

## **Rural Urban Migration and its implications on Urban Crimes in Anambra State**

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### **Abstract**

*Migration has persisted since the existence of man on earth. It has also evolved from the simplest to the most complex forms in the modern era. Rural-urban migration is one of the commonest forms of migration globally. In Nigeria, many people are still moving to the urban areas in search of better living condition. This paper examined the implications of rural-urban migration on urban crimes in Anambra state. The Broken Window Theory formed the theoretical thrust for the paper. Furthermore, the cross sectional survey constituted the design for the paper. A sample size of 396 participants was chosen by the application of the Yamane's sampling size determination formula. The multi stage sampling procedure was used for selecting the study participants from the three senatorial districts of Anambra State. The questionnaire instrument was used for collection of quantitative data. The research questions were analyzed using descriptive statistics such as frequency counts and simple percentages. It was found among others in the paper that the quest for better educational pursuit and search for better job opportunities were prominent among the factors responsible for rural-urban migration in the state. It was also found that the implications of rural-urban migration on urban crimes include exposing the migrants to criminality when they could not meet their expectations and also increase in the rate of recidivism in the cities. The paper recommended among others that basic infrastructural facilities should be provided for the rural dwellers. Creating job opportunities and better educational facilities in the rural areas to reduce the tendency for rural dwellers to migrate to the city centres were also recommended.*

**Keywords:** Migration, Rural-rural migration, Rural-urban migration, Urban-rural migration, Urban-urban migration, Urban crimes

### **Introduction**

Migration is as old as human civilization and has been a major contributor to social change throughout history. Migration involves movement of a person or persons from one place to the other. This practice is as old as man's existence on the planet earth. The hunting and gathering bands were migratory in nature. They chased games and gathered wild plants moving from one place to the other. This was before people adopted the present day sedentary form of existence. According to Adewale (2005), migration is referred to as the movement of people from one geographical region to another, which may be on temporary or permanent basis. Migration is a selective process affecting individuals or families with

certain economic, social, educational and demographic characteristics. Migration as a complex phenomenon has diverse effects on the economic, social and security lives of people. It involves the movements of people from all works of life to different location(s) (IOM, World Migration Report, 2020). Migration can be categorized as voluntary or an involuntary one. A voluntary migration is a type of migration which was done at the will or choice of the person or persons involved. The involuntary one involves a kind of migration occasioned by forces beyond the person or persons. It could be as a result of war or severe natural disaster. The involuntary migrants could be called refugees. Migration can also be permanent or temporary one. A migrant's decision to permanently change his/her residence distinguishes permanent labour migration from temporary migration (Zelinsky, 1971). In permanent labour migration, the usual place of residence of the migrant changes and the chances of returning home are weak. In temporary migration, however, migrants continue to remain a usual member of the household and tend to move circularly between the places of origin and destination.

However, there are two other major types of migration. These are the internal migration and the external or international migration. The internal migration takes place within a country whereas the external or international migration takes place across international boundaries (Bhende and Kanitkar, 2006). The processes, causes and consequences of internal migration are very different from those in international migration. The former is a response to the socioeconomic spatial situations within a country, while the latter is related to international socioeconomic and political conditions, especially the immigration and emigration laws and policies of these countries. International migration is further divided into regular and irregular migration. Regular migration involves travelling to another country with valid papers i.e. visa and international passport. Irregular migration is a type of migratory practices undertaken without valid travelling documents such as international passports or visas. Emphasis will be placed more on internal migration in this paper.

Internal migration refers to a change of residence within national boundaries, such as between states, provinces, cities, or municipalities. An internal migrant is someone who moves to a different administrative territory. The characteristics and patterns of a country's internal migration are vital indicators of the pace and process of its development. Internal migration can assume several formats. It could be urban to urban migration, rural to rural migration, rural to urban migration or urban to rural migration. Out of these variants of migrations, it is the rural to urban migration which is the most significant, because it contributes to the transfer of labour force from the traditional agricultural sector to the urbanized industrial sector, and is directly linked to urbanization. Rural to urban migration is a response to diverse economic opportunities across space (Mitra & Muruyama, 2011). This paper is concerned with rural urban migration which is a subset of the internal migration.

Rural-urban migration is a variant of internal migration. It involves movement of people from the rural areas to their urban counterparts for several reasons. There appears to be movement of people from the rural areas of Anambra state to the urban areas. The obvious implication is that the population of the urban centres tend to increase with the

consistent rural urban drift. This in turn leads to overpopulation in the urban areas. Overpopulated urban centres breed criminality of all kinds. The growth in urban crime rate in Nigeria is one of the major social problems facing the country in recent time (Fakokunde, Shekwolo, Akise and Kullah, 2020). The dominance of crime in developing countries increases the volatility of the issue, for it pyramids one fear upon others. According to Fakokunde, Shekwolo, Akise and Kullah (2020), the concentration of violent crimes in major urban centres worldwide is therefore heralded as an indicator of the breakdown of urban systems. In many urban centres of Nigeria today, criminal activities and violence are assuming dangerous tendencies as they threaten lives and property, the national sense of well-being and coherence, peace, social order and security, thus, reducing the citizens' quality of life (Ahmed, 2010). The fear of armed robbery keeps people sleepless at night and they tend to live one day at a time with the fear of whether they will see the light of tomorrow. They are especially afraid of armed-robbers, paid assassins, political thugs and other criminals who assess life as being worthless (Fakokunde, Shekwolo, Akise and Kullah, 2020). It is on this premise that this paper interrogates the following; (a) What are the factors responsible for rural urban migration in Anambra state? (b) What are the consequences of rural urban migration in Anambra state? (c) What are the implications of rural urban migration on urban crimes in Anambra state?

### **Review of Relevant Literature**

*Factors responsible for rural-urban migration:* Several factors could be seen to be responsible for rural-urban migration in Anambra state. These are the pull and push factors. People tend to be pulled to the places with perceived prosperity and pushed from areas perceived of having fewer opportunities. People tend to place more emphasis on the benefits to be derived by moving and with less attention to the problems and challenges that they may face as a result of the movement (Braunvan, 2004). According to Todaro (1997), the factors influencing the decision to migrate are varied and complex. Some of them are social factors; including the desire of migrants to break away from traditional constraints of social organizations. They may be physical factor such as climate and meteorological disasters like floods and droughts. Other factors according to Todaro (1997) are demographic factors such as the reduction in mortality rate and the concomitant high rates of rural population growth; Cultural factors which include the security of urban 'extended family' relationships and the allurements of the so-called 'bright city lights' and communication factors which involves improved transportation and communication facilities. Urban-orientation; educational systems and the 'modernizing' impact of the introduction of radio, television and the cinema were also seen to pull rural dwellers to the urban centres (Todaro, 1997). The push factors for leaving the rural areas according to Alarima (2018) were poor electricity supply in the rural areas, bad condition of roads in rural area, absence of pipe-borne water. Poor condition of rural schools, lack of employment in rural areas, poor health care services, under development of rural areas were other push factors making the youths to move out of rural communities (Alarima, 2018). There are corresponding pull factors attracting the rural people to the urban areas. These factors according to Alarima (2018) are better employment opportunities in the

cities, superior wages in the urban areas, and improved living condition in the cities. Furthermore, educational opportunities in urban areas, better supply of electricity in the urban centres, good water supply, and better exposure to medical facilities were sources of attraction to the youths (Alarima, 2018). According to Yue, Sinkaiye, Lapang, Hampton and Smith (2022), climate challenges, rural insecurity, dropping commodity prices, unpredictable currency fluctuations, and widespread unemployment have compelled some Nigerians to move to cities in search of income. Once there, many do not find the opportunities they thought would be plentiful. Ongoing violence in Nigeria contributes to urbanization and affects the physical safety of urban residents. For instance, insecurity caused by Boko Haram's armed insurrection, rampant organized criminal banditry, tensions between farmers and herders, and widespread identity-based conflicts have caused millions of Nigerians to flee their homes, many of whom seek refuge in Nigeria's cities. These rural crises increasingly affect urban residents (Yue, Sinkaiye, Lapang, Hampton and Smith (2022).

**Consequences of rural urban migration:** The effects of migration on people could be economic, social, educational and other demographic peculiarities (Amrevurayire and Ojeh, 2016). According to Alarima (2018), one of the effects of rural-urban migration on the rural area is reduction in population. The author further found that rural-urban migration will lead to underdevelopment of rural communities. Persistent use of child labour in agricultural production will increase if rural-urban migration is not controlled (Alarima, 2018). Similarly, Gwanshak, Yusoff and Shafie (2021) found that the impacts of rural-urban migration on communities, villages and hamlets could be positive and negative. One of the positive impacts according to them is remittances from the city to the relations in the rural areas. Households receiving remittances from their family members in urban centre usually have changes in the pattern of their livelihood in the villages (Gwanshak, Yusoff and Shafie (2021). The negative impacts of rural-urban migration on the rural communities include poor agricultural output, food insecurity; low human capital and loss of social-cultural value were negative impacts of rural to urban migration (Gwanshak, Yusoff and Shafie, 2021). In the same vein, the positive impacts of rural-urban migration on urban centres include availability of cheap labourers for industries, schools, and domestic workers. However, the negative impacts of rural-urban migration to the city centres according to Gwanshak, Yusoff and Shafie, (2021), include increase in the population in the city centre leading to congested cities, over utilization of the social amenities, high cost of living, environmental pollution and unemployment. Similarly, Okhankhuele and Opafunso (2013) stressed that rural-urban migration has caused overstretched use of physical and social infrastructural facilities. Others problems caused by rural-urban migration in the urban centres include: traffic congestion, unemployment, high crime rate – advance free fraud (419), hired assassins, armed robbery, alcoholism, drug abuse, prostitution, hooliganism, health hazard from pollution; air, water, and noise, for example, toxic smoke from industrial plants and vehicles, inadequate refuse collection and disposal system, poor drainage system which results to flood and overflowing gutters and therefore causing cholera epidemics, growth of slums leading to shanty settlements, and long distance to work as well as serious traffic jam which makes commuters spend number of

hours on the road to work and other places, cultural change, juvenile delinquency, and decline in traditional values (Okhankhuele and Opafunso, 2013).

**Implications of rural urban migration on urban crimes:** Rural-urban migration has contributed to spread and intensity of urban crimes in Nigeria (Okhankhuele and Opafunso, 2013). Most people from the rural areas who migrated to the cities got disillusioned by their inability to fulfil their ambitions of getting ready made jobs. Some also could not even get a decent abode in the cities. The inability of the migrants to get their heart desires leads to frustration and eventually precipitate involvement in one form of criminality or the other. Failed aspirations could be responsible for involvement in crime. The migrants for the rural milieus had lofty ambitions of getting better jobs, educational opportunities, infrastructural facilities, better equipped medical centres, constant power supply and so many others. The failure in getting these services may make some of them to be disillusioned, thereby opening them up to several other alternatives including involving in criminal behaviours of different shades. According to Ajeagbu (2016), rural urban migration has caused overstretched use of physical and social infrastructural facilities. This consequently leads to traffic congestion, unemployment, high crime rate - advance free fraud (419), hired assassins, armed robbery, alcoholism, drug abuse, prostitution, hooliganism and other health hazards. It has to be stated however, that urban crime and violence in the largest cities all over the world is generally not a spontaneous occurrence, but rather the product of inequality and social exclusion (Brennan, 1999). Rural-urban migration has been implicated as one of the serious factors influencing urban crimes in many urban centres, for instance, migrants may have problems adjusting socially to the new life in the city. This challenge could be particularly relevant for rural-urban migrants. The disruption of old living habits and customs along with cultural conflicts may cause personal identity crises and primary group breakdown. As a result, traditional social control on deviant behaviour is weakened, and may lead migrants to be involved in crimes (Gizewski and Homer-Dixon, 1995). Rural-urban migration can lead to cities being socially, culturally, ethnically, and religiously diverse and this mixing of ethnicities and shifting demographic composition of urban centres is a major destabilizing factor (Beall, Gua-Khasnabis, and Kanbur, 2010).

**Theoretical Thrust:** This paper is anchored on the Broken Window Theory. The theory was propounded by Philip Zimbardo in the year 1969. The theory was however further developed thirteen years later by George L. Kelling and James Q. Wilson. In 1969, Philip Zimbardo, a psychologist from Stanford University, ran an interesting field study. He abandoned two cars in two very different places: one in a mostly poor, crime-ridden section of New York City, and the other in a fairly affluent neighbourhood of Palo Alto, Calif. Both cars were left without license plates and parked with their hoods up. After just 10 minutes, passersby in New York City began vandalizing the car (Ikezue, 2020). First they stripped it for parts. Then the random destruction began. Windows were smashed. The car was destroyed. But in Palo Alto, the other car remained untouched for more than a week. Finally, Zimbardo did something unusual: He took a sledgehammer and gave the California car a smash. After that, passersby quickly ripped it apart, just as they'd done in New York. This field study was a simple demonstration of how something that was clearly

neglected can quickly become a source of problems to community. But it eventually morphed into something far more than that. It became the basis for one of the most influential theories of crime and policing in America: "broken windows". Thirteen years after the Zimbardo study, criminologists George L. Kelling and James Q. Wilson wrote an article for "The Atlantic". They were fascinated by what had happened to Zimbardo's abandoned cars and thought the findings could be applied on a larger scale, to entire communities. Wilson and Kelling saw serious crime as the final result of a lengthier chain of events, theorizing that crime emanated from disorder and that if disorders were eliminated, then serious crimes would not occur. Their theory further posits that the prevalence of disorder creates fear in the minds of citizens who are convinced that the area is unsafe. This withdrawal from the community weakens social controls that previously kept criminals in check. Once this process begins, it feeds itself. Disorder causes crime, and crime causes further disorder and crime. This theory could be applied to explain the implications of rural-urban migration on urban crimes in Anambra state. The deplorable state of the rural communities occasioned by lack of basic amenities act as the push factor forcing people to move to the urban areas where they believe they will get better amenities. If sincere efforts could be made to provide the basic amenities, economic opportunities, and educational facilities to the rural areas, it will stem the rural-urban drift thereby making both the rural and urban areas safer places of habitation.

### **Methodology**

This paper adopted the cross sectional survey design. A sample size of 396 participants was chosen by the application of the Yamane's sampling size determination formula. The multi stage sampling procedure was used for selecting the study participants from the three senatorial districts of Anambra State. The local government areas in the senatorial districts were identified and numbered; through the balloting method of the simple random sampling technique, one local government area was selected from each of the three senatorial districts. The selected local government areas are Awka South from Anambra central senatorial district; Nnewi North from the Anambra South senatorial district and Oyi from the Anambra North senatorial district. The towns in the local government areas were also identified and numbered; by further application of the simple random sampling technique, a town was selected from each local government areas. These are Awka, Nnewi and Awkuzu. The process continued until the study participants were selected from the towns, villages, political wards, households and finally the study participants. Only adults 18 years and above were selected for the study. The instrument used for the paper is the structured questionnaire. Collated data were processed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 25. The research questions were analyzed using descriptive statistics such as frequency counts and simple percentages.

### **Data Presentation and Analysis**

In this paper, 396 questionnaires were distributed to the participants; however, 387 of them were retrieved and correctly filled. This represents 97.73% of the total questionnaire

administered to the participants. The socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents are shown in table 1.

Table 1: SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESPONDENTS

<b>Responses</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Sex</b>		
<i>Male</i>	185	47.8
<i>Female</i>	202	52.2
<i>Total</i>	387	100.0
<b>Age</b>		
<i>20 – 29</i>	64	16.5
<i>30 – 39</i>	93	24.0
<i>40 – 49</i>	172	44.4
<i>50 – 59</i>	41	10.6
<i>60and above</i>	17	4.4
<i>Total</i>	387	100.0
<b>Education</b>		
<i>No formal education</i>	9	2.3
<i>FSLC</i>	71	18.3
<i>SSCE or equivalent</i>	134	34.6
<i>OND/NCE or equivalent</i>	111	28.7
<i>B. Sc./HND/equivalent M. Sc./ equivalent</i>	55	14.2
<i>Ph.D. or equivalent</i>	7	1.8
<i>Total</i>	387	100.0
<b>Marital Status</b>		
<i>Single</i>	64	16.5
<i>Married</i>	281	72.6
<i>Separated</i>	21	5.4
<i>Divorced</i>	15	3.9
<i>Widowed</i>	6	1.6
<i>Total</i>	387	100.0
<b>Religious Affiliation</b>		
<i>Christianity</i>	371	95.9
<i>Islam</i>	5	1.3
<i>African Traditional Religion</i>	11	2.8
<i>Total</i>	387	100.0
<b>Occupation</b>		
<i>Unemployed</i>	23	5.9
<i>Student</i>	36	9.3
<i>Civil servant</i>	212	54.8
<i>Self employed</i>	63	16.3
<i>Private employee</i>	53	13.7
<i>Total</i>	387	100.0

<b>Place of Residence</b>		
Urban	244	63.0
Rural	143	37.0
Total	387	100.0
<b>Monthly Income</b>		
1-100000	56	14.5
100001-200000	124	32.0
200001-300000	130	33.6
300001-400000	62	16.0
400001 and above	15	3.9
Total	387	100.0

Field Survey, 2023

It could be seen in Table 1 that 47.8% of the respondents were males whereas 52.2% of them were females; this indicates that there were more females in the distribution than the males. Age distribution of the respondents has a mean age of 40.84 years; the standard error of the mean is .568, the median age is 42.55 years, and a modal age of 43 years. The distribution also has a standard deviation of 11.177 year, a minimum age of 20 years and a maximum age of 69 years. Furthermore, a majority of the respondents (44.4%) were between 40-49 years old while 4.4% of them were 60 years old and above. The table also showed that 34.6% of the respondents were holders of secondary school certificate or its equivalent while 1.8% of them hold PhD degree. The table further showed that a majority of the respondents (72.6%) were married whereas 1.6% of them were widowed. It also showed that almost all the respondents (95.9%) of the respondents were Christians while (1.3%) of them were Moslems. This is expected because the majority of the people living in Anambra State are Christians. It could be seen from the table that a majority of the respondents (54.8%) of them were civil servants whereas (9.3%) of them were students. Urban residents constituted (63%) of the respondents while the rural counterparts made up the remaining (37%). Lastly but not the least, 33.6% of the respondents earned between 200001 to 300000 naira while 3.9% of them earned 400001 naira and above monthly.

Table 2: RESPONDENTS' VIEWS ON WHETHER OR NOT THEY HAVE EVER EMBARKED ON MIGRATION FROM RURAL TO URBAN AREA

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	318	82.2	82.2	82.2
	No	69	17.8	17.8	100.0
	Total	387	100.0	100.0	

Field Survey, 2023



Most of the respondents agreed that they have embarked on rural-urban migration. It then follows that they are well suited to provide answers on migration from rural to urban areas.

Table 3: RESPONDENTS' VIEWS ON THE DURATION OF THEIR STAY IN THE URBAN AREA

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	0-4 years	71	18.3	22.3	22.3
	5-9 years	86	22.2	27.0	49.4
	10-14 years	91	23.5	28.6	78.0
	15-19 years	50	12.9	15.7	93.7
	Over 20 years	20	5.2	6.3	100.0
	Total	318	82.2	100.0	
Missing	Not applicable	69	17.8		
Total		387	100.0		

Field Survey, 2023

It is shown in table 3 that 23.5% of the respondents stayed in the urban area between 10-14 years while 5.2% of them stayed for over 20 years. The implication is that most of the respondents stayed long enough in the urban area and can provide reasonable answers on their experiences there.

Table 4: RESPONDENTS' VIEWS ON WHY THEY MOVED FROM RURAL TO URBAN AREAS

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Search for better job opportunity	70	18.1	22.0	22.0
	Quest for better educational pursuit	96	24.8	30.2	52.2
	Desire to avoid extended family issues	38	9.8	11.9	64.2
	Looking for better medical care	44	11.4	13.8	78.0
	Desire to enjoy better amenities in the city like road, electricity, water etc	45	11.6	14.2	92.1
	For better business opportunities	11	2.8	3.5	95.6
	For marital needs	14	3.6	4.4	100.0
	Total	318	82.2	100.0	
Missing	Not applicable	69	17.8		
Total		387	100.0		

Field Survey, 2023

Table 4 showed that quest for better educational pursuit (24.8%) was the major reason people migrated from the rural to urban areas. However, 2.8% of the respondents stressed that they moved from the rural to urban area because of search for better business opportunities.

Table 5: RESPONDENTS' VIEWS ON WHETHER OR NOT THEY GOT THEIR HEART DESIRES

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	195	50.4	61.3	61.3
	No	123	31.8	38.7	100.0
	Total	318	82.2	100.0	
Missing	Not applicable	69	17.8		
Total		387	100.0		

*Field Survey, 2023*

A majority of the respondents (50.4%) agreed that they achieved their mission for migrating to urban areas while 31.8% of them stressed they did not succeed in meeting their heart desires.

Table 6: RESPONDENTS' VIEWS ON THE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES OF RURAL URBAN MIGRATION

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Reduction of population in the rural areas	121	31.3	31.3	31.3
	Under development of the rural area	71	18.3	18.3	49.6
	Use of child labour	35	9.0	9.0	58.7
	Poor agricultural output	36	9.3	9.3	68.0
	Overstretching of amenities in the urban areas	24	6.2	6.2	74.2
	Congested urban areas	18	4.7	4.7	78.8
	increase in urban crimes	82	21.2	21.2	100.0
	Total	387	100.0	100.0	

*Field Survey, 2023*

It could be seen from table 6 that 31.3% of the respondents saw reduction of population in the rural areas as the negative consequence of rural-urban migration. However, 4.7% of them maintained that the negative consequence of rural-urban migration is congestion in the urban areas.

Table 7: RESPONDENTS' VIEWS ON THE POSITIVE CONSEQUENCES OF RURAL URBAN MIGRATION

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Increase in remittances from the urban to the rural areas	209	54.0	54.0	54.0
	Availability of cheap labour in the cities	58	15.0	15.0	69.0
	Better living condition in the city	43	11.1	11.1	80.1
	Increase in earnings for the migrants in the urban areas	38	9.8	9.8	89.9
	Enjoying better social amenities in the cities	39	10.1	10.1	100.0
	Total	387	100.0	100.0	

*Field Survey, 2023*

In table 7, increase in remittances from the urban to the rural areas was seen as a positive consequence of rural-urban migration by a majority (54%) of the respondents whereas 9.8% of them agreed that the positive consequence of rural-urban migration is increase in earnings for the migrants in the urban areas.

Table 8: RESPONDENTS' VIEWS ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION ON URBAN CRIMES

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	It exposes the migrants to criminality when their expectations are not met	217	56.1	56.1	56.1
	It increases the rate of recidivism in the city	66	17.1	17.1	73.1
	It leads to intensity and spread of urban crimes	56	14.5	14.5	87.6
	It leads to formation of slums and criminal sub culture in the urban areas	48	12.4	12.4	100.0
	Total	387	100.0	100.0	

*Field Survey, 2023*

It could be seen from table 8 that a majority of the respondents (56.1%) maintained that the implication of rural-urban migration on urban crimes is that it exposes migrants to criminality when their expectations are not met. Furthermore, 12.4% of the respondents indicated that the implication of rural-urban migration is that it leads to formation of slums and criminal sub culture in the urban areas.

Table 9: RESPONDENTS' VIEWS ON HOW TO MINIMIZE URBAN CRIMES

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Provide basic amenities in the rural areas	141	36.4	36.4	36.4
	Make the urban areas less attractive by increasing economic and educational opportunities in the rural areas	52	13.4	13.4	49.9
	Empowering migrants with basic skills to enable them cope with urban life	50	12.9	12.9	62.8
	Sensitization on the need to be law abiding and living decently	49	12.7	12.7	75.5
	Wealthy ones in the society should assist the poor ones in their communities	50	12.9	12.9	88.4
	Enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of law enforcement agency	45	11.6	11.6	100.0
	Total	387	100.0	100.0	

*Field Survey, 2023*

In table 9, 36.4% of the respondents suggested that provision of basic amenities in the rural areas could help to reduce urban crimes. Similarly, 11.6% of the respondents averred that enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of law enforcement agency could go a long way into reducing the spread of urban crime.

### Discussion of Findings

It was found that most of the respondents had embarked on migration from the rural to the urban area. This is consistent with National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) (2018) which stated that rural-urban migration increased by 75% in every period of five years. This is expected because people prefer to migrate to places where they will improve the quality of their lives. The paper also found that most of the respondents lived in the rural areas for a long time ranging from 5 to 14 years and even more. This is expected because the migrants will not easily like to go back to the rural areas where most infrastructural facilities were lacking. Even when their conditions may not be favourable for meaningful living, some of them may decide to stay in the urban area in anticipation that their conditions will improve overtime. It was found in this paper that most people moved from the rural to urban areas because of quest for better educational pursuit, search for better job opportunity; desire to enjoy better amenities in the city like road, electricity, water supply and so on. This is corroborated by Alarima (2018) who had earlier argued that the

push factors for leaving the rural areas were poor electricity supply in the rural areas, bad condition of roads in rural area and absence of pipe-borne water. Poor condition of rural schools, lack of employment in rural area, poor health care services and the underdevelopment of rural areas were other push factors making the youths to move out of rural communities. This is expected because in the twenty first century, people tend to prefer better conditions of life which they perceived to be readily available in the urban areas.

The paper also found that a majority of the migrants from the rural to urban areas were able to achieve their mission for embarking on the journey. However, a good number of them could not succeed in fulfilling their heart desires for migrating to the urban areas. Those who failed in their aspirations will likely indulge in anything to make both ends meet. This could be the reason for involvement in urban crime. It was also found that some of the major negative consequences of rural-urban migration include reduction of population in the rural areas, underdevelopment of the rural areas and increase in urban crimes. Others are use of child labour, poor agricultural output due to shortage of manpower, overstretching of amenities in the urban areas and congested urban areas. This finding agrees with Gwanshak, Yusoff and Shafie (2021) who had earlier stated that the negative impacts of rural-urban migration on the rural communities include poor agricultural output, food insecurity; low human capital and loss of social-cultural value were negative impacts of rural-urban migration. They further stressed that some other negative impacts of rural-urban migration to the city centres include increase in the population in the city centres leading to congested cities, over utilization of the social amenities, high cost of living, environmental pollution and unemployment. This explains why rural-urban migration could be seen as a destabilizing phenomenon. It is so because it tends to disrupt already made plans by the authorities concerned on how to mitigate the challenges facing urban dwellers. The paper further found that increase in remittances from the urban to rural areas as one of the positive effects of rural-urban migration. Other positive effects include availability of cheap labour in the cities, better living conditions in the urban areas, increase in earnings for the migrants in the urban areas and enjoying better social amenities in the cities. This is consistent with Gwanshak, Yusoff and Shafie (2021) who stated that one of the positive impacts of rural-urban migration is remittances from the city to the relations in the rural areas. Households receiving remittances from their family members in urban centre usually have changes in the pattern of their livelihood in the villages. Gwanshak, Yusoff and Shafie (2021) also maintained availability of cheap labourers for industries, schools, and domestic workers as the positive effects of the migration to the urban areas. Definitely, migrants who were able to adapt to the demands of urban life will enjoy the facilities available there. Some of which include better educational and job/economic opportunities, access to better medical facilities and personnel, good networks of road and even improved power supply.

The implications of rural-urban migration were found to include exposing the migrants to criminality when their expectations were not met, increase in the rate of recidivism in the city, intensity and spread of urban crimes and formation of slums and criminal sub cultures in the urban areas. This is congruent with Okhankhuele and

Opafunso (2013) who stated that rural-urban migration has contributed to spread and intensity of urban crimes in Nigeria. It is in agreement with Ajeagbu (2016) who also stressed that rural-urban migration has caused overstretched use of physical and social infrastructural facilities which eventually leads to traffic congestion, unemployment, high crime rate - advance free fraud (419), hired assassins, armed robbery, alcoholism, drug abuse, prostitution, hooliganism and health hazard from pollution. This is further supported by Beall, Gwa-Khasnobis, and Kanbur (2010) who argued that rural-urban migration can lead to cities being socially, culturally, ethnically, and religiously diverse and this mixing of ethnicities and shifting demographic composition of urban centres is a major destabilizing factor. Rural-urban migration has been implicated in the increase of urban crimes because people from diverse backgrounds tend to move to urban milieus with the hope of making decent living. This aspiration is not often achieved and the tendency of resorting to criminality becomes even more glaring. Lastly but not the least, it was found that rural-urban migration could be addressed through the provision of basic amenities in the rural areas, making the urban areas less attractive by increasing economic and educational opportunities in the rural areas. Others are empowering migrants with basic skills to enable them cope with urban life, sensitization on the need to be law abiding and living decently, encouraging the wealthy ones in the society to assist the poor ones in their communities and enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of the law enforcement agencies.

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

Movement from one place to the other is one of the characteristics of living things. Human beings from time immemorial move from one location to the other. This was exactly the case among the hunting and gathering bands. In recent time, migration has assumed multiple dimensions. Rural-urban migration which is one of the different forms of migration has become a reoccurring decimal in our contemporary time. This is however, not without its attendant consequences. The depletion of the population of the rural areas and the congestions of the urban areas are some of the throwbacks of such movement. The movement has also influenced crime rates in the urban centres. This has caused untold hardship to the inhabitants of the urban areas in particular and the Nigerian society at large. It is based on the foregoing that a concerted effort is needed to mitigate the menace of criminality occasioned by migration from the rural to urban areas.

Based on the findings of this paper, the following recommendations were proffered; provision of basic infrastructural facilities in the rural areas will likely make some of the rural dwellers not to migrate to the urban areas. Job opportunities and better educational facilities should be provided in the rural areas. This could be done through public private partnership in such a way that the rural dwellers will benefit from it maximally. Better health institutions should be made available in the rural areas. Some of the institutions should be built from philanthropic gestures of the well meaning individuals in the area. Mechanized agricultural practices should be encouraged and low interest loans should be given to rural farmers to expand their farming business. Value reorientation should be intensified to dissuade people from looking for ill gotten wealth. Intelligence gathering by

the security agencies should be intensified and streamlined to curb criminality in the society.

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