

An Investigation of Immigrants' Contributions to Food Production and Community Development in Uhonmora-Ora, Edo State, Nigeria

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Abstract

Recent studies have investigated the impact of immigrants on community development, but there are only limited studies that focus on internal immigrants in a destination like Nigeria where there is evidence of intercity migration associated with agricultural activities and food production. Like many Nigerian communities, Uhonmora has witnessed an influx of immigrants from adjoining states that impact the community's agricultural value chain. This study evaluates the contributions of immigrants in the Uhonmora community, Edo State, Nigeria to food production and community development. Data were obtained from the 8 quarters within the community where most of the immigrants reside, work, and recreate. A total of 300 usable questionnaires were administered to the immigrants and residents out of 330 copies. Thus, 37 copies of the questionnaire were administered in each of the quarters while the remaining 4 copies were administered to key community stakeholders including the head of the community, chairmen of development levy and disciplinary committees, and the public relations officer. The mixed method approach and chi-square statistical analysis were used for the study. The chi-square (X^2), at 7 degrees of freedom and 0.05% significant level = 14.067 revealed that $t_{c < t_t} 3.74$ is less than the theoretical value of 14.067. The study revealed that a high influx of immigrants in the Uhonmora-Ora community has a significant increase in food production and socioeconomic development (trading activities, job opportunities, tourism, and provision of amenities). Nonetheless, the increasing population of immigrants in the community has implications for collaborative community planning to guide against the proliferation of unplanned land uses that negate the principles of sustainable development. The study recommends that similar studies be conducted in other Nigerian agrarian communities experiencing the influx of immigrants to unravel the challenges and prospects of accomplishing any or the combination of the aims of sustainable development goals.

Keywords: Immigrants, Food production, Community development, Sustainable development

Introduction

There is no generally acceptable definition of migration since most definitions use time and space criteria. In the evaluation of the contexts and concepts of migration, either from the perspective of the kinds and patterns, migration kinds and patterns could be identified, examined, evaluated, and classified as major, minor, forms, attributes, and measures^{1,2,3}. The major attributes of migration patterns are migration by type, distance, and motive. The minor attributes of migration patterns are migration for; tourism and recreation, commercial, periodic, medical, seasonal, educational, forced, impelled, free, mass, vocation, rural-rural, rural-urban, urban-urban, urban-rural, international, labour, sex, pull and push, long-term etc. On the other hand, measures of migration are immigrants and emigrants.

However, these forms, types, distances, and motives of migration are induced by the combination of the push and pull factors, and socio-economic hubs of some places and regions over others.⁴ Consequently, the rate and volumes of immigrants and emigrants have increased remarkably over time in the 21st Century. These increases can be attributed to a combination of factors including improvements in technology, modes of transportation, and communication. Other factors include perceived information, job opportunities, variance in natural endowment, socioeconomic reasons, adventures, tourism, human development, security, famine, and natural disasters among different demographic groups⁵.

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Several studies^{6,7,8} have investigated trends in population migration across destinations but none have investigated the immigrant population on the increase in food production and sustainable development in Uhonmora and this is the research gap. However, most of these studies are focused on popular destinations with huge economic potential and less on developing destinations for immigrants. Studies focusing on migration within the Nigerian context, especially in rural communities experiencing an influx of immigrants, perhaps, due to inherent socioeconomic benefits and sustainability of the communities associated with immigrant activities are limited⁹. Thus, this study seeks to investigate the impact of the immigrant population on the increase in food production and sustainable development in Uhonmora, Edo State, South-South Nigeria where there is evidence of immigrants from within and neighboring states.

Objective of the Study

The objective of this research is to investigate the impacts of the immigrant population in the Uhonmora community, on food production and community development from 2014-2023. This is achieved by asking and analysing the following questions from the residents' and immigrants' perspectives: (a) What are the reasons for the immigrants' relocation from their previous destinations to the Uhonmora community? (b) To what extent has the immigrant population enhanced food production and development in the Uhonmora community?

⁶Dao, T.H., Docquier, F., Maurel, M., and Schaus, P. (2021). *Global Migration in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries: The Unstoppable Force of Demography*. *Review of World Economics*, 157, 417-449

⁷Ajaero C.K and Onokala P.C. (2013). The Effects of Rural-Urban Migration on Rural Communities of Southeastern Nigeria. *International Journal of Population Research*.

⁸Agbebaku, H.U. (1999). Effects of Immigrants in Uhonmora-Ora, Owan West Local Government Area, Edo State, Nigeria: A B.Sc. Project Submitted to the Department of Geography and Regional Planning, Edo State University, Ekpoma, Edo State.

⁹Majebi, E.C and Agbebaku, H.U. (2023). Assessment of the Socioeconomic Impact of Immigrants on Sustainable Development in the Last Decade in Uhonmora-Ora, Edo State, South-South, Nigeria. *International Journal of Migration and Global Studies [IJMGs]*. 3(1), 78 -102. <http://ijmgs.nou.edu.ng/current-journal/>

Literature Review

Attributes of Migration

According to the studies of^{10,11,12,13,14} at the global level, there are four broad classifications of migration patterns. These are migration by duration, migration by motive, migration by distance, and measures of migration.

Migration by duration is the length by which migrants stay at their destination. The study identified the following groups as types of migration. These include long-term, seasonal, daily, periodic, and labour migration. These patterns of movement formed the earliest type of migration and were practised in America, Europe Asia, and Africa. Each of these sub-types of migration by duration has unique characteristics and effects on the source and destination points. Today the friction of distance has been overcome by rapid advancement in transport technology both in advanced and developing countries.

Migration by the motive of the migrants. These classifications include forced migration, free migration, sex migration, impelled migration, and mass migrants having no power to decide whether to migrate or not. This migration pattern has displaced innocent groups from their homeland. The pattern of movement is influenced by political crisis, slave trade, and intertribal wars.

The impelled migration involved some groups of people with little power/decision whether to migrate or not. Furthermore, the studies of Ajaero and Agbebaku^{15,16} observed that the free migration classification, centred on the will of the migrants, is the decisive factor. People travelled to places of their will because of the perceived information they had about the area. The improvement in transport facilities has enhanced mass migration internally and internationally, not minding the season of the year, neither the weather conditions nor funds involved.

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Migration by Distance is grouped into internal and international. Internal migration is where human movement has resulted in massive population shifts within a sovereign country. There are four basic recognisable types namely, rural-rural, rural-urban, urban-rural, and urban-urban migration. However, the rural-rural migration pattern is common in third-world countries, including Nigeria. In the African and Nigerian contexts, the vast proportion of this trend of movement is seasonal.

Similarly, the distance covered by migrants is short and driven by proximity to the catchment location. In the largely rural and agrarian community of Uhonmora, the principal factors inducing this migration pattern are the rich soil fertility, security, low cost of living, and availability of land resources. Thus, the movement of the tribes of Ebira, Igala, Aiyewure, Idoma, Owo, Igbo, Calabar, and others are typical examples of this form of migratory movement that constitutes a 35% influx to the community population¹⁷.

In Nigeria, rural-urban migration has been the most common pattern of movement of people from rural areas to urban centres and this pattern of migration constituted about 45% of the community. Thus, this pattern of migration accounts for about 15%, and these classifications are open to retirees. Because at the end of their working life, they chose to relocate to rural areas and engage in other forms of activities^{18,19,20}. Similarly, urban-urban migration involves the movement of urban dwellers from cities proper to suburban areas due to overcrowding, congestion, high rents/bills, and less healthy conditions. In Nigeria, this pattern of migration accounts for about 10%. However, people migrate from one urban centre to another for an improved standard of living, business activities, and bilateral agreements²¹.

¹⁷Majebi, E.C and Agbebaku, H.U. (2023). Assessment of the Socioeconomic Impact of Immigrants on Sustainable Development in the Last Decade in Uhonmora-Ora, Edo State, South-South, Nigeria. *International Journal of Migration and Global Studies [IJMGs]*. 3(1), 78 -102. <http://ijmgs.nou.edu.ng/current-journal/>

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¹⁹Onokerhoraye, A.G. (1984). *Social Services in Nigeria; An Introduction*. London, Kegan Paul. 12-23

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Measures of Migration are of two types of migration movement. This is, via immigrants and emigrants or net and gross migration. The movement of the human population across international boundaries is calculated in the same way using the corresponding terms of immigrants and emigrants. Applying these measures to the Uhonmora settlement, the community has kept no proper records of immigrant data such as the number of immigrants population from 2014 – 2023, accounting for seasonal increases and decreases in human.

Applying these measures to the Uhonmora settlement, the community has kept no proper records of immigrant data such as the number of immigrants population from 2014 – 2023, accounting for seasonal increases and decreases in human population, increases and decreases in food production, income, and expenditure variation, variation in size/hectare of farmlands allotted to immigrants, social vices, and social works^{22,23}.

Causes of Migration

Several factors stimulate migration patterns and the volume of the influx of immigrants to places. The factors responsible can be classified into the following subgroups according to the studies of Onokerhoraye and Majebi.^{24,25} Consequently, these causes can be of two kinds, the major and minor causes. The major causes are physical, economic, social, political, medical, and educational. On the other hand, the minor causes of migration include cultural, medical, educational, religious, tourism and recreation.

Impacts of Immigrant Population on Sustainable Community Development

The evaluation of the impacts of the immigrant population on the increase in food production in the community shows that the influx of immigrants from 2014 – 2023 has contributed significantly to the increase in human population, food production, and economic development of Uhonmora-Ora during this period of study. Other positive impacts of the immigrant population include the areas of agricultural development, trade, marriage, health, housing, and music²⁶. For instance, there has been a remarkable increase in agricultural output in the community during the period under review. The influx of immigrants especially the tribes of Ebira, Igala, Ogori, Aiyewure, and Idoma had adopted the system of huge cultivation of farmlands and cropping before the commencement of the rainy season while in some cases, the practice of double cultivation within a farming season as against the default methods of farming practice of the indigenous people of Uhonmora. In addition, the practice of early planting, farm seedlings, and commercial farming has resulted in gradual changes in methods and innovation for different heaping, cropping, mulching, and preservation as against the old methods of the people of Uhonmora-Ora.

²²Ajaero, C.K and Madu, I.A. (2014). Rural-Urban Migration and Livelihoods in Southeastern Nigeria. *Developing Country Studies* 4(6), 6-15.

²³Ajaero C.K and Onokala P.C. (2013). The Effects of Rural-Urban Migration on Rural Communities of Southeastern Nigeria. *International Journal of Population Research*.

²⁴Onokerhoraye, A.G. (1984). *Social Services in Nigeria; An Introduction*. London, Kegan Paul. 12-23.

²⁵Majebi, E.C and Agbebaku, H.U. (2023). Assessment of the Socioeconomic Impact of Immigrants on Sustainable Development in the Last Decade in Uhonmora-Ora, Edo State, South-South, Nigeria. *International Journal of Migration and Global Studies [IJMGs]*, 3(1), 78 -102. <http://ijmgs.nou.edu.ng/current-journal/>

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Thus, the increase in food crop production is felt mainly with the harvest of plantain, cassava, rice, maize, and yam cultivations. Thus, during the harvesting seasons, some individual and group farmers transport their products to neighbouring and distant states of the six geo-political zones inclusive of the federal capital territory, Abuja for better economic values. Consequently, during the harvesting periods, the prices of these farm produce are relatively cheap at the source area owing to food surplus and limitations of poor preservative technology mainly on plantain and vegetable products that are highly perishable. Thus, the practice of acquiring fresh land annually, and the use of fertilisers, insecticides, and chemicals, speaks volumes about soil fertility and boost in food production. Furthermore, the volume of trading activities on these food items has increased to neighbouring states because the immigrants employ farming techniques from other tribes outside their homes of origin^{27,28,29}.

Thus, new commodities and techniques came into the trading system in exchange and maximisation of the benefits of the concept of comparative cost advantage on food products, demand, and supply chain were all introduced and sustained by the people of Uhonmora in enhancing the sustainable development of food items³⁰. However, some of the negative impacts of the immigrant population were observed from the combination of factors such as; inadequate haulage and transportation arrangement, problem of distance, bad road networks, inadequate labour force to bring these products out from the farm sites, inadequate storage device to preserve the produce and loss of economic values. Thus, during the off-harvesting period, there is the incessant scarcity of some food supply and hikes in prices owing to the large influx of humans at the peak of the farming season which refused to go after the season³¹. Other challenges are in the areas of increase in social vices, legal persecution, land fragmentation, laziness among some youths, and broken marriages on the parts of the visitors and host community.

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²⁸Onokerhoraye, A.G. (1984). *Social Services in Nigeria; An Introduction*. London, Kegan Paul. 12-23.

²⁹Ohimai, E.A. (2023). *Granted Interview*. Historian and Elder Spoke Man of Uhonmora-Ora Community.

³⁰Atafo, F.A. (2023). *Granted Interview*. Historian and Elder Spoke Man of Uhonmora-Ora Community

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Surveys have shown that there has been an increase in the level of crimes, court cases/disputes between some deviant immigrants and the host community.^{32,33,34} Some handful of the immigrant population are fined/sued and viz-a-viz over the breach of cultural norms, failed contracts, agreements, and levies on sustainable development of the community³⁵. In addition, the inadequacies of the community management to have a database of these immigrants' population year in and out are other challenging factors. Thus, the annual cultivation of rice and plantain in commercial quantity has exposed the land to the annual occurrence of deforestation, loss of carbon dioxide, fire outbreaks, encroachment of forest reservation, and degradation of the ecosystem.³⁶

Materials and Methods

Study Area

Uhonmora–Ora is one of the six Ora communities in Owan West Local Government Area, Edo State, Nigeria. The Community is located between Latitude 6° 10' N and 6° 45' N and Longitude 6° 10' E and 6° 40' E. The community is bounded to the North by Sabongida-Ora, North-East by Eme-Ora, and South by Ozalla communities of the Ora clan that constitute parts of the Owan-West Local Government Area. Uhonmora is in the southwestern part of the Ora clan, close to a terminal town (Sabon Gida-Ora), which eases the immigration of people from neighboring states on the perceived information about the soil into the community. Uhonmora-Ora comprises 8 quarters which include Oduosi, Ukpafoga, Ukhuedeodu, Ukpafisi, Ukpokhunmu, Ukpafekhai, Ukpafortisi, and Ukhuoro. The community is characterised by rich dark sandy and loamy soil that promotes farming activities and consistently positions the community to limelight. The terrain is relatively flat and simple undulating topography of about 78.64 metres above sea level. The community records its highest degrees of temperature (36.1°C), in February and March and the lowest temperature (19.4°C) in April and May. The community experiences heavy rainfall that lasts between March and November each year. The annual rainfall is between 2000mm and 3000mm.

³²Majebi, E.C and Agbebaku, H.U. (2023). Assessment of the Socioeconomic Impact of Immigrants on Sustainable Development in the Last Decade in Uhonmora-Ora, Edo State, South-South, Nigeria. *International Journal of Migration and Global Studies [IJMGS]*. 3(1), 78 -102. <http://ijmgs.nou.edu.ng/current-journal/>

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³⁴Ohimai, E.A. (2023). *Granted Interview*. Historian and Elder Spoke Man of Uhonmora-Ora Community

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³⁶Majebi, E.C and Agbebaku, H.U. (2023). Assessment of the Socioeconomic Impact of Immigrants on Sustainable Development in the Last Decade in Uhonmora-Ora, Edo State, South-South, Nigeria. *International Journal of Migration and Global Studies [IJMGS]*. 3(1), 78 -102. <http://ijmgs.nou.edu.ng/current-journal/>

The community is well-drained by 3 major rivers and several streams of water sources that are seasonal. The three major rivers are River Owan, River Oruen, and Obvoti River. These major rivers meandered and cut across eight-quarters of the community and played significant roles in the community's sources of surface and groundwater supply. At the confluence point of the three rivers, at River Owan, the water goes separate ways with variations in color and taste. The community is characterized by sedimentary rocks, brownish earth, grassland, and forest vegetation. The community is a large rural agrarian settlement and the inhabitants engage in farming, and trading in agricultural produce³⁷. Uhonmora-Ora is known to produce food and cash crops such as maize, plantain, garri, rice, yam, cocoyam, vegetables and cocoa, rubber, palm oil, orange, and timber products for the local government, state, and Nigeria. Farming activities are the main occupation of the indigenes and immigrants of different tribes.

These sets of people take advantage of the fertility of the soil to cultivate large hectares of land/commercial farming. The immigrants exhibit different traditional practices based on ecological adaption and conditions which lead to varying systems of farming that brought a gradual change of ideas, skills, and new methods of farming and food preservation to the people of Uhonmora. Given these, the socioeconomic characteristics of the people of Uhonmora centred on primary activities rather than secondary and tertiary ones throughout the season³⁸. These include crop production, selling of merchandise, petty trading, and marketing of their produce within and outside the community periodic market. Selling and buying of the farm products are carried out mostly by women of both the indigenes of the host community and immigrants of other tribes³⁹. The community had a population estimate of 785,676 as at 2016. The male and female populations were put at 342,554 and 443,122 respectively⁴⁰. Mapping of the study area was generated using geo-informatic tools such as Global Positioning System (GPS) and Geographical Information System (GIS) techniques. The global positioning system, Garmin Channel 78. sc model was used to determine the coordinates (x, y), and location. The derived map shows the thematic sampling location imagery of the major immigrants' stronghold in the study area.

³⁷Majebi, E.C. and Agbebaku, H.U. (2023). Assessment of the Socioeconomic Impact of Immigrants on Sustainable Development in the Last Decade in Uhonmora-Ora, Edo State, South-South, Nigeria. *International Journal of Migration and Global Studies [IJMGS]*. 3(1), 78 -102. <http://ijmgs.nou.edu.ng/current-journal/>

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³⁹Ohimai, E.A. (2023). *Granted Interview*. Historian and Elder Spoke Man of Uhonmora-Ora Community.

⁴⁰NPC, (2016). National Population Commission. Benin City, Edo State.

Both primary and secondary data collection were employed to facilitate the research. The primary source comprised mainly of field observations, interviews, questionnaire administration, and mapping. The secondary data explored were sourced from documentary materials and established sources. Since the research was purely experimental, data from primary sources were mainly used for the study. To get primary data, the sampling techniques and population of immigrants helped in the study as the sample frame. Thus, the systematic random sampling techniques were adopted to ascertain the distributional spread of the immigrants across the eight quarters of the community for questionnaire administration, thus, this constitutes the research instrument used for the study. In addition to questionnaire administration, interviews were conducted with some key community stakeholders.

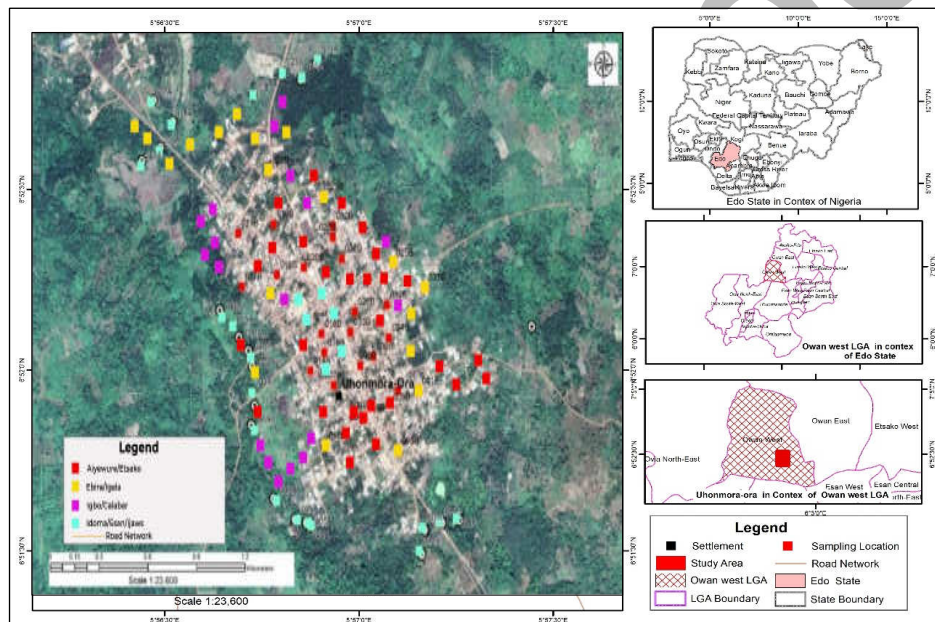


Fig. 1: Map of Edo State, Owan West Local Government Area, Uhonmora-Ora Showing Sampling Location Imagery of the Major Tribe of Immigrants.

Source: GIS and Cartography Unit, LASU (2023).

Selection of respondents and questionnaire distribution

For this study, 80% of the population which constitutes the major stronghold of the immigrants across the 8 quarters of the community was randomly selected as respondents. In doing this, the major densely populated streets across the 8 quarters were used respectively for the study. A total of 330 copies of questionnaires were administered across the 8 quarters in the community. From this total number of 330 questionnaires, 300 were returned while 30 were not returned. This signified that only 90% which accounts for 300 copies of the questionnaires was used for the study, while the remaining copies of 10% which accounts for 30 could not be retrieved across the 8 quarters. Thus, from the 300 copies that constituted the sample size, a default number of 37 copies were administered in each of the eight quarters, while the remaining 4 copies were administered to a group of indigenes, such as community/village head, chairman; community development levy, chairman; disciplinary community, and public relation officer respectively, thus, bringing the total to 300. In each of the quarters and selected streets with densely and diverse immigrants, the 2nd middle, and 2nd to last households were administered with questionnaires. However, some forms of assistance were given to most of the respondents as the majority of them were illiterate and could not effectively complete the questionnaire. Data from the field were analyzed using descriptive techniques of maps, tables, and percentages while the use of chi-square analysis constitutes the inferential statistical techniques.

Results

The results of the study on the evaluation of the impacts of the immigrant population on the increase in food production and development in the Uhonmora community from 2014 – 2023 were summarized and presented in Tables 1 to 7 respectively.

Table 1: Reasons for Migrants' Departure (Push Factor)

Reasons for Migration	No. of Immigrants	Percentage (%)
Inadequate Farmlands/Inadequate Soil Fertility	164	54.6
Inadequate Job Opportunities	41	13.6
Inadequate Socio Amenities	20	6.6
Inadequate Institutions	30	10.0
Others	45	15.0
Total	300	100

Source: Fieldwork, 2023

The result from Table 1, shows the reasons for immigrants' departure from sources destination point of Uhonmora-Ora. From Table 1, many of the immigrants migrate to Uhonmora because of inadequate farmlands/poor soil fertility in their areas of origin and this singular factor propelled them to migrate to Uhonmora community. From the study, 164 of the examined population, representing 54.8% of the respondents, indicated inadequate farmland, and soil fertility. This was followed by responses from inadequate job opportunities that motivated them to migrate for settlement in Uhonmora, thus this could be based on the perceived information about the community as the land flowing with milk and honey. This represents 13.6% of the given population. Next to this were the responses from inadequate institutions, which represents 10%. The responses from inadequate socio-amenities represent 6.6% while the remaining 15% represent other combinations of reasons for the departure of immigrants to Uhonmora. The implication of the reason for the push factor of immigrants from their place of origin to Uhonmora-Ora community is that the acquisition of large farmlands is becoming difficult for both the indigenes and visitors.

These findings are consistent with the summation of Agbebaku and Majebi^{41,42} that certain reasons are responsible for immigrants' departure from the source area.

Table 2: Composition of Immigrants' State of Origin

State of Origin	No. of Immigrants	Percentage (%)
Edo	94	31.3
Kogi	68	22.6
Delta	51	17.0
Igbo	42	14.0
Others	45	15.0
Total	300	100%

Source: Fieldwork, 2023

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⁴²Majebi, E.C and Agbebaku, H.U. (2023). Assessment of the Socioeconomic Impact of Immigrants on Sustainable Development in the Last Decade in Uhonmora-Ora, Edo State, South-South, Nigeria. *International Journal of Migration and Global Studies [IJMGS]*. 3(1), 78 -102. <http://ijmgs.nou.edu.ng/current-journal/>

The result from Table 2 shows that distance imposed a limiting factor as migration tends to decrease with distance. From the Table, most of the respondents are from different ethnicities and states of origin. From the table, 94 which represents 31.3% of the respondents are from Edo, as state of their origin.

These groups of immigrants took advantage of proximity and perceived information about the community for migration and settlement. This is followed by the origin from Kogi state, these immigrants accounted for 22.6%. Next to this is the indigene from Delta state, which represented 17%, and the origin from the Igbo-speaking states represented 14%. In contrast, the remaining 15% are from other states and tribes of the federation. The implication of immigrants' composition to the community is more to the proximity of distance to destination point and the concept of migration by duration while the prevailing high cost of movement is another hindering factor. These findings are consistent with the summation of Nnorom and Agbebaku^{43,44} that migration to a place can be in the patterns of migration by duration, migration by motive, and migration by distance.

Table 3: Occupational Status of Immigrants

Occupational Status	No. of Immigrants	Percentage (%)
Farming	164	56.4
Civil Servant	7	2.3
Trading	87	29.0
Others	42	14.0
Total	300	100

Source: Fieldwork, 2023

⁴³Nnorom, K and Daniel R.O. (2022). Rural-Urban Migration and Attitude to Community-Based Development Activities: A Study of Migrants in Enugu Metropolis. *JUPEB Journal of Development and Educational Studies* 1(1), 29- 48

⁴⁴Agbebaku, H.U. (1999). Effects of Immigrants in Uhonmora-Ora, Owan West Local Government Area, Edo State. Nigeria: *A B.Sc. Project Submitted to the Department of Geography and Regional Planning*, Edo State University, Ekpoma. Edo State

The result from Table 3, shows the occupational status of immigrants in Uhonmora. As the table indicates, 54.6% of the people interviewed were engaged in farming. This could be due to one or the combination of; the soil fertility which they capitalised on, self-interest in farming, their low educational status, or inability to secure civil service jobs. This was followed by responses from the trading occupation which represents 29%. These include the petty trading of buying and selling farm produce and selling them within and outside the state. Thus, the trading occupation is carried out mostly by women and some immigrant males in the community. Other categories of occupation include blacksmith, rubber/palm-wine and oil tapping, repairers, and painters - representing 14%. The remaining 2.3% of the respondents are those engaged in civil service jobs such as cleaners, massagers, environmental attendants, and security personnel. The implication of farming activities as the major occupational status of the immigrants indicates an increase in food production activities and sustainable development in the community. These findings are consistent with the summation of Nnorom and Agbebaku^{45,46,47} that the drive for an occupational status of immigrants is a determinant factor for departure from the source area.

⁴⁵Majebi, E.C and Agbebaku, H.U. (2023). Assessment of the Socioeconomic Impact of Immigrants on Sustainable Development in the Last Decade in Uhonmora-Ora, Edo State, South-South, Nigeria. *International Journal of Migration and Global Studies [IJMGs]*. 3(1), 78 -102. <http://ijmgs.nou.edu.ng/current-journal/>

⁴⁶Nnorom, K and Daniel R.O. (2022). Rural-Urban Migration and Attitude to Community-Based Development Activities: A Study of Migrants in Enugu Metropolis. *JUPEB Journal of Development and Educational Studies* 1(1), 29- 48

⁴⁷Majebi, E.C and Agbebaku, H.U. (2023). Assessment of the Socioeconomic Impact of Immigrants on Sustainable Development in the Last Decade in Uhonmora-Ora, Edo State, South-South, Nigeria. *International Journal of Migration and Global Studies [IJMGs]*. 3(1), 78 -102. <http://ijmgs.nou.edu.ng/current-journal/>

Table 4: Natures of Food Crops Production

State and Tribe	Nature of Food Crops Cultivated in Priority	No. of Immigrant population	Percentage (%)
Kogi (Igala, Ebira, Idoma)	Yams, cassava, beans and vegetables, others	164	56.4
Benue (Idoma, Igala)	Yams, rice, cassava, plantain, vegetables and others	41	13.6
Delta (Urhobo, Ijaws)	Cassava, plantain vegetables, and others	20	6.7
Other States: Edo, (Ayewure, Esan & Auchi) Taraba, (Kuteb), cross-river (Ogoja), Enugu, Anambra & Imo (Igbos), Ondo & Kwara (Yoruba's)	Plantain, palm oil, cassava, rice, cocoyams, vegetables, and others	75	24.0
Total		300	100

Source: Fieldwork, 2023

The result from Table 4 shows the nature of food production on the priority scale by the immigrants to Uhonmora. From the table, 164 of the respondents, which represent 56.7% of the population from Kogi state tribes account for the highest food production in the community. These tribes cultivate more yam, cassava, beans, and vegetables. This was followed by the combination of tribes from diverse states, which accounts for 24.0%, their food production consists of plantain, palm oil, cassava, rice, cocoyam, and vegetables. The tribes of the Urhobo and Ijaws from Delta state represent 6.7%, their contributions to food production are more of cassava, plantain and vegetables, and other crops. The remaining 13.6% of the respondents were from the cultivation of yams, rice, cassava, plantain vegetables, and others. The implication of immigrants on the nature of food crop production is on the diverse crop cultivation, trade and investment opportunities to both the indigenes and visitors. These findings are consistent with the summation of Majebi, Nnorom and Agbebaku^{48,49,50} that certain reasons are responsible for immigrants' departure from the source area.

⁴⁸Majebi, E.C and Agbebaku, H.U. (2023). Assessment of the Socioeconomic Impact of Immigrants on Sustainable Development in the Last Decade in Uhonmora-Ora, Edo State, South-South, Nigeria. *International Journal of Migration and Global Studies [IJMGs]*. 3(1), 78 -102. <http://ijmgs.nou.edu.ng/current-journal/>

⁴⁹Nnorom, K and Daniel R.O. (2022). Rural-Urban Migration and Attitude to Community-Based Development Activities: A Study of Migrants in Enugu Metropolis. *JUPEB Journal of Development and Educational Studies* 1(1), 29- 48

⁵⁰Agbebaku, H.U. (1999). Effects of Immigrants in Uhonmora-Ora, Owan West Local Government Area, Edo State, Nigeria: A B.Sc. Project Submitted to the Department of Geography and Regional Planning, Edo State University, Ekpoma, Edo State.

Table 5: Quantity of Food Production in Tones

Year	No. of Immigrants	%	Quantity of Food Production in Tones (Plantain, Garri and Rice)
2014	Not Available	0	Not Available
2015	Not Available	0	Not Available
2016	17	5.6	5
2017	22	7.3	9
2018	29	9.6	12
2019	32	10.6	18
2020	36	12.0	22
2021	41	13.6	27
2022	52	17.3	31
2023	71	23.6	35
Total	300	100%	159

Source: Fieldwork, 2023.

The result from Table 5, shows the quantity of food production in tones for this period of study in Uhonmora-Ora. From the table, the study observed the variation and increase in food crop production in the community. From the result, it was observed that the increase in food production was low in the first quarter of the study, moderate in the second quarter, and high in the last quarter of the period of study. Thus, these variations and increase in food production as listed in Table 4, could be attributed to a combination of factors such as; the incessant increase in the numbers of immigrants population every year, fertility of the soil as the blessed land flowing with milk and honey, availability of farming land, availability of labour force, availability of funds with a low-interest rate, low levy/task demand from the community, favourable rainfall, temperature and humidity, and expansion of marketing of the agricultural product to states of the urban centres. The implication of the quantity of food production in tones is that there would be an increase in food production, trade, investment and labour opportunities for both the indigenes and visitors to the community in particular and the state at large. Thus, these findings are consistent with the summation of Majebi Majebi, and Agbebaku^{51,52,53,54} that certain reasons are responsible for the increase in food production.

⁵¹Dao, T.H., Docquier, F., Maurel, M., and Schaus, P. (2021). *Global Migration in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries: The Unstoppable Force of Demography*. *Review of World Economics*, 157, 417-449

⁵²Agbebaku, H.U. (1999). Effects of Immigrants in Uhonmora-Ora, Owan West Local Government Area, Edo State, Nigeria: A B.Sc. Project Submitted to the Department of Geography and Regional Planning, Edo State University, Ekpoma. Edo State.

⁵³Majebi, E.C and Agbebaku, H.U. (2023). Assessment of the Socioeconomic Impact of Immigrants on Sustainable Development in the Last Decade in Uhonmora-Ora, Edo State, South-South, Nigeria. *International Journal of Migration and Global Studies [IJMGs]*. 3(1), 78 -102. <http://ijmgs.nou.edu.ng/current-journal/>

⁵⁴Nnorom, K and Daniel R.O. (2022). Rural-Urban Migration and Attitude to Community-Based Development Activities: A Study of Migrants in Enugu Metropolis. *JUPEB Journal of Development and Educational Studies* 1(1), 29- 48

Table 6: Count of Community Development Projects

Year	No. of Immigrants	%	Total No. of Community Development Projects
2014	Not Available	0	Not Available
2015	Not Available	0	Not Available
2016	17	5.6	-
2017	22	7.3	2
2018	29	9.6	1
2019	32	10.6	6
2020	36	12.0	3
2021	41	13.6	4
2022	52	17.3	17
2023	71	23.6	10
Total	300	100%	43

Source: Fieldwork, 2023

The result from Table 6 shows the counts of community development projects that were observed in the community during the period in Uhonmora. From the Table, the nature of the local developmental projects for sustainability in the community centred on the contribution towards fundraising through annual development levy for the development of a town hall, motor parks, and market. In addition, their contributions to community projects were felt in the enhancement of communal works such as maintenance of local bridges, farm and cemetery roads, and funding of vigilante groups and court/land cases. From the study, it was observed that in the years 2022 and 2023, more funds were raised and the consequent increase in the number of community projects was recorded in the community from 2014 to 2021. Thus, these counts imply that the immigrant population and state of community development are instrumental towards the counts of developmental projects and communal works in the community of Uhonmora-Ora.

Table 7: Impacts of Immigrant Population on Increase in Food Production

Year	No. of Immigrants	Qty of Food Production	Total
2014	Not Available	Nil	0
2015	Not Available	Nil	0
2016	17	5	22
2017	22	9	31
2018	29	12	41
2019	32	18	50
2020	36	22	58
2021	41	27	68
2022	52	31	83
2023	71	35	106
Total	300	159	459

Source: This Study, 2023

Chi-square text: $X^2 = \sum \frac{(O-E)^2}{E}$

Hypothesis Testing

Hi: There is a significant relationship between the immigrant population on increase in food production in Uhonmora-Ora

Extract from Table 7

Observed(O)	Expected (E)	(O – E)2	$\frac{(O-E)^2}{E}$
17	14.37	6.91	0.48
3	7.62	6.86	0.90
22	20.26	3.02	0.14
9	10.26	2.99	0.27
29	26.79	4.88	0.18
12	14.20	4.84	0.34

32	32.67	0.44	0.01
18	17.32	0.46	0.02
36	37.90	3.61	0.09
22	20.09	3.64	0.18
41	44.44	11.83	0.26
27	23.55	10.90	0.50
52	54.24	5.01	0.09
31	28.75	5.06	0.17
71	69.28	2.95	0.04
35	36.71	2.95	0.07
			3.74

Source: This Study, 2023

$$X^2 = 3.74$$

Where O = Observed variable
 E = Expected variable
 Degree of Freedom = V - K
 V = row (2 - 1)
 K = column (8 - 1)
 V - K = (7 x 1) = 7

Chi-Square (X^2) at 7 degrees of freedom and 0.05% significant level= 14.067. Therefore, $t_{c < t_t}$ is 3.74 is less than the theoretical value of 14.067. Implying we reject the H_0 and accept the H_1 . Thus, the results. Given these analyses, the results show a significant correlation between the immigrant population's increase in food production in Uhonmora-Ora.

Discussion

The study revealed that the majority of the immigrant population migrated to Uhonmora due to a combination of factors. These range from the inadequacies of farmlands and inadequate soil fertility in their respective areas of origin. Thus, this singular factor propelled them to migrate to Uhonmora based on the perceived information about the community. Thus, the implication of the reason for the push

factor of the immigrants from their destination to the Uhonmora community is that the acquisition of farmlands was easier in the past but at present, the acquisition of large farmlands is becoming difficult for both the indigenes and visitors owing to the incessant increase in immigrant populations. But where such desired sizes are available, they are located and acquired in the interior and fringe areas of the community. In addition to these challenges, the friction of distance is now a barrier to farmers in the quest for large farmlands owing to the immigrant population and desire to acquire farming land with huge soil fertility.

Furthermore, the study revealed that the increase in food production was low in the first quarter from 2014 to 2016. Moderate in the second quarter from 2017 to 2019 and high in the last quarter from 2020 to 2023 of the periods of study. These variations and increase in food production as listed in Tables 4 to 5 and 7, could be attributed to a combination of factors such as; the incessant increase in the yearly numbers of immigrants population, fertility of the soil as the blessed land flowing with milk and honey, availability of farming land, availability of labour force, availability of funds with a low-interest rate, low levy/task demand from the community, the favourable rainfall, temperature and humidity, and expansion of marketing and trade investment opportunities of the agricultural product to states of the urban centres. In addition, community development projects were low from 2014 to 2017, moderate from 2018 to 2020, and much better from 2021 to 2023 as presented in Table 6. The steady increase in the count of community projects is directly a function of the constant increase in the immigrant population, fertility of the soil as a blessed land and records keeping.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This study has established that immigrants are a significant part of the Uhonmora-Ora community in Edo State, South-south Nigeria. They contribute to food production which has influenced ancillary activities including trading, domestic tourism, and the provision of limited basic social infrastructure which do not seem commensurate with the influx of immigrants to the community. These findings have implications for collaborative community planning to guide against the proliferation of unplanned land uses that negate the principles of sustainable development. Consequently, the local authorities, immigrants, and indigenous residents are a significant component of the envisaged drive towards sustainable food production and the overall development of the community. As the findings of this research are peculiar to the study site, other studies could be conducted in other Nigerian/similar cities experiencing the influx of immigrants to unravel the challenges and prospects of accomplishing any/combination of the sustainable development goals.

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