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SUB-SAHARSKE AFRIČKE ZEMLJE I MIGRACIJE U EUROPU: ISTRAŽIVANJE MOTIVACIJE, UČINAKA I RJEŠENJA

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Abstract

In recent decades, the movement of sub-Saharan African countries to Europe has increased out of proportion. Individuals from poor African countries neighbouring the Sahara desert embark on a dangerous journey to Europe in hopes of a better life. Hundreds of lives have been lost or ruined as they leave their homelands in search of a better life. Migration from sub-Saharan African countries to Europe is significant because, apart from loss of life, most of them who do not get asylum in Europe are deported back to Africa. This paper argues that there should be cooperation between the EU and African countries on this issue involving the establishment of a network of Africa-based migration observatories to collect, analyse and disseminate information on migration flows between the two continents.

Sažetak

U posljednjih nekoliko desetljeća, kretanje iz subsaharskih afričkih zemalja prema Europi je porastao izvan proporcija. Pojedinci iz siromašnih afričkih zemalja uz Saharu kreću na opasno putovanje u Europu u nadi za boljim životom. Stotine života su izgubljeni ili uništeni zbog napuštanja svoje domovine u potrazi za boljim životom. Migracija iz sub-saharskih afričkih zemalja u Europu je značajan, jer, osim gubitka života, većina njih koji ne ostvare azil u Europi su deportirani natrag u Afriku. U radu se objašnjava da mora postojati suradnja između EU-a i afričkih zemalja o ovom pitanju koje uključuje uspostavu mreže migracijskih opservatorija za prikupljanje, analiziranje i širenje informacija o migracijskim tokovima između dva kontinenta.

Introduction

Migrations can be classified as forced, voluntary, or imposed on migrants by circumstances.The decision to migrate is complex but can usually be conceptualized as the result of two factors: the push factors and the pull factors. The first one includes inconvenient conditions in homeland that impel the decision to migrate, for example, loss of job, lack of professional opportunities, overcrowding, famine, war, and pestilence. As for the pull Factors, they copmprise a series of positive attributes perceived to exist at the new location, for ex-

ample, better climate, low taxes, more and better space for daily life, and professional opportunities. Both factors are affected by place utility, and an individual's existing degree of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with a place. The decision to migrate is based on the person's assessments regarding whether it is better to stay or to go. Movers seek to minimise the friction of distance, and migrants tend to chose the closer location rather than the farther if both are equal in other ways. Commonly, the information about distant areas is less complete and satisfying than that of near locations. At this stage, one relevant

point is that African youth who seek to migrate are pushed by circumstances in their home countries. For example, war, poverty and persecution prompt them to become refugees, asylum seekers and labour migrants.

Every year, thousands of African citizens risk their lives daily as they journey through the Sahara desert with hopes of reaching the North African coast, where they take a small boat and sail for a week or two to Europe illegally, their dreamland of greener pastures, liberty and luxurious life. At least, this is the image conveyed by the media and popular discourses. Alarmed by these images, the issue has also been put high on the policy agenda of the EU and its member states, which have exerted pressure on North African countries to clamp down on irregular migration occurring over their territory through increasing border controls, toughening migration law and deporting them from their own national territories. An individual's difficult situation can confine them in a struggling mood to find a better breeze of live. People from Africa are no exception to this law of nature as poor economy forces most of them to embark on a perilous journey to Europe in search of greener pastures; in a land where in they, African people, believe manna would fall from heaven. A land where there is no struggle because their progenitors built "money barns" the same way Africa's built yam barns before they die. Endless fairy tales on the lips of African people about Europe!....potential since sub-Saharan African counties, communities and nations fail to benefit from the individuals.

For Philippe /1/ and Mohamed /2/, it is the quest for greener pastures that has made most Africans, who do not possess the necessary travel documents or visas, to travel to Europe through the Sahara desert (also known as the "death zone") with the hope of entering Spain, Lampedusa, Italy via Morocco. Morocco shares a boundary with Spain at Tanger Gibraltar separated by the Mediterranean Sea that borders the Spanish enclave. This paper will attempt to explore the motivations behind sub-Saharan African countries migration to Europe, effects and possible solutions to curb the magnitude of Africans migration to Eu-

rope. There are many approaches to migration which have defined and examined the factors why individuals migrat to other countries.

Approaches to Migration

Teevan states that "Human migration can be defined simply as the movement of people across significant boundaries for the purpose of permanent settlement" /3/. Given these descriptions, who is an "international migrant"? The significant words in the definitions of migration above include movement, boundaries and settlement. International migrants are, as such, persons who travel from their countries of birth, across transnational boundaries into a destination country where they would live temporarily or permanently. With Castles /4/ claims that "the term 'migrant' is understood to mean any person who lives temporarily or permanently in a country where he or she was not born, and has acquired some significant social ties to this country". In terms of motivation, scholars of international migration and economy speculate on the factors that nurture the desire of individuals to migrate from their countries of origin to foreign countries (Chua, 2003; Castle, 2007: 351-71; Appadurai, 1996: 27-47). Outstanding among the factors originally thought to be insinuating this movement from developing to the developed nations, were the push and pull factors which include: poverty, overpopulation, unemployment, environmental degradation, war, natural and man-made disasters /5/. There is also an argument of thought that some economic or fiscal structural policies and changes exerted on developing economies by the West and Western-based international agencies, such as the World Bank and IMF, have been the majorly-though indirectly-responsible for this trend in migration (Valiani, 2012: 91; Adepoju, 1993: 1-6; Sassen, 1988: 94). Among relevant narratives is the inflow from the Balkan states and less economically buoyant members of the European Union to the more industrialised European states. Most of the existing challenges stem from ignorance, prejudice, stereotypes and media influence. Agitations are also polarised depending on

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which side an individual finds her/himself. Nevertheless, transnational mobility of human (labour), goods and money is vital for transfer of knowledge, ideas, capital and entrepreneurial skills, although international borders are more porous to goods and capital than to people /6/. This is not different from what is obtained in North America.

In her *Mobility of labor and capital*: *A study in international investment and labor flow*, Sassen /7/ argues that the West's foreign interests in developing nations-often in their Foreign Direct Investments (FDI)-has much to do with the developing nations migration to foreign countries. This perspective is also shared in the *World on fire: How exporting free market democracy breeds ethnic hatred and global instability*. Chua /8/ (2003) argues that, rather than ensconcing peace and development, Western projection of free market and democracy to developing economies tends to yield economic and cultural conflict, and socio-political displacement of people in developing countries. From the foregoing, Li /9/ claims that the displacement of individuals from their countries of origin among other factors is one of the major forces of the South-North migration, in this paper, from Africa to Europe. Along with the phenomenal and persistent rise on the cases of Africans emigrating to European countries, the paradox of defying the uncertainties of transnational migration and crisis in receiving nations are enough evidence in finding a solution to the problem.

Again, reflecting on Schiller's work /10/ on the system of capitalist expansion that has bedevilled the world from the earlier part of the 20th century, which metamorphosed into today's globalisation, it becomes imperative to connect colonisation with the spread of Western militancy and use of force in a quest for the control of economic territories from Europe to the Americas, Africa, Asia and the rest of the world.

Going beyond the banality of push and pull debates on the factors underlying the 21st century migration, Solimano /11/, opting for a freer and more humane international border management, extensively accentuates some critical themes on contemporary globalisation

as it affects the nations and nationals of both source and receiving countries. Most relevant to this paper is his insistence that the global North should not always be blamed as the prime architect and culprit of current South-North flow in global migration. He argues that the migration of citizens of the global South to the North might have been a response to the economic and political failures in the global South. In fact, his view affirms Shimeles /12/, who blames the underdevelopment of the Global South, specifically Africa, on poor judgment, mismanagement, and lack of accountability among the leadership.

However, this paper strongly suggests–matter not how simplistic–not all South-North movement of individuals across international borders to be ascribed to economic factors since several factors could possibly be at play. One good example is the Structural Adjustment Policies (SAP), that were developed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank (Bretton Woods Institutions) against Southern developing economies. Because these practices have continued to weaken all meaningful efforts made by most independent Southern states towards economic self-sufficiency. One could justifiably claim that the North is responsible for the economic woes of the global South and is, therefore, indirectly responsible for the current trend in the South-North migration. Appadurai /13/ though argues that it is important to mention that the pattern and flow of international migration is no longer altogether mono-directional, as implied by South-North migration. Instead, there exist omnidirectional flows of human, goods, capital, ideas, cultures and technology. For instance, as nationals of Southern states and raw materials migrate North, many Northern-based multi-national corporations, in an attempt to reduce manufacturing costs, have resorted to establishing oversea plants in developing countries, and by deploying their technical as wel as high management staff to these Southern locations, there is a reverse, North-South migration flow taking place.

One of the positions of sub-Saharan African countries to Europe, is that migration of individuals across national borders may not be

merely as a result of economic factors, but due to other potential factors that are natural or socio-political in nature, examples include war or natural disaster. The current migration trends and patterns have always revealed the fluidity of migration flow shaped by non-palpable social and environmental factors as man-made or natural disasters, economic recessions and political instability. Sassen /**14**/, insists that a comprehensive analysis of the factors prompting migrants to leave their countries of origin to settle in foreign countries must reflect, in addition to domestic considerations of sending and receiving nations, on how the foreign policies and economic practices of receiving nations result in the influx of such migrants from developing economies.

Shifting from Sassen's views on factors that form, drive and facilitate emigration of citizens from developing countries to the industrialised North, Chua /**15**/ argues that it is the aggressive spread by the West of free markets and democracy that creates the 21st century middle-class international migrant individuals. Chua is of the notion that the internationalisation of global economy, that is, globalisation which the United States of America is marketing to the developing world has consequences in the socio-economic and political stability of these nations. She believes that Western propagation of free market and democracy to the developing world creates lopsided binary powers in these nations that tend to instability and war. A rich and economically powerful minority is created by the free market, while democracy invents a politically powerful but economically marginal large population which becomes envious and resentful of the market, dominant minority. Chua argues that instability and war will result as globalisation exacerbates ethnic disparities in wealth and political power distribution, thus producing a middle-class refugee that emigrates to the West. While Chua's work is only indirectly linked to emigration, it is crucial for understanding how the mediated socio-economic and political activities of the West have continued to disrupt the existing equilibrium in the developing countries. Chua and Sassen, however, agree that Western ex-

ternal influences pose disruptive threats to the socio-economic and political stability of developing countries, resulting in the harvest of forcefully displaced peoples from developing economies who migrate as either economic or political refugees to the West.

According to an African proverb, a frog does not run without a cause on the daytime. What can be the cause of this deadly migration? Before we condemn the people of sub-Saharan African countries for abandoning their homeland and embark on an unjustifiable journey to Europe, it is imperative that we take a look at the driving factors behind this migration as stated by the theorists above.

According to Abhuere /**16**/, the contemporary generation are under intensive pressure in sub-Saharan Africa. Africa has been going through change, which has brought about cultural erosion and value degradation in all its societies. As the saying goes, "change is the constant thing in nature", but how these changes affect our lives and environment depend largely on the nature of the change, whether positive or negative. The contemporary generations are under exhaustive societal pressure, knowingly or unknowingly, as a result of negative changes taking place in their surroundings. In line with this, Estrup /**17**/ claims that the pressure ranges from conformity to economic, peer group, political, and academic pressure. Above all, they are pushed to succeed and the slogan is, "either I succeed or I die".

Sadly, parents who have a role to play in guiding and giving direction to their children and wards are not leaving up to these expectations; rather, they tend to contribute to the predicaments of this generation and want them to be like the children of other families at all cost. It is often argued that societal or peer group pressure help to motivate an individual, but this is not always the case. The truth is that it can at times make them work beyond their limit and when the pressure is not managed properly, the result is likely to be frustration.

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Pathological Urge for Material Wealth

One can observe that young Africans are in the horse race of conformity with the moving trends of fashion, music, wealth and material possessions, and when these are not obtainable due to economic reasons, the death-defying migration to Europe becomes of the available option. Again, in a typical contemporary African society, values have long disappeared and virtues like honesty, kindness and faithfulness have been replaced with the amount of material wealth (money) possession. Societal erosion of old African virtues has infested the evil of material wealth acquisition everywhere, and ordinary citizens have been negatively affected by this malicious wind. One wonders why these categories of the population will not do anything to become rich, even to commit crime or risk their irreplaceable lives on a risky journey. Varian /**18**/ argues that the pathological urge to acquire wealth in the present day African society is, no doubt, among the reasons for social problems in Africa, such as corruption, political instability, nepotism, crime, unemployment, lack of development, misuse, mismanagement, and misappropriation. Even though there are a lot of means through which one can get rich-only if one cares to acquire wealth in a sincere manner, like trade, farming, craft, music and entertainment, football and white collar jobs. With Attuil-Kayser /**19**/, the situation is often characterised by the poor masses as too long a journey to wealth and riches. Thus, the fastest route to slake the public thirst for material wealth is to jump into to the streets of Europe in search of people to dupe. It is unfortunate that young Africans want to be rich, so they abandon their business, education and trades while others sell their properties. The compulsive urge to get richer makes one vulnerable and gullible to be wheedled by the verisimilitude stories of their traffickers, "once you get to Morocco, you are already in Spain".

Economic and Political Backwardness

With Nwabugwu /**20**/, economically, massive migration of Africans to Europe brings about loss of potentials since communities and nations fail to benefit from what young people can contribute. The arable land for agriculture lays fallow, and ministries and agencies are left in the hands of the aged workforce. Meanwhile, from the political point of view, this deadly movement to Europe tarnishes the African image. One has only to think of the bulwark that Europe erected at her borders to comprehend that the colonial picture of the 'inferior,' and 'unreasonable,' the African, still prevails in this era. Until Africa grows up, becomes developed, and joins the industrialised world, the overseas representation of her will remain so. At the height of her modernity pursuits, Europe's interests burdened African nations with a classification that has defaced her since the Age of Enlightenment. However, there have been follow-up meetings of the EU-AU conference on migration of Africans to Europe.

Milestones in the EU-African Migration to Europe

Migration is a major political issue, both in the EU and in Africa. Where the public and political debate often focuses exclusively on the downsides of migration, there is a need for policy makers in both continents to identify challenges as well as opportunities, notably in connection to employment strategies and realities in Africa and in the EU.

(1) Rabat Action Plan, adopted at the Euro-African Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development, held in Rabat on 10-11 July 2006 (EX.CL/DEC.264 (VIII). From 22 to 23 November 2006, the ministers of foreign affairs and those responsible for migration and development from Africa and the EU member states, commissioners and other representatives held a meeting in Sirte, Libya.

(2) Joint Africa-EU Declaration on Migration and Development, adopted at the EU-Africa Ministerial Conference on Migration and De-

velopment, was held in Tripoli on 22-23 November 2006.

(3) Joint EU-Africa Strategy and First Action Plan 2008-2010, both adopted at the Second Africa-EU Summit of Heads of State and Government in Lisbon in December, 2007, which also saw the launch of the Africa-EU Migration, Mobility and Employment (MME) Partnership. This summit pushed for the implementation of relevant international agreements and declarations, in particular the Tripoli Declaration on migration and development, the Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat trafficking in human beings, especially women and children and the Ouagadougou Declaration and Plan of Action for promotion of employment and poverty alleviation.

(4) Second Euro-African Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development held in Paris on 25 November 2008.

(5) Second Action Plan 2011-2013, adopted at the Third Africa-EU Summit, Tripoli on 29-30 November 2010.

(6) Third Euro-African Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development held in Dakar on 23 November 2011.

(7) The 4th EU-Africa Summit which took place in Brussels on 2-3 April 2014. Topics discussed therein included legal and illegal migrant flows between both continents, ways to stimulate growth and create jobs, investing in peace and ways to enhance EU support for African capacities to manage security on the continent.

Evidently, the EU-Africa Summits aimed at strengthening co-operation and reducing recourse to illegal and irregular movements from sub-Saharan African countries to Europe. One could argue they are also concerted efforts that should sustain and enable transit/destination countries cope with the problem of migration management. Considering the problems created by this issue, there is the need for all parties to work together in order to resolve illegal migrant flows between the continents.

Conclusion

The paper has attempted to analyse the movement of sub-Saharan African countries to Europe in search of a better life and through which **h**undreds of lives have been lost or ruined. It has also tried to discuss the EU-African efforts which aimed at reducing recourse to illegal and irregular movements from African countries to Europe. Although this paper has analysed the issues related with migration to Europe and the EU-AU activities in order to find possible solutions of migration from Africa to Europe. To ensure that the challenges posed by the issue are effectively addressed, it is necessary to establish a common strategy for the management of migration which associates countries of origin, transit and destination, in order to find balanced solutions that take into account the interests of the two continents. There should be a stronger cooperation between the EU-AU countries on this issue involving the establishment of a network of Africa-based migration observatories to collect, analyse and disseminate information on migration flows between the two entities. It would be indeed illusory to try to treat the problems of migration by recourse only to security measures; hence the need for a comprehensive, integrated, concerted and balanced solution, whose objectives, policies and measures will be long-lasting. This integrated network and approach should be focused to the Mediterranean, the South Atlantic (Canary Islands) and the Black Sea.

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