Chapter 2
Terrific Experiences, Receptiveness, and Mediatic Representation of Migration in the Global Community

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ABSTRACT

The discourse on brain drain, asymmetry, trans-territorial inequality, and of recent, issue relating to terrorists’ threat, has dominated migration mediatic writings. Basically, the repulsive admittance of migrants into developed countries has been found to correlate to the xenophobic attitudes that are linked to myths and misinformation partly injected by the media and acted upon by political gladiators. However, contrary to the negative attitudinal disposition to migrants’ admissibility that are rife in the developed economies, this research work establishes that the Third World nations have consistently sought for succour through push factors facilitating migration in the past and will continue to do so at higher magnitude for many decades to come if the current economic situation and the corrupt disposition of indigenous political elites remained unaltered. The chapter, thus, advocates the address of the causative factors promoting migration rather than curative expenditures often embarked upon by the United Nations Organization (UNO) and other advanced economies in arresting migratory emergencies.

INTRODUCTION

Descriptive Analysis of Migration Dynamics: An Introductory

Migration crisis globally has its root in terrific experiences that are endemic in unhealthy environments which are mostly ravaged by wars, vulnerabilities and crimogemic situations which is basically emblematic of nations accentuated with retrogressive socio-economic variables. Understanding the nature and complexities of migration thus portends multivariate challenges for research analysts especially with the
presence of regional daunting challenges and dearth of data on the rationale behind human relocation. Matei (2011, p. 85) states that “When studying migration, we encounter a multi-faceted reality and we are challenged to understand outcomes of life strategies, personal options and demands, creating a world in which interactions are continuously reconfigured”. Reconfiguration in today sub-Saharan Africa, will require a thorough examination of the realities of growing predatory crises inherent in both social, economic and political configurations that are mitigating and promoting the increment of migration. In the midst of fast encroaching crises globally, international migration is growing both in scope and complexity and affecting almost all countries in the world (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, (UN DESA, 2012).

Estimating the size of population implicated in global migration, it was earlier reported that about 173 million people in 2000, 220 million people or 3 percent of the world’s population in 2010 and 258 million humans in 2017 are believed to live outside their countries of birth (United Nations 2009; International Migration Review (IMR), 2017). Abel and Sanders (2014) equally estimate that 35-40 million people migrate every 5 years. The surge depicting the current trend is likely to be connected with the dislocations foisted by recession on the economic structures of most nations. Similarly, Human Development Report (2009) reveals that the world houses about 740 million internal migrants thereby in the process putting about one billion people under two immigration categories: residence outside or within the region of origin.

In 2014, it was reported that approximately 800,000 people have arrived at European Union (EU) borders through irregular channels, fleeing conflict and violence at home or in search of a better life abroad (Metcalf-Hough, 2015:2). The reason adduced to migration in the findings of Metcalf-Hough slightly excludes socio-economic variables constituting the unique features of Africans’ migration to the Western nations. Presenting an update on the nature and characteristics of movements, IMR (2017) reveals that at the close of 2017, two third (67 per cent) of all international migrants were living in just twenty countries. Asia, (80 million), Europe, (78 million), Northern America, (58 million), Africa, (25 million), the Caribbean, (10 million) and Oceania, (8 million).

Historically, migratory activities constitute a rallying web of interaction encompassing diverse factors and conditions that are both social, political, economic, psychological and sometime environmental which go beyond national borders and jurisdictions, and are highly complex, volatile and interactive in its consequences for human survival (Castle, 2006; Mattar, 2012; VelosoLeao, 2013: Triandafyllidou, 2017). Ideally, it is affected by diverse political undertones and mitigated by cultural and psycho-social dynamics. Primarily, migration represents a decision which propels concerted human efforts to relocate from one geographical region or country to another with the view of seeking greener pasture, taking steps at averting tragic or appalling treats to life and ably promoted by wars, famine, economic downturn, epidemics, perpetration of organized crime such as kidnapping, trafficking, prostitution and host of other social or material related challenges. Migration in Africa is often economically-driven and it is mostly done for the purpose of sending remittances that aim at supporting the rest economically-battered population or family members left behind at home.

The African Union (2018, p. 5) summarises the migration trends and patterns in Africa and located the major push factors driving migration in Africa as inclusive of lack of socio-economic opportunities, disregard for rule of law, poor governance, patronage and corruption, political instability, conflict, crime, terrorism and civil strife while the pull factors include the real or perceived opportunities for a better life, higher income, improved security, and superior education and health care in countries of destination. Although, migration has heterogeneous impact on both sender and receiving nations, its secondary impact
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