

Irregular migration: Perception on the risks, decisions, and determinants of irregular migration among the youth

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Abstract

Irregular migration is a contemporary global challenge. Researchers have explored it from many perspectives however; the study views it through Social work's lens, utilizing the theory of Human Capital. Focus is on the perception of the risks, decisions, and determinants of irregular migration among the youth of Anambra state. It identified the relevance of Social work, in migration discourse. Data sorted from 620 samples using copies of questionnaire, in-depth interviews and focused group discussion were statistically analysed. It found disparities in perception, among youth of different socio-demographic groups. It concludes that awareness on risks of irregular migration does not deter irregular migration however lack of awareness of the procedures of regular migration is a strong catalyst. Therefore, Social workers should re-channel sensitization and concentrate on the macro practice levels of intervention to curb irregular migration in Nigeria.

Keywords: Irregular migration, perceptions, risks, youth, Social workers, Nigeria

1. Introduction

Irregular migration (IRM) is one of the major global concerns in the 21st century. It is a leading cause of insecurity and a threat to sustainable socio-economic development in the globe (Dzhansarayeva et al., 2016; International Organization for Migration [IOM], 2018a). The phenomenon continues to gain momentum especially among African youth. For decades, it has become common in migration discourse, and migration corridors continues to expand.

Before the world war, people had the right to move to any part of the world without a visa (Massey, 2016; Ogu, 2017). Today visa is required for almost every travel that transcends national boundary. Due to the constraints imposed on migration and rigorous processes of obtaining a visa (Aliu, 2021), some youth who are not eligible to obtain a legit visa seek fraudulent ways of engaging in international migration – irregularity in migration. In 2017 alone, it was estimated that about 5,000 lives were lost at the Mediterranean sea while traveling to other countries (International Organization for Migration [IOM], 2017). Concerns about the increasing number of undocumented migrants from Nigeria to Europe have been expressed repeatedly in Europe (Attir, 2018; Egbuta, 2019). According to Wallis (2021), approximately 9,500 migrants made their way across the sea to the United Kingdom (UK) in 2020, despite COVID 19 and strict border control. Of all irregular migrants who reside in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries, approximately 25.5% were Nigerians. However, these numbers are underrepresented, given that irregular migrants operate in secrecy and Nigeria does not have a culture of preserving data (Migration Data Portal, 2020).

Appalled by the incessant efflux of Nigeria Youth to other countries through irregular migration, the Nigerian government and international organizations allied efforts in curtailing the flow (United Nations Office on Drug and Crime [UNODC], 2020; International Organization for Migration [IOM], 2018a). From 2002, the Nigerian government receives assistance from the IOM in combating irregular migration (IOM, 2018a). The UNODC, in support of the European Union [EU], implemented a policy in Nigeria from 2011 to 2018 to support the Nigerian government in curbing irregular migration and reducing the trafficking and smuggling of migrants (UNODC, 2020). Although a significant reduction in irregular arrivals was observed in Europe between 2017 and 2018, the situation is still very fragile (European Union [EU], 2017).

During the national migration dialogue in Abuja, the president of Nigeria Muhammadu Buhari, promised that the National Migration Policy adopted in 2015 would be implemented (Taiwo-Obalonye, 2018). The policy proposed the elimination of irregular migration through sensitization, strict border

controls; and promotion of self-employment & job opportunities. Scholars, on the other hand, observed that the intention of migration policies was not met, and the nature of these policies were debated (Browne, 2015; Ikuteyijo, 2011; Mcauliffe & Koser, 2017). However, it becomes imperative that swift efforts are required to combat the forces of irregularity in migration.

Consequently, many scholars have delved into the problem of illegal migration from different perspectives. However, not much has been done in Nigeria using Social work's lens, in other words, irregular migration has not been thoroughly investigated by Nigerian Social workers. According to Miller and Chtouris (2017), professional involvement is paramount in addressing issues of global concern. It is in this vein, that Social work professional intervention to the issue of irregular migration is much relevant. Looking at the universal definition of Social work, the profession engages with all people irrespective of their background, as well as respects their diversities (International Federation of Social worker [IFSW], 2014). Scholars have also shown indisputable evidence that migration is a 'core business' for Social workers (Roestenburg, 2013; Turtiainen, 2018). Regrettably, Social worke in Nigeria is yet to receive legal endorsement.

The researchers interest to embark on this study align efforts with previous studies in preferring solution to the problem. Despite previous researches irregular migration continues to gain momentum. Hence, the perceptions of those susceptible to IRM need to be explored to ascertain their views on migration decisions and identify determinants of irregular migration. The finding is expected to provide solutions to the problem of irregular migration and to delve deeply into Social Work in migration discourse.

2. Theoretical lens

The researchers adopted Human capital theory as a guide to the study. The theorists imply that differences in wages and employment rates between low and high income countries influence migration. Having estimated the cost and benefit of migrating to capital-rich countries, potential migrants from labour rich countries make a rational choice. Another tenet of the theory explains how the socio-demographic characteristics of individuals strongly determine who migrate and how they migrate (Sjaastad, 1962; Todaro, 1970; Borjas, 1980; Thomas et al., 1999). In otherwords the theory explained the cause of irregular migration in two dimensions; first the difference in wages and labour markets of poor Africa (Nigeria) countries and rich European countries is the mystery behind illegal migration. Given the realization that Nigerian youths are hardworking, skilled and have a lot of unutilized potentials and underutilized labour, whereas there is a scarcity of labour, in other high income countries coupled with high wages. Second, the decision and how to travel is further influenced by the socio-demographic characteristics of the individual e.g. age, sex, and education level. This explained why the youth are the most susceptible to irregular migration. To buttress this point, a study by Mbaye (2014) in Senegal on the motivation of illegal migrants, using 400 samples found that the average age of potential illegal migrants are 24 years while the average education level is secondary school. It found that 55% of potential illegal migrants have a lower level of education. Another study in Myanmar by International labour organization (ILO, 2015) surveyed the Safe migration knowledge, attitudes and practices in Myanmar, Southeast Asia using a sample size of 625 respondents. It found that most potential migrants are males who are within 18-30 years and prefer illegal means of migration due to the high cost of legal migration. Furthermore, a study by Italian Centre for International Development (ICID, 2017) used household survey involving 2,200 interviews and 40 focus group discussions (FGDs) found that irregular migrants are mainly the young males, with little percentages of the females, both married and singles, with low and/or medium education and from middle size families.

The critique of the theory observed that since the difference in wage and employment is what drives people to migrate, then the poorest individuals would have all migrated. According to Ogu (2017), those who migrate illegally pay huge amount of money, by their status of irregularity, they are vulnerable to extortions from migration networks. Dirk (2007) supported the opinion that the absolute poor does not engage in irregular migration because they couldn't afford it.

3. Materials and method

This study is a part of a larger study on irregular migration, conducted on Idemili South Local Government Area [LGA] of Anambra state. Idemili South is located in the Southeastern geopolitical zone of Nigeria and has a projected population of 5,527,809 in 2016 (National Population Estimate, 2017). Anambra state ranked eighth as the most populated and is the second most densely populated state in Nigeria (Anambra state government, 2017). It was also noted as the state with the least landmass. Throughout history, indigenes of the Anambra state resorted to migration. This is not unconnected with the density of the area, and as a consequence, there is competition for scarce resources (Nwajiuba, 2005). However, the prevalence of migration among indigenes of Anambra state justifies the reason for choosing the state as the area of study, with a particular focus on Idemili South LGA.

Using a stratified sampling procedure, the researchers selected two towns - Awka-Etiti and Oba. The rationale for the stratification was based on proximity to the biggest commercial and industrious cities in Anambra state. In each town, 300 respondents were sampled using availability sampling techniques. In addition, the researcher sampled 4 respondents for the in-depth interviews and 16 participants for focused group discussion. The qualitative data were used to complement the quantitative data and to clarify issues not captured in the questionnaire. We made sure that those who participated in the questionnaires were different from those who participated in the in-depth interview. On the whole, 620 respondents were sampled for the study.

The instruments were developed collectively by the researchers and validated by the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital Enugu (UNTH) for data collection. The essence of validation was to ensure reliability, however, unclear questions were spotted and those needing more probes were highlighted. The respondents were allowed to fill the copies of a questionnaire at their convenience. In cases where respondents could not understand the questions, the researchers explained and assisted in capturing the appropriate response. Among the 16 respondents used to generate the qualitative data, consent was sought before an electronic recorder was used during the interviews. Also, both English and Igbo languages were used to communicate and the researchers, and assistants, were proficient in both languages. The data collection process lasted for three months (October-December 2019).

The questionnaire return rate was 96.8% (N=581). The quantitative data collected was analyzed with the use of the statistical procedure, frequencies, and percentages were then used to present summary tables for relevant variables. The qualitative data collected were transcribed in the English language, which was arranged in themes after being compared with the notes taken, to ensure that no response was lost. The rationale behind the use of themes was to help with classifying responses. Themes were collectively arranged after the researchers modified the research questions as a result of experiences from the field. After the rigors were followed, the data got categorized into three major themes: (a) perception of the youth on irregular migration (b) views on decisions to engage in irregular migration (c) major determinants of irregular migration.

4. Results

Socio-demographic characteristics of respondents

The socio-demographic characteristics of respondents used for the questionnaire show that 581 adults aged between 18 -35 years were used for the study. The majority of the respondents (55.2%) were males. More than 76% were single.

Table 1: *Percentage distribution of respondents by their socio-demographic characteristics*

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Gender		
Male	321	55.2
Female	260	44.8
Total	581	100
Marital status		
Single	442	76.1
Married	136	23.4
Others	3	.5
Total	581	100
Place of residence		
Awka-Etiti	288	49.6
Oba	293	50.4
Total	581	100
Level of education		
No formal education	5	.9
Primary school	15	2.6
Secondary school	339	58.3
Tertiary institution	222	38.2
Total	581	100
Employment status		
Students	174	29.9
Employed by employer	62	10.7
Self employed	289	49.7
Unemployed	56	9.6
Total	581	100
Age		
18-22	168	28.9
23-27	186	32.0
28-32	121	20.8
33 -35	106	18.2
Total	581	100

Source: *fieldwork 2019*

Also on their education level, more than 58% had secondary education, while tertiary institution graduates accounted for 17.2%.

Substantive issues on irregular migration**Table 2:** *Distribution of respondents by their support of IRM and Why?*

Questions	Frequency	Percentage
Are you in support of irregular migration?		
Yes	49	8.4
No	532	91.6
Total	581	100.0
Why do you support IRM?		
It is cheaper	22	3.8
My friends did it	19	3.3
My family prefer it	4	.7
It is easier and reliable	4	.7
No response	532	91.6
Total	581	100
Why don't you support IRM?		
It is life-threatening	219	37.7
It is dubious	259	44.6
It is expensive	12	2.1
Others (crime, unpatriotic, disobedience to the law)	42	7.2
No response	49	8.4
Total	581	100

Table 1 shows that support for irregular migration ranges from negative to positive support with 91.6% and 8.4% respectively. Those who pledge their support for irregular migration claimed that it is cheaper, reliable, and their friends have engaged in it. From their responses, there is evidence that respondents are willing to re-migrate after deportation. A male respondent narrated his experience,

...traveling abroad through Libya is easier, that's how I traveled when I did it the first time. I did it because my documents were not complete so I never considered whether it is illegal or not. If I had waited for travel documents, I wouldn't have traveled abroad at all. I would have become more frustrated. Even though the travel was not easy for me, as I lost some of my personal belongings, but it's worth it. I am supposed to be in Dubai by now if not that I was caught and then deported, but I still have my plans anyway.

The female respondents thought that irregular migration is life-threatening, dubious, and tarnishes the image of a country. They broadly listed the implications of irregular migration.

I don't support irregular migration because it is unlawful and very risky. There is no gain, after your trek through the bushes and desert, swim through dangerous water, and after which you will still be deported. Two of my relations who engaged in irregular migration were all deported, after all the sufferings! Others I know have not returned home to date, probably they are dead.

Another respondent said, 'irregular migration is not good, it has tarnished Nigeria's image abroad, yet our government doesn't care. Respondents acknowledged the risks involved in irregular migration, yet, some opinions show that respondents may consider irregular migration if situations come to worst. Their logic is that life is all about taking risks. A male respondent said this,

I don't support anything illegal, and nobody does. That does not mean that if I see an opportunity that I will not leave this country either regular or irregular. Whenever you hear that I engage in IRM, just

know that I don't have a better choice. I am saying this because those who engage in IRM are not different from those who follow shortcuts to boycott police on the express road.

Similarly, another male respondent said, 'I don't support irregular migration, yet I will not discourage anybody who has the mind to take the risk. After all, life is all about risk-taking. Also, another respondent said, 'irregular migration is not a new thing for us! There are irregularities everywhere, in school, church, family, politics, business so also in migration, it's either you beat them or join them!'

Specific issues of the study

Table 3: *Potential drivers of IRM*

Questions	Frequency	Percentage
What are the causes of irregular migration?		
Lack of money	255	43.9
Ignorance	36	6.2
Deception	100	17.2
Frustration	187	32.2
Others specify (belief, greed)	3	.5
Total	581	100
What may likely make you consider IRM?		
Lack of job	163	28.1
Low income	49	8.4
Lack of business opportunity	220	37.9
Insecurity of lives	24	4.1
Peer influence	19	3.3
None of the above	106	18.2
Total	581	100

Data from the study expose various determinants of irregular migration in the study area. From the respondents' perception of 'other youth' who engage in irregular migration, the data reveals a lack of money, frustration, and deception as the causes of IRM with 43.9%, 32.2%, and 17.2% respectively who mentioned these causes. Other causes include ignorance and greed. The qualitative data added that corruption and failure on the part of the government influence the rate of irregular migration. There is overwhelming evidence that unemployment triggers feelings of frustration and a lack of patriotism among the youth, which heightens the rate of irregular migration. Said, one respondent:

After graduation, there are no jobs, no money to start a business, the government blocked most lucrative businesses and the economy is bad. Even when one wants to travel abroad, obtaining a visa becomes almost difficult, some persons have been denied visas many times, do you expect us to love this country? If I find my way I will just leave, not minding if it's illegal or not. I prefer to stay abroad without a job because am sure of good meals than to die here in poverty.

Similarly, a respondent said,

The bad economy is the root cause of irregular migration among our youth in this country. If the country's economy is good, no sensible Nigerian will like to take such a risk. And the government cares not; our so-called politicians are busy embezzling funds. Irregular migration will continue to increase so long as the country's economy continues to degenerate.

Results reveal that the majority who migrate illegally do so because they are not financially eligible to enjoy legal entry. Another respondent responded this way:

Irregular migration is cheap in the sense that you can go without paying money and a particular group will sponsor you. When you reach your destination, you will work and settle them back, although the money you will have to pay the cabals outweighs what you would have paid through legal means, due to lack of money at the moment, you can decide to follow the cabals.

Responses also show that failure by the government amount to a lack of patriotism by the citizens which conjoin to elicit all forms of irregular activities. A respondent said this,

For me, irregular migration is evidence of frustration. Patriotism is a debt every citizen owes to their country, but when the country frustrates the citizen by way of social injustice, marginalization, corruption, lack of job for the youth, lack of quality education, and the worst part is insecurity. Believe me! people will become deviants and the reverse will be the case. That is why there is an outburst of so many deviant behaviors in this country including irregular migration.

Besides, another respondent said,

Most people travel abroad, by all means, to make money because there is no money here, no job, even businesses are not moving well. Even if you like, come out with first-class, so long as you don't have the money to buy a job or know someone who will connect you, forget about getting a well-paid job. We already know the government has no plan for us, so nobody is hoping for the government anymore. People who were mean traveled abroad.

Another respondent revealed that 'most people traveled through irregular means because they cannot afford a visa while some people's visa applications were denied.

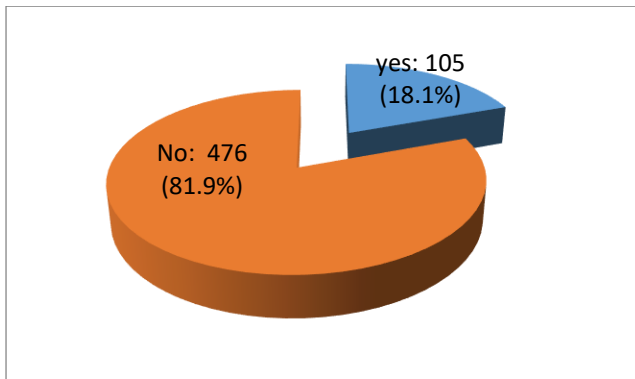
From the respondents' perceptions of themselves, data show that respondents may likely consider irregular migration in extreme conditions despite the risks involved. A respondent said, 'I rather travel abroad through irregular means than to die in poverty here, the truth is, I may succeed in IRM but poverty cannot help anybody'. Similarly, another respondent said, 'I don't pray to be frustrated in life because of lack of money. Instead, I will engage in IRM, after all, some people did it. It's even better than crime', Data from the interviews confirmed that economic frustration and poverty are determining factors of irregular migration.

Moreover, some respondents (18.2%) were consistent in their objection to irregular migration despite all odds. However, further evidence revealed that the decision to engage in irregular migration is connected with being young, energetic, and optimistic, coupled with influence from peers and deception. A respondent said this,

Some people engage in irregular migration because they are still young,they don't think twice. When they hear that their friends are abroad they want to travel by all means. They thought that once they go abroad they will become rich, they forgot to consider the implications of the decision they are about to take. Most were deceived by their so-called friends abroad.

Another respondent narrated his experience,

I got information from home that my elder brother is about to travel abroad. I inquired about how he will process his visa and was told that 'his friend' will provide him with a visa, even though my brother has no passport. Having suspected something is wrong, I pleaded with my parent to stop him from making that decision, but my brother was so stubborn. He sold our family properties and left without consent! Since 2016 we have not heard from him to date!



The study, therefore, sought to find out respondents' awareness of the Social work profession. Result reveals that 81.9% do not know about Social work and 18.1% know about the Social work profession in Nigeria.

5. Discussion

This study investigated the perceptions of the youth on the determinants of irregular migration, giving insight into the relevance of social work in migration discourse. Findings from this present study revealed irregular migration is not an initial decision for the youth; however extreme situations induce tendencies of engaging in irregular migration among youth. Generally, many respondents objected to irregular migration, while at the same time; affirmed their preference for irregular migration to being in vulnerable positions. Vulnerable situations were found to be a condition of frustration caused by visa denials, humiliation due to poverty, and marginalization from the government, and lack of business opportunity.

Consequently, respondents boldly said that they may not engage in IRM, but will not discourage others from engaging in it. Their logic is that life is all about taking risks including the risks of irregular migration and also that it is a part of many irregularities in the country. Others thought that engaging in irregular migration is preferable to engaging in crime. It then means that the respondents' objection to irregular migration could be compromised when they are faced with certain challenges. The disparity in the respondents opinion on their choice of irregular migration differs among gender and other socio-economic groups. While the females objected to irregular migration, some of the male respondents were ready to compromise. Studies that support our findings are widely published (Browne, 2015; Ikuteyijo, 2011; ICID, 2017; Islam, 2017; Khairi, 2018; Ogu, 2017; Thongjen, 2013; Ugwueze, 2019). Browne (2015) found that economic reasons are the primary motivation for irregular migration. ICID found that more males who dropped out of school and are unemployed have a high tendency towards irregular migration than their female counter part. Islam (2017) found that corrupt immigration officials are incessantly frustrating migrants through their unscrupulous demands. Adewunmi (2018), opined that the youth resort to irregular migration when they could not afford the regular means. This reality brings to the fore the relevance of intervention by social workers. Through social work preventive intervention, the aforementioned conditions could be combated. There is a need to employ social workers in the immigration department to constitute part of the monitoring and evaluation team in migration. This will no doubt enforce quality assurance as well as curtail some fraudulent behaviours.

In addition, it was found that some migrants unrepentantly opted in for irregular migration, despite the risks involved. In their logic, life is all about taking risks. For this category of respondents, traveling through fraudulent means may be risky; however, it is cheaper, easier to access, and equally reliable. Respondents attested to the fact that some of their friends traveled abroad through fraudulent means. A respondent narrated how he traveled to Libya and all he passed through. He confessed that he traveled

without a visa, and as result was detained; his responses reveal that amidst being deported, re-migration through fraudulent means is inevitable.

Moreover, it was found that a huge part of the determinants of irregular migration is leveled on the government's failure in discharging its duties. According to the findings, poor economic conditions, (unemployment & poverty) and; social injustice, (marginalization, corruption) were evidence of the government's failure, which in turn bred a lack of patriotism. Respondents stressed that since the government is insensitive to people's needs, cases of irregular migration will be a consistent reality for the youth. Evidence from the study confirms that lack of patriotism is bred by Government insensitivity to people's needs which further bred deviant behaviour such as irregular migration. However, irregular migrants are citizens who do not care to dent the image of the country that gives them no hope. Thus irregular migrants were people who are hopeless, frustrated, desperate, and devoid of national consciousness.

Furthermore, findings revealed that irregular migration is influenced by individual personality; however, part of the blame is leveled on the individual irregular migrants. From the study, greed, youthful exuberance, irrationality, and influence by peers determine the choice of irregular migration among the youth. The relevance of social workers in addressing issues of this nature cannot be overemphasized. Social work professional practice does not entail blaming the victim, rather social workers fight against the oppressive structures that create a problem for the client while exploring the potentials and capabilities inherent in the social subject (Martinez, 2018; Kafula, 2016). However, it is the social worker's responsibility to find out the root cause of the vulnerability of the clients for necessary intervention.

The study found overwhelming evidence of economic, political, social, and psychological determinants of IRM. Economic factors include lack of money, unemployment, lack of business opportunities; political determinants were found to include denial of visa application, corruption, and all form of social injustice perpetrated by the government; social determinants were pressure from peers while psychological factors included greed and evidence of being unpatriotic. Similar to our findings, Khairi, (2018) found that discrimination, marginalization, and repression especially done by the government of the state drives IRM; for Thongjen (2013), a culture of corruption, societal norms, and personal attitudes of the individuals were the reasons behind the rapid increase in ILM and Islam (2017), found that desperation for employment and corruption drives people to take the dangerous route to where they hope to get high-paid jobs. Ugwueze (2019) concludes that irregular migration among African youth is being nurtured as a result of corruption, discrimination, and repression induced by poor governance.

6. Implications for the social work profession

In the context of today's world, globalization, and ever-expanding migration corridors, social work services are of utmost importance, to address issues faced by their service users, as well as challenge unjust conditions that affect these clients (Diaconu, Racovita-Szilagy & Bryan, 2016). The role of social workers in migration issues has been documented by scholars (Bronstein et al., 2012; Diaconu et al., 2016). Specifically, social workers have major roles to play in providing counseling services, advocating for justices, sensitization, community organizing among others (Al-Qdah & Lacroix, 2010). Through counseling, they can help the prospective migrants weigh options and implications of the choice they are about to make. By this, they can address challenges faced by potential migrants (such as influence from peers and families).

According to Funk et al., (2017), nothing could obviate irregular migration without good governance. However, social workers have the mandate to challenge the governments, when their political decisions constitute harm to the masses (Martinez, 2018; Wamara, 2017). They have to assess the root causes of the youth's vulnerability, challenge structural conditions that expose them to such vulnerable positions (Fine & Teram, 2013; Kafula, 2016). It is also their responsibility to challenge unjust social conditions, exclusion, marginalization, corruption, and all forms of social injustice in the country. However, the only way to curtail irregular migration is to give migrants reason to stay by providing jobs and ensuring good governance. Social workers are also expected to advocate for the implementation of the National Migration Policy. With policy implementations, unemployment will be abated. When that cannot easily be achieved, social workers can help individuals to identify their potentials and capabilities, empower them to take control of their lives, and enable them to solve their problems (Kafula, 2016). There is also a need to advocate for the inclusion of migration studies in the academic curriculum, for young people from the primary to the tertiary level. This is within the domain of school social workers. This, when achieved, will imbibe the mindset of patriotism which will further arouse a sense of national pride and national consciousness. With these achieved, IRM will be curtailed in the country.

Lastly, the study found that Social work has not been much pronounced in the area of study given that the majority of the respondents are not aware of social work. This is a bad indicator. Social workers are much relevant for community developments especially in the area of study. Therefore the study recommends the professionalization of social work in Nigeria. While this is achieved it is expected that social workers should be allowed to take up their positions in various agencies and communities. Nigeria immigration services should as well have a unit reserved for social workers who will be in charge of supervision, evaluation, and monitoring. These roles are best handled by social workers because they are professionally equipped to address all kinds of problems and must carefully consider the cultural and migratory context of every individual and group (Bronstein, Montgomery & Dobrowolski, 2012).

In conclusion, the study was able to answer all the research questions. The perceptions of the youth on irregular migration revealed that the youth object to irregular migration, yet, are ready to compromise when faced with certain challenges. Determinants of irregular migration were majorly economic factors influenced by political, social, and psychological factors. However, the study has implications for the social work profession in Nigeria.

Finally, the study encountered some limitations, first the study focused on one LGA in Anambra state, similar studies need to be carried in other parts of the country. Second, the study did not include social workers in the sampling framework. This was due to the dearth of social workers in the study area at the time of conducting this study. However, we relied on previous studies to explore the roles of social workers in migration issues. Further studies should include social workers in the sampling. Finding from such studies will expose the opinion of social workers on professionalization in Nigeria. The researchers encourage similar studies to also consider investigating perceptions of returned migrants. Such findings could elicit responses on measures that will be taken to rehabilitate deported migrants and will be a useful guide to social workers in Nigeria. The findings will also enhance knowledge and strengthen efforts towards policy implementations in Nigeria. It is worthy of note that this study is part of a larger study aimed at exploring the knowledge and attitude towards irregular migration. Finally, all these limitations notwithstanding, the study finding gives insight to the governments, Social Workers, and agencies on how to strengthen efforts to curtail irregular migration.

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