

AN INQUIRY INTO GOVERNANCE AND ECONOMIC HARDSHIP IN NIGERIA: IMPLICATIONS FOR MIGRATION

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ABSTRACT: This study was opinion paper focusing on an inquiry into governance and economic hardship in Nigeria with regards to how it affected migration. The study was aimed at exposing how governance was a major factor in the economic hardship in Nigeria and the extent to which this has resulted in migration of Nigeria's productive citizens into other countries. The study was explained using a combination of the Institutional Theory by Douglass North (1990); the New Economics of Migration Theory by Michael Piore (1970) and the Malthusian Theory. The materials for this study were generated through secondary sources such as journals, books, book chapters, newspapers and internet sources while the content analysis and interrogation of the data was purely a critical one. The outcome of the interrogation showed that a lot of both skilled and unskilled Nigerians (but largely the skilled and educated ones), who are mainly young adults, have left the country, with a great number still making efforts to leave because of hardship orchestrated by poor governance and endemic corruption in government. Again, poor governance has negatively affected the welfare of the citizens with the multiplier effects of hunger, unemployment, poor educational system, insecurity, riots, increase in the prices of goods and services, loss of value to the nation's currency and emigration of citizens in search of greener pastures, and the worst of it all was brain drain. It was also found that the emigrations of skilled and educated citizens have grave consequences for the country's socioeconomic development. It was therefore recommended that Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) should be further quipped with honest personnel and model gadgets to be able to track, arrest and retrieve the stolen Nigeria's money. This will go a long way to preserve a lot of money and resources that will be used for the benefit of the citizens

Keywords: Governance, economic hardship, migration, brain drain, corruption

INTRODUCTION

It may no longer be an exaggeration to state that the news of economic hardship in Nigeria has escalated to a stage where it has become a global concern. Habib (2024) reports that the president of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), has lamented that Nigerians have become scavengers because of the rising economic hardship in the country. It is also on record there have been several incidents of attacks and looting of warehouses and food trucks in many cities of Nigeria orchestrated by hardship and high cost of living (Habib, 2024)

Similarly, Isenyo (2024) reports that angry youths and women took to the streets of Minner, the Niger State capital and Kano to protest the rising cost of living in the country. The author also states that the Christian Association of Nigeria in the nineteen northern states and Abuja have also stated that the suffering in Nigeria is becoming unbearable to ordinary Nigerians (Isenyo, 2024). To strengthen this point, Adeleye (2024) states that contrary to the ruling government's assumption that the protests were politically motivated, the truth remains that

real hunger is in the country and that the hardship is becoming unbearable. All these reports of hardship imply that there could be other consequences.

In fact, Odoh and Waheed (2024) hold the view that the biting economic hardship in Nigeria has continued to frustrate so many Nigerians, especially the youth who have become desperate to flee the country in search of greener pastures in other countries. The author further notes that “Japa”, the word in local parlance that depicts the desperate attempts by youths to leave the country, is now pervasive that the embassies and foreign missions of so many countries especially Europe and North America are reportedly being flooded by Nigerians in search of visas to leave the country (Odoh & Waheed, 2024). It is important to note at this juncture that excessive migration of a country’s citizens into other countries has never done any country any good because some of the groups migrating include the skilled and educated ones, in fact, the productive ones. It is, of course, worthy to note that when the educated and skilled members of the country are massively leaving the country in search of greener pastures either because of poor conditions of service, delay in salary payment, economic hardship, unemployment, under-employment and other related reasons, it is called brain-drain. This affects the country of origin badly and benefits the country of destination.

Other consequences of economic hardship abound that in the long run could translate into mass exodus of citizens out of the country. Odoh and Waheed (2024), for example, assert that as hunger orchestrated by ever increasing prices of food items and essential materials spreads across the country, insecurity continues to rear its ugly head and the added plague of poor purchasing power, makes the situation even worse. The implication of this, of course, is that more people will flee the country. In fact, the words of Odoh and Waheed (2024), the leaders of Nigeria have used their cluelessness to ruin the nation. This now brings to the table, the issue of what causes economic hardship and hunger in Nigeria.

Economic hardship, however, does not fall from the sky, something must lead to it. Ikpor (2016) holds that governance issues, lack of policy directions on the part of the government, corruption on the part of public officeholders, over-reliance on crude oil, lack of economic diversification and a host of other factors are responsible for Nigeria’s economic problems. Relatedly, Koli (2023) holds that the causes of economic hardship that has left the citizens struggling to make ends meet are multi-faceted. The causes, from the author’s point of view, are heavy reliance on oil exports, corruption and mismanagement of resources. This study, therefore, looked into governance and economic hardship in Nigeria: implications for migration. This has the capacity of exposing how governance is a major factor in Nigeria’s economic hardship and the extent to which it has resulted in the migration of Nigeria’s productive citizens into other countries.

Conceptualization

Governance

Governance means exercising authority to maintain order and meet the needs of the public within a certain range (Keping, 2018). The author further explains that the purpose of governance is to guide, steer, and regulate citizens’ activities through the power of different systems and relations so as to maximize the public interest. The Commission on Global Governance (1995) defined governance as the sum of many ways individuals and institutions, public and private, manage their common affairs. The commission further explains that

governance is a continuing process through which the conflicting or diverting interests may be accommodated and cooperative action may be taken. According to Oke (2010: 32), “governance is defined by the World Bank as the manner in which power is exercised in the management of a country’s economic and social resources for development. From all the definitions, it is glaring that the interest of the people is at the centre of governance and taking people away from poverty is the target of good governance

Economic Hardship

Economic hardship is a significant decline in economic activity spread across the economy, lasting for a period of time, normally visible in real gross domestic product (GDP), real income, employment, and industrial production (National Bureau of Economic Research, 2012). The point here is that in an economic hardship, economic activities reduce substantially and this affects wide portions of the economic and it has some permanence (Abiodun, 2023). In fact, Abiodun (2023:4) articulates the key points in Economic hardship to include: “conservative decline in the quarterly real gross domestic product below zero, decline in economic activities spread across the economy in both manufacturing and non-manufacturing sectors, decline in income and profits reported by businesses, reduction in government revenue, job losses due to massive lay-off from companies to cut the cost to remain afloat”. To cap it up, it is not a bad idea to say that economic hardship covers a wide range of issues which include: people’s monthly salaries not being able to sustain them for a few weeks; people not being able to find jobs; people not being able to pay their children’s school fees; government and employers of labour not being able to pay workers’ salaries; people’s incomes and profits being negatively affected; people losing their jobs because their employers cannot pay their salaries, continued rising of the prices of goods and services, and a host of other issues

Migration

Migration simply means movement as a population phenomenon. According to Ikonne, Udeh and Mbah (2017), migration is one of the three demographic components of population change, the others being fertility (birth) and mortality (death). Migration is defined as the geographical movement of people across a specified boundary for the purpose of residing permanently or semi-permanently (Ugwueje & Ikonne, 2015). There are two divisions of migration - international migration and internal migration (Ugwueje & Ikonne, 2015; Ikonne, Udeh & Mbah, 2017). International migration is the movement from an origin to a destination or from one’s place of birth to another destination across international borders (Udeh & Mbah, 2017). International migration could further be divided into immigration and emigration; it is immigration when people move into the country and emigration when people move out of the country.

Internal migration, on the other hand, is simply the movement within a country (Ugwueje & Ikonne, 2015). It is also divided into two – in-migration and out-migration. In-migration means movement into villages, towns, Local Government Areas and states within a country; and out-migration means movement out of the villages, towns, LGAs and states within a country (Ugwueje & Ikonne, 2015)

Brain Drain

Brain drain denotes the movement of educated and skilled labour from poorer to richer countries (Mbah & Ekeokpara, 2012; Ikonne, Udeh & Mbah, 2017). It is the migration of skilled human resources for trade, education, etc (Dodani & LaPorte, 2005). According to Dodani and LaPorte (2005:487), “these skilled and trained personnel cum professionals are in every part of the world but a better standard of living and quality of life, higher salaries, access to advanced technology and more stable political conditions in the developed countries attract talents from less developed areas”. Similarly, many scientists, engineers, academics, physicians and a host of others who had been trained in home country institutions at considerable social cost end up only reaping the benefits from and contributing to the further economic growth of already efficient nations (Todaro & Smith, 2006, Ikonne, Udeh & Mbah, 2017).

Corruption

There is no generally acceptable definition of corruption, but there have been attempts by scholars to define the concept to the comprehension of readers. One such scholar is Myint (2000) who defined corruption as the use of public office for private gain, or in other words, the use of official position, rank, and status by an office bearer for his own personal benefit. According to the author, flowing from the above definition, are examples of corrupt behaviours: bribery, extortion, fraud, embezzlement, nepotism, cronyism, appropriation of public assets and property for private use, and influence peddling. It is also important to note that there is corruption both in the public and private sectors.

Theoretical Approach

a combination of the Institutional Theory by Douglas North (1990) and the New Economics of Migration Theory by Michael Piore (1970) was adopted as the framework for this study because such a combination provides a general picture of how governance affects economic hardship, thus, a push factor for the decision to migrate. The institutional theory by North (1990), for example, emphasizes the role of formal rules (laws, regulations) and informal norms (cultural practices) in shaping economic behaviour. In the context of Nigeria, weak institutions can never produce good governance and can significantly translate into economic hardship. Bureaucratic inefficiency, characterized by slow and cumbersome processes, can discourage investment and hinder business development. Lack of transparency in government decision-making can breed corruption and discourage public trust. Additionally, inadequate enforcement of regulations can create an unfair playing field, where legitimate businesses are discouraged by those who operate outside the rules. The point is that these institutional weaknesses can hinder economic development, leading to limited job creation, low wages and persistent poverty. Economic hardship, in turn, becomes a push factor for migration, as Nigerians seek opportunities in countries with stronger institutions that offer a more stable and predictable economic environment.

Likewise, the New Economics of Migration Theory by Piore (1970) emphasizes the interplay of push and pull factors in migration decisions. This theory highlights how economic hardship in Nigeria linked to the issue of weak institutions, orchestrated by poor governance and corruption, acts as a strong push factor for migration. Individuals facing limited employment opportunities, low wages and poverty may be more likely to consider migration as a strategy to improve their livelihoods. The theory also acknowledges the role of pull factors in countries

of destination. Nigerians, due to hardship, may be drawn to countries with high wages, a wider range of job opportunities in various sectors, and a safer and more stable political environment. The interplay of push and pull factors helps explain the migration patterns observed in Nigeria.

With regard to Malthusian theory, Thomas Malthus (1766-1884) had earlier predicted that population when unchecked would rise in geometric progression while subsistence would rise in arithmetic progression and thereafter, human misery (Odaman, 2007; Ikonne & Nweke, 2015). Malthus agreed that the situation was avoidable where fertility was controlled by late marriage with sexual abstinence and celibacy. Alternatively, famine, diseases, pestilence, wars and related vices would pose as natural population restrictions (Haupt & Kane, 2000; Odaman, 2007; Ikonne & Nweke, 2015). As the world was getting technologically advanced, population related issues started becoming more complicated and many demographers began to see Malthusian theory as outdated. Some recent events in the world, however, seem to have resurrected the spirit of Malthus. Some of the examples of such events include insecurity, killings, hunger, economic hardship, wars, crises here and there, etc.

METHODOLOGY

Economic hardship, evident in the rate of hunger in Nigeria, is a topical issue that must be handled with care as it borders on the survival of a nation since the issue of hunger could be a factor in a whole lot of other issues that can bring instability in a country. Hence this article is an opinion paper showcasing some conceptual perspectives and already existing data on governance and economic hardship in Nigeria. The materials for the study were generated through secondary sources such as journals, books, book chapters, newspapers, magazines and internet sources available for this article on governance and economic hardship in Nigeria. The contents of the generated data are critically analysed using content analysis with the aim of drawing a conclusion and providing some policy options at the end of the study.

Critical Analysis of the History of Poor Governance in Nigeria

Nigeria got independence in 1960 with Abubakar Tafawa Belewa as the head of government and Benjamin Nnamdi Azikiwe as the head of state. It became a republic in 1963 still retaining Alhaji Tafawa Belewa as the prime minister and Nnamdi Azikiwe as the president. Politics in Nigeria has always been affected by ethnicity (Akanji, 2019). In his words:

In Nigeria, politics is interspersed by ethnicity, making it a collective means to rights and ownership. The Nigerian federation remains sloppy, contested and conflict infected; from independence in 1960, Nigeria has been struggling to survive not only in managing society but also in improving the socio-economic conditions of the people (Akanji, 2019).

Similarly, in corroboration of the fact that Nigerian politics has been dominated by ethnic forces that have implication for the level of governance of Nigeria today, some scholars said:

Nigeria's first military coup of 1966 was bloody and claimed the lives of top military officers and political leaders. The aftermath was the Igbo genocide as several Igbo living in the Northern part of Nigeria were massacred in a reprisal attack as the coup was termed Igbo coup (Igwe & Amadi, 2021:101)

It is true that many had blamed Nigeria's poor governance to the military given that it has largely been ruled by the military. This is because the period from 1966 to 1999 was largely dominated by military rule except for the short period from 1979 to 1983 when Alhaji Shehu Shagari's civilian government ran. As true as this might be, the question becomes, how has Nigeria fared in terms of governance since the country was returned to democratic rule in 1999? Some scholars believe that there have been some positive changes; however, democratic rule came with its troubles that have not enhanced governance in any way and can never enhance governance. Some scholars, for example, said:

The return to democracy in Nigeria in 1999 ushered in some form of political reforms, particularly in the conduct of multi-party elections; however, political violence appears perverse (Igwe & Amadi, 2021:101)

Similarly, another vibrant scholar supported the above assertion as the author noted as thus:

Governance in today's Nigeria is such that has portrayed and presented a mockery of the widely acclaimed symptom of good governance; democracy, the official government practice has been hijacked by military apologies to the extent that citizens now experience despair instead of hope, insecurity instead of security, tragic and untimely death instead of long life and high life expectancy, illusion instead of expectation, deficit instead of dividends, militarization instead of civility, dictatorship instead of rule of law, political selection instead of election (Oke, 2010:34)

Still demonstrating how democracy has fared so far in Nigeria, the same author explained as thus:

... the Nigerian political landscape seems headed for disaster. Some of the country's political leaders have stripped naked the rule of civil engagement, jettisoned the constitution and have allowed cacophony to hold sway. The instructive statement by Lord Acton (1834-1902) that "power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely" seem to have fallen on deaf ears with reference to the Nigerian polity (Oke, 2010:35)

One could go on and on bringing out issues that have affected governance in Nigeria over the years but for the purpose of time and space, it is important to digest the points already raised. Apart from the issue of ethnicity with resultant issues such as hate speeches and discrimination associated with it that has kept Nigeria in hardship today, there are myriads of other factors such as military rule, democratically associated political violence, insecurity, massive killing of citizens through terrorism, banditry, and hunger orchestrated by economic hardship; heavy military presence in a region of the country and not in the others; political selection instead of election and total disrespect to the country's constitution. Talking of the evil of ethnicity in governance in Nigeria, one will observe that Nigeria is such a country that can crucify merit for ethnicity, someone who is capable of rendering effective and efficient service to Nigeria could be denied the opportunity because he is from a particular ethnic group.

On the issue of political violence arising from a multi-party system, one would observe that it is a governance problem; some of the political tugs after the elections convert their guns to criminal use. Some of them today are bandits, kidnappers, armed robbers, and terrorists killing,

stealing, collecting ransoms and destroying both public and private properties. These categories of persons are now instilling fear in people to go about their normal businesses; even people residing abroad are also afraid of returning home to do their business because of insecurity which is a multiplier effect of political violence

Another very important issue is the issue of selection of leaders instead of electing them. Our elections are always marred with electoral irregularities to the point that people's votes do not count. In the words of Oyelude and Olojede (2023), "elections in Nigeria have been fraught with anomalies even before the advent of the fourth republic, the 2023 general election inclusive"

Assessment of the Level of Economic Hardship in Nigeria

There is no gainsaying that the level of economic hardship in Nigeria, as it is today, is very high and there is so much evidence to this effect. One of the Punch reporters, for example, noted thus:

No doubt, the ravaging hunger in the land is making people angry at the government and its actions, recently, residents in Niger, Kogi, Osun, and states took over major roads in protest against the high cost of food items... the truth is that there is real hunger in the country and the hardship is becoming unbearable (Adeleye, 2024)

In fact, to still decry the extent of the hardship in the country, the same reporter further said:

The prices of every commodity have skyrocketed in the markets including sachets of water. The costs of goods and services have multiplied incredibly. Even fees for both private and public schools have been outrageously increased. Despite low usage, electricity bills have gone up. Medical drugs have become out of reach for the poor (Adeleye, 2024)

Similarly, another reporter from the International Centre for Investigative Reporting reported as thus: "*In Nigeria, the price of food products has increased sharply and persistently triggered largely by high energy prices as a result of fuel subsidy removal*" (Edeh, 2024). To further demonstrate the deteriorated level of economic hardship in Nigeria, a scholar and some newspaper reporters noted and reported thus:

Nigeria, the giant of Africa, is a nation rich in culture, resources and potentials. However, despite its vast natural wealth, the country grapples with significant economic hardships that have profound implications on its supply chain and overall development. From socio-political challenges to infrastructural limitations, the economic struggles faced by Nigerians have a ripple effect on the efficiency and stability of the supply chain, the difficulties faced by businesses and consumers alike (Rungta, 2023)

The growth of Nigeria's GDP is yet to translate into the economic prosperity of its citizens. This is as Nigerians grapple with economic hardship caused by soaring inflation and a high cost of living. Despite the country's GDP on paper projecting a

rejuvenating Nigerian economy, Nigerians on the streets of Lagos, Kano, and Anambra States are yet to feel the impact (Ariemu, 2024)

Unemployment rate is soaring and inflation is making it increasingly difficult for ordinary Nigerians to afford basic necessities. Families are struggling to put food on the table, and access to healthcare and education is becoming more of a luxury than a right. The economic hardship left vulnerable people such as widows, orphans and the elderly in dire straits (Koli, 2023)

As a way of providing further analysis and to tie the high level of economic hardship in Nigeria to certain factors increasing its tempo, one of the Punch reporters, for example, reported thus:

Nigeria, the giant of Africa, is facing unprecedented economic hardship that has left millions of its citizens struggling to make ends meet. The confluence of various factors, including the global economic downturn, dwindling oil revenues, and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, has exacerbated an already challenging situation (Koli, 2023)

To further show the level of economic hardship and highlight some of its major causes, one of the scholars asserted that:

The crisis in the economy has been associated with a high level of unemployment and underemployment, an embargo on employment, primitive salary structures and incomes policy, universal mass immiseration, stagnation, grinding poverty, mucous penury, etc. social indicators have continued to reveal poorer and poorer access to food, clean water, clothing, energy, housing education, health services, etc. the physical infrastructure is grossly inadequate; where it is available, it is decrepit and in disrepair (Onyekpe, 2022:171)

Given the above proof, there is no doubt that Nigeria is facing a high level of hardship. It is something that is visible to the blind and audible to the deaf. In fact, Nigeria needs help. The value of One Dollar to One Naira alone in Nigeria today is scary not to mention the prices of goods and services in the markets. It is only a tree that one will threaten to cut down and it will remain standstill. Humans, especially, Nigerians, are not trees, the threats posed by economic hardship are pushing them to do something about it in order to survive and one of such moves is leaving the country to more favourable countries

Reappraising the Rate of Migration in Nigeria

The rising migration in Nigeria, especially, the rate at which Nigerians are leaving the country in this recent time should be an issue of concern to scholars and those in authority. Obani and Odalonu (2023), for example, note that the recent wave of Nigerians relocating out of the country represents the largest movement of people out of the country since the end of the civil war, over fifty years ago. The same authors further explain that the number of passports issued by the Nigerian immigration service rose by 38% between 2020 and 2021, indicating an increase from 767,164 to 1,059,607 passports granted in 2020 and 2021. It is also captured that:

In recent times, migrations from Africa to Europe have largely gained global attention. Migrants from African continent are steadily increasing and are

mainly directed towards European countries, like citizens from other countries, yearly, thousands of able-bodied young men and women in Nigeria, driven by economic desperation and other motives, make attempts to irregularly migrate out of the country in search of better opportunities abroad. However, only a small fraction eventually arrive at their intended destinations, with majority of them faced with disappointment and frustration before reaching their destination countries, which invariable leads to distortion of initial plans (NBS, 2020:1).

NBS (2020) further notes that it is believed that the main drivers of migration in Africa especially Nigeria are poverty and other economic motives even though such a claim is based on assumption, selective cases or journalistic impressions instead of sound empirical evidence to prove the claim. It is important to note that the fact that the claim is based on assumption, selected cases and journalistic impressions does not mean that they are untrue. There are numerous of evidence that Nigerians are migrating out of the massively in recent times, for example, a study carried out by Bashorun (2023) shows the push factors of emigration in order of magnitude include: Nigeria's inadequate education system, unemployment and uncertainty, and insecurity in Nigeria while the pull factors include skills and knowledge grants employment; and adequate living conditions in destination countries. Similarly, Okunade and Awosusi (2023) hold that the recent frenzy for emigration among Nigerian youths is alarming; and that the new trend has bred the adoption of the colloquial term "Japa" among the populace to describe the mass exodus in Nigeria. The scholars further explained this:

Japa is a novel term used by Nigerians to describe the outmigration of Nigerians into Europe and other parts of the world. At recent, youths in Business Forum a French Ambassador curiously quizzed one of the Nigerian youths to understand the context and meaning of japa, as popularly used in the country. In response, Peter Dingba, a Nigerian youth, averred that it is a word that describes the entrepreneurial spirit of Nigerians; in that same word, it means that Nigerians want to export their contents, gifts, skills and products, including themselves (Okunade & Awosusi, 2023)

It is important to unequivocally state here that it is only bad governance, hunger and economic hardship that can make the citizens of a country ever think of exporting themselves. This is the reason, Okunade and Awosusi (2023) succinctly described 'Japa' as "self-exportation of Nigerians abroad". This definition alone talks much about hunger and insecurity in Nigeria just like the Biblical allusion of Esau selling his birthright for a plate of porridge yam, depicting the power of hunger. The point is that it may not be out of place to state that hunger and economic hardship in Nigeria is capable of making Nigerians, especially the youths, to go beyond exporting their skills, contents and gifts, to exporting themselves abroad. In further justification of this assertion, Rufai, Ogunniyi, Salman, Oyeyemi and Salawu (2019) averred that poor economic conditions and high levels of poverty are factors in why people, especially the youth and young adults, move in search of better living conditions. The authors even suggested that the high level of unemployment in the country needs to be addressed through the development of sectors such as agriculture, processing and manufacturing that could generate the need for manpower and create jobs. A careful observation of the above suggestion shows that poor governance especially over-dependence on the oil sector has been implicated with regard to the rate of migration in Nigeria. To cap it up, some of the scholars, in their recent study, narrated thus:

Since 2015 Nigerians have been experiencing failure of governance which have manifested in persistent insecurity, high inflation, poor socio-economic performance, unemployment, hardship, suffering, poverty, low development and frustrated hope. Currently, the level of poverty has skyrocketed that people hardly provide for one square meal a day. The inflation rate has increased to 20.77%, the debt profile is 41.62 trillion, and unemployment rate has risen to 33.3% while the GDP growth rate is 3.5%. Consequently, these precarious conditions in Nigeria have led to massive migration of both trained and untrained professionals like academics, doctors, nurses, engineers, builders, and even students to developed countries (Obani & Odalonu, 2023:39)

Assessment of the Connection between Governance and Economic Hardship Relation to Migration in Nigeria

The nexus between governance, economic hardship and migration in Nigeria cannot be overemphasized. Ogbonna, Lenshie and Nwangwu (2023), for example, state that there is no doubt that Nigerian state has demonstrated its inability to secure the country's territorial integrity and guarantee the safety of its citizen's lives and properties. The authors went further to state that: "*instead various actors have found solace in securitizing border management and migration using Nigeria's land border as a smokescreen for the state failure to provide internal security governance*" (Ogbonna, Lenshie & Nwangwu, 2023).

To further demonstrate the connection between poor governance, economic hardship and migration, Obani and Odalonu (2023) hold that Nigeria is faulty with many issues which can be related to push factors of emigration. This could be interpreted to mean that poor governance on the part of the government is responsible for many reasons especially economic hardship that pushes Nigerians to flee to other countries for survival. No wonder Fayomi (2013) argues that the challenges of institutional development in Nigeria are associated with the loss of its manpower to international migration. This also could imply that poor governance, which no doubt, is the parent of economic hardship in Nigeria today, is a major factor in the emigration of Nigerian youths and young adults to other countries for survival and in search of greener pastures. In the words of Oli, Ibekwe and Jack (2018:), "In view of the recession that bedevilled the nation Nigerians are pushed to other economics due to glaring hunger in the land, job retrenchment cum unemployment, poor and deplorable facilities, high cost of living, incessant violent killings (insecurity) especially in the north-east region, poor educational system and poor medical care". It is important to add here that insecurity in Nigeria has spread to all regions of the country, not just the North-East, and it may not be wrong to say that the South-East is the Worst as it stands now. Observing Oli *et al* (2018)'s view one would quickly notice that hunger or economic hardship took the lead in the list showing that it is a major factor in emigration or rightly put 'self-exportation of Nigerians'

To demonstrate to extent to which Nigerian citizens are tired of their bad system of governance; and to further show how bad governance could cause the indices capable of pushing the citizens away to other countries, these set of scholars have this to say:

Nonetheless, the continued trend is an indication that many Nigerian workers are no longer comfortable at home, perhaps due the economic recession, non-increment of salary in a market economy that virtually all prices of all commodities have increased, increase in job cuts, shutting down or bankruptcy

of many global corporate organizations, thus, the emigration of skilled labour (Oli, Ibekwe, & Jack, 2018:3)

Of course, the future of any nation depends largely on educated and skilled individuals; they are responsible for the development of the nation and are the greatest resources the nation can ever boast about not oil, agriculture or gross domestic profit (Ogbenika, 2019). Imagine the rate of migration of these skilled fellows out of Nigeria in search of greener pastures just because the government does not want to fix the country rather loathing the national treasuries and filling individual purses become the order of the day. It logically follows that if people are not hungry, they have good jobs with salaries coming regularly, and there is a good education system with guaranteed security of their lives, they will not need to leave the country.

Conclusion

Bad governance in Nigeria today is a function of endemic corruption in the government of Nigeria; and it is the major cause of economic hardship in the country. This has made the government to lose focus on leadership that they could not see opportunities in other sectors, hence, the over-dependence on the oil sector. This economic hardship is evident in the hunger in the land, insecurity, high prices of goods and services in the market, non-payment of salaries by employers, unemployment and underemployment, poor educational system, and especially the migration of mainly the skilled and educated youth and the young adults out of the country in search of greener pastures. The emigrations of skilled and educated citizens, who are the real nation builders, have grave consequences to the country's socio-economic development, and should be curtailed through a change in Nigeria's system of governance, which is the parent of the present economic hardship and hunger, before it is too late.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made given the out of the critical analyses:

1. The Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) should be further equipped with honest personnel and model gadgets to be able to track, arrest and retrieve the stolen Nigeria money This will go a long way to preserve a lot of money and resources that will be used for the benefit of the citizens
2. The government should initiate and facilitate job creation efforts in the country (both in the government and in the private sectors) and ensure through acts of the legislature, that workers are paid as and when due
3. The government should intensify its efforts towards eradicating insecurity by establishing community policing and empowering local vigilante with modern security gadget to comb the bushes and perform its security task effectively.
4. There is need for government and non-governmental stakeholders to intervene in the hike of prices of goods and services in the markets and fuel stations by traders and businessmen. This is because some traders and businessmen are capitalizing on the economic situation on ground to hike prices of their goods and services
5. Free education should be introduced at all levels of education to reduce the suffering of the citizens, especially in this obvious period of economic hardship in the country

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