

YOUTH AND DESPERATE MIGRATION: IS THERE SOCIAL PROTECTION IN NIGERIA?

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Abstract: *The economic down turn which began in the early 1980s in Nigeria rather than declining exacerbated from the Mid-1980s as a result of the adoption of Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP). This has had a lot of dislocating effects on social and economic life especially for the poor who constitute majority in the society. The youth have reacted to the social dislocation by migrating to different parts of the world in search for greener pastures. However, while Europe and America have tightened the process of accessing visa, most young people have become daring in the phase of stiffer entry requirements to adopting hazardous and dangerous risks of venturing through the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea in desperation to migrate to Europe. It is against this backdrop that this paper examines the desperation of the Nigerian youth to migrate out of the country in the bid to access better life in Middle East, Europe and America. The paper further examines the social protection programmes available in Nigeria that are aimed at addressing unemployment, poverty and reducing the youth vulnerability to desperate migration. This, the paper argues is the uninformed decision to embark on migration which continues to claim lives, in the bid to cross the Mediterranean Sea. This situation has become a national embarrassment. The paper therefore calls for a review of social protection programmes and policies in order to stem desperate youth migration. Its argument is anchored on the Push and Pull Theory of Migration by Everett S. Lee and the Dual Labour Market Theory of Michael J. Piore.*

Keywords: *Migration, Desperate Migration, Youth, Social Protection, Nigeria*

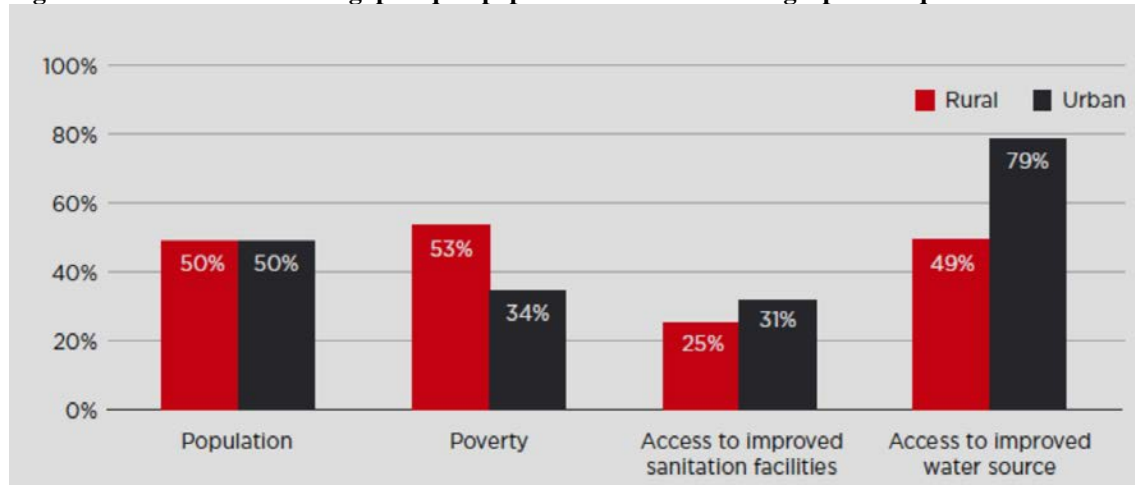
Introduction

From time immemorial, people have been moving from one area to another in the quest for better life. This movement in modern life is referred to as migration. Instructively, the technological development which affects all facets of life has made migration easier and relatively unpronounced. In Nigeria, people have been moving and changing places of abode from the precolonial periods of Kingdom, Empires and Chiefdoms for safety and business purposes. Migration, Ikwuyatum (2016) asserts, is the movement of people to a new place of residence for at least a minimum of 12 months. Okediji and Okediji (1974) have observed that the international pattern of migration in the 1950s before independence

and 1960s after independence was for Nigerians to graduate from American and European Universities and return home to contribute to their country's development. However, this orientation changed especially in the early 1980s and became a worse scenario after the adoption of structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) (Jiboku and Jiboku, 2021). Many of those who have been trained in other countries outside Nigeria and those who acquired education in the country began to migrate to Europe and America due to unfavourable conditions in the country.

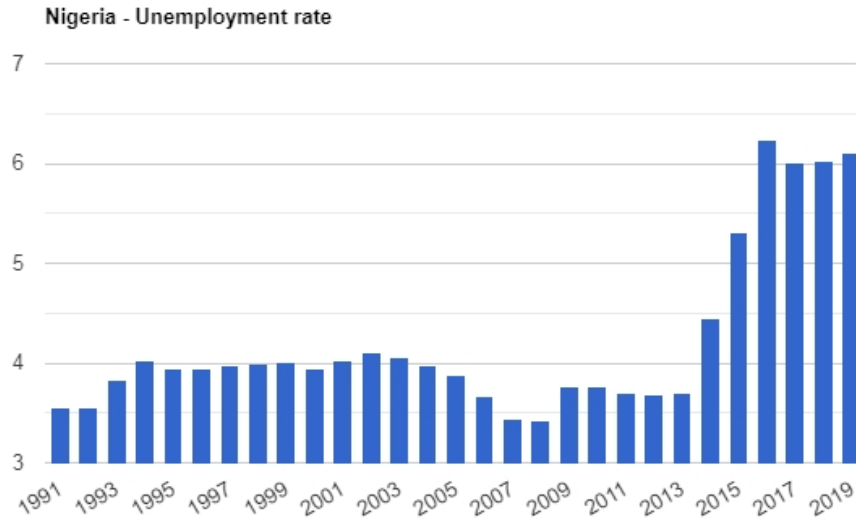
Nigeria's development crisis continues to be a topical issue. The country has been confronted with various political and socio-economic challenges. They include: political problems which have to do with managing elections, promoting national integration, establishing democratic values, curbing corruption and money laundering, ensuring efficiency and effectiveness in the public service sector; intra-state conflicts with negative consequences for the polity; insecurity, the Niger Delta crisis; inequality – the widening gap between the rich and the poor; the issue of providing for the needs of the citizenry and addressing unemployment, poverty, dearth of infrastructures and basic social facilities among others (AU/APRM, 2009; Foster, 2011; Leke et al. 2014). Most of these problems affect Nigeria's large population, many of who wallow in abject poverty. Many citizens do not see the Nigerian state as existing to protect their interests and this has manifested in their attitudes towards the things of government. Figure 1 (below) shows the level of poverty in rural and urban areas and the prevailing socio-economic conditions in these areas. As a result of the social dislocation and attendant problems of unemployment, lack of fulfillment, poverty and reduced opportunity for social emancipation (see figure 2), the youth who constitute the future generation have also keyed into the idea of migration or "checking out" with zeal and vigor. This has culminated in desperation to move out of the country with the belief that life will be better outside the shores of Nigeria.

Figure 1: Rural versus urban gap - equal population but socio-demographic inequalities



Source: GSMA Intelligence, (2014). Country Overview – Nigeria. June (2014, p. 7).

Figure 2 – Unemployment rate in Nigeria



Source: TheGlobalEconomy.com, The World Bank

Syndicates and networks have subsequently emerged with the intention of exploiting the desperate youth. While some youths die in the course of passing through illegal routes in the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea, some of those who are able to make it are sold into prostitution, slavery and other disheartening human conditions, experiencing sometimes worse situations than was prevalent at home (see Shelly, 2014). The promised ‘Eldorado’ and life of comfort becomes shattered and the government is sometimes called upon for rescue missions (UNODC, 2011). While it could be taken for granted that migration is a universal phenomenon, the questions to ask are: Why are the Nigerian youths so desperate to migrate and why do they dare to cross the Mediterranean Sea despite the unpleasant picture of death associated with this endeavor? Importantly, what harsh conditions and hazards are often faced by migrants through the Sahara Desert? What are the social protection policies and programmes available to the poor and the vulnerable youth to stem the ugly tide of desperate migration? These questions constitute the problematique of the paper.

Conceptual Clarification and Theoretical Discourse:

Who is a Youth?

The youth constitute an important segment and represent the future of any nation. While some scholars allude to the social meaning of youth as being a state of mind without age barrier, others have disagreed with this perspective and have emphasised that the youth constitute the young generation. According to the United Nations Organisation (UNO), youth are categorised as individuals between the ages of 15 to 24 years. This age classification also includes young people who are also recognised as youth in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Youth includes young people who are generally

classified as adolescents. It is a period of transition to maturity and adulthood (UNDP 2014). It could be a crisis stage in the life of an individual if adequate social capital has not been indoctrinated and imbibed in the course of socialisation (see Otite and Ogionwo, 1979).

In Nigeria, the National Youth Policy (NYP) Document defined any person between ages 18 - 35 years as a youth. A person having attained 18 years of age is considered an adult with voting rights (NYP, 2001, 2009). These are persons who normally would have completed secondary education, and are likely to be either in tertiary institutions, or striving to make a living through gainful employment. Alternatively, such people could be in one vocational or technical training for the acquisition of skills at the informal level (see also Chigunta, 2002). The youth generally constitute a formidable demographic segment of national population; they also make up the next generation of parents, workers and leaders who are expected to lead the nation to the next level. Therefore, how the nation addresses the well-being of the youth population could have implications not only for their own lives, but also for the societies they will build and maintain in the future. Their ability to play expected leadership roles effectively will depend on the kind of foundation and mentoring they have received from the different agencies of socialisation - families, communities, and the dedication and commitment of governments to their development. In essence, it is worthy of note that nations generally take the youth segment as important in society. As such, the type of social capital invested by the various relevant institutions of the state will impact on their ability to perform expected leadership roles (see Otite and Ogionwo, 1979; Aiyede et. al, 2015).

Migration

Migration is a natural aspect of human life and has no race or ethnic coloration as all peoples have been involved in one form of migratory movement or the other. According to the United Nations Population Division, it was reported that as of the year 2013, 3.2% of the world's population lives outside their countries of origin. This statistic has increased by 33% compared to the year 2000 statistical record of the Division. The European countries are the host of the majority of these immigrants which was estimated to be 72 million people (United Nations, 2013). It should be noted that majority of the migrants are from Africa and are persons who have been forced to move away from their home countries as a result of conflicts, natural disasters, terrorism and above all, poor governance and leadership ineptitude (Olaitan, 2001, Akokpari, 2008). There is a consensus among migration scholars that migration involves the movement of people from their primary base in country of origin to a secondary base in country of destination either voluntary or involuntarily as the case may be either for temporary or permanent residence (Afolayan et al 2008; Ikwuyatum, 2016).

On his part, Agim (2015) asserts that migration is a complex social phenomenon that is influenced by a number of factors which range from: the economic situation of a country; prevailing political activities; state ideology among others. Migration is predicated or influenced by the level of a country's social development. This may well account for the UN Report that majority of migrants were from the developing countries to Europe and other developed parts of the world. Explaining further, Ikwuyatum (2016) added that for migration to occur, time frame or period of re-location must be factored into the explanation. This scholar stressed that migration should be viewed as the movement of

people over defined space and over time; he emphasised the relocation of people from their usual or current place of residence to another and residing in the new location for at least one year.

Migration is also considered as the movement of people from one geographical region to another, which may be on temporary or permanent basis (Adewale, 2005). This movement can be from rural to urban, rural to rural, urban to rural, urban to urban and it could also be across international boundaries (see also Oyeleye, 2013). Migration is a form of geographical or spatial mobility between one geographical unit and another, generally involving a change in usual residence from the place of origin or place of departure to a place of destination or a place of arrival (Nwanna, 2004). Fajana (2000) also adduced a similar description of migration as the movement of persons, group of persons, ethnic groups between two differentiated point A and B, and this movement could be explained in terms of tension between the two points which reaches a level that transforms into actual movement.

From these scholarly definitions of migration, it could be inferred that migration is recurring movements of human beings and it occurs among communities or nations and constitutes one of the vital components of population dynamics globally. However, the motive (s) of migration varies from one environment and person to another but generally is informed by social, political or economic considerations.

Desperate Migration

As could be inferred from various literary definitions, that desperation connotes a state of mind in which individuals appear to have lost hope and this could result in something extremely reckless behaviour without cost benefits considerations. Desperate migration could have dire consequences for individuals and society at large. Merriam-Webster Dictionary further emphasised that a desperate person exhibits a hopeless sense about a situation that is so bad and almost impossible to manage. Such a person could become downcast, devastated and in extreme situation could become suicidal due to total loss of hope. According to Oxfam (2017), the social situations of many migrants in their home countries which created a state of hopelessness made many people so desperate as to embark on the hazardous journey, migrating through Libya - a failed state (Akokpari, 2010/2011) across the Mediterranean Sea. Such issues as unemployment, conflicts and natural disasters led to migration. It was not the choice of the migrants, rather many migrated in the bid to survive from the situations in their home countries with the hope of better future in Europe. The inconveniences associated with migration are considered to be temporary for better life across the sea in Europe (see Shelley, 2014).

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in 2017, reported that on daily bases, many people travel through the Mediterranean Sea with the hope of reaching safety in Europe as they attempt to flee war, violence and poverty endemic in a number of African countries. In the course of their desperate attempts to cross the Mediterranean, they have to endure exploitation, abuse, violence and sometimes detention by Libyan militias during which unprecedented number of migrants die. The Report concluded that attempting to cross to Europe through the axis is not only a risky route taken by desperate migrants but that migration to Europe through the Mediterranean has also become a lucrative business with network of syndicates and criminals who take advantage of desperate migrants to rip them off. Many of the migrants are not told the truth about the risks involved and the difficulties to be encountered in their attempt to migrate to Europe (see Chamie,

2013; Oxfam, 2017). The reality only dawn on the migrants at sea when it would have been late to turn back. Money has been committed for which there will be no refund.

Chamie (2013) observed that it would appear that the risks of desperate migration and associated hazards of the journeys are all understood by the desperate migrants, that the migrants considered such hardship as temporary in the long run, compared to the bleak, perhaps hopeless or precarious living conditions in their home countries. Many of these desperate migrants attempt to flee from civil conflict, political violence and sometimes political persecution especially during military rule. Some other desperate migrants risk their lives to escape poverty with the hope to secure employment in new destination to enable them provide remittances to those left behind (see Oxfam, 2017; see also Gheasi and Nijkamp, 2017).

As observed by Wittenberg of the International Peace Institute (2017), the push factors of migration in Africa through Mediterranean Sea include armed conflicts and situations of generalised violence exemplified by the near failed states of Africa with prolonged conflicts. Other factors include: fear of political or religious persecution, political instability, human rights violations, chronic poverty, lack of economic opportunity, and natural or human made disasters. These factors contribute in no small proportion to push migrants toward Europe where such negative conditions are absent. According to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR, 2017), attempts by Nigerians to migrate have increased the number of migrants arriving to Italy through the Mediterranean Sea over the past three years. This is attributable to a long period of political and communal violence, and the volatile security situation with the Boko Haram insurgency ravaging in the North East of the country with an estimated over 2.5 million internally displaced people as at 2015 (UNHCR, 2017, see also UNODC, 2011).

It is quite revealing that social, political and economic crises have triggered the desperate migration of youth from Nigeria as in other African countries. These youth migrate to Europe and America with the hope of securing better living conditions where they are confident and hopeful, having become despondent in their home countries. In the light of this scenario, what is the country doing to rekindle the hope of the Nigerian youth in order to stem desperate migration? What social protection is available to give hope to the youth who are the future generation of the nation?

Social Protection

Social protection is concerned with protecting and helping those who are poor and vulnerable in society besides the women, children and the aged. Apart from these conventional categories of people, the displaced persons, and those that are unemployed such as youth, are also captured in social protection. The youth need to be supported to live decent lives as leaders of tomorrow (ILO, 2012; Barrientos and Hulme 2009). The issue of Social Protection has become contentious among scholars. There is the argument as to which interventions constitute social protection as protection overlaps with a number of social life issues involved. These include: development of human capital and food; water; other basics of life; security interventions among others (Harvey et al., 2007; Jones, and Shahrokh, 2013).

Social protection is generally described as the totality of all public and private initiatives aimed at providing some sort of assistance and succor to the poor, protect the vulnerable against risks of livelihood in order to enhance the social status and wellbeing of the disadvantaged groups in the society. The main objective is to reduce the economic and social vulnerability of such disadvantaged groups in society to anti-social activities

(Devereux and Sabates-Wheeler, 2004; ILO, 2012). Writing on Social protection, Harvey et al. (2007) viewed it as a form of the social contract between the state and the citizens in which state and citizens have reciprocal responsibilities to each other for the sustenance of the social system (see also Mukherjee and Ramaswamy, 2007).

Social protection is also seen as a form of **investment in human capital** which increases capacities especially of the vulnerable to access productive assets such as skills and social services. It will indirectly provide access that will enable individual households to invest in their own development trajectory and remove vulnerability (Barrientos, 2010). Social protection represents efforts geared towards alleviating the challenges facing society that increase the desperation for hazardous and risky ventures such as the desperate migration of youth for better life. As Devereux and Sabates-Wheeler (2004) noted, the whole objectives of social protection are compressed into four groups. The scholars stressed that social protection generally, in whatever dimension are to ensure: Provision of relief from deprivation where it already exists; prevention of deprivation; promotion of human development for enhanced capabilities and; promotion of social inclusion in societal development initiatives. The transformative element of social protection is not just to alleviate poverty but to transform lives through pursuing policies that rebalance the unequal power relations existing in society that cause vulnerabilities *ab initio* (Gentilini et al., 2014). In practice, social protection interventions are diverse and cover many social challenges confronting contemporary society (Babajanian et al., 2014). The issue of concern in this paper however, is to examine how a country like Nigeria that possesses enormous human and material endowments and that can boast of having the richest African man and one of the richest women in the world, takes care of the poor and vulnerable masses of the country. Particularly for the youth, how is the Nigerian government especially the civilian administration, promoting human development? Addressing the issue of social protection is important for the enhancement of the capabilities of the Nigerian populace and promotion of their social inclusion in society's development initiatives. Through functional social protection policies and programmes, the urge for desperate migration to Europe through the Mediterranean will, on the whole, be arrested.

Methodology

This paper is based on a desk review of secondary literature on social protection policy and programmes. The review incorporates the work of eminent scholars in the field of social protection. The paper x-rays the Nigerian situation and efforts made by different government towards ensuring social protection of Nigerians in order to alleviate poverty and reduce vulnerability towards desperate migration of the youth. Secondary data were obtained from agencies of government and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO), International agencies and reliable internet materials. Secondary data constitute a large volume of data that have been collected and compiled, that are now easily accessible for research endeavours. The utilisation of existing data for social research is gaining wider acceptance and is flexible and can be used in different ways. It is also a credible source of information when the systematic procedures are followed and evaluative steps adhered to in its utilisation for research (see Johnston, 2014). The data enabled the authors to appraise the extent to which existing social protection in Nigeria could tame the vulnerability and desperation of the youth towards desperate migration which has become a source of

national embarrassment. One of the key objectives of this paper is to strengthen social protection in Nigeria for the realisation of a better society through building capacities for inclusiveness of society in the Nigerian project and thereby stemming desperate migration.

Theory

This paper is anchored on the Dual Labour Market Theory of Piore, 1979 and Push-Pull Factors advanced by Everett S. Lee 1966. The theories posit that it is not only the push factors of low wages that cause people to migrate, but also the pull factors that cause migration generally. For countries of the developed world, their high level of technological adaptation representing a market presents a need for them to acquire unskilled and cheap labour which migrants provide, particularly the ones which the undocumented and illegal migrants readily offer. This scenario tends to encourage migration from the developing countries to the technologically advanced countries. Notwithstanding that the labour market has changed over time due to education and social structural changes in society, the existence of menial jobs which are considered to be of less prestige and value, at the bottom of the social hierarchy and are low-paying act as attraction. These available jobs in which the citizens of developed countries are not interested in, provide livelihood and support for migrants generally especially those that are undocumented and are in desperate need for survival. This scenario of available job opportunities for migrants tend to act as pull for the youth who are desperate to migrate. A complement of the Dual labour market theory is the economic deprivation which acts as the push factors. Social and economic deprivation engendered by conflicts, natural disasters, corruption and above all lack of good governance as are characteristic of many African countries (Akokpari, 2010/2011) tend to encourage migration of the youth in search of better life and fulfillment. Thus, the desperation increases to migrate in order to escape the social dislocation and attendant human problems that bread hopeless. The Dual Labour Market Theory and Push-Pull Factors are useful in untangling the key issues in the discourse of desperate migration of the African youth. The theories assist not only in explaining the missing links in government policies on youth and social development but also the challenges and complexities associated with the phenomenon of desperate youth migration through the dangerous and hazardous Sahara Desert and Mediterranean Sea (see Lee, 1966; and Piore, 1979). In this case, Nigeria being the most populous African country with high level of poverty and social and economic uncertainties will no doubt have a very high proportion of the youth vulnerable in their desperate migration bid to migrate to Europe and other parts of the world (see UNHCR 2017).

Discussion

Migration is a natural complement of human social life from time immemorial as people often migrate due to a number of factors which vary. Migration could be induced by natural disasters such as flooding, earthquake, drought and famine. Other factors include: warfare and invasion which could lead to insecurity, the quest for knowledge and skills, outbreak of epidemic and diseases among others. However, the current trends of desperate migration in Nigeria are not in the real sense induced by the aforementioned factors but rather by greed, bandwagon effects and peer group influence to escape the social

situation in the country (Chamie, 2013; Oxfam, 2017; UNHCR, 2017). While the authors note that these are not the best of times for Nigerians considering the level of unemployment, deficit of social infrastructure in the country and institutional weaknesses, the situation has not in real sense degenerated into a state of hopelessness where a large majority of the Nigerian youth would begin to embark on dangerous and hazardous migration to Europe through the Mediterranean Sea at the risk of life.

Successive Nigerian governments at different times, have formulated different initiatives aimed at empowering the citizens and addressing the challenges facing Nigerians. Such programmes include: Operation Feed the Nation; Green Revolution; Better Life for Rural Dwellers; Directorate of Food Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI); Family Support Programme (FSP); Peoples' Bank of Nigeria; National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA); River Basing Development Authority; Mass Mobilization for Self-Reliance, Social Justice, and Economic Recovery (MAMSER) and; Bank of Industry (BOI) among others (see Kolawole, 2021). Despite these numerous initiatives, however, the desperation for migration appears not to abate as human trafficking appears to be on an upward trend (Chamie, 2013; UNHCR, 2017). More worrisome is the risk of passing through the Sahara Desert, war torn Libya and the Mediterranean Sea in the bid to get to Europe for a supposed better life. The issue of migration is concerning and the question begging for answer is: Bearing in mind that there exists a number of social protection policies in Nigeria, why have such policies not stemmed the tide of desperate migration? What are the problems inhibiting the objectives of these numerous social protection policies from achieving the goals? These concerning issues are addressed in the next section of this paper.

Factors Affecting the Implementation of Social Protection Policies in Nigeria

The challenges bedeviling social protection in Nigeria are varied and multifaceted. These are compounded by the structure of the country. Nigeria operates the three-tier system of government with certain level of autonomy existing among the tiers of government. This in itself could lead to duplication of efforts, conflict of ideas which may not augur well for the citizens which they are meant to serve. In essence, the concurrent autonomy of state governments on policy development and funding has created avenues of spending public funds with little results on social protection in Nigeria. Where Federal and State government ought to work together, there is lack of trust and mutual suspicion such that financial resources reserved for social protection and released by the Federal government may not reach the grassroots at the state level (AU/APRM, 2009; Ali & Ahmed, 2019).

There is also the problem of poor monitoring by the relevant agencies of government on the performances of institutions concerned with social protection. Some of these institutions appear to be too far from the grassroots where poverty and inequalities are endemic (Jiboku and Jiboku, 2019).

Corruption is a major menace across different sectors of government (Ikejiaku, 2009). The multiplier effect is that it affects inter-government transfer of social protection funds appropriated at national level where such funds move through the state to local government level. Such resources could be misappropriated under a spurious explanation as a result of connivance of officials. The weak and ineffective governance in Nigeria

constitutes a major challenge to effective social protection aimed at ensuring a healthy economy, addressing poverty and alleviating the social conditions of the youth and others who are vulnerable in the society.

Beyond the aforementioned challenges, the government budgetary allocations to aspects of social and economic life that are meant to provide succor to the poor, youth and other vulnerable people in society are really miserable. While the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) recommends that at least 26% of annual country's budget should be devoted to education, Nigeria operated far below this recommendation with 7.32% in 2010; 9.32% in 2011; 9.86% in 2012; 10.21% in 2013 and; 10.63% in 2014. These pitiable allocations to education have not in any way improved significantly (www.statistense.com). Another important area is health care in the country. With a population estimated to be 193.4 million in 2016, the percentage of budgetary allocation to health between 2015 and 2017 were 6.24%; 4.64% and; 6.0% respectively (NBS, 2017). How will such meager budgetary allocation reduce poverty, inequalities and stem the tide of desperation of the people especially the youth bearing in mind that majority of the population are youth and that over 50% of the population live below the poverty line? (see NBS, 2017, Hagen-Zanker and Holmes, 2012).

Conclusion

While institutionalised social protection has existed from independence for those in the public and private sectors in form of pension and gratuity, the same cannot be said for those within the informal sector. Thus, for those in the informal sector, social protection programmes are mainly emergency and ad-hoc. They have remained poorly funded, unsustainable and neglected especially when there is a change of administration, as each government comes with its own programmes to be implemented (Aiyede, et al. 2015). Even the people who are supposed beneficiaries of the social protection programmes which are formulated to take care and improve their conditions tend to lose confidence in such well-intentioned programmes. This is contrary to what obtains in the advanced countries where established social protection programmes and policies exist to take care of specific challenges of the people. The implication of the situation in Nigeria is that a number of social problems that ought to be addressed have aggravated to crisis situation. One of such problems is that of desperate migration which this paper contends with.

The Nigerian government needs to ensure that the various social protection policies and programmes are enforced by the relevant agencies of government in order to arrest the negative consequences that could emanate from the neglect of such programmes as could be seen from the larger society today. The pitiable budgetary allocations to social protection programmes need to be reviewed significantly. Adequate monitoring and evaluation are also essential for appropriate review of implementation as situation changes. While social provisioning for the aged and the disabled are essential for the wellbeing of society, the youth who constitute majority of the population and are still active, need to be empowered as part of social protection. This could be achieved through development of their skills and establishment of more vocational centres as a way of empowering them and to further enable them in channeling their energies towards creative ventures (Jiboku, 2016). There is no gain saying that the acquisition of skills will reduce the desperation for migration and the urge to engage in unsustainable businesses such as motorcycle riding

which in local parlance is referred to as 'Okada'. The motorcycling business venture is one that has sent many youth to early graves and has left others with permanent disabilities. The benefits of taking care of the teeming population through social protection will be invaluable in the long run.

This paper has brought to the fore the increasing need to have well institutionalised social protection policy in Nigeria in order to stem the increase in social problems like desperate migration of the youth that has reared its ugly head in the body polity and has become a national embarrassment. Notwithstanding, the civilian government should be commended for its anti-corruption crusade aimed at arresting the menace of desperate migration of youth and safeguarding public funds from being embezzled by a few persons occupying privileged positions of authority in the country. Sustaining the anti-corruption social crusade will ensure that more resources are available for taking care of the vast majority of Nigerians and developing infrastructural facilities to return the country back to the period when people were satisfied and did not need to migrate to other parts of the world desperately.

Way forward

Nigeria is generally not lacking in programmes and policies aimed at promoting development but the challenge has been that of implementation. This paper argued that despite the numerous policies and programmes aimed at alleviating poverty and empowering the people, the menace of desperate migration has persisted. The recent upsurge in migration, that is, desperate migration could be viewed as arising out of deficiency in social capital imbibed by people from the primary agents of socialisation that are supposed to lay a solid foundation for the individual's development (see Oтите and Oгionwo, 1979). A corollary to the deficiency of social capital is the loss of traditional African values which lay emphases on contentment, dignity of labour, sanctity of human life, genuine acquisition of wealth, preservation of family name and others which would ordinarily stem unnecessary risks and exploits that could become embarrassments (Nwolise, 2001). Re-enacting the cherished traditional African values will no doubt go a long way in stemming the desperate migration of the youth. Achieving this goal in this age of technology at national level will involve national agencies like National Orientation Agency (NOA) to help in providing adequate enlightenment and advocacy for ethical re-orientation such that the youth will not continue to live in fantasy about Europe (Jiboku, 2007).

Beyond social re-orientation, practical and realistic measures should also be adopted to make financing more accessible to the youth for entrepreneurship and establishment of small-scale businesses. The Bank of Industry needs to work out a plan that will take care of youth who have skills that need to be empowered for self-employment. Corruption in government which has affected service delivery at all level of governance in the country needs to be properly addressed. If these measures are vigorously pursued, there will be improvement in social infrastructural facilities and ample opportunities will be created in the country. This without doubt, will discourage the desperation of the youth to migrate out of the country at the risk of their lives through the Sahara Desert, the war-torn Libya and also stem the deadly voyage through the Mediterranean Sea.

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