Socio-Political Realities in Nigeria and Brain Drain Migration: Implication for Human Security and National Development

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Abstract

This paper explores the socio-political realities in Nigeria and their connection to brain drain migration; it also examines the implications for human security and national development. Nigeria, as a country with immense potential, has been grappling with various socio-political challenges, including corruption, political instability, ethnic tensions, and inadequate infrastructure. These realities have contributed to a significant brain drain phenomenon, where skilled professionals and intellectuals are leaving the country in search of better opportunities abroad. The paper investigates the underlying causes of brain drain migration in Nigeria, analyses how socio-political factors influence individuals' decisions to emigrate and the implication of brain drain migration on human security and national development. The paper adopts the dependency theory, human security approach and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as its theoretical framework. These theories provide useful frameworks for understanding and addressing the socio-political realities in Nigeria and their implications for brain drain migration, human security, and national development. The findings of the study reveal that Nigeria faces various socio-political difficulties that contribute to the migration of skilled individuals. These difficulties encompass factors such as political instability, corruption, insufficient infrastructure, restricted availability of high-quality education and healthcare, ethnic and religious tensions, and insecurity. The paper concludes with the notion that addressing the socio-political realities in Nigeria and mitigating brain drain migration is crucial for ensuring human security and fostering national development. It recommends that the government must prioritise good governance, transparency, and accountability to combat corruption and create an enabling environment for socio-economic growth.

Keywords*:* Brain drain migration, Human Security, Migration, National Development, Socio-political.

Introduction

The socio-political realities in Nigeria have played a significant role in shaping the country's human security and national development. One key factor that has had a profound impact on Nigeria's progress is the phenomenon of brain drain migration. Brain drain refers to the emigration of highly skilled individuals from their home country to seek better opportunities abroad. In the Nigerian context, brain drain has had significant implications for both human security and national development. [1]

One of the major socio-political realities contributing to the brain drain in Nigeria is political instability and corruption. The country has witnessed a series of political upheavals, including military coups and flawed electoral processes, which have eroded public trust in the government.[2] Rampant corruption has significantly worsened the situation, as numerous public officials have been found guilty of embezzling substantial amounts of funds that were originally allocated for crucial developmental projects. This reprehensible act of embezzlement has had severe consequences, severely hindering the opportunities for growth and advancement that were meant to benefit the entire population. By diverting these funds for personal gain, these corrupt officials have effectively undermined the intended purpose of the projects, thus perpetuating a cycle of stagnation and depriving the community of the transformative benefits they desperately needed.

Nigeria faces numerous security challenges, including insurgencies, ethno-religious conflicts, and communal violence.[3] These security concerns have created an atmosphere of fear and uncertainty, prompting many highly skilled individuals to seek safer environments abroad. The lack of adequate security measures has also hindered investments and economic growth, exacerbating the brain drain phenomenon. The implications of brain drain migration for human security and national development in Nigeria are multifaceted. On the one hand, the loss of skilled professionals deprives the country of valuable human capital, undermining its ability to meet the

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[1]Emeghara, E. "Brain Drain as a Clog in the Wheel of Nigeria's Development: The University Education System." African Journals Online, 2013.

[2]Egwu, M. "Political Leadership: A Desideratum for National Development in Nigeria's Fourth Republic." AphriaPUB, 2017.

[3]Olukayode, O. Urhie E. "Insecurity and Socio-Economic Development in Nigeria." International Journal Corner, 2014.

developmental needs of its population.[4] This brain drain also perpetuates a cycle of underdevelopment, as the loss of skilled professionals reduces the capacity to innovate, research, and implement solutions to pressing social and economic challenges.

The departure of highly skilled individuals contributes to a "brain gain" in destination countries, as Nigeria's investment in education and training benefits other nations rather than its own development.[5] This further widens the development gap between Nigeria and more developed countries, as the emigrated professionals contribute to the economic growth and technological advancements of their new homes.

One significant socio-political reality in Nigeria is the lack of adequate infrastructure and public services. Basic amenities such as healthcare, education, electricity, and transportation remain inadequate and unreliable in many parts of the country.[6] The absence of essential infrastructure not only affects the quality of life for Nigerians but also limits the prospects for professional growth and development. As a result, many skilled individuals seek opportunities in countries with better infrastructure and resources. Nigeria has struggled with persistent economic challenges, including high unemployment rates and limited job opportunities. Despite being endowed with vast oil reserves, the country has experienced economic fluctuations and a heavy reliance on the oil sector.[7] This reliance has made the economy vulnerable to global oil price fluctuations, leading to job insecurity and limited avenues for career advancement. Consequently, many highly skilled individuals opt to migrate to countries with more stable and diversified economies.

Issues of governance and weak institutions have plagued Nigeria's socio-political landscape. Corruption, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and a lack of transparency have hindered effective governance and hampered national

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[4]Musette, M., and Musette, Y. "Brain Drain - A Threat to Collective Security and Development for Africa." ResearchGate, 2023.

[5]*Ibid*

[6]Adepoju, A. "Migration in West Africa." International Organisation for Migration, 2005.

[7]Abada, IfeanyichukwuMicheal, and Elias Chukwuemeka. "Corruption, Governance, and Nigeria's Uncivil Society, 1999-2016." Análise Social 54, no. 231 (2) (2019): 386–408. https://www.jstor.org/stable/26747550.

development.[8] Such challenges erode public trust and confidence in the government's ability to provide an enabling environment for growth and prosperity. Consequently, skilled professionals often felt compelled to leave in search of better-governed societies that offer greater opportunities for personal and professional growth.

The implications of brain drain migration on human security and national development in Nigeria are far-reaching. The departure of highly skilled professionals exacerbates the shortage of critical expertise in key sectors, such as healthcare and engineering, which are vital for the country's development.[9] This brain drain hampers the delivery of quality services to the population, contributing to a decline in human security and well-being. Brain drain poses challenges to national development by impeding innovation and technological progress. Skilled professionals often play a crucial role in research and development, entrepreneurship, and technological advancements, which are essential drivers of economic growth.[10] With the emigration of these individuals, Nigeria experiences a loss of human capital and the potential benefits it brings in terms of innovation, productivity, and competitiveness.

Brain Drain Migration

Due to factors such as low living standards, inadequate compensation, unemployment, and insecurity, brain drain has become a prevalent global phenomenon that has persisted and escalated. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), 74% of African immigrants in the United States possess a high level of education. Nigeria contributes 95,000 out of the total 128,000 annual arrivals from Africa, as reported by the IMF. [11] Brain drain migration refers to the movement of highly educated and skilled individuals from less developed nations to more developed ones. It represents the integration of skilled labour markets in a globalised world and reflects the

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[8]Transparency International. "Corruption Perceptions Index 2020." Retrieved from https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi, 2021.

[9]Enibe, Ojiugo, ChigozieUmeh, and Eze Ifeyinwa. "Brain Drain and Sustainable Development in Nigeria, 2000-2015." University of Nigeria Journal of Political Economy, 2021.

[10]*Ibid*

[11] International Monetary Fund (IMF). "How Extensive is the Brain Drain?" Retrieved December 15, 2017, from www.imf.org/external/pub/ft/alldd/, 1999.

limited economic prospects available for migrants in their home countries.[12] This definition highlights the movement of talented individuals from less developed countries to more developed nations, driven by factors such as better job prospects, higher wages, and greater access to resources and opportunities. Baine et al. define brain drain as the emigration of highly skilled individuals, specifically those with tertiary education, from their country of origin to foreign nations, where they encounter more advantageous employment prospects.[13] This definition emphasises the focus on highly skilled individuals, particularly those with tertiary education, who seek better employment prospects abroad due to factors such as limited job opportunities, inadequate compensation, and limited professional growth in their home countries.

Lowell defines brain drain as the migration of individuals who have obtained higher education or professional training from their countries of origin, resulting in the loss of skilled labour and human capital from the sending nation while benefiting the receiving country by acquiring these valuable skills.[14] This definition emphasises the loss of highly skilled labour and human capital from the country of origin, which is acquired through higher education or professional training. The receiving country benefits from the influx of these skilled individuals. Brain drain is the phenomenon of highly educated workers leaving developing countries in favour of developed nations. It involves the departure of individuals who have achieved at least a tertiary education and can have negative implications for the growth prospects of the countries they leave behind.[15] This definition highlights the adverse effects of brain drain on the sending countries' growth prospects, as it results in the loss of highly educated workers, particularly those with tertiary education, to developed countries.

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[12]Özden, Çağlar, Christopher Parsons, Maurice Schiff, and Terrie Walmsley. "Where on Earth is Everybody? The Evolution of Global Bilateral Migration 1960-2000." The World Bank Economic Review 25, no. 1 (2011): 12-56.

[13]Beine, Michel, Frédéric Docquier, and Hillel Rapoport. "Brain Drain and Human Capital Formation in Developing Countries: Winners and Losers." The Economic Journal 118, no. 528 (2008): 631-652.

[14]Lowell, B. Lindsay, Allan M. Findlay, and R. B. Stewart. Brain Circulation: How High-Skill Immigration Makes Everyone Better Off. Princeton University Press, 2018.

[15]Docquier, Frédéric, and Hillel Rapoport. "Globalization, Brain Drain, and Development." Journal of Economic Literature 50, no. 3 (2012): 681-730.

Human Security

According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), human security encompasses safeguarding individuals from persistent perils like hunger, disease, and repression, while also ensuring their shield against abrupt and detrimental disruptions that disturb their daily routines, be it within the confines of their homes, workplaces, or communities.[16] Buzan et.al defines human security as the liberation of individuals from pervasive threats that undermine their fundamental rights to live with dignity, free from fear and deprivation.[17] These definitions shed light on the multidimensional nature of human security, emphasising its comprehensive scope that extends beyond mere physical safety. Human security encompasses the fundamental principle of freedom from violence, ensuring individuals are shielded from direct harm and threats to their well-being. It encompasses the protection of basic human rights, safeguarding individuals' entitlement to civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, which are vital for their dignity and overall flourishing.

According to Martha C. Nussbaum, human security involves the foundational allocation of essential human capabilities required to enable individuals to lead a life characterised by dignity and well-being.[18] These capabilities include elements such as life, bodily health, bodily integrity, senses, imagination and thought, emotions, practical reason, affiliation, and control over one's environment. The Human Security Report defines human security as the process of ensuring the safeguarding of the fundamental essence of every human life against significant and widespread threats.[19]

This definition emphasises the importance of protecting individuals from threats that have severe and long-lasting impacts on their lives. According to Roland Paris, human security focus on the preservation and empowerment of individuals and communities, prioritising their well-being

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[16] United Nations Development Programme. Human Development Report 1994: New Dimensions of Human Security. Oxford University Press, 1994.
[17] Buzan, Barry, Ole Wæver, and Jaap de Wilde. "Security: A New Framework for Analysis." Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1998.
[18] Nussbaum, Martha C. Women and Human Development: The Capabilities Approach. Cambridge University Press, 2005.
[19] Human Security Report Project. Human Security Report 2005: War and Peace in the 21st Century. Oxford University Press, 2005.

and capacity-building instead of emphasising territorial defence.[20] This definition highlights the shift in focus from traditional state-centric security to a more people-centred approach. Mary Kaldor defines human security as encompassing the safeguarding of individuals and communities from not only physical violence but also from the disruptive effects of social, political, and economic upheavals.[21] This definition sheds light on the broader scope of human security, which includes protection from physical violence as well as addressing the underlying social, political, and economic factors that contribute to insecurity. It highlights the need to address not only immediate threats but also the root causes that undermine the well-being and safety of individuals and communities.

National Development

Amartya Sen emphasises the importance of human capabilities and freedoms in national development. Sen argues that development should not be solely measured by economic indicators such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP), but should also consider the expansion of people's choices and opportunities. He emphasises the need for equitable distribution of resources, access to education and healthcare, gender equality, and political participation as essential components of national development.[22] Ha-Joon Chang, stresses the role of industrialisation and structural transformation in national development. Chang argues that successful development requires the strategic use of state intervention, protectionist policies, and targeted industrial policies to promote the growth of domestic industries and technological capabilities. He emphasises the importance of building a diverse and dynamic economy, rather than relying on a narrow range of commodities or sectors.[23] Jeffrey Sachs, an economist and development expert, emphasises the role of sustainable development in achieving national development. He argues that development should not only focus on economic growth but also take into account environmental sustainability, social inclusion, and good governance. Sachs advocates for a holistic approach that integrates economic, social, and environmental dimensions of

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[20]Paris, Roland. "Human Security: Paradigm Shift or Hot Air?" International Security 26, no. 2 (2001): 87-102.

[21]Kaldor, Mary. Human Security: Reflections on Globalization and Intervention. Polity, 2007.

[22]Sen, Amartya. Development as Freedom. Anchor Books, 1999.

[23] Chang, Ha-Joon. Kicking Away the Ladder: Development Strategy in Historical Perspective. Anthem Press, 2002.

development.[24] Paul Collier highlights the importance of institutions in national development. According to Collier, institutions such as governance structures, the rule of law, and property rights are crucial for economic and social progress. He argues that well-functioning institutions can foster economic growth, reduce corruption, and promote social stability.[25]

Robert Solow, in his definition, emphasises the role of technological progress in national development. Solow's growth theory suggests that sustained economic growth is driven by technological advancements and innovation. He argues that investments in research and development, education, and infrastructure are essential for fostering technological progress and long-term economic development.[26]

Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson, in their influential book "Why Nations Fail," argue that institutions and the political and economic systems of a country play a central role in national development. They suggest that inclusive institutions, which provide equal opportunities, protect property rights, and promote the rule of law, are key drivers of sustainable development. In contrast, extractive institutions that concentrate power and wealth in the hands of a few hinder economic growth and development.[27] Jeffrey D. Sachs, in his work on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), highlights the importance of international cooperation in national development. He argues that global partnerships, financial aid, and knowledge sharing are necessary to address global challenges such as poverty, hunger, health crises, and environmental sustainability. Sachs emphasises the need for a coordinated effort among countries to achieve inclusive and sustainable development.[28]

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[24]Sachs, Jeffrey D. The Age of Sustainable Development. Columbia University Press, 2015.
[25]Collier, Paul. The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can Be Done About It. Oxford University Press, 2009.
[26]Solow, Robert M. "A Contribution to the Theory of Economic Growth." The Quarterly Journal of Economics 70, no. 1 (1956): 65-94.
[27]Acemoglu, Daron, and James A. Robinson. Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty. Crown Business, 2012.
[28]Sachs, Jeffrey D. The Age of Sustainable Development. Columbia University Press, 2015.

Objectives

To investigate the underlying causes of brain drain migration in Nigeria, analyse how socio-political factors influence individuals' decisions to emigrate and also examine the implication of brain drain migration on human security and national development.

Materials and Methods

The study employed a qualitative methodology, gathering data from various secondary sources such as journals, official websites, literary works, documentaries, and newspapers. Each piece of information collected for this study holds relevance to its objectives. The analysis of content and utilisation of a thematic approach played a significant role in the study's methodology.

Results

Nigeria faces a range of socio-political challenges that contribute to brain drain migration. These challenges include political instability, corruption, inadequate infrastructure, limited access to quality education and healthcare, ethnic and religious tensions, and insecurity.[29] Political instability characterised by frequent leadership changes, coups, and political crises. This creates an environment of uncertainty and a lack of trust in governance systems. Corruption pervades various sectors of Nigerian society, hindering progress and discouraging skilled individuals from staying in the country. Insufficient infrastructure, such as power supply, transportation, and communication networks, impedes economic growth and development. Limited access to quality education and healthcare further exacerbates the push factors for brain drain migration. The brain drain migration from Nigeria has serious implications for human security. Human security encompasses the protection and well-being of individuals, addressing their economic, social, political, and environmental needs.[30] As highly skilled individuals leave the country, the loss of human capital affects the country's ability to address key human security concerns. Brain drain reduces the availability of professionals in critical sectors, such as healthcare, education, and research, leading to a decline in the quality of services and expertise. This negatively impacts the overall well-being and

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[29]Adetayo, J. "A Study of Factors Influencing Brain Drain among Medical Personnel in Nigeria." Vol. 9 No. 1. AJOL DOI: 10.4314/njhbs. v9i1.60969, 2010.
[30]*Ibid*

security of the population. Moreover, brain drain widens the socioeconomic gap by depriving the country of skilled individuals who could contribute to poverty reduction and equitable development.

Brain drain migration poses significant challenges to Nigeria's national development. The loss of highly skilled individuals hampers the country's capacity for innovation, research, and technological advancement.[31] It diminishes the potential for economic growth and diversification, as skilled professionals play a crucial role in driving productivity and entrepreneurship. The exodus of professionals also limits the transfer of knowledge, skills, and best practices, hindering the development of local human resources. Consequently, Nigeria faces difficulties in building a sustainable and self-reliant economy which impedes progress towards achieving its development goals.

Discussion
Socio-Political Realities in Nigeria
Nigeria is home to over 250 ethnic groups, each with its own distinct culture, language, and traditions. This diversity often leads to socio-political tensions and conflicts. The country is roughly divided between the Muslim-majority north and the Christian-majority south, that further exacerbates religious fault lines.[32] These divisions have influenced political power dynamics and often contribute to social unrest and violence.[33] Nigeria faces significant governance challenges, including widespread corruption, weak institutions, and a lack of accountability. Corruption permeates various sectors of society, hindering development and exacerbating social inequalities.[34] The mismanagement of public funds and resources has led to a trust deficit between citizens and the government, resulting in public disillusionment.[35]

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[31]*Ibid*

[32]Agbiboa, Daniel Egiegba. "Ethno-Religious Conflicts and the Elusive Quest for National Identity in Nigeria." Journal of Black Studies 44, no. 1 (2013): 3–30. http://www.jstor.org/stable/23414701.
[33]OkwudibaNnoli. Ethnic Politics in Nigeria. Fourth Dimension Publishers, 1978.
[34]Transparency International. "Corruption Perception Index 2020." Accessed June 7, 2023. https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2020/results/nga
[35]Okereka, OnoferePrincewill. "Corruption and Development in Nigeria: A Critical Re-Examination." IISTE, 2015.

Despite being one of the Africa's top economies, Nigeria grapples with high levels of poverty and economic inequality. The country experiences a significant wealth gap, with a large proportion of the population living in poverty.[36] This economic disparity contributes to social unrest and exacerbates existing fault lines, fuelling social and political tensions.[37] Nigeria has been plagued by the Boko Haram insurgency, an extremist group that seeks to establish an Islamic state in the country. The insurgency has resulted in widespread violence, displacement, and loss of life, particularly in the north-eastern region.[38] The government's response to the insurgency has faced criticism, which underscores the challenges in addressing security threats and protection of the populace.[39]

Nigeria has a rapidly growing youth population, with a significant portion facing high levels of unemployment and underemployment. This demographic challenge places immense pressure on the government to create job opportunities and provide social services.[40] The frustration and disillusionment among the youth can fuel social unrest and political instability.

Gender inequality is prevalent in Nigeria, and women face various forms of discrimination and marginalisation. Traditional cultural norms and practices often limit women's access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities.[41] Women's participation in politics and decision-making processes remains low, thereby hindering the progress of gender equality and women's empowerment in the country. Nigeria faces a significant challenge of internal displacement due to various factors such as conflicts, insurgency, and environmental disasters. The Boko Haram insurgency and communal clashes have resulted in the displacement of millions of people,

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[36]World Bank. "Nigeria." Accessed June 7, 2023. https://data.worldbank.org/country/nigeria

[37]Ikelegbe, Augustine. "The Economy of Conflict in the Oil-Rich Niger Delta Region of Nigeria." African and Asian Studies, 2006. doi:10.1163/156920906775768291

[38]Freedom C. Onuoha. (2014). "A Danger Not to Nigeria Alone - Boko Haram Transnational Reach and Regional Responses."

[39]Amnesty International. "Nigeria: Boko Haram brutality against women and girls needs urgent response." Accessed June 7, 2023.

[40]Olufemi A Aladejebi. "Entrepreneurship: An Option to Solving Unemployment Problem Among Nigerian Youths." European Business & Management 6, no. 6 (2020): 151-163.

[41]Tinuke Fapohunda. "Gender and Development: Challenges to Women Involvement in Nigeria's Development." ResearchGate, 2012.

particularly in the northeast and middle belt regions.[42] The displacement crisis poses humanitarian, social, and economic challenges for the affected populations and strains the capacity of the Nigerian government to provide assistance and support.

Causes of Brain Drain Migration in Nigeria

Various factors contribute to this phenomenon, and understanding its causes is crucial for devising effective strategies to mitigate its negative impact.
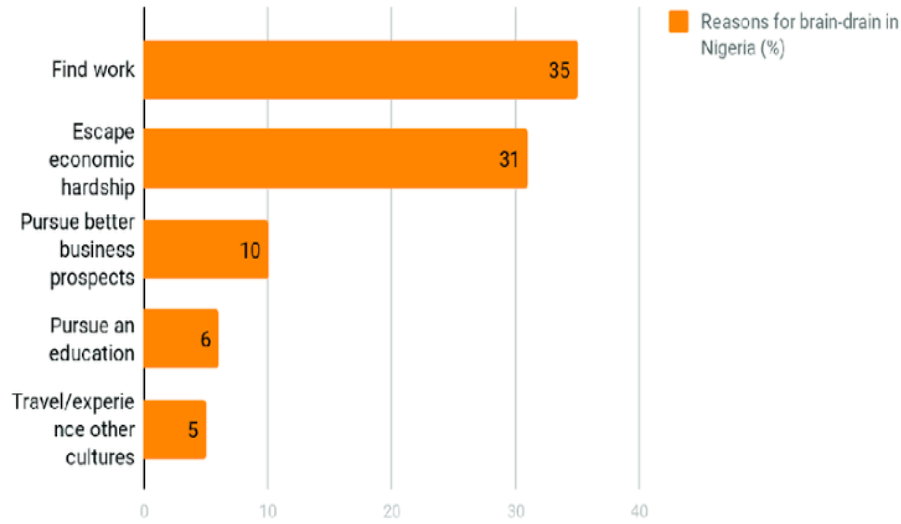
Graph showing reasons for brain drain migration in Nigeria
Source: ResearchGate

1.   One major cause of brain drain in Nigeria is the limited career opportunities available for highly skilled professionals. The lack of adequate job prospects and growth prospects discourages talented individuals from staying in the country. According to a study by Nwozor, Agaptus, the dearth of career advancement opportunities

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[42]IDMC (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre). "Nigeria: Africa's largest internal displacement crisis." Accessed June 7, 2023. https://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/nigeria

in Nigeria, particularly in specialised fields, forces many skilled professionals to seek opportunities abroad.[43]

2.   Economic factors play a significant role in brain drain migration. The lure of higher wages and better living standards abroad entices many skilled Nigerians to emigrate. Economic instability, inflation, and income disparities within the country also contribute to the decision to seek better economic prospects elsewhere. A study by Emeghara highlighted the economic push factors that drive brain drain migration in Nigeria. These include low salaries, limited access to funding for research, and inadequate infrastructure.[44]

3.   Political instability and insecurity are major causes of brain drain migration in Nigeria. Frequent changes in government, corruption, and lack of security have eroded confidence in the country's governance system. Many highly skilled professionals perceive political instability as a barrier to career growth and personal safety, leading them to seek more stable environments abroad.[45]

4.   The lack of adequate infrastructure and resources in Nigeria hinders professional development and limits opportunities for skilled individuals. Insufficient investment in education, healthcare, research facilities, and technological advancements reduces the prospects for career growth and innovation.[46]

5.   The lack of recognition and limited opportunities for professional growth in Nigeria are additional causes of brain drain. Skilled professionals often seek environments that provide recognition for their expertise and offer avenues for career advancement. The absence of such opportunities in their home country becomes a driving factor for migration.[47]

Implications of Brain Drain Migration on Human Security and National Development

One of the key implications of brain drain migration on human security is the loss of human capital in sending countries. Highly skilled professionals, such as doctors, engineers, and scientists, who emigrate to other countries,

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[43]Nwozor, Agaptus. "Brain Drain and National Development in Nigeria." Landmark University, 2015.

[44]*Ibid*

[45]Ogbenika, Gregory. "Brain Drain and Migration on Nigeria's Development." Academia, 2019.

[46]Osigbesan, Oluwakemi. "Medical Brain Drain and its Effect on the Nigerian Healthcare Sector." Walden University, 2021

[47]*Ibid*

deprive their home countries of their expertise and knowledge. This loss can have a detrimental impact on the development and progress of the sending countries, as they face a shortage of skilled labour and struggle to address critical societal needs.[48] For example, a study conducted by Beine, Docquier, and Rapoport found that brain drain migration negatively affects the economic growth and healthcare systems of developing countries.[49] The implications of brain drain migration on healthcare systems are of particular concern. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), many developing countries already face severe shortages of healthcare workers, and the outflow of skilled professionals worsens this situation.[50]
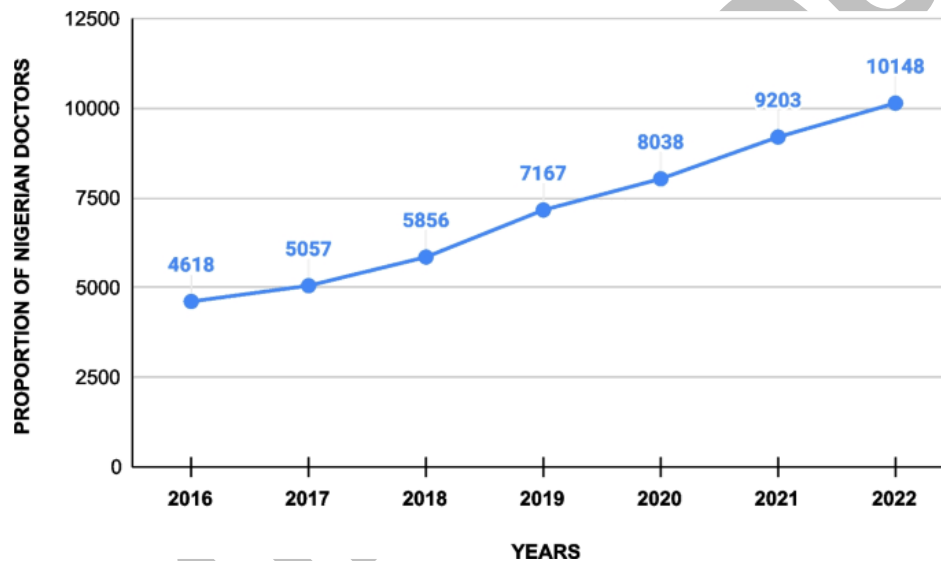
Graph showing the number of Nigerian Doctors migrating to other countries
Source: International Journal of Africa (2022)

The departure of doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals creates a scarcity of personnel that limits the availability of healthcare services, especially in rural and underserved areas. This scarcity leads to inadequate

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[48]Elveren, Adem Y. "Brain Drain: Causes and Consequences." ResearchGate, 2018. doi:10.1007/978-3-319-90860-1_2.

[49]Beine, Michel, FrédericDocquier, and Hillel Rapoport. "Brain Drain and Human Capital Formation in Developing Countries: Winners and Losers." The Economic Journal 118, no. 528 (2008): 631–52. http://www.jstor.org/stable/20108815.

[50]World Health Organization. "The World Health Report 2006: Working together for health." World Health Organization, 2010.

healthcare access, longer waiting times, and decreased quality of care, threatening human security by undermining the right to health for the population.

Brain drain migration also poses potential risks to national security. The loss of skilled individuals, including scientists, engineers, and technology experts, can impede a country's ability to develop and maintain advanced defence technologies and infrastructure. The diminished capacity to innovate and adapt to emerging security threats weakens a nation's defence capabilities, leaving it vulnerable to external pressures and potentially compromising its overall security.[51] The potential negative impact on national security underscores the importance of addressing brain drain migration as a critical aspect of human security.

Brain drain migration can exacerbate inequality and brain waste in the sending countries.[52] In many cases, individuals who possess higher levels of education and skills are more likely to migrate, leaving behind those with lower levels of education and limited opportunities. This creates a brain drain "poverty trap" where the least privileged individuals are unable to access quality education and employment opportunities, thus, perpetuating social and economic disparities.[53] Such disparities can fuel social unrest, inequality, and political instability, all of which pose threats to human security.

The outflow of skilled professionals from the education sector can result in an education and innovation gap in the source country.[54] The loss of qualified teachers and researchers hampers the development and advancement of education systems, which are crucial for human capital formation and knowledge creation. The resulting gap in educational opportunities and innovation can impede societal progress and limit human security.

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[51]*Ibid*

[52]Alfaro, L., Chanda, A., Kalemli-Ozcan, S., &Sayek, S. "Does foreign direct investment promote growth? Exploring the role of financial markets on linkages." Journal of Development Economics 91, no. 2 (2010): 242-256.

[53]Altbach, P. G., and Knight, J. "The internationalization of higher education: Motivations and realities." Journal of Studies in International Education 11, no. 3-4 (2007): 290-305.

[54]*Ibid*

Brain drain migration can lead to a greater dependency on foreign aid and expertise. Countries experiencing brain drain often rely on foreign assistance and technical expertise to fulfil their developmental needs, such as implementing complex projects, filling skill gaps, and training local professionals. This dependency can create an imbalance in the relationship between the country of origin and developed nations, affecting their ability to independently address developmental challenges.[55] Brain drain migration can also hinder brain circulation, which refers to the transfer of knowledge and expertise between countries.[56] The lack of return migration or limited engagement of diaspora professionals with their home countries can limit knowledge transfer and collaboration, therefore, hindering human security. Without the exchange of ideas and skills, societies may struggle to address complex challenges, such as environmental crises, public health emergencies, and technological advancements.

Brain drain migration can have social consequences in countries of origin. The departure of skilled individuals can exacerbate income inequality, as those with higher skills and education tend to have better economic opportunities abroad.[57] This can create a sense of frustration and dissatisfaction among those left behind, potentially leading to social unrest and political instability.[58] Brain drain migration can contribute to a "brain waste" phenomenon, where highly skilled migrants find themselves underemployed or unable to utilise their skills to their fullest potential in the host country.[59]

Conclusion
The socio-political realities in Nigeria have had significant implications for brain drain migration, thereby affecting both human security and national development. Nigeria, as a nation rich in resources and potential, has faced numerous challenges stemming from corruption, political instability, inadequate infrastructure, and limited access to quality education and healthcare. These factors have contributed to the mass exodus of highly skilled individuals, seeking better opportunities and improved living conditions abroad. The brain drain phenomenon has had detrimental effects on Nigeria's human security. The loss of skilled professionals in crucial sectors such as

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[55]*Ibid*

[56]Khadria, Binod. "The migration of knowledge workers: Second-generation effects of India's brain drain". Springer, 1999.

[57]Clemens, Michael A., Claudio E. Montenegro, and Lant Pritchett. "The place premium: Wage differences for identical workers across the US border." World Bank Economic Review 23, no. 3 (2009): 455-479.

[58]Saxenian, Anna. "From brain drain to brain circulation: Transnational communities and regional upgrading in India and China." Studies in Comparative International Development 40, no. 2 (2005): 35-61.

[59]*Ibid*

healthcare, education, engineering, and technology has resulted in a shortage of expertise and knowledge within the country. This has adversely affected the delivery of essential services to the population, leading to a decline in the overall quality of life and well-being. Additionally, brain drain migration has disrupted social networks and family structures, creating emotional and psychological challenges for those left behind. With the departure of skilled individuals, Nigeria's ability to innovate, develop industries, and drive economic growth is hindered. The country loses out on the potential contributions of its brightest minds, which could have been instrumental in addressing pressing issues, fostering technological advancements, and diversifying the economy. Consequently, the brain drain phenomenon perpetuates a cycle of underdevelopment, stifling progress and hindering the nation's capacity to compete on a global scale. Addressing the socio-political realities in Nigeria and mitigating brain drain migration is crucial for ensuring human security and fostering national development. By creating an environment that values and supports its skilled professionals, Nigeria can harness its potential, attract talent back to the country, and leverage the diaspora's contributions. Ultimately, a concerted effort is needed from all stakeholders to build a prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable future for Nigeria.

Recommendation

After considering several literatures and analysing the content, the following suggestions are made by the paper:

1.   To enhance human security and national development, Nigeria should foster partnerships with the diaspora and capitalise on the skills and expertise of Nigerians abroad.
2.   Efforts should be made to improve the overall well-being of citizens, including access to quality healthcare, education, and social support systems, thereby reducing the motivation for brain drain migration.
3.   The government must prioritise good governance, transparency, and accountability to combat corruption and create an enabling environment for socio-economic growth.
4.   Investments in education, healthcare, infrastructure, and research and development are essential to retain and attract skilled professionals.
5.   Initiatives that promote entrepreneurship and job creation should be encouraged to provide viable alternatives to brain drain.

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