# Chapter 2
# Terrific Experiences, Receptiveness, and Mediatic Representation of Migration in the Global Community

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## ABSTRACT

*The discourse on brain drain, asymmetry, trans-territorial inequality, and of recent, issue relating to terrorists' threat, has dominated migration mediatic writings. Basically, the repulsive admittance of migrants into developed countries has been found to correlate to the xenophobic attitudes that are linked to myths and misinformation partly injected by the media and acted upon by political gladiators. However, contrary to the negative attitudinal disposition to migrants' admissibility that are rife in the developed economies, this research work establishes that the Third World nations have consistently sought for succour through push factors facilitating migration in the past and will continue to do so at higher magnitude for many decades to come if the current economic situation and the corrupt disposition of indigenous political elites remained unaltered. The chapter, thus, advocates the address of the causative factors promoting migration rather than curative expenditures often embarked upon by the United Nations Organization (UNO) and other advanced economies in arresting migratory emergencies.*

## INTRODUCTION

### Descriptive Analysis of Migration Dynamics: An Introductory

Migration crisis globally has its root in terrific experiences that are endemic in unhealthy environments which are mostly ravaged by wars, vulnerabilities and crimogemic situations which is basically emblematic of nations accentuated with retrogressive socio-economic variables. Understanding the nature and complexities of migration thus portends multivariate challenges for research analysts especially with the

presence of regional daunting challenges and dearth of data on the rationale behind human relocation. Matei (2011, p. 85) states that "When studying migration, we encounter a multi-faceted reality and we are challenged to understand outcomes of life strategies, personal options and demands, creating a world in which interactions are continuously reconfigured". Reconfiguration in today sub-Saharan Africa, will require a thorough examination of the realities of growing predatory crises inherent in both social, economic and political configurations that are mitigating and promoting the increment of migration. In the midst of fast encroaching crises globally, international migration is growing both in scope and complexity and affecting almost all countries in the world (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, (UN DESA, 2012).

Estimating the size of population implicated in global migration, it was earlier reported that about 173 million people in 2000, 220 million people or 3 percent of the world's population in 2010 and 258 million humans in 2017 are believed to live outside their countries of birth (United Nations 2009; International Migration Review (IMR), 2017). Abel and Sanders (2014) equally estimate that 35-40 million people migrate every 5 years. The surge depicting the current trend is likely to be connected with the dislocations foisted by recession on the economic structures of most nations. Similarly, Human Development Report (2009) reveals that the world houses about 740 million internal migrants thereby in the process putting about one billion people under two immigration categories: residence outside or within the region of origin.

In 2014, it was reported that approximately 800,000 people have arrived at European Union (EU) borders through irregular channels, fleeing conflict and violence at home or in search of a better life abroad (Metcalfe-Hough, 2015:2). The reason adduced to migration in the findings of Metcalfe-Hough slightly excludes socio-economic variables constituting the unique features of Africans' migration to the Western nations. Presenting an update on the nature and characteristics of movements, IMR (2017) reveals that at the close of 2017, two third (67 per cent) of all international migrants were living in just twenty countries. Asia, (80 million), Europe, (78 million), Northern America, (58 million), Africa, (25 million), the Caribbean, (10 million) and Oceania, (8 million).

Historically, migratory activities constitute a rallying web of interaction encompassing diverse factors and conditions that are both social, political, economic, psychological and sometime environmental which go beyond national borders and jurisdictions, and are highly complex, volatile and interactive in its consequences for human survival (Castle, 2006; Mattar, 2012; VelosoLeao, 2013: Triandafyllidou, 2017). Ideally, it is affected by diverse political undertones and mitigated by cultural and psycho-social dynamics. Primarily, migration represents a decision which propels concerted human efforts to relocate from one geographical region or country to another with the view of seeking greener pasture, taking steps at averting tragic or appalling treats to life and ably promoted by wars, famine, economic downturn, epidemics, perpetration of organized crime such as kidnapping, trafficking, prostitution and host of other social or material related challenges. Migration in Africa is often economically-driven and it is mostly done for the purpose of sending remittances that aim at supporting the rest economically-battered population or family members left behind at home.

The African Union (2018, p. 5) summarises the migration trends and patterns in Africa and located the major push factors driving migration in Africa as inclusive of lack of socio-economic opportunities, disregard for rule of law, poor governance, patronage and corruption, political instability, conflict, crime, terrorism and civil strife while the pull factors include the real or perceived opportunities for a better life, higher income, improved security, and superior education and health care in countries of destination Although, migration has heterogeneous impact on both sender and receiving nations, its secondary impact

is reported to be bedevilled by cold receptive attitudes from the political arms of most nations owing to negative instigations from the academic cum media class and on the summary, holistically unwelcome by the indigenous population of the absorbing societies. Oftentimes, the coverage of political-laden interests pushes media into dark side in its impact at engendering multiplicity of hate speeches and opportunistic predation that affects the wellbeing of migrants (ICPMD, 2018). Consequently, migration allays survival threat, equally possesses a potency for poverty reduction and subject migrants to unhelpful risks by reason of favourability or non-favourability of media outputs (Hagen-Zanker, 2015, p. 4).

Media is noted to be an active agent in propelling or instigating immigration policies which in some cases enables or disenables migration (Threadgold, 2009, p. 1). This becomes worse by near unfriendly mediatic reporting that propels both harsh immigration policies across nations and fanning crises of overreaction and panic that are basically capable of making the appearance of migrants distasteful or completely repulsive. This media professional practice is closely related to what van Djik (2012) classified as a discourse. This is the reproduction of social representations, such as knowledge, attitudes, ideologies, norms, and values which promotes discriminatory practices and helps reproduce the negative social representation directed at the migrants.

The presence of migrants or refugees under media capturing on few occasions paints the existence of crisis (Georgiou and Zaborowski, 2017). This crisis is characterised by significant diversity as migrants were seen as outsiders with the capabilities of becoming vulnerable outsiders or as dangerous outsiders. Migrants are in most cases depicted as violators of law, disrupters of public harmony, criminals and threat inducers capable of destabilizing the peace and tranquillity of the receptor nations. With consistent reinforcement of negative news about the potentials of the migrants, the probability of viewing strangers as villain and by receptors population as potential victims looms high. The evaluation of the media agenda setting function is quite revealing of the unfolding challenges following from the contents of reportage pungently pointing to migration hazardous nature and equally depicting media concern toward the aversion of such losses which invariably promoted the eulogies of few primordial factors such as the assessments of who the aliens are, misconceptions cum residual knowledge about their locality or region, mode of lifestyle of the outsiders, precariousness of their situation pressuring relocation, imagined friendliness or otherwise of the affected group and the consequences for the absorbing nations (Weiner, 1995).

In all, the media, through its various channels, contributes significantly to the outcome of the overall assessment of the desirability or non-admissibility of both migrants, refugees and asylum seekers within this milieu. However, one fundamental omission (to the discouragement of migration) that is further promoting migration, asylum seeking and refugee build-ups globally lies in a mono dispensation of remedy that is often borne out of mediatic representations directed toward a particular course of action erroneously believed to be capable of checkmating migrants' incursions. Response towards stemming the tides of irregular migration receives attention than providing international protection to vulnerable people such as those being battered by corrupt related precariousness in Africa (EYGM, 2016, p. 2). The US, EU and several other advanced nations are fixated on the entrenchments of physical barriers and policy checks at the expense of addressing the root causes of migration. Journalistic investigative into what pressured people out of their region of birth is seldom considered. Instead, media coverage is often one-sided in terms of the exclusion of inputs from the affected group. In another way, practices of media professionals discountenance the plights of the migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. This omission is borne by the systemic neglect of the perspective of migrants and refugees themselves and the failure to interrogate the happenings in the material environments of the victims with a view to correcting the ills (Sjoberg and Rydin, 2018).

Globally, current remedy directed at curtailing mass movement of migrants' tilts toward victims' blame for venturing and the outright insulation of risks inducers inherent in local environment of the migrants'. The near observable slogan abreast in the hearts of most political elites in Africa and elsewhere in developing economies is "the more we are able to chase them out, the more loot at our disposal to share." As a result, the global community will continue to fall under the incursion of uninvited guests across the borders of nations until a time when the general awareness of curtailing its causes is widely embraced by the international community. The centrality of current discourse, therefore, lies in the evaluation of the agentic contributions to the push of migration, the experiences of migrants and the role of the media in the unfolding events in the global community. This paper with its scope restricted to media contribution to discouragement of migration, therefore, seeks to espouse on the root causes of involuntary human movements and attempts to chart a course for its eradication with the intent of bettering the life chances of human irrespective of their location, racial inclination and cultural backgrounds.

## Triple Analytical Risks and Migration Challenges in Nigeria: A Theoretical Background

The era of high modernity connotes a corresponding high migratory activities. As human societies move from simple to complex heterogeneity, social inhibitions in the production of wealth is systematically accompanied by the social production of risks (Beck, 2005:19). Unequal distribution of wealth at both micro and macro levels promotes risks accessibility differentials that correspondingly propels 'logical thinking' that are often directed at allaying vulnerabilities that are endemic in all suffocative environments with its visible end product in migration as an option of escape. The symbiosis of wealth distribution and risks distribution is accentuated in the bounded rationality of most migrants. Negative consequences of decisions to relocate is often taken for granted, presumed mild or made non-existent and invariably, by their assessment, migrants are plunged into the euphoria often leading into the adoption of hedonistic lifestyle that looks futuristically rosy. With the existence of high prevalence of fear regarding survival scarcity, so more diffused the dispersal of risks oftentimes disposable by individual risk takers. In the operationality of risk dispersal, there is an expressive quantification and assessment of comforts that are affordable at the point of contact with the projected location mostly listed in the scale of preference of migrants which inadvertently produces hasty conclusions or zeroing on the best axis to seek succour. Individuals are left to reconstruct their own biographies and take responsibilities for what outcome either fast tracked or inhibited their social mobility in later life. The quantity of juicy opportunities offered by any location consequently becomes the determinant of relocation decision that prompts movements from less sustainable area to life supporting area. Less developed areas and war-torn environments often generate multiplicity of movement of people in comparison to zones with provisions for life's comfort endemic in the advanced capitalist economies.

Most countries in the sub-Saharan Africa that are affected by crawling economies concertedly made worse by wanton corruption, have the larger share of their population staking migration risks in an unprecedented manner. At one end of high magnitude of risks taking attitudes lies the prevalence of vulnerabilities occasioning wastage of lives and this is mostly occurring during the processes of taking steps toward or overt embankments on migration. When one explores the preponderances of human movement affecting Sub-Saharan Africa, it becomes most glaring that there is the prevalence of uniform socio-economic condition evident across nations in Africa with most people suffering the same predicament of vulnerabilities. Poverty is gradually becoming fashionable with the existence of hopelessness

growing by the day. Crises often have human agency (Brogden and Ellison, 2013:2). National resources in most countries in this region are converted into political elite's stipends thereby generating the outright exclusion of the masses from the benefits derivable from the equitable distribution of national wealth. Among the comity of nations in Africa, Nigeria represents a unique society engrafted with the culture of elitist's misappropriation of national wealth and the insensitive exclusion of the masses from befitting standard of living. This condition portends the existence of unregulated vulnerabilities with correspondent risks to human survival.

Risk environment of Nigeria, when evaluated from Beck's position portends danger whose effects can no longer be limited – as future generations are on the line to be affected. The ramification of coverage of risk contactable is also boundariless as it affects the social, political, economic, environmental, demographic and reproductive lives of both present and the incoming generations. The current era in which mass of Nigerian people found themselves closely pontificates arrivals at both ends of the distribution of 'bads' or 'dangers' with individual left under their unbearable socio-economic related yokes threatening mass survival. In a contradistinction to Beck's assertion on the presence of culpable risk inducers in a scientific-technological society, socio-economic risks that are promoting mass escape from the continent are ably induced by the agent of the political elites. The Nigerian power elites was earlier reported to have excessively built on personality cults depicted by absolute self-interest which has consistently resulted to the marginalization of the voiceless and mass of vulnerable people whose economic situation, by default, subjugated them to incalculable magnitude of predation (Nwoke, 2014, p. 59). The latter's practices and conduct are quite hazardous and destructive to man's future.

Other remarkable deviation from Beck's argument applicable to this discourse is the contextual risks as situated under the cloud of modernity. While Beck viewed industry and science as the causes of risks, current discourse links risks to political managements and culture of corruption making life unbearable to the mass of Nigeria's population. The latter precursor of risks is basically responsible for the mass exodus of Nigeria people to the diaspora. Ideally, an extrapolation from this angle should not constitute a rude shock, but rather be exhumed from the factuality that physical risks affecting today migrants are created and effected in the social system of their various nations (Beck, 2005, p. 4). Exposure to risks in Nigeria is linkable to the quality of social relationships and processes within the boundaries of economic and political systems. Migration is an exhibition of disappointment produced as a result of dependence on failing political leadership that are rapidly becoming aliens, obscure and inaccessible to most people they lead under current democratic environment. Hence, trust and credibility of leadership are virtually in doubt. Migration, therefore, represents a conduit of freeing oneself from the socio-economic constraints and the re-engagement of active participation in the redefinition of one's situation with the view of escaping negative survival related consequences and bettering one's status.

There is a constant reflexivity directed at the existence of annihilable threats producible by uncontrollable corrupt practices in Africa and its concomitant offshoots located in mass unemployment, ubiquity of crime, threat to life, overt disillusionment and hopelessness. Specifically, Africa's population consists of confused aggregation of people deprived of direction by non-future inclined thinking leadership and predatory service providers operating unmolestedly within this environment. This singular setback has contributed immensely to the production and conversion of so many Nigerians into asylum seekers and refugee population. The conversion is not devoid of memorable consequences for those affected with diversities of unprecedented risks starring the faces of the victims. It portends a multi-dimensional risks majorly contactable along three axes. By introversion, a cursory observation and the investigative assessment of the conditions of the risk environment of the refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants'

presents a three-dimensional risk factor. The triad include, internal displaceable, mobility inducible and destination imposable risks. The internally displaceable risk connotes axis of oppression forcefully pushing migrants' away from their indigenous environment. Under this climate, the future to some degree remain incalculable and thus inhibiting the freedom of charting a course for pleasurable life chances. There are so many life determining forces impinging on the flow of life and consequently, human subjects automatically become hostages to fortune. Due to the incalculability of life situation, the oppressed or economic-battered subjects are left with only an option of taking decision and becoming responsible for the most eventful outcomes (O'Malley, 2004, p. 73).

In exploring mobility induceable risk, one should quickly draw attention to the socio-economic environment of Sub-Saharan Africa which often facilitates exposure to barrages of goal summersault, plan dislocation and success failure syndromes that indirectly promotes the rapidity of migrants' movement away from the environments of vulnerabilities. Also making the predicaments of the victims worse is the nefarious activities of charlatans, rogues, voyage jobbers, unregistered or fictitious travel agencies promising safe landing or haven but yet insincere about the true situation that migrants' may find themselves. The activity of this group was captured in African Union's policy draft for 2019-2027 as 'migrants' smuggling'. They are implicated in irregular migration and mutate as traffickers in few cases with their mode of operation affiliated to international organized crime. Migrant smugglers promote abortion of migrant's goal for relocation, increase their woes and wreck the future of so many Africans. The aftermath of these possibilities oftentimes occasions disillusionment about life, leading to desperation and crescending into fatalism capable of getting one into the state of no return. In Africa, little has been achieved in deterring migrant smugglers in contrast to other continents (Schloenhardt & Philipson, 2013). For the mere fact of securing information about the existence of comfort in any choice Western countries cannot be equated with the quantum of risks the migrants' need encounter to alleviate internally displaceable outcomes earlier explained.

Destination imposable risks consists of gamut of degradation an asylum seeker or migrant needs to encounter at the point of arrival. Documentation required for acceptation becomes a herculean task The hitherto Africaness imbibed and known to an average asylum seeker or migrant within a twinkling of an eye disappears and the African stranger is left to solve his problems and forced to disentangle his/herself from several monstrous migration laws of the point of destination. Securing stay and work permits further present its own complexity and make the situation of the migration victims considerably hopeless.

## Media, Migration and Global Socio-Economic Condition

There is a significant relationship between the processes involved in shaping human perception and the ultimate social inclusion or exclusion in the context of human relational networks (Semotam, 2010). The role of the media in shaping collective attitude toward the favourability or otherwise of migration dynamics therefore cannot be over-emphasised. Media has the potential to promote or hinder integration in the age of globalization (Hafez, 2008). The media, in its various influences, represents the major precursor of success or failure of immigration. Public opinion is pivotal to the integration efforts and those outcomes affecting migrants in their host countries. The media has amplificatory effects on the favourability of embarking on a relocation and invariably the admittance of the migrants into the host countries. The pendulum of their news presentation has the tendency of either shrinking or expanding the web of immigration for a given locality. For instance, in most nations where migrants seek resettlement, media derogation often inhibits integration especially with each successive use of descriptive label

"foreigners" "settlers", "illegal immigrants" or "strangers" as a substitute for their identity which may be counterproductive to the overall goals of migrants for inclusion in their newly-found communities (Zambonini, 2009, p. 4).

Basically, migration in most cases is laden with politico-economic undertones, nonetheless, its operation is driven by media inputs cross-nationally. Considered from another angle, the major contribution of the media to the world of migration is often mitigated by the political exegesis at any given point in time. The media wields the influence of increasing or decreasing enlightenment on the effects of migration on the citizens' and thereby instantiating either attraction or dissonance towards the permitance of migrants and their ultimate reception by the local community of the host countries. By all assessments, the media has been found to be accountable for the state of things impacting immigration in both the past, even now and will be so for long period of years to come (Adena et al., 2015 and Yanagizawa-Drott, 2014 as cited in MEDAM, 2017).

Immigration is also driven by policy regimes in different forms of economies and political dispensations. Migration policies under democracies are often shaped by public perception and evaluation of what might be the collective goods in terms of the economic effects of migration on different sectoral arrangement. Incessantly, through the agenda setting of the media, attitudes of the public are often factored into immigration policies (Meltzer et al., 2017). The desirability of integration or otherwise of a given policy will confer a far reaching concession or consequences on the migrants. This may form the basis of likely facilitation of employers' decision to integrate migrants into the labour market; enhance the admissibility of neighbours in establishing contact with the newly-arrived migrants and; participation in social activities in the neighbourhood involving both the migrant and his/her host citizens. Research has shown that news contents globally tilt largely toward the assessment or evaluation of public opinions that are commonly aired by media practitioners on migration and related matters. While several scholarly writings explore the role of media in migration reporting (Sjoberg & Rydin, 2008; Fujita, 2009), others consider the imbalances affecting journalistic coverage of salient issues affecting the migrants, migrants' involvement in journalism, journalist equality and diversity awareness (Gabriella, 2010; Triandafyllidou, 2017).

Of recent, the exploration of the role of social media to the social condition of migrants tends to be gaining prominence (Burrell & Anderson, 2008: Holmes & Janson, 2008; Komito, 2011; Dekker & Engbersen, 2013; Janta & Ladkin, 2013). In explaining the migratory compliments of social media, four important areas that are capable of facilitating migrants' economy were identified and these include; enablement of maintaining strong social bond with family members and friends; facilitation of weak ties that will aid adjustment and integration; creation of social capital along newer forms of talent ties and; offering of a rich source of insider knowledge on migration that is discrete and official. There is no uniformity of focus on the contribution of the media to the global understanding of the situation revolving around the migrant population, refugees and asylum seekers. Matar (2017) reports the existence of polarization in media attention to refugees and migrants' predicaments which became noticeable from 2015. In the past, Threadgold (2009) reports that print and broadcast media, in the UK, cover only a very narrow range of migration stories, primarily focussing on asylum seekers, refugees, illegal immigrants, and migrant workers. With the existence of substantial threats posed by migrants in recent times, McAuliffe, Weeks and Koser (2017, p. 278) report that migration related coverage in the UK accounted for around 2-3 percent of total coverage compared to other areas of human concerns. Three reasons were adduced to this observation. First, there is the existence of general acceptance that the media can influence, and be influenced by, public opinion and political agenda. Second, media coverage

has pervasive influence on the perception of the migrants which often culminates into decision making on likelihood of absorption into a new destination, hospitality and scapegoating and third, media contents serve as major determinant of decision on embarking or venturing into migration from one destination to another. In his earlier comment on media and migration interactive moments, Tito Boeri (2010) asserts that the percentage of news and article including the use of the word immigration grew about 5% in Italy from 2005 to 2010 showing it thrice more than it is mentioned in the EU. In the same vein, Velosoleao (2013, p. 94) also reports a rapid change in the coverage of migration issues in Brazil owing to the growing threats associated with its pervasiveness; thus, culminating into the passage of law 6815 in 1980 and with further proposed replacement with PL5655 of 2009. In all, mediatic influence revolves around perception of policy makers, politicians, and by citizens of what is happening and how it can be managed (Triandafyllidou, 2017).

Media finds bearing in the migration discourse through two mutually reinforcing activism: its adoption of distorting lens and its application of magnifying glass. The media exposes the inhumanity and corruptions attendant of migration complexities which usually culminates into negative treatment of migrants and inversely supports nefarious politico-cultural agenda promoting discrimination and causes the intensification of migrants' sufferings (ICPMD, 2018). The most destabilizing aspect of migration consists of its irregular form which attracts both public and media reactions. As a matter of concern, irrespective of the nature and implication of how migrants expose themselves, progressive journalism requires sensitivity to human's plight, and the adoption of a robust humanitarian balanced reporting that will help salvage the precarious situation into which vast majority of migrants often put themselves.

Prior to current unravelling negative developments affecting human migration (appearing burdensome and taking the toll on advanced economies globally), there are so many factors that were hitherto adduced to the undesirability of admitting strangers or migrants into relatively unknown societies. The economic sectors of nations have been implicated as one of the major restricting instruments to international migration. The challenge relating to international migration, labour dynamics and socio-economic development of nations lies under the political economy of development (Wise and Covarrubias, 2007:5). These revolve around the migratory effect of depleting 'high' skilled labour in favour of a particular region with corresponding destabilization of the host, its labour market equilibrium and subjecting the sending nation to catastrophic effect of brain drain with its resultant infusion of asymmetric mode of development (Docquier, Marchiori and Shen, 2010). Migration promotes cheap labour and introduces newer forms of anti-social or criminal related behaviours into the host environment. It has been found that increased migration promotes corresponding labour shock, with unhealthy competition threatening wage regime and the comforts of the host citizens. Despite all the setbacks promoting disequilibrium in the context of labour cum development variabilities, Wise and Covarrubias (2007:6) counter that the existence of migrant labour does not necessarily translate into economic development for the host nations as often reported in research and in the same vein, Ratha, Mohapatra and Scheja, (2011) rather report the gains of migration in form of remittances to the sender nations which are capable of spurring private sector investments and macro development. Contrary to migration depleting sending nations' potentials for economic growth, research reveals that it serves as instrument for income redistribution, poverty reduction and economic growth (Kapur, 2003; Haas, 2010 and Cross, 2013).

Non-related economic sector is also reported to encounter a stretch during migrants' arrivals. The education system of the United Kingdom was reported by Hickman et al. (2008) to have been overstretched in Dungannon in 2000. The bitter exposure to trans-territorial inequality visibly depicted by caricature or imbalance growth in domestic economies have also been aired and detested in few journalistic writ-

ings of media practitioners in most developing economies. However, modern albatross to unimpeded migration in this age consists of the phobic and psychological built-ups spanning the occurrence of 911 and that closely followed by sundry terrorists' attacks in the U.S. and EU which paved way to a definitive redefinition of terms and condition of migrants' admittance and as well as accommodating non-documented refugees.

At the helm of the enlightenment toward repulsive reaction currently leading to crackdown on movements of undocumented migrants consists of a plethora of media figments concertedly leading to manufactured risks that are freely dispensed into the inner psychic of policy facilitators and the mediatic public within migrant's receptive environments which contributed to the formulation and execution of operational laws meant to curtail the influx of migrants at a mild level and at other extreme, coercing so many migrants into being stuck in reception centres or camps of European countries. The negative attitude toward the migrants' prompting adverse policy formulation is not only limited to the host public but equally polarising the religious environment as in the case of Poland and negating the resolve toward hospitality which forms the bedrock of Christian faith (Krotofil and Motak, 2018:92). The pervasiveness of such policies were earlier documented in research (Rudolph, 2003 and VelosoLeao, 2013).

The effectiveness of mediatic overtures lie in the tenacity of airing the realities of danger which commonly results in phobic claims measurable through public opinion surveys. Consequently, to avert the imagined and the real consequences of migration, immigration became first public order policy issue in many countries (Threadgold, 2009; McAuliffe, et al., 2017, p. 277). Other factors that are external to America and European continents also shaped the collective reactions to the issues bordering on migration in recent times. These include the push occasioned by visible economic downturn orchestrated by recession flattening the economic bases of few European and Latin American countries, Arab uprising with its commencement in 2011 and reaching an unprecedented level as the volume of asylum seekers from 2015 to 2016 standing at 3 million. Also, the Syrian devastating war which episodically evolved had an estimable 12 million displaced people most of whom were seeking asylum in relative life comfortable zones ably exerting high cost of managing refugees on the international community, with further growth of malfeasance terror groups unleashing life threatening attacks inter-continentally such as the activities revolving around ISIS, Hezbollah, Al-Shabab and several others.

Pathetically, the media attention, in recent times, involves the tragedy of the drowning of about 5000 people (many of whom were Africans) along the Mediterranean in exclusion of many lives hitherto wasted prior to this time (Zaborowski and Georgiou, 2016 and ICMPD, 2018). Aside the unwholesome news coverage about African migrants which is implicating of the media community in Europe, there is also the growing resentment within Africa's continent itself which recently implicated South Africa through xenophobic reactions against fellow blacks. Media coverage affecting migration in Africa is often restricted to reportage of bad occurrences befalling African migrants and most times aired with the intent of discrediting an existing national regime for ineffectiveness.

There are lots of challenges confronting Africans in general and Nigerians in particular in their quest toward finding and exploring a greener pasture. The core of the challenges is the convenience of absorbing the migrants into their newly-found communities. Apart from the xenophobic factor inhibiting acceptance, African migrants suffer from both economic and social integration. It has been reported that migrants in most cases at the point of arrival have a low level of skills and lack accumulative wealth and longstanding social networks (Epstien and Gang, 2010, p. 11). This often pushes them into disadvantaged position and further promotes annihilation (MEDAM, 2017, p. 51). Migration imposes increased competition over scarce public resources and exerts substantial fiscal cost on the host countries. Africa's migrants

are mostly unskilled but belonged to second degree labour resource group and having the potentiality of increasing the cost of sustenance and support drawable from the host government. This makes them less desirable unlike their counterpart, the skilled workforce. Bansak et al. (2016) reports that highly skilled workers are more welcomed in Europe than the unskilled workers. This is so because the former finding stressless absorption into the labour market and are unlikely to be parasitic in the true sense of it.

Research finding have also showed that qualitative educational acquisition plays an important part in guaranteeing non-difficult absorption into migrants' host communities (Ceobanu and Escandell, 2010 & Huber and Oberdabernig, 2016). Most fundamental challenge confronting Africa's migrants consists of education qualification ratings with those that acquired functional education more likely to be absorbed and those with none applicable certification becoming an impediment or clogs to socio-economic progress. Qualitative education encourages inculcation of right values, discourages bizarre behaviour, crime, deviant behaviour and seldom instigates insecurity. The latter category of acquisitor of education is likely to be pressured into taking decisions that are likely to pitch them on a collision course with the law. The notoriety earned by Nigerians overseas might not have been connected to the activities of this non-adjustable persons who migrated to other countries. The challenge relating to the acquisition of non-functional education is closely associated with the nature of educational curriculum and less funding of the educational institutions. The third probable challenge encountered by Nigerians in their pursuit of migration revolves around what MEDAM (2017, p. 54) described as identitarian factor. It was found that public attitudes are more strongly related to people's identities and relatively 'sticky' worldviews than they are to personal economic concerns.

Mediatic description of Nigerians in the international arena is most often negative. This development might not have been unconnected with the nefarious activities implicating few not-truly-responsible beings that are dragging the image and integrity of Nigeria in the mud. Acceptability of Nigerians in most nation therefore is largely determined by the evaluation of the perceived effects of the assimilated news outputs on the locals of the receptor nation. Risk prevalence has also been viewed as one of the drivers of acceptance in the host countries. Nigeria and her citizens are often viewed as less-risk prone population and thus becoming undeserving of admissibility. At this juncture, it is quite pathetic because wanton corruption does not measure for a risk worthy of consideration for absorption of Nigeria's migrant. This wrong impression is expected to be corrected in so far as corruption's devastation is more potent than natural disaster and war. Natural disaster has limited accuracy of instituting buffers against its incidence for most nations and war dispatches soul quicker than corruption that has potent for slow and overt destructive effects. International sincerity and commitment to zero tolerance to corruption-related conducts among national political elites could have a far-reaching effect in checkmating factors promoting migration of people globally.

## Correlates of Migration, Media and Nigeria's Socio-Economic Climate

It is informative to know that the preponderance of migration in Africa mostly revolves around mounting deprivation and threat to survival that is often occasioned by mismanagement of national resources and wanton corruption. In a departure from what is applicable globally, where migratory indicators revolve around natural disasters, wars, political discrimination, epidemics etc. Africa's migratory condition is humanly induced and sustained. Uniquely, this factor in Africa can be explained within the dynamics of socio-economic cum political challenges confronting vast number of citizens and nations in the region. Africa's problem can be subsumed under socio-economic disaster rather than hitherto known natural

disaster (this position is considered in the latter part of this section). Largely, immigration flow is often one-sided with Nigerians resolutely seeking admittance into the US, EU or other advanced nations of the West. Such decision to migrate is devoid of natural threat nor the existence of war or other forms of annihilating factors mutually expected to trigger human movement from one geographical location to another. Although significant research findings located the push of immigration in nature, political and religious instabilities, it is only negligible few that consider human induced migration that is mostly affecting Nigerians. It then becomes important to explore this from the migratory terrain that is relatively known to that which is unknown. Doing this constitutes the basis this discourse on media and migration.

Discussing migratory push factors in the Middle East and Bangladesh, it was indicated that climatic change forms the basis for human movement on yearly basis (Mixed Migration Platform, 2017 and Huq et al., 2010). Also extrapolating from data generated by the Internally Displaced Monitoring Center (IDMC,2016) and that of MMP (2017), it was revealed that an average of at least 25.4 million people are displaced by disasters often triggered by natural hazards in those areas. This development has been noted to be producing environmental refugees in a large number and stressing the resource base of neighbouring nations. In the case of Africa and Nigeria, there is no clearly demarcated reasons causing the rate at which people are running away from the region aside the economic hardship and its attendant corrupt related practices. In the region, taking census on the number of migrants is made difficult due to the plethora of exit routes that scattered along the boundaries of African nations and linking several European countries. One cannot predict with accuracy both the volume of movement, intended destinations of migrants and the consequences of their decision to relocate asides the aforementioned prevalence of socio-economic instabilities precipitating the displacement of so many Nigerians and that, secondarily affecting other nations in Sub-Sahara Africa. This singular inhibition often occasioned by inaccurate census data on immigration may probably account for the limited mediatic attention often received by the public in Nigeria.

The general assessment of media input in Nigeria reveals that immigration is not at the top of journalistic concern and invariably, the public are seldom intimated on the happenings affecting the Nigerian migrants. Matar (2017) argues that most news material on migrations constitutes a mimicry of the inputs of mainstream media coverage of refugees or migrants in Europe. It represents a stereotype and frames already established and devoid of innovative input capable of bringing into the limelight the true identities and socio-economic situations of the affected migrants in Africa. The most essential notification to the general public often revolves around the reportage of the intermittent negative occurrences responsible for the loss of lives along the Mediterranean or those other events requiring the intervention of the government as in the case of prisoners' exchange, halfway home bilateral agreement on prisoner's swiping, repatriation or retrieval of Nigerians from war-torn areas. This puts together creates negative impression in the mind of the mediatic public, as in most cases, media reportage is determined in advance and predictable. This impression is often borne out of four probable situations that are likely to inhibit the collective approach at securing the pragmatic resolution to immigration complications. First is the fact that media outputs are often restrictive to limited coverage of migratory activities (restrictions cover those listed earlier and thus excluding the gamut of information on what an average migrant faces before, during and after embankment); second, news presentation is sometimes manifestly chaotic due to the uncoordinated public opinion on how best to address the plights of the returned migrants or those who suffered ill-fated journeys; third, it involves the cloud of controversy since media outputs tend to lead to blame trading on who should be made culpable (government or individual) within the atmosphere of

ensuing complicity and; fourth, the eventful of reactionary approach promoting contradictory immigration policies directed at creating deterrence often supported by public opinion.

Administratively, immigration policies and public opinions are framed by the inputs of the media in most cases. Aside the four eventful areas of media outputs and the emergent rising spate of insecurity often promoted by the incursion of Jihadists that are transforming themselves into terrorist group, immigration issue is at no time a major challenge to Nigerian public or government. More often than not, negative onslaughts of dissident groups registrable in dispensation of criminal acts, such as terrorism, kidnapping, trafficking and the incompetence of agencies of government that are charged with the screening and authorization of migrants often sound laudably within the mediatic public. The reason for this development is hydra headed when evaluated from the quality of attention often dispensed or received to alleviate the plight of migrants. Notably, beyond the devastative nature of wars, epidemics, violent crimes, natural disasters etc. promoting internal and mass displacement consists of self-generated or induced tragedies endemic in bad leadership, economic failure, corruption, national resource mismanagement, mass unemployment, dearth of infrastructure and hopelessness forming the bedrock for migrating for better condition. With the existence of economic stress consistently made worse by mal-governance, leadership mediocrity, ill-gotten structuralism, displaced priority, gross non-accountability in public offices engendering unabated corrupt practices and near abandonment of the citizens in Nigeria, what people make out of their various lives has never got to the scrutiny of public office custodians while the situation is helplessly appealing to the journalists for intervention.

In addition to the structurally-induced pressure promoting migration is the dwindling local and national social capitals that are available to Nigerians in conformity with earlier findings in research (David, Janiak & Wasmer, 2010 and Hotchkiss & Rupasingha, 2018). In most cases, using contact with friends, relatives, neighbours, and membership of local association to alleviate financial pressure has been consistently counterproductive as many Nigerians are financially unstable and made economically vulnerable by reason of persistent depreciation of the economy (Nwanuobi and Ezeah, 2015). More pathetic is the reduced capacities of religious institutions in offering intervention due to the number people they need to support and the vastness of material and health deterioration affecting people's welfare mounting up by the day. In all fairness, the Nigerian media have aired the destructive nature of all negative encumbrances plaguing Nigeria's environment, but it however pays little attention to the conditions of migrant population for ironical reasons. Mediatic silence about the rate at which Nigerians seek Europe and America as their desired escape routes is observed in conformism to the majorly held notion that such countries provide the much-needed succour that remains elusive to so many Nigerians. Similarly, the non-reportage of the chronology of ordeals of an average person who decides to relocate actually becomes a national duty and a virtuous deed on a long run as one considers the pain and the impact of the unstable economy on the well-being of Nigerians in general. The media community may be assumed to be sympathetic to the cause of millions of Nigerians who live within the brink of economic collapse and invariably risk extinction if the economy is allowed a free fall. .

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This discourse attempts to advocate a change to the unwholesome mediatic attention currently being paid to the issue of migration in Nigeria. This analysis is done through the consideration of the root causes of migration, making suggestion on the best reductionist strategy to its menace and ultimately, the advocacy

for eliciting support from the global community that will lead to making political leadership accountable to the citizens in Africa in general and Nigeria in particular. While public opinion that is often anchored by the media determines, to a large extent, decision about migration issues in advanced nations, such opinion is non-existent in most localities of Sub-Saharan nations due to less mediatic attention to the plights of migrants. This sadly makes it extremely difficult to have a rational and pragmatic approach towards curtailing the influx of people embarking on migration on a yearly basis from the continent. Internally, apart from its draining effect on the economic resource base of Africa nations, the unpalatable situation that an average migrant needs pass through in order to actualize his/her ambition of relocating to perceived lucrative nations cannot be quantified. Sometimes, migrants are swindled or defrauded by charlatans often masquerading as travel agencies and at other times, they are made vulnerable by rogue vessel operators who often choose to waste their precious lives in the Mediterranean Sea.

In its externality, migration commonly weighs down the strength of absorbing labour supplies and has the potency of inducing unemployment that is capable of affecting the citizens of the host nations. It then behoves that approaching the situation and proffering solution will require a slight deviation from all known indicators of discouraging migration of people. Rather than engaging the internal dynamics of migration mostly embarked upon by the host nations, correcting the ills will require pulling resources together to mitigate those precipitating factors linkable to local or official corruption such as unemployment, dwindling life situations and hopelessness which if corrected will go a long way in checkmating the influx of migration. This will become most efficient through the formulation of binding international law that will hold public office holders accountable to international scrutiny since local laws on corruption are oftentimes cosmetics in nature. This will go far beyond money laundering treaty collectively entered into within the global community but will be at par with the law on war crimes. Corrupt related crimes causing the impoverishment of people is more potent or devastating than most outright killings as a result from war. As a result, the U.N.O. and other regional bodies will need to take pragmatic measure in this regard. This is due to the fact that so many people are made living corpses by reason of the indigenous practices of corruption which mostly go unchallenged. If conceded and formulated, this will provide respite to the host nations and as well reduce material and monetary cost or resources often needed to care of both the displaced and potential migrants. This will also checkmate or correct intents promoting unwarranted wars which can birth asylum-seeking that is rife among the warring communities. This will further be consolidated by wholesome media reportage and watch-dog practices in the interest of those who may likely be made prone or vulnerable by reason of wanton corruption that is consistently depleting and destroying Africa's economic base. It is quite important to forge a new frontier on immigration reportage in this age. Progressive and inclusive media reporting of events that are affecting migrants is more essential since this will both discourage relatively comfortable potential migrants and galvanize the needed support for the admissibility of genuine seekers and not necessarily economically-driven masses. Balanced assessment of situation through agenda setting will encourage inclusiveness among nations and will equally foster acceptance of cultural diversity and reduce the level of stereotyping of migrants.

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