

Cross Border Migration and Life Expectancy in Nigeria and Benin Republic, 1999-2020



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ABSTRACT: Individual citizens migrate across their national boundaries due to prevailing circumstances of life expectancy such as; Access to good health care, higher disposable income, and Access to good education. Better economic opportunities and good living standards. However there have been fierce debates on whether there is an association between migration and life expectancy, however, the findings are conflicting and inconclusive. Thus, this study examined the relationship between cross-border migration and life expectancy in Nigeria and Benin Republic, from 1999-2020. The study adopted Push and Pull migration theory as its theoretical framework. Secondary data were sourced from textbooks, Journal articles, Working Papers, International Organization for Migration Website, and World Bank Development Index. The data collected were analyzed with descriptive statistics and the Pearson correlation coefficient. The findings revealed that cross-border migration has a significant relationship with life Expectancy in Nigeria. Whereas there is no relationship in the case of the Benin Republic. Thus, the study recommended that Both the Nigeria and Benin Republic governments should implement policies that will regulate migration, foster collaboration on healthcare initiatives through knowledge-sharing, ensure proper healthcare services for migrants, create economic opportunities, fight insecurity, create job opportunities for the teeming youths, Improve education, income

KEYWORDS: Benin Republic, Cross Border Migration, Emigrants, Health Care, Life Expectancy, Nigeria.

INTRODUCTION

Cross border migration according to Popoola (2016) is the movement of people beyond their country of origin. People migrate beyond the international border based on the prevailing conditions. Cross-border migration is a significant aspect of global mobility, driven by various social, economic, and political factors. Nigeria and Benin Republic, neighboring countries in West Africa, have experienced significant migration flows throughout history. The movement of people across their shared border has implications for socioeconomic development, health outcomes, and overall well-being, including the life expectancy in both countries. Nigeria, located in the Gulf of Guinea, is the most populous country in Africa and the seventh most populous country globally. It is characterized by a diverse population, rich cultural heritage, and significant economic potential.

Over the years, Nigeria has witnessed both emigration and immigration flows, with a considerable number of its citizens migrating to countries within and outside the African continent. These migration patterns are shaped by various factors, including economic opportunities, political instability, conflict, and environmental challenges. Similarly, Benin Republic, a small country located on Nigeria's western border, experiences significant migration flows, including labor migration, cross-border trade, and seasonal movements.

Life expectancy is the expected number of years of life remaining at a given age determined statistically (Giannias, Charalambaki & Sfakianaki, 2014). Life expectancy, a key indicator of overall health and well-being, is influenced by multiple factors, including socio-economic status, access to healthcare, education, nutrition, and environmental conditions. The impact of cross-border migration on life expectancy in Nigeria and Benin Republic remains relatively underexplored. Understanding the relationship between migration patterns and life expectancy can provide valuable insights into the health outcomes and challenges faced by both host and sending communities. This study investigated the relationship between cross-border migration and life expectancy in Nigeria and Benin Republic from 1999 to 2020.

LITERATURE REVIEW

There are several empirical studies that shed light on the relationship between cross border migration and Life expectancy but are plagued with conflicting findings and the result inconclusive. For instance, in a study Adepoju (2005) examined the impact of migration on health outcomes, including life expectancy, in Nigeria and Benin Republic. The findings revealed that migration

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patterns between the two countries had both positive and negative effects on life expectancy. While migration provided economic opportunities and access to better healthcare for some individuals, it also disrupted social networks and led to increased vulnerability to health risks among migrants. The study underscored the need for comprehensive policy measures that address the migrants health needs and ensure equitable access to healthcare.

A cross-sectional study conducted by Afolabi et al. (2018) investigated the relationship between cross-border migration and life expectancy in selected border communities of Nigeria and Benin Republic. The findings showed that migration was associated with higher life expectancy in areas with better healthcare infrastructure and socio-economic conditions. However, in regions marked by poor healthcare access and limited resources, migration did not significantly impact life expectancy. The study emphasized the importance of addressing disparities in healthcare services and social well-being to enhance the positive effects of migration on life expectancy.

A comparative analysis by Azuh et al. (2013) examined the relationship between international migration and life expectancy in Nigeria and Benin Republic, taking into account socio-economic and health determinants. The results indicated that cross-border migration positively influenced life expectancy in both countries, mainly through improved socio-economic factors, such as education, income, and access to better healthcare. The study emphasized the role of policy interventions that promote international cooperation, strengthen healthcare systems, and enhance the socio-economic well-being of migrants in achieving gains in life expectancy.

Corroboratively, Uprety and Schuhmann (2020) investigated the impact of emigration on mortality and longevity employing estimate dynamic panel data models by using migrants stocks for 133 developing countries to 20 OECD countries, stratified by educational attainment from 1980-2010. The result revealed that emigration has a beneficial and statistically significant effect on health outcomes. On the contrary, Page, Begg, Taylor and Lopez (2000) examined the impact of immigration on life expectancy in Australia from 1981-2003. Using standard Life-table methods, Mean difference and paired t-tests the findings indicates that life expectancy of males and females were significantly lower in Australia- born group than in total Australian population. Using auto-regressive model Oluwaseyi and Oluyemi (2020) examined the relationship between Human capital flight and variables such as life expectancy, infant mortality rate, population growth rate and Nigeria's unemployment rate. The findings indicated that there is a positive relative between population growth rate and migration rate and a negative relationship between life expectancy and migration. In another study Hendi and Ho (2021) investigated the nexus between immigration and life expectancy in America. Using descriptive statistics the findings revealed that immigration increases U.S life expectancy by 1.5 years for male and 1.4 years for female.

The study of Royuela and Romania (2019) investigated the impact s of International migration on the left behind household overcrowding level in Ecuador. Using an instrumental variable regression model and the finding revealed that there is a negative relationship between International migration and overcrowding. In another study, De Brauw and Herigaya (2007) examined the impact of seasonal migration of households in Vietnam and standards of living during the 1990s. Employing descriptive statistics the findings signify that migration accounts for a 3% point decrease in the poverty headcount; this implies that migration play crucial role in the enhancement of living standards. Similarly Adelmoneim and Litchfield (2016) investigated the impact of migration on household welfare, using cross-sectional data from 1,200 households from different regions in 2014. Using Heckman model for analysis, the finding revealed that average migration positively impact on the rural living standard but the benefits are not evenly distributed across consumption distribution, the poorer households that have migrant encounter decrease in living standards.

In a related study, Haque and Islam (2012) examined the nexus between Rural-Urban migration and household living conditions in Bangladesh using 2007 Demographic and Health survey data. Utilizing Bi-serial correlation, Ordinary Square regression analysis and the finding indicated that advancing higher education and opportunities for employment outside Agricultural sector are more likely to improve living standards in Bangladesh. In a similar vein, Jaumotte, Koloskova and Saxena (2016) analyzed the impact of migration income levels in advanced Economies using econometric analysis. The finding revealed that immigration increases the income per capita of host economies mostly by raising productivity.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The study adopted Push-Pull Migration theory by Lee (1966). The theory argued that migration is driven by a combination of "Push" factors, such as economic instability, political conflicts, and limited opportunities in the country of origin, and "pull" factors, such as better economic opportunities, quality education, access to good health care, disposable income and improved living conditions in the destination country. In the context of this study, the Push-Pull migration theory analyzed the reasons behind cross-border migration in Nigeria and Benin Republic and how these migration factors in turn influence life expectancy in both countries. Social determinants of health: The social determinants of health framework emphasizes that health outcomes are shaped by socio-economic and environmental factors, including income, education, healthcare access, social support, and living conditions. This framework can be applied to explore how cross-border migration impacts various social determinants of health in both Nigeria and

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Benin Republic, which in turn affects life expectancy. For example, migration may influence access to healthcare services or change the social support networks available to individuals, thus impacting their overall health and life expectancy.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

The study utilized secondary method of data collection; data were sourced from textbooks, journal articles, the World Bank development index, website of the International Organizations for Migration. Data collated were analyzed using Descriptive statistical tools and the Pearson correlation coefficient.

Result and Discussion

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Table 1: Descriptive Analyses of the relationship between Cross border Migration and life expectancy in Nigeria and Benin Republic

Year	Nigeria		Benin Republic	
	Migration (as % of Pop)	Life Expectancy (%)	Migration (as % of Pop)	Life Expectancy (%)
1999	-0.10	46.103	0.02	54.34
2000	-0.23	46.267	0.23	54.54
2001	-0.08	46.51	0.21	55.34
2002	-0.13	46.835	0.33	55.77
2003	-0.13	47.242	0.34	56.56
2004	-0.16	47.72	0.34	56.65
2005	-0.17	48.252	0.45	56.76
2006	-0.09	48.812	0.22	57.76
2007	-0.21	49.373	-0.53	57.43
2008	-0.20	49.913	-0.58	57.65
2009	-0.20	50.422	-0.52	57.45
2010	-0.20	50.896	-0.50	57.76
2011	-0.15	51.346	-0.46	57.87
2012	-0.20	51.786	-0.47	58.75
2013	-0.18	52.228	-0.43	58.45
2014	-0.22	52.672	-0.32	58.34
2015	-0.19	53.112	-0.21	58.56
2016	-0.19	53.541	-0.12	58.65
2017	-0.07	53.95	-0.10	59.67
2018	-0.17	54.332	-0.09	59.65
2019	-0.23	54.56	-0.13	60.34
2020	-0.18	55.65	-0.32	60.09

Source: World Development Index, 2020 edition.

Trend Analysis on Cross border Migration and Life Expectancy for Nigeria and Benin Republic

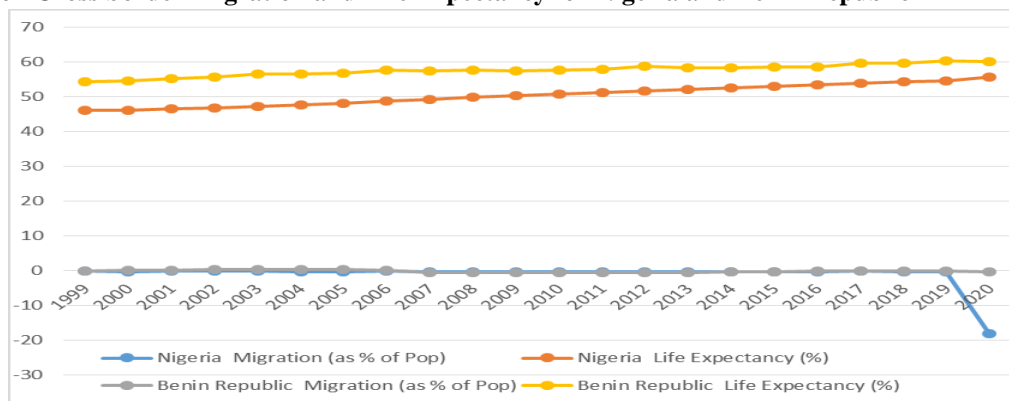


Figure 1

Cross Border Migration and Life Expectancy in Nigeria and Benin Republic, 1999-2020

The result on the Figure above reveals the trend of the rate of life expectancy for Nigeria and Benin Republic over the period covering 1999 to 2020. It also shows the level of net migration of both countries. The result shows that Benin republic has a higher life expectancy over Nigeria. This is irrespective of the movement of the net migration of their citizenry across various borders. This presupposes that Citizens in Benin are likely to live longer than those from Nigeria.

Table 2: Paired Samples Correlations

	N	Correlation	Sig.
Pair 1 Life Expectancy (Nig) & Migration (Nig)	22	-.386	.076
Pair 2 Life Expectancy (BR) & Migration (BR)	22	-.497	.019

DISCUSSIONS AND FINDINGS OF RESULTS

The results showed the relationship between life expectancy and migration for Nigeria and Benin. The Pearson correlations of Cross border Migration and Life Expectancy were -0.386 for Nigeria and -0.497 for Benin Republic. This connotes a negative relationship both in Nigeria and Benin Republic. An increasing life expectancy reduced that rate of cross border migration. The statistical probability value for Nigeria and Benin Republic are 0.076 and 0.019 respectively. The p.values for Benin is below 0.05 level of significance and this implies that there is no significant relationship between net migration and Life Expectancy in Benin Republic. For Nigeria, the p.value is greater than 0.05 level of significance and thus the (hypothesis is rejected), hence there is a significant relationship between Cross border migration and Life expectancy in Nigeria. This result is in accordance with the findings of Azuh et al (2013) and Afolabi et al (2018) whose studies revealed that Cross border migration positively influenced life expectancy. The Push-Pull Migration theory of Lee (1966) which argued that migration is driven by a combination of "Push" factors, such as economic instability, political conflicts, and limited opportunities in the country of origin, and "pull" factors, such as the search for a better economic opportunities, quality education, access to good health care, disposable income and improved living conditions in the destination country, seems to hold for Nigeria but not Benin Republic.

The analysis of cross-border migration and its impact on life expectancy in Nigeria and Benin Republic from 1999 to 2020 reveals an interesting relationship between these factors.

Throughout the analyzed period, both Nigeria and Benin Republic experienced significant cross-border migration, with individuals moving across the border for various reasons such as access to higher disposable income, better economic opportunities, and access to better health care systems. and access to quality education. The movement of people in both countries has influenced the overall dynamics of their populations and societal development. Regarding life expectancy, the data suggests that Nigeria and Benin Republic have seen improvements over the years. Life expectancy has gradually increased from 1999 to 2020 in Nigeria, indicating advancements in healthcare, access to medical facilities, and overall quality of life. This positive trend can be attributed to various factors, including advancements in medical technology, access to quality education, higher disposable income, improved healthcare infrastructure, and increased awareness of health-related issues. However, it is important to note that while cross-border migration has contributed to economic growth and development, it also poses challenges to the healthcare systems of both countries. Migrants may face difficulties in accessing healthcare services due to factors such as language barriers, financial constraints, and unfamiliarity with the local healthcare system. This could potentially impact their overall health and consequently, life expectancy. Furthermore, cross-border migration could also lead to the spread of diseases and health risks in Nigeria and Benin Republic. Migrants may carry infectious diseases, which may have serious implications for public health in both countries.

CONCLUSION

Cross-border migration has significant relationship with Life expectancy in Nigeria, this implies that emigrants from Nigeria enjoy better opportunity with respect to quality education, higher disposable income and access to good health care in their host communities which emigrants from the Benin Republic were not opportune to have in their host communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the above findings the following recommendations were made:

Foster Cross-border collaborations: Both Nigeria and Benin Republic governments should collaborate on healthcare initiatives through knowledge-sharing and joint disease control programs. This involves information exchange, policy coordination, and the development of integrated healthcare systems; effective disease control and prevention mechanism for individuals across borders and ensure proper healthcare services for migrants, as well as the local populations; implement policies that will regulate migration, promote economic development, create job opportunity for the teeming youths, Improve quality education, income, initiate training programme for both skilled and unskilled persons and fight insecurity.

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