BEHAVIOUR AMONG FEMALE MIGRANTS IN MAKURDI, BENUE STATE

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ABSTRACT

Women's sexual behavior affect their physical, psychological and social wellbeing. Neglecting the sexual and reproductive health of women can lead to high social and economic crisis. Benue state is one of the states in Nigeria which is worse hit by insurgency (BokoHaram) and comfits (Farmers-Herders conflict),leading to Migration of people. The increase in the number of internally displaced people in camps promoted this research. Though research works on risky sexual behaviours among youths abound, very little is currently known on the role of female migration in enhancing risky sexual behaviour in Makurdi, Benue state. This study makes use of primary and secondary data. A total of 205 questionnaires were administered using the purposive systematic random sampling technique. Result showed female migrates between the ages of 15-34 years being involved in risky sexual behaviour compared to those that are 44years and above (53.7%and19.5%respective). Conflict and unemployment are the major causes of risky sexual behavior (29.3%and23.4%respective). 20.5% had multiple sexual pattern, 25 9% had casual sex without the use of condom. Pattern of movement was largely rural–urban. Increased alcohol consumption, depression, suicides, cancer, unwanted pregnancies, STDs are all consequences of risky sexual behavior. The Chi-square test was used for the level of significance between migration and risky sexual behaviour, and the findings showed apositive relationship between the two variables. This paper advocates the need to mitigate incidence of risky sexual behavior and provide policies that will ensure human security and economic empowerment

Keywords: Risky sexual behaviour, female migrants, Benue state.

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Backgroundtothestudy

Robustdataondemographiccharacteristicofinternalmigrantsaredifficulttofind.Itisacomplexphenomenonwithopportunitiesandchallengeswhichaffectpeopleespecially women. In migration is the process of people moving into a new area within the same country (internal) while human sexual behaviour is the manner in whichhumansexperienceandexpresstheirsexuality.Peopleengageinvarietyofsexualacts,ranging from activities done alone to acts with another person in varying patterns offrequency,for awidevarietyofreasons (Wikipedia, 2021).

Migrationisakeyfactortoriskysexualbehaviour.Recent changesinglobalization and modern transportation now allow humans to move with more ease.Migration is the dominant survival strategy for women in developing countries who arejobhunting,facedwithdisasterorconflictanditsconsequencescannotbeoveremphasized. The idea that there has been a shift in migration gender ratio causing a feminization of migration flows has characterized a new period of migration and hasbeenwidelyproclaimedbyscholarsoverthepasttwodecades (Moses2021).Researchhas shown that women migrate for various reasons ranging from marriage,familyunification,education,violence,conflict,lackofemploymentorunderemploymentamongst others (UNICEF, 2016). Previous studies revealed that marriages are delayed in Nigeria so as to acquires formal education and this has given rise to increase pre-marital sex among youths, though customs and culture in some regions permit earlymarriage(NPC,2009;NDHS,2018).Thepoorabilityofthedestinationregiontomanageimmigration,combinedwithexcessupplyoflabourleadstoincreasedvulnerabilityforthefemalemigrants.Femalemigrantsarefacedwithprotectioncrisis,theytendtooverlook the multiple burdens and vulnerabilities of migrant women or perceived roles forwomenindevelopingcountries (Moses, 2021)

Nigeria as a nation has been host to many conflicts ranging from civil war to thewoesofBokoHarammilitantsandthemostrecentfarmers-Fulaniherdsmenaltercation,thereisnearlynooneinNigeriawhohasnotexperiencedthebittertasteofwar(Yaroetal. 2019). Benue is one of the states in Nigeria which is worst hit by conflict and climate change and the major effect of conflict is out-migration. Most conflicts are social incharacterandusuallyariseashumanbeingspursuetheirdifferentsurvivalandsecurityneeds (Musa, et al,. 2014). In Nigeria, the common pattern of movement is rural- urban. Recent influx of population into Makurdi, the state capital is as a result of the farmers-herders conflicts in Agartu, Buruku, Guma, Gwer west, Gwer east, Koande, Logo andsomepartsofMakurdi.ArmedbanditsattacksbyIslamistBokoHarammilitants,Kidnapping in the North-centralregion, Kogi, Nasarawa, Katsina, Kaduna and Tarabastatealsocontributetotheinfluxofpeopleintomakurdi.Thishasresultedtoworseningfoodinsecurityandincreasedviolenceagainstwomenandchildren.Unsuspectingfemale migrants

are subjected to rape, slavery, early marriage,prostitution and otherforms of exploitation. previous studies on migration have oftendisregarded femalemigrationandtheirhealth(Okwori,2008;Mbuzeleni,2020).

In the past, it was often assumed that men usually migrated for employment or education, while women moved for marriage or to unite with family members, but the picture has become much more diverse for women and men (Ghosh, 2009). In recenttimes,evidencehaveshownthatmorewomenmigratetodevelopedcountriesthanmen.

Morewomenthan menmigrateforeducation andinseveralEuropeancountries,highlyskilled migrant women outnumbered highly skilled migrant men (Dumont et al. 2007 inJenny, 2016).At the end of 2014, 38million people were displaced within their owncountries due to conflict and violence. Five countries accounted for 60% of this newdisplacement-Iraq,southsudan,Syria,DemocraticRepublicofcongo(DRC)and Nigeria,thesefive(5)countriesarehousingthemostinternallydisplacedpeople(Jenny,2016).

Amoateng et al. (2015) in their study of effect of socio –demographic factors onriskysexual behaviorsofadolescentsintheNorthprovinceofSouthAfricanrevealedapositive association between use of drugs and sexual encounter. It was agreedthatindividualandcontextualfactorssuchasgender,grade,religion,peerinfluence,parental value of children, parent- child communication, school attachment, alcohol,tobacco and marijuana all affect sexual risky behaviours like lifetime sex, recent sexualactivityandinvolvementwithmultiplesexualpartners.

Theinternationalorganizationformigration(IOM,2010)opinedthattheriskvulnerability and needs of migrants are largely shaped by ones gender and often varydrasticallyfordifferent groups (IOM, 2010inMoses 2021).

This paper seeks to fill the existing gap in knowledge of the role of femalemigrationinenhancingriskysexualbehavioursbyanswe ringthefollowingquestions.

1. Whatarethedemographicandsocio-economiccharacteristicsoffemalemigrantsinMakurdi
2. Whatarethecausesoffemalemigration
3. Whatarethechallengesandconsequencesofriskysexualbehavioursamongfemalemigrantsin Makurdi, Benue State.

2.0 StudyArea

Makurdihasanestimatedpopulationof297,398(NPC,2006).Thepopulationisderivedfromelven(11)councilwards.TwoZones existinMakurdiUrbanandTraditional.Urbanconsist of North-Banki, Wailomayo, High level, Akpan/ Wadata and modern market.Traditional ward includeAgani, Baa (clerks) Fiidi, Mbalagh and North Bank II. Twocouncil wards were systematically picked from each zone using population size and level of socio – economic activities. A total of four (4)

council wards was picked forquestionnaireadministration.

Thestudyfocusedmainlyonthesearеastoanalysesfemal emigrationinMakurdi, its causes, effects and consequences of risky sexual behaviours. It intends togenerate a baseline data that can be used for policy and planning. Geographically,Makurdiisthecapitalcityandadministrativece ntreofBenuestate,Nigeria.

3.0 Datamethods

The survey design was adopted for this study. Two sources of data was used; (i)primary (ii) secondary sources. Makurdi has eleven (II) council wards of which five (5)areUrbanandSix(6)arerural.Four(4)councilwardsweresyst ematicallypickedforhisstudy. A multi stage sampling technique was adopted. The first stage involves therecognizance survey and stratification of the study area (Stratified sampling method).The second stage involve the systematic selectionof wards on the basis of being ruralorurbanandthethirdstageinvolvethepurposivesystematic randomsamplingtechnique for the selection of respondents on the basis of being female and a migrant. Four wards were investigated for the study namely; Agani, North. Bank II, Fiidi andWadata. These wards have an estimated population of 2204 in Agan, 1100 in Wadata,1510 in Fiidi and 2032 in North- Bank II. 3% of the total population is used as sample size (205 questionnaires). Agan has 34 respondents, North Bank II has 31, Fiidi has 23and Wadata has 17, using the quota sampling procedure. The respondents consist of mainly female migrants that have resided in Makurdi for at least two to five years. Personalinterviewwascarriedoutforthosewhocouldnotreador write. Thesystematic random sampling technique was adopted for questionnaire administration.Statingfromthefirsthouseonthestreet,everyoth erthirdhousewaspicked.

The data was processed using statistical package for social sciences (SPSS)version20.0.Descriptivestatisticssuchasfrequencies,ta bulationsandtableswasusedfor data analysis.The chi-square was used to test for level of significance betweenmigrationandriskysexualbehaviours(RSB)usingsoci oeconomicfactors.

4.0 Resultsand Discussion

4.1 Demographicandsocio-economiccharacteristicsof migrant women

The study analyzed the demographic andsocio-economic characteristics of femalemigrantswhomigratedintoMakurdiusingvariablessuch asage,maritalstatus,education,occupation,income.205questio nnaireswereadministeredandretrieved.

Table4.1Demographicandsocio-economicsprofileofrespondents

Variables	Categories	Frequency	%
Age	Lessthan15years	10	4.9
	15–24	50	24.4
	25–34	60	29.3
	35–44	45	21.9
	44yearsandabove	40	19.5
TOTAL		**205**	**100%**
MaritalStatus	Single	68	33.2
	Married	58	28.3
	Separated	48	23.4
	Widowed	31	15.1
TOTAL		**205**	**100%**
Education	None	26	12.7
	Primary	57	27.8
	Secondary	71	34.6
	Tertiary	51	24.9
TOTAL		**205**	**100%**
Ethnicity	TIV	70	34.1
	Idoma	25	12.2
	Igede	10	4.9
	Etulo	35	17.1
	Agatu	56	27.3
	Others	09	4.4
TOTAL		**205**	**100%**
Occupation	Not working	23	11.2
	Agricselfemployed	54	26.3
	Agric. Wage	52	25.4
	labourer	52	25.4
	Business/Trading	24	11.7
	Coil servant/professional		
TOTAL		**205**	**100%**
EstimatedMonthly	₦5000-₦30,000	61	29.8
	₦31,000–₦60,000	40	19.5

income	₦61,000–₦90,000	36	17.6
	₦90,000andabove	22	10.7
	No income	46	22.4
TOTAL		**205**	**100%**

Table 4.1 Presents data on demographic and socio-economic characteristics of femalemigrants in Makurdi. Majority of the migrants are youths (29.3%) while children below15yearsandtheAged(44yearsandabove)migrateless(4.9 %and19.5%respectively),This confirms the predominance of young female migrate as documented in literature(Yaro, 2019; Moses2021).

There were variations in the tribe of migrants (see table 4.1). The female migrants arepredominantly single (33.290) and widowed (15.1%). 22.5% of migrants have no sourceof income, majority are low earners (29.8%) and very few earn above ninety thousandnaira (₦90,000 plus) . This agrees favourably with the studies of NDHS (2018); J.Kasenene(2019)andMoses(2021).

Table**4.2Factorsresponsibleformigration**

Variables	**Frequency**	**Percentage%**
Forcemarriage/violence	38	18.5
Unemployment	48	23.4
Conflict	60	29.3
Education	45	22
Others	14	6.8
TOTAL	**205**	**100%**

Table 4.2 shows factors responsible for female migration. The highest push factor herein conflict (29.3%). The insurgency in Northern Nigeria and the farmers herdersconflictcould be responsible.Yaro et al (2019) has a similar result with different study. Education, forced marriage/ violence, economic hardship are also reasons why women migrate. It is suggested that women make up more than 70% of the world internallydisplacedpeople(IDMC2014inJennyi, 2016).

Table4.3perceivedsexualriskybehaviouroffemalemigrants

Variables	**Frequency**	**Percentage%**
Casualsex/Nocondom	53	25.9
Multiplesexpartners	42	20.5
Commercialsexworker	45	21.9
Domesticlabourer	30	14.6
Peergroupinfluence	35	17.1

TOTAL	**205**	**100%**

Table 4.3 shows perceived causes of risky sexual behaviours (RSB) among femalemigrants in Makurdi. 25.90% is due to casual sex partner and no use of condom and17.9%aspeergroupinfluence.InObangandIkang,itwasrevealedthatadolescentgirlsare more at risk of sexual exploitation because of poverty and that women are raped just to collect firewood (J. Kasenene, 2019). 20. 5% of female migrants in Makurdi are likely to have more than one sexual partner at the time of the survey. This differ slightlywith the study carried out by NDHS (2018), young male adults are more likely than theirfemalecounterpartstohavemorethanonesexualpartner(4%to1%respectively).

Table4.4: Perceivedconsequences ofRSBamongfemalemigrantsinMakurdi

SexualRiskybehaviours	**Frequency**	**Percentage%**
Increased alcohol consumption	42	20.5
Depression	18	8.8
STDs	49	23.9
Unwantedpregnancy	35	17.1
Abortion	26	12.1
Drug addiction/ substance abuse	35	17.1
TOTAL	**205**	**100%**

A significant number of the female migrants contracted sexually transmitted diseases(23.9%)throughmultiplesexualpartners,poorhygieneandhavingsexwithoutcondom.Increase in alcohol consumption (20.5%), unwanted pregnancies (917.1%) and abortion(12.7%) see table 4.4 . This corroborate the studies of Okwori and Alao, 2008; WRC,2012.14%ofwomenand8%ofmencontractedHIVinNigeriain2018(NDHs,2018).

Thechi–squaretestwasusedtocheckforcorrelationbetweensocio-economiccharacteristics and risky sexual behavior among Female Migrants in Makurdi, BenueState.Therelationshipwasfoundtobestatisticallysignificant as the calculatedx^2at 0.05 level of significance was greater than the tabulated Chi-square value(see table4.5).Table4.5:Chi-square(x^2) resultsforperceivedsocio-economicandRSBoffemalemigrants

Variables	Calculatex^2	Criticalx^2 (P.0.05)	Degreefredom
Multiplesexpartner	307.226	7.81	3
Sexwithoutcondom	344.125	9.49	4
Useofalcohol,tobacco& substances abuse	400.112	4.99	2
Unemployment	405.969	7.81	3
Conflict	400.348	7.81	3
Domesticlabourer	348.573	5.99	2
Others (peer group, violence,earlymarriage)	308.781	7.81	3

4.0 Conclusion

Recent studies on demographic transitions around the world has revealed migration asone ofthe leading agentofdemographic change. A person's gender,age,religion,sexuality and health or disability shape every stage of migration experience (jenny, .2016).

This study provides empirical data for perceived RSB among female migrants inMakardi. Majority of the migrants are within the age bracket of 15-34 years (53.7%),mostlysingle(28.3%),Moreofagriculturalwagelabourers(25%)and11.2%notworkingat the time of the survey. This could account for their involvement in RSB (jenny, 2016,NDHS, 2018;Moses,2021).

Themaincausesofmigrationinthestudyareaare;conflict(29.3%)unemployment (23.4%), education (22%). Nine council wards accounts for the highnumberofmigrantsinMakurdiduetoconflicts,mostmigrantsliveinIDPcamps.Itwasrevealed that about 28, 175 people were internally displaced in Benue state as at 2018(Yaro et al, 2019), A good number of female migrants engaged in casual sex withoutuse of condom, had multiple sex partners and were influenced by their peer grade. ThiscorroboratesthestudiesofMbuzelenietal.,2020;J.Kasenene,2016andMoses2021.

The consequences of RSB among migrants in Makurdi include STDS, increase in alcohol consumption, increase in substance abuse, abortion among others. HIV is higher in Benue state (10,000) and casual sex workers account for 35 15% causes ofSTDSinBenuestate (Okwori.E. etal,.2016)

Alargestudyofthisnaturecanbeconductedwithlargesamplerepresentativeofboth male and female migrants for proper gender analysis. More so, robust data

ondemographiccharacteristicsofinternalmigrantsisdifficultto find.Thestudyrecommends among others, the need to step up campaign about sexual health andbehaviourschange.Benuestategovernmentshould find waysofensuringhumansecuritythrougheducation,economice mpowermentandpovertyaviation.

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