

Decongesting Anambra State metropolis: Exploring the pull and push factors of urbanisation and rural development

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Abstract

This study examined the state of congestion in Anambra State metropolis and its effect on the development of the rural areas of the State. Data for the study were generated through the documentary and participant observation methods of data generation. These data were analysed with the content analysis tool. Anchored on the push-pull model of migration, the study found among others that congestion in Onitsha, Awka and Nnewi is a result of an influx of people from other parts of the State, considered rural, into the metropolis because of lack of social infrastructure, employment opportunities and empowerment from the three tiers of government, in the hope of enjoying these benefits in the urban areas. As a result, the study recommended social infrastructural revamp in the whole rural parts of Anambra State; creating rural area-based entrepreneurship development schemes and agricultural sector empowerment for agricultural rejuvenation to keep the rural dwellers comfortable and gainfully engaged.

Keywords: Anambra State, Urbanisation trend, Metropolis, Rural development, Push-pull model of migration, Decongesting metropolitan cities

Introduction

Birth, death, and migration exert a huge influence on population size, composition and distribution (Knox & Marston, 2004). Over the years, migration dynamics have changed from the quest for space to congestions in large cities in the modern age (Nwajiuba, 2005). Migration was initially viewed favourably as a natural process of transferring surplus labour from the rural sector to the urban industrial sector and migrants would find a better life, amenities and well-paying jobs in urban areas and send remittances to their families, thereby improving the welfare of rural folks left behind (Gilbert & Gugler, cited in Alarima, 2018). The unfortunate reality is that this is no longer the case in recent years owing to urban surplus labour, that leads to urban unemployment and urban cash economy where a decline in wages makes them vulnerable to a multiplicity of problems even worse than in the rural areas (Tindigarukayo, 2014).

The push and pull factors of migration naturally influence people's decision to move to a place of considerable prosperity and affluence and abandon a place of deprivation and obscurity. The emphasis is on the benefits to be derived from moving with less consideration to the challenges that come with such

movements and the attendant consequences of such movement in the rural areas. These challenges could be economic, social, educational and demographic and they have their peculiarities (Amrevurayire & Ojeh, 2016).

In Nigeria, there is unbalanced development between urban and rural areas. Over the years, this lopsided development has resulted from the vast concentration of socio-economic activities in the urban centres to the detriment of the rural areas (Ajaero & Onokala, 2013). As evident in our society, people in the rural areas dream to move to the urban areas in search of opportunities owing to rural-urban inequality in wealth and social infrastructural distributions that translate to a better quality of life in the urban areas. The dreams could be related to the need for education and acquisition of vocational skills, access to social infrastructures, getting desired job opportunities, and escaping the boredom of non-mechanised agricultural practice and of the rural areas (Aworemi et al., 2011).

In many developing countries, including Nigeria, cities have rapidly evolved to the detriment of the rural areas in terms of development administration. While the

urban population is surging rapidly, the social infrastructures and opportunities are gradually declining steadily so much so that Ward and Brown, in Oketayo & Olaleye (2016), described Nigeria as a country with massive urban growth due to a tremendous influx of people from the rural areas which are based on the divergent needs and aspirations of individual persons at a given time (Amrevurayire & Ojeh, 2016).

Anambra State typify the above the discussions and scenarios because the job opportunities in government institutions and industries as well as the modern big markets in Anambra State are found in Onitsha, Awka and Nnewi. These areas are the commercial-nerve centres of the State and as such attract people, mostly youths, from various rural areas searching for greener pastures in the metropolises. This drift has not only birthed a high crime rate, unemployment and overstretched facilities, but also led to the construction of illegal structures and the proliferation of slums and ghettos which recently spurred sporadic environmental pollution/degradation (Ifedi, 2006; UN-Habitat, 2010; Badmos et al. et al., 2020; Ovat, 2020; Anaeze, 2020; Isiani et al., 2021).

These social problems that are associated with urbanisation have led the successive administrations in the state to adopt different approaches in combating them. For instance, the government of Peter Obi, with the assistance of the UN-HABITAT, produced 20-year structural plans (2009 – 2028) for three major cities in the State: Onitsha, Nnewi and Awka (the state capital), to restore urban planning and guide their growth into the future. The plans contain policies and proposals for land use, city beautification, road infrastructure, industrial development, housing, adequate waste disposal, water supply and health and educational facilities to turn the cities into successful urban areas that can generate employment and wealth, and provide high living standards for their residents (Aigbedo, 2020). On another note, former Governor Chris Ngige decongested the Onitsha metropolis by developing new markets for building materials, textiles and electronics/electrical at Ogidi-Ogbunike, BridgeHead and Oba respectively (Ahiuma-Young, 2021). These above-mentioned efforts by the government to curtail challenges of urbanisation are centred on attempts to expand the already existing facilities such as houses, and environmental agencies which are already overstretched by the urban

dwellers. Irrespective of number of resources deployed in creating jobs, establishing schools, mapping out waste disposal sites, creating more security agencies to fight crime in these metropolises, the ever-growing urban residents as a consequence of rural-urban drift will outweigh the expanded facilities or attract more influx of rural dwellers into the urban areas.

Hence, this approach holds dual potential of serving as an instrument of decongestion and development of the rural areas, which is why the researchers sought to: highlight the urbanisation trend of Anambra State metropolises of Onitsha, Awka and Nnewi; ascertain the factors responsible for the congestion of Anambra State metropolises of Onitsha, Awka and Nnewi; identify the effects of the massive influx of people from other parts of Anambra State to Onitsha, Awka and Nnewi; and to explore new approaches for decongesting Anambra metropolises of the three cities under study. The process was carried out with data generated from a documentary and personal observation method. This is because the study is qualitative research. Content analysis approach was deployed for the analysis of the data generated through the documentary and participant observation methods. These methods

allowed the researchers to present cases as observed and buttress them with existing literature from newspapers, journal articles and books. These points were also lent credence to by the pictures presented in figures 1-4.

Conceptual and theoretical discourse: Urbanisation, rural development and push-pull model of migration

The concept of urbanisation has been viewed and analysed from different perspectives and disciplines because of its complex and vast nature. This has made the contributions to urbanisation interdisciplinary in nature. Uttara, Nishi & Vanita (2012) described urbanisation as a system that births city growth as a result of huge socio-economic and industrial activities which result in defined specialisation and division of labour. This implies the continuous expansion of cities because of industrial and commercial activities which tend to attract people to a particular area and afford them the opportunity to trade in their desired choice of occupation. Buttressing this movement of people as a key determining factor responsible for urbanisation, The National Geographic (2022) opined that urbanisation is the process through which cities grow, and higher percentages of the population come to live in them. Lampard in Hussain & Imitiyaz (2018) outlines three broad conceptions of

urbanisation that have gained currency in the social sciences. They are: the behavioural, the structural and the demographic conceptions. The behavioural conception regards urbanisation as an adjustment of personal behaviour in the sense that it focuses on the conduct of individuals. Certain patterns of behaviour or thought, regardless of social environment and background, are said to be urban. Hence, the process of urbanisation is one experienced by individuals overtime. The structural conception ignores the patterned behaviour of individual persons focusing on the patterned activities of whole populations. The process of urbanisation then involves the movement of people out of agricultural communities into other and generally larger non-agricultural communities. The demographic approach focuses on the space and defines urbanisation as a process of population concentration.

Rural development generally entails a designed framework for improvement of socio-economic lives of the rural dwellers. Rural development presupposes the reforming of the nation's economy in order to ensure advancement in the standard of living of the residents of the rural areas of the country. This implies that for rural development to be

achieved, there ought to be concerted efforts through a well-articulated strategy in order to bring about advancement in the pattern and quality of life and living in the rural areas (Umembali & Akubailo, 2006; Deji, 2005, cited in Nwankwo & Okeke, 2017). Unfortunately, in Nigeria, development policy frameworks draw from the top-bottom approach, where the rural dwellers are rarely mainstreamed in the development agenda. This practice is against the bottom-top approach that canvasses for the active participation of the rural populace in developmental plans, programmes and projects from which rural industries, basic infrastructures and empowerment of the rural populace are produced; thereby helping to attain their desires, needs and aspirations (Kalu et al., 2014). In summary, the idea of rural development entails an official and organised concerted effort to improve social and economic activities of the people in the rural areas so as to enhance their standard of living and human well-being in general and to curtail incessant /movement from the rural areas to the urban centres of our society in search of an enhanced standard of living.

Thus, in recent years, this migration/movement from the rural areas

to the urban centres of our society has been at the front burner of global, continental and national discourses leading to many scholars inventing one theory or the other for the explanation of the trends, causes and consequences of migration within Nigeria in the case of this study. Among the many theories in the literature on migration, the push-pull model of analysis of rural-urban drift is preferred to establish factors that influence an individual's decision to migrate, the effect of such decisions on both the individual and the areas he or she left/enters as well as how to curb such motivations. According to the push-pull model of migration, people migrate for environmental, economic, cultural and socio-political reasons. Within these reasons are 'push' or 'pull' factors. The push factors are those that force the individual to move and in many cases, because the individual risks something if he stays. Some of the push factors are conflicts, religious extremism, natural disasters, lack of job opportunities, drought, famine, unfavourable government economic and political policies. The list also includes racism, discriminating cultures, bigotry and fanaticism which lead to the unlawful harassment and maltreatment of those who question the status quo.

The pull factors are those factors in the destination areas that attract the individual or group to leave their homes. Those factors are known as place utility, which is the desirability of a place that attracts people. Better economic opportunities, more jobs, and the promise of a better life, often pull people into new locations. Sometimes, individuals have ideas and perceptions about places that are not necessarily correct, but are strong pull factors for that individual. As people grow older and retire, many look for places with warm weather, peaceful and comfortable locations to spend their retirement after a lifetime of hard work and savings. Ideas about, and desire for such ideal places are pull factors too (Stanojoska & Petrevski, 2012).

According to Massey, Arango, Hugo, Kouaouci, Pellegrino & Taylor (1998), the pull-push model works at both the macro and the micro level. At the macro level, migration results from the uneven spatial distribution of labour vis-à-vis other factors of production, most importantly capital. In some parts of a state, labour is plentiful and capital is scarce, so the wage level is correspondingly low. In other parts of the same state, the opposite prevails. The result is that workers move from low to high-wage economies. At the micro level, migration

is the result of decisions made by individual 'rational actors' who weigh up the pros and cons of moving relative to staying, based on information about the options, especially in these days of internet and globalised economy.

Discussions

This section is guided by the four (4) research questions that were created alongside the research objectives. This study seeks answers to the following questions: what is the trend of urbanisation in Anambra State metropolises of Onitsha, Awka and Nnewi? What are the factors responsible for the congestion of Anambra State metropolises of Onitsha, Awka and Nnewi? What are the effects of the massive influx of people from the other parts of Anambra State into Onitsha, Awka and Nnewi? And what new approaches can be proffered for the decongesting of Anambra metropolitan areas?

1. Urbanisation trend in Anambra State

While assessing urbanisation trend in Anambra State, emphasis is on if urbanisation has taken place in Awka, Nnewi and Onitsha towns, forces behind the urbanisation, where the changes have taken place, when changes occurred, impacts of urbanisation, and how changes are managed in the area.

According to Onuorah (2018), urbanisation trend in Anambra State has its bearing from the towns of Onitsha, Nnewi and Awka becoming administrative, educational, commercial and religious centres. Also, the availability of a large undeveloped land area around Awka also helped to boost the explosion. By implication, the high inflow of population in Onitsha led to the increase in the population and poor urban planning in some areas, decline of labour force in rural area, environmental degradation and problems of congestion in Onitsha, etc.

These trends are in keeping with the description of urbanisation as a course of action that leads to a shift in people's way of living, from the rural to the city lifestyle or redistribution of populations to urban settlements associated with development and civilisation (Aliyu & Amadu, 2017). This is why it is said that urban areas are centres where commerce, science, technology, politics and even culture converge. This convergence has a strong influence on the entire country or region (de Sherbinin et al., 2007; Shang; Li; Li; & Chen, 2018; Jean-Paul, 2022). Anambra State, just like the Nigerian society, is undergoing both demographic and epidemiological transitions, with the constituted "pull factors" acting as a

magnet attracting rural migrants who move into the towns in their hundreds (Izueke & Eme, 2013).

The movement of people in Anambra State from rural areas to urban centres is influenced by factors such as education opportunities, commercial activities, craftwork, apprenticeship, etc. This kind of movement has become accepted as a normal phenomenon in Anambra State as many rural dwellers in the State migrate to major urban areas like Awka, Onitsha, Nnewi as a result of economic development in these urban areas (Okoli & Gbemudu 2017). Also due to the fact that Awka is the state capital, there is an influx of civil and public servants who work in the various governmental ministries, departments, agencies, and private institutions. Those who want to engage in business and entrepreneurship find themselves in Onitsha, which is one of the largest commercial centres in West Africa with notable markets such as: Main market, Ose market, Ochanja market, Electronics market, New Parts market and Head bridge market. These markets draw a huge number of youths that aspire to engage in one line of trade or the other. Others such as Ibeto Group of Companies, Coscharis Group of Companies, Innoson Group of Companies, Cento Group of Companies, Curtix and

ADswitch Group of Companies, and so on, go to Nnewi to establish industries where household materials and various auto parts are manufactured. These companies create another factor that attracts people from the rural areas to Nnewi metropolis. Consequently, most of the youth and adult men and women of working age (18-60) have left the rural areas. This move has contributed negatively to the economic development of Anambra State especially in the agricultural sector as only elderly men and women are left to provide for themselves with their little farmlands since most lands are used for the construction of residential buildings in which nobody lives; rather some people are paid to keep watch over the properties.

There are consequences and expressions of fear and anxiety that if too many people leave the rural areas, only the aged men and women will be left to farm. This pattern is seen in Amesi, Akpo, and Achina towns in Aguata Local Government Area. These communities in the years back were notably known for their enormous contributions to the production of yam, cocoyam, and cassava through agricultural practices, but such activities have suffered because of the out-migration of youths to the urban centres. The implication of this is severe food scarcity in the region.

2. Factors responsible for the congestion of Onitsha, Awka and Nnewi

The movement of people in Anambra State from rural areas to urban centres is influenced by factors such as education opportunities, commercial activities, craftwork, apprenticeship, etc. This has a lot of implications for many rural communities in the State. Okoli & Gbemudu (2017) assert that rural-urban migration has become almost accepted as a normal phenomenon in Anambra State as many rural dwellers migrate to Awka, Onitsha and Nnewi to escape the trap of poverty in the rural areas. This triggers their massive abandonment of rural areas in preference for metropolises in the State where they perceive better opportunities in order to meet their personal and collective goals and aspirations, which include access to quality education/health and modern facilities, apprenticeship, business opportunities and so on.

Also due to the fact that Awka is the state capital, there is an influx of civil and public servants who work in the various governmental ministries, departments, agencies, and private institutions. Those who want to engage in business and entrepreneurship find themselves in Onitsha.

3. Effects of migration on the development of the urban and rural areas of the Anambra State

The effects of urbanisation in Anambra State metropolises manifest in different forms and dimensions, as discussed below:

Distortion of urban plan

One of the major effects of urbanisation in Anambra State metropolises is alteration of the urban development masterplan. While the master plan ensures the design and organisation of urban space and activities as well as determining and drawing up plans for the future physical arrangement of the area, the constant influx of people into the metropolis led to a lot of pressure on both the facilities and regulatory agencies and units due to additional occupants. This influx of persons in the areas resulted in unregulated building patterns, uncontrolled street trading, mountains of garbage, and chaotic transport systems invariably causing congestion, pollution and overcrowding (Nweke, 2019). The expansion of structures in the environment to accommodate this influx of people into Anambra metropolises has led to the construction of houses of different structures and designs thereby not only violating the master plan but also blocking the drainages and waterways.

Figure 1: Chaotic building of schools, houses and gully blockages in Awka, Nnewi and Onitsha



Source: Field work 2020

Fig.1 above is a pictorial expression of the indiscriminate construction of unplanned houses of different nature and sizes in these metropolises ranging from high-storey buildings, to bungalows and shanties. This does not only inconvenience residents of bungalows (lower buildings) but also hinders effective intervention in times of danger like fire outbreak and natural disasters. Similarly, rural-urban migration places pressure on the already limited and overstretched housing accommodation which has both hygiene and exorbitant rent implications. This results in unfriendly conditions where many urban dwellers resort to slums, shanty

structures, and dilapidated and uncompleted buildings as their residence in these metropolises. Closely related to this aberration is the construction of houses directly on the gully due to the scarcity of land in the metropolises. This act of building on waterways has not only led to the blockage of drainages but it has also exacerbated cases of flooding and erosion menace in the State. Furthermore and more precarious, is the issue of citing schools and hospitals in these congested environs, especially close to busy roads, markets and motor parks. Noise pollution is a serious threat which has negated the much-needed conducive

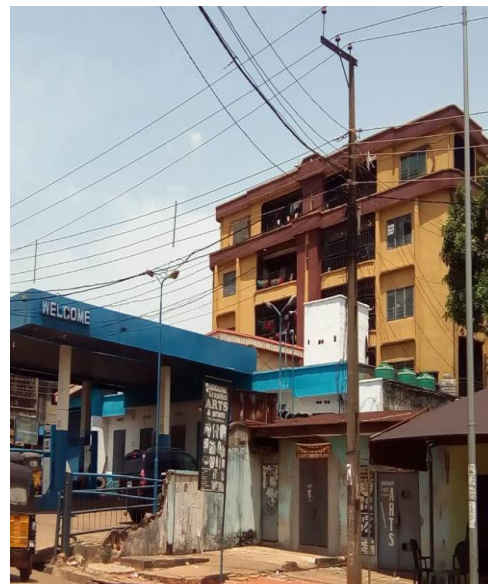
atmosphere for learning for the learners and health of the patients respectively.

While it could be said that the failure to implement development control is primarily the cause of arbitrary sinking of gasoline petrol stations and retail gas plants, that contains high inflammable products whose explosion could have adverse effects on human health and life,

it is also another disturbing dimension of urban distortion in these metropolises.

The case of gas plant explosion at Nnewi in December 2015 resulting in the loss of over 100 lives and property worth millions of naira is a typical case in point (Okonkwo, 2015). The pictures below show some of the distortions in town planning and master plan of the study areas.

Figure 2: Indiscriminate erection of filling stations in Awka, Nnewi and Onitsha Metropolises



Source: Fieldwork, 2020

2. Environmental pollution/degradation

Urbanisation results in various environmental problems such as poor sanitation, vehicular congestion, accretion of waste, etc. The management

process of these hazards creates a life-threatening situation to the quality of life and wellbeing of people. Ogbonna et al. (2012) opined that exposing human health to an unhealthy environment as a

result of indiscriminate dumping of waste makes life vulnerable to infections and disease vectors. This is because the quality of environment has direct bearing on the lives of residents in such an environment. Waste generation and its management is one of the environmental hurdles in Anambra State metropolises. This is, however, not to disregard the efforts by the state and local governments through the environmental agencies such Federal Environmental Protection Agency (FEPA), the Environmental Health Department of Local Governments, Anambra State Environmental Sanitation Authority (ASESA), and Anambra State Environmental Protection Agency

(ANSEPA). However, it has to be noted that despite the efforts and activities of these agencies in the form of increasing personnel, constructing more waste disposal sites, among others, the number of urban dwellers and their undisciplined attitudes outweigh the available facilities. While most of the populace do not make proper use of the waste dumps and therefore litter the streets with domestic generated waste, the disposal sites most times are not far from the people's residence which is detrimental to human health. The pictorial evidence of these ill-health activities in these metropolises is illustrated in Figure 3 below.

Figure 3: State of waste disposal in Awka, Nnewi and Onitsha



Source: Field work, 2020

4. New approaches for decongesting Onitsha, Awka and Nnewi

Some approaches are put forward as veritable tools for the decongestion of the state metropolises. These approaches are as follows:

a. Rural infrastructural revamp

Generally speaking, infrastructure is essential for the sustainability of human settlement. Currently, it is no longer arguable that the imbalances in the provision of rural infrastructure when compared with that of the cities have negatively impacted on both rural and urban sustainability. One of the negative impacts is the unparalleled growth of cities and ghettos (Kalu et al., 2014). In the contemporary state and realities of Anambra State, the driving factors of the people especially youths to a particular area are not just a search for decent job opportunities but access to basic infrastructure – electricity, good road network, telecommunication, internet services, health services, education, recreational centres, relaxation spots, banks, markets, etc. Most of the rural communities in Anambra East and Anambra West in particular, which are endowed with fertile land, engage in agricultural practices especially farming as their prime job and source of income. Unfortunately, these rural dwellers have

no access to good road networks that will facilitate the transportation of their farm produce to the cities and markets. This does not only result in wastage of the farm outputs but also deny the rural populace the opportunity of income generation to meet up with their basic needs. In addition, these rural dwellers who are in need of health attention often end up in the local health centres or clinics where the needed qualified healthcare officers and medical equipment and drugs are absent. Beyond these effects of infrastructural deficit on the youths in the rural areas, the public and civil servants (retirees) in the urban centres, who have come of age and wish to leave the noise and distractions associated with the urban areas, found no attraction and motivation to relocate to the rural areas due to the absence of basic amenities or, in most cases, the dilapidated state of these life-supporting social amenities. The implication of this is that even the aged people that would have wished to give way for the active populace in the metropolises cannot, thereby contributing to the congestion of the metropolises.

b. Entrepreneurship development in the rural areas for rural dwellers

All over the world, especially in the less-developed nations, there has been a

glaring evidence of the government's inability to provide jobs to an overwhelming number of labour forces particularly the youths (graduates and non-graduates). This is owing to some factors such as paucity and mismanagement of resources, corruption, etc. The majority of the people at the receiving end of this are rural dwellers because of their unique peculiarities. As a matter of fact, no meaningful development will take place in a country where rural areas which have a great number of population are not integrated in the mainstream of national developmental process.

Entrepreneurship has been one of the key drivers of not only the economy but all-round growth and development of various nations of the world. It has been instrumental in economic diversification, private sector enhancement, job creation, micro- and small-scale enterprises, curbing of unemployment rate, utilisation of human resources, self-sufficiency and economic buoyancy (Anyadike et al., 2012; Idemobi, 2015; Naudé, 2008).

Rural entrepreneurship revolves around an aspect of entrepreneurship whose operations lie in the rural areas but has a lot of potential to drive various endeavours in business, industry, agriculture, etc. and contribute to the

economic development of the country. The much-desired development at the rural area can be made possible through the growth of rural entrepreneurs which further would contribute to reducing the levels of poverty, unemployment, etc. Rural entrepreneurship also means rural industrialisation.

In Anambra State, 80% of the entrepreneurs site their ventures like schools, firms, industries, recreational centres, hospitals, etc. mostly in Onitsha, Nnewi and Awka which are the major metropolises of the state. This is due to the absence of the needed facilities and services such as good road networks, security, power supply, access to financial facilities, etc. for their businesses to thrive. This has affected the economic opportunities in the rural areas and ultimately has driven the rural youths to urban centres in the State in search of better job opportunities, thereby compounding the already filled urban labour force. This has called for concerted efforts that will not only create decent jobs for rural dwellers, especially the youths, but also make them self-reliant. This can be achieved through rural entrepreneurship.

Anambra State government has a vital role to play in using rural entrepreneurship as a veritable

instrument to decongest the state metropolises which will have a direct bearing on the development of rural areas in the State. The government should provide incentives through concerted policies in the areas of tax relief/reprieve, registration process, provision of social amenities, security, availability of land, etc. All these factors will not only encourage entrepreneurs to explore the rural areas, but also avail them of a great opportunity to utilise the latent resources in such environs.

Furthermore, in order to actualise rural entrepreneurship in Anambra State, the empowerment and skills acquisition programmes of the state government, local governments and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) such as all types of farming (poultry, piggery, fishery, snail farming, etc), catering services, welding, fabrication, computer training, among others, should be directed to the rural youths. This will avail them of the opportunity of various choices of skills to be acquired. It should be accompanied by an entrepreneurial friendly environment and special incentives for rural entrepreneurs such as access to credit facilities.

c. Agricultural sector empowerment packages for agricultural rebirth

Historically, agriculture was the largest

industry in Nigeria, driven by cocoa in the Western Region, groundnut in the Northern Region, and oil palm in the Eastern Region. According to Adams (2016), the agricultural sector was the biggest employer of labour in the country between the 1960s and 1970s. During this period, the agricultural sector was responsible for about 70% of jobs Nigerians enjoyed. Unfortunately, in the wake of oil discovery, the attention on this sector of the economy was gradually and myopically shifted to the oil sector where employment opportunities were very low and the traditional agricultural exports have been on a progressive decline. Regrettably, the scenario has given rise to acute unemployment as the oil sector could only employ a limited number of the population and worse still, only experts.

This shift in paradigm equally occurred in Anambra State. Rural youths which fall within the age bracket of 18-45 have the potential needed to participate effectively in agricultural development. Akpan (2010), Ariyo in Uzonwanne (2015), and Ajani et al. (2015) all asserted that agriculture has suffered from long years of neglect and mismanagement which gave birth to various factors that discourage the youths from agricultural enterprises. These factors include drudgery in farm operations, lack of or

poor incentive to farmers, lack of basic infrastructure, lack of competitive markets for agricultural produce, lack of start-up capital, inadequate finance/credit facilities, and inconsistent and poorly conceived government policies. The aggregate of these factors steers the rural youths to seek employment in other sectors of the economy in order to empower themselves economically, resulting in rural-urban migration and leaving the bulk of agricultural production in the hands of old people who oftentimes produce at a subsistence level. Premised on these issues, motivating the youths to view agriculture as a career opportunity will require a timely and attractive intervention.

However, in order to effectively decongest Anambra State metropolises with the help of the agricultural sector, the government of Anambra State should articulate agricultural policies that make improved seedlings available to the farmers, create accessible and sustainable markets for the farm produce and provide good road networks for the transportation of the farm produce to the markets, etc. Also, the government should strive to make life in the rural areas comfortable by providing equal social benefits, instituting rational schemes for

agrarian reforms that will improve the economy of rural dwellers which will enable them to utilise the resources within their immediate environment.

Conclusion

While the hue and cry of rural-urban drift persists, government policies and governance methodologies in Nigeria still favour rural-urban migration. This is because the urban areas or cities are built with the glitz and glamour of the state's economy, politics and culture as well as transportation. This glamour forms an attraction to the surrounding areas owing to the employment opportunities, the perfect infrastructure, and the good educational environment. These comparative advantages have prompted the flow of population from rural to urban areas (Wang; Fan; Lin; Liu & Ye (2020). This flow of population in the case of Anambra State has led to the congestion of the three major metropolises of Nnewi, Awka and Onitsha.

Having explored the trends of this migration in Anambra State and its attendant implications, agricultural revitalisation, rural entrepreneurship and rural infrastructural revamping have been identified as veritable approaches to decongest the urbanised major metropolises of Nnewi, Onitsha and

Awka. These approaches are instrumental in reforming the agricultural sector, providing social amenities, creating empowerment programmes for the rural youths, and establishing an entrepreneurial friendly environment. This will better the lives of the rural dwellers as there will not only be a provision of basic amenities such as electricity, road infrastructure, potable drinking water and housing, and stirring of economic development via job creation ventures but the process that will ensure that "rural pull will have been established.

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