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## Article

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# Gender Analysis of Cross-border Migration in Rural Border Communities of Ipokia Local Government Area, Ogun State, Nigeria

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**Abstract:** The study examined gender dimension of cross border migration in rural border communities of Ipokia local government area, Ogun State, Nigeria. The study specifically examined socio-economic characteristics of migrants, pattern of migration between male and female migrants and reasons for cross border migration in the study area. Multistage sampling technique was used in selecting 184 migrants (both male and female of equal size) in the study area. The study revealed that the mean age of male migrants was 41 years while that of female migrants was 36.3 years. Also, larger percentage of male (75%) and female (51.1%) migrants earn above Nigeria minimum wages (18,000). This was an indication that cross border migration has positive effect on migrants' standard of living. Major reasons for cross border migration (push factor) for male migrants included poor income, bad economic condition, poverty and few employment opportunities and unfavourable climatic condition, while poor income and poverty were major reasons adduced by female migrants. Moreover, good access to land, commerce and better income reasons were the major considerations for choosing destination area by male migrants while good access to land, marriage, to join family members and better income were the considerations for choosing destination area by female migrants in Nigeria (pull factors). The study concluded that despite the increase in cross border migration into the study area, patterns and reasons for cross border migration vary between men and women.

**Keywords:** Gender, Cross border migration, Rural border communities, Ogun, Nigeria

**JEL codes:** at, least, two, JEL, codes

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## 1. Introduction

Migration is not a new phenomenon in human history. It is the movement of people from one geographical region to another, irrespective of its length, composition and causes (ECOWAS-SWAC, 2006). In recent times, migration has shaped the nature of destination and source regions (Oderth, 2002). The disparities of opportunities in prosperous area and lagging region especially between countries have brought about cross border migration/ international migration.

Cross border migration according to Popoola (2016) is the movement of people beyond their country of origin. People migrate beyond international border based on the prevailing conditions. These conditions include political instability, drought, landlessness, soil infertility, unfavourable climate among others. It is obvious that cross border migration is on the increase. According to United Nation estimation, the number of persons/ migrants living outside the country of origin has reached 175 million, more than twice the number a generation ago (United Nation 2002). In 2013, there were 232 million migrants in the world representing 3% of the global population (United Nation, 2013). In Nigeria, available figures indicated that the number of migrants was about 477,135 in 1991 (National Population Commission NPC, 1991), it was projected to have increased to 1.1 million in 2010 (UNPD, 2009).

Nigeria plays a key role in African migrations. As Africa's demographic giant, Nigeria has become increasingly involved in international migration to Europe, U.S.A, and South Africa. Yet, Nigeria is also a destination country within West Africa (Fadeyi, 2010). The absence of effective regulation and the porosity of Nigerian borders have made it possible for influx of migrant men and women from neighbouring countries to settle down and carry out economic activities in rural border communities of Nigeria.

Studies have shown that migration have gender dimension. As men and women migrants show differences in their migratory behaviours, face different opportunities and have to cope with different risks and challenges (Adepoju, 2004; World Migrant Stock, 2005). Although for a long time, the migration of women was primarily related to family reunification; more and more women are migrating alone today and leaving their families behind (Zlotnick 2003). These reasons according to Mesfin (1986) and Berhuna and White (1999) include landlessness, agricultural policy, land fragmentation, environmental degradation, population pressure, recurrent drought and famine, war and political crises.

However, despite the fact that migration scholars have offered substantial insight on migration issue (Adepoju 2004; Abdullahi 2000; Mahamadou 2010; Fadeyi 2010; Afolayan 2004; Afolayan and Adejumo 2009), yet there has been little concerted effort to incorporate gender into cross border migration. Similarly, understanding gender is critical in the migration context because migration studies have traditionally emphasized the causes of international migration over the question of who migrate. Furthermore, it has become difficult to explain the conditions or circumstances that can encourage migrant men and women to become cross border migrants.

In addition, studies in Asia countries have affirmed that the experiences of men and women migrants differ and most of the differences are due to the role, behaviour, and relationships that society assigns to and expects from a woman or a man in a country of origin and a country of destination (Jolly et al, 2003; Islam, 2015). Nevertheless, this might be different in Sub-Saharan African countries due to cultural and political differences. Also, there is dearth of information on cross border migration using gender framework in rural border communities of Nigeria.

Based on the foregoing, the need to carry out cross border migration in rural border communities using gender framework is very important. It is on this note that the study is on gender analysis of cross border migration in rural border communities of Ipokia Local Government Area of Ogun State, Nigeria. The questions addressed in this paper are: 1) Who are the migrants men and women? 2) What is their pattern of migration? and 3) What are the reasons for their migration?

## **2. Study Area**

Ipokia is a border Local Government Area (LGA) in the West of Ogun State, Nigeria bordering the Republic of Benin. The LGA lies within 6°32'00"N 2°51'00"E (see figure 1). Its headquarters is Ipokia town. There are other towns like Idiroko, Ihunbo, Agosasa, Aseko, Maun, Koko, Iropo, Alaari, Tube, Ilashe, Ifonyintedo, Madoga, Ijofin and Tongeji. The total area cover is 629 square kilometre

The Local Government share boundaries with Yewa North Local Government in the north; Lagos State in the South, the Republic of Benin in the west and both Yewa South and Ado-Odo/Ota Local Government in the east, hence it is popularly referred to as the Main gate to the Gate- way State.

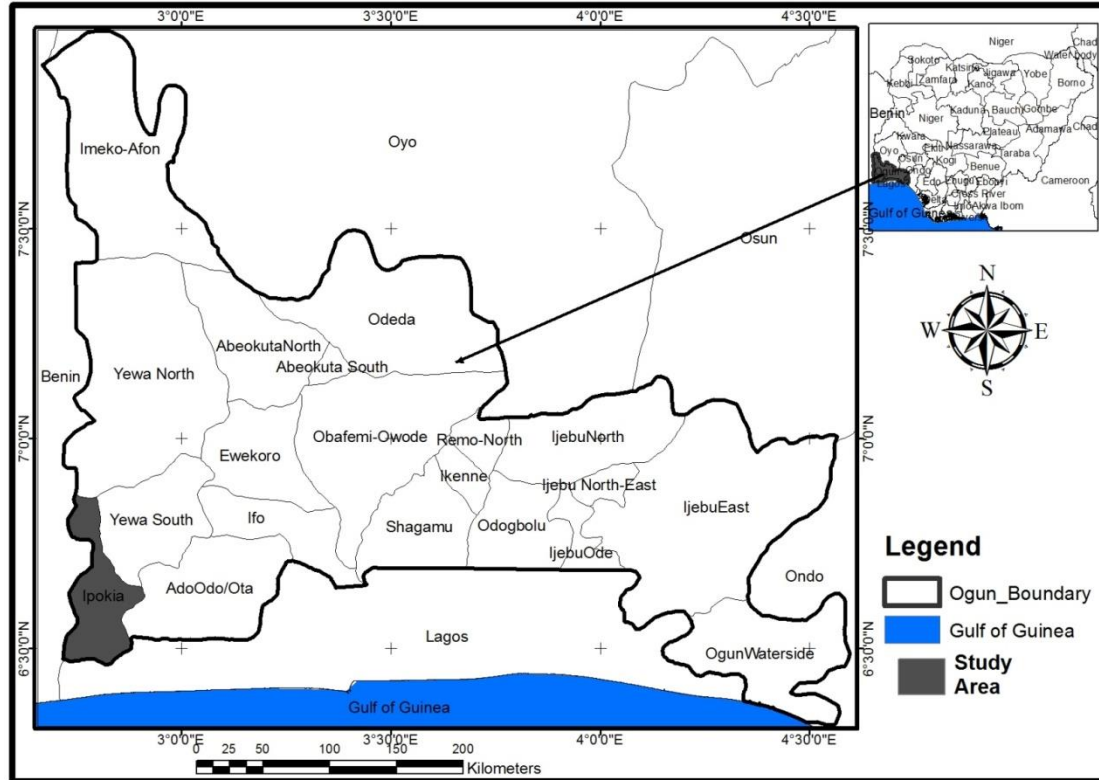
Ipokia Local Government has a population of about 150,426 people (2006 census Figures). It is rural in nature with few towns, but more than 300 villages and hamlets. The inhabitants are predominantly Anagos, Eyos and Eguns. (Local Governments In Ogun StateIPOKIA).

The vegetation of the area is more of the Savannah type as the area cannot boast of any thick forest though the land along the lagoon and riverside is swampy and marshy and is often flooded during the raining season. This type of vegetation and climatic condition found here has supported the planting of palm trees on a large scale and this explains why the Local Government has palm oil and Kernel in large quantities.

The people in the Local Government Area (LGA) also produce mats and foodstuffs such as Lagba, Fufu, Koko e.t.c. with a pre-occupation, which is mainly farming. They cultivate cassava and maize. Also fishing is practiced on Yewa River by some inhabitants of the area to supplement their food crops. The land in these areas is not suitable for cultivation of cash crops like cocoa, rubber, citrus and many economic crops. The stipend earned from farming activities has led the youths to look elsewhere for survival, to some extent cross border migrants has fill their gap in order to increase the level of agricultural yield in the border communities.

It is sometimes difficult to distinguish between the people of Nigeria from those of Republic of Benin due to similarity in culture, languages, mode of dressing and social interaction. The Yoruba people of the study area are related by birth historically. It was the arbitrary partitioning of Africa in general that led to the separation of kits and kins from one another. This is why we have the Katus, Sabes and Popos who are the children of Oduduwa the fore father of the Yoruba of the western part of Nigeria in the Republic of Benin. Any social function in the area of study always influences the areas that are very close to the Republic of Benin because of their interaction with their relatives (Adeyinka, 2014).

**Figure 1. Location of the study area**



Source: Adapted and modified from administrative map of Ogun State.

### 3. Literature Review

Gender can be referred to economic, social and cultural attributes and opportunities associated with being male or female (UN-Habitat (2003). It is a social construction which can greatly differentiate the causes, processes and impacts of migration between the two sexes. Before 1980s, male migrants were seen as the economic players and women were often seen as passive followers (International Organisation for Migration, 2002). Recent studies have now shown that increasing number of women are now joining the migration trend (Omelaniuk, 2006 and Zlotnick 2003). The proportion of males or females in the migration pattern however varies from one region to the other. For instance, while it is young male adults who predominantly migrate in Sub-Saharan Africa, in the Philippines, it is mostly young females who migrate (Zhao, 2003).

The reason for this variation according to Dugbazah (2007) may be as a result of inadequate economic and social opportunities in the country of origin. Women as well as men migrate with

the hope for better living conditions, to support their children, to escape political chaos etc. According to Lee (1969), two factors – push and pull factors are responsible for cross border migration. Push factors refer to circumstances at home that drive people away from their country of origin. Examples include famine, war, desertification, soil erosion, rural poverty, drought, unemployment, family obligation, land degradation etc while pull factors refer to those conditions found elsewhere (abroad) that attract migrant men and women to an area. Examples include better quality of life, job opportunities, political freedom, access to land among others.

Dreier (2014) opined the different factors which can attract migrant men and women from other countries in West Africa to rural border communities of Nigeria. These are environmental (soil productivity, good harvest, available soils, rain fall, food security), economic reasons (accumulation of money, means for transportation, employment, available agricultural tools, commerce), Social reasons (personal development, information, networks, adventure, bettering of life situation, parry sorcery/conflict).

Rural border communities as noted by Blakely (1984) are settlements closer to the international border line with simple life, agriculture, smallness among others. The settlement varies from farmstead, hamlet, village and town. Nigerian rural border communities lack virtually all the good things of life like roads, medical and health facilities, potable water, electricity, good communication network among others (Oladehinde, 2016). Many of these communities are characterised with low quality of life, limited access to opportunities and low economic development. In spite of the nature of these border communities, migrant men and women from neighbouring countries still choose the area as their destination area and this is really becoming popular. The reason for this may be because of the presence of extensive fertile land which can be used for farming purposes. Also the presence of commercial centre (large market) for agricultural goods attracts migrant men and women to settle down in these areas.

Another reason may be distance or proximity factor. Popoola (2016) asserted that people are more likely to settle in a nearer place about which they have more knowledge than in a farther place about which they know and understand little. In other words, the shorter the distance from a given location, the better the understanding of that location increases and vice versa. In line with this, is the removal of physical boundaries and border separating sovereign states across West African countries. This has encouraged freedom of movement of migrant men and women into Nigeria rural border communities.

Movement of migrants in and out of a country has a particular pattern. For instance Afolayan (2010) noted that most migrants have lived in other places before moving to final destination. And most of these migrants are migrants from neighbouring countries which migrated into Nigeria for a long period of time (on or before 1993). The study also noted that majority of the respondent (85.3%) had crossed the border within the month. This shows that migrants cross international border at will. Afolayan (2010) further identified other indices which can be used for measuring migration pattern. These are frequency of movement in and out of a country, period (time) of movement, direction of migration (origin and destination), type of migration (permanent or temporal), purpose of migration within a year, distance covered, personal or family and chain migration.

Gender analysis of cross border migration in rural border communities of Nigeria has planning potential as it looks beyond simple differences in migration behaviour between men and women. The reason why gender analysis need to be incorporated into migration studies is because of gender issues (i.e gender inequality). These issues arises from

- a. Gender gaps, that is, the degree of difference in men and women's status, wages, access to benefits, opportunities, decision making and responsibilities.
- b. Gender discrimination, that is, institutionalized differential gender treatment
- c. Women's empowerment

However, the dearth of information on cross border migration (using gender framework) in rural border settlements of Nigeria has brought about the need for this paper. It is against this backdrop that the study is conceived to analyse gender dimension of cross border migration in rural border settlements of Ogun State Nigeria.

The concept of cross border migration is a two – way process; it is a response to economic and social change and equally it is a catalyst to change for those areas gaining and losing migrants.” (Lewis 1982).

However, despite the increasing rate of cross border migration, the need to know the dimension of cross-border migration into Nigeria communities from gender perspective is very important. Several scholars have proposed different taxonomies of current migration theories; these theories were synthesized to two theoretical models for the study. They are

- a. Lee (Push Pull Theory)
- b. Migration system and Network theory



**a. Lee (Push Pull) Theory**

Lee (1966) reformulated Ravenstein's theory to give more emphasis to internal (or push) factors. Lee also outlined the impact that *intervening obstacles* have on the migration process. He argued that variables such as distance, physical and political barriers, and having dependents can impede or even prevent migration. Lee pointed out that the migration process is selective because differentials such as age, gender, and social class affect how persons respond to push-pull factors, and these conditions also shape their ability to overcome intervening obstacles. Furthermore, personal factors such as a person's education, knowledge of a potential receiver population, family ties, and the likes can facilitate or retard migration (Migration – Theories of Migration).

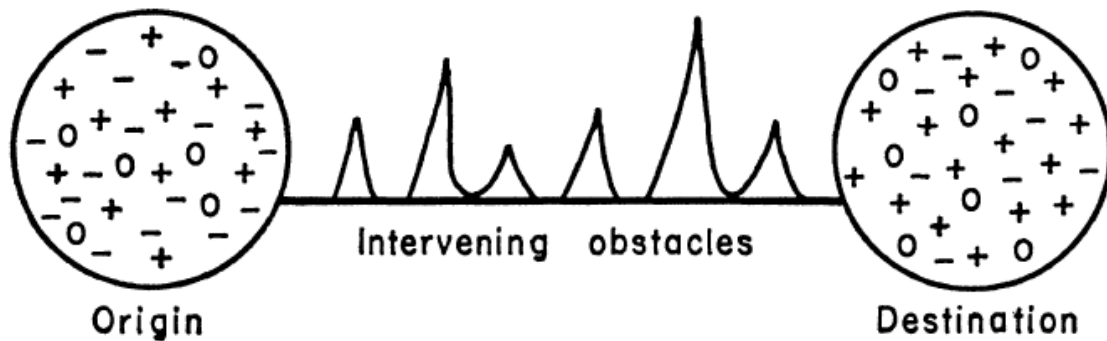
This model was derived essentially from Lee's "theory of migration," in which Lee identifies four types of factors affecting the process of migration: These are

1. Factors associated with the area of origin
2. Factors associated with the area of destination
3. Intervening obstacles between origin and destination
4. Personal factors

The theory further explain that in the areas of origin and destination, three kinds of factors are involved; these are

1. "Pull factors which act to hold people within the area or to attract people to it
2. Push factors which act to repel people from the area,
3. Factors to which people are essentially indifferent (Lee 1966)

**Figure 2: Origin and Destination factors and intervening obstacles in migration**



Source: Adapted from Lee's Push-Pull Model (1966).

The first three of these are indicated systematically in figure 2. In every area there are countless factors which act to hold people within the area or attract people to it, and there are others which tend to repel them. These are shown in the diagram as + and - signs. The set of +'s and -'s at both origin and destination is differently defined for every migrants or prospective migrants. Nevertheless, we may distinguish classes of people who react in similar fashion to the same general sets of factors at origin and destination. Indeed, since we can never specify the exact set of factors which impels or prohibits migration for a given person, we can, in general, only set forth a few which seem of special importance and note the general or average reaction of a considerable group. However, the factors that hold and attract or repel people are precisely understood neither by the social scientist nor the persons directly affected (Lee, 1966).

According to Lee (1966), the “push” and “pull” factors at the origin and destination co-shape the size and direction of migration, with the intervening obstacles and personal factors mediate therein.

Push-Pull model emphasizes the structural factors of attraction and repulsion in areas of origin and destination in the formation and regulation of migration patterns.

The relevance of the theory to this study is the push and pull factor which affect reasons for migration. In regard to the origin (other West Africa countries) and destination areas (border settlement in Nigeria), Lee distinguishes between push and pull factors. Push factors in other country in West Africa are those that repel people from it and push them to migrate into Nigeria.

They are the reasons for the dissatisfaction of the individual with his present location. For example, a push factor could be the lack of employment and other opportunities, bad climate conditions, lack of health services, natural disasters, lack of political or religious freedom, discrimination, poor chances of marrying, war, criminality, etc. On the other hand, pull factors are benefits or opportunities that can be found in Nigeria which are not in source region. These are opportunities that hold people within it or attract them to it. Examples for pull factors are employment opportunities, high standard of living, political and religious freedom, education opportunities, good state of health services, attractive climate, security, good chances of marrying, etc. Both the origin in other west Africa Countries and Nigeria as a destination countries have push and pull factors and they are complementary.

Furthermore, migration from other West Africa countries and Nigeria may not take place if there are intervening obstacles between them in the form of restrictions and entry requirements. According to Lee's theory, the more intervening variables exist, the smaller the number of migrants. The receiving countries regulate the immigration through their policy. This policy can either tighten up the national immigration restrictions in case of immigration surplus or loosen them in case of labor demand. In the case of West Africa, the formulation of ECOWAS Policy has increased migrants movement from other West Africa to Nigeria. Cross border migrants now move any how (in and out) without any form of restriction.

Ritchey (1976) extended Lee's push-pull model including the community and family factor. He suggested that presence of kinship and friendship relations impedes migration and their absence encourage it. Family factor determine where migrants can go. It also determines the distance he can cover in migration process and direction. Ritchey provided three possible explanations: first, the Affinity Hypothesis assumes that the attachment to family and friends constrains migration. Second, the Information Hypothesis assumes that their absence encourages and directs migration, because they provide migratory information about the destination area. Third, the Facilitating Hypothesis assumes that distant location of relatives and friends encourages and directs migration by facilitating the integration process at the destination (Ritchey, 1976).

#### **b. Migration System and Network Theory**

Migration system and network theory according to Mabogunje, (1971) is a set of migration into social and economic context as part of an inter-related system linking areas of origin and

destination. The system and the environment act and react with each other continuously. Migration system theory provides a conceptual framework that includes both ends of the flow and studies all dimensions of the relations between emigration and immigration.

Migration system and network theory originates from the study of sociology and anthropology (which is the science that deals with the origins, physical and cultural development, biological characteristics and social customs and beliefs of humankind). This theory was adopted on gender role because of the cultural development, biological characteristics and social customs, beliefs which either undermine or reinforce marriages (Mabogunje, 1971).

Gender roles are undermined or reinforced in the rural area when couples relocate. There is a vacuum created at both place of origin and destination. This comes about as a result of the decision that is taken by both family members and the nuclear family. When they move to the urban area a lot of dynamics come into play which begins to affect the social fabric of the relationship. Both partners would have to work long hours to support the home. Traditional roles cut out for men and women begin to change, domestic roles get swapped. They also have to assimilate into their new environment and adapt to the culture and life style.

#### **4. Methodology**

Multistage sampling techniques were employed in this study. First stage involved purposive selection of settlements with clustering of cross border migrants in Ipokia Local Government Area of Ogun State. The identified settlements are those that fall within 15km from the international boundary line (Harvey 2008). These settlements are Tube, Ibatfin, Idolosa, Ago sasa, Ileodun Aye, Idimarun, Oniro, Ago Egun, Idoforo, Itaegbe, Paagbon, and Idabata.

In the Second stage, one out of every four villages of the identified settlements were randomly selected without replacement. The settlements selected randomly include Tube, Ago sasa, Oniro and Itaegbe.

In the third stage, male and female migrants to be sampled were selected through systematic random sampling from each of the selected settlements. In this case, male and female migrants were selected randomly from first migrants' building. The subsequent unit of investigation was every second migrants building. In all, an average of hundred and eighty four (184) questionnaires were administered in the study area (Ninety two each for male and female). Secondary data were

obtained from the documentary sources. Descriptive and inferential statistics were employed for data analysis.

## **5. Result and Discussion**

### **5.1. Socio economic characteristics of migrants in the study area**

Table 1 shows that 22.8% of male migrants were less than 30 years while 27.7% of female migrants were within the same range. About 71.7% of the male migrants were within age group of 31 – 60 years and 69.6% of female migrants were within the age group. The mean age of male migrants was 41 years while that of female migrants was 36.3 years. A larger percentage of male (64.1%) and female (78.3%) were married. Majority (54.3%) of male migrants and female migrants (57.6%) were without formal education. About 71.7% of male family size and 72.8% of female family size. Majority of the male migrants (75%) and (51.1%) of female migrants earned between 18,001 and 55,000. It is an indication that both migrants earn above Nigeria minimum wages (18,000). Although with a slight differences in the proportion. The average monthly income of male migrants was ₦29,445.65 while female migrants was ₦23,478.26. About 88% of male migrants and 65.2% of female migrants were farmers in their current settlements. This is not farfetched from the common means of living in rural communities. Also 94.6% of male migrants and 83.7% of female migrants were from Benin republic which is on the West of Nigeria.

GENDER ANALYSIS OF CROSS-BORDER MIGRATION IN RURAL BORDER COMMUNITIES  
OF IPOKIA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, OGUN STATE, NIGERIA

**Table 1: Socioeconomic Characteristics of the Respondents**

Variables	Male n = 92	Female n = 92	Total n = 184
<b><i>Age</i></b>			
0 – 30	21 (22.8%)	30 (32.6%)	51 (27.7%)
31 – 60	66 (71.7%)	62 (67.4%)	128 (69.6%)
Above 60	5 (5.4%)	0 (0%)	5(2.7%)
Mean age	<b>41 years</b>	<b>36.3 years</b>	
<b><i>Marital Status</i></b>			
Single	14 (15.2%)	10 (10.9%)	24 (13%)
Married	59 (64.1%)	72 (78.3%)	131 (71.2%)
Separated	14 (15.2%)	4 (4.3%)	18 (9.8%)
Widow/widower	5 (5.4%)	6 (6.5%)	11 (6%)
<b><i>Family Size</i></b>			
Small	66 (71.7%)	67 (72.8%)	133 (72.3%)
Medium	24 (26.1%)	23 (25%)	47(25.5%)
Large	2 (2.2%)	2 (2.2%)	4 (2.2%)
<b><i>Monthly Income</i></b>			
Below 18000	23 (25%)	39(42.4%)	62 (33.7%)
18001 – 55000	69(75%)	47(51.1%)	116(63%)
55001 – 74000	3 (3.3%)	0 (0%)	3(1.6%)
Above 74001	3 (3.3%)	0 (0%)	3 (1.6%)
Mean monthly income	29,445.65	23,478.26	
<b><i>Educational qualification</i></b>			
No formal education	50(54.3%)	53(57.6%)	103(56%)
Primary school	24(26.1%)	33(35.9%)	57(31%)
Secondary school	13(14.1%)	6(6.5%)	19(10.3%)
Tertiary	5(5.4%)	0(0%)	5(2.7%)
<b><i>Occupation</i></b>			
Unemployed	2 (2.2%)	5 (5.4%)	7 (3.8%)
Farming	81(88%)	60(65.2%)	141 (76.6%)
Trading	0 (0%)	23(25%)	23(12.5%)
Self employed	9 (9.8%)	4(4.4%)	13 (6.1%)
<b><i>Nationality</i></b>			
Benin Republic	87(94.6%)	77 (83.7%)	164 (89.1%)
Togo	1(1.1%)	3(3.3%)	4(2.2%)
Ghana	1(1.1%)	6(6.5%)	7(3.8%)
Others	3(3.3%)	6(6.5%)	9(4.9%)

Source: Author fieldwork (2016).

## 5.2. Migration pattern of men and women in the study area

Findings in table 2 shows that higher proportion of male migrants (50%) surveyed had their first entry between 1996 – 2005, while 52.2% of female migrants had their first entry between 2006 –

2016. Majority of male (62%) and female migrants (49.9%) have stayed above 11 years in Nigeria. Higher proportion of the male migrants (95.7%) and female migrants (98.9%) still visit their country of origin as the case arises. About 26.1% of the male migrants' frequency of migration was once in a year while female migrants (32.6%) were once in every two months. This is an indication that female migrants do visit their country of origin more than their male counterpart. Also, 91.3% of male migrants and 86.2% of female migrants' length of stay in their country was less than 7 days (a week).

**Table 2. Migration Pattern of men and women in the study area**

Variables	Male n = 92	Female n = 92	Total n = 184
<b><i>Period of First Entry into Nigeria</i></b>			
Below 1985	0(0%)	2 (2.6%)	2 (1.1%)
1986 – 1995	12 (11.3%)	2 (2.6)	14(7.6%)
1996 – 2005	46(50%)	40(43.5%)	86(46.7%)
2006 – 2016	34 (37%)	48(52.2%)	82(44.6%)
<b><i>Length of stay in Nigeria</i></b>			
1 – 5	17 (18.5%)	24 (26.1%)	41(22.3%)
6 – 10	18(19.6%)	22(23.9%)	40(21.7%)
11 – 15	25 (27.2%)	20 (21.7%)	45 (24.5%)
16 – 20	19 (20.7%)	20(21.7%)	39 (21.2%)
21 above	13 (14.1%)	6(6.5%)	19(10.3%)
<b><i>Do you Still Visit to your Country of origin</i></b>			
No	4(3.8%)	1(1.3%)	5(2.7%)
Yes	88(95.7%)	91(98.9%)	179(97.3%)
<b><i>Frequency of Visit</i></b>			
Once a month	11(12%)	8(8.7%)	19(10.3%)
Twice in a month	16(17.4%)	22(23.9%)	38(20.7%)
Four time in a month	13(14.1%)	5(5.4%)	18(9.8%)
Once every two months	6(6.5%)	30(32.6%)	36(19.6%)
Once a year	24(26.1%)	16(17.4%)	40(21.7%)
Two – four times a year	14 (15.2%)	7 (7.6%)	21(11.4%)
Rarely	4(4.3%)	3(3.3%)	7(3.8%)
Never	4(4.3%)	1(1.1%)	5(2.7%)
<b><i>Length of stay in country of origin</i></b>			
1 – 7	84 (91.3%)	75(86.2%)	156 (88.8%)
8 – 14	6(6.5%)	10(11.5%)	16(8.9%)
15 – 30	1 (1.1%)	2 (2.3%)	3(1.7%)
31 above	1 (1.1%)	0(0%)	1 (0.6%)

Source: Author fieldwork (2016).

As recorded in table 3, the proportion of reasons for visiting country of origin (i.e. Republic of Benin, Ghana and Togo) varies between male and female migrants in the study area. For instance, the major proportion of female migrants' purpose of visit include religious celebrations (i.e. Easter/Christmas festival) (87.0%), wedding and funeral (77.2%), to see parent (71.7%), to see family (64.1%) and festival (54.3%) while male migrants were religious celebrations (66.4%) and wedding and funeral (67.4%). This implied that female migrants visit country of origin for different purposes more than their counterpart (male migrants).

**Table 3: Purpose of Visit**

Purpose of Visit	Male n = 257	Female n = 342	Total n = 599
To see your family	24 (27.0%)	59 (64.1%)	83 (45.9%)
To see your parent	40(44.9%)	66(71.7%)	106(58.6%)
Religious celebrations like Easter/Christmas Festival	59(66.3%) 38(42.7%)	80(87.0%) 50(54.3%)	139(76.8%) 88(48.6%)
Wedding and funeral	60(67.4%)	71(77.2%)	131(72.4%)
To see friends	12(13.5%)	3(3.5%)	15(8.3%)
For Medical purposes	13(14.6%)	5(5.8%)	18(9.9%)
Accompanying relatives	5(5.6%)	6(6.5%)	11(6.1%)
Others	6(6.7%)	2(2.2%)	8(4.4%)

*Note: \*Higher than the total survey because of multiple responses*

Source: Author fieldwork (2016)

### 5.3. Differences in reasons for cross border migration

Findings in table 4 shows that reasons for cross border migration (push factor) from other countries in West Africa to Nigeria varies between male and female. For instance, major reasons for male migrants to cross international border to Nigeria were poor income (75.0%), bad economic condition (71.7%), unfavourable climatic condition (68.5%), poverty (64.1%), few employment opportunities (63.0%) and wage differentials (60.9%) while female migrants were poor income (70.7%), poverty (70.7%) and unfavourable climatic condition (67.4%). This implied that Economic (*poor income, bad economic condition, poverty and few employment opportunities*) and environmental (*unfavourable climatic condition*) reasons were the major push factor which cause male migrants to migrate out of their country of origin to Nigeria while only economic reason (*poor income and poverty*) was that of female migrants.



The result of Independent sample test between gender (men and women) and reasons for cross border migration (push factors) was shown in table 4. The table shows that there is significant difference between gender (male and female) and selected factors. These factors include poor income (p- value 0.000), bad economic condition (p- value 0.000), poverty (p- value 0.007), wage differentials (p- value 0.039) and unfavourable climatic condition (p- value 0.000). The result of independent sample test confirmed major reasons for migration between men and women in the study area.

**Table 4: Reasons for Cross border migration (Push Factors)**

<i>Push Factors</i>	<b>Male n = 494</b>	<b>Female n = 447</b>	<b>Total n = 941</b>	<i>Independent test (t value)</i>	<i>p-value (sig.)</i>
Few Employment Opportunities	58 (63.0%)	48 (52.2%)	106 (57.6%)	1.493	0.137
Poor Income	69(75.0%)	65(70.7%)	134(72.8%)	4.081	0.000*
Bad economic condition	66(71.7%)	38(41.3%)	104(56.5%)	4.351	0.000*
Inadequate facilities	22(23.9%)	30(32.6%)	52(28.3%)	-1.309	0.192
Poverty	59(64.1%)	65(70.7%)	124(67.4%)	2.747	0.007*
Wage differentials	56(60.9%)	42(45.7%)	98(53.3%)	2.082	0.039*
Unfavourable climatic condition	63(68.5%)	62(67.4%)	125(67.9%)	4.012	0.000*
Soil infertility	52(56.5%)	44(47.8%)	96(52.2%)	1.179	0.240
Poor access to land	49(53.3%)	53(57.6%)	102(55.4%)	1.784	0.056

*Note: \*Higher than the total survey because of multiple responses*

*\* Significant at 0.05*

Source: Author's Field survey 2016

Further analysis in table 5 shows that reasons for choice of destination (pull factors) in Nigeria varies between male and female migrants in the study area. The findings show that male migrants choose their destination area in host country (Nigeria) because of good access to land (70.7%), commerce (65.2%) and better income (60.4%) while female migrants choose their destination because of good access to land (75.0%), join other family members (72.8%) marriage (70.7%), and better income (68.5%). It can be observed that environmental (good access to land) and economic (*commerce and better income*) reasons were the major consideration for choosing destination area by male migrants while environmental (good access to land), social (*marriage and to join family members*) and economic (*better income*) reasons were the consideration for choosing destination area by female migrants. The reason for good access to land as a major factor as considered by

both migrants (male and female) is not farfetched from the fact that migrants move not just to enjoy life at their destinations, but to find productive resources capable of improving their lot back at home (Akewesi, 2003). The results of chi-square have witnessed that there is strong association between gender and good access to land ( $p$ - value 0.001), commerce ( $p$ - value 0.003), marriage ( $p$ - value 0.000), join other family members ( $p$ - value 0.000) and better income ( $p$ - value 0.003).

The result of independent sample test between gender (men and women) and reasons for cross border migration (push factors) was shown in table 4. The table shows that there is significant difference between gender (male and female) and selected factors. These factors include good access to land ( $p$ - value 0.000), commerce ( $p$ - value 0.000), marriage ( $p$ - value 0.002), join other family members ( $p$ - value 0.000) and better income ( $p$ - value 0.000). The result of independent sample test confirmed major reasons for migration between men and women for choice of destination in the study area.

**Table 5. Reasons for Choice of Destination (Pull Factors)**

<i>Pull Factor</i>	<b>Male n = 341</b>	<b>Female n = 430</b>	<b>Total n = 771</b>	<b><i>Independent test (t value)</i></b>	<b><i>p-value (sig.)</i></b>
Good access to land	65 (70.7%)	65(75.0%)	134 (72.8%)	4.188	0.000*
Commerce	60(65.2%)	49(53.3%)	109(59.2%)	4.715	0.000*
Marriage	33(35.9%)	69 (70.7%)	98(53.3%)	3.139	0.002*
Join other family members	43(46.7%)	67(72.8%)	110(59.8%)	3.742	0.000*
Better income	56(60.9%)	63(68.5%)	119(64.7%)	5.081	0.000*
Good harvest	38(41.3%)	53(57.6%)	91(49.5%)	1.865	0.067
Soil productivity	46(50.0%)	37(40.2%)	83(45.1%)	1.333	0.182

*Note: \*Higher than the total survey because of multiple responses*

*\* Significant at 0.05*

Source: Author's field survey 2016

## 6. Summary and Conclusion

Gender analysis of cross border migration in rural border communities of Ipokia local government area, Ogun State was examined in this study. In examining the gender analysis of cross border migration, the socioeconomic characteristics of migrant men and women, their pattern of migration and reasons for their cross border migration were examined. The migrants' socio-economic characteristics examined were; age, marital status, family size, monthly income, educational

qualification, occupation and nationality. The indicators of pattern of migration examined include; period of first entry into Nigeria, length of stay in Nigeria, frequency of visit, length of stay in country of origin and purpose of visit. It was discovered in this study that majority of the respondents (male and female) were within the active and productive population. The mean age of male migrants was 41 years while that of female migrants was 36.3 years. The study also revealed that larger percentage of male (75%) and female (51.1%) migrants earn above Nigeria minimum wages (18,000). The highest proportion of male migrants surveyed had their first entry between 1996 and 2005, while female were between 2006 and 2016. Despite the fact that most migrants have migrated to Nigeria, they still maintain contact with their country of origin through visitation. It was also discovered that male migrants crossed the border (push factor) to Nigeria because of economic and environmental reasons while female migrants was economic reason. Both male and female migrants place much priority on good access to land in choosing destination area in Nigeria (pull factors), as it serves as a productive resources capable of improving their lot back at home. The study concluded that despite the increase in cross border migration into the study area, patterns and reasons for cross border migration vary between men and women.

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*Analiza według płci międzygranicznych migracji w wiejskich społecznościach granicznych na obszarze samorządu lokalnego Ipokia w Ogun State, Nigeria*

*Streszczenie*

Niniejszy artykuł analizuje zróżnicowanie według płci międzygranicznych migracji w wiejskich społecznościach granicznych na obszarze samorządu lokalnego Ipokia w Ogun State w Nigerii. Szczególną uwagę skupiono na społeczno-ekonomicznej charakterystyce migrantów, wzorcach migracji pomiędzy kobietami a mężczyznami, a także powodach migracji. W oparciu o wielostopniową technikę doboru próby do badania wybrano 184 migrantów (równa liczba kobiet i mężczyzn) na analizowanym obszarze. Badania wykazały, że średni wiek migrujących mężczyzn wyniósł 41 lata, natomiast kobiet 36,3 lata, jak również, że większa część mężczyzn (75%) i kobiet (51,1%) zarabiała powyżej minimalnej pensji w Nigerii (18 000). Wskazuje to na pozytywny wpływ migracji międzygranicznych na standard życia migrantów. Do głównych powodów migracji międzygranicznych (czynnik „push”) dla mężczyzn należały niski dochód, zły stan ekonomiczny, ubóstwo oraz niewielkie możliwości zatrudnienia, a także niekorzystne warunki klimatyczne. Natomiast migrujące kobiety kierowały się przede wszystkim niskim dochodem oraz ubóstwem. Co więcej, dobra dostępność ziemi i handlu, a także możliwość lepszych zarobków stanowiły główne czynniki decydujące o wyborze docelowego miejsca migracji (czynniki „pull”) dla mężczyzn, zaś dla kobiet były nimi dobry dostęp do ziemi, możliwość zamążpójścia, dołączenie do członków rodziny oraz lepszy dochód. We wnioskach stwierdzono, że poza wzrostem liczby migracji do analizowanego obszaru, wzorce i powody migracji różnią się pomiędzy kobietami oraz mężczyznami.

**Słowa kluczowe:** płeć, migracje międzygraniczne, wiejskie społeczności graniczne, Ogun, Nigeria