Transmigration A Contemporary Issues of Global Concern: Socio-Civic and Economic Approach

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Abstract
Mobility of labour plays a crucial role in the socio-civic, economic, and human capital development, but the stance of seeking safety relays dynamic consequences of human development in most developing nations which Nigeria is not left out. To correct this disparity, migration is not a crime but an issue of concern occurring at an alarming rate that widens the gap between the skilled and unskilled labour force with almost 272 million and two-thirds of Nigerians estimated to be labor migrants. Regrettably, seven out of 10 Nigerians are willing to relocate to other countries for a reasonable rate of per capita income while an extant migration rate of -0.273 per 1000 population is emigrating with more than 11,055 Nigerian-trained doctors working in the United Kingdom. It is to this end this study examines the socio-economic effects of migration in Nigeria using time series data covering from 1996 to 2020 sourcing its data from the 2021 World Development Indicators and the 2023 Migration Data Portal. The data were analysed using descriptive statistics and ordinary least squares revealing that poverty, corruption, and government spending on education and health positively determine migration in Nigeria while the unemployment rate does not. Thus, this makes the study conclude that skilled migration contributes to development in the host country and recommends that the Nigerian government should provide appropriate incentive mechanisms to ensure that highly skilled workers stay back in contributing to the development process of their country, and shun unrestricted movement to the industrial world.

Keywords: Asylum, labour force, mobility of labour, socio-economic migration.

Introduction

Labour mobility is an essential part of human existence as people migrate in search of better socio-economic, education, join relations, or seek asylum to escape conflict, persecution, terrorism, or human rights abuses in response to adverse climate change effects of, natural disasters, or environmental factors; also it could be due to technological advancement, overpopulation and pressure on resources Apparently, migration is not limited to Africans but cut across continents as people settle freely or obligatorily base on diverse reasons in new places legally or illicitly (European Parliament, 2021; Mishra, 2021).

Though migration is never a crime, it becomes an issue of concern/interest when it occurs at an alarming rate. Various countries are experiencing diverse challenges, especially the developed countries with civil unrest, economic recession, adverse climatic effects, and natural disasters, among others. Yet, these challenges are seen as socio-civic responsibilities, and citizens (both skilled and unskilled) synergize as key relevant stakeholders in finding solutions to the countries' problems. Almost 272 million people were estimated to be international migrants and two-thirds of these people were labor migrants (World Migration Report, 2020).

Nigeria has experienced problems involving political unrest, economic hardship, social injustice (human rights/rule of law) abuses, and corruption, among others which have left citizens with the only option of 'aggressive desperation for migration'. This has become a problem of national concern as it involves skilled and unskilled citizens migrating for better prospects. In this process, migrant's lives are in jeopardy due to the perilous nature of the journey especially across the Sahara Desert or the Mediterranean Sea into Europe aboard overloaded dinghies.

Regrettably, the productive workforce of Nigeria's economy mainly the youth populace whom the country has invested so much in educationally are those involved in aggressive desperation for migration across the world. Seven out of 10 Nigerians are willing to relocate to other countries for various reasons, with a reasonable amount successful in this drive. The extant migration rate in Nigeria is -0.273 per 1000 population, which indicates that more people are emigrating from Nigeria; 11,055 Nigerian-trained doctors are the third-highest foreign doctors working in the United Kingdom (UK). This pervasive national problem trends more among Nigeria's workforce which makes the nation suffer brain drain, discrimination, poverty, and development and so urgently need intervention to mediate this phenomenon already getting beyond control (Olawale, 2023; This Day, 2023; Nigeria Social Cohesion Survey [NSCS], 2022).

To this end, the paper's thrust is to examine the issues to establish wild skilled workers' migration impact from the African continent on human development. Also, it discusses the nature of workforce migration from African countries and the mechanism of its effects on the continent's development. Therefore, it is to this end the study tests the hypothesis of whether socio-civic and

economic issues affect the migration rate in Nigeria, and also examines the relationship between socio-economic migration indicators in Nigeria from 1996 to 2020. In doing this, conceptual migration and its origin, discuss migration global concern, migration causes, the incidence of migration, and a theoretical review of incidence and implications.

Literature Review
Conceptual Review

Migration is often seen as a major issue affecting domestic citizenship and a state's economic and political development. However, recent literature suggests that migration can involve knowledge transfers and remittances for development. The United Nation (UN) director general initiated a discourse on migration in 2006, which has evolved into a behavioral decision-making process based on core principles and values. This makes migration a relatively fixed switch of a group from a geographical location to a new destination. Migration, originating from the Latin word "migrates", began in the mid-17th century and has evolved into a widespread practice that involves changing living places or habitats for centuries. It can be part of traditional nomadic lifestyles or as war refugees, and can also be driven by better jobs, social infrastructures, marriage partners, and security purposes. Thus, individuals or groups engage in the physical shift from one social order to another involving leaving the initial socio-civic setting to inhabit another (Lawal, 2022).

Migration is a process of human relocation from a source location to a destination, often crossing international borders or within a state context. This can be planned or instinctive, and involves a long distance from the origin to the destination. Migration is linked to better human capital and economic growth, as it helps individuals escape poverty. It is a lifelong or fixed domiciliary transformation, often involving a migration passage across a diplomatic border. The goal is to move into a diverse labor market and establish a new place of domicile. This process is often driven by the desire to improve human growth and escape poverty. This act of spatial mobility effort stresses time and space leaving a native place of domicile to the destination continually (Kaufmann, 2006; Gomes, 2021).

Migration could be intra-national (rural-urban, urban-rural) international (Nigeria-Ghana or Nigeria-Canada, and inter-continental (Africa-America or Asia-Africa). More so, any movement that crosses specified political boundaries, community, and, into different labour markets to establish a new place of residence is referred to as migration. Migration within a country is referred to as internal migration, and migration that crosses a national boundary is called immigration or emigration (IOM, 2020).

Migration: An Issue of Global Concern

Migration is a persistent feature in man's history due to its extant major import in the globalization process. When people cross the border of a country, a change happens to their legal status, and suddenly gain a special label or status – of migrants. Migration is a phenomenon of great complexity because the reasons people migrate vary and constantly changing (IOM, 2021).

Moreover, an individual who migrates is not easy to classify because they come under different circumstances, from different milieus, and with distinct traits. Accordingly, insight into migration causes and effects, as well as acquiring theoretical and practical skills are essential for tackling emanating challenges and developing effective policies to protect migrants (Fussell & Massel, 2004). Most migrants live in a world that changes frequently because being a migrant has a significant impact on the socio-economic and political policies of sovereign states, intergovernmental agencies, and civil society groups. Contemporary globalization laws on migration and application are increasingly understood as the last bastion of sovereignty, therefore adverse effects on the state's political vision (Fussell & Massel, 2004). Migration is a fundamental human right that drives policies for asylum seekers and migrants. Nigerians live in a society where borders are porous for both legal and illegal migration. People cross borders for various reasons, including work, family visits, escaping violence, studying, healing, or returning to their country. Migration is not just about crossing borders; it also impacts traditional boundaries between languages, cultures, ethnic groups, and nation-states. The global migration phenomenon has both advantages and disadvantages, affecting social and economic life. Governments worldwide must find effective interstate cooperation strategies to address migration.

Causes of Migration

International migration is driven by job opportunities, economic crises, and forced removal. It has significant economic, social, and political impacts on both origin and destination countries. Wealthy immigrants often migrate due to climate, politics, and social interactions, while involuntary migration is driven by religious, socio-political, or natural disasters.

Theoretical Approaches on the Motives of Migration

There are various theories and models on the decision of migration. Prominent among this model is the neoclassical approach by Harris and Todaro (1970) which assumes that migrant behavior can be understood in terms of economic utility maximization and that the decision to migrate is underpinned by various push factors (factors within) and pull factors (factors within the recipient country) which determine whether a "migration potential" will translate into actual migration (Rotte & Vogler, 1998). This analysis explores factors influencing skilled migration from African countries, including wage differentials, expected remuneration, state policies, and political conditions. It suggests that migration is driven by labor market mechanisms and income-maximizing individuals' decisions, with wage differences affecting international migration based on the factor price equalization hypothesis. Countries with large endowments of labour relative to capital (underdeveloped countries) will have low equilibrium wage rates, while those with an abundance of capital and consequently a more limited supply of labour (developed countries) will offer substantially higher wages which will induce workers from poorer low wage economies to move to high wage countries

until the interaction of the laws of supply and demand equalizes wage across countries (McGovern, 2007). The 'New Economics Migration' model, which focuses on household decision-making rather than individual migration, has failed to equalize wages across countries, reducing dependence on a single labor market and promoting risk diversification.

Relevant in this case are remittances from the emigrants which can be seen as the outcome of an implicit contract with the migrant's family members that stayed back. In less developed countries, such remittance often forms a sizable proportion of household income and national inflow of foreign capital (Massey *et al.*, 1993). The classical formulation approach highlights private intermediaries' role in international migration, while structuralist analyses focus on state and multinational corporations' labor market structuring. Social networks also play a role in migration. It is then argued that such networks are important and risk/cost reducing sources of support for new immigrants, thereby constituting migration pathways that can stimulate further migration (Massey *et al.*, 1993). Another theory of migration is diaspora and multiculturalist citizenship theory: "group rights" (also called "cultural pluralism") which center on the idea that different groups within a political community be they based on ethnicity, race, religion, or nationality, should have their collective voice in the governance of their place of residence. (Stanly, 2005). Immigration concerns often involve group rights, integration, assimilation, national identity formation, clear citizenship access, and acceptance of dual or multiple citizenship due to global communication and transportation ease. Advocates of group rights citizenship theory see the above as necessary to ensure such groups are equal to all others in democratic nations, while also allowing them to fully enjoy the benefits of their own cultures and citizenship rights of their countries of origin. (Stephen, 2007). Another category of citizen migration theory is post-national and transnational.

The grouping together of these two types by this author is done because both post national and transnational, in their current forms, are often tied to or considered mainly to be caused by the effects of globalization on the world (Tony, 2000). Post and transnational citizenship focus on the idea that the nation-state, the historic source of citizenship recognized since the Peace of Westphalia of 1648, is no longer, and need no longer, be the sole or even main source of citizenship. This is usually based on the fact that many of the rights and privileges of citizenship, most especially social benefits such as welfare, housing, etc., are no longer tied to one's citizenship status in many nations. Accordingly, David (2002), it is observed that since there are so few differences between citizens and noncitizens now, there are few, if any, reasons not to just give the full rights of citizenship to those living in a nation after only a few criteria are met. If this sounds familiar, it is because it echoes the same call often made in humanist and group rights citizenship theory as well (Alexander & Douglas, 2002). Other citizenship sources or, at least potential sources, recognized in post and transnational theory include supranational. More so, post and transnational theories also often discuss diaspora and other group rights-based citizenship, as well as delving into the realm of

humanist theory with discussions of both the philosophical and moral reasons for expanding citizenship beyond the nation-state and the obligation of individuals to all of humanity (Ruth, 2008). Post and transnational citizenship theory, as noted above, are generally tied to globalization and its effects on migration, communications, economics, resource allocation, etc. This process has effects on the environment, on culture, on political systems, on economic development and prosperity, and human physical well-being in societies around the world. (Keith, 2005).

Incidence of Migration

Over the past decade, Africa's migration has surged, influenced by economic, geographic, and demographic factors, leading to distinct migration patterns and "corridors". The issue of migration has represented an accumulation of migratory movements over time and provides a snapshot of how migration patterns have evolved into significant foreign-born populations in specific destination countries (Word Migration Report [WMR], 2022). The migration rate in Nigeria stood at -0.29 per 1,000 population as of 2021. This shows that the number of people leaving Nigeria is higher than those entering the country. Between 2000 and 2022, the migration rate in Nigeria stayed on the negative side (Doris, 2023). Accordingly, Word Migration Report (2022) estimates that there are 281 million international migrants globally (or 3.6% of the world's population) more people are migrating to other countries, especially those within their region. COVID-19 disrupts migration systems, particularly in high-income countries, causing significant displacement and refugee numbers. Employment is the primary reason for international migration, with migrant workers primarily living in high-income countries.

Implications of Migration

Migration impacts both host and origin countries, with the host country benefiting from cheap labor and the origin country potentially experiencing negative economic impacts like skilled worker shortages. Factors such as low wages, poor benefits, and unfavorable working conditions can lead to major changes in economic sectors, requiring adjustments to retain workers.

Methodology

The study examines the relationship and effect of the citizenship-based socio-economic migration indicators in Nigeria using a time series of data covering from 1996 to 2020. The socio indicator was a proxy using the corruption index, while the economic indicators were a proxy using poverty rate, government expenditure on education, domestic government expenditure on health, and unemployment rate all of which are of citizenship concern. The corruption index, poverty rate, government expenditure on education, domestic government

expenditure on health, and unemployment rate series were sourced from the 2021 World Development Indicators while the migration rate was sourced from the 2023 Migration Data Portal (www.migrationdataportal.org). Thus, the variables were measured Table 1 shows the proxy description and computation of variables.

Table 1. Proxy description and computation of variables

Variables	Proxy	Proxy acronym	Description	*a priori* sign
Migration	Nigeria's international migrant stock (% of the total population)	MIG	It is the stock of outflow from Nigeria to other countries, especially European nations.	-/+
Socio indicator	Corruption index	CORR	This is the corruption perception index for Nigeria.	+
Economic indicators	Poverty	POV	This is the inverse of GDP per capital multiplied by 100.	-
	Government spending on education	LEDU	It is the natural log of government spending on education multiplied by 100.	-
	Domestic government spending on health	DGHE	This is captured by the domestic government health spending.	-
	Unemployment rate	UME	It measures the rate of people who are not gainfully employed.	-

Source: Authors' compilation.

Therefore, to determine the effects of the socioeconomic and economic determinants of migration in Nigeria, the model can be specified as:

$$MIG_t = f(CORR_t, POV_t, LEDU_t, DGHE_t, UME_t)$$
… 1

However, the empirical context of the model is specified as a lin-log model which provides a more robust and trustworthy estimate of the model (see Shahbaz *et al*., 2012). This makes the results of the study reveals to be consistent for policy consideration and recommendations. Therefore, the lin-log model can be specified as:

$$MIG_t = \beta_0 CORR_t + \beta_1 lnPOV_t + \beta_2 lnEDU_t + \beta_3 DGHE_t + \beta_4 UME_t + \xi_t$$
… 2

Where β_0, $\beta_1 - \beta_4$, and ξ_t are constant, parameters of deterministic effects on migration, and error term respectively. Thus, the study was analysed using descriptive statistics, correlation matrix, and ordinary least squares (OLS). The study analyzes the relationship between migration and socio-economic indicators in Nigeria, focusing on 1996-2020 due to data unavailability. Descriptive statistics, correlation matrix, and OLS measure the effects of poverty, corruption, and government spending on migration.

Figure 1 describes the trends and graphs of Nigeria's international migrant stock, poverty rate, Nigeria's corruption index, government spending on education, government spending on health, and unemployment rate respectively. The stock of Nigeria's international

migrants increased from (0.4%) in 1996 to (0.7%) in 2005 and later jerked up from (0.6%) in 2010 to (0.7%) in 2015. Therefore, the trend revealed that between 2015 to 2020, the migrant stock rate flowed from (0.6%) to (0.7%). However, this is supported due to the swivel trend of Nigeria's poverty rate, which revealed that in 1999 it rose from (0.12%) to (4.42%) in 2012. Moreover, it was also revealed that since 2007, the poverty rate in Nigeria has leveled between (0.28%) and (0.15%) in 2020. Therefore, the implication is that, between the period of 1996 and 2020, Nigeria's international migrant stock has increased due to citizen's low income which in the long run causes poverty. As such, relatively, it is also caused by the continuous rise in Nigeria's corruption index from (10%) in 2001 to (25%) in 2020. The corruption rate in Nigeria has periodically then positively caused a push and pull effect on the stock of international migrants, hardship of economic multiplier, and societal and international trust. Theoretically, the human capital development of a nation is the bedrock of stable socio-economic development but the reverse is the case in Nigeria as revealed in Figure 1. Be it as it may, the expenditure on health and education accumulates the human capital development significantly, it was shown that it was only the expenditure on education grossly increased while that of health is deprived. Astutely, this supports the weakening of Nigeria's healthcare sector. Holistically as shown in the trend, this has caused the resignation of medical doctors and nurses to other countries. This is responsible for the so-called "*japa-syndrome*" in Nigeria and is backed up by the backlashing high rate of Nigeria's unemployment.
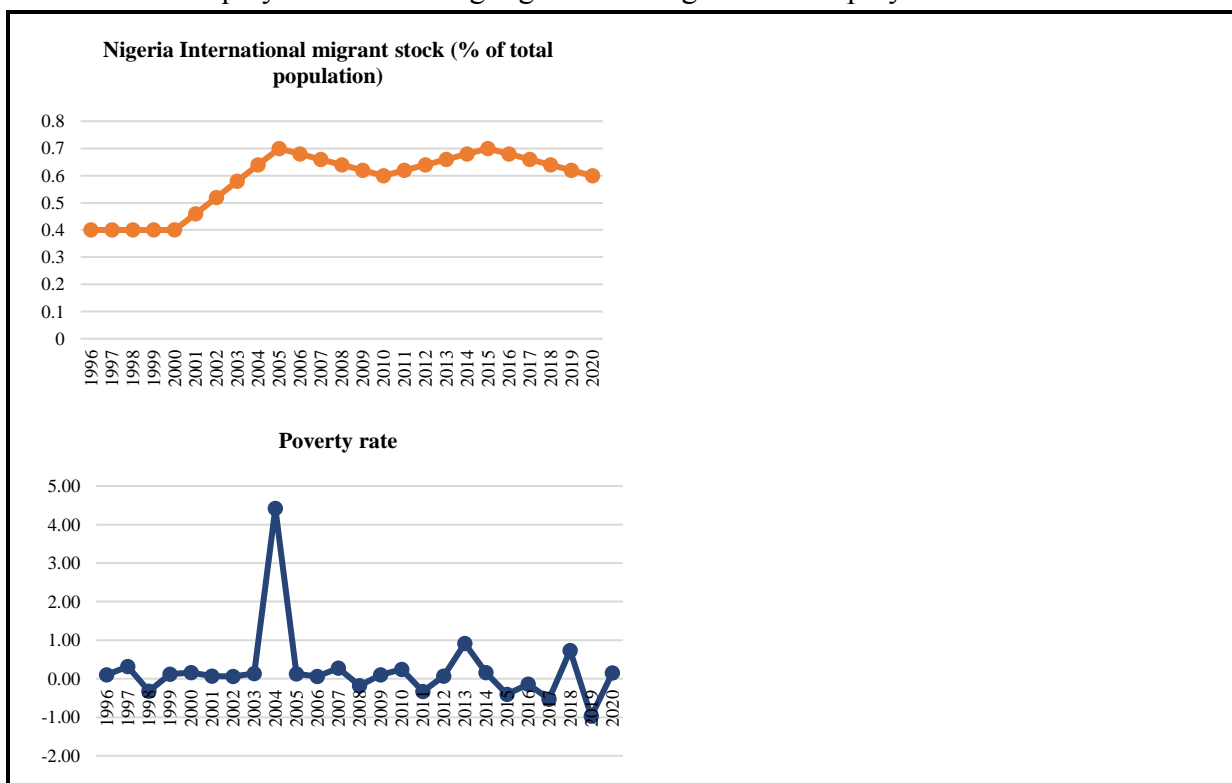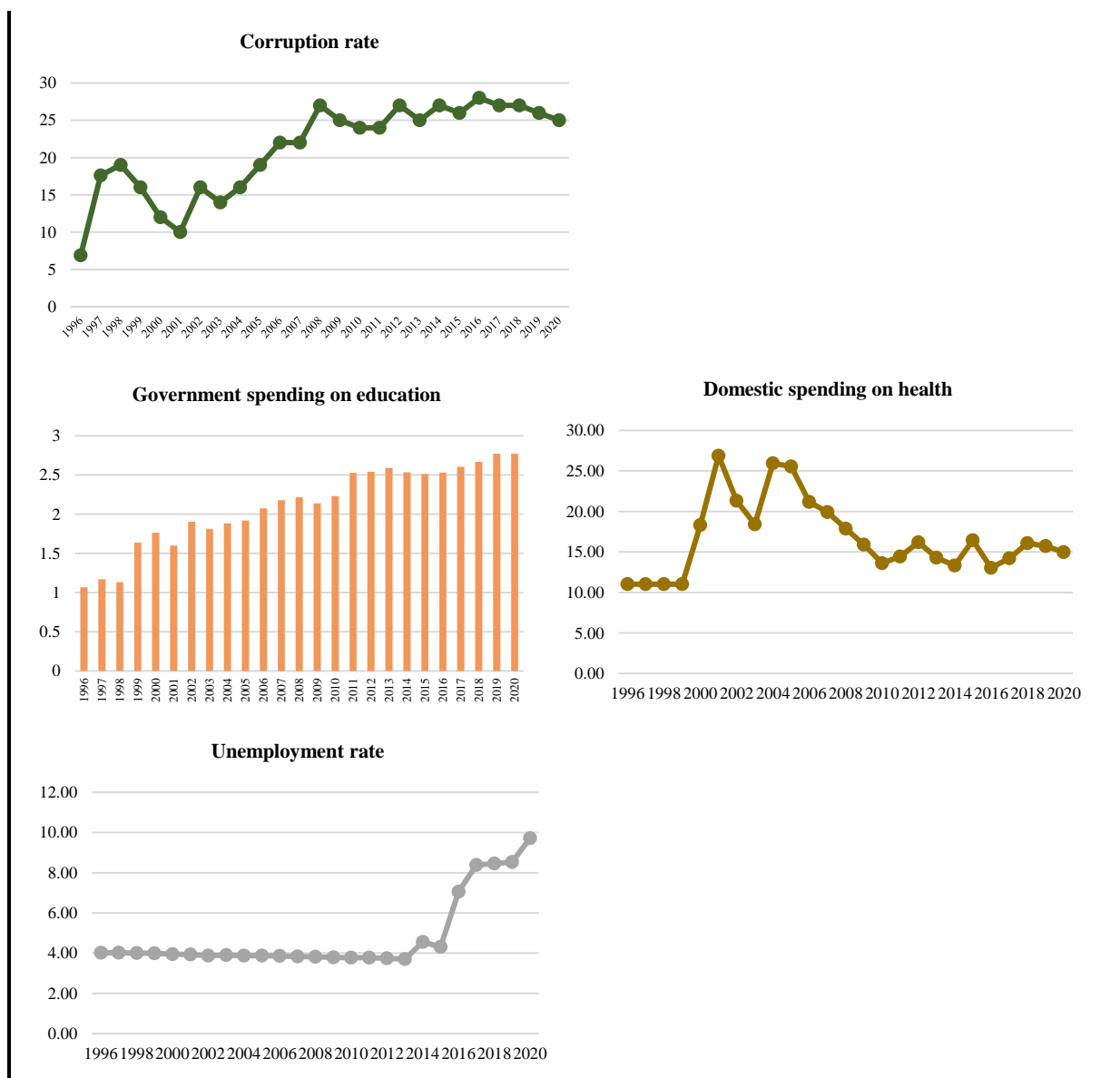
Figure 1: Trends and graphs of variable.
Source: Authors' computation.

Table 2 revealed that the mean and standard deviation (X±SD) values for migration, poverty, corruption, natural log of government spending on education and health, and unemployment rates lie within the maximum and minimum values at 0.58±0.11, 0.21±0.95, 21.14±6.09, 2.11±0.51, 16.71±4.62, and 4.83±1.88 respectively. Also, from Table 1, it was revealed that migration, corruption, and government spending on education at -0.87, -0.77, and -0.59 were negatively skewed while poverty, government spending on health, and unemployment rates at 3.54, 0.80, and 1.62 were positively skewed.

Table 2. Descriptive statistics

Variables	MIG	CORR	POV	LEDU	DGHE	UME
Mean	0.58	21.14	0.21	2.11	16.71	4.83
Maximum	0.70	28.00	4.42	2.77	26.89	9.71
Minimum	0.40	6.90	-0.97	1.07	11.02	3.70
Std. Dev.	0.11	6.09	0.95	0.51	4.62	1.88
Skewness	-0.87	-0.77	3.54	-0.59	0.80	1.62
Kurtosis	2.19	2.47	16.62	2.36	2.84	3.89

Source: Authors' computation.

As revealed in Table 3, the poverty rate, corruption rate, government spending on education, government spending on health, and unemployment rate were positively correlated with migration in Nigeria. Therefore, the implication is that government spending on education is (80%) correlated with migration; corruption is (72%) correlated with migration. Government spending on health at (27%), unemployment at (23%), and poverty at (8%) were correlated with migration. As such, it then asserts that education spending and corruption statistically relate to migration in Nigeria.

Table 3. Correlation matrix

Variables	MIG	POV	CORR	LEDU	DGHE	UME
MIG	1.00					
POV	0.08	1.00				
	[0.37]					
CORR	0.74**	-0.22	1.00			
	[5.34]	[-1.08]				
LEDU	0.80**	-0.13	0.83**	1.00		
	[6.31]	[-0.62]	[7.12]			
DGHE	0.27	0.40**	-0.27	-0.01	1.00	
	[1.35]	[2.10]	[-1.33]	[-0.04]		
UME	0.23	-0.19	0.43**	0.55**	-0.21	1.00
	[1.14]	[-0.95]	[2.29]	[3.16]	[-1.04]	

*indicates t-statistic, ( ) represents probability value while ** 5% significance level respectively.*

Source: Authors' computation.

Test of Hypothesis

To test the study's hypothesis of whether socio-civic and economic issues significantly affect the migration rate in Nigeria. Table 4 revealed the effects of OLS estimates on the migration model. The results revealed that the model as specified in equation 2 is good for policy implementation and recommendation since the adjusted r-squared is greater than 50%. The model also shows that the variability of the dependent variable; migration causes about 58.4% of the independent variables. These results are supported by the recursive cumulative sum (CUSUM) test and CUSUM squared test trends in Figure 2 which lies within the 5% level of significance.
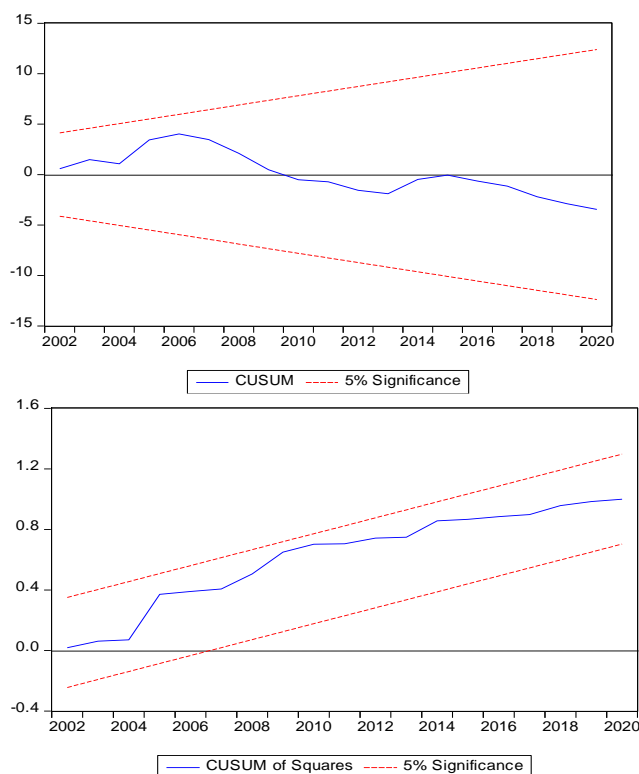
Figure 2: Model Stability Trends.
    Source: Authors' computation.

Thus, as revealed from the results in Table 4, it was shown that poverty, corruption, government spending on education, and domestic government spending on health positively determined migration in Nigeria between 1996 and 2020, while Nigeria's unemployment rate negatively determined migration in Nigeria between the study year. It was revealed that poverty rate and government expenditure on education positively determine migration in Nigeria by (0.9%) and (8%) but do not statistically and significantly have an effect on the migration rate in Nigeria. The result implies that, though poverty rate and government expenditure on education determines migration but has no effect on migration which then means that migration is due to tourism. Also, the unemployment rate does not determine and is not statistically significant. Therefore, it then means that the increase in Nigeria's migration is not due to the nation's persistent increase in unemployment. That is, the more the increase in unemployment reduces migration by (0.8%). However, the corruption rate and domestic government spending on health are statistically significant at (5%) respectively, and that one percent in corruption and domestic spending on health increases migration by 1% and 0.8% respectively.

Table 4. Effects of OLS estimates on migration model

Dependent variable: Migration

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	T-Statistic	P-value
$CORR_t$	0.010364	0.003449	3.004921	0.0073
POV_t	0.009061	0.011755	0.770789	0.4503
$LEDU_t$	0.085049	0.043742	1.944319	0.0668
$DGHE_t$	0.008572	0.002768	3.096242	0.0059
UME_t	-0.008617	0.006819	-1.263582	0.2217
Constant	0.081777	0.063375	1.290374	0.2124
Adjusted R-Squared	0.785(78.5%)	Mean dependent var.	0.584(58.4%)	

Source: Authors' compilation.

Conclusion

There is no doubt that migration also known as international migration has become issue of concern in the international circle. The major issues of concerns however relate to the issue of migration of highly skilled workers (professionals) from less countries to the industrialized world. Such skilled migration contributes to development in the host country. However, increase rate of highly skilled workers' migration has created renewed fear of a 'skill drain' that could prove destructive to the developed aspiration of these countries. Migration process in Africa countries must be integrated into the overall development framework of the countries. In other words, there must be a systematic determination of the optimum rate of skill emigration, and appropriate policy should be put in place to attain this rate. The consequences cut across many dimensions including brain drain effects, as well as the general impact of socio-political treatment and unrest and economic well-being.

Recommendations

Consequently, upon this, it is the suggestion of this paper that;
i. The Nigerian government should implement incentives to retain skilled workers, including improved compensation packages and adequate funding for sectors like education, health, and industrial production.
ii. Adequate security should be beefed up by the Nigerian Government across the nooks and crannies of the country. All security agencies including para-military should be involved. Meaningful individuals as well should be made to play their quota in ensuring security is worthwhile.
iii. The Nigerian Government at its legislative arm should enact a migration policy strengthened to restrict the level at which citizens leave the country and guide against coming to the country unduly.

iv. The Nigerian government should ensure the military is well-equipped and remunerated to maintain political stability in the Niger Republic, despite the ongoing democracy that has provided some freedom.

v. The Dispora agency should implement a policy directing remittances towards productive activities, promoting them as a component of foreign investment and encouraging recipients to invest in entrepreneurial pursuits and development finance.

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