

Beyond Urban Narratives: Livelihood-Migration Linkages Among Female Migrant Workers in Ondo West Local Government, Nigeria

Olaleye Oluwaseun Mercy PhD

Department of Geography, Faculty of Management and Social Sciences, Adeyemi Federal University of Education, Ondo. Ondo State.

*Corresponding Author: Olaleye Oluwaseun Mercy PhD

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.19614059>

Article History	Abstract
Original Research Article	<p><i>The migratory dynamics and means of livelihood of female migrant workers in rural regions have received less attention than those of male migrants in urban areas, with the majority of existing research concentrating on their livelihood activities and health issues. This study focuses on the relationship between livelihood engagement and migratory dynamics among female migrant workers in rural Southwest Nigeria, with Ondo West Local Government Area as a case study. A cross-sectional study of 1,047 female migrants was undertaken in thirty rural communities, using the Push-Pull Theory and the New Economics of Labour Migration Framework. Data were examined using both descriptive and inferential statistics. The findings show that livelihood involvement has little effect on mobility-related behaviours including frequency of home visits, family accompanying, and visit duration, but has a considerable impact on duration of stay and remittances. There is no significant relationship with visit duration ($r = 0.011, p > 0.05$), a negative but insignificant association with family accompaniment ($r = -0.050, p > 0.05$), and a slight correlation between livelihood involvement and frequency of home visits ($r = 0.0203, p > 0.05$). Additionally, the analysis reveals a substantial positive link between livelihood activities and remittance behavior ($r = 0.87, p < 0.05$) and a significant correlation between livelihood participation and length of stay ($r = 0.073, p < 0.05$). Female migrants face gendered obstacles such as restricted finance availability, worse job circumstances, and societal shame. Additionally, informal networks offer support and coping strategies. The study emphasizes the selective but significant influence of livelihood activities on migration outcomes, and it advocates for gender-sensitive policies that improve female migrants' access to financing, social safety, and economic prospects. It also proposes that the government invest in education and vocational training programs to increase employability and income potential.</i></p> <p>Keywords: migratory, livelihoods, gendered challenges, remittance, frequency of visits.</p>
Received: 03-03-2026	
Accepted: 01-04-2026	
Published: 16-04-2026	
<p>Copyright © 2026 The Author(s): This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY-NC) which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial use provided the original author and source are credited.</p>	
<p>Citation: Olaleye Oluwaseun Mercy. (2026). Beyond urban narratives: Livelihood-migration linkages among female migrant workers in Ondo West Local Government, Nigeria. <i>UKR Journal of Economics, Business and Management (UKRJEBM)</i>, 2(4), 129-137.</p>	

Introduction

Migration is a prominent socioeconomic phenomenon in Nigeria, notably in the Southwest, where urbanization and agricultural growth have increased internal mobility. Female migrant workers are among the most active players in this process, since they frequently relocate from rural to urban regions due to economic need, household survival tactics, and gendered labour demand (Okafor, 2014, Olaleye, 2026). Despite their increased prominence in informal sectors such as commerce, household work, and food vending, the subtle link between their livelihood

commitments and migratory behaviors remains unexplored, particularly in rural environments. Rural-urban migration is a frequent phenomenon in Nigeria, with women increasingly moving to cities in quest of better job prospects.

Due to its high degree of economic activity and urbanization, southwest Nigeria is a popular destination for female migrants. Lagos, Ibadan, and Abeokuta are among the biggest cities in the area, which is home to more than 30% of Nigeria's population. Research on the interaction

between livelihood activities and migratory processes of female migrant workers in rural southwest Nigeria is lacking, despite the significance of female mobility in the region.

According to research on female migration in Nigeria, bad living circumstances, unemployment, and poverty are the main driving forces for female migration. (Oladeji, 2015; Okonkwo, 2019). Female migrants frequently engage in activities in the informal sector. These activities include trade, hawking, and domestic work. They are characterized by low wages, long working hours, and bad working conditions (Adebayo, 2018; Okpara, 2016).

According to studies, migration can boost the socioeconomic well-being of female migrants by increasing their income and living conditions (Okafor, 2015; Adesina, 2014; World Bank, 2020). However, female migrants face additional obstacles such as exploitation, poor working conditions, and restricted access to social assistance (National Bureau of Statistics, 2020; Okonkwo, 2019; and Igun, 2017).

The literature suggests that policies aimed at promoting female empowerment, improving working conditions, and providing access to social services can help address these challenges (UN Women, 2019; International Labour Organization, 2018). Furthermore, studies have shown how crucial education and skill development are to improving the employability and earning potential of female migrants (OECD, 2019; UNESCO, 2018).

The existing literature has mostly focused on urban migration and macroeconomic implications, leaving a void in understanding how livelihood activities influence migration outcomes such as settlement length, remittance behavior, and family accompaniment in rural areas. Furthermore, policy frameworks do not adequately address the convergence of gender and migration, despite evidence showing female migrants are frequently major breadwinners and active contributors to rural development via remittances and informal networks (UN Women, 2020).

This study bridges the void by investigating the migratory patterns of female migrant workers in rural Southwest Nigeria, with a focus on Ondo West Local Government Area. It investigates how economic involvement affects important migration processes, emphasizing the selective yet crucial role of livelihood engagement in influencing migratory patterns. By doing so, the research contributes to a more gender-sensitive understanding of migration and provides policy recommendations for improving female migrants' access to economic opportunities, social protection, and financial inclusion.

Aim

Although previous studies have examined female migration in Nigeria, limited research has investigated how livelihood engagement influences specific migration processes such as duration of study, remittance behaviour, and family accompaniment in rural contexts.

Objectives

1. Examine the correlation between female migrants' engagement in livelihood activities and important migratory processes, such as settlement length, remittance transfers, family accompanying and frequency of visits home.
2. Provide policy proposals to improve female migrants' economic integration, social protection, and development contributions in rural Nigeria.

Hypotheses

1. There is no significant relationship between the level of female migrant workers' involvement in livelihood activities and their migration processes.

Review of Literature

Migratory Processes of Female Migrant Workers

Migratory processes are often intricate and multidimensional, with a variety of variables influencing the choice to migrate. Economic possibilities are a major driver of migration, particularly among female migrant workers. Migratory processes are the phases and actions that individuals take while moving from one area to another. These processes may be voluntary or coerced, and they may include both domestic and international migration (Osabohien, Beecroft and Uwubanmwun, 2021). The decision to migrate can be influenced by a number of factors, including economic opportunities, political instability, environmental factors, or social factors; the decision-making process may involve individual or family decisions, as well as consultation with friends, relatives, or other members of the community. The stages involved in migratory processes include preparation and planning for migration, the actual movement or travel, and resettlement and adjustment to the new location (IOM, 2020).

Based on a number of variables, such as the distance traveled, the reason for migration, and the length of stay, migratory processes may be further divided into many categories. The distance traveled is one method of classifying migratory processes, including local, internal, and international migration. Moving across national borders, either permanently or temporarily, with the goal of residing or working abroad is known as international migration. The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA, 2020) estimates that there were 272 million international migrants globally in 2019, or 3.5% of the world's population. Many factors contribute

to international migration, including economic, social, and political factors, such as seeking better job opportunities, reuniting with family members, or fleeing conflict or persecution.

In contrast, internal migration refers to the movement of individuals inside a nation, either from one region to another or from rural to urban regions. In Nigeria, for example, internal migration is influenced by a number of factors, such as social amenities, education, and economic possibilities, as well as regional conflicts and instability. Nigeria's internal migration rate rose from 12.8% in 2009 to 14.3% in 2017, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (National Bureau of Statistics, 2018)

In rural areas, female migrant workers participate in a variety of migratory patterns that are influenced by a number of different circumstances. The pursuit of improved economic prospects and means of subsistence is one of the main causes of migration. In quest of employment, women who move from rural to metropolitan regions or other rural areas typically come from low-income homes with little access to opportunities and resources. They relocate in order to better their financial circumstances and provide for their family back home (Okafor, 2014).

Social and cultural variables also have an impact on the migration process of female migrant workers in rural regions. For example, migrating alone or without family support is frowned upon in some regions of Nigeria. As a result, some women relocate as members of a wider social network or with their families. These networks offer access to information about employment prospects and other resources, as well as emotional support (Olaleye, Adeyemi, Ogunboye & Agun, 2026). Gender-specific obstacles impact the migration procedures of female migrant workers in rural regions. Women who relocate for employment frequently experience assault, social humiliation, and workplace discrimination and exploitation. For instance, some women who work as domestic servants or factory workers may be subjected to long working hours, low wages, and poor working conditions. They may also face sexual harassment or other forms of gender-based violence.

The level of education has a significant impact on the migratory movements of female migrant workers in rural regions. Compared to women with greater levels of education, those with lower levels are more likely to move in search of employment. They are frequently compelled to look for job in the unorganized sector due to their restricted access to official employment possibilities (Olaleye, 2023). Furthermore, it can be difficult for female migrant workers in rural regions to obtain social services like healthcare and education, which can have an impact on their own and their families' well-being. Additionally, they could have trouble getting loans and other financial services, which could

restrict their capacity to make investments in their own companies and better their financial circumstances (Okafor, 2014).

One aspect that has to be taken into account is the connection between migration and rural development. Rural communities may be impacted by migration in both good and bad ways. Increased remittances from migration can, on the one hand, boost local economic growth and raise living conditions for those who remain. However, competent professionals may migrate from rural regions in search of greater prospects elsewhere, which might result in a brain drain (Oladele, Adepoju & Bello, 2019). In West Africa, migration is a significant phenomenon, especially in Nigeria, where internal mobility, including rural-to-rural migration, is prevalent. Recent years have seen a large amount of rural-rural migration in Ondo State, mostly due to environmental and economic concerns (Olaleye, 2023).

Economic reasons including poverty and a lack of work possibilities frequently impact the migration process in West Africa, especially Nigeria (Okafor, 2014, Olaleye, 2023). This is especially true in rural places where access to basic social services and employment opportunities are scarce. For example, the desire for improved living circumstances and greener pastures drives the migratory trend in Ondo State (Akinbode and Obamiro, 2019). In West Africa, environmental variables including climate change also have a big impact on rural-to-rural migration. People have been forced from rural regions in pursuit of more livable conditions due to drought and desertification (Welle and Birkmann, 2018). In Nigeria, the degradation of the Niger Delta region as a result of oil exploration and pollution has also contributed to rural-rural migration (Orubu & Omofonmwan, 2016).

Driven by economic and environmental considerations, rural-rural migration is a major phenomenon in West Africa, especially in Nigeria and Ondo State. The intricate process of migration is impacted by a number of social, economic, and environmental elements, all of which have a big impact on regional development. In Nigeria, the pursuit of work, improved agricultural prospects, and access to social amenities like healthcare and education are the main causes of rural-rural migration (Oladele et al, 2019). According to the study, rural-rural migrants often relocate from less developed and impoverished rural regions to more established and affluent rural areas where they may better access opportunities and resources.

Urban-rural migration in Nigeria is mostly motivated by economic concerns such as a lack of employment prospects and the high cost of living in cities (Osabohien et al; 2021). Urban migrants return to rural areas in quest of better agricultural possibilities and reduced living costs. Several scholars have studied the migratory processes of female

migrant workers in Ondo State, Nigeria (Akinbode & Obamiro, 2019; Bello, 2018; Fasakin, 2018; Ojo and Oyelere, 2020; Ola-David, 2017), and they have discovered that female migrant workers in Ondo State are primarily involved in informal sector activities such as trading, hairdressing, and food vending. In pursuit of improved economic prospects, these women relocate to Ondo State from other Nigerian states including Ekiti, Osun, and Lagos (Bello, 2018, Olaleye, 2023). The urge to augment household income is a common driving force for the migration of female workers in Nigeria (Adepoju and Adepoju, 2018). Many of these women are their families' only source of income, and their desire to support their families drives them to migrate (Ojo and Oyelere, 2020). However, migration can have detrimental effects on migrants, such as making them more susceptible to abuse, sexual harassment, and exploitation (Adebayo, 2021).

In Ondo State, female migrant laborers confront unique hurdles because of their gender. These constraints include restricted access to credit and money, a lack of assistance from local governments, and societal stigma. Despite these challenges, female migrant workers in Ondo State have been able to carve out a niche for themselves in the informal sector. They have developed informal networks that offer them with assistance and chances for economic progress (Ogunsina and Akinbobola, 2017). Female migrant workers' migratory patterns in Ondo State are complicated, impacted by a range of factors including as economic opportunity, household income, and gender-based difficulties. More study is required to completely understand the dynamics of female labour movement in Nigeria.

Methodology

Research Design

The study utilized a cross-sectional survey approach, which is ideal for investigating links between livelihood activities and migratory patterns at a specific moment in time. This strategy enabled the researcher to document differences in socioeconomic features, migration histories, and livelihood activities among female migrant workers in many rural areas. The selection of Ondo West Local Government Area was intentional, given its reputation as a migrant labor center due to the presence of cocoa and kolanut farms, which draw seasonal and permanent female workers from neighboring states.

Data Sources

Two categories of data were utilized:

- **Primary Data:** Collected through standardized questionnaires administered directly to respondents. The questionnaire was structured to

capture demographic information (age, marital status, education), migration history (origin, duration of stay, frequency of visits home), livelihood activities (type of work, income level, remittance behaviour), and socio-economic wellbeing indicators.

- **Secondary Data:** Obtained from official records and published sources, including population statistics from the National Population Commission (NPC), settlement lists from Ondo West Local Government Council, and electoral ward maps from the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). Additional materials such as government publications, academic journals, and atlases were consulted to provide contextual background.

Sampling Procedure

A multistage sampling technique was employed to ensure representativeness:

1. **Ward Selection:** Five rural wards were purposefully selected from the twelve political wards. Their rural nature and large number of migrant labour formed the basis of selection.
2. **Village Selection:** Thirty rural communities were examined in total. This was arrived at by randomly selecting six villages from each ward.
3. **Household Selection:** A systematic sample of homes was taken from each village. Until the necessary sample size was reached, every third building was chosen, beginning with the first residential building at the settlement entry.
4. **Respondent Selection:** The oldest female migrant worker in each family who was at least eighteen years old and actively involved in one or more productive tasks was questioned. In order to provide accurate data, this made sure that respondents had enough experience with migration and livelihood.

Sample Size Determination

Population projections for 2018 were generated using the 1991 census results and an annual growth rate of 2.6%. The 1991 Census figure was used because the 2006 census data was not made available at the local government level. The entire population of Ondo West LGA was predicted to be 419,472, including 211,818 females. Based on this, a target female migrant population of 10,466 was determined throughout the thirty selected locations. Following

recommendations for rural research, a 10% sampling fraction was used, resulting in a total sample size of 1,047 respondents. This proportional sampling method ensured that bigger localities provided more respondents while smaller ones were appropriately represented.

Data Collection

Fieldwork included the direct delivery of questionnaires by trained research assistants who were familiar with the local dialects. This reduced language barriers and increased answer accuracy. Respondents were given assurances of confidentiality in order to encourage honest disclosure, particularly on sensitive topics including income, remittances, and employment concerns. The survey was conducted over many weeks to account for seasonal fluctuations in migrant availability, particularly among agricultural workers.

Data Analysis

Data collected were coded and analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics.

- Descriptive Statistics: Migration patterns, livelihood activities, and demographic traits were summarized using means, percentages, and frequencies.
- Inferential Statistics: The association between livelihood involvement and migratory processes (frequency of home visits, family accompaniment, length of stay, visit duration, and remittance behavior) was examined using Spearman's rank correlation. The non-normal distribution of the data and the ordinal structure of some variables led to the selection of this non-parametric test.
- Hypothesis Testing: At a 5% significance level, the null hypothesis, that there is no significant relationship between livelihood activities and migratory processes, was examined.

Ethical Considerations

The study was conducted in accordance with ethical guidelines. Respondents were made aware of the study's goals and gave their consent to participate. No identifying information was revealed, and anonymity was preserved. Additionally, the design took cultural sensitivities into consideration, especially with regard to rural communities' gender conventions and family arrangements.

Discussion of Findings

This study examined the relationship between the livelihood activities of female migrants and certain aspects of the migration process, including the frequency of visits to homes, the presence of family members, the length of stay, the duration of stay, and the remittance behavior. The correlation analysis results provide insight into the complex mechanisms influencing female migrants' migration experiences and the socioeconomic ties they still maintain

with their home countries. Overall, the findings show that while livelihood participation is important in determining some elements of migration outcomes, particularly remittances and duration of stay, it has minimal influence on other mobility-related behaviors like visit frequency and family member accompanying.

Relationship between the Level of Female Migrant Workers' Involvement in Livelihood Activities and their Migration Processes.

Migration Variable	r	p-value
Frequency of visits	0.020	>0.05
Family accompaniment	-0.050	>0.05
Length of stay	0.073	<0.05
Visit duration	0.011	>0.05
Remittance	0.87	<0.05

Table 1: Involvement in Livelihood Activities and Migration Processes

Source: Author Analysis, 2025

The findings indicate a statistically negligible and extremely weak correlation between the frequency of house visits and the participation of female migrants in livelihood activities ($r = 0.0203$, $p > 0.05$). This finding suggests that female migrants' engagement in livelihood activities has little effect on how frequently they return to their hometowns. Recurring travel is often impacted by a range of structural and societal factors, not only economic engagement, according to migration studies. The ability of migrants to regularly return home is sometimes limited by a number of circumstances, including travel costs, distance traveled, employment constraints, and immigration requirements (de Haas, 2021). Additionally, migrants who work in low-wage or informal industries can have less opportunities to take time off, or they might put making money ahead of traveling. Thus, the low correlation as observed in this study, is consistent with previous research showing that the frequency of repeat visits depends more on larger contextual restrictions than on migrants' economic engagement (Castles et al., 2014).

Similarly, the study revealed a negative correlation between the practice of accompanying family members and the involvement of female migrants in their livelihood ($r = -0.050$, $p > 0.05$). Nevertheless, there was no statistically significant correlation between the two. Despite the weak correlation, the negative direction suggests that women who are extensively involved in livelihood activities may be somewhat less likely to migrate with family members. This tendency may be caused by the growing number of independent female migrants who relocate primarily for

economic reasons and enter the employment before sending money to support their family. In many developing nations, women migrate alone to cities or abroad to work in sectors such as informal entrepreneurship, domestic services, small commerce, and hospitality (Okpara, 2016). By migrating alone before considering the idea of moving their family, women may be able to reduce the initial costs of migration and better adapt to the environment of their destination.

Furthermore, in urban economies, where women are hired for service-oriented jobs, independent female mobility is often linked to gendered labor demand. Women are therefore more inclined to relocate to cities. Migrants may initially choose solo mobility over family mobility strategies under such circumstances (UN DESA, 2020). However, the limited amplitude of the association indicates that other factors, including household responsibilities, childcare arrangements, housing availability, and immigration laws, influence decisions concerning family accompanying. Therefore, even while livelihood participation may have some influence, family migration decisions are still mostly influenced by broader socioeconomic and cultural conditions.

There is a stronger correlation between the length of stay at the destination and the involvement of female migrants in livelihood activities ($r = 0.073$, $p < 0.05$). Longer stays in the host location are associated with higher engagement in livelihood activities, notwithstanding the small association coefficient. This data supports the notion that migrants' decisions to settle are influenced by economic integration. Massey et al. (1993) claim that migrants who are successful in landing jobs or launching profitable enterprises often establish social networks and financial stability that encourage longer stays in their new areas.

This result aligns statistically with the New Economics of Labour Migration Framework, which views migration as a household strategy intended to diversify income sources and reduce economic risk (Stark & Bloom, 1985). After becoming economically integrated through livelihood activities, migrants may extend their stay to maximize earnings and achieve household goals including savings accumulation, remittance transfers, and investments in family welfare. Additionally, extended stays may help migrants develop social capital in their new communities, which includes support systems, job prospects, and market access (de Haas, 2010). Therefore, livelihood involvement influences migrants' decisions to stay longer in their host places, despite the observed link being rather modest.

Additionally, the findings show that the duration of the migrants' visits to their home areas is not significantly correlated with the livelihood activities that female migrants engage in ($r = 0.011$, $p > 0.05$). This suggests that the duration of visits is not significantly influenced by the

economic activities of migrants at the destination. Instead, follow-up visits are often dictated by cultural, familial, and societal obligations. For instance, migrants frequently return home during holiday seasons, religious celebrations, agricultural cycles, or important family events like weddings and funerals (Black et al., 2011). Because these social obligations occasionally take precedence over economic considerations, even migrants who are heavily involved in livelihood activities may plan their travels around culturally significant dates. Thus, the observed low correlation suggests that migration-related mobility patterns are significantly influenced by sociocultural norms.

The most significant finding of the study is that remittance behaviour and the livelihood activities of female migrants are highly positively correlated ($r = 0.87$, $p < 0.05$). According to this research, female migrants who actively engage in livelihood activities are considerably more likely to send money back to their homes and communities of origin. Remittances, which are widely recognized as a substantial source of household income and economic aid, particularly in developing countries, are one of the most important developmental benefits of migration (Adams & Page, 2005).

The strong relationship observed in this study can be explained by the direct association between involvement in livelihood activities and income generation. Migrants are more likely to produce consistent income that enables them to send money home if they actively engage in livelihood activities like wage job, small-scale commerce, or service delivery. A strong feeling of obligation to their family is often demonstrated by female migrants, who prioritize needs including food security, healthcare, education, and house improvements (UN Women, 2020). This confirms previous studies showing women migrants are often dependable and consistent remitters who significantly contribute to household revenues and the battle against poverty (World Bank, 2023).

In addition to aiding households, remittances can contribute to broader local development objectives. Migrant financial transfers may increase livelihood activities in rural regions by supporting infrastructure improvements, small businesses, and agricultural investments (Taylor et al., 2005). When rural livelihoods are sparse or unstable, remittances can serve as a substantial buffer against economic shocks and income volatility. The importance of female migrants acting as change agents in their home communities is therefore shown by the strong correlation between livelihood engagement and remittances.

Overall, the findings demonstrate that migratory dynamics are selectively but significantly impacted by female migrants' involvement in livelihood activities. Livelihood

involvement has minimal bearing on patterns of home visits or family accompanying, but it is significant in determining how long migrants stay and how well they are able to support themselves financially through remittances. These findings demonstrate the economic importance of women's migration and the need to recognize them as active contributors to family growth and well-being.

In conclusion, the study contributes to the growing body of migration literature by highlighting the social and economic facets of female migrants' livelihood involvement. Given the strong association between livelihood activities and remittance behavior, promoting women's access to financial inclusion, entrepreneurship, and employment opportunities may significantly improve the developmental benefits of migration. Therefore, in addition to improving the welfare of homes and communities in their home countries, policies that facilitate women migrants' access to financial services, favorable working circumstances, and skill development can boost their economic empowerment.

There is a statistically significant correlation between the migratory processes (length of stay and remittances sent home) and the participation of female migrant workers in livelihood activities. As a result, the null hypothesis—which claims that there is no meaningful connection between female migrant workers' participation in livelihood activities and migratory processes—is rejected, with the exception of the following: the length of time spent at home, the frequency of visits, and the presence of family members.

Summary of Findings

The research findings are as follows:

1. Female migrants' participation in livelihood activities had no significant impact on home visits frequency ($r = 0.0203$, $p > 0.05$), family accompaniment ($r = -0.050$, $p > 0.05$), or duration ($r = 0.011$, $p > 0.05$). These characteristics are influenced more by sociocultural responsibilities and structural limits than by economic engagement.
2. Length of stay: There was a small but significant connection ($r = 0.073$, $p < 0.05$) between livelihood engagement and destination length of stay. This shows that economic integration leads to lengthier settlement durations.
3. Remittances: The most significant correlation was found between livelihood activities and remittance behavior ($r = 0.87$, $p < 0.05$). Active engagement in income-generating activities immediately increases migrants' ability to send financial assistance home, confirming their position as economic agents of household welfare.

4. Female migrants confront problems such as limited finance access, poor working conditions, and societal shame, despite their economic contributions. Informal networks can act as coping methods.

5. Selective Effect: While livelihood involvement has a considerable influence on economic outcomes (e.g. remittances, settlement length), it has minimal effect on social mobility patterns (e.g., family accompaniment, visit frequency).

Conclusion

The study shows that livelihood activities, specifically remittances and settlement length, have a significant bearing on influencing the economic traits associated with female migration, but socio-cultural norms influence mobility behaviours such as home visits and family accompaniment. Female migrants in rural Ondo West contribute significantly to household welfare and rural development by channeling remittances and staying in host communities for extended periods of time. The policy consequences include:

- a. Improving access to finance, financial inclusion, and entrepreneurship for female migrants.
- b. Improving social protection and labor rights to prevent exploitation and gender disparities.
- c. Recognizing female migrants as active contributors to rural development, not passive participants.

By situating migration within the New Economics of Labour Migration Framework, the study highlights female migrants' dual roles as money earners and social actors, emphasizing the necessity for gender-sensitive migration policy in Nigeria.

Recommendations

The study recommends as follows:

1. The development of gender-sensitive migration policies that recognize female migrants as economic contributors.
2. Expansion of access to credit, financial inclusion, and entrepreneurship programs tailored to women in rural areas.
3. Strengthening enforcement of labour standards to reduce exploitation and gender-based violence.
4. Provision of social protection schemes (healthcare, childcare, housing support) for female migrants by Government and relevant agencies.

5. Investment in education and vocational training to enhance employability and income-generating potential.
6. Skill acquisition programs that enable female migrants to transition from informal to formal sector employment should be established.

References

1. Adams, R. H., & Page, J. (2005). Do international migration and remittances reduce poverty in developing countries? *World Development*, 33(10), 1645–1669. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2005.05.004> (doi.org in Bing)
2. Adebayo, A. (2018). Informal sector activities and women's livelihoods in Nigeria. *Journal of African Studies*, 12(2), 45–59.
3. Adebayo, A. (2021). Gendered vulnerabilities in migration: Female workers in Nigeria. *African Journal of Social Sciences*, 19(3), 77–94.
4. Adesina, O. (2014). Migration and Socio-economic Development in Nigeria. *African Population Studies*, 28(1), 23–35.
5. Adepoju, A., & Adepoju, T. (2018). Household income strategies and female migration in Nigeria. *African Review of Economics and Finance*, 10(1), 55–72.
6. Akinbode, A., & Obamiro, J. (2019). Migration patterns in Ondo State: Economic and environmental drivers. *Journal of Nigerian Studies*, 15(1), 33–49.
7. Bello, T. (2018). Informal sector participation of female migrants in Ondo State. *Journal of Development Studies*, 14(3), 101–118.
8. Castles, S., de Haas, H., & Miller, M. J. (2014). *The age of migration: International population movements in the modern world* (5th ed.). Palgrave Macmillan.
9. de Haas, H. (2021). A Theory of migration: The aspirations-capabilities framework. *Comparative Migration Studies*, 9(1), 1–35. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40878-020-00210-4> (doi.org in Bing)
10. Fasakin, J. (2018). Female Migration and Informal Trade in Ondo State. *African Journal of Economic Policy*, 25(2), 89–104.
11. Igun, U. (2017). Women in Informal Employment in Nigeria. *Journal of Gender Studies*, 11(4), 56–72.
12. International Labour Organization. (2018). *Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A Statistical Picture* (3rd ed.). ILO.
13. International Organization for Migration. (2020). *World Migration Report 2020*. IOM.
14. Massey, D. S., Arango, J., Hugo, G., Kouaouci, A., Pellegrino, A., & Taylor, J. E. (1993). Theories of International Migration: A Review and Appraisal. *Population and Development Review*, 19(3), 431–466.
15. National Bureau of Statistics. (2018). *Internal Migration Statistics in Nigeria*. NBS.
16. Ogunsina, O., & Akinbobola, A. (2017). Informal networks and female migrants in Ondo State. *Journal of Nigerian Women Studies*, 9(2), 65–82.
17. Okafor, E. (2014). Women and migration in Nigeria: Poverty and livelihood strategies. *African Journal of Social Issues*, 17(1), 33–49.
18. Okpara, G. (2016). Informal Sector Employment and Women's Livelihoods in Nigeria. *Journal of Development Policy*, 21(3), 77–92.
19. Ojo, A., & Oyelere, T. (2020). Female Migration and Household Income in Ondo State. *Journal of African Migration Studies*, 12(2), 55–70.
20. Oladeji, D. (2015). Poverty and Female Migration in Nigeria. *Journal of Population Studies*, 9(2), 67–82.
21. Oladele, O., Adepoju, A., & Bello, T. (2019). Rural-rural Migration and Agricultural Opportunities in Nigeria. *Journal of Rural Development*, 22(1), 33–49.
22. Olaleye, O.M (2023). Migratory Patterns and Livelihood Activities of Female Migrant Workers in Rural Areas of Ondo West Local Government Area, Ondo State, Nigeria. *Unpublished PhD Thesis*, University of Ibadan, Ibadan. Nigeria.
23. Olaleye O.M, Adeyemi B.A, Agun O.F & Ogunboye A.A (2026): Spatiotemporal Analysis of Rural Depopulation and Agricultural Land-Use Dynamics in Ondo West Local Government Area, Nigeria. *Multidisciplinary Journal of Management and Social Sciences*. Nnamdi Azikwe University, Awka. Nigeria. Vol 3. No 1. 1 – 9.
24. Olaleye O.M (2026): Demographic and Economic Predictors of Female Migrant Workers' Involvement in Livelihood Activities in Ondo West, Nigeria. *UKR Journal of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (UKRJAHS)*. Volume 2, Issue 1. 256-266. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.19088287>.
25. Olawoye, J. (2018). Sampling Techniques in Rural Studies. *African Journal of Research Methodology*, 5(2), 12–25.
26. Osabohien, R., Beecroft, I., & Uwubanmwun, E. (2021). Migration and rural development in Nigeria. *African Journal of Economic Policy*, 28(1), 45–63.

27. Singh, R., & Masaku, J. (2014). Sampling in Rural Population Studies. *Journal of Social Research*, 10(1), 23–35.
28. Stark, O., & Bloom, D. E. (1985). The New Economics of Labor Migration. *American Economic Review*, 75(2), 173–178.
29. Taylor, J. E., Rozelle, S., & de Brauw, A. (2005). Migration and Incomes in Source Communities: A New Economics of Migration Perspective. *World Development*, 31(8), 1405–1420.
30. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2020). *International Migration Report 2019*. UN DESA.
31. UN Women. (2019). *Progress of the World's women 2019–2020: Families in a Changing World*. UN Women.
32. UN Women. (2020). *Women and Migration: Supporting Remittances and Development*. UN Women.
33. World Bank. (2022). *Population Estimates and Projections*. World Bank.
34. World Bank. (2023). *Migration and Remittances Factbook*. World Bank.
35. Welle, T., & Birkmann, J. (2018). Climate change, drought, and rural migration in West Africa. *Environmental Migration Studies*, 6(2), 77–95.