

# Rural-Urban Migration in Nigeria: A Menace to the Development of Enugu Urban

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**Abstract:** *The study examined rural-urban migration and urban development in Nigeria: a study of Enugu Urban. The study focused on three specific objectives covered by three independent variables. These include how rural-urban migration affects development; the impact of rural-urban migration on economic growth; and the ways rural-urban migration affects the quality of environment. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design in reviewing 722,664 people of Enugu Urban. The population was reduced to a sample size of 624 using the Taro Yamane formula. Purposive sampling technique was adopted for the study. As a survey research, all the respondents to this study were selected through purposive sampling technique. The data collected were presented and analyzed using frequency and percentage, while hypotheses were tested with chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) statistics. The study revealed that rural-urban migration has negatively affected the development of Enugu urban. Further finding revealed that rural-urban migration has positive impact on economic growth in Enugu urban. It was also found that environmental degradation is the major way rural-urban migration has affected environmental quality in Enugu urban. The concluded that the rural areas of Enugu state are so far largely characterized by lack of basic infrastructure and general underdevelopment. This is in spite of their immense contributions to the national development. Therefore enhancing the rural development status is a prerequisite for mitigating rural-urban migration in the state and thus stems its increasing negative consequences in Enugu urban.*

**Key Words:** *Rural-Urban Migration, Urban Development, Economic Growth, Quality of Environment.*

## Introduction

Academics and intellectuals globally have engaged in intense discussions about the relationship between migration and development (Nweke, 2019; Adepoju, 2017). The act of individuals relocating to other areas in search of better opportunities is not a recent occurrence. Due to the disparities in wealth between rural and urban areas, people migrate from rural to urban areas to pursue perceived or actual prospects (Madu, 2016). Studies have indicated that this inequality and urban favoritism in development arise from the concentration of wealth, assets, economic activities, and services in urban centers, as well as the ongoing neglect and deterioration of rural areas.

Migration involves individuals relocating from one place to another, either permanently or temporarily (Adewale, 2015). Reasons for migration vary depending on personal circumstances and prevailing conditions. Migration is a selective process, impacting individuals or families with specific economic, social, educational, and demographic traits. In Nigeria, the movement of people from rural to urban areas is a common phenomenon. This movement presents challenges in both

rural and urban areas, despite the benefits it brings. Rural-urban migration often results in a rapid decline in the rural economy, leading to persistent poverty and food insecurity (Sangodoyin, 2017).

Nweke (2019) opined that the development experience of Nigeria and perhaps most other African countries reveal that the pattern of colonial exploitation laid foundation for the modern migration through the introduction of money economy and taxation and by concentrating job and essential amenities and industries in the urban areas especially during the second national development planning, (1970-1974).

Nigeria is one of the countries in the world with very high rural-urban dichotomy. Although the nation is generally characterized by poor social amenities, both in quality and quantity, rural communities are disproportionately more disadvantaged than urban centres due to governmental neglect. Consequently, the number of rural inhabitants that migrate to cities with high hopes of overcoming powerlessness consistent with rural life is unprecedented.

In Enugu State like in many Nigeria states the migration far outstrips urban capacity in terms of social amenities, housing and employment resulting in deepening crisis of urban degradation and unemployment in the state mega city. This is consequent upon the dichotomous planning and development which Nigeria adopted especially after independence. This subsequently results in the rural deprived and the urban endowed that translates into improved amenities and employment opportunities in the urban centres than the rural areas. Abdullahi, Mustapha & Olarenwaju (2016) noted that the situation was worsened by the Structural Adjustment Programme of the 1980s to which Nigeria has hardly recovered from.

Even though there are benefits derivable from rural-urban migration as argued by Ogunleye, Owolabi & Mubarak (2018), who noted that rural-urban migration means more human population and so more workers in different fields, more economy growth, more tax payers, more funds, more diversity, more share of people for particular programmes. They further argued that high rural-urban migration increases the pressure to use available resources more efficiently and innovative in order to be able to supply the population with food and other necessary resources, expand the tax bases of urban governments, spread economic innovations very fast, increase the size of urban market and consumer spending, and increase foreign direct investments that want to service such market.

It is important to note that rural-urban migrants are often not adequately prepared for in urban centers in terms of housing, hospitals, roads, schools, waste management, water supply, job opportunities, power supply, and traffic management. This lack of preparation leads to urbanization-related issues such as the development of slums, traffic congestion and accidents, various forms of pollution, crime, insecurity, poverty, unemployment, and health challenges. These issues have significant effects on human capital development, environmental management, and the economic foundations of urban areas. In light of this background, the objective of the present study is to investigate the impact of rural-urban migration on urban development in Nigeria, with a focus on Enugu urban.

### **Nature of the Problem**

The problems posed by the rapid urban growth in Nigeria just like every other developing countries of the world are immense. The explosive rates of growth have not only progressively complicated and aggravated inter-related problems of human settlements and the environment, but have been

responsible for the general problem of human and environmental poverty, the declining quality of life and the under-utilized as well as untapped wealth of human resources.

However, the demand for infrastructure, basic services and housing in expanding urban centres in the country is on the increase. Housing and associated facilities such as pipe borne water, electricity, waste disposal and traffic management are grossly inadequate while millions of the citizenry live in substandard environments called slums which are plagued by squalor and lack basic amenities of life such as shortage of schools, poor health facilities as well as lack of recreational facilities among others.

Moreover, there is a strong urban bias in the conceptualization, design and implementation of development programmes and agenda in Enugu state at the detriment of the rural areas. This is consequent upon the dichotomous planning and development which Nigeria adopted especially after independence. This subsequently results in the rural deprived and the urban endowed that translates into improved amenities and housing development in the urban centres than the rural areas. This reflected in inadequate access to markets for their goods and services, and deplorable condition of the education, health, transportation, water and sanitation facilities. All these are responsible for penchant migration to the Enugu urban by majority of the able bodied men and women who ordinarily are supposed to reside in the rural areas to develop the areas, thereby compounding the problems of the Enugu urban areas and posed challenges to the Enugu urban development.

Thus, as the conditions of opportunities expand in the urban areas, they however, increasingly worsen in the rural areas and people are continuously attracted into the urban areas where they are precariously forced to abandon rural life to seek a means of livelihood in the cities. The rural residents apparently see the attractiveness in the cities with seeming better opportunities. But in actual reality, many people abandon rural life in preference to the crowded and often substandard, squalor and shanty housing in the cities where they cannot find suitable employment opportunities. What provokes such rural residents to relocate their places for such urban life can be better appreciated in policy analysis. But the effect of this behaviour on urban development in Nigeria and Enugu urban in particular was the focus of this study.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The specific objectives of the study are:

1. To ascertain how rural-urban migration affect the development of Enugu urban.
2. *To examine the impact of rural-urban migration on economic growth in Enugu urban*
3. To assess the ways rural-urban migration affects the quality of environment in Enugu urban.

### **Research Questions**

1. How does rural-urban migration affect the development of Enugu urban?
2. What impact has rural-urban migration on economic growth in Enugu urban?
3. In what ways have rural-urban migration affect the quality of environment in Enugu urban?

### **Hypotheses**

1. Rural-urban migration has negatively affected the development of Enugu urban.
2. Rural-urban migration has positive impact on economic growth in Enugu urban.
3. Degradation of environmental quality is the major way rural-urban migration has affected the Enugu urban.

## **Review of Related Literature**

### **Rural-Urban Migration**

Prior to discussing rural-urban migration, we must first establish the definitions of rural and urban areas. Rural areas can be defined by what they are not, namely, areas that are not urban and are primarily agrarian in occupation (Olabode, Oladokun & Oluyemi, 2015). In practice, there are two primary approaches to defining rural areas. The first approach involves using a geopolitical definition. Under this approach, urban areas are legally defined as all the state, regional, and district capitals and all other areas are classified as rural. Several countries such as Colombia, El Salvador, the Dominican Republic, and Paraguay adopt this methodology. In these countries, the urban population encompasses individuals residing within the municipal seat of the city or municipality. However, this approach has its limitations: populations residing outside the geopolitical boundaries of a city, especially in rapidly expanding urban areas, may be misclassified as rural, while populations living in small municipalities in sparsely inhabited regions may be inaccurately categorized as urban (World Bank, 2013).

An alternative approach is to use the concentration of population to define urban areas. Under this method, areas where adjacent households have a total population of more than 2,000 inhabitants are considered urban, with the remaining areas classified as rural. This method is appealing because it sets a specific threshold, but this threshold varies widely across different regions of the world. For example, in Uganda, an agglomeration of only 100 inhabitants is considered urban, while in Nigeria and Mauritius, urban areas require a minimum agglomeration of 20,000 and even 30,000 inhabitants in Japan. Despite these variations, certain thresholds are commonly used, such as 2,000 in Chile, Argentina, Bolivia, Israel, and France; 2,500 in Mexico and the USA; and 5,000 in Belgium and Switzerland (Santos & Fernández, 2023).

Migration is considered as the movement of people from one geographical region to another, which may be on temporary or permanent basis. People migrate based on the prevailing conditions and the reasons for it vary from one person to another depending on the situation that brought about the decision. Migration is a selective process affecting individuals or families with certain economic, social, educational and demographic characteristics (Adewale, 2015).

Rural-urban migration is the influx of people to a high population density, industrialized, modernized and civilized areas. The aim is always to improve their living standard. This definition pointed on reasons that lead to urban migration. The movement of people from rural areas to cities must be to improve the standard of living of the people involved.

### **Overview of Rural-Urban Migration in Nigeria**

Nigeria is one of the countries in the world with very high rural-urban dichotomy. Although the nation is generally characterized by poor social amenities, both in quality and quantity, rural communities are disproportionately more disadvantaged than urban centres due to governmental neglect. Consequently, the number of rural inhabitants that migrate to cities with high hopes of overcoming powerlessness consistent with rural life is unprecedented (Nwokocha, 2007 as cited in ).

In Nigeria as in most developing countries of the world, internal migration has become a major issue influencing government policies and program efforts. Crucial among these issues are problems of unplanned urbanization, growing urban crimes, rural poverty, neglect of agriculture and unbalanced population concentration. These suggest the effect of the dominant pattern of rural-urban migration and its effect on national life (Akinyemi, Ibrahim, Yakubu & Usman, 2015).

Olabode, Oladokun & Oluyemi (2015) noted that people tend to be pulled to the areas of prosperity and pushed from areas of decline. Migrants are usually concerned with the benefits they hope to gain by moving and usually give less thought to the problems that may be generated as a result of the process which includes; pressure on fragile urban infrastructure and possible environmental degradation, for most migrants are relatively poor and live together. Rural-urban migration in Nigeria is therefore inevitable and sometimes a desirable resultant effect of industrialization.

However, Tindigarukayo (2014) added that there is the movement of labour to the area where there is opportunities and during the season when there is demand of labour in a particular area, this she described as seasonal direction migration. For example, there is the movement of labour from parts of the north and south to the west during the dry season when coca is harvested. Also, people migrate to farming areas during planting and harvesting seasons. It is good to note that seasonal directed migration is usually on temporary basis; when the work end or finished, the people return to their normal base. Some described such movement as labour mobility than as migration.

### **Urban Development**

The process of urban development involves the planned change and organization of land use and the constructed environment, encompassing air, water, and the systems that link urban areas together, such as transportation, communication, and distribution networks. Urban development focuses on the physical arrangement of human settlements (Adah, 2018). Its main objective is the well-being of the public, considering efficiency, cleanliness, conservation and utilization of the environment, as well as impacts on social and economic activities. Urban development is an interdisciplinary domain that encompasses social science, architecture, human geography, politics, and engineering and design sciences. It is closely linked to urban design, and some urban developers offer designs for streets, parks, buildings, and other urban spaces (Momoh, Medjdoub, Ebohon, Ige, 2022).

Oyinloye, Olamiju & Popoola (2017) express a preference for urban redevelopment, which they define as the refurbishment and/or restoration of older sections of towns and cities. They argue that in Britain, urban redevelopment is closely linked to the aim of improving and reforming housing, particularly for the benefit of the urban poor. Urban development aims to address urban challenges and intends to bring about long-term enhancements in the economic, physical, social, and environmental conditions of an area that has experienced change. While the primary goal is to eliminate substandard and inadequate housing, urban development has evolved to encompass other approaches such as downtown revitalization, the promotion of university or hospital centers, industrial redevelopment, and the establishment of new towns.

### **Economic Growth**

Economic Growth is the continual increase in a country's production volume or the rise in Gross Domestic Product, serving as the primary quantitative measures for production over a one-year period. It encompasses alterations in material production occurring within a relatively short timeframe, typically a year. According to economic theory, economic growth involves an annual growth in material production expressed in value, represented by the growth rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) or national income. A country or society economic growth is generally linked to, among other factors, increasing incomes and the consequent growth in consumption, savings, and investment.

Economists commonly gauge economic growth using indicators like gross domestic product (GDP) or related measures such as gross national product (GNP) or gross national income (GNI), which is derived from GDP calculations. GDP is computed from a country's national accounts,

which provide annual data on incomes, spending, and investment for each sector of the economy. These data enable the estimation of the total income earned in the country in a given year (GDP) or the total income earned by the country's residents (GNP or GNI) (Acemoglu, 2019).

Economic growth, as measured by GDP, is driven by two components: population growth and labour productivity. Labour productivity reflects the capacity for increased output from the existing quantity of labor in the economy.

### **Environment Quality**

Adisa (2013) the world we live in is our environment. It is an asset all human beings share in common, so the responsibility for protecting it is common to all men. The environment is at the center of the concern for environmental sustainability, meaning that the next thing to man's life is his environment. Specifically, the environment includes the natural environment such as the vegetation, land, the atmosphere, open fields, forests and water on one hand and the built environment (infrastructure) like roads, bridges, stadia, hospitals and schools on the other.

The quality of the environment encompasses the attributes and characteristics of the surroundings, whether they are broad or specific, and how they affect humans and other living things. It is a gauge of the state of an environment in relation to the needs of one or more species, human requirements, or objectives. Environmental quality covers both the natural and man-made surroundings, including air, water cleanliness or contamination, noise, and the potential impact these attributes may have on physical and mental well-being (Onwumere & Ejirika, 2019).

The overall physical environment in an urban area is determined by some specific facilities such as housing, sanitation, sewerage, drainage, health facilities, drinking water supply, gas supply, electricity, garbage disposal and waste management. In Enugu urban environmental services are extremely unsatisfactory in some areas and of poor quality, which is due to rapid increase of urban population.

### **Theoretical Framework**

The study is rooted in Systems Theory, which was developed by several scholars such as Ludwig Von Bertalanffy and William Rose Ashby during the 1940s to the 1970s. It draws on principles from physics and various fields including philosophy, sociology, organizational theory, management, psychotherapy, administration, and economics, as noted by Nwatu (2012). Systems theory acknowledges that society consists of distinct parts, each of which carries out specific functions to ensure the overall survival of the society. Ezeani (2006) points out that according to system theory, society is seen as a cohesive, purposeful system comprised of interrelated components. This perspective provides a way to perceive society or an organization as a unified entity and as part of a broader external environment. System theory teaches us that the actions of any part of a society impact, to varying extents, the actions of every other part.

In application of the theory to this study, it is pertinent to note that every society is made up of rural and urban sectors. The large gap between the rural and urban areas in developing countries like Nigeria is their inability to recognize the fact that both are the sub-system of the country, and therefore need to be giving equal attention. The concentration of developmental activities and provision of the infrastructure in few urban areas to the detriment of the rural areas in Enugu State creates a strong contrast between these modern developed cities or urban centres and traditional agrarian rural areas. This spatial inequality in development violates the idea of system theory and significantly account for the persistent migration of people from rural to the Enugu urban.

**Methodology**

This study is a descriptive study that examined the three local governments that make up Enugu Urban with a view to ascertaining the effect of rural-urban migration on urban development in Nigeria. The three local governments examined include Enugu East, Enugu North and Enugu South local governments all in Enugu Urban.

The instruments used for this study is structured questionnaire and interview which were administered to the people of the three local governments in Enugu urban randomly and purposively selected. The population of the three local governments was 722,664 and a sample of 624 was obtained using the Taro Yamane proportional allocation formula for sample selection. After the distribution of the questionnaire, 514 copies were properly completed and returned and were used for the analysis The data generated from the study was presented in a tabular form of frequencies and percentages in the five-point Likert scale format, and analysed using Chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) at significance level of 0.05.

**Data presentation and analysis**

The data collected in the process of this study were presented and analyzed using the frequency distribution and percentage. The hypotheses posed for the study were tested using chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ). The hypotheses were accepted only when the computed value of chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) is greater than (>) the table value of chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ), otherwise the hypotheses were rejected. The chi-square ( $\chi^2$ )

**Research Question One:** How does rural-urban migration affect the development of Enugu urban?

**Table 1: How rural-urban migration affect the development of Enugu urban**

Items	Strongly Agree	Agree	No idea	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Overcrowding of markets, roads and some residential areas in Enugu urban	310 60%	105 20%	32 6%	43 8%	24 5%	514 100%
Increase in crimes and criminal activities	271 53%	139 27%	26 5%	58 11%	22 4%	514 100%
Increase in unemployment rate in Enugu urban	29 57%	1 21%	2 4%	56 11%	3 7%	514 100%
Pressure on the existing public utilities in Enugu urban	30 59%	7 14%	3 7%	48 9%	5 1%	514 100%
Substandard and inadequate affordable housing	24 47%	8 16%	3 7%	78 15%	7 15%	514 100%
Serious difficulties in paying for basic services such as trash removal, water etc.	226 44%	169 33%	29 6%	61 12%	29 6%	514 100%

Source: Field Survey 2024

Table 1 revealed how rural-urban migration affects the development of Enugu urban. The table showed that the frequency of the respondents who indicated strongly agree and agree were above average in all the items. This pattern of responses indicated that the respondents strongly agree with all the items as how rural-urban migration affects the development of Enugu urban. The items

include: overcrowding of markets, roads and some residential areas in Enugu urban, increase in crimes and criminal activities, increase in unemployment rate in Enugu urban, pressure on the existing public utilities in Enugu urban, substandard and inadequate affordable housing, and serious difficulties in paying for basic services such as trash removal, street maintenance, water and electricity supply etc.

**Research Question Two:** What impact has rural-urban migration on economic growth in Enugu urban?

**Table 2: Impact of rural-urban migration on economic growth in Enugu urban**

Items	Strongly Agree	Agree	No idea	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Expansion of tax bases of urban governments	310 60%	105 20%	32 6%	43 8%	24 5%	514 100%
Increase in unemployment	271 53%	139 27%	26 5%	58 11%	22 4%	514 100%
Increases the pressure to use available resources more efficiently	29 57%	1 21%	2 4%	56 11%	3 7%	514 100%
Increase the size of urban market and consumer spending	30 59	7	3 7	48	5 1	514 100%
Larger market increase foreign direct investments that want to service such a market	24 47%	8 16%	3 7	78 15	7 15%	514 100%
Encourage the establishment of small and medium scale enterprises	226 44%	169 33%	29 6%	61 12%	29 6%	514 100%

Source: Field Survey 2024

Table 2 revealed the impact of rural-urban migration on economic growth in Enugu urban. The presentation therefore showed that the frequency of the respondents that indicated strongly agree and agree were above average in all the items. This pattern of responses implies that the respondents strongly agree with all the items as the impact of rural-urban migration on economic growth in Enugu urban. The items include: expansion of tax bases of urban governments, increase in unemployment, increases the pressure to use available resources more efficiently, increase the size of urban market and consumer spending, larger market increase foreign direct investments that want to service such a market, and encourage the establishment of small and medium scale enterprises.



**Research Question Three:** In what ways have rural-urban migration affect the quality of environment in Enugu urban?

**Table 3: Ways rural-urban migration affects the quality of environment in Enugu urban**

Items	Strongly Agree	Agree	No idea	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Environmental pollution through indiscriminate defecating in streets, open places etc.	194 38%	222 43%	35 7%	22 4%	41 8%	514 100%
Increase in number of beggars on unban roads and event centres	244 47%	83 16%	34 7%	78 15%	75 15%	514 100%
Indiscriminate dumping of solid or semisolid waste	202 39%	226 44%	32 6%	31 6%	23 4%	514 100%
Increase in hawking business on urban major roads	38 74%	13 13%	4 4%	14 3%	28 5%	514 100%
Unauthorized small shops on urban transportation routes	31 6%	13 13%	4 4%	48 9%	27 5%	514 100%
Littering the environment with solid waste	29 57%	13 13%	4 4%	48 9%	39 8%	514 100%

Source: Field Survey 2024

Table 3 revealed the ways rural-urban migration has affected the quality of environment in Enugu urban. The statistical presentation therefore showed that the frequency of the respondents that indicated strongly agree and agree were above average in all the items. This is a strong indication that the respondents affirmed that all the items were the ways rural-urban migration has affected the quality of environment in Enugu urban. The items include: environmental pollution through indiscriminate defecating in streets, open places etc., increase in number of beggars on unban roads and event centres, indiscriminate dumping of solid or semisolid waste, increase in hawking business on urban major roads, unauthorized small shops on urban transportation routes, and littering the environment with solid waste.

**Test of Hypothesis One:** Rural-urban migration has negatively affected the development of Enugu urban.

Calculation of Degree of Freedom (DF)

$$DF = (R-1) (C-1)$$

Where R = Number of Row in the contingency table

C = Number of columns in the contingency table

$$DF = (3-1) (5-1)$$

$$= 2 \times 4$$

$$= 8$$

At 0.05 significant level and 8 degree of freedom the table value of chi-square = **15.51**

**Table 4: Observed frequency for hypothesis one**

Enugu Urban Local Governments	Strongly Agree	Agree	No idea	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Enugu North	38	58	11	40	26	173
Enugu South	54	37	9	28	17	145
Enugu East	85	36	14	16	45	196
<b>Total</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>514</b>

Source: Field Survey 2024

**Table 5: Chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) contingency table for hypothesis one**

Observed Frequency (o)	Expected Frequency (e)	(o-e)	(o-e) <sup>2</sup>	$\frac{(o-e)^2}{e}$
38	62.94	-24.94	622.0036	9.88
58	40.73	17.27	298.2529	7.32
11	17.17	-6.17	38.0689	2.22
40	29.62	10.38	107.7444	3.64
26	22.55	3.45	11.9025	0.53
54	52.75	1.25	1.5625	0.03
37	34.13	2.87	8.2369	0.24
9	14.39	-5.39	29.0521	2.01
28	24.82	3.18	10.1124	3.18
17	18.90	-1.9	3.6100	0.19
85	71.30	13.7	187.69	2.63
36	46.14	-10.14	102.8196	2.29
14	19.45	-5.45	29.7025	1.52
16	33.56	-17.56	308.3536	9.19
45	25.55	19.45	378.3025	14.81
				$\chi^2 = \frac{\sum(o-e)^2}{e} = 59.68$

Source: Field Survey 2024

Since the computed value of chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) of 59.68 is greater than (>) the table value of chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) of 15.51, the first hypothesis is accepted. The statistical result affirmed that rural-urban migration has negatively affected the development of Enugu urban

**Test of Hypothesis Two:** Rural-urban migration has positive impact on economic growth in Enugu urban.

**Table 6: Observed frequency for hypothesis two**

Enugu Urban Local Governments	Strongly Agree	Agree	No idea	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Enugu North	56	35	11	40	31	173
Enugu South	34	67	6	21	17	145
Enugu East	65	26	24	37	44	196
<b>Total</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>514</b>

Source: Field Survey 2024

**Table 7: Chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) contingency table for hypothesis two**

Observed Frequency (o)	Expected Frequency (e)	(o-e)	(o-e) <sup>2</sup>	$\frac{(o-e)^2}{e}$
56	52.17	3.83	14.6689	0.28
35	43.08	-8.08	65.2864	1.52
11	13.10	-2.10	4.4100	0.34
40	32.98	7.02	49.2804	1.49
31	30.96	0.04	0.0016	0.00
34	43.73	-9.73	94.6729	2.16
67	36.11	30.89	954.1921	26.42
6	11.57	-5.57	31.0249	2.68
21	27.65	-6.65	44.2225	1.60
17	25.95	-8.95	80.1025	3.09
65	59.11	5.89	34.6921	0.59
26	48.81	-22.81	520.2961	10.66
24	15.63	8.37	70.0569	4.48
37	37.37	-0.37	0.1369	0.00
44	35.08	8.92	79.5664	2.27
				$\chi^2 = \frac{\sum(o-e)^2}{e} = 57.59$

Source: Field Survey 2024

Since the computed value of chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) of 57.59 is greater than (>) the table value of chi-square of 15.51, the second hypothesis is accepted. The statistical analysis therefore indicated that rural-urban migration has positive impact on economic growth in Enugu urban.

**Test of Hypothesis Three:** Degradation of environmental quality is the major way rural-urban migration has affected the Enugu urban.

**Table 8: Observed frequency for hypothesis three**

Enugu Urban Local Governments	Strongly Agree	Agree	No idea	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Enugu North	46	55	21	33	18	173
Enugu South	81	36	6	5	17	145
Enugu East	35	90	20	47	4	196
<b>Total</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>514</b>

Source: Field Survey 2024

**Table 9: Chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) contingency table for hypothesis three**

Observed Frequency (o)	Expected Frequency (e)	(o-e)	(o-e) <sup>2</sup>	$\frac{(o-e)^2}{e}$
46	54.53	-8.53	-72.7609	1.33
55	60.92	-5.92	35.0464	0.58
21	15.82	5.18	26.8324	1.70
33	28.61	4.39	19.2721	0.67
18	13.13	4.87	23.7169	1.81
81	45.70	35.30	1246.0900	27.27
36	51.06	-15.06	226.8036	4.44
6	13.26	-7.26	52.7076	3.97
5	23.98	-18.98	360.2404	15.02
17	11.00	6.00	36.0000	3.27
35	62.91	-27.91	778.9681	12.38
90	69.02	20.98	440.1604	6.38
20	17.92	2.08	4.3264	0.24
47	32.41	14.59	212.8681	6.57
4	14.87	-10.87	118.1569	7.95
				$\chi^2 = \frac{\sum(o-e)^2}{e} = 93.58$

Source: Field Survey 2024

Since the computed value of chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) of 93.58 is greater than (>) the table value of chi-square of 15.51, the third hypothesis is accepted. The statistical analysis therefore shows that degradation of environmental quality is the major way rural-urban migration has affected the Enugu urban.

**Discussion of Findings**

The result of the first hypothesis revealed that rural-urban migration has negatively affected the development of Enugu urban. From the presentation and analysis of the research questions, it was found that the respondents agreed with all the 6 items regarding how rural-urban migration affects the development of Enugu urban. These items include: overcrowding of markets, roads and some residential areas in Enugu urban, increase in crimes and criminal activities, increase in unemployment rate in Enugu urban, exerts pressure on the existing public utilities, substandard and inadequate affordable housing, and serious difficulties in paying for basic services such as trash removal, street maintenance, water and electricity supply etc. This discovery aligns with Nweke's (2019) findings, which highlighted that rural-urban migration leads to congestion in markets and event centers, as well as traffic congestion in major cities in Anambra state.

In a related study, Eze, Ugwoke & Ugwoke (2018) discovered that rural-urban migration exerts pressure on the existing public goods and utilities in Enugu urban especially urban roads. Their study further indicated variations in the crime levels in different Enugu cities indicating variations in the number of migrants' settlement in each area. Table 4.10 gives the calculated mean number of migrant's settlement in 13 areas in Enugu urban.

**Table 10: calculated mean number of migrants’ settlement in 13 areas in Enugu urban**

Area Number	Area Names	Mean scores of migrants’ settlement in 13 Enugu Urban Areas
1	Abakpa Nike	55.53
2	New Heaven	12.10
3	Emene	44.12
4	Obiagu	22.07
5	Camp Colliery	24.71
6	Trans Ekulu	30.51
7	New Layout	27.91
8	Kenyatta/Uwani	19.51
9	Mayo Market/Agbani Road/Achara Layout	36.12
10	Independence Layout	6.11
11	Gariki (Awkunanaw)	37.41
12	Maryland	27.13
13	Asata/Ogui Road	19.10

**Source:** Eze, Ugwoke & Ugwoke (2018)

Eze, Ugwoke & Ugwoke (2018) presented the above table indicating the mean scores of migrant’s settlement in 13 Enugu urban areas. The table shows that the mean scores of migrants’ settlement calculated for each centre, varied from one centre to another. From table 4.10, it is interesting to observe that the areas with high mean scores of migrants’ settlement suffer more crimes and criminal activities, transport challenges. This is therefore strong evidence that rural-urban migration has negative effect on urban development in Enugu urban.

The second finding revealed that rural-urban migration has positive impact on economic growth in Enugu urban. From the presentation and analysis of the research questions, it was found that the respondents agreed with all the 6 items regarding the impact of rural-urban migration on economic growth in Enugu urban. These items include: expansion of tax bases of urban governments, increase in unemployment, increases the pressure to use available resources more efficiently, increase the size of urban market and consumer spending, larger market increase foreign direct investments that want to service such a market, and encourage the establishment of small and medium scale enterprises.

Aligned with this finding is the assertion of Ogunleye, Owolabi & Mubarak (2018), who noted that rural urban migration means more human population and so more workers in different fields, more economy growth, more tax payers, more funds, more diversity, more share of people for particular programs. They further argued that high population growth increases the pressure to use available resources more efficiently and innovate in order to be able to supply the population with food and other necessary resources. While this argument is likely to have some force in the very long term in many contexts, it is unlikely to play a large role currently in Nigeria.

The third hypothesis revealed that degradation is the major way rural-urban migration has affected environmental quality in Enugu urban. Furthermore, the finding revealed that the respondents agreed with all the 6 items under the ways rural-urban migration affect the quality of environment in Enugu urban. These items include: Environmental pollution through indiscriminate defecating in open places, streets etc., increase in number of beggars on urban roads and event centres , indiscriminate dumping of solid or semisolid waste, increase in hawking business on urban major

roads, unauthorized small shops on urban transportation routes, and littering the environment with solid waste.

This finding aligns with that of Ugwuanyi & Isife (2018) who discovered over population occasioned by rural-urban migration as a major challenge to environmental quality in Nigeria urban centres. They observed that when an area is densely populated, the quantity of waste being generated will be much. The populace disposes the solid waste both in approved and unapproved sites, thereby causing the problem of environmental degradation in the area. Amalu & Ajake (2014) also associated the idea of defecating in open spaces and along the roads in Enugu urban to the rural-urban resulting in over population of some areas and the migrants settling in poor housing areas that lack good toilets system.

### **Conclusion**

This study has been able to establish that rural-urban migration has negatively affected development of Enugu Urban within the period under review in terms of economic growth and quality of environment. Despite this negative implication, the study also revealed that rural-urban migration has positive impact on economic growth in Enugu urban due to its effect on urban population increase, resulting in expansion of tax bases of urban governments, increases the pressure to use available resources more efficiently, and increase the size of urban market among other things.

In conclusion, the study proposes that the lack of basic infrastructure and overall underdevelopment are predominant features of the rural areas in Enugu state. This is the case despite their significant contributions to national development. Therefore, improving the development of rural areas is essential to address rural-urban migration in Enugu state and mitigate its adverse effects on urban development.

### **Recommendations**

Towards curbing the effects of rural-urban migration on urban development in Nigeria and Enugu urban in particular, this study offered the following recommendations:

1. The top priority in national, state, and local government development plans should be rural development because it is crucial for sustainable urban development. It is important to maintain consistency in carrying out rural development programs, regardless of changes in government.
2. There is need for the government to channel effectively the benefits of increase in population associated with rural-urban migration to urban development. these benefits as discovered in this study include expansion of tax bases, increase in the size of urban market and consumer spending, increase local and foreign investments that want to service such a large market, and the establishment of small and medium scale enterprises.
3. There is also need for residents of the Enugu urban to be educated on regular basis regarding how to maintain environmental quality and in a much more sustainable manner. The process will help to integrate the new migrants from the rural areas into the environmental system in the city. It is necessary that environmental education be included in the school curricula in Enugu state to educate and create awareness, acquire the knowledge, value, skills, and experience of the environment maintenance and management.

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