural youths' decision to migrate to urban areas in Nyabihu (Western Province) and Burera (Northern Province). The study used a combination of non-probability and probability sampling methods to select a total of 113 for inclusion into the survey. Structured questionnaires were used as the principal data collection instruments. The results of the study showed that youths who are likely to migrate are predominantly aged between 17 to 22 years, and earn incomes of less than 34,129Frw per month, are male, have primary education, are currently not employed. The study found that youth migrate for a number of reasons which include the need for temporary and permanent job opportunities, access to social services and infrastructure, as well as schooling opportunities. Factor analysis showed that there are three factors which are critical in rural to urban migration and these are availability of social services in rural areas, which is likely to deter youths from migrating. However, presumed stable jobs in the cities and towns coupled with an inauspicious social environment in rural areas are likely to give incentive to youths to migrate from rural to urban areas. The study recommends that the problem of rural to urban migration requires a comprehensive holistic policy strategy emphasizing on income diversification to non-agricultural activities, vocational skills, public and private sector partnerships and management of value chains for effective mainstreaming of disadvantaged youths into development processes of the country. Aryal (2005) investigated the determinants of migration at household level according to the background characteristics of family. The data are taken from a sample survey of Palpa and Rupandehi districts. Logistics regression technique was utilized to identify the influential factors in the migration process. The study indicated that the risk of out-migration was higher for the households attaining at least primary level of education, having occupation other than agriculture and labour workers, landless and marginal landholdings, having more than one adult male members, having family size more than three members and Newar/Gurung/Magar caste/ethnicity category.

## METHODOLOGY

The research was conducted in the River Benue valley. The River Benue Basin is a vast area covering significant parts of the North Central and North East of Nigeria, from Lokoja through Makurdi, Katsina-Ala, Wukari, Jalingo, Numan to Yola. The dominant ethnic groups in the area include the Tiv, Jukun, Kuteb, Chamba, Igala, Mumuye, Idoma, Hausa, Wurukum amongst others. They are predominantly farmers as the land is very fertile and good for farming. The data needs for this study include data on origin-destination of migrants in the Benue basin and reasons or determinants of migration. The study employed basically primary data. Data were sourced directly from residents of the selected urban communities in the five states that make up the Benue Basin. The primary data were collected through a field survey. A semi-structured questionnaire was used as the main data collection instrument during the household survey. The use of semi-structured questionnaire helps to keep the privacy of respondents and allows for free flow





of information especially while discussing sensitive issues. The State capitals of the five states in the basin were selected for questionnaire administration viz; Makurdi, Lafia, Yola, Jalingo and Lokoja. These towns are among the towns with the highest population density in the area attracting migrants from both rural and other areas. A study of these towns gives a good picture of the determinants of rural out migration in the Benue Basin. A total of 1150 copies (230 per state) of the questionnaire were administered and retrieved but only 851 copies of the questionnaire (74%) were valid for analysis. The summary of administration and retrieval of the valid copies of questionnaire is presented in Figure 1.

The results in Figure 1 show that only (42.6%) of the questionnaire retrieved from Taraba state were used as there were issues with questionnaire administration in the state. Most of the respondents did not fill the questionnaire correctly. This explains the low response rate in Taraba state compared to the other states. SPSS package was used to analyze the data. Statistical techniques employed are percentages and binary logistic regression. A pilot study was conducted to test the validity of the instrument. The study used Cronbach's alpha coefficient (also known as the coefficient alpha technique or alpha coefficient of reliability) which is a test of reliability of internal consistency (Cronbach, 1951). This provides us with a coefficient of inter-item correlations, where a strong relationship between the measures/items within the measurement procedure suggests high internal consistency. The result of the reliability test showed a Cronbach Alpha Coefficient of 0.884 which indicates high reliability of internal consistency of the instrument since the coefficient is more than 0.5.

### Model Specification

Following Gujarati (2004) and Wondimagegnhu and Zeleke (2017), the logistic probability function for rural out-migration is defined as:

$$P_i = \frac{1}{(1+e^{-zi})} \quad (1)$$

For ease of exposition, equation (1) is rewritten as

$$P_i = \frac{1}{(1+e^{-zi})} = \frac{e^{zi}}{e^{-zi} + 1} \quad (2)$$

If  $P_i$  is the household probability to be involved in rural out-migration and the probability of households not to be involved in migration, that is,  $1 - P_i$ , is given as follows:

$$1 - P_i = \frac{1}{(1+e^{zi})} \quad (3)$$

Thus,

$$\frac{P_i}{1-P_i} = \frac{1+e^{zi}}{1+e^{-zi}} = e^z \quad (4)$$

Hence,  $P_i/(1-P_i)$  is the ratio of a probability that a household is involved in out-migration to probability that a household is not involved in migration. Taking the natural logarithms of the odds ratio, the logistic regression model out-migration is a function of several push-pull determinant factors given as follows:

$$\ln \left( \frac{P_i}{1-P_i} \right) = \beta_0 + \sum \beta_k X_{ki} + U_i \quad (5)$$

Where

$\ln Y_i$  = Natural log of Y (Poverty status)



$X_{ki}$  = A set of determinants of household rural out migration

$B_k$  = Parameter

$U_i$  = A random disturbance term

$Y_i$  is a probability of rural out migration against non-migration, ranging from 0 to 1. Rural out-migration is the dependent variable. A household is considered as migrant sending if it has at least one migrant member.

Thus, the specific form of the model becomes:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{SEX} + \beta_2 \text{AGE} + \beta_3 \text{HHS} + \beta_4 \text{EDU} + \beta_5 \text{CON} + \beta_6 \text{DRG} + \beta_7 \text{HIS} + \beta_8 \text{DET} + \beta_9 \text{LCR} + \beta_{10} \text{LBA} + \beta_{11} \text{LJB} + \mu \quad (6)$$

$\beta_0$  = Intercept of the model

$\beta_1 - \beta_{11}$  = Parameters

$U$  = Error term

SEX: (Sex of the Respondent: 1 is Male and 0 for Female). It is hypothesized that males are more migratory than females.

AGE: (Age of the Respondent: Active age is 1, otherwise 0). It is hypothesized that the active respondent has higher propensity for migration.

HHS: (Number of Household Members). It is hypothesized that larger sized households have higher number of individuals migrating internally or internationally.

EDU: (Education of the Respondents). 1 if the respondent lacks education on arrival, otherwise 0. Lack of education by respondents influenced their movement from rural areas to cities where there are advance schools for higher learning.

CON: (Conflict). 1 if the household lives in conflict prone area in the sending community and 0 otherwise. It is hypothesized that conflict is one of the push factors for migration decision.

DRG: (Drought). 1 if a household is vulnerable for drought in the sending community and 0 otherwise. It is hypothesized that the existence of drought and the vulnerability of the household to drought is one of the push factors for migration.

HIS: (Health Issues of the Respondent). 1 if the household or respondent has health issues in the sending community, otherwise zero. Health issues of some people necessitate their movement from rural areas to places where there are adequate health facilities.

DET: (Death of the Respondent). 1 if the respondent has experienced the death of family member in the sending community, otherwise 0. Death of family member forces some people to migrate.

LCR: (Lack of Credit Facilities). 1 if household lacks access to credit in the sending community, otherwise 0. Migration is among the strategies to acquire capital. It is hypothesized that households with limited access to credit have high inclination to migrate.

LBA: (Lack of Basic Amenities). 1 if household lacks basic amenities in the sending community, otherwise 0. Migration is among the strategies to enjoy basic amenities. It is hypothesized that households with limited access to basic amenities have high inclination to migrate.



LJB: (Lack of Job or Job Search): 1 if the respondent lacks job in the sending community, otherwise 0. Lack of job or employment influence the migration of one from one area to another especially when the former area is prone to high level of unemployment level.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The results on the distribution of the respondents by age, sex, marital status, education and household size are presented in Figure 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 respectively.

### Determinants of Rural Out Migration

The results on the determinants of rural out migration in Benue Basin are presented Table 1 and discussions are presented below.

**Sex of the Respondents:** Out of the total of 823 respondents, 699 respondents representing 84.9% were males while the remaining 124 respondents representing 15.1% were females. More so, male respondents dominated the sample of the study in all the states. This affirms Ajearo et al. (2013), in their research reported that majority of the migrants were males. The major reason for their dominance is because there is more pressure on the males to succeed, therefore, they usually migrate earlier in life and when they have stabilized, they may come back to take their family members or to marry. Herrari and Sahn (2013) were also in agreement and reported that younger sisters are less likely to migrate since they assume expanded responsibilities for performing household chores when replacing older siblings who have previously migrated. The logistic regression analysis shows that males are more migratory than their female counterparts. The result shows that being a male migrant has the probability or likelihood for rural out migration by a coefficient of 0.876. This implies that sex is one of the determinants of rural out migration in the Benue Basin.

**Age of the Respondents:** This study reveals an average age of 41 years for the sampled respondents or migrants. This implies that majority of the migrants are within the productive ages. This may affect the productivity and output level of the sending communities. Out of the total migrants, 50.9% of the migrants were between the ages of 21 – 40 years while 36% of the migrants were between 41 – 60 years. Very few (13.1%) were either below 21 years or above 60 years. The implication of this finding is that the young migrants have the strength and risk bearing ability associated with such population movement. It also revealed that the consequences of out-migration on the area include: absence of youths to assist parents in their profession, lack of work force to work on farms, and desertion of the area to the aged and children. This statement is in accordance with UN (2013) that majority of the youth moving out of the rural area to urban centres were between the ages of 12-24 years were majority of them tend to engage more frequently in temporary forms of migration. The logistic regression estimates showed that age is significant in determining rural-out migration in Benue Basin. This implies that active age bracket is likely to migrate out of rural areas in Benue Basin. The result also shows



that majority of the respondents in Adamawa, Benue and Nassarawa States fall between the age brackets of 21 years and 40 years while in Kogi and Taraba States, the age of the respondents fall between the age brackets of 41 years and 60 years.

**Household Size:** Household size is the total number of family members who live together and utilize resources under one roof. It is an important source of labour supply. The result shows that majority (60.9%) of the respondents had a household size of at most 4 persons while 29.2% of the respondents had between 5 persons and 8 persons in their households. The average family size or household size of the migrants was 4 persons. The logistic regression result shows that large sized has positive influence on raising the flow of rural out migration in Benue Basin. Since labour is an important factor of production in rural areas, the larger the household migrate; the sending communities face fewer labour bottlenecks during the farming season. The logistic regression estimates show that increase in household size increases the probability of rural out migration of family members by 0.184. Similar results were obtained in all the states except Adamawa State where 43.3% of the respondents had household size of between 5 and 8 persons. This therefore makes it difficult for the head of the household to provide adequate sponsorship for the education and other training for the all family, rather the member provide cheap farm labour for the family. This finding is in agreement with Ehirim et al., (2012) and Ango et al., (2014) reported that, the household size of a rural people is always much when compared to its counter-part living in the city because of their dependence on the family as a source of farm labour.

**Education:** From the results, majority (88%) of the respondents had at least basic education (that is primary, secondary and tertiary education). Only 12% had no education. This implies that rural out migration has the tendency of improving ones education. The result of logistic regression reveals that education constitutes one of the determinants of rural out migration in the Benue Basin. This is because certain areas of the basin particularly the cities offer good opportunities for all forms of education from primary to university levels which are lacking in the rural areas. Hence education is strongly influencing rural out migration in basin. This is similar with FGD report that education played and is still playing a key role in migration as thirty years back, many of the rural areas in the Benue Basin had few or no schools and health centers so people were compelled to move out of rural areas to urban areas where these facilities were available in order to enjoy them.

**Conflict:** The study reveals that 13.2% of migrants were compelled to move as a result of conflict in their place of origin. This was mostly the cattle herdsmen and farmers conflict that lingered in the states. Others were the communal conflict, and disputes as well as insurgency presented by Boko Haram. This agrees with the findings of Danejo et al (2015) where majority (93.3%) of the migrants migrated to the cities due to conflict that affected their area of residence. The logistic regression estimates show that conflict is also another determinant of rural out migration in the area. Thus, this study suggests that conflict is associated with rural out migration.



**Drought:** About 8% of the respondents revealed that drought one of the determinants of rural out migration in the Benue Basin. The study found from the logistic regression result that drought is not one among the significant factors that aggravate migration of individuals from their place of origin. This is because drought has been found to have insignificant effect in terms of determining rural-out migration in the logistic regression result.

**Health Issues:** The result reveals that 3.4% of the respondents migrated due to health issues in Benue Basin. The logistic regression result indicated that health issues or problem does not significantly cause or determines rural-out migration in Benue Basin.

**Death of Family:** The result reveals that 8.5% of the respondents migrated due to the death of family member(s). The study showed that death of family member is a strong or significant determinant of rural-out migration in the Benue Basin by a factor of 0.886.

**Lack of Credit Services:** Credit is one of the requirements or factors of production in a rural area. The study found that 6.6% of the respondents migrated due to lack of credit facilities. Logistic regression estimates also revealed that lack of credit facilities does not form one of the strong determinant of rural out migration in Benue Basin.

**Lack of basic social amenities at the sending community:** Lack of basic social amenities at the sending community was found as the cause of rural out migration by 60% of the respondents. This implies that most of the migrants were due to the lack of basic social amenities at the sending community. This agrees with the finding of Danejo et al (2015) that 48.3% migrated due poor amenities in the rural areas. The logistic regression result shows that lack of basic social amenities at the place of origin is one of the determinants of rural out migration in Benue Basin.

**Lack of job:** The study found that lack of job at the place of origin is one of the causes of rural out migration in the Benue Basin. This is because, about 33.8% of the respondent migrated out of rural areas due to lack of job in the rural areas. This affirms the finding of Danejo et al (2015) that 63.3% of migrants were in search for better employment. The logistic regression estimates also shows that lack of job is one of the strong or significant determinant of rural out migration in Benue basin.

## CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATIONS

Rural out migration has been a matter of concern to policy makers in developing countries, Nigeria and Benue basin in particular due to the peculiarities associated with the rural out migration in recent times. This study concludes that push factor, pull factors and household characteristics determines rural out migration of people in Benue basin. These include; sex, age, household size and education conflict, drought, health issues, death of family member, lack of credit services, lack of social amenities at the sending communities and lack of jobs. However, it can be deduced from the study findings that sex, age, household size, education, conflict, death of family member, lack of credit services, lack of





basic social amenities at the sending communities and lack of jobs (search for job) as strong and significant determinants of rural out migration in Benue basin. Based on the above findings, the study recommends that:

- i) Government should develop the rural areas in terms of formulating policies that would advance the education and health care facilities in rural areas.
- ii) The government should also formulate policies that would provide basic social amenities in the rural areas of Benue basin. This would help in curtailing the rate of movement from rural areas to urban centres for sake of basic amenities.
- iii) Government policies should be designed in a way of enhancing the productivity of labour and improving the living standard of the rural population and contribute for the process rural transformation.
- iv) Since rural-out migration can have positive impact on livelihoods of household through increased income, reduced pressure on land in the sending or originating communities, improved education, among others; the study recommends that there is need for establishment of basic facilities, information centers for providing reliable information and opportunities.
- v) Rural development through rural livelihood intensification and diversification of agriculture is imperative to reduce harsh conditions confronted by the youth at the sending communities.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This research was funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) under the URBANISATION RESEARCH NIGERIA (URN) Programme with Research Project Number J40300038. The research was administered by ICF Consulting UK and conducted by the Benue State University, Makurdi, Nigeria between 2014 and 2017.

## REFERENCES

- Adepoju Aderanti (2008) Migration and social policy in sub-Saharan Africa February 2008 prepared for the UNRISD – IOM – IFS project on Social Policy and Migration in Developing Countries.
- Afolayan, A. A. 1998 Emigration dynamics in Nigeria: landlessness, poverty, ethnicity and differential responses Ashgate Publishing Limited. USA
- Afsar R. (2003). International migration and development nexus: the case of Bangladesh. Presents in the regional conference on migration and pro-poor policy choices in Asia, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, Dhaka, Bangladesh 1-9.
- Ajearo CK, Madu IA, Mozie AT (2013). Appraisal of the factors of rural-urban migration in south eastern Nigeria. *Innovare Journal of Social Sciences*, 1(2): 1-8
- Akhter, S. and Bauer, S. (2014). Household Level Determinants of Rural-Urban Migration in Bangladesh *World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology International Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, 8(1): 24-27.
- Alkali, M. N. (1985) 'Some Contributions to the study of Pilgrimage tradition in Nigeria';



- Annals of Borno, Vol. ii, pp127-138.
- Amin, M.M.(2011). "Factors behind internal migration and migrant's livelihood aspects: Dhaka City, Bangladesh" Institute of Migration. Eerikinkatu 34 20100 Turku FINLAND
- Ango, A.K, Ibrahim, S.A, Yakubu, A.A. and Usman, T. (2014) Determination of Socioeconomic factors influencing youth rural-urban migration in Sokoto State, Nigeria. *Nigeria Journal of Human Resource*, 45(3) 223-231.
- Armstrong, R G. 1955. *The Igala: Peoples of the Niger-Benue Confluence*. London: International African Institute, pp. 77-155.
- Aryal, T.R. (2005). Determinants of Rural Out-Migration at Household Level: Logistic Regression Analysis. *Economic Journal of Nepal*, 28(3): 169-177
- Azam, J. P. and Gubert, F. (2006) "Migrants Remittance and the Household in Africa". A Review of the Evidence. *Journal of Africa Economics*, vol. 15, AERC Supplement 2, pp.426-462
- Bariagaber, A. (2006) *Conflict and the Refugee Experience: Flight, Exile and Repatriation in the Horn of Africa*, Ashgate Publishing, Farnham, UK
- Begum, A. (2005). *Destination Dhaka, urban migration: Expectations and reality*. Dhaka: The University press limited.
- Chowdhury, I. A., Haque, N., Kamal, M. M., Islam, T., Khan, M. M., Islam, M. N., & Uddin, I. (2012). Internal Migration and Socio-Economic Status of Migrants: A Study in Sylhet City, Bangladesh. *American Journal of Human Ecology*, 1(4): 123-133.
- Cronbach, L. J. (1951). Coefficient alpha and the internal structure of tests. *Psychometrika*, 16(3): 297-334.
- Danejo BU, Abubakar,LU, Haruna, MA, Usman, RA & Bawuro, BM (2015) Socio-Economic Factors Influencing Rural-Urban Migration in Wukari Local Government Area of Taraba State, Nigeria. *ARPJN Journal of Science and Technology*. VOL. 5, NO. 4,
- Deshingkar, P. (2009). Internal Migration, Poverty and Development in Asia: Including the Excluded, Issue, IDS Bulletin, Volume 37
- Ehirim, N.C, Onyeneke, R.U.ChidieberaMerk, N.M, Ninabuihe, V.C, (2012) Effects and prospects of rural to urban migration on the poverty status of migrants in Abia State, Nigeria *Agricultural Science Research Journal* 2(4) 147-149.
- Eshetu, F. & Beshir, M. (2017). Dynamics and determinants of rural-urban migration in Southern Ethiopia. *Journal of Development and Agricultural Economics*, 9(12): 328-340.
- Farhana K. M., Rahman S. A. & Rahman M. (2012). Factors of migration in urban Bangladesh: An empirical study of poor migrants in Rajshahi city. *Bangladesh e-Journal of Sociology*, 9(1): 105-115.
- Farid, K. S., Mozumdar, L., Kabir, M. S. & Hossain, K. B. (2009). Trends in international migration and remittance flows: Case of Bangladesh. *Journal of Bangladesh Agricultural University*, 7(2): 387-394.



- Ghosh B. N. (1985). *Fundamental of Population Geography*, New Delhi: Sterling publishers, Priraded Limited.
- Greenwood, M.J. (1985) "Human migration: theory, models, and empirical studies," *Journal of Regional Science*, vol. 25, no. 4, pp. 521-544.
- Gregory, D., Johnston, R., Pratt, G., Watss, M. & Whatmore, S. (2009). *The dictionary of human geography Fifth Edition*. London: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Gujarati, D.N. (2004) *Basic Econometrics*, The McGraw-Hill Companies, 4th edition.
- Haider S. K. U. (2010). Factors of migration on urban Bangladesh: An empirical study of poor migrants in Rajshahi city. *Pakistan Journal of Sociology*, 30 (2): 307-321.
- HDR (2009). *Overcoming Barriers: Human mobility and Development*, UNDP.
- Ikwuyatum, G.O. (2006). 'A Spatial Analysis of Rural Out-migration and its consequences in Benue State, Nigeria'. (Unpublished PhD Thesis) Department of Geography University of Ibadan, Nigeria.
- Ivan, E. (2008). *Internal Migration: A Review of the Literature*, MPRA paper no. 8783, University of Cagliari.
- Kainth, G. S. (2009). Push Pull Factors of Migration: A case of Brick Kiln industry of Punjab State. *Asian-Specific Journal of Social Sciences*, 1(1).
- Kwaire, M. (2000), 'A History of Tuareg Migration from Niger Republic to Sokoto Metropolis: 1900-1985' Unpublished PhD (History) Thesis, Usman Danfodiyo University, Sokoto.
- Mahmood, R. A. (1992). Bangladeshi returned migrants from the Middle East: Process, achievement, and adjustment. In G. Gunatilleke (Ed.), *The Impact of Labour Migration on Households: A Comparative Study in Several Asian Countries*. Tokyo: United Nations University Press.
- Makinwa-Adebusoye, P. K. (1997) "The African Family in Rural and Agricultural Activities" In A. Adepoju ed. *Family, Population and Development in Africa*. London, Zed Books.
- Mutandwa, E., Taremwa, K. N., Uwimana, P., Gakwandi, C. & Mugisha, F. (2011). An Analysis of the Determinants of Rural to Urban Migration among Rural Youths in Northern and Western Provinces of Rwanda. *Rwanda Journal*, 22: 55-95.
- National Population Commission (NPC)** (2012). National Internal Migration Survey Report. NPC Abuja.
- Naude, W. (2010) "Determinants of migration from Sub-Saharan African Countries. World Institute for Development Economics Research, United Nations University," *Journal of African Economies*, vol. 19, no. 3, pp. 330-356.
- Nigeria Institute for Social Research (NISER) (1998). *Migration and Urbanization Surveys*, NISER Publication, Ibadan, Nigeria.
- Nwosu D.C. and Okafor H.O. (2014). Government Revenue and Expenditure in Nigeria: *Asian Economic and Financial Review*. 4(7) 877-892.
- Oyeniyi, B.A.**(2010) *Mobility and Social Conflicts in Yorubaland, 1893-1983: A Socio-Historical Re-Interpretation*. Berlin: VDM.
- Parkins, C. N. (2010). Push and pull factors of migration. *American Review of Political Economy*, 8(2): 6-24.



- Razi, H. (1999). Fundamentals of demography: Population studies with special reference to India, Surjeet Publications, 7-K, Kolhapur Road, Kamla Nagar, Delhi-110007.
- Roger, B. (2003) Migration 'The city is our farm' Nigeria: Drivers of Component Three-Position Paper, Output 30 Prepared for DFID, Nigeria. <http://www.rogerblench.info/RBOP.htm>
- Shimada, (1993) Migration and Change in agricultural production systems in rural Nigeria: a case study. Science Reports Tohoku University, Seventh Series: Geography, 43(2), 1993, pp. 63-90.
- UN (2013). Factors associated with the youths rural-urban migration drift in Kwara State, Nigeria. *Interdisciplinary Journal of Contemporary Research in Business*, 1(8): 69-77.
- Wondimagegnhu, B.A & Zeleke, M.E. (2017) Determinants of Rural Out-Migration in Habru District of Northeast Ethiopia International Journal of Population Research Volume 2017, Article ID 4691723,

Table 1: Determinants of Rural Out Migration in Benue Basin

| Variables | B     | S.E.  | Wald   | Df | Sig.   | Exp(B) | 95% C.I. for EXP(B) |       |
|-----------|-------|-------|--------|----|--------|--------|---------------------|-------|
|           |       |       |        |    |        |        | Lower               | Upper |
| SEX       | 0.876 | 0.171 | 26.111 | 1  | 0.0000 | 0.416  | 0.022               | 0.854 |
| AGE       | 0.221 | 0.048 | 21.143 | 1  | 0.0000 | 0.802  | -0.692              | 0.913 |
| HHS       | 0.184 | 0.041 | 20.424 | 1  | 0.0000 | 0.832  | -0.740              | 0.924 |
| EDU       | 0.698 | 0.188 | 13.759 | 1  | 0.0000 | 0.498  | -0.149              | 0.847 |
| CON       | 0.239 | 0.045 | 28.16  | 1  | 0.0000 | 0.788  | -0.669              | 0.908 |
| DRG       | 0.206 | 0.184 | 1.251  | 1  | 0.2630 | 1.229  | -1.126              | 1.332 |
| HIS       | 0.084 | 0.048 | 3.081  | 1  | 0.0790 | 0.919  | -0.877              | 0.961 |
| DET       | 0.886 | 0.169 | 27.515 | 1  | 0.0000 | 0.412  | 0.031               | 0.855 |
| LCR       | 0.018 | 0.033 | 0.318  | 1  | 0.5730 | 1.019  | -1.010              | 1.028 |
| LBA       | 0.174 | 0.042 | 17.179 | 1  | 0.0000 | 0.841  | -0.754              | 0.928 |
| LJB       | 0.772 | 0.178 | 18.822 | 1  | 0.0000 | 0.462  | 0.326               | 0.655 |

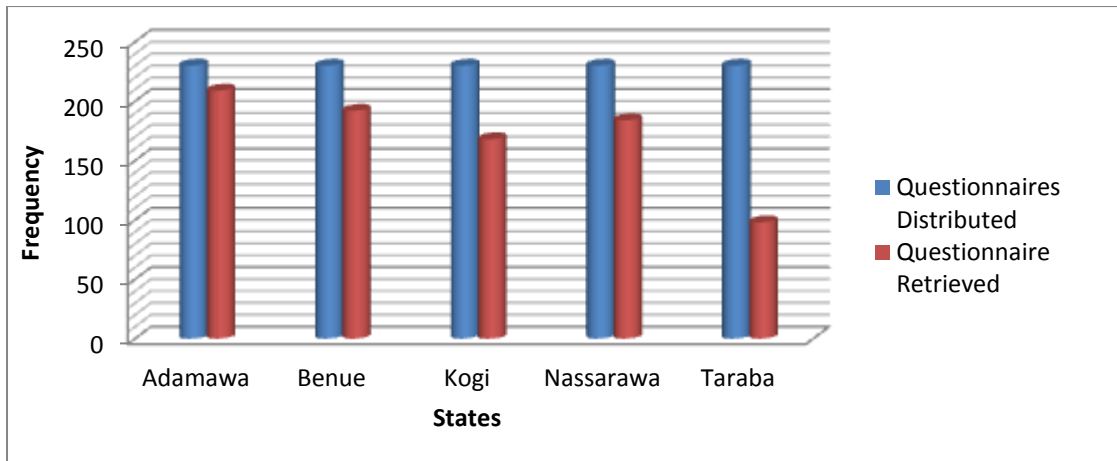


Figure 1: Distribution and Retrieval of the Sampled Questionnaires

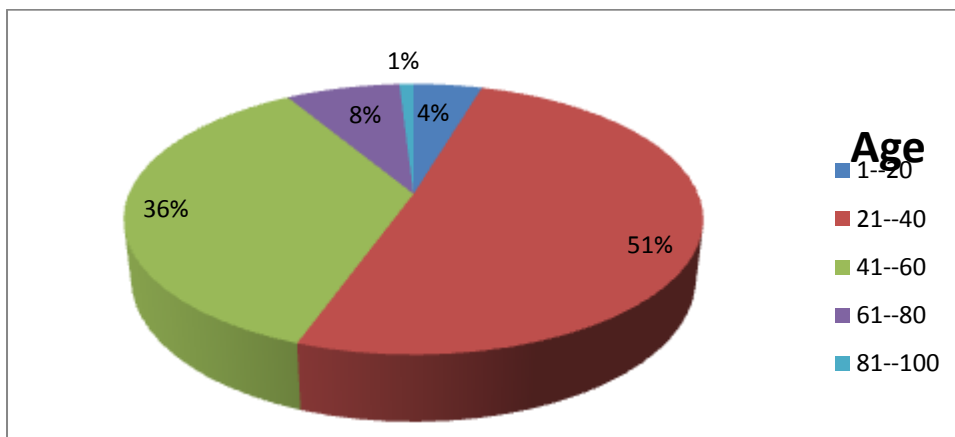


Figure 2: Pie Chart showing the Age of respondents

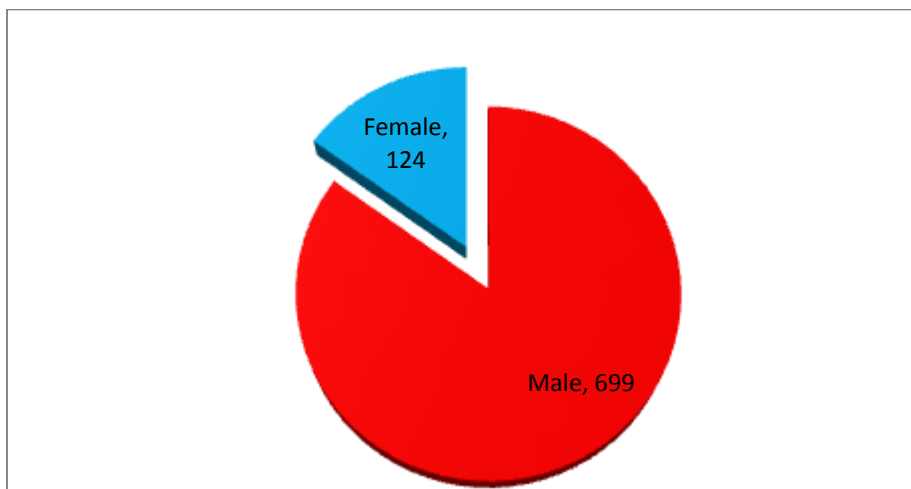


Figure 3: Exploded Pie Chart showing Sex Distribution of the Respondents



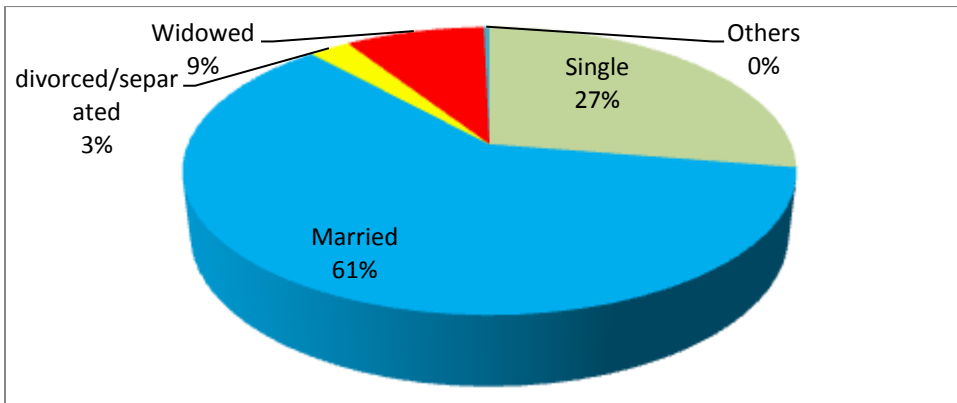


Figure 4: Pie Chart showing Marital Status of Respondents

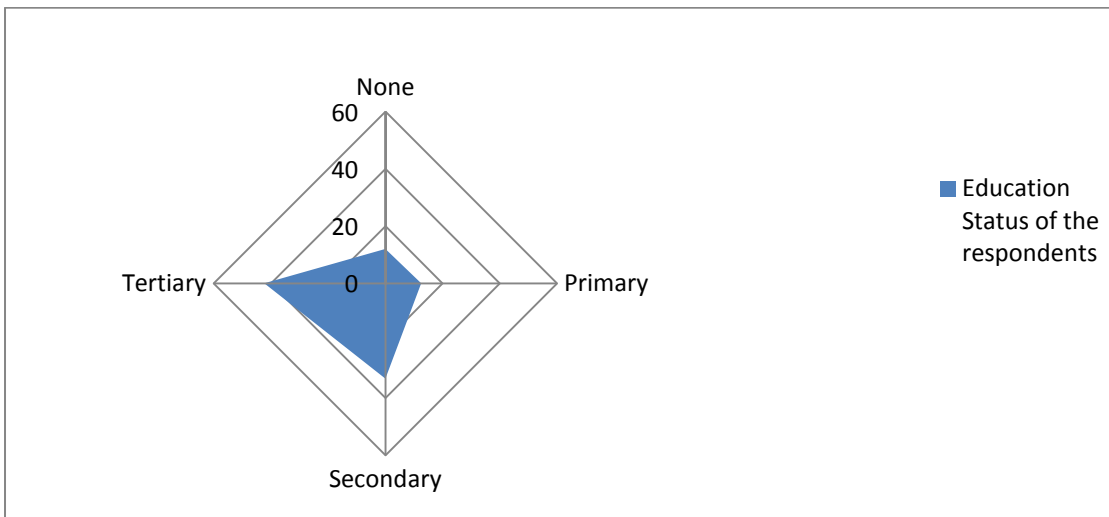


Figure 5: Filled Radar showing Educational Status of the Respondents

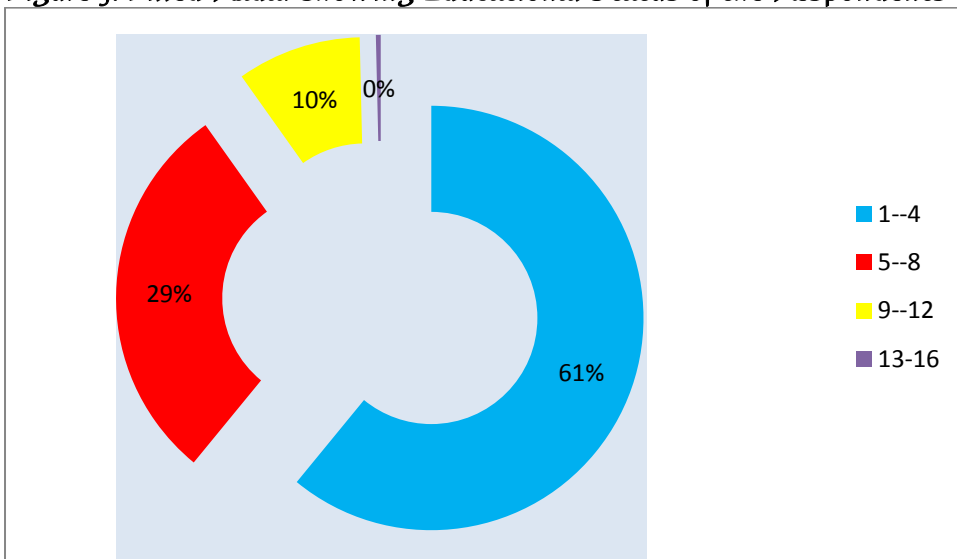


Figure 6: Exploded Doughnut Chart showing Household Size of Respondents