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Nigerian Youths, Social Protection, and Desperation Migration

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Abstract

The economic downturn that began in Nigeria in the early 1980s worsened from the mid-1980s due to the implementation of the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP). This resulted in widespread social and economic disruption, especially for the poor who comprise most of the population. One response among youth has been to migrate abroad in search of better opportunities, despite stricter entry requirements in Europe and the United States. This paper examines the desperation behind Nigerian youths' attempts to leave the country for better lives in the Middle East, Europe, or the United States. It also explores the social protection programmes now available in Nigeria that are meant to address unemployment, poverty, and deter youths from desperately migrating. The paper argues that the misinformed decision to embark on the continuing dangerous Mediterranean Sea crossings, resulting in loss of life, has become a national disgrace. It calls for a review of social protection policies and programmes to halt the flow of youths in dire need of assistance. The analysis is framed by Everett S. Lee's Push and Pull Theory of Migration and Michael J. Piore's Dual Labor Market Theory. While formal sector workers in Nigeria have long enjoyed social safety nets like pensions, informal sector workers lack access to sustainable, well-funded social protection programs. Existing initiatives are often emergency-based, ad-hoc, neglected and changed with each administration. Intended beneficiaries lose faith in the system. This contrasts sharply with robust regimes in more technologically-advanced countries.

Keywords: Economic downturn, social and economic disruption, poverty, youth migration, desperation

Introduction

Moving from one region to another in search of a better life has been a common practice since the beginning of time. Within the context of contemporary life, this movement is referred to as migration. Furthermore, migration has become less difficult and less noticeable as a result of technological advancements that have an impact on every aspect of life. People in Nigeria have been moving and changing places of residence since the precolonial periods of the Kingdom, Empire, and Chiefdom for safety and business. This has been the case since the beginning of empires. Ikwuyatum (2016) defines migration as the process by which individuals relocate to a new location for a period that is at least one year long. During the 1950s, before independence, and the 1960s, after independence, the international pattern of migration was for Nigerians to graduate from universities in the United States and Europe and then return home to contribute to the development of their country. This was observed by Okediji and Okediji (1974). The adoption of the structural adjustment programme (SAP) brought about a worsening of the situation, which led to a change in this orientation, particularly in the early 1980s (Jiboku and Jiboku, 2021). The unfavourable conditions in Nigeria prompted a significant number of individuals to leave the country and seek employment in Europe and the United States. These individuals included those who had received education in Nigeria as well as those who had received training in other countries outside of Nigeria.

The crisis that Nigeria is experiencing in terms of its development is still a topical issue. Numerous political and socioeconomic challenges have been faced by the nation in recent years. They include political problems which have to do with managing elections, promoting national integration, establishing democratic values, curbing corruption and money laundering, ensuring efficiency and effectiveness in the public service sector; intra-state conflicts with negative consequences for the polity; insecurity, the Niger Delta crisis; inequality – the widening gap between the rich and the poor; the issue of providing for the needs of the citizenry and addressing unemployment, poverty, dearth of infrastructures and basic social facilities among others (AU/APRM, 2009; Foster, 2011; Leke et al. 2014). Nigeria's large population, the majority of whom are living in abject poverty, is impacted by the majority of these problems. This has manifested itself in the attitudes that many citizens have toward the things that the government does, as they do not believe that the Nigerian state exists to protect their interests.

There has been a subsequent emergence of syndicates and networks to exploit the youth who are in a precarious situation. Although some young people are killed while traveling through illegal routes in the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea, some of those who can make it are sold into prostitution, slavery, and other depressing human conditions, and they are sometimes put in situations that are even more difficult than those that were prevalent in their home country (see Shelly, 2014). In some cases, the government is called upon to conduct rescue operations (UNODC, 2011). This occurs when the 'Eldorado' and the life of ease that was promised to the people are destroyed. It is possible to take it for granted that migration is a phenomenon that occurs everywhere; however, the questions that need to be asked are as follows: Why are the young people of Nigeria so eager to move, and why do they have the courage to cross the Mediterranean Sea even though this activity is connected with a terrifying likelihood of death? It is important to know what kinds of severe conditions and dangers migrants frequently encounter while traveling through the Sahara Desert. To put a stop to the terrible flood of desperate migration, what kinds of social protection policies and programmes are accessible to the youth who are vulnerable and the poor? This set of questions constitutes the problem that the paper is trying to solve.

Conceptual Analysis

Youth

The younger generation is a significant demographic that embodies the future of any nation. Others have disagreed with this viewpoint and have emphasized that the youth constitute the young generation. While some academics have referred to the sociological definition of youth as being a state of mind that is not restricted by age, others have emphasized that youth are the young generation. Young people are defined as those who are between the ages of 15 and 24 years old, as stated by the United Nations Organization (UNO). Additionally, this age classification encompasses young people who are also considered to be youth according to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations. Young individuals, who are typically categorized as adolescents, are included in the category of youth. During this time, a person is making the transition from childhood to adulthood

(UNDP, 2014). An individual can reach a crisis stage in their life if they have not been indoctrinated and ingested with sufficient social capital during the process of socialization (see Otite & Ogionwo, 1979). According to the National Youngster Policy (NYP) Document in Nigeria, a youngster is defined as any individual who is between the ages of 18 and 35 years old. When a person reaches the age of 18, they are deemed to be an adult who is eligible to vote (NYP, 2001, 2009). People who fall into this category are those who would generally have completed their secondary education and are likely to be enrolled in tertiary institutions or working hard to earn a living through gainful employment. Another possibility is that these individuals are participating in some kind of vocational or technical training to acquire skills at the informal level (see Chigunta, 2002).

Generally speaking, the youth make up a significant demographic portion of the national population. They are also the next generation of parents, workers, and leaders, and it is anticipated that they will take the nation to the next level. As a result, how the nation addresses the well-being of the youth population may have ramifications not just for the lives of the youth themselves, but also for the communities that they will construct and preserve in the years to come. The kind of foundation and mentoring they have received from the many agencies of socialization, such as families and communities, as well as the dedication and commitment of governments to their growth, will determine the extent to which they can effectively perform the expected leadership responsibilities. In a nutshell, it is necessary to take note of the fact that nations, in general, consider the youth sector to be an important part of society. Therefore, the kind of social capital that is invested by the various key institutions of the state will affect their capacity to carry out the leadership tasks that are required of them (Aiyede et al., 2015; Otite & Ogionwo, 1979).

Migration

There is no distinction based on race or ethnicity when it comes to migration because all peoples have participated in some type of migratory movement or another. Migration is also a natural part of human life. 3.2% of the world's population is estimated to be living outside of their countries of origin, as stated by the United Nations Population Division in a report that was published in the year 2013. When compared to the statistics record of the Division from the year 2000, this information has increased by 33 percent. According to estimates provided by the United Nations (2013), the majority of these immigrants settle in European countries, which are home to over 72 million individuals. The majority of migrants are from Africa, and they are people who have been compelled to leave their home countries as a result of civil wars, natural catastrophes, acts of terrorism, and most importantly, ineffective governance and leadership (Akopari, 2008; Olaitan, 2001). It is important to emphasize that the majority of migrants are from Africa. Migration is defined as the movement of people from their primary base in their country of origin to a secondary base in their country of destination, either voluntarily or involuntarily, depending on the circumstances, to establish either a temporary or permanent residence (Afolayan et al. 2008; Ikwuyatum, 2016). This definition is widely widely accepted among migration scholars. According to Agim (2015), migration is a multifaceted social phenomenon that is highly influenced by a

variety of circumstances. These elements include but are not limited to, the economic status of a country, the political activities that are currently taking place, and the ideology of the state, amongst others.

A country's level of social development is a factor that either determines or influences migration. This may be the reason why the United Nations Report stated that the bulk of migrants traveling to Europe and other developed regions of the world came from underdeveloped countries. An additional explanation was provided by Ikwuyatum (2016), who stated that for migration to take place, the time frame or period of relocation must be taken into consideration. This academic emphasized that migration should be understood as the movement of people across a certain area over some time; he emphasized the transfer of people from their normal or present place of residence to another location and the requirement that they live in the new site for at least one year. The movement of people from one geographical location to another, which may be on a temporary or permanent basis, is another definition of migration (Adewale, 2005).

Migration can vary from region to region. This movement may occur from rural to urban, rural to urban, urban to rural, urban to urban, or even across international lines (see also Oyeleye, 2013). It may also occur from urban to rural rural to urban with urban to urban. In general, migration is characterized by a change in one's normal residence from the place of origin or site of departure to a place of destination or place of arrival (Nwanna, 2004). Migration can be defined as a form of geographical or spatial movement that occurs between two geographical units. A similar definition of migration was presented by Fajana (2000), who defined it as the movement of individuals, groups of individuals, and ethnic groups between two distinct points A and B. This movement could be explained in terms of tension between the two points, which reaches a level that transforms into actual movement. These are all examples of migration. It is possible to conclude, based on these academic definitions of migration, that migration is defined as the repeated movement of human beings, that it takes place across communities or nations, and that it is one of the most important factors in the dynamics of the population all over the human world. Immigration, on the other hand, can be motivated by a variety of factors, including social, political, or economic considerations, however, the reasons behind migration might vary from one place and person to another.

Desperate Migration

The term "desperation" refers to a mental condition in which individuals appear to have lost hope, and this could result in exceedingly irresponsible behavior without any thought of the costs and rewards involved. This can be deduced from several different literary meanings. It is possible that individuals and society as a whole could suffer severe repercussions as a result of desperate migration. Further emphasis was placed by Merriam-Webster Dictionary (Abate & Jewell, 2001) on the fact that a person who is desperate displays a sense of hopelessness regarding a circumstance that is so extremely difficult and nearly impossible to handle. Such a person might experience feelings of depression and despair, and in severe circumstances, they might even consider ending their own life owing to a complete lack of hope. The social circumstances of many migrants in their home countries, which generated a

condition of hopelessness, caused many people to become so desperate that they embarked on the perilous voyage of migrating over the Mediterranean Sea through Libya, which is a failing state (Akokpari, 2010/2011). This is according to Oxfam (2017). Migration occurred as a result of a variety of factors, including unemployment, conflicts, and natural catastrophes. It was not the migrants' choice to leave their home nations; rather, many of them left to find a better future in Europe. They did this to survive harsh conditions in their home countries. The inconveniences that come along with migration are thought to be transient to achieve a better life in Europe across the ocean (see Shelley, 2014).

In 2017, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) reported that daily, a large number of people journey via the Mediterranean Sea to reach safety in Europe. These individuals are attempting to leave the war, violence, and poverty that are prevalent in several African nations. In the course of their desperate attempts to cross the Mediterranean, they are forced to undergo exploitation, torture, assault, and even arrest by Libyan militias. During this time, an unparalleled number of migrants lose their lives. In conclusion, the report concluded that attempting to cross to Europe through the axis is not only a risky route that desperate migrants take but that migration to Europe through the Mediterranean has also become a lucrative business with a network of syndicates and criminals who take advantage of desperate migrants to rip them off. According to Chamie (2013) and Oxfam (2017), a significant number of migrants are not provided with accurate information regarding the dangers related to their effort to migrate to Europe and the challenges that they face along the way. At sea, when it would have been too late to turn back, the migrants finally became aware of the truth of the situation. There is no possibility of receiving a return for the money that has been committed.

Chamie (2013) observed that it would appear that the risks of desperate migration and the associated hazards of the journeys are all understood by the desperate migrants. The migrants considered such hardship to be temporary in the long run, in comparison to the bleak, possibly hopeless, or precarious living conditions that they were experiencing in their home countries. A significant number of these desperate migrants make an effort to escape from conditions of civil unrest, political violence, and occasionally political persecution, particularly during times of military administration. Oxfam (2017) and Gheasi and Nijkamp (2017) both state that other desperate migrants put their lives in danger to escape poverty. They do this in the expectation of finding employment in their new destination, which would allow them to send money back to their families who are still living in poverty. The push factors of migration in Africa through the Mediterranean Sea include armed conflicts and conditions of generalized violence, as documented by Wittenberg (2017) of the International Peace Institute. These scenarios are exemplified by the nearly failed states of Africa that have been experiencing extended hostilities. Fear of political or religious persecution, political instability, violations of human rights, human rights violations, chronic poverty, a lack of economic opportunity, and natural or man-made disasters are some of the other variables that contribute to this phenomenon. These elements play a significant role in driving migrants into Europe, which is characterized by the absence of situations that are considered to be disadvantageous.

Over the previous three years, the number of migrants who have arrived in Italy across the Mediterranean Sea has increased as a result of the efforts of Nigerians to migrate, as stated by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR, 2017). This can be attributed to a prolonged period of political and communal violence, as well as the unstable security situation caused by the Boko Haram insurgency that is wreaking havoc in the North East of the country, which includes an estimated population of over 2.5 million people who have been displaced within their own country as of the year 2015 (UNHCR, 2017; see also UNODC, 2011). The fact that social, political, and economic difficulties have been the driving force behind the frantic movement of young people from Nigeria, as well as their migration from other African countries, is highly telling. These young people leave their home nations in the expectation of finding better living conditions in Europe and the United States, where they can feel more confident and hopeful. They have become disillusioned in their home countries. When this scenario is taken into consideration, what steps is the nation taking to rekindle the hope of the young people of Nigeria to put a stop to the movement of desperate people? What kinds of social protections are there to meet the needs of young people, who are the nation's next generation and should be given hope?

Social Protection

The purpose of social protection is to provide assistance and protection to those members of society who are economically disadvantaged and vulnerable, in addition to women, children, and the elderly. Not only do these conventional types of people fall under the purview of social protection, but also people who have been displaced from their homes and people who are unemployed, such as young people, are included. The youth require assistance to lead decent lives and become the leaders of the future (International Labor Organization, 2012; Barrientos and Hulme 2009). There is a growing level of disagreement among academics about the matter of social protection. As a result of the fact that protection overlaps with a variety of other social life challenges, there is a debate regarding which initiatives constitute social protection. These include, among other things, the development of human capital and food; water; other fundamentals of life; and security interventions (Harvey et al., 2007; Jones and Shahrokh, 2013).

The term "social protection" refers to the comprehensive collection of public and private initiatives that are designed to offer some form of assistance and succor to those who are economically disadvantaged, safeguard those who are vulnerable against threats to their means of subsistence, and ultimately improve the social standing and well-being of populations that are marginalized within society. According to Devereux and Sabates-Wheeler (2004) and the International Labor Organization (2012), the primary goal is to lessen the economic and social susceptibility of such disadvantaged groups in society to anti-social behaviors inside the society. When Harvey et al. (2007) wrote about social protection, they considered it to be a form of the social contract that exists between the state and the citizens. According to this social contract, both the state and the citizens have reciprocal responsibilities to each other for the maintenance of the social system (for more information, see Mukherjee and Ramaswamy, 2007).

The provision of social protection can also be interpreted as an investment in human capital, which enhances the capabilities of individuals, particularly those who are vulnerable, to gain access to productive assets such as skills and social services. It will allow individual households to invest in their development trajectory and remove vulnerability (Barrientos, 2010). This will be accomplished through the provision of access that will be provided indirectly. The term "social protection" refers to the efforts that are made to alleviate the issues that are now being faced by society. These challenges tend to raise the desperation for risky endeavors, such as the desperate migration of young people in search of a better life. According to Devereux and Sabates-Wheeler (2004), the entire set of goals for social protection can be broken down into four distinct categories. The academics emphasized that social protection, in general, should be able to guarantee the following: the provision of relief from deprivation in areas where it already exists; the prevention of deprivation; the promotion of human development for enhanced capabilities; and the promotion of social inclusion in initiatives aimed at societal development.

According to Gentilini et al. (2014), the transformational aspect of social protection is not simply to alleviate poverty; rather, it is to transform lives by implementing policies that rebalance the uneven power relations that are present in society and that produce vulnerabilities from the beginning. According to Babajanian et al. (2014), social protection interventions in practice are versatile and cover a wide range of social concerns that are currently being faced by contemporary society. Nevertheless, the problem that is of importance in this article is to investigate how a nation such as Nigeria, which contains vast human and material endowments and can claim to have the richest African man and one of the richest women in the world, takes care of the impoverished and vulnerable masses of the country. To what extent does the Nigerian government, particularly the civilian administration, contribute to the advancement of human development, particularly for the younger generation? Taking action to address the problem of social protection is essential for enhancing the capacities of the Nigerian population and promoting their social involvement in the development initiatives of society. The need for desperate migration to Europe through the Mediterranean will, in general, be halted by the implementation of social protection laws and programmes that are effective.

Methodology

An examination of secondary literature on social protection policies and programmes served as the basis for this article. Eminent experts in the field of social protection have contributed their work to this review, which includes their findings. The study takes a critical look at the current state of affairs in Nigeria and examines the various efforts that have been made by various governments to ensure the social protection of Nigerians. The goal of these efforts is to alleviate poverty and minimize the vulnerability of young people to desperately seek refuge elsewhere. To collect secondary data, we consulted reputable internet resources, as well as government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as well as international organizations. Data that have been collected and compiled and are now readily available for use in research endeavors are referred to as secondary data. Secondary data contain a significant volume of data. The utilization of pre-existing data to conduct social

research is gaining more and more appeal. This approach is versatile and may be utilized in a variety of different ways. It is also a credible source of information when systematic methods are followed and evaluation stages are adhered to in its utilisation for research (see Johnston, 2014). With the help of the data, the authors were able to evaluate the extent to which the social protection that is now in place in Nigeria has the potential to curb the vulnerability and desperation of the young people for migration which has become a source of national disgrace. As one of the primary goals of this paper, one of the primary aims is to increase social protection in Nigeria to realize a better society. This will be accomplished by strengthening the capacity for inclusivity of society in the Nigerian project, which will ultimately lead to a reduction in migration motivated by desperation.

Theoretical Framework

Both the Dual Labour Market Theory developed by Piore in 1979 and the Push-Pull Factors theory developed by Everett S. Lee in 1966 serve as the foundation for this article. The theories propose that the variables that induce individuals to migrate include not only the push factors, such as poor salaries but also the pull factors, which are the elements that cause migration in general terms. Countries in the industrialized world have a high level of technological adaptability, which represents a market. This creates a demand for these countries to obtain low-skilled and inexpensive labor that migrants give, particularly the labor that is readily offered by undocumented and illegal migrants. This scenario has the potential to induce migration from countries that are still developing to ones that are making significant technical advancements. The existence of menial professions, which are seen to be of less prestige and value, at the bottom of the social hierarchy, and are low-paying, acts as an attraction. This is even though the labor market has changed throughout time as a result of changes in education and social structural changes in society. These available jobs, which the inhabitants of industrialized countries are not interested in, provide a means of subsistence and support for migrants in general, particularly those who are illegal and are in severe need of assistance to survive. This scenario, in which there are work prospects available for migrants, tends to function as a pull for young people who are very eager to migrate. In addition to the Dual labor market theory, the economic deprivation hypothesis, which functions as a push factor, is a complementary theory.

The social and economic deprivation that is caused by conflicts, natural catastrophes, corruption, and most importantly, a lack of decent governance, which is characteristic of many African countries (Akopari, 2010/2011), tends to drive migration of the youth in quest of a better life and a sense of fulfillment. Because of this, there is a growing sense of urgency to move to escape the social dislocation and the concomitant human difficulties that are cause for hopelessness. It is helpful to apply the Dual Labour Market Theory and Push-Pull Factors to disentangle the complex factors that are at the heart of the discussion over the desperate migration of young people in Africa. When it comes to the phenomenon of desperate youth migration through the hazardous Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea, the theories not only help in explaining the missing links in government policies on youth and social development, but they also help in explaining the challenges and complexities

associated with the phenomenon (see Lee, 1966; Piore, 1979). As a result of this, Nigeria, which is the most populous country in Africa and has a high degree of poverty as well as social and economic concerns, will undoubtedly have a very large number of young people who are susceptible in their desperate attempt to migrate to Europe and other areas of the world (see UNHCR, 2017).

Findings and Discussion

Migration is a natural element of human social life that has existed from the beginning of time. People move for a variety of reasons, and these reasons might differ from person to person. Flooding, earthquakes, drought, and famine are all examples of natural disasters that have the potential to cause migration of people. Other reasons include but are not limited to, the pursuit of knowledge and skills, the outbreak of epidemics and diseases, the possibility of insecurity brought on by war and invasion, and the pursuit of knowledge and skills. According to Chamie (2013), Oxfam (2017), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (2017), the present patterns of desperate migration in Nigeria are not, in the truest sense, actually caused by the variables described above; rather, they are caused by greed, bandwagon effects, and the influence of peer groups to escape the social condition in the country.

The situation has not, in the truest sense, degenerated into a state of hopelessness in which a large majority of the Nigerian youth would begin to embark on dangerous migration to Europe through the Mediterranean Sea at the risk of their lives, even though the authors acknowledge that the current circumstances are not ideal for Nigerians, taking into consideration the high rate of unemployment, the lack of social infrastructure in the country, and the weaknesses of the institutions. Throughout Nigeria's history, successive governments have, at various points in time, developed a variety of projects to empower the country's population and tackle the difficulties that they are currently facing.

Among the programmes that fall into this category are the following: Operation Feed the Nation, Green Revolution, Better Life for Rural Dwellers, Directorate of Food Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI), Family Support Programme (FSP), Peoples' Bank of Nigeria, National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA), River Basin Development Authority, Mass Mobilization for Self-Reliance, Social Justice, and Economic Recovery (MAMSER), and Bank of Industry (BOI). For more information, please refer to Kolawole (2021). As a result of the fact that human trafficking looks to be on an upward trend (Chamie, 2013; UNHCR, 2017), it appears that the desperation for migration is not diminishing despite the multiple attempts that have been made.

The risk of traveling through the Sahara Desert, Libya, which is currently experiencing war, and the Mediterranean Sea to reach Europe, where they are supposedly hoping to find a better life, is even more concerning. The problem of migration is a matter of worry, and the question that begs to be answered is as follows: Taking into consideration the fact that Nigeria has a variety of social protection laws, why have these policies not been able to stop the flow of people who

are yearning to leave their homes? What are the limitations that prevent the goals of these multiple social protection measures from being accomplished, and how may these limitations be overcome?

Factors Affecting the Implementation of Social Protection Policies in Nigeria

The social protection system in Nigeria is contending with a wide range of complex and complicated difficulties. A further factor that contributes to this is the structure of the country. The government of Nigeria is organized in a three-tiered structure, and each of the three levels of government has a certain degree of autonomy over its operations. The very fact that this is the case may result in the duplication of efforts and the conflicting of ideas, both of which may not be favorable for the citizens that they are supposed to serve. The concurrent autonomy of state governments in terms of policy development and funding has, in essence, resulted in the creation of numerous avenues for spending public funds in Nigeria, all of which have produced nothing in the way of social protection. It is possible that financial resources that have been set aside for social protection and disbursed by the federal government may not reach the grassroots level at the state level (Ali & Ahmed, 2019; AU/APRM, 2009). This is because there is a lack of confidence and mutual suspicion between the federal government and the state government in areas where they ought to work together.

Inadequate monitoring of the performance of institutions associated with social protection by the relevant government bodies is another issue that has to be addressed. According to Jiboku and Jiboku (2019), several of these institutions appear to be located too far away from the level of the grassroots, which is where poverty and inequality are pervasive.

According to Ikejiaku (2009), corruption is a significant problem that affects many different areas of the administration. One of the effects of the multiplier is that it has an impact on the inter-government transfer of social protection funds that are appropriated at the national level. This money goes via the state and eventually reaches the level of local government. It is possible that such resources could be plundered under a fictitious rationale; this could occur as a result of authorities conspiring together. One of the most significant obstacles to effective social protection in Nigeria is the country's weak and ineffective governance, which poses a significant barrier to the goal of guaranteeing a healthy economy, combating poverty, and improving the social conditions of young people and other vulnerable members of society.

In addition to the difficulties that have been stated above, the budgetary allocations that the government makes to sectors of social and economic life that are intended to assist the underprivileged, young people, and other vulnerable members of society are extremely difficult to manage. Nigeria performed significantly below this recommendation, with 7.32% in 2010, 9.32% in 2011, 9.86% in 2012, 10.21% in 2013, and 10.63% in 2014. This is even though the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recommends that at least 26% of a country's annual budget should be allocated to education. Based on the information provided by www.statistense.com, these pitiful allocations to education have not

greatly improved in any manner. The provision of medical care in the nation is yet another crucial domain. At a population that was anticipated to be 193.4 million in 2016, the percentage of the budget that was allocated to health care was 6.24 percent in 2015, 4.64 percent in 2016, and 6.0 percent in 2017 (National Bureau of Statistics, 2017). Considering that the majority of the population is comprised of young people and that more than fifty percent of the population lives below the poverty line, how can such a meager budgetary allocation be used to alleviate poverty, reduce inequalities, and stem the tide of desperation among the people, particularly among the youth? (see Hagen-Zanker & Holmes, 2012; National Bureau of Statistics, 2017).

Conclusion

Even though people working in the public and private sectors have been provided with institutionalized social safety in the shape of pensions and gratuities ever since the country gained its independence, the same cannot be said for those working in the informal sector. Because of this, the majority of social security programmes that are available to people working in the informal sector are emergency and ad hoc. According to Aiyede et al. (2015), they have continued to receive inadequate funding, are not sustainable, and are neglected, particularly whenever there is a change in administration. This is because every government comes with its own set of programmes that need to be implemented. Even those individuals who are supposed to be beneficiaries of social protection programmes that are designed to care for and better their circumstances tend to lose faith in these programmes, even though they are designed with the best of intentions. This stands in stark contrast to the situation that prevails in technologically sophisticated nations, where well-established social protection programmes and laws are in place to address the specific issues faced by the populace. It can be deduced from the current state of affairs in Nigeria that several societal issues that need to be addressed have become more severe, resulting in a crisis scenario. As an example of one of these issues, the paper addresses the issue of migration that is motivated by desperation.

As can be observed from the broader society of today, the Nigerian government needs to make certain that the various social protection policies and programmes are enforced by the relevant government agencies to prevent the negative repercussions that could result from the neglect of such programmes. This is necessary to prevent the negative consequences that could arise from the neglect of such programmes. When it comes to social protection programmes, the pitiful budgetary allocations that are now in place need to be drastically reassessed. To conduct an appropriate review of the implementation in light of the changing circumstances, adequate monitoring and evaluation are also needed. Although social provisioning for the elderly and the disabled is necessary for the well-being of society, the youth, who make up the majority of the population and are still active, need to be empowered as part of social protection. It is possible to accomplish this by way of the development of their talents and the building of additional vocational centers as a means of empowering them and further enabling them to focus their energies on creative endeavors (Jiboku, 2016). To argue that the acquisition of skills will diminish the desperation for migration and the need to engage in industries that are not sustainable, such as motorcycle riding, which is

referred to as "Okada" in the local lingo, is not a valid assertion. The economic enterprise of motorcycling has resulted in the premature deaths of a great number of young people and has left others with disabilities that are permanent. Over time, the advantages that will result from providing social protection to the population that is growing will prove to be of great value.

To put a stop to the rise in social issues such as the frantic migration of young people, which has reared its ugly head in the body politic and has become a national shame, this paper has brought to the forefront the growing necessity of having a social protection strategy in Nigeria that is well institutionalized. Despite this, the civilian administration ought to be congratulated for its anti-corruption fight, which aims to put an end to the problem of young migration that is driven by desperation and to protect public monies from being stolen by a select few individuals who hold privileged positions of authority in the country. Maintaining the social crusade against corruption will ensure that more resources are available for providing care for the vast majority of Nigerians and developing infrastructure facilities to bring the country back to a time when people were content and did not feel the need to flee to other parts of the world desperately.

The Way Forward

In general, Nigeria does not find itself wanting in programmes and policies that are designed to promote development; nonetheless, the difficulty that has been faced is that of implementation. According to the argument presented in this paper, the problem of desperate migration has remained despite the numerous policies and programmes that have been implemented to reduce poverty and empower the people. As a result of a lack of social capital that people have absorbed from the major agents of socialization, which are expected to establish a firm basis for the individual's development (see Otite & Ogionwo, 1979), there has been a recent rise in migration, which can be seen as a result of desperate migration. The loss of traditional African values, which emphasized contentment, the dignity of labor, the sanctity of human life, genuine acquisition of wealth, preservation of family name, and other values that would normally prevent unnecessary risks and exploits that could become embarrassing (Nwolise, 2001), is a corollary to the deficiency of social capital. These values include the preservation of family names, the preservation of human life, and the preservation of human life. No question re-enacting the cherished traditional African values will go a long way toward putting a stop to the desperate migration of the younger generation.

To accomplish the foregoing objective at the national level in this age of technology, national agencies such as the National Orientation Agency (NOA) will be required to assist in the provision of adequate enlightenment and advocacy for ethical re-orientation. This will ensure that young people will not continue to live in a state of fantasy regarding Europe (Jiboku, 2007). In addition to societal reorientation, further measures that are both practical and realistic should be implemented to make funding more accessible to young people for entrepreneurship and the establishment of small-scale firms. The Bank of Industry must devise a strategy that would assist young people who possess abilities that necessitate the empowerment

of self-employment opportunities. It is imperative that the issue of government corruption, which has impacted the delivery of services at every level of governance in the country, be handled appropriately. If these measures are rigorously pursued, there will be an improvement in the facilities that are responsible for social infrastructure, and the country will be provided with a large number of opportunities. This will, without a doubt, put an end to the desperation of the young people to leave the country at the risk of their lives by traveling through the Sahara Desert, the war-torn Libya, and also put an end to the dangerous journey through the Mediterranean Sea.

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