

Analysis of Out-Mobility of Population in Gombe Local Government Area, Gombe State

By

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Abstract

This study examined the effects of out-mobility on households in Gombe L.G.A. Relationship between household and the out-migrants, reasons, destinations, as well as household's perception of out-migrants in the study area, were studied and analyzed. Purposive sampling technique was used to sampled 317 households in the study area. Descriptive statistic was used to analyze data obtained from the field. It is evident from the results; out-migration has both positive and negative influence on households in the study area. Most of the households (84%) in the study area were happy about their members moving out because of the remittances received from them, only a few households (16%) considered out-mobility of their members as a waste because they are not benefiting from their movement. Other results show most out-migrants (18.3%) from Gombe L.G.A migrated to the nearby regions and most of them (54%) move out from Gombe L.G.A to secure jobs in their destinations, it is also evident that sons (30%) and husband (26%) are more migratory from Gombe L.G.A to other places than daughters (21%) and wives (9%). Hence, the study recommends that out-mobility should be encouraged due to its positive contribution to the social and economic wellbeing of the households of Gombe L.G.A, while those families or households experiencing some of their members wasting their lives outside or they are not contributing anything positive to the family they should be discouraged for out-mobility, and if there is any help the family can render to them morally, politically or economically to empower them and attract them to stay at the origin they should do so.

Key Words: Out-mobility, Household, Out-migrant, Origin, and Destination.

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Introduction:

Movement is inherently geographical since the existence of human beings in this world people move from one geographical area to another for various reasons. Movement changes people, as well as the way they see themselves in the world. People's mobility changes places including the origin and the destinations. The mobility of people results in to spread of ideas and innovation as well as brought about spatial interaction among people living in various regions of the world, (Fouberg, Murphy, and de Blij, 2012).

People's movement from origins to destinations can positively or negatively impact the moral, political, or economic development of a place. According to the Human Development Report, (2009). "There is a range of evidence about the positive impacts of migration on human development, through such avenues as increased household incomes and improved access to education and health services. There is further evidence that migration can empower traditionally disadvantaged groups, in particular women. At the same time, risks to human development are also present where migration is a reaction to threats and denial of choice, and where regular opportunities for movement are constrained".

People's movement is a Worldwide Phenomena. It helps in population redistribution and transferring labour from areas of surplus to the areas of need. The spread of technology throughout the world could not have been feasible without the movement of people from one geographical area to another (Adamu, 2009).

People's movement, both within and beyond borders, has become an increasingly prominent theme in domestic and international debates. Development across the world varies, the global distribution of capabilities is extraordinarily uneven, and this is a major driver for the movement of people, to expand their choices in terms of incomes, accessing services, and participation, (Human Development Report, 2009).

Out-mobility in this research means a movement of people from origin to destination to stay temporarily or permanently for various reasons, while out-migrants refer to those people that move out from place of origin to place of destination.

Gombe is experiencing out-mobility of people to stay in other places temporarily or permanently almost every day, but the questions are where are these people going?

What is their relationship with the household at the origin, what are their reasons for moving out of Gombe L.G.A to other places? What are households' perceptions toward their family members moving to other places? These are important questions that need to be answered in this study. The study also intends to test some of the laws of migration by Ernst Ravenstein in Gombe State, which he studied internal migration in England, whether this law is applicable in Gombe or not. The laws are as follows:

- i. The majority of migrants move a short distance.
- ii. Migrants who move longer distances tend to choose urban cities.
- iii. Within their country females are more migratory than males, but males are more migratory over long distances.
- iv. Migration is mostly due to economic reasons.

"Ravenstein also posited an inverse relationship between the volume of migration and the distance between source and destination; that is, the number of migrants to a destination declines as the distance they

must travel increases" (Fouberg, Murphy, and de Blij, 2012).

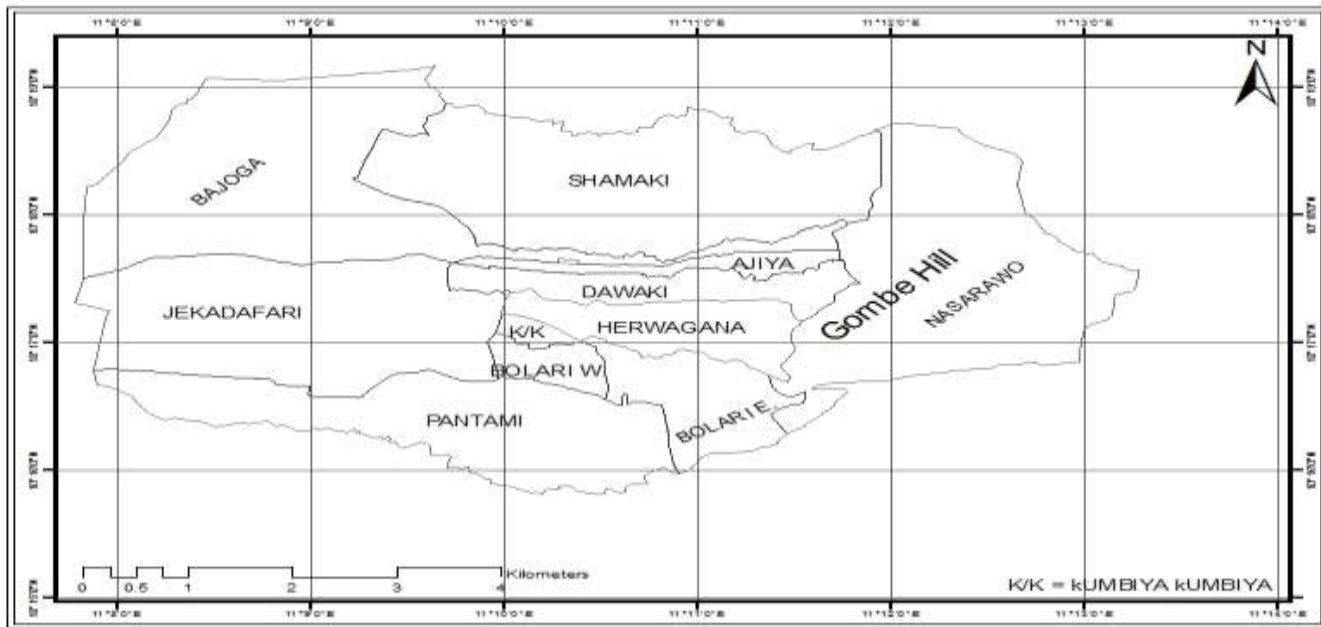
Numerous studies were conducted on people mobility among which are: studies conducted by Oyeniyi, (2013), the study focused on internal migration in Nigeria, and the result shows that internal migration increases access to education prolongs lives, and contributed to improved living standard in the origin, Mahapatro, (2010) conducted research on patterns and determinants of female internal migration in India, and results show that economic factors were the significant factors of female internal migration in India. Several studies were conducted on rural-urban migrations among which are studies conducted by Thorat et.al. (2001), Mihereto, (2011) Ishtiaque and Ullah, (2013). Their results show that migration from rural to urban areas has a positive impact on households based on their income, expenditure, and net savings, further results show that family size increases the probability of family members to migrate. Some results show that reasons for rural-urban migration were as a result of looking for jobs, education, electricity, and other social services that were not provided or were in limited supply in most rural areas.

Because of the above studies conducted by many researchers this study is worth undertaking because none of the above studies focused on Gombe out-mobility, most of them focused on internal migration which involves permanent mobility of people into particular geographical regions. But this research concentrates on those people that move away from Gombe to stay either permanently or temporally in other places. This research also went further to test the laws of migration by Ernst Ravenstein in Gombe which was not studied in the above-mentioned studies.

Study Area

“Gombe L.G.A is located approximately at the centre of Gombe State. It is bounded by Kwami L.G.A in the North and almost surrounded by Akko Local Government Area in the South East and South West, and

occupies an area of about 45km² (Ministry of Land and Survey, Gombe, 2008) in (Abdullahi, Abbas, and Abdullahi, 2018). Its geographical coordinates range between latitudes 10° 14' 30" N and 10° 19' 30" N and longitudes 11° 7' 0" E and 11° 13' 30" E (Satellite Images of Gombe, 2014) in (Abdullahi, Abbas, and Abdullahi, 2018). See fig.1. Gombe L.G.A is well linked by road to other regional centers like Biu/Maiduguri, Potiskum/Damaturu, Bauchi/Jos, Kari/Kano, and Kumo/Yola (Kaltho, et al, 2003) in (Abdullahi, Abbas, and Abdullahi, 2018). According to the National Population and housing census, (2006) priority table, Gombe L.G.A has a population of 266,844 people, (Abdullahi, Abbas, and Abdullahi, 2018).”. However, if the above population of Gombe L.G.A is projected to the present time 2020 the population is estimated to be 423,534 at a 3.3% growth rate.



Source: Geographic Information System Laboratory, State University Gombe (2017). In (Abdullahi, Abbas, and Abdullahi, 2018).

Fig 1: Gombe Local Government Area.

Methodology

Qualitative data were derived from the respondents which were further converted to quantitative data for analysis, which involve information about those that move out and their relationship with their household, the reason for their out-mobility, their destinations, as well as household perception on their members moving out. All this information was obtained directly from members of the household in Gombe Town. Other secondary information about the population of Gombe L.G.A, literature reviews, etc. were obtained from the National Population Commission (2006), previous research works, journals, and article publications from library and internet sources.

Purposive sampling technique was used because only households that have persons that move out of the family were considered in the study area.

Questionnaires were administered to the household heads or any adult or responsible member of the family. However, data for households' relationship with the out-migrants were only collected for 10 wards in the study area except for Ajiya due to time constraints.

According to National Population Commission (2006), Gombe LGA has about 266,844 people, but the projected population as of 2020 is estimated to be 423,534 at a 3.3% growth rate, this represents the sampling frame of the research. Therefore, the sampling size of this research

according to Krejcie and Morgan table (1970) based on the above-projected population is 382. Hence, 382 questionnaires were distributed to the respondents in the study area, but at the end of the study, only 317 questionnaires were retrieved from them.

To be able to achieve the stated objectives of the study, descriptive statistics were adopted, which include frequency tables, percentages, and pie-chart.

Results and Discussion

This part is devoted to the analysis and discussion of results from the data collected in the Gombe Local Government Area. The data obtained from the field

were subjected to descriptive statistical techniques. The results presented below were information on the Household relationship with the out-migrant, reasons for out mobility, destinations of the out-migrants, as well as perceptions of households on out-migrants.

Household Relationship with the Out-Migrants

Household Relationship with out-migrant is an important variable that enables the researcher to know who migrated out among the members in a particular household in each ward in the study area. Table 1 below shows the inventory of household relationship with the out-migrants.

Table 1: Household Relationship with the out-migrants

Wards	Son	Husband	Daughter	Wife	Others	Total
Bajoga	6	10	4	5	4	29
Bolari_East	10	8	5	1	2	26
Bolari_West	9	9	6	0	4	28
Dawaki	6	4	7	8	0	25
Herwagana	5	2	7	0	11	25
Jekadafari	10	11	9	0	2	32
Kumbiya_kumbiya	10	8	7	1	2	28
Nasarawo	11	11	6	2	2	32
Pantami	11	7	5	6	0	29
Shamaki	12	9	4	3	2	30
Total	97/30%	81/26%	68/21%	28/9%	43/14%	317/100%

Source: Field Survey, (2019)

Table 1 shows the highest proportion of sons and husband out-migrant of almost one third (30%), and

more than one quarter (26%) of the out-migrants in the study area respectively. Daughters' out-mobility

represents the third among the categories with less than a quarter (21%) of the population. Wives emigrants and other relatives represent the lowest with 9% and 14% respectively.

The above results imply that there is more male movement from Gombe to other geographical regions than their female counterparts, this is contrary to the Ravenstein law of migration which stated that females

are more migratory than males in England, (Ravenstein, 1885).

Reasons for Out-Mobility from Gombe L.G.A

People migrate out for numerous reasons. These reasons could be classified as economic, social, political, or environmental. To address a vital research problem of the study, the researcher found out reasons why migrants from Gombe L.G.A move out to other locations, see table 2 below.

Table 2 Reasons for Out Migration from Gombe L.G.A

Wards	Education	Marriage	Employment	Others	Total
Ajiya	8	7	15	3	33
Bajoga	10	6	12	1	29
Bolari_East	4	5	17	0	26
Bolari_West	4	5	18	1	28
Dawaki	4	10	11	0	25
Herwagana	6	5	12	2	25
Jekadafari	10	5	17	0	32
Kumbiya_kumbiya	3	7	17	1	28
Nasarawo	7	4	21	0	32
Pantami	8	9	6	6	29
Shamaki	4	6	20	0	30
Total	68/21%	69/23%	166/52%	14/4%	317/100%

Source: field survey, (2019)

Results in table 2 revealed that more than half of the out-migrants (52%) in the study area move out because they secure better jobs somewhere, while a significant

number of them of nearly quarter of the population (23%) migrated out because of marriage, and a significant number of the out-migrants were due to

schooling elsewhere, but only a few of them migrated because of other reasons. This is in agreement with the research conducted by Mihereto, (2011) which says that migrants came to urban areas because of employment, education, and to utilize other urban services.

Destinations of Out-Migrants from Gombe L.G.A

This is another important variable for this research which enables the researcher to identify the location or destination of out-migrants. Table 3 shows the results obtain in the field.

Table 3 Destinations of Out-migrants from Gombe L.G.A

Location/Destination	Frequency	(%)
Abuja	22	6.9
Adamawa	13	4
Bauchi	29	9.1
Kano	39	12.3
Kaduna	20	6.3
Plateau	18	5.7
Taraba	8	2.52
Katsina	6	2
Yobe	9	2.8
Abia	2	0.63
Rivers	9	2.8
Lagos	14	4.4
Outside country	18	5.7
Borno	11	3.5
Imo	1	0.31
Jigawa	1	0.31
Edo	4	1.26
Osun	1	0.31
Akwa ibon	2	0.63
Nasarawa	1	0.31
Ebonyi	1	0.31
Bayelsa	1	0.31
Ibadan	4	1.26
Benue	5	1.57
Zamfara	3	0.94
Enugu	2	0.63
Niger	4	1.26
Illorin	2	0.63
Ondo	2	0.63
Sokoto	4	1.26
Cross river	2	0.63
10 LGA of Gombe/close Localities	58	18.3
TOTAL	317	100

Source: field survey, (2019)

Table 3 provides information on the various places of destination of the out-migrants from the study area. It is obvious that the highest proportion (18.3%) of the out-migrants from Gombe L.G.A migrated out to nearby L.G.As in Gombe State; this is concurrent with Ravenstein’s migration law which stated that most migrations are over short distances (Ravenstein, 1885). Furthermore, the percentages of out-migrants decreases as the distance they travel outside Gombe L.G.A increases, this supported the Gravity Model of Migration which stated that there is an inverse relationship between the volume of migration and the distance between source and destination; that is, the number of migrants to a destination decline as the distance they must travel increases, (Fourberg, Murphy, de Blij, and

John 2012). Other places that attracted more out migrants from Gombe L.G.A are Kano and Lagos State this may be due to their commercial activities, and this is in agreement with the Ravenstein Law of Migration which stated that migration is mostly due to economic conditions (Ravenstein, 1885). Bauchi, Adamawa, and Plateau have relatively high percentage perhaps due to their nearness to Gombe L.G.A, which is in agreement with Ravenstein Law of Migration which stated that most migrations are over short distances (Ravenstein, 1885) and lastly Abuja and Kaduna State perhaps due to their administrative activities, and this is in concurrent with the Ravenstein Law of Migration which stated that most long-range migrants migrated out to big city destinations.

Table 4 Destinations of Out-migrants from Gombe L.G.A to Close Localities in Gombe State.

Locations	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Akko LGA	11	3.5
Dukku	7	2.2
Kwami	8	2.5
Funakaye	2	0.63
Nafada	4	1.26
Shongom	2	0.63
Y/Deba	10	3.2
Balanga	3	1
Kaltungo	4	1.3
Billiri	7	2.2
TOTAL	58	18.3

Source: field survey, (2019)

Table 4 shows out-migration within Gombe State; the majority of people that move out from Gombe L.G.A

move to places like Akko which receives a high number of out-migrants from the study area, followed by

Yemaltu Deba and Kwami which is the third receiving destination of migrants from Gombe L.G.A. All three destinations mentioned above are the closest to the study area, while the L.G.As that received the lowest emigrants are Funakaye, Balanga, and Nafada which happens to be the farthest from the study area. This testifies the Ravenstein's Gravity Model of Migration which shows an inverse relationship between the volume of migration and the distance between the

source and destination; that is, the number of migrants to a destination decline as the distance they must travel increases, (Fourberg, Murphy, de Blij, and John 2012).

Households Perception of Out-migrants

Households in the study area have different perceptions of their members moving out, some have negative perceptions while others have a positive perception. The pie-chart below shows the cumulative perceptions of households on out-migrants in Gombe L.G.A.

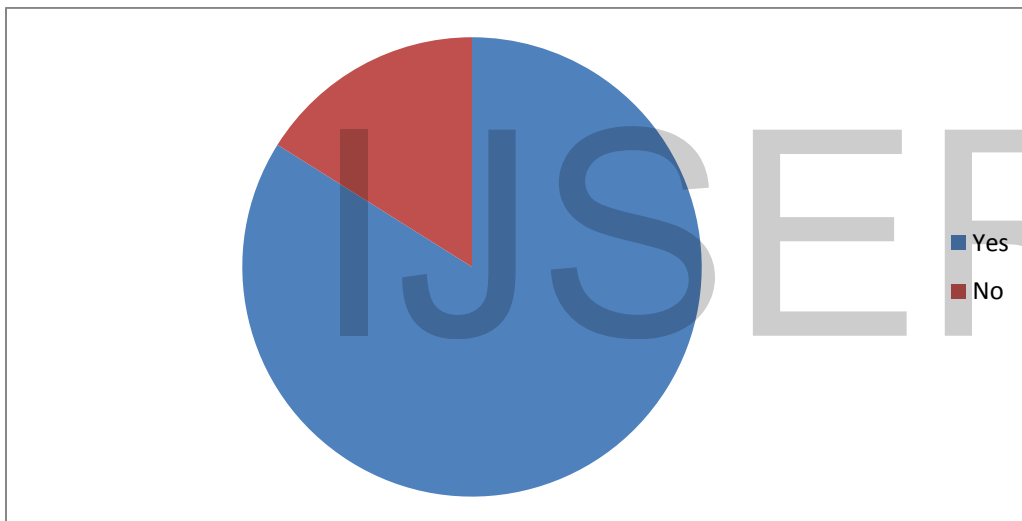


Figure 2 Perceptions of Households on Emigrants
Source: field survey, (2019)

Figure 2 shows that the majority of households have positive ken on out-migrants, meaning they are happy with their members migrating out from the family by sending remittances back to the area of destination, this is agreed with research conducted by Oyeniyi, (2013), which stated that internal migration improved living

standard in the origin. While the few ones are not happy about their members migrating out from the family because they are not benefiting from their movement to other places or they are not receiving any remittances from them, this is contrary to the Oyeniyi, (2013), findings.

Conclusion

No region in the world is free from out-migrants only that the frequency and reasons differ. People move from their origin to other places because of various reasons which could either be positive or negative. Hence, out-migration in Gombe L.G.A shows a more positive result to households due to its contribution toward improving their standard of living; However, out-migration in Gombe L.G.A is without negative effect on the household, because it results in some family losing the company of their members since their movement outside the region to other places do not have any positive impact to their socio-economic wellbeing. Furthermore, some of the Ravenstein laws of migration proved to be true in Gombe L.G.A; such as a large number of out-migrants from the region travel to closer destinations, a significant number of the people moving far distance regions move to commercial and administrative regions. But some migration laws of Ravenstein proved wrong in this study such as in Gombe L.G.A there are more male out-migrants than

female out-migrants which are contrary to Ravenstein law of migration, and this could be a result of cultural difference between England and Gombe L.G.A which is a predominantly Muslim community located in North-Eastern Nigeria.

Recommendations

The above findings show that out-mobility contributed greatly to the social and economic well-being of the household of Gombe L.G.A, it is highly recommended that households should allow some of their members to move to other places to secure good opportunities in other to assist their family members.

However, those families or household experiencing some of their members wasting their lives outside or they are not contributing anything positive to the family they should be called for advice or discourage their movement in totality, and if there is any help they can render to them financially or morally to empower them and attract them to stay at the origin they should do so.

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