

The Socio-Economic Impact of Displacement in Nigeria: A Reflection of the Internal Displace Persons (IDPs) Camp in Northern Nigeria

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Abstract

The study examine the growing wave of insecurity in the country and it advert effect on the citizens in the country as it displaced them from their homes which is affecting their means of livelihood. Displacement occurred in the form of violence, armed conflicts/banditry and violation of human rights. The study focus on the remote causes of the displacement with the purpose of proffering measures in curtailing the menace. The role played by government in handling the various causes of displacement and creating an avenue for their returning back to their place of habitation. This study remmends that government at all levels has to ensure peaceful co-existence of its citizen with a high level of patriotism, respects for belief, culture and tradition, fundamental human rights.

Keywords: Socio-cultural, Livelihood, Displacement, Armed Banditry, Kidnapping

JEL Classification: D74

1. Introduction

Nigeria as a heterogeneous society, have lived together in harmony and carried about its economic, social and political activities without disruption, interference, discrimination, etc of any form contributing to the country GDP and increased living standard. The various ethnic-nationalities respect the cultural affiliation of each other and therefore live in their various communities in harmony. The secularist's nature of the Nigerian nation also allows the individuals within the state to practice and prophase their various religious believes which become a binding force in the society.

With the current happing of insecurity in the country, the virtue of brotherliness and sense of belonging have drastically diminishes as a result of crises that erupted within communities living together or an invasion of the communities by the various sectarian groups that are emerging in the society today. The people have been forced out of their homes, losing the strings that bind the people together in the society. This also eroded the societal values that keep people together. The various crisis, violence and armed conflicts have forced people to relocate to other places or areas where they perceived to be peaceful. These groups of persons became displaced, which have socio-economic implication. Internal displacement occurs across various context- including conflicts, environmental disasters and the

negative impact of climate change that often results from, and leads to multiple human right violations (Cantor & Ochieng , 2021).

Due to displacement, camps in form of IDPs are located such as the camp in Maiduguri in Nigeria. Other countries also experience similar scenario such as the southern island of Mindanao, Philippines, the Kashmir IDPs in India, Kurdish IDPs of Turkey, the IDPs in Burundi, Somalia, Sudan the Palestinian IDPs in Gaza, West bank, Jordan etc; all the displaced people in these communities of different countries were forcefully uprooted from their ancestral homes. The various families that made up the communities fled to unknown destinations, for fear of persecution, abduction, kidnapping and killing. More than half of the African countries were affected by armed conflicts ranging from all forms of crimes like armed robbery, banditry, herdsmen, Boko haram insurgencies, ethnic militia, and natural disasters which have led to various forms displacement in Africa, particularly Nigeria. The security apparatus in the country and most African countries are poor and citizens have lost confidence of their protection and safety therefore they had fled to other safe areas and cities for protection. They live in camps for number of weeks and months for safety. The evicted persons from various communities become vulnerable to social, economic and health threat to the host communities and government.

The various conflicts and violence in the country has made the poor vulnerable, unsafe and increases his apathy in his current condition and government irresponsiveness to their plight as citizens. The increase rate of crimes and conflicts in the country has made the civilian societies a major casualty especially those in the rural areas. Government on the other side has its attention diverted from the provision of infrastructural development to purchases of military equipment and provision of humanitarian relief. There has been a rapid rise globally of refugees and internally displaced persons whose number has gone up to 22million in 1985 and currently, the figure have reached 42 million (OECD,2019).

The dimension of the persons which home is the contention and negotiation takes people to Dalori IDPs camp in Maiduguri-Nigeria, Mindanao, Maquindanao, Zamboanga in the Philippine, were forcefully evicted from their ancestral homes which have meant nothing to them than the loss of their physical abode in their respective villages and towns. It also represents the loss of their way of life, which eroded their sense of security and identity.

According to UHCR report of 2013, twenty six (26) million people are IDPs who differs from refugees displaced within their own national borders. This number is not accurate because some of the internal displaced person's escape the registration and some go into hiding because of the stigma of displacement. The displacement of persons, the world over can be seeing in relation to communal conflicts or clashes, armed conflicts, armed banditry, kidnapping, religious conflict, violation of fundamental human rights, development induced displacement and many more. The displacement can be a closed detention, which is a complete separation from the local population in a detention centre, open detentions is the IDPs camp, mandatory settlement, self-settlement, village/town cohabitation and urban cohabitation which mostly associated with returnees. IDPs frequently stay near

their homes and may return to their places of origin relatively quickly, but often their destroyed homes and livelihood might disrupt their willingness to return home. At the same time, some may leave the affected areas to find refuge or seek access to basic services and livelihoods in other regions or cities. People move to seek refuge in government evacuation centres, some make shift shelters. The impact of displacement on diverse stakeholders depends upon the type and nature of displacement. In a given displaced population the people experiences various phases of displacement with its impact felt within a given group throughout the course of the different phases. Displacement can be attributed to either communal conflicts, religious conflicts, development induced displacement and internal violence as a result of abuse of fundamental human right. However, internal displacement is a common phenomenon in Nigeria and most countries in the world such as inter-communal and political violence, armed conflicts, armed banditry, ethnic militia, flooding and force eviction. Internally displace persons can be triggered by natural disasters or human-induced conflict that leads to violence. In respect to displaced persons, they often leaves behind negative foot prints on millions of people worldwide. This paper therefore focuses on the human induced violence, conflicts and clashes in recent time that have led to the displacement of persons.

2. Literature

The Internal Displaced Persons (IDPS) who are vulnerable required the attention of all stakeholders because of the stigma associated with it. The problem of displacement will be analyzed by using the Dugans Nestle Model. This model examine the issues of displacement by analyzing events as it's occurs. The understanding of the causes of displacement are rational issues which has to do with the way the individual fits into the society that have been broken up from his family cultural ties and as he find himself in a new place of habitation. The rational is to integrate into one's new society as it affects his language, education and social upbringing. The model also helps in analyzing the systematic or structural issues relating to the economic structures of the society in relation to job.

Effect of Displacement

The displacements of person's from their homes have an effect on people displaced.

Food security: The displace individuals who have various activities that they have uphold, nourished and has help in providing the basic needs of self-sustenance of the family in respect of the provision of food and other necessity for life sustenance. The basic needs for life sustenance drastically disappeared as the individual struggle is to protect self rather than engaging in food production. People forcefully uprooted from their homes risk chronic under – nourishment, due to low caloric protein intake which is necessary for normal growth and work. The provision of food in the IDPs camps especially the Dalori camp in Maiduguri has in adequate food supply. Even when the food is made available it is insufficient and does not take into cognizance the caloric intake and protein. The agricultural activities which are the main occupation of the people have been hampered because of their inability to access land for farming. The inadequate foods have led to mal-nutrition in the camps and other related diseases.

Health: The displacement threatens their health status causing serious health challenges and malnutrition problems. Overcrowding in host areas is likely to increase pollution and diseases, reduced income can lead to inability to afford healthcare services. Asserted by Owoaje, et al, (2016), IDPS are increased risk of communicable diseases compared to local population. IDPs have worst nutritional outcomes compared to other conflict affected population, (Marthins- Canavate, et al, 2020). The overcrowding in the various IDPs camps, more especially in Nigeria lack good health services in-terms of personnel's who are to render the services and drugs for effective treatment of ailment associated with the over-crowding in the camps. In view of the above it's pertinent to note that IDPs health intervention such as water treatment can be crucial in controlling communicable diseases, reducing diarrhea incidence by 90% and prevalence by over 80% (Ekezie et al., 2020).

Development projects have diverse effects in the displacement of people from their original place of habitation due to large-scale land acquisition for the project. People are forcefully relocated without the provision a commiserate acquire land for their economic activities especially farmers and these has effect on getting good health services with serious health implications. Despite serious efforts by the state and non-state actors, development induced displacement has resulted in severe economic, social and environmental problem, more especially the underprivileged and illiterate population in the society.

Social Factors

The development induced displacement has become more worrisome the World Bank Environment Department (WBED) put it that 10 million people are displaced each year due to dam construction and urban development. Most of these projects have induced hardship on the affected people, as most of the suffering comes in the wake of post displacement by the state and non-state actors. Development projects are carried out by the state (government) and therefore it is responsible for addressing problems arising from the displacement. The developing countries are witnessing rapid increase in their population growth making the available infrastructures provided in town and cities to be over stressed due to increased population and urbanization. This development therefore demands more space for water supply and essential amenities' to cope with increasing population in the urban centres. The relocation also led to the loss of societal value. Displaced persons and their respective families find it difficult in the moral upbringing of their children. Their culture will be affected by some environmental factors more especially the host communities. The hardship encounter by the displacement of people to new areas made people developed resistance to relocation as it is in the case of many developing countries. In Nigeria a good example is the sighting of the nation Federal Capital Abuja. This led to the relocation of the people to new area within their state of origin, like Sabon Wuse in Niger state. Some people in the federal capital of Nigeria refuse to relocate to the new settlement built by government. Countries of the world have been undertaken projects to improve the quality of life of its people through planned development. Government had taken a number of projects which includes dam construction for power generation, irrigation for the improvement of the wellbeing of its citizens. These projects have

had an adverse effect on the displaced person since it forced their relocation from their original place of habitation. The people reluctance has given away for different projects of course not without reasons. The reluctance is because governments have not shown commitment in the rehabilitation's of the affected communities and the provisions of basic infrastructure that will enhance their condition of living. Dams constructions and other irrigation projects displaced a number of persons worldwide. The consequence of such projects largely depends upon how their resettlement is planned, negotiated and implemented (Mishra, 2014). The displaced population have faces total economic deprivation and social disruption leading to landlessness, joblessness and homelessness.

Furthermore, it has been observed that forced migration today, increased crime terrorism with negative impacts upon indigenous and peasant groups in Africa and the world at large. Ethnic and civil crisis that have displaced a number of persons in Liberia, Mali, Code Voure, Brundi, Central African Republic, The Republic the Congo, Sudan, Chad, Nigeria and many more. In Nigeria the people of North-Eastern have not known peace for close to two decades. Religious sects like Boko Haram have paralyzed the economic activities of the people. People have fled their homes of habitation and now been relocate in camps in different places in the country. Development induce displacement in the continent of Africa is the largest type of forced migration due to dam construction as recorded in Egypt in the construction of Aswan Dam, Volta dam in Ghana, Nigeria-the kainji, Shiroro, Jebba Bakolori and many more. It is an obvious fact that when people are forcefully moved the production systems are dismantled, long established residential communities and settlement are disorganized, kingship groups and family system are often scattered. Displacement breaks down family with the vulnerable members of their families such as children, orphans and the elderly are worst affected. It is worthy of note that the relocation, disconnect the people from their relations. It destroys local peoples social network which usually act as social safety nets in providing social security to local people in times of uncertainties such as drought, hunger and death (Tinotada & Mutani, 2014).

Traditional management systems tend to lose their leadership as a result of force relocation as households and villages are dismantle due to the resettlement programs. People also find it difficult to participate in political activities as a result of displacement. Children as a social group are also deprived of their social well-being due to forced migration (displacement). The focus has being on the adult welfare and children who and vulnerable are neglected forgotten that they leaders of the future generation.

Ethno-Religious Effect of Displacement

Force migration also destroys cultural heritages such as temples, shines and sacred elements of the landscape, artifacts and building. The distortion of the individual belief system as result of the coming together of different people with different faith and beliefs .This affect the moral upbringing of people especially, the young ones.

Economic Factors

Another major effect, is that there main jobless as they lose their wage employment as a result of the displacement. They loss their shelter and some of them remain homeless, as their houses in the new settlement are temporary shelter, which affect their social and economic life. The activities of religious sect, like Boko Haram, armed banditry and other natural disasters such as flood, typhoon, flood, earthquake and many more have paralyzed the economic activities of the people. People have fled their homes of habitation and now been relocate in camps in different places in the country making it impossible for the continuation of their chosen vocation and economic activities. Such is applicable to the people of Mindanao in the Philippine, Congo Central Republic, and other south –east Asian countries. In Ghana the construction of Volta Dam, and also the construction of Kainji dam in Nigeria, enhances measures for forced migration. More so in North – Western Nigeria, the Bakolori Dam was constructed as an aid for their economic development but led to their force migration.

3. Methodology

A qualitative method of data collection is employed in this study most especially the triangulation approach. Information was derived from secondary source, which are views of scholars in these area of research, which provide an account of the efficacy on people own feelings and its impact on their socio-economic life. Effort was made to discuss the problem from their contextual origin of those experiencing the effect of relocation. The data instruments used are unstructured as the information gather are from the views of scholars in this area of study.

4. Findings

Displace people often lose assets when they are forced to flee their home and land. They also be unable to pursue their former work leading to unemployment which will lead to a drop in income. Livelihood loss also leads to reduced access to food and increase malnutrition. The impact of displacement has shown that it has both positive and negative as people undergo the process of dispossession and disempowerment. Violent armed groups have continue to force families out of their communities resulting in overcrowding in IDPs camps.

The IDPs has a guiding principles which set out the specific rights of protection and humanitarian assistance and the obligation of government in all phases of displacement (Special Report- WHO, 2020). The IDPs in their camps needed to be provided and opportunity to pursue their means of livelihood despite living in unknown place which he regards to be safe. Being in a new area for safety, the United Nation has given a guidelines that will guarantee the displace person safety and his needs be taking care like any other citizen in the country. This goes along with legality binding laws that guarantee their fundamental human rights and provide a framework for action. Displaced persons that resides outsidess the country borders as refugees, certain principles regarding their protection and safety is assured. They are sometimes be allowed to carried out their vocation to enable them end a living rather than depending on assistance from form government and other donor agencies and organizations (NGOs).

Force displacement either through violence, armed banditry, development projects and other ways of displacement, the affected individuals often relocate to areas of safety. The IDPs lacks the knowledge and information's about the new environment which tends to decreased food security, increase their dependency on external aid. They also faced the challenge of inadequate shelter, sanitation and access to safe water, which further compounded their problems. Government in response to the plight of the IDPs needs to be proactive in responding to their needs because living a place of habitation associated with a number of challenges. It is in the view of the above that the World Food Program (WFP) 2000 also identified that in areas where government fail to provide the necessary aids to the IDPs, most of their needs are met by NGOs (local and international) and others by the United Nations through the Inter Agencies Standing Committee (IASC). According to Relief web (2021) cited in Chidubem (2022), there will be about 274 million people globally who will need humanitarian assistance and protection by the end of 2022, a figure that increased from 235 million from 235 million people the previous years as violence has been perpetrated through means especially in Nigeria. Eweka and Olusegun (2016), have added that, government operating IDP camps in Nigeria have been paying less focus to improve this crisis response system for future displacements caused by conflict through funding, policies and training.

The IDPs needed security from violence as well as from hunger and diseases. To Leus, Etaal (2020), violence is a major cause of illness and death, directly and indirectly. They further asserted that, through violence and other form of conflicts people lost their livelihood, identity documents and social support networks during displacement with direct consequences for vulnerability to abuse, exploitation and violence. Women, children and older people and those with disabilities are particularly at risk. Children faces different challenges in pursuing their education. Children from host communities and those who remained in communities of origin may also have their education disrupted as a result of displacement. (IDMC 2018).

High levels of unemployment characterized as the most challenges problems of IDPs because of the lost of jobs as a result of displacement. This tends to make life difficult among the IDPs as they cannot meet up with the basic needs for human existence. High level of unemployment among IDPs affect their socialization, as they will find it difficult to socialized with colleagues and even at work contacts. They are completely cut up from pay wages that will enable them meet up with their basic needs. Displacement separates the people from their social networks at home which have helped them to find work or financial support. This make the displace persons vulnerable by making the families to take the children out of education either because they are unable to afford their schooling or because they need them work and this affect schools enrolment.

Children and females who have been displaced are always at an increased risk of sexual and physical violence, disease and malnutrition and separation from family members which might cause psycho social distress

The impact of natural disasters and the more gradual effects of climate change such as the receding of water Lake Chad, rising sea levels for coastal communities, longer and harsher droughts, or the creep of desertification which create new

displaced population and poses challenges on the existing ones. Frequent drought storms, heat waves, rising sea levels, melting glaciers, etc destroy animal and human and wreak havoc on people's livelihoods and communities. These resulted in the inability for people to adapt to the ecological and social consequences of climate change (CARE, 2023).

5. Conclusion and Recommendation

The means of livelihood of the people has been affected by the force migration, due to the absence of some economic activities that help in sustaining the family. The eviction of people from their homes had major effect in the social and economic life. The host population exhibits a high level of discrimination to the IDPs, they limit the IDPs access to land, employment and other economic activities. The cultural and religious differences of the IDPs and host communities has an advance effects on the upbringing of their young ones in the camps, their values place on certain things and behavior differs. In conclusion, the force migration of persons has implications on displaced persons and host communities. The relocation has distance them from various activities use as a means of life sustenance. Women and children became vulnerable because of their inability to stand on their own in acquiring basic necessity for life. There are frequent cases of unwanted pregnancy, sexual harassment of different magnitude and the growth of various degrees of crimes in Nigeria and other countries. The government in response to the demand of the Internal Displace Persons (IDPs), should formulate a policy and laws that will enhance the acquisition of their properties if returned to their original home of habitation. Crisis induced displacement hamper development in all ramification. The act of internal terrorism have increase security cost, reduce output and productive capacity, discourage tourist, damage infrastructures and foreign direct investment which have severe implication for economic growth and development of emerging economics (Osemwegie, 2012).

Human nature the world over home is home and the concept of home form part of the individual because of the attachment they have to their tradition, culture, beliefs and economic activities which holds the people together. The moving away from home should be with an inner conviction and even if forcefully evicted will always want to return to his/her original place of residence. Government at all levels has to ensure peaceful co-existence of its citizen with a high level of patriotism, respects for one another in relation to his belief, culture and tradition. It should also ensure the respect of the fundamental human rights of its citizens by guaranteed the opportunities to effective exercise their right to reduce the over increasing problem of ethnic, communal and religious crisis. The proliferation of arms in the society should be well checked by securing the border and other entry points into the country. Political elite should show maturity in respects to the country constitution by employing dialogue in the settlement of disputes than resulting into violence and the use of the youths as militia that will lead to the use of arms as a means of presenting their grievances to government of taken to armed conflict. Such approach will lead to instability of the polity, loss of lives and properties and under-development of the society. The individual citizens affected by developments induce displacement should be well compensated. Displacement by natural

disasters-induced should be well rehabilitated for them to effectively perform their social and economic responsibilities and equally contribute to national development.

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