

## **RURAL-URBAN SOCIO-ECONOMIC LINKS IN FORON DISTRICT OF JOS PLATEAU, NORTH CENTRAL NIGERIA**

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**Abstract:** This research looked at rural-urban socio-economic links, interactions and contacts by the agency of rural out-migrants in Foron district of Jos Plateau, North Central Nigeria. Survey research design was adopted and household questionnaire used to obtain data. It covered 5 villages, 170 households which supplied information on 233 rural out-migrants. The results of the study were presented and analyzed using tables, graphs and Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient ( $P$ ). It found a high level of contacts and links between the out-migrants and their source region (Foron district) as 92.27% were found to have made home visits and 85.54% have made remittances in cash and goods since the past 12 months. It was found a slight decrease in frequency of visits with increasing age and a significant negative relationship was found between period away from source region and frequency of monetary remittances. It is recommended a re-awakening of out-migrants, no matter how long they have stayed away from home to commit themselves to continuous contact with home origin through visits and remittances to see to the improved livelihood of the migrant households and the development of their source region in general.

**Keywords:** rural-urban, socio-economic, links, Jos Plateau.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The history of man from the stone age to contemporary times abound with instances of population movements not only as a means of restoring ecological balance, but also as a means of achieving better conditions of living, either in search of more food, better shelter or security and employment opportunities. However, according to Nwajiuba (2005), the pattern of migration has changed considerably overtime, from the search for space, especially in the middle ages to that of congestion in large cities in the modern age.

Migration studies are not just about movement but also about the interconnectedness of place of origin and place of destination. As Mandel (1990) has noted, migration is essentially a series of exchanges between places. Metaphors about threads, chains, anchors and umbilical links are employed to emphasize this interconnectedness and physical signs of its presence; remittances, brides, journeys home, letters, goods and so on are the links in the chain. It is evident that much migration in various parts of the world is circular; people continue to

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maintain strong links with their areas of origin and destination. This makes the effect of migration on areas of origin of primary importance and complex (MCDowell and De Haan, 2003). Overtime, migration has been said to be a key factor in shaping Africa's settlement patterns and livelihoods. It is equally a central interaction between urban and rural settlements and between rural settlements.

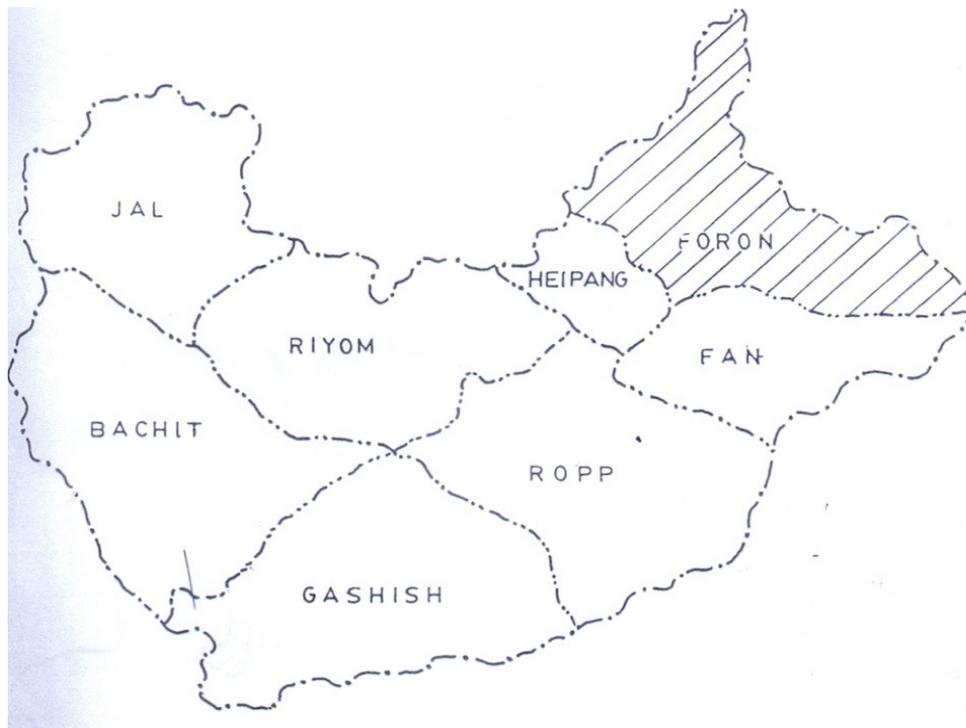
Rural-urban migration which this paper addresses constitutes of the currents of internal migration in Nigeria and elsewhere in developing countries. It involves the movement of people from rural areas to urban areas on permanent or semi-permanent basis (Eze, 2014). It is a type of migratory movement in which the motive is not only to improve the mover's livelihood opportunities and welfare, but also the livelihood improvements of those left behind in the rural area, (Eze, 2014). Recently, migrant's remittances and income multipliers they create are becoming critical resources for the sustenance strategies of receiving households as well as agents of regional and national developments (World Bank, 2005). The direction of the socio-economic links between rural and urban areas in the rural-urban migration process- so called the cost-benefit calculation between the sources and destination of migrants has been an issue of debate. Some have argued that rural-urban migration rob villagers of human and material resources while the alternate school argue that surplus cash from urban areas in terms of remittances help in the development of social and infrastructural amenities in the rural areas. They argue that each current of migration is associated with a contemporary counter current in forms of rural development including family support (Fadayomi, 1988).

Migrants may exert an impact on rural sending areas through four channels of influence: by their absence, by visits and remittances and other gifts, by maintaining landholdings and rural houses and by becoming urban beach-heads for prospective village out-migrants. This paper thus seeks to identify and discuss how these links and/or interactions play out in Foron district of Jos Plateau, North Central Nigeria.

### **THE STUDY AREA**

Foron district is one of the districts in Barkin Ladi local government area of Plateau state. Their villages lay scattered within the hills south-west of Bauchi. It lies approximately between latitudes 9°39" and 9°50" North and longitudes 8°54" and 9°9" East. The general topography of the area is that of an extensive plain interspersed by rock outcrops, hills and stone debris which litter the entire surface. The district is on average elevation of 1500 metres and covers a land area of about 850 sq. kms. The district, like most rural areas of Nigeria is

devoid of adequate socio-economic opportunities and infrastructural facilities and so exports its educated youths to urban areas, which justifies its being chosen for this study



### **LEGEND**

-----	L.G.A. Boundary
.....	District Boundary
	Study Area

**Scale:** 1:86,000

**FIG 1: BARKIN LADI L.G.A. SHOWING STUDY AREA**

**Source:** Lands and Survey Department Barkin Ladi L.G.A.

### **METHODOLOGY**

A survey research design was employed. This involved the use of household questionnaire which was used to get information from household heads on the out-migrants from their households.

A two-stage sampling was used. At the first stage, five villages representing one-third of the total number of villages (15) in the district were selected. The villages: Bisichi, Mai-Idon-Toro, Sabon Gida and Bakin Kogi were randomly selected to ensure objectivity in their evaluation while Zabot, for being the headquarters of the district was purposefully chosen.

Systematic sampling was employed in the second stage of the sampling method which involved the selection of households. This was considered good since there were no out-migrants in some households; it was thus easier for the next household to be chosen in place of such households without out-migrants in them. Systematic sampling was also considered good, since the object of study, the out-migrants, were studied without reference to the geographical location of various households which provided the information about them in each village of origin.

On the whole, a total of 170 household heads were interviewed and information was collected on 233 out-migrants. The data was presented and analyzed using tables, charts and graphs. The inferential statistics used is Pearson Product moment Correlation Coefficient ( $r_p$ ) which model is thus:

$$r_p = \frac{Exy - \frac{(Ex)(Ey)}{n}}{\sqrt{\left[\sum x^2 - \frac{(\sum x)^2}{n}\right] \left[\sum y^2 - \frac{(\sum y)^2}{n}\right]}} \quad \dots \dots \dots 2$$

*Where x and y are the two sets of observation*

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

**Period away from source region**

**Table 1: Distribution of Out-migrants by period away from source region.**

Period away (in years)	Number	%
1 - 3	68	29.43
4 - 6	60	25.75
7 - 9	30	12.87
10 - 12	36	15.45
13+	39	16.73
<b>Total</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Author’s Fieldwork.

Table 1 indicates that 29.43% of the out-migrants, a slight majority, have spent between 1-3 years away from home. There is a decrease in the number of out-migrants with increase in years, but the last two rows do not obey this descending order.

**Means of Contact with Home**

This section looks at the means of out-migrants contact with the home/source region as defined by their visits, remittances in cash and gifts/presents.

**Frequency of visits****Table 2:** Distribution of Out-migrants by frequency of Visits

Frequency [per year]	Number	%
Never	18	7.73
1-3	96	41.20
3-5	58	24.86
6-8	37	15.89
9-12	19	8.15
13+	5	2.14
Total	233	100

**Source:** Author's Fieldwork,

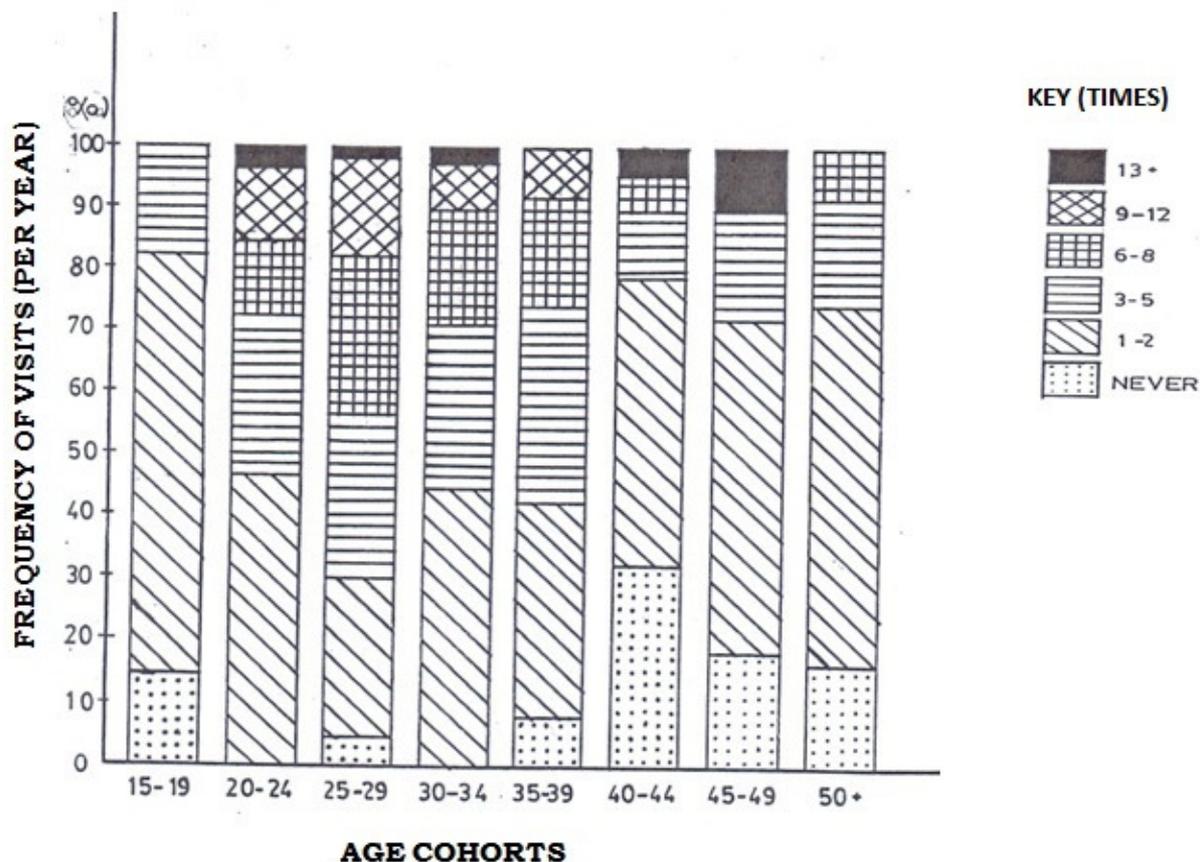
Most of the out-migrants, 92.27%, as table 2 shows, make visit to their homes in the course of a year; 96 out-migrants representing 41.2% of the total, visit home between 1 to 2 times Per year. Only a relatively small number, 18, representing 7.73% of the out-migrants never visit home in the course of one year; therest [51.07%], visited more than 2 times.

**FREQUENCY OF VISITS BY AGE-GROUPS****Table 3:** Distribution of frequency of visits by age- groups

Frequency of Visits Age-group	Never No. %	1-2 No. %	3-5 No. %	6-8 No. %	9-12 No. %	13+ No. %	All No. %
15-19	2 12.5	11 68.75	3 18.75	- -	- -	- -	16 100
20-24	- -	12 46.15	7 26.92	3 11.53	3 11.53	1 3.85	26 100
25-29	3 4.76	16 25.39	17 26.98	16 25.39	10 15.87	1 1.58	63 100
30-34	- -	21 44.68	13 27.65	9 19.15	3 6.38	1 2.13	47 100
35-39	3 7.70	14 35.89	12 30.76	7 17.94	3 7.70	- -	39 100
40-44	6 31.58	9 47.3	2 10.52	1 5.26	- -	1 5.26	19 100
45-49	2 18.18	6 54.15	2 18.18	- -	- -	1 9.10	11 100
50+	2 16.66	7 58.30	2 16.66	1 8.33	- -	- -	12 100
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>233</b>

**Source:** Author's Fieldwork.

From Table 3, presented, more clearly illustrated by Fig 1, there is a slight decrease in the frequency of visits with increasing age. This finding was also confirmed by Adepoju as cited by Eze (1991) in his own study; however, he found a clear and striking relationship, attributing it to the fact that the younger ones are probably single and therefore more mobile.



**FIG. 1: Distribution of Frequency of Visits By Age Cohorts (Percentage Bar Graph)**

**Purpose of Home Visits**

**Table 4: Distribution of Out-migrants by Purpose of Home Visits**

Purpose of Home Visit	Number	%
See about family health/welfare	202	86.69
Bring Money	181	77.82
Supervise project/investment	32	13.73
Others (launching, marriage, festivals)	23	9.87
		188.11*

**Source:** Author’s Fieldwork.

Total percentage exceeds 100% because of multiple responses.

Table 4 shows that most of the out-migrants visit home to see to the social and economic well-being of the household.

### Remittances to Source Region by Out-migrants

**Table 5: Made remittances in cash since the past 12 months**

<b>₦</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
Never remitted	33	14.16
Remitted	200	85.84
<b>Total</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Author's Fieldwork

According to table 5, 85.84% of the Out-migrants have remitted various sums of money home since the past 12 months. Only 14.16% did not remit.

**Table 6: Remittances in gifts and presents**

<b>Presents</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
Nil	21	9.01
Foodstuffs	93	39.91
Provisions	169	72.53
<b>Total</b>		<b>121.45</b>

**Source:** Author's Fieldwork.

Total percentage exceeds 100% because of multiple responses.

Table 6 illustrates that besides remittances in cash shown in table 4, most of the out-migrants make remittances in gifts and presents.

The high proportion of out-migrants who visit home and make remittances of money and other goods in the course of a year is an evident of strong link between them and their source region.

These findings are in conformity with the findings of Fadayomi (1988) and findings of Caldwell as cited by Eze (2014), who in his study of rural-urban migration in Ghana concluded that the strongest contacts which the migrants maintain with the village are his or her visits and the transfer of money, goods and consumables to their home.

There were 33 out-migrants representing 14.16% of the out-migrants as shown in table 4 who have not remitted money home since the past 12 months. Further investigation on the personal and other social characteristics of these out-migrants showed that 21 of them representing 63.63% of out-migrants in this group, have between 3-10 children and above all staying at the destination area and 28 out-migrants representing 84.84% in this group have

been away from home for a period lasting between 4 to 13 years and above. Thus one could suggest, first, that their not making any remittances home could be as a result of their large family size which spares them with no extra money to send home; second, that this could be as a result of the long period this people have spent away from home as this study have found a negative relationship between period away from source region and the volume of monetary remittances. Confirming this, Amin as cited by Eze (2014) suggested that, “this (not sending remittances), may be symptomatic of the beginning of migrant’s alienation from original roots ....” Also in this group are 5 out-migrants representing 15.15% who are not married and have no children but have stayed between 1-3 years in their various destinations; we may therefore, have in this group, some very recent migrants, some of whom are yet to settle down in their destination areas and perhaps according to Makinwa (1981), cannot afford to send money home.

**Table 6: Means of Remittances to the Source Region by Out-migrants**

Means	Number	%
Through Visits	63	27.03
Through visits and other means (relatives, friends, transfer)	137	58.81
<b>Total</b>		85.84*

**Source:** Author’s Fieldwork.

Total percentage less than 100% because of the out-migrants who do not remit home.

According to table 6, the out-migrants who make remittances do so either through visits only or through visits and other means. Further investigation on those who make remittances only through visits show that they visit home very often, between 6 to 13 times and above per year.

#### **Gifts of Money and Presents to Relative and Friends**

121 household heads (71.17%) agreed that the out-migrants give money and presents to other relatives and friends during their home visits, 34 household heads (20.00%) said they do not while 15 household heads (8.82%) maintained do not know. The high percentage of households that agree is an evident that out-migrants’ expenses during home visits is not restricted to is his/her particular household only.

### **Statistical Analysis**

A statistical test was conducted to find out how period away from home affects links/contacts with the source region through monetary remittances. To this, the following hypothesis was formulated:

Ho: There is no significant relationship between period away from source region and frequency of monetary remittances.

The Pearson Product moment correlation coefficient ( $rp$ ) was employed to test the hypothesis. This is to show the extent of relationship between period one has stayed away from home and frequency of monetary remittances which also indicates the frequency of contacts or links with source region. The result of the test showed an  $rp$  negative value of -0.73 (a strong negative relationship) which means that as period away from home increases, the frequency of monetary remittances decreases which equally implies a reduction in links or contacts with home. Employing the coefficient of determination ( $rp$ ), a value of 0.5329 was got which means that 53.29% variation in remittances can be attributed to variation in the length of period away from home. The remaining 46.71% variation depends on other factors. To test whether the relationship is a random occurrence or significant, a t-test was employed. The result showed that the computed t-value at 16.18 is greater than the theoretical at 0.05 and 0.01 levels of significance respectively. The null hypothesis is therefore, rejected. This implies that the relationship between period away from source region and frequency of monetary remittances and by implication frequency of links or contacts with home is statistically significant. This is corroborated by the descriptive analysis of this study which shows that 84.84% of the out-migrants who have not made remittances in the course of a year have spent the longest period away from home between 4-13 years and above. This is equally confirmed by Amin as cited by Eze (1991) who maintained that "this (not sending remittances) may be symptomatic of the beginning of migrant's alienation from original roots...."

### **Conclusions and Recommendations**

Rural-urban socio-economic links is all about rural-urban migration and its interconnectedness in terms of visits, messages and remittances in cash or kind back home to the source region and other myriads of social networks in play between the source region and destination of rural out-migrants. This study has shown that rural-urban socio-economic links is widely expressed in the study area as migrants maintain constant touch/contact with the communities of origin through the agency of visits, remittances and others. The purpose of

these links is seen to be socio-economic as it is geared towards the well-being of the family left behind and the development of the community as a whole. It is equally shown that these links decrease with increasing period away from home. According to Mahmoud (2003), Remittances are crucial components of rural household incomes and a key element of the continued links between migrants and their home areas, across all wealth groups. It is therefore recommended a re-awakening and re-conscientization of rural out-migrants not to be taken away by the dazzles and hustles of urban life but to always keep in touch with home origin which bore the heat of their up-bringing and training.

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