

*The Role of African Diaspora in Britain:
Implications for Development in Africa*



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Introduction: Africa is a major source of labour migration ...



Introduction...



- From the African origin of labour migration African diaspora now attract attention of various institutions...
- Labour migration can be beneficial or detrimental, hence the need to examine the role of African diaspora in Britain with a focus on its implications for development in Africa.

Justification of the Study

- Africa is known for its heritage, including labour supply to the global labour market.
- However, Africa is yet to recover from exodus of its human resources.
- This situation has been in existence since the Stone Age (2.5 million to 2400 BC)

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Literature Review



1. Contexts of labour migration from Africa
2. Trajectories of labour migration
3. Configurations of African diaspora
4. Relegation of Africa in Western Paradigms
5. Afrocentric Approach to Development

Theoretical Framework



- Dependency and structuration theories are adapted to explain the role of African diaspora in Britain.
- Dependency theory shows the socio-economic conditions that promote LM.
- Structuration theory shows the power of structure and human agency in decision making about labour migration.

Methods of Data Collection

- The study was based on secondary and primary data.
- Primary data were collected via 12 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and 24 In-depth Interviews (IDIs): Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow and London (Sep 2008 – Sep 2012).
- Participants (120) were immigrants from Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa.

Research Questions



1. African immigrants' experience
2. Africans' contributions to the British
3. Coping strategies with challenges of living in Britain
4. Contributions to their homelands.
5. Perception of situations in Africa.
6. Diaspora's influence on dev. in Africa.

Findings & Discussions



- The participants' socio-demographic characteristics were diverse.
- Most of them were middle-aged adults and the duration of their stay in Britain ranged from one to 20 years.
- Exposure, higher education, and job opportunities were frequently mentioned as motivations for migration.

Experience of AD in Britain

A general experience of difficulties was observed in the following areas.

Reception	Welcome reception is brief
Education	Education is very expensive
Jobs	Available jobs are not decent
Freedom	There is discrimination
Opportunities	Only few Africans are lucky

AD Coping Strategies in Britain

Many face the challenges associated with their nationality and citizenship.

Legitimate Strategies

Illegitimate Strategies

British Citizenship

Forgery

British Certificate

Impersonation

Menial Jobs

Crimes

Investment

Deception and Fraud

AD Contributions to the British

- The African diaspora make significant contributions to the development of urban economy in Britain.
- Instances of their contributions include: Role as Consumers, Role as Tax Payers, Role as Labourers and Role as Producers.
- However, some instances of criminality were also mentioned.

AD Contributions to Homelands

AD contributions to their homelands were observed from various perspectives:

Remittances

4/5 remitted always

African Associations

All were aware of AA

African Politics

Few expressed interest

Interaction with FF

This was done via ICT

Homecoming

Desire was high

AD Perception of Africa

Most expressed concerns over what they considered as predicaments in Africa:

Infrastructure	There is no improvement
Violence	Loss of lives & property
Poverty	People are really suffering
Unemployment	Many are still jobless
Corruption	The story is ridiculous

AD Influence on Development

- Dissenting views were expressed about the contributions of the African diaspora to development of their homelands.
- Labour migration has produced a lot of advantages and disadvantages. Migration status is a major factor here.
- However, there is a need for fundamental change in the African situation.

Summary of Main Points



- The role of African diaspora in Britain has been examined from various perspectives ranging from their experience and coping strategies to contributions to development efforts in Britain, on the one hand, and socio-economic development of their homelands, on the other hand.

Conclusion



- Labour migration has produced African diaspora in many countries across the world.
- African diaspora in Britain have blended African values with some of the British socio-cultural values.
- Fortunately, they are largely interested in African development regardless of their stay in Britain.

Recommendations



- AD experience of cross-cultural developments should be utilised to promote development efforts in Africa.
- All stakeholders in development must reckon with African diaspora and their collective experience in tackling the crisis of underdevelopment in Africa.

Recommendations..



- A global assembly of African diaspora is urgently required for re-examination of the continued spate of underdevelopment in Africa.
- The ongoing Global Diaspora Forum must be truly global to ensure the realization of its golden objectives.

Thanks for Your Attention

