

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ACADEMIC RESEARCH IN ENVIRONMENT & GEOGRAPHY



Investigating the Role of Population Mobility in the Development of Akure Metropolis and Its' Neighbouring Towns and Villages

Ugwu Lucy Nkeiruka, Umar Tauheed Ibrahim

To Link this Article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.46886/IJAREG/v5-i1/4161>

DOI: 10.46886/IJAREG/v5-i1/4161

Received: 20 April 2018, **Revised:** 29 May 2018, **Accepted:** 09 June 2018

Published Online: 10 June 2018

In-Text Citation: (Nkeiruka & Ibrahim, 2018)

To Cite this Article: Nkeiruka, U. L., & Ibrahim, U. T. (2018). Investigating the Role of Population Mobility in the Development of Akure Metropolis and Its' Neighbouring Towns and Villages. *International Journal of Academic Research in Environment and Geopgraphy*, 5(1), 29–39.

Copyright: © 2018 The Author(s)

Published by Knowledge Words Publications (www.kwpublications.com)

This article is published under the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY 4.0) license. Anyone may reproduce, distribute, translate and create derivative works of this article (for both commercial and non-commercial purposes), subject to full attribution to the original publication and authors. The full terms of this license may be seen

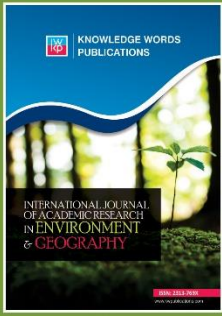
at: <http://creativecommons.org/licences/by/4.0/legalcode>

Vol. 5, No. 1 (2018) Pg. 29 - 39

<https://kwpublications.com/journals/journaldetail/IJAREG>

JOURNAL HOMEPAGE

Full Terms & Conditions of access and use can be found at
<https://kwpublications.com/pages/detail/publication-ethics>



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ACADEMIC RESEARCH IN ENVIRONMENT & GEOGRAPHY



Investigating the Role of Population Mobility in the Development of Akure Metropolis and Its' Neighbouring Towns and Villages

Ugwu Lucy Nkeiruka (Ph.D)

Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Enugu State University of Science and Technology,
Enugu state

Email:Ugwulucy@gmail.com

Umar Tauheed Ibrahim

Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Enugu state university of science and Technology

Email: ibrahimnazil39@gmail.com

Abstract

Population mobility within given regions deal with the processes that involve movement of people from place to place either within regions or across regional boundaries in pursuit of various cultural, political or socio-economic activities. Essentially three types of population movement are involved either within regions or across regional boundaries. A descriptive survey design was adopted for the study, the study utilized both primary and secondary data. A structured questionnaire as well as interview was used to obtain the relevant data from a sample of twenty respondents. The three hypotheses formulated were tested using various statistical tool The study revealed that the spatial pattern of population migration within the inner region of Akure metropolis has a definite orientation. The four major spatial components of population migration were identifiable in the region. Also people locate from their home, village and towns to some other places within very short distance and stay put in the host communities once they find life comfortable there and are able to achieve their life ambitions .conclusively, the region will continue to develop in the sector of the regional economy given the structure of the population and the degree of its mobility there are bright prospects for the people to tap the resources of the region for the purpose of developing the region meaningfully in the future.

Keywords: Population Mobility, Development, Metropolis, Neighbours, Towns, Village.

Introduction

Population mobility within given regions deal with the processes that involve movement of people from place to place either within regions or across regional boundaries in pursuit of

various cultural, political or socio-economic activities. Essentially three types of population movement are involved either within regions or across regional boundaries.(Akinbode,1995). These are daily commuting of workers between their residential areas and their working places. The particular case of interest here relates to workers in metropolitan areas who reside in the suburban areas or even in the not-too-far-away rural areas.

The second category of population movement involves temporary migrations to places of interest. Recreation and tourism involve population movement of this nature. Lastly, there is permanent migration in which the migrants stay put in their host regions for a considerable length of time or even forever. Each of the population movements has far-reaching implications for spatio-economic interactions among different categories of people in different areas across the world (Akinbode, 1999).

There are various reasons why people stay permanently in their host areas. Traditionally, such reasons include religious intolerance, political oppression and economic failure in their home areas. The sheer love of adventure and missionary enterprise may provide additional explanations for permanent migrations. The intercontinental migrations from Europe and Africa to the New World during the 16th to 18th centuries can be explained variously in terms of the above reasons. However, economic reasons are more compelling in modern migrations in different parts of the world. No doubt, political freedom has paved the way for economic prosperity in various parts of the world. Thus, migrants of all categories have made substantial contributions to the development of both their home regions and host regions. This is especially true of intra-regional temporary migrants who visit their home areas frequently (Clout, 1975)

Furthermore, migrations, especially within designated regions have four spatial dimensions. These are rural-rural migrations involving the movement of people from one rural area to another. Secondly, there are rural-urban migrations which involve the movement of people from the rural-areas to the urban centres. This type of migration has been the most spectacular in the developing countries of Inter-Tropical Africa, Latin America and South-East Asia especially, since independence in these countries. Rural-Urban migrations began in these countries at the end of the Second World War but became more prominent following the attainment of political independence by the individual countries from their colonial masters mainly in the 1950s and 1960s (Umar, 2017).

Furthermore, there are the urban-rural migrations which involve mainly the return of the aged workers who have spent their active years in the urban centres either in government, company or self-employment. On retirement, a significant number of such people return to their country homes in search of peace, good health or survival, which the city may no longer be able to guarantee them. In recent times, the phenomena of urban-urban migrations have become prominent. Business managers and skilled labour are involved in this type of migrations from one city to another. In Akure metropolis, these various groups of migrants are all available.

The pattern of growth of Akure city indicates that the influence of its immediate hinterland on the city has been important in several ways. Akure metropolis seems to have developed through the coalescence of several settlements that originated separately and independently. The founders of these component settlements and their successors have collaborated over the years. Each nuclear settlement continued to expand both spatially and in population through the twin processes of natural increase and immigration from the surrounding villages, small and medium

towns, the initial settlements merged through the process of coalescence. Examples of the nuclear settlements include Isikan, Upalefa, Igan and Odopetu.

Despite the strategic importance of Akure metropolis to the political and socio-economic development of the South Western region of Nigeria, the gap of literature on the population mobility of Akure metropolis and its' inner regions is obvious. Therefore, the call by patriotic stakeholders and statesmen in the locality for a study of this nature necessitated this study

Objective of the Study

The aim of the study was to investigate the relationship between the pattern of population mobility and development in Akure metropolis while the objectives is stated below

1. Ascertain the demographics characteristics of the population of Akure metropolis and its neighboring towns and villages
2. Determine the pattern of population mobility of Akure metropolis and its' neighboring towns and villages.
3. Examine the relationship between the population mobility and job opportunities in Akure metropolis and its' neighboring towns and villages

Research Hypothesis

1. The demographics characteristics of the population of Akure metropolis and its neighboring towns and villages has similar demographic characteristics with the entire Nigerian population.
2. Akure metropolis and its neighboring towns and villages possesses the four basic spatial pattern of population mobility- rural -rural, rural-urban, urban-urban and urban-rural migrations.
- 3 The pattern of population mobility is not related to job opportunities in Akure metropolis and its neighboring towns and villages.

Research Methodology

Listed in table 1.0 are thirty- three settlements including villages, small and medium towns which constitute about 96% percent of the total population of the entire region outside Akure metropolis. Out of these twenty-nine small and medium towns and villages, ten comprising four small towns, two medium towns and four villages are selected as the survey sample settlements for close study. The four small towns are Oba-Idanre and, Ogbese, Ilara-Mokin and Iju while the medium towns are Idanre and Oke. The four villages are Eleyowo, Ibule, Aponmu and Odudu. Altogether, the population of the ten sample settlements, villages, small and medium towns constitute about 40% of the population of the region including Akure metropolis.

Table 1.0: major settlement (villages, small and medium towns) in Akure's inner Region

s/n	Rout one Akure-owo road	Rout two Akure-ileshe road	Rout three Akure-Idanre road	Rout four Akure-ondo road	Rout five Akure-Ado-Ekiti
1	Akure city	Ita oniyan	Ogbunigburu	Alademhin	Odudu
2	Oba-ile	Ipinsa	Adosure	Aladenike	Itaogbolo
3	Igbatayo	Illara-mokin	Araromi adosure	Aponmu	Iju
4	Iraromi	Mariwo	Olugede	Olorunte	
5	Eleyewo	Ero	Ita-oloorun		
6	Ajebanmidele	Ipongun	Alades		
7	Ajeginle	Ibule	Adanre		
8	Ago Abo	Igbara-oke			
9	Bolorunduro				
10	Alayere				
11	Ogbese				
	Sub-total = 11	Sub-total = 8	Sub-total =7	Sub-total =4	Sub-total = 3
					Grand total = 33

Source: compiled by author from Topographical maps, Akure N. E, N. W., S. E. and S.W sheets.

In order to facilitate data collection, a simple questionnaire was designed. About twenty questions are posed here. We try to find out why people who move into Akure city from these adjoining small and medium towns and villages do so. How many immigrants into the city are students in the various educational institutions, patients in the hospitals, apprentices in different trades or workers in both public and private job establishments. In each sample settlement, we try to reach our ultimate respondents who include traders, drivers, vehicle owners and others through students and teachers whom we had previously approached for both guidance and assistance in asking people questions and ascertaining that as much as possible the answers provided for the different questions are both reasonable, correct and reliable.

The Demographic Characteristics of the Population

From both the reconnaissance and the detailed surveys undertaken in the region, it becomes clear that the population of the region has similar demographic characteristics with the entire Nigerian population. The observable demographic features of the population of the study area include the slight excess of the female population over the male population. Also, the population is juvenile with children who are under twenty years of age accounting for over 40 percent of the total population. While a significant number of children who are under twenty years of age are still in school, a large proportion of the children population in this age group is not in school. This particular feature raises the nagging question about the level of literacy within the area of study. The labour force within the region is relatively high especially when we take into account that a large number of children and women constitute a formidable part of the labour forces.

In spite of the public outcry against child labour, it is almost impossible to eliminate or even reduce drastically child labour in the region. It is true that child labour is universal in the region as children contribute their significant quota to agricultural production and marketing as well as

marketing of industrial products and even to the provision of reliable transportation services mostly as drivers' apprentices who assist in loading and offloading goods into and from passenger buses and taxi cabs.

The population of the region comprises four major elements. First, there are indigenes of who are resident permanently in their home-towns and villages. This group of people constitutes between 50% and 60% of the total population of the region. The people in this category are mainly farmers, artisans and traders including native doctors. The second category of people consists of the indigenes of the region that reside and work outside their home towns and villages, although they are still within the region. Teachers, traders, artisans and medical personnel belong to this category of people, they account for about 20 percent of the total population of the region. There are indigenes of the region that are resident and work outside the region. This category of people includes the educated people who work in public and private establishments outside the region. Places in which such people are found include Ibadan, Lagos, Abuja and in various other states in the country.

Lastly, the population of the region includes migrants from outside the region, who reside and work in the region. These categories of people include migrants from Ondo State and other states of the Federation. Popular states from where large numbers of migrants come into the region include Edo, Delta, Kogi, Osun, Ekiti and Kwara States.

As expected, this component of the population comprises both temporary migrants and some permanent migrants. Altogether, the migrant population in the region has its own history of migrants who have become permanent residents. Not this alone, but also the trend of immigration of young people from other parts of the state and other states of the country into the region continues. This is an evidence of the expanding employment opportunities that abound in the region both in the private and public sectors. Good soils for viable agricultural production for instance continue to attract migrant farmers who are mainly commercial framers into the region in large numbers.

Spatial Pattern of Population Mobility

The study revealed that the spatial pattern of population migration within the inner region of Akure metropolis has a definite orientation. The four major spatial components of population migration were identifiable in the region. These are rural-rural, rural-urban, urban-rural and urban-urban migrations. Rural-rural migration in the region involves two important groups of people, farmers and school children who move from one rural area to another. If the soils in a particular rural area are exhausted consequent upon many years of over-cultivation and poor soil management, farmers particularly the young enterprising famers are compelled to move out to other rural areas where relatively fertile soils exist to support viable cultivation. This is the case in the northern part of the region especially in Iju and Ogbese areas areas where farmers are now moving out to towns and villages in the forested south such as Aponmu and Idanre in search of good land for the production of both cash and food crops. A close look at table 1.0 below reveals that people, especially farmers and agricultural product traders migrate from the relatively densely populated areas in Ifedore and Idanre Local Government Area to the more sparsely populated areas in southern and eastern parts of both Akure South and Akure North Local Government Areas of Ondo State.

In general, table 2.0 provides greater evidence in support of rural - urban migration than any other types of intra-regional migration. Thus, there are larger migration streams from the rural areas such as Ibule, Eleyowo, Odudu and Aponmu to the small and medium urban centres such as Igbara-Oke, Idanre, Iju, Ilara- Mokin and Oba-Ile.

Table 2.0 Intra- Regional Migrant Population

s/n	To sample from settlements	1 Akure metropolis	2 Oba Ile	3 Eleyowo	4 Ogbese	5 Ibule	6 Ilara-Mokin	7 Igbara-Oke	8 Idanre	9 Aponmu	10 Odudu	11 Iju	Total
1	Akure metropolis	-	47	12	21	13	11	24	32	04	03	08	175
2	Oba-Ile	45	-	07	16	05	10	11	17	06	02	20	139
3	Eleyowo	27	10	-	21	02	0	0	03	05	01	13	82
4	Ogbese	31	08	05	-	04	12	13	21	09	03	14	120
5	Ibule	09	03	01	06	-	17	14	07	06	0	02	65
6	Ilara-Mokin	26	04	02	09	05	-	26	11	07	0	03	93
7	Igbara-Oke	35	05	01	05	08	09	-	10	09	02	05	89
8	Idanre	53	11	02	01	01	06	12	-	08	01	04	108
9	Aponmu	14	05	0	09	02	03	06	07	-	0	01	47
10	Odudu	05	02	0	03	0	05	05	06	0	-	08	34
11	Iju	16	03	0	10	0	04	03	05	02	03	-	46
Total	11	251	98	30	110	40	77	114	119	56	15	78	737

Sources: Researcher's Fields Survey, 2018

The children of many migrant farmers and some other children even from both the small medium towns and Akure metropolis go to both primary and secondary schools in the rural areas. Aponmu has a good secondary school in the rural area that has a large number of students who have been drawn from several rural areas and urban centres both within and outside the region.

Urban-rural migrations largely involve the elderly people who have retired from either public or private service in urban centres, such people move into the relative calm of the countryside that is safe from the boisterous noise and crime waves of the urban environment. Some of such elderly people had spent their working life in Akure, Ibadan or Lagos from where they eventually returned home. A few wealthy retirees now live in the buildings they put up in their home towns or villages when they were still working outside the region of this study. Urban-urban migrations are visible in the region. Table 2.0 shows that eight (18), twelve (12), thirteen (13), and twenty one (21) families migrated from Ogbese to Oba-Ile, Ilara-Mokin, Igbara-Oke and Idanre respectively. These are migrations from one small town-a suburb of Akure metropolis to some medium towns in the region of the study. Indeed, migrations are in all directions all over the area of the study. This leads us to the valid consideration of the reasons behind migrations. Both temporary and permanent migrations are the types we are concerned with current study. Certainly, the most important reasons behind migrations in the study area are economic reasons.

Farmers want to maximize their profits. Apart from the over-riding economic reasons, there are some other important socio-cultural factors that motivate people to migrate from one place to another within the region. Some people go to other places to receive medical attention. This is true of both western and traditional medical treatment. Also some people especially students on vacation travel on short visits to friends, relations and for recreation or excursion.

Based on the duration of migrations, three major types of migration streams can be identified within the study area. These are daily commuting by workers between their homes and their places of work. Various strands of daily commuting are noticed within the region. Workers such as teachers, local government staff and private sector workers such as health workers and traders live in their home towns or villages and go to work daily in nearby towns and villages. Examples are rife throughout the region. Many workers in Igbara-Oke come to work from their homes in places such as Ilara-Mokin and Ibule. Also, there are many workers who go to work daily at Iju from Odudu, and Ita-Ogbolu. On a larger scale many workers in various establishments, within Akure metropolis live in their homes in neighbouring villages, small and medium towns such as Oba-Ile, Eleyowo, Ogbese, Ibule and Iju.

Indeed, workers in Akure metropolis live virtually in every settlement in the survey area. They go daily to work in Akure in the morning and return home later in the day. Igbara-Oke which is 28Km from Akure city centre is the farthest place from Akure throughout the study area. Many of these daily commuters travel to and from work in their own private vehicles, cars, buses, while others travel in commercial vehicles-buses or mass-transit buses. That these workers get to work promptly everyday is clear evidence that the roads are good. Also their vehicles are in good conditions while the traffic in Akure metropolis in particular flows smoothly. The fact that so many workers can commute daily from their homes in the villages and towns throughout the region provides solution to the accommodation problems in Akure metropolis and also promotes socio-economic and even physical development in the various villages, small and medium towns throughout the region.

Daily commuting is no doubt a migration of a short or daily duration. Next is the temporary migration. This is the type of migration which includes short visit to relations, friend or business colleagues. Students on vacation usually get involved in this type of migration moving from their schools to their parents, guardians and friends. Also apprentices in general belong to this category of migrants. Like students, apprentices visit their parents, guardians or friends to replenish their requirements of money and food stuff to enable them continue their apprenticeship with their masters. Also, there are many instances of permanent migrations involving people whose parents or grand-parents had migrated from their home places either within or outside the region to their present places of residence. Unless the history of such families is related, the children or grandchildren of such families are normally regarded or treated as indigenes of their respective town or villages. Many of the migrants that are indicated in table 2.0 above are permanent migrants.

Population Mobility and Job Opportunities

The study revealed that people relocate from their home villages and towns to some other places, within very short distances and stay put in the host communities once they find life comfortable there and are able to achieve their life ambitions.

Thus, one major reason behind migrations of the permanent type is the availability of the opportunities for the migrants to undertake their occupations profitably. For instance, once a migrant farmer gets adequate fertile land to grow the crops of their choice they stay put for years growing these crops for both domestic consumption and increasingly for the market. In other words, the economic factors provide the overriding reasons behind most modern migrations (that is post warfare or post independence) especially in the region of the study. The other major reasons such as religious persecution, economic recession and political oppression which explain the large-scale international migrations between Europe and the New world from 16th to 18th centuries hardly apply today, although a few mild instances of such might still exist.

In many cases, parents of permanent migrants are buried in their host places while in some other instances; the dead bodies are conveyed back to the migrant's home places for burial. Instances of permanent migrations are common among the self-employed like farmers, traders, of various categories and contractors. As a rule migrants who are employed either in the public or private sectors tend to return to their villages/towns of origin after their retirement. In terms of contributions to the development of both their home and host areas, permanent migrants, by the virtue of their long stays and viable economic ventures make greater contributions than any other category of migrants. Such contributions include building residential houses in both their home and host places, payment of development levies in both places and the establishment of small or medium business enterprises which often employ a number of staff thereby reducing unemployment problems in both areas.

No doubt, migrations constitute a powerful process through which populations are distributed both intra-regionally and inter-regionally in order to enhance the spatial balance between population distribution and the resource base. It is an equitable distribution of the population in relation to the resource endowment that is the main objective of population studies. In the distribution and redistribution of the population, the main aim is to attain a balance between the population in any region and the local resource in order to promote balanced development.

The population of an area whether that area be a farmstead, village, town, local government area, state, region or country is the total number of people that occupy the area.

Thus the population has its peculiar demographic characteristics such as total number of people as the age -structure, sex-ratio, literacy level, population density, dependency ratio and the occupational structure. All the characteristics of the population have implications for the development of the particular area or region of study. For instance, the high proportion (40%) of the population that fall into the age bracket 0-20 years in the current area of study means that adequate preparation must be made for the education of all the children in this age group. Schools must be built, teachers must be trained and other facilities provided to make the schools function effectively. As Akure metropolis continue to grow simultaneously with remarkable expansions with each of the villages, small and medium sized towns throughout the region, the cost of providing education for the children rises. In each of these settlements, physical structures are built yearly in form of residential, commercial, educational or religious buildings. While the expansion of these physical structures is much more vigorous in Akure metropolis, each of the villages, small and medium towns has its own share of the expansion of physical development that takes place all over the region regularly. Schools, churches, mosques, hospitals, health centres and market stalls are obvious physical structures that adorn the towns in each major settlement in the region. As virtually every career or occupation become more and more

specialized, the level of unemployment declines steadily all over the region. For instance food products need to be processed in order to make them storable, transportable and marketable for much longer than hitherto. Food processing thus employs quite a number of people mostly youths and women who otherwise would have been unemployed. With respect to transportation, the number of vehicles that ply the different types of roads within the region is on the increase. Thus an increasing number of people can go to wherever they want to go without delays. In short, the region is fast emerging as a distinctive prosperous region which thrives mainly on the physical infra-structural facilities and the goodwill which Akure metropolis had build up over the years. It is no exaggeration to assert that the relatively young population of the region provided a kind of dynamism that has been an advantage in propelling the development of the region in virtually all facets of life in physical development of the region -as well as socio-economic, cultural and political development.

Certainly, population is a crucial factor in all forms of development-physical, socio-economic, cultural and political development. Indeed all forms of development are for the people not just for places. Thus population plays an important role in various aspects of development especially in the area of job creation.

Conclusion

There is no doubt that the population of the inner region of Akure metropolis is not only both young and fast growing, it is dynamic. This dynamism has been turned into creativity and productivity which can be seen in all aspects of the socio-economic activities of the region. In other words, the development of the region is multi-dimensional. Agricultural activities are proliferating. Agricultural productions and productivity are increasing. Processing and storage activities are being added to improve the quality of agricultural products in various towns and villages in the region.

Physical development is visible in virtually every settlement - village, small or medium town and in particular Akure metropolis itself. Residential buildings increase in number yearly, although the problems of housing accommodation are not yet totally solved. Industrial activities especially food processing, bakery and the operation of super-markets begin to grow both in number and sizes in both the metropolis and in the small and medium towns throughout the region. With the continued support of both the State and Local Government Authorities through the legislation and enforcement of appropriate laws and bye-laws, the adoption of appropriate policies coupled with the determination of the people, socio-economic activities will continue to expand appreciably throughout the region. This means that the region will continue to develop in all the sectors of the regional economy. Given the structure of the population and the degree of its mobility there are bright prospects for the people to continue to tap the resources of the region for the purpose of developing the region meaningfully in the future.

References

- Akinbode, A. (1995) 'Locational efficiency of River- Bank Agricultural Product Markets: Examples from Benue, Kogi and Edo-State, Chapter two in perspectives on National Socio-Economic Development in Nigeria Edited by Akinbode, A et al.
- Akinbode, A. (1999) 'Spatio-functional characteristics Of Agricultural-product market in Eсанland', International journal of Environment and Development. vol 2.No.2.pp.40-46.

- Clout, H. D. (1975) Regional Development in Western Europe, John Wiley and Sons, London, pp 1-7
- Umar, T. I. (2017) An Analysis of the Degree of quality of indigenous building materials used in Lapai local Government Area of Niger state. Nigeria. International Journal in Physical and Applied Sciences <http://www.ijmr.net> pg 34-45 .