

6

Japa syndrome: An exploration of its causes and impact on Nigeria

Efe, Ekuerhare Sylvia & Wilson, Asekhomon Aigbodion

Abstract

The increasing level of poverty, unemployment and several other social issues in Nigeria has acted as pull factors for people to leave the country to search for better opportunities in elsewhere, this is what is termed the jopa syndrome. This paper examined the causes and impact of Japa in the Nigeria economy. It deploys a systematic review approach to achieve its objective, focusing on several articles which include quantitative, qualitative, review studies, and other several online materials such as News, Magazines deployed to achieve the objective. Also, Information and material collated are within the years 2020 and 2023, because these year period marked the increasing rise of jopa in the country. Although, several information were collated but only 6 papers were eventually deployed and used to drive the focus of this article. Also, the article deployed thematic analysis to analyse the secondary information and materials collated, and results were presented towards explaining the research objective of the study. It was revealed that the push and pull factors such as unemployment, poverty, inability of the government to meet the increasing population demand, inequality, insecurity, bad government, among others were responsible for the jopa syndrome. Other factors include corruption, “man-know-man” syndrome, depreciating naira and increasing dollar value, and better opportunities abroad. Also, jopa has both positive and negative effect to individuals, family and the nation’s economy. The negative effect are elastic which include brain drain in the various sector and industry of the nation such as bank, health, education, and others; loss of investors’ confidence; low economic productivity; generate negative perception about the country; increasing cases of errors and deaths, among others. The positive effect are sending remittances to family members, which is simultaneously playing significant role in providing support to families and also strengthening the nation towards economy and social development. It was recommended that the federal government and policy makers should revisit and make policy that could reduce and cushion poverty and unemployment to the barest minimum in Nigeria towards enhancing the social and economic productivity individuals in the nation that could reduce the increasing possibility of jopa.

Keywords: Japa, Japa syndrome, causes Japa, Impact of Japa, Nigeria

Introduction

Japa, as a concept in practice and research, is a [Nigerian slang](#) that is used to describe the act of escaping, fleeing away, or disappearing quickly from a situation, often in a hasty and urgent manner (Nigeria Thisday News, 2023). Japa is a novel terminology that is used by Nigerians to better describe the outmigration trend of Nigerians into Europe and other parts of the world, particularly due to several socioeconomic challenges such as the high rate of unemployment and poverty (Okunade & Awosusi, 2023). Also, Oladipupo (2024) noted that the insensitivity of the government to the plight of the common man, poor remuneration, lack of motivation, social security, among others are also major reasons for the increasing level of Japa syndrome in Nigeria.

Despite being the economic powerhouse of Africa, poverty, unemployment and several other socioeconomic related issues have invaded Nigeria thereby affecting national development. Studies such as Oladokun & Augustine (2016); Omiunu (2017); [Ojagbemi, Bello, Luo & Gurej](#) (2017); Egunjobi (2021); World Bank Group (2021) have noted that poverty and unemployment are two major socio-economic issues in Nigeria that have affected development of the nation for so long. Statistics shows that in Nigeria, about 70% of the population are poor ([Central Bank of Nigeria, 2011](#); [Ojagbemi et al., 2017](#)) while unemployment rate has increased geometrically (Omiunu, 2017; Trading Economics, 2022) thereby affecting individuals, the families, societies and the nation at large.

According to Akiwumi and Onyekwena (2022), poverty level in the Southern part of Nigeria is approximately 30%, but above 60% in the Northern part of the nation, with increasing rates of above 80% in selected states in the North such as Zamfara and Sokoto. Human capital underdevelopment is also very high in these poverty regions thereby leading to the prevalence of poor education, poor health access, among others. Omiunu (2017) revealed that unemployment rate stands at approximately 24% and it is even increasing because most graduates, unemployed individuals and graduates, in recent time roam about jobless, searching for menial jobs that could at least provide for their family needs.

From the World Bank Group (2022), the population of Nigeria stands at 218,541,212. A very germane argument that serves as a justification for the need of this study is that, despite the increasing population, which is stated to increase at the rate of 3.2%, available resources and opportunities are not increasing (Omiunu, 2017). To this end, the ratio of the population to the resources and opportunities made available does not support the Nigeria

population and system. Hence, there could likely be an increase competition and conflicts due to inefficient availability of resources and opportunities for the population. Also, this could further lead to increasing poverty and unemployment which could further aggravate the level of underdevelopment in Nigeria.

However, with the motivational spirit of Nigerians, to break and survive despite all odds, Omiunu (2017) noted that individuals and families tend to indulge in one or more economic activities to be able to meet individuals and family needs. With respect to the focus of this study, one of such activities is to search for greener pastures in other nations where they could have access to several social and economic activities that could increase their likelihood to succeed in life. [Oghale](#) (2024) revealed several important cities that Nigerian migrate to and include England, Hong Kong, Singapore, and others. This process, with regards to the focus of this study is what is called “Japa syndrome” in Nigeria. According to the Department for International Development (2007); Oberman (2015); Shepherd et al. (2018); among others, migration, which in this article is conceptualized as “Japa”, becomes an option for escaping from the increasing rate of poverty and unemployment for several individuals and families in Nigeria.

The concept however, differs from the common known “migration” word because of the urgency attached to Japa due to the recent economic hardship and frustration experienced by the population. Okunade & Awosusi (2023) noted that Japa in Nigeria is a result of unemployment and poverty. Currently, the net migration rate of Nigeria is 27.3% per 1000 population, indicating a very high level of emigration from the country. Although, Japa poses certain immediate social and economic benefits to individuals and their families due to the illusion of better and strong currency but, there are much more disadvantages to understand in its occurrence and prevalence in the nation (Okunade & Awosusi, 2023).

For example, the Nigeria This day News (2023) notes that there are major worries with regards Japa issue because citizens with specialised and professional skills in various professional fields of endeavours such as in engineering, medicine, education, law, information technology, and several others migrate to other places searching for better opportunities. However, the irony of it, is that, on getting to their dream location, they eventually ended up doing menial jobs such as cleaners, cab drivers, labourers, hair dressers, mechanics, and others. Other people who do not have the financial enablement put their lives in harm by passing through perilous journey across the Sahara Desert or by attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea into Europe which has eventually led to increase in loss of several lives, thereby

putting the family members into mayhem (Nigeria This day News, 2023). The fact that these specialised and professionals in certain important fields of endeavours are migrating out of the nation causes brain drain, and could affect the human capital resources of the nation in the long run.

In addition, statistics revealed that over 1,200 Nigerians died only between the month of January 2023 through July 2023 during their crossing over to Europe by route of the Mediterranean Sea (Oladipupo, 2024). This made Oladipupo (2024) revealed that the Japa rate is becoming very worrisome in Nigeria because such Japa process could cause human resource drain and also affect the economy of the families and the nation in the long run. For example, it was revealed that over 51 healthcare workers had left the Federal Medical Centre in Jabbi, Abuja for Japa purpose with every department in the hospital affected due to the brain drain it caused. Also, the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria also lost 6,000 pharmacists to this Japa process hence, an elastic brain drain in the last six years. Also, more lecturers were also lost to the Japa syndrome (Oladipupo, 2024). The situation is pathetic because several others individuals with higher professional skills and professionalism in different fields are still preparing to leave.

In the long run, this could constitute several socioeconomic development challenges to Nigeria (Okunade & Awosusi, 2023) and if not ameliorated, could hamper individuals and family economic status, and also even lead to grievous and serious economic implications in the economically-declining nation. The understanding of the reason for Japa and its impact on individuals, families and Nigeria society could assist the government and policy makers to see the need to provide an enabling environment that the population of the nation could thrive without traveling out of the country towards enabling a sustainable development in the long run. To this end, it is important to highlight the causes and its impact of Japa in the Nigeria economy.

Research Objective: The objective of the study is to examine the causes and its impact of Japa in the Nigeria economy.

Literature Review

Nigeria is still considered to be a poor country with higher socioeconomic problems causing increasing poverty and conflict in the country hence, the growth and development of the nation is hampered (Ofoche, 2012; Omiunu, 2017; Callaway, 2022). This high levels of poverty, and other socio-economic issues combating the populace has necessitate the need for individuals and families to seek better and personal ways to navigate through the challenges of life, thereby increasing their likelihood for better living towards life

satisfaction. Therefore, japa becomes a major option for escaping from the increasing rate of poverty, unemployment and several other social issues such as insecurity, insurgencies, inequality, among others.

Japa has become the 'new normal', not only in Nigeria but in Africa but its practice in the last two decades is widely prevalence in Nigeria due to the high rate of unemployment and poverty in the nation (Okunade & Awosusi, 2023). This issue and practice of Japa implies the massive transition of Nigerians to several other parts of the world, particularly Europe, through various illegal routes, others pass through land borders that seem to be porous, the Sahara, across the Mediterranean routes. Others pass through legal routes with necessary required documents (Okunade & Awosusi, 2023). Studies such as Awosusi et al. (2021); Ikuteyijo (2020); Okunade (2021); among others noted that Japa migration is a notorious business endeavour that has led to loss of lives of the majority of Nigerians, particularly those that went through the Sahara Desert, the Mediterranean, Maghreb region, and others.

Putting together the works of Okunade & Awosusi (2023; [Ofoche](#) (2012); Omiunu (2017) and Callaway (2022), it could be deduced that japa has become the way out and a major option for escape for many individuals and families in Nigerians from the increasing socioeconomic problems existing in the environment such as poverty, unemployment, conflicts, insecurity, insurgencies, inequality, among others. In addition, they tend to seek for better and personal ways to navigate through the challenges of life, thereby increasing their likelihood and opportunity for better living towards life success and satisfaction.

Also, Oladipupo (2024) examined the socio-economic impact of japa, and affirmed that there are several consequences of people's relocating to another country for greener pastures, particularly on both the nation and the citizens in the long run. These could include experiencing financial tension, facing misery, frustration, culture shock, among others. Also, Oladipupo (2024) revealed that there is increasing frustration among Nigerians and many people such as doctors, nurses, lecturers, engineers, and others have left the nation, while several others are still planning to leave die to bad attitude towards work, lack of motivation to work, unpaid or delayed salaries with no explanation, among others.

Juxtaposing the studies of Awosusi et al. (2021); Ikuteyijo (2020); Okunade (2021); and Oladipupo (2024), it could be deduced that the practice of Japa migration in Nigeria has two categories of challenges. The first is the short run effect which is the loss of lives of the majority of Nigerians, particularly those that went through the Sahara Desert, the Mediterranean, Maghreb region, and others. The second is the long run effect which rests

on the effect as a result of brain drain which could strip the nation from her human resources hence, development could be hampered in the long run in the nation.

However, certain few majority could also experience the positive benefits accruing to Japa because, it could provide self-development and better environment opportunities for global opportunities as affirmed by Okunade & Awosusi (2023). This imply that Japa practice could present both positive and negative effect to individuals, families and the society of Nigeria at large. Nevertheless, there could be further need to investigate the necessary causes and impact Japa could impose in the Nigeria economy, this time, putting into considerations the positive and negative effects. To this end, this present article focuses on eliciting the causes and also the positive and negative impacts of Japa to Nigeria.

Theoretical Underpinning

A major theory used to drive this article is the theory of push and pull factor propounded by Everett Lee (1966), alongside the theory of Migration. The push factors include conditions or issues that relate to the home country that could force individuals to leave their home country to another country of interest. These include increasing poverty, unemployment, poor living condition, famines, droughts, poor healthcare, crisis, loss of wealth, natural disasters, unequal access to resources, the lack of opportunities such as career, education, business, among others. The pull factors are the opposite of the push factors and include those issues that tend to attract individuals to certain locations such as better job opportunities, better economic status, better living conditions, no or low crisis, good welfare systems, good transportation, communication facilities, better healthcare system, better opportunities such as career, education, business, among others.

Drawing from the works of Oladokun & Augustine (2016); Omiunu (2017); Ojagbemi, Bello, Luo & Gurej (2017); Egunjobi (2021); World Bank Group (2021); Trading Economics (2022); and others, the increasing rates of poverty, unemployment, poor health condition and system, insecurities, and the lack of opportunities in Nigeria serve as major push factors that made people to Japa. Also, with the provision of better job opportunities, economic status, living conditions, no or low crisis, good welfare systems, transportation, communication facilities, better healthcare system, better opportunities for career, education, business, among others have attracted individuals from Nigeria to nations with such better economy for its population hence, serving as the pull factors as stated by Lee (1966).

However, the Neo classical migration theory by Todaro (1969) criticized

the theory of push and pull factor by Everett Lee (1966), and postulated that migration could be a form of allocating production factors optimally in such a way that could benefit both the country of origin and also of destination. Hence, it is not actually because individuals are either pulled or pushed out of their country of residence. This is called, the “free movement of labor”, particularly in an unconstrained market environment lead to the increasing scarcity of labor, and in extension, produces a higher marginal productivity of labor, couple with an increasing wage levels countries of origin. This is because, capital flows are expected to flow from country of destination to home countries of origin.

In this present paper, Nigeria exists in the face of constrained market system, with several issues such as corruption, poverty, unemployment, poor health system, insecurities, poor education system, and others confronting the economy and individuals in the nation. Hence, adapting the theory of push and pull factor by Everett Lee (1966), Nigeria may not likely be able to deploy or enjoy the benefits of migration as asserted by Todaro (1969) hence, individuals are either pulled out into countries of better choice of economic status. To this end, instead of yielding positive benefits, it tends to produce negative effects on the economy. This is a major pivot this study is hinged on, and seeks to explain hence, this article seeks to examine the causes and its impact of Japa in the Nigeria economy.

Research methods

The present article deploys the systematic review approach to achieve its objective. The systematic review implies that various studies which cut across quantitative, qualitative, and review studies are used from secondary sources to drive the objectives of this paper. Also, several online materials such as News, Magazines were adopted because the concept of Japa syndrome has attracted wider societal concerns and several individuals which include the academics and other professionals have, in one way or the other address the issue. Therefore, quantitative, qualitative, review design and several online materials were adopted towards being able to gather all forms of articles that focus on the subject matter of interest with regards to this article.

Also, the use of systematic review helps to focus on the collection and appraisal of information and data that are obtained from different secondary sources towards providing answers to the objectives of the study. Secondary sources visited and used in this article are the various databases of publishers, books and e-books, websites for News, television, among others, and several other publications. In addition, the search engines used are google scholar, google search engines, among others.

Also, in reviewing literature the [Cochrane reviews](#) style was used to inform the process. Cochrane reviews style is a reviewing style in achieving systematic review method towards making conclusion on certain subject matter ([Sieving](#), 2007; Chapman, 2014). Also, with regards to Huang et al. (2006), the PICOS framework was used to inform the searching process. The PICOS implies (Richardson, 1995):

P – The Problem or Population

I – The Intervention

C – The Comparison, control or comparator

O – The Outcome(s)

S – The Study type (e.g. quantitative, qualitative, missed, etc)

The initial search process commenced on January 07, 2024 and because of the need to obtain wider range of information and materials, another search process was repeated on January 23, 2024, towards achieving the objective of the study. Also, information and material collated are within the years 2020 and 2023, because it is majorly in these years that the issue of Japa increased in the Nigeria society. Although, several information were collated but only 6 papers were eventually deployed and used to drive the focus of this article. Also, the article deployed thematic analysis to analyse the secondary information and materials collated, and results were presented towards explaining the research objective of the study.

Results

This article examines the causes of Japa syndrome and its possible impact in Nigeria. Bwala (2023) examined Reversing the effects of Japa trend in Nigeria, and affirmed that the increasing Nigeria educated and skilled people find it difficult to find meaningful work in the nation due to several factors such as irresponsible political leadership, policy inconsistencies, political patronage which is the “man-know-man” syndrome, and others. This has caused an elastic emigration pressure on Nigerians, as several people with professional skills from different professions such as banking, doctor, nurses, lecturers, engineers, among others, couple with other Nigerians who do not have such skills are seeking and maximizing available opportunities elsewhere, particularly Europe. This is leading to the cumulative fears of brain drain in the country. In addition, employers within these countries are facing significant skill shortages such as in reducing productivity and investment.

Moreover, a major impact of japa to Nigeria economy is that families whose member or members are in the diaspora send remittances, which could be in the form of money, goods, and others from the diaspora community to family members in Nigeria hence, this becomes a vital source of income to many Nigerians and the economy at large. However, the japa syndrome has also created a pandemonium in the different sectors where these skilled professional individuals left for the diaspora.

[CSL Stockbrokers](#) (2023) also did another study on the impacts of japa syndrome on brain drain on Nigeria's economy and revealed that the number of nurses, midwives, and nursing associates that have migrated from Nigeria to the UK increased by 46.6% as at March 2023, and this was driven by the pull factor of easier entry opportunity or requirements that was provided by the UK government and also the severe shortage of healthcare workers. In addition, this has caused Nigeria to face brain drain challenge posing negative significant impacts on the various sectors of the economy. However, this japa syndrome was fueled by several push factors such as the high unemployment rate, worsening insecurity, poor health care, failing Nigeria system, political instability, widespread corruption, and others have tend to push these skilled professionals away to other countries with better pull factors such as UK, USA, Canada, among others.

Also, Oludotun (2023) examine the incidence of japa syndrome and Nigerians, and accounted that people leave the country because they can no longer bear the elastic distressing problems facing the Nigeria environment such as experiencing neglect and oppressive government, inequality, unfulfilled government promises, bad leadership with absence of transparency and accountability, siphoning of scarce resources, retarding education growth, unemployment, poverty, harsh economic policies, and the treat of other individuals on the nation with disdain by others who are highly favoured in the economy. Also, over 73% of Nigerians, 60% of doctors, and 89.87% of the students are leaving the country.

Enengedi (2023) examine the Japa syndrome and how it poses effect on the economy of Nigeria, and revealed that he 'Japa' trend has made Nigeria lose a lot of skilled workers to the labour markets of the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, the Netherlands and Australia. This is because of the fact that the Nigerian environment and society does not have the capacity to accommodate the and due to several societal issues such as the Nigeria's inflation rate which has rose to 20.52% in August 2022, and an estimated 40million Nigerians do not have jobs hence, unemployment rate is about 33.3% to 35%. This could lead to skill gap in various sector and organization, cripple various industrial growth and development, the loss of tax and funds

to other nations, depreciating naira currency, and others. Hence, this revealed that the impact of japa syndrome to the Nigeria economy is very huge.

Also, Okafor (2023) examined the japa syndrome and its effects on nation-building, and affirmed that the causes of japa are economic hardship, the lack of basic amenities, corruption and inefficiency, inadequacies of the educational system, security concerns, political instability, perception of limited social mobility, erosion of trust in government and her institutions, among others. In addition, Okafor (2023) presented the negative and positive effect of japa in Nigeria economy. For the negative effect, japa has led to brain drain, loss of investors' confidence, low economic productivity, generate negative perception about the country, increased cases of errors and deaths, and others. Also, the positive effects include the fact that individuals who have migrated due to the japa syndrome have excelled in their various fields of profession which include fintech, music, movie, and others thereby contributing to global community and also showcasing the talents and potentials of Nigerians. Also, many have made several significant contributions and achieved success and recognition at the international level, while others have sent remittances back home which could also play significant role in providing support to families and the nation towards economy and social development.

Liu (2023) examined the Japa syndrome with focus on the Nigerian youth and the urgency of departure, and noted that japa is deemed the only means for Nigerians to recoup the wasted time, or to avoid ones time being wasted, couple with the economic discontentment of the nation. Also, Nigerians view obtaining an education as the 'easiest' path to migration, particularly when it so obvious with the increasing number of Nigerian students enrolled in universities abroad such as in the UK, Canada and the US. Also, following the economic discontentment of individuals and families in Nigeria, it is well evidence, that the perceived prospect of earning foreign currency towards counteracting the rising cost of living and poverty in their home country in Nigeria has become a powerful motivating push and pull factor to japa hence, their incomes are seemingly important, which serves ad remittances to their families back home. Hence, japa could also pose positive significant effect on the nation's economy.

Discussion

This article examines the causes of Japa syndrome and its possible impact in Nigeria. The articles used in this paper include Bwala (2023); [CSL Stockbrokers](#) (2023); Oludotun (2023); Enengedi (2023); Okafor (2023); and Liu (2023). It was revealed that japa is caused majorly be several

problems confronting individuals, families and the economy. These could be categorised into the push and pull factors. The push factors concern Nigeria and include these factors that push people out of the nation in search for better opportunity and greener pastures, these are unemployment, poverty, inability of the government to meet the increasing population demand, inequality, insecurity, bad government, unfavourable policies, corruption, “man-know-man” syndrome, poor health care, political instability and unrest, unfulfilled government promises, depreciating naira currency, among others. This concurs with the works of [Ofoche](#) (2012); [Oladokun & Augustine](#) (2016); [Omiunu](#) (2017); [Ojagbemi, Bello, Luo & Gurej](#) (2017); [Egunjobi](#) (2021); [World Bank Group](#) (2021); [Akiwumi and Onyekwena](#) (2022); [Callaway](#) (2022); among others that poverty and unemployment are major socio-economic issues in Nigeria that have affected development individuals, families, societies and the nation at large.

However, other nations where they fee to are using the pull factors to provide job opportunities, better education opportunities and environment in several fields of endeavour such as health, technology, and others due to their lack of human skilled workers which must have been orchestrated and caused, particularly by the past significant effect of the COVID 19 epidemic that has led to loss of lives in these countries. This supports the works of [Department for International Development](#) (2007); [Oberman](#) (2015); [Shepherd et al.](#) (2018); [Okunade & Awosusi](#) (2023); among others, that japa becomes an option to escape from the increasing rate of poverty, unemployment, and other issues to countries like the UK, USA, Canada, and so on.

Also, japa does provide both positive and negative effect to individuals, family and the nation's economy. For the negative effect, japa has caused elastic brain drain in various sector and industry of the nation such as bank, health, education, and others; loss of investors' confidence; low economic productivity; generate negative perception about the country; increasing cases of errors and deaths, among others. This supports the works of [Awosusi et al.](#) (2021); [Ikuteyijo](#) (2020); [Okunade](#) (2021); [Nigeria Thisday News](#) (2023); among others that japa has caused significant negative effect on the nation such as the loss of lives putting the family members into mayhem ([Nigeria Thisday News](#), 2023). Also, this concurs with the findings of [Oladipupo](#) (2024) that the Japa rate has cause severe human resource drain in various industry in Nigeria such as health, banking, education, and others hence, affecting the economy of the nation. This also supports the work of [Okunade & Awosusi](#) (2023) that this japa syndrome could impede socioeconomic development in Nigeria, particularly in the long run. In addition, this supports the findings of [Oladipupo](#) (2024) that japa could pose socio-economic impacts

and consequences such as experiencing financial tension, facing misery, frustration, culture shock, among others. Hence, the issue of japa could pose negative effects on individuals, households, the society and the nation at large due to elastic financial tension, misery, frustration, culture shock, increasing poverty and unemployment, and could also grossly affect various industries and sectors such as the education, health, and others, particularly because of its enormous effects on the human resource brain drain. This could in the long run affect development of the nation and also hamper sustainable development.

Also, for the positive effect, japa has also enrich families of individuals in the diaspora due to remittances sent to family members, which is simultaneously playing significant role in providing support to families and also strengthening the nation towards economy and social development. Also, many of the Nigerians when in the diaspora are exposed to several opportunities and resources that tend to enhance their performances and productivity in life hence, excelling in their various professions such as fintech, music, movie, and others thereby contributing to global community and also showcasing the talents and potentials of Nigerians thereby making international recognition. This supports the works of Nigeria Thisday News (2023) that japa has caused significant positive effect on the nation which include providing jobs for individuals with professional skills in engineering, medicine, education, law, information technology, and other fields of endeavour.

Conclusion

This article examines the causes of Japa syndrome and its possible impact in Nigeria. In conclusion, japa is caused majorly by several problems confronting individuals, families and the economy as presented in Figure 1. These could be categorized into the push and pull factors as presented in the paper. Some of these push factors are unemployment, poverty, inability of the government to meet the increasing population demand, inequality, insecurity, bad government, unfavourable policies, corruption, “man-know-man” syndrome, depreciating naira currency, among others.

However, the pull factors are also deployed to provide job opportunities, better education opportunities and environment in several fields of endeavour to pull skilled individuals from Nigeria to countries such as the UK, Canada, USA to work in various sector such as in the health, technology, and others due to their lack of human skilled workers which must have been orchestrated and caused, particularly by the past significant effect of the COVID 19 epidemic that has led to loss of lives in these country.

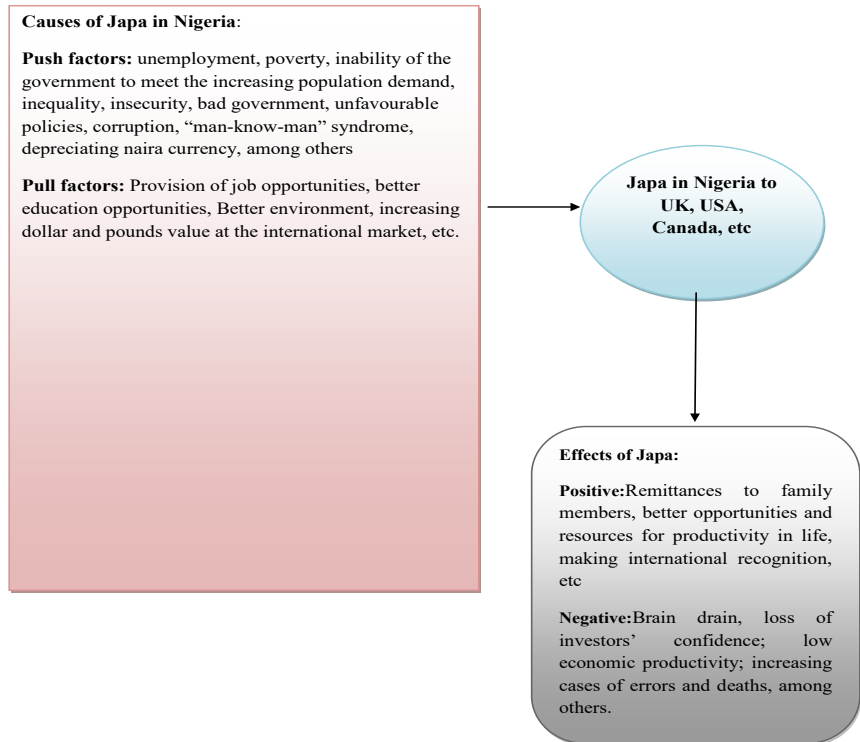


Figure 1: Causes and Effects of Japa in Nigeria

Source: The Author for the purpose of this study

Also, japa does provide both positive and negative effect to individuals, family and the nation's economy. The negative effect are elastic brain drain in various sector and industry of the nation such as bank, health, education, and others; loss of investors' confidence; low economic productivity; generate negative perception about the country; increasing cases of errors and deaths, among others. The positive effect are sending remittances to family members, which is simultaneously playing significant role in providing support to families and also strengthening the nation towards economy and social development. Many Nigerians in diaspora are also exposed to several opportunities and resources that tend to enhance their productivity in life hence, excelling in various professions such as fintech, music, movie, and others thereby contributing to global community and also showcasing the talents and potentials of Nigerians thereby making international recognition.

Recommendations

The study recommends that:

- i. The federal government and policy makers should revisit and make policy that could reduce and cushion poverty and unemployment to the barest minimum in Nigeria towards enhancing the social and economic productivity of individuals in the nation.
- ii. The federal government should provide employment for the masses, to further empower individuals towards enhancing the social and economic productivity of individuals in the nation.
- iii. Several other empowerment strategies such as providing financial supports for business establishment and growth, training for Small and medium enterprises should be provided to empower business owners in Nigeria,
- iv. Also, individuals and families should also involve in several skills development, as second options to education, so as to be able to increase their propensity of success in the Nigeria society.
- v. Government should also provide certain pull factors to attract individuals that have travelled out with respect to the Japa syndrome and others to find it possible to make business in the Nigeria environment through remissions towards better development of the society.

REFERENCES

- Akiwumi P. and Onyekwena C. (2022), Building socio-economic resilience in Nigeria by fostering productive capacities, UNCTAD, <https://unctad.org/news/blog-building-socio-economic-resilience-nigeria-fostering-productive-capacities>
- Awosusi, E.O., Olagbaju, O.O., and Ogbuleke (2021). Human trafficking and tales of back-way returnees in The Gambia. In: Hoffman, A.D and Abidde, S. (Eds), Human Trafficking in Africa: New Paradigms, New Perspectives. New York: Springer Nature. Pp. 215–237. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-82163-0_11
- Bwala Y. (February 12, 2023), The [Premium Times](https://www.premiumtimesng.com/opinion/583026-the-japa-trend-reversing-the-effects-by-yohanna-bwala.html) Online News, <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/opinion/583026-the-japa-trend-reversing-the-effects-by-yohanna-bwala.html>
- Callaway K., (2022), Economic Growth & Poverty in Nigeria: Part 2 of 2, Summarizing research by Caitlin Aylward, Pierre Biscaye, Audrey Lawrence, Mia Neidhardt, C. Leigh Anderson, and Travis Reynolds,

- <https://epar.evans.uw.edu/blog/economic-growth-poverty-nigeria-part-2-2>
- CSL Stockbrokers (2023), Japa Syndrome: Impacts of brain drain on Nigeria's economy, Nairametrics, <https://nairametrics.com/2023/05/26/japa-syndrome-impacts-of-brain-drain-on-nigerias-economy/>, accessed January 23, 2024.
- Enengedi V. (February 09, 2023), he 'Japa' Syndrome and How it is Affecting Nigeria's Economy, <https://www.legit.ng/business-economy/economy/1498235-japa-syndrome-economic-impact-nigerias-economy/>
- Ikuteyijo, L. O. (2020). Irregular migration as survival strategy: Narratives from youth in urban Nigeria. In West African youth challenges and opportunity pathways (pp. 53–77). Cham: Palgrave Macmillan.
- kunade, S. K. (2021). Irregular emigration of Nigeria youths: An exploration of core drivers from the perspective and experiences of returnee migrants. In Moyo, I., Laine, J. P., & Nshimbi, C. C. (Eds.). (2021). Intra-Africa migrations: Reimagining borders and migration management (pp. 50–69). Routledge.
- Liu, J. J., (2023). Japa, or to flee or to run: Nigerian youth and the urgency of departure. MoLab Inventory of Mobilities and Socioeconomic Changes. Department 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation', Halle/Saale: Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology. https://www.eth.mpg.de/6222033/Liu-Jing-Jing_Japa-or-to-flee-or-to-run_molab_6432.pdf
- Nigeria Thisday Online News, (2023), Nigeria and Burden of Japa Syndrome, <https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2023/05/02/nigeria-and-burden-of-japa-syndrome>
- Ofoche C.O., (2012), Socio-Economic Problems in Nigeria: Causes and Remedy, Research paper submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the Master of Strategic Studies Degree to the Department of the Army, Department of Defense, United States Army War College, <https://apps.dtic.mil/sti/pdfs/ADA561627.pdf>
- Okafor M.O. (2023), Japa syndrome and its effects on nation-building, being text of a keynote address presented by his excellency, governor Yahaya Bello of Kogi state, represented by Barr. Moses Okezie-Okafor, the Director-General, Research and Development, Kogi State at a National symposium convened by chief Mrs. Folashade Tinubu under the aegis of the Nigeria diaspora for Asiwájú group at NICON luxury hotel Abuja on thursday 27th July, 2023, <https://www.kogipedia.net/the-japa-syndrome-and-its-effects-on-nation-building/>

- Okunade, S.K., Awosusi, O.E. (2023), The Japa syndrome and the migration of Nigerians to the United Kingdom: an empirical analysis. CMS 11, 27. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40878-023-00351-2>
- Oladipupo O. (January 15, 2024), Socio-economic impact of japa, The Nigeria Punch, Online News, <https://punchng.com/socio-economic-impact-of-japa/>
- Oludotun O. (February 07, 2023), Nigerians and the japa syndrome, the Nigeria Online Punch, <https://punchng.com/nigerians-and-the-japa-syndrome/>
- Omiunu O.G. (2017), Deploying ICT to Enhance Small Businesses and Achieving Sustainable Development: A Paradigm to Reducing Poverty and Unemployment and Enhancing a Sustainable National Development in Nigeria, in [Handbook of Research on Small and Medium Enterprises in Developing Countries](#), edited by Noor Hazlina Ahmad, et al., IGI Global, pp. 208-232. <https://doi.org/10.4018/978-1-5225-2165-5.ch010>
- The World bank (2022), Population, total – Nigeria, <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL?locations=NG>