Assessment of the Socioeconomic Impact of Immigrants on Sustainable Development
From 2013-2022 Period in Uhonmora-Ora, Edo State, South-South, Nigeria

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Abstract
Many studies have investigated the impact of the migration of persons to popular destinations across the globe. However, only limited studies have focused on destinations like Nigeria which is experiencing an influx of immigrants from within its states for various reasons, including economic opportunities to communities. Thus, this study employs a mixed-method approach to examine the perspectives of community stakeholders on the impact of immigrants on attitudinal changes, methods, and procedures on sustainable development activities including agriculture in the Uhonmora-Ora community. Like many communities, Uhonmora has witnessed an influx of immigrants mainly from Kogi and other adjoining states that may impact the community's socioeconomic activities, including her agricultural and other sectors. Primary data were obtained from the eight quarters within the community where most of the immigrants reside and carry out their daily activities. A total of 330 copies of questionnaires were administered to the immigrants but only 300 copies were useable for the study. 37 copies of the questionnaire were administered in each of the quarters while the remaining four 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, in addition to the interview sessions with them. The study's results revealed a significant relationship between the influx of immigrant population and sustainable development especially in agricultural land use and attitudinal changes in the study site. Nonetheless, the increasing population of immigrants to the Uhonmora-Ora demands the provision of basic social infrastructural facilities from the government and the private sector stakeholders/investors for the sustainability of the activities in the community. Similar studies could be conducted in other Nigerian/similar cities experiencing the influx of immigrants to unravel the push and pull factors associated with the immigrants' choice of destinations, and their impact on host communities.

Introduction

On a daily, weekly, and seasonal basis, people sojourn for short and long distances to fulfill their desired needs. These migration kinds and patterns could be identified as major, minor, forms, attributes, and measures of migration[1,2]. The major attributes of migration patterns are migration by type, migration by distance, migration by motive, and measures of migration. Thus, 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, labor, sex, pull and push, and long-term respectively. The measures of migration are immigrants and emigrants[3]. These forms, types, distances, and motives of migration are induced by the socio-economic hubs of some places and regions over others.

Consequently, the rate and volumes of immigrants and emigrants have increased remarkably over time in the 21st Century[4]

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, adventures, tourism and recreation, human development, and natural disasters[5].

Since the late 18th Century, improvements in socioeconomic development and technological innovations facilitated the process of the increase in migration[6]. There is no generally acceptable definition of migration, as most definitions use time and space criteria. Migration, which is the ability to overcome distance is a dynamic component of population in any geographical area. Migration can be associated with human socioeconomic improvement, human development, tourism and recreation, research, and differentials between and among regions when compared to mortality and fertility which are relatively stable over a short period. The latter is due to improvements in medicine and technology. The rate of migration can fluctuate widely from region to region and year to year. Given these variations, the patterns of form, motive, duration, types, and other sub-factors and attributes are often responsible for observable

sudden changes in human population size in many localities[7,] Nonetheless, there is no gainsaying the socioeconomic benefits and challenges associated with migration in communities experiencing the influx of immigrants for several reasons. There are several studies[8,9] that investigated trends in population migration across destinations.

[1]Mabogunje A.L. (2008). *Urbanization in Nigeria*, London University Press, 90-100.

[2]Agbebaku, 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.

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

[4]Dao, 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*

[5]Agbebaku, 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.

[6]Dao, 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*

[7]Mabogunje A.L. (2008). *Urbanization in Nigeria*, London University Press, 90-100.

[8]Paul, K. and Steven, P. (2010). *Urban Social Geography, An Introduction*, England, 6, Prentice Hall, Pearson. 4, 234 - 25

[9]Nnorom, 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.

However, these studies are mostly focused on popular destinations with huge economic potential for immigrants. Studies focusing on migration within the Nigerian context, especially in communities experiencing an influx of immigrants, perhaps, due to inherent socioeconomic benefits and sustainability of the communities associated with immigrant activities are limited. Thus, this study seeks to examine the socioeconomic impacts of immigrants on sustainable development in a Nigerian community (Uhonmora-Ora), Edo State, South-South Nigeria where there is evidence of immigrants from neighboring states, including Kogi, Benue, within Edo and others that have immigrated to the community for various reasons.

Uhonmora-Ora is a secure community, with agrarian fertile soil, and plain topography but with limited quality groundwater. Nonetheless, this constraint does not seem to hinder immigrants within the settlement from achieving their desired goals and prospective immigrants from seeking information about the community, which has been tagged as the blessed land flowing with milk and honey. The influx of immigrants from outside and near the Uhonmora-Ora community has instigated the interest of the authors of this article in examining the socioeconomic influence of immigrant arrivals in the development of the community from 2013 – 2022[10.] The immigrants who are from diverse ethnicities and states have been in the community since the 19th Century, and engage in activities, including farming, business, education exploration, travel and recreation, craft, and inter/intra marriages. The perceived information about the soil fertility as a blessed land has obliged the community to undergo attitudinal, transformational socioeconomic, religious, and political which have resulted in changes both in contexts and characters by the influence of these immigrants to the development of Uhonmora settlement[11, 12.]

On the positive and economic side, the impact of the immigrants is felt in business ideas and development, and contribution towards fundraising through annual development levy, which has enhanced the development of projects in the community such as town hall, parks, and market. These funds are used to fuel pressing problems like court cases from land disputes and fine levies imposed on the community. In addition, the immigrants have helped in the establishment of institutions like private schools, clinics, chemist stores, and churches that have attracted the neighborhood for visitation and settlement. Furthermore, their contribution is felt towards the enhancement of communal work such as maintenance of local bridges, farm and cemetery roads, and vigilant groups[13]. Thus, for instance, the Ebira and Igala (Kogi state), Idoma (Benue state), and Aiyewure (Edo state) tribes in their camps have contributed immensely to the cultivation of yam, cocoyam, cassava, and rice on a relatively large scale and boast in food production. The Igbos with their flair for commerce has brought a remarkable increase and change in business pattern in the community[14.] Uhonmora-Ora is a focal point in Edo State, known to produce plantain and cash crops like cocoa beans, rubber, and citrus fruits.

All these contributions, investments, and production boast the economic value of the community. Politically, the huge influx of immigrants has led to ever increase in human population as presented in the 2006 Census as over 25,000 inhabitants lived in the large rural nucleated and agrarian community. Socially and religiously, the good conduct and generosity of the immigrants, some of them were given and taken in marriages, the bestowment of chieftaincy titles, and age cohort celebrations that are traditionally meant

for indigenes of the community. Nevertheless, the negative effects of these immigrants are the constraints of no proper database of immigrants[15].

[10] Agbebaku, 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.

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

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

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

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

[15]Agbebaku, 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.

 Most of the immigrants easily sneak in and out of the community, more so, that their annual development levy is not based on individual wealth but on voluntary service for socio-economic development in the community. Furthermore, some immigrants of males have influenced the prevalence of early and broken marriages both in their source and study areas. This is because these immigrants easily pick on new wives after some periods of stay and abandon them when things are not in their favor. In addition, the increasing number of immigrants a year in and out has led to great pressure on farmlands, as some person(s) get less than the size(s) of farmlands they require[16,17].

In addition, the immigrants after a long stay make materials and wealth resources which they plow back to the community but make the capital flight back to their places of origin. Furthermore, the constraints of inadequate existing infrastructure facilities such as increment in house rent, rationing of light amenities, pressure on surface and groundwater sources, contamination of surface water sources congestion and deplorable living conditions of the people, and by extension environmental degradation call for the study[18,] The focus of the study is to examine the socio-economic impacts of the immigrant population on sustainable development from 2013 – 2022 in Uhonmora-Ora and thus, the research gap. The choice of the Uhonmora-Ora community was pre-determined by a combination of factors. These include a large rural nucleated and agrarian community, a non-administrative, industrial, and commercial hub community, a low-income and business investment community, constraints of secondary and tertiary facilities, and the challenge of quality groundwater sources.

Objective of the Study
The objective of this research is to examine the socioeconomic impacts of the immigrant population on sustainable development in the Uhonmora-Ora community. Therefore, the objective of this study was achieved by asking and analyzing the following questions from the immigrants' perspectives: what are the reasons for the immigrants' departure from their sources and destination in the Uhonomora community? What are the socioeconomic impacts of the immigrant population on sustainable development in the Uhonomora community?

Conceptual Clarification
Attributes of Migration
Globally, there are four broad classifications of migration patterns. These are migration by duration, migration by motive, migration by distance, and measures of migration.

(a) Migration by Duration; This depicts the length by which migrants stay at their destination. The study of [19,20] identified the following groups as types of migration. These include long-term, seasonal, daily, periodic, and labor migration. These patterns of movement formed the earliest type of migration and were practiced 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. For instance, in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja people move from the suburbs (Nyanyan, Mararaba, Suleja, Gwagwalada, and Kwali) to CBD areas to work and back home[21,22,23].

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

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

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

[19] Onokerhoranye, A.G. (1985). *An Outline to Human Geography*. Geography and Planning Series, University of Benin Nigeria. 23-26.

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

[21] Majebi, E.C., Agbebaku, H.U., Anierobi, C.; Afolayan, S.O. (2023). Assessment of Urban Open Green Spaces and Environmental Impacts on Recreation and Environmental Sustainability: Evidence from Abuja, Nigeria's Federal Capital Territory. *Benin Journal of Geography, Planning and Environment.* 3(1), 211 - 228.

[22] Agbebaku, 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.

[23] Dao, 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*

(b) Migration by Motive. This classification depicts migration by the motive of the migrants. These classifications include forced migration, free migration, sex migration, impelled migration, mass migrants have 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 inter-tribal wars[24]. The impelled migration involved some groups of people with little power/decision whether to migrate or not. The free migration classification, centered on the will of the migrants, is the decisive factor. People traveled 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[25.]

(c) Migration by Distance. These classifications are 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 recognizable 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[26.] In the African and Nigerian contexts, the vast proportion of this trend of movement is seasonal. In the African and Nigerian contexts, the vast proportion of this trend of movement is seasonal[27]. Similarly, the distance covered by migrants is short and driven by proximity to the catchment location, In the large rural and agrarian community of Uhonomra-Ora, 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, Owori, Igbo, Calabar, and others are typical examples of this form of migratory movement that constitutes a 35% influx to the community[27.] In Nigeria, rural-urban migration has been the most common pattern of movement of people from rural areas to urban centers and this pattern of migration constituted about 45% of the community.

Migrants in these categories are mainly school leavers, civil servants, and traders[28]. This migration pattern has helped in agricultural and industrial production. Thus, most job seekers migrate to cities for white-collar jobs and better lives. Urban-rural migration is more frequent in advanced countries than in developing countries. In this situation, people move from the urban areas to

peripheral regions to escape the danger of over-crowdedness, seek a peaceful environment, better economic conditions, increase in rents, and less rigorous climate. In Nigeria, this pattern of migration accounts for about 15% and is open to retirees. At the end of their working life, they chose to relocate to rural areas and engaged in other forms of activities[29]. Similarly, urban-urban migration involves the movement of urban dwellers from cities proper to suburban areas due to over-crowdedness, congestion, high rents/bills, and less healthy conditions[30].

In Nigeria, this pattern of migration accounts for about 10%. However, people migrate from one urban center to another for an improved standard of living, business activities, and bilateral agreements[31].

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

[25]Mabogunje A.L. (2008). *Urbanization in Nigeria*, London University Press, 90-100

[26]Onokerhoranye, A.G. (1985). *An Outline to Human Geography*. Geography and Planning Series, University of Benin Nigeria. 23-26.

[27]Agbebaku, 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.

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

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

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

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

The international migration pattern associated with long-term movement by distance involves the crossing of national boundaries from one country to another. These movements include the need for an improved standard of living and a much better environment. Also, these migrants travel for trade transactions, education, and tourism to foreign countries[32].

(d) Measures of Migration. There are two kinds of measures 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 immigrants' data such as the number of immigrants from 2013 – 2022, accounting for seasonal increase and decrease, accounts of income and expenditure, size/hectare of farmlands allotted to immigrants, crime rate, and social works[33].

Causes of Migration

Several factors stimulate migration patterns and the volume of the influx of places. The factors responsible can be classified into the following subgroups[34,35,36].

(a)   Physical factors such as climate, relief, bad soil, and topography. The bad soil and topography of the Ebiras and Igala of Kogi and Aiyewure of Edo and other States are good examples of this cause of migration into Uhonmora-Ora.

(b)   Economic factors exert a great pull on the rural people and urban counterparts as well. About 2/3 of immigrants in the study indicated the search for self-employment viz-a-viz farming activities as their motive of migrating to Uhonmora. Trading in agricultural products such as cocoa, rubber, plantain, orange, and garri, was an important economic activity as migrants from different areas came in on market days for commerce.

(c)   Social factors are one of the most important agents inducing migration, particularly rural-urban migration. It is strictly tied with the urge to have a break from the burden of certain taboos and customs in the villages.

This could be linked to the spatial inequality in economic development between the rural regions and the urban centers. However, the presence of social amenities such as education, recreational facilities, water, hospitals, electricity, employment opportunities, and others in the cities have continued to attract people from the village to the urban center.

(d)   Cultural factors exert some great push on migrants. This is due to the different customs, cultures, and norms guiding each society. In the community, these age grades/groups over the years are assigned specific duties in the societies such as the maintenance of community shrines, cemeteries, farm roads, festivals, civil defense groups, and other ancillaries' duties within the community.

(e)   Political factors as a stimulant of migration are insignificant in the Nigerian context. Nevertheless, it has been observed that people migrate because of the desire to free themselves from autocratic governments whose policies are distasteful. At the global level, the declaration of a socialist system of administration was a good example as these exerted many Russian migrations to parts of the U.S.A., Germany, and France in the early 19th Century. In addition, the most recent crises between the Republic of Russia and Ukraine (2022 - 2023), where migrants in hundreds and thousands seek out refuge in neighboring countries[37,38].

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[32]Onokerhoranye, A.G. (1985). *An Outline to Human Geography*. Geography and Planning Series, University of Benin Nigeria. 23-26.

[33]Agbebaku, 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.

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

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

[36]Nnorom, 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.

[37]Africa Center for Strategic Studies, (2023). *African Migration Trends to Watch in 2023*. Infographic https://africacenter.org/spotlight/african-migration-trends-to-watch-in-2023/

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

(f)   Educational background as a factor determines migrants to leave their place of origin for higher educational attainment, and human capital development thus, they migrate to urban cities. Nevertheless, education has also acted as a stimulus to migration into the urban cities because of the orientation of the country's educational systems towards urban occupation which implies the desire of the migrants can only be satisfied in larger cities[39]. However, other factors for the causes of migration include medical, religious, tourism, and recreation[40].

Socioeconomic Impacts of Immigrants

The examination of the socio-economic impacts of immigrants in the community shows that the influx of immigrants from 2013 – 2022 has contributed significantly to the economic development of Uhonmora-Ora. Other positive effects of the immigrants include the areas of agriculture, trade, marriage, health, housing, and music[41]. For instance, there has been a remarkable increase in agricultural output in the community.

The influx of immigrants especially the tribes of Ebira, Igala, Ogori, Aiyewure, and Idoma had adopted the system of huge cultivation of lands/crops before the commencement of the rainy season as against the default methods of farming of the people of Uhonmora-Ora. In addition, the practice of early planting, farm seedlings, and commercial farming has resulted in gradual changes in methods and innovation for different cropping, heaping, mulching, and preservation as against the old methods of the people of Uhonmora. The volume of trading activities has extended to neighboring states because the immigrants still merchandized with other tribes outside their homes of origin. Thus, new commodities and techniques came into the

trading system. In marriages, most immigrants have been given and taken owing to their conduct, looks and humility in the community. Furthermore, there are new ways of treating the sick as most of the immigrants (Ebira, Igala, Kuteb and Idoma) came with their old style of cultural medication. Thus, a new method of diagnosis, herbs, and roots were all introduced in addition to the traditional and medicinal curing system of the people of Uhonmora-Ora. With the continuous influx of learned immigrants, a new blended architectural design came up. As against the default traditional mud houses, some immigrants now build modern houses with zinc and asbestos roofing with beautiful designs which have added to the structural pattern of houses in Uhonmora[42,43,44].

On the other hand, the negative impacts of immigrants are in the areas of legal persecution, land fragmentation, laziness among youths, and broken marriages. There have been frequencies and still counting of court cases/disputes between some deviant immigrants and the host community. Some handful of immigrants are fined/sued and viz-a-viz over the bridge of cultural norms, failed contracts, agreements, and levies on sustainable development of the community. The accumulation of these setbacks and loss of funds has slowed down the pace of socioeconomic development in the community in recent times. Thus, a huge number of the indigene resources goes to these sets of immigrants on services rendered to the host community. However, in order not to reduce the cost implication, some indigenes now share part of their holding with immigrant settlers in return for cash or for the trade by barter system. In addition, the practice of acquiring fresh land annually for mono-cropping and the use of fertilizers and insecticides, speaks volumes about soil fertility[45,46,47,48].

[39]Aromolaran, A.K. (2013). Assessment of Benefits Associated with Rural-Urban Migration Among Non-Migrants in Odeda Area, Ogun State, Nigeria. *International Journal of Pure and Applied Sciences and Technology*, 14(2). 31-38.

[40]Majebi, E.C., Agbebaku, H.U., Anierobi, C.; Afolayan, S.O. (2023). Assessment of Urban Open Green Spaces and Environmental Impacts on Recreation and Environmental Sustainability: Evidence from Abuja, Nigeria's Federal Capital Territory. *Benin Journal of Geography, Planning and Environment.* 3(1), 211 - 228.

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

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

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

[44]Asein, V.I.K. (2023). *Granted Interview*. Community/Village Head, Uhonmora-Ora Community

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

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

[47]Asein, D.O. (2023). *Granted Interview*. Chairman, Community Development Levy, Uhonmora-Ora.

[48]Asein, V.I.K. (2023). *Granted Interview*. Community/Village Head, Uhonmora-Ora Community

In addition, the annual cultivation of rice (Aiyerwure, Igala, Esan, Igbo, and Idoma) and plantain farming 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. Lastly, there are cases of social disorder

such as rising crime, pressure on facilities, congestion, and the gradual weakening of tribal cohesion of the norms of the community. Thus, some immigrants take delight in killing fish in the Owan River and eating grass cutters which the community highly forbids[49,50].

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 $6^0\,10^`N$ and $6^0\,45^`N$ and Longitude $6^0\,10^`E$ and $6^0\,40^`E$. 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–Ora 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 characterized by rich dark sandy and loamy soil that promotes farming activities and consistently positions the community to lamplight. The terrain is relatively flat and simple undulating topography of about 78.64 meters above sea level. The community records its highest degrees of temperature (36.1^0C) in February and March and the lowest temperature (19.4^0C) 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. The community is well-drained by 3 major Rivers and several streams of water sources that are seasonal in nature. The three major rivers are River Owan, River Oruen, and Obvioti 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 meeting 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 inhabitants are engaged in primary (farming), and trading in agricultural activities[51,52].

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. in essence, the role of the Ebiras, Igala, Idoma, Owori, Aiyewure, and Igbo tribes cannot be over-emphasized in food production, sustainability, and marketing[53]. 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-Ora centered on primary activities rather than secondary and tertiary ones throughout the season. 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 tribes[54,55.] The 2016 population census estimated that the community had a population threshold of 785,676. The male and female populations were put at 342,554 and 443,122 respectively[56.]

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

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

[51] Agbebaku, 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.

[52]Asein, V.I.K. (2023). *Granted Interview*. Community/Village Head, Uhonmora-Ora Community

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Methodology

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 (GPS) Garmin Channel 78. sc model was used to determine the coordinates (x, y) location. The derived map shows the thematic sampling location imagery of the major immigrants' stronghold in the study area. This map was generated from the Department of Geography and Planning, Lagos State University, Ojo. Both primary and secondary data collection were implored to facilitate the research. The primary source comprised mainly of field observations, interviews, questionnaire administration, and mapping of the study area. The secondary data explored were sourced from documentary materials and established sources. Since the research was purely experimental, data from primary sources were mainly relied on for the study. To get primary data, the sample population of immigrants helped in the study. The distributional spread of the immigrants across the eight quarters of the study area was used as the frame.
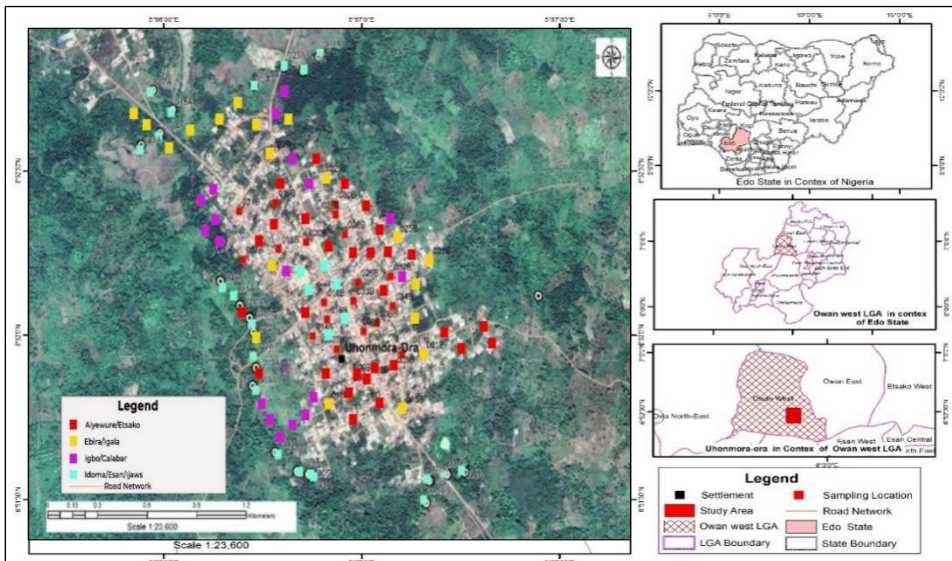
Figure 1: Map of Nigeria, Edo State, Owan West Local Government Area and Uhonmora-Ora Showing the Sampling Location Imagery of the Major Tribe of Immigrants.

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

For this study, 80% of the population which constitutes the major stronghold of the immigrants across the 8 quarters of the community were randomly selected and used for the study. solicit additional information about the study. Thus, this constitutes the research instrument used for the study. In doing this, major densely populated streets per quarter and across the 8 quarters were used respectively for the study. In addition to questionnaire administration, interviews were conducted with the key community stakeholders. A total of 330 copies of questionnaires were administered across the 8 quarters in the community. From the total number of 330 administered questionnaires, 300 were returned while a total of 30 were unreturned. This signified that only 90% which accounts for 300 copies of the questionnaires was used for the study while 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, bring the total to 300. That is, in Oduosi quarters, a sub-total of 37 copies of questionnaires were administered to immigrants across the entire quarter. The same copies of these default numbers were administered across the remaining seven quarters respectively as stated above. In each of the selected most densely streets with diverse immigrants per quarter, the 2nd, middle, and 2nd to last households were administered with questionnaires. Some forms of major assistance were given to most of the respondents as a majority of them were illiterate and could not effectively complete the questionnaire. Data from the primary and secondary sources were analyzed using the appropriate descriptive and inferential statistical techniques. Figures and Tables were used for the descriptive analysis while the inferential techniques of chi-square statistical analyses were used to test the stated objectives of the study.

Results and Discussion

The results of the study on the assessment of the socioeconomic impacts of immigrants on sustainable development from 2013 – 2022 in Uhonmora-Ora were summarized and presented in Tables 1 to 6 respectively.

Table 1
Composition of Immigrants' State of Origin

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

Source: Fieldwork, 2023

The result from Table 1 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 study, 94 which represent 31.3% of the respondents are from Edo (Aiyewure, Esan, Auchi), state 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 Delta (Urhobo, Ijaws) state, these immigrants accounted for 22.6%. Next to this is the indigene from Kogi state (Igala, Ebira, Idoma), which represented 17%, and the origin from the Igbo-speaking states represented 14%. while the remaining 15% are from other states (Benue, Kwara, Ondo, Calabar, Taraba) and tribes (Idoma, Kuteb, Igbo's, Yoruba's, Calabar, Owori) of the federation. But in the case of immigrants in Uhonmora-Ora, the pattern of migration by motive was attainable. These findings are consistent with the summation of [57,58] that migration to a place can be in the patterns of migration by duration, migration by motive, and migration by distance.

[57]Agbebaku, 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.

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Table 2
Age Structure of the Immigrants

Age	No. of Immigrants	Percentage (%)
20 – 29	94	31.3
30 – 39	109	36.3
40 – 49	53	17.6
50 – 59	26	8.6
60 and above	16	6.0
Total	**300**	**100%**

Source: Fieldwork, 2023

The result from Table 2, shows that the majority of the immigrants fall into the age categories of 30 - 49. This age structure represents 36.3%, this group also functions as the active age with much strength for farming activities. This was followed by responses from the age group of 20 – 29, which represents 31.3%. The age group with 17.6% of the immigrants is between 40-49 years. Thus, 8.6% are between the age group of 50 - 59 years, and the remaining 6% are above 60 years of age. From the Table, it is obvious that the age structure of 30 - 39 has the highest % of the entire immigrant age group with an active and vigor labor force. This group comprises more male than female because large-scale farming activities involves the combination of these sex and age group interactions and association. These findings are consistent with the summation of [59,60] that the composition of age structure is key in migration patterns and more so, where the immigrants would be involved in farming activities.

Table 3
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 3, shows the reasons for immigrants' departure from sources destination point of Uhonmora-Ora. From Table 3, many of the immigrants migrate to Uhonmora because of inadequacies of farmlands/ inadequate soil fertility in their areas of origin and this singular factor propelled them to migrate into of Uhonmora community. From the study, a total number of 164 of the examined population which represents 54.8% of the respondents indicated inadequate farmland/inadequate 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-Ora. These findings are consistent with the summation of [61,62] that certain reasons are responsible for immigrants' departure from the source area.

[59]Agbebaku, 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.
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Table 4
Reasons for Migrants' Destination (Pull Factor)

Reasons	No. of Immigrants	Percentage (%)
Economic	164	56.0
Social	41	25.3
Cultural	20	6.0
Others	45	12.6
Total	**300**	**100**

Source: Fieldwork, 2023

The result from Table 4, shows the reasons/pull factors of the immigrants' migration to Uhonmora-Ora. From the Table, 164 of the respondents, which represent 56% of the population were motivated by economic reasons in

Uhonmora-Ora. Thus, the reasons could be one or the combination of; lack of self-employment, inability to raise funds, and inability to enhance self-satisfaction and self-sustainability in their place of origin, hence the need for them to migrate to Uhonmora-Ora. This was followed by reasons social as the pulled and determinant factor of the immigrants to Uhonmora-Ora, which represents 25%. Next to this was the cultural factor such as the drive for civilization and change of environment which represents 6.0%. The remaining 12.6% of the respondents were forced to migrate to Uhonmora-Ora for other reasons best known to them. These findings are consistent with the summation of [63,64] that certain reasons are responsible for immigrants' departure from the source area.

Table 5
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

The result from Table 5, shows the occupational status of immigrants in the Uhonmora-Ora community. 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 capitalized 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 to prospective traders 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% respectively. The remaining 2.3% of the respondents represent those engaged in civil service jobs such as cleaners, massagers, environmental attendants, and security personnel. These findings are consistent with the summation of [65,66] that the drive for an occupational status of immigrants is a determinant factor for departure from the source area.

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[63]Agbebaku, 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.
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Table 6
Impacts of Immigrants Population and Sustainable Development Project.

Year	No. of Immigrants	Developmental Project	Total
2013	Not Available	Nil	0
2014	Not Available	Nil	0
2015	17	Nil	17
2016	22	2	24
2017	29	1	30
2018	32	6	38
2019	36	3	39
2020	41	4	45
2021	52	17	69
2022	71	10	81
Total	**300**	**43**	**343**

Source: Fieldwork, 2023

Chi-square text: $X^2 = \Sigma \dfrac{[0-E]^2}{E}$

Hypothesis Testing

Hi: There is a significant relationship between the immigrant population and its contribution to sustainable development projects in Uhonmora-Ora.

Extract from Table 7

Observed (0)	Expected (E)	$(0 – E)2$	$\dfrac{(0-E)^2}{E}$
17	14.86	4.57	0.04
-	2.13	4.53	0.32
22	20.99	1.02	0.10
2	3.00	1.00	0.72
29	26.23	7.67	0.04
1	3.76	7.61	0.02
32	33.23	1.51	0.04
6	4.76	1.53	0.32

36	34.11	3.57	0.10
3	4.88	3.53	0.72
41	39.35	2.72	0.06
4	5.64	2.68	0.47
51	60.34	69.55	1.15
17	3.41	184.68	54.15
71	78.84	0.02	0.00
10	10.16	0.02	0.00
			62.11

Source: Fieldwork, 2023

$X^2 = 62.11$

Where   0   =   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 tc > tt that is, 62.11 is greater than the theoretical value 14.067 implying we reject the Ho and accept the Hi. Thus, the results show a significant relationship between the immigrant population and their contribution to sustainable development projects in the Uhonmora-Ora community.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The study examined the socioeconomic impact of immigrants in the Uhonomra-Ora community of Edo State, South-South, Nigeria from 2013 – 2022. The study found that the causes of the influx of immigrants into the Uhonmora community are its economic and agricultural potential. This is attributable to the vast land mass and fertile soil within the community. The influx of immigrants on an annual basis has contributed significantly to the economic development of the Uhonmora-Ora community, and Edo State at large. The impacts of the immigrants on the community include their contributions in the areas of intense agriculture, trade, marriage, health, housing, and music. However, the negative impacts of immigrants in the community include legal persecution/litigations, land fragmentation, untoward attitudes among youths, and divorce issues in

marriages. However, the findings reveal that there have been some cordial relationships between the natives and immigrants in the community as evident in peaceful coexistence and scheduled ceremonies including the annual new yam festivals that bring people of different cultures together. Nonetheless, the increasing population of immigrants to the Uhonmora-Ora community demands the provision of basic social infrastructural facilities from the government and interested private sector stakeholders/investors for the sustainability of the activities in the community. This includes quality pipe-borne water supply, and paved roads for the conveyance of agricultural produce, other goods, and persons. These can help to improve the quality of life of the host community members and the immigrants. The provisions of these facilities can also help to attract investors who have the capacity to introduce mechanized farming into the community, as the community members and immigrants are mostly subsistence-commercial farmers. This study contributes to existing literature on migration studies within the context of a Nigerian community (Uhonmora-Ora, Edo State) experiencing the influx of immigrants. Similar studies could be conducted in other Nigerian/similar cities experiencing the influx of immigrants to unravel the push and pull factors associated with the immigrants' choice of destinations, and their impact on host communities.

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