Extended Abstract

Introduction

The challenges posed by population movements across the globe are of great concern to peoples of the world. There are empirical studies on international migration by (International Labour Office(ILO), International Organization of Migration (IOM), and Office United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights (OUNCHR),2001; Kahanec and Zimmermann, 2008; Borjas, and Freeman, 1992; Borjas,1987; Lalonde and Topel, 1997, Crush and Williams, 2005. Sociologists, Criminologists and Political Scientists are interested on migration issues because of the growth in regular, irregular or forced migratory movements in various regions, which are caused by economic crises, lack of sustainable livelihoods, political conflicts, civil war, ethnic persecution, social inequalities, gender-blind macroeconomic policies, and wider processes of global social transformation (Touzenis, Kristina, 2010: 125). The study analyses interactions between international migration and xenophobic violence in South Africa and its consequences for African integration. Migration trends highlighted in this paper include complex patterns involving internal, cross-border, intra- and interregional mobility, as well as emigration from Africa. These movement patterns can be further dissected by South-South migration, South-North migration, rural-rural migration, and rural-urban migration (Adepoju, 2007).

It is conducted against the observable descent of the country into anarchy in 2008 and 2015 in the major cities in South Africa. South Africa is gradually becoming a country with record of hatred for non-nationals since the birth of democracy in 1994 (Crush and Williams, 2005:2). The paper argues that in as much as migration is a strategy for livelihood for the migrants it is also beneficial to sending state, receiving state and the migrants themselves. It is therefore, important for appropriate policy to be formulated for the benefit of the continent's economic, and social development.

The study problematizes that international migration may lead to terrorism, expatriate quota abuse, violation of immigration laws, document frauds, and financial crimes. Migration has also changed the concept and practice of security, as well as the rules of human interactions. Its threats or perceived threats have made individual governments to formulate policies and strategies of regulating and controlling the way people move across borders. The ease of outflows has brought about depletion of human capital base as well as its material resources

thereby reducing its potential for development. Similarly, the inflow of foreigners into South Africa opened the country to criminals, traffickers and terrorists as well as all kinds of expatriates in the name of investment. The resultant consequences is conscious or unconscious xenophobic attacks against foreigners based on perception that available jobs are taking away by foreigners even when there is no empirical evidence to support such claim. The thesis is that free movement of people across the boundaries of states in search of greener pastures poses big challenge to migration services while xenophobic violence attacks against foreigners in South Africa has adverse effects on the continent integration policy.

It is against this backdrop that the study was carried out to understand the nature, scale, and the implications of this xenophobic violence contrary to the most canvassed policy of economic integration of the continent through New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) and other regional economic instruments. The study analyses the data available from the official statistics as well as policy and research literature on the issue of migration to South Africa. In this vein, the study expected findings would be through the evaluation of migration policy of South Africa, the African economic integration policy and International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers.

 Four different questions were investigated: i). To what extent can African integration be achieved if there are restrictions in the movement of Africans from one territory to the other? ii).Is it actually because there are limited job opportunities in South Africa that South Africans are afraid of foreigners? iii).To what extent can the xenophobic attacks on foreigners be blamed on the South Africa immigration policy? iv). What extent is such action amount to violation of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant workers and the Members of their Families? Each of these questions can be analyzed at different levels and with different tools. Employing eclectic theoretical approaches offered all encompassing explanation for migration.

Conceptual and theoretical underpinnings

There are many studies on international migration and its consequences (Chiswick,1978; Borjas, 1985; Chiswick and Karras,1992; Adepoju,2004; Kahanec and Zimmermann, 2008). International migration is simply defined in this paper as the movement of people from one country to another either within the same region, sub-region, continent, or different continent. There are two confusing concepts that were clarified- Irregular and regular migration. A distinction was made between irregular entry and irregular stay. For instance, most irregular

migrants enter destination countries legally, but subsequently overstay their visas, or engage in prohibited work, through which their status becomes irregular. On the contrary, migrants entering or residing in a country illegally can acquire legal residency through obtaining work, marriage or regularization (De Haas, 2008,13). Irregular migration in a broad sense is defined as " international movement or residency in conflict with migration laws" (IOM, 2008:13). According to ILO, IOM and OUNCHR (2001:2) "Xenophobia describes attitudes, prejudices and behaviour that reject, exclude and often vilify persons based on the perception that they are outsiders or foreigners to the community, society or national identity". While racism is defined as "an ideological construct that assigns a certain race and /or ethnic group to a position of power over others on the basis of physical and cultural attributes, as well as economic wealth, involving hierarchical relations where the 'superior' race exercises domination and control over others"(ILO, IOM, and OUNCHR, 2001:2).

There are contending theories of migration. The neo-classical theory of migration which is macro and micro framework provides explanation for migration driven by differences in return to labour across markets. The classical economic development highlights that migration results from actual wage differentials across markets or countries that emerge from heterogeneous degrees of labour market tightness. According to this theory, migration is driven by geographic differences in labour supply and demand and the resulting differentials in wages between labour-rich versus capital-rich countries(Bauer and Zimmermann, 1999).

Methodology

There are two parts of analysis: The first one is an empirical analysis of migrants to South Africa, hence data are qualitatively analysed using table to illustrate the number of legal African immigrants to South Africa from 1990 to 2014 and situating this within theoretical argument to determine the factors responsible for the movement of migrants to the country. The second part is a descriptive analysis which examined the consequences of xenophobic violence on African integration.

The study is basically qualitative with the use of secondary sources: books, magazines, journals, Newspapers and internet and other published works on African Integration. It also employed analytical skills bearing in mind that migration is multifaceted which demands multiple levels of analysis.

Expected findings

The study found as follows: First, the search for economic opportunities is a major factor for migration of Africans to South Africa. Second, debilitating economic conditions of most African countries contributes largely to the movement of young ones to South Africa which is considered to have a relatively stable economy. Third, the hatred of South Africans against non-nationals is borne out of historical experience during the white dominance in South Africa. The fear that foreigners may likely take over the economy from them is responsible for xenophobic violence. Fourth, the remittance from the migrants contributes to economic development of their countries of origin through promotion of domestic savings, mobilized as capital, and channelled for productive investment, that might be one way to reverse the economic misfortune and build strong state capacity. Fifth, empirical research on South Africa's migration policy and legislation contradicts the development agenda of NEPAD.

Selected References

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