

# Gendered Dimensions on Migration: Exploring Socio-Economic Drivers, Experiences, and Policy Implications in Nigeria

Peace Oluchi JERRY<sup>§§</sup>

<https://orcid.org/0009-0009-8765-6099>

Nasarawa State University, Keffi

E-mail: [peaceoluchej@gmail.com](mailto:peaceoluchej@gmail.com)

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## Abstract

This paper explores the gendered dimensions of migration in Nigeria, examining how socio-economic drivers, experiences, and policy implications differ for women and men. Drawing upon feminist migration theory and neoclassical economic perspectives, the study analyzes gender-specific migration patterns, assesses the impact of existing policies, and identifies support mechanisms for migrants of different genders. By adopting a qualitative research approach, the study draws on empirical data, policy documents, and interviews to highlight the unique experiences of different genders in migration. The findings reveal significant disparities in the motivations and vulnerabilities of male and female migrants, emphasizing the need for gender-sensitive policies, with women often motivated by factors such as family reunification and escape from violence, while economic opportunities primarily drive men. The migration journey presents distinct challenges for each gender, with women facing heightened risks of exploitation and violence. Post-migration, women often encounter barriers to labour market integration and face challenges in balancing family responsibilities with economic pursuits. The study emphasizes the need for gender-responsive migration policies that address the unique needs and vulnerabilities of female migrants, promote gender equality, and ensure equitable access to opportunities for all migrants.

**Keywords:** Migration, Gender, Policy, Socio-economic Drivers, Support mechanisms, Vulnerabilities, Gender-sensitive policies, Gender equality.

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<sup>§§</sup> Peace Oluchi JERRY is a PhD Candidate at The Institute of Strategic and Development Communication (ISDEVCOM), Nasarawa State University, Keffi, and development communication Scholar with an MA from the same institution. Peace is also an Alumnus of University of Jos with a degree in Theatre and Film Arts. Her research focuses on enhancing participatory communication models for sustainable development, aiming to drive positive global societal change through effective communication practices.

## Introduction

Nigeria, like most countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, has a young population. According to the Nigerian National Bureau of Statistics (2020), 54 per cent of Nigeria's population falls within the working age of 15 to 64. In contrast, only 2.7 per cent of the population was over 65 years old. This is due to a low life expectancy and a high birth rate. Nigeria had a life expectancy of 55 years in 2020, which was the fourth lowest in the world; only Lesotho, Chad, and the Central African Republic performed worse. Poverty is also endemic in the country, with a survey conducted by the Nigerian National Bureau of Statistics (2020) showing that 41 per cent of the population were living below the poverty line. Migration remains a crucial aspect of socio-economic development in Nigeria, with millions of citizens, particularly the youth, seeking opportunities abroad.

The term “Japa,” which has recently gained traction in Nigeria and other parts of Africa, exemplifies contemporary migration trends driven by economic aspirations and socio-political factors. ‘JAPA’ is a Yoruba word which translates to ESCAPE. The prevalence of poverty and the absence of economic opportunity are major drivers of migration in Nigeria, especially among young people who cannot find gainful employment (Zontini & Penza, 2020). Although many Nigerians aspire to emigrate to another country, the likelihood of these aspirations translating into actual migration depends on a combination of factors like their income level, availability of travel documents, and the availability of legal pathways for emigration (Carling, 2020). In Europe, for instance, there has been a decline in the number of visas issued to people from African countries and an increase in the rejection rates of visa applications (Alhaqbani & Dhamar, 2021).

Migration is a multifaceted phenomenon affected by a variety of socio-economic and political factors. While traditional migration studies often focus on economic motivations, demographic changes, and policy frameworks, they frequently overlook how gender

influences migration experiences and outcomes. Women and men experience migration differently due to varying societal norms, roles, and power dynamics. Furthermore, gendered migration can also be affected by intersections with race, ethnicity, age, class, and other identities. These intersections contribute to distinct experiences; for instance, women might migrate for family reunification or escape from domestic violence, while men may do so predominantly for employment opportunities (Mastrorillo et al., 2021). Hence, integrating a gendered perspective into migration studies allows for a more comprehensive understanding of migration patterns and their implications for individuals and societies.

This paper explores the gendered perspective on migration within and outside Nigeria, analysing how factors such as socio-economic status, migration motivations, challenges, and contributions to development vary between genders. A nuanced understanding of these dynamics is crucial for creating effective migration policies that promote gender equity and empower women.

### **Importance of a Gendered Perspective in Migration Studies**

Migration theories have traditionally focused on economic and structural factors, often neglecting the role of gender. However, Castles and Miller (2021) integrated gender into migration studies, emphasizing the need for an intersectional approach that considers how various identities (i.e., class, race, ethnicity) shape migration experiences (Castles & Miller, 2021). Gender plays a critical role in shaping migration experiences. Women and men migrate for different reasons, and they experience distinct challenges and opportunities upon migration. Theories of migration must, therefore, consider gender roles and intersecting identities, including socio-economic class and ethnicity (Fadeyi, 2021). While migration has historically been depicted in a gender-neutral context, a gendered analysis reveals distinct experiences and implications for women and men. Women often represent the backbone of migration, contributing significantly to family sustenance through remittances and social development.

However, they face unique challenges such as marginalization and gender-specific vulnerabilities in both transit and destination countries (Ogbemudia, 2020; Okafor, 2021).

## **Research Objectives**

The main objective of the study is to evaluate gendered dimensions of migration, exploring socio-economic drivers, experiences, and policy implications in Nigeria. The specific objectives include:

- Examine how gender influences migration decisions, routes, and destinations.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of existing migration policies in addressing gender-specific needs and challenges.
- Determine the support systems that best assist migrants of different genders in their integration processes.

## **Research Questions**

- How does gender influence the decision-making process of migrants when choosing migration routes and destinations?
- In what ways do gender roles impact the timing and nature of migration among different demographic groups?
- How do migration patterns differ between male, female, and non-binary individuals in terms of preferred destinations and migration routes?

## **Conceptual Framework**

### **The Concept of Migration**

Migration refers to the movement of individuals or groups from one place to another, often across national borders, with the intention of settling temporarily or permanently in a new location. It encompasses a variety of motivations, including economic, social, political, and environmental factors. According to Castles et al (2020), migration

can be categorized into voluntary or involuntary forms, and internal or international. Voluntary migration occurs when individuals make a conscious choice to move, often in search of better opportunities, while involuntary migration includes forced displacement due to conflict, persecution, or disaster. Internal migration refers to migration within a country, while international migration refers to migration across countries, and it may be temporary, permanent, voluntary, or forced (Castles et al. 2020). International Organization for Migration (IOM) (2023) sees migration as the voluntary or involuntary movement of individuals or groups within a country or across geographical boundaries for various reasons, including economic opportunities, social mobility, education, conflict, or environmental factors.

## **The Concept of Gender**

Gender has been defined by the IOM (2023) as the values, attitudes, power, influence, and relationships through which society can assign people roles based on their sexual orientation. On the other hand, migration has been defined by the United Nations (UN) as the movement of people from one place to another. From the earliest time, humanity moved from one place to another for shelter, food, other economic opportunities, to join family, etc. In today's world, people are living in countries other than their original destination. In 2019, the International Migration Report estimated that 272 million people were in a migrant status globally. It was not only workforce migration temporarily, but it was also a migration of brain drain through talented professionals, students in the developed countries.

- i. **Gender Roles and Norms:** Traditional gender roles often dictate the types of migration experienced by men and women, with men frequently moving for work and women more often remaining behind to manage households or migrating later for family reunification or care-related work (Massey et al., 2016).

- ii. **Transnationalism:** Migrants maintain connections across borders, impacting their identity, social networks, and economic strategies. Gender can influence how these connections are made and maintained (Schiller et al., 1992). Migrants frequently maintain transnational ties with their home countries, which can influence gender dynamics as men and women navigate their identities across borders (Levitt & Schiller, 2020).
- iii. **Intersectionality:** This framework emphasizes that gender intersects with other social categories such as race, class, and ethnicity, creating diverse experiences and challenges for migrants (Crenshaw, 2019). Understanding these intersections is crucial for a holistic analysis of migration patterns and experiences.
- iv. **Agency and Vulnerability:** Gender affects migrants' agency, with women often facing greater vulnerabilities during migration due to social norms and economic circumstances (Khosravi, 2017).
- v. **Social remittances:** Women migrants often transfer cultural and social norms across borders, influencing communities abroad (Levitt & Schiller, 2020).

## Theoretical Perspectives on Gender and Migration

### The Feminist Migration Theory

The Feminist Migration Theory was developed and first articulated in 2003 by Patricia R. Pessar and Sarah J. Mahler, in their seminal work, "Transnational Migration: Bringing Gender In." Feminist Migration Theory emphasizes the intersectionality of gender, race, class, and nationality in understanding migration processes. It critiques traditional migration theories, which often overlook the gendered dimensions of migration, thereby providing insights into how women experience migration differently compared to men. The theory highlights that women are not only migrants but also active agents who negotiate and redefine their identities within the context

of migration (Pessar & Mahler, 2003). Key contributions include:

- Analysis of the socio-economic factors that push women to migrate, such as poverty, violence, and lack of opportunities.
- Examination of the roles women play in the migration process, including those who migrate for labour, family reunification, or as refugees, including commercial sex workers.
- Focus on the impact of globalization on women's migration experiences, particularly in terms of labour exploitation and the feminization of labour in certain sectors (e.g., domestic work).

The gender perspective on migration is central to Feminist Migration Theory, as it recognizes that migration is not gender-neutral. For instance, women often face additional barriers, including discrimination and violence, in both their home and host countries. Feminist Migration Theory connects to this perspective by analysing how gender inequalities shape migration patterns, policies, and experiences. Rhacel Salazar Parreñas, in her 2001 work on migration, has shown that female migrants disproportionately occupy low-wage labour in sectors like hospitality, caregiving, and domestic work, often facing precarious labour conditions (Parreñas, 2001). In the context of Nigerian migration patterns, women often migrate as domestic workers to Europe or the Middle East. Feminist Migration theory sheds light on how patriarchal constraints in Nigeria push women into low-wage, precarious jobs abroad, while also demonstrating their resilience in sending remittances and supporting their families (Boyd & Grieco, 2022). Addressing these gender dimensions is crucial for developing more equitable migration policies that protect the rights and needs of all migrants, particularly women.

## **Neoclassical Economic Theory**

The theory is rooted in the works of John R. Hicks and E. G. Ravenstein (historical contributors), between 1885 through to 1889, with its modern articulation by Massey et al. (1993). Neoclassical

Economic Theory can be applied to understand migration patterns through the lens of labour market dynamics. It posits that individuals migrate to maximize their economic opportunities, often influenced by wage differentials between regions or countries. When considering a gender perspective, it is essential to recognize that migration decisions are not made in a vacuum. Women and men may have different motivations and barriers related to migration. For instance, in analysing Nigerian migration patterns, men might migrate to construction jobs abroad, driven by wage differentials, while women are pushed into domestic work in Europe or the Middle East, often under exploitative conditions. This highlights how economic factors interact with gendered labour market segmentation.

Additionally, the neoclassical framework often overlooks the social and cultural factors that influence migration decisions, particularly for women. Gender roles and expectations can significantly shape the economic opportunities available to women, affecting their ability to migrate and the types of work they pursue once they arrive in a new location (Kofman, 2004). By integrating a gender perspective, we can better understand how economic theories apply to real-world migration scenarios, highlighting the need for policies that consider the unique challenges faced by migrant women.

## **Methodology**

This study employs a qualitative research approach, drawing from a range of empirical studies, policy reports, and case studies focused on migration issues.

## **Discussion of Findings**

### **Gender-Specific Drivers of Migration**

Migration is a multifaceted phenomenon influenced by various factors that often have distinct impacts based on gender. Below is an overview of gender-specific drivers of migration, categorized



into economic, social and cultural, and political and environmental factors.

**i. Economic Factors (for example, Employment Opportunities):**

Economic factors play a significant role in the migration decisions of individuals, often influenced by gender. Women and men face different labour market conditions, which can dictate migratory patterns. Women may migrate for economic independence and better job prospects in sectors traditionally dominated by females, such as healthcare and domestic work. These sectors have expanded globally, particularly in urban areas, creating pathways for women's migration (Bettio & Verashchagina, 2019). Meanwhile, men may migrate for higher-paying jobs in more diverse sectors, such as construction or engineering, which typically provide greater financial rewards.

**ii. Social and Cultural Factors (for example, Gender Norms, Family Expectations):**

Social and cultural factors significantly influence migration, reflecting societal norms and familial obligations that differ by gender. In many cultures, migration may challenge or reinforce existing gender norms. Men may be expected to provide economically, leading to migration as a means to fulfill this role. Conversely, women may face restrictions based on normativity, where migration is seen as breaking family commitments or traditional roles. Moreover, women from conservative societies may migrate under family-sponsored schemes, which can lead to a more independent lifestyle (Kofman, 2020). The decision to migrate can also be strongly influenced by family expectations, which may differ based on gender. For instance, women may migrate to join family members already abroad or to fulfil family obligations, while men may migrate primarily for economic reasons (Carling, 2020).

### **iii. Political and Environmental Factors**

Political instability and environmental issues are critical catalysts for migration, often differentially affecting genders. Gender-based violence, repression, and discrimination can compel women to flee conflict or oppressive regimes, making political factors a significant driver for female migration (UNHCR, 2021). Men may also migrate to escape violence or persecution, but are often more likely to be targeted directly in armed conflicts, which affects their migration patterns. Climate change and environmental degradation disproportionately affect women, particularly in rural settings where they rely on agriculture for their livelihood. Displacement due to natural disasters is increasingly a migration driver. Women often bear the brunt of environmental change, which can lead to migratory decisions aimed at seeking safety and sustainable livelihoods (Davenport et al., 2021).

## **Gendered Experiences of Migration**

The experiences of migration are profoundly coloured by gender, encompassing unique challenges, roles, and expectations faced by different genders throughout the migration process. Women and men often migrate for various reasons, including economic opportunities, education, and family reunification (Mastrorillo et al., 2021). Below is an outline of the gendered experiences across three phases of migration: pre-migration, migration journey, and post-migration.

### **i. Pre-Migration Phase: Gendered Decision-Making**

The pre-migration phase is crucial, as the decision to migrate is often influenced by gender norms, roles, and expectations. Though it is known that women and men have different motivations and constraints when considering migration. Women's migration decisions are often shaped by family responsibilities, marriage prospects, and economic roles (Castles & Miller, 2021). In some contexts, women may migrate to support their families or escape restrictive social conditions (Devries, 2021). Men's migration

decisions are frequently tied to traditional roles as primary breadwinners, with a strong emphasis on gaining economic stability (Martiniello & Rea, 2019). This differentiation indicates how systemic gendered expectations affect the pre-migration planning phase. According to Eze (2020), rural-to-urban migration among citizens is often a response to limited opportunities in their home communities. Women pursue education abroad to enhance their skills and contribute to their home communities (Ogbemudia, 2020). Okafor (2021) also pointed out that many women migrate to join family members already abroad, a pattern often exacerbated by socio-political instability.

## **ii. Migration Journey: Risks and Vulnerabilities**

The journey itself presents unique challenges that vary significantly based on gender, where both physical and emotional risks are concerned. Women often face sexual and gender-based violence during their migration journey, especially in situations of irregular migration (Akhter & Mizan, 2022). Additionally, women may experience exploitation in labour conditions, particularly in domestic work, leading to heightened vulnerabilities (Cranfield & Daniel, 2021). Men might confront violence and exploitation related to asserting their scarcity as labourers or economic migrants. Their journey may also involve different forms of danger, such as forced recruitment or detention (Katz, 2023).

## **iii. Post-Migration Phase: Integration and Adjustment**

Integration and adjustment processes are heavily influenced by gender, as different migrants encounter distinct barriers based on their gender identities and societal expectations. Upon arrival in the destination country, migrants encounter gender-specific integration challenges. Female migrants often deal with added responsibilities related to family and home, influencing their participation in labour markets and community activities. This hinders their ability to fully integrate (Kofman, 2021). Moreover, social networks can be pivotal for women's adjustment, yet they

often encounter barriers to accessing these networks due to cultural linguistics or socioeconomic factors (Piper, 2020).

On the other hand, men may struggle with maintaining traditional gender roles in a new context, which can impact their mental health and integration experiences (Santos & Mühleck, 2022). This struggle manifests in issues of unemployment or underemployment, leading to increased stress and tensions within family structures.

## **Economic Impacts of Migration on Gender**

### **i. Women in the Labour Market**

Migration significantly influences women's participation in the labour market, often providing them with opportunities that may not be available in their home countries. Women migrate for various reasons, including seeking better employment opportunities, escaping gender-based violence, or reuniting with family. These migrations often result in women entering sectors that have traditionally been dominated by men. Female migrants tend to face unique challenges in the labour market, including discrimination, limited access to high-paying jobs, undervaluation of their work, and exploitation. According to Schmidt (2021), female migrants tend to be concentrated in low-wage sectors, particularly in domestic work and caregiving roles, which are often informal and lack job security. However, they also play crucial roles in economic development. For instance, in many regions, women workers send remittances back home, which can improve household income and economic stability. According to the IOM (2021), migrant women often become essential contributors to their families' wellbeing, despite facing inequalities such as lower wages and a lack of job security.

### **ii. Remittances and Gender Dynamics**

Remittances, the funds sent back home by migrant workers, also exhibit distinct gender dynamics. While both men and women

send remittances, the amounts and usages often differ. Women migrants tend to send a larger proportion of their earnings back home than male migrants, and they often allocate these funds towards household essentials and education (Chant & Radcliffe, 2017). Adams and Cuecuecha (2019) indicate that women tend to invest remittances in health, education, and the well-being of their families more than men do, which can enhance their status and decision-making power within the household. Moreover, the impact of remittances on gender dynamics is significant as they can empower women economically and socially. As women gain financial independence through remittances, they may also challenge traditional gender roles within their home communities. Studies by Orozco and Fedewa (2020) suggest that remittances empower women by providing them with the means to invest in their businesses or improve their living conditions, thereby altering gender relations and encouraging more equitable practices within the family.

### **iii. Gender Wage Gap and Employment Opportunities**

The gender wage gap persists in many sectors, and migration can have a complex effect on this disparity. Female migrants often encounter lower wages compared to their male counterparts, even for similar roles. The economic opportunities available to women migrants are influenced heavily by their social status, ethnicity, and education level (OECD, 2022). Studies demonstrate that migrants from developing countries frequently occupy low-wage jobs in the labour market, and this situation is exacerbated for women. For example, many women find employment in sectors such as domestic work or agriculture, where wages are significantly lower and working conditions are often poor (Gonzalez & Wilkins, 2021). This emphasizes the importance of the government and critical stakeholders to address labour market inequalities and ensure that female migrants have access to better opportunities and fair wages.

## **Policy and Legal Framework**

### **i. International Frameworks Addressing Gender and Migration**

This framework plays a crucial role in shaping policies related to gender and migration. The framework addressing the intersection of gender and migration has evolved significantly. The United Nations has made significant strides in this area, particularly through the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (2018), which emphasizes the need for gender-sensitive approaches to migration. This agreement emphasizes the need to consider gender in all aspects of migration, calling for the inclusion of women and girls in the decision-making processes. It highlights the importance of protecting the rights of migrants and ensuring that gender-specific needs are met (United Nations, 2018).

Furthermore, in 1979, the adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) mandates that state parties eliminate discrimination against women in all areas, which includes the migration context. Interpretative recommendations address the unique experiences of migrant women and suggest policies that would strengthen their rights (United Nations, 1979). CEDAW's General Recommendation No. 32 (2015) highlights the importance of addressing the specific needs of migrant women and girls, urging states to adopt measures that protect them from discrimination and violence (United Nations, 2015).

The Istanbul Convention 2011, though primarily focused on preventing violence against women and domestic violence, recognizes that migrant women may face heightened risks and calls for tailored protection measures (Council of Europe, 2011).

### **ii. National Policies and Their Gender Implications**

National migration policies often reflect the principles outlined in international frameworks, yet they can vary significantly in

their implementation. For instance, countries such as Canada have been noted for their gender-sensitive immigration policies, which actively seek to address the barriers faced by women in the migration process. The Canadian Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA) has an established framework that promotes gender-sensitive approaches in immigration processing. It includes provisions that recognize the needs of women, especially those facing violence, and incorporates sensitivity training for immigration officials (Government of Canada, 2019).

Conversely, in some regions, national policies may perpetuate gender inequalities. For example, in certain Eastern European countries, restrictive migration policies can disproportionately affect women by limiting their access to legal pathways for migration and leaving them vulnerable to exploitation (Kofman, 2021). Like Australia's Migration Policies, which have faced criticism for not adequately addressing gender issues, particularly in the context of refugee status applications, recent reforms have geared towards integrating gender considerations into the overall migration policy clearances, aimed at recognizing gender-based violence as a basis for asylum. In Italy, Italy's Immigration Law has made strides to address the vulnerabilities of migrant women, but gaps still exist in enforcement. The recent policy revisions focus on preventing trafficking and ensuring that women in migration have access to health services and legal protection (Martini & Passarelli, 2020).

### **iii. Gaps in Gender-Sensitive Migration Policies**

Despite the existence of frameworks and some progressive national policies, significant gaps persist in the implementation of gender-sensitive migration policies. Many countries lack comprehensive data disaggregated by gender, which impedes the understanding of the migration dynamics and specific challenges faced by migrant women. Additionally, there is often a lack of training for policymakers and practitioners on gender issues in migration, leading to insufficient attention being paid to the

unique challenges faced by women migrants. Moreover, the intersectionality of gender with other factors such as race, class, and legal status complicates the experiences of migrant women, yet this complexity is frequently overlooked in policy discussions (Crenshaw, 2019).

Migrant women face systemic barriers to employment, including discrimination and limited access to resources. Policy frameworks often overlook these challenges, prioritizing economic contributions without considering social safety nets (IOM, 2021). Furthermore, many national frameworks fail to provide adequate access to essential services for migrant women, such as healthcare and legal support. This lack of access can be attributed to social stigma, language barriers, and inadequate funding for social programs. Addressing these gaps requires a concerted effort from governments and international bodies to develop and implement policies that are not only gender-sensitive but also intersectional.

## **Challenges and Opportunities in a Gendered Perspective on Migration**

### **i. Addressing Gender Inequality in Migration**

Gender inequality remains a significant challenge in the context of migration. Addressing gender inequality within migration processes involves recognizing the distinct experiences, vulnerabilities, and contributions of men and women. Migrant women often face higher levels of discrimination, gender-based violence, limited access to resources compared to their male counterparts, and exploitation due to intersecting factors like gender, socio-economic status, and immigration status. Recent studies indicate that migrant women are disproportionately affected by labour market inequalities, have limited access to social protections, and are more likely to experience gender-based violence during the migration process (Hertog, 2021).



According to Ogbemudia (2020), women often encounter restrictive immigration policies, limiting their ability to migrate independently. Female migrants are particularly vulnerable to exploitation and abuses in labour markets, where they may face harassment and violence, including trafficking and domestic servitude (Adepoju, 2021). Furthermore, Cultural and linguistic barriers can hinder women's integration in host societies, impacting their access to social services and employment (Oladipo, 2022). The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration emphasizes the need to consider gender in migration policies to address these disparities (United Nations, 2018).

Opportunities arise when migration policies incorporate gender-sensitive frameworks. Gender-sensitive migration policies can facilitate better access to rights and resources for migrant women. By integrating gender analyses into migration frameworks, policymakers can improve support systems and protections for women, thereby creating more inclusive environments that enhance their contributions to society (UN Women, 2022). Programs focused on empowering women can also promote economic independence, thereby transforming challenges into opportunities. For instance, research indicates that empowering women migrants leads to positive economic outcomes and community development (Kofman, 2020).

## **ii. Role of NGOs and International Organizations**

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and international organizations play pivotal roles in advocating for and implementing gender-sensitive migration policies. These organizations provide essential services such as legal assistance, healthcare, counselling, and shelter, which are vital for the protection of vulnerable migrants, particularly women and children (Bettio & Vera-Toscano, 2020).

Collaborations between NGOs and international organizations can lead to the development of comprehensive support systems

and implementations of programs for migrants that are inclusive of gender perspectives in migration processes. Training programs aimed at empowering local communities, raising awareness of gender-based violence, and providing economic opportunities can enhance the resilience of migrant women (Fetzer, 2023). Moreover, these entities often conduct research and data collection that highlight the experiences of women in migration, thereby informing policymakers and stakeholders about the specific challenges faced by this demographic. By fostering partnerships between governments and civil society, NGOs can help build more effective migration policies that prioritize gender equity.

### **iii. Empowering Migrants Through Gender-Inclusive Policies**

Developing gender-inclusive policies is crucial for empowering migrants and recognizing their contributions to host societies. Gender-inclusive policies encompass access to healthcare, education, labour rights, and empowerment opportunities. For instance, policies that recognize the specific needs of migrant women in accessing healthcare services not only improve health outcomes but also enhance community integration (Mastrorillo et al., 2022). According to Cassarino (2021) provision of initiatives that is aimed at providing language training and skills development can significantly enhance the economic prospects of women migrants.

Implementing gender-inclusive policies can lead to increased economic participation of women in the labour market, thus driving economic growth. Programs that focus on skill development and vocational training for women migrants have been shown to create resilient communities, as they help integrate women into the workforce and reduce gender disparities in economic opportunities (Rizvi, 2022). The implementation of such policies is not only beneficial for individual migrants but also for the economies of host countries, as it maximizes the potential of all workers.

## **Summary of Findings and Conclusion**

In summary, the research highlights that migration is deeply influenced by gender, with economic, social, cultural, political, and environmental factors shaping distinct experiences for men and women. Gender-specific vulnerabilities, such as exploitation, violence, and unequal access to resources, are evident throughout the migration process. Additionally, the economic contributions of migrant women, particularly through remittances, play a significant role in household and community development, although these contributions often occur in the context of wage gaps and employment discrimination. Existing international and national policies show progress toward gender inclusivity but still lack comprehensive implementation, particularly in addressing intersectional challenges.

The research underscores the importance of integrating gender-sensitive approaches into migration policies and practices. Policymakers are encouraged to incorporate gender analyses to ensure that frameworks address inequalities and provide robust legal protections for vulnerable groups. Programs promoting economic empowerment, such as skills training and financial inclusion, are crucial for enhancing the participation of migrant women in labour markets. Additionally, strengthening community networks and fostering collaborations with NGOs can improve access to healthcare, legal aid, and social integration services, thereby supporting migrants' overall well-being.

## **Recommendations**

The topic “Gendered Dimensions on Migration: Exploring Socio-Economic Drivers, Experiences, and Policy Implications in Nigeria” highlights the necessity of addressing the unique experiences and challenges faced by different genders in the context of migration. Below are recommendations aimed at enhancing gender sensitivity in migration policies, improving gender equity within migration systems, and strengthening research on gender and migration.

**i. Strategies for Gender-Sensitive Migration Policies**

- **Incorporate Gender Analysis in Policy Development:** Migration policies should undergo a gender analysis to identify how they impact different genders differently. This includes collecting sex-disaggregated data to inform policy decisions and assess their effectiveness. Recent studies emphasize the importance of integrating a gender perspective into migration governance frameworks (Crawley & Skleparis, 2020).
- **Enhance Legal Protections for Migrant Women:** Policies should address specific vulnerabilities faced by migrant women, such as domestic violence and exploitation. Legal frameworks must ensure that migrant women have access to justice and protection against gender-based violence (UN Women, 2021).
- **Promote Women's Economic Empowerment:** Implement programs that enhance the economic participation of migrant women, such as skills training and access to financial services. Empowering women economically can mitigate the risks associated with migration and improve overall gender equity in migration systems (Ruhs & Anderson, 2021).

**ii. Improving Gender Equity in Migration Systems**

- **Implement Gender-Responsive Services:** Migration services need to provide gender-responsive support that caters to the specific needs of all genders. This can include tailored health services, legal assistance, and social services that recognize the different experiences of men, women, and non-binary individuals (IOM, 2020).
- **Increase Representation of Women in Migration Governance:** Encourage the participation of women in decision-making roles within migration governance structures. Ensuring women's voices are heard can lead to more inclusive and equitable policies (Kofman, E., & Raghuram, P., 2020).

- **Strengthen Community-Based Support Systems:** Foster community networks that provide support to migrants, particularly women and marginalized genders. These networks can offer resources, information, and social connections that are crucial for successful integration (Zontini, 2020).

### iii. Strengthening Research on Gender and Migration

- **Enhance Interdisciplinary Research Approaches:** Encourage interdisciplinary research that combines insights from gender studies, migration studies, and sociology. This can help develop comprehensive frameworks that address the complexities of gendered migration experiences (Boucher & Fuchs, 2021).
- **Support Longitudinal Studies:** Invest in longitudinal studies to track the long-term impacts of migration on gender dynamics. Understanding how migration affects gender roles over time can inform better policy interventions (Mastrorillo, M., et al. 2021).
- **Facilitate Collaborative Research Initiatives:** Promote collaborations between academic institutions, NGOs, and governmental bodies to enhance the scope and impact of research on gender and migration. Joint initiatives can lead to more robust findings and practical applications of research (Krause & Schuster, 2021).

### Areas for Further Research

- **Longitudinal Studies:** Investigating the long-term effects of migration on gender roles and dynamics in origin and host countries.
- **Intersectionality:** Exploring the intersection of gender with other identities, such as ethnicity, age, and socioeconomic status, in migration experiences.

- **Policy Impact Assessment:** Conducting evaluations of the effectiveness of existing migration policies in addressing gender-specific needs.
- **Impact of Climate Change:** Analysing how environmental changes influence gendered migration patterns and vulnerabilities.
- **Migrant Agency:** Understanding how migrants, particularly women, navigate and exercise agency within restrictive migration frameworks can offer valuable insights into resilience and empowerment in the migration process.

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