

**UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**

**CENTRE FOR MIGRATION STUDIES**

**LABOUR MOBILITY AND DEVELOPMENT AMONG THE DAGAABA  
(DAGARA) OF THE NANDOM TRADITIONAL AREA.**

**BY**

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**THIS THESIS IS SUBMITTED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF GHANA,  
LEGON IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR  
THE AWARD OF MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE IN MIGRATION  
STUDIES**

**JULY, 2013**

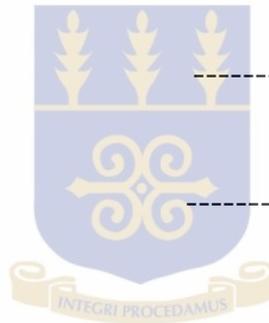
## DECLARATION

I, **ZAMEKUU PETER CLAVER** declare that this thesis with the exception of quotations and references contained in published works which have all been identified and acknowledged, is entirely my own original work and it has not been submitted in part or whole for another degree elsewhere.

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**CERTIFICATION**

I declare that the preparation of this study was supervised in accordance with the guidelines on research work as laid down by the University of Ghana Handbook for Graduate Studies Part I. Except references which are duly acknowledged, I accept responsibility for any errors in the work.

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Date.....

**DR. (MRS.) DELALI BADASU**

## DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my dear late father Mr. Zamekuu Sylvanus, and my dearest wife Eunice for her support and prayers during challenging moments of my studies and the support of the entire Zamekuu family.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A lot of people deserve my humble gratitude and appreciation. However, I will commence by thanking God almighty whose immeasurable mercies and loving kindness empowered me to withstand and endure all the challenges I encountered in the production of this piece of work.

I would like to register my sincerest gratitude to my indefatigable supervisor, **DR. (MRS.) DELALI BADASU** who's constructive and diagnostic objective suggestions provided me the needed assistance to complete this work.

I equally express my sincere gratitude to all the Lecturers and Staff of Centre for Migration Studies, University of Ghana, especially the Course Coordinator Dr. Teye for their advice and support.

This acknowledgement will be incomplete without my indebtedness to my better half Mrs. Zamekuu Eunice Naazig, co-workers: Martin Drofenu and Alottey, my reliable research assistants John Bosco Zamekuu and Aabe-Inir Pontianus and Gregory Banambo for their support, prayers and encouragement in the realization of this work.

I am finally grateful to all friends especially Eric Dalinpuo who provided me with the necessary information at the right moment and time and many others in different ways to make this work come to fruition.

## ABSTRACT

This study examined labour migration and associated development in the Nandom Traditional Area. The objective of the study was to find out whether labour migration is an option for improved livelihoods and development in the Nandom Traditional Area. Both returned migrants at Nandom and migrants at destination, Accra were interviewed. The field work was undertaken in two areas, namely Accra Metropolis and Nandom District. Mixed research method was used. Data was collected from both primary and secondary sources. A questionnaire and an in-depth interview guide were the instruments used for the study. A total of 40 returned migrants and 14 migrants at destination were interviewed at Nandom and Accra respectively. The study found out that Dagaaba labour migrants migrate due to various reasons such as poverty, lack of jobs especially the off farming season, lack of social facilities and infrastructure among others and labour migration generally has positive effects on household's livelihood in Nandom due to the inflow of remittances. It was observed from the study that, policy makers on migration and livelihood tend to ignore the agricultural labour migration especially during off-farming period as a critical issue in development planning. The study also recommends that government should consider irrigation in the area to curb labour migration during the dry season. Improved infrastructure, in terms of health facilities, roads, schools, potable water will help bridge the gaps in development between Nandom and the destination area Accra and other potential ones in other parts of Ghana which usually attract the youth. This is because the loss of human resources from the area as a result of migration does not seem to be compensated by the benefits of migration. The departure of the youth affects their livelihoods positively. Results of the study revealed that migrants were predominantly males, with a relatively smaller but increasing number of women over the years. Based on the findings, the study argues for the introduction of more poverty reduction strategies in the area that will reduce the incidence of migration in the area.

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## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

GPRS: II Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper II

GYEEDA: Ghana Youth Employment, and Entrepreneurial Development Authority

JHS: Junior High School

MU: Migration Unit

NGO: Non-Governmental Organization

NMB: Migration Management Bureau

NYEP: National Youth Employment Programme

SADA: Savannah Accelerated Development Authority

SPSS: Statistical Package for Social Sciences or Statistical Product and Service Solutions

PITO: Locally brewed beer from maize

## CHAPTER ONE

### Background of the Study

#### 1.1 Introduction

Migration is a complex global phenomenon which has become increasingly rampant over these past years, with the movement of migrants occurring not just within national boundaries but across borders as international migrants. Whereas movements for some are done on temporary basis others are somewhat permanent. (Adepoju, 2000). Some migrants are forced to move as displaced persons or refugees. Most migrants move in search of greener pastures. They come from different economic backgrounds; some with high levels of financial and human capital and others not well endowed. (Sriskandarajah, 2005) Irrespective of their economic background both the rich and the poor usually move in search of greener pastures. Migrants usually move from regions where economic opportunities are lacking or limited. In the West African sub-region, migration is considered a way of life, with West Africans having always exhibited a high tendency to migrate. (Adepoju, 2000). Before the advent of European colonialism, the sub-region had witnessed different kinds of population distribution and re-distribution. The motivations for migration changed as the economy and the society at large became diversified. (Anarfi et al., 2003). Paradoxically, colonialism itself constituted migration from the global north to the global south in search of territories, space, resources, and new opportunities for economic expansion on the part of colonial powers (Beyani, 2008).

Human migration has long been considered an important element of population dynamics which can have significant consequences on both areas of origin and destination. (Yaro, 2008). In most

countries, employment opportunities and developmental changes have been concentrated in few areas, especially in major cities, leaving the rural areas to either undergo little growth or have felt the backwash effects of development elsewhere (Hirschman, 1958; Myrdal, 1957).

In Ghana, people have always moved from one region to another or from city to city or from one village to another in search of wage employment or better living conditions. The Upper West Region (UWR) of Ghana together with the Upper East and Northern regions have served as a reservoir of labour for the southern part of the country for most part of the twentieth century (Abdul-Korah, 2008). In this contemporary area, one can find at least three or more generations of Dagaaba migrants in many communities in the country. According to Abul-Korah, (2008), some of the factors that compelled northerners and for the purpose of this research Dagaaba to migrate to the south in search of wage labour include overpopulation, taxation, lack of resources, and “bright light” (electricity). However, the phenomenon of labour mobility among the Dagaaba and specifically those from the Nandom Traditional Area has taken a new dimension as the factors indicated above are unable to explain the underlying reasons for this phenomenon which has intensified in this contemporary era.

Ghana remains an agrarian economy with about 54.2% of the population engaged in agriculture (Ghana statistical Service, 2010, Accra) much of which is subsistence in nature even though the sector has been very significant in the economic development process of the country since colonial days. Since independence in 1957, the manner in which development has been pursued has not been very different from that of the colonial times. Infrastructural development (roads and railways) and the initial provision of social services were all concentrated in the southern sector considered as the resource rich areas while the north was deliberately neglected for the purpose of serving as a labour basket for the mines and cocoa farms. Energetic men from the

north were drawn by compulsion to work in these sectors but a new trend of voluntary migration to the cocoa and mining regions to work for money emerged when forced labour by the colonialists was abolished in 1936 (Abdul-Korah, 2006). As at now, even though technological revolution in the mining and cocoa sectors (use of insecticides) makes unskilled labour unattractive to these sectors, as it used to be, migration into the southern sector in general believed to offer lots of opportunities for livelihood and the cocoa and mining regions in particular continue unabated. (Van der Geest, 2011).

## **1.2 Problem Statement**

Migration from the north to the south of Ghana is an old phenomenon which according to Black et al. (2006) cited by Awumbila et al. (2008) is fuelled by infertile soils and the absence of social amenities and infrastructure in that part of the country.

The main economic activity of the Upper West Region of Ghana which play host to the Dagaaba the major ethnic group is predominantly subsistence agriculture. In their quest to guarantee their livelihood, both men and women alike have resorted to seasonal labour migration to the southern parts of the country mostly to the Brong Ahafo, Ashanti, Western, and the Greater Accra Regions where the men engage themselves in paid labour, charcoal burning, mining and security jobs in the cities while the women either remain back home to raise the children and ensure the survival of the family or move along with their husbands to these destinations. Others too stay in the towns and cities doing menial jobs like head portage and domestic services.

For many decades, this phenomenon has remained an important source of income to several households in the Nandom Traditional Area. So pronounced is the trend that some communities or families appear deserted with only the elderly and children remaining or left behind when

most of the active labour force migrate. These families are virtually rendered economically inactive following the exodus which is mostly at the end of the rainy season for as long as they are away until they possibly return at the beginning of another rainy season. Even more serious is the fact that the phenomenon has come to stay among the Dagaaba and seen by most illiterate rural farmers as a life-time adventure that any young male or young female growing up must undertake. This trend has caught up with even children at basic level of education who see it as a more rewarding thing to do rather than continuing with their education. ( Anarfi & kwankye, 2003)

This situation does not only give a picture of the extent to which poverty has engulfed the area but tends to create a lasting cycle of poverty with grave consequences. This is because parents are compelled under such circumstances to deny their children education since hitherto; they were school drop outs themselves. These dropouts may grow up earning less income, thus perpetuating the poverty cycle in the area and thus facilitate further migration. (Ravallion, 2008).

However, migration in the Nandom Traditional Area has not been entirely negative. Remittances from migrants have made contributions to the development in the area.

### **1.3 Research Question and Objectives.**

#### **1.3.1 General Research Question**

Does labour migration contribute to the socio-economic development of the Nandom Traditional Area?

### **1.3.2 Specific Questions**

The specific objectives include the following:

1. What are the push and pull factors associated with Dagaaba labour migration?
2. Has migration improved the living conditions of the Dagaaba labour migration?
3. Has migration contributed to the basic physical development of the Nandom Traditional Area?
4. What policies should be considered in this phenomenon especially with the involvement of SADA?
5. How can the adverse effects of migration in the Nandom Traditional Area be managed?

### **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

The general objective of the study was to examine the contributions of migration to the socio-economic development of the Nandom Traditional Area.

#### **1.4.1 Specific Objectives**

1. To describe the socio-demographic characteristics of the Dagaaba return and current migrants interviewed.
2. To identify the factors at the place of origin and destinations that account for the decision of the Dagaaba to migrate.
3. To examine how migration has affected the lives of the Dagaaba households in the Nandom traditional Area.
4. To establish the extent to which migration of the Dagaaba labour has benefitted the Nandom traditional area in terms of basic physical development.

5. To make policy recommendations based on the findings.

### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

Even though labour migration from the northern to the southern parts of Ghana has been tremendous, the literature available indicates that, there has little focus in the relationship between migration and development in general and among the Dagaaba. There has been more attention on the migration of girls into the cities as head porters mainly because of its socio-economic implications on the urban centres (see for instance Awumbila et al 2008 & Anarfi et al 2007), and the effects on the migrant girls.

Little work on contribution of internal migration to the development of Nandom has been done. Meanwhile, Nandom has been a major out-migration area in northern Ghana. The present study therefore fills the gap in the knowledge on internal migration and development nexus specifically among the Dagaaba in the Nandom Traditional Area.

It can also contribute to policy adoption on the migration development nexus by the government as it seeks to make migration a component of development planning. The government is already in the process of adopting a policy.

### **1.6 Organization of the work**

The study is presented in five chapters. The first chapter gives the background of the study. It deals with the introduction, statement of the problem, objectives, and the justification of the study.

The second chapter reviews the literature on migration of Dagaaba outside the upper west region. It provides a background on what is happening globally as far as labour mobility is concerned, in

West Africa, and the upper West region. It also discusses the impact of the Dagaaba labour mobility on agricultural labour and development in general in the Nandom Traditional Area

The third chapter is dedicated to the research methodology employed for the study

Chapter four presents the socio-demographic characteristics of Dagaaba migrants.

Chapter five presents the findings on migration and development associated with Dagaaba labour migration in the Nandom Traditional Area. It is devoted on the impact of remittances on development in the area.

Chapter six which is the last chapter summarizes the main findings of the study, conclusions, and recommendations which highlight policy implications and areas for further research

## CHAPTER TWO

### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

#### 2.1 Introduction

Over the years, labour mobility has become an important issue in migration both internationally and internally. According to Oderth (2002) cited by Yaro, (2008) labour migration has shaped the nature of both the receiving and places of origin more than any other phenomenon in human geography. The Upper West Region (UWR) of Ghana and for that matter the Dagaaba have served as a reservoir of labour for the southern part of the country for most of the twentieth century and today one can find at least three generations of migrants in any given community whose experiences both mirror and differ substantially from migrants in other parts of Africa. (Nabila, 1986) Attempts to explain this phenomenon have centered on theories of over population, taxation, lack of resources, and “bright lights,” (electricity) which compelled Dagaaba to migrate to the south in search of wage work. (Abdul-Korah, 2008).

This chapter seeks to review related literature that explains how labour mobility has affected the Dagaaba in general in the Upper West region of Ghana and with particular interest and reference to the Dagaaba (Dagara) in the Nandom Traditional Area. The chapter therefore examines some important themes on labour migration in line with the objectives of the study, which included the historical background of Dagaaba labour migration, the environmental push and pull factors of labour, migration, the potential benefits of migration to the sending source, the reasons for migrating and some policy implications of labour migration, especially with the implementation of the SADA programme in northern Ghana.

## 2.2 Historical Background of Dagaaba Labour Migration

According to Liebenow, (1986 & Bell, 1986) cited in Twumasi-Ankrah, (1995) the past few decades have witnessed a rapid pace of urban population concentration in developing countries of Africa and elsewhere. While the roots of Dagaaba migration to southern Ghana can be traced to the pre-colonial past, the imposition of colonial rule and the establishment of a capitalist economy in the Gold Coast led to the incorporation of the Northern Territories and its people into the colonial and international economies. The Dagaaba like other people in the northern territories were required to contribute their labour resources to colonial interests in the mines, plantations and other sectors of the economy mainly in the southern parts of the country. As such, the first batch of state-sponsored recruited labourers from the Northwestern Province (now UWR) was sent to the mines at Tarkwa in 1909 (Abdul-Korah, 2008).

Migration among the Dagaaba in pre-colonial time was as a result of internecine warfare, and the need for virgin land due to population explosion. (Songsore & Denkabe, 1995) The literature available points to a number of factors accounting for the independent movement of the Dagaaba to the south in search for wage work.

The Dagara migration system is part of a larger pattern of North-South migration in Ghana.

According to the 2000 population census, (GSS, 2002a) about four out of ten Dagara people (36 %) are living in Southern Ghana. More than half of them (51%) reside in the Brong Ahafo Region. Within the Brong Ahafo Region, Wenchi District is the most popular destination of Dagara migrants. (Kees van der Geest, 2011).

It is often argued that the North-South migration system of the Dagara was initiated by colonial coercion in the first decades of the 20th century. (Songsore & Denkabe, 1995). In pre-colonial times, before the advent of the modern migration system, Dagara people moved over shorter distances, mainly in search of fertile land and to escape conflict, oppressive rulers and slave raiders. Human mobility in this era has been described as a tradition of local migration by many and long-distance migration by, a minority of warriors and traders. In the 18th and 19th century, voluntary migration over longer distances was impeded by conflict and insecurity resulting from the wars between the Ashanti, the Gonja and the Dagomba and the related activities of slave raiders. (Ibid)

Therefore, this migration among the Dagaara is not new, but many observers expect it to intensify due to a number of factors including, population growth, urbanization and regional economic disparities which lead to unbalanced development. Hence, changes in the regional distribution of people through migration can have profound impacts on the economy in migrant source and destination areas.

### **2.3 Environmental Push and Pull Factors of Labour Migration**

Poorly endowed districts in Northern Ghana tend to experience more out-migration than districts with a more benign natural environment (Kees van der Geest, 2008). However, no evidence was found that North-South migration increased in a period of more pronounced environmental stress in the 1970s and early 1980s. Out-migration rates rather declined and many migrants actually returned to the North. (Ibid). In this period in Ghana's migration history, economic crisis and political turmoil played a more decisive role than environmental factors. Literature on labour migration showed that scarcity of fertile land in the Upper West Region and the availability of

fertile land in the Brong Ahafo Region were the prime reason for Dagara internal migration (Ibid). Also, literature has it that people with higher education from less endowed regions are most likely to migrate to a well-endowed region, which is the case of the Dagaara migrants found especially in Accra and Kumasi (Dalinpuo, 2013). Sudden-onset environmental stresses, like drought-triggered famine or floods, were not mentioned. However, there is substantive evidence that Dagaara were forced to migrate because of acute food security problems in the North.

Kees van der Geest (2008) argued that most of the Dagara migration to the Brong Ahafo Region was part of a larger, proactive household strategy to reduce pressure on land at home and to benefit from better farming opportunities in the forest-savanna transition zone. It is obvious that one important environmental push and pull factor which induced migration is the structural agro-ecological differences between Northern Ghana and Southern Ghana than environmental degradation and disaster.

Ecologically, this migration flow involves a movement from the interior savannah with one rainy season to the forest-savannah zone with two rainy seasons. In political-economic terms the movement is from a poor and underdeveloped periphery to a semi-peripheral food crop frontier. Kees van der Geest (2008) identified three types of migration among the Dagaaba which are the seasonal labour migration, long-term and return migration. The seasonal migration is associated with migration where the people after exhausting their only farming season, have to travel to the southern part of Ghana to work for economic gains and return home during the next farming season. So every season after farming, the people migrate. It is interesting to note that, this

phenomenon also enabled majority of Dagara students to pay their school fees and attain higher education. Long-term migration has to do with people who migrate due to their jobs relocation or in search of skilled labour. These people are mostly found in big cities such as Accra and Kumasi and the mining areas of Tarkwa and Obuasi. As the term implies, these people stay for a considerable number of years in the destination areas. Return migrants are people who migrate for some period of time, and then return to their home areas. This could be within or outside the home country.

Sparsely vegetated districts in Ghana are more likely to have migration deficits (more out-migration than in-migration) as in the case of northern Ghana, and districts with abundant vegetation are more likely to have a migration surplus as what is currently being experienced by Ghana's largest cities with influx of migrants especially from the three northern regions of Ghana. This is an indication that the availability of natural resources is a determinant of migration in Ghana. Out-migration seems to relieve pressure on natural resources while in-migration increases it. (Kees van der Geest, 2011).

In the North-South migration system, environmental push factors play an important role in explaining labour migration and the major pull factors are low population density and good physical conditions for agriculture at the destinations. In the principal destination regions of migrants from the North (Ashanti and Brong Ahafo) no evidence of a negative impact of migration on vegetation cover is recorded. A possible explanation is that settler farmers from the North predominantly cultivate the fallow lands of native people who tend to shift their livelihoods to non-farm occupations (Ibid).

In the same vein, migration to the national capital Accra – environmental factors do not play a major role, apparently, the pull factors could be observed clearly as search for better jobs as there are inadequate job opportunities in the sending source, better amenities in terms of education, health, and general infrastructural development. Also the desire to stay in a city is among the pull factors of migrants from the north especially the Dagaabas.

#### **2.4 Reasons for Dagaaba Out-Migration:**

Migration is generally selective of the young, versatile, or better educated of the community. This in a way creates a sort of “brain drain” on rural populations. Ghana like many other developing countries suffers from problem of uneven development and distribution of basic social amenities between rural and urban centres (Twumasi-Ankrah, 1995). In the regional and capital cities, facilities for higher education, quality health care, major sports and entertainment facilities, and telecommunication services are available. The building of better and quality roads and transportation networks have facilitated labour migration from rural areas.

The causes of migration are usually explained by using two broad categories, namely, push and pull factors. For example, people of a certain area may be pushed off by poverty to move towards a town for employment, while a better employment or higher education facility may pull people to avail these opportunities. People’s decision to migrate from one place to another therefore, may be influenced by both economic and non-economic factors within the household (Todaro, 1969). In Ghana as it exists in other African countries, the disparities in the distribution of resources help explain this phenomenon.

Labour migration is also explained by the neoclassical economics approach in terms of economic disparities – and particularly wages differentials – between regions and/or nations. As a rational

individual the migrant notices these disparities and decides to take advantage of them. Based on this approach, the “push and pull” framework mentioned earlier was established: It says that migration is the result of either push factors, which put pressure on people to leave their (poor) place of origin, and pull factors inherent to destinations, which attract those people to work in these places. Applied to the Dagaaba labour migration dynamics, push factors are poverty, abundance in labour force and unemployment. The lack of prestige for farm work, the social degradation and stigma associated with rural living, and unavailability of social amenities in the rural areas have affected the educated and uneducated alike. Youth unemployment is a particularly strong push factor (International Organisation of Migration, 2007).

Most of the rural-urban migrants of today move in response to the “push” from the vagaries of rural living and the “pull” of western industry, commerce and “bright light” of urban areas. (Abdul-Korah, 2008; Caldwell, 1969 & Frazier, 1961) cited in Twumansi- Ankrah,( 1995). The educated person according to Caldwell (1969) is perceived as someone who belongs to the city.

The Neoclassical Approach alone, however, does not cover all aspects of labour migration, especially when it comes to the unit of decision-making as well as social factors for migrating. Therefore, the IOM introduced the micro analyses such as the New Economics of Labour Migration (NELM). They state that labour migration is a choice that is collectively taken by the migrants’ households. Migration is therefore a family strategy which takes into account a range of economic, social, political and cultural factors. It is important to note that absolute income is not the only decisive factor in the household strategy. Another important element is what is called “relative deprivation” that means the income position compared to other households in the village. Therefore, when a family is aware of increased income of other families due to labour migration, it might feel relatively deprived and consequently decide to send members of their

own family into migration (IOM, 2007). This actually is the case of the ever increasing issue of female head porters in Accra popularly known as “Kaya yei”.

Abdul-Korah (2008) in his article “Labour Migration among the Dagaaba in the Upper West Region of Ghana”, did indicate that social factors such as witchcraft, domestic dispute, and the desire to escape parental control or elderly relatives, induced some Dagaaba people to migrate and seek a livelihood away from home. According to Bannerman-Richter (1982) cited in Twumasi- Ankrah, (1995), in Ghana as in other parts of West Africa, all the ethnic groups share the same witchcraft beliefs and attitudes in various shades and forms.

The need to obtain money for bride-price is often cited as one of the most important causes of labour migration in African societies. Schapera, (1947 ) Watson, (1958), Mbatha, (1960) cited in Abdul-Korah, (2008). Among the Dagaabas, it is one of the most important reasons why young men migrate to the south especially to farming communities like the Brong Ahafo to work for money to pay the dowry of their wives. In the past, it was the duty of the parents to dowry the wives of their sons, but the trend has changed of late and a potential suitor has to look for money on his own to dowry his wife. There used to be family property in the form of cattle that were meant for this purpose but they are no longer available. Migration enables the young unmarried men earn some money to pay the bride-price and bear the cost associated with wedding ceremonies. It also helps the young ladies to acquire some of the basic things needed to marry. Some people also migrate because of adventure. They just want to know other places besides their home towns.

## **2.5 Benefits of Dagaaba Labour Migration on Rural Households**

### **2. 5.1 Livelihoods**

Kees van der Geest, (2011) indicated that widespread poverty in Northern Ghana and the prospect of escaping poverty by moving to the more developed southern part of the country are the principal causes of migration from Northern Ghana. Poor agro-ecological conditions, lack of non-farm income opportunities, a long history of governmental neglect and unequal development are some of the root causes of poverty in Northern Ghana. Building on that, however, migration for many rural families in Nandom is a livelihood strategy. Since most of them are dependent on agriculture as the only source of income, migration is a new way to diversify their income sources. What is clear, nevertheless, is that labour migration is an important part in rural livelihoods. In most cases, the money a family obtains from out migration exceeds the money they make from agriculture at the origin. Dagaaba in Nandom are mostly farmers who depend solely on rain fed agriculture and apparently yield or harvest from their farms hardly take them throughout the year and so they have to migrate basically to earn money to be able to buy food for the family at home. This was clearly observed in 1983 (the hunger season) when most of the abled-bodied men travelled to the south to acquire food for the sustenance of their families.

According to Kees, (2011) for most Dagara in the Brong Ahafo Region migration was part of a larger, proactive household strategy to reduce pressure on land at home and to benefit from better farming opportunities in the forest-savanna transition zone and also to be able to remit home by sending food and other livelihoods enhancing items. He indicated that seasonal migration contributed positively to food and livelihood security.

### **2.5.2 Investment and Development**

In order to analyse the development impact of remittances, the following categories of investment are proposed: Productive investment (agriculture, land, business creation, and savings), consumptive investment (consumer goods, house-building and improvement) and investment in human capital (health, education). In previous research on labour migration, it is commonly understood that productive investment and investment in human capital are the most beneficial types of investment for development. Songsore & Denkabe,(1995). In rural Nandom, it is clear that the biggest part of remittances is spent on consumptive investment: People are covering every-day needs, constructing and improving their houses, buying bicycles and motorbikes and entertainment devices like tape recorders television sets and DVD players, celebrating feasts, and repaying debts with remittances. (Van der Geest, 2011). In recent times, migrants' especially long term migrants are investing at their places of origin ranging from building projects, paying school fees, and providing for the health needs of their people at home. Many migrants are able to afford the cost of tractor services to ply their lands, buy fertilizers to improve their agriculture. Migration thus is seen as an investment in recent times and probably the only clear source of bringing development to these deprived areas.

### **2. 5.3 Farming**

Nandom is predominantly an agricultural economy, and therefore, the impact of labour migration on agricultural development should be given much attention. With a population density of about one hundred inhabitants per square kilometre, land is relatively scarce in the Nandom Area. Fallow periods are short and agricultural productivity is low. A common perception is that without migration, there would not be enough land to sustain the population, which would result in more hunger, poverty and conflict (Kees van der Geest, 2011).

Understanding where the region is situated in the transition zone in terms of intensive land use will help understand the impact of out-migration on agricultural development. Out-migration principally has a positive effect on farm sizes and agricultural output. Another potentially positive effect of return migration is that most of the return migrants do acquire new farming techniques at the place of destination which enable them to become agents of change because they contribute to increase yield. There is also a positive connection between road network and agricultural development.

## **2.6 Policy Implications of Labour Migration, the case of SADA**

Although Ghana does not have an explicit migration policy, it has introduced several initiatives to deal with specific migration issues. For example, the Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper II (GPRS II) identifies the Ghanaian Diaspora as a potential source of funding, (Asare, 2012). These initiatives basically are targeted at international migrants but policies to deal with internal migration especially the north-south migration are lacking. Though past governments have made efforts by introducing pro-poor programmes in the north, these have not helped in curbing labour migration in the region. This is probably due to the implementation and management of these programmes. The Northern Growth and Poverty programme is such initiative. The introduction of Savannah Accelerated Development Authority (SADA) is another initiative intended to curb north-south migration by providing jobs to curb the north-south migration and also to help bridge the development gap between the north and south. Nevertheless, these initiatives often lack government political will and commitment and remain uncoordinated. According to Asare (2012) these initiatives are sponsored by various donors and implemented by different ministries. This can result in duplication and incoherence in the government's approach to migration. The creation of a National Migration Bureau (NMB) inter-

ministerial team/steering committee, later renamed Migration Unit (MU), under the auspices of the Ministry of Interior is an important step towards addressing these issues. An important task of the inter-ministerial MU team is to formulate a comprehensive national migration policy, so that the fragmented legal framework governing migration could be streamlined. A fully fledged national migration policy would also facilitate ongoing efforts to mainstream migration into development plans.

Thus, the challenge for policy makers is how to regulate and govern migration in a manner that leads to a “win-win-win” situation for all the actors concerned – regions of origin and destination and migrants themselves (Ibid). One of the main data gaps which remains a big challenge to government is the absence of accurate statistics on the number of migrants especially from the north living in Accra. This could inform government the extent of the challenge and to effectively find remedy to the situation.

## CHAPTER THREE

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Introduction

This chapter seeks to illustrate the research methods used for this study. The locations of the study area and the research approach used are described as well as the various sources of data. The research instruments used are principally questionnaires and in-depth interviews. Issues pertaining to data analysis are also discussed in this chapter.

#### 3.2 The Study Area

The study was conducted in Nandom which is a newly created district in the Upper West Region and four suburbs in the Accra Metropolis, namely; Nima, Adenta, Madina and La. Accra is the capital of the Greater Accra Region. Nima, Adenta, Madina, and La have a good concentration of Dagaaba migrants hence the choice of these suburbs. Nandom on the other hand is a newly created district carved out of the Lawra district in 2012. It is located in the northwestern part of Ghana and shares border with the southwestern part of Burkina Faso. Linguistically, the people are referred to as “Dagara however, Dagaaba which is the generic name for the ethnic group was employed. Dagaaba means a descendant of the Mole-Dagbane group which also includes the Mossi, Dagomba, Frafra, Mamprusi, Wala among others. According to Van der Geest (2011), the origin of this ethnic group is subject to considerable debate.

Nandom is characterized by one rainy season with an annual rainfall of about 750 to 1050mm. The rainy season starts around May through to October and the dry season from November to April. The climatic conditions and vegetation types are classified under dry savanna, the area's

environmental conditions are highly influenced by its proximity to the Sahara desert which account for the poor soil type and dry weather condition.

The economic activity which is predominant in the region is Agriculture; it employs about eighty percent of the population in the region. With one main farming season, and as agriculture in Ghana largely depends on rainfall patterns, the area relies on the rains for cultivation. The main crops grown in the region on subsistence bases include maize, millet, cowpeas, groundnut, sorghum, cassava, rice and yam are. The people mostly use labour intensive methods of farming with simple farm tools and implements.

Nandom or the Upper West Region as a whole has been behind its southern peers in terms of development for far too long. It is also viewed deprived with limited natural resources to fuel its development process. The south can boast of coastal resource, good soil, with rich mineral and forest resources that account for the attractiveness to colonial masters and investors now. Therefore developments in modern infrastructure and economic activities have been centrally focused in the south which may be attributed to the frequent out migration there.

The destination area (Accra) is the nation's capital which is a cosmopolitan city. The city dwellers are made up of indigenes (Gas) and foreigners made up of Ghanaians from other regions and foreign nationals.

Recent trend of out migration involves more of younger females unlike in the past which was been dominated by independent males migrants. The female numbers from the north have been increasing dramatically and this has taken centre stage of recent research in internal migration. Both males and females move to the cities, mostly without any special skills and work in menial jobs as head porters, and some of the males use trucks in their work (Hashim, 2007).

**Figure 3.1 A map of Ghana showing the study areas**



Source: maps of world. Com

### 3.3 The Research Approach

The main purpose of the study was to identify the factors at origin and destination areas that account for the decision of the Dagaaba agricultural labour to migrate and also to find out how labour migration has affected the lives and development of the people at the place of origin. To achieve this, the study used mixed-methods approach which combines quantitative and

qualitative methods (Tashakkori and Teddlie 1998). According to Greene et al. (1989), one of the purposes or rationales for conducting mixed method research is expansion. That is seeking to expand the breath and range of research by using different methods for different enquiry components. Broadening the scope of the study also involves the inclusion of more participants.

### **3.3.1 The Mixed Methodology**

Over the years several scholars have debated the essence of combining qualitative and quantitative approaches in a single research study. According to Johnson and Onwuegbuzie (2004), cited by Dalinpuo (2013) for more than a century, the advocates of quantitative and qualitative research paradigms have engaged in ardent dispute. While some researchers argue for the enormous benefit to be derived by combining the two paradigms, some also are of the view that the two are not compatible and cannot be combined. In recent times, the argument for mixed methods research (the combined use of quantitative and qualitative methods in a single study) has become an increasingly popular approach in the fields of sociology, psychology, education and health sciences.

According to Johnson and Onwuegbuzie (2004), cited by Harwell (2011), mixed methods research is an attempt to legitimate the use of multiple approaches in answering research questions, rather than restricting or constraining researchers' choices (that is, it rejects dogmatism). It is an expansive and creative form of research, not a limiting form of research. It is inclusive, pluralistic, and complementary, and it suggests that researchers take an eclectic approach to method selection and the thinking about and conduct of research. With the mixed methods approach to research, researchers incorporate methods of collecting or analyzing data from the quantitative and qualitative research approaches in a single research study (Creswell,

2003; Johnson & Onwuegbuzie). In other words, researchers collect or analyze not only numerical data, which is customary for quantitative research, but also narrative data, which is the norm for qualitative research in order to address the research question(s) defined for a particular research study.

Creswell (2006) has made strong arguments for mixed methods research that offset the weaknesses of both quantitative and qualitative research as follows; that mixed methods research provides more comprehensive evidence for studying a research problem than either quantitative or qualitative research alone. Researchers are given permission to use all of the tools of data collection available rather than being restricted to the types of data collection typically associated with qualitative research or quantitative research. Mixed methods research helps answer questions that cannot be answered by qualitative or quantitative approaches alone. The choice of mixed method for the present study was based on its advantages over the use of only one method. It facilitates comparison of the quantitative and qualitative data set to produce validated conclusions.

### **3.4 Identifying Participants**

A number of sampling techniques were employed to sample out the research participants. One of such techniques was the convenience sampling. This included the selection of communities that are close for easy transportation and accessibility. In this convenience sampling approach, members of the population were chosen based on their relative ease of access. Purposive sampling technique was also used to sample out only return migrants for the study. Purposive sampling also known as judgmental sampling allows the researcher to exercise his/her own judgment to select population members whom the researcher considers can give the desired and

accurate information Dalinpuo, (2013). Purposive sampling is considered as the most important kind of non-probability sampling that can help the researcher identify the primary participants. In order to get those with experience relating to the phenomenon to be researched, a purposive sampling method was adopted to gain access to the respondents.

Locating the respondents for the study therefore was not difficult because of the following reasons: the researcher speaks the native language and means of transport to move from community to community was easy as a motorbike was provided to move around and with the help of research assistants.

### **3.5 The Study population**

Issues of migration have become a matter of concern to researchers, governments, policy makers among others in recent times. Historically in Ghana the most common inter-regional migration is the north-south migration, where people migrate from the north to the south for employment in the mines, and agricultural sector mainly and also for all kinds of jobs in the informal sector especially in recent times. Accra happens to be the major destination of these migrants. Therefore the entire population of the Nandom Traditional Area which is a major source of north-south migration was targeted for the study. Brutu, Nabugangn, Konyugangn, Tome, Danko, and Ketuo were selected communities in the Nandom Traditional Area while Maamobi, Nima, Madina, and La were the suburbs of Accra selected. However, for the purpose of field work, some communities in Nandom District were identified for the study. As indicated earlier, the choice of these communities was basically related to the sending and receiving sources of migrants.

### **3.6 Sources of Data**

The study used both primary and secondary sources to collect the data about relation between labour mobility, and development among the Dagaaba in the Nandom Traditional Area. Since there was a wide range of literature on the Dagaaba north-south migration and inadequate academic journals on their contribution to development, it was necessary to conduct field work and gather primary data. These sources were used to support and substantiate migration and development among the Dagaaba in Nandom.

#### **3.6.1 Primary Source of Data Collection**

The distinction between primary and secondary sources of data collection can sometimes be ambiguous. An individual document may be a primary source in one context and a secondary source in another context. Time is the defining element, for example, a recent newspaper article is not usually a primary source, but a newspaper article from the past, for example, in the 1860's may be a primary source for civil war research.

Primary data is data which is collected by the researchers themselves. This kind of data is new, original research information. Primary sources enable the researcher to get as close as possible to what actually happened. A primary source reflects the individual viewpoint of a participant or observer. For the present study, primary data was collected through the use of questionnaires and in-depth interviews. This source enabled the researcher to collect original information and also to be able to cross check and compare with the secondary sources.

### **3.6.2 Secondary Sources of Data Collection**

Secondary data is using information that has already been produced by other people. Secondary sources are usually reviewed in order to analyse, interpret and define the research problem. Finding out about research that has already been conducted helps to form new research questions. The secondary sources for the present study include publications of the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS), books and magazines on migration, the Internet search on migration, newspaper publications as well as unpublished materials.

### **3.7 Data Collection Method**

The research questions and objectives of the study show that the nature of the data needed and for the analysis required a combination of the methods of both quantitative and qualitative approaches. This is because some of the data were quantitative in nature and could best be obtained through questionnaires while other data were qualitative and also could be obtained through the means of interviews. The study, therefore, employed interviews and questionnaires, complementing the strengths of the two methods to improve the quality of the data.

#### **3.7.1 Instruments**

In each study area, the researcher administered questionnaires that were made up of both closed and opened-ended questions to 60 respondents which consisted of 20 migrants in Accra and 40 returned migrants in the Nandom Traditional Area respectively. The questionnaires have 4 sections:

Section One is on Socio-Demographic profile, Section Two: the Migration Process and experience, Section Three: Economic Reintegration, and Section Four: Social Reintegration of return migrants.

In-depth interview was employed to get data from respondents. It is a useful way of collecting qualitative data because the technique is 'introspective' and allows respondents to report on themselves, their views, beliefs, practices, interactions and concerns Dalinpuo, ( 2013). With interviews, many people are willing to respond than when they have to fill out questionnaires. The advantages of interviews are that; personal contact with participants might elicit richer and more detailed responses. It provides excellent opportunity to probe and explore questions, and finally, participants do not need to be able to read and write their responses.

### **3.7.2 Interviews**

In examining the relation between labour mobility, and development among the Dagaaba in the Nandom traditional area, in-depth interviews were held with some return migrants in the Nandom traditional area. The in-depth interviews were generally unstructured and depending on the responses, probing questions were asked for clarification or to solicit further information.

During the interviews, the researcher sought the consent of participants to audio-record the proceedings as they responded to the questions for transcription. This, the researcher explained would save time and the recordings would be used for academic purposes only.

### **3.8 Data Analysis**

During the field work, the questionnaires administered were structured and therefore needed direct recording, interviews on the other hand were audio-recorded and notes were also taken.

After each field visit, reports were written down based on the field notes and the transcription of the recordings. These were later compiled together as the research report. According to Panneerselvam (2004), after data is collected, proper tools and techniques should be used for classification and analysis of the data. The researcher therefore used descriptive and inferential tools and techniques to analyze and present the data. The analysis and interpretation of the data aimed at making reading simple by reducing complex human beings to a few identifying words on a page. Based on the findings, the data were interpreted and discussed in relation to the objective of the study.

Data was analysed using the Statistical Product and Service Solutions (SPSS) and Excel. The choice of these packages was due to their suitability as tools for social scientists. In the analysis, percentages, frequencies, charts and graphs were drawn from the descriptive values. The results from the SPSS were used to present the demographic characteristics of respondents. Basically, data analysis involved the use of descriptive tools to summarise and present statistical information to support quantitative data collected

### **3.9 Ethical Consideration**

In considering ethics of data collection in social sciences, the researcher chose the path of renowned researchers such as Christians, (2000) cited in Gallagher (2005) who gave four guidelines or principles for abjuring to ethics when doing research.

1. “Informed consent”; where subjects must agree voluntarily to participate and the agreement must be based on full and open information

2. “Deception”; which is about deliberate misrepresentation during the research process
3. “Privacy and confidentiality”; to safeguard participants’ against unwanted exposure and be made public only behind a shield of anonymity and consequently no one deserves harm or embarrassment as a result of insensitive research practices.
4. “Accuracy”; where information so gathered is reported accurately and not misreported.

All these steps were taken into consideration during the data collection process. Consent of the migrants and return migrants was sought. They were informed about the purpose of the research, the design and tools were all explained to their understanding and their right to participate and not to participate in the research. Consent was sought for audio-recording of some of the responses and overall, the information that was collected was meant for the purpose of academic work only. They were therefore assured of their anonymity and confidentiality in the research. The consent letter read and explained to participants can be seen in the Appendix.

### **3.10 Challenges/Limitations during Data Collection**

There were a number of challenges faced during the field work.

One significant problem that was encountered was the difficulty of getting participants for the study. The research was conducted at the time which coincided with the farming season of the Dagaabas and participants were busy on their farms and did not have time for the interviews. However, interviews were scheduled in the evenings and sometimes in the night just to get participants to be able to respond as they would have returned from their farms.

In Accra, for example, respondents did not have the time as they were also engaged in their work and so the researcher had to chase and follow them on several occasions to get the questionnaires filled.

Due to the limited time frame for the data collection, and the fact that the respondents' locations are far apart, Nandom and Accra, only the minimum number of interviews required for analysis was conducted. 54 returned migrants in Nandom and 14 migrants in Accra were interviewed.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF DAGAABA MIGRANTS

#### 4.1 Introduction

This chapter is on the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents. It covers their sex, age, religion, level of education and occupation. These are important for the study because they are variables that explain the migration process and the contribution of Dagaaba migrants to the development of the area.

#### 4.2 Age of Respondents

All the respondents in the study were heads of households or their spouses and their sons and daughters. All the participants were from the Nandom district of the Upper West region and spoke “*Dagaare*” language. Some of the respondents at the place of destination (Accra) were either second generation or third generation migrants.

The age of the household heads who participated in the study at the place of origin ranged between 40 and 70yrs. Among the 54 people interviewed, majorities (72%) were 40 years and above. (9%) were aged between 20 and 29 years, and (19%) were between the ages of 30-39.

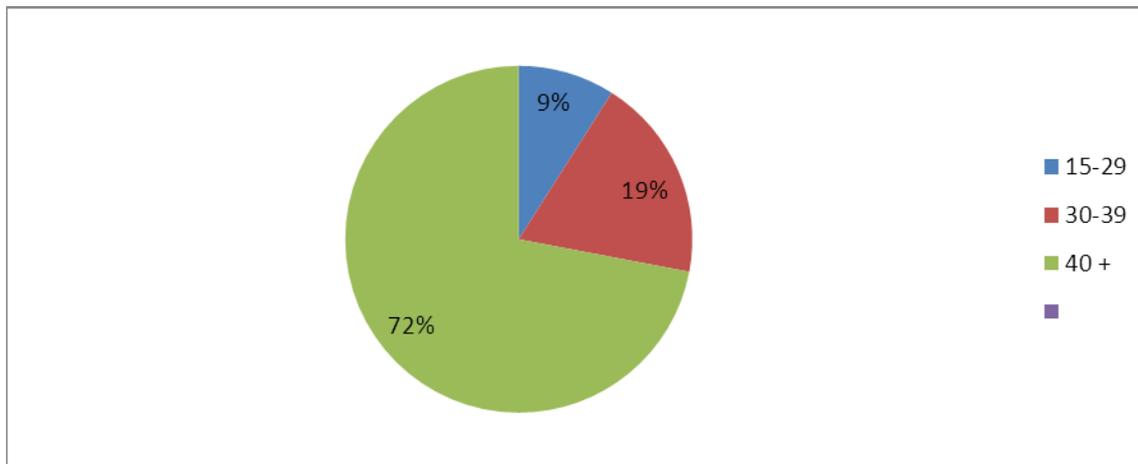
**Table 4.1 Age of distribution of returned and current migrants**

AGE	Returned		Current	
	Number	percentage	Number	percentage
20-29	5	9	2	14.3
30-39	10	19	5	35.7
40+	39	72	7	50
TOTAL	54	100	14	100

Source: Field work June (2013)

In all 54 people responded to the interview. 5 people representing 9% were between the ages of 20-29 and 10 people representing 19% were between the ages of 30-39, while respondents who were 40 years and above were 39 representing 72%.

**Figure 4.1 Age Distribution of returned and current migrants**



Source: Field survey data (2013)

#### **4.1.2 Sex of Returned and Current Migrants**

Sex is an important variable when it comes to migration studies, especially labour migration. Migration can be sex selective. In the present study, attempt was made to include both sexes even though anecdotal information indicates that more males than females have been migrating from the Nandom Traditional Area

The data collected revealed that male respondents (33) constituted the majority representing 61% while females were 21 representing 39%. Basically, the labour migrants from the Nandom traditional area are farmers who migrate to farming communities in the Brong Ahafo region to labour for money. This is an exercise for males and not for females and that accounted for the large percentage of those interviewed. It is also an indication that more males migrate than women, migrate from this area. According to Kees van der Geest (2011), the migration trend has

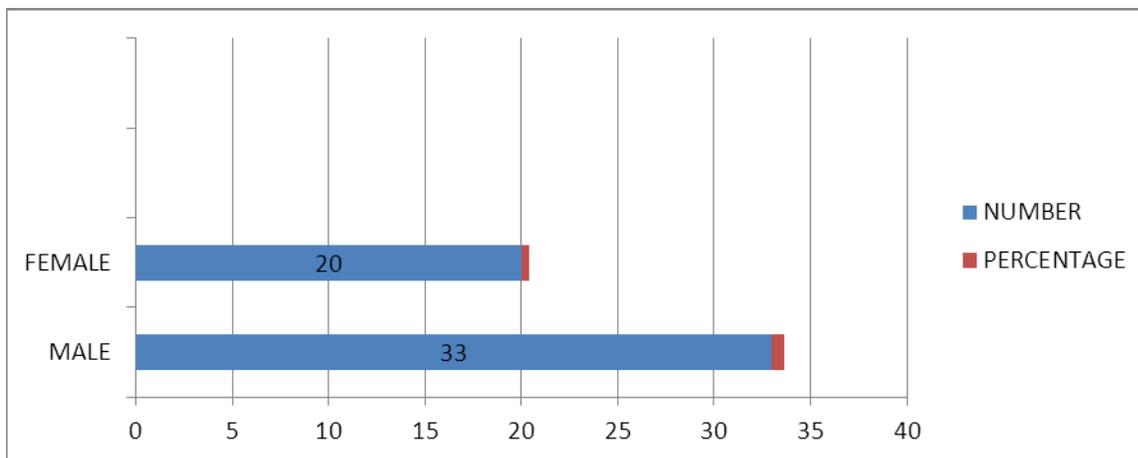
changed and is still changing as more females are also migrating now. The proportion of (38%) of female returned migrants in the study population at the distribution is a significant sign of change.

**Table 4.2 Sex distribution of returned and current migrants**

Sex	Returned		Current	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Male	33	61	9	64
Female	21	39	5	36
Total	54	100	14	100

Source: Field survey data (2013)

**Figure 4.2 Distribution of sex of the respondents at place of origin**



Source: Field Survey data (2013)

#### 4.1.3 Level of Education of Respondents

The educational characteristics of respondents of both returned migrants and migrants at destination were sought and the following tables present the results.

**Table 4.3 level of education of Returned and Current migrants**

Level of education	Returned		Current	
	Number	percentage	Number	percentage
No Education	12	30.8	0	0
Primary	9	23	0	0
JHS/Middle school	16	41	1	7.1
Tech/Voc/Commercial	1	2.5	2	14.2
SHS/O' Level	1	2.5	0	0
Post Sec/Poly/Agric/Nursing	0	0	3	21.4
Undergraduate	0	0	3	21.4
Postgraduate	0	0	5	35.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: field survey data (2013)**

The majority of the returned migrants from the Nandom traditional area have little or no education. This finding is not surprising as majority of these people are peasant farmers and seasonal migrants. As high as 30.8% of the people interviewed never went to school at the destination, while 41% attained middle school or JHS level.

On the other hand, a high percentage (88%) of migrants at the place of destination (Accra) have post-secondary and above.

#### **4.1.4 Marital Status**

Marriage is an important determinant of adulthood and independence. At the place of origin, close to 6 out of every 10 (57.5%) were married. Almost a quarter (25%) was formerly married (divorced, separated, and widowed).

**Table 4.4: Marital status of Returned and Current Migrants**

MARITAL STATUS	Returned		Current	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Single	4	10	2	14
Married	23	57.5	9	64
Consensual	0	0	2	14
Divorced	3	7.5	0	0
Separated	5	12.5	0	0
Widowed	2	5	1	8
No response	3	7.5	0	0
TOTAL	40	100	14	100

**Source: Field survey data (2013)**

At the place of destination, (78%) majority were in marital union, married (64); or living in consensual union.

Marriage is a very important component of the family system in Nandom. However, most family units in Nandom have only one wife because polygyny is not widely practiced in the villages. As a result women often have the right to live in their father's, brother's or mother's house. These facts combine to deprive them of any incentive to tolerate the presence of co-wives in their residential group. Polygyny is less prevalent now in the Ghanaian society because of inroads into Christianity and also because many men cannot afford to pay more than one bride price (Dugbazah, 2007).

#### **4.1.5 Religion**

Religion plays a major role in the lives of Ghanaians, and constitutes a very important part of rural life in Nandom. The findings of the study show that people from the six villages at the place of origin and also at the destination area are mainly affiliated to the Christian religion.

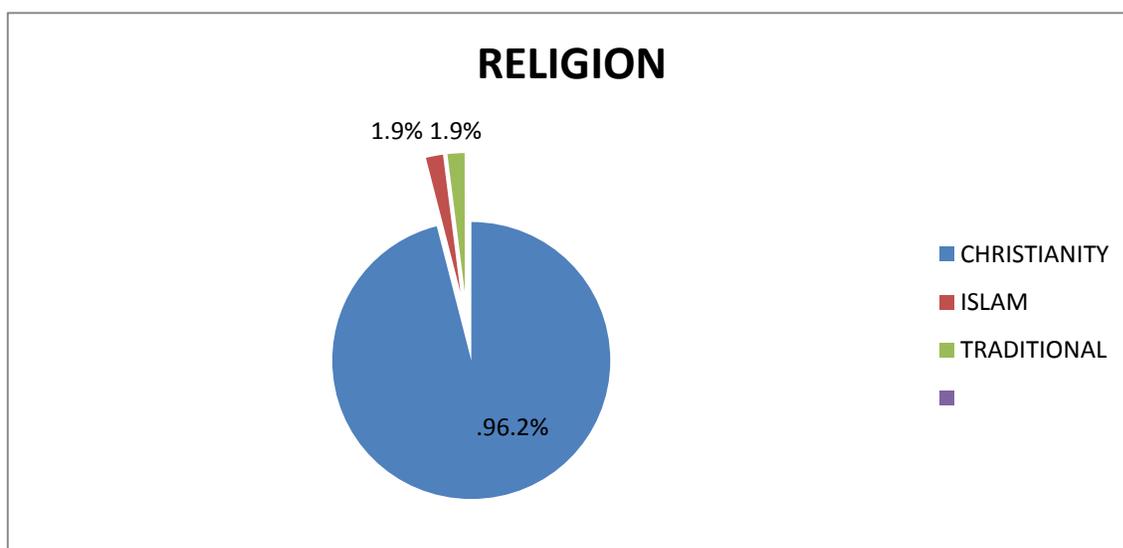
Christianity is the most practiced religion across the two areas. A small percentage of the population in the villages also practices African traditional religion and Islam. Among the households surveyed at the place of origin, 52 of respondents are Catholics representing (96.2%) and 1 person practices traditional religion and also one other participant Moslem. Further discussions with participants revealed that there are other villagers who practice traditional religion sometimes simultaneously with Christianity. However, this is not acceptable and a church member can be punished or banned from taking communion if it becomes public knowledge that he/she practices traditional religion simultaneously with Christianity.

**Table 4.5 Religious Affiliation of Respondents at origin**

RELIGION	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Christianity	52	96.2
Islam	1	1.9
Traditional religion	1	1.9
TOTAL	54	100

Source: Field Survey data (2013)

**Figure 4.5 Religious affiliations at origin**



Source: Field Survey data (2013)

#### **4.2 Main Occupation of Respondents at Place of Origin**

In agricultural communities, relations within the family and in the rural community dominate the social life. Hence resources such as land, labour and capital tend to be mobilized within these communal units. The stability and success of the rural household, therefore, rests largely on its ability to organize agricultural resources and provide for its members, since social status is determined by success in farming (Kaufert, 1976 cited in Dugbazah, 2007). As indicated earlier in the study, Nandom is a predominantly agricultural area, with farming being the major occupation in the villages.

Majority of the research participants indicated that agriculture was the primary source of their livelihood. Most of the households surveyed undertake farming mostly on smallholdings; with the farms ranging from small gardens to medium subsistent types and relatively large farms. Farming comprises the cultivation of food staples such as corn, yam, millet, rice and beans, as well as vegetables such as pepper, okra and garden eggs.

Another agricultural activity is livestock rearing, which involves animals such as sheep, goats, fowls, guinea fowls, cattle, and pigs. The data revealed that about 90 % of the respondents at the place of origin kept these animals mentioned. These are generally kept under varying free-range or confined conditions. There is also very limited small-scale industrial activity including weaving.

Although land exists in relative abundance in Nandom, the villagers are unable to farm large portions due to the lack of capital. There is also illiteracy, lack of social amenities, lack of alternative employment opportunities and lack of access to inputs as well as high costs of inputs (for example credit, fertilizer, land labour) among others. As a result of the above factors,

income from agriculture, which is the primary occupation, tends to be inadequate in meeting the needs of the Nandom communities. Due to this inadequacy, most households are compelled to engage in secondary occupations, which are a combination of farm and non-farm activities.

**Table 4.6 Occupation at place of origin**

<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Before migration (Number)</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>At destination ( Number)</b>	<b>percentage</b>	<b>After return (number)</b>	<b>percentage</b>
Agriculture	21	50	14	33.3	19	45.2
Education	6	14.2	7	16.6	2	4.7
Construction	1	2.3	5	11.9	4	9.5
Transport, storage, & communication	1	2.3	5	11.9	1	2.3
Trade (whole sale & retail)	1	2.3	4	9.5	2	4.7
Unemployment	6	14.2	0	0	6	14.2
Others	6	14.2	7	16.6	8	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Field survey data (2013)**

**Table 4.7 Main Occupation of respondents at destination (Accra)**

<b>Occupation Before migration</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Occupation at destination</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Agriculture	0	0	0	0
Education	9	64.2	5	35.7
Construction	1	7.1	1	7.1
Transport, Storage & communication	2	14.2	2	14.2
Unemployed	1	7.1	0	0
Others	1	7.1	6	42.8
Total	14	100	14	100

**Source: Field Survey, (2013)**

### **4.3 Conclusion**

The chapter provided an analysis and understanding of the material gathered from the field survey and interviews. The chapter discussed the characteristics of Dagaaba labour migrants, both return and those still at the place of destination. It was discovered that Dagaaba labour migrants are willing to return to their place of origin after some point in time.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

#### 5.1 Decision Making Issues

In Ghana, migration results from a complex set of implicit and explicit negotiations that occur within the household. More often than not, the decision to migrate is made on rational justifications so that a household can maximize the expected gains (Anarfi et al., 2003) cited in Dugbazah,( 2007).

The study shows that in Nandom the decision to migrate is not only made by family members but also by individuals acting on their own. The data indicated that other people also played a role in their decision to migrate such as former school mates, friends, migrants at place of destination among others. Household usually invest in an individual through education who has the greatest potential to support the household in terms of remittances ( Dugbazah, 2007). For these household migration is not just about an individual choice of physical relocation, it is often a decision about who stays at home farming and who migrates to earn wages. Adepoju (1995: 47, cited in Dugbazah, 2007), describes this decision-making process as follows:

*“In maximizing household resource allocation and utilization, senior members of the family decide who should migrate just in the same way they decide what piece of land should be cultivated, and who should be sent to school.”*

Out of 40 return migrants, (62.5%) indicated that the family was part of the decision making to migrate and (37.5%) answered in the negative. Eighteen (45%) received support from the family to travel, (27.5%) received support from friends, (7.5%) received support from migrants at the place of destination and (20%) did not receive support from anybody. Refer to table 5.1

Networks play a critical role in determining migration patterns. They tend to increase the likelihood of migration (Gottlieb, 1987, Winters et al., 2001) and tend to attract potential migrants to the same geographical area or destination of migrants. (Bartel, 1989, Dunlevy, 1991)

Migrants' networks can facilitate migration in different ways: through provision of information on the migration process; destination areas and jobs and assistance with integration after arrival.

Networks can also finance the cost of migration of new migrants from the origin.

Friends and family network of previous migrants encourage migration (Gottlieb, 1987, Grossman, 1999). Community networks, former school mates and migrants at destination among others also encourage migration.

Nandom has witnessed generations of migrants. It should be expected that a choice of migration has gone on over the years. Migration has therefore, been a norm for the young people

**Table 5.1 Type of support received by migrants before migration**

Type of support	Percentage
Family	45
Friends	27.5
Migrants at destination	7.5
Nobody	20
Former sch. Mates	0
Others	0
Total	100

**Source: field work, June (2013)**

Among the help received out of 36 return migrants, (52.7%) received financial support, (44.4%) mentioned prayers and others (2.7%).

Though (80%) had jobs at the place of destination, (17.5%) said it was very easy getting a job (15%) said getting a job was easy, (20%) said somehow easy, (22%) said it was difficult getting a job and lastly, (25%) said it was very difficult getting a job. It was also found out from the study that about (95%) of migrants at the place of destination are willing to return to their place of origin after retirement; as one respondent put it “home sweet home”. Refer to table 5.2

**Table 5.2 Job Accessibility at Destination**

Job accessibility	Percentage
Very easy	17.5
Easy	15
Somehow easy	20
Difficult	22.5
Very difficult	25
Total	100

**Source: Field work, June (2013)**

## 5.2 Factors Associated with Labour Migration

As noted earlier, the causes of migration are usually explained by using two broad categories, namely, push and pull factors respectively at the origin and destination. For example, people of a certain area may be pushed off by poverty to move towards a town for employment, while a better employment or higher education opportunities may pull people to avail themselves of these opportunities. People’s decision to migrate from one place to another therefore, may be influenced by both economic and non-economic factors within the household (Todaro, 1969).

### 5.3 The Push and Pull Factors:

The following factors were mentioned by various proportions of the respondents at the origin as associated with the origin. Youth unemployment, (37.3%) poverty, (43.1%) unavailable social amenities (4%) and the need to get money for marriage and settle down (10.4%) and others (5.2%) as some of the push factor which compelled them to migrate mainly to the southern part of Ghana. Dery, a 43 year old farmer from Konyugangn gives a vivid picture of the situation:

*“By the end of the farming season what do you expect us to be doing until another farming season comes? We can’t sell the little rice or corn we get to put money in our pockets. I can’t sell all my fowls to give chop money to my wife and also be drinking pito on credit. I have to find some work in the south. You know there is always job availability over there even if it is not plenty”* (Dery, a 43 year old farmer from Konyugangn)

From the discussion , many of the respondents preferred to travel to the south at the end of the rainy season to find job and earn a living instead of staying back home and be having problems with their spouses. Beyuo, a 45 year old farmer from Tom, said this during the one of the group discussions:

*“I needed a new bicycle and money to dowry my wife. My father is dead and my uncles have sold all the cattle in the house. My uncles told me that I know the family situation; there is no money to support me dowry my wife. All the young boys here go to “jong” literally meaning (“farm land in the south”) and find money to marry and settle down. I there left for Wenchi and farmed there for two years before returning home. Now I’m happily married and have two kids”.* ( Beyuo, a 45 year old farmer from Tom)

### 5.4 Contributions of Migrants to Development

Community development has been attributed to migrants’ contribution according to anecdotal information. However, in Ghana, migrants’ contribution to development has been limited to

international migration. Both policy and research have concentrated mainly on international migration. There has been a large literature on the benefits from international labour migrants such as doctors, teachers, and other professionals to the development of their homelands. Against this backdrop, the present study seeks to examine the contribution of Dagaaba internal migrants to the development of Nandom. Their contributions were categorized into economic and non-economic contributions.

#### **5.4.1 Economic Contributions of migrants to development.**

#### **5.4.2 Remittances**

The present study found out that, (90%) of the respondents (both returned and migrants in Accra) have been sending remittances back home. They have been designated for the following uses: to pay school fees, (33.1%) entertainment (12%) buying bicycles (32.5%) building houses, (15%) and others (7.4%). Some community members added that migrants invest in individuals or family by putting up buildings, and thus provide employment for community members, and also enhance the status or image of the villages. One household head sums it up:

*“Do you see this family house? It was built by my father some years back. During that time he used mud bricks and plastered it with cow dawn. But now with the rains the foundation began to erode and one section has given way. Thank God this happened when we had all gone to the farm and nobody for that matter got hurt. My eldest son in Accra, who works in one of the ministries, took a loan and has helped to build the house you see adjacent, with cement and solid foundation. We employed Iddrisu, the mason, in the village, and Eric the carpenter from Ko who brought their apprentices and they worked in restoring the house. Can you see the difference my son? Really beautiful isn't it? “Naagmwin barka”. (God, thank you) Now we can sleep without fear of the building collapsing on us. Now people respect us in the village because we have a cement house”.*

*(Tuo, 46 years, from Nabugangn)*

A second generation migrant interviewed at Nima indicated that he contributes yearly (about one thousand Ghana cedi's) in paying the school fees of some of his relatives back home. A large percentage of the interviewees (75%) said that, the asset acquired at their destinations helped their integration (65%) of them assessed themselves to be better off after migration. Out of the 40 returned migrants (82.5%) almost two thirds said they maintained link with family and friends when they were migrants at their various destinations.

Remittances help to expand businesses in agricultural products and construction materials in Nandom. Remittances usually constitute small payments sent by individual migrants to their relatives.

Since remittances are person-to-person flows, they are well targeted to meet the needs of the recipient (World Bank 2004) and they have the ability to lift people out of poverty.

Some of the remittances are spent on consumption goods such as food, clothing and health care. Money is also spent on improving housing and buying durable consumer goods, but generally only a small part is spent on investing in productive uses.

**Figure 5.1 subsistence farming in Nandom**



**Source: Field work June (2013)**

Farmers like Naab in figure 5.1 engage in food crop production. They are however poor because their produce is mainly for family consumption. The land is becoming scarce as population increases in the area. Modern technology for farming has not been introduced to any extent. SADA is government response to this situation.

#### **5.4.3 Non-Economic Contribution**

Skills acquisition at the place of destination is an important contribution by returned migrants in Nandom. Remittances helped generate savings, the major source of capital in the absence of institutional credit on easy terms

Some (65.3%) of the return migrants in Nandom, acquired varieties of skills at the place of destination which have contributed to the development of the area. They mentioned skills in building, carpentry, cooking, weaving and more importantly the act of saving part of their earnings at the Nandom Rural Bank. Some (56%) also mentioned investment in modern agriculture to increase yield. Out of 41 respondents, 13 representing (31.7%) now use animal

traction, 10 representing (24.4%) use tractor services, and 18 of them representing (43.9%) continue to use the traditional hoe and cutlass. Majority of the respondents admitted that migration has resulted in increased agricultural productivity.

However, for a rural farming community like Nandom, the consequence of labour migration depends on the socio-cultural and economic context, age of migrant, position of migrant within the household, the agro-ecological environment, the type of migratory movement, whether it is temporary or permanent, and the employment possibilities and the ability to send adequate remittances to maintain or improve the level of farming prior to migration (Andersson, 2002:78-79).

#### **5.4 The Agricultural Sector Problems**

**Irrigation:** the lack of irrigation in Nandom especially during the dry season is a factor which drives the youth to the south in search of wage work. This is because after the farming season, majority of the people remained idle. Dry season farming through irrigation can encourage the youth to remain at home and work.

**Credit and capital:** Another problem associated with the agricultural sector in Nandom is the problem of credit and capital. The people find it difficult to get money and invest in their farming activity. Some of them intend to use the services of tractors and purchase fertilizers to increase yield but the lack of credit and capital makes it difficult if not impossible. The departure of the youth in search of wage work in the southern parts of Ghana reduces the labour force in Nandom as some of them remained for longer periods at the destination before returning. Some even leave their wife/wives and children behind. Bataar (2005) indicated that, malnutrition in Nandom partly due to absence of fathers who could produce food to their children or the family at large.

However, migration to other areas, especially in the cities without skills or personal development can post a danger to the migrants themselves.

### **5.5 General Observation in the Nandom Traditional Area.**

There is a general transformation in terms of development in Nandom. Many bricks and mud houses have been replaced with blocks and cemented ones and much of this development is due to remittances from migration. This was corroborated by Tuo, a 46 year man, from Nabugangn in (5.4.2).

The problem of drought and famine in Nandom associated with its proximity to the Sahara desert is alleviated as migrants at the place of destination buy food for households.

Educational facilities have been improved in Nandom by Government supported by Dagaaba migrants. Brilliant but needy students are assisted with funds by some associations of Dagaaba migrants.

### **5.6 Conclusion**

The main findings presented in this chapter are that Dagaaba labour migrants migrate due to economic and non-economic factors, thus supporting the view of Todaro (1969), who said people's decision to migrate from one place to another, may be influenced by both economic and non-economic factors within the household. The economic factors include extreme poverty, lack of jobs for the teaming youth, the need for money to pay bride prize and preparation towards marriage, among others. The non-economic factors include the search for better social facilities such as education, health just to mention but a few.

The findings also show that many returned migrants investment their earnings before returning home and even those migrants at their place of destination currently continue to contribute towards the development of their place of origin. The chapter also attempted to examine the decision making process of the migrants. The finding support Anarfi et al., 2003, which found that, more often than not, the decision to migrate is made on rational justifications so that a household can maximize expected gains.

## **CHAPTER SIX**

### **SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **6.1 Introduction**

This chapter summarized the main findings of the study and provided conclusions on the relationship between migration and development in the Nandom Traditional Area. It also made some policy recommendations.

#### **6.2 Summary of the Main Findings.**

The research looked at factors that accounted for the Dagaaba labour migration. The study identified poverty, lack of jobs for the teeming youth, the need for money to pay bride price as well as preparation towards marriage, among others, as factors that accounted for migration from the Nandom Traditional Area. The study further recorded lack of social amenities, fear of witchcraft and survival strategy as some of the non-economic factors which compelled Dagaaba to migrate in the area.

Oxfeld and Long (2004) have noted that, migration is no longer a one way process, where migrants go to their destination areas without returning. Rather most of them harbour and cherish the desire to return. The study revealed that many of the Dagaaba migrants from Nandom returned after acquiring some capital to settle back home. Both the return migrants and current migrants at destination have contributed significantly to the development of Nandom. They contributed money to pay school fees of their relatives, put up entertainment centres including (pito bars and beer bars), built better and solid houses which can stand the test of time. They also

acquired varieties of skills in agriculture, construction, weaving among others, which have contributed immensely to the development of the area. The study gathered that agricultural productivity has increased as some farmers now use animal traction and tractor services to complement the traditional hoe and cutlass and more so can afford to buy fertilizers. This has gone a long way to improve the rural livelihood of the people in Nandom.

### **6.3 Conclusion**

The finding revealed that poverty; lack of jobs and money for bride price and other basic needs are some of the economic factors which compelled Dagaaba labour migrants to migrate in search of wage work. The study further revealed that migrants and returned migrants have contributed to the development of Nandom.

### **6.4 Recommendations**

Based on the findings of the study, the following policy recommendations are made in line with the economic and non-economic factors that induce migration;

#### **6.4.1 Job creation**

Government should ensure that adequate and appropriate jobs are created in the area to discourage the youth especially the abled-bodied ones from migrating to the south. It has been observed that many people from the study area migrate due to lack of jobs and the objective of both the skilled and unskilled basically is to look for jobs in the south. Government should continue to support the National Youth Employment Programme (NYEP) now Ghana Youth Employment, and Entrepreneurial Development Authority (GYEEDA) to provide more jobs in order to reduce the migration of the youth.

#### **6.4.2 Poverty reduction strategies (SADA)**

The SADA initiative as a strategy for reducing poverty in the three northern regions should be encouraged and more funds made available for the programme to succeed. The success of this programme will tackle the development gap and reduce the number of migrants especially to the south.

#### **6.4.3 Improved Agriculture**

Agriculture is the main economic activity of the people of Nandom and indeed the entire three northern regions. However, agricultural activities especially crop farming is entirely depended on rain fall. The rainy season and for that matter farming season last barely 4 months and the whole of the year is an idled period and so the youth will migrate to the farming areas in the south to engage themselves in farm labour in order to earn extra income for the family. Government should provide irrigation facilities in these areas such that potential migrants will be engaged in dry season farming and gardening to equally earn income to supplement the household livelihood. The study area is a potential area for irrigation especially the Kaabaa river which has been on government drawing board for irrigation development for some time now. If government is committed to this and actually develops irrigation along the Kaabaa river, it has the potential of engaging more than 10,000 people during the dry season and this will curb migration to the south from Nandom.

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### **Letter of Consent**

My name is Zamekuu Peter Claver, a masters student of the University of Ghana, Legon, carrying out a study on Migration and Development among the Dagaaba (Dagara) in the Nandom traditional area as part of my thesis research. The ultimate goal is to find out the causes of labour migration in this area and also examine the contribution of labour migrants to the development of the District. I would be grateful if you could grant me an interview on this important topic. I will like to ask for your consent to have the interview audio-recorded and some photographs taken purposely for this academic work. Transcriptions and photographs taken from the interviews will be made available to interviewee for verification. You are free to respond or not to respond to the interview. I would like to assure you that the information you will provide in this interview will be treated as confidential and anonymous and will be used purposely for the research and nothing else.

Please consider the information carefully. Feel free to ask questions before making your decision whether or not to participate. If you decide to participate, you will be asked to sign this form and will receive a copy of the form.

#### **Signing the consent form**

I have read (or someone has read to me) this form and I am aware that I am being asked to participate in a research study. I have had the opportunity to ask questions and have had them answered to my satisfaction. I voluntarily agree to participate in this study.

I am not giving up any legal rights by signing this form. I will be given a copy of this form.

.....

.....

.....

*Name of Participant*

*Date*

*Signature*

.....

.....

.....

*Name Researcher*

*Date*

*Signature*

**INTERVIEW GUIDE (INSTRUMENT) FOR THE RESEARCH  
MIGRANTS AT PLACE OF DESTINATION (ACCRA)**

**UNIVERSITY OF GHANA, LEGON**

**CENTRE FOR MIGRATION STUDIES**

**QUESTIONNAIRE NO:-----**

**IDENTIFICATION**

REGION:.....

NAME OF LOCALITY .....

LOCATION OF INTERVIEW:.....

NAME OF INTERVIEWER:.....

SIGNATURE OF INTERVIEWER:.....

DATE OF INTERVIEW: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ START TIME: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ END TIME \_\_\_ \_\_\_

**SECTION 1: SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

101. What is your Age?

15-19  20-24  25-29  30-34  35-39  40+

102. Sex 1. Male  2. Female

103. What is your level of education?

1. No education  2. Primary  3. JHS /Middle school

4. Vocational/ Technical/ Commercial                       5. SHS/ 'O'Level
6. Post-Secondary/ Polytechnic/Agric/Nursing
7. Undergraduate     8. Post Graduate

104. What is your marital status?

1. Never married  2. Married  3. Consensual/Living together/cohabitation
4. Divorced  5. Separated  6. Widowed  7. No response
- elsewhere

105. Religious affiliation

1. Catholic  2. Anglican  3. Presbyterian  4. Methodist
5. Charismatic/Pentecostal  6. Other Christian  7. Muslim  8. Traditional
9. Atheist     10. No religion

## SECTION 2: THE MIGRATION PROCESS AND EXPERIENCE

201. Why did you migrate to Accra? (Multiple responses)

1. To work     2. To save money and go to school
3. Peer pressure     4. "Everybody" here travels these days.
5. No land to farm     6. Lack of job
7. Because of ethnic conflict     8. For Adventure
9. Other (specify) .....

202. Whom did you migrate with? 1. Alone  2. With spouse

3. With spouse and children  4. With other members of the family

5. Other specify .....

203. Who else was involved in your migration decision? (Thick as many as applicable)

1. Family  2. Friends  3. Former school mates  4. Migrants at place of destination

5. Nobody  6. Other specify

.....

204. Was your family part of your migration decision?

Yes  No

205. Who supported you to travel at origin? (From Nandom to Accra)

1. Family  2. Friends

3. Former school mates  4. Migrants at place of destination

5. Nobody  6. Others

(specify).....

206. What help did they give you?

1. Financial  2. Prayers  3. Amulets  4. Ritual

5. Other specify .....

207. Do you have any relatives here (Accra)?

Yes  No

208. Do you belong to any home town association?

Yes  No

209. Do you belong to any religious group (church, mosque, etc) that helped your integration here in Accra?

Yes  No

210. Do you have a job here?

Yes  No

211. How easy was it getting a job ?

1. Very easy  2. Easy  3. Somehow easy  4. Difficult

Very difficulty

212. Do you depend on one job for survival?

1. Yes  2. No.

213. Before settling down in Accra which other places have you been?

.....

.....

214. Do you have plans to return?

Yes  No  Undecided

215. If yes

why.....  
.....  
.....

216. If no  
why?.....  
.....  
.....

**SECTION 3**

**ECONOMIC REINTEGRATION**

301. What was your main occupation before migration?

- 1. Agriculture
- 2. Education
- 3. Construction
- 4. Transport, storage, and communication
- 5. Whole sale and Retail Trade
- 6. Other Community Service
- 7. Unemployment
- 8. Other (specify).....

302. What is your main occupation here in Accra?

1. Same as before migration

2. If different from the one before migration, then, please specify:

.....

303. Are you able to invest in a family or farm land or in any other project at the place of origin?

Yes  No

If yes specify the kind of investment

.....

..

304. Do you remit back home? Yes  No

305. Does out-migration contribute to food security and livelihood back home?

1. Yes  2. No.

306. Does out-migration reduce the pressure on farm land back home?

1. Yes  No

307. What kind of support do you give to your family or community while at the place of destination (Accra)? (Multiple responses allowed)

1. Bicycle  2. Motorbike  3. Grinding mill  4. House  5. Tipper truck

6. Renting a store  7. Drinking spot  8. Church contribution

9. Donation to the community  10. Donation to home town association

11. Contribution to school fees

308. Do the assets or money sent back home help reduce poverty in your community?

1. Yes  2. No

309. How do you assess yourself now?

1. Better off before migration  2. Worst off before migration

3. No change before and after migration