

Geographical Study of Rural to Urban Migration in local government area of Damaturu, Yobe State, Nigeria.

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Abstract

The research work assessed the Geographical Study of Rural —Urban Migration in local government area of Damaturu Yobe State in Nigeria, the objectives of the study include; To scrutinize the push and pull factors responsible for the migration in Damaturu town, To analyze the major economic benefit derive from migratory group, To compare the positive and negative effect of migration at the origin (rural) and destination (urban). The research presented the remote effects of rural-urban migration on rural development. This study has been able to cover new growth which was hitherto neglected by government. In other to achieve the objectives of the study, data was collected from primary sources using questionnaire. the data obtained were collected and were summarized as absolute frequencies and proportion using the simple descriptive percentage method. The study revealed that from the study area, 20% of the respondents are for poverty, 44% of the respondent are for insecurity, 16% of the respondents are for better life, 21% of the respondents are for education. Also from the data obtained from the respondents on the economic benefit 61% of the respondents are for the good job opportunity, 38% of the respondent are for development active group, finally, on ways to compare the positive and negative effect of migration at the origin (rural) and destination (urban) 50% of the respondents are for over population, 24% of the respondent are for insecurity while 25% of the respondents are for outbreak of disease. finally, the study concluded that the rural-urban migration and rising urban unemployment and under-employment between rural economic and social and opportunities to curb rural-urban migration, rural areas are isolated areas of an open country low population density.

Keywords: Population, Migration, Urban, Rural, Environment, Community, Development.

1. Introduction

The burden of rural-urban migration in Damaturu is multifaceted and intertwining. As such, an analysis of one decompose component or consequence, such as unbearable population density, impinges on other issues within the identifiable cycle of burdens. For instance, in examining the management of rural-urban migration and its effect on economic development, has it result to increase in population in the urban areas while the rural areas lack development or at the extreme its explosion. Various other subsequent effects are expected to be considered. Amanya, S.I. (2017) Population explosion activates the housing challenge both at micro (family) and macro (society) levels. Congestion in households and communities has implications for both the health and psychology of victims. Nigerian cities such as Lagos, Port-Harcourt, Kano, and Onitsha among others are characterized by human traffic, vehicular congestions, environmental pollution, consistent in-migration and spurious expansion of territories to accommodate human additions. Aminu, S.E (2015)

Nigeria is a country with over 180,000,000 million people (Censes 2006) and the giant of Africa. Most international organizations and foreign investors find a good market in Nigeria. The oil-boom in the 1970s has deeply affected the economic development of the country and continues to do so as government focuses on oil sector and neglects the agricultural sector which was the prime of the economy and economic development before the oil-boom. Government insensitivity to the plight of the rural communities whose

major source of livelihood is agriculture has lead to migration of the rural dwellers to urban area for a good standard of living. Ononkerhoraye, A.G (2018)

Nigeria, at independence in 1960, was largely a producer and net exporter of primary products. The six major agricultural products then were cocoa, rubber, palm oil, groundnut, cotton and palm kernel (Idode, 2017). Although there existed mining and quarrying activities, these were of negligible percentage and never counted for the economy as a whole (Olaloku, 2014). In other words, agricultural produce and raw materials constituted the main income for the country. Specifically, the Nigerian state as an exporter of agricultural goods had 69.4% of its total GDP for the year 1963/64 comprising the six aforementioned agricultural commodities (Olaloku, 2012).

Rural-Urban migration has led to uneven development of the country. The urban areas are over-populated while the rural areas are densely-populated, as young men and women leave the rural areas due to lack of infrastructures, social amenities, employment and economic development of the rural areas. According to Nyagba (2019), rural communities are the most important sectors of the Nigerian economy, indeed the West African regional population. There are several reasons to support this position.

Agriculture and rural development are crucial for the structural transformation and economic development of West Africa region. Agriculture contributes 20 per cent of GDP in northern Africa and 30 per cent of GDP in sub-Saharan Africa (Nyagba, 2019). The rural population represents an average of over 60 percent of the total population on the continent; about 90 per cent of the rural labor force engages directly or indirectly in agricultural activities. For the continent's rural people, accelerated agricultural and rural development would contribute to greater efficiency, increased household income, improved standards of living, and poverty reduction.

According to Onah (2010), agriculture had been the main foreign earnings in Nigeria before the advent of oil and accounted for major contribution to her GDP. Agriculture is a major source of employment for over 80% of Nigerians before oil dominated the economy. The poor technology, environmental hazards, high cost of implements due to neglect of agriculture has forced the rural farmer and young people in search of white collar jobs and high rate of rural-urban drift to survive. According to Peter (2016), people who migrate are mainly motivated by the desire to improve their standard of living above what is earlier obtained at home. Migration is also caused by the desire of people to go to school and acquire knowledge to develop themselves and their environment. Migration from the rural area to the urban area has become almost accepted as a normal phenomenon in Damaturu as many rural dwellers migrate to major urban areas in the state like Bade, Potiskum, Bursari, etc. as a result of economic development in these urban area. Most of the youths who want to enrol into tertiary institutions come to Damaturu where federal universities, College of Education and other private universities are located. Those who want to engage in business and entrepreneurship find themselves in Damaturu. Damaturu is one of the big town in northern Nigeria, while others go to Potiskum to establish industries where household materials are sold. Therefore, most of the youth and adult men and women of working age (18-60) have left the rural area which has contributed negatively to economic development of Damaturu. The elderly men and women are left to provide for themselves with their little farm lands since most lands are used to build houses which nobody lives rather some people are paid to keep watch over their properties.

However, some of the migrants come back to these rural areas with experiences from the urban area, having made use of all forms of techniques to survive as a result of high competition in those urban areas. Some may set up patent medicine store, motor mechanics workshops, vulcanizing, hair salon, supermarket, restaurants, etc. while others may terrorize the rural dwellers, through robbery, kidnapping and criminal activities. Likewise the urban areas suffer from overpopulation, unemployment, crime, social vices, over utilization of infrastructure and poor management of social amenities. If the rural communities are able to develop the local technology, thereby give way for further development, it will attract government,

international bodies, non government organizations and other agencies to support development of such area. Amanyia, S.I. (2015)

Policies and project such as rural electrification, self-help projects, DFRRRI, ADP, NOA, ANIDS, NEEDS and SEEDS were some of the programmes setup by the federal, state or local government to manage the rural urban migration through some of these rural development policies or integrated rural development to see to its success. However management of rural-urban migration in the state seems to have some difficulty. In managing some of the programmes the state or local government, have put in place some agencies to address these problems and its adverse effects on economic development of the state. These agencies will be analyzed effectively to see how adequate they are in carrying out their duties. Amin, S.E (2017)

Rural-urban migration has affected food production in the state. Most of the basic food stuffs are imported from other part of the country even though there is a good climate condition in the region. The inadequate infrastructure and social amenities has also hampered development as most of the programmes and projects are located in the urban areas while the primary beneficiaries do not benefit from the project. In Nigeria most of the developmental plans are in favour of the urban areas. Business and commercial activities are successful where the market is. The rural areas do not have that market and factors of production are inadequate for economic development in Damaturu.

2. Materials and Method

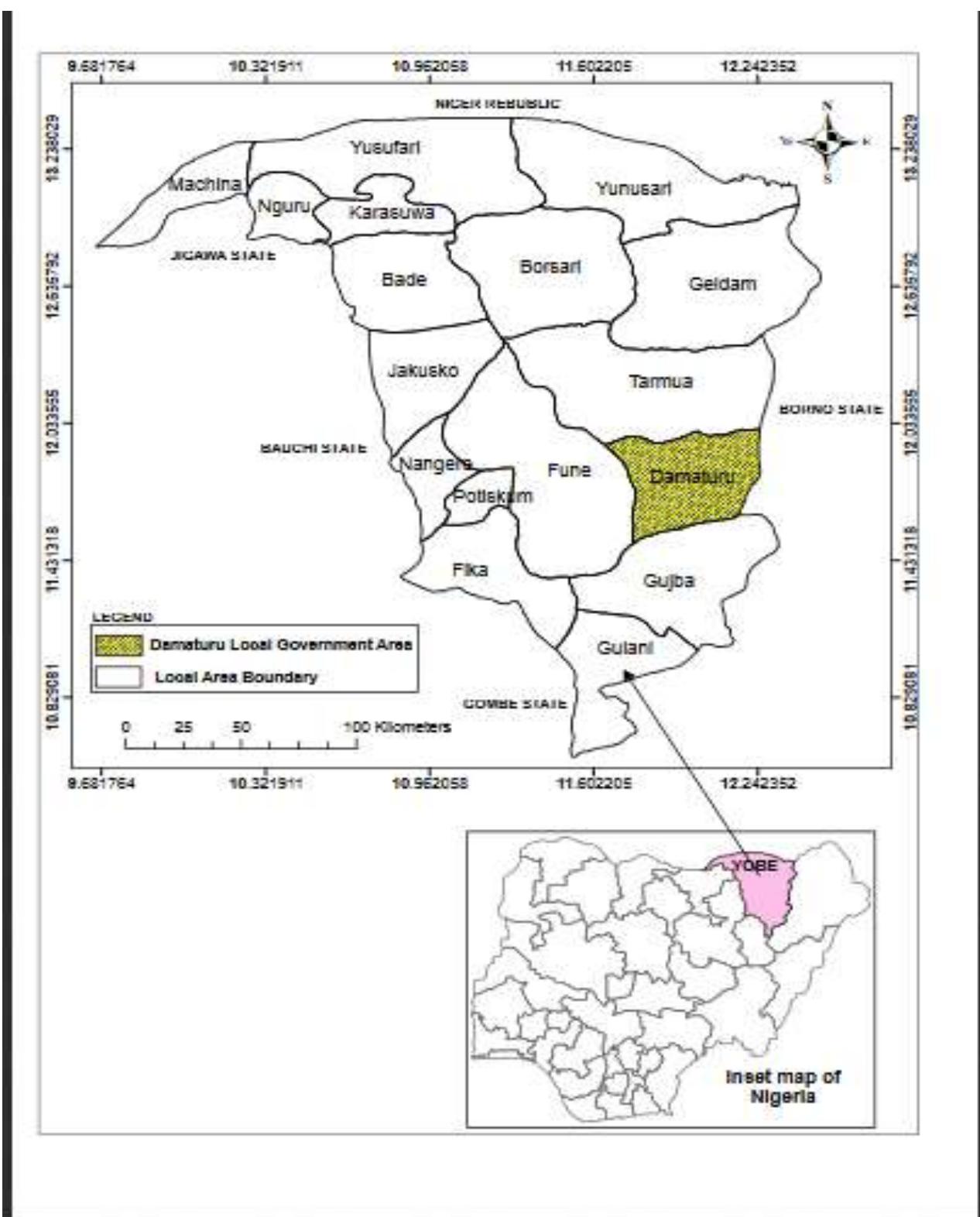
2.1. Description of the study Area

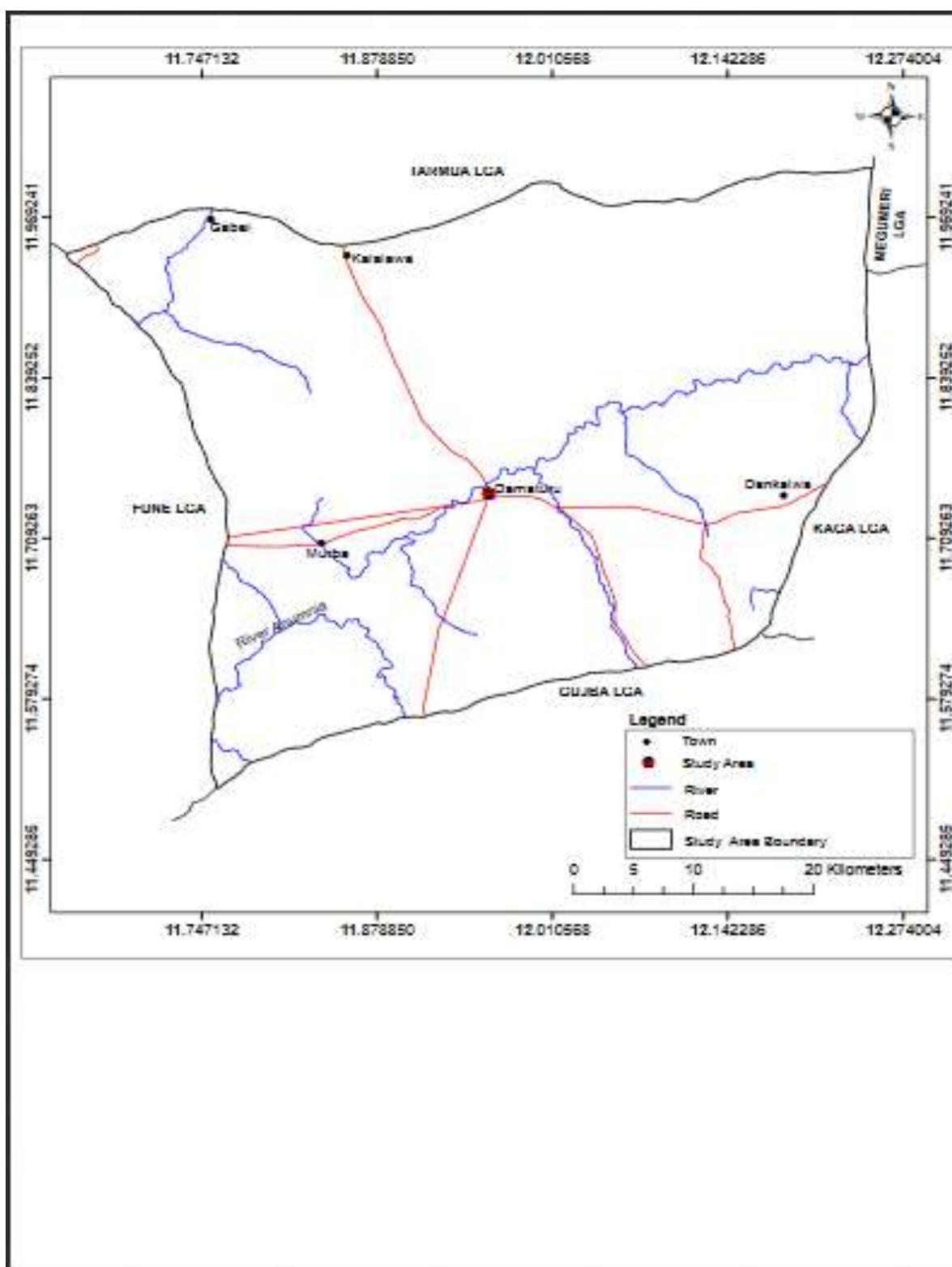
2.2.1. Location

Damaturu is a Local Government Area in Yobe State, Nigeria. Its headquarters are in the town of Damaturu, the State capital. The postal code of the area is 620. The Local Government Area has an area of 2,366 km² and a population of 88,014 at the 2006 census. The town of Damaturu is on the A3 highway and has an estimated 2010 population of 44,268. Damaturu is the headquarters of the Damaturu Emirate, at one time part of the Ngazaragamo emirate based in Gaidam.

On 16 June 2013, Damaturu was the site of an attack by Boko Haram. Militants attacked a school and killed thirteen people, including students and teachers. On 26 October 2013, suspected Boko Haram militants engaged security forces in a lengthy gun battle and raided a hospital in Damaturu. On 1 December 2014, suspected Boko Haram militants carried out attacks on the city. The assault began shortly after 5:00 am local time. Gunshots and explosions were heard and a base of the riot police was reported to have been set on fire. Yobe state university also came under attack. The northeasterly line of equal latitude and longitude passes through the area including 12°00'00"N 12°00'00"E in the north.

Figure 1: Yobe State showing the Local Government Area





Source: Department of Geography GIS Lab., 2025

2.2.2 Economy

While Yobe state is an agricultural state it also has rich fishing grounds and mineral deposits of gypsum in Fune LGA, kaolin, and quartz. The state's agricultural products include gum Arabic, groundnuts, beans, and cotton. The state is also said to have one of the largest cattle markets in West Africa, located in Potiskum.

2.2.3. Ethnic groups

The major ethnic groups living in Yobe State are Fulani and the Kanuri while other ethnic communities include BolewaNgizim, Karai-Karai, Bade, Hausa, Ngamo, Shuwa, Bura, Margi and Manga.

2.2.4 Religion

The population is mainly Muslim. Sharia law is valid. However, there are Christians in the State, with the bulk of them from the Karai-Karai ethnic group. No Roman Catholic diocese has its seat in the state.

3.Result and Discussion

3.1 Questionnaire administration

In carrying out the surveys, the analysis of data collected from questionnaire responded to by respondents. The data were analysed with arithmetic table and simple percentage. Two Hundred and ninety (290) questionnaires were administered in Damaturu, while two Hundred fifty (250) questionnaires were returned and valid which was used for this analysis.

3.2 Data Collection

Table 3.2 Sex of respondent

RESPONDENTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE%
Female	135	54.00%
Male	115	46.00%
Total	250	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2025

Table 3.2 shows that gender of the respondent returned so far out of the total of Two Hundred and fifty questionnaires. 135 respondents representing 54.00% are female while 115 representing 46.00% are male; this shows that most of the respondents are female.

Table 3.3: Age of respondent

RESPONDENTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
18-28	111	44.40%
28-38	69	27.60%
38-48	40	16.0%
48-above	20	8.00%
Total	250	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2025

Table 3.3 shows that 111 respondents representing 44.40% fall between age group of 18-28 years, 69 respondents representing 27.60% fall between age group of 28-38 years, 40 respondents representing 16.00% fall between age group of 38-48 years, while 48 and above respondents represent 8.00%.

Table 3.4: Occupation of Respondent

RESPONDENTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Student	106	44.15%
Civil Servant	80	29.87%
Business	44	14.28%
Others	20	11.69%
Total	250	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2025

The above table 3.4 shows 106 respondents representing 42.40%, student, 80 respondents representing 22.00%, are civil servant, 44 respondents representing 17.60%, are business, 20 respondents representing 8.00% are others

Table 3.5: Religion of respondent

RESPONDENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Muslim	110	40.00%
Christian	90	36.00%
Traditional	50	20.00%
Total	250	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2025

Table 3.5 shows that 110 respondents representing 50.77% are Muslim, 90 respondents representing 33.23% are Christian, 50 respondents representing 16% are traditional worshipers.

Table 3.6: Marital Status of respondent

RESPONDENTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Married	140	56.00%
Single	110	44.00%
Total	250	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2025

Table 3.6 shows that 140 respondents representing 56.00% are married, 110 respondents representing 44.00% are single.

Table 3.7: Educational Qualification

RESPONDENTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Secondary School	118	47.20%
Primary School	67	26.88%
Tertiary	65	20.00%
Total	250	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2025

The above table 3.7 shows that 118 respondents representing 47.20% are Secondary school student, 67 respondents representing 26.88% are Primary school pupils, 65 respondents representing 20.00% are of tertiary.

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Table 3.7: are you a indigene of Damaturu?

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Yes	214	85.60%
No	36	14.40%
Total	250	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2025

Table 3.7 shows that 214 respondents representing 85.60% are for the yes option, while 36 respondents representing 14.40% are for the No option.

Table 3.8 Dose migration has any effect on the socio development in Damaturu?

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Yes	70	28.00%
No	180	72.00%
Total	250	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2025

Table 3.8 shows that 70 respondents representing 35.07% are for the yes option, while 180 respondents representing 64.93% are for the no option.

Table 3.9: Dose migration contributes to underdevelopment in Damaturu?

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Yes	174	69.60%
No	76	30.40%
Total	250	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2025

Table 3.9 shows that 174 respondents representing 69.60% are for the yes option, while 76 respondents representing 30.40% are for the No option.

Table 3.10: Dose lack of social amenities contribute to migration in Damaturu

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Yes	171	68.40%
No	79	31.60%
Total	250	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2025

Table 3.10 shows that 171 respondents representing 68.60% are of the yes option, while 79 respondents representing 31.60% are of the no option.

Table 3.11: who migrate most?

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Active group	154	61.60%
Development active group	96	38.60%
Total	250	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2025

Table 3.11 shows that 154 respondents representing 61.60% are for the active group, while 96 respondents representing 38.60% are for Development Active group.

Table 3.12 if social amenities and infrastructure are provide will it's minimize migration?

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Yes	185	74.00%
No	65	26.00%
Total	250	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2025

Table 3.12 shows that 106 respondents representing 74.00% are for yes option, 44 respondents representing 26.00% are for no option.

Table 3.13 what do you think will improve the standard of living in damaturu

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Providing more social amenities	125	50.00%
Establish of agro – allied industries	62	24.80%
Given loans to farmers their productivity	63	25.20%
Total	250	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2025

Table 3.13 show the 125 respondent representing 50.00% are of the opinion the provider more social amenities will improve the standard of living in Damaturu, 62 respondent representing 24.80% are for Establish of agro – allied industries, while 63 respondent representing 25.20% are for given loans to farmers.

4. Conclusion/Recommendations

The implication of migration on the socio-development of Damaturu Local Government area in Yobe State cannot be over emphasized. Therefore, incentives and mechanized system of agricultural should be implemented in the community improved seedlings, fertilizer, extension workers in order to reactivate agricultural practice and make it worthwhile hence the rural area is blessed with large fertile land which is suitable for agriculture. The rural dwellers in the area should not be neglected in the process of development programme as thus will motivate their interest in citizen participation on community development. That government should rehabilitate the roads in the area to enable of agricultural products to the urban area, the need to educate, rural farmers on how to preserve farm product is essential and should be a top most priority. This will inject bountifully yield on agricultural products and increase in financial income in expert market or transaction.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In this project, the researcher has investigated on the A Geographical Study of Rural to Urban Migration in the Local Government Area of Damaturu, Yobe State, Nigeria.

However if the recommendation should be sent on effect that could be introduced towards solving the problem identified which should focus on.

1. Firstly, the provision of mechanized method of agriculture through the institution of extension workers and government. This will increase agricultural production and income generation, which will serve as development, incentives should be granted to the rural dwellers which will serve as development active group to reside in the village.
2. It equally eliminates cultural orientation which majority revealed that one cannot make it in the village.
3. Government should locate industries in the areas and also make available. For investors to invest in the areas which will employ the inhabitants and reduce pressure on urban facilitates, improve market standard.

Police post should be provided to facilitate security of life and property. If these recommendation are being implemented, it will gainfully reduce rural migration and promote socio-development in Damaturu Local Government Area.

5.Acknowledgement

This paper, titled “A Geographical Study of Rural to Urban Migration in the Local Government Area of Damaturu, Yobe State, Nigeria,” is the product of a joint scholarly undertaking by the two authors. The research emerged from a shared commitment to advancing knowledge in population geography and understanding migration patterns within rapidly growing urban centers. From the formulation of the research objectives to field investigations, data processing, analysis, and final documentation, the study was completed through continuous collaboration and intellectual engagement between the authors.

The successful execution of this research was supported by a favorable academic setting that enabled access to relevant scholarly materials, official documents, and research facilities. Fieldwork was greatly enriched by the cooperation of community members and local authorities in Damaturu Local Government Area, whose openness and responses provided valuable insights into the socio-economic factors influencing rural–urban migration.

We acknowledge the broader research environment that encourages independent thinking, rigorous analysis, and scholarly responsibility, all of which contributed to the depth and quality of this study. Such an environment remains vital for producing research that is both locally relevant and academically sound.

The arguments, interpretations, and conclusions presented in this paper are based solely on the data collected and analyzed by the authors. Any shortcomings identified in the course of the study are acknowledged as part of the research process and rest with the authors. It is hoped that the findings will serve as a useful reference for future research and policy formulation on migration and urban development in Nigeria.

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