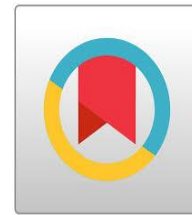


Assessing The Effects of Irregular Migration on The Well-Being Of The Migrant Households in Delta and Edo States, Nigeria



Menilai Dampak Migrasi tidak teratur terhadap Kesejahteraan Rumah Tangga Migran di Negara Bagian Delta dan Edo, Nigeria

Anthony C. Nwokolobia^{1*}, Ikenga Francis Ayegbunam², Franklins A. Sanubi³

¹²³ Department of Political Science, Delta State University, Abraka, Nigeria

¹²³ P.M.B. 1, Abraka Delta State, Nigeria

nwokolobiatoni@yahoo.com^{1*}, faikenga@delsu.edu.ng², fasanubi@delsu.edu.ng³

Corresponding author: nwokolobiatoni@yahoo.com^{1*}

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the effects of irregular migration on the well-being of the migrant households in Delta and Edo States, Nigeria. A cross-sectional research design and purposive sampling technique were adopted. Questionnaire was employed as the research instrument for this study with 716 respondents deemed usable. The theoretical and analytical framework that directs this study combines the New Economics of Labour Migration theory with the neo-classical theory, making evident their shared premise that irregular migration can be seen as a household-calculated strategy to maintain rural well-being. With the use of the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) Version 23, the acquired data were examined using percentages, means, standard deviations, Pearson's coefficient of correlation, and linear regression analysis. The well-being of migrant households in the Delta and Edo States is positively and considerably influenced by irregular movement, according to the study. The study also showed that irregular migration improves welfare and means of subsistence, increases financial remittances, lowers family poverty, and promotes the construction of infrastructure in the home areas of migrants in the Delta and Edo States. The study came to the conclusion that, for all people, including those in the Delta and Edo States, irregular migration is an unavoidable human phenomenon in the modern day. To ensure that migrants understand the ramifications of irregular migration and the value of regular migration to the state and communities, not simply their family members, the government should actively engage migrants and maintain contact with them, rather than actively discouraging migration. The study concluded that many of the properties constructed in the neighbourhoods are owned or occupied by the immigrants and their families; it is undeniable that irregular migration has had an impact on numerous communities in the Delta and Edo States. Based on the study's findings and conclusions, the study made several recommendations, including that the governments of Delta and Edo State should appoint honourable people, notable figures, and bright academics to develop and carry out policies aimed at promoting migrants' interest in the establishment of infrastructure, including healthcare facilities, educational institutions, transportation, renewable energy, solar power, and modular refineries. In the foreseeable future, this will significantly lessen irregular migration in the Delta and Edo States.

Kata Kunci

Migrasi Tidak Teratur;
 Kesejahteraan;
 Pengiriman Uang;
 Pengentasan Kemiskinan;
 Pembangunan Infrastruktur;

ABSTRAK

Studi ini meneliti dampak migrasi tidak teratur terhadap kesejahteraan rumah tangga migran di Negara Bagian Delta dan Edo, Nigeria. Desain penelitian cross-sectional dan teknik pengambilan sampel purposif diadopsi. Kuesioner digunakan sebagai instrumen penelitian untuk penelitian ini dengan 716 responden yang dianggap dapat digunakan. Kerangka teori dan analisis yang mengarahkan penelitian ini menggabungkan teori Ekonomi Baru Migrasi

	<p>Tenaga Kerja dengan teori neo-klasik, yang menunjukkan kesamaan pemikiran mereka bahwa migrasi tidak teratur dapat dilihat sebagai strategi yang diperhitungkan oleh rumah tangga untuk mempertahankan kesejahteraan di pedesaan. Dengan menggunakan Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) Versi 23, data yang diperoleh diperiksa dengan menggunakan persentase, rata-rata, standar deviasi, koefisien korelasi Pearson, dan analisis regresi linier. Kesejahteraan rumah tangga migran di Negara Bagian Delta dan Edo dipengaruhi secara positif dan signifikan oleh perpindahan yang tidak teratur, menurut penelitian tersebut. Studi ini juga menunjukkan bahwa migrasi tidak teratur meningkatkan kesejahteraan dan sarana penghidupan, meningkatkan pengiriman uang, menurunkan kemiskinan keluarga, dan mendorong pembangunan infrastruktur di daerah asal migran di Negara Bagian Delta dan Edo. Penelitian ini sampai pada kesimpulan bahwa, bagi semua orang, termasuk mereka yang berada di Negara Bagian Delta dan Edo, migrasi tidak teratur adalah fenomena manusia yang tidak dapat dihindari di zaman modern ini. Untuk memastikan bahwa para migran memahami konsekuensi dari migrasi tidak teratur dan nilai migrasi reguler bagi negara dan masyarakat, bukan hanya anggota keluarga mereka, pemerintah harus secara aktif melibatkan para migran dan menjaga kontak dengan mereka, daripada secara aktif mencegah migrasi. Studi ini menyimpulkan bahwa banyak properti yang dibangun di lingkungan tersebut dimiliki atau ditempati oleh para imigran dan keluarganya; tidak dapat dipungkiri bahwa migrasi tidak teratur telah berdampak pada banyak komunitas di Negara Bagian Delta dan Edo. Berdasarkan temuan dan kesimpulan penelitian, studi ini membuat beberapa rekomendasi, termasuk bahwa pemerintah Negara Bagian Delta dan Edo harus menunjuk orang-orang terhormat, tokoh-tokoh terkemuka, dan akademisi yang cerdas untuk mengembangkan dan melaksanakan kebijakan yang bertujuan untuk mendorong minat para imigran dalam pembangunan infrastruktur, termasuk fasilitas kesehatan, lembaga pendidikan, transportasi, energi terbarukan, tenaga surya, dan kilang minyak modular. Di masa mendatang, hal ini akan secara signifikan mengurangi migrasi tidak teratur di Negara Bagian Delta dan Edo.</p>
<p>Article History Send 16thDecember 2024 Review 25thDecember 2024 Accepted 08th January 2025</p>	<p>Copyright ©2025 Jurnal Aristo (Social, Politic, Humaniora) This is an open access article under the CC-BY-NC-SA license. Akses artikel terbuka dengan model CC-BY-NC-SA sebagai lisensinya.</p>



Introduction

Discussions and debates about the effects of international migration, particularly as they relate to destination locations and the fate of irregular migrants have become more prevalent in recent years due to changes in global migration in terms of numbers, reach, political significance, and impact, as well as growing media interest worldwide. Public opinions have been shaped by this, and it is thought that this is a recurring theme in the contemporary worldwide political discourse. According to a Podesta (2019) study, throughout the last ten years, there has been an increase in migration, mainly from developing nations. Financial crises, displacement from natural disasters like wars and civil unrest, poverty, starvation, and underdevelopment, as well as people's desire to better their lives and shield themselves from such tragedies, are most likely the causes of this increase in migration. Additionally, migrants migrate in search of social capital, educational chances, and the chance to pick up new skills; however, these reasons are not as strong as the preceding ones. Studies have shown that there are many benefits to international migration, such as the potential for economic expansion and emancipation. But it poses a lot of challenges for migrants, their families, the communities they are leaving behind, and the place of origin (Nwafor & Onalu, 2023).

The movement of individuals across borders in a manner that contravenes the immigration regulations of the receiving nation is referred to as irregular migration. Unauthorised or undocumented immigrants are another name for irregular immigration. Globally, irregular migration has been shown to be on the rise recently, particularly from poorer to richer nations. Both inside and beyond Africa, a large number of migrants are undocumented. On the other hand, Nwafor and Onalu (2023) report that the number of those detected in Nigeria seems to be rising lately. The reasons behind irregular migration vary from person to person and from country to country. Sociologists have long used the "push-pull" model to analyse migration. Famine, flooding, low agricultural output, and poverty are examples of "push factors" that occur at home and encourage migration, whereas "pull factors" are those that exist elsewhere (abroad) and draw migrants (Uchechukwu, 2022). Unlawful immigrants run the risk of exposing both themselves and the local population to hazards including the spread of contagious or infectious diseases. This is separate from the potential for being apprehended and expelled. Many irregular immigrants engage in criminal activities, slavery, prostitution, and even death. They may also be trafficked for exploitation, especially for sexual gain. There have been reports of over one thousand irregular immigrants dying every year along the border between the United States and Mexico, among

other places. During the sweltering summer months, exposure-related deaths also happen in the deserts of the Southwest region of the United States (Nwafor, Uzuegbu, Tanyi & Azubuine, 2022).

The *Japa wave* is a loose slang of Yoruba origin and it means to run away or escape. It connotes a situation whereby Nigerians, young and old, irrespective of sex, stake out everything they have to cross the border to other countries in search of better opportunities by any means, irrespective of the associated danger, to the point that seven out of 10 Nigerians are willing to relocate to other countries with a good number of them succeeding. The industrialisation of Europe and the United States of America and the underdevelopment of both human and material resources in Nigeria, added to the prevalent insecurity of lives, have particularly had a push effect on the citizens to embark on migration. (Duru, 2021; Oludotun, 2023). The surge in the number of persons migrating from Nigeria, coupled with the irregular migration pattern among some migrants (travelling without a visa or with forged documents), has made it more difficult to have accurate data on the total number of migrants out of Nigeria. It is estimated that a significant number of migrants travel without official documentation from their countries of origin and destination and remain undocumented (Duru, 2021).

Nigerians from the Delta and Edo States have made a substantial contribution to the global outflow of migrants, with hundreds of teenagers every year using any means necessary to travel outside. The path can be challenging at times, resulting in the harvesting of organs, deaths, loss of talent, intellectual flight, and estrangement from relatives. The recognised risks of migrating in search of their calculated returns, as well as the impact of such movements on the welfare and means of subsistence of the migrant's family members, the growth of the migrant community, and eventually the states and Nigeria as a whole, do not deter the young people, though. Irregular migration frequently has a profound impact not only on the individual migrant but also on their communities and families. Based on this, the study evaluated how irregular migration affected the quality of life for migrant households in Delta and Edo states. The particular goals were to:

1. Irregular migration has not materially impacted migrant households' livelihoods or wellbeing in Delta and Edo states.

2. Irregular migration has not improved infrastructure for migrant communities in Delta and Edo states.
3. Irregular migration has no major effect on financial remittances in Delta and Edo States.
4. Irregular migration had no substantial influence on poverty reduction among migrant households in Delta and Edo States, Nigeria.

Irregular migration and livelihoods refer to the association between migration and people's and households' means of sustenance and income. The effects of migration on livelihoods can be either beneficial or detrimental, depending on a variety of circumstances, including the motivations behind the migration, the place of destination, and the finances and skills of the migrants. Migration can lead to improved living conditions, more access to educational and medical services, and new sources of income. But it could also lead to economic fragility, social exclusion, and exploitation (Das, Roy, & Mondal, 2020). In accordance to the Encyclopaedia of Global Human Migration, the desire to raise one's level of life is a common driving force behind migration (Cohen, 2013). Cohen (2013) also makes the point that moving can be a coping mechanism for a number of issues, including social prejudice, political unpredictability, environmental deterioration, and economic hardship. According to Cohen (2013), the Encyclopaedia, these include social connections, cultural identity, and resource accessibility in addition to money. Yendaw, Tanle, and Kumi-Kyereme (2019) assert that migration can be a means of subsistence to obtain resources not available in one's own place or to make money. They contend that migration is a process with several phases of movement and immobility rather than a single decision.

Additionally, migration is a crucial livelihood approach in West Africa, as noted by Reis and Spurk (2017), and it can present chances for social network access, skill acquisition, and revenue diversification. They do, however; also point out that migration may lead to abuse, family breakup, and social disruption. According to Griffith et al. (2023), a number of reasons, including social networks, political unpredictability, economic opportunity, and degradation of the environment, all contribute to migration. They come to the conclusion that migration is impacted by each of these factors. They believe that based on the circumstances surrounding migration and whether it is advantageous or damaging; it can either positively or negatively affect livelihoods. In terms of agriculture and food production,

for example, migration results in the loss of individuals, mostly young men, but also occasionally women living alone, in nuclear or large families, or in entire households. This has an impact on agricultural and livelihood practices, as the loss of young men who are probably in charge of essential production components and animal husbandry lowers the pool of labour. Food and a means of subsistence become scarce and costly unless the migrants begin to contribute by providing machinery and remittances to support food production and farming. However, the agricultural supplies and money brought by migrants can help to compensate for the manpower shortage (Yeoh, Goh & Wee, 2020). People and households have relied on the constant migration of the human population as a means of subsistence to raise their level of living (Dotsey, 2018).

In the twenty-first century, scholars, researchers, and global organisations such as the United Nations and its affiliates began to acknowledge the growing prevalence and importance of global migration as a means of subsistence. Relocating in search of greater prospects, a source of income, and a strategy for living has become more common due to the global economic collapse, the escalating Middle East crisis, impoverishment and absence of opportunities in numerous nations, the slow rate of development, catastrophic events, and other problems (Dotsey, 2018). It is easier to understand the range and complexity of people's livelihoods when looking at irregular migration through the lens of livelihood. People's human, economic, social, natural, and tangible assets are all related to their livelihood. Therefore, through monetary and in-kind money transfers, assistance with education, and profitable investment, migration helps to enhance livelihoods in the place of origin. Remittances were utilised as a means of establishing a business or as a means of covering unforeseen expenses like accidents or family member deaths. In addition to helping migrants and their families survive, these remittances also help them become more socially and economically successful (Griffith et, 2018). al., 2023).

Joblessness is one example of the type of economic failure that leads to irregular migration; it is a deliberate and planned process that is employed to create a sustainable means of subsistence and mitigate the consequences of failing or unsuccessful fiscal circumstances in the migrants' country of origin. For example, the unemployment rate in Nigeria is expected to increase from 40.6% in 2023 to 43.9% in 2024 (Tilahun & Holden, 2023); as a result, many Nigerians have decided that migrating abroad is the best way to support themselves. Furthermore, livelihood encompasses more than simply income; it also involves access to and advantages associated with public services like transportation, healthcare, education, and water supply, as well as social institutions like family, kin, and

the community (Tilahun & Holden, 2023). In addition to causing loss of talent and a shortage of trained personnel in a number of industries, including medical care and education, global migration also fosters a remittance-based economy. To help support their family and make investments in local enterprises, many migrants send funds home. The local economy is strengthened and many households' standards of life are raised by this financial infusion. But it usually results in an excessive dependence on remittances and lessens the desire of individuals who remain at home to work (Liang & Song).

Livelihoods and migration are intricately linked and multifaceted phenomena that need for a sophisticated comprehension of their many facets. Migration can lead to social marginalisation and economic vulnerability, but it can also present chances for diversifying one's sources of income, gaining access to resources, and generating revenue (Biswas & Mallick, 2021). As such, policy pertaining to migration ought to consider the varied requirements and goals of migrants. They should also take into account any possible dangers and difficulties related to migration. On the other hand, household welfare describes the financial security, standard of living, income, consumption, and access to essential services like housing, healthcare, and education for a household. Household wellbeing is impacted by irregular migration, and there is a complicated and nuanced relationship between the two (Akanle et al., 2019). Depending on a number of variables, including the migrant's credentials and abilities, the circumstances in the country of destination, and the social and financial support networks they have access to, erratic migration can have both good and negative consequences on the welfare of households (Griffith et al., 2023).

The financial status and standard of living of families left behind can rise as a result of migration. Migrants' money and goods can give families a reliable source of income, allowing them to pay for better housing, healthcare, and education. In certain situations, migration can also encourage household ownership of profitable assets like businesses or land, resulting in long-term improvements in household welfare (Cuong & Linh, 2018). According to Nanziri and Mwale (2023), financial remittances from migration boost household wellbeing by 2% and lower poverty by 4%. Researchers claimed that compared to households that do not get remittances, these funds sent by migrants are inclined to be used for business, real estate purchases, or the purchase of agricultural equipment. These results support the advantages of international migration. It can, however, also have a negative impact on households because migrants may find it difficult to obtain a job that they are happy with, may experience prejudice and exploitation, or may even end up in jail or prison in their new country. For immigrants and those they have left behind, this can result

in unstable economic conditions, stress within the family, and mental health issues (Cuong & Linh, 2018). Additionally, the loss of acquaintances and an increase in care-giving duties for the surviving home members might result from the separation of household members, upsetting family dynamics (Blukacz et al., 2022).

Remittances are a significant way that irregular migration affects the welfare of households. Remittances are sums of money or items that migrants send home to assist their families. The general welfare can be enhanced by these remittances by considerably increasing household income and spending. Transfers of funds have the potential to help households escape poverty in certain situations and give them access to chances for growth in their economies. Remittances can increase access to housing, healthcare, and education in addition to decreasing poverty and increasing household income (Zhunusova & Herrmann, 2018; Tsauri, 2018). Individual households gain from remittances, and the greater economy also benefits from them. Economic development, increased investment, and stimulation of local consumption are all possible. Remittances' impact to national economies can occasionally even surpass that of funding for development and foreign direct investment (Amuedo-Dorantes & Pozo, 2023).

Given that irregular migration alters job markets, it can also have an indirect impact on household welfare. In host nations, immigrants frequently make up the gaps in employment opportunities, especially in fields where there is a manpower shortage. Job prospects for immigrants and other migrants may rise as a result of this. But it can also lead to more rivalry for jobs and lower pay in some industries, which could have a detrimental impact on the welfare of some households (Brell, Dustmann & Preston, 2020). Domestic welfare is impacted socially by international migration as well. Family separation can have negative emotional and psychological effects for migrants and their remaining relatives. A relative's member absences due to migration may cause social networks as well as networks inside a household to break down. In general, irregular migration has a variable impact on household welfare depending on the situation. It depends on a number of variables, such as the socioeconomic circumstances of both receiving and sending nations, the unique traits of the migrants and their families (such as their level of education or ability), and the laws and policies controlling migration.

Irregular Migration and the Development of Infrastructure of the Migrant's Community

Given that they act as a bridge between their country of origin and their final destination, irregular migrants may help their home countries increase their opportunities for foreign access to money and promote networking. They also make charitable contributions and help build schools and healthcare facilities in their hometowns through groups connected to their hometowns (Olayungbo & Quadri, 2019). Cohen and Zotoya (2021) claim that irregular migration affects the home, and even the entire society's economic and infrastructural growth; irregular migration can provide communities with fresh resources, ideas, and talents that promote economic progress and enhance general well-being (Clemens & Ogden, 2019). In addition to fostering social networks and connections, irregular migration can improve the welfare of the migrant's household and the infrastructure of the neighbourhood (Hossain & Sunmoni, 2022). Migrants frequently form transnational connections in their countries of destination, which help with resource access, knowledge transfer, and cultural exchange. These relationships can offer social assistance, employment prospects, and migration route information (Koczan et al., 2021).

According to Tipayalai (2020), there is little questioning that environmental factors are a major factor in the rising number of rural low-developed country (LDC) outmigrations. The international community must play a major role in order to find long-term solutions, much as international procedures have influenced the development of environmental issues in LDCs. On the other hand, irregular migration promotes better health, education, and work prospects for both sexes as well as the long-term viability of the migrant community's infrastructure development. Therefore, irregular migration helps to address environmental issues in a meaningful and long-lasting way, which can only be achieved by eliminating poverty, lowering fertility, and implementing ecologically friendly practices (Otobo & Okoro, 2021). Olayungbo and Quadri (2019) suggest that irregular migration, despite its complexity and vulnerability, can be a viable livelihood choice for rural communities, offering social and economic advantages. It promotes Nigerian infrastructure development, which has an impact on the families and neighbourhoods of the migrants. According to Sudharsanan and Bloom (2018), irregular migration reduces labour shortages and poverty in the countries of origin and promotes development by way of migrant remittances, which raise earnings and efficiency. It contributes to the development of infrastructure in developing nations where the mechanism for enhancing infrastructure development called for irregular migration.

Irregular Migration and Financial Remittances

The impacts of migration on both receiving and sending societies are complex and wide-ranging. These effects span social, cultural, political, economic, and religious domains. The most tangible and noticeable impact of immigration on the nation of origin is shown in the remittances that migrants and Diaspora send home. These can be obtained by financial resources, equipment, supplies, or skilled labour (Wang, Hagedorn & Chi, 2021). Both directly and indirectly, remittances affect the economy of the sending nation. According to Francois et al. (2022), migratory has an effect on the economy through remittances, which are now vital to households in terms of assets tied to private finance; this helps lessen the severity and depth of poverty and, consequently, indirectly boosts economic activity.

During a crisis, remittances represent a substantial and reliable source of foreign cash that encourage investors and deter current account reversals (Ratha, 2021). Remittances have an effect on the economy through raising private savings and financial assistance. These factors can also improve growth prospects by encouraging self-employment, expanding micro-business funding in home countries, and amassing economic assets like farming machinery in rural areas (Olayungbo & Quadri, 2019). These remittances are also expected to improve the sustainability of foreign debt and the financial standing of the migrant's nation of origin when appropriately taken into account in the macroeconomic evaluation (Ratha, 2021). Babatunde (2018) argued that better food security in Nigerian rural families is a result of higher remittances. Remittances from migrants, as demonstrated by Kaba and Moustapha (2021), have a positive effect on talent accumulation and well-being, lower poverty, and stabilise household and macroeconomic income. Additionally, migrants help to develop innovations in their home countries by facilitating access to knowledge and skill promotions, which lowers the initial expenditure needed to launch an international firm (Randazzo & Piracha, 2019).

Uddin and Igbokwe (2020) assert that remittances from migrants may also be in kind. These consist of apparel, footwear, boots, electrical and electronic devices, cars, smartphones, and ICT equipment like laptops and personal computers, in addition to ethnic food and beverages. In emerging economies, remittances continue to be a substantial and reliable source of independent inflows. They offer a sizable stream of foreign exchange profits that help maintain the equilibrium of payments. When there is a recession, a financial emergency, or a natural disaster, overseas migrants send additional funds home to help their families, which results in an increase in remittances. Remittances have two benefits: they help households lessen the effects on monetary surprises on the welfare of their households

and enable families to participate in high-risk but additionally rewarding monetary attempts that have the ability to minimise poverty but may be challenging due to the absence of emigration (Nanziri & Mwale, 2023).

Remittances are one way that foreign exchange can enter Nigeria. Remittances totalled 17.2 billion dollars in 2020, a 41% decrease from the amount received in 2019. The reduction was brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, but by 2021, the amount was increasing and had averaged \$4.72 billion per quarter (Komolafe, 2022). Then, in 2021, it increased by 11.2% to reach 19.2 billion dollars, the greatest amount in sub-Saharan Africa and the sixth highest amount worldwide (Olanrewaju, 2022). The Edo State Investment Promotion Office's managing director, Kelvin Uwaibi, estimates that the state sent roughly USD 6 billion in remittance to Nigeria in 2017. Benin City is home to the second-largest client base for the international money transfer company Western Union in Nigeria. Because of the large number of Bini people living abroad and the significance of moving to the Bini people, Benin ranks quite highly in terms of remittances sent to Nigeria (Ohonba & Agbontaen-Eghafona, 2019).

Studies demonstrates that remittances are allocated more to health and education than to other necessities, which benefits migrant children by improving their access to better education and medical care (Azizi, 2018; Beaton, Catao & Koczan, 2018). The increased revenue from remittances provides more financial resources and a better future perspective linked to incentives for pursuing higher education. Remittances from migrants, on the other hand, support households and family members back home and maintain income. Considering that only the family members of individuals who are overseas receive remittances and consequently enhance their well-being, it may contribute to increased economic inequality (Borja & Hall, 2018). The brain drain a term used to describe the loss of vital human resources to home countries is another effect associated with global migration. It wastes the public education budget of the home country, reduces productivity, and can worsen the economic environment, especially in smaller economies (Docquier & Bertoli, 2016).

The home country is impacted when competent workers leave in fields like education and health where there is a severe lack of medical professionals. Other health workers, such as nurses as well as auxiliary personnel, may experience underemployment as a result of doctors departing their native country. Return migration, on the other hand, can lessen the effects of brain drain. Return migration, also known as brain gain, occurs when immigrants utilise their foreign-acquired abilities when they return to their home countries (Docquier & Bertoli, 2016; Constant, 2019). The labour markets are affected by migration as well. As

long as demand and the effects of human capital do not lower local labour demand, a movement of labour can ease labour market anxiety, improve job availability, and lower unemployment in nations where chronic unemployment is a problem (Koczan et al., 2021). Better and easier absorption into foreign investment and trade is another way that migration from abroad affects the nations of origin. Migration has an impact on the labour markets as well. A labour migration can reduce worry about the labour market, increase job availability, and reduce unemployment in countries where prolonged joblessness is an issue, provided there is sufficient demand and the impact of skilled labour do not diminish local labour demand (Koczan et al., 2021). A further means migration from abroad influences the countries of origin is through improved and simpler integration into overseas investment and trade.

Irregular Migration and the Poverty Reduction of the Migrants Households

Even though irregular migration has drawbacks, it is typically done to send money home to enhance the quality of living for migrants along with their relatives who remain behind. Remittance-receiving households earn more money and, as a result, spend more money, and they are less likely than non-remitting families to experience extreme poverty (Zhunusova & Herrmann, 2018). Migration is used by developing nations, such as the majority of governments in Asia and Africa, to diversify household revenue streams and often involves family members moving. In these developing nations, successful migration is now frequently cited and understood to be a source of poverty alleviation, remittances, economic as well as infrastructural advancement in the origin regions, and strategies for improving livelihoods for both the migrants and those left behind (Gignarta, Guan & Borojo, 2020). However, irregular migration has costs because it does not always result in improved livelihoods, and because of the expenses and results of such investments, the ability of impoverished people to use migration as a means of escaping poverty is still constrained (Dotsey, 2018).

According to Cuong and Linh (2018), comprehending social, economic, and environmental change and creating successful interventions to combat poverty and advance sustainability depend greatly on regular or irregular migration. In a similar vein, Kazeem (2019) contends that either regular or irregular migration fosters financial growth for sending nations by raising incomes, reducing poverty, and improving health and educational outcomes. Olayungbo and Quadri (2019), however, contend that fiscal costs and integration issues must be resolved whether regular or irregular emigration is to promote prosperity in

countries that send and receive migrants' nations. Ohagwu et al. (2021) report that returnee migrants in Edo state, Nigeria, feel that because of the high rates of poverty and unemployment, moving to a western country could be a means to better socioeconomic living situations. They contend further that the majority of Nigerian migrants, whether regular or irregular, travel to western nations (such as Europe, Canada, the USA, etc.) in an effort to better their socioeconomic circumstances. Since the high rates of poverty and unemployment in Nigeria are the primary causes of the country's socioeconomic imbalance, most Nigerians believe that immigrating to western nations could lead to better socioeconomic conditions.

Jiang et al. (2021) claim that because irregular migration offers chances for flexible and temporary work force, it greatly lowers poverty in emerging nations; similarly, Tipayalai (2020) asserts that regular or irregular migration substantially decreases the degree, intensity, and severity of poverty in developing nations; however, migrants frequently labour in unsanitary and exploitative conditions, which may result in injustice to both the migrants and the countries of origin. Furthermore, this study argues that although irregular migration has helped to reduce poverty and partially mitigate Nigeria's high rate of unemployment in recent years, resolving political and socioeconomic difficulties is essential to lowering irregular migration and advancing national development.

With an emphasis on the Delta and Edo States, the new economics of migration theory sheds light on how irregular migration affects Nigerian well-being. Stark and Taylor (1989), Katz and Stark (1986), Stark and Bloom (1985), and de Haas (2010) established the new economics of migration theory. According to the hypothesis, household members relocate in order to improve their standard of living, lower their risk, and lessen difficulties arising from a variety of market failures other than those pertaining to the labour market. This perspective holds that the decision to send one or two family members abroad is taken collectively because migration is viewed as a risk diversification strategy that provides the home and family with a different source of revenue through remittances from migrants (de Haas, 2010). It contends that the logic of the human actor and the home or family units is the only factor that influences migration decisions. When deciding whether to migrate, a household makes decisions collectively in order to maximise benefits that might be accrued, minimise risk, and prepare for any economic collapse that may affect them outside of the job market. Families, as opposed to individuals, can manage risk by spreading out the usage of household resources through activities like joint ventures (Taylor, 1999). Certain members might be sent to overseas labour markets, while others would be given economic jobs in the local economy.

The employment opportunities and incomes in these marketplaces are either hardly related to or inconsistent with those in the surrounding area. Remittances from migrants can be counted on to provide support in situations where the local economy deteriorates and economic activities fail to generate sufficient revenue (Wimalaratana, 2017; Constant, 2019).

According to this theory's presumptions, households, families, and other culturally recognised units of production and consumption are important to include when assessing migration research not individuals. While deciding whether to migrate to another country, variations in income/wages are not a must. Pay differences might not always prevent people from travelling abroad. Assume, instead, that there are nonexistent or unreliable markets in the transmitting region, like the insurance, consumer credit, and capital markets. The notion that relocating is the proper thing to do will then arise. Low-income households employ international migration to broaden their labour pool and reduce financial instability in their home countries. Remittances from migrants increase household income, and governments can control the amount of migration by controlling the labour market and, in the event that they do not exist or are insufficient, the consumer credit, capital, and insurance markets (Wimalaratana, 2017).

According to the New Economics of Labour Migration theory, households deliberately migrate irregularly in order to maintain their rural livelihoods. The new economics of migration theory states that families relocate to lower risks and avoid temporary financial constraints. It emphasised that household concerns about migration are not chosen at random by individual migrants, but rather collaboratively. Even after pay differences are eliminated, this irregular movement continues. Essentially, the migrant's desire to go abroad in pursuit of better opportunities and to enhance the welfare of the family must be approved by the migrant's family. Usually, family members split up the financial implications to help make such a relocation happen. People from Delta and Edo basically migrate instead of staying at home, where conditions don't seem to get better and the current system offers little prospect for the future. But it also makes sense to weigh the benefits of an effective relocation against the drawbacks of staying put, and to consider the risks associated with travel, which include losing one's present source of support, being deported, getting into an accident, or even dying, as well as the deterioration of friendships and ties with loved ones. Based on these strategic choices, migrants look for better opportunities elsewhere.

There are several methods to apply the idea to the irregular movement of residents of Delta and Edo states. The primary motivation for leaving the states of Delta and Edo was

to find employment and make money. According to the argument, residents of the states of Delta and Edo relocated to areas with many of prospects for earning more money and where work is in great demand and appropriately valued. Individuals or families involved decide whether or not to move. The latter is more common among residents of Delta and Edo states, who exchange family assets including homes, property, and furnishings in order to finance or convey a family member outside. Furthermore, loans were available to the citizens of Delta and Edo states for the purpose of starting a migration, which calls for sending money home after the migrant family member has comfortably adapted to his or her new home. Rather than pay disparities, the motivation is frequently the desire to increase the family's social, economic, and monetary possibilities. The immigrant is required to sustain a migratory chain by providing support to other intended migrants and their family back home after adjusting to their new circumstances in the nation of their choice.

Method

A cross-sectional design was used in the study. A cross-sectional study design allows the researcher to collect data from a sample of people with a variety of variables being traits and demographics for a particular point in time. Age, gender, education level, and place of residence are some of these characteristics (Devare, 2015). The study's population consists of all of the local government areas in the states of Delta and Edo. According to the Nigeria Population Commission (2022), Edo State has eighteen (18) local government areas with a total population of 4,777,000, and Delta State has twenty-five (25) local government areas with a cumulative population of 5,636,100. Thus, 10,413,100 was the total population that was anticipated for this study. The people who are targeted include those who sponsor migrants, those whose family members get remittances from migrants, and government officials who created regulations regarding illegal migration in the states of Delta and Edo. They are selected for this study due to their in-depth knowledge of the subject and ability to offer accurate and perceptive first-hand information. By applying Yamane's formula for sample size determination, a sample size of 400 was determined. The necessary sample size is calculated as follows, taking into account the size of the population and a sampling error of 5%:

$$\frac{n}{1 + Ne^2} = \frac{N}{10,413,100}$$

$$\frac{n}{1 + 10,413,100 (0.05)^2} = 399.98$$

$$n = 399.98 \text{ or approximately } 400$$

As a result, a sample size of eight hundred (800) was chosen for this study in order to include a larger number of individuals who sponsor migrants, and government officials that created regulations regarding irregular migration in Delta and Edo states. For data analysis, the Statistical Package of Social Science (SPSS version 23.0, 2020) was used to code and impute the data obtained from the questionnaire. The respondents' demographic information, including their age, marital status, level of education, and gender, was analysed using percentages and frequency, and inferential statistics was used to determine how the independent variable affected the dependent variables. At the 0.05 levels of significance, correlation and linear regression techniques were used to evaluate the hypotheses. These are judged appropriate for the purpose of this investigation.

Result and Discussion

Table 1 The Impact of Irregular Migration on the Livelihood/Welfare of the Migrant's Household in Delta and Edo States, Nigeria

Model Summary						
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate		
1	.749 ^a	.569	.557	.548		
ANOVA ^a						
Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	77.856	1	73.708	131.750	.000 ^b
	Residual	275.280	715	.436		
	Total	353.136	716			
Coefficients ^a						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	.073	.124		5.247	.005
	Irregular migration	.688	.055	.526	17.339	.000
a. Dependent Variable: Livelihood and welfare of the migrant's household						

Source: SPSS Output, 2024

In accordance with the above table 1, the R indicates a strong and positive link between the two major variables (irregular migration and the livelihood/welfare of the migrant's household in Delta and Edo States), with a R of 0.749. The R-Square indicates that the model's overall performance in the table is satisfactory, with an R-Square (R²) of 0.569. As a result, the independent variable (irregular migration) accounts for 56.9% of the dependent variable (migrant households' livelihood/welfare in Delta and Edo States). As

stated in the ANOVA section above, the p-value is 0.000, and the F-value is 131.750. This indicates the test's significance, as the p-value is less than the significance level (0.05). The study found a statistically significant relationship between irregular migration and the livelihood/welfare of migrant households in Delta and Edo States ($f(1, 715) = 131.750$, $p < 0.05$). The coefficient table also shows that every unit increase in irregular migration results in a 52.6% increase in the livelihood/welfare of migrants' households in Delta and Edo states. The p-value of 0.000 is less than 0.05, indicating statistical significance. Based on the data in the table above, it is possible to conclude that irregular migration has a positive and considerable impact on the livelihood and welfare of migrant households in Delta and Edo States. Therefore, there is enough evidence to reject the null hypothesis and embrace the alternative hypothesis.

Table 2 The Impact of Irregular Migration on the Development of Infrastructure of the Migrant's Community in Delta and Edo States, Nigeria

Model Summary						
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate		
1	.635 ^a	.396	.387	.558		
ANOVA ^a						
Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	91.153	1	93.267	203.170	.000 ^b
	Residual	126.622	715	.350		
	Total	217.775	716			
Coefficients ^a						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	1.360	.139		9.973	.000
	Irregular migration	.475	.030	.531	14.517	.000

a. Dependent Variable: The development of infrastructure

Source: Author's Computation, 2024

The R in the above table 2 indicates a strong and positive link between the two primary variables (irregular migration and the development of migrant community infrastructure in Delta and Edo States), with a R of 0.635. The R-Square indicates that the model's overall performance in the table is satisfactory, with an R-Square (R²) of 0.396. As a result, the independent variable (irregular migration) accounts for 39.6% of the dependent

variable (migrant community infrastructure development in Delta and Edo States). As stated in the ANOVA section above, the p-value is 0.000, and the F-value is 203.170. This indicates the test's significance, as the p-value is less than the significance level (0.05). The finding is statistically significant, as the independent variable (irregular migration) predicts the dependent variable (development of migrant community infrastructure in Delta and Edo States), $f(1, 715) = 203.170, p < 0.05$. The coefficient table also shows that every unit increase in irregular migration results in a 53.1% increase in the development of migrant infrastructure in Delta and Edo States. The p-value of 0.000 is less than 0.05, indicating statistical significance. As a result of the findings in the table above, it is possible to conclude that irregular migration has a positive and significant impact on the development of migrant infrastructure in Delta and Edo states. As a result, hypothesis three was rejected, and it was reiterated that irregular movement had improved the infrastructure of the migrant population in Delta and Edo States, Nigeria.

Table 3 The Impact of Irregular Migration on the Financial Remittances in Delta and Edo States, Nigeria

Model Summary						
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square		Std. Error of the Estimate	
1	.755 ^a	.566	.545		.543	
ANOVA ^a						
Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	73.680	1	70.687	201.540	.000 ^b
	Residual	120.848	715	.331		
	Total	194.528	716			
Coefficients ^a						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	.048	.105		.425	.000
	Irregular migration	.365	.033	.450	21.452	.000
a. Dependent Variable: The financial remittances						

Source: Author's Computation, 2024

In accordance to the above table 3, the R indicates a strong and positive link between the two major variables (irregular migration and financial remittances in Delta and Edo States), with a R of 0.755. The R-Square indicates that the model's overall performance in the table is satisfactory, with an R-Square (R²) of 0.566. The independent variable (irregular

migration) thus accounts for 56.6% of the dependent variable (financial remittances in Delta and Edo States). As stated in the ANOVA section above, the p-value is 0.000, and the F-value is 201.540. This indicates the test's significance, as the p-value is less than the significance level (0.05). The finding is statistically significant, as the independent variable (irregular migration) predicts the dependent variable ($f(1,715)= 201.540, p<0.05$). The coefficient table also shows that each unit increase in illegal migration results in a 45.0% rise in financial remittances in Delta and Edo states. The p-value of 0.000 is less than 0.05, indicating statistical significance. Based on the data in the table above, it is possible to conclude that irregular migration has a positive and considerable impact on financial remittances in Delta and Edo States. As a result, hypothesis four was rejected, and it was confirmed that irregular migration has a major impact on financial remittances in Nigeria's Delta and Edo states.

Table 4 The Impact of Irregular Migration on the Poverty Reduction of the Migrant's Household in Delta and Edo States, Nigeria

Model Summary						
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square		Std. Error of the Estimate	
1	.620 ^a	.358	.354		.678	
ANOVA ^a						
Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	85.409	1	80.393	234.108	.000 ^b
	Residual	140.124	715	.374		
	Total	225.533	716			
Coefficients ^a						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	1.429	.118		10.000	.000
	Irregular migration	.524	.042	.617	14.288	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Poverty reduction

Source: Author's Computation, 2024

According to the above table 4, the R demonstrates a strong and positive link between the two major variables (irregular migration and poverty reduction in migrant households in Delta and Edo States), with a R of 0.620. The R-Square indicates that the model's overall performance in the table is satisfactory, with an R-Square (R²) of 0.358. As a result, the independent variable (irregular migration) accounts for 35.8% of the dependent variable

(poverty decrease among migrant households in Delta and Edo States). As stated in the ANOVA section above, the p-value is 0.000, and the F-value is 234.108. This indicates the test's significance, as the p-value is less than the significance level (0.05). The result is statistically significant, as the independent variable (irregular migration) predicts the dependent variable (poverty decrease in migrant households in Delta and Edo States), $f(1, 715) = 234.108, p < 0.05$. The coefficient table also shows that a unit increase in irregular migration results in a 61.7% rise in poverty reduction for migrant households in Delta and Edo States. The p-value of 0.000 is less than 0.05, indicating statistical significance. As a result of the findings in the table above, it is possible to conclude that irregular migration has a positive and considerable impact on poverty reduction among migrant households in Delta and Edo States. Therefore, there is enough evidence to reject the null hypothesis and embrace the alternative hypothesis.

Discussion of Findings

Four hypotheses were developed for the study. Regarding the study first goal, we discovered that irregular migration had a favourable and substantial influence on the welfare and standard of living of migrant households in the Delta and Edo States. This result supports the measurement of household livelihood security of the Bangladeshi immigrant family in Gaighata conducted by Das et al. (2020). They discovered that irregular movement helps the Bangladeshi immigrant household in Gaighata maintain the security of their household livelihood. In certain instances, migration has a detrimental effect on society, leading to things like family division and children receiving insufficient parental guidance because one or more parents are away. Since it boosts the economy of immigrant homes and communities, it continues to be a preferable alternative for the welfare of immigrant families. Reis and Spurk (2017) make the case that migration is a crucial livelihood technique in West Africa and that it can present chances for social network access, skill acquisition, and revenue diversification. They do, however, also point out that migration may lead to exploitation, family breakup, and social disruption.

This result was consistent with the theory put forth by Cuong and Linh (2018), according to which migration can raise household income and raise the living standards of households left at home. In certain situations, migration can encourage household ownership of productive assets like businesses or land, resulting in a lasting improvement in household welfare. In other cases, the money and substances sent by migrants can give families a stable source of income, allowing them to afford higher quality housing, medical services, and

education. Migration is a procedure that involves some family members leaving their home country in order to diversify household income sources in emerging nations, such as the majority of Asian and African governments. Remittances and infrastructural advancement in the origin countries, and livelihood enhancement initiatives for those left behind, including the migrants, have all been attributed to the effective migration from these poor nations (Gignarta et al., 2020). Dotsey (2018) contends, however, that irregular migration has costs because it does not provide automatic gains in livelihood and because the cost and return on such investments limit the ability of the impoverished to use migration as a means of escaping poverty. The livelihood and wellbeing of migrants are greatly impacted by irregular movement, which also has a considerable impact on the political, economic, and social frameworks that govern the migrant household's activities in the Delta and Edo States. Provision of drinkable water, food, shelter, clothing, and medical care are among the livelihood activities. In addition, they consist of earning money, developing human resources, supporting community growth, offering labour, and severing family ties (Akanle et al., 2019).

Addressing the second objective, the study also showed how much immigrants have contributed to the general growth of the state as well as the infrastructure in their local areas. These facilities primarily improve hospitality, particularly investments in hotels and lounges and the State's appeal to international investors. These investments haven't, however, been precisely monitored and quantified. It demonstrates that these contributions can be improved upon. The results of the study demonstrated that the infrastructure development of the migrant communities in the Delta and Edo States is favourably and considerably impacted by irregular migration. This result supports Factsheet (2020), which states that remittances which are now crucial to households as indicators of personal financial assets have an impact on the infrastructural development of the migrant populations. This study also emphasised the necessity of active government assistance for migrant fraternisation in order to foster a sense of importance and belonging to the state. This is a huge contribution that will motivate immigrants to always maximise their productivity for the betterment of their states, communities, and government assistance. On the other hand, the government's intervention will motivate the migrants to foster a positive self-image and serve as role models for the states and the nation.

Additionally, the study demonstrated that remittances were positively and dramatically increased in Delta and Edo States as a result of irregular migration. This supports the findings of Zhunusova, Herrmann, and Tsauri (2018) and Zhunusova and

Herrmann (2018) that remittances might be commodities or cash that migrants send to help their relatives back home. The general welfare can be enhanced by these remittances by considerably increasing household income and spending. Remittances have the potential to help households escape poverty in certain situations and give them access to chances for investment and economic growth. Remittances have the potential to provide access to housing, healthcare, education, and education in addition to reducing poverty and increasing household income. According to Griffith et al. (2023), remittances are utilised by immigrant families to raise their social standing in addition to serving as a means of subsistence. According to Nanziri and Mwale (2023), financial remittances from migration boost household wellbeing by 2% and lower poverty by 4%. They said that compared to households that do not get remittances, these funds sent by migrants are more likely to be used on companies, real estate purchases, or agricultural equipment acquisition. These results bolster the benefits of irregular migration. It can, however, also have a negative impact on households because migrants may find it difficult to obtain a job that they are happy with, may experience prejudice and exploitation, or may even end up in jail or prison in their new country. For immigrants and their families left behind, this can result in unstable economic conditions, stress within the family, and mental health issues.

Finally, Kazeem (2019) provided support for the study's fourth objective, namely that one of Nigeria's primary migration goals is to ensure the financial stability of the families that remain behind. By finding work overseas and sending money home, it helps family members escape severe poverty. Contributing to the social well-being of their households, migrants increase the financial power of the family by sending goods like clothing, money, and other materials that the receiving family members use to accumulate wealth, adjust to changing environmental conditions, and enhance children's health and education (Jiang et al., 2021). Over the years, remittances from migrants have given Nigerian families a reliable source of income that has allowed them to afford better housing, healthcare, and education. In certain cases, migration can also encourage household investment in productive assets like businesses or land, which can result in long-term gains in household welfare. These findings support the idea that remittances raise the standard of living for migrant families in the Delta and Edo States.

Conclusion

The study found that irregular migration positively and significantly influences the well-being of the migrant households in Delta and Edo States. The study also showed that

irregular migration improves welfare and means of subsistence, increases financial remittances, lowers family poverty, and promotes the construction of infrastructure in the home areas of migrants in the Delta and Edo States. Similar to regular migration, irregular migration is a household-planned strategy that improves livelihood and welfare, increases financial remittances, lowers the poverty level of the migrant families, and advances the infrastructure improvement of the migrant communities. This demonstrates how the migrants in the Delta and Edo States have developed independent support systems, devised creative strategies to reduce risks, and made sure their unauthorised migration yields financial benefits. This study provides an in-depth assessment of the complexity of irregular migration and its impacts on numerous elements of the well-being of the people of Delta and Edo States, thanks to the combination of the new economic migration theory and the neo-classical theory.

People travel all throughout the world, and irregular migration is a common occurrence. This tendency, which is either a hereditary characteristic or an ingrained culture as a result of years of repetitive practice, has been shown by the people of Delta and Edo States. It is still apparent, though, and it encourages them to move around. The pursuit of a better living has been the driving force behind this ongoing tendency, and individuals in Delta and Edo States will keep travelling along with other people for as long as this demand for a better life endures. Improving one's standard of life is the ultimate purpose of migration; this objective can be attained by employment, education, secure housing, efficient healthcare delivery, and other variables. The main motivation for migration among the inhabitants of the Delta and Edo States is economic advancement for themselves, their families, and their communities. Migrants need the assistance of the neighbourhood and government to realise these opportunities for bettering their communities. This cooperation can be provided through the provision of administrative support, a safe environment, and proper security, among other things. A nation's political and economic progress depends on migration. It provides improved health care, education, and access to dependable, contemporary energy services for migrants, their families, and communities.

Additionally, it raises the income and level of knowledge of migrants, their families, and their communities, freeing them up to spend more on necessities. Through investments and remittances, it improves livelihood. Through the use of technology, capital creation, and innovation, remittances and investments from the Diaspora greatly contribute to the reduction of poverty, the creation of jobs, and general improvements in standard of living. This has multiplier effects on the political and economic development of the Diaspora's

home country. However, irregular migration has some disadvantages that outweigh the advantages, particularly in light of the current circumstances. The loss of human capital, brain drain, racism and discrimination in the country of destination, inability to provide sufficient security because of the lack of physically fit migrants, and loss of resources for those who did not make it or whose expectations were not met are a few of these disadvantages. Situations like university graduates learning a trade, people going on to get more degrees and certificates to boost their job prospects, the rapid rise in kidnappings and bandit attacks, the graphic tale of cult killings, elections that resemble war, a situation in which ballots do not matter and mediocrity has become the norm in public life are all examples of these kinds of situations.

In conclusion, irregular migration is a modern human problem that affects everyone, including the residents of the Edo and Delta States. To ensure that migrants understand the ramifications of irregular migration and the value of regular migration to the state and communities, not simply their family members, the government should actively engage migrants and maintain contact with them, rather than actively discouraging migration. Since many of the properties constructed inside the neighbourhoods are owned and occupied by the Diasporans and their families, it is undeniable that irregular migration has had an impact on numerous communities in the Delta and Edo States. Malls, retail centres, parks, and plazas are also included in this. The economics of Delta and Edo States are greatly impacted by these developments. Diverse groups of people interpret irregular migration differently. According to the survey, the residents of the Delta and Edo States mostly view illegal migration as a means of achieving economic progress and survival. The results of the investigation indicate that recommendations are required. Based on the study's findings, three main recommendations are offered:

1. In order to direct some of the remittances received by migrants towards the establishment and equipping of government hospitals, the work of the Delta and Edo States Diaspora Agency needs to be clearly defined, made more effective, and made visible. This will significantly lessen unauthorised migration in the Edo and Delta States. Migrant families should use their remittances to start profitable enterprises so they may maintain their standard of living and enhance their well-being.
2. The governments of Delta and Edo States should designate honourable people, notable figures, and intelligent academics to draft and carry out policies that support the interests of migrants in the construction of infrastructure, including transportation, solar-powered power plants, healthcare facilities, educational institutions, and modular refineries. In the

foreseeable future, this will significantly lessen irregular migration in the Delta and Edo States.

3. The governments of Delta and Edo States should develop laws to regulate irregular migration in order to direct a portion of the remittances into the government's coffers for the benefit of the migrant populations. Remittances from migrants should go towards public taps and reticulations for other community members, who are still living at home, as well as employment creation and skill development. This will significantly lessen poverty and enhance the standard of living for residents in the Delta and Edo States.

To build on this study's limitations, the following are recommended for future studies. First, the study was restricted to Delta and Edo States. This study recommends that future studies of this nature should be undertaken to include other states, to wit; Cross rivers, Rivers, Enugu and Lagos, etc., in order to provide deeper insights into the subject matter. The study suggested that further empirical work be conducted on a larger sample of the people of Delta and Edo States, especially those without family members abroad. There is the need to study the living standard of those without family members abroad.

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