

**PERCEPTIONS AND EXPERIENCES OF DORMAA AHENKRO
YOUTH ON MIGRATION TO WESTERN EUROPE THROUGH
THE SAHARA DESERT.**

BY

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**THIS DISSERTATION IS SUBMITTED TO THE UNIVERSITY
OF GHANA, LEGON IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF MA DEGREE IN
MIGRATION STUDIES.**

DECEMBER, 2013.

DECLARATION

I declare that this dissertation is my own work with the exception of references made to other authors which have been duly acknowledged. It has not been published elsewhere.

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DATE

DEDICATION

I dedicate the work to my daughter Rose Obeng.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The completion of this dissertation would not have been successful without the assistance of some institutions and individuals whom I owe gratitude. First, I am most grateful to the Almighty God for His favor and direction of my life during the programme. Secondly, to my supervisor, Dr Bossman E. Asare for his guidance and direction. I owe a debt of gratitude to the Center for Migration Studies, the course coordinator of the Center for Migration Studies, Dr. Delali Badasu and the entire staff of the Center for Migration Studies, University of Ghana.

Finally, I say thank you to all the respondents and my friends for your assistance.



ABSTRACT

The study determined the perceptions and experiences of Dormaa Ahenkro youth migrants on migration to Western Europe through the Sahara Desert. Specific objectives assessed centered on the reasons why Dormaa Ahenkro youth migrate to Western Europe through the Sahara Desert, the experiences Dormaa Ahenkro youth migrants go through on the Sahara Desert, the perceptions towards Dormaa Ahenkro youth migrants at their destinations and when they return. The challenges they encountered on the Sahara Desert en route to Western Europe were also investigated. A simple random sampling procedure was applied in the selection of respondents after the list of returnees was obtained from the Association of Returnees in Dormaa Ahenkro. Purposive sampling was applied in the selection key informants for in-depth interviews. Questionnaires were designed in sections according to the objectives for the quantitative aspect while key informant interview guide was designed for the key informants. Applying descriptive statistics with the use of tables, graphs, mean deviations and cross tabulations to display the data, findings showed that Dormaa Ahenkro youth faced horrific challenges such as dying of thirst, hunger and abuse by immigration authorities. They also faced some racial abuse and were perceived as criminals. However, they usually migrate mainly because of economic reasons. A number of recommendations were raised including the provision of employment opportunities, establishing bilateral agreements and improving border security.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

GIS:	Ghana Immigration Service
GSS:	Ghana Statistical Service
GDP:	Gross Domestic Product
ILO:	International Labour Organization
IOM:	International Organization for Migration
UN:	United Nations
UNODC:	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

In recent world of globalization, internationalisation and modernisation, migration has become a critical activity carried out across villages, towns, cities, countries and continents. It has almost become impossible to survive without some form of migration. Most people migrate against restrictions and laws imposed by countries thereby engaging in all forms of illegal migration. It is indicated that there were about 214 million international migrants in 2010 representing 3 percent of the world's population (United Nations, 2011).

There are different forms of migration classified according to the boundaries and distances of the journeys covered. Even though there are implications with regards to the large number of people engaged in migration, cross border migration and intraregional migrations remain the most common form, in spite of rural urban migration in many countries. It is estimated that, if the rate of migration would continue to increase at the same pace as in the previous 20 years, the number of people who migrate worldwide will be as high as 405 million in 2050 (International Organisation for Migration Report, [IOM] 2013).

This figure represents the world's number of people involved in migration. However, many of the migrants are not usually registered by the various foreign missions or do not visit their foreign missions in their areas of destination and so are not recorded. Also illegal immigrants consisting of those who migrate without the required

documents are not considered as well. This implies that the estimated number of migrants globally does not reflect a true and fair view.

Africa is one of the continents with huge incidence of migration, both within the continent and across the continent. It is indicated that 19.2 million Africans engaged in various forms of migration in 2010 representing 1.9% of the African population (IOM, 2013). This statistic does not include illegal migrants. Within the continent, there are different kinds of migration as well as their effects. In Ghana, it is indicated that there is at least one migrant in more than 43% of all household nationwide (Ackah and Medvedev, 2010). It is further indicated that between 4% and 20% of the Ghanaian population live outside Ghana, corresponding to about one million and four million people (World Bank, 2006; International Monetary Fund, 2005).

Ghanaians constitute one of the largest groups of immigrants from sub-Saharan Africa in Western Europe with high numbers that range somewhere between 20,000 and 100,000 in Great Britain, Italy, Germany and the Netherlands (Bump, 2006). Many reasons are provided by migrants for their emigration. These include business embarkation, work or seek greener pastures, family reunions and visits as well as tourism. It is indicated that some of these reasons are varied and complex (Adepoju, 2004). These have been categorised under push and pull factors. While some people may face undesirable challenges in their final place of destination, others are able to overcome any ordeal that comes their way.

The situation also varies between those illegal migrants and legal migrants. Focus is being turned to the challenges migrants face as they undertake their journeys as a lot of

work has been done on the reasons why people engage in migration. The study looks into the perceptions and experiences the youth of Dormaa Ahenkro, a town in the Brong-Ahafo Region of the Republic of Ghana go through when embarking on journeys through the Sahara Desert to Western Europe. It delves into the preparation as well as the nature of the journeys in order to devise strategies to curtail the rate of migration if not prohibited among the youth.

1.2 Statement of Problem

Migration plays a critical role for survival of many families, especially due to remittances sent back home. Also, the pride associated with migrating across the continent and coming back home cannot be underestimated. For instance in Ghana, when one migrates to Europe and returns, there is much social respect for the returnee by family members and peers. It is indicated that when migration is regulated, it can serve as a potential for improving the efficiency and wellbeing of the international economic system and improve on the international inequalities by reducing international salaries (Hatton and Williamson, 2005).

It is further explained that, it is a means of improving the possibilities of individuals to better themselves, improve individual incomes, health, education and living conditions (Nussbaum, 2000). Migration, in spite of its merits provides some critical challenges for the individual migrant, his/her family and the country. Migration has led to the transformation and Trans-nationalisation of the Ghanaian society but closely related to insecurity associated with many migrants (Nieswand, 2013). For instance when one is deported due to one reason or the other, stigma is often attached to the individual and his/her family. Many studies have been conducted on the effects of migration on

families and communities but not much has been done on the experiences that migrants go through. It is indicated that a number of migrants in order to circumvent the border controls of European Union, travel through the Sahara Desert by foot during some parts of the journey through Tunisia or Libya to Lampedusa and Sicily, from Morocco to Spain (Khalid, 2008).

It is further explained that some of the activities migrants go through result in the loss of lives (Nieswand, 2013). The study sort to fill the research gap by concentrating on and making known the perceptions, experiences and challenges that Dormaa Ahenkro youth go through in their quest to get to Western Europe through the Sahara Desert. This will help influence policy formulation in tackling the issue of illegal migration to Western Europe through the Sahara Desert.

1.3 Objectives

1.3.1 General Objective

The general objective of the study is to find out the experiences and challenges Dormaa Ahenkro youth migrants go through when migrating through the Sahara Desert.

1.3.2 Specific objectives

1. To find out the reasons why Dormaa Ahenkro youth migrate to Western Europe through the Sahara Desert
2. To examine the experiences Dormaa Ahenkro youth migrants go through on the Sahara Desert
3. To determine the perceptions towards Dormaa Ahenkro youth migrants at their destinations and when they return.

1.4 Research questions

1. What are the reasons for Dormaa Ahenkro youth migrating through the Sahara Desert?
2. What kind of experiences do Dormaa Ahenkro youth migrants go through on the Sahara Desert?
3. How do people in destination countries behave towards migrants?
4. How can these challenges be improved?

1.5 Significance of the Study

Every study has got its relevance. Marshall and Rossman (1995) indicated that every research has its relevance in three major dimensions. To start with, it links the study to larger theoretical and practical problems. Secondly, the study could impact on policy implications and practical implications. This study provides answers with relevance to these areas.

The study adds knowledge and contributes to literature in the area of migration studies. The study serves as a guide and reference in the academia. In other words students, researchers and other readers may use the research as a form of reference. The methodology may be replicated in other studies in other to confirm or reject findings while the study will form a baseline for further studies.

More importantly, the study will unearth the experiences migrants encounter en route to Western Europe through the Sahara Desert, so as to gain the attention of academia and policy makers. It is a fact that there are numerous challenges associated with the

preparation to migrate as well as while on the move, hence the study will provide a number of possible options for potential migrants on how to prepare and embark on their journeys in a stress free manner.

1.6 Definition of concepts

Migration: for the purpose of this study, migration is defined as the movement of people from one place to the other over long distances across international borders.

Migrant: an individual who travels from Ghana to Western Europe for at least six months.

Immigration: this refers to the movement of people into another country to which they are not natives or nationals

Irregular Migration: when a person migrates without the valid travel documents

Emigration: when a person moves out or migrate out of a place of origin.

Embark: refers to the beginning of a journey.

Experience: refers to an event which leaves an impression on the migrants

Remittances: moneys sent home to family members by migrants

1.7 Organisation of the study

The study is organised in five chapters. Chapter one contains the introduction to the study. This consists of the background to the study, the research objectives, definition of terms and justification of the study as well as significance of the study. Chapter two

has the review of relevant literature. The literature reviewed relates to the study and consists of a theoretical framework to put the study into perspective. It concluded with the weakness in the theory and the literature. Chapter three explained the methods that were followed in reaching the respondents and selecting the sample for the study. It explained the research approach that was followed and the research design that was adopted. It also contained the data collection techniques, data handling and the ethical considerations that were considered in the collection of data and participation in the study.

Chapter four focused on the analysis of data collected from the field and the discussion of findings in relation to the literature reviewed. The findings from the in-depth interviews were transcribed and discussed alongside the quantitative data in a bid to support the findings of the quantitative findings. Chapter five dealt with the summary of the study, conclusions and recommendations.

1.8 Conclusion

The chapter focused on the general background to the study, statement of the problem, research objectives and the significance of the study as well the definition of terms pertaining to migration. It also contained the organisation of the study and found out that migration plays a critical role for the survival of individuals, families and communities at large and contributes significantly to Gross Domestic Products of economies in the form of tourism contributions. The next chapter deals with the review of relevant literature to enable discussion of findings of the study. It also contains the theoretical frameworks used in underpinning the study.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1 Introduction

The review of literature is a critical component of research. It aids in the discussion of findings to draw conclusions and recommendations for the study. In view of this, the chapter deals with the review of relevant literature pertaining to the study. This section covers the theoretical framework, the concept of migration, and incidence of migration, causes of migration, perceptions as well as experiences of migrants, both legal and illegal migrants.

2.2 The Concept of Migration

In general terms, migration can simply be described as the movement of people from one place to the other. Differences have been placed much on the distance covered in the movement of people. It is an ancient activity engaged in by many people. A number of connotations have been provided for migration. Demko, Ross and Schnell (1970) explained that migration is a subset of population change. This implies that migration can easily be measured when there is change in population at a particular time and so either an increase or decrease in the size of population indicates that migration has occurred. Shrivastava (1983) on the other hand, opined that migration is an instrument of cultural diffusion and social integration that may create a community within community.

Contemporary conceptions to migration have taken varied forms. Clarke (1965) indicated that there is no unanimity on the meaning of migration but considers migration as a change of residence of substantial duration. The definition however

excluded the constant movement of pastoral nomads, temporal movement of tourists and daily movements of commuters. It should have included temporal movement as migration implies movement of people from one place to the other. The issue of distance as well as permanent stay was considered in other definitions of migration. Mishra (1981) explained migration as the inflow or outflow of population from a defined region to another region for a permanent or semi-permanent settlement. Ross (1982) further explained that is a geographic mobility that involves a change of usual residence between defined political or statistical areas.

The complexity of the migration concept lies in the fact that the distance covered as well as the area of movement and duration of stay in the area of destination can classify the concept into permanent and temporal migration. The United Nations (1970) indicated that a stay of more than one year with a purpose of job is permanent migration while a stay of less than a year as temporal migration. In this regard, students who stay outside for more than a year and have been working in the area of destination can be regarded as permanent migrants. However these types of migrants return to the countries of origin soon after studies and never return to their area of destinations.

In such instances, one cannot classify them into permanent migrants. Permanent migrants may be those who have acquired the requisite documentation to an indefinite stay in their area of destination and who visit their area of origin once in a while but mostly reside in the area of destination. Those who migrate without the requisite documents but do not return to the country of origin may also be regarded as permanent migrants. These theories however together give comprehensive reasons why people

migrate but do not provide in-depth information on the kind of experiences migrants go through, specifically migrating through the Sahara Desert.

2.3 Legal and Illegal Migration

The art of migration can also be classified into legal and illegal or irregular migration. The relationship between the two forms of migration is a thin line. It is indicated that migrants are thought to be non-nationals who enter a particular country (International Organisation for Migration, 2013). This does not hold as migration could also take place internally, culminating into rural-urban migration, rural-rural migration and urban to urban migration.

The legality or illegality of migration is often concerned with the possession of the requisite documents. Legal migration is quite smooth when the migrants have all the necessary resources to embark on a particular journey. Since migration has improved the economies of many European countries in the name of tourism as well as brain drain, some countries have established bilateral agreements, providing quotas as to how many people to allow into a particular country. It is explained that variety of labour agreements are drawn by countries especially developed countries to admit third world countries nationals in terms of labour shortage (Commission of European Communities, 2004).

Also, it is further explained that Southern European countries have recently been more active in signing bilateral agreements to admit temporal workers or seasonal workers whereas some of the agreements aim to open new legal routes for economic migration from key source countries of illegal migration, to strengthen cooperation with third

world countries in order to fight the practice of illegal migration (Commission of European Communities, 2004).

It is worth noting that even though third world countries are expected to earn benefits through remittances, they usually experience brain drain, thereby crippling their economies. For instance it is explained that Italy applied a regularisation framework covering 634,728 illegal migrants in 2002 whereas the first of such regularisation acts of the United States of America known as the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 regularised 2,684,900 immigrants (García, 2006). This kind of practice could contribute hugely to illegal migration since migrants tend to believe that in the long run, the country of destination through a regularisation programme may retain them and provide them with the requisite documents to become legal migrants.

A curious complexity worth making known is the state of refugees against the laws of the countries of destination. One may want to find out the extent to which they can be termed legal or illegal immigrant since some of them are on emergency basis due to uprising and wars or conflicts in their area of origin. The reasons for the denial by countries of destination must be subjected to critical analysis as the repatriation of such refugees are not welcomed by the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR). In some cases much threat is meted out to refugees in their area of destination. It is explained that events in Balkans, specifically Macedonia's decision to restrict asylum for Kosovar Albanians, is an indication that Tanzania's experience was not unique and that asylum will become increasingly scarce in countries where hosting refugees is perceived to be a threat to state security (Black, 2003).

The reason for such decision has not been given. Perhaps host countries realize that they will not benefit in the long run as they may not be the labour force for their economies. The table below shows the regularisation of illegal immigrants by some European countries with the years and the total number of immigrants involved.

Table 2.1: Regularisation of illegal immigrants

Country	Year of program	Number Applied	Number Regularized	Approval rate
France	1981-82	150,000	130,000	87%
	1997-98	150,000	87,000	-
Belgium	2000	50,000	Unknown	-
Greece*	1998 - "White card"	370,000	370,000	100%
	1998 - "Green card"	228,000	220,000	96%
	2001	368,000	228,000	62%
Italy	1986	unknown	118,700	-
	1990	unknown	235,000	-
	1995	256,000	238,000	93%
	1998	308,323	193,200	63%
	2002	700,000	634,728	91%
Luxembourg	2001	2,894	1,839	64%
Portugal	1992-93	80,000	38,364	48%
	1996	35,000	31,000	89%
	2001	unknown	170,000	
Spain	1985	44,000	23,000	52%
	1991	135,393	109,135	81%
	1996	25,000	21,300	85%
	2000	247,598	153,463	62%
	2001	350,000	221,083	63%
	2005	690,679	unknown	
United States	1986 - General legalization	1.7 million	1.6 million	94%
	Special Agricult. Workers	1.3 million	1.1 million	85%

Source: García (2006)

The table above shows that Spain and the United States of America have experienced the highest form of illegal immigrants from 1985 to 2005. It can be deduced that in 2005, Spain received 690,679 applications from migrants to be legalised as regular migrants from which, the number actually granted is unknown compared to 2001 when out of 350,000 applicants, 221,083 migrants were regularised as legal migrants. With regards to the United States of America, out of 1.7million illegal migrants in 1986, a majority of 1.6million were legalised in general legalisation exercise. In the same year,

out of 1.3million general agricultural workers who applied to be legalised, a majority of 1million workers were legalised.

This indicates that countries of destination are actually in tune with the rate of illegal migration as long as they benefit from the general labour as well as revenues to boost their economies. These regularisation and bilateral agreements to a large extent encourage illegal migration as illegal migrants would think that once they are able to reach the country of destination, in the long run they would receive a status favourable to their course. This will encourage more migrants to go the illegal way despite the dangers involved in such journeys.

2.4 Migration in Ghana

Migration plays a critical role in the development of Ghana. It contributes to GDP, provides employment and support for families as well as improves tourism. It is indicated that due to its contributions and relevance, many Ghanaians migrate in spite of the difficulties associated with it (Black and King, 2004). It is further regarded as an economic imperative by many and the only means for providing assistance to families at home (Black and King, 1992). In terms of contributions to national development, remittances have increased from US\$680.0million in 2002 to US\$1,017.2 million in 2003 whereas total transfers have increased from US\$912.4 million to US\$1,408.4 million and this represents an increase in private unrequited transfers (Manuh, 2005). This does not include remittances sent through informal channels.

Many Ghanaian youth migrate to Western Europe through harsh conditions in an irregular function. Dr. Awumbila in a research dissemination seminar in Nkoranza, indicated that irregular migration is on the ascendency in Nkoranza and Dormaa

Ahenkro in the Brong-Ahafo region and this is due to unemployment and family pressure (Ghana Business News, 2011). Some of the migrants were from the Ashanti region where much of rural urban migration is centred in the capital, where many people from the northern part of Ghana migrate to the southern in search of greener pastures. However, the definition of youth was not provided, meanwhile the 1992 constitution of the republic of Ghana defined a child as a person below the age of 18 years (Ghana Constitution, 1992). Per the psychoanalytic theory of personality, adolescence begins from age 11 (Berk, 2007). For the purpose of this study, a working definition of youth was provided as a person from 15 to age 39.

2.5 Routes of Illegal Migration

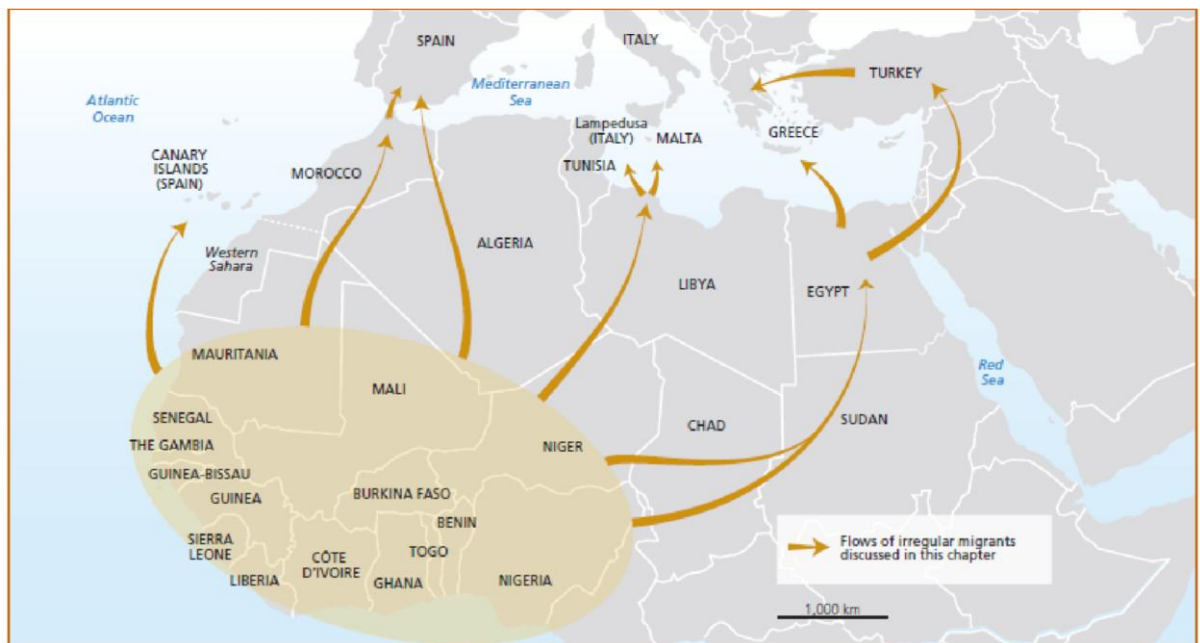
Migrants, especially illegal migrants face some serious challenges. In spite of this, one cannot also mention illegal immigrants without making reference to the middlemen (facilitators) who contribute in making the journeys of the illegal migrants a bit successful. While some are individuals who provide services to migrants for a fee, other people have formed institutions that are recognised and recruit labour to other countries. In Ghana for instance, a number of individuals provide sponsorship for people to embark on journeys of economic nature of which they pay back when they arrived.

It has become a form of employment. It is indicated that middle men or institutions play a critical role in assisting migrants by providing information, logistic support in both Philippines and United Arab Emirates and also work judiciously through the difficult immigration laws of destination countries (Tamar, 2005). Some of the activities place much cost on the migrant. It is estimated that the cost of transporting or smuggling an

individual to Italy or Spain is close to \$15000 by air (Van Moppes, 2006). Many a times, due to the determination of the migrants to embark on such journeys, they end up meeting the cost. Some authors have described it as migrant smuggling (UNODC, 2008).

The journey of a migrant usually starts with land, sea or air from places such as Sierra Leone, Mali, Niger, Ghana, Nigeria and Gambia to Senegal and organised by traffickers seeking payments between US\$500 to US\$1000 from each person, as seen in appendix 3 and 4 on pages 86 and 87 respectively (Adepoju, 2010). The figure 2.1 below shows the various destinations that irregular migrants target as well as their channels.

Figure 2.1: Destinations of migrants

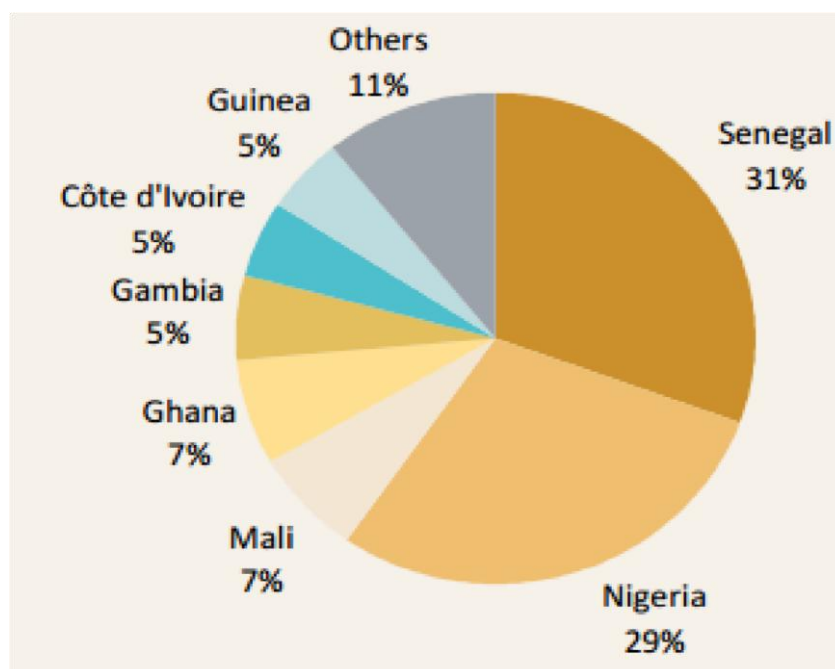


Source: UNODC (2008)

It can be deduced from the figure above that majority of the irregular migrants are from West Africa who migrate through the number of channels. Even though many irregular

migrants go through the Sahara Desert, African countries are not their final destinations. Many of them end up in the European countries. Many of those who migrate through Chad, Sudan and Egypt make their way to Greece and Turkey and finally to Italy. Also those who migrate through Libya along the Sahara Desert head straight to Italy while some remain in Libya. For those who go to Spain, they usually go through Algeria and Morocco while some migrate along the Atlantic Ocean to the Canary Islands (Spain). It is further confirmed that about 9% of irregular migrants detected in Europe are from West Africa (UNODC, 2008). Even though irregular migrants from West Africa form quiet a significant portion of the world irregular migrants, it implies that many come from other continents as well, especially where Mexicans illegally travel to the United States of America.

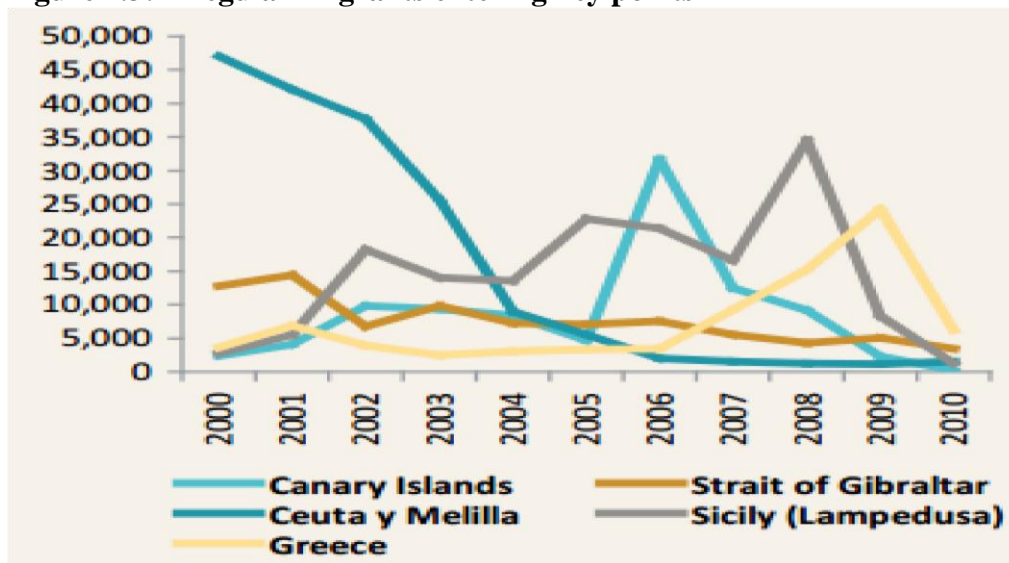
Figure 2.2: Country shares of illegal migrants in Spain, Greece, Malta and Italy (2008-2011)



Source: UNODC (2008)

The figure above indicates that, Senegal and Nigeria constitute the highest number of illegal migrants representing 31% and 29% respectively. Ghana and Mali also contribute significantly to the illegal migrants representing 7% each. Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia and Guinea share 5% each. The others made up of the other West African countries constitute 11%. This shows that many irregular migrants come from sub-Saharan Africa and continue to migrate along the Sahara Desert. It could be due to the push and pull factors of migration that could be the reason for the rate at which people leave their country of origins to the developed countries and turn to stay for longer periods. The next figure below shows the various routes widely patronised by irregular migrants.

Figure 2.3: Irregular Migrants entering key points



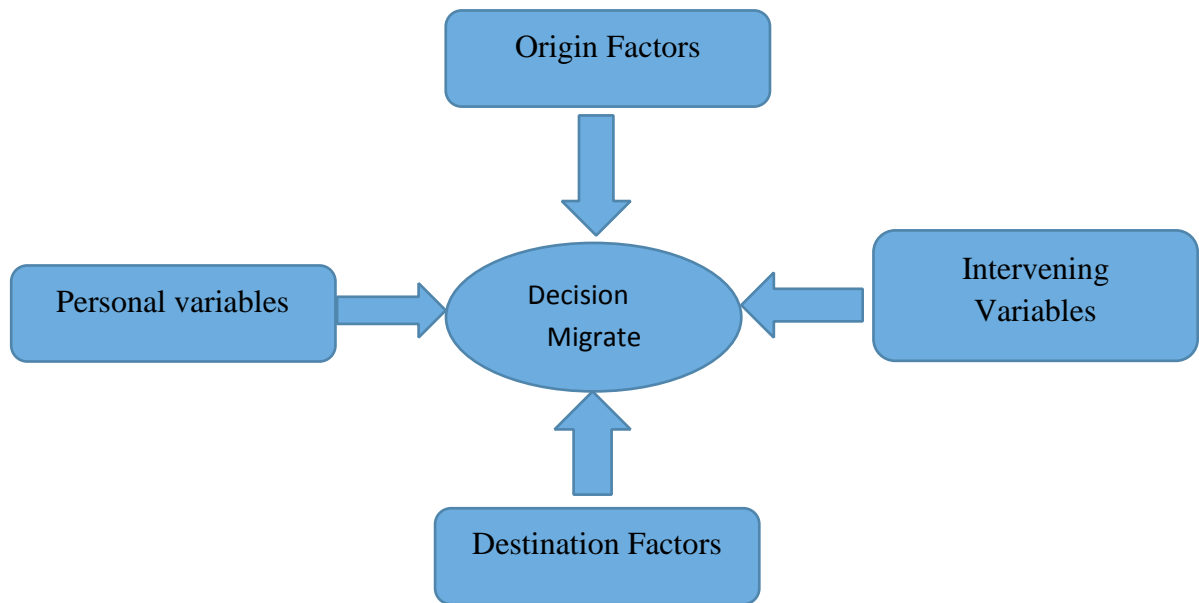
Source: UNODC (2008)

The figure above shows that the Canary Islands, Ceuta y Melilla, Greece, Strait of Gibraltar and Sicily (Lampedusa) are the major routes through which many irregular migrants usually use for their journeys. In 2008, the Sicily was widely used by irregular migrants that normally use the Sahara Desert, whereas in 2009, the Strait of Gibraltar was widely used.

2.6 Migration through the Sahara Desert and reasons

People have migrated across several destinations covering both long and short distances for several reasons. It is indicated that almost half of all international migrants are women and who are independently migrating as main income earners. The International Organisation for Migration (2008) estimates that 105.4 million migrants are economically active migrants and together with family members they account for 90% of international migrants. While some authors have classified the reasons into push and pull framework and labelling it as a theory, others have simply described individual reasons why people migrate. It is indicated that climate and other ecological forces have been the cause of migration (Curtin, 1997).

For instance, the creation of the Sahara Desert separated Sub-Sahara Africa from the rest of the world. Other authors have developed a number of factors classifying them into push and pull factors of migration. It is indicated that most people migrate to the United States of America illegally especially from less developed countries due to the fact that, USA employers hire and pay wages higher than what they could earn from their home or native countries (Passel, 2006). Lee (1966) placed the reasons for migration into four distinct factors. These are factors associated with the area of origin, factors associated with the area of destination, intervening obstacles and personal factors. These can be put into a conceptual framework.

Figure 2.4: Migration Decision Making Framework

Source: Author (2013)

The diagram above shows the relationship between the variables that interplay in migration decision-making. All these factors can be push or pull variables. In any particular instance, a combination of a number of them interacts to enable a migrant make a final decision as to migrate or not. Factors associated with the origin may play a role of either enabling indigenes to stay in home country or rather attract migrants to it, in other words pulling people to or pushing them away. It is indicated that low wages, absence of credit, insurance, and unemployment benefit, acceleration of inequalities are some of the variables that pushed people out of their destinations (Maryland Catholic Conference, 2007). It is indicated that 550 million people with jobs are living on less than \$1 a day while almost half of the 2.8 billion workers on less than \$2 dollars a day (Global Commission on International Migration, 2005).

On employment opportunities, it has been found out that Latin American immigrants working in the United States sent home \$45 billion, about 10% of their earnings in the

form of remittances in 2006 (Council of Economic Advisors, 2006). Promises of economic opportunities can be classified under the pull factors associated with country of destination, where migrants are pulled away. However, the variation between the country of origin and the country destination could serve as the push factors as well as pull factors. The vast variation with regards to the income differentials as well as per capita income also highly influences migration decisions. It is explained that the average per capita income in Haiti is \$400 per year while in the United States; an undocumented, unskilled day labourer can earn that much in one week (Reuters Factbox, 2006). Between the factors associated with the area of destination and area of origin are the personal factors and the intervening variables.

Personal variables cut across the individual perceptions and opinions formed about the area of destination as well as area of origin. It is usually of psychological in nature. The intervening variables on the other hand may include family pressure, the amount of money an individual possess to embark on a journey and the influence of peer groups. These variables also contribute to the final decision of the migrant to migrate.

2.7 Experiences, challenges and perceptions of migrants

Migrants go through many challenges in their quest to realise their objectives. These cut across physical, financial, psychological as well as emotional experiences. It is indicated that even though the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean pose major challenges to migrants, thousands of people cross these two places every year in order to migrate irregularly (UNODC, 2008). Some of these migrants are from West Africa including Ghana.

2.7.1 Financial challenges

Just as every business venture has some correlation to profit and risk, the risk aspect is highly regarded in such instances. On the financial side, challenges of migrants can range from paying for the cost of the journey as well as feeding and accommodation. It is opined that the cost of a boat trip from Senegal to the coast of Spain is about US\$1311 whereas the journey from West Africa to the Canary Islands cost over US\$4626 and this often includes feeding and lodging (van Moppes, 2006). He further indicated that, it costs less to travel by canoe than by boat, which is more comfortable.

It is deduced that the Maghreb route is the most widely used by irregular migrants. In support of this, it is explained that the Maghreb is of geographic proximity to Spain and Italy through the Straits of Gibraltar or Sicily, where the three most famous entry points to Spain from Morocco are Barbate, Algeciras and Gibraltar (Adepoju, 2010). While some migrants in the quest to embark on such journeys borrow money from institutions, others take contributions from nuclear and extended family members. The interesting phenomenon is that sometimes the migrants sell family properties with the permission of the family to be able to meet the cost.

2.7.2 Physical challenges

Migrants also go through serious physical challenges and experiences with some pathetic scenes. This cuts across housing, sanitation, health as well as loss of personal belongings. It is made known that one bad experience of migrants is robbery, sometimes, some bad smugglers collude with the robbers to rob the migrants of their valuables (Briscoe, 2004). It is further explained that their health status may deteriorate due to poor housing conditions and transport in the quest to reach Italy or Spain. Also

due to their skin colour and language, migrants usually avoid Moroccan cities but take refuge in remote parts of the country (Briscoe, 2004). For instance in a location known as Missnana Forest, about 3000 west Africans mostly Nigerians were housed there with very poor housing conditions, food was occasional, pregnant women dehydrated, fevers propagated and the little money going round was hoarded for the final voyage across the Strait (Adepoju, 2010).

Local robbers on the other hand, worsen the situation of the irregular migrants. They rob the migrants as they know that migrants travel with enough money to cater for the entire journey and know all the routes they use (Hocine, 2008). Some drivers who are contracted to convey migrants leave them in the middle of the journeys, asking them to continue the rest on foot and some of them die of thirst (Hocine, 2008). It is established that 92 migrants died of thirst in an attempt to cross the Sahara Desert as shown in the pictures on appendix 6 and 7 on page 89 and 90 respectively.

2.7.3 Emotional challenges

The emotional challenges associated with the ordeals of the physical and health challenges cannot be underestimated. The stress related to the journey as well as seeing other migrants unable to go through the journey creates some psychological impressions on the minds of migrants. Others form perceptions of horrific images and continue to have nightmares, day in and day out, as they see colleagues die and others get sick. Captioned as the most dangerous route in the world, about 40,000 people cross the Sahara Desert to Europe (Kenyon, 2009).

Sometimes the stress as narrated by migrants, that smugglers trick migrants onto boats without enough fuel and water for the journey while some Libyan security dress like "Ninjas" and capture them on dunes (Kenyon, 2009). When some finally make it back home, they are not able to repress the images and perceptions formed and so narrate the ordeal to other friends and family members.

2.8 Perceptions towards Migrants

Usually when people see new faces in their neighbourhood, they turn to be hostile towards them. It is in the light of this that some communities and countries are seen as hospitable. The case where people are not accorded with much hospitality, they are usually regarded as racists. Migrants face some serious adverse perceptions towards them through the embarkation process. In a Southern African Migration Project (SAMP) in 2001, it was concluded that public attitudes towards irregular migration is unfavourable. About a third of black coloured and Asian South Africans supported the deportation of migrants, while for whites it was a little lower (29%) and the whites supported the deportation of migrants who did not contribute to the South African economy (Mattes et al, 1999).

The SAMP in 2001 also assessed nationals' attitudes towards immigrants and found out that there is a high public intolerance of irregular migrants. It is indicated that the recent waves of violent physical attacks on migrants by South Africa citizens have created the impression that South Africans are the most intolerant of irregular migrants (SAMP, 2001). For instance, in year 2000, two Mozambicans were fatally attacked in a moving train by South Africans (Adepoju, 2010). It could be the effects of apartheid and racial segregation in South Africa during the trouble times. Nonetheless, there are times when

other countries have rejected refugees and many other irregular migrants, maltreated and deported back home. During the Libyan crises, many migrants from different countries were detained in cells for several months even though some claimed they had the right documents. The food, which was claimed by the Libyan authorities to be three times a day, was found to be only a bowl of spaghetti (Irinnews, 2012)

2.9 Benefits of Migration

Migration in spite of the ordeal, brings some significant benefits to the migrant (individual), family and state as a whole, even though it has been argued that there is lack of information in terms of quantification. Whiles the developed countries have up to date information in terms of trends of migration and its contributions, developing countries are yet to meet the task. Sometimes developing countries are not able to produce up to date records on the number of non-nationals in their country. Manuh (2005) indicated that there is lack of solid information on how migration affects development and development affects migration but much focus has been put on the negative effects of migration on development.

With regards to the positive aspects of migration, for that matter irregular migrants, they contribute in strengthening the cooperation between their destination country and country of origin and bring about much development in the form of investments and remittances. Also, they bring back skills, Entrepreneurial activities, support for democracy and human rights (Manuh, 2005). One may want to question the extent to which the investments brought home survive and the kind of support they are given when they propose some great entrepreneurial ideas.

Furthermore, there have been growing issues of brain gain instead of brain drain. This is where there is the perception that returning migrants are able to acquire some significant skills to their home countries. Sometimes the acquisition of those skills form the basis of cultural, educational and political exchange programmes. One interesting point about poverty is that, poverty reduces migration and it is also the cause of migration as well (Manuh, 2005). A study of 74 low and middle-income developing countries indicates that on the average, a 10% increase in the number of international migrants in a country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) can lead to a 1.2% decline in poverty (Page and Adams, 2005). One cannot eliminate the family pressures that remittances from migrants take care of each day in developing countries. While their business provide employment opportunities for significant number of people, they are able to contribute to GDP of the country through the taxes on spendings as well as corporate taxes on their businesses.

2.10 Weakness of Literature

The literature reviewed is quite in-depth and covers many aspects of migration including irregular or illegal migration. The literature, to a larger extent has shown how irregular migrants suffer on their routes to the countries of destination and the way they are treated by nationals of the countries of destination. With regards to the theories, it is deduced that many of the theories concern the reasons why people migrate rather than the challenges and experiences of migrants and so a combination of the theories can be used in explaining the concept of migration from its causes to effects as well as experiences and perceptions. Also, literature in terms of quantitative data on the part of countries where irregular migrants migrate from are inadequate. In some cases they are

not available. In the light of this, it is necessary to encourage much research in the area to unearth more information.

2.11 Conclusions

This chapter dealt with the review of relevant literature in the area of migration and covers the concepts of migration, the reasons for migration, the theoretical frameworks, experiences and perceptions towards migrants and the trends of migration. It is found out that some countries and individuals benefit from the activities of irregular migrants and so continue to encourage such activities. The next chapter deals with the method that was followed in reaching respondents for the study. It consists of the research design, the sampling techniques and procedures, sources of data collection as well as the ethical considerations.

CHAPTER THREE

THEORY AND RESEARCH METHODS

3.0 Introduction

The previous chapter dealt with the review of literature for the purposes of comparison with findings to draw conclusions and provide recommendations to the study. This chapter consists of the methods that were followed in reaching respondents for the study. It is a very critical stage of every research and requires objectivity to enhance generalization of findings and also enhance validity of findings. This section consists of research design, the target population, the study population, sample selection, the methods of data collections, sources of data collection, data handling as well as the ethical issues that were considered in reaching the respondents.

3.1 Theoretical framework

Theoretical perspective plays a significant role in every research by putting the study into perspective. In underpinning a study, theoretical framework provides the basis in determining the gaps in the literature and tries to provide explanations to issues on the objectives of the study. In this study, a number of theories have been adopted in putting the study into perspective. These include the neoclassical equilibrium perspective on migration, the push / pull framework as well as Network theory of migration.

3.1.1 The Neoclassical equilibrium theory

This theory places migration on economic conditions. According to Skeldon (1997), the patterns of migration have been greatly influenced by factors such as distance and population densities where people move from low income to high income areas, and from densely to sparsely populated areas. This theory places migration on two different

levels. At the macro level, migration is due to the geographical differences in the supply and demand of labour whereas resulting in wage differentials that cause migrants to move from low-wage, labour surplus regions to high-wage, labour scarce regions. (Schiff, 1994).

This implies that labour becomes scarcer at the sending end while it becomes less scarce at the destination. At the micro level, neoclassical theory of migration views migrants as individual rational actors who decide to move on the basis of Cost Benefit Analysis. All things being equal, where there is free access to information and choice, people move towards where they can be most productive and earn high wages but usually it depends on the specific skills of the labour and the specific structure of labour market (Bauer & Zimmermann, 1998).

This theory concentrates much on rural-urban migration where surplus labour in the rural area supplies labour to the urban area. An extended version of this theory is the “Harris-Tadara Model” and has remained the basis for the neoclassical migration theory. This model is a modification of neoclassical theory and has included factors such as unemployment with the probability of finding job in the destination and not just necessarily wage differentials between country and place of origin and place of destination (Harris and Todaro, 1970).

Further explanation of this model perceives migration within the human capital framework where migration is seen as human capital investment. It indicated that human assets such as skills, education and physical abilities are regarded as critical human asset and as such plays a role in the selection of the destination of migrants

(Becker 1962). This theory is also applicable to both internal and international migration.

3.1.2 Social Network theory of Migration

The social network theory of migration is also another interesting theory that explains the causes as well as some of the variables that contribute to decisions to migrate. The network migration theory could promote 'chain migration' (Massey et al 1993:448). Network is defined as a form of social capital that people can draw upon to gain access to foreign employment (Gurak and Caces, 1992). It is also defined as the social bonds and the feeling of being part of one (transnational) community and also further explains why migrants tend to remit substantial amounts of money to non-migrants (Taylor 1999).

Furthermore, networks are also defined as the interpersonal ties that connect migrants, former migrants and non-migrants in origin and destination areas through ties of kinship, friendship and shared community origin and they increase the likelihood of international movement because they lower the cost and risk of movement and increase in the expected net returns of migration (Taylor, 1986). The lower cost and risk is centered on the fact that, the first migrant who goes to the country of destination bears the major cost of risk. Once the first migrant goes through, the subsequent migrants draw a great deal of information and experience and so are able to lower cost in documentation, seeking accommodation, routes and some cultural information on country of destination.

Many youth from Africa and for that matter Ghana draw much information from their colleagues as well as family ties to embark on their journeys to seek greener pastures in Western Europe through the Sahara Desert. The concept of chain migration and social capital are built on the system of network. Where migrants draw much resources and information from family and friends from countries of destination, it leads to the building of social capital and whereas the continues build-up of social capital for a long period of time creates chain migration where many people migrate based on the networks and social capital created.

This theory serves a great deal to migration as many subsequent migrants base the success of their journeys on networks. Even though it has not come out succinctly on the experiences of migrants, first migrants in the countries of destination turn to share much experiences and challenges with subsequent migrants to enable them prepare before embarking. In this regard, migrants to Western Europe through the Sahara Desert based on this theory have some social networks in their places of destination that actually encourage them to migrate.

3.1.3 The Push-Pull Framework

The push-pull framework is another theory that attempts to offer extensive explanations to the reasons why people migrate from one place the other. According to Massey et al (1993), it indicates why some people migrate while others do not and also why people migrate between particular places in a spatially clustered, concentrated, typically non-random fashion. Lee (1966) explained that the decision to migrate from one place to the other is dependent on the area of origin, area of destination, intervening obstacles such as barriers, immigration laws, and some personal factors.

This framework agrees with the neoclassical perspective on migration with regards to selectivism, however the theory did not succinctly provide the various variables that actually push migrants from the place of origin and pull them to their places of destination. Many researchers who have applied the push-pull framework on explaining migration assume that environmental, demographic and economic factors determine the decision of migrants to migrate (Skeldon 1997). This presupposes that people may migrate for tourism or in search of jobs to better their economic conditions and improve their family conditions. This theory does not cover migrants who may decide to visit relatives in other destinations, as it has not been placed under either pull or push situation.

These theories put the study into perspective as they together explain the reasons for migration. However, they possess some weaknesses. The Neoclassical theory has been criticised for being a historical and Eurocentric as it suggests that, the transfer of labour from agricultural to industrial economy is the same as modernisation whereas migration in contemporary world takes place under different conditions (Skeldon 1997).

The push-pull framework on the other hand, has been criticized that it cannot be regarded as a theory. It is indicated that, it is a descriptive model that predicts how factors play role or interact to enable migrants make an informed judgement to embark on a journey. It also does not allow placing weight on individual factors (McDowell and De Haan, 1997). It is further explained that it does not consider the heterogeneity and internal stratification of societies (Zachariah et al 2001). These theories together put the study into perspective as it explains the nature of decisions made by migrants. These theories also give comprehensive explanations as to why people migrate and to

some extent explain the challenges and experiences migrants may encounter as they turn to draw much of them from the networks created.

3.2 Profile of Study Area

Dormaa Ahenkro is a district located in the western part of Brong-Ahafo region of Ghana. The region has Sunyani as its capital. It lies within longitudes 30° West and 30° 30' West and latitude 70° North and 70° 30' North. It shares border with Aman and Berekum Districts on the north and on the east by the Sunyani Municipal, in the South and southeast by Asunafo and Asutifi Districts respectively, in the southwest by Western Region and in the West and northwest by la Cote d'Ivoire (Ghana Districts, 2006). The district has Dormaa Ahenkro as the municipal capital that is 80 kilometres west of the regional capital, Sunyani. It is indicated that, the municipal covers a total land area of 1368 square kilometres, which is about 3.5% of the total land area of the Brong-Ahafo Region and about 0.6% of the total land area of the country. It has about 345 settlement, one traditional authority and two constituencies namely Dormaa Ahenkro East and Dormaa Ahenkro West (Ghana Districts, 2006). According to the 2010 population and housing census report, the population of Dormaa Ahenkro municipality is about 159,789. This consists of 78270 males and 81519 females. The population of Dormaa Ahenkro East is further indicated as 50871 consisting of 23970 males and 26901 females (Population and Housing Census, 2010). It is indicated that the population is youthful ranging between ages 15 to 60 years (Dormaa Ahenkro Municipal Assembly, 2006). With regards to socio-demographics, Christians form the largest group in terms of religious groupings, followed by Muslims. In terms of occupation, majority are in the agricultural sector, with some others in the civil and public service positions. The area was suitable for the study because it is opined that

the active labour force within the municipality migrate out in search of greener pastures while the inactive labour force are left behind (Dormaa Ahenkro Municipal Assembly, 2006).

3.3 Research design

The research design refers to the approach or type of research style adopted in conducting the study. For this purpose, the study was conducted with the mixed method design. This consisted of quantitative and qualitative research designs. Caracelli & Greene (1997) explained that “Mixing” may be nothing more than a side-by-side or sequential use of different methods or it may be that different methods are being fully integrated in a single analysis. The design included both qualitative and quantitative research designs.

According to Denzin & Lincoln (2000) qualitative method refers to the correlation that exists between the researcher and a particular trait that the researcher is assessing under the circumstance, on the generally constructed nature of truth. Furthermore, Dawson and George (2008) provided that qualitative study grants the opportunity for in-depth understanding through the detailed study of a smaller sample. Quantitative study on the other hand is suitable for large number of respondents, for determining cause and effect variables as well as enhancing generalisation of findings to research population (Bazeley, 2002).

The mixed method design was adopted to ensure that findings could be generalised while validity of data is enhanced. The quantitative aspect ensured that large number of respondents were selected from the youth since a lot of them embark on journeys

through the Sahara Desert while the qualitative aspect provided the opportunity to gain in-depth information from key informants from Dormaa Ahenkro on their views in other to support the quantitative findings.

3.4 Sampling Techniques and Procedures

3.4.1 Target Population

The target population for the study included all inhabitants of Dormaa Ahenkro who have migrated to Western Europe through the Sahara Desert and have returned.

3.4.2 Study Population

The study population include all inhabitants of Dormaa Ahenkro who are above 15 years of age but below 40years and have migrated to Western Europe through the Sahara Desert and have returned. This is because according to the 1992 constitution of the republic of Ghana, a person below the age of 18years old is regarded as a child, but preliminary investigations showed that there were some migrants at the age of 15 years.

3.4.3 Sapling frame

The sampling frame used was a list of returnees from the Association of Returnees (Borgas) in Dormaa Ahenkro.

3.4.4 Sampling Scheme

This consists of the sampling techniques employed in reaching the respondents. Probability and non-probability techniques were employed in reaching the respondents. While probability-sampling technique was employed in reaching respondents for quantitative data collection, non-probability technique was employed in reaching key informants for qualitative data collection. For the quantitative aspect of the study, the simple random sampling technique was employed to select 80 respondents from the list

obtained from the Association of Returnees. For the purpose of the qualitative aspect of the study, four key informants were purposively selected. These are the President of the association, the Secretary in charge of welfare, the District Immigration Officer and the Deputy District Coordinating Director of Dormaa Ahenkro.

3.5 Instrumentation

Instrumentation took the form of questionnaires and key informant interview guides.

Questionnaire

The questionnaires were based on the objectives of the study, hence were designed in headings according to the objectives. Both open-ended and closed ended questions were utilised. With the open-ended questions, research assistants quoted the exact responses of the respondents. The questionnaires covered the demographic background of respondents, reasons for embarking on the journeys through the Sahara Desert, their perceptions as well as experiences on the Sahara Desert and in Western Europe.

Key Informant Interview Guide

Key informants interview guide was designed for in-depth interviews with key informants. Questions on the interview guide covered all aspects of the study. Topics included the reasons why the youth migrate through the Sahara Desert, the kind of experiences and perceptions they have.

3.6 Methods and Sources of data collection

The methods and sources of data collection consisted of quantitative and qualitative elements.

Primary Sources of Data Collection

Primary data was obtained using both quantitative and qualitative research methods

Secondary Sources of Information

Secondary information relating to the reasons, experiences and perception towards irregular migrants was obtained from periodic reports from the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) and the Ghana Statistical Services (GSS). Also books published and unpublished, local and international journals on migration were also reviewed. Students academic work, surveys, newspaper publications and speeches by notable persons in the field of migration as well as the internet was not spared.

Quantitative Method of Data Collection

For the quantitative research method, Face-to-face interview was used to administer questionnaires with the help of research assistants. For those who could neither read nor write, the well-trained research assistants translated the questions into the local dialect for responses. The researcher supervised the process to answer queries and ensured that the process was implemented successfully.

Qualitative Method of Data collection

Data for the qualitative part of the study was collected through in-depth interviews with key informants. Each interview lasted about 45 minutes. Each key informant freely expressed his or her views without any interruption. However informants were refocused when they talked about issues not related to the study. The interview covered all the themes of the study. In-depth interviews were conducted by the researcher since he is well vested on the objectives of the study and also understood the local language.

3.7 Data Handling

Data collected from the field was handled in a professional manner and according to the research ethics. Quantitative data obtained was checked for errors and inconsistencies. The data was then coded and entered into the computer. The statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) version 16 was used to capture the data. Descriptive statistics was used to analyse the data. Bar graphs, Pie charts, tables and cross tabulations were used to describe the data. Data gathered from in-depth interviews were transcribed and analysed using content analysis. Findings from the qualitative data were discussed alongside the quantitative data in a bid to support, enrich and improve the validity of findings of the study.

3.8 Ethical Issues

Ethical issues in research are necessary to encourage participation and the willingness of respondents in providing data for the study. It is also in line with the professional ethics of research. In achieving this aim, consent was sought from all respondents before interviews were conducted. In other words participation was voluntary. The names of respondents were not taken. This ensured privacy and confidentiality that allowed respondents to grant interviews. All the sources were duly acknowledged to avoid plagiarism.

3.9 Conclusion

This chapter concentrated on the research methods that were followed in reaching researching respondents and consisted of a multi-stage sampling procedure. It was found out that the mixed method design provided the opportunity for enhanced validity

of data as well as the generalisation of research findings to the population of the study. The chapter presents the findings and discussion of the findings in relation to literature reviewed.

CHAPTER FOUR

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

4.0 Introduction

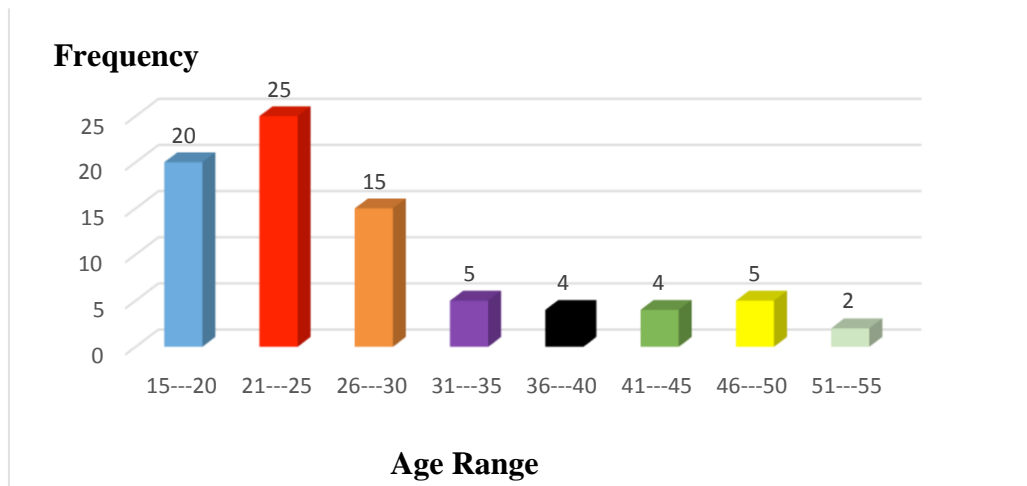
This chapter consist of data analysis and discussion of findings in relation to literature reviewed in chapter two. For the purpose of clarity, analysis is done in themes and according to the objectives of the study. These include demographic information of respondents, the reasons why Dormaa Ahenkro youth engage in irregular migration through the Sahara Desert to Western Europe, the challenges and experiences they go through on their journeys through the Sahara Desert.

4.1 Socio Demographic Information and Implications

The inclusion of socio-demographic information of respondents plays a significant role in the analysis and discussion of findings in relation to literature reviewed but its inclusion depends on the research objectives. In other to determine the nature of the migrants who emigrate from Dormaa Ahenkro in an irregular form through the Sahara Desert to Western Europe, the study include the demographic data of respondents. Results are found in figure 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5.

4.1.1 Socio demographic information of Respondents

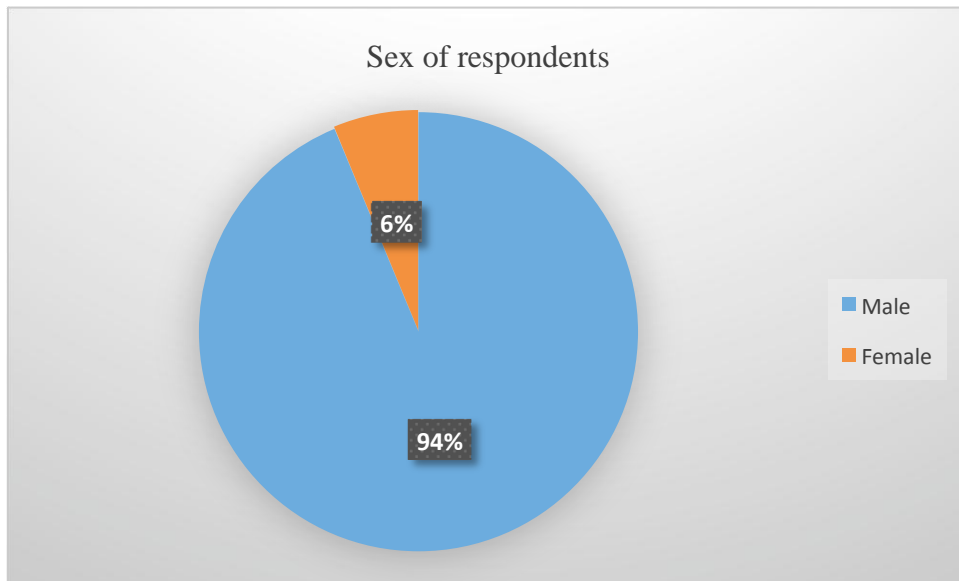
Figure 4.1: Ages of respondents



Source: Author (2013)

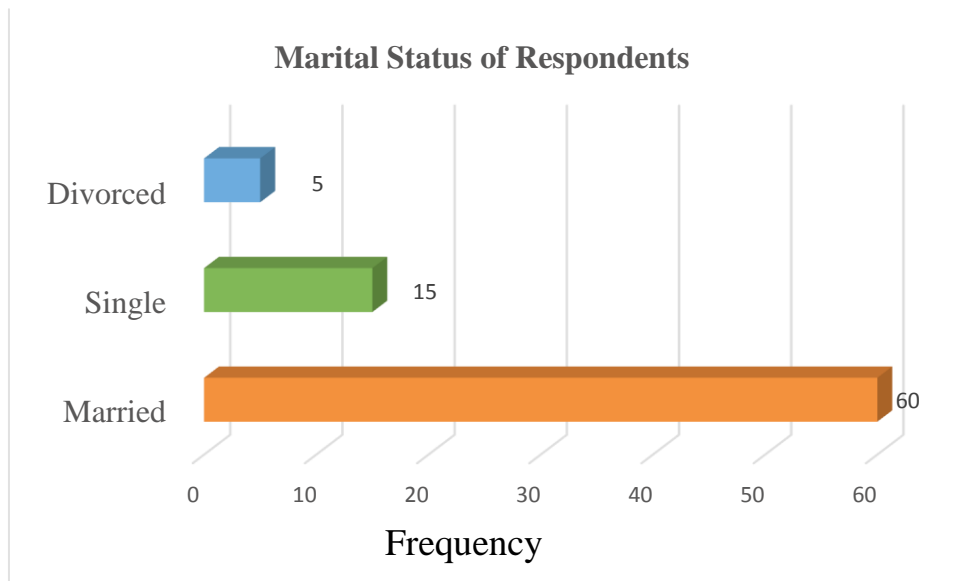
From the figure above, it is deduced that 25 (31.3%) respondents are between the ages of 21 and 25, followed by 20 (25%) respondents between the ages of 15 and 20 years old.

However, there were 2(2.5%) respondents between the ages of 51-55 and 15 (18.75%) respondents between the ages 26-30 year. This implies that majority of the respondents were between the ages of 15 to 45 years.

Figure 4.2: Sex of respondents

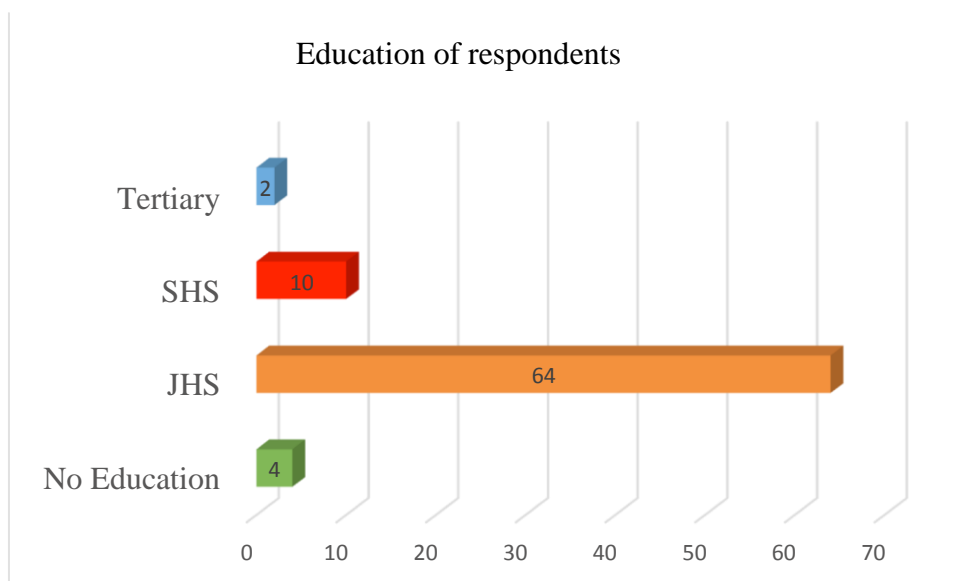
Source: Author (2013)

The figure above shows that there are more males than females. Males represented 75 (94%) respondents whereas females constituted 5 respondents representing 5%. This shows that males engage in irregular migration in Dormaa Ahenkro than females.

Figure 4.3: Marital status of respondents

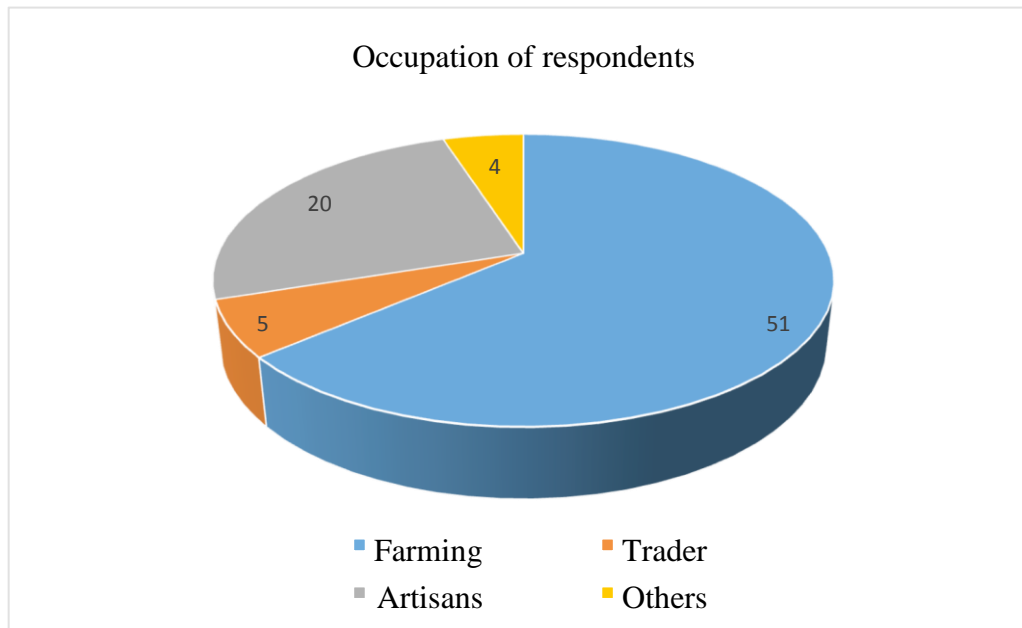
Source: Author (2013).

From the figure above, it is deduced that majority of 60 (75%) respondents were married, followed by 15 respondents representing 18.75% being single and 5 respondents representing 6.25% were married but divorced. This also implies that majority of those who migrate are married suggesting that, they may have been influenced by family pressure in the decision to migrate.

Figure 4.4: Educational status of respondents

Source: Author (2013)

In order to find out if education plays a role in the decision to migrate irregularly, the study asked respondents for their levels of education. Findings are found in figure 4.4 above. It is deduced that a majority of 64 respondents representing 80% hold a Junior High School certificate, followed by 10 respondents representing 8% obtaining a Senior High School certificate. There were 2 respondents representing 1.6% with degrees from the polytechnics. This could mean that, the higher one's level of education, the lesser he is likely to migrate irregularly.

Figure 4.5: Occupation of respondents

Source: Author (2013)

The occupation of respondents also plays a significant role since to a large extent it determines the income level of an individual. It is found out that 51 respondents representing 64% were engaged in agriculture, especially farming, followed by 20 respondents representing 25% who work in the artisanal industry. While 5 respondents representing 6% were traders, 4 respondents were with the public sector.

Findings show that majority of respondents are in the youthful age category usually between the ages of 15 to 39 years. It must be noted that between this age range, people possess enough energy to engage in some form of physical economic activities. Also the analysis shows that more males engage in irregular migration as compared with females. This could be attributed to the fact that, women are usually left behind to take

care of children and the aged. The educational backgrounds as well as their marital statuses also show that irregular migrants turn to have low level of education as many of them hold a Junior High School Certificates. This could be the reason why majority of them were found to be working in the agricultural sector, specifically farming before they finally embarked on their journeys. Their level of education could not equip them with the requisite skills and knowledge to get them jobs in the public sector of Ghana.

The marital status on the other hand, could be one of the influences of irregular migration, specifically where individuals find it difficult to cater for the family needs, they may turn to migrate irregularly to look for additional sources of support. Even though majority of respondents were employed in the agricultural sector, it is usually on subsistence basis and so they do not get enough income from the sector. They could therefore be regarded as the working poor. The findings further support the International Labour Organisation`s (2010) estimates that 105.4 million migrants are economically active migrants and together with family members they account for 90% of international migrants.

4.2 Reasons and means for Migration

People migrate for several reasons. As some people migrate for tourism, others migrate for family reunifications, for economic reasons as well as peer pressure. According to the literature on migration, the line between regular and irregular migration is very thin. The reason being that, visa statuses could change overnight. For instance, if a migrant takes a tourist visa but goes to work in the country of destination, he/ she becomes an irregular migrant.

The study as part of its central objective sought to determine the reasons why Dormaa Ahenkro youth migrate to Western Europe through the Sahara Desert and the means by which they migrate. In view of this, a number of questions were asked on the means by which they migrate through the Sahara Desert to Western Europe. Responses are provided in table 4.1 and 4.2 below.

Table 4.1: Means of migration by respondents

Did you migrate to western Europe	Air	Land	Sea	Total
Yes	0	70(93.7%)	5(6.3%)	75(94%)
No	5(6%)	0	0	5(6%)
Total	5(6%)	70(93.7%)	5(6.3%)	80 (100%)

Source: Author (2013)

The table above assesses the means by which Dormaa Ahenkro youth migrate to Western Europe and the various channels they use. From table 4.1 above, it is seen that 75 respondents representing 94% did migrate to Europe of which 70 respondents representing 93.7% migrated by land through several African countries to the Sahara Desert. The remaining 5 respondents representing 6.3% migrated by sea. This is illustrated on appendix 3, 4 and 5 on pages 86, 87 and 88 respectively. The five respondents who did not migrate to Western Europe but did migrate went by air. It is interesting to note that out of the 75 respondents (94%) who migrated to Western Europe, 70 (93.7%) went through the Sahara Desert.

Respondents were further asked the reasons for migrating through the Sahara Desert. Responses are provided in table 4.2.

Table 4.2: Reasons for Migrating through Sahara Desert

Reasons for using the Sahara Desert	Frequency	Percentage
No adequate resources	45	64
Unable to satisfy Visa requirements	15	21
Due to No education	5	7
Ignorant of visa requirements	5	7
Total	70	100

Source: Author, 2013.

The table above shows reasons provided by respondents for migrating to Western Europe through the Sahara Desert. Respondents 45 representing 60% indicated that they did not have adequate resources in terms of money and so they had to migrate to Western Europe through the Sahara Desert. This is followed by 15 respondents representing 19% indicating that they could not satisfy visa requirements, 5 respondents representing 7% each indicated that they were not aware of visa requirements and had no formal education respectively. In deducing the order of the needs, respondents were also asked to indicate the degree to which they agree or disagree to statements concerning the reasons why they migrated to Western Europe through the Sahara Desert. Responses are provided in table 4.3.

Table 4.3: Reasons for migrating through Sahara Desert rated

I migrated because I did not have a job							
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	No Response	Total
Frequency	65	8	2	1	1	3	80
Percent	81	10	2.5	1.2	1.2	3.6	100
I migrated because my job was not well paying							
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	No Response	Total
Frequency	60	4	0	2	2	2	80
Percent	75	5	0	2.5	2.5	2.5	100
I migrated because my friends asked me to follow them							
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	No Response	Total
Frequency	10	10	5	15	30	10	80
Percent	12.5	12.5	6.3	18.5	37	12.5	100
I migrated due to family pressure							
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	No Response	Total
Frequency	48	15	2	5	5	5	80
Percentage	60	18.6	2.5	6.3	6.3	6.3	100

Source: Author (2013)

From the table 4.3, it is deduced that 65 of the respondents, representing 81% strongly agreed that they migrated because they did not have jobs to do, followed by 8 respondents representing 10% who somewhat agreed that they migrated due to no jobs.

Also respondents rated the statement concerning jobs not paying well. 60 respondents, representing 75% strongly agreed that their jobs were not paying enough and so they had to travel to seek greener pastures. This was followed by 4 respondents representing 5% somewhat agreed that their jobs were not paying enough. With regards to peer influence, it is deduced that as many as 45 of respondents representing 56% indicated that they were influenced by peers to migrate through the Sahara Desert.

There were some respondents who did not provide any response to the question. The study also asked respondents to rate the extent to which family pressure influenced them to migrate. It was found out that 48 respondents representing 60% strongly agreed that there was some level of family influences in their decisions to migrate followed by 15 respondents representing 18.6% who somewhat agreed to the statement. However, there were 5 respondents representing 6.3% who somewhat strongly disagreed respectively. A mean and standard deviations were calculated to determine the magnitude of the responses. Table 4.4 provides the results.

Table 4.4: Means and standard deviations.

Variable	Mean	Standard Deviation	N
I migrated because I did not have a job	1.8	1.22	80
I migrated because my job was not well paying	2.8	1.48	78
I migrated because my friends asked to	2.1	1.60	65
I migrated due to family pressure	2.5	1.34	77

Scale: 1=Strongly Agree 2=Agree 3=Indifferent 4=Disagree 5=Strongly Disagree

The table above shows the means and standard deviations of the reasons for migrating through the Sahara Desert. It is deduced that the unavailability of jobs was highly rated with a mean of 1.8 and a standard deviation of 1.22, followed by the influence of peers with a mean of 2.1 and a standard deviation of 1.6. Also the influence of family pressure had a mean of 2.5 and a standard deviation of 1.34 while poor paying jobs had a mean of 2.8 and a standard deviation 1.48. The findings therefore imply that many of the youth in Dormaa Ahenkro migrate to Western Europe because there were no jobs followed by peer influence, that is, the success of returned youth migrants become a source of motivation for would be migrants. When their friends return home with substantial amount of money and are able to put up buildings, setup businesses and able to take care family members as well as marry the pretty ladies in town.

One key informant lamented in support of this finding that,

“You see my brother, the decision to embark on this difficult journey is due to several reasons. You see some of us travel because we have no jobs to do and because we do not have much education we are not able to get the public service jobs. Even those who are working in the government service, when we return we are better than them as some of them work for ages and cannot put a single block of a room” (Key informant, 2013).

Another key informant indicated,

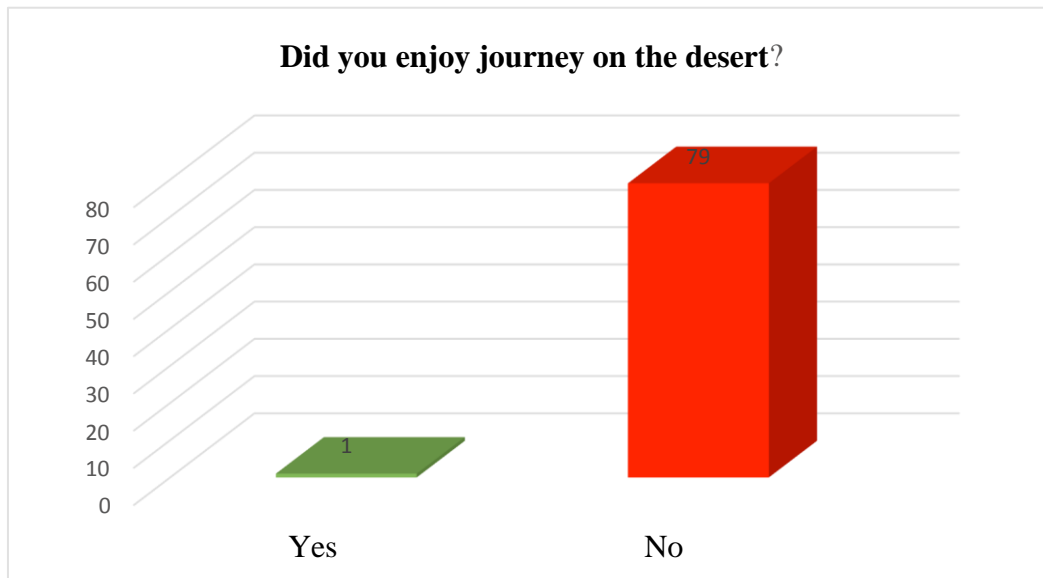
“As for me I migrated because I needed money to take care of my family and extended family members and also my job as a young farmer did not pay much so I needed a job that could give me more money” (Key informant, 2013)

“I inherited a cocoa farm from my late dad but it got burnt so I had to migrated to survive (respondent, 2013)

This finding supports the finding of Curtin (1997) that climate and other ecological forces have been the cause of migration. It further supports the findings of Passil (2006) that, United States of America employers hire and pay wages higher than what migrants could earn from their home or native countries, hence encourages migrants to migrate to the USA irregularly.

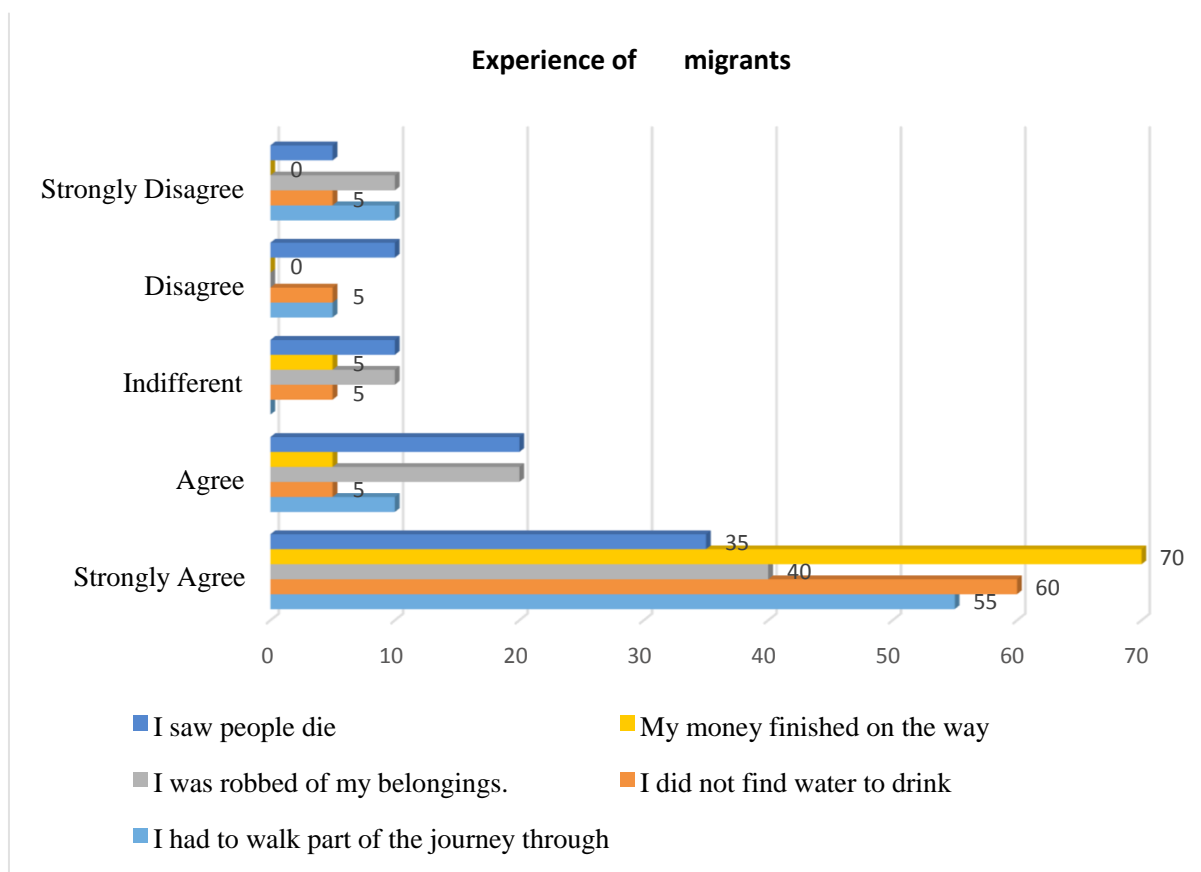
4.3 Experiences of Dormaa Ahenkro migrants

Experiences of individuals play a critical role for human growth and development. Sometimes some experiences encountered by some people hunt them till death. While some of these experiences are horrific, others are pleasant experiences such that people may not be able to repress or take out of memory. In view of this, the study sought to find out the kind of experiences irregular migrants from Dormaa Ahenkro go through on the Sahara Desert considering the fact that there is neither water nor vegetation on the Sahara Desert. It takes migrants days to reach their destinations. Results are provided in figure 4.6, 4.7 and table 4.5.

Figure 4.6: Enjoyment of journey

Source: Author (2013)

The figure above shows that majority of respondents 79 representing 99% indicated that they did not enjoy their journey on the Sahara Desert while the remaining 1 respondent representing 1% shared the view that the journey was enjoyed. Responses to the likert scale statements are provided below

Figure 4.7: Experiences of migrants

Source: Author (2013)

From the figure above, there is an indication that many of the respondents go through some adverse experiences on their journey through the Sahara Desert. On the issue of water to drink, 70 respondents representing 75% shared the view that they could not get water to drink on the journey, therefore strongly agreeing to the statement. 55 respondents representing 69% also strongly agreed that they had to continue part of the journey on foot on the desert. The issue of money they carry along was not left out.

A higher number of 70 respondents representing 89% strongly agreed that their money got finished in the middle of the journey, while with regards to physical attacks, 40 respondents representing 50% strongly agreed that they were robbed of their belongings on the way. On the issue of death, 35 respondents representing 44% strongly agreed that they saw some people die on the journey. The table below shows the magnitude of rates to the responses.

Table 4.5: Means and standard deviations

Variable	Mean	Standard Deviation	N
I had to walk part of the journey through	1.8	1.22	80
I did not find water to drink	2.1	1.48	78
I was robbed of my belongings	2.1	1.60	80
My money finished on the way	1.5	1.34	78
I saw people die	2.0	1.40	79

Scale: 1=Strongly Agree 2=Agree 3=Indifferent 4=Disagree 5=Strongly Disagree

From the table above, the issue of money being finished was highly rated with a mean of 1.5 and a standard deviation of 1.34 and a response rate of 99%. This is followed by the fact that respondents having to walk part of the journey through on the Sahara Desert, with a mean of 1.8 and a standard deviation of 1.22 and a response rate of 80%. Also, seeing people die was also rated significantly with a mean of 2.0 and a standard deviation of 1.40 and a response rate of 99%. People not getting water to drink as well as being robbed of their belongings produced a mean of 2.1 respectively but produced a different response rate and standard deviations. While being robbed produced a

response rate of 100% with a standard deviation of 1.60, the difficulty in getting water to drink produce a response rate of 97% and a standard deviation of 1.48.

The findings to a large extent indicated that irregular migrants from Dormaa Ahenkro go through some horrific experiences on the Sahara Desert on their way to Western Europe. The findings suggest that some of the irregular migrants do not get food to eat for days, some do not get water to drink and some of them face serious brutalities in the hands of immigration officers. Often times, the few females among them are sexually abused by security personnel.

Findings also showed that some of the irregular migrants saw other colleagues unable to make it through the journey and died. This kind of experience is enough to create some adverse effects on migrants. One key informant said,

“This our only God oh... the things man see on the road is not easy. Sometimes we see people die of thirst and hunger especially when we have to walk on the desert. The weather is sometimes so hot that you feel you are in hell fire and fire never quench only God my friend”

(Key informant, 2013)

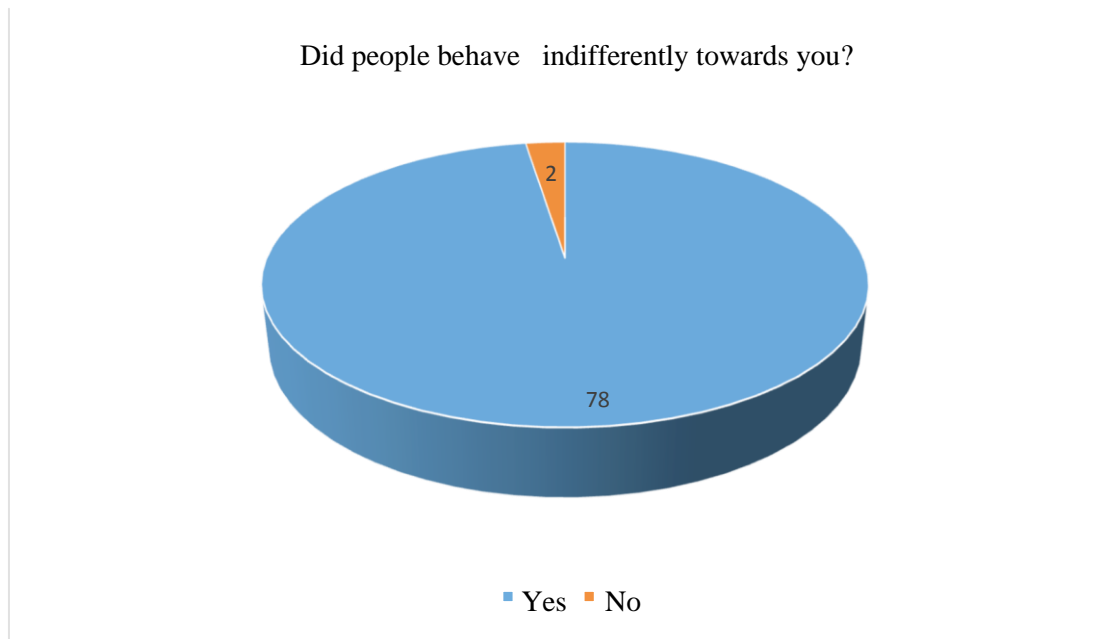
Another key informant shared the view that,

“Master, the nature of the journey is fearful, you need courage to able to go through the hot desert but sometime after you have suffered and made it to the Libya and looking for opportunity to head towards Spain, you are easily deported when you encounter an immigration officer from the Libyan people....the behave as if they are not Africans, especially the way they treat us”, (Key informant, 2013)

The above findings from key informant support the assertion that Dormaa Ahenkro youth migrants face horrific experiences. This findings also support the finding of UNODC (2008) that even though the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean pose major challenges to migrants, thousands of people cross these two places every year in order to migrate irregularly. In further support of the findings, Briscoe (2004) indicated earlier that health status of irregular migrants deteriorate due to poor housing conditions and transport in the quest to reach Italy or Spain.

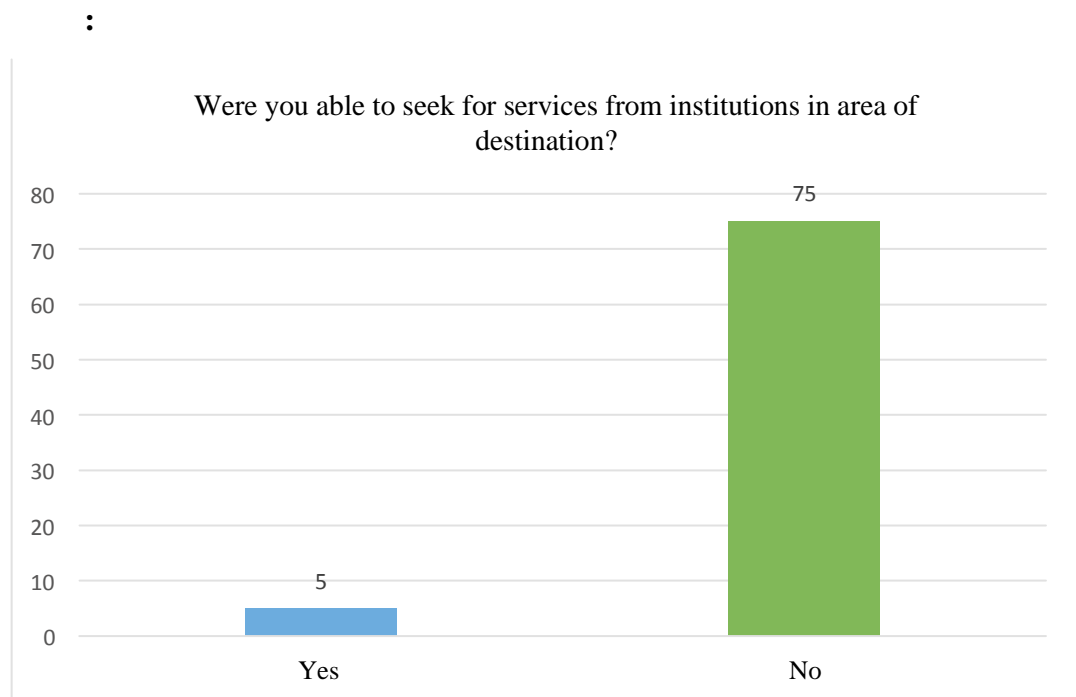
4.4 Perceptions and Attitudes towards Migrants

Migrants in general face some attitudinal challenges in their area of destination. Usually it is difficult to relate well to a person when you do not know him/her. This, coupled with racial abuse, discrimination and ethnocentrism are suffered by migrants especially, footballers. The study in view of this, sought to determine the kind of attitudes and perceptions irregular migrants go through in their area of destination. Responses are shown in figure 4.7, 4.8 and table 4.6 show responses.

Figure 4.8: Perceptions towards migrants

Source: Author (2013)

The table above shows that 78 respondents representing 97% share the view that people they met in transit and at the country of destination behaved badly towards them. The remaining 2 respondents representing 3% shared the view that no one behaved indifferently towards them. The study also asked respondents about attitudes towards them when they sought for services from institutions and individuals along the journey and in the country of destination. Responses are provided in the figure below.

Figure 4.9: Services by Respondents

Source: Author (2013)

The figure above shows that 75 respondents representing 94% shared the view that they were not able to seek for services from institutions and individuals from the country of destination, while 5 respondents representing 6% shared the view that they were able to seek for services from institutions and individuals in the country of destination. The table below shows the extent to which respondents agreed or disagreed with statements concerning attitudes towards them in the country of destination and when they return to their country of origin.

Table 4.6: Perceptions and Attitudes towards migrants

a. I was not treated well when I went to health institutions							
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	No Response	Total
Frequency	46	10	4	4	6	10	80
Percent	58	12.5	5	5	7.5	12.5	100
b. People did not interact with me on the streets							
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	No Response	Total
Frequency	56	10	4	2	3	5	80
Percent	70	12.5	5	2.5	3.7	6.2	100
c. Immigration officers abused me brutally							
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	No Response	Total
Frequency	68	3	0	0	0	9	80
Percent	85	3.7	0	0	0	11.3	100
d. We the blacks were mostly deported							
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	No Response	Total
Frequency	55	5	0	0	4	5	79
Parent	70	6.3	0	0	5.1	6.3	100
e. We were tagged with all criminal activities							
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	No Response	Total
Frequency	60	10	0	3	0	7	80
Percent	75	12.5	0	3.7	0	8.7	100
f. I am given the nick name “Burgar” at home							
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	No Response	Total
Frequency	77	3	0	0	0	0	80
Percent	96	4	0	0	0	0	100
g. They see me as a rich man at home							
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	No Response	Total
Frequency	78	0	2	0	0	0	80
Percent	97	0	3	0	0	0	100

Source: Author (2013)

The table above provides some interesting results on the attitudes and perceptions towards migrants in the country of destination and when they finally return to their country of origin. With regards to health issues, a significant majority of 46 respondents representing 58% shared the view that they were not treated well when they visited health institutions to seek for services. On the issue of interactions with other people, 56 respondents representing 70% strongly agreed that it was difficult to interact with people in the country of destination. Reasons provided included the fact that when an attempt is made, the citizens of the country of destination shy away and do not show any interest in interacting.

Also a majority of 68 respondents representing 85% strongly agreed that immigration officers brutally abused them when they had encounters with them. Some of the forms of abuse mentioned were physical beatings and racial abuse. Furthermore, 55 respondents representing 70% strongly agreed that they were usually deported without any opportunity to tell their stories or cases. A key informant lamented,

“Because we are blacks, they think that any black person is an illegal immigrant, so the little thing you are sent parking but we also have rights” (Key informant, 2013).

There is also a strong indication that irregular migrants are usually tagged and linked with criminal activities. From the table, 60 respondents representing 75% strongly agreed that they were usually tagged with all criminal activities. Responses also show that migrants yield some positive responses from people in the country of origin when they return after a long search for greener pastures. The table indicates that 77 of respondents representing 96% strongly shared the view that they are nick named

“Burgar” when they return home. It is a local word used to describe a person who had gone abroad and returned. Related to the Burgar concept, is the perception that they have returned home with a lot of money, hence very rich. In view of this, 78 respondents representing 98% shared that view and strongly agreed that they are usually regarded as rich men or guys from Europe and so people turn to them for financial assistance.

Similarly findings also imply that, with the least provocation between a migrant and a citizen of a destination country such Libya, Spain and Italy, the irregular migrant is deported without any due process. Others are tagged with all sorts of criminal activities even when they are innocent. One key informant lamented,

“The interactions between us and the citizens are very difficult. Sometimes we have to avoid them in social places since they look at us as if we are criminals and have no right but I think it is because we sometimes do not have the correct papers and so we hide” (Key informant, 2013).

Another key informant shared the following view,

“Sometimes you have to keep indoors for some times and those we come to meet tell us where can go and where we cannot go. Sometimes we resort to personal medications since we do not have correct papers and so we cannot even go to the hospital. The major problem is that since you black they see you as an animal” (Key informant, 2013).

Another interesting finding of the study lies in the fact that irregular migrants often receive positive attitudes from their peers, family member and the public at large. Findings indicate that they are often regarded as rich men or boys and also tagged with the nickname “Burgar” which they often respond with some form of pride. It is worth

noting that these kinds of attitudes encourage friends to also try to journey through the Sahara Desert. One key informant said,

“Even though it is difficult to embark this kind of journey, the success of it brings much joy and pride as you are respected when you make a successful return, friends and family see you as a changed person as well as changed in attitude. Even those who use to insult you begin to call you sir, master or burgar” (Key informant, 2013).

This supports the finding of a Southern African Migration Project (SAMP) in 1997, it concluded that public attitudes towards irregular migration is unfavourable, where about a third of black coloured and Asian South Africans supported the deportation of migrants, while for whites it was a little lower (29%) and the whites supported the deportation of migrants who did not contribute to the South African economy (Mattes et al, 1999). In all, it is known that irregular migrants go through challenges on their journeys for some good reasons and the success of the journeys means a lot to them and their families, as such they will do anything possible to migrate to Europe in search of greener pastures which in the end will accord them much respect.

4.5 Chapter Summary

The chapter presented and analysed data and also discussed findings in relation to literature reviewed. The chapter has been organised in sections according to the objectives and found out that, many of the youth in Dormaa Ahenkro migrate irregularly through the Sahara Desert to Western Europe in search of greener pastures and face some challenges and experiences. The next chapter deals with summary, conclusions drawn from the study and some recommendations aimed at influencing some policy decisions and so on.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

The previous chapter dealt with the analysis and interpretation of data as well the discussion of the findings in relation to literature reviewed in chapter two. This chapter deals with the summary of major findings, conclusions and recommendations in a bid to influence policies and aid in the operations of Non-governmental organisations that operate in the area of migration.

5.2 Summary of Findings

The study sought to determine the perceptions and experiences of Dormaa Ahenkro youth who migrate through the Sahara Desert to Western Europe in search of greener pastures. The study adopted the mixed method design, consisting of quantitative and qualitative research elements in a bid to enhance the validity of the findings and generalisation of the findings to the youth of Dormaa Ahenkro. A simple random sampling procedure was applied in reaching the respondents after the list of irregular migrants was obtained from the Association of Returned Migrants in Dormaa Ahenkro. Findings show that Dormaa Youth who migrate to Western Europe through the Sahara Desert are usually between the ages of 15 to 39 years. It is also found that, many of them are married and mainly engaged in farming with low levels of education.

With regards to reasons, experiences and perceptions, it was found that unemployment and family pressure play a key role in the decision to migrate through the Sahara Desert to Western Europe. The experiences faced are not favourable as some witnessed death but escaped it. The perceptions and attitudes faced are adverse in the country of

destination and positive to the individual migrant in the country of origin. While they are praised much at home and tagged as rich men, in the land of destination they faced serious racial abuse, physical abuse in the hands of immigration officers and not accorded much hospitality.

5.3 Conclusions

The study brought to light some revelations from which conclusions were drawn. From the study findings, it is concluded that the youth of Dormaa Ahenkro migrate through the Sahara Desert to Western Europe mainly because of economic reasons. These reasons cut across the search for well-paying jobs, the quest to better family conditions and to be recognised by family members and peers. Also, they do not possess the right documents when entering countries of destination and usually led by middlemen called smugglers. With regards to challenges, it can be concluded that Dormaa Ahenkro youth who migrate through the Sahara Desert to Western Europe face adverse challenges yet they endure the journey.

This is supported by the fact that some of them have to make some part of the journey on foot while others out of thirst die due to dehydration. While some are physically assaulted, some are robbed of their belongings on the way. Finally, on the issue of perceptions and attitudes towards them, irregular migrants from Dormaa Ahenkro are perceived negative in the countries of destination which is mainly Libya, Italy, Spain and Germany.

In their country of origin, they face very positive attitudes and perceptions from peers and family members. It can therefore be concluded that the positive attitudes and

perceptions received from the public serve as a motivating factor for fellow youth to also embark on such perilous journeys. In all, the theories employed put the study into perspective as they explain the reasons for irregular migration, perceptions and attitudes towards irregular migrants as well as the decision making process of migrants in deciding whether to embark on a journey or not. In the light of this, a number of recommendations have been established.

5.4 Recommendations

It is very relevant that after a very detailed study, recommendations are made to alleviate situations and improve on conditions. As a result of this, the study based on the findings proposed a number of options in reducing the menace of irregular migration among the youth of Dormaa Ahenkro. Some of the recommendations are hereby provided below;

5.4.1 Create Job opportunities

Creating job opportunities for youth plays a significant role in economic development. A number of governmental programmes have been developed in a bid to improve on the unemployment situation. Usually jobs can be created but the question that often remains critical is whether the jobs are paying enough. The adequacy of remuneration to an individual is relative, in the sense that, a number of variables such as the family size and family responsibilities play a role in determining whether a person's remuneration is adequate as well as issues of inflation rate, interest rates and commodity prices.

The most recent of governmental programme aimed at providing jobs for the youth is the Ghana Youth Employment and Entrepreneurial Development (GYEEDA), which

provides much employment opportunities for the less skilled, and less educated youth. In this regard, the study recommends that the government and other non-governmental organisations should aim at providing employment opportunities that will provide some reasonable remuneration to encourage the youth to remain and work instead of migrating irregularly to Western Europe risking their lives.

5.4.2 Provide more educational opportunities

Education plays a significant role in the future of an individual. It is through education that an individual acquires maximum knowledge, skills and information to prepare for the dynamic world. The study revealed that majority of the respondents had low levels of education, specifically Junior High School Certificates. This makes it difficult for them to obtain meaningful jobs considering the fact that, there many university graduates also searching for jobs.

This could compel them to migrate in an irregular fashion to Western Europe. In the light of this argument, the study recommends that the government should find avenues in improving the standards of education in Dormaa Ahenkro. For instance scholarships can be provided to encourage many of the youth to achieve higher heights in education.

5.4.3 Create Awareness of Migration Requirements

From the literature reviewed, it was indicated that many of the youth who migrate are ignorant of visa requirements. This was confirmed by the findings of the study as respondents indicated that they did not know the visa requirements. It may also be due to the fact that many of the youth are not able to provide the requirements or meet the requirements for the visas. Also, even if they are aware of the visa requirements, they may still not have enough money to secure them and migrate in a regular fashion. The

findings also reveal that some of them migrated irregularly because they followed friends who at the end of the day deceived them. In view of this, it is recommended that awareness should be created among Dormaa Ahenkro youth on the regular ways of migrating and also the visa and travel requirements so that they can make informed choices.

5.4.4 Develop bilateral migration agreements with countries of destination

Bilateral agreements enhance the relationship between two countries. Irregular migration or what may be termed as illegal migration is of serious concern to both giving countries and receiving countries. The literature indicated that some receiving countries have established regularisation programmes that in turn encourage more of irregular migration, as more migrants know that once they make it to those countries, they will one day be regularised.

Also since countries of origin also benefit from migrants after they return in the form of skills and expertise, it is necessary for the two countries to draw bilateral agreements to find ways of reducing irregular migration. As a result of this, it is recommended that the government of Ghana through the Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) draws up some bilateral agreements with receiving countries such as Spain, Libya and Italy to help curb the menace of illegal migration.

5.4.5 Improved security by post guards

The continues increase in irregular migration is an indication that many of the migrants are successful in their journeys. This implies that the various borders of the receiving countries are porous. The porosity of the borders may be due to corruption by immigration officials or poor professional performance by the border protection

officials. Many of the irregular migrants from Dormaa Ahenkro migrate through the Sahara Desert and use Libya as their first destination. Usually Libya becomes the transit point but the final destination is Spain, Germany or Italy. Also the fact that irregular migrants are finally able to settle in Spain, Italy or Germany also shows how porous their borders are.

To a large extent, it also shows how Ghana`s borders are porous. In view of this, the study recommends that, countries both receiving and giving in terms of irregular migration improve security at the various borders to curb the menace of irregular migration.

5.5 Limitation of the study

The main limitation of this study was the control of extraneous variables. It is an established fact that there are so many variables that could influence people to migrate irregularly. For instance, the quest for fame and being rich, and so on. However, asking questions and insisting on responses that were only related to irregular migration minimized the incidence of it.

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APPENDIX 1**University of Ghana****Title of Dissertation: Perceptions and Experiences of Dormaa
Ahenkro Youth on migration to Western Europe through the
Sahara Desert.**

Questionnaire for Respondents

Dear Respondent,

This is a study to find out the perceptions and experiences of Dormaa Ahenkro youth on migration to Western Europe through the Sahara Desert. This study is a Master of Arts dissertation which will be submitted to the Center for Migration Studies, University of Ghana. It is in this respect that I solicit your cooperation to complete the questionnaire. This is purely an academic work and the information provided will be treated with utmost confidentiality. No part of the information will be disclosed without prior consent from you.

Respondent No :.....

SECTION A DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

1. Age (In completed years)
2. Sex :
 1. Male []
 2. Female []
3. Marital Status
 1. Married []
 2. Single [] 3. Divorced []
4. Others
(Specify).....

4. Level of Education

1. No formal Education []
2. JHS []
3. MSLC []
4. SHS []
5. Tertiary []
6. Postgraduate []
7. PhD []
8. Others
(Specify).....

5. Occupation

1. Farming []
2. Trading []
3. Artisan []
4. Other
(Specify).....

SECTION B**Reasons for irregular Migration**

6. Did you migrate to Western Europe?

1. Yes []
2. No []

7. By what means did you migrate?

1. Air []
2. Land []
3. Sea []

8. Please provide reasons why you migrated through the Sahara Desert.

.....
.....

9. Please Rate the following

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Indifferent	Agree	Strongly Agree
I migrated because I did not have a job					
I migrated because my job was not well paying					
I migrated because my friends asked me to					
I migrated due to family pressure					

SECTION C Experiences of Dormaa Ahenkro Your migrants

10. Did you enjoy the journey through the Sahara Desert?

1. Yes []

2. No []

11. If yes, give reasons.....

.....

12. If no, give reasons

.....

13. Which of the following did you encounter on the journey?

1. I had to walk part of the journey through. []

2. I did not find water to drink. []

3. I was robbed of my belongings. []

4. My money finished on the way. []

5. I saw people die []

6. Others Specify).....

14. Please put a tick [√] in the appropriate cell that most adequately reflects your view in relation to the following:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Indifferent	Agree	Strongly Agree
I had to walk part of the journey through					
I did not find water to drink					
I was robbed of my belongings					
My money finished on the way					
I saw people die					

SECTION D PERCEPTION TOWARDS MIGRANTS

15. Did people behave towards you indifferently?

- 1. Yes []
- 2. No []

16. How do people back home perceive you? Please provide answers.....

.....

17. Were you able to seek for services from institutions in area of destination?

- 1. Yes []
- 2. No []

18. If No please state why.

.....

19. What kind of attitudes were shown to you at your destination? Please state them.

.....

20. Please rate the following. Please Tick [√]

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Indifferent	Agree	Strongly Agree
I was not treated well when I went to health facilities.					
People did not interact with me on the streets at my destination					
Immigration officers abused me brutally					
Black immigrants were mostly deported					
We were tagged with all criminal activities					
I am given the nick name “Burgar” at home					
They see me as a rich man/woman at home					

21. What can be done to improve the situation of irregular migrant? Please state

.....

.....

.....

APPENDIX 2

UNIVERSITY OF GHANA

CENTER FOR MIGRATION STUDIES

KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW GUIDE

Introduction

My name is George Obeng from the Center for Migration Studies, University of Ghana. I am conducting a study to find out the perceptions and experiences of Dormaa Ahenkro youth on migration to Western Europe through the Sahara Desert. This study is a Master of Arts dissertation that will be submitted to the Center for Migration Studies, University of Ghana. It is in this respect that I solicit your cooperation to complete the interview. This is purely an academic work and the information provided will be treated with utmost confidentiality.

No part of the information will be disclosed without prior consent from you

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

REASON FOR IRREGULAR MIGRATION AMONG THE YOUTH OF DORMAA AHENKRO

1. Why do the youth in this area migrate.

CHALLENGES OF MIGRANTS ON THE SAHARA DESERT

1. What are the challenges of migrants that you are aware of?
2. How serious are these challenges?

ATTITUDES TOWARDS MIGRANTS

3. Let us talk about behaviors towards migrants in their area of destination.

EXPERIENCES OF MIGRANTS

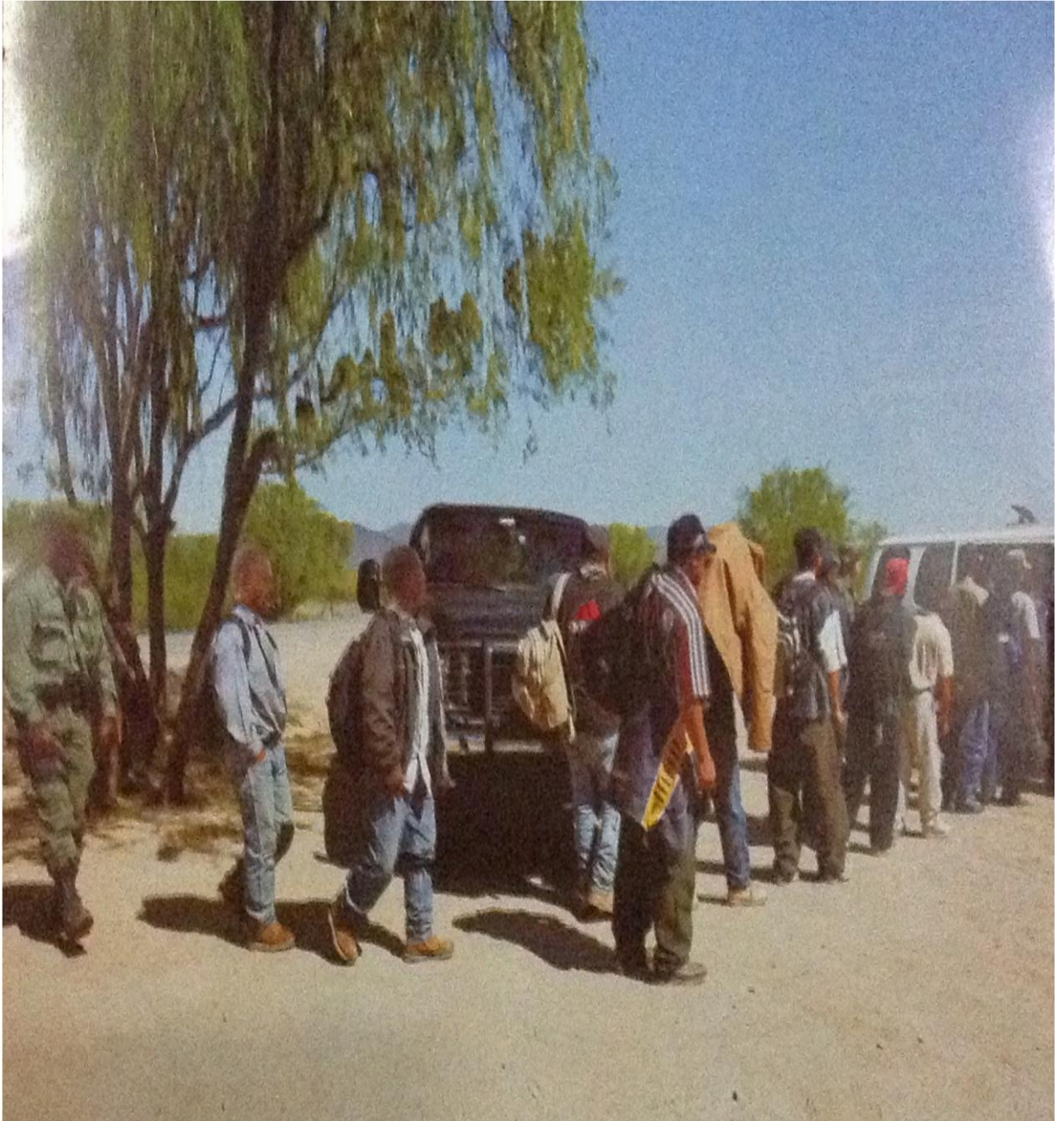
4. From the narrative perspective, what are some of the critical experiences Dormaa Ahenkro youth go through on the Sahara Desert?

RECOMMENDATIONS

5. What could be done to reduce the irregular migration among the youth of Dormaa Ahenkro?

APPENDIX 3

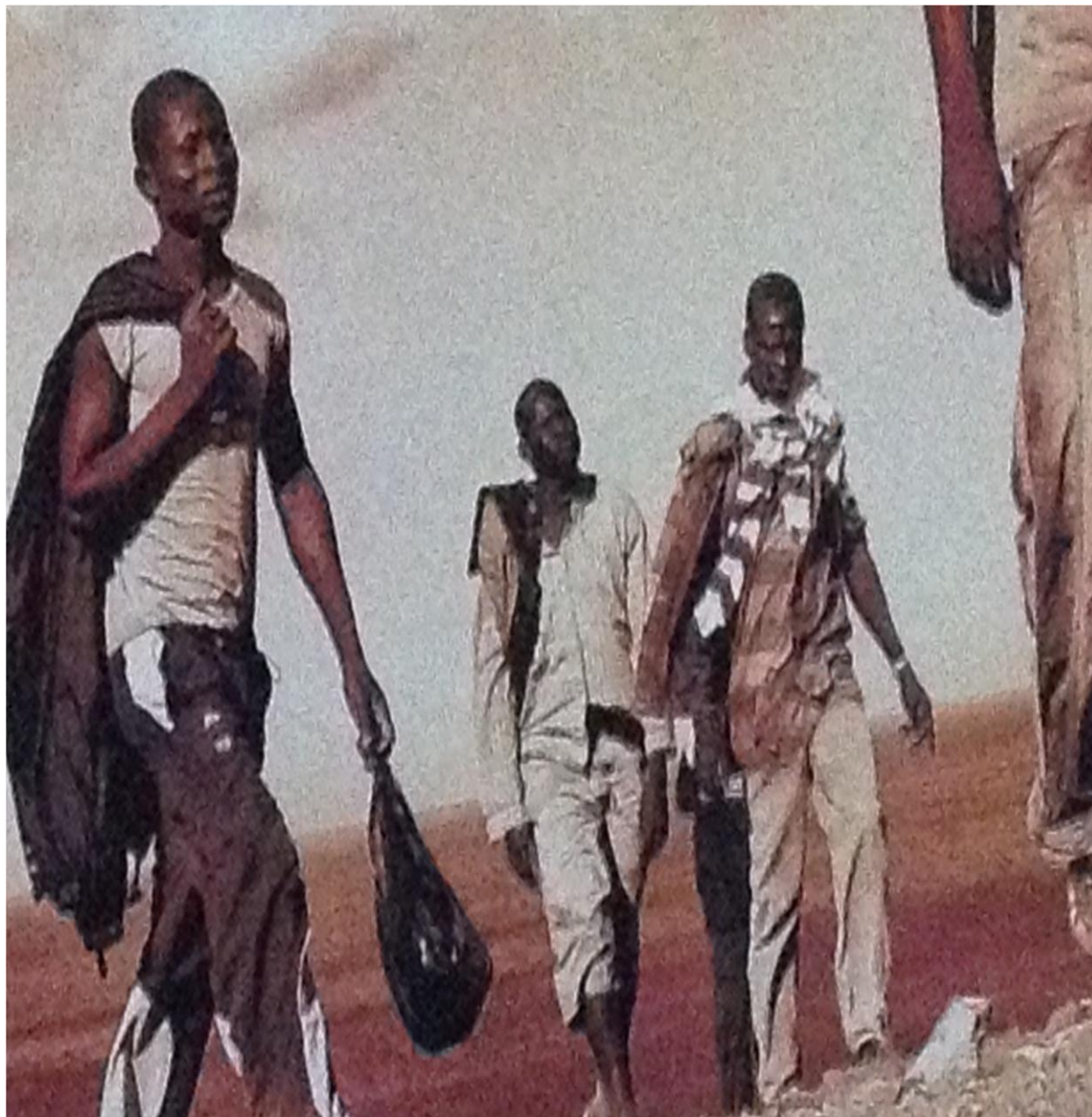
Journey begins by land on vans.



Source: Ghana Immigration Service (2013) Migration Alert no. 1.13

APPENDIX 4

Irregular migrants continue the journey on foot



Source: Ghana Immigration Service (2013) Migration Alert no. 1.13

APPENDIX 5

Irregular migrants crossing the Mediterranean Sea.



Source: Ghana Immigration Service (2013) Migration Alert no. 1.13

APPENDIX 6

Risk of migrants on the Sahara Desert



Source: Ghana Immigration Service (2013) Migration Alert no. 1.13

APPENDIX 7

Mortal remains of irregular migrants



Source: Ghana Immigration Service (2013) Migration Alert no. 1.13