
This study asserts that the role of migration as a means of obtaining needed skills and stimulating social and economic development is now generally accepted among writers on social and economic development. This study therefore aims at examining the effects of migration on the socio-economic development of the town of Juaso. It is the district capital of the Asante-Akyem South District of the Ashanti region. It is situated on the Accra-Kumasi road. Though a district capital, the study indicates that Juaso lacks most of the social infrastructure that are enjoyed in most urban areas. The town is said to have a dispersed settlement pattern and is considered a small urban centre because of the availability of a health centre, postal services and in recent times, telephone services. Agriculture based on primitive traditional practices is noted to be prominent in the town with recent additions of a saw mill and traditional stone quarry. The study utilized primary data collected through in-depth interviews and from secondary sources such as journals and newspapers. The data gathered indicates that in general, both out and in migration are often engaged in by males than females. This has been attributed to the nature of the jobs at the destination areas which are normally manual. Out of the 60 people interviewed for the study, as many as 80 percent were within the ages of 14 and 43, an indication that the town’s migration is not only gender selective but also age selective. Furthermore, it indicates that unmarried, widowed and divorced persons were more likely to migrate than their married counterparts. Several factors, broadly classified as ‘push’ and ‘pull’ factors are noted to account for out-migration in Juaso, paramount among them being the desire and the necessity to obtain employment and earn income. On the other hand, the town also experiences in-migration from other towns and villages. Some of the reasons for migrating into Juaso are economic whilst some people move there because of transfers, for example, teachers and nurses. The study asserts that there are some people in Juaso who have never migrated, normally consisting of household heads and married couples who felt they could not leave their spouse and children behind. According to the author, migration tends to have a direct impact on development in several ways. For instance, it brings about social, economic, political and environmental changes both in the origin and destination areas. This is true of Juaso where the town has been affected economically due to the out-ward migration of a significant number of the youth, draining it of the manpower needed for development. On the other hand, remittances from out-migrants contribute to the urbanization of the town and an improvement in the living standards of those who benefit from these remittances. It is also noted that the number of out-migrants from Juaso far exceeds the number of returned migrants and in-migrants. This contributes to decline in the manpower needed for agriculture in the town. It is recommended that the government as well as non-governmental organization assist the town in its effort to improve the infrastructure that would enable the youth to find life in Juaso comfortable.

This study assesses the social integration of the Fulani into the socio-economic activities of the Bawku East District of Ghana. The Fulani are the most widely dispersed and culturally diverse peoples in all of Africa. Some of them find themselves in the Bawku East District of Ghana. The study discovered that, unlike other communities where the presence of Fulani has almost always generated conflicts, a symbiotic relationship has developed between the Fulani and the indigenous population. The two groups benefit from each other. The peaceful co-existence has led to the development and establishment of localized Fulani settlements. But in spite of the symbiotic relations between the two group of people, there exist spatial and social distance between them. Few inter-marriages take place, and not so much interactions exist between them. On the basis of these, the study argues that, the Fulani are just partially integrated in the Bawku East District. It recommends frequent interactions and mixed marriages to enhance the full integration of the Fulani into the Bawku East District. When these are done, the herding and management skills of the Fulani could be tapped for the development of host communities in the Bawku East District of Ghana.


Two main categories of Fulani exist in the West Mamprusi District. First, the pastoral Fulani living in the rural areas, and second, those living in towns. Available information shows that, these Fulani come from four clans; the Jallo or Diallo, the Ba, the Bary and the Tal. All of them have migrated from Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Nigeria respectively. In their destination within the West Mamprusi District, these migrants have devised several survival strategies to cope with their life, and thereby integrate in that society. This study therefore sought to examine the processes and factors that impede or facilitate the integration of and adaptation of the Fulani in the West Mamprusi District. It also investigates the socio-economic characteristics of the Fulani in the West Mamprusi District, how they got into that district, their survival mechanisms, their relationship with the local people, the insecurities they faced as well as conflict and its resolution. Among other things, the study revealed that cattle is central and strengthens the ties between the Fulani and the local people. There is high level of interaction between the Fulani and the local people. Areas of interaction among them are prayer grounds, at rites of passage events, markets and on farms among others. Adaptation is seen generally in the areas of language, food, dressing and mode of housing. Fulani in the towns tend to integrate faster than those living in the rural areas.

The 1980s marked the beginning of a significant shift in the pattern of Dagaaba migration to southern Ghana. Instead of the mining centres of Obuasi (Ashanti region) and Prestea and Tarkwa (Western region) respectively, many Dagaaba men and women have been migrating to predominantly agricultural areas in the Brong Ahafo region. There is also evidence that Dagaaba migrants, who previously worked in the southern and coastal regions, have been relocating to the Brong Ahafo region when they either lost their jobs or retired. This article explores the factors that have culminated in the mass movement of Dagaaba men and women to the Brong Ahafo region and the reasons why ‘step’ Dagaaba migrants are relocating to the Brong Ahafo region in large numbers instead of going back home (to the north) as many of their predecessors did. The article adds to the ongoing discussion on the migration phenomenon in sub-Saharan Africa by foregrounding the internal ways in which communities themselves shape migration through extended, gendered social debates over production and reproduction.


Migration is in the range of rational options for reacting to conditions of disparity in the distribution of resources and of natural disasters and wars. People are compelled to migrate in response to unfavourable demographic, socio-cultural and economic conditions to other geographic locations perceived to be better endowed with opportunities. Accra, the capital of Ghana is widely regarded as a microcosm of the urban trapping potential that many urban centres are endowed with. It has, over the years, been receiving many able bodied young men and women, both skilled and unskilled from the countryside. While leading to the depletion of human resources of the rural source, rural-urban migration also leads to diversion of national investment resources intended for the rural communities to Accra and other urban areas. It is within this context that this study sought to find the factors that work to nourish this phenomenon and identify the related demographic and socio-economic problems. The study argues with its findings that, the respondent migrants in Accra were ethnically heterogeneous with majority coming from the Northern and Upper East regions. Economic considerations were identified to explain causal factor for rural-urban migration. Majority of rural-urban migration participants were found to be males rather than females and were also within the age cohort of 15-29. Most of them had never attended school. The few that had attended school could reach only JSS or Middle school level. The study also identified that, migrants send remittances to places they came from. It argues that, while remittances could increase the standard of living in the recipients in the rural area, it was not likely to promote economic growth and generate sustainable employment opportunities. It rather may become the yardstick to measure the income disparity between the areas of origin and the destination. Consequently, the study argues, remittances stimulate interest in migration and increase the propensity to migrate among potential migrants and thereby escalate the rural-urban drift. The main plights of migrants are in finding decent housing, lack of capital for business, general high cost of living and unemployment in the urban centre. These problems bombard them daily.

For decades, females of Northern origin have been migrating to southern Ghana, specifically to the urban areas such as Kumasi, Accra and Takoradi. In the cities and towns of southern Ghana, these women engage in head porterage (locally referred to as kayayee), and street hawking. Others work as chop bar service attendants. Some studies have suggested that over 80% of female porters in Accra are people of northern origin. This study investigates the management tactics utilized by these migrants who move to Accra without the company of their parents and families to engage in kayayee business. They are found mostly at Agbogbloshie Market, Tema Station, Tudu, CMB, Makola Market and 31st December Market. Usually illiterate, they face several problems including sexual harassments, low incomes, exploitation and abuse among others. These problems notwithstanding, they remain resolute in their bid to improve their lives. How do they do this and or cope with the problems they encounter? The study reveals that they do not have any definite mechanism with which they manage or cope with problems they encounter in Accra. They only try to manage as and when the problems crop up with the resources available to them. In most cases however, they degrade their statuses in the city to cope with the insults and humiliations they suffer on the line of duty.


A number of demographic, economic, socio-cultural and psychological factors determine the nature, pattern and direction of migration in Africa. Much of the existing literature tends to emphasise the economic motives for migration. However, it is becoming increasingly evident that socio-cultural and other non-economic factors are also very important, and that a realistic explanation of African migration should be multi-disciplinary. This theory of African migration shows that migration in Africa is determined by economic factors such as employment, social factors such as education and demographic factors such as population growth. The results indicate that these three factors explain 70 per cent of the variance in net migration, and that the economic factor is the single most important determinant of migration. The theory shows further that the existing socio-economic institutions in Africa tend to support the prevalence of rural-rural and rural-urban migration.


According to the paper, the Nzemas are a migrating group with migratory origin from Cote d’Ivoire. The Nzema state is indicated to have been founded in the 13th century. Although there are
other opinions as to the origin of this group of people, the paper indicates that similarities have been noted with a group in Cote d’Ivoire. The Nzemas, the study indicates, engage in diverse economic activities but are noted for combining farming and fishing. Through interviews with the Public Health Officer and the Head of the HIV/AIDS Unit in St. Martin De Porres Hospital and 140 questionnaire administered to persons between 20-49 years from the Nzema East district, the study sought to find out how migration and beliefs systems among the Nzemas contribute to the spread of HIV/AIDS. The geographical location of the Nzema East district of Ghana was identified as a facilitator for movement to neighbouring Cote d’Ivoire. Factors which had necessitated such movements include the socio-economic conditions of the area. The paper notes that the district lacked industrial infrastructure which compelled the youth to migrate. Other factors which were cited as accounting for migration include what some respondents labelled ‘women’s greediness for wealth’. According to the respondents, women travelled to Cote d’Ivoire in search of wealth and when they could note readily get employment, they went into prostitution; as such putting themselves at great risk of contracting the HIV virus. It further notes that irresponsible parents also leave their children to fend for themselves in the region. Such children often end up going to Cote d’Ivoire. Other children who are sent to work as house helps fell victim to sexual abuse by their male employers and their male children. Male migrants in the district were revealed to engage in short trade or business trips or visitations to Cote d’Ivoire. During such trips they are reported to satisfy their sexual needs but without the use of a condom, thus putting themselves and their wives or girlfriends back home at risk of infection upon return. The respondents indicated that migrant traders, drivers and health workers were therefore at grater risk of being infected. Other respondents expressed the view that AIDS was common in the district because they shared a common history with Cote d’Ivoire and as such they attend both festivals and funerals together. Such periods of festivities were noted to have serious implications for sexual networking. It was also noted that infected persons come from Cote d’Ivoire for medical reasons and may themselves spread the virus since they maintain sexual partners in the district. To curtail the problem, the paper recommends improvement on the district’s attractiveness especially to the youth. It also called for the establishment of an industrial establishment which will offer employment in the region. The author however did not test any of the 4 hypothesis put forward statistically. He hypothesized that majority of those infected had travelled to La Cote D’Ivoire or had sexual partners coming from La Cote D’Ivoire and accepted it without any statistical test.


Migration of farmers in Ghana is a special form of labour force migration, in the sense that it dates back to the pre-colonial period. Generally speaking, labour force migration in Ghana and in other parts of Africa is believed to be a post-European phenomenon that has been dictated by the labour requirement of the modern industrial economy. Unlike the other forms of pre-colonial movements of people, which invariably were occasioned by nomadic wandering, political invasion or rules of exogamy, migration of farmers in Ghana has been accentuated by economic motives. From time immemorial
farmers in the country have been migrating in search of empty land for the cultivation of both food crops and cash crops. The introduction of cocoa, the leading export crop of Ghana, has however caused a stream of migration of farmers in country. A good number of studies have been undertaken on the economic activities of the migrant farmers, particularly the migrant cocoa farmers, starting from the Eastern Region - the 'cradle' of the cocoa industry- through Ashanti Region up to the Ahafo area of the Brong-Ahafo Region. In this thesis, the author has endeavoured to update the movement of farmers in the Wassa-Amenfi District of the Western Region. By adopting the so-called 'human-investment approach' for the analysis of his survey data, an attempt has been made in this study to access the role migration of farmers has played and continues to play in the utilization of the country’s human and natural resources. As a departure from the previous studies on this phenomenon, which mainly concentrated on migrant cocoa farmers, the author’s survey embodies all categories of migrant farmers in the Wassa-Amenfi District. He has made a further development upon the existing body of knowledge by conducting a comparative analysis of the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of both the migrant farmers and the indigenous farmers at the receiving centres. The research findings, among other things, have demonstrated that migrant farmers are more enterprising, resourceful and hardworking than their local counterparts. The existing land tenure arrangements of Wassa-Amenfi district has tended to favour the migrant farmers, the majority of whom currently command large farms of cash crops and other foodstuff in the survey area. Like the urban ward migration of labour, this study has shown that the rural-directional migration of farmers is selective and differential in terms of a given set of socio-economic and demographic characteristics such as age, sex, marital status, education, employment and occupation. The author also indicated that even though the economic importance of the migrant farmers in Wassa-Amenfi area is known respecting the cultivation of cash crops like cocoa, oil palm and coconut, very little information is known regarding the social, economic and psychological environment under which they live and work.


The study focuses on the migration of migrant farmers into rural areas of low population density and abundant agricultural land. The objective of the study is to assess the role of migrant farmers in the agricultural development process of Ghana using the Wassa-Amenfi Region as a case study. The study gives a historical background of migration of farmers into the Wassa-Amenfi district. The existing literature on migration of farmers in Ghana indicates that this phenomenon dates back to pre-colonial times. There exists literature on the movement of the Akwapim farmers to the Krobo and Shai areas in search of land to cultivate oil palm as well as other food crops. Other studies conducted on the characteristics of migrant cocoa farmers in the Brong Ahafo Region and the Ashanti Region indicated that over 50 percent of the cocoa farms in the Brong Ahafo Region belong to migrant farmers most of whom are Ashanti. This study aims to contribute to the existing literature through examining the situation of migrant farmers in the Wassa-Amenfi district in the Western Region. The socio-demographic characteristics of the farmers in the study area are provided in the study, covering among others their
gender, age, educational background and occupational status. The research findings indicate that the number of migrant farmers in the Wassa-Amenfi district is thrice that of the native farmers and the number of male farmers dominated that of females. The findings further indicate that most of these farmers are entrepreneurs and self-employed migrants who have migrated purposefully to invest their capital in farming. The study indicates that owing to the number of migrant farmers in the study area and the fact that lands are sold directly to them, the natives feel very alienated from the land to which they have legitimate rights. This situation also forces the youth to migrate out of the area. In the same breath therefore that the district expresses its gratitude to the migrants for the socio-economic development of the area due to their activities, it also blames them for the emigration of its youth. The author therefore recommends in the conclusion that due to the amount and nature of people who migrate to the Wassa-Amenfi district, policy makers need to address a series of pertinent issues if this migration process is to benefit both migrants and non-migrants.


This paper offers an interpretation of the data on internal migration provided in the 1960 Ghana Population Census. It is examines how internal migration has changed the socio-economic structures of the country during the 1950-60s. The paper explains how migrants influenced socio-economic change, by making their skills available where they were most needed, by bringing new sense of values and new modes of economic behaviour into established enterprises, by introducing new skills into the economic life of the receiving areas, and sometimes by opening up the possibility of profitable investment in the areas where they lived. On the other hand, the paper also indicates that uncontrolled migration in certain circumstances resulted in a number of social and economic problems for the individual migrants as well as for the society as a whole. The author explains that because of the lack of adequate data he did not attempt to discuss the negative aspects of migration and development. The positive aspects of socio-economic development that are discussed here are measured in terms of employment and the industrial distribution of the labour force, together with its occupational structure and educational attainment. In terms of employment the author indicated that the male migrant population had more access to employment than non-migrant males both in urban and rural areas but especially in the former. Females showed the reverse pattern; the reason for this situation being that a considerable proportion of females who migrate follow their husbands or emigrate from their birthplace to attend school elsewhere. In terms of industrial distribution of the labour force the author indicated that among internal migrants the level of participation in agriculture was inversely related to the distance travelled; thus, the longer the distance of migration the lower the proportion of migrants found to be working in agriculture. The author remarked that the situation was such because the country contained fewer places where non-agricultural employment could be obtained. On the other hand, the higher the level of urbanization, the higher the level of migrants working in non-agricultural activities. He also indicated that migrants in general enter into those spheres of economic activity which offer the greatest possible
opportunities for employment and income earning, e.g. in the Brong Ahafo the major ‘pull’ factors were cocoa farming and timber industry, while in the Accra Capital District the economy was predominantly commercial/administrative or industrial. In terms of occupational structure the author indicated that on the whole internal migrants were in much superior position on the occupational scale than non-migrants, both in rural and urban areas. Another finding was that migrants with a shorter period of stay were found more frequently in the top occupations and less often in the lower occupations than those migrants who had lived longer in their present residence. In terms of educational attainment the author indicated among others that educational levels were higher among internal migrants than non-migrants, that literacy among recent migrants was much higher than among older migrants irrespective of sex and place of birth and that the propensities to migrate were greater among those with the highest level of education.


The main objective of this thesis is to analyse the socio-demographic process of urban growth in south-eastern Ghana, with special emphasis on the role of migration and its implications for social policy formulation. The principal sources of data for the study are the Ghana 1960 Population Census and Post-enumeration Survey, the 1966 Migration Survey, plus other subsidiary sources published by the Ghana Statistical Service. Chapter one outlines the growth of towns in south-eastern Ghana, particularly between the mid-19th century and the mid-20th century. The historical background and the socio-economic factors responsible for the emergence and growth of the early towns are examined. The statistics for the growth of towns in this region between 1911 and 1960 are compared with those of the rest of the country. Chapter two describes the contemporary socio-economic setting of the urban and rural areas of the south-east and also compares the development of this area with the rest of the country. The relative contribution of the south-east to the development of the country is examined in respect of its agricultural, industrial and commercial economy; its employment conditions and prospects; income levels and cost of living among the labour force; and social conditions in the towns. The disproportionately greater developments in the towns of the south-east relative to the other regions in the country are shown to play a direct as well as indirect role in influencing migration into the area under review. Chapter three analyses some of the effects which migration has produced on the social, demographic and economic structure of the towns of the south-east. Chapter four looks at the urban and rural population of the south-east from 1966 - 1986. The contribution of natural increase and net-migration to population growth and changes in population structure in the urban and rural areas of the region is examined. Chapter five examines the implications of the demographic developments in the towns of the south-east for social policy. The chapter concludes with a consideration of aspects of social policy in respect of internal migration and fertility for this area. The study indicates that the urban population in the south-east is growing more rapidly than the other parts of the country. In the conclusion, the author indicates that unless rational social and population policies are adopted by the government, the growth of the urban population in this area will continue to give rise to serious social and economic problems which the economy cannot meet in the foreseeable future.

The objective of this paper is to examine the social structure of one of the most viable economic groups in the country, namely the cocoa farmers. This paper is divided in two sections; the first section examines the characteristics of cocoa farm owners in the Brong-Ahafo Region, while the second section examines the characteristics of the farm employees. What is of concern to the study of migration in this paper is the beginning of both sections, which discuss the birthplace and the ethnic composition of the farmers and their employees in the beginning of the 1970’s. The author indicated that a considerable amount of individuals had migrated to the Brong-Ahafo Region for the purpose of farming. The Brongs, the indigenous people of the region, formed slightly over two-fifths of the farm owners. Over half of the farm owners were Ashantis, but most of them were however born in the Brong-Ahafo Region. A few other smaller groups were also farming in the area, such as Ga-Adangbes, Ewes, Krobos, Guans, Akuapems, Fantes, Kwahus, and Akyems. It was also indicated that the majority of cocoa farmers were internal migrants from different rural areas around the country. Most of the farm employees were Ghanaian workers who had moved into the region from other areas of the country, they were therefore internal migrants. The single largest group of farm workers came from Northern Ghana, and these were mainly Dagartis and Frafras. The local Brongs represented the second largest group of employees on the farms. Ranking third were the Ashantis, with the Ewes coming as the next important group, and the rest were minor groups such as Fantes, Krobos, Sefwis, Ga-Adangbes, and Akims. The author also puts the internal migration of farm employees in context of the aliens’ compliance order that was approved just before this study was conducted, under which all foreign migrant workers without valid residence permits were forced to leave the country. This paper is an important contribution to the literature on internal labour migration, because farm workers have consisted of a major internal migrant group in Ghana and not a lot of detailed studies have been conducted on their movements.


The study seeks to establish the relationship between internal migration, metropolitan growth and socio-economic change in Ghana. The author associates contemporary internal migration in Ghana to a cumulative process of social and economic change and increasing modernization in the country. The study posits that socio-economic changes towards the end of colonialism and in the early post-colonial era were induced by two important economic activities, namely the commercial production of cocoa and the establishment of mining industries. This led to a gradual expansion of the economy and increased wage labour employment. The same period saw the development of the country’s infrastructure and social services. There was consequently a greater mobility of the labour force in search of new opportunities and a new way of life. The main data sources the author uses are the Ghanaian Population Censuses of 1960 and 1970. The author also puts his study in context of push pull
theory. The key issues that this study considers include the role of internal migration, employment creation and the provision of food, housing and social amenities/services in metropolitan growth and socio-economic change in Ghana. The study also explores various migration flows such as rural-rural, rural-urban, urban-urban and urban-rural migration. The author indicates that in the 1960s rural-rural migration was the most dominant form of migration as compared to rural-urban migration. The latter being the most dominant presently goes to confirm that the country has undergone significant socio-economic changes. The author further looks at the role urbanization – the rapid growth and expansion of urban centres – plays in the changes that the country experienced. The author explains that increased migration, especially rural-urban, results in urbanization but also that urbanization induces migration. He further expatiates on the relationship between urbanization and changes in fertility, morality and demography. The author also elaborates on the role industrialization plays in the growth of urban centres. Industrial growth attracts labour into urban centres leading to population growth and physical expansion of the urban centres. Industrialization has therefore been a necessary component in generating conditions for accelerated metropolitan growth. The research findings are illustrated in various tables, the most important being the growth of metropolitan centres in Ghana from 1931 to 1970. The final section of the study reviews social and economic policies that influence metropolitan growth. The author concludes that adequate policies implemented effectively in the metropolitan areas by the various public sectors, with assistance from the private sector, will help magnify the gains and blessings which a planned metropolitan growth can bestow on the national development as a whole.


The study looks at Ghana’s population rise, its relation to migration and its effect on employment. The author asserts that the population explosion Ghana experienced is highly the result of migration. He further associates the population explosion with the unemployment and underemployment situation in the country and its accompanying emigration of skilled Ghanaians abroad (brain drain). The study begins with an overview of the evolution of Ghana’s economy tracing back from the pre-independence to recent times. Pre-independence economy consisted basically of subsistence agriculture, which was not contributing much to the economic growth of the country. Commercial agriculture and mining activities, which started much later, made some impact on economic growth especially through providing wage employment that was not widely available. Post-independence saw the country in a position where the economy could easily develop because the colonial masters had left money behind to invest. However, due to frequent changes in government and the non-continuity of policies the economy failed. A rise in employment opportunities, the development of the industry and higher wages in the urban areas made them economically attractive and therefore induced migration from the rural areas. The author presents figures and tables of the economic growth in the country. Drawing on data from the 1960 and 1970 Ghana Population Censuses and some special migration surveys the author gives a brief overview of the population situation in Ghana concentrating on the rates and trends of its growth. Other issues considered in the study are migration and urbanization and employment among the labour force. The author also looks at some political regimes and how the
frequent changes in those regimes contributed to employment and underemployment. Many people, especially rural dwellers, which had their manpower and natural resources depleted as a result of those incidences saw migration to the urban areas as the only way out. Furthermore, the author identified that poorer regions and environments had seen the survival of their communities on the extent to which they circulate their citizens between different environments in search of necessary resources for existence. The study indicates that there is both a positive and negative relationship between population, employment and migration. The positive side being that increased human labour leads to increased production and a better economy. On the other hand, increased human labour without resources to work only leads to different forms of labour mobility that includes ‘brain drain’. The author therefore concludes that the relationship whether negative or positive can only be checked or enhanced with the needed government intervention.


This article focuses on causes and changing configurations of emerging migratory flows; autonomous female migration; trafficking in women and children; intra-regional migrations; alternative to ‘illegal\migration to the north\'; progress and constraints in creating a borderless sub-region and fostering intra-regional migration. Migration in West Africa is said to be strongly influenced by poverty, depressed economies and socio-political crises. The influx of migrants into the cities and irregular migrations across national borders in search of decent living conditions reflect a crisis of development.

The paper notes that attempts at creating borderless region in west Africa has been seen in the abolition of the mandatory residency permit, the introduction of Brown card, travel certificates and the elimination of ubiquitous border formalities. The paper identifies Ghana as a labour exporting country within the sub-region. This is as a result of the deteriorating economic condition which took place in the late 1960s. During that period, highly skilled migrants including doctors, paramedical personnel, nurses, teachers, lecturers, engineers, scientist and technologists moved from Ghana to virtually all African countries. They had been attracted by the relatively higher salaries and better working and living conditions. Others migrated to Canada, United States, Britain and Germany. The paper indicates that in additions to workers, students who went to these countries also failed to return to their home country after their training. According to the paper, in 1994 when South Africa gained independence, this brightened the prospect of the country as a booming economy in a democratic state. This opened a floodgate for immigration into South Africa, an opportunity which many Ghanaians took advantage of to migrate. Some who migrated entered the country without proper documentation or overstayed the legal residency, thus becoming illegal immigrants. The paper notes however that Ghanaians are not the only people who migrate within the sub-region. In fact Ghana itself had been a migration destination for many and continues to be so. The paper therefore emphasized the fact that migration is a way of life in West Africa. Due to the high circulation of people and goods within the sub-region, countries such as Ghana and Nigeria are taking the lead to implement schemes agreed on by the sub-region and aimed at
facilitating the movement of people and goods within the region. Efforts, it asserts, are also being made to improve the communication and transportation network within the West African sub-region.


This paper examines the effects ‘the compliance order on aliens without valid residence permits’, issued on the 2nd of December 1969, had on the expulsion of migrant workers and on Ghana’s economy at large. At the time of the order, foreigners had infiltrated into all sections of the economy and were to be found in all major occupations. When the decision was made to enforce the order not many steps were taken to forestall possible harmful effects likely to follow the sudden withdrawal of the migrant workers and traders. Urged on by popular request, the government had to relax the enforcement of the order to enable those working on the mines, cocoa farms and all serving in the army, the railway and few other government bodies to remain at their posts. However, in the fields of the retail trade there was a general public approval for the withdrawal of foreigners. One of the areas of the economy where the effects of the expulsion were strongly felt immediately was the cocoa industry. Ghana’s cocoa production had significantly dropped during this period and the removal of foreign workers gave another blow to the industry since these workers largely sustained it in the past. Migrant workers used to come from the northern regions where there was very little work to do during the dry period and therefore migrated down south to seek employment. The most notable involved the movement of the Mossi of the Upper Volta mainly to the cocoa growing areas of the country. Without the inflow of this labour supply the expansion of the cocoa industry would have been restrained and this would have hampered the development of the principal export crop. Before the compliance order on aliens was passed an acute labour shortage was already reported on the cocoa farms. This was, according to the author, as a result of increasing rural-urban migration, through border restrictions and through attempts that were made in the emigration localities to develop the economy and keep the people from migrating. After the compliance order was established, it was reported that over half the foreign farm labourers had left, even though arrangements were made for them to obtain permits that would enable them to stay in Ghana. In the face of such difficulties, a new system of obtaining labour from Northern Ghana was evolving in which arrangements were made with truck drivers who ply between Kumasi and some Northern towns, such as Bolgatanga, to recruit farm workers. These workers were subsequently brought south by the drivers and handed over to the farmers for a small fee and other expenses including transport.

The study was necessitated by the growing significance of migration as a component of population change and a contributory factor to urbanization. The main objective of the study was to examine the causal factors of youth migration from Assin Atonsu and its socio-economic effects on development in the study area. The author indicated that the study area which once served as served as the ‘foodbasket’ for the Assin District in particular and the Central Region in general had become a victim of ‘Rural-Urban Development Bias’ with non-existent basic infrastructure. Additionally, the inhabitants were also experiencing pressure on the land – the main resource on which they built their livelihoods which therefore set off a wave of out-migration from the study area to Accra. According to the author, demographics of this community showed a decline in the population from 3,171 in 1970 to 2,968 in 1984 and a sex ratio of 69 males to 100 females against the national ratio of 97.3 in 1984. The fieldwork involved 40 migrants interviewed in Accra and 40 communities members at Assin Atonsu aged 15-65 years and revealed that the majority of the out-migrants from Assin Atonsu found their way to the Greater Accra Region with the males being in the majority and the age group of 15-44 dominating the movement. By gender, the peak ages observed for out-migration for males and females were 25-34 and 15-24 respectively. Statistically, it was shown at the 5% level of significance hypothesis tested, that there is no significant difference between the migration pattern of the two sexes. The study confirmed Caldwell’s finding that there is a positive correlation between education and the propensity to migrate from rural areas to the town. The study revealed that the major determinants of migration in the study area were economic calculus, socio-cultural and demographic factors in that order. The remittances from the out-migrants were found to be substantial but not likely to promote economic development and generate sustainable employment opportunities since 54% of all remittances were utilized for the upkeep of the family with just about 5% for investment in education. Migration also affected agricultural activities, communal labour and household adversely. However, there has been much improvement in fertility level and higher dependency ratio. Recommendations made included government’s intervention in infrastructural development and the promotion of agriculture in the study area as well as the intensification of training in small scale business opportunities and management for the community members to stem the tide of out-migration in the area.


Sefwi-Wiawso district is one of the twelve administrative districts in Western region of Ghana. Sefwi-Wiawso is basically agro-based with very limited secondary production. Other economic activities include trading, service sector workers and small-scale industrial establishments. The farmers use traditional methods of farming which involves the use of traditional tools such as hoes and cutlasses. The author asserts that this primitive way of farming makes it unattractive for the youth, making them move
away from the district to access attractive jobs and better services elsewhere. In addition to this, the study indicates that the poor state of nursery, primary and secondary schools, compels many parents to move their children out of the district to urban areas where they can find good education. Large-scale traders have also migrated from the district to urban areas where they can have good business. Youth who migrate from the district often find themselves in already populated areas like Kumasi, Accra and Takoradi. It is noted that about 80% of the population in the district are farmers whose incomes are very low. Since the aims of the traders are to maximize profit, they migrate to urban cities where demand for their goods is all year round. Marriage, according to the study, also compels quite a number to migrate. The study discloses that the district however experiences in-migration. This has been due to the favourable climatic conditions, good soil and vegetation. The in-migrants work on the farms in the district, a trend which has been on the increase since the late 1980s when many communities were provided with primary and junior secondary schools as well as feeder roads. Some of the migrants who emigrate from the Northern region to Sefwi- Wiawso work on the farms as caretakers, share croppers or farm labourers. The other in-migrants from the Brong-Ahafo, Ashanti, Volta, Gas, Akwapim and Fantis either own farm lands bought from the Sefwi chiefs and head of families or some work as share croppers. The study showed that the total number of in-migrants far out-numbers the total of out-migrants. This is because in-migrants have often been joined by their families. The presence of immigrants has led to high population growth of 4.5 per cent in the district with implications for land use. It is indicated that the pressure from the influx of in-migrant farmers has put pressure on the arable land. As a result, the price of land in the area has increased astronomically. In addition, the average farm holding per farmer has reduced because family land and stool lands have been sold to in-migrants. On the positive side however, the in-migrants contribute to the production of both cash and food crops and thus contributes to the economic growth of the district.


This thesis assesses the problems of migrant trafficking from Ghana to Europe. The objectives of the thesis are to establish the extent of migrant trafficking in Ghana and more specifically to examine its evolution, dynamics, its effect on Ghana’s international relations and the national response towards this problem. In the beginning of the thesis the author extensively examines the problem of migrant trafficking in Ghana. He recognizes that migrant trafficking is a real phenomenon in the country and that it is practiced on a high scale. He further states that the poor economic conditions in Ghana coupled with restrictive immigration policies of the Northern countries will continue to drive prospective migrants into the arms of traffickers who are ready and willing to exploit the situation. The author further states that while developed countries try to keep out further immigration by imposing restrictive immigration regimes, people from developing countries devise all means to circumvent them. This has given rise to not only migrant trafficking but also exploitation at destination countries and the emergence of criminal networks. The third chapter of the thesis examines the impact of trafficking of Ghana’s international relations. The author explains that migrant trafficking has impacted negatively on Ghana’s international relations because there exists a thriving business in fraudulent travel documents in which Ghanaian passports are most abused. As a result, Ghana has lost its credibility in international
circles and had political problems in the country's bilateral relations with the Northern countries. The fourth chapter looks at the steps that were taken by the government of Ghana to control the scale and effects of trafficking. The author examines more specifically control measures that were put in place by the Ghana Immigration Service and in the Ghanaian Legislation. In the last chapter the author offers recommendations and solutions to the problem of trafficking in the country. He offers proposals such as, the streamlining of the processing and acquisition of passports, the enactment of an anti-trafficking legislation, enhancement of education on the dangers of trafficking, and the enlargement of the Ghana Immigration Service. This thesis was written before 2001 and since then the government of Ghana has passed the Anti-Trafficking Law and has taken some restrictive measures against trafficking through the Ghana Immigration Service. More detailed information on this issue can be obtained from the Ghana Immigration Service Headquarters in Accra.


This is a research into transport and shows that women and girls are used and use themselves as a means of transport. The work investigates the use of female child labour for the transportation of goods in urban Accra. Girl children from northern Ghana migrate, without the company of their parents, to urban Accra to work as head-load porters (kayayoos). The work documents the circumstances of these young kayayoos.


Rural-urban migration is an issue of great concern in Third World countries generally. It is assuming alarming proportion in Ghana, so much so that, between 1921 and 1960, the proportion of Ghana’s urban population increased from 7.9% to 29%. These population movements come with changes in relation to age and sex. As majority of the youth who constitute the labour force migrate to urban centres, it is the aged and children who are left behind. In recent times, the impact of population movements on the aged has received considerable attention. In these studies therefore, Agyekum and Gyamerah (2004) examine the effects of urban drifts on the aged. While Agyekum situates his work in the Kwahu village of Aduamoa, Gyamerah’s work is on the aged of Asaamang Tamfoe. The studies establish that, rural-urban migration is caused by lack of social and other facilities, decrease in farm revenues and lack of job opportunities in the rural areas. The studies also found that, increased rural-urban migration weakens and sometimes splits the bond that hold the extended family together, thereby rendering the extended family impotent in its support for the elderly in society. In the Asaamang Tamfoe case, rural-urban migration and subsequent weakening of the extended family affects the aged in several ways. It reduces the support for the aged leaving them to struggle for their own existence. The phenomenon therefore nourishes general neglect and abandonment of the aged. The studies also found that, rural-urban migration as a phenomenon renders the aged lonely in their
rural base or village. They however argue that, the rural-urban migration influence development through returned migrants.


For many years, Frafra have migrated from an increasingly overcrowded homeland, first to surrounding rural areas of the north, then to the cocoa growing areas of Western and Ashanti regions, and lately to the rapidly growing towns and cities of southern Ghana. In the 1948 and 1960 censuses, 5% and 23% of Frafra populations were respectively outside their homeland. In recent times, figures are not available but the indication is that, the situation has not seen any change to suggest reverse trend. What happens to the people of Frafra in terms of their kinship ties and social obligations amidst increasing migration? This is the focus of the study. The findings of the study point generally to strict adherence of kinship ties and kinship responsibilities. Migrants engage in home visits (95%), attend funerals (85%) and engage in sacrifices (53%). Other areas that signal adherence of kinship ties are exchange of gifts among kin people, help for kinsmen and women, and holding of family meetings. The adherence to these kinship responsibilities was not dependent on one’s family status. This implies that migrants with families and those without exhibited about the same level of interest and adherence to the kinship responsibilities.


The Frafra are an ethnic group from the upper-east region of Ghana. Their traditional family pattern is rooted in the extended family system, and subject to the control of male headship. However, as a result of migration, these Frafra families who have been brought up in the traditional way have come to live in a social environment that is quite contrasting to theirs. They are no more in close knit and tightly organized community. It is this disruption of the traditional Frafra family pattern in the urban centre, Accra, that this study is concerned. The findings of the study posit that, in their new situation in the urban centre, the scope of kinship rights and duties has narrowed and become more uncertain. There is growing feeling that the nuclear family is more convenient and yet people try to hang on to the extended family members on certain major family matters. The position of grand parent and grand parental generation is clearly absent in these migrant families. The traditional bonds that tie together nephews, nieces, uncles, aunts etc are unknown in these families. The study suggests the use of ‘closed families’ to describe this family arrangement because the essential bonds in the families are found more and more in the interpersonal relationships of immediate members rather than traditional value and duty to other members in the older (external family) institution.

Population displacements, refugees and migration are becoming an increasing phenomenon in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). Once refugees and migration are induced, the effect is often felt not only by the refugees who undergo traumatic experiences, but it also affects the home country and the host country. The home government suffers from brain drain whilst the host country is compelled to stretch its resources beyond limits to accommodate the newly arrived. The paper identifies a number of factors which has led to the increase in displacement of people within SSA. One such factor is economic conditions which compel both skilled and unskilled labour to migrate. The changing demographic patterns that exacerbate unemployment; political instability dramatized in wars and conflicts as well as the prevalence of certain cultural practice which the youth detest; have all been discussed as contributory factors to displacement. For instance, for the youth, emigration offers an escape from what they perceive as anachronistic traditional practices. Among other things, the paper identifies environmental changes which have resulted in conflict and in turn, induced refugees and migration. For instance, since 1980, violent conflicts have erupted between ethnic Dagomba and Kokomba, and Gonjas and Kokomba in the northern part of Ghana over land and farming rights. These conflicts claimed hundreds of lives and displaced hundreds more. The implication of these on refugees, according to the paper, is harrowing, characterized by unspeakable traumatic experiences. The author’s use of refugees in this instance, however, is not reflected in the international definition of the term and can thus be aptly referred to as Internal Displacement since the crossing of an international border was not involved in the cases cited here. The host government also suffers in that its resources become stretched, deepening its economic woes. For this and other reasons, Ghana almost turned back over 600 Liberian refugees stranded on high seas in July 1995 had it not been for the intervention of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the promise of assistance from the international community. Furthermore, the paper asserts, such an influx raises tension among the host nation’s population. This is said to be especially the case when there is close contact between these and the refugee population and when a culture and language barrier exist. This tension, the paper notes, is marked by the sporadic eruptions of conflicts between Ghanaians and migrants from neighbouring countries in receiving areas in Accra. The author thus suggests that in order to curtail the involuntary population movement in Sub-Saharan Africa, there is every need to first eliminate the countless ethnic and inter-tribal conflicts dotted around the region.


This study aimed at finding out the socio-economic effects of rural-urban migration on rural communities specifically, the form of rural-urban migration experienced in Garu-Tempa, the causes and effects and implications of this phenomenon on the community. The study postulated the following: that rural-urban migration is most common among the rural youth and young adults, more males are
involved in rural-urban migration than females and rural–urban migration is as a result of regional inequalities and there is more north to south migration in Ghana as a result. After zoning the study area into 6, the author administered questionnaires to 170 respondents in Garu Tempane with consideration to gender and age. All the postulations were confirmed and the study also identifies lack of economic opportunities as the chief factors in rural-urban migration. Various recommendations were made for action to be taken by the authorities and particularly the district assembly to generate employment opportunities to keep the youth in the study area.


This article interrogates the emergence of drug trafficking in contemporary Ghana and West Africa within the context of a global political economy, situated within a deeper historical perspective. It examines the earlier trafficking of cannabis along the coast of West Africa in the colonial period, and the later transnational networks that have emerged to promote international drug trafficking (cocaine and heroin). The article probes how the African diaspora and international travel service these emerging drug networks in Ghana, West Africa, Europe and the Americas. It suggests that the concept of an 'ideological diaspora' could shed light on a shared global popular culture, which constitutes a counter culture and rationalizes criminal activities.


As we approach the post-colonial half century, transnationalism has become a major reality in Africa and the wider world with the proliferation of immigrants, refugees and displaced persons. But transnationalism is not a new development, and diaspora and globalization - both historical processes - have long served as contexts for the remaking of identity, citizenship and polity. Today, concepts such as 'cosmopolitanism' and 'flexible citizenship' are in vogue in a globalized world, as transnationalism challenges statist concepts of political citizenship. In this article, using the case of Ghana, Akeampong revisits the historic presence of a Lebanese diaspora in west Africa from the 1860s, and the intellectual and political obstacles that have worked against their full incorporation as active political citizens. The work seeks to understand why the prospect of non-black citizenship was considered problematic in black Africa during the era of decolonization, interrogating the institutional legacies of colonial rule and pan-Africanist thought. The intellectual rigidity of pan-Africanism on race is contrasted with current notions of the constructedness of identity. It probes the ways in which the Lebanese in Ghana constructed their identities, and how these facilitated or obstructed assimilation. As African governments seek to tap into the resources of the new African communities in Europe and North America, the article suggests the timeliness of exploring alternative criteria to indigeneity when defining citizenship in black Africa.

This work reviews voluntary repatriation and its socio-economic problems. It presents case studies of returnees in Sudan, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Mozambique, Ghana, and Algeria. There is some focus on the work of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The work is a revised version of papers presented at a symposium organized by the UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), held in Harare, N’Djamena, and Addis Ababa in 1991 and 1992.


This is a study designed to explore the role of internal migration in nation building. Internal migration in developing countries is a major issue and governments have over the years explored ways to curb it. Much of the attempts however have failed on the accounts that, such attempts are not based on researches on the matter. As a result, policies to mitigate the problem are poorly targeted. In this study, the author presents causative factors such as job seeking, and desire for further education. These reasons have been identified by some other studies though. But more than these, the author identifies desires to avoid external family pressures and desires to follow relations as some other powerful determinants of internal migration – from Garu to Bolgatanga. The study concludes that without direct government intervention, internal migration will continue to remain a challenge for years to come. Its effects would be visible on both rural and urban area landscapes of Ghana. Based on the conclusions, the study suggests ways to deal with the problem. First it suggests provision of basic social amenities such as electricity, educational opportunities, good drinking water, and employment opportunities in the rural areas of Ghana. Secondly, the study suggests encouragement of Agricultural Extension Officers to work in the rural areas to assist farmers accept and use new improved farming methods to increase food yields. Again, the study recommends government gives farmers low interest loans especially women to enable them establish small scale industries to engage people in the rural areas. This, in the estimation of the study, will discourage people from migrating to urban areas for non-existing jobs.


Even though the focus of this study is on prostitution as a deviant behaviour, it is included in this annotation because it involves Ghanaian women going to practice prostitution outside of the borders of the country. They leave for Lagos, Monrovia, Abidjan, Nairobi, Paris and Rome. This is a labour migration that humiliates aside all the other losses that a sending country suffers at migration. Examples such as the scandalous and notorious ‘black maria’ episode in Nigeria that claimed the lives of six
Ghanaians and the callous atrocious suffocation of 46 Ghanaians in the black hole of Abidjan are cited to show the humiliation of Ghanaian women abroad. The objective of the study is to examine why prostitution still thrives despite it being an age old social problem. Aside the economic motivation for this kind of labour migration the study gives other causes such as the extremely low moral laxity or degeneration of our society and its entire fabric and the not-too-easily comprehensible economic, social, political psychological consequences of several years of deprivation by the colonial masters. The economic motivation is also elaborated in the study, its contribution to why certain ethnic groups migrated to practice prostitution than others. Nigeria was chosen because of the mass exodus of Ghanaian women to the then capital Lagos for the past decades to practice prostitution. Data collection was mainly through observation and interviews with some prostitutes who stayed in hotels, madams of the hotels and boys who protected the prostitutes. Findings reveal that women migrating to do prostitution in Lagos was due to the deteriorating economic trends in the country. The economic hardships and inflation which made it difficult for the average Ghanaian to make ends meet saw a lot of Ghanaian intellectuals moved to neighbouring West Africa countries which were better off economically. The greatest number moved to Nigeria. This was the era of the brain drain. Many Ghanaian girls also moved out to Nigeria to sell their bodies for monetary gains. Like several literature on the causes for migration the main motivation is economic. As mentioned earlier the focus of the study is on prostitution and not on migration per se therefore the entire work is dedicated to causes of the problem of prostitution and how it can be curbed. Factors pertaining to migration in the work can only be remotely drawn.


This paper seeks to improve knowledge and understanding of the migration, return and development nexus by looking at the return of elite migrants in West Africa, a region where intercontinental return migration and its implications have never been properly assessed. The study focuses on two cases. It explores the socio-cultural and political change that Ghanaian and Ivorian elite migrants promote upon their return to their home economies and societies. The author compares the evidence regarding the two countries because they have fairly similar territorial characteristics and socio-economic profiles. This was necessary not only to control the differences attributable to historical ties of one with Great Britain and the other with France but also because the experiences of Ghanaian and Ivorian elite migrants in Europe and North America differ from many points of view. The study underlining this paper was conducted during 2000/01 within the framework of the Transrede Project which was implemented by the Sussex Centre for Migration Research. This project has focused on transnational migration and return of both unskilled and highly skilled Ghanaians and Ivorians and on their developmental impacts. The data regarding the highly skilled returned elite migrants were collected in 2000 and 2001 in their African home countries, whereas the data from highly skilled migrants who have remained abroad where gathered in Paris and London, which respectively for Ivorians and Ghanaians represent strong poles of attraction. The research findings have shown that
return migration has, on balance, fostered positive development effects in both public and private sectors. The effects do vary, mostly across generations of migrants and in relationship with historical periods. Whereas earlier migrants' contributions tend to concern the realm of nation-building, more recent contributions are to be found in a more explicit economic context in the form of entrepreneurship. In particular, the paper illustrates the changes that return migrants have operated in the workplace and dwells upon some significant, concrete examples of innovative practice and productive investment. At the end of the paper the policy implication of the main findings are discussed and some recommendations for future research are formulated.


The issue of whether or not return migration produces any development impacts on the migrants’ country of origin continues to raise the interest of policy-makers. Most empirical studies focus on the macro-level economic impacts of return. However, it has increasingly become apparent that socio-cultural and political impacts are important as well. Using both quantitative and qualitative data concerning highly-skilled élite migrants who have returned to Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana, and stressing instead the meso-level of analysis, this paper demonstrates that return migration has, on balance, fostered positive development effects in both the public and private sector. The effects do vary, mostly across generations of migrants and in relation to historical periods. Whereas earlier migrants’ contributions tended to concern the realm of nation-building, more recent contributions are to be found in a more explicit economic context in the form of entrepreneurship. In particular, the paper illustrates the changes that return migrants have operated in the workplace and dwells upon some significant, concrete examples of innovative practice and productive investment. The policy implications of the main findings are discussed, and some recommendations for future research are formulated. (Abstract culled from Wiley InterScience (www.interscience.wiley.com).


This paper traces the origins of the Ga-speaking people and subsequent development of their towns and villages in the Accra plains. It thus focused on the peopling of the Accra Plains between C.1500-1600; settlement in the Hills from 1500 to 1700; the importance of traditional Accra and the emergence of Coastal towns from about 1700. It attempts to provide a historical basis for the relative absence of sizable towns in the Accra plains as well as the concentration of present-day Ga settlements along the coast of Accra and Tema. The peopling of Accra is said to date back to the seventeenth century. According to the article, before the arrival of the Europeans, in the second half of the fifteenth century, a number of fairly large traditional towns had already been established a few kilometres inland of the Accra coast line, even though they were dispersed in nature. The earliest known settlers of the Accra coastlines are believed to be the Gbese or Kpesi, a lagoon worshiping people who are said to be
akin to the Guan aborigines of Ghana. The beginning of the sixteenth century or earlier, marked the arrival of the Ga-speaking people to the plains. They were believed to be refugees ‘fleeing easterly lands’. However according to this article, the origin or earliest home of the Ga is shrouded in mystery, because whilst the Ga people claim to trace their origin to a location in the Niger delta in modern Nigeria, linguistic anomalies between the Gas and the people of south-western Nigeria raises serious questions. On settlement, the paper notes that the Gas initially took settlement on hills, it further notes that the Gas were initially not fishers but rather farmers. However, sea fishing seems to have begun only in the latter half of the eighteenth century, apparently learning them from their Fante neighbours. The article notes that it is difficult to determine precisely when the shift to coastal sites began and how it was affected by the shift. It however notes that this would have started as a gradual process in the form of sporadic migratory movements as the land became less productive agriculturally and sea-borne trade proved to be more lucrative with the arrival of the Europeans. This period, it is suggested, could be after the mid-seventeenth century when more European settlements were established on the Accra coast. Sizable and relatively more prosperous towns grew around three Accra forts which belonged to the Dutch, English and Danes. It is said that these towns might have received more refugees from the plains. According to the author, by 1700, towns along the coast were busy commercial centres for the Gas and other traders from the interior. The paper concludes that, the subsequent development of modern urban agglomerations in the Accra-Tema area was not inspired by trade but rather the establishment of bigger bureaucracies.


This is a cultural study of the urban area. It focuses on the question of attitude change among migrants of rural background in urban centre. The study submits that, many of the early research works into the phenomenon operate with the view that, the urban area has a unique rational mode of life that is in direct contrast to rural life. In order to cope in the urban or city life, migrants shed their traditional rural life and world view and adopt the ‘new culture of urbanism’. Recent literature on the phenomenon especially from Latin American and African cities however deviate from this viewpoint. These studies suggest that, rather than becoming completely assimilated, pockets of traditional life could exist in the modern planned city or urban area. This study is an addition to the debate. The principal findings suggest partial departure from rural attitudes. The change in attitude however was not marked enough to drown tribal affiliations and traditional attitudes totally. The findings establish that, attitude change is a function of migrant’s level of education, age and length of stay in the city. The study concludes that, the findings fall within the camp of scholars who contend that in Africa, traditionalism persists even in the urban areas.
This paper offers a complete overview of migration throughout Ghana’s history and finishes by discussing current migration trends. The beginning of the paper focuses on the historical development of emigration from Ghana. Four main periods are discussed: the period of minimal emigration before 1965, the period of initial emigration from 1965 to the 1980’s, the phase of large-scale emigration from the beginning to the middle of the 1980’s, and the period of intensification and diasporisation of Ghanaians from the middle of the 1980’s. The third section focuses on the historical development of migration within Ghana and from its neighbours. It reviews migration in and around Ghana from before the colonial period until now. The two sections offer a detailed account of the history of migration in and out of Ghana. By dividing the historical account in two sections the authors provide a clear overview of two migration trends that were prevalent throughout Ghana’s history. The main determinants of internal and international migration in Ghana are discussed in the fourth section. A range of determinants are presented, such as population growth, economic policies, poverty, family orientated issues and the decline in costs of communication and transport. The determinants are mainly placed in context of push pull theory, which is a bit narrow and could have been elaborated upon. The fourth section further elaborates on north to south migration, and on rural to urban migration. The characteristics of Ghanaian migrants are discussed in the fifth section. Five studies were used, carried out between the 1980’s and the 1990’s, to collect information. Information is provided on the gender balance of migrants, the regions from which the migrants migrated, their ages, the major resettlement areas of return migrants and the characteristics of return migrants. The information is quite detailed but not fully representative since the five studies from which the information was subtracted had limited sample sizes. At the end of this section extra information is provided on the mobility of children in Ghana. The authors explain that children’s migration has three main dimensions, namely fostering, street children and trafficking. Section six looks at the importance of migration for the national economy. The authors discuss the benefits of the growing volume of international remittances and analyze the causes of this growth. The channels through which these remittances are sent, by whom they are received, and how they are spent is also discussed. The loss of skilled workers to migration is looked at in section four, together with the skills that are acquired by the migrants while abroad and the benefits of their possible return to Ghana. At the end of this section the authors describe how Ghana has both acted as an origin and destination country of forced migration. Policies and other instruments to regulate migration issues in Ghana are discussed in section seven. In the conclusion, the authors warn about existing gaps in migration literature and public policy. The authors recognize that in both areas attention has been overwhelmingly orientated at present towards international migration and therefore they argue that attention should be paid to the diversification of movement in internal migration.

This thesis addresses the emigration of Ghanaian women to Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, which represents an issue that has long been neglected by researchers. While recent studies are providing some evidence of the gradually expanding stream of female migration, and particularly the autonomous migration of unattached women, documentation of the trends still lags behind initial preliminary impressionistic evidence. In the beginning of the thesis the methodology is outlined and a description of the characteristics of the migrants is made. The author touches on characteristics such as marital status, age, educational level, and types of employment in the home and destination country. In chapter four the living condition of the migrants in Abidjan are outlined. The author indicates that the bonds or network or relationships among the migrants offered the much-needed support at the initial and crucial stages of settlement and that they were strong determinants when in Abidjan. The migrants were organized in three levels namely, the community level, the ethnic or township associations and household level associations. Despite the close cultural affinity between Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire, the migrants still had serious adjustment problems that had delayed their eventual integration into the host society. The author further indicates that a staggering majority of the migrants were employed as prostitutes in the city. Apart from prostitution however, the migrants were likely to go into petty trading, sale of cooked food, dressmaking or hairdressing. In chapter five the migration process and behaviour of the Ghanaian migrants are examined. The author indicates, among others, that relatives and friends have been the main sources of information on Abidjan for the migrants but that their decision to migrate was mainly made individually. He further indicates that possibly as a result of language barrier, education does not play any meaningful role in the migration decision-making of the migrants. He also indicated that the female migrants are more likely to originate from an urban locality in Ghana than the male migrants. Finally, the author indicates that the emigration of Ghanaians to Abidjan has been on the ascendency gathering momentum in more recent years because of the demand for Cote d'Ivoire's currency and goods. Chapter six analyses the determinants of the emigration of Ghanaian women to Abidjan. The author indicated that economic considerations dominated female migrants' reasons for migrating. While chapter seven analyses the significance of the migration in relation to the individual migrants and their local communities. The author observed that the economic status of the migrants, in terms of employment and income levels, improved remarkably after migration. Unfortunately much of the migrants' spending was on luxury and other consumer items and their investments were mainly in not very productive ventures. To a large measure, migrant households benefited from their relatives living in Abidjan through remittances and contributions to some investments. The general opinion of the migrant’s home communities was however against the migration of women to Abidjan. Finally, in the conclusion some policy implications are discussed.


This document seeks to bridge the gap between how experiences of child migrants are often represented and how the children themselves see their experiences and in this regard, also imaginatively engage policy makers and others working in relevant areas that deal with independent
child migrants. There is also the general consensus in the literature of the substantial increase in their numbers which therefore necessitates their consideration in policy discussions as in the case of exploited and abused children to ensure positive impact on their lives. This publication therefore presents and examines the lives of 16 children who have migrated from rural communities to the cities and towns in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ghana and India from the children’s perspective and tells their stories as they are with focus on how and why the decision was made to migrate; how they made the journeys, what their work experiences and living conditions were, their perceptions of the costs and benefits of migrating and how migration was linked to schooling. These child migrants were part of many in their category (child migrants or having migrated when they were less than 18 years) who were interviewed under the various child migration projects in partner countries of the Development Research Centre on Migration, Globalisation and Poverty in Sussex, UK. A semi-structured guide was used in gathering indepth information about their background and experiences and these were recorded, transcribed and analyzed. It was noted that these children first migrated between 7 and 17 years for complex motives and reasons which include the child’s own desire to earn an income against the background of the child’s understanding of society’s acceptance of children’s participation in economic activities. Their age and immaturity is a specific source of vulnerability which leads to representations of children as the passive victims of difficult circumstances. It was however noted that these children actively assess their opportunities and responsibilities within the family and make decisions about their life trajectories and are able to negotiate difficult circumstances. Some child migrants who ran away still drew on family and social networks to facilitate their migration and provide safety nets. Which networks were available tended to influence where the migrants ended up and the nature of work they did. The interesting part of this publication is how it presents the perspectives of the children beyond the simpler form of how children can make decisions for themselves and their motives for migrating to show the influence of gender on children’s experiences and the variety of links with education. It also highlights how complex the relationships between family and working lives influence the lives of child migrants and how the choices of work are rarely purely economic).


Itinerant trading is the second major economic activity for women who constitute an important chain in the distribution of goods in West Africa. Historically they have played important roles in the political economy of Ghana. With the outbreak of AIDS these women, some of whom move far away from home sometimes for days or even weeks, stand the risk of being infected with HIV through their activities. Using a combination of methods including a survey, focus-group discussions and conversations with key informants, we examine how the trade is organized, the characteristics of the traders, and the risk factors that are likely to predispose them to contracting the AIDS virus. Itinerant women traders appear highly vulnerable, as women and as highly mobile people. This state of affairs, occasioned by the extremely difficult conditions in which the women work, is exploited for the sexual gratification of the men with whom they come into contact. The attempt to reduce the spread of AIDS through education has to target itinerant women traders at the points of transaction.

According to this study, Kwaebibirem District is endowed with rich forest vegetation which caters to the agricultural needs of the people within and out of the district. The rainforest comprises of many kinds of trees which are of both domestic and industrial use. Because of its vegetation, farming is the dominant activity throughout the district. It produces cash crops such as cocoa, oil palm and other food crops. The rocky parts of the district abound in minerals. For instance, in Akwatia, mining is the main occupation. Due to the natural endowment of the area for agriculture and mining, the study indicates that the district attracts migrants from both within Ghana and internationally. Migrants are involved in every aspect of agriculture, from the provision of labour to the sale or processing of agricultural produce in the area. It is also noted that the mining industry attracts people to the district. Often migrant farmers obtain lands to farm on the basis of a crop sharing system termed ‘Abunu’. The processing of agricultural produce is often engaged in by migrant women in conjunction with the other indigenous women, such as in the preparation of gari and palm oil. Migrants are also noted to play a significant role in trading of agricultural produce. The migration of people to the district, the study indicates, has also contributed to the improvement in the transportation system as well as the educational facilities in the area. The negative side of the influx of migrants to the Kwaebibirem district, as discussed in the study, relates to their contribution to the breakdown of social ethics. It is noted that migrant youth in the area are often militant and behave contrary to social norms with the sole aim of earning a living. The paper identifies teenage pregnancy as a major problem attributable to the influx of male migrants. It claims that male migrants who impregnate young girls in the district only move away from the district or move out entirely. This is explained as resulting in hardship for the girls, thus leading to school drop-out and poor child development in the area. Towns such as Apinamang, Topremang and Akwatia are cited to be affected by this negative trend. Due to the high galamsey mining engaged in by both aborigines and migrants, environmental problems such as breading of mosquitoes, land and water pollution as well as sanitation problems are said to be common. Migrants are also noted to under-utilize farmland. This is because even though they may clear an entire land allocated to them, often they succeed in cultivating only a small portion. In addition, the study asserts that due to the high influx of migrants, there is an acute shortage of proper housing. This has led to a situation where migrants are forced to live on verandas behind houses. The paper observed that agricultural output would be adversely affected in the absence of migrants in the district since the migrants constitutes a bulk of the agricultural labour force.

The decision to migrate depends on the information available. Where does one get information to migrate? This is the major preoccupation of this study. It examines how social relations in major cities motivate people to migrate. The study investigates the sources of idea, sources of support, and reasons for migration among Agona Abodom migrants to Ghana’s urban centres. Agona Abodom is one of the Zonal capitals of the Agona District of the Central Region. Citizens of the communities have over the years migrated to urban centres. In this study networks are used as framework for understanding the sources of ideas which ultimately lead to migration. While reasons for migration (economic, education and training,) were cultivated by the migrants themselves, the sources of idea for migration can not be said to have been self-cultivated. Relatives and friends constituted over 75%. Migrants also obtained support from their idea sources. In other words, when relatives and friends provided the idea for migration, they provided support to make the ideas complete. These supports were financial, accommodation, job search, meal and clothing.

Antwi Bosiakoh, T. "Understanding Migration Motivations in West Africa: The Case of Nigerians in Ghana." Legon Journal of Sociology 3(2).

Contemporary migration studies reckon that, there has been increased interest in intra-continental migration especially in Europe. In Africa, this interest has not been pursued even though evidence abounds in the literature to suggest the presence of intra-African migration. Explanations of the motivation for such migrations often employ the ‘economic push-pull model’. This paper interrogates the ‘economic push and pull’ argument in migration motivation literature. It presents a range of pull factors that do not follow this conventional approach. The paper first reconstructs Nigerian presence in, and connection with Ghana, and then explores the contemporary motivating factors for Nigerian migration to Ghana. Nigerian migration to Ghana dates back to the early period of the nineteenth century even though their connection with Ghana goes as far back as pre-colonial time during the period of the caravan trade. The paper argues that, contemporary Nigerian migration to Ghana is motivated by multiple factors reflecting political, economic, governance and democracy, security and historical considerations. Multi-factoral migration motivation interpretation appears more adequate for Nigerian migration to Ghana.


Migrants create social networks to aid them in their settling process. Migrant associations are a more formal manifestation of these social networks. They emerge as an attempt by migrants to meet their needs in collective terms in their host communities. Nigerian migrant associations in Ghana exemplify this assertion. They emerged to take care of the problems they faced in Accra, Ghana, and to
maintain ties with one another through migrant friendship networks. In this regard, migration is said to be centrally a social phenomenon and therefore requires a social context discussions. The study employed qualitative research approach. As such, data for the study were generated using multiple ethnographic methods. These were observation, in-depth interviews, focus group discussions (FGDs) and informal discussions. There were other data types obtained from association minutes, and other relevant documents. Three (3) Nigerian migrant associations in Accra, Ghana constitute the subject of the study - the Nigerian Committee of Brothers Association (an all-male association with a semblance of brotherhood), the Nigerian Women Association (an all-female national association), and the mixed sex ethnic association, the Edo State Association. The findings suggest that Nigerian migration to Ghana is, motivated by multiple factors reflecting political, economic, governance and democracy, security and historical considerations. On the associations, the study found that they operate under durable organisational structures with relatively well defined tenures of leadership. Memberships of the associations are not high, ranging between 75 and 200. This, notwithstanding, the memberships reflect some of the general arguments relating to migrant association memberships. New migrants show higher leaning to the associations, but leadership responsibilities are mostly exercised by older migrants. As human institutions, elements of discord and schism were found within the associations. The analytical framework underlining this study is social capital theory. Social capital because migrants generally and Nigerian migrants in particular forge various social networks in their settling process. These social networks provide various resources to members. Through the activities, members of Nigerian migrant associations utilize these resources to enhance their participation in Ghana’s social, cultural and economic spaces. The contacts and introductions that both new and old members get into constitute resources for association members. Also, membership benefits and entitlements such as soft loans for settling accommodation problems, hospital bills, and funeral costs etc. constitute resources for members. These resources are used by members to improve their life chances in Ghana. For new migrants, the associations help to deal with their integration and adjustment problems. By creating ‘camaraderie interactions’ or friendly fellowships, the associations transform the solitude and isolationist havens of new migrants into open and receptive turfs for active participation in the new physical, social cultural and economic spaces in Accra, Ghana. Nigerian migrants also use their associations as a rallying point for socio-cultural affirmation. The study recommends that, Ghanaian migration policies should not be oriented toward ‘wishing Nigerians out’ of Ghana. Rather, they should be formulated in a manner that, Nigerian migration to Ghana would be beneficial to Ghana. Though exploratory, the findings can serve as a basis for future academic studies on migrant associations. Two of such future research areas on migrant associations in Ghana have been identified.


Migration studies centering on Ghana before the 1970s focused largely on the movement of men. Any movement of females was only noted as passive migration induced by the need to leave home areas to join husbands whose migration was to be long-term or permanent or to marry a parentally approved co-ethnic. In recent times however, the number of independent women joining the migration
process has increased. As the women join the migration process, they often leave their children behind to be fostered by other persons, often relatives. In this article, Appiah draws on interviews from two groups of children aged 1-8 years, 1) those with migrant mothers and are being fostered and 2) those living with their actual mothers - and postulates condition of inadequate care for fostered children. This condition then predisposes fostered children to inadequate health care and nutrition which eventually lead to impeded physical development. With reference to children of female migrants, the study posits that the foster mothers are elderly, mostly grandmothers with little or no education. They also have their own children and put together, childcare puts enormous physical, psychological and financial difficulties on them. As a result, children of migrant women are disadvantaged. First, there is shortfall in the vaccination of these children as foster mothers often lack the knowledge as to whether or not a foster child had been vaccinated. The shortfall is also explained in terms of absence of vaccination cards for the children. Often the cards are kept by the migrant mothers. In terms of disease prevention and treatment, the study shows that antibiotics are largely resorted to for the treatment of diarrhea. And while prevalence of diseases is high among children of migrant mothers (exception is made to malaria), children of migrant mothers are more likely to be treated in health facility than those living with their actual mothers. In the case of nutritional status, the study found under-nutrition is slightly more pronounced in children with migrant mothers. In overall terms, health and nutritional problems are pronounced among children of migrant women due to the long periods of absence of mothers. Based on these findings, the study makes an eight-series policy implications and action points. The study is however devoid of theoretical considerations.


The main purpose of this thesis is to examine the health and physical development status of children whose biological mothers had migrated and left them in the care of other women. Immunization, disease prevalence in the last four weeks preceding the study and anthropometric indices were used as measures of health and physical development status. The author collected data on 264 children of migrant women who lived with foster mothers and compared the results with 251 children who lived with their biological mothers. Three contiguous communities in the Amansie-East District of Ghana - Danso, Nuaem and Anyinae were selected for the study. The author also collected background information on 188 migrant women and 421 non-migrant women. The data collected on the children covered immunization against tuberculosis, diphtheria and measles and prevalence of diseases such as cough, malaria and diarrhoea as well as physical development measurements as age-for-height, age-for-weight and height-for-weight. The author indicates that there were no significant differences between the children of migrant women who were in the care of foster mothers and those who lived with their biological mothers with regard to their health and physical development status. The only exception was in the treatment of diarrhoea in which children of migrant women were more often taken to a health facility for treatment than children of non-migrant women. The author further indicates that results generally disproved the hypotheses that guided his study and subsequently he called for explanation
with regard to the observed phenomenon. The explanation was found in the Akan extended family bonds and mutual obligations that enjoined members to see a relative's child as their own child. In this case therefore, children of migrant women who lived with their maternal grandmothers and maternal aunts were accorded the same care as children who lived with their real mothers. The author calls for improvement in the provision of social amenities in the communities where he conducted his study as well as measures aimed at making agriculture, the main occupation of the communities, more rewarding. According to the author this will hopefully minimize the migration of the young people, especially women, from the study areas into neighbouring West African countries. He also indicates that disease and malnutrition prevalence were observed to be higher than national figures reported by the Ghana Demographic and Health Survey. The author explains that it is therefore imperative that health and nutrition outreaches should take into account peculiar characteristics of sections of the Ghanaian population. The author finally suggests that the Ghanaian extended family bonds and support systems be encouraged and sustained because it positively ensures the welfare of members especially in times of need.


This study builds on previous researches that attempt to ascertain the facts relating to social, economic and other conditions under which farmers live and work and the problems arising from them. The aim of the study is to be informative about migrant cocoa farmers’ progress. The author emphasizes informative because he believes that what Africa needs is purposive information - information gathered for planning purposes - about its conditions. The findings of this current study intend to serve as a basis for policies and programme that would ensure the survival of the industry as an on-going concern. The Cocoa Research unit has been to some extent concerned with practical problems facing the cocoa farmers, the main thrust of its study being more theoretical than problem solving. The areas for the study are the Central and Western regions of Ghana because they were at the time of the study the latest locations of the greatest cocoa development. Sample sites in the two regions were selected to represent a cross section of settlements from the view point of age, and also of the ethnic compositions of the migrants. The medium of data collection was through the use of questionnaires by way of interviews. This was supplemented by on-the-post investigations. Hence the findings are primarily from responses to questionnaires, the team’s observations and farmers’ statements. The study has seven chapters. The first deals with the socio and economic characteristics of the migrant cocoa farmers. The second and third chapters express the farmers’ expectation of the central government to support them in the form of legislative regulations. Chapters four and five cover the expectation of Agricultural Extension Services and Cocoa Marketing Board and how they have failed in their duties. Chapter seven deals with how farmers respond to hardships such as financial and housing crisis. The study shows that practically all of Ghana’s ethnic groups are represented in the Central and Western regions and
therefore after just over eight decades of introduction of the industry it has become truly a national one, responsible for rural urban migration. The study has also shown areas in which the government could pay specialized attention with regards to migrant farmers. The areas include Land holding, the price of labour even though the study acknowledges that government cannot do much about that. Also there should be a relocation of depots at shorter distances. The study also dramatizes the conditions under which migrant cocoa farmers work and this is to emphasize the need for conditions for prosperous cocoa farming and also to drive home the role of the central government and the cocoa marketing board in satisfying those conditions. The study concludes that the state of cocoa farmers is a result of the political economy of the country since 1951 when the nationalists came into power. The operational principle of the state management of the economy since then has been the ascendancy of the party or group in power over that of the state, and the corresponding enrichment of the leaders of the party and its immediate followers. This principle which has operated largely at the expense of cocoa farmers accounts for the decline in the industry. To arrest the decline that principle of the political economy has to be discarded.


The study begins with a background of migration specifically out-migration. Migration or geographical mobility is a complex phenomenon. It involves factors that are economic, social, political, demographic, historical and psychological. Labour movements in Africa especially in Ghana can be traced to events that had taken place in the past. Studies of rural villages have noted that there are two out-migration flows; one to town and cities, the other to other rural areas. In most cases, the study asserts, it is the richer, better educated, and more ambitious people who are likely to migrate to go to the city to study or to find a job. On the contrary the relatively poor and uneducated tend to go to nearby rural destinations often looking for other agricultural work. The rates of out migration are higher where only a few people own most of the land. Out migration as demographic phenomenon has a dual effect viz positive and negative on the economy and the society. Out-migration results in the gradual decadence of the countryside characterized by a diminution in numbers of able-bodied people. The qualitative and the quantitative loss of the population lead to reduced acreage of cultivated land. Furthermore it disrupts family life in the sense that most urban migrants leave their families behind and pay periodic visits. This results in the children lacking paternal control and creates a vacuum in the upbringing of the children. In addition to this there is general reduction in human resources for development in the sending areas because of the highly selective nature of rural-urban migration. It is against this background that this study is conducted to examine this impact on Ntonso in the Ashanti region. The objectives of the study are to first of all to find out the causes of outmigration in the study area. Secondly the study seeks to ascertain which age and sex groups move out mainly and finally to examine the impact of outmigration on the traditional livelihoods of Ntonso. Literature review covers migration and internal migration in general and internal migration relating to Ghana, and out migration for rural development. The study also sought to test the following hypothesis: that out-migration has reduced the labour force, acreage under cultivation and the level of subsistence agriculture. Secondly
that the rural exodus has led to a fall in the production of the ‘adinkra’ cloth which is an old occupation of the people of Ntonso. Data was gathered basically through interviews. The methodology spelt out in the work is not too clear. Findings from the study indicate that it is mainly adults that migrate leaving the children and aged in the town. Human resource is therefore affected. This has also led to a fall in food crop production. The first hypothesis is therefore confirmed. That out-migration has had positive impact as well it has led to diversification of agriculture. Furthermore modern designs and symbols have been introduced in the production of ‘adinkra’ leading to a rise in production. The study concludes that irrespective of the positive effects there is still the need to improve the conditions of Ntonsu so as to make the urban areas less attractive to the rural folks. To this end the study therefore recommends that the policymakers should stabilize farm incomes through legislation of minimum prices for farm produce. There is also the need for the establishment of rural banks at the villages to give short term loans to the farmers and artisans.


This article examines the determinants, consequences and policy intervention measures of the movement of labour within Ghana’s administrative regions. The study concludes that the economic inequalities brought about by the uneven distribution of development projects in favour of urban areas causes depressed rural economic conditions, thus spurring rural to urban migration. Migration to the urban places of Ghana is therefore caused by individuals and families seeking better economic opportunities to improve the quality of their lives. Secondary determinants are varied, ranging from family obligations to the quest for adventure. The benefits of migration for the rural areas lie mainly in returned migrants’ contributions to the economic development of those areas. Migrants also contribute to the urban areas’ economic development, but their presence in large numbers has caused problems in the housing and in the delivery of social services. Rural development policies and land settlement schemes have been unsuccessful, due mainly to the lack of a comprehensive national development effort.


This study focused on the reasons for migrating, nature of work, earnings and problems that female migrant porters in Kumasi Central market faced and forms of assistance to help them lead better lives. The author administered questionnaire to 50 porters aged 15-20 years. Findings of the study revealed that majority of the female porters were from the northern region. Also majority of them were not educated as a result could not acquire better and well-paid jobs thus resort to head porterage. The author recommends the provision of sponsorship or assistance for these girls to acquire vocational training in hairdressing, batik making and dressmaking, highlight the collective responsibility of the
society and government in minimizing the hardships of these porters. This study however makes many categorical statements without evidence or references cited.


This study is a replication of Clara Faryosey’s study on the phenomenon in May 1978. It seeks to investigate the phenomenon 22 years after Faryorsey’s work. Its focus is to examine the socio-demographic characteristics of the migrants, explore their motivations for migrating to Nima and the problems that they face at Nima. In terms of their socio-demographic characteristics, the study found that, most of the migrants are young and unmarried with very little or no education. They mostly came from large families (5-8). The study also recognizes female migration to be significant. The decision to migrate was predicated on economic reasons (the search for employment), and adventure (the desire for new experiences). In their destination (Nima), migrants are confronted with a wide variety of difficulties including theft, threats, and rape. Some migrants also engage in acts such as drug trafficking, gang robbery, drug abuse et cetera. The migrants also face difficulties in terms of housing, health and education.


This paper explores some of the benefits associated with expatriates' temporary return visits to Ghana. These return trips to one's place of origin or birth, commonly referred to as 'visiting friends and relatives' (VFR) tourism, represent one of the major outcomes of the migration-tourism nexus. The benefits assessed in this study relate to donations, expenditures and investments made in Ghana by these visiting expatriates. Using two data-sets derived from newspaper content analyses on donations made in Ghana by visiting non-resident Ghanaians, and the other a questionnaire interview schedule organized in the United Kingdom for resident Ghanaians on their expenditure and investment outlays during their most recent visit, a number of pertinent issues are investigated. Some of these issues relate to the quantity, timing and beneficiaries of donations, as well as their spatial distribution and their potential for poverty alleviation.


Because issues concerning ethnicity are delicate and complex, many people adopt a hands-off approach them. However, ethnicity pervades and persists no matter the consequences. People will not forgo the inherent satisfaction they get from practicing their respective culture and traditions; under pressure, they will prefer adaptations to suit changing conditions. This stubborn persistence leaves one
to suggest that, the strengths of ethnicity be properly investigated and used as a preventive diplomacy mechanism to thwart potential ethnic inflammations. These strengths can also be employed to address contemporary ethnic conflagrations across Africa and in former Soviet Union, Serbia, Croatia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina. This seems to be the best hope for nation building. This article is a study of the Asante Association (non-political immigrant ethnic organisation) and its socio-cultural role in the survival and adjustment question faced by Ghanaian immigrants in New York City. The study shows that the Asanteman immigrant ethnic organization plays important social and cultural roles in the survival and adjustment process of Ghanaian immigrants, particularly its members in New York, and that, both roles are hardly separable.


The topic of brain drain or human capital mobility has remained dominant in the academic and policy literature since the mid 20th century. Two views appear to dominate the discussions on the matter. The first is the internationalist view which suggests that, human capital mobility enhance global efficiency, and therefore should not be restricted. The second view, the nationalist, advances dire consequences on national development when human capital flight is unrestrained. This study contributes to the debate by examining the causes of brain drain in Ghana’s health sector. Estimates from the University of Ghana Medical School (UGMS) indicate that, of the 1450 medical doctors trained at the school since 1965, only 300 are currently in the country. This represents only 20% of the numbers. In 1998 for instance, it is estimated nearly 120 doctors emigrated from the country. Again it is estimated that over 800 Ghanaian Physicians are practicing in the United States alone. Two decades ago, there were about 200,000 nurses in Ghana, but this has dwindled to just about 12000. To understand the causes of this phenomenon, 40 health workers at Ghana’s biggest hospital, Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital were studied. The study shows that, majority of the doctors who emigrate are non-specialists and fall between the ages of 25 and 29. The reasons for the movement are essentially for greener pastures, for specialization, lack of motivation in Ghana and poor working conditions in the health sector of Ghana. Emanating from the findings, the study suggests better working conditions (in the form of cars, decent accommodation and well packaged retirement benefits), and avenue for junior doctors to improve upon their skills and competences. The study also suggests corporate financing of medical training and subsequent bonding of trained personnel.


Using secondary literature, this paper provides an overview of migration patterns and trends in and out of Ghana from pre colonial to contemporary times and outlines new migratory waves that have emerged. It identifies various issues arising out of emigration in Ghana and focuses particularly on illegal or irregular migration as a problem of growing scale and concern for Ghana. It discusses particularly
issues of trafficking in human beings including women and girls, and Child labour as one of the biggest challenges facing the Ghana Government and various stakeholders. It discusses the various policy initiatives taken in Ghana to address migration issues. Finally some recommendations are made on how migration can be effectively managed for national development. A comprehensive bibliography on existing work done on migration in Ghana is also provided


Traditionally, north eastern Ghana has experienced net out migration, with movement from the north to the south largely to work in the cocoa growing areas of the south. The 1990s however saw some form of reverse migration largely of small scale miners moving from the mining areas of the south to engage in small scale gold mining in the north. This was as a result of the discovery of gold deposits in the early 1990s which led to an influx of an estimated 20,000 people into the region thereby increasing its importance in the local economy. This paper examines how the migration of small scale gold miners, males and females, has led to a re-structuring of livelihoods around gold mining, which was hitherto marginal to livelihoods. It raises sustainability issues with regard to the impact of mining for land and resource tenure for livelihoods, social and gender relations and on health and environment


In recent times, a dominant migration stream from north to south in Ghana has been that of female youth, moving independent of family, largely towards the cities of Accra and Kumasi. Young girls from rural areas, particularly the northern regions move to markets in urban centres to serve as kayaei, girl porters who carry goods on their heads for a negotiated fee. Away from support from their home communities and families, most end up living and working under very poor conditions and are exposed to both physical and reproductive health risks. The paper examines the characteristics of young female migrants working as head load porters (kayaye) in three markets in Accra and their livelihood strategies as they move into the wage market. It also examines the processes through which migration is used to address livelihood needs through an analysis of the intersecting social relations of gender, poverty and vulnerability. It discusses the survival strategies used to overcome poverty and to deal with issues of risk and vulnerability especially in respect of their reproductive and health rights. The implications for migration policies and poverty reduction strategies are discussed.

In recent years, migration has become an expanding field for scholarly enquiry and policy analysis. The paper focuses on migration West Africa, using mainly Ghana as an example and draws on the experiences and challenges of the newly established Centre for Migration Studies at the University of Ghana in knowledge generation for migration studies. It identifies knowledge gaps in the area of migration studies and makes suggestions for a new research agenda in Africa which would ensure that African voices are heard globally projecting their own knowledge and insights into the global arena


Over the last decade, the problem of youth out-migration in the Kalbeo Community in the Upper East Region has been alarming. While in the past most of them returned after two years and continued to remit even when they stayed longer, the same can not be said now. Against this background, this study sought to look at the strategies that the people of Kalbeo Community in the Upper East Region adopt to cope with the increasing youth out-migration. In the process then, the study also looked at perception of the people regarding the causes and effects of youth out-migration. The data reveal that more of Kalbeo migrants appear to go back to the Kalbeo community. They mostly settled in Kumasi because they had relatives who had earlier settled there. This attracted them to migrate to join them and look for jobs. The study also found out that, more than half of the out-migrants aged 5 years and above are uneducated and are mostly the youth in the 15-44 year age group. More married women migrated from the community than married men. The explanation is that the women wanted to acquire certain basic needs which their colleagues that had returned from their migration possessed. The study submits that, the community perceived the cause of youth out-migration to be the need for them to search for jobs. The most positive effect of Kalbeo youth out-migration appears to be the remittances (cash and goods) that migrants send to their relatives. The negative effect relates to reduction in the community’s labour force. Most people in the community cope with increases yout out-migration by selling some of their cattle to meet their food needs, as well as school and medical expenses.


The general wellbeing of children has become an issue of increasing concern and discussion at international, local and other levels during the last two decades or so. Children’s health and nutritional status, in particular, have received the attention of both researchers and policy makers, due to indications of survey results and other sources that they have been deteriorating in many countries. Theoretical and other forms of research aimed at understanding the situation identify care as an
important factor that either promotes or otherwise affects the health and nutritional status of children. Studies on care have also emphasized that the socioeconomic context within which care is provided determines the availability of resources for care and the personal capacity of care givers or families to meet their care obligations. The present paper presents a number of cases of crisis of care among Ewe migrants in the city of Accra. It is part of a bigger project that examined care practices and their effects on children’s health and nutritional status among the migrants. The cases, though unique in their own respect, together are reflection of the general situation of care among the migrants. They also bring to light the complex interrelationship among the factors affecting care and point to the need for more comprehensive approaches in research to understand the problems facing households in providing care for children in the contemporary socioeconomic context.


This paper seeks to contribute to the study of the contemporary African Diaspora by focusing on the Ghanaian community in the United States of America. It offers a detailed account of the profile of Ghanaian immigrants living in the US by the end of the 1980’s. In the beginning of the paper the author offers a short historical overview of population movements in and out of Ghana from pre-colonial until recent times. Afterwards a review is made of some theoretical perspectives on migration studies. The author moves away from the push pull theories of migration and discusses others such as Mabogunje’s system theory and more political-economic theoretical approaches towards migration. He also attempts to apply these theories in context of Ghana’s socio-economic history. The author also provides an overview of the data sources. He indicates that the 1990 US Population and Housing Census data is used to examine trends and patterns of emigration from Ghana to the US. He also explains in detail how this Census was carried out. The paper subsequently reports on the socio-demographic characteristics of the emerging Ghanaian immigrant community in the US. A noticeable feature of emigration from Ghana to the US was that it was overwhelmingly a quite recent development. Most of the immigrants arrived during the 1970’s and 1980’s, with the peak period of emigration being the 1980-84 period. The Ghanaian community was concentrated mainly in the Northeastern region, with New York State holding 29% of all Ghanaian immigrants. The data further indicated that the typical Ghanaian immigrant, male and female, was in his/her thirties. While the majority of immigrants were male, a sizable proportion (37%) is female. Fifty one percent of Ghanaian immigrants reported to be married. Most Ghanaian immigrants reported some formal education, with slightly more than half indicating that they had at least some college education. Twenty-five percent indicated that they were employed in executive and professional positions, another 9% in technical and precision related occupations, 36% in sales and administrative work, and the other 14% in agricultural related jobs. The average household income in 1989 was about $ 40,000, although figures were lower for personal income, with female immigrants earning less than their male counterparts. Surprisingly, these income levels appeared to be higher than those reported for other immigrant groups and the native population. This, according to the author, could be explained because of the quality of their human capital attributes. Finally, the paper considers some of the policy implications of these population movements. The author mainly focuses on the
negative impacts of the loss of highly skilled workers, especially doctors and nurses, to other parts of the world, including the US. He also calls for adequate policies to be put in place to reduce the ‘brain drain’. However, he also looks at positive impacts of migration and explains that the ‘brain drain’ could possibly be turned into a potential ‘brain gain’ if Ghanaian immigrants transfer their skills back home.


The study aims at explaining the population movement of Kete-Krachi in 1962 and 1969 when residents were compelled or forced to migrate and resettle in another area. In so doing, it uses three models of migration to discuss population movement in Kete-Krachi. The models include the normal urbanization model, the resettlement model and the national model. The normal urbanization model assumed that the out-migration from Kete-Krachi was a continuity of migration patterns which is characteristic of West African migration. The out-migration from Kete-Krachi was therefore a reflection of migration patterns in Ghana and Africa. According to the resettlement model, the Volta River hydroelectric project caused out-migration from Kete-Krachi. The paper noted that the formation of the lake led to the relocation of the resident of the area due to flooding which resulted from the process. However, it notes that the new area which the evacuees were offered proved to be less economically viable compared to their former settlement. This led to dissatisfaction and subsequently an out-migration from the area. The paper further argues that the population movement in Kete-Krachi was selective and thus confirms the normal urbanization and resettlement models. It was realized that different ethnic and occupational groups responded in different ways to the migration. It further notes three major factors which must have contributed to the population movement in Kete-Krachi, namely, economic motivation, environmental conditions following resettlement and socio-cultural. On the other hand, the paper indicated that there was an increase in the population at the same time despite speculations that out-migration had caused population decline. In an attempt to explain the unexpected growth of the resettlement population, it employs the national model which assumed that Ghana’s political and economic situation occasioned the return of former Kete-Krachi residents. It made comparison of the 1962 (pre-settlement) and 1969 (post-settlement) populations using varying demographic variables in arriving at the following conclusions. The results from the comparisons indicated that most of the population increase was among persons under the age of 15 years. The small population gain among adults was the result of a large out-migration combined with a large in-migration from northern and southern Ghana. It notes that professional-administrative-clerical workers increased in the population; a factor which is attributable to the expansion of the town’s governmental functions during the period. However, there was a decline in population among traders, locally-born adults and local ethnic groups. The paper therefore cautions that economic improvement in other towns may lead to more population movements from Kete-Krachi if nothing is done to improve the conditions there.

Rural-urban migration is fundamentally a demographic phenomenon. It should be open to analysis at the level of individual decision making, as well as demographic level so common in the literature. The individual acts or operates within a social and physical environment. He perceives information available in his environment and acts on the perception and manipulation of the information. Against this background, this thesis sought to examine what the author terms information-decision-action perspective on African rural-urban migration decision process. The findings suggest that farming plays a very important part in the thought of rural people. And while the cost of farming per se does not inform migration decision, the perceived cost of being a farmer does. Leaving the rural area is far from being a response to being a criminal the associated penalties one tries to avoid. What explains the movement has more to do with the perceived benefits of migration. Increased urban information results in familiarity with urban life. Knowledge, even of pitfalls, is an asset which contributes to the migration benefit aggregate. Education, training, and exposure to cosmopolitan lifestyles increase one’s identification with urban life but increased information about urban life appears more important in the migration decision process. The study also found that, while bad crop in a farming season or farming area leading to falling farm income could not account for movement to urban areas, dislike for farming, identification with a non-rural oriented lifestyle, and familiarity with residence away from the natal village ensured, in terms of the information-decision-action perspective, that the decision to migrate to urban areas is initiated.


This thesis studies rural-urban migration in its cultural context within the rural Obo community in the Kwawu region of Ghana. The first objective of this thesis is to add to the existing knowledge of the nature of social organization, and to examine the structures and processes of migration. The second and third objectives are to analyse rural-urban migration from an ethnographic and historical approach and to explain the functions of hometown identity and life-cycles. In the first chapter of the thesis a review is made of the literature on migration and the definitions and theories the author used. The methodology used by the author to conduct his study is also elaborated upon in this chapter. The second chapter provides an overview of the historical and geographical background of the Obo community. The author especially looks at migration of the Obo in a historical context and examines the population size of the studied community and the surrounding villages. Chapter three examines migration and economic change in the Obo community. The author provides an overview of the development of agrarian migration in the community to the effect the development of skills, trade and the division of labour has had on migration of the Obo. He further looks at the brain drain that has affected the community. The life cycles and issues of identity in the dispersed Obo community are analysed in the fourth chapter. The author further examines, among others, issues such as chain migration and community associations. Chapter five examines the socio-political structure of the
dispersed Obo community. This chapter looks at issues of kinship, such as conjugal relations and household composition of migrant households, and polity issues, such as modern political organizations in the community. The last chapter addresses issues of religion and return migration. The author indicates that it are mainly the religious beliefs and rituals that pull dispersed migrants back to their home town and help them maintain their identity whether they temporarily or permanently reside in another city or village. In the conclusion the author provides an overview of the outcome of the hypotheses that were tested and of the problems that were encountered with the methodology and the specific techniques of data collection.


Privileges, whether based on unequal access to the product or factors of production, or whether manifested by unequal exercise of power of enjoyment of prestige, are examined in the context of the structure and organization of an extended community dispersed by migration but held together by home ties and ethnic identity (Obo, in the Kwawu district in the northwestern corner of the Eastern Region). The community is viewed as a system, characterized by cultural dimensions, spatial categories (home town of Obo and host locations), and a pattern of population circulation. Presented are age and life cycles in the community. Age is correlated with power, but migration separates adjacent categories, thus minimizing friction. Superstructural dimensions are based on the substructure (economic). Intergenerational variation and migration contribute to the blurring of class distinctions. Discussed is the dialectic change of the system, with the most extensive transition in the economic basis occurring in the nineteenth century (decline in the slave trade, followed by a decline in domestic slavery), and more recent urbanization, all changing the basis of inequality. This historical development shows elements of adaptation and continuity as well as those of conflict and transformation.


The paper uses an interregional programming model to investigate the relation between labour migration and agricultural production in Ghana. In Ghana, the principal form of labour mobility is temporary migration. The central thesis of the study is that temporary migration improves the allocation of resources and has contributed significantly to the growth of output in Ghana. In particular, because of regional variations in the seasonality of agricultural production, temporary migration is more efficient than permanent migration.
Ghana has adopted the Poverty Reduction Strategy, which emphasizes increased focus on poverty reduction in the design and implementation of its policies. Trade liberalization is one of the ways through which poverty could be reduced. However, trade liberalization results in decreased fiscal revenue of the government. There is a need to co-ordinate fiscal reforms with trade liberalization. This paper examines the impact of alternative fiscal reforms; in which lost tariff revenue is compensated by increased foreign remittances, on the poverty and income distributions of households. The study has shown that elimination of import duties or export duties accompanied by an increase in foreign remittances reduces the incidence, depth, and severity of poverty. Moreover, the study has shown that the reduction in the incidence, depth and severity of poverty is larger in the former case. It is also shown that the income distributions of households improve when elimination of trade related import duties are accompanied by an increase in foreign remittances, whereas the income distributions of households worsen when elimination of export duties are accompanied by an increase in foreign remittances.

The paper argues that returned migrants invest primarily in household consumption where ‘productive’ investments have taken place. These are usually seen to involve micro-enterprises that contribute little to development or poverty reduction. Yet development initiatives more broadly are increasingly orientated towards small enterprise development, often through the promotion of micro-credit for small entrepreneurs. Migration and return can be seen as a mechanism for providing capital for the development of small enterprises, particularly amongst poorer and less-skilled migrants. This paper uses results from a survey of international return migrants to Ghana undertaken in 2001 to explore the extent to which the processes of migration and return have contributed to development and poverty alleviation through the promotion of small businesses. It examines the role of acquisition of financial, human and social capital whilst abroad in contributing to enterprise development. It also considers the extent to which public policy incentives and constraints have affected the promotion of small enterprises amongst returning migrants, and suggests measures that could enhance this process.

In the past, migration was seen as bad for women because it was thought to corrupt their virtues, led to marital break ups, and even prostitution. As a result, rural-urban migration was associated
with men. Over the years however, women have become involved in this phenomenon, so much so that, young girls have also become involved in it. These girls especially those whose drift to New Achimota Village in Accra engage in house help work. The study attempts to find the reasons for this migration, the socio-economic background of the parents of the girls and the future prospects of the girl migrants. Concerning the parents of the house helps, the study observes that, their socio-economic backgrounds were poor, mainly illiterates, and majority of them had experienced marital disruption. Most of the families were large and faced financial problems. The study also found, in relation with the house helps that most of them (89%) were under 20 years, a number of them were illiterate (the highest education level they had attained was JSS) and majority of those who had reached JSS level dropped out of school. As much as 96% of the house helps came from outside the Greater Accra region. They performed house help work for people they are never related in any way though arrangements were often made by relations. They are not paid in cash but in kind. The girls faced several difficulties including insults and heavy work loads and yet, they maintained admirable aspirations. Most of them saw the work they do as something to help them make some monies to learn to sew clothing and to learn hairdressing. On the basis of these ambitions, most of them expressed the need for financial payment for the work they do.


The proportion of the economically active population in agriculture has been on the decline in recent times at the same time that the size living in rural areas is increasing. The migration of the able-bodied people from the rural communities is causing a steady trend of labour becoming scarce. The study examined the demographic characteristics of the migrants and how their absence affects agriculture in terms of labour loss in the Asante Akim South District. Randomly selecting three communities representing different levels of socioeconomic development and along the rural-urban classification, the author interviewed 19 farming households with a total of 63 respondents. The socio-demographic characteristics observed showed that the out-migrants are mainly male, educated and young, leaving the farming activities into the hands of the aged, illiterates and mostly male-dominated households. The labour shortage was greatly felt in the activities of farm maintenance, land preparation and planting and the remaining household members cope by working harder and hiring more farm labourers. One interesting observation is the greater proportion of the household heads who indicated that the absence of the migrants did not reduce total agricultural output. However, the sustainability issue is the challenge here in the face of an aging population and the imminent drift to the cities by the youth.

This paper focuses on local history and, while acknowledging the importance of economic drives in the expansion of transport facilities, Boni examines these alongside villagers' attitudes towards improved transportation. Moreover, the work examines local archival evidence from a marginal area of Ghana to show that the struggle over transport in pre-colonial times shared some common features with later developments. Residents repeatedly contested transport policies imposed by powerful outsiders, whether the Asante empire in the nineteenth century or timber firms and colonial and postcolonial governments in the more recent past. This article is focused on Sefwi, a peripheral area of the Akan region. Sefwi lies west of Asante, in the north of what is today the Western Region of Ghana and currently organized into three kingdoms: Anhwiaso, Bekwai, and Wiawso. The latter is the largest of the three and the principal focus of this paper." (Abstract modeled from introduction)


When farmers migrate yearly to a village to carry out intense farming during the rainy season, and thereafter return to a more permanent place of abode this is referred to as seasonal migration. The impact of such migration on land-use/land-cover change in an area within the Volta Basin of Ghana was examined using satellite image analysis and socioeconomic surveys. The most drastic land-cover change involved the conversion of woodland to agricultural land, while there was also a general transition to less vegetation cover. Socioeconomic surveys revealed that most of the migration occurred during the post-structural adjustment period in Ghana with declining soil fertility accounting for the highest percent of causes of migration. Multiple regression results highlighted the role of population size and distribution, marketing of agricultural produce and technological evolution of the household in determining agricultural land-use change. Policy initiatives that could lead to environment conservation are suggested.


The results of the multivariate analysis of fertility differentials among migrant women in urban areas, among rural population, and among urban population indicate that migrant women have higher fertility in rural areas one year before migration than rural non-migrating women. Urban migrants have fertility two times as high as rural population in Ghana, Mali, and Senegal and almost three times as high in Uganda. Fertility one year before migration was also higher than among urban native populations in Ghana and Senegal. Fertility decreased after migration to urban areas, except in Togo and particularly in Ghana and Kenya, where fertility declined to about 33% less than rural population. The lower fertility among migrants was suggested as due to greater contraceptive use, spousal separation, and older ages of children. Migrant fertility was similar to urban native fertility after the move in Ghana, Kenya, Mali, and Senegal. After living two years in urban areas, fertility was lower than urban native fertility in Togo and Uganda. Slight increases in fertility were found among urban-urban migrants in Ghana, Kenya, and
Togo. There was about a 24% to 49% lower risk of conception among rural-urban migrants after two years compared to rural natives in several countries. The suggestion was that women were affected by structural features of urban living such as housing or by changes in preferences due to exposure to groups or institutions preferring lower fertility. Older age, higher parity, a surviving child born at the beginning of the migration interval, and schooling decreased risk of conception. Age at higher parities limited family size. Data was obtained from Demographic and Health Surveys.


Recent literature on diaspora, borderlands, hybridity, and exile has taken us ever further from the concept of culture as stable and homogeneous and has opened up new theoretical and research vistas. The postmodern world is characterized by vast transnational flows of people, capital, goods, and ideas. As with many new intellectual currents, the first wave of enthusiasm is followed by more critical assessments and efforts at conceptual clarification. What we need in this field is theory that constructs our objects so that they may be studied by fieldwork and the more traditional methods of ethnography. The literature on diaspora and hybridity has on the whole neglected tourism, perhaps because tourist visits are thought to be temporary and superficial. But travelers such as migrants, refugees, exiles, expatriates, emigrants, explorers, traders, missionaries, and even ethnographers may also travel for limited periods of time. To develop traveling theory, we need to know more about all patterns of travel, including tourism. This paper contributes to this emerging discourse by describing the meeting in the border zone between African American tourists who return to mother Africa, specifically to Elmina Castle on the coast of Ghana, and the local Akan-speaking Fanti who receive them.


The general objective of the study was to ascertain the various factors that precipitate the movement of females from the north to the cities and to examine the means of survival. The particular target group are female porters at the Madina market. After randomly interviewing 50 female porters on their personal information, parental background, standard of living and survival strategies, the author identified accommodation as a major problem. To cope with this, female porters resorted to shared accommodation but the important issue here is the deplorable state in which these structures that offered accommodation were in. The daily expenditure is distributed over food and drugs. They therefore invested less in feeding resulting in their undernourishment. They however formed saving clubs to amass some money for their future plans.
This paper provides a historical perspective of migration in Ghana and gives attention to experiences of Ghanaians who were expelled from Nigeria. It further looks at a new Diaspora formed by Ghanaians in Africa, Europe, and North America. Subsequent parts of the paper focus on Brain Drain, Migration and Development in terms of Remittances and Returnees, and provide suggestions for the future. Reviewing the historical perspective, the author notes that well before the colonial era, the movement of people was a way of life in Ghana, the rest of West Africa, and Africa as a whole. Intraregional movements were dominated by traders, fisherman, and nomadic farmers. Trans-Saharan trade routes linked the region to other parts of Africa and permitted the interregional movement of traders, scholars, and religious clerics. When Europeans arrived in the 15th century, they disrupted the traditional patterns of trade and seasonal movements with the slave trade. It reports that an estimated 12 million Africans were transported across the Atlantic to the Western Hemisphere from 1450 to 1850. According to the author, the Castle of St. George, Elmina and other infamous abodes of the "doors of no return" mark the paths of slaves destined for the Americas. The author indicates that the current Ghanaian government has swung these "doors" back open, hoping to persuade American and Caribbean descendents of the slave trade to live in Ghana. Meanwhile, Ghanaian citizens continue to emigrate to North America, Europe, and other parts of Africa. The economic, political, and social woes of the past three decades have created a new Diaspora of Ghanaians searching for opportunities elsewhere, notes the paper. As a result, Ghana is often highlighted as a nation struggling with the effects of brain drain. A succession of unsuccessful civilian and military regimes in the 1970s did nothing to improve conditions in Ghana. This, the author notes, compelled Ghanaians to migrate to Nigeria. It is estimates that about 300 Ghanaians emigrated per day to find work in the booming oil economy. Most of the Ghanaian migrants were unskilled or semiskilled and found work in construction, truck driving, food distribution, and ports. The large numbers of unskilled workers were complemented by a significant number of skilled professionals working as doctors, engineers, surveyors, pharmacists, teachers, and nurses. According to the author, during the 1970s, the Nigerian government overlooked the fact that many of its migrants, including Ghanaians, were undocumented. However, when oil prices plummeted in the later part of the decade and the early 1980s, Nigeria's boom turned to bust. In parallel fashion to Ghana’s downturn a decade earlier, the economic deterioration caused significant political and social turmoil as unemployment became widespread. The Nigerian government repeated the procedure in 1985, and an additional 100,000 Ghanaians were forced to leave, indicating that a substantial number of those expelled in 1983 had returned or had never left. The military government used round-ups to enforce the expulsion order. As a result, an estimated two million migrants were forced to leave. The United Nations reported that approximately 1.2 million Ghanaians returned to their homeland, either on land through Togo and Benin, or by sea. The author notes that the mass expulsions from Nigeria in the first half of the 1980s set the stage for a change in the West African migration order for years to come. Not wanting to return to their country of origin, the author asserts, Ghanaians expanded their migratory view to include other regions of Africa, Europe, and North America. As the Ghanaian Diaspora continues to grow across the globe, many observers have expressed concern that mass emigration has depleted the country of much needed human capital. While skilled professionals have been leaving Ghana since

independence, the numbers have continued to increase. Less discussed than the country's brain drain are Ghana's own refugees and the refugee population it hosts. The majority of Ghanaians who fled the country did so in the 1980s because of fears of politically motivated executions, disappearances, imprisonment without trial, confiscation of property, and public flogging. Between 1982 and 1991, the United Nations The present and future challenge for Ghana and the international community is to improve conditions to the point where its citizens are not compelled to risk everything to leave. The Ghanaian government realizes this and is beginning to engage the Diaspora in order to produce results beneficial to its citizens abroad and at home.


In the 39 years between the 1921 and 1960 censuses, urban population in Ghana multiplied by nine while the population of the whole country only trebled. The major factor in urban growth was rural-urban migration and the reproduction of the migrants. In 1963 a survey consisting of a systematic sample of households in 45 rural centres, randomly chosen in Local Authority Areas selected in accord with the regional rural population distribution, reconstituted the rural population so as to include current migrants in the towns as well as those remaining in rural areas. For analysis 13,748 respondents were divided into 14 categories by rural-urban migration behaviour. At the same time a survey of urban population provided a check on rural-urban migration data. A study of the propensity to migrate from rural to urban areas shows that this increases with the closeness of the rural area to a large town, the population size of the rural centre, the economic well-being of the rural household, the number of relatives already in the urban area, the individual's level of education, larger family size and probably lower birth rank, as well as exhibiting specific age and sex patterns. It is shown that only a minor role is played by occupation, conjugal condition and number of dependants. Various interrelations between these factors are discussed, and attention is given to the special importance of education in partially or wholly determining some of the other factors. Census data are used to demonstrate the effect of rural-urban migration in concentrating persons with certain characteristics in the urban areas.


The data presented in this book was extracted from the 1960 Ghana Population Census and a post-enumeration survey that was conducted after the Census, which had migration as one of its chief fields of enquiry. A personal survey was also made by the author to supplement the above data. The first section of the book provides an extensive literature review of migration studies, comments on the author's personal survey and conceptualizes rural-urban migration in Ghana. The second section focuses on patterns of rural-urban migration. In the beginning of this section the author explains the contrasts between life in the rural and urban areas and how migration from a rural to an urban area influences a person's life. He then examines patterns of rural-urban migration within the various
regions of Ghana, while also focusing on the difference between seasonal/temporary movements and longer-term movements. At the end of this section the effect of rural-urban migration on the rural society is elaborated upon. The characteristics of the rural-urban migrant are elaborated upon in the third section. In the beginning of the section, the author examines how far the migrants lived from the nearest urban centers. He explains that the further away individuals live from large urban centers the less likely it will be that they will opt to migrate. The author further elaborates on the occupational, familial, matrimonial, financial, educational and literary characteristics of the migrants. The fourth section examines the rural ‘push’ factors and urban ‘pull’ factors, and analyses the differences and similarities between rural-urban female and male migration. The actual migratory movement from the rural to the urban areas is looked at in the fifth section. This section examines the knowledge a potential migrant posses of urban centers prior to their actual movement, and how he/she goes about planning the journey. A further examination is made of the actual movement and of how migrants survive once they arrive in the city. At the end of the section an examination is made of the financial aspects of the migrant’s journeys. Section six looks at the continuing links that exist with the rural areas once the migrants have arrived in the city. According to the author these links consist of occasional visits, building houses and of sending money and goods back to the rural areas. The author further looks at the living standards in emigrant households. The migrant’s experiences in the urban areas are elaborated upon in the seventh section. The author addresses certain problems migrants encounter, such as the pressure of money acquisition, the burden of a large family, and the practicality of polygamy. Section eight examines the return of the migrants to the rural areas and the process that underlies this decision-making. Extra attention is also paid to the problem of accommodation acquisition once the migrants returned home. The role that rural-urban migration can play in the future of the country is looked at in the last section. This book extensively narrates rural-urban migration during the 1950-60’s, and covers all aspects of the topic. The provided information is however not always well ordered, and therefore it is difficult to find specific information without scanning through the entire work.


This paper examines the role of environmental change as a driver of migration, a central concern of areas of inquiry ranging from the Human Dimensions of Global Change research to population geography and development studies. Although much of the literature on the role of the environment in migration reflects a general awareness that environmental factors are but one of a suite of influences shaping migration decision-making, a framework within which to place social, economic, and environmental issues with regard to particular migration decisions is absent from this literature. Drawing upon recent contributions to the literature on migration, and political ecological concerns for access to and control over resources, in this paper Carr presents a framework for placing such issues founded on a Foucauldian conceptualization of power. This framework treats environment, economy, and society as both products of and productive of social differentiation, instrumental modes of power, and resistance. These forms shape actors' understanding and negotiation of their social, economic, and
environmental contexts, and therefore their migration decision-making. The paper illustrates the application of this framework through the example of three villages in Ghana’s Central Region, where rural environmental and economic changes appear to have driven a complex pattern of out-migration over the past thirty-five years. This migration shows the ways in which environmental change becomes inseparable from local perceptions of economy and local politics through local manifestations of power.


In order to contribute to a deeper level of understanding on migration’s developmental impact, Casini’s study is on Ghanaian migrants who lived in The Netherlands, and have now returned to Ghana to start business enterprises in their home country. The author used empirical data on the establishment of business activities, in particular, because establishing a small-scale business in the country of origin is one of the main activities migrants engage in, and it is one that has been both criticized and praised within the literature. It is also an activity that has the potential to have substantial multiplier effects economically and socially. Casini’s primary question related to the developmental impact of the establishment of business enterprises in Ghana, by Ghanaian migrants who lived in The Netherlands on these migrant entrepreneurs and members of their social network. The findings indicate that Ghanaian migrants’ establishment of business enterprises in their home country holds the potential to have a beneficial impact developmentally upon both the migrant entrepreneurs and members of their social network. The study contributes to a greater understanding of the developmental impact of Ghanaian migrants’ business enterprises in their country of origin by highlighting the ways in which the respondents were able to establish and operate their business enterprises in Ghana. It presents the various factors that supported and undermined the ability of this strategy to contribute developmentally, and explored the strategies the respondents used to negotiate between their both complimentary and contradictory goals of realizing their own personal success and supporting members of their social network developmentally. The study exposed four ways in which the multiplier effects resulting from this strategy impacted the members of the social network developmentally. Firstly, by providing money for basic necessities such as food, health care and education meant that these individuals receiving support were able to live healthier lives where they had greater access to opportunities. Secondly, by providing employment through the creation of businesses enabled the workers to support the needs of their own families, to utilize their existing job skills and education and gain on the job. Thirdly, both migration and business creation enabled the respondents to provide critical resources that acted as social safety nets in times of difficulty, and finally, by providing assistance with family members’ migration and business creation contributed towards the socio-economic development of the larger family. Three key conclusions are drawn from the study. These key conclusions relate to 1) the necessity of development organizations assisting migrant entrepreneurs with establishing viable businesses in their country of origin to recognize the economic and social constraints these migrant entrepreneurs face, 2) the recognition and support which development organizations should provide to assist migrant entrepreneurs in becoming more effective using the
strategies they are already utilizing successfully, and 3) the multiplier effects of migration and business creation in the country of origin, and the implications of policies which restrict access to entry into other countries.


The study draws and examines profile of the trainee health professionals who are more likely to emigrate from Ghana by focusing on individuals’ aspirations and perceptions more than ‘objective’ characteristics. It also identifies possible areas for policy intervention to minimise the costs/maximise the benefits of this phenomenon, both at the stage of the training and the actual profession. The study submits that, trainees who intend to emigrate after graduation are those who were trained in Greater Accra, mostly males and those whose initial aspiration was to work in the health profession. The study also suggests that those with a close relative in the health profession outside Ghana, those who view the profession in Ghana as frustrating or stressful, those who joined the health profession for reasons such as prestige or money (‘non-altruistic’) and those who view emigration of health professionals from Ghana as unavoidable constitute the cohort of health professionals with the highest propensity to emigrate. Drawing from the findings, the study recommends focus on training health professionals away from Greater Accra, and focus on better incentives – working conditions, etc.


There are eight studies contained in this volume reflecting the variations in the selectivity of migration by sex. All the examples are taken from the Third World. It also includes cases from Sub-Saharan Africa particularly Ghana and Kenya. Some of the studies refer to internal migration, particularly rural-urban, others internal but trans-island. Other studies are international in nature. Some of the studies refer specifically to the movement of women, but others relate to the selectivity by gender and the movement of men and women. The book brings together a useful collection of empirical studies of gender-selective migration from a range of Third World situations. Although it does not make a clear theoretical statement, it is a welcome contribution to the literature highlighting the gender-related differences in societal behaviour.


The aim of the study presented in this paper is to disentangle the roles of three mechanisms - selection, adaptation, and disruption - in influencing migrant fertility in Ghana. Using data from the 1998 Ghana Demographic and Health Survey, we fit Poisson and sequential logit regression models to discern the effects of the above mechanisms on cumulative fertility and annual probabilities of birth.
Characteristics of migrants from four types of migration stream are examined and compared with those of non-migrants at origin and destination. We find substantial support for the selection hypothesis among both rural-urban and urban-rural migrants. Disruption is evident only in the fertility timing of second and higher-order births in Ghana. Our finding that migrants bear children at about the same rates as the natives at destination implies that the growth rate of cities will slow down quickly and that the rural population will continue to have high fertility. Thus to achieve a reduction in the national fertility level, family planning activities need to be directed towards rural areas.


Local migration in response to population pressure is part of the history of northeast Ghana. First by physical coercion, then by economic coercion, colonialism drastically changed the pattern of migration to one of long-distance movement from north-east Ghana and the northern savannas in general to southern Ghana. Migration in turn affected social organisation, agriculture and population dynamics in savanna communities. While colonial policy was not always consistent, one dominant and ultimately effective strategy seems evident: to break up locally self-sufficient economies and societies in order to stimulate the temporary migration of labour from largely subsistence agriculture to work in commercial agriculture, mining and public works in the south. These sectors were directly tied to the European economy for the benefit of Britain. Low wages and poor working conditions encouraged most migrants to return to their savanna villages when they were sick, injured or too old to work. When Ghana gained its political independence from Britain this new pattern of migration had become firmly established and was maintained by changes in the social, economic and transport systems. Data from Zorse and the Upper Region show that migration at any one time takes about 50 per cent of working-age males and 15 per cent of working-age females to southern Ghana for periods of a year or more. Significantly increased dependency ratios mean that as a result of this migration each four remaining working-age adults must support themselves plus four dependants, instead of supporting only three dependants, as would be the case without migration. Since remittances by Zorse migrants are equal to only a small fraction of the value of their lost productive labour, the net effect of migration on the food consumption level of those remaining in the village will be determined by the balance between the increased output required of each remaining working age adult and the decreased yield required of the total area of arable land. While it may be true that migrants vote with their feet, the choice of paths is often determined by forces in the larger system beyond their control. The good news is that indigenous agricultural and demographic knowledge and practices in Africa may provide the starting point for a sustainable future if the patterns established by colonialism and reinforced by 'modern' economic development can be changed. While there is not enough quantitative data to resolve this question, statements by Zorse residents, evidence of chronic under-nutrition, a long-term decrease in land productivity due to erosion and lack of organic matter, and serious labour shortages during periods of critical farm activity, suggest that the net effect of migration on Zorse is negative. That is, neither labour productivity nor land productivity is likely to compensate for the higher dependency ratio.


The transitional agro-ecological zone of Ghana (10,630 km2) is the leading producer of grains, cereals and tubers. Located between the resource-endowed south and the impoverished north, it has attracted seasonal and permanent farm migrants mainly from northern Ghana, who now live side by side with the indigenous people. This paper examines the differences that exist between these groups with regard to factors affecting agricultural land use between 1984 and 2000. It utilizes information from a household survey undertaken in February 2002 among 786 farmers in 240 households in 12 communities. Results show that migrants had almost three times more cropped area, earned more from the sale of farm products, were more affluent, used more mechanized farming practices, and had extended into more agricultural lands compared to indigenous people. Furthermore, affluence predicted agricultural land use for both migrants and indigenous farmers in 1984, and household size and fallow period predicted agricultural land use for migrant and indigenous farmers respectively. In 2000, household size, land tenure arrangement, distance to farthest farm and household educational level predicted agricultural land use among migrants, while affluence, on-farm income, household size and tractor use predicted agricultural land use among indigenous farmers.


The transitional agro-ecological zone of Ghana, located between the richly endowed south and the impoverished north, has attracted seasonal and permanent farm migrants, mainly from northern Ghana, who now live side by side with the indigenous people. While migrants have higher numbers of Muslims, indigenous people are mainly Christians. Although the majority of the migrants live in migrant quarters with less favourable socio-economic conditions, they are more successful farmers and therefore wealthier. The objectives are to examine the varying effect of fertility determinants among migrants and indigenous females. This paper uses data collected in 2002 among 194 females aged 15 to 49 years. Multiple regression models are used to assess fertility determinants. Results show that although migrant households were wealthier, migrant females were more traditional. They had more children living in foster care, and a lower proportion of them approved of men participating in household activities. In addition, they were less well educated, recorded higher infant mortality, gave birth earlier and used less contraception. Furthermore, while a female's migration status is statistically significant so far as non-proximate determinants of fertility are concerned, the same variable is not significant with respect to proximate determinants. In addition, a married female migrant would on
average have almost one more child compared to her indigenous counterpart, and migrant females who had experienced the loss of a child would on average have 2.5 more children compared to their indigenous counterparts. Finally, more affluent migrant females have 0.08 fewer children compared to their indigenous counterpart.


Repatriating refugees has become a great problem facing various world bodies and countries. Historically, Ghana has had issues with immigrants and refugee problems. The case of Liberian refugees appears the most important in recent times. It started with the military mutiny in 1989, and in September 1990, there were estimated 700,000 Liberian refugees in Ghana at the Gomoa Budumburam Refugee Camp. On June 23rd 1997, ECOWAS monitored elections in Liberia and since then, appeals have been made for Liberian refugees to return to their country. This has not been heeded to. This study ascertains what accounts for the continuous stay of Liberians refugees in Ghana and the effects of that on the Ghanaian society. It also explores some remedial measures to deal with the situation. The study reveals that, the proverbial Ghanaian hospitality is the most important factor accounting for the continuous stay of Liberian refugees in Ghana despite election in their country. It argues that most Liberian refugees would have left had they been met with inhuman and hostile treatments in Ghana. Others were adamant to leave Ghana because of reasons relating to their schooling. Those at the University of Ghana, Legon cited particularly instances where many Liberians who schooled in Ghana before the war had secured good jobs in Liberia. This in no small way influenced their decision to stay in Ghana for more time to complete their education in Ghana. Insecurity and lack of job placements in Liberia were also cited as reasons for their continuous stay in Ghana. On the effects of Liberian presence in Ghana, the study observes that, it is more perceptible in crime related activities. Statistics from the Camp Commandant’s office, newspaper reports in Ghana and other non documentary evidence suggest that Liberian refugees in Ghana have contributed to the rise in criminal activities in Ghana. The remedial measures emanated from the study entreat the United Nations High Commission on Refugees – UNCHR – to generate its own funds to help in the repatriation attempts. But more important is the recommendation that, mechanisms be put in place to ensure that, when refugees return to their country, they would be safe and able to adjust quickly. The study also recommends that early warning systems be put in place to help detect early signals of refugee problems so as to deal with them even at the incipient stage.


The study takes a critical look at the causes and consequences of out-migration in Assin Achiase of Ghana. This is a predominantly rural settlement located close to the main trunk road from Cape Coast
to Kumasi. Historically, the people of Assin are indicated to have migrated from Asante in search of suitable land for cultivation. Until the construction of the new asphalt road from Yamransa to Anhwia Nkwanta which began in 1990, the settlement was nucleated. Population pressure which has led to a high man to land ratio, coupled with low investment in agriculture, are some of the factors the study advances for the migration of youth from Achiase to urban centres in search of greener pastures. This recent migration are said to have began in the 1980s. This has been attributed to the fact that the youth became fed up with the rural agricultural activities which were saddled with problems such as low prices, unreliable rainfall pattern, unfavourable land tenure systems and pressure on the lands as a result of over population. Other factors such as the good social amenities in the urban centres appealed to the youth. This resulted in migration from Achiase to Accra and Tema. Others moved to Kumasi, Sekondi-Takoradi and Cape Coast. According to the author, many of the boys who moved dominate the shoe mending and block laying markets at Adenta and Awoshie. In order to help develop their town, the study notes that most of these out-migrants put themselves together to form association, such as the Assin Mmooa Kuo which is based in Accra and the Youngsters Club also based in Accra. The author notes that migrants at Achiase are the main initiators of development projects. On the individual level, people remit to their households in the form of clothing, electrical implements and other assorted items. The migration has also been said to have had a positive effect on migrant fertility. It is noted that due to the urban environment, migrants at Achiase have recently reduced their family size. Also the rate of urbanization of Achiase is noted to be very high because of migrants putting up new buildings and sending their children to ‘international’ schools. On the consequences at destination areas, the paper noted that the migrants from Achiase contribute to speeding up the rate of industrialization. They also contribute to economic development and thus improve the resource base of the national economy through their savings. It is however noted that they have a negative impact on the urban environment in creating slums, shanty towns and squatter settlements in the urban centres.


While the population of Ghana is expected to double in 25 years at the current rate of increase (approximately 2.5% per annum), the population of urban centers is increasing even faster. The 1970 census shows the urban population growing by 4.8% per annum. This is mainly the result of rural to urban migration and, to a smaller extent, the increase in the number of urban centers from 39 in 1948 to 98 in 1960 to 135 in 1970. In the 1970 census only 57.1% of the population were enumerated in their locality of birth and only 20.9% in a locality other than their place of birth but in the same region. 4.1% were born outside Ghana, mostly in another West African country. One striking difference between urban and rural areas is the differing sex ratio of the working population. In rural areas there are 91.0 males aged 15-64 years for every 100 females while in urban areas there are 107.1. Most migration in Africa is for employment and those most likely to migrate are working-age males. Because secondary schools are scarce in rural areas, urban dwellers generally have a higher education level. There are no significant differences between overall labour force participation rates for females. The nationwide participation rate was 38.9% for both males and females (males 43.8%, females 34.1%). In urban areas
the total was 40.0% (males 46.3%, females 33.7%) and in rural areas 38.5% (males 42.7%, females 34.3%). Ghanaian women have traditionally occupied a prominent place in the labour force. The theory that urban migration is due to urban-rural income disparities is not confirmed by figures. Considering the high amount of unemployment in urban areas, a rural dweller can average as much as a city dweller. In fact, poorly educated migrants are the ones most affected by urban unemployment. A recent study by Kodwo Ewusi considered the impact of many variables on migration; he found depressed social conditions at the place of origin are more compelling motivations than economic factors but that once people decide to migrate, they base their choice of destination primarily on economic opportunities available at that end. Distance bears little relationship to choice of destination. To stem this tide, efforts need to be made to increase rural income, provide employment opportunities for those displaced as agriculture becomes more efficient, and to provide for greater amenities in rural areas. Urban unemployment is an ever-increasing problem, accentuated by population growth and migration. Intensive rural development is needed to reverse this trend.


Fieldwork conducted in 1989 in the town of Ayirebi in southeastern Ghana is drawn on to investigate the nature, extent, and long-term consequences of a local community's reintegration and rehabilitation of migrant workers back into the domestic economy. It is shown how the town relied on aspects of its cultural resource base to respond to socioeconomic stress caused by the sudden return of its citizens who had emigrated to Nigeria in search of wage employment and improved standards of living. The contemporary adaptation of the returnees is discussed, along with the intra-village stratification that resulted from their agricultural successes. The extent of social responsibility among community members is also highlighted. It is argued that indigenous knowledge & cultural attributes of rural peoples, including community bonding, self-help, mutual aid, social responsibility, and the organizational capabilities of traditional polities, need to be reexamined for their contributions to an endogenous strategy of development.


The civil war in Liberia forced many native Ghanaians to return to their country, to the care of their relatives, with little or no government support. Recognizing the potentiality devastating consequences of this mass migration for rural Ghana, a nongovernmental organization decided to fund various self-help projects. The success of one of these projects, a credit cooperative through which returnees were provided with cash to engage in economic activities, is assessed. Interviews with 7 loan defaulters and 12 non-defaulters allow the returnees to explain their predicaments in their own terms.
Their answers to questions about the size and timing of the loan, education, community relations, loss of status, coping and loss, religion, locus of control orientation, guilt, and meaning reveal why some were better equipped than others to make use of economic opportunities through a revolving loan fund.


This thesis deals with the relationship between the high incidence of migration and the low fertility levels among the Gurunsi (Frafra) of the Central Northeast of the Upper Region of Ghana. Birth intervals, mean numbers of children ever born, parity and completed family sizes were used as the measures of fertility. The fertility levels of female migrants, return migrants and non-migrants are also compared. The author also discusses as intervening variables the impact of formal education and occupation. The research findings indicate that the separation of husbands from wives due to migration was found to lengthen the birth intervals, and to ultimately lower completed family sizes. Wives who followed up husbands to their places of destination had shorter birth intervals and larger family sizes than those wives who stayed behind in the places of origin. The author further explains that generally the completed family sizes of 4.4 in the study area were lower than the 6.4 for 1960 and 1968 respectively for the whole country. He also indicates that there was a comparatively high proportion of primary and secondary infertility among the respondents. The exact causes of these are however not fully known to the author. Prolonged female education that shortens the reproductive period of females was observed to intensify the generally low fertility levels in the study areas. However, the author indicated that the relationship between female work and fertility was inconclusive. This was also not because of the small numbers involved but also, traditionally, work and motherhood are not mutually exclusive. According to the author, any disparities therefore that existed in fertility levels were caused by migration and/or variables other than female work. The overall conclusion of the author is thus that migrants and return-migrants had longer birth intervals and smaller completed families than non-migrants. Migration, which caused the physical separation of spouses, was found to be the basic factor responsible for the low fertility levels and completed family sizes in the study area.


This thesis examines the strategies that undocumented migrants use to travel from West Africa, across the Sahara Desert, to North Africa and further, across the Mediterranean Sea, to the European Union, and how these determine the choice of travel necessities and routes during the voyage. Findings from the study indicated that the migrants desired to reach their destination countries as quickly as possible and therefore transport was a crucial travel necessity they had to acquire. The migrants obtained information in the departure countries from friends and relatives who had already travelled to Europe or North Africa about the possibility of obtaining transport in the countries through which they planned to travel. Due to their irregular status, the migrants had to hide from national authorities and
therefore often had to find transport outside bus stations and could not always travel on major roads. The migrants had little control over the locations and types of transport they obtained. The second travel necessity the migrants had to acquire was money. They frequently did not carry enough travel money from the departure countries and therefore had to interrupt their journeys along to way work as barbers, tailors, painters or house helps. The migrants often did not seek accommodation during their journeys, as they did not possess a lot of travel money and desired to travel quickly to their destinations. They only sought accommodation for longer periods in locations where they had to obtain money and seek assistance in obtaining transport. Findings from the study also indicated that the migrants travelled in different steps to their destination, breaking their journey along the way to find information, money and to make necessary travel arrangements. The migrants could not have travelled through these steps without the assistance of friends, relatives, fellow migrants and guides, and these individuals also benefited from the mutual help the migrants offered. Therefore, the migrants built up networks during their journey that consisted of individuals who offered assistance. Findings from the study have shown that these networks are not as permanent as those in departure and destination countries, and that they are not maintained once the journeys are completed. Some of the following recommendations were offered by the author to the problem of undocumented migration between West Africa and Western Europe, namely the status of undocumented migrants has to be regulated, in order to ensure more flexibility in their movement; West African governments need to conduct research on labour needs in origin and destination countries, in order to match labour skills with labour demand; West African governments need to harmonize national labour policies towards a common approach to migration issues; the rights of undocumented migrants have to be respected; mechanisms have to be put in place to ensure a smooth return and readmission of arrested undocumented migrants; national governments should provide adequate information to nationals concerning the rules and regulations of international migration; the current lack of data and statistics on undocumented migration should be remedied; and finally the author suggest that unless poverty is eradicated and living standards improve in West Africa undocumented migration will not cease.


This paper examines the ideological basis for colonization and globalization as essential props for an unequal global political economy, and links this idea to the impetus for formerly colonized people to turn to migration as an option to living difficult lives. Then it highlights the experiences of Ghanaian immigrant women as they created a sense of community in Canada. In early June 2003, G8 leaders were meeting in Evian, France, to discuss the world's economy. As usual, thousands of protestors had gathered to voice their opposition to what they perceived to be inequities in the global economic system. Like the protestors, I was interested in the proceedings in Evian, but for a different reason: my interest centered on the movement of labor and its relation to global economic changes, especially those concerning class and gender. That interest led me to reexamine research I did in 1998 on the migration of Ghanaian women to Canada. This paper, based on that research, examines the ideological
basis for colonization and globalization as essential props for an unequal global political economy, and links this idea to the impetus for formerly colonized people to turn to migration as an option.


The African continent is facing a health crisis occasioned by a number of factors that have affected the sector over the past two decades or more. The number of health professionals joining the brain drain has reached a peak in recent years in apparent response to huge demands emanating from the developed countries. These demands were occasioned by demographic changes, aging populations as well as a reduction in attracting recruits into the health workforce. Changes in working hours and conditions have also meant that an increase in requirements of doctors and nurses. The brain drain of professionals, combined with the health crisis described earlier together threatens the entire development process on our continent. For example in Ghana, vacancy rates in the public health services have shot up in the past 5 years. In 10 years between 1986 and 1995, 61% of the output of one medical school in Ghana had left the country. This study is about how to retain health professionals in Africa. It argues that, there is need for fairly drastic measures – same as the developed countries have taken to recruit large numbers of health professionals from our countries despite the threatened collapse of services and the risks to the lives of people in Africa. The health and education sectors need to cooperate intensively to device means of gaining some utility from the health professionals they produce before they leave for greener pastures. Suggestions made at a recent HR forum in Accra should be seriously considered. These include reinstating bonds for health trainees, which should be ensured with collateral property or social security contributions of guarantors. Others suggestions relate to retention of diplomas and certificates until a certain number of years (3-5) have been served in the country and instituting incentives such as Additional Duty allowances to be decentralized to allow for better local control and management to retain health professionals. Another recommendation was that training budget should be decentralized into grants for district local governments to administer in selecting and paying for health professional trainees from their areas whilst changing educational systems and curricula which requires intensive discussion and re-orientation of educators, many of whom were trained in the developed countries and may have difficulty relating to the realities of relevant education for the problems of Africa. Most of our migration goes into a few countries such as the UK and USA in the case of Ghana (and many more African countries). However, all bilateral agreements seem possible only with other developing countries such as the one between Cuba and African countries and between Ghana and Jamaica. It is a moral imperative that the developed recipient of our professionals who have refused to invest in their own HR development reach agreements with professionals donating countries in order to achieve managed migration rather than the current rape of Africa.

A health crisis is facing sub-Saharan Africa. The population has increased markedly. In recent decades, communicable diseases and ‘new’ non-communicable disease epidemics have intensified. HIV/AIDS is perhaps the biggest health challenge. However, the supply of health workers remains low and has been worsened by their migration to developed countries. This paper reviews health professionals’ ‘brain drain’ using data from Ghana and other African countries, with proxy data supplying some information on which direct data do not exist. Not only is retention of health professionals a serious challenge, but training output has also remained limited. There are few studies of how stakeholders, including institutions of tertiary education, can moderate the effects of brain drain. Sub-Saharan Africa cannot compete economically with industrialised countries in the same health labour market. This paper discusses ways in which educational systems and the health sector can collaborate to mitigate the effects of health professionals’ migration and to sustain health services including (a) new modes of selecting candidates for the professions, (b) establishing new and relevant curricula, (c) profiling new cadres that are better retained, and (d) co-ordinating with the health sector on bonding and community service schemes to facilitate retention.

Dovlo, D. a. N., F. Migration by Graduates of the University of Ghana Medical School: A Preliminary Rapid Appraisal.

This is an exploratory descriptive study that examined migration of locally trained doctors from Ghana using graduates of the country’s first medical school as a proxy. The objectives of the study were to describe trends in the loss of medical personnel to emigration and the influence this has on human resources planning, including forecasting of staff supply and requirements. It was also to provide some information towards the development of strategies to counteract such losses. The methods included using classmates to recall the whereabouts of their colleagues, the examination of the graduation records of the Medical School from its inception, and retention data from Ghana’s regulatory body, the Medical and Dental Council. The period from 1985 to 1994 was used for the detailed recall interviews. There was an average exit rate of 13.8% of each class per annum. This means 50% and 75% of each batch of graduates emigrate in 4.5 and 9.5 years, respectively. Some 60.9% of doctors produced between 1985 and 1994 had already left the country, mainly to the United Kingdom and USA. Recommendations are made to enhance retention in the country and to encourage return of willing émigrés through redressing excessive bureaucracy and increasing incentives.


The second half of the nineteenth century witnessed some of the greatest gold mining migrations in history when dreams of bonanza lured thousands of prospectors and diggers to the far
corners of the earth -- including the Gold Coast of West Africa. El Dorado in West Africa explores the first modern gold rush of Ghana in all of its dimensions - land, labour, capital, traditional African mining, technology, transport, management, the clash of cultures, and colonial rule. The rich tapestry of events is crisscrossed by unexpected ironies and paradoxes. Dumett tells the story of the expatriate-led gold boom of 1875-1900 against the background of colonial capitalism. Through the use of oral data, the work brings to light the expansion of a parallel "African gold mining frontier", which outpaced the expatriate mining sector. African women, kings and chiefs, and the ordinary Akan farmer/miners, as well as European engineers and speculators, are the focal points of this study. It probes in depth the productive and developmental features and the turbulent and shattering effects of mining capitalism on African societies. (abstract copied from the publisher's note on 'ebay').


This study is premised on the fact that migration draws away from the rural areas the strongest and the most energetic young men whose services are needed in the agricultural production and development in the areas. In the light of this, the current study investigated the magnitude and nature of out-migration from Aburi, a town in the Eastern Region of Ghana where agriculture is the dominant activity and the cultivation of pineapple has become a lucrative export venture. It aimed at identifying the impact of out-migration on farm labour supply and agricultural production in the area. The study notes that out-migration from Aburi is normally to Kumasi, Accra and other Regional capitals and involved that the productive age group of 16 – 45 years. Beyond the obvious explanation of economic decline which has compelled many to migrate to the urban centres, the study identified the following push factors as contributing to the out-migration: low quality of life, desire for adventure and to experience the city life, unimproved farming practices, poor marketing systems and lack of industrial businesses. The study indicates that farming activities affected by out-migration are weeding, staking, bush clearing and burning and planting with 94%, 93%, 91% and 88% of respondents respectively indicating so. The other activities equally affected are harvesting (78%), transporting (73%) and marketing (73%). According to the author, many people regard farming as a last resort and some young people return to farming only when they fail to make a new life in the cities. Despite the negative impact of out-migration on the Aburi area, the study notes that remittances and investment from migration has contributed to some development particularly housing in the area. Though the author asserts that the effects of out-migration in the Aburi area are tremendous and have led to the shortage of farm labour and a reduction of agricultural production, empirical evidence supporting this is lacking in the study which targeted 60 respondents (farmers, youth and migrants in two communities) using a questionnaire.

Dzodze is a rural community located in the northern part of the Ketu district in the Volta region of Ghana. Over the years, Dzodze natives have been migrating to Accra and other urban centres in Ghana. And though this is something that many people are aware of, no study has been done on it. This study is therefore an attempt to determine the causes and estimate the impacts that out-migration of Dzodze natives has on the community. The findings of the study show clear evidence that out-migration of Dzodze people to urban centres of Ghana reflects economic needs. Most people migrate to look for jobs, but education also features prominently in the decision making process. The study adds to the existing literature that suggest that migrants remit relatives back home. In the case of Dzodze natives who have migrated to urban areas in Ghana, remittances are sent home monthly and so relatives depend on them more or less as salaries and therefore can even budget for them. Aside monetary remittances, migrants also send relatives other gifts such as clothing and consumer items. Dzodze migrants also show interest in developing their native village. Most of them make monetary contributions towards development projects such as electricity, potable drinking water, community library etc. These are about the positive effects of Dzodze migration to Ghana’s urban centres. The drift also presents some negative effects. These are basically in the area of food production. Due to the mass exodus of able bodied youth, there has been drastic decline in farm labour leading to reduced agriculture productivity in the community.


This book is about Yoruba migrants in northern Ghana, especially Tamale, and their social and economic life while they remained in Ghana. Its main argument is that the Yoruba were able to migrate and become successful traders because of certain peculiar features of their social organisation as well as conditions which were conducive to their stay and business operations in Ghana. In the case of the latter, once the conditions ceased to exist both their trade and continued presence in Ghana were jeopardized. They could cope with the emergency of a hurried return to Nigeria largely because of the mechanisms provided by their social organisation (abstract copied from JSTOR’s review of the book)


For some years now, the African continent has seen a lot of refugees thrown up by various forces and this has affected nearly all the countries on the continent. Refugees have been forced to seek asylum in various countries across Africa, who are struggling to implement IMF-World Bank sponsored
programmes of economic adjustment. Ghana has for sometime now hosted refugees from various countries. This thesis attempts to find out the causes of the flight of three groups of refugees to Ghana, namely refugees from Southern Africa, Liberia and the Sahel Zone; how they have survived in the country; the kind of assistance they have received; and the official policy towards their asylum and residence. The research findings presented in the thesis show that the Southern African refugees were forced into exile by the apartheid system in South Africa and the system of apartheid and colonialism in Namibia. The refugees from Liberia were forced to flee the struggle for the state started against the late President Samuel Doe, which had ended in a long drawn out civil war. The refugees from the Sahel were forced to flee the drought and famine, which was the result of the decision of the governments of the zone who decided to follow a development strategy which tended to degrade the Sahel environment.

The author also explained that the three groups of refugees have received different levels of assistance when they arrived in the country. He indicated that the refugees from Southern Africa have been relatively better assisted than the other groups. The refugees Liberia have not been accorded formal refugee status but are being treated as de facto refugees. They are the only group resident at the Gomoa-Buduburam camp in Accra. The refugees from the Sahel have no refugee status and only receive some humanitarian assistance from the Christian Council of Ghana. The author explains that the reason for this state of assistance to refugees in Ghana is the lack of a clear policy on refugees. Policy towards refugees has been ad hoc and has led to undue suffering of refugees, particularly those from the Sahel. The author therefore draws attention to the political nature of the causes of the flight of refugees to Ghana. Solutions lie in the government of the countries of origin of the refugees who should be negotiating political settlements to the conflicts, especially in South Africa and Liberia. For the Sahel Zone, the solution lies in the governments taking a second look at their development strategy and making changes that will relieve pressure on the environment. In the conclusion the author argues that there exist a need for a law on refugees that will streamline the various ad hoc measures that have been used by ministries, departments and NGOs to deal with refugees. This thesis has however been prepared before 1992 and therefore currently many issues regarding the policies; protection and flows of refugees have changed. Government has, for example, approved the Refugee Law in 1992. Updated information can be obtained at the Refugee Board at the ministries in Accra.


The globalization of international labour migration is manifest in all countries now engaging in migration systems that are growing in size and complexity and producing an increasing diversity of flows. Furthermore, many of the processes that create and drive these systems operate on a worldwide basis, the consequence of economic globalization, capital mobility and widespread realization by governments that human resources can be traded for profit like any other resource. This paper looks at Ghana’s immigration policy in the light of its economic situation. It characterizes Ghana’s immigration policy as geared towards using immigration to attract critical foreign investment, transfer of technology and human resource capital/skills for socio-economic development. Running concurrently is the policy to prevent illegal immigration, transnational crime, economic exploitation, social corruption and human
trafficking. The paper concludes that when the economic situation of Ghana was buoyant in the 1960s it attracted many immigrants especially from neighboring West African countries, however when the country’s economy saw a down turn, immigrants were used as a convenient scapegoat and many were expelled. The irony though is that while the current poor economic situation of Ghana has made Ghanaians to immigrate to other countries, the political stability of the country does attract other West Africans and non-Africans and it is affording the country the opportunity to streamline its immigration and citizenship laws (abstract taken from Haworth Press Online Catalog www.haworthpress.com).


The author seeks to provide evidence in this paper that will cast doubt on the orthodoxy that rural-urban migration was quantitatively the most important form of migration in Ghana in the beginning of the 1970’s. He seeks to demonstrate that rural-rural migration far exceeded rural-urban migration. The overall objective of this paper is to demonstrate that the rate of urbanization in Ghana was far less than what had been claimed officially. In the beginning of the paper a review is made of previous studies conducted on migration in Ghana and an overview of the various theories that have been used to explain migration is also provided. Subsequently, different migratory movements in Ghana are explained through analyzing the 1960 Ghana Population Census. The author indicates that out of all internal migrants that were included in the Census, 59.9 % had migrated from a rural to a rural area, while only 17.7 % had migrated from a rural to an urban area, 11.7 % had migrated from an urban to a rural area and 10.9 % from an urban to an urban area. The author however also indicates that more rural natives moved to urban areas than urban natives. He argues that this is not surprising since Ghana was predominately rural at that time. He further adds that a larger proportion of urban natives move to rural areas than the proportion of rural natives move to other rural localities. A detailed account of the growth rate of various cities in the country is also provided here. Subsequently inter-regional migratory flows in Ghana are examined. It is indicated that the regions which attracted the largest number of immigrants were Greater Accra, Ashanti and the Western Region, while, on the other hand, the Eastern, the Central and the Volta Region were the main centers of emigration. These areas attracted a large number of immigrants because of the industries, cocoa-plantations and ports in its vicinities. Most migrants who moved to Accra were from the Eastern Region, while most migrants who moved to the Western Region came from the Central Region. A lot of migrants who moved to Accra and the Western Region also came from the Upper Regions. For emigrants from the Volta Region the two major destinations were Accra and the Eastern Region. The author finishes by identifying the main determinants of inter-regional migration, such as the potential income that can be earned through a particular occupation and the level of education; the availability of job opportunities in the destination areas; and the cost of moving, which includes the distance moved, but also the differences of language, social practices and food and dietary habits. This paper is one of the many works that were published using data from the 1960 Ghana Population Census to examine rural-urban and regional migration in Ghana. This paper could be read together with works published by Caldwell and Addo, who are also presented in this bibliography.

Nigeria's economic boom-fueled in the 1970s by the rising price of oil, the country's main export item—has attracted large flows of migrants from neighboring and nearby countries seeking employment. Much of this migration has been "undocumented" both in the literal and the figurative sense of the word; hence its true size is poorly known. Nigerian government spokesmen have claimed that by the early 1980s, when the boom came to an end, there were as many as 5 million illegal immigrants in Nigeria. The suddenly harsh economic climate made foreign migrant workers not only less welcome but also a ready target for blame and remedial policy action. On 17 January 1983 the government decreed the expulsion of "all aliens staying or working illegally" in Nigeria. The short notice given (only a fortnight was allowed for the departure) generated a massive exodus, primarily to Ghana, but also to Cameroon, Chad, Mali, and Niger, with much hardship for the migrants. Estimates as to the size of the return flow ranged to a high of 2 million, a figure most commonly quoted in the characteristically short-lived coverage of the event in the international press. Knowledgeable observers consider a smaller figure—perhaps close to 1 million—more realistic. Reliable figures on the number of people expelled may never be available. Whatever the exact number was, the Nigerian policy set an ominous precedent for dealing with a problem that many governments in Africa and elsewhere consider vexing in times of economic difficulty.


Demographic data on Ghana are drawn upon to show population movements in the past decade as well as in previous decades of the 20th century. Migration has shaped the socio-geographic and economic distribution of ethnic groups in Ghana. Mobility relates to a different dimension, the dimension that is laid down by the succession of generations. A significant factor is the excellent road system associated with cheap motor transport and other communication facilities, which enable people to travel easily outside the tribal area, to visit the urban centers and thus have personal contact with national, political and social activities. However, the greater the degree to which pluralistic values and patterns of social organisation are accepted or enforced in the total society, the more likelihood is the self-sufficiency being emphasized and defended among immigrant groups. Migration and mobility lie at the heart of modern nationalistic movements in Africa, but for the Ibo, their very success as migrants and mobiles became their doom. If Western type elitism is combined with some experience of discrimination or frustration, actual or assumed, in an unbalanced plural system, separatist demands may easily flare up. Education and Western style of living and material aspirations are also leading to rising crime rates, increasing psychosis, and the spread of venereal and other urinal diseases among migrants.

Differences in health behaviour between migrants and non-migrants in developing countries have often been explained as resulting from migrants' adjustment/acculturation. A competing viewpoint suggests that factors related to the delivery system are more crucial than those associated with the individual patients. The relative merits of these arguments are assessed using Demographic and Health Survey data gathered from women in the sub-Saharan African countries of Liberia, Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, Zimbabwe, and Botswana. Analysis indicates that migrants and non-migrants respond differently to levels of health when making decisions about the type of services to be used. Policy implications for removing barriers to health care delivery are discussed.


The subsistence economy serves as a social security institution for the migrants in North Ghana. This situation is examined in a field study report that 1) looks at the emic categories whereby migration is examined from the perspective of the person, 2) that shows the rate of migration, and 3) that analyzes both the relations of production and the social organization of work among the Tallensi. The village study indicates how the extended family has to bear an additional burden if members migrate. The remaining population among which old people, women, and children are overrepresented, has to cope with an additional workload. Decreasing agricultural produce endangers food security for the villagers. Contrary to the expectations of the elderly, migration does not lead to better social protection for them.


This dissertation examines the factors that push individuals from Akim Awisa, a township within the Birim South District in the Eastern Region of Ghana, to migrate to the urban areas. In the beginning of the work the author provides an overview of the used methodology and theories and presents a background to the study area. Afterwards the research findings are presented. They indicate among others that the lack of employment opportunities and adequate educational infrastructure mainly pushed individuals to migrate from the Akim Awisa area. The author further indicates that networks between migrated or returned friends and relatives are responsible for the information flows on possible destination areas and that they influence the decision making process of prospective migrants. The study also seeks to examine the measures that the citizens of Akim Awisa suggest as being a mean through which migration can be controlled in their area. The author indicated that the majority of the respondents held the view that creation of job opportunities, revamping of collapsed industries and credit facilities for commercial activities especially large scale farming for the citizens of the area would trigger a return of migrants to their hometown. The author further indicates that the expansion of
educational facilities such as secondary, vocational and training schools would attract even more individuals from other places to come and live in the Akim Awisa area.


As the title suggests, this dissertation examines the effects of out-migration on the Sarpeiman community in the Greater Accra Region. The objectives of this work are to find out the main factors responsible for rural-urban migration in the Sarpeiman community, to look at the consequences of rural-urban migration on the socio-economic development of the community, and to ascertain measures that could be implemented to reduce the high rate of rural-urban migration. The author selected 80 individuals in the Sarpeiman community, out of which sixty were given questionnaires to complete and the rest were interviewed. The respondents were made up of individuals who were perceived to have knowledge of the effects of rural-urban migration on the community, such as traditional rulers, workers of the traditional counsel and household and family heads. The research findings indicated among others that there were on the one hand “mobile migrants” who actively searched for opportunities outside the community. The author indicated that they had an education and some form of resources and were therefore likely to experience upward socio-economic mobility after moving. On the other hand, there were the “less mobile” migrants who were forced to move to other areas. They were therefore ill prepared to move but had no other options. Unlike mobile migrants came from very poor families and had little or no education or resources. The research finding also indicated that bad economic conditions in the Sarpeiman community are not necessarily a sufficient incentive for rural-urban migration. Social, educational or personal factors also play a strong role in determining the migration to urban areas. The author further indicated that many migrants, especially less mobile ones, select destinations where they have friends or kin to help them get established. The survey also showed however that the strongest factors attracting migrants in the destination areas are better jobs and wages. The author concludes that rural areas, such as Sarpeiman, do not experience strong benefits of rural-urban migration because of the loss of human capital. He also recommends among others that efforts should be made to discourage rural-urban migration and at the same time that there must be some measures implemented to either solve or contain the problems in both the rural and urban areas caused by migration. These measures could include technical advice, credits and other inputs to farmers.


This book comprises thirteen essays dealing with changing social structure in Ghana. Some of them deal directly with migration: Keith Hart's treatment of entrepreneurial activity among Frafra
migrants is complemented by Enid Schildkraut's study of a community founded by northern migrants in Kumasi. Hart is concerned with the renting of house-space as part of an economic exchange; Schildkraut, with the consequences of this exchange in the development of domestic organisation. Data presented by Schildkraut and Hart support Jeremy Eades's suggestion that types of migration can be set on a continuum from 'seasonal migration' to 'permanent settlement'. Taken together, the three essays indicate the complexity of relationships between migrant and host communities which suggested the limitations of a continuum dealing only with variable length of residence.


This study sets out to explain the relatively high incidence of Islamic affiliation among traditionally non-Islamic Sissala migrants living in the migrant community of Maamobi in Accra, Ghana. In the course of the presentation, Grindal demonstrates that the migrants' relationship to Islam and the urban Islamic community is directly related to insecurities resulting from leaving one's native area and confronting an alien and often dangerous, urban environment, and that Islam provides the migrant with the instrumental means by which to facilitate his adjustment to urban life.


This paper introduces a set of four collaborative papers exploring temporal heterogeneity in the analysis of African land use over a decadal time period, from 10 to 50 years, in the second half of the twentieth century. The four cases were chosen amongst the seven teams of anthropologists, human geographers and remote sensing specialists who had carried out long-term research and who met to discuss their findings at a workshop in 2003. All seven teams' work and the collective discussion - on Casamance (Senegal), Brong Ahafo (Ghana), Southern Niger/Northern Cote d'Ivoire, Oyo State (Nigeria), Maasai Mara (Kenya and Tanzania), Gwembe (Zambia), and Malawi - inform this. The work identifies several temporal processes in all the cases, each operating on its own temporal frame - population growth and, above all, mobility, livelihood change through crop and occupational change, tenure ambiguity, powerful through "punctuated" interventions by state policy, and climate change. Conceptual and methodological implications are discussed. (Abstract adapted from the source document).


While there are many individual studies on migration and fertility in sub-Saharan Africa, the systematic interactions between them have been less studied at the national level. Since fertility and migration are generally thought to be affected by similar factors, understanding their interconnectedness may provide insights into analyzing fertility response to social and economic change. Using merged data from the 1994 and 1998 Demographic and Health Surveys for Ghana, this paper examines the impact of migration on fertility. Guided by the adaptation, selectivity and disruption theses, the results reveal considerable migrant differences in fertility. In general, migrants moving from urban to rural areas were found to have fertility similar to rural residents while those from rural to urban areas tended to have fertility similar to urban natives. There was also evidence that recent migrants, regardless of stream, had lower fertility than their long term counterparts. These findings are discussed within the adaptation, selectivity and disruption theses. (Abstract adapted from the source document).


The objective of this paper is to describe the numbers, characteristics, and trends in the migration to the United States of physicians trained in sub-Saharan Africa. The paper uses the American Medical Association 2002 Master file to identify and describe physicians who received their medical training in sub-Saharan Africa and are currently practicing in the USA. It establishes that, more than 23% of America’s 771,491 physicians received their medical training outside the USA, the majority (64%) in low-income or lower middle-income countries. A total of 5334 physicians from sub-Saharan Africa are in that group, a number that represents more than 6% of the physicians practicing in sub-Saharan Africa now. Nearly 86% of these Africans practicing in the USA originate from only three countries: Nigeria, South Africa and Ghana. Furthermore, 79% were trained at only 10 medical schools. The study concludes that, physician migration from poor countries to rich ones contributes to worldwide health workforce imbalances that may be detrimental to the health systems of source countries. The migration of over 5000 doctors from sub-Saharan Africa to the USA has had a significantly negative effect on the doctor-to-population ratio of Africa. The finding that the bulk of migration occurs from only a few countries and medical schools suggests policy interventions in only a few locations could be effective in stemming the brain drain.

West African-trained physicians have been migrating from the sub-continent to rich countries, primarily the US and the UK, since medical education began in Nigeria and Ghana in the 1960s. In 2003 we visited six medical schools in West Africa to investigate the magnitude, causes and consequences of the migration. We conducted interviews and focus groups with faculty, administrators (deans and provosts), students and post-graduate residents in six medical schools in Ghana and Nigeria. In addition to the migration push and pull factors documented in previous literature, we learned that there is now a well-developed culture of medical migration. This culture is firmly rooted and does not simply fail to discourage medical migration but actually encourages it. Medical school faculty appears to be role model for the benefits of migration (and subsequent return) and they are proud of their students who successfully emigrate.


This study focused on the assessment of the reintegration process of former child labourers, repatriated from Yeji in the Brong Ahafo Region of Ghana into their community at Senya-Beraku in the Awutu-Effutu-Senya District of the Central Region. In doing this, the study maintains that repatriation, rehabilitation and reintegration are intertwined and the successful execution of one leads to the pragmatic beginning and successful completion of the other. In all, 94 Yeji returnee-children and 61 parents were interviewed. The study discovered poverty, inadequate knowledge of existing laws against child labour/trafficking and socio-cultural ties between Yeji and Senya people to be among others, the main causes of child trafficking/migrating in Senya-Beraku. The study recommends among others the passage of the Human Trafficking and Juvenile Justice Bills and a stronger enforcement of related existing laws.


This study focuses on the pattern of internal migration in Ghana during 1960-1970. It begins with a history and geography of Ghana without which according to the author one cannot properly understand the nature and significance of migration. The main data that is used for the study are the 1970 and 1960 Population Censuses, the 1960 Post Enumeration survey and the 1968 National Demographic survey. The study tries to make necessary manipulations and adjustments to the data of the 1960 and 1970 censuses. The author applies three methods to estimate net migration during the 1960 and 70 decade. The results obtained shows that the net migration during the 1960 and 1970 flows were directed towards only Accra and Brong Ahafo regions while other regions suffer losses. The variations in the extent of migration between the regions are quite vast and this leads to an attempt to explain that factors that might account for such variations. The study discusses various topics in the light of the various survey data. These include an estimation of net migrations by regions, sex and age
patterns of interregional migrants, socio-economic characteristics of interregional migrants, socio-economic determinants of interregional migrations. Estimation of net migrations by regions indicates that net migration has been the most important factor in the redistribution of Ghana born population. Analyzing sex-age patterns of migrants showed that for males the highest migration rates occurs in the 15-24 age group for some regions and for others in the 25-34 age group. No special reason accounts for this variation. For females the highest migration is in the 15-24 age groups for all regions except Western. The author asserts that these figures conform to other studies that the young adults have a higher propensity to migrate. Having examined the socio-economic characteristics of migrants, the study reveals that literacy is higher among recent migrants than past migrants and that propensity to migrate is higher among those with the highest education. With regards to determinants of migration, although a large variety of motivation exists, economic motivation ranks highest. Another important determinant is the level of development of a potential destination area. An examination of the demographic and socio economic characteristics of the interregional migrants leads to the conclusion that by and large, these variations are due to differences between regions, their socio-economic characteristics and levels of development. The areas that have net migrations gains are generally those that are more developed or are investing heavily in the production of cocoa or timber. On the other hand areas of migration losses are characterized by levels of lower income, lack of social amenities etc. Analyses of the surveys also showed that economic motivations are important although not the only reason for migration. Lastly the study explores the rates of growth in the urban centres and the role of rural-urban migration in the rapid urbanization and this reveals that rural-urban migration is substantial although not the prominent component of urban growth and that natural increase as in population growth plays a more important role.


The objective of this paper is to analyze the Ghanaian opportunity structure in rural and urban areas with reference to a highly mobile ethnic group, namely the Frafras of northeast Ghana. Although it is widely recognized that rural economic activity is not all agricultural and that the ‘modern sector’ is by no means wholly identifiable with urban areas, the practice of most observers has been to link a number of overlapping typologies within the framework of one ideal typical pair of opposites. The author indicates that these two-sector developmental models are inadequate for classifying opportunities of would-be migrants in a situation as complex as modern Ghana. It is in this context that the author looks at occupational opportunities presented to Frafras and their reasons to migrate. Since the 1950’s radical changes have taken place in the area where the Frafra lived, which had been transformed by the emergence of a booming etrepôt and administrative centre in Bolgatanga. The capital of the region became a centre for religious and educational institutions but also for the industry, and all of this had sprung up less than twenty miles from the remotest Frafra village, bringing with it a broad range of socio-economic changes. The author explains that the following opportunity structures were present in the rural areas where the Frafras used to live at the time of his research. Rural dwellers could participate simultaneously in both rural and urban milieus because of bicycles and the busses that
allowed them to easily travel between both. On the other hand, town-dwellers had farms in the rural areas and villagers commuted to town jobs, thus both types of environment were combined in the daily experiences of many. The selective adoption of new farming techniques had lead to great diversity of production levels in agriculture. The manufacture of tourist souvenirs had also become a boom industry and had brought back a lot of money to the rural areas. Raising livestock, trading of all kinds, manufacturing and retail of beers and spirits and the renting out and servicing of machines, such as corn-mills or even bicycles was also very lucrative. The author explains that the following opportunity structures were present in the urban areas. He distinguishes formal and informal job opportunities and indicates that the Frafras were mostly employed in the latter group. He further argues that constraints on entry to legitimate informal occupations are greater then was often assumed, owing to capital, skill, time and other requirements; whereas, entry to many forms of illegitimate activity was extremely easy owing to the saturation of criminals and low disapprobation of crime in slum areas. At the end of the paper the author provides an overview of changing patterns of migratory behavior of the Frafras. The author indicates that it is no longer common for Frafras to migrate seasonally or for periods less than a year, in order to fit in the needs of the domestic farm cycle. Although a few still work for six months during the dry season on Ashanti cocoa farms or in the food bars in Kumasi, for the majority long-term residence in the South is the norm. According to the author the reason for this lies partly in the difficulty of obtaining work in urban areas, the population growth and the changing aspirations of migrants.


First, the impact of increased labour migration, away from the traditional homeland, on one of Ghana’s many tribes, the Frafras of the extreme North East, is discussed. It is found the rural-urban dichotomy cannot be applied to the Frafras today: The world of the migrant and that of his homeland are not separable entities - they are both part of a wider society, a society which has reached a high level of instant internal communications and is defined by nationwide institutions. Most Frafras participate in both the traditional and the modern culture. The ways in which tribal identity has continued to have meaning for the members of the migrant community of Frafras in Accra are analyzed. By the end of the century, probably 75% of those whose origins entitle them to call themselves Frafras will reside outside the Frafra area. The main problem in analyzing continuity and change in Ghana over this period is to conceptualize the transformation of a space-bound social group into an ongoing network of persons sharing a label, a tribal enclave which has transcended the physical boundaries of the homeland which gives it its prime focus. If Frafras today seem to be largely committed to maintaining a high degree of continuity with traditional institutions and values, it must be asked how far this commitment is dependent on retention of a stake in part of the homeland and whether it will be reduced for the many whom future demographic pressures will deny such a stake.

This article originated in the study of one Northern Ghanaian group, the Frafras, as migrants to the urban areas of Southern Ghana. It describes the economic activities of the low-income section of the labour force in Accra, the urban sub-proletariat into which the unskilled and illiterate majority of Frafra migrants are drawn. The question to be answered is this: Does the 'reserve army of urban unemployed and underemployed' really constitute a passive, exploited majority in cities like Accra, or do their informal economic activities possess some autonomous capacity for generating growth in the incomes of the urban (and rural) poor?


Survey and census data are analyzed to determine migrant distribution in Accra, Ghana, and to extrapolate a potential surface of migrant allocation based on residential characteristics. Discriminate analysis is used to classify concentrations of randomly selected migrants with varying lengths of urban residence by socioeconomic attributes and to allocate the remaining census tracts in the city to the established categories. Regression analysis is then used to identify and differentiate among tracts with concentrations of migrants from different regions of origin. The centre of Accra continues to attract some of the low-income migrants, but the bulk of the newcomers are found in peripheral tracts, where uncontrolled city growth is proceeding at a rapid pace.


Drawing on interviews with young migrants who have moved from rural, farming households in northeastern Ghana to rural and urban households in central and southern Ghana, this article explores the inter-connections between children's migration and children’s access to formal and non-formal education. In contrast to the positive light in which education is usually presented, the findings of the research suggest a more ambiguous and complex picture, and illuminate both positive and negative aspects of the linkages between education and children’s independent migration.


This report discusses the findings of research carried out in Ghana with independent child migrants and their parents. The research was conducted between May and July 2004 and aimed to build
on research conducted with children in 2000-2001 in a farming village in the northeast of Ghana. The first purpose of the research was to explore in greater detail the nature of the processes involved in migration. This entails looking at both the social networks that come into play in the movement of children and also the household negotiations that are involved in children’s movements. The second purpose of the research was to broaden the scope of the children considered, to include children who were at the time living as independent migrants. In the beginning of the report information is provided regarding the area from which the migrant children originate, and in particular the village in which the interviews with the parents of child migrants and return migrants were conducted. The author however remarks that although not all the current migrant children interviewed originate from this village it is broadly characteristic of the area from which all the children interviewed originate. The following section provides details of the manner in which the research was carried out, including some of the methodological and ethical issues that emerged. The next section provides a broad summary of all the findings of the research. The author examines the ages of the independent child migrants, their reasons for migrating, the autonomy in their movement, the kinship and social networks utilized in the their movement, the activities they engaged in once they migrated, who the children worked for, how the children were remunerated, and how the children were treated by the people they lived/worked for. The author further looks at the children’s preferred place of residence and the reasons the children had for returning home. Finally, the author closes this section with looking at the differences between the parents and the traced children’s stories. The author discovered during her research that the parents were often embarrassed by the reasons for their children’s migration which led them to tell her a different story. The final section discusses aspects of the author’s research that are of particular consequence for the migrant children and their parents. The first aspect the author discusses is the household negotiations surrounding the children’s movement. She points out that the children’s movement is part of a household risk-averse strategy to ensure the survival of all members. The second aspect that is discussed in this section is the influence of age and gender on the decision to migrate. The author explains that for younger children the elders are more likely to take the decision to migrate on their behalf. She also discusses extensively the differences in reasons for migrating between boys and girls. The third aspect discussed in this section pertains to migration and education, and more specifically looks at the educational opportunities migration offers to children. Finally, the last aspect discussed by the author assesses the costs and benefits of migration.


This paper explores the linkages between children’s independent migration and education – formal and non-formal – by drawing on interviews with young migrants who have moved from rural farming households in Northern Ghana to rural and urban households in Central and Southern Ghana. In the beginning of the paper an overview is given of how the author conducted her fieldwork and the methodology she used for her study. The author also provides contextual information regarding the area from which the migrant children originate. The following section examines the educational system
in Ghana and the attitudes of the parents towards education that emerged during the author’s first period of fieldwork. The author extensively discusses the formal education provided for children in primary and secondary schools in the country and also explains why in the area where he conducted his fieldwork a lot of children have not been enrolled in school even though the education is free. The author indicates that even though the education is free, parents of children were required to pay certain levies on school necessities which they were not able to do because of financial difficulties. Parents were also reluctant to send their children to school because they would lose the child’s labour which was required in the household activities. On the other hand, some households recognized the benefits of education if a child could be enrolled up secondary school since at that point the child could access formal job opportunities. The author however also indicated that most households adopted a strategy of selecting only some children to go to school while other children were kept at home to ensure the availability of the necessary labour to secure livelihoods and assets. In the following section the author presents and discusses her research findings concerning the inter-linkages between migration and education. The author indicated that the children gave the following reasons for their migration, namely to search for work for money because of poverty; to search for money to cover the health expenses of a family member or for better medical treatment for themselves; to help a relative; and for educational purposes, which includes not only migration in order to attend school or secure apprenticeships, but also migration in search of money to continue education or training. The author further indicates that even if education is not the primary motive for the children’s movement, education was certainly a secondary consideration. He indicates, for example, that if education was the primary factor this does not mean that the children were not also carrying out other activities. According to the author the linkages between migration and education can be organized under three broad categories, namely (1) situations in which children are fostered in order to ensure their continued access to education or a better education, (2) situations in which children are actively seeking an apprenticeship opportunity, and (3) situations in which children have to travel to secure the resources to continue or complete their education. All the categories are elaborated upon at the end of the paper.


The paper looks broadly at the positives and negatives of children’s experiences of migration. It focuses on the dangers and pitfalls that independent child migrants reported, along with the perceived benefits and opportunities. The paper goes on to assess the manner in which independent child migrants are positioned in social policy and legal discourse, in light of children’s own evaluations of their experiences, and argues that the two primary categories utilised in considering children’s independent movement – fostering and trafficking – are not helpful in assessing the extent to which children are vulnerable, since these vulnerabilities emerge from the inherent insecurities, risks and dangers attached to the process of migration itself. In contrast the paper argues that, when assessing the costs and
benefits of migration, it is important to listen to and take into account children’s own perspectives, but that in doing so consideration needs to be given to the broader context of the children’s situations that place constraints, at many different levels, on children’s choices.


Since it was first proposed by John Salt and Jeremy Stein in International Migration in 1997, the idea of migration as a business has transformed the perception of this phenomenon among academics, as well as in the popular media. But while it provided a new and useful tool with which to view the movement of people across the globe, the popularity of the business model as a metaphor obscured other aspects of the subject for which it could provide no place. As this analysis of interviews with migrants who moved from Morocco and Senegal to Spain and from Egypt and Ghana to Italy, and profiles of various migrants to the Netherlands seeks to demonstrate, the business metaphor provides only part of the answer. It fails to account for the overriding significance for most migrants of existing networks of friends, relatives, and acquaintances when undertaking their journey. (Abstract adapted from the source document.


The paper gives an overview of the scale and character of Ghanaian migration. Mass emigration in the 1970s and 1980s has helped to sustain a steady flow of migrants up to the present and created a large diaspora that spans Europe, North America and elsewhere. This has shaped remittance flows, the volumes of which are difficult to measure accurately, as discussed in the third section. Estimates on formal remittances made by the IMF, World Bank and Bank of Ghana are analysed and the size of informal remittance flows compared to formal flows is discussed, and the importance of the Ghana Living Standards Survey as a means of gauging the impact of remittances on households throughout Ghana is highlighted. Section four of the paper deals with the various systems used to send remittances informally, considering macroeconomic conditions in Ghana, and the role of micro-finance institutions in remittance transfers, which are seen to be more potential than actual receivers of remittances. Section five looks more closely at the determinants of informal remittances, particularly the role of the family, and of diaspora groups and hometown associations. The available research suggests that the characteristics of migrants and the initial reasons and strategies for migration have a strong influence on the size of remittances and the channels used to send them.

The development of commercial cocoa growing in Ghana is always assumed to be something of a miracle. It evokes the stereotype of the plodding subsistence farmer, eking out a living by a system of shifting cultivation in the forest. This peasant is correctly presumed to have been unfamiliar with the cash economy centred on palm produce for export and deriving mainly from areas south-east of the forest zone, but he is somehow supposed to have desired and contrived to fit a new permanent orchard crop into his 'traditional system of food farming', thus creating cocoa farms of from 1 to 3 acres from which were exported 80 lb. of cocoa in 1891, 536 tons in 1900, and 40,000 tons in 1911 - since when Ghana has always been the world's largest cocoa producer. The explanation of this supposed miracle is that it did not occur. What actually occurred was something too unfamiliar to be looked for, something far more interesting. Most of the cocoa that was produced in southern Ghana (and indeed in Ghana as a whole) up to 1911 was grown on land which had been bought outright by stranger-farmers for the purpose of growing cocoa. These migrants, who in their general outlook surely had more in common with 'capitalists' than with 'peasants', were familiar with the cash economy, their principal source of wealth being the oil palm. And thanks to the Basel Missionaries, Governor Sir Brandford Griffith, and Tetteh Quashie, the earliest and most important group of migrant farmers, the Akwapim, had been familiar with the cocoa tree for some time before the migration started - and also with the coffee tree to which, especially in the early eighteen nineties, the government had been apt to attach more importance (Adapted from the source paper).


This is a monograph of statistical study on one aspect of the Census of Population made in Ghana in 1960. It is limited to an analysis of 34 ethnic groups of which 19 were regarded as non-Ghanaians, and which the author considered as economically motivated migrants. The study shows that those who are involved in the economically motivated migration cover a much wider occupational variety that has been generally thought and that much of the migration is to work in rural areas, in farming, fishing, labouring, and trade, and does not necessarily add to the rate of urbanisation (abstract copied from book review in JSTOR).


This work traces the history of a village in a formerly important but now derelict cocoa area. It illustrates the major phases of the evolution of the cocoa industry, early westward migration, heavy production, devastation by disease, and slow progress towards rehabilitation.

This work is based on a survey around the town of Suhum, north-north-west of Accra, Ghana. In the Suhum area, there was almost total devastation by diseased cocoa trees. The study has surveyed and registered every farm. The first aim of the investigation was to determine the place of origin of each farm owner; thereafter land ownership was tabulated and mapped and a flow-diagram of the migration was constructed. The results of the map analysis and the fieldwork are presented in this article.


The problem of the Northern migrant porterage women in the central Accra Market is a recent phenomenon. They migrated from such long distances to Accra with the intent to earn income from porteraging. This study reveals that, one of the intervening variables causing these women to migrate to Accra is the Islamic injunction permitting polygyny as among the Dagombas and the Mamprusis. Among the Grunsis, it is the infertility of their land, coupled with environmental stress. Generally, the perception of northern women is that, southern Ghana is developed and has attracting social infrastructure. This serves as a contributory factor of migration among the northern women migrants. The study also reveals that, most of the porters do not have homes and therefore sleep in the market place. The consequences of this living condition predispose them to untold hardships, the worst of which is sexual abuse and harassments. Some of the women have even given birth to illegitimate children on the street and in the market. The study recommends that northern women migrants working as porters can only be saved from their risky work only by resettlement, by both government and NGOs to be put into cooperative groups for farming, and small scale industrial activities.


Ethnographic studies in West Africa show that the practice of sending children away to be raised by relatives and nonrelatives is widespread among many ethnic groups. This paper is an attempt to explore the demographic relevance of the practice. The fostering information is obtained from two sources: the responses given by women to the question on children away from home, and by linking all children to their mothers, with the unmatched children being treated as fosters. The characteristics of these children, their surrogate mothers, and those of the biological mothers are explored, and the determinants of child fostering are discussed as correlates of these attributes. The results are indicative of high incidence of child fosterage in Ghana, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Nigeria. Child fostering facilitates female labour force participation, and may affect the fertility decisions of both natural and foster parents, mainly because it serves to reallocate the resources available for raising children within the
society. It may also have consequences for child survival, depending partly on how the culture treats children outside of their maternal homes.


This article discusses the exploitation of children in the West African country of Ghana where children are trafficked to work in the fishing industry. Human trafficking is an international problem affecting millions of people and many countries around the world. In Ghana, West Africa, the internal trafficking of children is one of the biggest challenges. Many Ghanaian children are trafficked from their home villages to work in the fishing industry. The depletion of stocks is one of the key reasons why children are needed to work in the fishing industry. They represent cheap labour. Children are also trafficked to dive and untangle the fish nets. The driving forces behind child trafficking extend beyond the fishing industry. There are deep-rooted traditions that help explain the prevalence of this crime. In Ghana, it is common for children to participate in apprentice work. Ghanaian parents and their children believe that going away to work is a route to a better life. However, recently an intervention by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Ghana made traffickers realize that children should not be made to work like adults and should be in school and with their parents. In 2005, the legal framework on trafficking in Ghana was strengthened when the government passed a comprehensive anti-trafficking bill. To assist traffickers who have released children, IOM has provided micro-credit assistance. Children released are taken to a government run shelter for up to 3 months until reunited with their parents.


The purpose of this paper is to present evidence of the changes which occur in the behaviour of truck and lorry drivers when they are operating their vehicles as opposed to their behaviour at other times. Specifically, it is hypothesized that drivers of trucks and lorries in certain West African societies behave in a very time and profit oriented, efficiency conscious manner when they are actually driving, but that this mode of behaviour is not carried over into other spheres of their daily interaction. The impression, to use Ferdinand Tonnies’ terms (1887), is one of an island of gesellschaft behavior (driving the vehicle) surrounded by an ocean of gemeinschaft behavior (the remainder of daily life). The data upon which this paper is based were gathered from June to September 1971 in six West African countries - Ghana, Upper Volta, Ivory Coast, Togo, Dahomey and Nigeria. The hypothesis was conceived during a 14-day, 1,576-mile journey by lorry and truck from Accra, Ghana to Ouagadougou, Upper Volta to Bobo-Dioulasso, Upper Volta to Wa, Ghana and back to Accra. It was more completely thought out, and various measures devised for testing it, in early July. Systematic participant-observation was then carried out on the behavior of lorry and truck drivers for the next two months by the direct practice of riding with the drivers as a paying passenger. Approximately 190 hours of actual in-the-vehicle travel were logged during the summer. This totaled 3,462 miles largely within a triangular area from Abidjan,
Ivory Coast to Onitsha, Nigeria across the base and to Ouagadougou, Upper Volta at the apex. Appendix A details the route travelled. Approximately 870 miles, or 25% of the travel, was on dirt roads. Twelve consecutive days were devoted to riding in lorries based at the Central Lorry Park in Accra, Ghana and traveling outward distances of 25-35 miles twice per day. This allowed the author to observe the behaviour of a single driver for 4 hours, during which approximately half of his time was spent driving and half in other activities. This was done so that the observations would not be biased with long-haul trips of several hundred miles where opportunity for observation of drivers in other than driving activity is reduced to approximately 20% of total time spent.


This paper explores the ways remittances from Netherlands-based Ghanaian migrants influence economic and social life in rural areas in the Ashanti region in Ghana, both at family and village levels. The analysis focuses on eight domains of economic life, selected for their importance within Ashanti culture. They are: investments in housing, business, farm, education, and community development projects, health care, and participation in church and funerals. The findings are based on 60 interviews with village leaders and families of migrants in 25 Ashanti villages collected between December 2002 and January 2003. The paper argues that most Netherlands-based migrants invest in housing and business back home, but also support their families with contributions towards education, healthcare and daily upkeep. Apart from direct support to families, groups of migrants have contributed towards various development projects. The indirect impact of migration on community development is also manifested in individual migrant-financed activities that provide needed services to the communities. However, this impact varies between families and between communities, due to a number of external factors that influence the volume and frequency of remittances to families and the ability of home communities to benefit from migrant-financed support. The paper argues that remittances can contribute greatly to the well-being and development of a family, but at the same time these can be highly insecure sources of income because the family may fall back into poverty the moment the flow of money from abroad stops. (Abstract taken from Wiley InterScience (www.interscience.wiley.com).


This author was motivated by the statements from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture that between 1991 and 2001, agricultural production has fallen 3 folds in the study area. The study therefore sought to look at the impact of migration on agricultural production in the Ho District with the assumption that out-migration has adversely affected agricultural production in the Ho District.
Specifically, the study assessed labour availability for farm activities and also focussed on the perception of farmers on the effects of migration on their activities. A questionnaire was administered to sixty (60) farmers from the towns of Sokode, Hodzo and Adaklu. The study found that youth involvement in agriculture was perceived to be low by the farmers. It also noted that labour was very unstable with people moving out to pursue various activities out the district. An interesting observation by the study was the small land holdings of farmers through inheritance and those who cannot afford outright purchase and so have exited the agricultural sector and the district. The study concluded that migration had adversely affected agricultural production in the Ho District because farmers have to import labour to meet requirements on the farms. The study recommends the setting up of agro-based industries at vantage points or towns in the district to serve as growth poles with labour intensive production to generate employment and encourage potential migrants to stay. The report covered four chapters and an abstract which did not make reference to the findings of the study.


According to the study, Abomosu is a small, predominantly agricultural town in the Eastern Region of Ghana. Majority of the farmers here cultivate cocoa, usually using rudimentary agricultural practices. Moreover, the farming is rain-dependent such that, when the season has poor rainfall, production suffers. The author indicates that Abomosu has been experiencing both out and in-migration which affect the development of the town in one way or the other. It is indicated that the investment people make in agriculture does not yield the necessary returns and thus propagates poverty in their town. In addition the work involved in farming which is considered laborious, it yields lower earnings. As a result, most youths between the ages of 25 to 34 years migrate to big towns and cities in search of alternative income to improve their economic situation. In addition, the study indicates that youths who want to further their education to secondary or tertiary levels often move to areas where they can have access to these since the town has not got such facilities. Education also seems to be having a negative effect because people find it difficult to return to farming after being educated and some rather prefer to live with their relatives than to return to Abomosu. It is realized that even children who have attained only primary education consider farm work to be miserable. Moreover, the study asserts that due to the land tenure system practiced in the area, there are many land litigations, so much that youths who want to go into agriculture do not have easy access to farm lands. Such land-related problems, it is observed, frustrate those who want to engage in agriculture and dissuade them from going into such ventures. Another factor cited by the study to be influencing out-migration is the lack of social amenities in Abomosu. Thus many youths think that life in the town is monotonous and therefore migrate to add variety to their normal routine. The impact of out-migration on Abomosu, according to the study, lies in the fact that the productivity of the area is reduced since it is mainly the youth who migrate. This, especially is said to be the case since the agriculture engaged in here is labour-intensive. This is because farmers who are left behind are normally the aged and despite working extra hard in the absence of the youth, they are unable to make up for the lost labour force and therefore have no choice than to reduce
the acreage of land they cultivate. Other people however mentioned in the course of the study that they had benefited from remittances from some youths who had migrated from the town, thus enabling them to purchase farm implements which have proved beneficial in their farming activities.


The study begins on the premise that issues of internal migration have been difficult to handle because of a lack of a thorough investigation into what actually causes internal migration. The information available is either not significant to the situation or it only applies to a section of the country. The study therefore seeks to provide a deeper insight into the main factors responsible for internal migration in some selected areas and to present a deeper understanding of the real reasons why people move within the country. It is hoped that the findings of this study will set an ample stage for an objective investigation into the causes for internal migration in Ghana. The study adopted a multidisciplinary approach to the investigation of the causes into internal migration. This renders the single factors, namely the micro and macro approaches, which according to the authors are the most widely used, as approaches that only satisfy the writer’s bias. The sociologist will usually adopt the micro approach because it is basically qualitative and the economist will use the macro approach because it is quantitative and measurable. One reason the authors give for the need of a multidisciplinary approach is that it is able to isolate and examine the effects of individual structural factors as well as their collective effects. They are however quick to add that the multidisciplinary approach had its own limitations. A pictorial illustration of the multidisciplinary approach is also provided. The selected areas for the study are defined mainly as source areas and receiving areas. For the study one source area, Wa, is selected because it has an age old legacy of sending out migrants since colonial times. A total of ten villages and the Wa town was surveyed for the study. The two receiving areas namely Techiman and Obuasi are noted to host most out-migrants from the Wa district. The study employed a range of sampling techniques including the probability proportional to size and systematic sampling. The mode of data collection was purely through structured interviews. The results of the study indicated that the major causes of internal migration in Ghana are colonial labour policies, investments and taxation, urban households’ links and the search for independence and “experience”. The study, based on its findings, stated categorically that most of the causes which previous researches assign to internal migration are unfounded. The study concludes that without direct government’s intervention, internal migration will continue for the unforeseeable future. It will only take political will and a supportive administration to formulate new policies to narrow the gap between rural and urban living standards.


A number of recent studies have challenged the concept of an ethnic group as an absolute category and emphasised that ethnic identity is influenced by the context of the social situation in which
the behaviour occurs. Analysts of migrant communities in both West Africa and the Copperbelt have documented the existence of situational ethnicity as a phenomenon in which individual or group identity is defined in terms of categories which vary in their level of inclusiveness. Situational factors have increasingly come to be viewed as influencing the individual's definition of his role as a member of more inclusive groups which allows him to relate to a more culturally heterogeneous community in terms of common elements of identity. Studies concentrating upon the political significance of ethnic identity in public interactions have also stressed that situational factors may play a more important role than cultural similarity in developing more inclusive identity groupings. Finally, analysts dealing with the problems of multiple ethnic loyalties have stressed that individuals and groups have an array of alternate identities from which to choose. They will adopt - or be perceived by others as maintaining - different ethnic identities in different situations.


Migration is one form of responses to economic, social and physical problems. It is a mechanism by which populations adjust to differences in geographic distributions in opportunities, economic development and living conditions. The consequence of migration pattern and processes bring more rapid changes to the social, economic as well as political systems of both the origin places and destination places. In this study, the emphasis is on the origin place - Nadowli, the district capital of the Nadowli District in the Upper West Region of Ghana. Citizen of this community migrate seasonally to southern Ghana as part of their economic survival and livelihood strategies. Like other like-situated studies, this study argues that economic interests explain why the people move to southern Ghana, specifically to Accra. Remittances, gifts and exchange of visits are the main avenues by which migrants forge close relationships with their relatives back home. Those who stay long end up forming associations to take care of their needs in their destination and also provide their community with irrigational dams and some basic social amenities. The study also submits that, seasonal migration has some destructive effects or impacts on the community. Some of the youth who migrate end up challenging the authority and sanctity of traditional values with some of the ‘foreign’ habits they acquire. They also indulge in some vices such as drug abuse, alcoholism etc.


The article begins with a few observations about past research and methods. The author argues that the research that has been undertaken on the impact of World War II on the African continent has concentrated largely on ex-servicemen. Since few scholars have attempted to look at what Africans did and felt during the 1939-45 struggle, the author examines this training ground of new experience and
supposed heightened political awareness. He also proposes to analyse the known ideas and aspirations of soldiers from the Gold Coast, and how they were, or were not, articulated after the war, either individually or within organisations for veterans.

This is a small but unpretentious ethnography of kinship, residence and life cycle rituals among the Ga people of Accra, the capital city of Ghana. The aim is to show that African cities, as well as transforming the lives of migrants sucked in from their rural hinterlands, often contain core indigenous populations, living a way of life which has, in some respects, more to do with their traditional customs than with 'urbanism' as such (Abstract modeled from JSTOR’s review of the book).

This paper examines the migration patterns of Ghanaians in Canada, focusing specifically on those in the Greater Toronto Area. The author explains in the introduction that his study was based primarily on the analysis of data collected through surveys. He further explains how his surveys were conducted. The second section offers a review of various migration theories and puts them in context of the African experience. He focuses on push-pull theory and explains its weaknesses and strengths. This section also examines which push and pull factors causes Africans to migrate, such as colonialism, neo-colonialism and the imposition of capitalism. An analysis is also made of migration networks and how they transmit information about destination countries back home. The third section focuses on the selection process of international immigrants and, consequently, the stepwise moves through which they migrate. The author explains that the strict immigrant selection processes that destination countries use has spawned a new breed of immigrants who do not fit into the common typology. He further explains that for an increasing number of Africans the journey abroad may involve a series of step-wise moves resulting from, among other things, ‘structures and barriers’ erected by receiving countries and/or their agents. He also points out that step-wise migration in the international arena involves travelers gravitating from ‘lower status, easy visa’ countries to the desired ‘higher status countries’, whose visa requirements are often too stringent and/or discriminatory. He further offers a typology of stepwise migrants. In the fourth section the author uses the stepwise strategy to examine the migration experience of Ghanaians, and develops a typology, which represents the African migration experience. In the beginning of this section he discusses the socio-economic factors that have pushed Ghanaians to migrate. He then continues with discussing the age, gender and educational characteristics of Ghanaian migrants in Toronto. He also explains why Ghanaian migrants are over-represented in the refugee class and under-represented in the landed immigrant class. Finally, he constructs a typology of the steps through which Ghanaians migrate to Europe and ultimately the United States of America. At the end of this section the author also explains issues of chain migration among Ghanaians living in Canada. Ninety-eight percent of Ghanaians arriving as landed immigrants
between 1990 and 1993 were sponsored by relatives who may have ‘braved the storm’ and arrived as refugees in the mid-1980. New refugees arriving in the late 1980’s and beginning of the 1990’s often already had relatives in Canada who provided them with either financial assistance or useful information, or both, and were therefore linked into the ‘migration chain’. This study is a very important contribution to the literature on Ghanaian international migration because it sheds light on the stepwise movement of Ghanaian migrants. Even though it is a very common strategy adopted by Ghanaian migrants not many studies have been conducted into this phenomenon. In my view, the understanding of stepwise migration is a must to comprehend the international movement of Ghanaian migrants.


With what the future holds for the world especially third world countries with respect to the environmental and health-related ramifications of overcrowding and the phenomenon of rural-urban migration, this study examined the migrant community of Old Fadama (Sodom and Gomorrah) which is situated near the Korle Lagoon which is undergoing ecological restoration. As a shanty town and a first settlement for most migrants to the city, the study area is overcrowded and plagued with insanitary environmental conditions ranging from the household level to the community level where every individual is affected. The study therefore sought to assess the motivations that draw migrants to the study area, the community’s accessibility to utility services and health implications of the environmental conditions in the area. Administering 50 questionnaires to residents in the Sodom and Gomorrah area in addition to two focus group discussions involving four person each and indepth interviews with 3 respondents, the author hypothesized that the general environmental problems result from the attitude of the people and the inadequacy of sanitation facilities. The study revealed that the presence of growth poles in the city with its concomitant market establishments close to the study area is a major factor that draws migrants to the study area. Poverty, information flow about lucrative economic activities, desire for independence, played important roles in the movement of these migrants to the study area. Accommodation is one of the main problem faced by respondents with most of them living in wooden structures and without sanitation facilities so they use the area close to their houses as refuse dumps. This extends also to the Korle Lagoon which also serves as a dump site for all forms of waste. The nature of the environment provided good breeding ground for the pests that were common in the areas namely houseflies, mosquitoes, mice, cockroaches and ants. The study established that the attitude of the people and inadequate sanitation facilities contributed greatly to the deplorable environment in the area. The supply of utility services such as electricity connections to rooms of residents turn out to be illegal and a contributor to the fire outbreaks experienced in the area. Water supply to the inhabitants of the area was not much of a problem due to the ubiquity of water supply points close to residents. The study recommended that due to the flood-prone nature of the environs of the Korle Lagoon and in order to allow the free flow of the water into the Lagoon, the authorities and residents should dialogue and agree on a resettlement plan which should be preceded by educating the people about the dangers their presence and insanitary practices pose to the condition of the lagoon and its implications for their
health. Government should fence the whole area under the ongoing ecological restoration project and in addition enforce laws to discourage people from settling in the study area again. Apart from stating the objective of the study, the abstract does not include how the study was carried out, the major findings or any recommendations made in the study. It rather outlines the content of the four chapters structured under the study. Labeling of figures was also not consistent and the sample size of 50 respondents out of estimated population size of 25,000 is not enough to promote the generalization of findings.


The problem of rural-urban migration in Africa has been universally acclaimed as one of the dynamic forces of population change. This is partly because of its contribution to slum formation and the social and individual costs. As such the process of rural-urban migration has been a bone of contention in the development programmes of most African countries, especially where the migration involves the drift of the uneducated or people with low level of education and therefore are unskilled in the urban setting. It is in this light that this study sought to investigate the role of rural-urban migration in the creation of African slums with Nima as a case study. The study suggests that, unmarried younger people (both males and females) of between 20-30 years with low level of education (over 90% up to or below secondary level) participate in rural-urban migration. They participate in this enterprise because of poor socio-economic conditions in the rural area, the desire to be more sophisticated. In the urban setting these rural drifters engage mainly in petty trading – food-related products akpeteshie selling load carriers (kayayee), show makers and photographers. And unable to afford decent housing, they create wooden and other temporary structures (slums) as places of abode. The study posits that, the causes of rural-urban migration in Ghana and the related creation of slums can be explained as a by-product of economic development or industrialization in the cities which gives village dwellers the hope of obtaining better jobs in the city. Other contributory factors are the outcome of formal education system, the inability of the agricultural system to absorb the rural labour force and the lack of social and infrastructural services in the rural areas. The implication of slum creation is in its overcrowding and insanitary conditions, and serious pressure on existing infrastructure. Acute social problems including stealing, armed robbery and social tension also characterize slum areas in the urban centre.


This article brings together ideas from medical anthropology on so-called medical pluralism, and a transnational lens in migration studies. It examines how legal status, transnational networks and religion interrelate in health practices among Ghanaians living in London. It provides an overview of the settlement of Ghanaians in London since the 1960s, and shows how transnational linkages have
increased since then. It further demonstrates the strong transnational components health practices can have, including money, medicines and prayers being sent between Ghana and abroad, and between different European countries. 'Transnational therapy networks’ is proposed as a term to describe health-related activities which span Europe and Africa. These are interlaced situational, formal and informal contacts between people which become meaningful in the event of sickness, providing financial and practical support and help in finding the right treatment.


The history of the Black Volta region in what is currently south-west Burkina Faso and north-west Ghana has been marked by the agricultural expansion of Dagara-speaking groups. This article explores how and why these groups were able to expand at the expense of neighbouring segmentary societies such as the Phuo and the Sissala. Violence certainly played a role in their territorial expansion, but so did specific strategies of ritual appropriation of new territories. The Dagara system, with its characteristic fission of existing earth shrines and networks of interlinked shrines, allowed mobility and helped the migrants bring new territories under their ritual control. In addition, patricians and matriclans as well as joking relationships, clan alliances and institutionalized friendship enabled the Dagara pioneers to recruit many new settlers within a short time. This was a crucial asset for the security of the newly founded settlements and the territorial encroachment on Phuo and Sisala lands. In addition, mobility was, and continues to be, supported by an explicit ethos of independence and autonomy. Focusing on the late pre-colonial periods, the article looks at different stages of Dagara expansion and the changing interethnic relations.


The study examines the demographic characteristics of migrants and its effects on agricultural output. Improvement in the road network in the 1980’s enhanced movement from Kpandai to other urban centres and also made information about life in the cities accessible. This immensely fuelled the out-migration of the youth from Kpandai, a predominantly agrarian town in the Northern Region. The study was carried out on the assumption that Migration always has an adverse effect on agricultural production. The kind of migration that takes place in Kpandai is noted to take the form of rural to rural migration and rural to urban migration with the latter being more prominent. The key destinations that this study identified include Accra, Kumasi, Sekondi-Takoradi and Afram plains. It was realized that migration was predominantly male-oriented and involved the productive age group generally and those aged 25-34 in particular. According to the study, a greater proportion migrates to seek employment. There is also a significant proportion which moves in search of fertile lands to farm – in the Afram Plains as was the case in this instance. Education and reunion with spouses and families were other factors
inducing movement. The study found that as a result of labour lost due to out-migration, farming activities such as land preparation, planting, and farm maintenance has suffered greatly. This is because farming within the region is labour-driven. In an effort to sustain agriculture which is the backbone of the town, for instance, household heads and the remaining family members work harder and some even employ farm labourers. It was observed that the age of the household head had a positive relation with the proportion of farm labour hired. Interestingly, more respondents (52%) in the study were of the view that the labour loss due to out-migration did not result in decrease in agricultural output. This is explained in terms of the remittances sent home by out-migrants which household heads use to support agricultural activities by hiring more labourers and increasing agricultural output. The paper recommended that agriculture should be made attractive and lucrative in order to help slow down the rate of out-migration in Kpandai. One observation made by the study to the effect that the average number of hours spent by the households in connection with the performance of the farming activities increased after the departure of the migrants, was not substantiated with data the author collected with the administering of questionnaires to 50 households comprising of 50 household heads and 30 return migrants.


Kpoeta is a village in the Ho West District of the Volta Region, Ghana. The history of the village is a history of migration. They are believed to have migrated from present day Togo to where they are. They are traditionally farmers but handicraft work also features prominently in their economic life. Beginning from the late 1970s and the early 1980s, Kpoeta village has been denied of its able bodied youth whose energies and strengths the village needed to sustain its agricultural and handicraft livelihood activities. This study investigates the socio-economic effects of the migration stream of Kpoeta citizens to urban centres on the village. It however begins with the causal factors underlining this phenomenon. The study, like others of similar orientation, observes rural-urban migration is economically oriented. Indeed much of it is explained with ‘desire to look for better jobs’. The information potential migrants obtained from returnees, mass media and friends about Accra encouraged many of them to decide to migrate. The other determinants are socio-cultural - to follow relations who are already in the city, to avoid pressure and problems at home land, for further education and to join spouse. The effects of migration on the Kpoeta village are in terms of remittances which help sustain relatives back home and agricultural activities. Parents of migrants are the greatest beneficiaries of remittances. Migrants utilize visits back home to maintain ties with the home base and to be abreast with developments there. Funerals and festivals provide the avenues for visits.

This study seeks to identify the causes of outmigration from Nsenia and its effects on the socio-economic development on the township. The study indicates that early movements from Nsenia up to the 1960s were generally rural in nature and linked to the activities of rich citizens hiring labourers to work on large cocoa farms they intended to cultivate in areas like Taforo, Asensu and Abonsrakrom. This study identifies that from the 1960s, migration from this area changed to urban areas with citizens from Nsenia, moving to Dormaa-Ahenkro, Sunyani and Kumasi. And in 1983, Nsenia experienced mass movement to places like Sefwi and Wassu when the area was hit by unprecedented and uncontrollable bushfires, a crackdown on the youth who were involved in smuggling cocoa across the Cote D’Ivoire borders and the general lack of economic activity. The study identified the unmarried and those aged between 14 and 33 years to be in the majority of people who migrate from the region and for mainly economic reasons. Some of the push factors include inadequate employment opportunities, declining agricultural revenue and lack of basic social amenities in Nsenia. According to some of the respondents of the study, the unpleasant life in the town of Nsenia, the absence of certain basic social amenities like electricity, entertainment centres and sporting facilities caused people to move out. A pull factor for the youth was the need to continue their education particularly with Nsenia having facilities only for basic education - one primary and junior secondary school. This meant that those who aspired to higher education had to leave for such schools in the cities. The attraction of city life was another pull factor particularly in the case of the boys who migrated. Some of the effects of this mass migration from Nsenia include the drain of the town’s manpower (the vibrant youth) needed for development and increased agricultural productivity and a low turnout for the town’s communal labour. These factors notwithstanding, many Nsenia residents believe that the migration has been beneficial to the town and its citizens because it attracts remittances back for the development of the town since a majority of the migrants remitted home. There is not much expatriation of the methodology used in this study. The half-page session only spells out the contents of the questionnaire used and the sample size of 80 respondents with no reference to the sampling procedure/methods used or the category of respondents interviewed. The author did not statistically test the two hypotheses that (i) the higher the unemployment situation, the higher the possibility for individuals to migrate and (ii) males tend to migrate more than females.


This thesis examines the variation in fertility between migrants and non-migrants at Ashaiman, a largely migrant sub-urban settlement close to Tema and Accra. The analysis is based on primary data collected in a demographic survey that was undertaken at Ashaiman in 1992 by the author. The study is limited by an imbalance in the age distribution between migrants and non-migrants which has not provided level grounds for fair comparison. However, it provides useful lessons to guide future research.
in the migration-fertility interrelationships. The research findings show that many women who migrated to Ashaiman went to live there together with their husbands or joined them later. The highest proportion of the migrants however, indicated their quest for employment as the main reason for migrating. The author also indicated that migrants from diverse socio-cultural backgrounds had migrated to Ashaiman. Using mean number of children ever born as the measure of fertility, the author indicated that migrants have higher observed fertility than non-migrants. He further pointed out that the higher fertility of the migrants is due largely to their higher ages compared to the non-migrants rather than their status as migrants. This is supported by the regression analysis which shows age of the woman as having the highest positive influence on her fertility compared to the other variables such as her migration status. Another explanation is that a considerable number of migrant women went together with their husbands or joined them later at Ashaiman. As a result, disruptions that have been much documented to occur in marriages due to long separation between spouses resulting from migration might not have been common or long enough to result in fertility reduction of the migrant women. The author also related other migration factors to the fertility of migrants to find out how instrumental they are, in their respective direction of influence. Most of them appear to have little or no influence on fertility as they show little consistency in their direction of influence. The author also indicated that much of the fertility of the migrants has been inflated by the number of children they had before migrating into the study area. Another important finding is that migrants varied little from non-migrants with respect to the proximate determinants of fertility, migrants being more favoured in terms of fertility reduction due to their higher contraceptive use compared to non-migrants. It is therefore, according to the author, puzzling that migrants have higher fertility than non-migrants. The author concludes that when age is controlled, and distortions introduced by pre-migration births are eliminated, migrants may eventually have a lower fertility than non-migrants. The lower observed current fertility for both migrants and non-migrants compared to the 1988 Ghana Demographic and Health Survey recorded average for Greater Accra Region also points to massive in-migration to Ashaiman as more instrumental in accounting for the rapid population growth of the town compared to natural population increase through high fertility.


Based on analysis of data collected by the authors in an independent child migration survey in Accra and Kumasi, this paper examines the coping strategies adopted by these independent child migrants with reference to their day-to-day living at the destination areas. The paper attempts to answer the following questions: What are the main reasons for the children staying in the destination areas? What risks are these child migrants exposed to? What coping/survival strategies do they adopt? There is a section that provides a brief overview of migration dynamics with reference to north-south child migration in Ghana. The work analyses the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the child migrants, the risks they are exposed to and their coping strategies. It concludes with some relevant policy implications and recommendations

The twentieth-century movement of diaspora Africans to Africa constitutes a centripetal response to the diasporization of African slaves to all corners of the globe. African Americans and people of African descent from the Caribbean and South America have been migrating to Africa since the eighteenth century. This article examines the process of identity formation among contemporary diaspora Africans who have settled in Ghana in the past forty years. This research addresses the complexity of transnational identities and formulates a holistic view of pan-African experiences. Lake conducted field research in Ghana from 1987 to 1989 and collected life histories among diaspora African repatriates. Although informants' experiences differed depending on class, gender, and other criteria, the majority of informants expressed a strong allegiance to their national (places of birth) identities along with a sense of "belonging" to a larger African community.


British and French native policies of the nineteen-twenties and thirties significantly reorganized chiefly authority in their respective territories, prompting chiefs to attempt new strategies to aggrandize their economic and political power bases. The chiefs of Akposso and Buem, the fertile borderland between the two Togolands, were witness to a large emigration movement during this period caused by domestic and international economic change. The emigrants themselves followed well-worn paths to the Buem region marked by Ewe and others. In emigrating, they not only overcame European attempts to control their movement, but they pushed the Ewe "frontier" northward into a true borderland region. On a macro-level this article details how Ewe pushed the "frontier of Eweness" north with cocoa farming, emigration and settlement. On a micro-level this is a narrative of social conflict caused by local chiefly power networks, land ownership and tenure, and ethnic alliances. The story of the Buem-Akposso conflict, two non-Ewe communities, conceals a complicated narrative about Ewe emigration around a new border zone between the British and French mandates. It is thus a fascinating story for the colonial legal historian, offering new insight into the manipulation of Ewe identities for political and economic gain and the political instability ushered in by the "cocoa rush" in British Togoland.


The article explores a neglected aspect of West African history, namely the historiography of 'stateless' peoples in north-western Ghana. At the same time, it is a contribution to the recent debate
on the role of history in the construction of new 'tribal' identities in Africa in the colonial and post-colonial periods. After discussing local oral patrician accounts of migration and settlement, and the historical imagination of colonial officers, Lentz analyses histories of tribal origins written recently by Dagara intellectuals, which draw upon hypotheses, evidence, tropes and narrative models from both colonial and indigenous sources. The concern is not with a conventional history of ideas, but with showing how authors with new requirements and interests can fuse disparate elements into new accounts of the past whose underlying intentions differ considerably from those of their sources. More specifically, the article discusses the claims of intellectuals' and villagers' stories with reference to different underlying political agendas, suggesting that they constitute different historiographic genres appealing to different audiences. The former are basically concerned with establishing the Dagara as a political community within a modern state, the latter with providing charters for local boundaries and rights.


This paper deals with the settlement history of a West African agricultural society, that of the Dagara in present-day northwestern Ghana and southern Burkina Faso. Particularly interested in the appropriation of space, which is ritually legitimized through the acquisition of earth-shrines, and in the conflict-ridden relationships between the in-migrating Dagara and the Sissala, who were already settled in their new habitat. The primary concern, however, is not to examine the Dagara’s expansion strategies or the history of interethnic conflicts as such, but their working out in disputed oral traditions. Using the example of the controversial settlement history of Nandom, the author shows how Africans, both today and in the colonial past, have used oral traditions in order to conduct politics. She discusses the methodological implications that this mutual constitution of oral traditions and political interests has for the reconstruction of settlement history and examines the possibilities of a thorough criticism of sources to detect core elements of the historical settlement process and appropriation of space as well as the present day confrontations with history.


Decentralization projects, such as that initiated by the Rawlings government in Ghana at the end of the 1980s, create a political space in which the relations between local political communities and the state are re-negotiated. In many cases, the devolution of power intensifies special-interest politics and political mobilization aiming at securing a ‘larger share of the national cake’, that is, more state funds, infrastructure and posts for the locality. To legitimate their claims vis-‘a-vis the state, civic associations (‘hometown’ unions), traditional rulers and other non-state institutions often invoke some form of ‘natural’ solidarity, and decentralization projects thus become arenas of debate over the boundaries of community and the relationship between ‘local’ and national citizenship. This article analyses one such
debate, in the former Lawra District of Ghana’s Upper West Region, where the creation of new districts provoked protracted discussions, among the local political elite as well as the peasants and labour migrants, about the connections between land ownership and political authority, the relations between the local ethnic groups (Dagara and Sissala), and the relevance of ethnic versus territorial criteria in defining local citizenship.


Chapters


This paper uses the Ghana living standard surveys of 1991/2 and 1998/9 to examine welfare outcomes of migrant households in the 1990’s. Section two of the paper provides a brief survey of the economic literature on migration. This section mainly compares two economic theories of migration. The first model explains that migration occurs if the individual’s future returns at destination exceed the sum of those at origin and the cost of moving. The second model emphasises the importance of the household in individual migration strategies. The paper offers a refreshing view because it looks at migration as a household strategy, instead of using the more common push pull theories. Section two further defines the difference between in- and return migrants. This theory suggests that there are differences between motives of return migrants and those of non-return (in-) migrants. Section three presents descriptive evidence on migrants residing in Ghana in terms of number, reason of moving, spatial distribution, demographic characteristics, educational qualifications obtained and main employment activity of the household. The descriptive evidence presented in this section is quite detailed and accompanied by various tables and figures. In section four cross-tabulations and regression analysis are used to analyse the performance of migrant and non-migrant households. Three welfare indicators were chosen to perform the analysis: household composition expenditure, poverty status, and the proportion of children of primary school age residing in the household who have been attending school in the past year. The results of the analysis indicated that in terms of household expenditure, benefits of migration deteriorated during the 1990’s and that those households with returnee heads
performed better than households with in-migrant heads. In terms of poverty status the analysis indicated that extreme poverty incidence was lower among households whose heads were migrants. At the upper poverty line, households with migrant heads, who began in 1991/2 with higher poverty incidence, were in 1998/9 with lower incidence than their counterparts. Poverty incidence was also lowest among households whose heads were international migrants and poverty fell by the greatest proportion. In regards of school attendance it was indicated that before the 1990’s children who came from households where the head was classified as a migrant all age categories were more likely to be attending school than if the head was a non-migrant. The authors however indicated that this difference eroded over the 1990’s. The overall conclusion indicated that migrant households have statistically significantly higher living standards than non-migrants. However, it also indicated that this premium seems to have deteriorated over the decade, falling by about a half.


This paper explores the anthropological implications of the notion of adultery by showing how it can improve our understanding of a local debate about descent, migration and local responses to it, among communities belonging to the Dagara of northwestern Ghana. Using a case study of group-wife adultery, that is, a sexual affair between a man and the wife of a fellow member of the same patrilineal descent group in the context of male migration, the paper highlights the tension between a husband’s sexual rights over his wife and those of his descent group over the wife’s procreation. It further examines the rituals surrounding the resolution of the case and the arguments generated by it as a prism through which to view social change and Dagara social organization. An evaluation of the community views about spousal separation, the punishment associated with group-wife adultery and the multiple responses of its members to the offence are presented with ethnographic examples.


The study analyzes migration practices and decision making patterns; the assistance that migrants provide to family members and friends in Ghana and some of the tensions that have arisen out of this between husbands and wives. The writer begins the paper by discussing what other commentators think of African traditional institutions and their role in Africa's development. The study further demonstrates various ways by which Africans have weathered economic crisis one of which is to engage in intercontinental migration. Taking a look at the contemporary Ghanaian migration, the study indicates that although the decision to move out is usually private involving an individual or the entire family, they are not the only beneficiaries of out-migration. The entire economy of the sending countries benefit mainly through the remittances sent by migrants. Existing data indicates that cash remittances alone that are transferred into the country constitute a substantial part of the revenues of the economy.
The study goes ahead to give a profile of Ghanaian migrants in Canada. The Ghanaian community in Toronto according to the study is 20,000 strong and this comprises migrants who have lived there since the 1970s and newer residents who arrived much later. They include all social classes and ethnic groups in Ghana though the distribution is not even. Majority of the migrants are employed in blue collar jobs and they maintain close interaction with each other as much as they interact with their family and friends back at home. This particular paper brings out the element of transnationalism in migration studies – the double engagement of Ghanaians abroad both in their destination countries and receiving countries. Since migration is often initiated by a family or an individual with the hope of improving the living standards of members back at home, the migrants upon reaching their destinations keep close ties with family members. Medium of communication ranges from the use of cassettes tapes to telephone and emails. By these migrant are kept abreast with news within their families and communities. Data for the study which the author collects from over 60 men and women in Toronto and Ghana was done by using standard anthropological methods of observation, attendance at social gatherings, structured interviews and perusal of case records of refugee applicants. Analysis of these records indicates that in supporting family and kin relations some of the relations rank higher on the support list than others. The highest on the list are children of migrants. This was followed by mothers of migrants. Aside family members, friends are also supported. In discharging these obligations some couples in Toronto have had to face misunderstandings especially those who migrated together or was joined by the other spouse on the ticket of the migrant spouse situation is less. This situation is not common among couples who migrated autonomously. The key areas of contestation arise out of the men’s desire to control the earnings of the wives. Some couples keep a joint account therefore the need of each party to maintain their own extended families also brings about tensions resulting in separations with the women especially leaving to manage their own lives.


This book brings together papers originally presented at the International Conference on Migration and Development in Ghana, held in Accra on September 14 – 16, 2004. The book represents therefore the largest and most recent work that was compiled on migration in Ghana and West Africa at large. The book has 16 chapters that deal with a broad range of issues pertaining to migration in contemporary Ghana and West Africa. Not all of the chapters directly deal with migration in Ghana but all chapters are relevant to the topic and therefore they are discussed below. The first four chapters examine issues in the management of migration. Chapter One provides an overview of migration patterns in West Africa. Chapter Two deals with methodological and conceptual issues in the measurement of the migration population. It stresses the need for common and agreed definitions of who an international migrant is, harmonized action by bilateral and multilateral agencies to collect data and disseminate it, and cooperative action among national authorities on the modalities for the movement of persons across international borders. Chapter Three provides a review of the development of migration policies and laws of Ghana and the ECOWAS sub-region and major destination countries. Chapter Four presents the Dutch perspective on contemporary migration and the
factors that have shaped it. The next three chapters deal with remittances from migration. Chapter Five presents estimates of remittances received in Ghana and their impacts on the national economy. Chapter Six is a micro-study of the destinations and uses of remittances in Ghana. Chapter Seven presents comparative data from Senegal and the role that remittances play in household and local economies. The following three chapters examine the issue of return migration. Chapter Eight presents some broad policy challenges towards the issue of return migration, as well as some of the programmes developed by the International Organization for Migration to foster return. Chapter Nine analyses the strategies of elite and unskilled return migrants in Ghana and the Ivory Coast and the constraints and opportunities for their reintegration and investment. Chapter Ten focuses on the impact of return migrants, both skilled and unskilled, to Ghana. The emigration of highly skilled professional is addressed in the next three chapters. Chapter Eleven focuses on the emigration of health professionals, particularly doctors and nurses, and the consequences of this for the health of Ghanaians. Chapter Twelve looks at the brain drain in the higher educational sector and the quality issues that have emerged. Chapter Thirteen presents possible partnerships that create a 'win-win' situation for individuals and the country pertaining to the issue of brain drain. The last three chapters deal with the following topics. Chapter Fourteen evaluates the Home Coming Summit organized by the Ghanaian government in 2001 and measures the policies proposed to tap the potential of Ghanaians overseas, at the same time as addressing their own needs. Chapter Fifteen explores religion as a resource for development through the activities of Ghanaian Christian congregations in The Netherlands. Chapter sixteen presents diaspora engagements with local communities in Ghana through a series of case studies.


This paper explores intergenerational issues between Ghanaian migrants and their children in Toronto, Canada, and with visiting family members from Ghana. The primary focus is on children born abroad to migrants, who are often seen as having a different status from children born in Ghana. Such foreign-born children encapsulate the dreams and hopes of their parents who invest much time and efforts in their upbringing, and much is expected from them. The paper analyzes some of the conflicts that emerge between parents and their children as the latter gain superior language skills and use the discourse of rights from school and the social environment to challenge parents and their authority. A secondary focus of the paper is on the tensions and conflicts that emerge between migrant women and their visiting mothers, which reflect to some extent the current state of the Ghanaian economy and society and the ways in which migration figures in that imagery.

The question of the "brain drain" of health professionals has re-emerged since last exposed in 1970s. This paper is based on exploratory studies in Ghana, South Africa and the UK, a literature review and subsequent tracking of contemporary events. It reviews what is currently known about professional migration in the health sector and its impact on health services in poorer countries. The relevant responsibilities at the global level and source and recipient country levels are then reviewed. It is concluded that the situation is more complex than portrayed by some of the rhetoric and that meaningful dialogue and consideration of responsibilities is needed. In addition, better information is needed to monitor migration flows. Source countries need to improve staff attraction and retention strategies, and recipient countries need to ensure that they do not become a permanent drain on health professionals from the developing countries. (Credit to Elsevier Ireland Ltd).


This paper uses Ghanaian migrants based in the Netherlands and their networks with people at home to illustrate that a transnational look at migration leads to a more complete understanding of migrant livelihoods and to better policy. A transnational perspective highlights the fact that people are simultaneously engaged in two or more countries including their home country and the receiving country, which results in a back-forth movement of people, goods, money and ideas between nation states. The methodology adopted in transnational studies is to study simultaneously the lives of migrants and the people they transact with who are located in various nations and may include family, friends and colleagues among others. The main objective of transnational studies is to understand how various social institutions, such as the economy, religion and the family are affected by transnational interactions. This method is not popular in the way Ghanaian migration studies are carried out - a concentration on one actor at one destination at a time. This paper is part of a wider project which studies migrants in eight domains of their lives: housing, lives, funerals, church health care, education, communication and community development and how these affect the various social institutions. The project is based in three important locations of Ghanaian migrants’ transnational networks: Amsterdam where most of Ghanaians in the Netherlands reside, Accra the capital city of Ghana and rural to semi-urban villages in the Ashanti region of Ghana, to which many of the migrants trace their roots. The project investigates how transnational networks affect economic activities in each of these locations. To illustrate this, the author chooses one of the eight domains listed above which she considered very important but most often ignored investment – funerals. In her opinion, business investments and housing have received some level of attention in Ghanaian migration studies. The case study she uses indicates that both the economies of the receiving and the sending countries benefit from money invested in the organization of funerals involving a migrant. The author considers this to be true due to the number of activities that go into organizing funerals and the jobs it creates for various people. The study also reveals that the transnational engagement of migrants has not always yielded positive results as illustrated above. This is so mostly in the case of migrants who migrate with illegal travel documents. Their dreams of improving their own livelihood and that of their families are broken mainly because of some strict policies of the receiving countries. The author uses a case involving a Ghanaian nurse in the

A transnational view of migrants’ livelihoods, that is, looking at migrants’ lives simultaneously from the point of view of the home and the host country, highlights that migrants have a double engagement. This paper argues that the largest remittances of Ghanaian migrants are spent on housing, business and funerals. These investments contribute to the development of the Ghanaian economy. But while housing and business investments are covered by migration literature, funerals are often not considered. However, funeral ceremonies sustain a diverse range of businesses and services adding to the economic activities and employment possibilities in Ghana. At the same time, while migrants invest in their own country, they are also engaged in creating their lives in The Netherlands. This leads them to various types of spending and investment that benefit the Dutch economy at different levels, the neighborhood, the city and the nation, as well as the global economy. This attests to migrants’ engagement in two or more economies and shows that engagement in one country does not preclude engagement in another. The bi-focal view of migrants’ lives adopted in this paper leads us to two policy recommendations. The first is that, there is the need to consider the effects migrants have on both home and host economies. The second policy recommendation is that development and integration should not be seen as separate issues, as they are currently formulated in most policy debates. This paper argues that, migrants’ simultaneous engagement in both their home and host countries means that development and integration are highly related. Is it possible to create a win-win-win situation? The paper argues that, migration and integration policy should be based on the reality that migrants have a double loyalty: They are just as interested in the wellbeing of those back home as in creating lives for themselves in their destination. Policies that facilitate their living in their destination would increase their ability to manage this double engagement. Such policies should be designed to allow the destination economy to make use of the human capital that it has in the country while allowing migrants to lead more satisfactory lives. Ironically, assisting migrants in their double objectives, including allowing them to be loyal to their home country, and helping them to lead more satisfactory lives as migrants, fosters feelings of engagement towards the host society.

This paper investigates how informal insurance arrangements work between overseas migrants and their network of friends, family and business partners back home. It investigates two questions: Why do migrants remit back home? How does insurance work at the transnational level? Most studies investigate these questions based on household level data of remittance receivers, where information is one-sided. The analysis here is based on a matched sample of both remittance senders and remittance receivers. It takes the specific case of transnational networks of Ghanaian migrants residing in the Netherlands. Transaction data collected in 2003-2004 in Ghana and The Netherlands are analyzed in light of theories on informal risk pooling. The paper shows that mutual insurance arrangements exist between migrants and network members back home. It further elaborates on the institutional arrangements that make such a system possible within transnational networks despite the fact that there is no geographic proximity to ensure effective monitoring and enforcement.


Migrants are increasingly leading transnational lives, impacting the institutions that shape local economies both in their place of residence as well as in their home communities. Scholars of transnationalism argue that advances in information and communication technology, cheaper air travel, and modern capitalist production relations of the past half century have given rise to new and increased flows of people, goods, money and ideas that connect seemingly disparate locations of the globe. Although migrants have been linking communities of origin with those of residence throughout history, the intensity of these contacts, made with greater frequency and speed have resulted in qualitative changes in the way people organize their social lives and produce social, economic and cultural processes that cross borders of nation-states. As such, transnationalism brings into question notions of space where social, economic and cultural phenomena are assumed to overlap perfectly on one geographic space, usually a village, region, agro-ecological zone or nation. This paper reports on an interdisciplinary research programme conducted at the University of Amsterdam and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the Ghana TransNet programme, which uses a transnational perspective to study how migrant linkages with their home country affect the institutions that shape the economies of both their place of residence and their home communities. The programme takes the case of Ghanaian migrants based in the Netherlands and their networks with people back home. Studies on migrants are of two kinds. There are those that study migrants from the perspective of the developed country in which they live. These studies focus on migrants’ actions in the receiving country as testimony of their integration or lack thereof within the country’s economy and society. A second type of study focuses on how migration affects the development of countries from which they come. These studies focus on migrant remittances as a source for development of their home country. This paper argues that to fully understand the processes involved in migrants’ lives as they relate to creating a livelihood for themselves in the receiving country and their participation in home country affairs, one needs to adopt a transnational perspective, that is, to study both contexts and the linkages that exist between the two contexts. (Adapted introduction from the original paper)

Migrants are increasingly leading transnational lives, impacting the institutions that shape local economies both in their place of residence and in their home communities. One example of this is the institution of funerals in developing countries. Funerals are becoming multi-sited events as migrants from developing countries play important roles in the organization, financing and practice of funeral ceremonies in their home countries. Funerals thus give rise to flows of money, goods and people across national borders, ultimately affecting different economies around the world. This article uses amulti-sited research design to follow the flows associated with a funeral held in a village in the Ashanti Region of Ghana. Detailed data were collected simultaneously in four locations involved in the funeral, and a multiplier analysis was used to trace funeral spending in different locations and sectors. The analysis shows that funeral spending supports various economic sectors in Ghana and across the globe, reinforcing the nature of funerals as (partly) economic events, which should be included in economic analyses of remittances and migration. Funeral practices are modified in various ways to accommodate transnational elements. At the same time, funerals continue to act, even in a transnational context, as occasions for reaffirming ties and a sense of belonging; they form a way for home communities, both rural and urban, to keep migrants interested in them.


Transnational studies have shown that migrants are doubly engaged in both the receiving country and their country of origin. This paper adopts such a perspective in exploring how securing a living for Ghanaian migrants is affected by conditions in The Netherlands, as well as in Ghana. Securing a living, or livelihood security, we define as: employment security, housing security and ability to solve a crisis. The paper investigates how various personal and network characteristics of migrants relate to these three aspects of life in the receiving country. The paper analyzes transaction, network and life history data collected from both migrants and the people they are tied to back home. The paper shows that two characteristics are most related to securing a living: 1) the migrant’s legal standing in Dutch society; 2) the migrant’s positioning within a transnational network of actors. Both these conditions affect migrant objectives and actions on the one hand and the means at a migrant’s disposal to realize these objectives (and therefore outcomes) on the other. Furthermore, the paper argues that increasingly stringent migration policies in The Netherlands, and more generally in the European Union, lead to a retreat of the state as a provider of basic needs and increasingly basic needs of migrants are being provided by social networks that span national territories. There is a risk that these informal networks become overly strained leading to a decreased ability of migrants to secure a living.

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A transnational perspective is used in the analysis of the lives of Ghanaian migrants based in the Netherlands to answer two questions: how do migrants contribute to their home country, and do they also participate in the economy where they reside? An analysis of spending patterns of migrants both in the Netherlands and in Ghana shows that migrants are doubly engaged. In Ghana they invest in housing, business and education, contributing to the daily expenses of people back home and investing in their and their extended family's reputation by donating generously at funerals. At the same time they participate in the Dutch economy at the neighbourhood, city and national level. They devise various strategies for juggling their objectives between these two countries. However, Ghanaian migrants' contribution to both countries is hampered by the high costs of identity documents both in the formal and informal economy. The paper thus links Dutch migration policies with the consequences for the lives of people back in Ghana. As such, it demonstrates the relationship between two areas that are usually kept separate in both academic and policy discourses: development in the Third World and the integration of migrants in industrialised countries.

The paper deals with friendship relationships among migrant groups from Northern Ghana in Accra/Tema. The author examines the rural home area as well as the urban setting of migrants from the Upper East Region in Ghana. One of the focal questions is whether migrants make use of the concept of friendship as a means of social integration into the urban environment. It establishes that, instead of committing themselves to intimate personal relationships, many migrants are hesitant to initiate and encourage friendship relations. From a theoretical point of view, it is the perspective of migration as a transitory period in migrants' biographies that explains the deeply felt vulnerability in the 'strange' urban context. Thus, migration may be viewed as a 'rite de passage' constituted by the various phases of leaving home, settling in, returning, and settling back at home. The actual sojourn in town may be viewed as phase of liminality which calls for careful actions and an eventual return to the respective places of origin, even if only as a firm intention. The paper indicates that migrant groups from the Upper East Region have found a new corporate identity in the urban area in view of their marginalized status vis-a-vis other dominant groups in the South of Ghana.


According to the author, Mafi-Kumase which is located in the North Tongu district of the Volta Region, is the trade and commerce centre in the region. People come from the southern part of Ghana to patronize the market with various goods. It is also endowed with educational facilities up to senior secondary school which serves areas around. In addition, it has a health post, postal agency, police post and an agency of the North Tongue Rural Bank limited. It appears that Mafi-Kumase is endowed in both infrastructural and social amenities. Mafi-Kumase, the study indicates, is made up of a heterogeneous group of people with Ewes dominating. Others include Akans, Northerners, Hausas and some foreigners from neighbouring Togo and Benin. According to author, the area experiences seasonal migration of its farming population. It is noted that most of these seasonal migrants set off without having in mind their destinations. Those who migrate are often unmarried, young, male adults. A few though are over thirty years of age and leave their wives and children in the villages. The latter, in some instances, the study states, may latter follow especially if the husband decides to stay a longer period. The study revealed that most of the male migrants do not marry before migrating and later come back to marry whilst others do so from their migration destinations. Reasons advanced for this seasonal migration include the inability to manage the dry-season which can be intensive in this part of the country. During such times, people of Mafi-Kumase migrate to the Volta River and engage in fishing. Others go to areas such as plantations and mining areas but return to continue with their usual activity with the start of the rainy season. It appears though that some who emigrate remain in their new destination to continue their work and occasionally visit their children and relatives. The paper noted that often return migrants are commended for their journey and this serves to validate migration both to the returned migrants and the community. This generates a desire on the part of the youth to join the migration streams. It appears from this study that, seasonal migration allows people of Mafi-Kumase to maintain themselves economically whilst waiting on the mercy of the weather. The study concludes that for the individual
villager of Mafi-Kumase, migration permits the maximizing of the income of his household as a consuming unit.


Migration patterns across and within boundaries affect the distribution of resources, especially human capital. Thus the economic and social effects are significant for the development of both the area of origin and destination. In Ghana, the number of people involved in this phenomenon is large, leading to urbanization, unemployment, brain drain and many other social vices. In view of this, many studies have been conducted to assess the impacts of migration and to find remedy to it. This study is oriented to assess the socio-economic impacts of rural-urban migration. Kaneshie is an area (suburb) in Accra with increased socio-economic significance for Ghana. It is also one of the least studied areas in Ghana. The findings of the study are that, majority of the migrants migrated to Kaneshie when they were young. Most of them are illiterates, migrated to the city alone, and refuse to marry in the city. Those who marry prefer to marry from their native area. Economic reason underlies much of the decisions to migrate to the city.


The paper examines the life and work histories of migrants whose personal accounts reveal the subjective experience of migration. It focused on the life story of an eldest daughter who ultimately succeeded as the head of a female household, after migrating from Ghana to the United States. The paper argues that African migrants have been historical agents who respond to the changing economic environment while relying on social relations. It notes that since the 1960s, migrants have expanded these complex social networks. It also indicates the forming of new transnational linkages that have led to a redefinition of home, identity, and space. It therefore buttresses the fact that it is not economic access to resources in home and hosting settings alone that influence the experience of migration, but also social relations which are shaped by gender, age, marital status and the presence of a number of children. The account of Edna Safoa Sampong’s life, according to the author, is based on fifty hours of interviews in Seattle. She was born in Abetifi, Kwawu and was raised in Nsawam where her father owned and managed as store. Due to her father’s successful trading business, she had access to wealth and enjoyed a certain privilege. After going through school to the teacher training level, her life took an unexpected turn. She had a child with a man whom she later refused to marry. Against her wishes, the marriage between her and the father of her child was performed and Edna was helped by her father to join her husband in U. S as a quota immigrant. This is because her husband had moved from London to the University of Minnesota in pursuit of a doctorate degree in 1961. Edna fully expected to return to
Ghana as soon as her husband completed his studies. Edna’s story, the article notes, is one of unfulfilled expectations. She did not return to resettle in Ghana as planned. In addition her husband had to be supported financially from Ghana when his scholarship was terminated because of a change in government in Ghana. For personal health problems and her U.S born daughter, Beatrice’s education, Edna chose to remain in the United States. Within the context of United States, Edna’s existence was marginal especially following the death of her husband. It is argued that throughout her migration and settlement experience, she developed a new assertiveness as a female household head and thus gained autonomy, especially after her husband’s death. Central to the survival of Edna, the author asserts, were her social relationships. In Ghana, her father was instrumental in her obtaining the immigrant’s visa to the U. S. Further, whilst in the States, the father sent her money in times of need. Moreover building on her social relations, she was able to leave her first born daughter in full-time care with a relative. In Seattle, Edna’s contacts with her church were significant in her struggle. The paper notes that understanding Edna’s support groups, including transnational linkages, is crucial to a reconstruction of her migration experience.


Economic development presents a hostile face to many children in Ghana. An increasing number of children are being forced to the streets as a result of poverty, abuse and breakdown of the community and family structure and the pursuance of certain policies by government. The study looked at putting the street children phenomenon in the development context. Taking Accra as a case study and selecting 15 areas of brisk economic activity, this thesis examines the factors that push children onto the streets, paying attention to how economic policies affect children. The study also looked at the conditions for growth and development of the street child, the implications of the street child’s development to national development and the measures that should be taken to curb the growing numbers of street children as well as the reintegration of those already in the streets back to mainstream society. Raw data from secondary sources were cross-tabulated and some key findings were analyzed using chi-square to test for the significance of the hypotheses. Poverty was seen as the main cause of the phenomenon reflecting itself in the parents’ inability to adequately cater for their children. Government policies directed by Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) are extensively responsible for increasingly putting children onto the streets, the effects of which are extremely devastating on the child and society in general.

The main objectives of this study are to first of all examine why people are still moving into cities from the Savelugu Nanton District despite the numerous efforts being made to discourage them. It further looks at the effects of rural urban migration on agriculture, education and incomes at the places of origin of migrants. There is a further attempt to analyze and understand the underlying causes of rural-urban migration from the community perspective. The thesis gives an over view of the contribution of the rural sector to Ghana’s economy. It indicated that about 65% of the people of Ghana reside in rural areas. The rural dwellers produce about 95% of food crops and 60% of industrial raw materials for the country’ agro based industries, 95% of agricultural export and 42% of the country’s foreign exchange through the sale of cocoa and timber. However evidence indicates that in spite of their great contribution, the rural areas have not benefited much from the distribution of the national wealth and the socio-economic amenities. In the health sector for example, there is a concentration of medical services, facilities and personnel in towns and large cities. About 82.2% of those residents in the urban centres have access to pipe born water compared to only 9.6% of residents in the rural areas. Since independence, a number of development approaches and efforts such as the growth pole, import substitution, social amenities, increased agricultural production and recently (since 1987), the decentralization programme have been adopted to help in solving the development ailments of the country. However much of these development efforts since independence have mainly benefited mostly urban dwellers. The Ghana Living Standard Survey 2000 indicates that poverty in Ghana is primarily a rural phenomenon. It further states that within both urban and rural areas, poverty is disproportionately concentrated in the northern savannah. Everyday, many people including girls migrate from the northern regions of Ghana to the south in search of greener pastures. Many of them serve as commercial sex workers etc. Most studies have attributed these movements to a lack of education and poverty and this in some respect explain why urban migration has persisted in spite of the growing urban poverty, deprivation risk etc that migrants go through in urban centres. The study used desk study to review literature and the data from a field survey to address the various objectives. Findings show that economic consideration is key in people’s decision to migrate. This is evident by the level of unemployment, underemployment and low incomes and lack of educational facilities in the district. The researcher concludes that since poverty was the main push factor, development activities aimed at alleviating poverty should be embarked on. He commended the work of NGOS thus far and asked that more could be done. Suggested projects include vocational training, micro-credit facilities to be given to women and farmers. Also new fanning techniques will help improve the lot of farmers should be introduced and encouraged.


The author analyses how identities and obligations operate within the spaces of transnational communities and how this affects development. Within spatially diffused communities, identities are fluid and overlapping, as are the obligations to multiple others - be that kin, ethnic group, or nation in
different localities. The author is concerned with the institutions through which these identities are formed and obligations are fulfilled. These include families, clans, hometown associations, and religious organisations, which link people 'abroad' to people 'at home'. The author understands these spaces as a form of public sphere involving a 'detrerritorialised' citizenship, which has been termed 'embedded cosmopolitanism'. In this way, obligations are not legally defined but operate as part of the moral universe of those concerned. The case study is based upon recent fieldwork on Ghanaians in the United Kingdom and their connections to other Ghanaians outside Ghana and to those at home. The ways in which these complex networks of affiliation operate, as well as the ways in which the state seeks to 'capture' support from them, and how migrants selectively redefine both ethnic identities and family boundaries, are described.

Montford, J. E. (2003). Migration Among Young Women: Case Study of (Elmina) K.E.E.A. District. Cape Coast, University of Cape Coast. BA.

This dissertation examines the migration of young women from the Elmina District to other cities in Ghana and in the West African sub-region. The objectives of this work are to assess the factors that motivate the young women to migrate and the socio-economic implications of their migration. The author indicates that the migration of young women to urban centers in West Africa has gained much recognition in the last decade and she therefore reviews the literature that deals with issues of female migration. The author mainly used push pull theory and network theory as a basis for her study. The author chose to work with both return and non-migrants in the area where she conducted her study because she could not visit all the destination areas where the migrants lived. A total of 71 young women were interviewed, comprising of 36 non-migrants and 35 return migrants. The main push factors that encouraged the young women to migrate were the lack of employment and the harsh living condition in the Elmina District. The women therefore migrated to other urban areas in the West African sub-region in search of jobs and a better life. The young women were encouraged and able to migrate through networks that existed between friends and family in the Elmina District and those in the destination areas. The author further indicated that young women who desired to migrate from the Elmina District mainly engaged themselves in prostitution and other commerce.


Ghana, until recent years, had not experienced any serious refugee presence. It started with the Chadian refugees who were displaced by the civil war in their country. Then came the Liberian crisis. This crisis compelled many Liberians to flee to neighbouring countries. Those who came to Ghana settled at Budumburam, formally known as Ekwan'krom. In 1982, there were only 250 refugees in Ghana. This increased to about 5000 as at 1991 with the influx of Liberians. This study is an effort to understand the impact that the presence of Liberian refugees has on the development efforts of Budumburam community in the Central region of Ghana. The study also probes into the reactions and
responses of the people of Budumburam to the refugee presence in the community. The study shows that, the presence of the Liberian refugees at Budumburam has brought development to the place – by providing manpower for construction and sometimes for farming. Their presence has increased the population of the area. As a result, women of the village engage in petty trading which hitherto was impossible. The community has also benefited from the social amenities provided for the refugees – elementary, JSS and Vocational training schools, water (bore holes, stand pipes, reservoir), toilet (pit latrine, KVIP units), clinic, electricity etc. Housing developments in the community for the refugees also benefit the community people. In the final analysis, the refugee presence appears to be an asset indeed a blessing to the Budumburam community.


The central question in this thesis relates to how communities in the west Mamprusi District of Northern of f Ghana engage migrants in community development. In answering this question, Mumuni observed that in spite of the structures within the communities capable of attracting migrant support such as funerals, festivals and leadership institutions, not very much is being done to consciously engage the migrant in community development. He further argues that, whiles we may be optimistic about the potential of future active engagement of migrants in development of the West Mamprusi District, it must be clearly stated that the migrant involvement in community development is a voluntary affair just as migration remains a personal affair. This subtle pessimism associated with the involvement of migrants in the development of the researched area is based on the nature of migration in the Northern Region in general. International migration is very low, skilled internal migration is relatively fewer due to the late arrival of education leaving unskilled labour migration at the highest scale. In his opinion, the active engagement of migrants in community development will take time to materialise in the district as in other southern communities where research has indicated active migrant participation in community development.


The study, in its introduction, acknowledges that the population movements within Ghana, the distribution of migrants and the effects of such movements to both receiving and sending areas have been the focus of analysis by many researches. The study therefore attempts to add onto existing literature and provide an overview of the relationship between internal migration and regional development in Ghana. This is basically to help in policy interpretation and utilization. The study begins with a look at the patterns of intra and inter-regional movements in response to development. This
section primarily looks at how the exploitation of natural resources, especially mining resources, which were concentrated in the south of the country led to its expansion, thus leading to an influx of rural labour into those areas. The imbalance in regional development which dates back to colonial era ensured that all major economic activities are located within a triangle embracing Kumasi, Accra and Sekondi-Takoradi. The study therefore associates inter-regional movements to the imbalances in socio-cultural developments. Specific regional development projects and policies and its relation to internal migration were critically assessed in the study. Certain landmark developments such as regional planning accompanied by World Bank sponsored development projects and decentralization are mentioned. Others include the creation of the new Agricultural Regions and resettlement schemes and its related population redistribution. After analyzing data drawn mainly from the National Population Censuses of 1960, 1970 and 1984, the study concluded that the directions and magnitude of the migration streams in the country have on the whole been influenced by the existence of regional inequalities in social economic development and related opportunities. The study is a part of a bigger volume of papers which were first discussed at a seminar on Internal Migration and Regional Development in Africa organized by RIPS in 1985. The monograph contains a discussion of the subject as it pertains to some other African countries.


Population movements have important consequences for both areas of origin and destination. Most of such movements either originate or terminate in rural areas. And in view of rising urban unemployment rates and other problems in the urban centres, there is the need for some rural development projects to stop the influx of people from rural areas. In the rural areas, out-migration leads to reductions in farm labour. In this paper, Nabila discusses the types of rural population movements and the mobility typologies based on spatial characteristics of both the areas of origin and destination. He further draws the implications of these movements for rural development after which suggestions for the formulation and implementation of action-oriented policies are made. The paper argues that, the spatial patterns of population mobility in Ghana are basically a consequence of the location of different migration opportunity zones in the country. The movements have both positive and negative implications for rural development, arguing further that, each flow - inward and outward - involves different approaches to implementing development projects to cope with the issues that arise. The paper suggests that, continuous movement of people to the urban areas calls for serious attention on the part of planners and policy makers, national and regional, to engage in integrated and interdisciplinary development for both rural and urban areas. (Four tables are presented to supplement the arguments)
Ghana and most of African countries after more than three decades of being independence are still confronted with the challenge of achieving meaningful development. One of the major factors accounting for this retardation is the various aspects of its immigration issues. Africa’s immigration issues entail a wide range of subject areas including a critical study of the partition of Africa and its consequences, territorial and related issues between African states, an examination of the types of impact of population movements on the continent and a look at national policy on immigration vis a vis development. The objectives of the study include a discussion of the lingering problems arising out of the arbitrary manner in which Africa was carved up by European colonial powers, examine the extent to which immigration issues have retarded development on the continent, and also suggest possible ways for Africa to overcome problems caused by its cultural fragmentation in order to create a stronger cultural basis of solidarity and creativity for economic growth, social equality and political autonomy. The research scope is Africa in general and specifically on Ghana as a case study, to see what has been done, not done and has to be done. The study has data drawn from both primary and secondary sources. The primary sources include materials obtained from the Ghana Immigration Service on aspects of Ghana’s policy immigration. Also interviews conducted with staff of the Ghana Immigration Service and up to date materials from the office of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees Board on the refugee situation. Secondary sources include articles and write-ups on various aspects of the subject. Chapter one contains the introduction. This is followed by a discussion of pertinent issues in Africa and their impact on states and interstate relations. Chapter three focuses on Ghana as case study and looks at Ghana’s post independence experiences as host to African Immigrants, her immigration policies and border relation with neighbouring states. It also examines the concept of African regionalism, the issue of globalization and Ghana’s participation in these activities. Chapter four is the conclusion including summary and recommendation. Findings indicate that refugee crisis remains one of the major problems confronting development in Africa. The plight of refugees, the health and ecological hazards that sometimes comes with the influx and settlements of refugees has its own adverse impact on the receiving state. The study also acknowledges the positive impacts of immigrant labour especially in the areas of construction, mining and cash cropping. The author asserts that the Africa’s immigration issues are not beyond her power to solve them. He therefore recommended that in order for Africa to maximize benefits from its immigration; Africa should be committed to the legitimized immigration policies of the OAU charter since it has all that is needed to benefit from immigration. Secondly that Africa needs a viable integration schemes like the ECOWAS for greater cooperation, trade and development. They are also advised not to overlook security concerns. Mechanisms must therefore be put in place to check border crime in general including trafficking, terrorism and the use of fraudulent documents mostly by criminals.

Urbanization generally affects life. These effects are more visible in the urban areas because they are those mostly exposed to the influences emanating from the factors of change. As the changes occur, migrant communities are affected because migrants are in constant contact with the changing urban area and are physically separated from their home base. This study takes one area of change – marriage among the Ewe migrants in Madina, Accra - as its focus. While acknowledging the influence of Christianity, formal classroom education and money-using economic activities in altering Ewe marriages, the study submits that Ewe migrants’ contacts with non-Ewe Ghanaians explain much of the changes in the marriages of the Ewe migrants in Madina, Accra. It indicates that, the urban setting imposes certain restrictions on the composition of the principal personnel performing essential roles during the various stages of the marriage procedures. The changes are not only widespread but appear to be regular features of contemporary Ewe marriage in Madina. The findings suggest that, parental initiative in the selection of marriage partners is no more applicable but parental approval is unavoidable in Ewe marriages in Madina. Schools, religious and general mobility seem to have enhanced contacts between the sexes, a factor which has contributed to reduced role of parents in mate selection. In addition, the consummation ceremony has lost its significance, and test of virginity not performed as dictated by the tradition from which the migrants came. The sequence of procedure, the principal personnel in the marriage negotiation and ceremonies, nature and size of the bride wealth and the content of marriage ceremonies have all experienced significant changes in the Ewe migrants’ marriage ceremonies in the Madina urban area. The study concludes that these changes are significant. Yet they do not eliminate the traditional features. If anything, they have only modified certain aspects to bring them in line with modern conditions.


Since the beginning of the 1970’s, Ghana has experienced the emigration of highly qualified personnel first to other African countries and later to Euro-America. Even though there are no precise figures on the incidence of emigration of well qualified Ghanaians outside partly because much of it is undocumented, there is considerable evidence of large numbers of Ghanaian university lecturers living abroad. In this thesis data from a survey involving 365 lecturers comprising 228 migrants and 136 non-migrant lecturers was used to examine the factors influencing the emigration of lecturers. Employing the migration system framework by Kritz and Zlotnik (1992), the research work examined the determinants of brain drain from Ghanaian universities, spatial spread of the migrants and the consequences of brain drain for national development. The evidence from the survey shows that conditions of service in Ghana and age are the strongest variables responsible for brain drain from the universities. One effect is the ageing of lecturers currently at post in the universities. It was observed that perceived benefit influenced the choice of destination and that the most favoured destinations are USA, Canada, Britain and Germany. Whereas result from logistic regression analysis indicated poor condition of service in Ghana as the major factor determining emigration of lecturers, further studies was mostly stated as the reason for emigrating. Education is therefore used as a means of getting easy entry into destination countries. The author further indicated that emigration of university lecturers is
an on going process but less attention is paid to it probably because its effect is not immediately felt among the general population or due to neglect of tertiary education. In the conclusion the author advises the government of Ghana to improve the service condition of lecturers in order to retain the remaining lecturers as well as attract those abroad back home. Facilities for post graduate studies and research should be improved and expanded because evidence on migrants and non-migrants perception and motives on emigration indicate that the country stands a greater risk of loosing students and lecturers sent abroad for further studies and research. The universities and governments also need to develop new strategies for retaining as well as attracting young lecturers into the universities.


This paper mainly aims at establishing linkages between migration (both internal and transnational) on one hand and growth, stagnation (or decline) and closure stages in the mainly large scale mining (LSM) sector in Ghana. The paper highlights on dynamic changes, both positively and negatively, brought about by migration on the socio-economic, cultural and political systems of indigenous societies in many mineral-rich regions in the country. It further cites the growth and development of towns such as Obuasi, Tarkwa, Konongo, Prestea, Bogoso, Akwatia, Awaso and Nsuta all of which resulted from economic opportunities offered to mainly migrant labour most of whom either worked directly in the mines or indirectly in sectors such as agriculture, public service and trade that serviced the mining industry. It continues by especially pointing out the disastrous effects of stagnation, decline and closure in the industry which often results in significant collapse of infrastructure, economic wealth and out-migration of people from mining areas and, invariably, leads to the phenomenon of “ghost settlements or towns”. A phenomenon of “institutional migration” involving movement of vital institutions such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Minerals Commission and the Police, and by inference requisite personnel, from urban and peri-urban centres to mining areas in the country is also described. Finally, the paper discusses implications associated with growth of and migration patterns within the artisanal and small scale mining (ASM) sector and repercussions on the dynamics of LSM-ASM relations, resource utilization, conflict generation and other socio-economic, political, cultural and environmental impacts on existing systems.


The study indicates that Mpraeso-Kwahu has been one of the leading producers of earthenware bowls and can boast of several pottery-making industries in the country. The study however notes that significant reduction in terms of production has occurred in the industry over the past two decades
alongside out-migration of females who are a major human resource factor in the industry in Mpraeso-Kwahu. The study therefore seeks to investigate the effects of female out-migration on the pottery industry, the extent of utilisation of remittances brought home by the female migrants and how the industry in the study area can be revamped to improve the socio-economic development of females in the area. Positing that female out-migration drastically reduce the traditional pottery making industry in Mpraeso-Kwahu and that the lack of social amenities, employment and raw materials (clay) necessitate female out-migration, the author surveyed 20 female migrants from each of the following suburbs in Accra: Awoshie, Kantamanto, Asylum Down, Banana Inn and Ayigbe Town. An interview with the chief potter in Mpraeso was also conducted. Pottery-making, according to the study, is a hereditary craft passed down from mother to daughter. Normally this has been a family business whereby parents, especially mothers, leave the pottery-industry into the hands of their female children to take over. The author further asserts that the traditional pottery industry has played so immense an economic role for the people of Mpraeso-Kwahu, such that during the mid 1980s and early 1990s, pottery making was the highest income-earner for the people of the area. The presence of the pottery industries at Mpraeso-Kwahu, the study asserts, has led to the spatial re-location of other activities to the town such as blacksmithing industry which manufactures all implements needed for the pottery-making. However, the study notes that the pottery industry is in a state of decline as a result of female out-migration. It is indicated that the industries are not able to absorb all the females in the area due to their small sizes. This is said to be worsened by the scarcity of raw materials like clay needed for increased production. This situation has resulted in high female unemployment. It is also noted that the agricultural sector which operates alongside the pottery industry does not appeal to the educated females who also prefer to move to urban centres to search for ‘white collar’ jobs. When they are unable to find such jobs, they prefer to go into trading in the urban centres or enter into private industry. According to the author, the result of this female out-migration is that, it has contributed to an aging female population which threatens the pottery industry in terms of continuity after the old ones are no more. A Positive aspect of this out-migration discussed in the study is that, many who would have remained unemployed in the district now have some for of work, be it trade or white colour jobs. The result is that they are able to contribute to their communities through remittances. In addition, female out-migration has resulted in an increase in the rate of modernization in the area especially with regards to the methods used in the pottery industry. The study found that the lack of social amenities, employment and raw materials necessitate the out-migration of females whiles it did not wholly accept the hypothesis that female out-migration drastically reduced the traditional pottery making industry in Mpraeso-Kwahu. The objective to ascertain the extent of utilisation of remittances from female out-migrants was not met and one interview at the source was not enough in that regard. Also, more than 25 references made in the study were not listed.

This study focuses on activities of Ghanaian migrant fishermen and women in neighbouring countries specifically the Republic of Benin. According to the author the study was prompted by information received from fishermen in Kpone, a major fishing town of Ga Dangme of Ghana. The information received precipitated the further investigation of the activities of Ghanaian migrant fishermen and women in Benin and other parts of West Africa. The study is aimed at examining the demographic characteristics of the migrant fishermen and women. Other objectives include examining their motivation for migrating, the business organization of the migrants, the role of women among the migrant fishermen and women, their social organization and their relationship with the host community. Also featuring prominently in the list of objectives are the problems associated with migrant fishing and the effects of migration on individual fishermen and women, place of origin and the host community. The main study is preceded by an introduction which mainly gives a historical overview dating back to pre-colonial times of movements of people especially the Ewes in Ghana to and from neighbouring countries such as Togo and the Republic of Benin and Ghana. According to oral traditions, the Ewe, the ethnic group which occupies east of the Volta River originated from Nortsie, which was situated in the Republic of Togo. They moved westwards in stages and spread on the coast near the river Volta under different leaders. The closing decades of the 19th century saw European colonialism slicing up of the area among three colonial powers-Britain, Germany and France into the territories of the Gold Coast (modern Ghana), Togoland (Republic of Togo), and Dahomey (Republic of Benin). Though the present boundaries cut through this ethnic group, their linguistic identity and other cultural similarities transcend political boundaries. For these reasons, the Ewe are able to move from one country to the other, settle and mix freely with the inhabitants without feeling like aliens. As per the objectives the work, the work is divided into two broad chapters. The first deals generally with migrant fishermen and women. The second contains individual narratives and group discussion. The discussions involved individuals and the leaders of the various fishing groups- Ewe, Ga-Gangme, Fantes and Beninois. The study dwells mainly on oral traditions and written sources dating from the fifteenth century and the individual narratives and group discussions for its findings. Findings of the study which are summed in the conclusions reveal that the migration of Ghanaians fishermen and women to Benin is motivated mainly by socio-economic factors both in Ghana and Benin. Among those who migrate are children, youth and the elderly. Business there is done under contractual agreement with rules and regulations some of which are general and others peculiar to the individual crew. Most of the migrants live on the fringes of the Beninois society and they are confronted with barriers of integration created by both parties host and migrants alike. The study also reveals a double engagement of migrants both in the host and sending countries. The migrants are said to only work for a living in Benin but have their emotions back at home even after living the for several years. A greater part of monies and other acquisitions in Benin are sent home to Ghana.

The aim of the study is to find out the factors that promote migration to Ivory Coast in the artisanal marine industry in Ghana. It also examine the types of fishing methods used by the migrants, the organization of their business, gender relations and the contribution made to the development of both the host and home communities. The study includes a small survey and a recorded group and individual interviews. Five communities, two in Abidjan and three outside Abidjan were selected for the study. The study gives a historical background of migration and fishing in Ghana and in the Ivory Coast. Migration it says is a dominant factor in the economic and cultural development of the people of Ghana. Oral traditions are full of accounts of movements of people from one area of settlement to another, leading to the founding of villages, towns, states and empires. The study asserts that migration has most often taken place in reaction to political upheavals such as wars and succession disputes. Economic prosperity through farming, fishing trading, mining and political security also provided the necessary pull factors for people to migrate. One occupational group which is well known for migrating is fishermen. Migration therefore is an integral phenomenon in the culture of fishermen. The study dwells mainly on oral traditions and written sources dating from the fifteenth century and the individual narratives and group discussions for its findings. In all four men, seven women and some elders of the fishing industry tell their own story. The study draws upon the stories told by the people themselves which entail their aspirations, values, challenges, disappointment, failures and successes. Their own analysis of their situation gives an insight into their own world as fishermen and women.


This is an empirical study to explore the role of migration in a fishing community, the implications for new technology and technology transfer and the effect of migratory activities on the development of the community. The introduction of new technology in the artesian marine fishing industry in Ghana and the economic problems prevalent in the country accelerated the rate of international migration among fishermen. Among the most attractive destinations were Cote d’Ivoire and the Republics of Togo and Benin. Ghanaian fishermen in these countries filled a vacuum in the economy of those countries. Among these enterprising and hardworking Ghanaian migrants fishermen who contributed immensely to the economy of the Ivory Coast and Republic of Togo and Benin are men and women from Ningo. The study employs the use of oral traditions, written sources and archival materials dating from the fifth century. These mainly provided the historical background to the study. Group interviews, both formal and informal, with the elders and with individuals are also recorded. Life histories are used as case studies. Interviews were held with traditional authorities, retired migrants, active migrants who were in Ningo for short visits and Ningo citizens outside who were not fishermen. The annual Homowo festival during which migrants come home for family reunions was used to confirm and complement information already collected. This publication is the outcome of years of research and study which started with the author’s personal involvement in the canoe fishing industry in 1978 and formal research from 1988. The work is in four main chapters. The first looks at the history and social organization of the study area (Ningo). The second part looks thoroughly at fishing right from the beginning to its state at the time of the study. The third chapter deals with technology transfer, its
management and its implications on migration. This chapter is labelled “migrant voices”. Migrants talk about how the transfer of fishing technology from Senegal led them to migrate to places like Ivory Coast and Republics of Benin and Togo. The Senegalese mode of long distance hook and line fishing enabled them to stay ashore for many days and return with abundant fish. All manner of persons are somehow affected by the technology transfer, fishermen and non fishermen alike. The final chapter deals with Migration and development. Here the study looks at how the lives of these migrants are touched positively after migrating to do large scale fishing. Apart from household welfare improving to a substantial level, new cultures are borrowed from their destination countries and incorporated into their own. According to the study one area that is largely affected by this is the performance of funeral rites. The study also shows pictures of migrants and houses or properties they have acquired owing to migration. The study concludes that development in Ningo has been affected by economic, political and social interactions with neighbouring countries. Since migration was open to the young and old, male and female, married and unmarried, the author looks forward to a study that will look at the negative effects that these movements had on Ningo. For instance the mass movement of youth outside of Ningo will affect human resource in the area.


This study dwells on internal migration (rural-urban migration) in Ghana and highlights some of the sanitation and health problems that it has on Accra. The study argues that the rise in rural-urban migration is attributable to aggregate economic pressures (consisting of low incomes, and other poor employment opportunities in rural Ghana) and social pressures like the search for bright light (entertainment), personal problems, among others. And as migrants settle in the cities, they put strain on water, electricity, and public place of convenient facilities and services. Related to the rise in rural-urban drift is the creation of urban slums which, among other things nourishes ill health conditions. These ill-health conditions also put strain on health and sanitation services in the city. The study also observes that some migrants especially the low skilled female end up as prostitutes in the urban area. This also has its own effects on health infrastructure in the city. Other areas of concern that the study articulates are low incomes for migrants and malnutrition which results from it, abuse of drugs, pollution, creation of dirt (garbage piles and chocked gutters) and smoke among other. All of these have direct and indirect effects on sanitation, ill-health and health infrastructure in cities and towns where rural migrants choose as destination for their drifts.

Children and Youth in Emerging and Transforming Societies International Conference, University of Oslo, Norway June 29th – July 3rd, 2005, University of Oslo, Norway.

This paper offers some preliminary comments on the growing phenomenon of the migration of children from their rural places on origin to work on the streets of Accra, Ghana. It does so by drawing upon an on-going programme of research that is concerned more specifically with street children’s working lives. It is informed by recent shifts in thinking about street children in which issues of children’s agency have come to the fore. In doing so, it seeks to take seriously both the need to give attention to the attempts of street children to exercise some degree of control over the lives; and their capacity to offer what are nearly always meaningful and sometimes unique insights into the rapidly expanding presence of children on the streets of Accra. The sections that follow provide a fuller discussion of the context within which the research has developed. Following this is a brief account of the research on which this paper draws and the emphasis it is giving to research for and with street children. In the next sections, a number of important themes that emerged from the preliminary examination of the data are discussed. Particularly emphasis is given to the children’s accounts of poverty, the decline of the rural economy and a loss of confidence in the ability of village life to offer a meaningful future, and to the emergence of a network of migration and return.


Though this study does not specifically deal with Ghana, it discusses some issues in the general African context which are very relevant in understanding some internal migration mechanism in Ghana. A chapter in this edited book focused on the human factor in development. It recognises that installing a people-centred development is fundamental to accepting the fact that population is a basic denominator in development planning. Population is thus considered a vital catalyst to development and progress. A sad recognition observed by this chapter is that the interrelationship between population and development is not much appreciated, especially, in Africa. The evolving African demographic scenario shows pretty well that the rate of population growth is high and therefore warrants attention. The paper identifies a number of built-in potentials for the rapid growth of African populations. This relates to the way in which Africa's population more than doubled between 1950 and 1980 which in turn, was accompanied by a general increase in the density of population; another built-in potential factor for the rapid growth derives from the role of the relatively young population structure. The impact of net-migration on this growth, according to the chapter, is negligible. It is however recognized that the rapid rate of population growth has been accompanied by a remarkable acceleration of the tempo in internal migration and urbanization. There is the exodus of the rural population to the major industrial and commercial centres. This has been creating increased imbalance in the dispersion and concentration of population. The author notes that the rate of annual change of the urban population has been about two-and-a-half times the rate of change of the rural population and has been almost twice that of the total population. Urban population growth in Africa is said to be mainly due to the influx of rural migrants. The African urban growth rate has been higher than the rate
of population growth and it is indicated that Africa exhibits low levels of urbanization. This, he notes, has policy implications because most urban centres are concentrated with development efforts to the neglect of rural areas. This situation has precipitated the rise in internal migration. Thus, the few urban centres continue to experience rapid urban growth. This has led to exploding features such as urban sprawl, unemployment, inadequate housing and unemployment among others. It is noted that many migrants who come to urban centres without the requisite skills for urban employment, succeed only in getting marginal jobs. This growing unemployment problem and under-unemployment are compounded by traffic congestion, insufficient transportation and a general deterioration of urban social systems. International movement and redistribution in Africa has favoured internal movements within countries than external ones between countries. Internal movements have thus been subject to less control than international ones. Factors other than immigration laws govern international immigration laws. Changes in the economic fortunes of countries such as Nigeria, for instance, led her to repatriate so-called illegal immigrants and illegal workers in 1983 and 1985, respectively. In order to enhance development, the author argues for the need to enhance the legal exchange of migrants in situations where most African countries face problems of skilled human resource and capital.


The study focuses on the role of kinship and of conjugal relations in two largely Akan communities, Akokoaso in Akim, and Dominase in Ahafo. The former is inhabited predominantly by citizens, the latter by strangers. In both villages, women are found to be restricted to giving priority to food production, freeing men to become cocoa-farm owners earlier in life, and to migrate if desired (abstract from JSTOR’s review of the book).


Migration could yield substantial benefits to the individual migrants and their families and at the same time have positive consequence on economic development. One of such benefits comes in the form of remittances transferred to the hometown of migrants. That migrants send remittances back home is a fact that has been well established in the migration literature. They do so to maintain links between themselves and their native lands. In this study, Okodie examines the characteristics of Obomeng Kwahu migrants in Accra and the type, size, frequency and purposes for which they send remittances home. The study establishes that, the youth (between 31-40 years) constitute the largest of Obomeng Kwahu citizens in Accra. Males outnumber females; most of them are married; and a number of them have little or no education. In terms of remittances, they come in the form of money, capital goods (such as building materials) and other consumer goods. Remittances are sent home on regular basis, mostly between 1-3 months. Much of the remittances go to relations of migrants rather than the community for community development. Community development is often treated as a secondary
issue. The migrants have positive perception of Accra, for most of them think Accra has helped in fulfilling their aspirations by providing job opportunities. The study concludes that, the future of remittances of Accra migrants of Obomeng Kwahu origin to their native area is bright.


This article analyses development institutions’ position in viewing remittances from immigrants to their home country as tool for development. This is quite a new perspective because migration has often been viewed as a bane from exporting countries mainly consisting of developing countries. It further discusses the importance of brain drain and the possibility for using return migration as a brain gain. This is because when people migrate to the developed countries of the world, they tend to appraise their career in order to fit into their new country and gain employment. As such, the return of these ones to their home country becomes a gain. It therefore discuss the vital role that international institutions which focus on migration such as the International organization for Migration (IOM), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) can play in redirecting attention to return migration or the potential for brain gain. The term brain drain, according to the author, was coined in the early 1960s after the first graduates of the newly independent development countries started to leave their home countries. Ghana is noted to have lost most of its brightest and best university graduates to brain drain. The paper notes that 60 per cent of all migrants from countries such as Ghana, Egypt and South Africa were graduates. The paper notes that these migrants contributes to their nation’s economic development in many foreign input mix such as foreign direct investment and trade liberalization among others. For instance, migrants are noted to remit to their home countries and assist in different developmental programs. In other to gain from these brains that are lost, Ghana is noted to have implemented policies aimed at attracting some migrants back home since 1960. An optimal solution for developing countries, the paper suggests, would be to continue to export highly skilled migrants for shorter periods and thus get remittances while planning and hoping for a certain return migration (brain gain) as this will be needed in the further development of their countries.


This thesis examines the failure of newly qualified graduates to return to their countries of origin after their study, preferring instead to avail themselves of the attractive employment opportunities in the countries of study. The author indicates that this is particularly serious where public funds have financed the study programme; but even when privately financed, the overseas study may have caused a scarcely affordable loss of foreign exchange and a nil return on the country's investment in those lower levels of education preceding the overseas course of study. This thesis centres on the analysis of this special category of brain drain over the period 1963-1993 in Ghana, and arises when some Ghanaian students awarded scholarships to go abroad do not return after completion of their
study. The result of the brain drain has been manifested in the various manpower shortages with the country spending a lot on employing expatriates while there exists a pool of qualified Ghanaians abroad who are not willing to return. The purpose of this study is to examine the determinants of brain drain in Ghana namely, whether the individual, programme and course characteristics, the employment status of the individual prior to departure and the economic decline which the country experienced in the 1970s and early 1980s had some effect on the decision to return after completion of studies. The research findings of the study indicated that the duration of course the migrant students followed had a lot of effect on the decision to return. Students who were admitted in degree programmes which required a longer duration did not show as much interest in returning to Ghana as students who were admitted in shorter degree courses. The author however indicated that the incentives to return also depended on the type of course pursued and other factors such as marital status, age and employment possibilities in the destination country especially with regards to position and duration of contract. He further indicated that the USA and Canada were the major beneficiaries of the drain with other African countries also having a fair share. The study also revealed that brain drain started right back in the 1960s in which the majority of those who did not return were holders of a master’s degree. During the period of economic decline in the country, which resulted in low wages, those with a doctoral degree dominated the non-returnees. The author finally argues that concerted efforts with assistance from the donor community have to be instituted to encourage those abroad to return and thus participate in the country’s development.


For over a decade now, southern Ghana has witnessed a growing influx of young women and teenage girls whose sole business is to engage in the head porterage of goods. This paper offers information on who these women and girls are, why they migrate from their places of origin, why they engage in that business, and the plans they have for the future. A nonrandom sample of 700 subjects was selected for the study. Unstructured interviews and personal observation were used as the tools for data collection. It was found that most of the woman porters hail from the savanna zones of northern Ghana and adjoining areas of Burkina Faso and Togo. They move down south to work and save money for various forms of investment. The paper attributes the push factor, poverty, to the interplay of natural phenomena and human agency. Suggestions for policy measures are offered.


This thesis studies the issue of urbanisation in Ghana and the effects it has on the provision of housing, using Kumasi as a case study. In the beginning of the thesis the author argues that it is generally accepted that urbanisation is fuelled by migration and that the rate of urban growth exceeds the corresponding rate of increase in services provided in the urban areas. This imbalanced growth brings pressure on services and facilities in the cities. He further argues that poor housing in the urban
areas is usually associated with the migrants. The first section examines the socio-economic background of the migrants. The author indicates that migrants from Ashanti region dominate the migrant population in Kumasi and that they rely on social linkages - relations and friends - for their initial accommodation. The author also indicates that the majority of migrants had some level of education and that a larger percentage had migrated to Kumasi for economic reasons. The incentives for migrating to Kumasi had however been changing in emphasis over the years. For recent migrants transfer and educational reasons were prominent, while among the established migrants economic reason were the singular major factor. The second part examines the housing characteristics of the migrants. The author indicates that migrants have mainly settled within the indigenous and tenement sectors of the city. There was a higher intra-urban mobility among the migrants than among non-migrants, and the migrants circulated mainly within the sectors they first settled. Migrants and non-migrants of similar socio-economic backgrounds co-habited in the high cost and government estate areas. The author further indicates that migrants generally improve their housing quality and access to housing facilities when the length of their residency prolongs. Thus, migrants who stayed longer in Kumasi lived in better houses than those who stayed for shorter periods. The second-generation migrants therefore had better accommodation compared to the first generation migrants. The author also indicates that the accommodation of second-generation migrants was better than that of the non-migrants, but that the latter had better access to other facilities in the city. He further explained that the landlords were mainly non-migrant, but some migrants who had resided in Kumasi for a long period were also found to be landlords. The third part explores relationships between some selected independent and dependent variables by means of contingency tables and X2 test. This allowed the author to make and test some hypotheses. The author indicated that the educational level and the type of tenure arrangement of migrants on arrival had an effect on the number of rooms a migrant occupies initially. Increase in occupied rooms however depended on the migrant’s household size and income levels. He also indicated that migrants and non-migrants of similar socio-economic backgrounds have equal access to housing facilities in any part of the city.


The aim of this paper is to examine the relationship between the variations in mobility patterns in Northern Ghana, but also to bring these variations in relation with other ecological and ethnographic variables. In the beginning of the paper the author looks at the relationship between ecology and migration. She explains that overpopulation, the presence of tsetse flies and soil exhaustion and erosion appear to have been the main factors causing several groups of people to move, mainly the acephalous groups in the east and west, including the Konkomba, Lobi and Dagaba have moved to areas such as Tumu, Gonja, Nanumba and Degaba as well further south. Subsequently, the author examines the ethnography of the region. She divides the ethnic groups in the Northern Region in two broad categories, namely: state societies, such as Gonja, Dagomba, Nanumba, Mamprussi and Wala; and segmentary societies who lack centralized traditional authorities, such as Tallensi. The author however also indicates that the ethnography of the region is much more complex than this simple dichotomy implies, since many of the segmentary societies have been partially assimilated in the centralized states.
The third section examines the mobility patterns of both states and segmentary societies. The author indicates that interregional mobility among males in state societies is significantly greater than in segmentary societies, and that male populations in the segmentary group are characteristically stable. The migration of women in state societies is much less than their counterparts in the segmentary societies. The author further indicates that most of the migrations are from rural to rural areas. As to the causes of these movements, the author indicates that individuals did not really move in search of urban areas or jobs, but rather moved because of their indigenous social systems. To provide an example, the author discusses the political and kinship systems of the Gonja, Dagomba and Tallensi. In the Dagomba system, for example, an ambitious chief’s son can travel from office to office to increase his rank in the political system and this process often entails frequent moving from village to village. Thus indicating that groups with stake in political systems, who are often male, are more mobile than the commoner group. The author further argues that spatial mobility is also built into the kinship systems as well as being a function of the political systems. Fostering is an example of a kinship system that entails spatial mobility that can be found with the Gonja as well as the Dagomba. Fostering of children by the extended family means that the child will travel around from household to household. Another function that fostering entails is the knitting together of dispersed kin who are spatially and socially separated. The author also examines marriage and female mobility of the Tallensi. In this society a woman cannot, for example, marry members of her extended family and therefore she has to move to join her husband’s household. The author explains that the distance a woman will move after marriage will depend on the extent to which lineages and clans are localized and spatially separated.


The paper first examines women’s position in agriculture, particularly cocoa production, and their access to land and labour. Next consideration is the effects of spatial mobility upon women's resources and domestic positions; first in their roles as farmers through an examination of women’s economic roles in two contrasting cocoa communities, and then through examining material collected on the situations of mobile professional women and wives of mobile professionals and administrators.


This monograph uses data taken from what the authors call "focused biographies" of 60 Ghanaian women to examine the effects of education, employment, and migration on fertility behaviour. The fieldwork took place between 1979 and 1981. As suggested by the title, the conceptual framework features seven roles that women potentially perform during their lives (maternal, occupational, conjugal, domestic, kin, community, and individual), the priorities given to each, and the conflicts or complementarities between them. The sample of 60 women is equally divided between two ethnic groups (Ga and Dagomba), migrants and non-migrants, and three age groups. Employing a
combination of quantitative data and case studies, the authors conclude that, in the Ghanaian context, the potential negative effects of educational attainment and modern sector employment on fertility are blunted by a family organization that continues to spread the cost of childbearing and rearing. Nevertheless, there are indications of change in the family, particularly under the strain of migration, that should, in the future, lead to an increase in the negative impact of education and work on fertility.


The study sets out to investigate the problem internal migration poses to development in the Ashanti Region and its implications for planning for the period 1984 to 2000. Some of the problems are demographic, economic and socio-cultural in nature. However, it is perceived that internal migration is part of the development process that cannot be stopped and this makes it a research problem. The study relied mainly on census data from 1984 to 2000 and a study on migration done in 1991. Periodically, figures from 1960 and 1970 were quoted to show trends of phenomena. Some of the findings of the study include the following: that migration streams to and from the region since the 1960s have been significant with about 50 percent of the population being migrants as at 1991 and the largest stream being between the Ashanti and the Greater Accra Region and that population variables were not explicitly integrated into the district development plans. It was also observed that inter-regional migration is more prevalent than intra-regional migration and special migration surveys were recommended to help give a better understanding of the phenomenon and its implications for development planning.


This thesis examines the factors that cause unskilled women to migrate from the rural areas to Accra. The objectives of the thesis are to identify the socio-cultural and economic factors that have given rise to movement of unskilled women from other regions of Ghana to Accra; to study the activities that migrant women indulge in while in Accra; to determine the problems faced by the migrant women in the city; and to determine the effect of the women's migration on the individual migrant. The following four hypotheses were also tested. (1) Educational background of migrants has a positive effect on the propensity to migrate from rural to urban areas. (2) The number of female migrants whose migration to Accra is influenced by earlier migrants is greater than those who migrate without influence. (3) The number of unskilled migrant women who move to Accra for economic reasons is higher than those women who move there for socio-cultural reasons. (4) There is a significant relationship between the duration of stay of migrants in Accra and the intention to migrate to other places in Ghana. A total of 120 unskilled migrant women were selected in the Makola market areas and the Accra central railway station. They were put into three main categories - porters (Kayayos), petty traders, and chop bar
labourers to facilitate comparison of their activities. The author indicates that there was support for all but number (1) of the four hypotheses, since individuals with lower level of schooling and illiterates were migrating to the city. The women who migrated under the influence of earlier migrants were more than those who moved on their own. The women who moved to Accra for economic reasons were more than those who moved for socio-cultural reasons and the longer or shorter one stayed in Accra, the more the one wanted to stay permanently or to leave in the future, respectively. The author also indicates that a predominant number of migrant women were in their early adulthood and that a majority of the married women had left their husbands and some or all of their children in their home villages. A lot of divorce cases were found among the migrant women. The migrant mothers carried their young children in the scorching sun while at work. They also indulged heavily in child labour by using their young daughters in their trades. The author further indicates that out of all the trade categories, petty trading was found to be the most lucrative. The chop bar labourers were over worked and exploited by their employers. He also indicates that the demand for housing far exceeded the supply in the city and therefore a sizeable number of the women slept in wooden structures and on verandas. The majority of them had regular daily meals but lacked the knowledge of the nutritional value of the foods they took. The major illness that the women contracted in Accra was malaria, for which the women indulged themselves in self-medication. The author finally remarks that the migrant woman preferred living in Accra to living in their home villages because their economic gains in Accra far exceeded those of the villages.


This thesis examines the relationships between the migration status of individuals and urban unemployment in Accra. The author based his study on a sample of 1,112 persons aged between 15 and 64 that he interviewed at Bubuashie, a suburb of Accra. In the beginning of the thesis background information is provided to the study area and to the socio-economic profiles of the migrants. An overview is also provided of the areas where the migrants came from before migrating to Accra. The research findings are presented and analysed in the third and fourth chapters. The author indicates that there is no significant difference between the rates of unemployment of migrants and non-migrants in Accra although new migrants show significantly higher rates of unemployment than either old migrants or non-migrants. According to the author findings also show that a substantial proportion of migrants migrate to Accra, primarily, in search of wage or salaried employment notwithstanding the high rate of unemployment of especially new migrants in the city. He further indicated, among others, that in their search for employment in Accra most unemployed migrants rely heavily on consanguine and other familial relationships rather than strictly bureaucratic procedures. In spite of the attractions of the city, the author indicated that more than three-quarters of the unemployed migrants, including all unemployed migrants with elementary school education, are willing to stay in their villages or rural areas of origin if they could secure salaried employment in these areas. In the final chapter the author provides some solutions to the problem of unemployed migrants in Accra and Ghana as a whole. He argues that the answer to urban unemployment in Ghana lies in the adoption of measures that
ultimately shift the locus of development from urban to rural areas. According to the author this could be realised through the provision of semi-skilled occupations in building construction, electrical trades and auto-mechanics in the rural areas.


The study was carried out in Kumasi, a central business district of Ghana. It examines the elements of the processes of emigration from Kumasi. It further examines how the movement of large proportions of unskilled, unemployed and underemployed persons helps solve the unemployment and under-employment problems in Kumasi as well as how the loss of high-level and skilled manpower results in hindering the effort at establishing a viable social, business and other appropriate environments for development in Kumasi. The author used a combination of census and survey data covering 126 return migrants in the central business district of Kumasi to examine these processes. He proposed that the emigration of nationals from Kumasi contributes significantly to the socio-economic development and also to the socio-economic decadence of the metropolis. Kumasi, according to the study, has also had a fair share of emigration to other countries. It is indicated that the Ashanti region has the most mobile emigrants according to the 1984 census, with Kumasi being the most mobile in the region. The key emigration destination is the United Kingdom. This, the study indicates, possibly reflects colonial ties between Britain and Ghana. The next destination is the United States of America and other parts of Europe. People who have engaged in international emigration have often cited economic reasons for such a move. Social factors have also played a major role in the emigration process in the town. This is said to be more the case in response to the admiration of wealth acquired by return migrants who display them conspicuously in terms of cars, houses, and durable goods such as televisions, sound systems, latest clothing and shoes; thus compelling others to also migrate in search of their own wealth. The study noted that over the years, there have been return migrants, typically the youth between 25-54 years and these were predominantly males. Information on the educational attainment of return migrants revealed that most of them had had post-secondary education with the males twice as likely to have it than the females. Moreover, the return migrants had some form of basic training or apprenticeship prior to leaving the country and engaged in diverse forms of employment before leaving the country. The study revealed that an examination of return migrants’ occupation after emigration revealed a change in the occupational structure. More seemed to engage in trading activates after their return. The study asserts that, though emigration has negative repercussions such as draining the town of its skilled personnel, the effects of emigration has brought about innovation, remittances and investment. This aids improvement of welfare of the people back in Kumasi. Besides, those who migrate unskilled and less educated return having upgraded themselves and thus contribute to the development of the town pointing more to the positive socio-economic development of the city rather
than its socio-economic decadence. This study is one of the few studies that have been done at the undergraduate level on international migration.


A key objective of Ghana's decentralization programme is the promotion of small towns, particularly district capitals, as a means of reducing rural-urban migration and the rapid growth of large towns and cities. While small towns have grown significantly in both number and population over the last three decades, the proportion of the total urban population living in these urban centres has changed very little or has even declined slightly. This contradicts the view that the growth and proliferation of small towns is leading to declining growth rates of the larger urban centres. This conclusion leads to the question of whether there is a justification for the promotion of small towns under Ghana's decentralization programme. This article examines the reasons accounting for the growth of small towns and concludes that promoting small towns, especially the district capitals under the current decentralization programme, is a positive response to rural development and the development of dispersed urbanisation in the long term.


Kumapo is a community in the Eastern region of Ghana. It is predominantly a farming community but the youth do not like farming. They resort to farming as the last career option. For those who express absolute dislike for farming, migration becomes a means to make career since Kumapo is centrally a farming community. But this propensity to migrate remains absent in the literature on Ghanaian migration. It is this reason that forms the basis for this study. The study establishes that the main cause of out-migration at Jumapo is lack of employment. The youth migrate for employment. Other determinants are the need for change in the environment, the need to be free from family control (to lead independent life), the need for further education and for enhancing their standard of living. Jumapo migration to urban centres results in loss of able bodied youth, reduction in agricultural productivity, breakdown of traditional controls over the participants and increased nucleation of migrant families. But these notwithstanding, Jumapo migration leads to development. Remittances are sent to community members, especially relative. This aside, grandiose buildings are constructed in the community. One feature of Jumapo migration is that, there is increased feminization. Recommendations to stem the tide include establishment of agro-based industries in the rural areas and encouragement of the youth to develop interest in farming.

It is estimated that there are some three million Ghanaians living outside the country with about a third of them in Europe and North America. These are made up of skilled and unskilled persons. Actual data on them is, however, not available. However, practically all of them are motivated by the prospects of a better life in whichever country they find themselves. In their destination, they maintain dense ties with their home communities. Such ties are often expressed in both economic and non-economic terms. Regular remittances are used by families and friends to meet daily consumption needs and in times of major crises, including illness and death in the family. On the national level, this is a crucial component of Ghana’s revenue, and, on the individual level, there are many Ghanaian homes today that rely to some extent for their upkeep on these remittances. For many people the remittances from Ghanaians living outside makes the difference between a reasonable standard of living and a life of deprivation. This paper concludes that, the relationship between migration and development is complex and needs to be properly managed. If properly managed, migration could be considered as a motor for development not only with respect to the remittances from emigrants but also from the proper management of skilled persons who for one reason or the other decide to migrate. The challenge, however, is the development of comprehensive policies which will help in managing all the diverse elements associated with migration.


This thesis examines how resettlement has been used as a development strategy to address the issue of poverty and underdevelopment among the population who was resettled in the Kpong area after the construction of the dam in Akosombo and the subsequent formation of the Volta Lake. The main purpose of the thesis is to evaluate the social and economic effects that the Kpong resettlement programme had on the population that was resettled in the area and to examine the extent to which the population had been incorporated into their new settlements. The author indicates that it was the responsibility of the Volta River Authority (VRA) to provide infrastructure such as houses, schools, roads, water, electricity and toilet facilities to the population who was resettled in the Kpong area. The VRA was also responsible for the initial development of farming lands and their allocation to the farmers. The Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) was fully responsible for the development of farming activities in the resettlement sites for which they provided Agricultural Extension Staff who were to help the farmers to adopt new ways of farming. The author explained that at the time he made his study most of the community facilities provided were deteriorating. The agricultural innovation introduced by the Extension Staff of the MOA had virtually collapsed pushing the farmers to return to their traditional ways of farming mainly because they did not have the financial means to sustain the introduced agricultural innovations. The Ministry of Agriculture, for example, failed in its promise of providing tractors for the initial clearing of land for cultivation. The author further indicated that the resettles had
developed a complaining attitude about the problems they encountered in the Kpong area, especially with regards of economic opportunities in the new settlements. Eventually the resettles blamed the VRA and the Government of Ghana for not fulfilling their pre-evacuation promises. The author concludes that the Kpong resettlement programme did not have the desired impact of raising the productivity and standard of living of the resettled population and that the extent to which the Kpong resettles were able to adjust themselves to their new environments depended on the resources and technologies they would adopt to increase their agricultural output and productivity. The author further concludes that resettlement exercises therefore do not automatically provide higher living standards. The author recommends that sufficient farming land, improved seeds, and credit facilities be made available to the relocated farmers. The provision of such resources would help ensure self-sufficiency in food production, sale of excess food, open the rural market and induce agricultural and other industrialists to the area.


The expulsion of several aliens from Ghana can be seen as a major example of a disturbing trend. This pattern is worthy of study because it tells us a good deal about the economic, political, and social problems of the countries concerned, and helps to explain their lack of interest in pan-Africanism. This article deals particularly with the Ghanaian experience because it was much larger in scale than elsewhere and because more detailed information is available; but similar conditions have arisen in other countries. Ghana's problems were serious because her wealth had for so long made her a magnet to immigrants.


While long-range migration within West Africa has been historically common, present national governments have regularly sought to exclude foreigners from competing with citizens for employment. Ghana’s expulsion of an estimated 2000 aliens in the 6 months after November 18, 1969 was the largest such effort. Over 12% of the 1960 population was born abroad. Since citizenship is by blood, many immigrants are officially foreign, and typically live in their own communities, maintaining their own customs. There was, however, little popular pressure for alien exclusion, Ghanaians being traditionally friendly to foreigners, more pressure came from businessmen, seeking to avoid competition. Attitudes toward aliens were surveyed in Ashaiman, a low-income suburb of Tema, in 1970. At that time about 10% of household heads admitted to being aliens. Nigerians, most involved in trade and business, faced more resentment than groups from northern countries who were labourers, soldiers, or police. The majority of residents did not stereotype ethnic groups, especially those who know aliens well. Little national change was seen resulting from the expulsion: a majority saw no difference, while 49% felt local crime was reduced. No general resentment of aliens was found.

This paper focuses on emigrants from Ghana, which has lost large numbers of qualified people over the last 20 years. Ghana is following the pattern of Ireland and Scotland- small countries with too few opportunities for a growing population. It is legally more difficult to emigrate today than in the last century, but large numbers of Ghanaians do so every year. Several aspects of Ghanaian emigration are considered: the development of inter-African emigration; Ghana's economy and educational system as basic causes of emigration; the choice of destinations; the consequences, in terms of national, family and individual costs and benefits; and the ways in which emigrants maintain their links with fellow Ghanaians, at home and abroad.


The article deals with group definition in pluralistic settings. Accra is a plural society made up of diverse collectivities, one of which is the Muslim community, which was established, and is currently dominated, by migrant ethnic groups. The author analyses affiliative behaviour amongst these Muslims. The analysis is framed by the following primary questions: What are the episodes that bring about the fission or fusion of the Muslims? Under what social circumstances do they divide or coalesce? And what is the social taxonomy of the groupings?


This paper is concerned with change in a long-settled migrant community in Accra, Ghana, and specifically with the cultural and spatial components in the home. The settlement was established in 1912, primarily for the Hausa people. Houses were equipped with an entry hut for the man of the house and his male friends, and the segregated women's quarters for the houseowner's wives, both facilitating sheltering adult women from the gaze of unrelated adult men. Over the years, houses have been built without these features, and dwellings no longer contain the members of a family only. Looking at the evolution of housing in the community of Sabon Zongo, one sees the conflation of Hausa vernacular, southern Ghanaian traditions and western influence.


This article examines the culture of space and its relationship to community development and leadership, using an Accra zongo (stranger community) as a case example. The situation of Accra's
Muslims in the late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries was one of social and spatial unity, even as they fought to maintain ethnic distinctiveness. One Hausa faction formed a separate enclave, known as Sabon Zongo. As a "stranger" group, they had no inherent rights to land but were granted rights by the local Ga, which were confirmed by the British. Over the years, the chieftaincy and the status of the original chiefly family have changed. The community's social and spatial history demonstrates how these are ordered by and reflect the power structures to which the community is subordinated.


In 1957 M. G. Smith published a seminal paper on the role of the male praise-singer, the "maroki", among Northern Nigeria's Muslim Hausa. This paper explores the role of the "maroki" in the diaspora community of Sabon Zongo in Accra. While Accra's "zongo" communities are considerably diluted in their Islamic orthodoxy, they are nonetheless distinctly Islamic in tone, witness the mosques, Qur'anic schools, flowing robes and diaphanous prayer veils, and a general cultural orientation that is strongly influenced by the Hausa and distinct from Christian southern Ghana. Among the Hausa, and those "zongo" institutions particularly affected by Hausa custom, there is also a vestigial separation between the worlds of men and women. This article considers the "maroki" as an ungendered actor. It suggests that, through his attendance at Hausa and "zongo" women's occasions, he has become their client, regards them as his patrons and conjoins their world with that of men.


In this article, Pellow expands on Coquery-Vidrovitch's observation (1991) that to understand each African urban milieu, we must view it as more than a fusion of European, American, or traditional culture. Rather, we must see each African city as unique, that is, in fact, internally differentiated, containing a multitude of enclaves that vary one from another in their respective social, physical, and architectural spatial forms. Pellow focuses on one community in Accra known as Sabon Zongo. Founded by migrant Hausa from northern Nigeria almost a century ago, it is neither typically southern Ghanaian nor Hausa, having adapted to a mixed cultural milieu. Laid out by the British as part of their town plan, its manner of growth has blurred the original scheme. The paper examines a number of components that define the uniqueness of this particular urban community, including physical delineations (within Sabon Zongo and between it and the city at large), local knowledge, the landscape, the infrastructure, market and street trade, and centripetal socio-spatial structures such as the family compound.

This article argues that the 'homo economicus' view of migrants cannot adequately explain the processes of migration, because extra-market measurements were used to direct the mobilisation, movement and maintenance of labour. The 'social deficit' of proletarianisation should be our primary concern and not the 'opportunity cost' of labour migration. The author argues that within the colonial context and in relation to plantation, public, or mine labour - with particular reference to Northern Ghana 1900-1940 -, the individual cannot be conceived of as having made a rational decision, within sometimes an infertile and overpopulated environment, to maximise his economic interests in response to market forces. Analysis of labour migration within colonial contexts requires attention to the socio-economic structures in question, the agents who became active in setting in motion various internal forces, as well as the external linkages that subordinated economic activities to the needs of first a metropolitan economy and thereafter the world market (abstract copied from introduction)


Institutions, transaction costs, and trust are three issues, which are getting more and more attention in the economic literature. As such, this study investigates which role these issues play for migrants who are building a house in their hometown and how these issues are related to each other. Migrant house construction is a relatively new phenomenon in Ghana. However, it is an interesting case for a study on institutions, transaction costs and trust because migrants have to deal with all the three issues when they are building a house in their hometown. It is likely that they face different types of transaction costs because they are building their houses from a distance. By identifying the transaction costs of migrants this study provides more insight into the determinants of these transaction costs. Because of distance, they use other institutions and trust plays a greater role. By studying how transaction costs, institutions and trust matter for migrants who are building a house in their hometown, this study provides more insight into the relations between trust, institutions and transaction costs. The study showed that institutions matter because among other things, they form the constraints that structure economic interaction. The study also showed that, uncertainty matters for migrants who are building a house in Ashanti-Mampong because it is the source on which most differences in transactions costs between migrants and non-migrants are based. Additionally, the study showed that, there are different reasons for people to trust each other and that both affect-based and reputation-based trust are present in Ashanti-Mampong. Furthermore, it found out that the issue of trust is of great importance in Ashanti-Mampong. Lack of trust was also found to explain why institutions are created. The study found out that institutions institution, when created, can lower transaction costs, but only if they encourage trust first. Trust functions as the link that connects institutions with transaction costs.

This study does not deal directly with migration, but does consider the link between migration and contemporary changes in conjugal relations, eg. in terms of divorce. Comparing three West Africa countries - Ghana, Upper Volta (Burkina Faso), Niger -, the Pool argues that traditional marriage customs are still widely followed, but that exposure to "modern" concepts of marriage through residence in urban areas, education, and the changing needs of the societies are bringing about new patterns of conjugal relations.


This study is an investigation into rural-urban migration in Ghana with special reference to Pokuase and Amasaman communities in the Greater Accra region. It aimed to find the rationale underlying the phenomenon, the category of people involved, and the implication of the movements for the rural areas. The study put forward the argument that, the phenomenon of rural-urban migration is selective in terms of age, sex, marital status, educational attainment and employment status. It is mainly the youth, males, the unmarried, the better educated and the unemployed who migrate most. Economic, social and personal motives are involved in the migration decision process. In general, rural-urban migration is beneficial to the migrant as well as the rural areas. Specifically to the rural area, it contributes to infrastructural development. The effects of rural-urban migration on the rural areas are clear. It results in the gradual erosion of the power of the traditional authority and more importantly in the transfer of the rural labour force en masse to the urban areas. This creates labour shortages and leads to under production in the rural areas.


Migrant remittances have becomes a source of external finance whose magnitude exceeds the amount of official assistance in some developing countries. Balance of payment statistics from Bank of Ghana indicate the amount of remittances to Ghana exceeds ODA and is a potential force to reckon with particularly considering its growth rate in recent years. It is general knowledge in Ghana that families with migrant workers, particularly those in developed countries, are able to withstand shocks to income. This relationship has not been tested empirically, however, even though the Ghana Living Standard Survey (GLSS) is rich with such micro-data on the economy. This study therefore uses Waves 1 to 4 of the GLSS to investigate whether migrant remittances improve household welfare and help to minimize the effects of economic shocks to household welfare. They do not offset the shocks completely, however, except for food crop farmers (the poorest in Ghana).

Migrant worker remittances have been a means of survival for many Ghanaians, particularly in times of macro-economic shocks. The growing volume and importance of migrant worker remittances in Ghana is evidenced by the recent proliferation of money transfer institutions in Ghana (both formal and informal). It has been argued that migrant remittances are becoming a source of external finance of magnitude that exceeds the amount of ODA received in some developing countries. In Ghana’s case, available data from the Bank of Ghana show that the amount of remittances does indeed exceed ODA. It is general knowledge in Ghana the families with migrant workers, particularly those in developed countries, are able to withstand shocks to income and threats to household welfare. However, this relationship has not been tested empirically in Ghana despite the fact that the Ghana Living Standard Survey (GLSS) is rich with such micro-data on the economy. This study therefore pooled Waves III and IV of the GLSS into a pseudo-panel and investigated whether migrant remittances have been a source of income smoothing in Ghana, particularly in times of macro-volatility. The major findings include the following: First, migrant remittances are counter-cyclical in Ghana; inflows of remittances increase in times of economic shocks. Second, remittances significantly affect household welfare and therefore tend to reduce any economic shock that affects household income and consequently welfare. This is particularly true in the case of food crop farmers in Ghana who are ‘the poorest of the poor’. The study found that remittances are used (in addition to other coping mechanisms) to maximize the impact of economic shocks and are the main coping mechanisms for this group of households in times of economic shock. Moreover, households that own land have better welfare than those without land. Whereas the level of education of household head positively affects welfare, the age of the head of household negatively correlates with household welfare, although this is not significant. The study also found that larger households have reduced welfare, an indication that there is an absence of consumption synergies within larger households. Finally, the proportion of males receiving migrant remittances exceeds that of females. This finding is not encouraging since it has been established that transfers to female-headed households have more significant and positive welfare effects than transfers to their male counterparts.


This report deals with current migration trends in Ghana. Section two examines migration patterns and explains how Ghana changed from being a net immigration country to becoming a net ‘exporter’ of migrants because of changing political and economic conditions. A table is also provided showing arrivals and departures from Ghana between 1999 and 2002. The author recognizes the difficulty in obtaining data on migration in Ghana and therefore uses different sources to explain the characteristics of Ghanaian migrants. He recognizes the difficulty in comparing sources and realizes that
it makes cross-country comparisons difficult or inappropriate. The main characteristics that are 
explained here are the age of the migrants, and the gender proportions and marital status. The author 
uses data from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to explain the 
status of Ghanaian migrants in the OECD countries and their skills characteristics. Section three looks at 
the socio-economic impact of migration in Ghana. The author provides an overview of both positive and 
negative impacts of migration on Ghanaian society. This offers a refreshing view since most literature 
tends to focus on the negative impacts of migration. The positive effects of migration the author lists 
are skill transfers, investment, brain-circulation and diaspora networks. However, the most positive 
short-term economic effect of migration is found in remittances. This refers to monetary and other cash 
transfers sent from migrants to their families and communities at country of origin. Data from the 
Central Bank of Ghana (using BOP estimates) for instance shows that private inward remittances 
through the banks and other finance companies amounted to about $1.017 billion in 2003 as compared 
to $479 million recorded for the year 1999. A major negative effect of migration is "brain drain", the 
loss of trained and educated individuals to migration. The author explains that the migration of health 
workers, especially nurses and doctors, has created serious problems in the provision of health care 
delivery in the country. He also explains that the situation in the education sector is not much different. 
The report further provides and in-depth look at the situation of health-worker migration in Ghana. The 
author provides evidence from a survey he conducted with 100 Ghanaian trained nurses living in the UK. 
The fourth section deals with return migration, brain drain and brain re-gain. The author mainly looks at 
the benefits of return migration and at the incentives Ghanaian migrants need to return home. He 
argues that the return of migrants largely depend on the socio-economic conditions in Ghana. The 
author also argues that depending on the migrant’s legal and marital status he or she will spend 
different lengths of time abroad. Section four also provides a constructive answer to the problems 
related to the brain drain that were presented in section three. In the conclusion the author calls for an 
appropriate policy development to adequately deal with migration issues in Ghana.


The study attempts to examine the role that migrant remittances play in shared growth in 
Ghana. The questions that the study seeks to answer include the following: (i) how do we fill the savings 
and investment gap in Ghana? and (ii) how do we ensure that inequality between Ghana and other 
developed countries are reduced? (iii) How do we ensure that economic growth is shared among the 
population? (iv) Will migrant remittances play a major role in addressing these issues and ensure that 
Ghana records shared growth? In light of the above, the study will specifically look at the proportions of 
migrant remittances to Ghana that is saved or invested and how this can be used to ensure shared 
growth and poverty reduction. Existing literature reviewed indicates that remittances to developing 
countries amount to some $65 billion, and this amount exceeds Official Direct Assistance. These flows 
have great potential to generate a positive impact in migrants’ home region. Additionally, there is a 
relationship between migrant remittances, economic growth and inequality in that remittance flows are 
beneficial at all levels of national economy, and if well managed it can help reduce poverty. Remittances
have both direct and indirect income effects, which potentially have important influences on production, income inequality and poverty, at least at the local level. Whilst some researchers hold the view that, remittance flows reduce income inequality between the rich and the poor others are however of the view that the reverse is true because, it is the rich that are able to get their family members to migrate. Remittances have also served as a form of social insurance for migrants. The study will use two data sources; first, data from a survey of recipients of migrant remittances through the offices of selected money transfer institutions in Accra. This will basically ascertain the proportion of remittances consumed and invested and the share of recipient’s income from migrant remittances. Subsequently, the GLSS 3 and 4 will also be used to analyze the impact of remittances on poverty in Ghana. The principal hypothesis to be investigated by this study is that `migrant remittances reduce poverty. Both qualitative and quantitative techniques are employed in this study. Findings from the study indicated that significant proportion of remittances is invested which clearly indicates that migrant remittances have significant long term impacts on household welfare. Secondly, the contribution of remittances in GDP is significant and has shown a steady increase over the past decade, indicating the potential role of remittances in economic growth. In addition, from the survey of recipients of remittances, migrant remittances form a significant proportion of their income, indicating its role in ensuring shared growth between rich and poor nations. In conclusion, migrant remittances ensure that private resources are transferred from rich countries to households in poor countries not just for consumption but for investment purposes which tend to promote growth and facilitate poverty reduction. The study therefore suggests among other things that rich countries should streamline legislations that inhibit the transfer of migrant funds to developing countries.


Migrant worker remittances have been a means of survival for many Ghanaians, particularly in times of macroeconomic shocks. The importance of migrant worker remittances in Ghana is evidenced by the proliferation of money transfer institutions in Ghana (both formal and informal) and the rapid increases in migrant remittances to Ghana. It has been argued that migrant remittances are becoming a potential source of external finance and its magnitude has exceeded the amount of ODA in some developing countries including Ghana. Available data from the Bank of Ghana shows that the amount of remittances to Ghana exceeds ODA and it is therefore of critical concern considering its growth rate in recent years in particular. The value of remittances increased from $31 million in 1999 to $1.4 billion in 2002. It is general knowledge in Ghana that families with migrant workers; particularly those in developed countries are able to withstand shocks to income and threats to household welfare. However, this relationship has not been tested empirically in Ghana despite the fact that the Ghana Living Standards Survey (GLSS) is rich with such micro-data on the economy. This study therefore pooled Waves III and IV of the GLSS into a pseudo panel and investigated whether migrant remittances have been a source of income smoothing in Ghana, particularly in times of macro-volatility. The major findings include the following: First, it was found that migrant remittances are counter-cyclical in Ghana; inflows of remittances increase in times of economic shocks. Second, remittances significantly affect
household welfare and therefore tend to reduce any economic shock that affects household income and consequently welfare. This is particularly true in the case of food crop farmers in Ghana who are 'the poorest of the poor'. The study found that although remittances are used (in addition to other coping mechanisms) to minimize the impact of economic shocks, remittances are the main coping mechanisms for these group of households in times of economic shock. Moreover, households that own land have better welfare than those without land. Whereas level of education of the household head positively affects welfare, age of the head of the household negatively correlates with household welfare although this was not significant. The study also found that larger households have reduced welfare, an indication that there is the absence of consumption synergies within larger households. Finally, the proportion of males receiving migrant remittances exceeds that of females. This trend is not encouraging since it has been established that transfers to female headed households have significant welfare effects than those transferred to their male counterparts.


The paper compares two different West African communities living and working in Italy. The mostly male Senegalese migrants generally belong to the Mouride Sufi brotherhood, whose vertical and horizontal ties are reproduced in transnational networks, and these often help migrants organise their business activities as well as their temporary settlement within the receiving contexts. Ghanaians in Italy are Christians with a growing number of Pentecostals. They have a balanced gender ratio and, unlike the Senegalese who are strongly identified with the project of return, Ghanaians families tend to settle in Italy. Yet transnational connections and activities (remittances, home associations, investment in housing or entrepreneurial activities) are frequent among Ghanaians too. Despite differences, there are therefore also similarities. The paper focuses on the complex politics of interplay with the receiving contexts and explores the potentials and obstacles for the enhancement of transnational linkages.


A range of qualitative evidence indicates that the very poorest in a community are unlikely to migrate due to the high transaction costs associated with migration, and therefore migration is not a viable strategy to enable these households to move out of poverty. This paper explores this finding quantitatively. First, we describe the main challenges in the empirical literature and introduce a conceptual model to explore the links between migration and poverty. Using a bivariate probit model, our results show that poverty is a positive and significant determinant of migration. Furthermore, migration can have a significant impact on helping poor people move out of poverty. In accordance with
dominant literature on migration, migration choice is determined, among other things, by age, gender, marital status, regional effects and education level. By far the largest determinant of current poverty status for all groups is their past poverty status which highlights the path dependent nature of poverty and the problematic of poverty traps. The fact that the analysis here is able to use a two-period model is an improvement on many existing analyses of migration. Controlling for past poverty status in a sequential model indicates that migration effects that are typically evident in one-period models, are significantly reduced. We also investigate the selectivity of migrants and find evidence of selectivity with respect to human capital for Egyptians in Italy who moved with a visa or work permit. With respect to economic migrants we find selectivity in gender and past poverty status for both Ghanaians and Egyptian migrants, but no differences according to human capital. The findings presented in this paper enrich existing empirical studies by providing a clear estimation of sequential events and enable policymakers to better understand the processes behind migration and poverty. Further analysis will explore similar issues with respect to return migrants.


This paper explores quantitatively, the evidence from qualitative data that, the very poorest in a community are unlikely to migrate due to the high transaction costs associated with migration, and therefore, migration is not a viable strategy to enable these households to move out of poverty. First, it describes the main challenges in the empirical literature and introduces a conceptual model to explore the links between migration and poverty. The paper is organized as follows: Section 1 gives a general introduction to the study and Section 2 provides a brief overview of migration trends and poverty in Egypt and Ghana - the countries of study. Section 3 gives an overview of the theoretical linkages between migration and poverty and reviews the dominant hypotheses in the literature. In Section 4 the method for examining these linkages econometrically and a proposed conceptual model are discussed. Section 5 describes the methodology for the analysis and describes the outcome variable, main migration variable and other controls. Section 6 presents results and in Section 7, the authors draw out the implications the results have for theory and policy. The study uses data collected in 1997/1998 as part of a special purpose migration survey on push and pull factors of international migration. The survey was coordinated by NIDI (Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute), and was implemented in five developing, predominantly-sending countries, and three European, predominantly-receiving countries. The survey collected data on current, return and non-migrants, at the individual and household level. The analysis compares non-migrants residing in Ghana and Egypt with Ghanaians and Egyptians migrants living in Italy. Using a bivariate probit model, the study shows that poverty is a positive and significant determinant of migration. Furthermore, the authors note that migration can have a significant impact on helping poor people move out of poverty. In line with dominant literature on migration, the study indicates that migration choice is determined, among other things, by age, gender, marital status, regional effects and education level. For instance, the study indicates that Ghanaians with higher levels of education are less likely to migrate to Italy than Ghanaians with lower
levels of education. With respect to occupation in Ghana, their results show that employers are less likely to migrate than the retired and occupationally ‘inactive’ individuals. They also assert that employees and unemployed are more likely to migrate than the retired and occupationally ‘active’ individuals. The findings presented in this paper enrich existing empirical studies by providing a clear estimation of sequential events and enable policymakers to better understand the processes behind migration and poverty. Furthermore, the authors note that migration can have a significant impact on helping poor people move out of poverty. Although the dataset is rich in information on migrants, the authors note that it has some limitations regarding the availability of information prior to migration. In addition, the authors indicate that while their methodological discussion holds for poverty and migration in general, their empirical analysis applies exclusively to current migrants versus non-migrants.


In this paper we use both quantitative and qualitative data from Ghana to explore the relationship between migration, legal status and poverty reduction. Drawing on analysis of the experiences of return migrants to Ghana, we note that the ‘legality’ of migration is complex, as different types of formal documentation are required for different countries, and at different stages of the migration process. Using a probit model, we investigate the factors determining the acquiring of formal documentation at the time of departure, arguing that poverty is associated with an increased likelihood of irregular migration. We then use a multinomial logit model to gain some insights into changes in well-being during the period spent abroad. Although limited by the dataset available for the analysis of changes in subjective poverty status, we show that those who were able to travel with formal documents were more likely to have moved out of poverty by the time of their return. This suggests that international migration is unlikely to provide a secure route out of poverty for many Ghanaians within a restrictive immigration environment, as they become trapped in more vulnerable and less sustainable migration processes. Interpretation of the quantitative analysis is enriched by discussion of more qualitative data that explores what migrants understand by ‘legal’ migration, their chances of improving livelihoods whilst abroad, and the sustainability of return.


This study examines the causes of migration from Ghana to the United States of America (U.S). It explores the internal and external factors that motivate Ghanaians to travel to the U.S. It uses the theories of the laws of migration promulgated by Ernest George Ravenstein, the theory of intervening opportunities by Samuel Stouffer and the migration theory by Everett Lee to facilitate understanding of the causes of migration from Ghana. In addition to identifying the causes of international migration from
Ghana, the study also looks at the benefits and adverse effects of international migration for Ghana. The study adopted a qualitative design using semi-structured interview schedule. The target population for the study was first generation Ghanaians based in the U.S. recruited through the snowball sampling technique and interviewed by telephone. The study concluded with a confirmation that even though economic reasons motivated the decisions of those who were interviewed to travel to the United States other factors like the world systems, globalization of media and educational opportunities played various roles in informing the decisions of Ghanaians to migrate.


The traditional-modern model does not deal adequately with the effects of migration or with the existence of stranger communities. Its starting point for the analysis of change is the colonial period and it tends to portray the intrusion of European civilisation as the impetus for all types of change. Since strangers, as migrants, were at the forefront of social, cultural, and political change in Africa long before the colonial period began, it is not surprising that they are often omitted from this over-simplified paradigm of history. The stranger's position is anomalous, not only in the pages of western political analysts, but in the real difficulties of modern political life." (copied from introduction)


Contents


This work considers the effects of large-scale mobilisations and extensive service of East- and West Africans in the British colonial forces - including the status and social, political and economic role of ex-servicemen in their home country. It looks specifically at Ghana and Uganda and concludes that
the primary effect of the large-scale recruitment of Africans into British forces during World War II was not the radical transformation of the serving men into modernised, politically active citizens with a national outlook. Instead, the service provided a concentrated exposure for 470,000 men to basically the same modernising influences which were already being felt in their home territories.


Analyzed is the political organization of migrant cocoa-farming communities recently established in southern Ghana. These farmers have tried to organize the new settlements using principles derived from their original communities. The work makes comparison between traditional villages and those newly established by immigrants and shows specific differences. While traditional villages had been formed as political alliances between social groups, the new villages are located according to commercial significance and organized according to dictates of the market. Content of work: I. Traditional Community Organization a. Precolonial Patterns b. Colonial Changes II. Community Development in the Suhum Area a. General Institutional Setting b. Processes of Community Formation c. Administrative Structure i. Single Company Forms ii. Multiple Company Forms III. Discussion a. Economic Conditions b. Value Systems c. Political Strategies and Conclusion


Rural-urban migration to the urban centres of Ghana has been a matter of concern to many Ghanaians, especially policy makers. When an individual or a family moves out in search of better opportunities, whether in relation to income and employment, education, or for social services or any thing that represents quality life, they, in fact, are trying to work strategy for self development or for solving the problem of low income, under-employment and unemployment in their native lands. In this study, emphasis is placed on the Wulugu community, West Mamprusi District in the Northern Region of Ghana. The work is located within systems theory of migration and ascertains the causes of out migration, and the impact it has on the community. The results reveal that, several factors conspire to generate out-migration of Wulugu citizens to Accra. These factors reflect colonial and post colonial government policies which rendered the entire northern area reserved labour force, the desire to further education, the desire to seek for job and money, and the desire to enjoy prestige associated with migration. Others include lack of social amenities in the Wulugu community, and the availability of both social and economic infrastructures in southern Ghana and Accra in particular. Wulugu migrants in Accra impact on their community in several ways. Property acquired in the form of bicycles, textiles, building material and cash remittances are frequently sent back home to contribute in no small measure in alleviating poverty in the village. The dissemination of new ideas and innovatos by returned migrants have also brought about social change in the community. But the impact of Wulugu migration is not only
positive for the community. It has reduced farm labour, brought about drug addiction, disrespect for traditional and cultural beliefs and practices and prostitution especially for returned female migrants who refuse to marry in the village.


Human societies have never been static. They have generally been subjected to situations which have caused them to migrate. The people of Alakple, one of the islands in the Keta lagoon of the Volta region of Ghana have never been exception to this. Indeed they are known to be migrating. As early as 1962, it was estimated that about 30% of the Alakple townfolk (excluding literates) had migrated. They were known to have established youth associations in the major towns of the country with the aim of contributing to the development of their town. This study attempts to find out the extent to which the youth associations and the individual out-migrants have contributed to the overall development of Alakple. Alakple migration is mainly forced because it emanates from frequent dryness of the lagoon and pressure of the population on the existing resources. Most of the migrants left their native land for jobs, while those who left for further studies never returned. As a long term process, out-migration in the Alakple community involved more young males than females, and remains an enterprise for people of low level education. When it involved high level educated people, it is a response to the community’s inability to provide them with jobs. In this way, economic motive begins to feature in the migration decision or motives. Migrants pay regular visits to their households especially during funeral and Easter festivities. Regular remittances to households and other relatives are used to maintain kinship bonds. The study reveals that, Akaple out-migrants have formed youth associations in 13 towns across the country. There is a national management council charged with the responsibility to provide of social amenities such as lavatories, schools, roads, electricity and water to their native land. The associations were making efforts to send electricity and provide potable water to Alakple at the time of the study.


The excess rate of migration to urban centers is a problem affecting over 50 developing countries and 18 developed ones (68% of the world's population). Policies that rely on compulsion or disincentives have mostly failed because they do not deal with the cause of the problem. This paper proposes a strategy of increasing or decreasing the rate of housing construction in different urban areas as a means of stimulating or reducing migration to those areas; in most developing areas priority is given to residential construction in already congested metropolitan areas. Five assumptions are the basis for this approach: 1) migrants tend to gravitate to the most powerful growth poles; 2) residential construction is a leading sector of regional and urban economies; 3) the encouragement of construction activity will make itself felt indirectly via its effect on construction-related employment; 4) rates of residential construction may be manipulated through government policy affecting the cost of materials,
availability of loans, level of unionization, and price of housing; and 5) residential construction is amenable to quick policy action. The central idea of the strategy is that an increase in residential construction will exercise a pull on migrants, increasing job opportunities, raising incomes, lowering housing costs, and improving the chances of home ownership. This idea has been verified by various projects in Hong Kong, Ghana, Venezuela, Brazil, Bahrain, Mexico, Colombia, Poland, USSR, and the UK. In Bahrain low-income housing programmes have been used to relocate Bahraini nationals in new outlying suburbs and to promote population growth in rural villages. In Mexico self-help and low-income housing programmes have helped to redirect migrants headed for small towns toward smaller communities. There is also evidence to show that building construction has the potential to expand and contribute to economic growth. Some problems of implementation might be finding an adequate economic base, the need to place new communities close to primate cities, the use of large portions of the national budget, and profit-maximizing plans have been detrimental to the speed and development of construction migration. Some benefits for smaller urban areas of construction migrants in developing countries are: 1) emphasis on the development of a labour-intensive industry, 2) little training of workers as needed, 3) it can provide the housing required by industries planning to move to smaller areas, 4) this housing will be cheaper, and 5) incentives will exist to save and invest in the smaller areas.


This paper discusses the growing interest among researchers and international agencies in better understanding the rural-urban interface in Africa. It also illustrates the key features of this interface and associated definitional issues, drawing on research in eight villages around the city of Kumasi in Ghana. All villages had processes of change linked to Kumasi, although with very different degrees of for instance, the extent of land commercialization and its use for housing, the provision for infrastructure, and the proportion of the workforce in non-agricultural work or commuting to Kumasi. The extent of the changes in villages was influenced by many factors other than distance or accessibility, including whether the village was within Kumasi’s boundaries, the power of local inhabitants in negotiations with local government, and where land for settlement by new migrants was most readily available. This supports the concept of a non-linear and non-uniform gradient of urban influences on peri-urban areas.


Labour migration is an outstanding feature in most contemporary African societies. It not only touches on nearly all aspects of the lives of the peoples involved, but is often the cause as well as the result of important social and cultural changes. It therefore holds a special interest for students of such changes. Here they can observe the movements of vast numbers of people, and the concomitant problems which arise with the exposure of these people to new social, political, and economic
conditions. Furthermore, working with data from migrants and their home and host communities, social scientists are able to test many theoretical assumptions which are held about the nature of socio-cultural change. This work explores the relationship between labour migration and socio-cultural change in an African context.


The difficulties attending the attempt of the new African polities to weld their disparate elements into viable nation-states have been popularly attributed to 'tribalism'. Certainly, in some cases groups indigenous to a region did come into conflict as new states arose there, but a hard look at tribal relations in modern Africa shows these relations to be of a different order from those of pre-European times. One element in the so-called 'tribalism' in modern Africa, and one which has so far escaped systematic treatment, is the conflict which arose between Africans indigenous to an area and African 'strangers'-those groups which for various reasons had moved out of their homelands and had established relatively long-term residence in the territories of other groups - as political autonomy and independence became a reality. An examination of the factors which made for conflict between 'locals' and 'strangers' in West African societies would not only give us the opportunity to understand this phenomenon in a time-perspective, but would also enable us to see whether the status and role of the 'stranger' in these societies could throw light on the universal problem of the 'stranger'.


This paper examines labour migration among the Mossi of the Upper Volta during the 1960's and its impacts upon their society. It also focuses attention upon the historical aspects of the phenomenon, upon the development of forces within Mossi society that stimulated migration and upon the relationship of labor migration to other factors that caused changes in their society. Even though the Mossi reside outside of Ghana, the authors decided to include this paper since the Mossi represented a larger part of immigrant laborers in the country. The author estimates that between 50,000 and 100,000 Mossi workers migrated to Ghana annually during the 1960's. The Mossi first began to migrate for work in order to earn money for the ever-increasing taxes introduced by the French in 1896. Some Mossi tried to meet these new obligations by intensifying their dry-season trade to the forest and northern Niger River Zones, but they however soon found that working in the Gold Coast was more profitable than trade because they were paid in coins that could be exchanged for French currency. Eventually, ever-increasing numbers of Mossi were compelled to migrate to the Gold Coast by French authorities in order to pay taxes. By the beginning of World War I the Mossi people had gradually developed a pattern of seasonal migration that enabled them to obtain money for taxes, but also fitted into their traditional economy and compensated for some of the economic benefits they had formerly derived from trading. However, this migratory pattern was disrupted after World War I by the
labor demands of the French Administration and of private colonial interests, and as a result many Mossi workers fled to the Gold Coast in order to escape the unprofitable forced labor. By the time forced labor was abolished, labor migration had become so much part of the economic system that the Mossi continued to migrate for work even during the independence. The author however indicated that if the Mossi had been able to find work in their home areas they would not have migrated. The author continues by discussing how the actual journey proceeded from the Upper Volta to the south and how the migrants were able to obtain work. He indicates that the largest number of migrants who went to Ghana or the Ivory Coast ultimately found work as laborers on cacao, coffee, and vegetable farms, while others worked in mines, on roads, or as town laborers. Eighty percent of the migrants returned home annually during the month of April, after having bought the goods they desired. The author further provides a detailed account of how return migrants are welcomed back into their home communities. Subsequently, he discusses the effects of labor migration on Mossi society, such as the adoption of new agricultural techniques, the change from subsistence farming to farming for profit, the change in work patterns of family units, the change in architecture, the change in control of elders over the females and marriages, the change of the social status of woman, and the changes in Mossi religious beliefs. Finally, the author also elaborates on the roles the chieftaincy institution played in Mossi migration and also on how migration influenced this institution and political change in the Gold Coast.


Over the past two decades a debate has arisen between scholars largely opposed to migration from developing countries and those who favour migration for its impact on the economies of developing countries. Rising interest and involvement of other actors in this debate on the relationship between migration and development, notably governments of sending and receiving countries, has only polarized this debate resulting in two main schools of thought: the anti-migration school gives primacy to issues such as ‘brain drain’ and social issues related to the migration process itself to argue for restrictive measures that would counter mass migration especially when remittances are seldom used ‘productively’ in countries of origin of migrants. In contrast the pro-migration school emphasizes how, even informal migrants, who have arrived in the west through risky and expensive informal routes are still able to support their families, friends and others in their countries of origin, contributing to the local economy, through the remittances they send. From own research in Accra, the capital of Ghana, on transnational influences of migrants on the local economy, I do incline towards the arguments of the pro-migration school, although I stress that two factors need to be taken into consideration. First, transnational relations provide differential benefits to local actors in the countries of origin of migrants, i.e. there may be major differences in the gains which local actors derive from transnational relationships with migrants. Second, transnational relationships of urban actors with migrants are, more often than not, two-way flows. Thus relationships with migrants not only provide benefits to urban actors, notably in the form of remittances, they often also require substantial investments of own resources by urban actors.

Current models of change in immigrant churches posit that ethnic congregations become more acculturated in response to inter-generational conflicts. As second and third generation church members attempt to meet their own unique social needs, ethnic churches are forced to revise their goals and structures in order to ensure the survival of their organization. Recent studies, however cast doubt on whether generational changes are the only catalyst of evolution in ethnic churches. This paper develops an alternative explanation by arguing that, religious culture can also exert pressure for change. It does so by showing how a strong emphasis on inter-ethnic evangelism lead to the adoption of English-language services in a Ghanaian Pentecostal church in Chicago.


The present paper outlines the major patterns of female involvement in contemporary West African migration. It indicates some of the effects on the lives of women of their own migration and that of men. It notes the role of female migrants as innovators in the process of contemporary socioeconomic change and raises some questions as to the relationship this bears to the process of "development." Most of the illustrative data come from my studies of Yoruba migrants in Ghana.


The building of the dam at Akosombo and the subsequent creation of the Volta Lake was meant to become a catalyst for industrialisation in Ghana. Such a project resulted however not only in positive economic, socio-cultural and ecological changes but also in the spread of such health hazards as schistosomiasis, onchocerciasis, trypanosomiasis, malaria and other water borne diseases. Using evidence from 26 selected villages along the Volta Lake, this thesis examines the changes that occurred in the population, especially with regard to its movement and the spread and transmission of schistosomiasis. The creation of the lake and the subsequent movement of population led to a rapid spread and a dramatic increase in the prevalence and incidence rates of schistosomiasis among the population around the Volta Lake, especially in some 26 selected villages in the Afram Pawnpawnya arms of the Volta Lake, which were selected for study. This was an area where schistosomiasis was virtually unknown before the creation of the lake. A link was found to exist between this rapid spread and increase in the transmission of schistosomiasis in the study area and the Tongu fishermen, who
migrated from the schistosomiasis endemic area of the Lower Volta to the lake area to take advantage of the increased fishing opportunities that occurred with the creation of the lake. Government's concern for the health of the people in the wake of the rapid spread and high prevalence of schistosomiasis led to the World Health Organization (WHO)/Ghana Government Schistosomiasis Project, being established. An evaluation of the measures adopted by the project revealed certain problems which rendered them inadequate, ineffective and not in tune with the economic and socio-cultural conditions of the people in the study area. The author suggest that on the basis of the findings on the ill-health generated among the population living around the lake and the consequent projected loss of earnings resulting from schistosomiasis, measures which among others, emphasize a multifaceted approach should be adopted, involving chemotherapy, snail control, environmental sanitation and health education, to combat the disease were suggested. According to the author, these measures take into account the economic and socio-cultural conditions of the people and in their totality involve the society as a whole in the provision of health care.

Tanle, A. (Undated (A)). The Kayaye i Phenomenon in Female Migration from the Upper-West Region to Kumasi and Accra’, University of Cape Coast.

Migration theories on rural-urban migration up to the late 1970s generally recognized only men as migrants and regarded women mostly as associational migrants who accompanied their husbands or close relations to urban centers. Within the last two to three decades, there has existed a phenomenon of independent migration among women within and between countries. This paper focuses on independent migration of females from a rural district in the Upper-West Region to the two leading cities – Kumasi and Accra – in Ghana. The author interviewed 83 females aged between 14 and 54 years from the Wa district who were working in Kumasi and Accra for his study. In addition, one focus group discussion was held with the female migrants in Kumasi. The migration of females from the less developed Upper-West Region to the more developed enclaves in the south to work as head porters – or kaya yei’s – is related to a process which provides the women with economic and social independence which they could not have achieved in their place of origin. Although there are some inherent difficulties and/or risks associated with the kaya yei business, this paper reveals that the women have benefited from migration through improvement in their economic situation and physical appearances. The author also indicates that migration of females from rural areas of the Wa District to the two cities has implications for the discourse on gender-based migration.

Tanle, A. (Undated (B)). Perceptions of Return Migrants and Non-migrants to Female Migration: Case of Ghana, University of Cape Coast.

The past three decades have witnessed a phenomenal increase in female migration especially in developing countries where females now migrate independently. These forms of migration now challenge the stereotyped male migration from rural to urban areas. This paper focuses on the perceptions of return and non-migrants to the emerging independent female migration from the Wa
District in the Upper-West region of Ghana to the two main cities, Accra and Kumasi. Using both questionnaire and focus group discussions, 94 return migrants and 86 non-migrants were interviewed in four villages in the Wa District of Ghana. The research findings indicate that lack of job opportunities and more especially, access to farmland at the place of origin compelled the women to migrate to the south for the kaya yei business. Both return migrants and non-migrants perceived migration as an opportunity through which women acquire basic material items that they need in later life. In particular, the return migrants claimed that their socio-economic status has improved through migration. Although the women benefit in diverse ways through migration this has been at the expense of domestic, conjugal, maternal and kin role in their place of origin. It is partly for this reason that some community members, especially males do not support autonomous migration of women. Nonetheless, given the demonstration effects of return migration and the relatively poor environment of the place of origin, autonomous female migration is going to continue within the foreseeable future.


The literature reveals that in the past rural-urban migration of females had been neglected in African studies because females were regarded as associational migrants. However, within the last two decades, there has been a growing recognition of autonomous migration of females. This study therefore seeks to assess the factors that motivate young females in the Wa district to migrate to Kumasi and Accra to engage in porterage for a fee, an activity known as kaya yei, and the implications of their migration in both places of origin and destination. A model developed by Lean (1993) was adapted and used for the study. Descriptive statistics were used to describe part of the data while the logistic regression model was employed to analyse the determinants of female migration. The research finings indicated that the main determinant of their migration was economic. There existed networking among the kaya yei with return migrants providing information about destination while current migrants provide initial support at destination. The kaya yei faced problems such as poor accommodation, inadequate feeding, sexual harassment and the risks of carrying heavy loads everyday. Moreover, some also had multiple sexual partners, which has implications in this era of HIV/AIDS pandemic. The author advises all stakeholders in education to encourage girl-child education and the retention of girls in schools. All NGOs aimed at providing economic support for the kaya yei should implement such projects at their places of origin and not at the destination because it is the economic deprivation in their home villages, more than anything else, which compels them to migrate to the south.


This study explores the life situation of Liberian Refugee Women and Children in their protracted 15-year stay at the Gomoa-Budumburam Refugee settlement in Ghana. Chapter one
provides a general introduction of the scope and scale of the refugee problem worldwide; deals with Refugees in Africa, West Africa and Liberian Refugee Waves in Ghana. It also considers the definition of a Refugee, the Proposed Solutions for Refugees, the Problem Statement including the objectives and questions to be answered by the study and presents the chapters. Chapter two briefly presents the host country and gives a background to the study area. It also introduces some institutions involved in the lives of the refugees and operationalises the definition of children in this study. The theoretical considerations of Space/Place and actor-oriented theories are considered in Chapter three. Conceptualisations of “Agency” and “Home” help discuss ways in which refugees act as agents of change in coping with their protracted displacement as well as the reasons informing their choice of one durable solution over the other. To enable them express their views on these issues, Chapter four presents reasons for the choice of qualitative methodology. It also considers the methods/techniques employed in data collection and its appropriateness to the objectives of this study. The ways in which the analysis was conducted and issues of “rigour” have also been discussed. In presenting the results of the analysis, Chapter five examines the ways in which the structures in place act to enable and/or constrain the refugees in their situation. This provides a contextual background to the subsequent discussions which are mainly based on the narratives of the refugees. Chapter six explores ways in which the refugees have, through various livelihood means, coped with their protracted displacement. Their security concerns are highlighted as a factor influencing some measures they employ to cope. These are revealed to be at best, temporary in providing sustenance. Education has been identified as a long-term-means of coping. In Chapter seven, attention is thus given to the educational prospects available to the women and children, as well as the factors constraining access to various forms of it. The youth have also been given attention with respect to some challenges facing them. Chapter eight discusses the refugees’ perceptions and the reasons informing their choice of one ‘durable’ solution over another. The analysis relates the data collected to the outlined objectives, research questions and theories. It brings to the fore the resourcefulness displayed by the refugees as they employ various strategies to cope on a short and long-term basis. The study also reveals the refugees’ ideas about ‘home’ as ‘where one makes it’, rather than a nostalgic country of origin to which one must return for life to be complete. S (GBV) is highlighted as an area needing more attention than that accorded it presently if the causes of women’s vulnerability are to be addressed in a wholesome way. Suggestions have also been made based on refugees’ recommendations as well as that of the organisations in place and the researcher’s. Time and various logistical constraints, the author indicates, limited the extent to which the researcher was able to listen to more stories and in greater detail, than was possible for the study.


The migration of people from one society to another is as old as humanity itself. In particular, the practice of people moving from poorer societies to richer ones in search of better conditions of life is quite common. This practice is particularly typical of people from Third World countries like Ghana where people migrate constantly to America, Europe and even other African countries, where the pasture is perceived to be greener. In the recent times however, an observed shift in these movement patterns, is the migration of Ghanaian women to the Western Worlds, particularly the United States to
have their babies, who become “American Babies” by the virtue of their being born in the States. The practice, in the observation of this writer, is almost becoming the fashionable and trendy thing to do. This study therefore is an attempt to gain insight into this phenomenon and the upsurge in “American Babies”. It is a study that combines both quantitative and phenomenological research approaches in data collection. Specifically, the survey questionnaire was used to hasten data collection and analysis whilst interviews were used to enrich the study with real ‘definitions of the situation’, as respondents told their stories and shared their experiences. The study presents a profile of Ghanaian parents with “American Babies”. It identifies and examines the motivations of these movements and the financial implications of these trips for the parents. It is a study that simply attempts to answer the question of whether it is worth having an “American Baby” and whether the practice should be encouraged. The study recommends improvements in the health care delivery system in Ghana particularly in relation to the training and retention of health personnel, infrastructural development and improvement of health facilities, improvements in service delivery and increases in access and efficiency of the National Health Insurance Scheme.


This paper seeks to analyze the influence of migrants’ families on return and the transfer of financial, human and social capital by West African migrants who have lived in Europe and North America. Based on a survey of over 600 ‘elite’ and less-skilled return migrants to Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana, as well as qualitative research with migrants remaining in London and Paris, the paper argues that families play an important role in return migration, remittances, and aspects of human, social and financial capital acquisition and investment. Using Cerase’s typology of return migration, the analysis seeks to discriminate between migrants whose return decisions were affected by their families – considered as ‘return of conservatism’ – and those who made individual return decisions – considered as ‘return of innovation’. The findings reveal that the relationship between the type of return (and extent of family involvement in this decision), and the extent of financial, human and social capital transfers, varies between countries and across groups of migrants. Although those whose return is influenced by their families might be considered to have made more ‘conservative’ return decisions, this group was found to be more likely to have transferred financial capital to their home country, and more likely to have maintained social capital gained abroad after their return. They were also as likely as ‘innovative’ returnees to have promoted changes in family life or in the workplace. The paper concludes by exploring several policy implications. (Abstract taken from Wiley InterScience (www.interscience.wiley.com).

This paper undertakes a comparative analysis of the situation of the pastoral Fulbe in the two neighbouring West African countries of Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire. The migration of the Fulbe into the northern parts of both countries is quite a recent phenomenon. In spite of the similar social, economic and environmental conditions in both countries, the two governments responded differently to Fulbe migrations. Generally, the Ivorian government was more receptive of the Fulbe while the Ghanaian authorities have been hostile to them. The paper also discusses inter-ethnic relations between the Fulbe and the indigenous farming groups. Finally, responses of both governments to farmer-herder conflicts are examined and some general reflections on how West African states are dealing with the issue of pastoral migration are provided.


The Fulani have been living in Northern Ghana since the early 20th century. They are, in comparison with the ethnic groups among whom they have settled rather late migrants in Ghana. However, not very much is known about this group of migrants for whom cattle husbandry is at the centre of their livelihood. This book traces the migration of the Fulani from the neighbouring Sahelian countries during the colonial period and their subsequent settlement and expansion in northern Ghana. The book describes in detail the social, economic and cultural life of the Fulani in the West Mamprusi district of northern Ghana. It also provides a vivid description of the complex relationship between the pastoral Fulani and the indigenous Mamprusi who are predominantly farmers. The Fulani have established reciprocal economic relations with the Mamprusi whereby they are entrusted with cattle belonging to the latter. This enables the Fulani to specialize in cattle husbandry while the Mamprusi concentrates on farming activities. Relations between the two groups are, however, not always cordial. Prejudices and conflicts often characterize Fulani-Mamprusi relations. The book also examines the relationship between local and national governments in Ghana and the Fulani. Successive governments have often blamed the Fulani for the rising farmer-herder clashes, increased cattle rustling, the pollution and destruction of resources, environmental degradation and the spread of livestock diseases across the nation’s borders. However, attempts to resolve these problems by merely expelling the Fulani have been largely unsuccessful. Finally, the book examines the future of the pastoral Fulani in Ghana. It devotes its last chapter to the Bantari, the Fulani ethnic (migrant) association in Ghana.


This volume presents 14 country studies of social, cultural, economic, and political impacts of international migration on both sending and receiving countries. The editors provide an extensive historical overview in the opening chapter. The country-focused chapters that follow are, curiously, arranged in alphabetical order rather than by region or similarity of experience. For Australia, Graeme Hugo describes the great influx since World War II of migrants from non-English-speaking countries in
response to labour shortages in agriculture and the expanding manufacturing sector. In the final chapter, Rogelio Saenz and colleagues examine immigration to the United States from the Americas in the context of the melting pot metaphor. The chapters in between cover Brazil, China, Cuba, France, Ghana, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Philippines, Puerto Rico, and Tanzania. While there are some interesting tidbits, there is little that has not been previously published in the plethora of country-focused immigration studies. Nor, with the exception of Hugo, are the authors well known or widely published beyond their immediate localities. One, Sean Kenny, is a novelist whose chapter on the Irish diaspora is livelier than the others.


The overall aim of this study is to examine the determinants of migration among households in the Volta basin of Ghana at the micro and macro level. To have a complete picture of the movements into and out of the basin, we conducted a survey to obtain information from households that are currently residing outside the basin, but earlier lived within the basin. We interviewed a total of 219 households from the migrant communities in Accra and its suburbs. The main motive for selecting Accra is that migration literature on Ghana indicates that the influx of migration in Ghana is principally to the capital, Accra. Hence, we chose Accra as the survey city to capture movement outside the basin. It is important for the study to characterize the determinants of migration both at the micro and macro level and further typify the temporary and permanent migrants, for example, what determines one to be a migrant and what selective behavior makes a migrant to move out permanently or temporarily. We have varied data sources to answer these questions. The first data set was collected by the Glowa-Volta team under Common Sampling Frame (CSF). The second data set is on the migrant communities in Accra and its suburbs. The Census data 2000 is the third data source. To date, basic data on the migration behavior of temporary and permanent migrants in the suburbs of Accra as well as census data have been collected. The census data collected is on the agricultural market prices, rainfall, health facilities, literacy rate, irrigation facilities, population density, distances between major cities of Ghana and the complete matrix of migration flows: all at the district level.


This paper examines the determinants of migration decision with a special emphasis on the role of income differences. As migrants are not a random part of the population, the migration equation is corrected for selectivity bias using the Heckman procedure. The data for this study is collected under a Common Sampling Frame approach, which resulted in a wide variety of data sets. Empirical results show the statistically significant effects of income differentials on households' decisions to participate in migration. This result lends credence to the significance of economic incentives on the intra-household
migration decision making process. Additionally, factors like migration experience, household size, education, social capital, ethnic networks, off-farm activities, and irrigation also explain migration decisions.


The role of women in society is culturally defined. Traditionally, they performed household duties and looked after her children. Some of them also engaged in farm activities, so much so that, in Ghana, the outstanding contribution and involvement of women in farm activities for food provisioning have been recognized and commended. Since the advent of colonialism, issues of urbanization, industrialization and monetization of the economy have assumed paramount status in the affairs of the country. These issues have compelled women to, as a matter of necessity, look for other sources of livelihood. For some of them, migration to urban areas to work as kayayoos became the option. This study explores three issues; the causes of female migration, how it affects their families back home and the consequences of such migration on the life of the migrant herself. The study puts forward that, rather than other attractions of the city, it was the sheer need for economic survival that prompted the women to migrate to Accra. Financial constraints were seen as important push element. Other subsidiary factors were socio-cultural in nature – avoidance of gossips, and the prospects of getting husbands from the city. The women porters worked hard but are paid little. They aspire to make capital to divert into occupations which are less strenuous and more profitable. In view of this, they minimize their daily expenditure. This also enables them to save, send items home and buy personal belongings. In doing some of these, they maintain contacts with their relatives and families home. Further, the women utilized occasional visits to maintain ties with the home base but in general, they prefer to stay in Accra for should jobs be available there. On the effects of the migration decision on the women migrants, the study found that, the decision exposed the women ton so many problems. They include harraissement and maltreatment which undermine their esteem. They women also lack decent sleeping places and work for long hours. Those with kids carry them at the back while working. The women and their kids often showed evidence of ill-health and malnourishment. In general, the migration decision has negative effects on the women though some of them recounted they were happy with it.


The migration research study documented in this book was a joint cooperation between the Ghana Statistical Service, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, and the Universities of Ghana and Cape Coast. It was the largest and most recent study conducted by a government agency on migration that covered the entire nation. The details of the study are elaborated in the beginning of the book under methodology. Section one of the book looks at population redistribution and settlement
schemes. This section provides an overview of efforts made in the past towards population redistribution in Ghana and emphasizes that relatively few schemes have had a specific purpose at population redistribution in Ghana. The successes and failures of such resettlement schemes are also discussed. An analysis is further made of the socio-cultural factors that affect the establishment of resettlement schemes and of the extent to which settlement schemes affect economic development. Finally, this section also offers advice on the development of oncho-endemic areas. Section two discusses processes and mechanisms of internal migration. This section explores the socio-economic factors that have encouraged migration from sending to receiving areas. An analysis is also made of the socio-demographic characteristics of the migrants that, according to the authors, provide the effective motivation for their movement. Finally, the text also indicates how linkages are maintained with the migrant’s cultural home backgrounds and how these connections are often instrumental in influencing the behavior and actions of the migrants during and after migration has taken place. It is also shown how such linkages are useful in directing later migration decisions of friends and relations. Internal Migration: streams, perceptions and traditional systems are discussed in the third section. This section deals with migration streams, motivation and perceptions of internal migrants and also examines the effects of internal migration on the traditional system and household economic conditions. Meanwhile, the interrelationships between internal migration and development in Ghana are examined in the fourth section. The aim of this section is to provide information to facilitate the discussion of the effect of migration on development in both sending and receiving areas, with special reference to urbanization, as well as the likely effect of development on internal migration. The last section examines the effects of migration on women and children. It is explained in this section that these are the people who mostly follow or accompany the principal migrant or get left behind. Often times, the migration decision is made by others, even when they are involved, but they feel the effects the most. This section therefore examines the characteristics and the decision making process in female migration, and the socio-economic effects of migration on women and children. The last chapter of section five is very interesting because it looks at an often overlooked effect and consequence of migration, namely the female-headed households, which is a phenomenon that has often been attributed to male out-migration.


The constraints of internal migration and more especially rural out-migration to development in the developing countries have been well documented but the government policy measures to slow down this movement has failed to make any appreciable impact. This study seeks to investigate the causes and socioeconomic effects of out-migration on the overall development of Obo-Kwahu. Cluster and random sampling methods were used to select 50 Obo migrants resident in Accra with the conscious exclusion of the following from the sample: those who have moved for educational purpose, trade on a daily basis, visit or health reasons or for treatment. A structured questionnaire was used for the study. Evidence from the study indicates that without direct government intervention, rural out-
migration will continue into the foreseeable future. Considering the fact that the negative socioeconomic effects of out-migration outweigh the positive effects on both the source and destination areas, the author recommends the improvement of employment opportunities and provision of social amenities in the origin areas.


This work examines the reasons underlying massive migration from rural to urban environments in Ghana, and discusses the impact of this migration on social and economic development. Rural-urban migration is largely the result of uneven distribution of resources between urban and rural locations. Rural living is both economically and socially unfavourable while urban residents are represented as highly educated and successful. Despite the allure of the city, the majority of new migrants remain unemployed due to their lack of education and appropriate skills. Furthermore, rural areas are threatened by the loss of the young and educated. It is suggested that the negative side-effects of rural-urban migration can be lessened by a shift in the government rewards systems that nurtures rural service and facilitates the achievement of wealth and career advancement through rural activities.


The objective the study is to examine the specific issue of relative effects of individual -level characteristics in explaining differentials in labour underutilization among migrants and non migrants. Ghana is chosen as a case study because it typifies the developing countries that appear to be making progress but which nevertheless are faced with rising poverty levels, unequal distribution of income and labour underutilization. The study is based on a 1971 supplementary enquiry to the 1970 population census of Ghana, based on a five percent random sample of the 1970 population. The principal technique of analysis is the multiple classification analysis, a form of multivariate regression procedure. The author mentions that the emergence of newly independent countries with a determination to remain independent and catch up with the rest of the developed world embarked on a programme of development and modernization through industrialization by which domestic markets will be served and rural labour absorbed. This direction of development he believes was influenced by the theory of dualism. The above development approach failed and this led social scientist to begin to rethink the whole question of emphasis and approaches to development, one of which was employment creation. While this model may be one way by which a large proportion of the population will enjoy the national cake it is not too clear how to measure the number of people who need employment. This is one of the issues that account for the reasons why labour migration has been central to broader sociological study of development. Labour migration may be one of the best ways to achieve optimum allocation of resources under existing condition. On the other hand it may be a source of increased unemployment, low level of wages and high turnover. The study provides discussion of theoretical aspects of the
employment problem in developing countries. The study indicates that labour underutilization is multifaceted and that some types of the phenomenon may be more important than others. The study brings to attention those that need the attention of policy makers. One of such is underemployment. Unemployment is an important labour problem but more important is the vast numbers of underemployed workers in the urban informal sector and in rural agriculture. Labour underutilization may also be ordered in terms of priorities since different individual characteristics may be more important that others in accounting for the phenomenon therefore different solution must be found to different social groups. Differences can be between sexes, rural and urban workers or migrant and non migrant. Results of the study indicate that migrants consistently are less likely than non-migrants to be underutilized whether by unemployment or underemployment. The author therefore recommends that there should be a reorientation of Ghana’s education programme to the needs of society and the economy. This policy will involve a combination of specific and general education in the same stream, instead of running them separately. Furthermore there is the need to provide jobs that will not be beyond the abilities of the moderately educated but will appeal to them. Finally it is also important to raise productivity and incomes in the rural and urban informal sectors to enable the people in there to earn a decent standard of living.


Who intends to leave Africa and what drives people to emigrate? For the cases of Ghana, Senegal, Morocco and Egypt, van Dalen. Groenewold and Schoorl examined peoples' stated intentions to emigrate. The large majority wants to move "out of Africa", and the typical potential migrant was found to be young, male, displaying relatively modern values and optimistic about the net benefits of emigration. Signs of positive self-selection were clearly evident in Ghana and Egypt, particularly among women. However, negative self-selection was apparent among Moroccan men. The network effects of potential migrants were found to be fairly important in Ghana and Egypt, but in Senegal and Morocco, such ties play no role in triggering emigration intentions.


There are at least four ways in which old age and migration cross each other's paths. First of all, there are people who migrated for economic reasons, usually at a relatively young age, and who have grown old in a foreign country. Secondly, there are older people who migrate when (or because) they are old. In Europe, they are mostly from the affluent northern countries and travel southward. Thirdly, there is increasing employment of, and demand for, immigrant workers in old-age institutions in the northern countries. Finally, there is the out-migration of young people, mainly from rural areas that results in older people being left behind without children to look after them. In all these cases, migration
has a profound effect on the wellbeing and care of older people. The authors of this article explore a fifth linkage between migration and old age, by focusing on the (mainly illegal) immigrants who take on roles as private carers and, in effect, replace the children who have emigrated. Two cases, from Greece and Ghana, are presented and viewed in the two countries' political, cultural and economic contexts, and are then compared to conditions in The Netherlands. In both cases, involving a 'stranger' in the care of an older parent is regarded as a good and respectable solution to the problem of absent children and grandchildren. It follows rules of reciprocity and normally provides a good quality of care. Ironically, hiring full-time private care for older people is feasible in low-income countries but a rare luxury in high-income societies.


This article examines the role of religion in identity formation in situations where individuals are engaged in intercontinental diasporic movement. Such diasporic movement involves the crossing of political and cultural boundaries. It thereby fosters the production of conceptions of strangerhood in host societies. In exploring the relationship between religion and the process of becoming a stranger in other cultural and political domains, this contribution starts from Werbner's notion that religion and strangerhood transform together. Van Dijk investigates this intertwined relationship within elements of identity formation processes in Africans who travel to Europe. More specifically, Van Dijk highlights the diaspora of Ghanaians to the Netherlands and the role Ghanaian Pentecostalism appears to play in the formation of their identity as strangers in Dutch society.


This contribution considers the current position of the Ghanaian migrant community in Botswana's capital, Gaborone, at a time of rising xenophobic sentiments and increasing ethnic tensions among the general public. The article examines anthropological understandings of such sentiments by placing them in the context of the study of nationalisms in processes of state formation in Africa and the way in which these ideologies reflect the position and recognition of minorities. In Botswana, identity politics indulge in a liberalist democratic rhetoric in which an undifferentiated citizenship is promoted by the state, concealing on the one hand inequalities between the various groups in the country, but on the other hand defending the exclusive interests of all 'Batswana' against foreign influence through the enactment of what has become known as a 'localisation policy'. Like many other nationalities, Ghanaian expatriate labour has increasingly become the object of localisation policies. However in their case xenophobic sentiments have taken on unexpected dimensions. By focusing on the general public's fascination with Ghanaian fashion and styles of beautification, the numerous hair salons and clothing boutiques Ghanaians operate, in addition to the newly emerging Ghanaian-led Pentecostal churches in the city, the ambiguous but ubiquitous play of repulsion and attraction can be demonstrated in the way
in which localisation is perceived and experienced by the migrant as well as by the dominant groups in society. The article concludes by placing entrepreneurialism at the nexus of where this play of attraction and repulsion creates a common ground of understanding between Ghanaians and their host society, despite the government’s hardening localisation policies.


Although it has become commonplace to speak of a global migration crisis, Nicholas Van Hear believes it is more accurate to speak of a series of migration crises around the world. New Diasporas focuses on 10 of these migration crises, most occurring in the last quarter-century and all involving the forced mass exodus of migrant communities: ethnic Turks from Bulgaria (1989), Albanians from Greece (1990-94), Nigerians from Ghana (1969), Asians from Uganda (1972), Palestinians from Kuwait (1990-92), Yemenis from Saudi Arabia (1990), Muslims from Burma/Myanmar (1991-92), ethnic Nepalis from Bhutan (1991-92), people of Haitian origin from the Dominican Republic (1991), and Mexicans from the southwestern United States in Operation Wetback (1954). A lengthy discussion of the circumstances that led to each migration crisis, including historical background on the migrant communities, is followed by an analysis of the consequences of the 10 migration crises: for the migrant communities themselves, for the territories and established populations receiving these communities, and for the territories the migrant communities were obliged to leave.


In Britain, there is much concern, both in policy and public discourses, about immigrant integration and social cohesion. But how do immigrants themselves perceive the process of settlement in the UK? This question is examined through an exploration of the work strategies developed by Ghanaian immigrants in London, in their quest to live a decent life. In this paper, we explore three questions. The first is concerned with how Ghanaians negotiate relations of power in the process of developing viable work strategies in London. Secondly, how are their work strategies shaped or mediated by family and community ties and social networks, and in what ways do they provide the basis of ‘integration’ into their ethnic communities and into the broader ‘imagined community’? Thirdly, how do Ghanaians themselves define and live ‘integration’ and cohesion? Our results indicate that Ghanaians experience a ‘levelling’ process in their work lives in London where they continually juggle between various levels of job exploitation, racism and adequate pay. In addition, Ghanaians maintain strong family and community ties, a tradition carried over from Ghana. In distinction to Granovetter’s idea that weak ties outside of one’s community are likely to provide the more relevant and adequate information
and resources, we found that weak ties within the community provide the same function. Finally, immigrants tend to define ‘integration’ differently from ‘sense of belonging’.


The monolithic view of culture is inadequate for understanding the transformations which take place when strangers with heterogeneous sociocultural origins meet. Problems of the plurality of codes, of switching between alternatives, and the recoding of inequality and differentiation require special conceptualisation. Drawing on the careers of a series of personal security cults, including the External Boghar cult with its extension beyond Taleland to the cocoa farms of southern Ghana, this article puts forward a general framework of regional analysis to illuminate these and other problems of boundary transcendence. It is suggested that shifts in cults from an 'exotic' to an 'indigenous' mode relate to changes in the predicament of strangers with varied conditions of cultural and political encapsulation.


This paper examines the way in which migration and urban residence operate to alter fertility outcomes. While urban-rural fertility differentials have long been established for most developing societies, the nature of these differences among migrants and between migrants and those of succeeding generations is not well understood. The evidence presented here suggests that rural-urban migration and urbanization may contribute positively to processes of fertility transition. Using data from the 1998 Kumasi Peri-Urban Survey, which included a 5-year retrospective monthly calendar of childbearing, we suggest that migrants adapt quickly to an urban environment. Our results also reveal generational differences in recent and cumulative fertility. While migrants exhibit higher cumulative fertility than urban residents of the second and third generation, their fertility is significantly lower than rural averages in Ghana. Children of migrants exhibit childbearing patterns quite similar to those in higher-order generations. Most noteworthy is the nature of the disparities in childbearing patterns between migrants and the succeeding generations. Migrant women have higher lifetime fertility than urban natives. Migrant women also exhibit higher fertility over the last 5 years than second generation or high-order urban natives. But these first generation women exhibit lower fertility (vs. urban natives) for the year immediately prior to the survey. These patterns lend support to an interpretation that combines rather than opposes theories of selectivity, disruption, adaptation and socialization. We conclude by discussing mechanisms that might explain these interrelated processes of fertility adjustment and suggest that policies discouraging rural-urban migration need to be revisited.

This study investigates how migrants to Madina-Accra fare and the challenges they encounter when they arrive as well as their survival strategies. It covers a rather limited sample size of 76 females and 24 males with 72 percent of them aged between 16-25 years while 56 per cent were junior secondary school leavers. A historical overview of Madina indicates that it was founded in 1959 by one Alhaji Seidu Kando. Madina lies at the outskirt of Accra in the Accra plains. Prior to its settlement, it was noted to be a farm land of the people of Labadi. The town is indicated to have undergone rapid growth thus becoming a bigger settlement with a population of 76,697 by the year 2000. The growth of the town has been attributed to its ability to offer accommodation to a large number of people who work elsewhere. Apart from Nkwantanang locality which comprises core traditional villages, the author identified the Zongo locality in Madina to comprise of migrants from Greater Accra, other regions of Ghana especially the Ashanti Region and neighbouring African countries. Described as a migrant town, Madina is undergoing rapid changes in response to socio-economic changes in the town. The author used Mabogunje’s systems theory of rural-urban migration to identify and explain the challenges migrants face upon arrival at the destination such as accommodation, financial constraints, unemployment, emotional and psychological instabilities. It was gathered that a migrant’s ability to cope with some of these pressures depended on how well-informed the person was as well as how easily he could gain access to the information necessary for his/her stay in Madina. As a survival strategy to their accommodation problem, some migrants lived with relatives until they could afford to live on their own. Another survival strategy the study found was engagement in petty trading. The study further revealed that quite a number of the respondents were satisfied with the gains they have made since their arrival. Some described their current condition as better than their lives before they moved to Madina. The article concludes that one’s attitude towards life contributes to survival.


The study explores the nature of gender disparities in terms of livelihoods and ownership in northern Ghana. It also provides a descriptive analysis of the impact of poverty on women in this area. The study shows that women in northern Ghana are still living in poverty, forty-eight years after Ghana's independence despite strategies that women are employing to cope with the challenges of poverty. It demonstrates that increasing poverty is the major cause of malnutrition, and maternal and child mortality. A random stratified sample methodology was used in selecting communities and households for the study. Some of the findings show that only five percent of women in northern Ghana enjoy access to employment and only four percent receive a regular income. In addition, women are accorded
inadequate land ownership rights and there is an increasing migration of women from the rural north to the urban south of Ghana.


Research in the labour market experiences of immigrant women in Canada has tended to concentrate on how their experiences assist or hinder their integration into Canadian society. Less attention has been given to how women's links to their home communities affect or are affected by their labour market experiences in Canada. Using the transnational perspective to analyze the labour market experiences of Ghanaian women in Toronto, this study reveals that women's work is crucial to the reproduction of families and households in Canada and Ghana. The economic uncertainties these women encountered in the Canadian labour market have propelled them to develop coping strategies that include negotiating gendered ideology and roles, and maintaining strong ties with their communities of origin.


Using interviews with Ghanaian women in Toronto and members of their families in Ghana, this article extends the literature on remittances by drawing on insights from feminist scholarship on migration to investigate the social dynamics of remittances in transnational families. The growing literature on migration and remittances focuses on large-scale quantitative analyses of data on remittances. Less explored is how gender and kinship bonds (particularly, matrilineage affiliation) influence complex decision-making processes underlying remittances. Wong argues for a conceptualization of remittances as constituting relationships between senders and receivers that are continually being negotiated and contested in and across different places. Specifically, Wong focuses on the cultural and gender-specific ways in which women and their families negotiate remittances, highlighting dilemmas that transnational families experience when they encounter contradictory aspects of remittances. Despite their material realities and struggles in Canada, the women in this study remitted to fulfill gendered obligations in highly contested and negotiated contexts. Their remittances were important, however, for the production and reproduction of families and households that are structured transnationally. While this case exhibits specific features that are particular to Ghanaian migration and transnationalism, it highlights how broader social dynamics underlying remittances
operate at multiple scales and intersect with differential social and economic structures and agency in producing meanings of remittances.


Migration has not always been of actors’ own volition. Involuntary migration or forced migration is used in several cases to describe such movements. They are often associated with droughts, earthquakes, desertifications, famines, diseases and floods. In this study, Yehusa explores the resettlement and social change issues with the 1989 Tamale flood victims. Ghana has already had two experiences of resettlements. The first was in 1953 when land was acquired to build a harbour and modern town – Tema. The second and the biggest was the Volta Resettlement Project. The Tamale flood of 1989 was caused by collapse of banks of water reservoir after a week of heavy rains in August, 1989. This flood caused widespread destruction of life and property. In all, 3413 people were displaced and 162 buildings damaged. Soon after the flood, the then government initiated resettlement project to alleviate the sufferings of the victims. The study discovered that, the resettlement project led to dire congestion and overcrowding in the rooms that were provided. This created lack of privacy and generated petty quarrels among women especially co-wives who had to live in same rooms. Prior to the resettlement, many people were reluctant to the resettlement idea citing religious, geographical (distance) and other reasons.


This work examines both international and internal migration trends in Ghana and draws on data provided in the 1960 and 1970 Ghana Population Censuses. It is quite an extensive work and offers a broad view of migration in Ghana around the 1960-70’s. The work is divided in six chapters and at the end an extensive list of tables and figures is provided. The first chapter consists of the introduction and provides a country context of Ghana. The second chapter focuses on the demographic and socio-economic background of Ghana. Issues are discussed such as the estimation of the total population of Ghana, the growth rate of Ghana’s population, the population distribution in the country, the educational attainment of the population, the economic activities of the population, and the growth rate of the economy. The third chapter reviews the immigration of non-Ghanaian nationals into Ghana. The authors begin the chapter by reviewing the lengths of time immigrants reside in the country and their origin. They indicated that most of the immigrants came from neighboring countries such as Togo, Nigeria and Ivory Coast. The authors further look at the distribution of immigrants within Ghana. Their main findings here were that no extreme concentrations of immigrants were found within the country and that they were fairly evenly distributed among the regions and between the rural and urban areas. Finally, the authors provide an estimation of the net immigration into the country during the 1960-70’s
and its distribution by age and sex. The fourth chapter mainly provides a description of the historical patterns of inter-regional and intra-regional migration in Ghana. The authors explain that the seven geographic regions of Ghana differ considerably with respect to their attractiveness to migrants. Some of the regions have consistently drawn migrants from other parts of the country, while others have consistently send out migrants. They further indicate which regions have changed their status over the years with respect to sending and receiving migrants. Internal migration from the rural to the urban areas in Ghana is examined in chapter five. In the beginning of the chapter the authors look at the movement of lifetime migrants – migrants who migrate permanently to the urban areas. Estimations are also provided of the net migration from rural to urban areas. The last chapter examines the characteristics of Ghanaian migrants in the 1960-70’s. The authors discuss the age and sex composition of the migrants and the proportion of migrants who had formal education. They conclude this section by looking at the economic characteristics of the migrants.


Developing nations in general and Ghana in particular are saddled with the problem of rural-urban migration. The problem is very pronounced with Dagaba of Northwestern Ghana. They migrate mostly to the south of Ghana, especially to Accra. Explanation of this north-south movement is found in the inequalities in economic and other development related activities. It is the alarming rate of movement of Dagaba people to the south of Ghana that constitutes the theme of this study. It is mainly to find the characteristics and motives of the participants. The study is grounded within Lewis Fei-Ranis’ model of the economy composed of rural and urban sectors. Findings from the study suggest that, the most important motive behind the north-south movement among people of Dagaba origin is the desire to acquire jobs, and or in the case of males to further their education. In the south, Dagaba migrants encounter several problems. The problems notwithstanding, they (especially the males) do not intend to back home permanently. Some even want to be buried in Accra in the event of their death. However, the desire to remain in the city does not imply that the migrants have lost touch with home people. They visit home from time to time especially to attend funerals. They also remit home people. Migrant ethnic organizations and frequent meetings at drinking bars are used to meet fellow migrants and to find solutions to the problems they encounter together.