<u>Original Research Article</u> EFFECT OF RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION ON FOOD SECURITY OF RURAL HOUSEHOLDS IN KWANDE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF BENUE STATE

8 ABSTRACT

9 This study investigated the effect of rural-urban migration on food security of rural households in 10 kwande local government area of Benue State. Nigeria, Using multistage sampling technique and a 11 semi-structured questionnaire as instrument, data for the study was collected from a sample of three 12 hundred and eighty four (389) rural dwellers in the state. The study revealed the major causes and 13 determined the effect of rural-urban migration of the food security of Kwande local government area 14 and suggested measures to reduce the rate of rural-urban migration. Given that the F- statistics of 15 98.094 is significant at 1% level of significance, it implies that the computed F- value was higher than 16 the F-tabulated value of (1.94) at 5% level of significance and (2.51) at 1% level of significance. 17 Therefore, and the alternative hypothesis which states that factors such as search for job, quest for 18 skill acqusition, search foe better education, quest for marriage, insecurity, social amenities, and 19 natural desasters are the determining factors of rural urban migration was accepted. Therefore, the 20 study concluded that reduction rural-urban migration and improvement in food security are dependent 21 on these factors. Based on the effects of rural-urban migration, it was recommended that 22 government/policy makers come up with policies that would lead to increased rural development and 23 farm mechanization.

- 24 Keywords: Rural-urban Migration, Effect, Food Security.
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27 INTRODUCTION

28 A laarge percentage of the worlds poor live in the rural areas. According to estimate by the 29 international fund for Agricultureal development 1the percentage of the rural poor is close to 75% of 30 the worlds poor and majority live in developing countries in South Asia, East Asia ans sub-saharan 31 Africa 1. One of the similarities of these developing countries is that small scale subsistence farming is 32 33 the most prominent occupation in their rural economies. In Nigeria, smal farm holders account for approximately 81% of the total farm holding 2. In other words, agriculture is an important channel for 34 encouraging pro-poor growth in developing countries. There is ample evidence to show that 35 agriculture continues to contribute significantly to economic growth and to the reduction of poverty 36 and food insecurity. As 3 points out, most of the countries that have failed to launch an agricultural 37 revolution remain trapped in poverty, hunger, and economic stagnation.

One major concern on rural-urban migration is the attendant effect on agricultural production generally and food security in particular. Admittedly, the movement of people from rural to urban areas is a common occurrence in Nigeria. The movement poses some problems both in the rural areas and in the urban centres as well, though, there may be some benefits derivable from it. With the increasing migration of able bodied youth to the urban centres, agricultural activities are left in the hands of the less productive and aged members of the rural populace. 4 agrees that rural-urban

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44 migration leads to lalour scarcity, as potentially productive labour is drawn away from the village. The 45 implications of this trend are low agricultural productivity and food insecurity, especially at the rural 46 household level. 5 had explained that in most rural areas, the impact of rural-urban migration is a 47 rapid deterioration of the rural economy leading to chronic poverty and food insecurity. 6 and 7 48 similarly noted that rural-urban migration have been associated with decline in food production, 49 farming activities, fishing, urban congestion, infrastructural facilities in the urban areas among others. 50

The patterns of rural-urban migration in Sub-Saharan Africa are multifaceted. People may be forced to move as a result of cultural, demographic, socio-economic, environmental and or political factors. Mostly the decision to move is influenced by a mixture of several aforementioned factors. Other reasons of migration may be political and ethnic conflicts, natural disasters or processes like land grabbing, large scale infrastructure projects and resettlement 8. Current trends in mobility and migration in Africa also seem to have significant socio-cultural effects on households and communities.

58 One of the most noteworthy demographic phenomena faced by many developing countries in the 59 world is the shortage of skilled labour and food security, and conversely the rapid population growth 60 in the urban centres, which is largely caused by the prevalence of rural-urban migration 9. Migration 61 is a wide spread phenomenon, that any study made on an urban centre in Sub- Saharan Africa (SSA) 62 of which Nigeria is part, will ever, deal largely with a population that was not born in the place. The 63 mass migration of the labour force from agriculture and the declining soil fertility together threaten 64 agricultural sustainability in the study area. 65

66 67 Food security is physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to meet the 68 dietary needs and food preferences by all people, at all times, for an active and healthy. The major 69 elements of food security are adequate availability of food, adequate access to food, appropriate 70 utilization of food, and protection of access to food. Food availability is derived from domestic 71 agricultural output and net food imports at the national level. Food availability for farm households in 72 rural areas means assurance that they can access sufficient food through their own production or 73 through purchase from markets, given sufficient purchasing power. There are four dimensions to food 74 security: (i) availability of sufficient amount of food which is a function of food production (ii) stability of 75 supply over time which depends on the ability to preserve/store produced food and supplement 76 available food through imports if necessary. It means that households do not risk losing access to 77 food due to adverse weather conditions, political instability or economic factors such as 78 unemployment or rising food prices (iii) access to the available food which depends on income levels 79 and its distribution. . Food access is ensured when households, and all individuals within them, have 80 adequate resources to obtain appropriate foods for a nutritious diet. The key determinants of food 81 access are economic, physical, political and socio-cultural factors, and (iv) food utilization which 82 encompasses procurement, indestion and digestion all of which are dependent on nutritional quality. 83 education and health. Food utilization means ensuring nutritional.

- The question that needs to be answered is what impact does this migration have on food security of rural households in Kwande? There the study was focused on determining the factors that cause rural-urban migration in Kwande Local Government Area; it determined the effect of rural-urban migration on rural household food security and Identified measures to reduce food insecurity in light of rural-urban migration.
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90 HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

Ho1 – Factors that cause rural urban migration such as search for job, quest for skill acqusition,
 search for better education, quest for marriage, quest for money, insecurity, social amenities, and
 natural desasters are not the dterminants of rural –urban migration

95 MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study was carried out in is Kwande Local Government Area of Benue State. Cross sectional design was used for this study. Kwande is bounded by several other local

98 government areas. On the west, it is bounded by Vandeikya Local Government Area, 99 Ushongo local government area on the North and Katsina-Ala local government on the 100 North-West. On the South, it is bounded by Cross River State and in the East by the Republic of Cameroon. Kwande local government also shares a common border with Takum 101 102 Local Government Area of Taraba State. The population of this study comprises of all rural 103 households in Kwande Local Government Area of Benue State. There are 56,506 104 households in Kwande Local Government Area 10. A multi-staged sampling technique was 105 used to select the respondents for the study.

106 Kwande Local Government Area is comprised of fifteen (15) political wards. Eight (8) wards 107 were randomly selected from the fiteen (15) wards and thereafter one (1) community was 108 randomly selected from each ward with a total of eight (8) communities. The total number of 109 registered household in the eight (8) selected communities is 9356, 10. This figure therefore 110 forms the sampling frame. The sample size for each community was determined by a 111 mathematical formula given by Taro Yamane

- 112 Where-
- 113 n =Sample size; N =Population size; e =Level of significance which is taken to be 0.05;
- 114 1 =Constant value

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2} = \frac{9356}{1 + 9356(0.05)^2} = \frac{9356}{1 + 9356(0.0025)}$$
$$= \frac{9356}{1 + 23.39} = \frac{9356}{24.39 \approx 34} = 389$$

- Primary data will be collected using semi-structured questionnaire. A combination of
 analytical techniques will be used for data analysis to achieve the objectives of the study;
 descriptive and inferential statistics will be used in the analysis of generated field data.
- 118 Objective one, two and four were realized with descriptive statistics such as frequencies, 119 percentages and mean scores. For Objective two, 3 point likert scale was used to 120 determine the mean. The scale was as follows; Agree (3); Undecided (2) and Disagree 121 (1). A bench mark 2.0 was establisched by calculating the average of the score 122 (3+2+1=6/3=2). Thus any factor with a mean point of 2 and above was regarded as a 123 factor while factors with mean point of less than two were regarded as not factors of rural-124 urban migration.
- 125 Objective three was realized using the mean and standard deviation. A 5point likert-type 126 scale was used to determine the mean. The scale was as follows; Strongly Agree (5); 127 Agree (4); Undecided (3); Disagree (2) and Strongly Disagree (1). A bench mark 3.0 was 128 establisched by calculating the average of the score (5+4+3+2+1=15/5=3). Thus any 129 index from 3.0 and above were regarded as factors that affected rural household food 130 security negatively while factors that are less than 3.0 were regaded as not having any 131 effect on food security of rural household in Kwande Local Government Area of Benue 132 State. Hypothesis was tested using the multiple regression analysis. 133
- 134 The multiple regression models

135 The choice of multiple regression analysis was informed by its statistical power to 136 establish a relationship between variables. The test measured the amount of variability of

137 138 139 140 141	the dependent variable that can be explained by the independent variable. The variable regression co-efficient indentified and estimated how independent variable included in the model best explained the variability in the dependent variable. The implicit model used for the analysis is given as follows: $Y = f(X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, X_6, X_7, X_8)$ (3.3)
142	\mathbf{Y} = Household rate of migration
143	X_1 = Search for job: X_2 = Quest for skill acquisition: X_3 = Better Education: X_4 = Quest for
144	money; X_5 = Marriage; X_6 = Insecurity; X_7 = Social ammenities; X_8 = Natural desaster; ei =
145	Error term
146	The four functional multiple regressions were used to select the one that has provided the
147	best fit.
148	The four functional forms are,
149	Linear Function
150	Y= b0+ b1x1 +b2x2 +b3x3+ b4x4 +5+b5x5 + b6 x6 + b7x7 +b8x8 + ei
151	Semi-Log Function
152	$Y = b0 + b1\log x1 + b2\log 2 + b3\log x3 + b4\log x4 + b5\log x5 + b6\log x6 + b7\log x7 + b70\log x7$
153	b8logx8ei
154	Double Log Function
155	Log Y =b0 +b1logx1 + b2logx2 +b3logx3 + b4logx4 +b5logx5 +b6logx6 +b7logx7 b8logx8
156	ei
157	Exponential Function
158	Log Y= b0 + b1x1 + b2x2 + b3x3 + b4x4 +5 + b5x5 + b6 x6 + b7x7 +b8x8 + ei
159	The choice of the lead equation will judged based on the magnitude of the coefficients,
160	explanatory power of the model (R ²), and the significance of the regression parameters
161	and the F – statistic.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

164 Table 1 Background information of respondents in Kwande Local Government Area

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Sex		
Male	186	48
Female	203	52
Total	389	100
Age		
20-29	36	9
30-39	58	15
40-49	106	27
50-59	87	22
60-69	65	17
70-79	37	10
Total	389	100
Marital Status		
Single	86	22
Married	233	56
Divorced	15	4
Widowed	55	14
Total	389	100
Educational Level		
No forma education	67	17

Primary	99	25
Secondary	132	34
Tertiary	91	23
Total	389	100
Occupation		
Civil Servant	120	31
Trading	62	16
Farming	146	38
Artisan	61	16
Total	389	100
Household size		
1-4	101	26
5-8	197	51
9-12	91	23

Source: Field survey 2018

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Table 1 revealed that majority, 52% (203) of the respondents were females, majority 167 168 27% (106) were between the ages of 40-49 years, followed by the age bracket of 50-59 which was 22% (87). The result showed that majority 56% (233) of the respondents 169 were married. This implies that there is greater number of married people in rural areas 170 171 since migrating as a family is usually dificult and this also ensures household food 172 security. The result also revealed that only 17% (67) of the respondents did not have 173 formal educaion. This shows a very high literacy level which implies that majortiy may 174 tend to migrate to urban areas in search of greener pastures. The more educated a farmer is the more likely he adopts an innovation which implies that the tendency of 175 176 migration may be high due to high literacy level in the area. The result also revealed that majority of the respondents 38% (146) where farmers, 31% (120) were civil servants. 177 This indicates that the major source of livelihood for the respondents was farming. 178 179 Furthermore, the results in table I showed that 51% (197) of the respondents had 180 household size of between 5-8 persons Thus, the large household size might be of benefit to the rural farmers and processors since it has been observed in various studies 181 182 that rural farmers depend mostly on their family members to provide labour on the farm 183 11.

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Factors that cause rural-urban migration in Kwande Local Government Area

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Table 2: determining factors of rural-urban migration in Kwande Local Government Area.

Factors	Frequency	Percentage	Mean $\overline{(x)}$
Inadequate employment opportunities in rural areas	312	82	2.62
Quest for marriage	176	45	1.33
Quest for better education	248	64	2.32
Natural disaster	176	45	1.84

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Quest for money	347	89	2.82
Skill qcquisition	339	88	2.84
Business	298	77	2.42
Inadequate social infrastructure in the rural areas	314	81	2.53
Exposure/Change of environment	287	74	2.21
Poor medical care services in rural areas	315	81	2.54
To diversify sourse of income	345	89	2.83
To overcome constraints on economic and investment	276	71	2.22
Poverty	316	81	2.47
Famine and drought resulting in hunger	187	48	1.63
Lack of interest in farming	311	80	2.33
Displacement as a result of communal crises	156	40	1.24
Desire for more political or religious power	189	49	1.70
Bench Mark			2.0

191 Source: Field survey 2018. Multiple response table.

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192 The result in Table 2 revealed that the major cause of rural-urban miration in the area 193 included inadequate employment opportunities in rural areas (82%; \overline{x} =2.62); Quest for better education (64%; \overline{x} =2.32); Quest for money (89%; 2.82); Skill qcquisition (88%; 194 195 \overline{x} =2.84); Inadequate social infrastructure in the rural areas (81%; \overline{x} = 2.53); 196 Exposure/Change of environment (74%; $\bar{x} = 2.21$); Poor medical care services in rural 197 areas (81%; \bar{x} =2.54); To diversify sourse of income (89%; 2.83); Poverty (81%; 2.47); 198 and lack of interest in farming (80%; $\overline{x} = 2.33$). These factors had mean score higher 199 than the average mean score (Bench mark of 2.0), amd there fore are considered the 200 major causes for the rural-urban migration in the study area. 201

- 202Other identified factors such as Quest for marriage (45%; $\overline{x} = 1.33$); Natural disaster203(45%; $\overline{x} = 1.84$); Famine and drought resulting in hunger (48%; $\overline{x} = 1.63$); Displacement204as a result of communal crises (40%; $\overline{x} = 1.24$); Desire for more political or religious205power (49%; $\overline{x} = 1.70$) where not seen as a major reasons for migration in the area.206Theses factors had their mean scores less than the bench march and therefore were not207considered as reasons why people migrate from Kwande to cities.
- 208 The result is in support of the assertions of 12 that migration of people in search of 209 greener pastures in urban settings is largely influenced by the employment status of the 210 people involved in the migration process. The findings suggest an apparent existence of 211 more job opportunities at the destination than at their places of origin and this is in 212 tandem with findings by 13 who opined that migrants tend to have access to 213 employment opportunities at their destinations than their hometowns or places of origin. 214 In addition, urban areas offer many economic opportunities to rural people for changing 215 jobs and becoming upwardly mobile even with a low asset base and few skills (14; 8) 216
 - Effect of Rural-Urban Migration on Food Security of Rural Household

218Table 3: effect of rural-urban migration on rural household food a security in Kwande219Local Government Area

Effect	Frequency	Percentage	Mean (\overline{x})	SD
Low agricultural productivity	223	60	3.34	0.88
Reduced food availability at home	102	26	1.27	1.01
High cost of labour	374	96	4.22	0.83
Reduced agricultural labour force	341	88	3.43	0.94
Reduced food accessibility	173	44	1.94	1.08
Reduced cultivated area of land for household	283	73	3.72	0.77
Reduced food production	342	89	3.64	0.61
Reduced income from farming	317	81	3.91	0.84
Reduced household food consumption	147	37	1.57	1.03
Number of respondents			389	
Decision mean score			3.00	0.89
Source: Field survey 2018				

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222 The result in table 4.3 showed that a good majority 60% (223) of the respondents opined 223 that rural-urban migration had a negative effect on agricultural productivity of the area 224 with a mean score of 3.34. The result also revealed that the greatest majority 96% (374) 225 of the respondents averred that rural-urban migration caused an increase in the cost of 226 labour ($\overline{x} = 4.22$) while 88% (341) of the respondents indicated that migration of able 227 bodied people from the area reduced agricultural labour force ($\bar{x} = 3.43$); Many farmers 228 expressed that the effects were that the workload became bigger compared to when the 229 migrants still lived at home. The findings also confirms the assertions of 15 that labour 230 shortages emanating from the absence of major household labourers, combined with the 231 unprofitable nature of agriculture, can result to progressive abandonment of previously 232 cultivated distant farmland. Labour migration tends to check the increase in numbers of 233 rural households because labour-migrant households are livelier than nonlabour 234 households to maintain a multi-generational family structure, and thus may contribute to 235 higher efficiency of rural household resource consumption.

236 The loss of the able-bodied people, the physically stronger and often of higher education, 237 leads to a demographic imbalance in both the rural and the urban areas. In a broader 238 aspect, this of course has implications for the future of agriculture since agriculture is, in 239 one way; dependent upon the individual decisions that the rural inhabitants make 240 concerning migration. The study showed that it was mostly the able-bodied that migrated 241 to urban areas, which left the elders with labor shortages. Severe effects on the farm in 242 the long run could therefore have occurred which also creates the necessity of new 243 livelihood strategies. 16 opined that rural migration affects the local food security 244 differently depending on the interaction between the left-behind and the migrant. A better food security could for example be established if the migrant sent remittance to the 245 246 people left-behind.

248Measures to Reduce Rural-Urban Migration and Improve Food Security in Kwande249Local Government Area.

250Table 4: Strategies for reducing rural-urban migration and improving rural household food251security

Strategies	Frequency	Percentages
Provision of basic amenities such as schools, pipe borne water and electricity	345	89
Establishment of vocational training centers for skill acquisition	365	94
Provision of incentives such as microcredit for youths in agriculture	314	81
Rural industrialization especially establishing agro –	378	97
Provision of labour saving devices for easy farm	335	86
Subsidizing prices of farm inputs such as fertilizers, nerbicide and pesticide	367	94
Provision of improved varieties of crops and breeds of livestock	374	96

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254 Table 4 identified measures to reduce rural-urban migration and improve food security of 255 rural household in Kwande Local Government Area of Benue State. The impication of the 256 result is that rural development should be one of the major focuses of the government's 257 efforts to improve food security in the rural areas. Expecting poor countries to quickly 258 generate enough productive nonfarm jobs to pull large numbers of workers out of 259 farming is totally unrealistic. If agricultural growth and small farms are neglected, then a 260 mass exodus of small farmers could simply overwhelm countries in terms of the social, 261 political, and environmental problems this will create. There is a lot that rural-urban 262 migrants and other stakeholders can do to help smallholder farmers improve their food 263 security. The result also implies that if rural-urban migration must be reduced and food security increased, the government and the private sector must provide the rural farmers 264 265 with access to essential farm inputs including fertilizer and seeds at subsidized costs or 266 on credit basis. The findings of this study suggest that targeting women farmers for 267 these inputs would be worthwhile.

- The result also indicated that investment in rural industries, such as textile industries or food processing factories, is likely to create job opportunities for rural people, and reduce the rate of rural-urban migration and improve household food security. More importantly, farmers will be encouraged to produce more food some of which can be sold to the factories. While better access to off-farm income is likely to improve household income and reduce vulnerability to food insecurity, it may also reduce incentives for food production 17.
 - Test of Hypothesis

Four functional forms – linear, exponential, semi-log and double-log were tried for choice of a lead equation. F-ratio of the four functional form tried were significant at 1.0% risk level indicating that any of the four could be used for predictive purposes. But the

280 double-log functional form was chosen based on the magnitude of the coefficient of multiple determinations (R²), the significance of the regression coefficients, the number 281 282 of significant variables and the signs of the significant variables as they conform to the significance of the entire model as shown by the F- statistic. The value of the coefficient 283 of multiple determinations (R²) was 0.952, implying that about 95.20% variability in the 284 285 factors that cause rural-urban migration was explained by the above probability 286 indicating a goodness of fit of the regression model. The F- statistic was significant at 287 1% implying that the entire model was well specified.

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Variable	Linear	Exponential	Double-log ^L	Semi log
Constant	0.18	0.009	-0.368	1.076
Search for job	-5841.076	0.019	1,417	-5011073
-	(-2.032)**	(0.931)	(3.517)***	(-0.290)
Quest for skill aquisition	0.207	-3.78E-06	0.257	21323.80
	(0.321)	(-0.846)	(1.198)	(0.538)
Search for better education	1.916	7.89E-06	0.195	229738.4
	(0.321)	(0.320)	(1.862)*	(11.863)***
Quest for money	0.647	1.76E-	0.951	117379.9
-	(0.541)	05(2.124)**	(4.502)***	(3.007)***
Quest for marriage	-301.114	-0.011	-28.936	-2652376
-	(-0.919)	(-4.680)***	(-1.741)*	(3.007)***
Insecurity	-32170.86	-0.146	-2.166	190982.6
	(-2.806)***	(-1.844)*	(-3.936)***	(-1.878)*
Social amenities	-75615.07	-0.105	-0.580	-196748.6
	(-3.504)***	(-0.704)	(1.302)	(-1.228)
Natural Disaster	5262.610	0.033	0.958	36831.79
	(2.405)**	(2.184)**	(2.510)**	(0.522)
R ²	0.923	0.935	0.952	0.908
Adj. R. Squared	0.912	0.926	0.946	0.894
F-statistics	82.593***	99.330***	98.094***	67.824***

290 Source: Field survey, 2018

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Note: ***, **, and * indicates statistically significant at 1 percent, 5 percent and 10 percent level of significance respectively.^L stand for the lead equation and the values in parenthesis are t-values

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295 The coefficient of search for better education was positive (1.826) and significant at 10% 296 alpha level. This implies a direct relatonship. It meas that a unit increase in this variable 297 will increase rural-ueban migretion by 1.826 times. The cefficient of search for job was 298 positive (3.157) and significant at 1% percent alpha level. The result implies a positive 299 and direct relationship which means that a unit increase in the search for job will 300 increase in rural-urban migretion by 3.157 times. The coefficient of quest for money was 301 positive (4.502) and significaant at 1% level of significance. This means that as the quest 302 for money increases, rural-urban migration will in increase by 4.502 uniits. The 303 coefficient of natural desaster was also found to be positive (2.510) and significant at 5% 304 level of significance. This implies that any increases in natural desaster will leade to 305 increase in rural-urban migration by 2.510 units. The coefficient of quest for marriage was negative (-1.741) and significant at 10% alpha level. This implies an indirect 306 307 relatiionship which means that as quest for marriage increases, rural-urban migretion will 308 reduce by 1.742 units. This could be because of the fact that city men believe that

309 women or girls in the village are more reserved and marriageable than city ladies so they 310 tend to marry more in the village than in the city. This explains why most of the sampled 311 respondents were married. The coefficient of insecurity was negative (-3.936) and 312 significant at 1% level of significance. This implies an indirect relationship which means 313 that a unit increase in the isecurity of the area will lead to a decrease in rural-urban 314 migration. This is because able bodied men will rather stay back to defend their 315 community and families than migrate to the city.

- Given that the F- statistics of 98.094 is significant at 1% level of significance, it implies 316 that the computed F- value was higher than the F-tabulated value of (1.94) at 5% level of 317 318 significance and (2.51) at 1% level of significance. Therefore, the null hypothesis that 319 Factors that cause rural urban migration such as search for job, quest for skill acquisition, 320 search foe better education, quest for marriage, insecurity, social amenities, and natural 321 desasters are not the dterminants of rural –urban migration rejected and the alternative 322 hypothesis which states that factors such as search for job, quest for skill acqusition, 323 search foe better education, quest for marriage, insecurity, social amenities, and natural 324 desasters are the determining factors of rural urban migration was accepted. Therefore, 325 the study concluded that reduction rural-urban migration and improvement in food 326 security are dependent on these factors
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329 Conclusion

People tend to move to places where they expect potential income generating opportunities to be greater than in their area of origin. Rural-urban migration negatively impacts on the quality of rural life, especially when such migrants move away with their needed productivity into the urban areas. Migration of young adults from the rural to urban areas places a greater burden on the farming household. Therefore the study recommends the development of rural areas as a neasure of ensuring food security in the rural areas.

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