

THE COMPULSION IN VOLUNTARY MIGRATION

INTRODUCTION

The second half of the twentieth century witnessed an upsurge in international migration. This phenomenon emerged as one of the key factors in social transformation in almost all the regions of the world. The twenty-first century continues to witness this upsurge in migratory movement. Migration, though the result of integration of state economies into global relationships is also a cause of further social transformations in both origin and destination countries (Castles, 2000).

The twenty-first century continues to witness unprecedented migratory movements as young people continue to search for better well being. This migration is engendered by the disparity in economic and social development between different regions of the world. Migration has eroded national boundaries, making it impossible for any region of the world to have a distinct identity. For Held et al., (1999) international migration is an integral part of globalization which is characterised by widening, deepening and speeding up of world-wide interconnectedness.

The key instrument in international migration is the fast flow in information and technology. The rich North welcome the flow of capital, labour and raw materials while rejecting the cultural differences. This, they consider a threat to their national sovereignty.

Using the in-depth interview method, the authors contend that the fundamental cause of migration is the disparity in incomes, employment, and social well being between the North and the South. For countries in sub-Saharan Africa, the rapid increase in population acting in concert with stagnant economic growth and crisis of governance

have compelled many people, both skilled, to seek for employment and better well being in the rich countries of the North. In Nigeria for instance, poverty, crisis of governance, acute unemployment and worsening human deprivation have stimulated immigration. For many young Nigerians, the push of abject poverty is as compelling as the pull of better well being.

References

Castles, A. 2000. "International Migration at the beginning of the Twenty-first Century: Global Trends and Issues" in *International Migration 2000*. Issue 165.

Held, D. et al., 1999. *Global Transformations: Politics, Economics and Culture*. Cambridge: Polity.