



THE IMPACT OF RURAL–URBAN MIGRATION ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN ABUJA MUNICIPAL AREA COUNCIL (AMAC), FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the impact of rural urban migration on economic development in Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC), Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria. The study was necessitated by the increasing movement of people from rural areas to urban centers in search of better employment opportunities, improved living conditions, education, and healthcare services. The specific objectives were to determine the influence of rural urban migration on employment generation and business growth in AMAC. A descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. The target population comprised residents of Abuja Municipal Area Council, while a sample size of 400 respondents was selected using stratified and simple random sampling techniques. Data were collected through a structured questionnaire and analyzed using descriptive statistics, including frequency tables, percentages, and mean scores. The hypotheses were tested using the Chi-square (χ^2) statistical method at a 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that rural–urban migration significantly influences employment generation in AMAC, with a grand mean score of 3.92. The study also found that migration positively impacts business growth and entrepreneurial development, with a grand mean score of 3.97. The hypothesis tests confirmed a significant relationship between rural urban migration and employment generation ($\chi^2 = 48.621$, $p < 0.05$) and a significant effect of migration on economic development ($\chi^2 = 56.384$, $p < 0.05$). The study concluded that rural–urban migration contributes positively to economic development through increased labor supply, employment opportunities, entrepreneurship, and business expansion. However, it also creates pressure on urban infrastructure and social services. The study recommended improved urban planning, rural development, and employment creation strategies to enhance the benefits of migration.

Keywords: Rural Urban Migration, Economic Development, Employment Generation, Business Growth, AMAC.

INTRODUCTION

Rural–urban migration has become one of the most significant demographic and socio-economic phenomena influencing development patterns in developing countries, particularly Nigeria. It involves the movement of individuals and households from rural communities to urban centers in search of better economic opportunities, improved social services, quality education, healthcare facilities, security, and enhanced standards of living. The increasing rate of migration from rural areas to cities has attracted considerable attention among scholars, policymakers, and development practitioners because of its profound implications for economic development, urban planning, labor markets, and social welfare. In Nigeria, rural–urban migration has continued to intensify due to persistent disparities between rural and urban areas in terms of infrastructure, employment opportunities, educational facilities, healthcare services, and access to basic amenities. According to Sennuga, Omole, Osho-Lagunju, and Chinwuba (2023), the movement of young people from rural communities to urban areas has become a common livelihood strategy aimed at improving socio-economic conditions. The authors observed that the search for employment and better living conditions remains one of the strongest motivations for migration among Nigerian youths. Similarly, Chibuike, Sennuga, Bako, and Wilberforce (2022) noted that rural–urban migration in Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) is largely driven by the desire for economic advancement, educational opportunities, and improved social welfare. They argued that urban centers are increasingly perceived as locations where individuals can achieve higher incomes and better living standards compared to rural communities. The rapid growth of urban populations in Nigeria has been closely linked to the increasing movement of people from rural areas. Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC), situated within the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), represents one of the most attractive destinations for migrants because of its strategic importance as Nigeria’s political and administrative capital. The concentration of government ministries, agencies, private organizations, financial institutions, educational establishments, and commercial enterprises has created numerous economic opportunities that continue to attract migrants from various states across the country. According to Yusuf, Sule, and Ismail (2025), employment opportunities account for approximately 39.77 percent of the major reasons individuals migrate into AMAC, while factors such as improved security, quality education, and better living conditions also play significant roles in migration decisions. The continuous influx of migrants into AMAC has contributed significantly to urban expansion, labor force growth, commercial development, and increased economic activities. Migrants often provide labor for both formal and informal sectors of the economy, thereby contributing to productivity and economic growth. In support of this view, Adebayo and

Musa (2024) asserted that migration serves as an important mechanism for labor redistribution, enabling urban economies to access the human resources required for industrial, commercial, and service-sector development. The authors further maintained that migrant workers contribute significantly to entrepreneurship, small-scale business development, and urban market expansion. Economic development is generally understood as a process through which the economic, social, and institutional well-being of a society improves over time. It encompasses increases in productivity, employment opportunities, income levels, infrastructural development, poverty reduction, and improvements in living standards. According to Adah, Ocheja, Chiroma, Adejoh, Eyimoga, and Emmanuel (2023), economic development extends beyond mere economic growth and includes improvements in human welfare, equitable distribution of resources, and enhanced access to social services. The authors emphasized that migration can serve as a catalyst for economic development when properly managed because it enhances labor mobility, facilitates skill acquisition, stimulates investment, and increases consumer demand within urban economies.

Nwankwo and Eze (2022) argued that migration contributes to economic transformation by facilitating the transfer of labor from low-productivity agricultural sectors to higher-productivity urban sectors. Such movement often results in increased income generation and greater economic efficiency. The authors observed that urban centers benefit from the availability of labor, while migrants themselves benefit from improved employment opportunities and income prospects. Despite its positive contributions, rural–urban migration also presents numerous challenges to sustainable economic development. Rapid population growth resulting from migration often places enormous pressure on urban infrastructure, housing facilities, transportation systems, healthcare services, educational institutions, water supply, and waste management systems. According to Sennuga et al. (2023), the increasing influx of migrants into Abuja has contributed to housing shortages, rising rental costs, traffic congestion, and growing pressure on social amenities. The authors further noted that inadequate urban planning has exacerbated these challenges, making it difficult for city authorities to provide adequate services for the growing population. Yusuf et al. (2025) found that although migration contributes positively to economic activities and employment generation in AMAC, it also creates developmental challenges such as environmental degradation, overcrowding, informal settlement expansion, and increased demand for public services. Their study revealed that uncontrolled migration may undermine the sustainability of urban development if adequate policies are not implemented to accommodate population growth. According to Chukwu and Ibrahim (2024), the departure of productive youths from rural areas often reduces agricultural productivity, weakens local economies, and contributes to rural underdevelopment. The authors argued that while urban areas may benefit economically from migration, rural communities frequently experience a decline in human capital and productive capacity.

The relationship between rural–urban migration and economic development is therefore complex and multidimensional. On one hand, migration promotes economic growth through labor supply expansion, entrepreneurship development, increased consumer demand, market growth, and infrastructural expansion. Migrants contribute to the development of businesses, transportation services, construction activities, and various informal economic ventures that support urban economies. On the other hand, excessive migration can generate negative consequences such as unemployment, poverty, housing deficits, environmental pollution, social inequality, and increased pressure on public infrastructure. According to Okafor and Bello (2023), migration should not be viewed solely as a demographic process but also as an important driver of socio-economic transformation. The authors emphasized that the developmental outcomes of migration largely depend on government policies, urban planning strategies, and investments in both rural and urban development. They argued that balanced regional development can reduce excessive migration pressures while ensuring that migration contributes positively to national economic growth. Chibuike, Sennuga, Bako, and Wilberforce (2022) conducted a study entitled *"Exploring the Effect of Rural–Urban Migration among Youths in Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC), FCT Abuja."* The study employed a descriptive survey research design to investigate the causes, patterns, and consequences of rural–urban migration among young people residing within Abuja Municipal Area Council. The researchers observed that migration has become a major demographic phenomenon affecting both rural and urban communities in Nigeria. Their findings revealed that a significant proportion of youths migrated from rural communities to Abuja in search of employment opportunities, better educational facilities, improved healthcare services, and enhanced living conditions. The study further discovered that rural communities experienced a substantial reduction in agricultural labor due to the departure of economically active youths. This situation resulted in declining agricultural productivity, reduced food production, and a weakening of rural economic activities. Conversely, urban areas benefited from increased labor supply, business expansion, and higher levels of commercial activities. The authors argued that migrants contribute significantly to urban economic development through participation in construction, transportation, trade, and other informal economic activities. However, they cautioned that continuous migration may worsen rural poverty and underdevelopment if appropriate rural development policies are not implemented. The study concluded that while rural–urban migration promotes urban economic growth, it simultaneously creates developmental challenges in rural communities. Sennuga, Omole, Osho-Lagunju, Iheonu, and Chinwuba (2023) examined the economic and social impacts of rural–urban migration among youths in Abuja, Nigeria. The researchers sought to understand how migration affects economic development, social welfare, and urban growth within the Federal Capital Territory. Their findings revealed that migration has contributed positively to economic diversification by increasing the availability of labor required for various sectors of the economy.

The study showed that migrants participate actively in small-scale businesses, transportation services, construction activities, domestic services, and informal trading. These activities contribute significantly to income generation and urban economic productivity. The researchers further noted that migration enhances entrepreneurship by increasing the number of individuals engaged in business ventures and self-employment activities. Despite these positive contributions, the study identified several challenges associated with migration, including rising housing costs, urban unemployment, overcrowding, traffic congestion, environmental degradation, and increased pressure on public infrastructure. According to the authors, the inability of urban authorities to match infrastructural development with population growth has created significant socio-economic challenges. The study concluded that migration remains a critical factor influencing the economic development trajectory of Abuja and recommended the adoption of sustainable urban planning strategies to address emerging challenges.

Yusuf, Sule, and Ismail (2025) conducted a study on the socio-economic drivers of rural–urban migration in Abuja Municipal Area Council. The study investigated the major factors responsible for the increasing movement of people from rural communities into urban areas within the Federal Capital Territory. The researchers discovered that employment opportunities constituted the most important determinant of migration, accounting for approximately 39.77 percent of migrant’s decisions among respondents. Other factors identified included better educational opportunities, improved healthcare services, enhanced security, and access to modern infrastructure. The study further revealed that migration contributes positively to economic activities by increasing labor force participation and expanding commercial operations within urban areas. However, the authors observed that the rapid influx of migrants has generated challenges relating to housing shortages, poor sanitation, waste management difficulties, and pressure on public facilities. They emphasized that migration generates both positive and negative developmental outcomes and recommended integrated rural development and urban management policies to ensure sustainable growth. Another study by Yusuf, Sule, and Ismail (2025) examined the consequences of migration on sustainable development in Abuja Municipal Area Council. The researchers assessed the extent to which migration contributes to economic development while simultaneously affecting environmental sustainability and social welfare. Their findings indicated that migration has significantly increased employment opportunities and stimulated commercial activities within AMAC. The study revealed that migrants contribute to urban productivity through participation in various economic sectors, thereby supporting local economic growth. However, the authors noted that rapid population growth resulting from migration has placed enormous pressure on housing facilities, transportation systems, healthcare institutions, educational establishments, and sanitation services. The study further found that the

expansion of informal settlements and inadequate infrastructural facilities have become major concerns for sustainable urban development. Consequently, the researchers concluded that migration represents both an opportunity for economic advancement and a challenge for sustainable development. Adah, Ocheja, Chiroma, Adejoh, Eyimoga, and Emmanuel (2023) investigated the economic, agricultural, and social impacts of rural–urban migration in Nigeria. Their study focused on understanding how migration influences economic growth and agricultural productivity across various regions of the country. The findings demonstrated that migration contributes positively to economic development by facilitating labor mobility, encouraging industrial growth, stimulating investment activities, and expanding market opportunities. The researchers argued that migration enables labor to move from less productive sectors to more productive sectors, thereby enhancing economic efficiency. Nevertheless, the study also revealed that migration adversely affects agricultural productivity because many young and productive individuals leave rural farming communities for urban centers. This movement often results in labor shortages, reduced agricultural output, and increased vulnerability of rural economies. The authors therefore recommended the provision of rural infrastructure, employment opportunities, agricultural incentives, and social amenities as strategies for reducing excessive migration. Nwankwo and Eze (2022) examined migration and economic transformation in urban Nigeria. The researchers found that migration contributes significantly to urban economic development by expanding the labor force, increasing entrepreneurial activities, and stimulating consumer demand. They argued that migrants serve as important agents of economic growth because they provide both skilled and unskilled labor needed for urban development projects. However, the study observed that uncontrolled migration may result in urban poverty, unemployment, and increased pressure on social services. The authors recommended balanced regional development policies to address migration-related challenges. Okafor and Bello (2023) investigated the relationship between migration and socio-economic transformation in Nigeria. Their findings revealed that migration promotes economic integration, labor market expansion, and business development. The authors emphasized that migrants contribute significantly to urban productivity and innovation. However, they also noted that migration creates social and infrastructural challenges when population growth exceeds available resources. The study concluded that migration can serve as a catalyst for economic development if supported by effective policy interventions.

The Harris and Todaro Migration Theory, developed by John R. Harris and Michael P. Todaro in 1970, remains one of the most influential theories explaining migration decisions in developing countries. The theory posits that individuals migrate from rural areas to urban centers because they expect to obtain higher incomes and better employment opportunities in urban locations. According to the theory, migration

decisions are based on expected income differentials rather than actual employment availability. Consequently, people may continue to migrate even when urban unemployment rates are high because they anticipate future economic benefits. The relevance of the Harris and Todaro Migration Theory to the Nigerian context has been emphasized by several contemporary scholars. Nwankwo and Eze (2022) argued that migration decisions among Nigerian youths are largely influenced by expectations of better employment opportunities and higher earnings in urban areas. Similarly, Sennuga et al. (2023) observed that most migrants moving into Abuja are motivated by the prospect of improved economic conditions, career advancement, and higher standards of living. Yusuf et al. (2025) also found that employment opportunities remain the strongest factor influencing migration decisions among residents of AMAC. These findings provide empirical support for the assumptions of the Harris and Todaro Theory within the Nigerian environment. The theory is particularly relevant to this study because it explains why large numbers of individuals continue to migrate into Abuja despite challenges such as unemployment, high living costs, and housing shortages. Migrants are often attracted by the expectation of future economic success and improved living conditions. The theory therefore provides a useful framework for understanding the relationship between migration and economic development in AMAC. One major strength of the Harris and Todaro Theory is its ability to explain labor mobility patterns between rural and urban areas. It also establishes a clear relationship between economic incentives and migration decisions while providing insight into the causes of urban population growth in developing countries. However, the theory has been criticized for assuming that migration decisions are purely rational and economically motivated. It pays limited attention to social networks, family influences, cultural considerations, environmental factors, and security concerns that often influence migration decisions in Nigeria. The Dual Sector Theory was developed by Sir W. Arthur Lewis in 1954 to explain the process of economic development in developing economies. The theory argues that economic growth occurs through the transfer of surplus labor from the traditional agricultural sector to the modern industrial sector. According to Lewis, urban areas provide opportunities for employment and productivity growth, thereby attracting labor from rural communities. Contemporary Nigerian scholars have applied the assumptions of the Dual Sector Theory to explain migration patterns and economic development in Nigeria. Adah et al. (2023) observed that rural urban migration facilitates labor movement from low-productivity agricultural activities to more productive urban sectors such as commerce, manufacturing, transportation, and services. Similarly, Okafor and Bello (2023) argued that migration contributes to structural transformation by increasing labor availability in urban economies and enhancing industrial development. Sennuga et al. (2023) further noted that migrants in Abuja participate actively in construction projects, transportation businesses, informal trading, and service-oriented enterprises, thereby contributing significantly to economic growth. The theory is highly relevant to this

study because Abuja Municipal Area Council attracts migrants who provide labor for government institutions, private organizations, construction industries, transportation services, hospitality businesses, and informal sector enterprises. The movement of labor from rural areas into these sectors contributes significantly to urban expansion, income generation, and economic development within AMAC.

Statement of the Problem

Rural urban migration has become a persistent demographic and socio-economic phenomenon in Nigeria, particularly in rapidly growing urban centers such as Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC). The continuous movement of people from rural communities to urban areas is primarily driven by the search for employment opportunities, improved educational facilities, better healthcare services, enhanced security, and improved standards of living. While migration is generally viewed as a strategy for improving individual and household welfare, its increasing rate has generated significant concerns regarding its implications for economic development, urban sustainability, and regional balance. Over the years, Abuja Municipal Area Council has experienced rapid population growth resulting from the influx of migrants from various parts of Nigeria. As the administrative and political headquarters of the country, AMAC attracts thousands of migrants annually due to the concentration of government institutions, private organizations, commercial activities, and infrastructural facilities. This growing population has contributed to increased economic activities, labor force expansion, entrepreneurship development, and market growth. However, the rapid increase in population has also placed enormous pressure on housing facilities, transportation systems, healthcare institutions, educational services, water supply, sanitation facilities, and other social infrastructure. Despite the economic opportunities associated with migration, unemployment and underemployment remain prevalent among many urban residents. The increasing labor supply resulting from migration often exceeds the available employment opportunities, thereby contributing to urban poverty, informal employment, and income inequality. Furthermore, the expansion of informal settlements, traffic congestion, environmental degradation, and rising costs of living have become major developmental concerns within AMAC. These challenges raise questions regarding whether the benefits of migration outweigh its negative consequences on economic development.

In rural communities, the continuous migration of young and economically productive individuals has resulted in labor shortages, declining agricultural productivity, reduced food production, and weakened local economies. The departure of skilled and energetic youths from rural areas has limited agricultural modernization and slowed rural economic development. Consequently, the developmental gap between rural and urban communities continues to widen, thereby encouraging further migration and creating a

cycle of regional imbalance. Several studies have examined the causes and consequences of rural urban migration in Nigeria. Studies by Chibuike et al. (2022), Sennuga et al. (2023), Adah et al. (2023), and Yusuf et al. (2025) focused largely on migration drivers, youth migration patterns, agricultural implications, and sustainable development challenges. However, there is limited empirical evidence specifically examining how rural urban migration influences key economic development indicators such as employment generation, income growth, business development, investment expansion, infrastructural development, and overall economic transformation within Abuja Municipal Area Council. The problem therefore is that while rural urban migration continues to increase in AMAC, its actual impact on economic development remains inadequately understood. There is a need to critically examine whether migration contributes positively to economic growth and development or whether it creates more socio-economic challenges than benefits. This study therefore seeks to investigate the impact of rural urban migration on economic development in Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) with a view to providing evidence-based recommendations for policymakers, development planners, and government agencies.

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of this study is to examine the impact of rural urban migration on economic development in Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC).

The specific objectives are to:

- i. Examine the extent to which rural urban migration influences employment generation in Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC).
- ii. Assess the impact of rural urban migration on business growth and entrepreneurial development in Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC).

Research Questions

The following research questions will guide the study:

- i. To what extent does rural urban migration influence employment generation in Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC)?
- ii. What impact does rural urban migration have on business growth and entrepreneurial development in Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC)?

Research Hypotheses

H01: There is no significant relationship between rural urban migration and employment generation in Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC).

H02: Rural urban migration has no significant effect on economic development in Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC).

METHODOLOGY

This study adopts a descriptive survey research design to investigate the impact of rural urban migration on economic development in Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC), Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria. The descriptive survey design is considered appropriate because it enables the researcher to obtain information directly from respondents regarding their experiences, perceptions, and opinions concerning rural urban migration and its influence on economic development. The design also facilitates the collection of quantitative data from a relatively large population, thereby providing a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon under investigation. Furthermore, the descriptive survey design is suitable for studies that seek to describe existing conditions and establish relationships between variables without manipulating the study environment. The study is conducted in Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC), one of the six Area Councils within the Federal Capital Territory. AMAC serves as the administrative and commercial hub of Abuja and hosts numerous government ministries, agencies, private organizations, educational institutions, markets, and commercial establishments. The area has experienced rapid population growth over the years due to the continuous influx of migrants from different parts of Nigeria. The concentration of economic activities and employment opportunities within the area makes it a suitable location for examining the impact of rural urban migration on economic development.

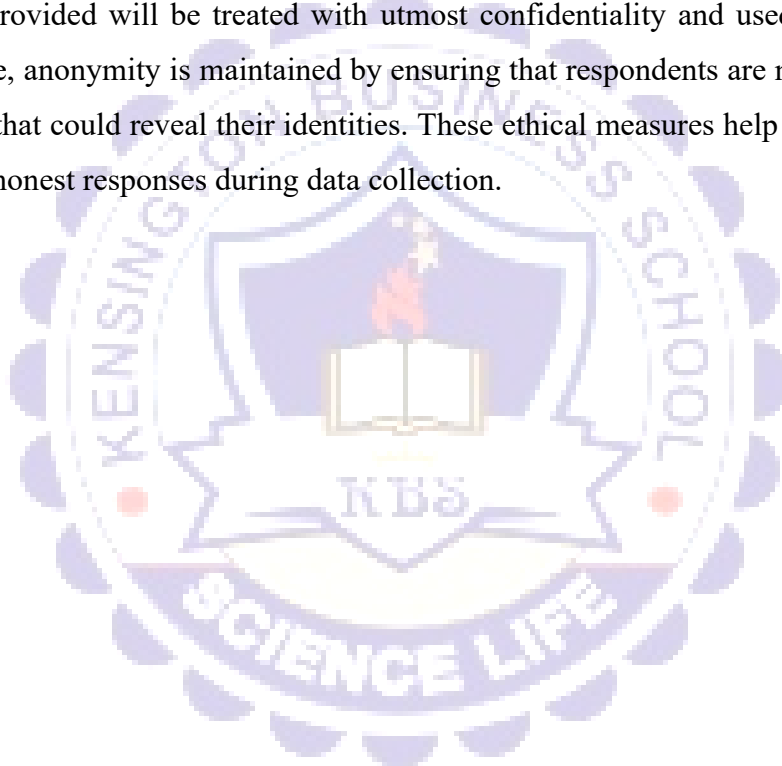
The target population for the study comprises residents of Abuja Municipal Area Council, including migrants, business owners, civil servants, traders, artisans, transport operators, and other economically active individuals residing within the council area. The population also includes community leaders and residents who possess adequate knowledge regarding migration trends and economic activities within the area. Since the population of AMAC is large and continuously changing, a representative sample is selected to ensure effective data collection and analysis. A sample size of 400 respondents is adopted for the study. The sample size is considered adequate because it provides sufficient representation of the study population and enhances the reliability of the findings. The selection of respondents is carried out using a combination

of stratified and simple random sampling techniques. Under the stratified sampling technique, the study area is divided into identifiable groups based on residential districts, occupational categories, and socio-economic characteristics. Thereafter, respondents are selected randomly from each stratum to ensure equal representation and reduce sampling bias. The use of these sampling techniques ensures that respondents from diverse backgrounds and experiences are included in the study. Primary data constitute the major source of information for this study. The primary data are collected through the administration of a structured questionnaire designed by the researcher. The questionnaire consists of two sections. The first section focuses on the demographic characteristics of respondents such as age, gender, educational qualification, occupation, marital status, and duration of residence in AMAC. The second section contains items specifically designed to obtain information on rural urban migration, employment opportunities, income generation, business development, infrastructural development, and economic growth within the study area. The questionnaire items are structured using a five-point Likert Scale ranging from Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Undecided (U), Disagree (D), and Strongly Disagree (SD). In addition to primary data, secondary sources of information are utilized to provide theoretical and empirical support for the study. Secondary data are obtained from textbooks, academic journals, government publications, conference proceedings, official reports, dissertations, internet sources, and relevant scholarly materials relating to migration and economic development. These materials provide valuable insights into previous studies and help establish the conceptual and theoretical foundations of the research. To ensure the validity of the research instrument, the questionnaire is subjected to face and content validation by experts in economics, sociology, public administration, and research methodology. The experts carefully examine the questionnaire items to determine whether they adequately measure the objectives of the study and provide appropriate suggestions for improvement. Their observations and recommendations are incorporated into the final version of the instrument before administration.

The reliability of the instrument is determined through a pilot study conducted among a small group of respondents outside the study area but possessing characteristics similar to those of the target population. The data obtained from the pilot test are analyzed using the Cronbach Alpha reliability method. A reliability coefficient of 0.70 or above is considered acceptable, indicating that the instrument is reliable and capable of producing consistent results when administered under similar conditions. The administration of the questionnaire is carried out personally by the researcher with the assistance of trained research assistants. Copies of the questionnaire are distributed directly to respondents within selected districts of Abuja Municipal Area Council. The respondents are given adequate time to complete the questionnaire, after which the completed copies are retrieved for analysis. This approach enhances response rates and ensures

that respondents properly understand the questions before providing responses. The data collected from the field are coded, organized, and analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistical techniques. Descriptive statistics such as frequency distribution tables, percentages, mean scores, and standard deviations are employed to summarize respondents' demographic characteristics and responses to research questions. These statistical tools provide a clear and concise presentation of the data collected. The hypotheses formulated for the study are tested using the Chi-Square (χ^2) statistical technique at a 0.05 level of significance. The Chi-Square method is considered appropriate because it enables the researcher to determine whether a significant relationship exists between rural urban migration and economic development variables. The decision rule is that the null hypothesis will be rejected if the calculated p-value is less than 0.05 and accepted if the p-value is greater than 0.05. The use of inferential statistics strengthens the credibility of the findings and facilitates objective conclusions regarding the impact of rural urban migration on economic development in Abuja Municipal Area Council. Ethical considerations are strictly observed throughout the study. Participation is entirely voluntary, and respondents are adequately informed about the purpose of the research before completing the questionnaire. Respondents are assured that all information provided will be treated with utmost confidentiality and used strictly for academic purposes. Furthermore, anonymity is maintained by ensuring that respondents are not required to disclose personal information that could reveal their identities. These ethical measures help to protect respondents' rights and encourage honest responses during data collection.

RESULTS



Research Question One To what extent does rural–urban migration influence employment generation in Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC)?

Table 4.1: Responses on the Influence of Rural–Urban Migration on Employment Generation in AMAC (N = 400)

S/N	Questionnaire Item	SA	A	U	D	SD	Mean
1	Rural Urban migration has increased the supply of labor in AMAC.	180	120	30	45	25	3.96
2	Migrants contribute significantly to employment opportunities in the informal sector.	165	130	35	40	30	3.90
3	Migration has increased the availability of skilled and unskilled workers in AMAC.	170	125	40	38	27	3.93
4	Rural–urban migration has contributed to job creation through small-scale businesses.	160	135	35	45	25	3.90
5	Increased migration has improved economic productivity and employment generation.	175	120	30	50	25	3.93
	Grand Mean						3.92

The result presented in Table 4.1 shows that respondents generally agreed that rural urban migration significantly influences employment generation in Abuja Municipal Area Council. The grand mean score of 3.92 is above the benchmark mean of 2.50, indicating a positive perception of the contribution of migration to employment opportunities. The respondents agreed that migration has increased labor supply, enhanced the availability of skilled and unskilled workers, promoted informal sector employment, and encouraged job creation through entrepreneurial activities. The findings suggest that rural–urban migration plays a significant role in supporting employment generation and economic productivity within AMAC.

Research Question Two

What impact does rural urban migration have on business growth and entrepreneurial development in Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC)?

Table 4.2: Responses on the Impact of Rural–Urban Migration on Business Growth and Entrepreneurial Development in AMAC (N = 400)

S/N	Questionnaire Item	SA	A	U	D	SD	Mean
1	Rural Urban migration has increased the number of small-scale businesses in AMAC.	185	120	25	40	30	3.98
2	Migrants contribute significantly to entrepreneurial activities within the area.	175	125	30	45	25	3.95
3	Migration has expanded market opportunities for local businesses.	170	130	35	40	25	3.95
4	The influx of migrants has increased consumer demand for goods and services.	190	115	25	45	25	4.00
5	Rural urban migration has stimulated investment and commercial activities in AMAC.	180	120	35	40	25	3.98
	Grand Mean						3.97

The findings in Table 4.2 indicate that rural urban migration has a positive impact on business growth and entrepreneurial development in Abuja Municipal Area Council. The grand mean score of 3.97 exceeds the criterion mean of 2.50, demonstrating respondents' agreement that migration contributes significantly to economic activities. The respondents agreed that migrants establish businesses, expand consumer markets, increase demand for goods and services, and stimulate commercial investments. The result therefore suggests that rural urban migration enhances entrepreneurship and promotes business expansion within the study area.

Hypothesis One

H01: There is no significant relationship between rural urban migration and employment generation in Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC).

Table 4.3: Chi-Square Analysis of the Relationship between Rural Urban Migration and Employment Generation

Variables	χ^2 Calculated	χ^2 Critical	Degree of freedom	Significant Level	Decision
Rural Urban Migration and Employment Generation	48.621	9.488	4	0.05	Reject H01

The result in Table 4.3 shows that the calculated Chi-square value (48.621) is greater than the critical Chi-square value (9.488) at 4 degrees of freedom and 0.05 level of significance. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected. This indicates that there is a statistically significant relationship between rural urban migration and employment generation in Abuja Municipal Area Council. The finding implies that migration contributes substantially to labor force expansion and employment opportunities within the area.

Hypothesis Two

H02: Rural urban migration has no significant effect on economic development in Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC).

Table 4.4: Chi-Square Analysis of the Effect of Rural Urban Migration on Economic Development

Variables	χ^2 Calculated	χ^2 Critical	Degree of freedom	Significant Level	Decision
Rural Urban Migration and Economic Development	56.384	9.488	4	0.05	Reject H02

The result in Table 4.4 reveals that the calculated Chi-square value of 56.384 is greater than the critical value of 9.488 at 4 degrees of freedom and a 0.05 significance level. Consequently, the null hypothesis is rejected. This indicates that rural urban migration has a statistically significant effect on economic development in Abuja Municipal Area Council. The finding suggests that migration contributes positively to economic growth through increased labor supply, business expansion, entrepreneurship development, market growth, and increased economic activities within the area.

Discussion of Findings

The findings of this study revealed that rural urban migration significantly influences employment generation in Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC), with a grand mean score of 3.92, which exceeded the acceptance benchmark of 2.50. This result indicates that respondents generally agreed that migration contributes positively to the creation of employment opportunities within the study area. The finding suggests that migrants provide both skilled and unskilled labor required in various sectors of the economy, including construction, transportation, commerce, hospitality, domestic services, and informal business activities. The increasing movement of people from rural areas into AMAC has expanded the labor force and enhanced economic productivity, thereby contributing to employment generation and economic growth. The finding is consistent with the study conducted by Chibuike, Sennuga, Bako, and Wilberforce (2022), who found that rural urban migration significantly increased labor availability in Abuja Municipal Area Council. The authors observed that migrants contribute actively to urban economic activities by filling labor gaps in both formal and informal sectors of the economy. Their study further revealed that migration serves as an important mechanism through which labor resources are redistributed from rural communities to urban areas where employment opportunities are more abundant. The present finding supports their conclusion that migration contributes positively to urban labor markets and employment generation. The result also corroborates the findings of Sennuga, Omole, Osho-Lagunju, Iheonu, and Chinwuba (2023), who reported that migrants in Abuja actively participate in transportation services, petty trading, construction activities, and small-scale enterprises, thereby creating employment opportunities for themselves and others. According to the authors, migration enhances labor mobility and facilitates the allocation of human resources to sectors with higher economic productivity. The present study confirms this assertion by demonstrating that migration has significantly increased employment opportunities within AMAC. Similarly, Nwankwo and Eze (2022) argued that migration remains one of the major drivers of labor force expansion in Nigerian urban centers. Their study revealed that migrants provide essential manpower required for commercial and industrial development, thereby stimulating employment creation and economic transformation. The findings of the present study align with this position, as respondents agreed that migration has positively influenced employment generation and labor market expansion in Abuja Municipal Area Council.

The hypothesis test further revealed a statistically significant relationship between rural urban migration and employment generation in AMAC ($\chi^2 = 48.621$, $p < 0.05$). This implies that migration and employment generation are closely associated and that changes in migration patterns have significant implications for employment opportunities within the study area. The rejection of the null hypothesis confirms that rural

urban migration contributes meaningfully to labor force growth and employment creation. This finding is supported by Yusuf, Sule, and Ismail (2025), who found that employment opportunities constitute the most significant factor attracting migrants into Abuja Municipal Area Council. Their study revealed that approximately 39.77 percent of migration decisions were influenced by the availability of jobs and income-generating opportunities. The researchers concluded that migration contributes positively to employment generation despite the challenges associated with urban population growth. The findings of the study also established that rural urban migration positively impacts business growth and entrepreneurial development in Abuja Municipal Area Council, with a grand mean score of 3.97. This result indicates that migration has contributed significantly to commercial activities, business expansion, and entrepreneurial development within the study area. The respondents agreed that migrants establish small and medium-scale enterprises, engage in self-employment activities, expand local markets, and increase demand for goods and services. The finding suggests that migration stimulates economic activities and contributes to the overall growth of the urban economy. This finding agrees with the work of Sennuga et al. (2023), who reported that rural urban migration contributes significantly to economic diversification and entrepreneurship development in Abuja. The authors observed that many migrants establish businesses in sectors such as transportation, retail trade, food services, fashion, construction, and personal services. These enterprises not only generate income for migrants but also create employment opportunities for other residents. The present study supports this position by demonstrating that migration has enhanced business growth and entrepreneurial activities in AMAC. The finding is also consistent with the study conducted by Adah, Ocheja, Chiroma, Adejoh, Eyimoga, and Emmanuel (2023), who posited that migration promotes economic development through increased labor mobility, market expansion, industrial growth, and entrepreneurial activities. According to the authors, the movement of people into urban centers increases consumer demand, stimulates investment activities, and creates favorable conditions for business expansion. The current finding validates this assertion by showing that migration has positively influenced entrepreneurial development and commercial activities in Abuja Municipal Area Council. In the same vein, Okafor and Bello (2023) noted that migrants serve as important agents of economic transformation because they introduce new skills, ideas, and business strategies into urban economies. Their study found that migration promotes innovation, business competitiveness, and economic productivity. The findings of the present study support this argument, as respondents acknowledged that migration contributes significantly to business development and entrepreneurship within AMAC. The second hypothesis test revealed that rural urban migration has a statistically significant effect on economic development in Abuja Municipal Area Council ($\chi^2 = 56.384$, $p < 0.05$). The rejection of the null hypothesis indicates that migration significantly influences economic development within the study area. This finding implies that migration contributes to

increased labor productivity, income generation, business expansion, infrastructural utilization, market growth, and overall economic transformation. The result suggests that migration remains a critical factor shaping economic development in Abuja Municipal Area Council. This finding is in agreement with Yusuf, Sule, and Ismail (2025), who found that migration contributes positively to economic activities and urban development in AMAC through labor force expansion, increased commercial activities, and enhanced economic interactions. The authors noted that migrants contribute significantly to the growth of the local economy through their participation in various productive sectors. However, they also cautioned that uncontrolled migration may create challenges relating to housing shortages, environmental degradation, and pressure on public infrastructure.

Conclusion

The study examined the impact of rural urban migration on economic development in Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC), Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria. The findings revealed that rural urban migration plays a significant role in promoting economic development within the area. The movement of people from rural communities to AMAC has contributed to labor force expansion, employment generation, business growth, entrepreneurship development, and increased economic activities.

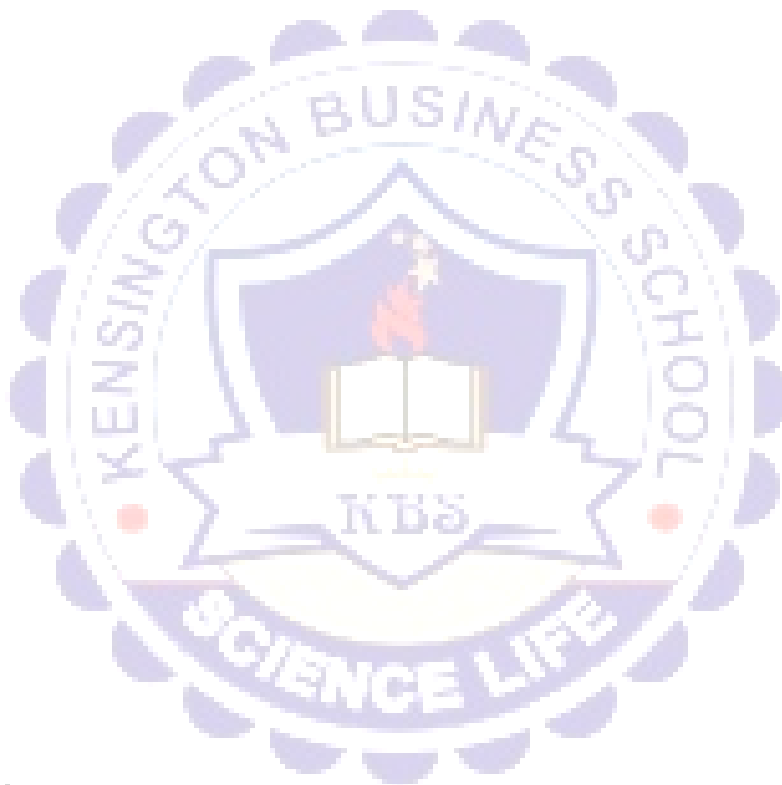
The study established that migration significantly influences employment generation by increasing the availability of skilled and unskilled labor required in various sectors of the economy. It also found that migrants contribute to business expansion and entrepreneurial development through their involvement in commercial activities and the establishment of small and medium-scale enterprises. The hypothesis tests further confirmed that there is a significant relationship between rural urban migration and employment generation, as well as a significant effect of migration on economic development in AMAC. However, the study also revealed that the increasing influx of migrants has created challenges such as pressure on housing, transportation, healthcare facilities, sanitation services, and other urban infrastructure. Despite these challenges, the study concludes that rural urban migration remains an important driver of economic development in Abuja Municipal Area Council. Therefore, effective urban planning, infrastructural development, and balanced rural development policies are necessary to maximize the benefits of migration while minimizing its associated challenges.

Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusions of the study, the following recommendations are made:

1. The Federal Government and the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) should strengthen urban planning and infrastructure development within Abuja Municipal Area Council. Increased investment should be directed toward housing, transportation networks, healthcare facilities, educational institutions, water supply systems, and waste management infrastructure to accommodate the growing population resulting from migration.
2. Government should promote employment creation programmes in both rural and urban areas. This can be achieved through investments in agriculture, manufacturing, technology, entrepreneurship development, and vocational training initiatives. Expanding employment opportunities will reduce excessive migration pressure while enhancing economic productivity.
3. Comprehensive rural development programmes should be implemented to address the root causes of migration. Government should provide rural communities with improved social amenities such as; roads, electricity, healthcare facilities, educational institutions, potable water, internet connectivity, and agricultural support services. Improving living conditions in rural areas will reduce the push factors responsible for migration.
4. Entrepreneurship development and small business support schemes should be expanded within AMAC. Financial institutions and government agencies should provide accessible loans, grants, business training, and mentorship programmes to migrants and residents seeking to establish or expand businesses. This will enhance job creation and stimulate local economic growth.
5. Agricultural modernization programmes should be strengthened to reduce labor shortages in rural communities. Government should encourage mechanized farming, provide subsidized agricultural inputs, and improve access to agricultural credit facilities. These measures will enhance agricultural productivity and reduce the economic losses associated with rural labor migration.
6. Policies on social amenities; med at achieving balanced regional development should be prioritized. Investments should not be concentrated solely in Abuja and other major urban centers. Equal attention should be given to the development of rural communities and secondary cities to create economic opportunities across different regions of the country.
7. The Federal Capital Territory Administration should establish effective population management and migration monitoring systems. Reliable migration data will assist policymakers in planning for future infrastructure needs, employment programmes, and social service delivery within AMAC.
8. Public-private partnerships should be encouraged in the provision of urban infrastructure and social amenities. Collaboration between government agencies and private investors can facilitate the

expansion of housing projects, transportation services, healthcare facilities, and educational institutions required to support population growth.



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