

YOUTH MIGRATIONS FROM AFRICA: ADDRESSING CAUSES AND FINDING SOLUTIONS

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Migration is simply the movement of people from one place to the other. Africa has been a hub of migrations. It is the second largest continent of the world both in landmass and human population with 54 internationally recognized countries and over one billion population.

In Africa, youth make up 65% of the population. Youth migration from Africa to other continents of the world is aimed at earning a better living, having a better education, better security, enjoying better social infrastructure, aesthetic among others as most Africa countries are unable to make provisions for employment, security, education, social infrastructure to mention but few for the wellbeing of Africa youths. Mass youth migration from Africa can be curbed or at least brought to it nearest minimum if strategic measures are put in place to address the problems.

Unemployment is the capital cause of youth migration from Africa. This is a situation where a youth is unable to find his/her place in the labour market and thus no means of earning a living. Unemployment is a socio-economic and political problem that threatens the wellbeing of youths and drastically reduce their quality of living. Most Africa countries fail to provide job opportunities let alone good earning jobs to her increasing youth population. Although the resources are not lacking, corruption, selfishness, mismanagement of funds, lack of accountability, unsuitable economic strategies adopted by the governments, and inadequate investments in the educational, agricultural, and industrial sectors have impeded the development on many African countries. This

makes life quite difficult for the continent's youth.

Added to the problem of employment is the problem of under-employment. There are common scenarios where a first class and or second-class upper degree graduate in Africa will end up doing low-skill jobs and earning an income that can barely keep them alive as compared to conditions elsewhere where the acquisition of high education is more or less a guarantee of decent living.

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According to the International Labour Organization, youth unemployment rate in Africa is very alarming. As at February 2018 Kosovo had a youth unemployment rate of 55.90%, South Africa 52.40%, Greece 45.40%, Palestine 40.70%, Serbia 33.30%, Cape Verde 32.40%, Nigeria 33.10%, Italy 33.10% , Libya 30% among others. It could be said from the above statistics that youth unemployment rate in Africa, though

comparable with some other parts of the world, is high. Concerted efforts must be made to address this situation.

Poor education in Africa is also one of the major causes of youth migration from Africa. Education is a basic necessity for every progressive community. If a country must advance scientifically, technologically, economically agriculturally and politically then there is need to give serious attention to education. With the recent developments in the world, it is evident that educational strategies employed in most Africa countries are outdated and fail to respond to the existing intergenerational gaps.

Adequate facilities and equipment are lacking in most tertiary institutions in Africa resulting to a scenario where a graduate in the field of mechanical engineering, for example, cannot change an automobile tire or where an electrical engineer that cannot differentiate between positive and negative current carrying wire.

Youths migrate in order to be better informed, to be part of the world leading inventors and to update their knowledge of current trends in more developed societies. Such exposure to new ideas is important to building a new generation of productive youths in Africa. Education is far beyond students sitting down in the four walls of a classroom listening to a lecturer telling them the properties of cathode rays which they have never seen. Many African institutions of higher learning lack the basic necessities needed for an experimental and practical teachings. This is the reason why some companies send some of their workers out of the continent for a better education and exposure.

One might wonder how most discoveries and inventions in the world of science and technology was archived by individuals of other continents. We know some scientist and inventors such as Herbert Einstein, Micheal Faraday, Charles Babbage, Goldstein Eugene, Morgan, Darwin, Henry Becquerel among others. We know that many of these inventors emerged from strong academic environments and educational systems. These systems encouraged experimentation and innovation. For Africa to produce its own crop of inventors, it must work to retain its youth and provide them with good educational opportunities. Africa professors and students are known for high mental capacity, this is evidenced by their outstanding performance in other continents. However, they often do not attain the same level of achievement in Africa because the academic setting is not encouraging.

Insecurity is one of the causes of youth migration from Africa. Youths migrate from

Africa when the security of their lives and properties is no longer assured. In Nigeria for an instance, there exist various terrorist groups such as Boko Haram have raised the level of insecurity in the country. On the 15th of October 2016, Maiduguri a northern state in Nigeria was bombed five times within 24 hours. In a series of coordinated attacks by Boko Haram and its confrontations with the military, a total of 527 persons were recorded dead on the 1st of February 2015. From 2009 to 2015, Boko Haram insurgents killed an estimated 30,000 innocent civilians.

Insecurity is connected to economic crisis. In Nigeria, as at 2014, pipeline vandalism by Niger Delta militants cost the Nigerian government, oil companies and communities an estimated of 14 billion dollars. One can imagine what that huge amount of money could have done if used in creating

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opportunities. The situation seems to be getting worse. In the month of January 2018, 168 deaths from Herdsmen were recorded in northern states of Nigeria and a total of 549 deaths in 2017 were recorded across 14 States in the country.

The challenges of insecurity are not limited to Nigeria. These are global issues. In Libya, 432 terrorist incidents resulted in 454 deaths and 660 injuries in 2015 alone. In

Egypt in 2015, a total estimate of 662 people lost their lives and 835 injured in 493 separate terrorist incidents. In Syria, 2015, there were 384 terrorist incidents causing 2,761 deaths and 2,830 injured victims. In Pakistan in 2015 alone, terrorist incidents took 1,086 lives leaving 1,337 persons injured. In Iraq, 2,415 terrorist incidents caused 6,960 deaths leaving 11,900 injured victims in 2015. These statistics among other life-threatening events like earthquake, flood, disease outbreak and harsh weather condition triggers youth migration not only from Africa but also from other troubled parts of the world.

One of the major causes of youth migration from Africa is lack of adequate social infrastructures. It is well known that most countries in Africa are underdeveloped or developing countries and as such, some social infrastructural facilities that could enhance a better living are lacking. In Nigeria and some other Africa countries for instance, infrastructure and basic amenities such as constant electricity power supply, standard hospitals, good and motorable roads, and high-speed internet services which will enable potential investors to settle in Africa, create job opportunities and thus affect the economy for good are not readily available.

Some youths also migrate from Africa due to ignorance and lack of proper orientation. To them, greener pastures awaits them overseas. That is the reason they take every chance to risk their life in an unsafe route to other continents even when they do not have plans, skills or education of any kind. They set out in a journey without details, with the hope of earning a better living after being brainwashed by people who intend to use them as a means of income. It is said that "knowledge is power," but some youth take the decision to migrate from Africa even without the knowledge of what they will have to do out there to meet their expectations.

What can be done to improve the situation? With regards to unemployment, governments, private and public companies, industries and Africa leaders should work together to create job opportunities for the restless and growing youth population. Certain laws should be put in place to check the activities of government official and politicians to curb embezzlement and mismanagement of funds, and make public officers accountable for their actions. Accountability is key to addressing corruption, greed, tribalism, nepotism and selfishness that impoverish many people across the continent.

African governments should give attention to Agriculture by setting up agricultural programs to create job opportunities and make food available as Africa has a very fertile landmass good enough for a wide range of agricultural activities. Encouraging sporting activities is also a solution for youth migration from Africa. African government should encourage sport activities in Africa by providing the necessary facilities and training equipment to help me international standard requirement.

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The formation of Non-Governmental Organizations NGO should be encouraged, and youth should be enlightened on entrepreneurship and skills acquisition programs. Capital should be made available at low interest rate to youths who is willing to be entrepreneurs. Companies and industries should employ division of labour strategy in order to employ more youths and reduce the stress on workers. In response to youth migration for a better education, the governments strive to ensure smooth running of academic programs by providing every

necessary facilities and equipment necessary for learning. Technical materials and computers should be made available for learning. Tuition fees in tertiary institutions should be bearable to make education affordable to everyone. Scholarship programs should be encouraged, good school hostels should be built and if possible, students should be paid to make learning more comfortable.

The problem of insecurity can be minimized if the government works closely with the security officers and provide every necessary equipment needed for securing the life and property of citizens. No one has the right to threaten the security of a country. As such, the government should make sure every military organization is well armed and provided with materials needed to curb the activities of the various terrorist groups.

Social infrastructures and basic amenities should be put in place to encourage potential investors to invest in Africa and create more job opportunities for youth. Availability of social infrastructure will reduce the cost of running small firms and private businesses thereby encouraging the youths to engage in sole proprietorship and entrepreneurship activities.

Youths who travel ignorantly should be oriented on the consequences of their actions. They should be made to understand that "all that glitter is not gold." Various orientation programs should be put in place by the government, schools, churches, private and public organizations to reduce the ignorance of the youths and make them understand that Africa is their homeland and has to be developed by them. Africa is the youngest continent and home of the black race. The rate of migration of youths from Africa is alarming. When youth migrate from Africa, they contribute their talents and intelligence for the economic growth of their host continents. Such mass migration is caused by some factors that we can put under control. Governments, industries, public and private companies and Africa leaders should work in unison to make Africa a comfortable dwelling environment and minimize the migration of Africa youths to other continents of the world.

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