

UNIVERSITY OF GHANA

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES

**DEPORTATION AND REINTEGRATION: CHALLENGES AND COPING
STRATEGIES AMONG DEPORTEES IN THE NKORANZA MUNICIPALITY OF**

GHANA

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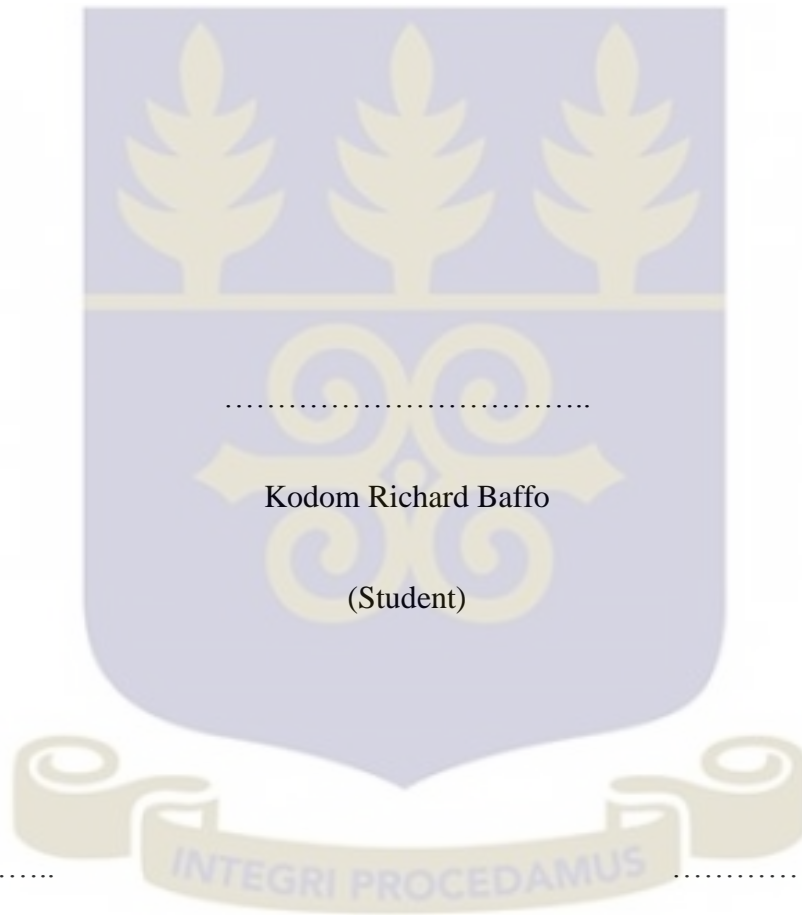
**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES IN PARTIAL
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DECLARATION

I, Kodom Richard Baffo declare that this thesis is the result of my own research work. This research was carried out at the Department of Social Work, under the supervision of Dr. Mavis Dako-Gyeke and Dr. Cynthia Akorfa Sottie. No part of it has been submitted anywhere for any other degree. All references cited in this work have been fully acknowledged.



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DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my mother, Mrs. Felicia Owusu, a diligent mother who labored for my education.



ABSTRACT

Given the rising number of deportees in Africa and Ghana in particular, this study explored the challenges and coping strategies among deportees in the Nkoranza Municipality in the Brong Ahafo Region of Ghana. The objectives of the study were to (a) find out why deportees in Nkoranza returned to Ghana (b) investigate the challenges faced by deportees (c) identify the coping strategies adopted by deportees and (d) ascertain the support services that are available for deportees. Using a qualitative research design, twenty-five participants (twenty-four males and one female) were purposively recruited for the study. In-depth interviews (IDIs) and key informant interviews (KIIs) were conducted to gather data for the study and thematic network was used to analyse the data. The findings of the study indicated that many of the deportees experienced difficulties in accessing jobs, faced health challenges and lost assets that could have been used to facilitate their reintegration. Additionally, other challenges identified were negative societal perceptions about deportees and poor deportee-community relationship. Furthermore, the findings indicated that there were support services provided by government and non-governmental organizations for deportees, but majority of the deportees had no information on these support services and therefore could not access them. Furthermore, the study revealed that participants used both problem-focused and emotion-focused coping strategies to deal with their challenges. Based on the findings of the study, it is recommended that immigration officers develop strategies to regulate the movement of Ghanaian nationals in and out of the country. In addition, implications are discussed for policy, social work practice and further research.

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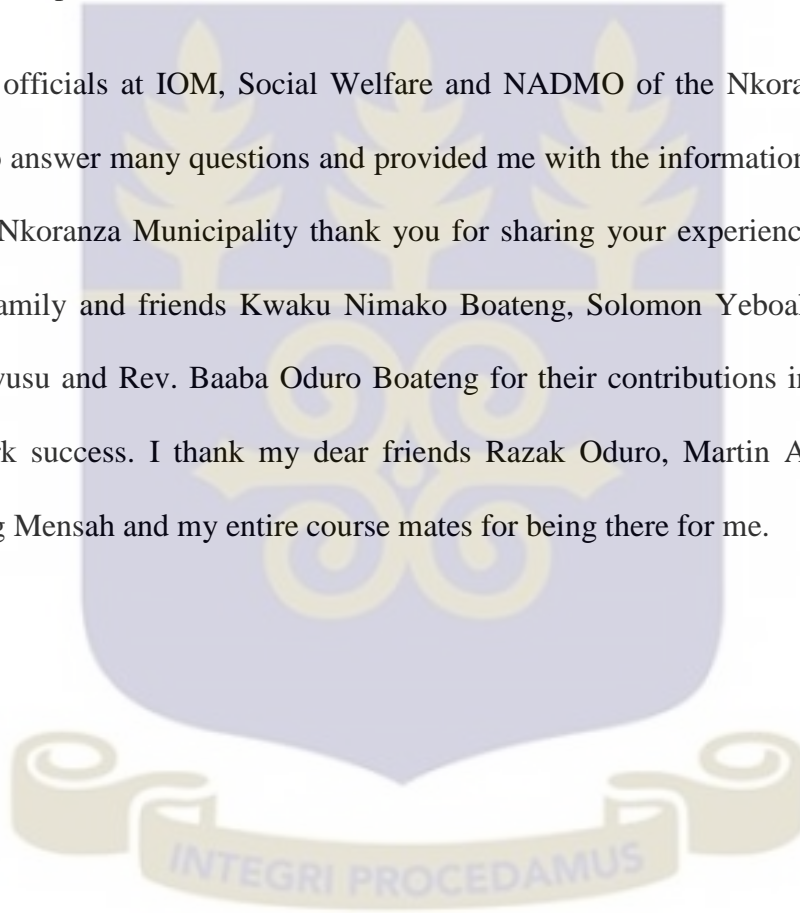
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ABBREVIATIONS

AGEF	Association of Experts in the Field of Migration and Development
CARIM	Consortium for Applied Research on International Migration
GSS	Ghana Statistical Service
IDIs	In-depth Interviews
IOM	International Organization for Migration
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
MoRR	Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation
NADMO	National Disaster Management Organization
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
UN	United Nations
USDHS	United States Department of Homeland Security
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees



CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The movement of people internally and across borders, which is part of human life has developmental effects on both home and host countries. As socio-political and economic conditions worsen, many people migrate to seek better conditions in other countries (Atsenuwa & Adepoju, 2010). In some European countries such as Germany and Italy, unemployment and lack of resources have influenced people's decision to migrate (Boswell, 2005). In Africa however, poverty, drought and war are some of the root causes of mass migration within the continent (De Haas, 2008).

International migration comes with remittances that help improve the welfare of families, communities and countries of origin (Azam & Gubert, 2006). For instance, migrants from developing countries remitted over \$315 billion in 2009, and this was three times the size of official development assistance (Ratha, Mohapatra & Silwal, 2010). Also, evidence from Africa and Latin America suggests that remittances help reduce poverty (Anyanwu & Erhijakpor, 2010). The benefits of migration have led to the increasing movement of both documented and undocumented migrants to some developed countries (Adepoju, 2006b). The United Nations (2009) reported that about 210 million of the world's population, representing three percent, live outside their countries of origin or birth (Anarfi & Kwakye, 2009; United Nations, 2009). Additionally, De Haas (2008) noted that on a frequent basis, millions of sub-Saharan Africans are waiting in North Africa to cross to Europe.

The management of migrants in host countries may be unbearable as some countries experience increased population and crime rates (Simon & Sikich, 2007). As a result, these countries have adopted management strategies such as detention and deportation to control immigrants (Schuster & Majidi, 2013). Deportation as a control mechanism has been used as a way of dealing with asylum seekers and foreigners convicted of crime in Western countries (Gibney, 2008). In 2005, the number of people deported from the United States reached 208,521 and 46% of them were deported for criminal reasons (United States Department of Homeland Security [USDHS], 2006). Countries such as Britain, Germany, Canada, and United States have used deportation to check the inflow of migrants (Gibney, 2008). In Morocco and Libya however, the incidence of war and political instability are some of the reasons for the deportation of migrants (De Haas & Sigona, 2012).

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (2012) estimated that, over 400,000 migrants were deported from Iran, even though the number decreased in 2011 to 211,023. In Africa, Ghanaian deportees from Libya increased to 54,000 by 2004 with an initial number of 4000 deportees in 2000 (Consortium for Applied Research on International Migration [CARIM], 2010). Schuster and Majidi (2013) asserted that deportation could create a sense of alienation, as well as economic hardships on deportees. In countries like Ghana, deportees who return with little or no resources are likely to face challenges reintegrating due to their failure to fulfill the desires and aspirations of their families and communities (Akyeampong, 2000). In order therefore to deal with the challenges they face during reintegration into their respective communities, deportees may adopt coping strategies.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Deportation is an issue of public concern in many African countries including Ghana. Between January and September 2004, 220 Ghanaians were arrested and deported in Spanish territorial waters (Adepoju, 2006a). Also, the Ghana Immigration Service Annual Report for 2008 revealed that Ghanaians deported from abroad in 2008 were 1344 (Aikins, Gyasi & Hlorgbey, 2009). In addition, 18,455 Ghanaian nationals were deported from Libya at the time of the uprising in 2011 (Kleist & Bob-Milliar, 2013).

As the number of deportees increase in Ghana, it could be difficult for the government to provide assistance and this could adversely affect their reintegration. Deportees may encounter challenges reconnecting with their communities on social and economic levels. In Ghana, in spite of the promises given to deportees by government and other stakeholders, majority of deportees may live without jobs. In addition, the experience of stigmatization, discrimination and difficulties in accessing health care could be common among deportees (Bob-Miliar, 2012). These experiences may not only affect their lives, but could affect the development of human capital or resources needed in building a strong nation.

Despite the untapped talents and resources of deportees as well as the challenges they face, little attention has been paid to the reintegration of deportees into mainstream society (Collyer, 2012). Though there have been studies on deportees in Ghana, it has concentrated mainly on the reasons for deportation with less attention on the challenges and coping strategies adopted by deportees (Bob-Milliar, 2012; Kleist & Bob-Milliar, 2013). In this regard, the existing literature has not focused much on the problems faced by deportees in order to develop appropriate interventions to improve their lives. This study therefore sought to explore the challenges and coping strategies among deportees in the Nkoranza Municipality in the Brong Ahafo Region of Ghana.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study were:

1. To find out why deportees in Nkoranza returned to Ghana.
2. To investigate the challenges faced by deportees in the Nkoranza Municipality.
3. To identify the coping strategies adopted by deportees in the Nkoranza Municipality.
4. To ascertain the support services that are available for deportees in the Nkoranza Municipality.

1.4 Research Questions

1. What were the reasons why deportees in the Nkoranza Municipality returned to Ghana?
2. What are the challenges faced by deportees in the Nkoranza Municipality?
3. What are the coping mechanisms adopted by deportees in the Nkoranza Municipality?
4. Are there support services available to deportees in the Nkoranza Municipality?

1.5 Significance of the Study

The study provides useful information that would add to the available research in this area. Also, the findings of the study would serve as an advocacy tool for social workers, and other organizations in the field of deportation and migration. In addition, the study would aid social workers, National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) officials and other stakeholders to be well informed about the challenges faced by deportees in their reintegration. This would help design appropriate intervention programs that would support deportees to reintegrate well into their communities.

Furthermore, the findings of the study could be used by immigration officers to develop strategies to regulate and facilitate the movement of Ghanaian nationals to and from abroad. The study would offer insight to deporting governments to factor into their policy framework deportation process that respects the rights of migrants. This would help reduce the challenges they face in the process of deportation and reintegration into their receiving communities in Ghana.

1.6 Study Area

Nkoranza South district is one of the 27 administrative districts in the Brong Ahafo Region of Ghana. The Brong Ahafo Region in which Nkoranza Municipality is located, was one of the most affected regions in Ghana noted for irregular migration in 2011 (Manuh, 2011). Population of the Nkoranza Municipality was estimated in 2010 at 100,929 (Ghana Statistical Service (GSS), 2010). Out of this population, 49.6% are males and 50.4% are females (GSS, 2010). The dominant economic activity in the Nkoranza Municipality is agricultural activity which employs about 75% of the population.

Aside, agricultural activities, the people are also engaged in occupations such as trading, small and large scale businesses and service related occupations (teaching, banking). The poverty rate of the district is estimated at 62% (GSS, 2010). Nkoranza Municipality has served as a transit point for transporting migrants to some North African countries and other parts of the world. Also, the majority of migrants in the Municipality are noted for travelling with false documents to other countries (Manuh, 2011). The Municipality recorded the highest concentration of deportees in Ghana in 2011 (Manuh, 2011). Moreover, the Municipality was a beneficiary of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reintegration program in 2011.

1.7 Definition of Terms

Migration: The process of moving, either across an international border, or within a State (Perruchoud, 2004)

Deportation: The removal of a person from a foreign country to his/her home country involuntarily as a result of illegal entry, criminal offense or political instability (Ruhs & Anderson, 2010).

Deportee: A person that has been removed from a foreign country to his/her home country involuntarily as a result of illegal entry, criminal offense or political instability (Ruhs & Anderson, 2010).

Reintegration: Re-inclusion or the re-incorporation of a person into a group, a process, or into the society of his or her country of origin or habitual residence (Perruchoud, 2004).

Immigration: A process by which non-nationals move into a country for the purpose of settlement (Perruchoud, 2004).

1.8 Organization of the Study

The study is organized into five chapters. The first chapter included the introduction of the study, the statement of the problem, objectives that guided the study and research questions. The chapter also discusses the significance of the study, the study area where the research was conducted and definition of terms. Chapter two covered the related literature review and theoretical framework that guided the study. The third chapter outlined the methodology for the study. This chapter comprised of the research design used in the study, sampling techniques used to recruit participants from the population. The chapter also discusses the sources of data and

how data handling and analysis was done. The fourth chapter focused on the findings and discussion of the findings. Chapter five summarises the findings of the study, draws conclusions based on those findings and makes recommendations relating to policy, practice and research.



CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES

2.1 Introduction

This chapter presents a review of relevant literature on the topic. The literature review includes the concept of migration, deportation, reasons for deportation, challenges faced by deportees, coping strategies adopted by deportees and support systems available for deportees in receiving countries. The chapter also describes Urie Bronfenbrenner's ecological systems theory and Richard Lazarus' coping theory and how they are relevant to the study.

2.2 Migration

Migration is an ancient phenomenon that is found in many societies in the world. As a phenomenon, it has been defined as the movement of people from one geographical region to another within a specific period of time and across space (Anarfi & Kwankye, 2009). In 1885 Ravenstein published the laws of migration and asserted that the major causes of migration are economic (Arongo, 2000). A study by Mafudkidze (2006) examined migration and migration patterns in Africa and reported that early migration discussions were deeply rooted in the neo classical tradition. The neo classical tradition is a model of migration decision making where an individual makes a rational choice to increase his/her welfare by moving to another place, normally where the individual expects to earn income (Mafudkidze, 2006).

In addition, Arongo (2000) argued that, the major economic factors in the neo classical explanation that leads to migration has already been explained several decades ago. For instance,

bad or oppression laws, heavy taxation, unattractive climate and even compulsion (slave trade, transportation), have all explained factors that contribute to migration (Arongo, 2000). Notwithstanding, none of these factors can compare in volume with that which arises from the neo classical explanation which explains migration as the desire inherent in most people to “better” themselves in material terms (Ravenstein as cited in, Arongo, 2000, p. 284).

Various theories have examined the reasons why people migrate from one place to the other (Jennissen, 2007). One of such theories that explain the reasons why people migrate is the dual labour market theory which emphasizes the pull and push factors of migration. The theory further elucidates that international migration is caused mainly by pull factors in developed or host countries. Atsenuwa and Adepoju (2010), in their study on the rights of African migrants and deportees noted that the limited capacity for a country’s labour market to absorb productive job seekers influence people’s decisions to migrate to other countries. In developing countries, poverty and the absence of sustainable livelihood opportunities, poor governance, political instability as well as abuse of human rights have fueled the rate of emigration (Atsenuwa & Adepoju, 2010).

A study which examined the impact of international migration in Latin America and the Caribbean found that migrants looking at opportunities available use migration as a domestic survival strategy to meet the needs of their families and communities (D’emilo, Cordero & Bainvel, 2007). They argued further that the increased demand for skilled labour coupled with higher wages in destination countries could serve as factors that influence people’s decision to migrate. In many African countries, people emigrate in search of better livelihood opportunities and well-paid jobs in other parts of the world (Akokpari 2006; Anarfi & Kwankye, 2003). According to Bob-Milliar (2012), in desperation for better conditions in other countries, migrants

risk their lives to get to their destinations with or without proper documents. Bob-Milliar (2012) asserted that migrants could even contact connection men and procure false travel documents to enable them pass border controls to satisfy their needs and demands.

Mensah (2012) in her study on involuntary return migration for development in Ghana argued that it is important to consider migrants not as homogeneous entity but as different social groups which could either be regular or irregular. She describes regular migrants as people who enter a country legally with the proper documentation. Such migrants may have travelled as a result of having a relative abroad, been recruited to an organization or to further their education (Mensah, 2012). According to De Haas (2008), regular migrants can assist other migrants to enter a country illegally but later obtain proper documents to become regular. In practice, regular migrants tend to be more recognized and protected than irregular migrants because of their status (De Haas, 2008).

Irregular migrants on the other hand, may be illegal and undocumented migrants who generally do not comply with some aspects of immigration laws such as rules of entry and stay (Mensah, 2012). In his report on irregular migration from West Africa to the Maghreb and the European Union De Haas (2008) defines irregular migration as “international movement or residency in conflict with immigration laws” (p. 13). Many irregular migrants enter destination countries legally, but subsequently overstay their visas, or engage in prohibited work, through which their status becomes irregular (De Haas, 2008). In another study on labour market discrimination against migrant workers in Italy it was found that regular migrants can over stay their permit and become irregular (Allasino, Reyneri, Venturini & Zincone, 2004).

2.3 Deportation

The issue of regular and irregular migration has created a friction between host countries and sending countries globally (De Haas, 2008). Some countries however, have increased the use of deportation by arguing that is a management control tool in the battle against undocumented migration (Collyer, 2012). Deportation involves the transfer of individuals from a state where they do not enjoy the benefits of citizenship to the state where they do, and the process is considered violent, involving the use of threat or force (Collyer, 2012). Although deportation may be traced back as long as countries have existed, the beginning of the 21st century has seen a sharp rise in deportation (Collyer, 2012). The recent growth of deportation in Europe for instance, has prompted a number of academic and policy focused investigations into detention and deportation (Collyer, 2012).

The deportation of immigrants constitutes another form of involuntary return and can take place at anytime upon arrival in host countries (Peutz, 2006). According to Kleist and Bob-Milliar (2013), in their writings on life after deportation and migration crises, there are several mass deportations taking place from countries in the global South where migrants are dumped and left to their home countries without any support. Evidence suggests that more than tens of thousands of people are deported each year from the United Kingdom (Anderson, Gibney & Paoletti, 2011). In a study on deportation and detention in South Africa found that, one thousand people are deported everyday from the United States and hundreds of thousands each year from South Africa (Sutton & Vigneswaran, 2011).

The use of deportation as a management tool has been normalized in many migration destinations and transit countries such as Europe and the United States (Kleist & Bob-Milliar, 2013). Despite the challenges associated with deportation, little attention has been paid to the

processes involved in deportation (Kleist & Bob-Milliar, 2013). David and Houte (2009) conducted a study to determine the embeddedness of forced-return migrants. They found that in response to the rise in deportation, some governments and non-governmental organizations have argued that deportation should take place in a context of dignity, safety and prospects for the future of the migrants being deported.

2.4 Reasons for Deportation

The reasons why people migrate and the reasons for their return home may affect their reintegration. Van Houte and De Koning (2008) in their study on returnees in six countries with 178 returnees as participants found that in some Western countries (Britain, Germany, and United States), migrants who applied for asylum or stayed illegally in the host countries were people mostly deported. The study which employed both quantitative and qualitative research methods revealed further that these migrants returned involuntarily, rather than a personal desire to return and that they did not possess a permanent permission to stay in their host countries (Van Houte & De Koning, 2008).

Similarly, Schuster and Majidi (2013) examined the post deportation experiences of deportees in Afghanistan and asserted that deportation has been used by host countries as a means to remove migrants with no rights to be in a given country. The study employed a mixed methods research design and found that in order to avoid illegal entry by some migrants; deportation was used as a deterrent to others intending to break immigration laws in many host countries. Other Western countries have developed effective deportation policies and programs to check the inflow of immigrants in their countries (Schuster & Majidi, 2013). In the European Union for instance, deportation has been an integral part of their immigration policy which aims at dealing with

unauthorized or illegal migrants (European Commission, 2005). In addition, Kleist and Bob-Milliar (2013) contended that the European Union's 2008 return directive policy included in its framework, the deportation of asylum seekers and rejected migrants who enter or stay in European countries illegally.

In a study on deportation of illegal immigrants under Obama administration in the United States, Slevin (2010) found that immigrants were deported based on different reasons. According to the study, deportees are diverse and they include people apprehended while crossing borders. Other deportees consist of people apprehended during workplace raid and migrants persecuted for other criminal charges, such as drug offenses (Slevin, 2010). Kleist and Bob-Milliar (2013) asserted that beyond the factors that lead to deportation, certain unbearable conditions in Africa can lead to the forceful removal of migrants without prior preparation. These conditions may include political and violent conflicts or natural disasters, which create challenges in the management of immigrants. Additionally, improper protection of migrants in host countries could lead to the deportation of people (Kleist & Bob-Milliar, 2013).

2.5 Challenges Faced by Deportees in Home Countries

Return migration can either be beneficial or worthless depending on the circumstances of return (Manuh, 2005). The return of migrants whether voluntary or involuntary has different implications for returnees and the communities to which they return. Migrants who return based on favourable conditions are likely to have planned their return and may find it easier to reintegrate into their communities. According to Cassarino (2008), return migrants' preparedness depends on two fundamental elements: (a) free will and (b) readiness to return. Free will is the subjective power to choose to return at a certain time because it seems to be a timely and logical

phase in the migratory process (Cassarino, 2008). The freedom to choose to return may be beneficial because the migrant as a person will weigh the costs and benefits of the decision to return (Cassarino, 2008). Also, readiness to return reflects the extent to which migrants have been in a position to mobilize the adequate tangible (financial capital) and intangible resources (skills and social networks) needed to secure their return whether temporary or permanent (Cassarino, 2008).

Return is beneficial for migrants who plan their return because they find it easy to reintegrate into their communities. They are able to create businesses and contribute expertise for the development of their communities (Black, King & Tiemoko, 2003). In a study which employed snowball technique to recruit thirty-seven male and female deportees in Jamaica, Golash-Boza (2013) found that unlike voluntary returnees, the high and increasing rate of deportation has consequences for the involuntary returnee. From the study, deportees in Jamaica were among the working poor, unemployed and living in precarious situations with no assistance. The deportation of migrants creates a sense of alienation, shame and isolation and is attributed to the Jamaican culture which places many expectations on migrants who return from their host countries (Golash-Boza, 2013). The study further indicated that deportees who were dependent on other people for their needs were regarded as shameful to their families and communities.

Brotherton and Barrios (2009) conducted a study on displacement and stigma in Dominican Republic recruiting 80 deportees with 20 key informants. The study found that stigma and discrimination associated with deportation makes reintegration difficult for deportees. The experience of stigma is probably the most difficult social and psychological issue confronting deportees, regardless of where they reintegrate in Dominican societies (Brotherton & Barrios, 2009). The authors highlighted that stigmatization and discrimination experiences of deportees

may be influenced by the culture of the receiving communities. Kleist and Bob-Milliar (2013) indicated that the stigma may be unbearable by rumours about the reasons for their return, including suspicion of criminal or immoral behavior leading to social isolation and stigmatization.

Kleist and Bob-Milliar (2013) have argued that there are often high expectations by communities in Ghana for migrants returning from abroad regardless of the mode of return. Deportees however, sometimes return with little or no resources having lost their belongings abroad or had no opportunity to save resources (Kleist & Bob-Milliar, 2013). In communities with high expectations regarding the economic outcomes of migration, the shame of returning empty-handed can be unbearable (Kleist & Bob-Milliar, 2013).

In an ethnographic study on deportation stigma and re-migration recruiting 100 deportees in Afghanistan, Schuster and Majidi (2014) found that deportation at least creates additional reasons for re-migration by deportees. This is because deportation challenges established norms in receiving communities and therefore deportees experience stigma, discrimination and shame due to discrepancies between what is socially expected of them and what is the actual reality. The experience of stigmatization and discrimination by deportees is likely to make adjustment and integration difficult if not impossible in the receiving communities or destinations and this can lead to re-migration. Moreover, deportees have greater spatial mobility (Anarfi & Jagare, 2005) as they are more likely to be physically, emotionally and financially unprepared unlike voluntary returnees.

Bob-Milliar (2012) examined the political economy of state responses to migration among Ghanaian deportees and found that the majority of deportees came from communities with little

economic opportunities. The mass deportation may have wider implications for the local community in terms of creating increased competition for employment (Kleist & Bob-Milliar, 2013). As a result, many deportees have remained jobless and others are planning to return to their host countries (Naik & Laczko, 2012). Thus, the deportation of undocumented migrants to unfavourable conditions in their countries of origin may be a potential source of mass unemployment which could adversely lead to conflicts and other social vices in their receiving communities (Bob-Milliar, 2012).

According to Schuster and Majidi (2013), important aspects of successful reintegration of deportees include a safe reception, employable skills and resources which could help facilitate their integration. However, spending many years before being returned involuntarily, many deportees come back with no improvement in their education, skills, or knowledge (Schuster & Majidi, 2013). This is because while some deportees might have acquired skills in host countries, others suffer skills degradation in host countries and may lack contact with the labour market in their home countries (Kleist & Bob-Milliar, 2013). The feeling of having lost opportunities, skills and wasted time that could have been used is a reality that some deportees experience difficulties adapting to their new environment in their countries of origin (Schuster & Majidi, 2013).

When migrants are deported to their home countries, they may not be enthused to take up particular job opportunities due to varied reasons (Bob-Milliar, 2012). For example, deportees having become used to different life styles in host countries, find the salaries and wages paid in home countries to be meager and insufficient and this could render many deportees unemployed (Bob-Milliar, 2012). This notwithstanding, some deportees may be willing to stay in order to

start some income generating activities should they receive financial and logistical support (Bob-Milliar, 2012).

The absence of support systems and job opportunities make reintegration difficult for deportees in their receiving communities. In the case of Afghanistan, many deportees mentioned the rampant corruption in their country, within the government and the labour market, which made it difficult for deportees to access job opportunities (Schuster & Majidi, 2013). Also, some deportees refused to work either because the remittances and support they received could not sustain them or because of their perception of nepotism and corruption in the country and these factors made the search for work very difficult (Schuster & Majidi, 2013).

In an investigation on the challenges faced by deportees Bob-Milliar (2012) found that majority of deportees expressed concern about how deportation comes like a shock and poses emotional and psychological effects on their health. In Ghana, deportees sometimes arrived in Accra looking traumatized with signs of physical torture on their bodies (Bob-Milliar, 2012). The lack of access to psychosocial counseling and health care may create further challenges for deportees' integration into their home countries (Kleist & Bob-Milliar, 2013). According to Kleist and Bob-Milliar (2013), deportees who may return with little or no resources may have difficulties accessing health care. Moreover, deportees may suffer health issues which may deteriorate further in circumstances of lack of treatment and health insurance.

2.6 Support Services Available to Deportees

The most common reaction by deportees to deal with post deportation life is to migrate again (Schuster & Majidi, 2014). From the study by Schuster and Majidi (2013), deportees who return to meet little or no structural improvement to security and the economy re-migrate to other

countries. The study further highlighted that the absence of better conditions home compel them to leave their host countries especially if they were deported before they were ready to return. Moreover, Laczko (2005) studying migration and development revealed that reintegration support systems are absent in many parts of the world where it is needed the most. As a result, many developing countries rarely have reintegration policies or programs for return migrants in their counties of origin.

However, Chu, Stec, Dunnwald and Loran (2008) asserted that the main aspect of support for deportees has been initial reception assistance, transport upon arrival, temporary accommodation, access to health care, employment and education. Similarly, in some developing countries, support for deportees covers a broad range of forms extended by a variety of institutions including host and home governments, NGOs and other institutions or organizations involved in return migration (Van Houte & De Konning, 2008). These forms of assistance can be provided before, during or after return and can include financial assistance in the form of grants, income generating assistance, travel expenses, as well as material assistance such as accommodation, medication and work materials (Van Houte & De Koning, 2008).

Deportees in their home countries may rely on assistance from government and humanitarian organizations for their survival. The work by Ochi (2005) on return migration of Filipina overseas workers reported that reintegration can successfully be fostered through effective collaboration between government, non-governmental organizations, and social groups. For instance, cited in the study is the collaboration between the Philippine Department of Labour and Employment, and Welfare Administration that provide assistance to deportees.

Bree (2008) for instance found that the Association of Experts in the Fields of Migration and Development (AGEF) provides assistance for deportees from the UK and Germany. From the study both deportees and voluntary returnees receive information from AGEF about their activities for returnees. This assistance includes a business start-up program, during which deportees receive two weeks training and an amount of money to cover the initial start-up, which they receive in Afghanistan (Bree, 2008). In an attempt to facilitate integration and create opportunities for those deported, some non-governmental organizations and deporting governments have set up programs to create livelihood and encourage sustainable return (Majidi, 2009).

Majidi (2009), in an evaluation of the United Kingdom return and reintegration program revealed that IOM have been contracted to offer payments and courses to improve skills in the hope that deportees may set up businesses. Schuster and Majidi (2013) expound that these attempts by INGOs and foreign governments to create structures that will encourage deportees to return and remain have been effective in the reintegration of deportees in Afghanistan. For instance, deportees from host countries that have programme with IOM and who qualify for their assistance, receive a substantial amount of money for their reintegration (Van Houte & De Koning, 2008). However, to Van Houte and De Koning (2008), the work of the organization is restricted to implementing host government policies, which mainly consists of giving financial assistance, where there is not much room for assessing individual needs before receiving support from these organizations.

Besides the IOM assistance, a representative of the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MoRR) await returnees at the airport to monitor them and provide them with information in Afghanistan (Bree, 2008). In Afghanistan, MoRR has a guesthouse available for a maximum of

two weeks for deportees who have nobody to return to in Kabul before they later return to their families in the rural areas. Also, as part of the reintegration programs and assistance in Ghana, resettlement scheme for deportees in Northern region was established by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to assist deportees (IOM-Ghana, 2012).

As part of the support services, the government of Ghana has linked up with international organizations to assist with the resettlement of returnees. A pilot project was started by UNDP and IOM and deportees were given agricultural inputs (weedicides, fertilizers, improved tomato and cabbage seeds (IOM-Ghana, 2012). In addition, a study by Mensah (2012) on the reintegration process for Ghanaian migrants found that involuntary return migrants were not certain about their long stay in Ghana. However, the findings expressed that those on the reintegration program felt more positive about their chances of making a meaningful life in Ghana than those who were without the support.

The IOM's reintegration program in Brong Ahafo region was mainly to provide business skills, training, funding to start their businesses and provision of tools as well as financial assistance (Mensah, 2012). According to Mensah (2012), all those who were recruited and were part of the reintegration program said they had received skills training on how to start, maintain and run their own businesses. According to an IOM official, programs such as these require financial backing since IOM and NADMO cannot afford to cater for all 18,111 deportees nationwide (Mensah, 2012). In a current study by Mensah (2014), it was found that those without support services have the desire to re-migrate since support from relatives and friends are mostly not sustainable.

2.7 Coping Strategies Adopted by Deportees

In the absence of support services it has been observed that deportees develop coping strategies to deal with the adverse effect of deportation. A study by Tiilikainen and Koehn (2011) which recruited participants from Somalia found that involuntary returnees find relief and opportunities by keeping regular contacts with friends and relatives across borders. Analysis from Jamaican deportees shed light on how forced return migrants use remittances to deal with the shameful, emotionally and physically stressful experiences of deportation (Golash-Boza, 2013). Moreover, the study revealed that, deportees use remittances to deal with financial hardship in their home or countries of origin. Van Houte and De Konning (2008) asserted that, deportees relied on remittances for their day to day survival in the various communities they find themselves in. According to Golash-Boza (2013), most deportees dream of being able to fend for themselves and hope to receive money from abroad that will enable them to set up their own businesses.

In instances where migrants kept little or no ties with family, deportees depended on loans (Van Houte & De Konning, 2008). These loans and allowances help deportees to deal with situations in their receiving communities. To Schuster and Majidi (2013), the taking of loans by deportees to establish their own businesses is a common coping mechanism adopted by deportees in Afghanistan. However, Mensah (2014), studying involuntary return migration and reintegration in Ghana found that deportees depend on the savings and investments that they had saved while away from Ghana. From the study, some migrants who were deported were confident that they could stay and work in Ghana if they are provided with the needed support for their reintegration. These groups were in the minority, they were primarily those who were under the IOM reintegration program established in Ghana.

According to Van Houte and De Konning (2008), the extent to which a deportee may benefit from social capital, depends on the type of social networks he or she has. Social contacts become valuable when there is some sort of closeness, the feeling that one can really rely on the other. As part of the coping strategies, access to social networks (family and friends) in receiving communities by deportees help in their reintegration (Cassarino, 2004). Also, other deportees depended on relatives to whom they sent monies when they were away. These relatives include siblings, friends and parents, and deportees depend on these relatives' for their survival even whiles without jobs (Mensah, 2014).

Similarly, Bree (2008) in an investigation on return migration to Afghanistan: Monitoring the embeddedness of returnees using both qualitative and quantitative research design found that social network play an important role in accessing employment. Bree (2008) highlighted that two out of the three stably employed deportees obtained their job through information by family members and others through their friends and cousins. Also, as indicated further by the study, most of the deportees expressed concern that social networks made them feel at home. Deportees related this to the social networks that existed between them and their families and friends which facilitated their ability to seek for information and jobs (Bree, 2008).

Alpes (2012) describes a number of strategies to deal with stigmatization, including hiding of identities from the public in order to avoid shame. Similarly in other cases, the individual may return home but change the truth behind the deportation and claim instead to be visiting, while intending to leave again when able to mobilize some resources. If the person deported has the resources they can create another life in the community or country of origin and leave behind their deportation experience (Shuster & Majidi, 2014).

2.8 Theoretical Perspectives: Ecological Systems Theory and Coping Theory

This study employed two theories, ecological systems theory and the coping theory. These theories were used by the researcher to explore the challenges and coping strategies among deportees in the Nkoranza Municipality. The theories enabled the researcher to have a broader understanding of the phenomenon.

2.8.1 Ecological Systems Theory by Urie Bronfenbrenner (1979)

The ecological systems theory was developed by Urie Bronfenbrenner a Russian American Psychologist. Ecological systems theory states that human development is a consequence of an individual's personal attributes and environment or context in which the individual lives. The theory focuses on the individual as part of the system and interacting with other systems. The term 'ecological' stems from the scientific reference to ecology which is the study of how organisms relate with their natural environment. From a sociological perspective, this refers to how human beings or groups relate to their existing environments. The ecological systems perspective is based on the belief that persons are in constant interaction with their environment and are encircled within networks that can influence the individual or family in both positive and negative ways.

These systems could be groups, institutions, neighbours, cultural context in which an individual lives including socio-economic status. According to Bronfenbrenner (1979), the ecological systems theory consists of five nested systems. The first system is the microsystem. It is the closest environment for an individual and includes the structures which the individual maintains direct contact with. Structures in the microsystem include family, peers and neighborhood. The microsystem is the environment which the deportee maintains direct contact with. Applying the

ecological systems theory, interactions in the immediate environment of deportees were examined to ascertain how they support or influence the challenges they face.

The second system is the mesosystem and it refers to the linkages and processes that take place between two or more settings containing the individual such as between the individual's family and community, spouse and extended family, church and community. In identifying the challenges faced by deportees, the ecological systems theory enabled the researcher to understand how relationships between the deportees' family and the community, spouse and extended family systems, church and community support the challenges they face. The third system is the exosystem and it accounts for the linkage and processes taking place between settings, at least one of which does not ordinarily contain the developing person, but in which events occur that influence processes within the immediate settings of the individual. Application of the theory enabled the researcher to identify how environmental context and processes influence the challenges of deportees of which he/she is not directly a part of these systems.

The fourth system, the macrosystem consists of societal values that define gender roles, cultural values, social identity, and global resources. The theory helped the researcher understand how societal values, customs and government policies in the macrosystem of deportees support or influence the challenges they face in the Nkoranza Municipality. The fifth system, the chronosystem encompasses change over time not only in the characteristics of the individual, but also the environment (changes in the family structure, employment, place of residence) in which that individual lives. In the application of the ecological systems theory, changes overtime in the environment of deportees in the Nkoranza Municipality were examined to find out how the changes support or influence the challenges they face in their reintegration into the society.

2.8.2. Coping Theory by Richard Lazarus (1993)

Another theory employed by this study was the coping theory developed by Richard Lazarus an American Psychologist. The theory defines coping as ongoing cognitive and behavioural efforts to manage specific external and/or internal demands that are appraised as taxing or exceeding the resource of the person (Lazarus, 1993). According to the theory, coping has to do with skills, and abilities that allow people to manage and face life difficulties in order to prevent and minimize stress related illnesses. The theory of coping emphasizes that, individual coping mechanisms changes from one time to another in any given stressful situation or condition. Moreover, the theory emphasizes that there are at least two major functions of coping, problem-focused coping and emotion-focused coping.

The problem-focused coping involves changes in the troubled person-environment relationship by acting on the environment or oneself. It is generally viewed as an adaptive mode of coping that involves actively planning or engaging in a specific behaviour to overcome the problem causing distress (Folkman & Lazarus, 1985). In this study, the problem focused coping relates to how deportees use external coping resources to confront or eventually deal with the challenges they face in the environment. The emotion-focused on the other hand, aims at changing the way the stressful relationship with the environment is attended to, as in either paying close attention to the relationship (vigilance) or preventing it from happening (avoidance).

Moreover, the emotion-focused coping involves the change in the relational meaning of what is happening, which mitigates the stress even though the actual conditions of the relationship have not changed. For instance, a loved one makes a disparaging comment, which is taken as demeaning. Now suppose the recipient of the provocation wishes to avoid feeling and displaying the resulting anger, he/she could give excuses to the loved one that he or she is ill or worn out,

which calls for empathy. The provocation can be overlooked and the anger need not be felt or expressed (Lazarus, 1993). Given that deportees adopt strategies to overcome the adverse challenges of involuntary return, the theory enabled the researcher identify the various personal coping resources to help lessen the challenges they face.

The two theories were useful for the study as they complemented each other in understanding the challenges and coping strategies among deportees. The ecological systems theory was used to examine how different actors and factors in the environment combine to influence the challenges faced by deportees in the Nkoranza Municipality. Given that deportees adopt coping strategies in order to reintegrate in their home countries, the coping theory enabled the researcher to explore the various coping strategies that are adopted by deportees in Nkoranza.

The literature reviewed indicated that several reasons led to the deportation of migrants. The reasons identified in the literature included: illegal entry into host countries, border crossing and political instability. Also, it was found out that deportees faced challenges such as unemployment, skills degradation, stigmatization and discrimination in their receiving communities. Moreover, the literature revealed that deportees adopted several coping strategies. These consisted of remittances received from relatives abroad, loans to establish businesses and savings they made while they were in host countries. In addition, support services available for deportees were also considered. These support services included loans to start businesses, accommodation and employment opportunities. Furthermore, the current study is in connection with the literature reviewed because it employed qualitative study to find out the reasons for deportation, challenges faced by deportees, coping strategies and support services available to deportees in their receiving communities.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This section outlines the methods and techniques that were used in the data collection and analysis. Methodology refers to the choices we make about cases we study, methods of gathering data and forms of data-analysis in planning and executing a research study (Silverman, 2005). Methodology therefore has been defined as, “a coherent set of rules and procedures which can be used to investigate a phenomena or situation within a framework dictated by epistemological and ontological ideas” (Kitchin & Tate, 2000, p.6). It shows how the research should be done and it provides a fundamental basis for a research. This chapter presents the research design adopted in the conduct of the study, description of the population and the sampling techniques used to select participants from the population. The chapter also discusses the sources of data, methods used in the collection of data, data handling and analysis. Finally, the chapter discusses how ethical issues were handled in the conduct of the study.

3.2 Research Design

This study employed a qualitative research design as it perceives reality as a product of social construction (Bryman, 2008). Qualitative research design seeks subjective meaning into issues in specific contexts (Saks & Allsop, 2007). It provides in-depth understanding into the experiences of people and provides the opportunity for researchers to have access to valuable types of data which are richer in meaning (Silverman, 2011). Also, the design places much emphasis on gaining individual values and meanings on what is to be studied so as to produce understanding

rather than generalized results (Kitchin & Tate, 2000). The design thus, enabled the researcher to explore the experiences of deportees regarding challenges they face and coping strategies they adopt. Using this research design, the researcher was able to capture the voices of participants in order to understand their lived experiences.

3.3 Population

The target population consisted of Ghanaian deportees living in the Nkoranza Municipality, officials from National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO), Department of Social Welfare, International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Scholars in Transit.

Included in the study were Ghanaian deportees living in the Nkoranza Municipality who returned between the period of 2010 and 2015, with a minimum stay of three months and maximum of five years in the Nkoranza Municipality. According to Arowolo (2000), the longer the period since return, the less likely the information supplied will be accurate and reliable. Also, the minimum period of stay in the host country is very crucial in conducting a study on deportees. For the purpose of this study, a minimum of one year stay in the host country before being deported was considered. Furthermore, Oberai (1948) suggested that three months may be used as the minimum period for return from host countries (Oberai as cited in, Arowolo, 2000, p. 63).

Also, the study included key informants from International Organization for Migration (IOM), National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO), Department of Social Welfare and Scholars in Transit an NGO in the Municipality. Officials from IOM were included in the study because they are the international organization that facilitates the evacuation of deportees and provide support services for their reintegration into society. Officials from NADMO were considered on the basis that they are Ghana's primary disaster response organization and they

take records and organize deportees for support services. The Department of Social Welfare monitors the effectiveness of the support services for the reintegration of deportees. Also, an official from Scholars in Transit was included in the study because it is a non-governmental organization that provides support services for deportees in the Nkoranza Municipality.

3.4 Sampling Techniques

Purposive and snowball sampling techniques were used in this study. Purposive sampling technique is the deliberate choice of an informant due to the qualities the informant possesses (Tongco, 2007). In addition, purposive sampling helps researchers to select a sample on the basis of knowledge of a population, its elements, and the purpose of the study (Babbie, 2003). Purposive sampling was used to select deportees on the basis that they have experienced the problem under study. Also, key informants such as officials from IOM, NADMO, Department of Social Welfare and Scholars in Transit were selected purposively because they help facilitate the reintegration of deportees by providing support services for them.

Identifying deportees as a group was difficult, but locating one of them helped led to the others because it is noted that people mostly migrate in groups (Anarfi, Kwankye, Ofosu-Mensah & Tiemoko, 2003). Snowball sampling technique was therefore appropriate for recruiting deportees for the study. Also, snowball as a respondent driven sampling technique allows researchers to make estimates about social network connecting hidden populations (Anheier & Katz, 2004).

3.5 Sample Size

The researcher recruited 25 participants for the study. According to Warren (2002), sample size for a qualitative study need to be in the range of 20 and 30 to prevent data saturation. The participants comprised of 20 deportees, two officials from NADMO and one official each from IOM, Department of Social Welfare and Scholars in Transit.

3.6 Sources of Data

Data for the study were collected from primary and secondary sources.

Primary data were collected through in-depth interviews with deportees and key informants from IOM, NADMO, Department of Social Welfare and Scholars in Transit. Secondary information were employed to complement the primary data and it included available published works such as books, journals, articles, research reports, dissertations, and internet sources that are relevant to the study.

3.7 Methods of Data Collection

In-depth interviews were conducted with participants using an interview schedule designed by the researcher. The interview schedule allowed participants to provide information that was important whilst the interviewer probed their responses. The interview schedule was constructed in English but interviews with deportees were conducted in Twi which is the language of both the participants and the researcher. The key informants' interviews were in English or Twi depending on the language they were most comfortable with.

Participants were first contacted by telephone, the purpose of the study was described to them, and an interview was requested at a time and place convenient to them. Recruitment in the study was voluntary and participants were assured of confidentiality and anonymity regarding the information they provided. Each interview lasted for at least a maximum of 45 minutes and interviews were audio-taped using a tape recorder with permission from participants.

3.8 Data Handling and Analysis

The audio-taped data were kept on a computer and copies on compact disc to serve as backup. The recorded files were transcribed verbatim from audio to a text format. The interviews with participants were conducted in Twi which is the language of the participants, the researcher found it a bit challenging translating some concepts especially proverbs from Twi to English language. Notwithstanding, the researcher found similar words that explained these words in order to avoid any lost of data. After transcription, the researcher read through the transcripts to become familiar with the data before the analysis was done. The data were analyzed using thematic analysis based on the objectives of the study. Attride-Stirling (2001) identified six steps in analyzing qualitative data. The first step was coding the material to reduce the data. This was done by dissecting the text into manageable segments with the use of a coding framework. The coding framework was done by selecting salient issues that arose in the text.

The second step was to identify themes that were abstracted from the coded text segments. The next step was constructing the networks and at this stage, the themes extracted from the text were assembled and grouped into similar and coherent groups. The fourth step described and explored the thematic networks. Once the networks have been constructed, the researcher returned to the original text and interpreted it with the aid of the networks. The fifth step summarized the

thematic networks. After describing and exploring the networks, a summary of the main themes and patterns were presented. The sixth step interpreted the patterns. The deductions in the summaries of all the networks were brought together to explore the main themes that arose from the text.

3.9 Ethical Considerations

The purpose of the study was explained to participants before the data collection began and participation in the study was voluntary. Also, anonymity was used to ensure that information provided by participants would not be traced to their identity or their identity revealed to any third party. Moreover, the researcher ensured confidentiality through the protection of the data that were collected. The researcher explained clearly to participants how the data would be treated. In addition, the secondary information from available published works that were used were acknowledged to avoid plagiarism. In reporting the findings, the researcher used pseudonyms in place of the actual names of participants. Permission was sought from participants to use the pictures in the study.

3.10 Limitations of the Study

The interviews with some participants were conducted in Twi (the language of the study area) and later translated to English. In the process of translating the data it was possible that some information was lost. This notwithstanding, the researcher ensured that this was reduced. In addition, since the study adopted qualitative research design, the findings cannot be generalized to deportees in other areas.

CHAPTER FOUR

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the findings of the study based on the research questions. The chapter begins by looking at the demographic characteristics of participants and the reasons for their deportation. The challenges faced by deportees and coping strategies they adopted to overcome these challenges are discussed. The chapter concludes by identifying the available support services for deportees. To protect the identity of participants, the names used in the findings are pseudonyms.

4.2 Demographic Characteristics of Deportees and Key Informants

This section looks at age, sex, and education of deportees, their marital status, and the number of years spent in the host country and upon return to Ghana. It includes information on key informants. The background information of the deportees and key informants enabled the researcher to put the study into perspective as well as understand how these characteristics influence reintegration.

4.2.1 Age and Sex of Deportees

Age and sex of deportees were important in understanding the challenges they faced in their reintegration into their receiving communities in Ghana. With regard to the ages of deportees, the study found that they were aged between 20 and 47 years with majority of them between the

ages of 20-30. Seven of the deportees were between the ages of 30 and 40, with only two ranging from 41 and 50. The age population implies that many of the deportees were youthful and arrived in Ghana at the peak of their productive working ages. In terms of gender, there were 19 males and one female. This suggests that the rate at which men are deported differ from women. Another, reason could be that many women do not migrate compared to men. This confirms the exposition by Songsore (2003) that it is mainly men who travel within African countries and across.

4.2.2 Highest Level of Education Attained by Deportees

The level of education as a characteristic influence the rate of migration and how migrants reintegrate when deported (Kleist & Bob-Milliar, 2013). The highest level of education attained by deportees was Senior High School. Many of the deportees completed junior high schools with three of them dropping out of school at the basic primary and junior high school levels respectively. Two of them never had formal education. Participants asserted that the low level of education they attained influenced the challenges they faced in reintegration. A 27 year male deportee from Tunisia stated, *“life has not been easy since I returned, sometimes I wished I took my education serious. I wouldn’t be suffering with job if I had educational level that could enable me work in formal sectors.”* Similarly, the study by Kleist and Bob-Milliar (2013), revealed that majority of forced return migrants faced difficulties accessing jobs because of their low level of education.

4.2.3 Marital Status of Deportees

Many of the deportees (14) were married with children ranging from one to six while six of the participants were not married. Participants who were married disclosed that they migrated purposively to accumulate wealth to cater for their spouses and children. Other participants who were not married indicated that they migrated to raise income to marry and start a family upon return.

4.2.4 Countries Deportees Migrated to and were Deported from

Many of the participants migrated to Libya which was a country easily accessible with or without proper documents. They further explained that migration to Libya required no passport or visa; all that they needed was money and connection men to take them there. Also, another justification given was that they wanted to use Libya as a transit point to other European countries. The countries they were deported from were Libya, Malta, Spain, Germany and Tunisia. About 12 of the participants were deported from Libya, three from Malta, three from Tunisia and one each from Spain and Germany.

4.2.5 Deportees' Duration of Stay in Host Countries

The length of stay in a host country by deportees affects their reintegration into society in their home countries (Brotherton & Barrios, 2009). After spending many years abroad, deportees could return to find out that there have been many structural changes in their home countries which influence their stay. In this current study, the average number of years spent in host countries by deportees was four years. The majority of deportees stayed for a period of one year and some few months and they were mostly those participants who were married. Four of the

participants prior to their deportation, spent two years, two of the deportees spent three years and four years respectively.

4.2.6 Deportees' Duration of Stay in Ghana

The period since return is necessary in defining who a deportee is since the longer the period since return, the less likely the information supplied would be accurate and reliable (Orowolo, 2000). In this regard, the study ascertained the duration of stay since deportees returned to the Nkoranza Municipality. It was found that participants had returned home for a period between three months and four years. Many of the deportees had stayed in the Municipality for less than a year and three of them had spent two years since they returned. Also, five of the participants had spent three years and some few months while one had spent four years in Ghana after she was deported.

4.2.7 Employment Status of Key Informants

The key informants included in the study were five males, with a working experience between five to ten years in the Municipality. They were made up of Municipal Director for Social Welfare, Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator for NADMO, Chief Executive Director for Scholars in Transit and a representative from IOM. The positions held by these key informants enabled them to provide substantive information about the support services available to deportees in the Municipality. They revealed that they have handled series of deportation cases as a result of their extensive working experience in the Municipality.

4.3 Reasons for Migration

The reason for migration varied from one deportee to the other. People move in response to either a pull factor in host countries or a push factor in their home country. The majority of the participants asserted that they migrated to seek greener pastures in host countries. Accordingly, a 30 year old male deportee from Germany disclosed:

I didn't have anybody to help me in schooling so I decided to go and seek greener pastures from other countries.

Also, some of the participants explained that the economic and financial difficulties related to unemployment compelled them to leave Ghana to other countries. A 27 year old male who was deported from Libya, said:

. . .after completing JSS there was no support for me to continue, my parents were poor so I decided to travel to raise some money to come and support them and there were no employment opportunities in this community.

For other deportees, they migrated to raise money to establish and expand their own businesses:

I travelled so that in the future I and my children will get a place to live and also to expand my business to have about three containers at different places so that when I grow old things will not be difficult for me (Male, 36 years old, Libya).

A female deportee who migrated to Libya in response to an invitation by her spouse had this to say:

My husband travelled to Libya and asked me to come and join him so we can raise some money to cater for our children and family back home. I travelled to join him but things never worked out as expected (Female, 33 years old, Libya).

4.4 Reasons for Deportation

The reasons for the forced return of participants included in this study were varied. These were political instability due to wars and conflicts, illegal entry, border crossing and rejection of asylum seekers.

4.4.1 Political Instability

The incidence of war and conflict in host countries contributed to the force return of deportees. Majority of the participants who were deported from Libya indicated that they were forced to leave the country during the uprising in the country. Moreover, some of the participants explained that the host government perceived immigrants to be behind the cause of the uprising and ordered the deportation of all foreign nationals from the country. As a result, some migrants were murdered and others were detained in prisons for many days before they were deported as reflected in the following sentences:

I was home and my husband came and showed me a text message that the police were at Benghazi and have been ordered by Gaddafi to kill women and children. The war was massive and guns and bombs were used for destruction. . . We were then forced to leave the country and we came back to Ghana (Female, 33 years old, Libya).

Citizens in Benghazi decided that Gaddafi was infringing upon their rights and decided to revolt against him which led to some political instability. The conflict spread to Tripoli and so they asked everyone to leave the country to his/her country of origin. Some people were murdered and a plane was brought for us to board to our country (Male, 36 years old, Libya).

One deportee who was unable to bring his belongings to Ghana explained:

My deportation was as a result of the war in the country, I was forced by the government to come back to Ghana leaving all my belongings in host country (Male, 37 years old, Libya).

Other deportees were sent to other countries and while there, they appealed to the Ghana government but to no avail:

I never thought of coming to Ghana now but because of the war, we were asked to leave the country and I had no option. We decided to appeal to the government of Ghana to help us but to no avail, we were dumped in Niger to find our own way back to Ghana (Male, 28 years old, Libya).

4.4.2 Illegal Entry

Another factor that led to the involuntary return of migrants to their country of origin was illegal entry. Some of the participants disclosed that they were deported based on their illegal entry and stay in their host countries. Some participants indicated that they left Ghana to Libya and were able to enter some European countries like Germany, Malta and Spain. However, other

participants explained that they entered those countries without proper documentation and they were arrested and detained for some days and years before being deported:

I was caught with improper document in Germany. I pleaded they should take me back to Switzerland. They took me back to Switzerland where I was before I left to Germany but the nation did not receive me so they deported me finally back to Ghana and it has not been easy (Male, 30 years old, Germany).

I tried on several occasions to go to Europe. The second time, I decided to travel to Europe due to the nature of the job in Libya and the political instability. I passed through the sea to Malta. . . I stayed in Malta for some days until I was arrested and detained for many days. The Malta government called Ghana Embassy and the Ghana ambassador said yes they should deport us for Ghanaian migrants are too stubborn (Male, 30 years old, Malta).

4.4.3 Border Crossing

Border crossing was another reason that led to the deportation of migrants from host countries. Some of the participants revealed that they were deported as a result of an attempt to move from one country to the other in order to seek better conditions without proper documents. A 20 year old male who was deported from Malta highlighted:

. . .we were crossing from Libya to Italy and we were arrested around the territory of Malta and that led to our deportation. We were detained for one and half years at Malta before we were deported. Ghana ambassador came and spoke with the government in Malta and upon consensus we were deported back to our country. They also said their

country was an island and their land was too small so they accepted only refugees and Ghanaians were not part.

The findings further indicated that even though participants had no proper documentation, they paid monies to connection men to assist them cross from Libya to some European countries such as Malta and Italy. A deportee who was arrested at the coast of Libya had this to say:

I tried a connection from Libya to Europe and we were arrested right at the sea shore by some soldiers. Meanwhile our money had already been taken away by the connection men. We were imprisoned for some days and the time we realized we were at Kotoka International Airport in Ghana (Male, 27 years old, Libya).

One of the participants who made his way through the coast of Tunisia but was arrested in the middle of his journey revealed:

. . .it was the political instability in Libya that made me plan on going to Italy and on our way the boat developed a fault on the sea. We couldn't return neither could we continue the journey, we were in the territory of the Tunisians. The Tunis navy saw us and arrested us. That day about four boats left and three of the boats sunk and all the people died. We were taken to Tunis before deported to Ghana (Male, 28 years old, Tunisia).

4.4.4 Rejection of Asylum Seekers

Some of the participants asserted that they were deported because of the information they provided when they requested for asylum in host countries. Even though they had no proper documents their stay in the host country could have been permitted if the information they provided for asylum had been accepted by the people:

When we got to Spain with other friends we took some medicine which made us frail and we lied that we were refugees from Ghana and that there was war in Ghana. After investigation they noticed we were lying so they deported us back to Ghana (Male, 47 years old, Spain).

One of the deportees disclosed that they nearly entered their planned or intended destination but were betrayed by a colleague:

Hahaha. . . this issue again, it was a lady among us who revealed that we were Ghanaians. Actually we lied and said we were from Nigeria and we wanted to cross to Italy to seek asylum because of the conflict in Nigeria (Male, 29 years old, Libya).

Figure 4.1: One of the migrants ready to be deported from Malta



Source: Field Data (2015)

4.5 Challenges faced by Deportees in their Reintegration

Challenges that deportees encountered in their re-integration into the Nkoranza Municipality were also explored. The study found that deportees faced challenges related to skills degradation and difficulty accessing jobs, inadequate food and nutrition, loss of assets as well as negative societal perceptions about deportees. Other challenges revealed by deportees included poor deportee-community relationship and difficulties in accessing formal support services. The Implications of deportation to development were also considered in the study.

4.5.1 Skills Degradation and Difficulty Finding Jobs

Unemployment was identified as one of the major challenges associated with deportees' reintegration into their community. Many of the participants attributed their difficulty in finding jobs to the lack of interest in existing jobs and lack of education. A participant disclosed that there were no jobs in the community:

I am currently not working because there are no jobs in this community that I can engage in for a living and it has not been easy living in this community without a job (Male, 27 years old, Tunisia).

Another participant indicated that he had no jobs, but just supporting his parents in some activities on the farm:

I am not working just engaged in farming to help my mother and father because there are no lucrative jobs in this community (Male, 27 years old, Libya).

Also, a 28-year old male who was deported from Tunisia revealed that his sudden return made him miss the farming season and that has rendered him idle:

. . .since I came I am not working, because I arrived at a time when the farming season has passed and my wife too is not doing any lucrative work. It is my wife who sells some foodstuff and gives me some money for survival.

For some of the participants who were deported from Libya, their engagement in ‘Malaga’ (plastering) work for a considerable number of years had made it difficult for them to work as farmers which is one of the commonest occupations in their community:

. . .the challenge is that in Libya the work we were doing was plastering and the work is very tiring, even today if you ask me to weed for an hour I cannot do it because of the pains I feel in my palms. As a result of that I am not engaged in any activity and I don’t have the interest for farming (Male, 35 years old, Libya).

Other participants indicated that they were ready to work but the major challenge was that they did not have the requisite knowledge demanded by employers. They revealed that every organization they contacted for a job demanded their certificate or skill(s):

Now if you want a job they will tell you that you are not educated and I couldn’t finish learning my fitting (mechanical training). I have no money to start farming, so life is really difficult for me here in Nkoranza. . .is not easy koraaa (Male, 27 years old, Libya).

Personally now am not working and I couldn’t further my education to take any government work and I don’t have any form of formal training. All these challenges were the reasons why my husband asked me to come to Libya and I joined him so we can cater for our children. Had it not been the war by now I know we would have progressed in so many things (Female, 33 years old, Libya).

Given that structural changes in the environment of deportees have consequences for the application of their work skills, participants revealed that they were unable to use the skills they acquired in their host countries:

. . .let me say in Libya, I learnt how to care for children, home management and beads making. If I had a proper place staying I could have used those skills for a living. I don't even have the tools and materials to start all these businesses. I learnt so many things about child care and development but without the equipment I cannot do them even here in Ghana (Female, 33 years old, Libya).

Oh! I know the malaga job very well, but since I came the mason work is not that common but I work personally on my building. To get someone' house to build or plaster is difficult to come by and even before you get the information others have taken the job. I just started some farming activities and hoping to get an opportunity to use the plastering work (Male, 30 years old, Libya).

Another participant from Libya who had difficulties utilizing his skills due to issues related to the contracting of jobs had this to say:

I haven't really had much opportunity to practice my skill as a mason because in Ghana the mode of work is different. In Libya we have contractors building the house and we do the plastering, but in Ghana the one who takes the contract for the building does the plastering as well (Male, 37 years old, Libya).

Even though some of the participants complained of skills degradation, others had success stories. A few of the participants indicated that they have had the opportunity to utilize their skills upon return although not frequently. One such participant said:

Migrating to Libya has helped me because it enabled me gain some employable skills. When I was in Ghana before I travelled I was a farmer and a footballer and since I returned from Libya the plastering work has really helped me even though it is not very often. The mason work gives me money to buy food everyday for my survival (Male, 33 years old, Libya).

4.5.2 Inadequate Food and Nutrition

For the majority of deportees, especially those who were unemployed, access to enough and nutritious food was a challenge. Some participants were of the view that they had good food to eat while abroad and that protected them from illnesses. Thus, deportation to Ghana has adversely affected their diet and access to good meals because in Libya, when a person is hired as a labourer the employer catered for his feeding, water and other expenses. Commenting on the issue some deportees lamented that:

I have encountered a lot upon my return. . . In Libya food was not a problem, you can eat and chew meat until you are satisfied. We don't buy the food but our landlords buy them for us, but in Ghana what to eat is even a problem. I have lost a lot of weight because I don't even get good food to eat (Male, 33 years old, Libya).

Even the food to eat is a big challenge to me, I have no farm so I have to buy everything and I don't have money I miss Libya. Sometimes when I buy drugs from the Pharmacy shop, I hardly take them because of the food to eat after and before taking the drugs (Male, 35 years old, Libya).

4.5.3 Health Challenges

From the study, it was found that deportation and the process involved posed a lot of challenges to the health of deportees. Some of them explained that they were detained for years in camps and prisons and the humiliation they experienced posed threats to their health. Other deportees were of the view that they had difficulties accessing health care because of their inability to pay for their bills or register for the National Health Insurance. Recounting his experience, a participant said:

When I arrived I fell sick because I spent so many days in prison: they poured water on us and we were beaten as well. They said Ghanaians are stubborn and how did we manage to know that route to Italy. We were severely beaten before finally deported back home. Sometimes I shiver with pains and sickness I am suffering. . . Even now I am still battling with its effects (Male, 27 years old, Libya).

A participant who was detained at a camp by an international non-governmental organization expressed:

The camp that we stayed before being deported was pathetic; getting water to drink was a problem. At times the whole day about three thousand people can share small bread with about one loaf of bread to about twenty people. When I got to Ghana my body system really changed and I felt sick and I am now suffering from ulcer (Male, 28 years old, Libya).

One deportee who fled to Tunisia on his journey to Ghana when they were asked to leave Libya, explained:

I was sick even when I was on the plane. . . Even before we arrived in Tunis I was very sick and I took medications in Tunis but to no avail. When we got to Accra I was taken to the hospital and even when I got to Nkoranza I again visited the Hospital. It took me about six month before I realized I have fully recovered but still I feel the pains bro. . .
.(Male, 33 years old, Libya).

Due to their inability to access health services some deportees resorted to buying medicine from pharmacies run by untrained pharmacist as well as using herbal/traditional medicines:

When I am sick 'Agya', I get 50 pesewes and go to the pharmacy shop to get some paracetamol and I take it because there is no money to be used to visit the hospital (Male, 28 years old, Libya).

Ok I know of some herbal trees that are medicinal so when I am sick I just go for some and drink without any proper diagnosing (Male, 28 years old, Libya).

I don't do anything when I am sick than to take herbal medicines, except when the situation is very critical that I borrow money to buy drugs at the pharmacy shop (Male, 36 years old, Libya).

Other participants had this to say:

I heard the hospital medication does not help so I normally go to herbalist for herbal medicines (Male, 37 years old, Libya).

My insurance is out of date since I came but I have not being able to renew it due to financial difficulties after my return to this community (Male, 37 years old, Libya).

A deportee who was promised by the government to help him register for the health insurance revealed:

With the insurance we were promised that they will help us but last week when I went to register I was charged 20 Ghana cedis because it was a while I registered and even with that the card has not come. Last time I was admitted at the hospital and when I was leaving I had incurred a cost of about 205 Ghana cedis because I have no insurance. I was asked to go and buy some drugs for myself and I have not bought them because I don't have money. I don't think I will go to the hospital again (Male, 27 years old, Libya).

Another participant who had challenges renewing his insurance registration asserted:

I registered my insurance to 2014 before I left to Libya but since I came I have not renewed it and I face a lot of challenges when I am sick and needs medical attention (Male, 29 years old, Libya).

However, one participant who had registered for health insurance and could access health care anytime, even though some drugs were prescribed to be bought by her disclosed:

When I came they said insurance so when we are sick we pick it to the hospital. Whatever drug they give you if only you concentrate and take it you will be fine. Some of the drugs too you would have to buy them yourself (Female, 33 years old, Libya).

4.5.4 Loss of Assets

Many deportees left their belongings in the host countries when they were deported. For many of them the forced return made them leave their assets and other properties behind. According to them, these properties could have facilitated their resettlement in Ghana. They could have used some of these assets to start their own businesses:

I couldn't bring anything, because looking at the situation; we couldn't say it was by our own will that we came back so we couldn't bring assets we bought. At the time the war started and we were deported, I couldn't even go back to pick my belongings from where I left them and it has cost me a lot now since I could have used them to start some business (Male, 36 years old, Libya).

I did not bring anything and even you can ask members in this community. I and my husband opened a shop not quite too long ago and we left everything, including our money and the cosmetics we were selling. . . We left everything in Libya and in fact I did not gain anything from the journey I embarked on and I am really suffering now (Female, 33 years old, Libya).

Many of the deportees explained that they could not bring their monies because they had not been paid their salaries at the time of the deportation. Echoing their concerns one deportee revealed:

Libya is not a place where you can keep money in your pocket like Ghana. My money was in my bag at home when the trouble started, as a result, I couldn't go back for them. All that I had to do was to leave the country for my life and I left all my belongings in Libya.

One landlord owed me 20000 Ghana cedis but I couldn't go for it. If I had this money here I wouldn't be suffering (Male, 47 years old, Libya).

A deportee who was able to bring some few items to Ghana explained:

I was able to bring only one Hofer and a video deck and a few clothing, but I left a huge sum of money I had saved and some assets I bought in Libya (Male, 28 years old, Libya).

Another deportee from Malta expressed that the only item he was able to mobilize was the gifts he received when detained in Malta and this was not enough to begin any investment to obtain minimum level of living standard:

. . . We were not given the chance to go outside the camp to work but when we were detained in Malta, some of the whites donated some items (shirts, trousers) to us and that was what I brought. But when you had items in the camp and you wanted to bring it the opportunity was given to us to bring them to Ghana (Male, 30 years old, Malta).

Surprisingly, few of the deportees who had the opportunity to send monies to their families to invest on their behalf while abroad returned to realise that the monies were not used for its intended purpose:

A lot has happened, when I came all the money I sent home have been misused by my mother and siblings and I cannot even retrieve a penny. I sold my television set in order to start farming (Male, 36 years old, Libya).

4.5.5 Negative Societal Perceptions about Deportees

Some negative societal perceptions by community members in receiving countries of deportees had effect on the way they were treated after their forced return. The study found that some participants who were unable to accumulate wealth before their deportation were regarded as failures and a disappointment to their families which affected their contribution to community and family decisions:

Sometimes in decision making regarding my family and community, because I did not bring anything they disregard and don't invite me or take my opinions (Male, 36 years old, Libya).

. . . Some even don't know the reason why you came so they can even say different stories about you in your absence. You sometimes hear comments like 'this guy travelled to Europe and was complaining the job there was very difficult and he is back'. Others use words like foolish boy and a whole lot of insults but if I am to follow them I will end up fighting (Male, 30 years old, Malta).

A deportee who could not access jobs because of negative community perception had this to say:

. . . people think I am a rich man because I travelled abroad, due to this when they need laborers to work on their farms they don't call me and I am really suffering boss (Male, 35 years old, Libya).

4.5.6 Poor Deportee-Community Relationship

Some community members believed that deportees were sent home due to immoral activities they engaged in while in host countries. This perception affected their relationship with deportees:

They have so many perceptions about me, some even say I have used my money to chase women and as a result I couldn't bring anything. Many words have I personally heard from people about me but I don't mind them. According to some community members I stole some goods while abroad and that contributed to my deportation. This makes them shy away from me when they see me (Male, 30 years old, Germany).

Others even say the boys who went to Libya just gave their money to prostitutes and had sex with them and they did not bring anything, if they had died they would have died for nothing. They advised people to be careful about us and so many things have they said about me (Male, 27 years old, Libya).

The inability of deportees to mobilize both financial and material resources to meet societal demands and expectations exposed them to ridicule by their peers and neighbors. Some of the participants revealed that their relationships with neighbors and peers have changed since their return and has affected their reintegration into their community:

With my family I have not noticed any changes, but with the community members upon realizing I did not return with anything, they insult me when I talk to them. Some even say 'foolish boy when you went to Europe and you were deported what did you bring'. They can tell you because you don't have anything, and it wasn't by my own will that I came and they keep on insulting me anytime they saw me (Male, 30 years old, Malta).

. . . *Because I did not bring anything people gossip about me, that look at this good for nothing guy who brought nothing. . .is not easy* (Male, 29 years old, Libya).

A female deportee revealed that she has been labeled as a lazy woman because she only accompanied her husband and never worked to bring something home:

I spoke with one sister and she said ‘some Ghanaian migrants from Libya just went to eat and they only accompanied some people to live a better life there’. When they are saying nonsense they don’t even think that what they are saying can really hurt us (Female, 33 years, Libya).

4.5.7 Difficulty in Accessing Formal Support Services

The majority of deportees revealed that one major challenge they faced was difficulties in accessing formal support services in their receiving communities. Some of the participants indicated that they had no information on the formal support services available to deportees. Others explained that they went through bureaucracies before they accessed the support while some had information on these formal support services but could not access them at all:

. . .*no I don’t have any idea about these formal support services available* (Male, 28 years old, Libya).

I don’t know and I have not heard about anything like that (Male, 30 years old, Libya).

. . . *I have not heard of anything like that sort as to whether there were formal support services for deportees* (Male, 29 years old, Libya).

One deportee from Malta who went through bureaucracies had this to say:

I just had a heart problem, because the pressure was too much when we were arranging to receive the support from IOM. You know Ghanaians and our behaviour, go and do this paper, go and do this and that, bring a picture of the business that you will do. Sometimes they will tell us the cheque is in and we will go and the money is not there, and that time too I had no money with me so I took some loan to do all these processing. And you cannot say you will not follow up on the money again because you need to pay the debts you used to start the whole process (Male, 30 years old, Malta).

Another participant who had information on formal support services but could not access any of the support explained:

. . . with the support they called us that those deported from Libya should come to the Municipal Assembly but when we went there they always deceived us that we should come later and all manner of stories. They promised us of money, fertilizers, tools and many things but we can go and even lorry fare to return might be a challenge (Male, 27 years old, Libya).

Commenting on the issue, one of the key informants revealed that the difficulties in accessing formal support services was as a result of the lack of funds by the Municipal Assembly and other governmental agencies such as NADMO and the Department of Social Welfare which often delayed the process or impeded their effort to assist the deportees:

Quite apart from that logistics which was a very big problem to the Municipal Assembly, deportees always rioted. For example one deportee said: 'Do you think we are children, when we went abroad we were spending huge money, we came and T-shirt, two bag of

rice and these things that you are presenting to us'. The resources are just not there to help us undertake our activities. The clause is availability of money, once the assembly says there is no money your hands are tied (Municipal Director, Department of Social Welfare).

The above findings indicate that in the process of reintegration, deportees face various challenges. The challenges could have implications for their development at the individual, family and societal levels. This suggests that problems related to deportation could have implications for the country's development.

4.5.8 Implications of Deportation for Development

The individual and mass deportation of Ghanaian migrants has implications for development. The study found that the mass and individual deportation could lead to increase in government and family expenditure as well as social vices in the receiving communities of deportees. In this regard the deputy coordinator for NADMO explained:

In Ghana the statistical service provide statistics, and it is based on this statistics that we plan everything. For instance, at that time of census they were not here so they were not factored into national or municipal plan. The arrival of 30,000 or 40,000 deportees will create a whole lot of problems. When it happens like that it retards development, because money needs to be withdrawn from other sectors to support these people since the lives of people are very vital.

In addition, one of the key informants revealed that the increase in the number of deportees place demands on the expenditure of family which affect their day to day activities.

Parents and family members also suffer when there are deportations of Ghanaian migrants. For instance, you have foodstuffs that you have targeted from today to May and June, you will not buy any foodstuffs and two children deported from Libya comes to add up. No matter what you will not be able to reach your goal. And anybody who is unable to achieve their goals encounter challenges (Coordinator NADMO).

The study found that when there are deportations, receiving communities experience increase in social vices which makes living in such communities unbearable:

This is a personal observation I have made, I am a para-judicial staff and a panel member of the family tribunal and the juvenile court. Occasionally, I sit in the court to witness cases, when deportees come back crime rate rises. Another issue is the problem of promiscuity. It is not extreme but ladies get pregnant frequently when deportees are around and we have had series of workshop concerning this issue and to see how best we can solve the problem but it's always back to square one (Municipal Director, Social Welfare officer).

4.6 Coping Strategies among Deportees

In order to deal with the challenges faced by deportees, they adopted some coping strategies. From the study, it was found that deportees used both problem-focused and emotion-focused coping strategies which included establishment of businesses, remittances, support from friends and relatives, positive attitude towards the future, religion and spirituality. It is important to emphasize that not all the coping strategies were positive since some deportees resorted to the use of drugs and alcohol as their coping strategies.

4.6.1 Problem-focused Coping Strategies

It was found from the study that some deportees used problem-focused coping strategies to solve their problems directly by being proactive or reactive in order to bring about change. The choice of problem-focused strategies depended on the available opportunities in their receiving communities. Some of the participants mentioned establishment of businesses from the savings they made, remittances they received, support from friends and relatives.

4.6.1.1 Establishment of Businesses

In this study, it was found that some deportees established their own businesses with the little support they received from some humanitarian organizations and their savings upon return. According to some participants, as part of their deportation process, they received some money from IOM and the deporting governments and that was what they used to start their businesses. Although the majority of deportees were unemployed, the few of them who were employed disclosed:

Now I have nothing really doing, but I have established my own business buying maize and re-selling it to get a little profit but the business is seasonal and when the season passes that was all. The little amount I received from IOM was what I used to commence this business (Male, 30 years old, Malta).

I only received money from Malta and not Ghana, and even sometimes before the money get to you the leaders in Ghana will not give you the full amount. I heard that when we come Ghana government will help us, but since I came it is only the IOM support from Malta that has brought me this far. I am still doing my old job which is carpentry and the money I gained was what I used for my day to day survival and to cater for my family. . .

I have invested all my money into my business and I hope to gain more profit from it
(Males, 20 years old, Malta).

A deportee who was on the IOM reintegration program revealed:

I have not received any support from any government, but IOM supported me some days ago. They asked me what I wanted, and I requested for a container to continue my work as a cobbler and life is really moving on for me (Male, 36 years old, Libya).

Figure 4.2: A shop of a deportee on the IOM reintegration program



Source: Author (2015)

Another deportee who managed to buy a car from his little savings revealed:

I was able to save some amount of money while abroad. When I came after the deportation, I bought a taxi which I now drive to earn a living (Male, 30 years old, Libya).

4.6.1.2 Remittances

The findings of the study revealed that some of the deportees were remitted by relatives who were abroad. They indicated that they received money from friends and spouse to cater for themselves and children:

What I will say is that my husband went back to Libya about a year ago. He has been remitting us every two weeks or one month and that was what we lived on everyday. I use the same money to provide basic needs and my children's school fees (Male, 33 years old, Libya).

I trained two boys when I was in Libya and by God's grace they have made it to Italy and things are working out for them now. They are the ones who remit me sometimes to fend for myself. I don't know what I would have done without that money (Male, 47 years old, Libya).

A participant whose sibling remained in Libya during the war explained:

It has not been easy at all, but I have a brother who remained in Libya during the war. He has been sending me money for survival in the community. Even with that the money

doesn't come regularly but it's better than not having anything at all (Male, 28 years old, Libya).

4.6.1.3 Support from Friends and Relatives

The study found that some participants received support from family members upon return. According to some of the participants, they kept ties with their families' whiles abroad and support from siblings and family members have been instrumental for their resettlement upon return from host countries:

My mother always prepared food for me to eat and sometimes my grandmother gives me money for my day to day survival and farming. I used some of the money to cultivate cashew and very soon I will start harvesting it (Male, 27 years old, Libya).

I do receive help from my siblings who helped me travelled to Libya, sometimes either clothes or money and that has sustained me a lot (Male, 37 years old, Libya).

A 20 year old male deportee from Malta explained:

The only support from my family and friends was encouragement that I may not desire to migrate again and nothing else.

Even though support from family have been vital to some deportees, a few of the participants were not fortunate in that regard:

I don't receive any support from any family member, but if I don't have enough money I borrow from friends and I have to pay even with interest at the end of the month (Male, 30 years old, Germany).

I have not received any support from anyone since I came and I have nobody to consult
(Male, 28 years old, Tunisia).

4.6.2 Emotion-focused Coping Strategies

The use of personal resources to change the meaning of the stressful relationship was some of the coping mechanisms adopted by deportees. The findings of the study revealed that participants used emotion-focused coping strategies to change the relational meaning of what was happening. These mitigated the stress even though the actual conditions of the relationship with the stress had not changed. The emotion focused coping strategies adopted by participants included positive attitude towards the future, religion and spirituality and risky behaviours.

4.6.2.1 Positive Attitude towards the Future

Deportees' beliefs about their internal resources, such as taking a positive approach and identification of their strengths reinforced their determination to cope. The majority of deportees from the findings indicated that, the deportation experience is not the end of their life but believe that there was still hope for the future. Some of the participants felt their challenges were just for a while and that better times will surely come:

I look forward to work hard to get some money to build a house for my family and I hope I will surely achieve that (Male, 37 years old, Libya).

Other participants from Libya explained:

I know this is not my end but my future plan is to either be a teacher or a doctor (Male, 29 years old, Libya).

I have more hopes for the future because I believe God says my end will be great and it will get to a point I will see changes in my life. I will succeed before I die and I know my future is bright (Male, 28 years old, Libya).

4.6.2.2 Religion and Spirituality

After a severe trauma the central point of the recovery process is to integrate this traumatic experience into a meaningful context in the life story of the affected person (Vanista-Kosuta & Kosuta, 1998). Some of the deportees from the findings explained that religion and spirituality were important coping resources in dealing with the challenges in reintegration:

. . . Since we are not dead but still alive, I know as a Christian and a child of God, there are better things for me in the future. I believe God will never disappoint me and will never forsake me (Male, 27 years old, Libya).

God is still in control since I have life the glory of God will be revealed. Even the bible says before we will be glorified with Jesus we need to suffer with him, and all that I am going through is part of the suffering (Male, 28 years old, Tunisia).

Another participant had this to say:

Well there is hope for the future, it's my only prayer that I will get some money to invest in the future of my children and I know God will help me. This is what Islam teaches me, to depend on Allah and I know all will be well very soon (Male, 47 years old, Spain).

4.6.2.3 Risky Behaviours

From the study, it was found that deportation and its related consequences had exposed some participants to alcohol and drug usage. Some participants explained that they used alcohol and drugs to deal with the psychological and emotional stress they faced in their communities:

Sometimes when I remember how my friends have progressed in life than me, truly I go to the beer bar to get “Atinka” one “tot” to help me reduce the pain and sorrow. . . Friends can invite me to the beer bar and buy meat and some local gin “Akpeteshie” to help me forget the experiences and trauma of the deportation (Male, 35 years old, Libya).

Another participant was of the view that the challenges in reintegration have exposed him to a behavior he never thought of:

I never took alcohol and cigarette until I experienced deportation. When I remember how I was enjoying life in Libya and now things have turned around for me, I cannot just imagine myself in such a situation. I therefore take alcohol and cigarette to forget all these situations and now I can't even stop these behaviors (Male, 27 years old, Tunisia).

4.7 Formal Support Services Available to Deportees

The availability of support services to deportees could facilitate their reintegration into the mainstream society of their countries of origin. In all cases the key informants reported that there were formal support services available to deportees in the Nkoranza Municipality. From the findings, the four main support services available to deportees were provision of resources by government and non-governmental organizations, counseling, assisting returnees to form associations and organization of workshops on how to start businesses.

4.7.1 Provision of Resources by Government and Non-Governmental Organizations

The study found that support services available to deportees included the provision of resources such as cash and non-cash. From some of the key informants, provision of equipment and other resources were a collaborative effort between various agencies. According to the coordinator for NADMO, the common equipment and resources available to deportees included farming inputs, block machines and many others as explained:

It is a request that NADMO ask from IOM and other organizations to provide the support. It is therefore collaboration between various organizations including UNDP, IOM and NADMO. The part NADMO plays is to mobilize and organize the deportees to receive resources such as fertilizers, weedicides and cutlasses.

A key informant disclosed that deportees were categorized based on their skills before the support was given:

We normally solicit for relief from organizations like IOM. From the screening by IOM we realized there were artisans, painters, welders, and hairdressers. These categories of people were supported with things that they need. Some are given farming inputs like fertilizers, spraying machines, weedicides, and cutlasses. The artisans were also handed over to Business Advisory Center (BAC) and those into masonry were also given hand trowel, head pans, wheel barrows, bicycles, and block machines. Those without any form of training are introduced into farming (Deputy Coordinator, NADMO).

A deportee who received formal support services explained:

I have not received any support from Ghana government; the government has not given me any support except the IOM who promised to give us some form of support. The reason why the support was not effective was that we were the first batch and when the conditions in Libya were conducive all the people migrated again to Libya so the support was not sustainable. Because all the people left again they couldn't continue with the provision of the support (Female, 33 years old, Libya).

4.7.2 Counseling

The deportation of migrants comes with a shock and could result in psychological and emotional trauma which could affect deportees. The shame of returning empty handed could have implication on the state of mind of the deportee. The findings of the study revealed that many of the deportees come traumatized and counseling was important. The chief executive director for scholars in transit explained:

When they come what we do is to organize counseling for them. Counseling is one of our activities because deportees come traumatized and many of them are so confused because they came unprepared. They even do not know they were supposed to come at that time and when they come it is difficult for them to start life afresh. We organize counseling session for them and let them know that is not the end of the boat they can still make it even from the scratch.

Another key informant revealed:

After the registration we call them for meetings, we meet with them to counsel and encourage them before later they are made aware that we have support that we will give to them. When we meet with them is a word of encouragement that we give to them (Coordinator for NADMO).

As part of the reintegration, process settlement of disputes through effective counseling for deportees and spouses were some of the available support services. Key informant from the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development explained:

There are some who come with social problems especially people who went three or five years and did not remit home. When these people return home empty handed they sometimes have problems with their spouses and children and such cases are referred to us. We counsel them and see how best they can begin life again. We try as much as possible not to let the family disintegrate but at least to reconcile them.

4.7.3 Formation of Associations

From the findings, other support services available that emerged from the interviews was the formation of the returnees association where members could share ideas and encourage each other:

. . .we organize returnees associations where they can also see themselves and talk to each other and encourage themselves. When they tell their stories among themselves and one hears another person's story which is worse than his/her story they pick encouragement from that level. When we come out with an organization which is the

returnees association we are able to give a secured confinement to deportees and it support them in a way (Chief Executive Director, Scholars in Transit).

4.7.4 Organization of Workshops

Support services available to deportees included the organization of workshops on how to start businesses. It was found that deportees were provided skills training and knowledge on how to establish business if they want to. Some key informant explained:

Workshops are just for orientation, to psyche them up and to make them know that they haven't lost everything yet and they still can make it. Then we give them examples of people who have been able to make it when they came back. I know of a guy who virtually came with nothing but went through the process and there was a turn and now he is making it big so we invite some of them to talk to the deportees and to encourage them (IOM official).

Actually the support we provide has never been in cash it's always skills training and other activities. Some of them will like to get into carpentry, masonry, farming and others will love to establish some enterprise like the sales of hardware. Whatever kind of enterprise that you want to set up that is the training that we offer. They all receive entrepreneurial courses which will help them have a fair deal about business in order not to fail when they venture into those areas. These are some of the activities we do for deportees in the Nkoranza Municipality (Chief Executive Director, Scholars in Transit).

4.8 Discussion of the Findings

The reasons for migration and the return of migrants have implications for reintegration and development. The reasons for migration varied from migrant to migrant but common among the reasons were economic related factors. This supports the assertion by Arongo (2000) that the major causes of migration are economic. It was found from this study that the search for greener pastures and access to well paid-jobs in host countries motivated the movement of people to other countries. Similar finding by Jennissen (2007) indicated that international migration is caused mainly by push factors in developed or host countries. Aside the pull factors, other unbearable conditions such as poverty and unemployment were some of the push factors that influenced the movement of people to other countries. As highlighted by Atsenuwa and Adepoju (2010) on the rights of African migrants and other migration scholars (e.g., Anarfi & Kwankye, 2003; D'emilo et. al., 2007), poverty and the absence of sustainable livelihood have fueled the rate of migration.

Additionally, political instability resulting from war, illegal entry into host countries, border crossing from one country to another, and rejection of asylum seekers as a result of false information were some of the reasons for the deportation of migrants included in this study. Similarly, Kleist and Bob-Milliar (2013), found that unbearable conditions such as political and violent conflicts can lead to the deportation of migrants in their host countries. Majority of the participants indicated that their return was sudden and this has affected their reintegration. It was found that the deportees considered their lives more important than the goals they wanted to achieve which led to their forced return.

As found from this study as well as other studies by Kleist and Bob-Milliar (2013), Schuster and Majidi (2013), and Slevin (2010), migrants who moved to some European countries entered

illegally without proper documentations that permitted their stay in such countries. It was found that migrants had no security and hid their identity in host countries until they received the proper documents to be regular migrants. In the European Union for instance, deportation has been integral in their policy framework to deal with unauthorized or illegal migrants (European Commission, 2005). The fear of deportation by migrants in some European countries deterred them from picking up some jobs which led to their inability to accumulate wealth for their return. Meanwhile, deporting governments were only concerned about how to forcefully remove migrants and not the reintegration of deportees which could have been factored in their policy framework.

It was found that migrants used some North African countries such as Libya and Tunisia as a transit point to some European countries such as Malta and Italy. Moreover, majority of migrants who were deported from Libya and other countries had no proper documentation. The attempt by migrants to cross borders to other countries without proper documentation led to their deportation. The findings are in agreement with Sleven's (2010) study that explained that deportees comprised of diverse population and the first categories were migrants apprehended whiles crossing borders. The lack of proper documents compelled these migrants to use any means such as boats to cross from one country to the other. This is evidential of how migrants who are desperate to achieve their goals of migration resort to every means possible.

From the study, it was evident that deportees faced multiple challenges emanating from their personal attributes, actors and institutions in the environment in which the individuals lived. Participants in this study revealed that skills degradation and difficulty finding jobs in receiving communities, loss of assets as a result of their sudden return, inadequate food and nutrition pertaining to their change in environment were some of the challenges in reintegration. Also,

participants further explained that health challenges, negative societal perceptions about deportees, poor deportee-community relationship resulting from their inability to meet the demands of community, and difficulties accessing formal support services were other factors that contributed to the challenges faced by deportees in the Nkoranza Municipality.

Skills degradation and difficulty finding jobs was a major challenge faced by deportees. This is consistent with the findings of studies by Bob-Milliar (2012), Kleist and Bob-Milliar (2013), Naik & Laczko (2012). Also, Naik and Laczko (2012) found that many deportees remained without jobs in the countries of origin. In this regard, participants from the study attributed these factors to the lack of interest in current jobs, perceptions by community members and government's inability to create more jobs for the youth. As explained by the ecological systems theory, the microsystem and macrosystem influence the development and action of individuals. For instance, in an attempt to seek employment some members in the community perceived deportees to be rich and never hired their labour which made the search for jobs more difficult and challenging.

Moreover, government through effective policies and programs is supposed to provide employment opportunities for its citizenry to enhance the development of deportees. The inability of the government to undertake such responsibilities makes it difficult for deportees to access jobs which affect their reintegration. Participants indicated that the search for jobs was difficult because there were no jobs in the community that they could engage in for a living. Therefore, at the macro level the absence of proper government policies and programs facilitated the challenges faced by deportees. The challenge of skills degradation propelled some deportees to accept employment that did not match the qualifications and experience they had acquired abroad.

The changes in the environment regarding lack of job opportunities may be due to the fact that deportees could not apply their skills acquired abroad. This relates to the chronosystem which asserts that changes in the environment of the individual overtime could affect their development (Bronfenbrenner, 1979). Although few deportees were able to establish some businesses, majority asserted that even though they had the opportunity to work abroad they have not been able to utilize the skills as a result of the poor infrastructural improvement. In the same vein, a study conducted in Afghanistan found that deportees returned to the same worsening structural conditions, without any improvement in their own potentials (Schuster & Majidi, 2013). The feeling of having wasted time and opportunities they could have used to build life in Ghana compel them to leave again as some deportees contemplated.

Another issue frequently discussed was the financial challenges in starting their own farms. The Nkoranza community is largely a farming community. Deportees explained that they lacked the financial capital to access lands to engage in farming. This situation was stressful because access to off-farm work was also difficult to find. Many of the deportees expected the government and other agencies to provide them with tools and equipment to start their own farming. Similar finding was reported by Mensah (2014) that the absence of support services affected the development of deportees in their receiving communities. As a result, many of the deportees faced challenges such as inadequate food intake since they did not earn incomes.

Furthermore, it was found that deportees in this study faced health related challenges. Participants explained that the severe hardship they were exposed to in the process of deportation had severe consequences on their health. For example, Ghanaian deportees from Libya are often flown in cargo planes and arrive in Accra looking traumatized and sometimes with signs of physical torture on their bodies (Bob-Milliar, 2012). Unfortunately, majority of deportees in this

study were not attended to upon their return and they had no money to seek medical care. In the absence of proper medications, deportees resorted to herbal medicines without proper diagnoses. In addition, many of them experienced mental health issues as a result of the involuntary return and inadequate health care upon return. A recent study by Kleist and Bob-Milliar (2013) found that deportees' health challenges may deteriorate due to lack of proper health care. Although participants expected their families and government to assist them with health care this was not realized. In instances where structures in the micro and macrosystem (family, and government) are unable to support deportees as explained by the ecological systems theory, it creates further challenges for their reintegration.

Migrants' ability to prepare prior to their return facilitates their reintegration in their receiving communities. Such migrants are able to accumulate both tangible and intangible resources needed to secure their return whether temporary or permanent (Cassarino, 2008). Contrary to the findings reported by Cassarino (2008), the majority of deportees in this study expressed concern that they returned empty handed and also could not mobilize any resources upon their return. Societal expectations and values which are aspects of the macro system place much emphasis on the essence of migrants to accumulate wealth before their return. Thus, the deportees were perceived negatively by their family and community members because of their inability to fulfill the expectations of family and community members.

A disparity between societal expectations and the real state and conditions of deportees could contribute to stigmatization and discrimination (Brotherton & Barrios, 2009; Golash-Boza, 2013; Schuster & Majidi, 2014). According to Schuster and Majidi (2014), deportees' inability to fulfill the demands of their community upon return in Afghanistan contributed to the stigma and discrimination they faced. In this current study, some deportees were stereotyped as visionless,

lazy and in their families and community experienced discrimination when they sought for jobs and contributed to decision making. The study found that in the face of challenges, deportees resorted to coping strategies for survival in their communities. The deportees used problem focused coping strategies (establishment of business, remittances and support from friends and relatives) and emotion focused coping strategies (positive attitude for the future, religion and spirituality and risky behaviour) to minimize the challenges they faced.

Similarly, other studies found that deportees used remittances, establishment of businesses as coping strategies in times of adversity to facilitate their resettlement (Golash-Boza, 2013; Mensah, 2012; Van Houte & De Konning, 2008). Evidence from this current study indicated that the establishment of businesses was a major coping strategy adopted by deportees to deal with poverty and financial challenges. This helped them to cater for their families and to earn a living. According to Schuster and Majidi (2013), deportees establish their own businesses in a quest to fulfill their basic needs. Some of the deportees in this study who were able to establish their own businesses were on the IOM reintegration program, received support from their departing governments or had money they saved while abroad. Mensah (2014) found that participants who were working had no intentions to migrate but hope to expand their businesses in order to facilitate their resettlement.

Problem focused coping strategies such as remittances were used by deportees in order to care for themselves and their family members. This finding confirms the work by Golash-Boza (2013), which found that deportees used remittances to reduce financial hardships and to cater for the basic needs of their children. The receipt of remittances was rare among the deportees in this current study except the few who had spouses, friends and families abroad. As part of the coping strategies, individuals used personal coping strategies to reduce the stressful situations

and difficulties they faced in their receiving communities. From the findings it was found that deportees developed a positive attitude for the future. According to the coping theory when nothing useful can be done to change the individuals' relationship with the environment or when problem-solving efforts fail which could result in distress; then emotion-focused efforts would offer the best coping choice (Lazarus, 1993). In this study, the majority of deportees had hope for the future and believed that the deportation was not the end of their life and future.

Religion and spirituality were coping resources adopted by the deportees. Religion was adopted as an emotion-focused coping strategy to deal with the negative experiences they faced upon return. Religion was resorted to in order to change the relational meaning of the challenges they faced even though their actual conditions had not changed. Deportees resorted to this coping strategy especially when external support from the family and governmental institutions were limited.

Furthermore, the study found that the sudden return had affected the goals and life aspirations of some deportees. Their return was a shock and had caused them to regress in life compared to their peers and other community members. The abuse of drugs and alcohol were means of dealing with their challenges. Even though these risky behaviours could affect their health, some deportees explained that they had no choice than to resort to alcohol and drug use to overcome their frustration. As indicated by Brotherton and Martin (2014), and found in this study deportees entered the society with little social support, few job prospects and a level of socio-cultural estrangement that can easily lead to depression and the abuse of drugs and alcohol.

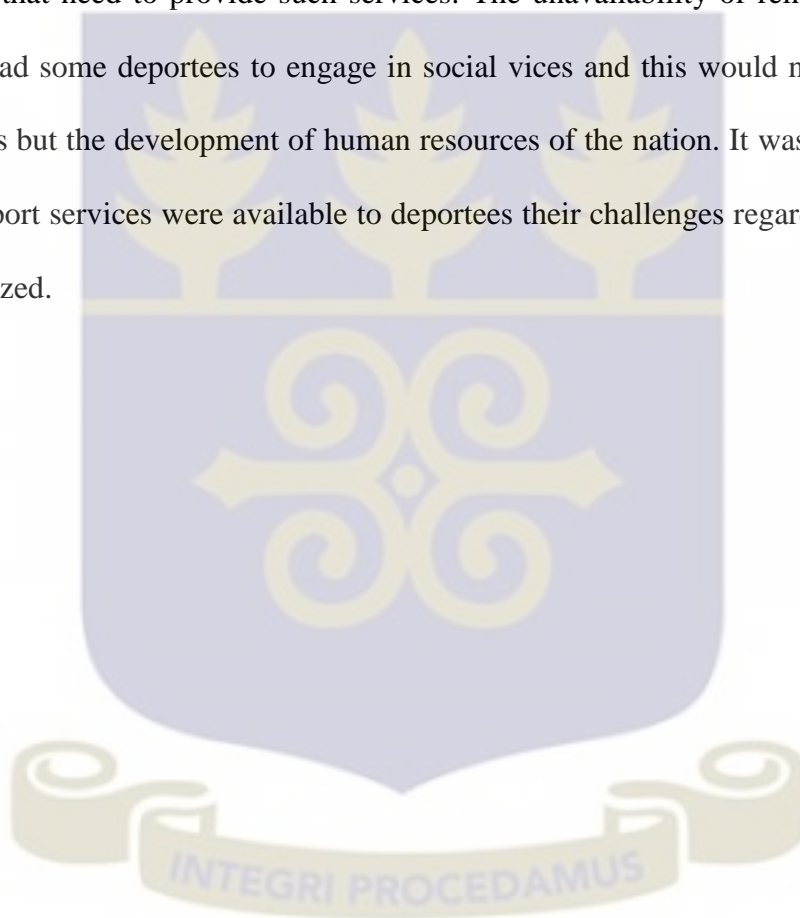
The provision of counseling services was useful for the deportees. As Chu, Stec, Dunnwald and Loran (2008) argue, support services such as reception assistance, transport upon arrival,

temporary accommodation, access to health care, employment and education are very essential for deportees. The emotional challenges associated with involuntary return suggest that reintegration support services are critical for deportees' reintegration. As part of the support services deportees' formed associations to interact and share ideas and information among themselves. Local migration NGOs (Scholars in Transit in the Brong Ahafo Region and the African Development Organization for Migration [AFDOM] in Tamale), organize association activities, information campaigns about legal and irregular migration for deportees in Ghana (Kleist & Bob-Milliar, 2013). The formation of associations could have the potential to encourage adaptive coping responses by promoting self-esteem, confidence and a sense of control for deportees. However, some of the deportees indicated that the remigration of deportees has made the associations less effective.

The organization of workshops was one of the support services available to deportees. In addition to the counseling and formation of association, workshops were organized to provide deportees with skills to establish their own businesses, engage in farming and other professions such as masonry, carpentry and welding. The organization of these workshops helped deportees to establish their own businesses and manage them effectively. Institutions such as the IOM, Department of Social Welfare, NADMO and Scholars in Transit were responsible for the reintegration of deportees in the Nkoranza Municipality. What was surprising was that, some deportees indicated that they never accessed such support services and the few who had, mentioned that the services only met their needs half way.

Despite considerable efforts to improve the reintegration outcomes of deportees, majority of deportees indicated that they had not received any support from any organization upon return. It was clear that, even though there were support services available, these services were accessed

by only few of the returnees and also the resources were not enough. The few deportees who were beneficiaries of the IOM training showed no interest in migrating again and those who were not on the IOM program mentioned that if they receive support to establish their businesses they would not re-migrate. Support from government agencies, and non-governmental agencies could help deportees to reduce the challenges they faced. However, there was a gap between the state and its agencies that need to provide such services. The unavailability of reintegration support services could lead some deportees to engage in social vices and this would not only affect the lives of deportees but the development of human resources of the nation. It was evident from the study that if support services were available to deportees their challenges regarding reintegration would be minimized.



CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the summary of the findings, conclusions drawn from the study, as well as the recommendations. Also, the chapter provides information on the implications of the findings of the study for social work practice, policy and further research.

5.2 Summary of the Findings

The study explored the challenges and coping strategies among deportees in the Nkoranza Municipality. Various factors were identified as contributing to the involuntary return of deportees included in this study. The reasons why the deportees returned involuntarily were (a) political instability (b) border crossing (c) illegal entry and (d) rejection of asylum seekers. Political instability due to wars and conflicts in host countries led to the involuntary return of participants. Border crossing relates to deportees who were apprehended while moving from one country to the other. The illegal entry applied to migrants who entered host countries without proper documentation and as a result were deported. Some migrants were also deported based on false information they provided when they sought asylum in host countries.

Also, it was found that all the deportees travelled to Libya as a transit point to some European countries. These migrants travelled without the requisite documentation and as a result, their return was involuntary. The findings revealed that, some of the deportees from European countries were assisted by host governments and IOM with cash and other resources to facilitate

their reintegration. Deportees from Libya and Tunisia were not supported and were sometimes sent to other countries after pronouncements were made for them to leave these countries. Another finding was that the involuntary return of migrants affected their reintegration into their receiving communities. The major challenges they encountered included skills degradation and difficulty in accessing jobs, inadequate food and nutrition, difficulty accessing health care, loss of assets and inadequate support services. Other challenges were negative societal perceptions about deportees and poor deportee-community relationship.

Furthermore, it was found that deportees employed problem focused and emotion focused strategies to cope with their challenges. The problem focused coping strategies employed by deportees included remittances, establishment of businesses, support from family and friends. The emotion focused strategies on the other hand, included positive attitude towards the future, religion and spirituality and risky behaviours.

In addition, it was found that the few formal support services available for deportees included the provision of resources (monetary and non-monetary) by government (NADMO and Department of Social Welfare) and non-governmental organizations (IOM and Scholars in Transit). Other services were counseling, assisting returnees to form associations and training programs on how to establish businesses. The deportees who received support from government and other organizations were willing to stay and work in Ghana compared to those who did not receive any support.

5.3 Conclusions of the Study

The study explored the challenges and coping strategies among deportees in the Nkoranza Municipality of Ghana. As indicated from the study, deportees were migrants who travelled to Libya and were forced to return based on varied reasons. Thus, the deportation of migrants could affect their ability to accumulate material and non-material resources to facilitate their reintegration. Since majority of deportees in this study returned unprepared to their countries of origin, it can be concluded that the deportation of migrants could affect their reintegration in their countries of origin.

Based on the literature reviewed and the findings, the study concludes that deportation is a social problem since it could have adverse effects on the reintegration of deportees at the personal, community and national levels. Deportees faced challenges as a result of inadequate formal support services for their resettlement. The absence of reintegration programs and support services could lead to mass re-migration by deportees (Bob-Milliar, 2012; Mensah, 2014). This suggests the need for migration and reintegration issues to be taken seriously by the government of Ghana.

Moreover, many of the coping strategies adopted by deportees were temporal and as a result changed from situation to situation (Lazarus, 1993). For instance, support from family, friends and community members were temporal as they provided the support to deportees as and when they wished. The role of social support systems in deportees' lives cannot be over emphasized although some of these support services are not permanent.

Furthermore, there were formal support systems available to deportees as reported by other studies (Golash-Boza, Schuster & Majidi, 2013). However, from the perspective of Majidi

(2009), the provision of formal support services for deportees has not yielded many results due to poor coordination and limited support services. In the Nkoranza Municipality for example, many deportees re-migrate because of limited formal reintegration support services.

In addition, since the deportation of migrants has implications for development, it can be concluded that deportation is a very complex issue and must be understood from a holistic perspective. Deportation impacts the various systems that deportees are involved in as well as other systems that they are not directly involved in but affects their development. This relates to the ecological systems theory proposed by Bronfenbrenner (1979).

5.4 Recommendations of the Study

This study explored the challenges and coping strategies among deportees in the Nkoranza Municipality of Ghana. The findings indicated that the deportees returned to Ghana due to varied reasons: illegal entry into host countries, apprehended while crossing borders, rejected based on false information to seek asylum and political instability due to wars and conflicts. Based on this finding, it is recommended that immigration officers develop strategies to regulate the movement of Ghanaian nationals in and out of the country. This could help reduce (a) the rate at which migrants are deported from their host countries, (b) the amount of resources used for deportees' reintegration in their home countries.

Also, the study found that many of the deportees were unemployed although some of them had acquired some skills while they were in host countries. Since the best way to help deportees to reintegrate is to assist them get jobs or start their own businesses, it is recommended that governmental and non-governmental organizations provide assistance in that direction. In this

regard, government could equip its institutions like NADMO and the Department of Social Welfare with resources (cash and non-cash) to assist deportees establish their own businesses.

Additionally, the findings of the study revealed that deportees in this study experienced health challenges. It is therefore recommended that as part of the reintegration of deportees, the government through the Ministry of Health (MoH) should enroll deportees on the National Health Insurance Scheme to help them access free health care. This is important as it could help reduce the financial challenges faced by deportees when accessing health care in their countries of origin.

Furthermore, the study found that although some deportees received support services from governmental and non-governmental organizations, these support services were not adequate and as a result some deportees expressed the willingness to re-migrate. It is therefore recommended that community and family members should be involved in the reintegration process as they provide support services for deportees. The Department of Social Welfare and other organizations working in the field of migration could educate deportees and their families about opportunities in their receiving communities.

Moreover, deportees may benefit from counseling services as it could help them cope with their challenges and empower them in their reintegration efforts. Since individual counseling may benefit only a few deportees, group counseling would be a better alternative. This would help by ensuring that deportees (a) do not feel alone and (b) understand varied challenges that are associated with involuntary return to countries of origin. Social workers who work in communities could assist with the provision of counseling services for deportees.

Also, since the study is qualitative and cannot be generalized, it would be worthwhile to replicate this research in other regions in Ghana. This would allow for comparison of the challenges faced by deportees and how they cope with these conditions across various regions in Ghana. These challenges if identified and addressed would help reduce the cost involved in the reintegration of deportees by government and other organizations in the field of migration.

5.5 Implications for Social Work

The findings of the study have implications for social work. Since social workers work in the communities, they could provide education to community members on the risks associated with travelling abroad without proper documents. This could help minimize the rate of deportation in Ghana.

Furthermore, social workers could assist deportees by providing counselling services to help reduce the challenges they face. These challenges if not addressed could affect their psychosocial wellbeing. In counselling, social workers help clients to articulate their needs, clarify their problems, identify possible solutions, and apply intervention strategies to develop and expand the capabilities of client systems to function more effectively (Kaseke, 1991). A key function of this role is to empower deportees by affirming their personal strengths and their capabilities to deal with problems more effectively.

Moreover, since the study found that there were formal support services but many deportees could not access them, social workers could serve as brokers to link deportees to these services. Social workers are professionals who identify, locate and link client systems to needed resources. In the absence of support services, it is likely many deportees would re-migrate and this could affect the human capital that is needed for national development.

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APPENDIX 1

Interview Guide for Deportees

The researcher is conducting this study in partial fulfillment of the requirement for a Master of Philosophy in Social Work Degree. The topic of this research is Deportation and Reintegration: Challenges and Coping Strategies among Deportees in Ghana. I would be grateful if you would spend some time with me for an interview. Information provided will be strictly confidential and no names or identities will be required. The information is for academic purpose.

1. Background Information

Age

Sex

Marital Status

Level of education

Name of country migrated to and deported from

Number of years spent in host country

Number of years spent in Ghana since return

2. Pre-migration Conditions

Work engaged in for a living before travelling

Conditions in your community before you travelled

Factors that influenced your decision to migrate

Financing of your trip and means of getting to the host country

3. Reasons for Deportation

Reasons for deportation

Deportation arrangements and processes

Preparation for your return

Leaving of belongings in the host country

Means of arrival in Ghana

Means of getting to the receiving community

4. Challenges in Accessing Employment Opportunities by Deportees

Activities engaged in currently to earn a living

Comparison of current activity and activity engaged in host country

Challenges faced in securing a job in the community

Intention of migrating again

5. Challenges in Accessing Health Care by Deportees

Deportation arrangements, processes and threats to your health

Sickness and the action normally taken in receiving community by deportees

National health Insurance Scheme registration and status

Challenges in accessing health care

6. Relationship between Deportees, Family and Community Members

Relationship with family and community before leaving

Keeping of ties with family whiles away

Reaction of family and community upon arrival

Current relationship with family and community

Changes with regard to family and community relations

Family and community's perceptions deportation

7. Coping Mechanisms Adopted by Deportees

Employment whiles abroad

Usefulness of skills attained for integration in receiving community

Difficulties encountered upon return

Personal mechanisms adopted to survive?

External supports received in communities

Strategies adopted for survival in the new environment

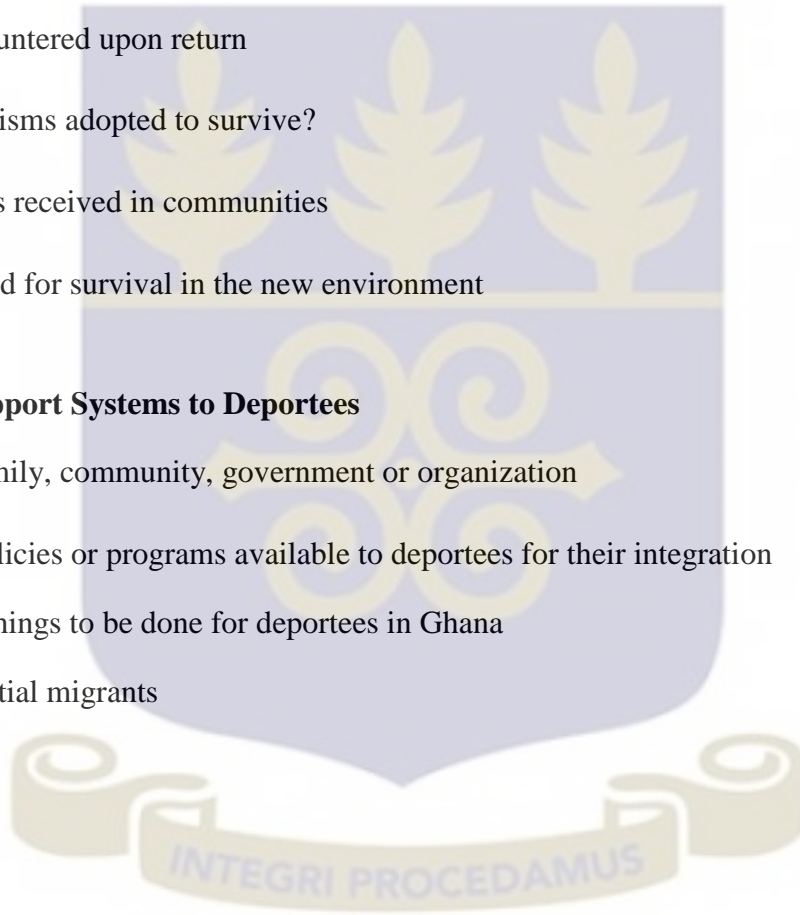
8. Available Support Systems to Deportees

Support from family, community, government or organization

Awareness of policies or programs available to deportees for their integration

Suggestions on things to be done for deportees in Ghana

Advice for potential migrants



APPENDIX 2

Officials from National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO)

The researcher is conducting this study in partial fulfillment of the requirement for a Master of Philosophy in Social Work Degree. The topic of this research is Deportation and Reintegration: Challenges and Coping Strategies among Deportees in Ghana. I would be grateful if you would spend some time with me for an interview. Information provided will be strictly confidential and no names or identities will be required. The information is for academic purpose.

1. Background Information

Sex

Number of years Worked

Position in Organization

2. Available Assistance and Reasons for Deportation

Mission and vision statement of organization

Role of organization in individual and mass deportation of Ghanaians

Means of arrival in Ghana by deportees

Countries deportees are mostly deported from to Ghana

Reception provided for Ghanaian nationals deported

General characteristics of deportees

Interventions or programs available for the reintegration of deportees

Types of assistance provided by organization to deportees

Implications of deportation for development

APPENDIX 3

Social Welfare Official

The researcher is conducting this study in partial fulfillment of the requirement for a Master of Philosophy in Social Work Degree. The topic of this research is Deportation and Reintegration: Challenges and Coping Strategies among Deportees in Ghana. I would be grateful if you would spend some time with me for an interview. Information provided will be strictly confidential and no names or identities will be required. The information is for academic purpose.

1. Background Information

Sex

Number of years Worked

Position in Organization

2. Available Formal Assistance to Deportees

Mission and vision statement of organization

Role of organization in individual and mass deportation of Ghanaians

Available assistance or interventions in place for deportees

Instances where deportees have visited the department for assistance

Organization assistance in the integration of deportees

Suggestions of assistance for deportees

Challenges faced in providing assistance to deportees

Idea on other organizations that gives assistance and the kind of assistance provided to deportees

Implications of deportation for development

APPENDIX 4

International Organization for Migrations (IOM) and Scholars in Transit Officials

The researcher is conducting this study in partial fulfillment of the requirement for a Master of Philosophy in Social Work Degree. The topic of this research is Deportation and Reintegration: Challenges and Coping Strategies among Deportees in Ghana. I would be grateful if you would spend some time with me for an interview. Information provided will be strictly confidential and no names or identities will be required. The information is for academic purpose.

1. Background Information

Sex

Number of years Worked

Position in Organization

2. Available Assistance and Reasons for Deportation

Role of your organization in individual and mass deportation of Ghanaians

Means of arrival in Ghana by deportees

Some countries deportees are mostly deported from to Ghana

Reception provided for Ghanaian nationals deported

Interventions or programs available to deportee for their reintegration

Types of assistance provided by your organization to deportees

Challenges faced in providing assistance to deportees

Suggestions regarding other support systems that could be provided for deportees

Implications of deportation for development