

Socio-Economic and Cultural Impacts of Resettlement on Bakassi People of Cross River State, Nigeria

Agba, A. M. Ogaboh¹

Akpanudoedehe, J. J.²

Ushie, E. M.³

Abstract: The socio-economic and cultural impact of resettlement on Bakassi people of Cross River State, Nigeria was examined. The study elicited data from 516 respondents who were purposively selected from the Bakassi resettlement site at Ekpiri Ikang in Cross River State. Data were generated with the aid of structured questionnaire and statistically analyzed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation. It was observed that, the resettlement of Bakassi people significantly influenced their occupations, culture and accommodation pattern. It was recommended among others, that the Affected Persons (APs) should be properly compensated and adequate accommodation provided.

Key words: Socio-economic; Resettlement and Cultural Impacts

INTRODUCTION

Resettlement is a voluntary or involuntary movement of large number of people from one place (which is usually the original settlement) to another (which is a new settlement), and this movement is not without consequence (Akpanudoedehe, 2010). It is the spontaneous or planned movement of people from their original settlement sites to resettle in a new one where they have to adapt to the biophysical, social and administrative system of the new environment. During relocation or adaptation process, APs may face physical and mental stress (Woube, 2005). Resettlement can either be forced or voluntary (Jubril, 1990).

Nigeria and indeed Africa is witnessing massive resettlement since 1960s (Olawepo, 2008). Major causes of these displacement include among others socio-political upheavals like wars, civil unrest, religious and ethnic crisis; natural disasters such as droughts, famines, floods, and from planned resettlement scheme for agriculture, urban resettlement etc. Dam projects like Kainji Dam in Nigeria, Akosombo in Ghana, Kousou Dam in Cote d' Ivoire, Kriba Dam in Zambia, are also responsible for the large movement of people (Cernea, 1993; Ayeeni, Roder & Ayanda, 1994; Olawepo, 2008).

¹Lecturer, Department of Sociology, University of Calabar, Calabar, Nigeria. E-mail: ogabohagbagroup@yahoo.com.

² PhD Candidate, Department of Sociology, University of Calabar, Calabar, Nigeria.

³ Lecturer, Department of Sociology, University of Calabar, Calabar, Nigeria.

*Received 25 August 2010; accepted 31 October 2010

Whether voluntary or force, resettlement is causing significant population displacement, untold human misery and disaster in Africa (Cernea, 1990, Jackson & Sleigh, 2000; Jibril 2006). Resettlement tears apart the social fabric of existing communities and creates risks of impoverishment. It dismantles indigenous production system and way of existences (Cernea, 1991a; Tan & Yao, 2006).

The purpose of this study therefore is to investigate the socio-economic and cultural implications of resettlement on the people of Bakassi of Cross River State, Nigeria. Specifically the study would examine the effect of resettlement on economic activities such as fishing, farming and trading. Other variables to be considered include accommodation and cultural practices especially the traditional worship system.

Socio-economic and Political Background of the Study Area

Bakassi Peninsula lies roughly between latitude 4°10 North and Longitudes 8°20 and 9°08 East. It occupies an area of 665 km² with a population of over 300,000 people. The Peninsula was before Cameroon's occupation an extension of Calabar Territory into the Atlantic Ocean. Bakassi is rich in fishes, shrimps, crude oil, fertile land, forestry and large varieties of other marine life (Johnson, 2009, Wikipedia, 2009). It was incorporated to the Efik Kingdom of Calabar, Nigeria in 1450; and in September, 20 1884 Queen Victoria of England signed a Treaty of Protection with the Chiefs of Calabar, which made Calabar including Bakassi under the control of the United Kingdom. The Peninsula remained part of Nigeria even after Southern Cameroon joined Northern Cameroon in 1961 (Wikipedia, 2009).

For administrative convenience, Bakassi Local Government Area is administered by the Chairman of the Local Government Council, assisted by his Vice Chairman and Ward Councillors. The Paramount Ruler of Bakassi Local Government Area and his Council of Chiefs including Clan Heads administer the traditional institutions in the area. There exist the village council court where clan heads decide cases, and defaulters are punished based on the gravity of their offences. The village council ensures that rules and regulations are adhered to by people of Bakassi Local Government Area.

Before the coming of European Missionaries, the people of Bakassi worshipped *Akwa Abasi Ibom* that is the Almighty God in their traditional way, which some persons still hold unto till date. Today, there is a mixed religion among the people of Bakassi because of immigrants. Some are Christian while other are traditionalists. The people of Bakassi are rich in cultural heritage, such as dressing, bead works, masquerades, traditional wrestling etc. The masquerades in Bakassi are similar to that of the Efiks of Calabar and ranges from *Nnabo, Agaba, Tinkoriko, Edem Obon, Ekpe, Ekiri Akata and Offion Inyang*. Most of these masquerades entertained people during festive period, marriages/weddings ceremonies and burials. Beside the masquerades are cultural groups like *Abang* dancers and *Ekombi* that entertain people during occasions.

Sex education for girls is provided through the fattening room institution called *Ufok Nkuho* where girls are taught family life, including how to take care of their husbands, prepare traditional dishes, look feminine and attractive to their husbands, and raise disciplined children. Traditional dishes, the girl child is taught include *afia efere, anyan ekpang, iwuk abia, edikang ikong, edesi isip, efere abak* and *usung abia*. Girls are also taught how to paint their faces and bodies with native chalk called *ndom*. The painting symbolizes purity and love. It also symbolizes joy and happiness especially during child birth and other ceremonies.

Being a mixed population, the people of Bakassi speak *Efik* and *Ibibio* languages. There are also unique dressing attires for both male and female of Bakassi stock, which is similar with that of the Efiks of Calabar. Men tie wrappers with a two flouting ends at the left side, with cap, shoes designed with beads, a white long sleeves with a necktie called *Opum-pom* cut from the same wrapper the man is tying. The women wear long gown called *Onyo-nyo*. The neck and shoulders of the gown is traditionally designed and a hair style which is fixed with gold plated crown or hair holders.

As international border town, cultural diffusion was inevitable. The music type was affected; most inhabitants of Bakassi now play *Makossa* a popular Cameroon music. As a border Local Government to

Cameroon, the Peninsula has been a contentious place between Nigeria and Cameroon since 1913. And this graduated into hostilities and military confrontations in the early 1990s up to 2002 when the resource-rich Peninsula was handed over to Cameroon via the verdict of the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The Peninsula case was first taken to ICJ also called the World Court (WC) in 1994; after eight years of adjudication, the WC delivered its judgment in favour of Cameroon on 10th October 2002. The court declared that the sovereignty of Bakassi Peninsula lies with Cameroon (BBC, 2008).

Sequel to ICJ judgment and the need for peaceful implementation of the verdict, President Paul Biya of Cameroon and President Olusegun Obasanjo requested for the setting up of Nigeria- Cameroon Mixed Commission to be chaired by the United Nations (UN) Secretary General's special Representative for West Africa, Mr. Ahmedou Ould – Abdullah. The Commission was saddled with the responsibility of ensuring a peaceful withdrawal of civilian administration, military and police forces and the transfer of Bakassi to Cameroon. After series of tripartite meetings between Kofi Anan, the then UN Secretary General, President Obasanjo of Nigeria and President Paul Biya of Cameroon, the first withdrawal was done in 1st of August, 2006, with Nigeria troops leaving the disputed area, while the ceremonial handover was done on August 14, 2006. However, only the Northern Part of Bakassi remained under the sovereignty of Nigeria until 14 August, 2008 when the final hand over was made (BBC, 2006, 2008).

The ICJ verdict that conceded Bakassi to Cameroon was based on Anglo-German Agreements. The Agreement supposes that Bakassi Peninsula was part of Cameroon. Thus ICJ mandated Nigeria Government to handover Bakassi including its inhabitants to Cameroon. Nigeria Government handed over the disputed area to Cameroon with social infrastructure but gave options to Bakassi people to choose where to belong. The decision of government to concede Bakassi to Cameroon, provoked ill-feelings among Nigerians including APs of the Peninsula. Notably, the Bakassi Movement for Self-Sovereignty of the Peninsula (BMSSP), this body was supported by the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (BBC, 2008).

The displaced people from Bakassi Peninsula were resettled in a place now called "New Bakassi" which was carved out of Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River, Nigeria. The land was already inhabited and cannot sustain the occupation and other socio-economic activities of the displaced people of Bakassi. More so, the people whose land was taken to resettle the Affected Persons (APs) from Bakassi also suffered some loss. Farmlands, pineapple grove, shrines were destroyed to construct new residence/accommodation for the displaced people of Peninsula (Jackson, 2009). This study therefore investigates the socio-economic and cultural implications of resettlement on the people of Bakassi of Cross River State, Nigeria.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Resettlement and Socio-economic Dynamics

Resettlement occurs frequently in real life and there is no doubt that it causes major economic losses and cultural disruption. There are convincing statistics that shows that involuntary resettlement is not a minor or secondary problem. Dams and reservoir projects such as the Gezhouba Dam in China and Dienjanakov Reservoir in India displaced 383 and 90,000 people respectively. The magnitude of displacement varies according to population density and ecological conditions (Cernea, 1990). The socio-cultural and economic implications of resettlement in developed and developing countries has also been reported by Viser (1972), Lightfoot (1979), Afolayan (1987), Jibril (1990, 2006), Olawepo (2000, 2006), and Johnson (2009). The socio-political and psychological cost of involuntary resettlement has been unavoidably high and in some cases irreversible (Jibril, 2006; Olawepo, 2008). For instance, the construction of Jebba Lake to boost waterpower to drive the turbine in upstream Jebba led to the relocation of over 6,000 APs in 42 villages in Niger State, Nigeria (Olawepo, 2008).

Government acquisition of about 800 square kilometer of land to establish a new Federal Capital

Territory (FCT) led to the displacement of over 150,000 – 300,000 people who were the original inhabitants of today modern city called Abuja. The displaced persons were given options to choose places of choice outside the FCT at government expense. Uprooting such a large number of people was later reconsidered and thought unwise and could delay the development of the FCT. It was decided that the inhabitants be resettled within the FCT. This decision according Jubril (2006) is responsible for the problem of squatters, infrastructural inadequacies and land administration challenges in the FCT.

According to Cernea (2000) sociological studies has increasingly revealed the psychological and socio-cultural stress, high mortality and morbidity associated with involuntary resettlement. As a result of involuntary resettlement in most part of the world, farming system were destroyed, arable lands and social support networks are dismantled leaving many small and medium families impoverished. Environmental degradation including loss of grazing lands and sources of drinking water is also associated with involuntary resettlement. Ayanda (1988) posits that involuntary resettlement affects the organization and structure of local market, different from the previous patterns.

Resettlement inevitably causes social change. The provision of modern houses in 21 resettlements site at Jebba is one of the positive consequence of force relocation. Olawepo (2008) observed that 1374 modern housing units were provided at Kalema, Bukah, Gbajibo, Leaba, Salkawa among other resettlement sites. Despite the positive structural change in Jebba resettlement site in terms of housing, most families suffered occupational dislocation and major disruption of domestic economy. Farmers were rooted out of their farm lands while fishermen and hunters were taken to places where their occupations were impeded (Olawepo, 2008).

Although the negative impact of involuntary resettlement on APs are obvious, United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) is using resettlement as a vital tool for protecting and providing durable solutions for war refugees. Resettlement is also use by UNHCR as a global responsibility sharing mechanism to reduce the burdens of international agencies responsible for refugees and warring communities. The strategy involves comprehensive efforts of stakeholders and a multifaceted resettlement programmes. It includes the provision of resettlement opportunities to war APs in the countries of first asylum and those volunteering to accept refugees (UNHCR, 2004).

Resettlement and Compensation

Compensation for lost property including land has become one of the major social problems associated with involuntary resettlement. In most countries, assets considered in the calculation of compensation usually include land, houses and crops. Cash/money compensation is the usual practice (Brotoisworo, 2000; Akpanudoedehe, 2010). In as evidence in the works of Jubril (2006) and Olawepo (2008), compensation including replacing old houses for new/modern ones in a different location and cash payment for other lost property. However, in most cases the means of livelihood of displaced families/APs are largely ignored in Nigeria.

Effective compensation should be encompassing, it should include title and non legal ownership of titles. The vulnerable groups who are particularly disadvantaged as a result of resettlement, squatters and encroachers whose structures, crops and other assets are destroyed as a result of resettlement scheme should equally be compensated (ADB, 2010).

Cash compensation often results into conflict among family members and people in terms of sharing formula. Some APs and families are left out, because they do not know how to get their share. This is very significant since resettlement lead to unemployment and others social problem; and may reduce people ability or capacity to cope. The rate of compensation for each land use is often determined by government and the prevailing land price. Thus the rate in usually accepted though high compensation was usually expected (Brotoisworo, 2000).

Just like land, compensation for housing is standardized base on the market price and the rate of depreciation. In case where the APs received smaller amount of money than the actual price of their house, difficulties may arise as the people may not afford the same quantity of house using solely the comprehension from their former house (Brotoisworo, 2000; Akpanudoedehe, 2010).

Job compensations are often not considered in resettlement policies. Consequently farmers who do not own landed property are not compensated. In Bakassi, farmers, fishermen and traders who lost their jobs were not compensated. Rather a training programme is slated to start in the resettlement site to assist APs acquire new skills to adapt to their new environment (Akate, 2010; Jackson, 2009). The people without land titles are usually the poorest group among the APs. None payment of compensation to this group will even cause living standard to drop further. This may result to crime and other social vices at the resettlement site and its immediate environment. Although it is difficult to determine compensation for none land title holders, there is need to give them priority to access newly created jobs or new jobs should be created for them (Brotoiosworo, 2000).

Guidelines for Effective Resettlement Planning, Implementation and Evaluation

Indigenous population losing land, houses, economic trees, resources and other assets due to involuntary resettlement have to rebuild their incomes and financial assets elsewhere. This requires effective planning, implementation and evaluation of resettlement scheme (ADB, 2010). According to Cernea (2000) a good resettlement plan should embody government responsibility APs rights, protection of host population or community interest, and environment protection. He observed that although these frameworks are functional requisites for effective resettlement programme, most developing nations including that of Africa lack guide lines, and were there exist lack of experts and policy inconsistency hinders its implementation.

Resettlement plans should be able to define in clear terms entitlements and eligibility of affected persons (APs). Here APs entails all persons who lose or stand to lose physical and non-physical assets as a result of involuntary resettlement. It includes all persons residing in the affected area irrespective of their legal or ownership of titles. It involves squatters and encroachers whose structures, crops and other physical and non-physical assets are destroyed as a result of involuntary resettlement. It include vulnerable groups who are particularly disadvantaged as a result of resettlement; that is the very poor without legal titles to assets; it involves ethnic minorities, pastoralists, indigenous people and households headed by women (ABD, 2010).

Resettlement plans should also take into consideration short-term and long-term income strategies for APs. The short-term income strategies (STIS) should include compensation for land, payment of subsistence allowances, house construction grants, and payment of transportation allowance or cost of removal to new settlement, tax waivers, special assistance to vulnerable group such as widows, the aged, disabled and orphans. The Long-term income strategies (LTIS) include physical and non-physical economic activities that could provide and cater for sustained source of livelihood over a long period of time for all APs. It includes the provision of employment, training for income generating small and medium enterprises (SMEs). It entails the provision of low or no interest loans to APs (ADB, 2010).

Monitoring and evaluation are vital tools in resettlement planning and implementation. Monitoring here entails a continuous process of collecting, analyzing and reporting the progress of resettlement activities for the purpose of providing information for adjustment and proper implementation of the resettlement plan. Evaluation is a process of judging outcomes with set goals or objectives as entrenched in the master plan of the resettlement programme or scheme. Monitoring and evaluation ensures that entitlements (both physical and non-physical) are delivered to APs (UNHCR, 2004; ADB, 2010).

The planning and implementation of resettlements could also be successful if provision is made for adequate funds and personnel's. Effective participation of APs in the planning and implementation process of resettlement schemes is necessary. APs should be involved in every sphere of the programme. They should be involved in evaluating whether the resettlement programme is going as planned. (Jubril, 2006; ADB, 2010).

Resettlement plans should be able to define in clear terms, the distinct ethnic, cultural and political attributes of the APs, this requires professional or experts. The social organization of the APs should be catered for in the plan. It involves not only returning the people to their former lives, but enhancing their living standards, welfare and provision of means of sustaining the improved order (Cernea, 2000).

Efforts to Resettle Bakassi People

The first major step to resettle the displaced people of Bakassi was the carving of “New Bakassi” from Akpabuyo Local Government Area for returnees from the Peninsula. The APs were kept in camps in New Bakassi where human dignity is impeded because of lack of privacy and adequate comfort. Relief materials ranging from food items, cloths, beddings, tent, etc were delivered to APs at the camp.

To solve the accommodation problem of the APs, 172 houses comprising of two bedrooms and one bedroom semi-detached flats with facilities such as fans, and kitchen utensils were handed over to 172 household heads at Bakassi Resettlement site in Ekpiri Ikang. The lean resources of the Cross River State Government could not allow for adequate provision of accommodation for all APs. Consequently, beneficiaries were asked by the Director General of Cross River State Emergency Commission, Mr. Vincent Aquah to squat those who are yet to benefit from the resettlement scheme (Akate, 2010). The question is, how 172 housing units can cater for a population of over 12,000 persons (Editorial, 2010) at the resettlement site.

There are also plans by the Cross River State government to establish centers for commercial skills acquisition training for APs. The centers would train APs on skills ranging from barbing and hair salon, carpentry, vulcanizing, tailoring, welding, etc (Akate, 2010). The government of the state is also galvanizing efforts from all Nigerians to help the displaced people of Bakassi, describing their plight as national issues that requires collective commitment of all stakeholders. As a follow up to this called, in 2008, a fund raising charity concert by artists in Nigeria led by Senator Florence Ita-Giwa, former Chairman of Bakassi Resettlement Committee was launched in Calabar. The impact of the concert is yet to be felt by APs in the resettlement site.

THEORETICAL CONSIDERATION

Diffusion Theory Resettlement and Chambers Participatory Development Theory (CPDT) were adopted in this study.

The Diffusion Theory Resettlement

The diffusion theory has its origin in the natural sciences, particularly in plant and animal studies. It has also been of great concern to researchers in geography and sociology; who are interested in the diffusion or spread of phenomena over space and time. Diffusion theory attempts to interpret resettlements in terms of location. The theory focused on the interaction, spread, contact, change, and growth of resettlement patterns and the physical distances separating the original settlements from the new resettlements, and the local economic resources of the new sites (Woube, 2005; Akpanudoedehe, 2010).

Diffusion theory identified three types of diffusion processes. The first type reveals that first adopters of innovators, who are early majority, are followed by the second adopters who are the late majority, and the third adopters are those who arrive last. Adoptive process of APs depend on a number of factors including geographical barriers such as mountains, rivers, lakes and deserts, other factors are languages, cultures, ethnicity, income, and bureaucracy (Hagerstrand, 1965 cited in Woube, 2005).

Diffusion theory highlights four stages in which resettlement manifest itself. The first stage refers to the physical transfers of APs to a new site; the second is the adoption process to the biophysical and human environments. The third is the achievement of socio-economic development by the APs; and the fourth is the ability of APs to manage the biophysical and human environment. (Woube, 2005).

The implication of diffusion theory of resettlement to this study cannot be related. The theory enables the researcher to understand the stages of resettlement process. That first people most move, they have to adopt to the new environment; and adoption here entails giving and taking new culture, domestic

economic reform to match the new environment and a new set of social relations. The theory also amplified barriers to effective resettlement or factors that may limit or fast track the process of resettlements. These include desert, mountains, lakes, river, culture, ethnicity, income and bureaucratic bottleneck. The theory therefore guided the making of the research questionnaire and will aid the discussion of findings in chapter five of this study.

CHAMBERS PARTICIPATORY DEVELOPMENT MODEL (CPDM)

According to Chambers (1983), the model has its origin from the works of Ghandhi (1962). CPDM focused on small scale development that allows the poor to be adequately involved and participate effectively in development process of their communities with external agents acting as facilitators and financier (Chambers, 1983). External agents here refer to local or international organisation or agencies that intervene in the plight of communities to carry out development projects. The model stresses citizen participation in decision making as a panacea for effective community development programme (Nkpoyen, Agba, Okoro & Ushie, 2009).

CPDM posits that top-down development strategies, where decisions and programmes about community development are done without inputs from affected communities (ACs) or APs is ineffective and disempowering in both developed and developing nations. The model argued that development should not be limited to material wellbeing of members of ACs or APs; but should incorporate capacity building, political, economic and socio-cultural well being. The thrust of the model include the advocacy for adopting strategies to empower the most disadvantaged group (Chambers, 1983).

CPDM is imperative in this study because it enables us to view government and other agencies or organizations involve in the development of "New Bakassi" and the resettlement APs as external agents. And as such, the external should incorporate APs in the planning process for effective decision making and implementation of the resettlement scheme. External agents here include Cross River State Emergency Commission, nongovernmental organisations and other international donor organizations. Operating within the frames of CPDM, external agents are not expected to concentrate on the material development of the people of Bakassi alone, but should develop their capacity including training on commercial skills acquisition as well as ensuring their socio-cultural well being. In other words; the development of the APs of Bakassi should be holistic and broad-based.

Research Methodology

This study adopted survey design. It was opted for because it involved the collection of data to accurate and objective description of existing phenomena. It allowed for drawing of inferences (Hart, 1969; Cohen & Manion, 1986). It also allowed the study to obtain a true picture of the present condition of the displaced people of Bakassi. The design allows for purposive sampling and the use of questionnaires. It is used to study people attitude, feelings and opinions about social phenomena (Babbie, 1986).

The study elicited data from 516 respondents who were purposively selected from the APs in Bakassi resettlement site in Ekpri Ikang. The 516 respondents were selected from the 172 houses provided for the Bakassi returnees at Ekpri Ikang. Three respondents were purposively selected from each of the 172 housing units in the resettlement site. The sample comprised of youths, women and men at the site. Data was collected from respondents using a four point Likert scale questionnaire. The distribution of the instrument was done with the help of five research assistants.

The questionnaire was divided into two sections. The first section (that is section A) elicited demographic data of respondents while section B accorded the study needed topical data on the impact of resettlement on the people of Bakassi. Items in the instrument that shows positive response were ranked 4 for Strongly Agree (SA), 3 for Agree (A), 2 for Disagree (D) and 1 for Strongly Disagree (SD).

Items that shows dislike were ranked 1 to 4; with 4 standing for strongly disagree (SD), 3 for disagree, (D), 2 for agree (A) and 1 for Strongly Agree (SA). Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient (r) was used for data analysis. Simple percentage was used to analyze the bio-data of respondents.

RESULTS

Demography Data of Respondents

As depicted in table I, 62.4 per cent of the respondents were males, while 37.6 percent were females. Youths constitute 29.8 percent of the respondents. A significant proportion of the respondents were within the ages of 31 and 40 years. While those who were 40 years and above were 28.5 percent. Occupational distribution of respondents revealed that majority engaged in fishing, 27.3 in farming and 20.4 percent trading. More than 80 percent of the respondents were Christians, 10.7 percent were traditionalists and none was Muslim.

Table 1: Bio-data of Respondents

Variables	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Sex		
Male	322	62.4
Female	194	37.6
Total	516	100.0
Age		
Below 30 years	154	29.8
31 – 40 years	215	41.7
41 and above	147	28.5
Total	516	100.0
Marital Status		
Single	157	30.4
Married	311	60.3
Temporary separated	48	9.3
Divorced	0	0
Total	516	100.0
Occupation		
Fishing	270	52.3
Trading	105	20.4
Farming	141	27.3
Total	516	100.0
Religious Affiliation		
Christianity	461	89.3
Traditional religion	55	10.7
Total	516	100.0
Educational Qualification		
FSLC	278	53.9
SSCE	156	30.2
NCE/OND	32	6.2
Without any formal certificate	50	9.7
Total	516	100.0

Source: Fieldwork 2010

Table I also revealed that, majority of the respondents were married; 9.3 percent were separated temporally because of the resettlement problem. Thirty percent of the respondents were single. The study revealed that most respondents had FSLC, and they constitute 53.9 percent; while 9.7 percent of the respondents had no formal certificates, suggesting that some had never gone to school or were school drop-outs. Only 6.2 percent of the respondents had either OND or NCE; likely because degree holders who were displaced might have gone for greener pasture elsewhere.

Test of Hypotheses

Hypothesis 1

Resettlement of Bakassi People does not significantly affect their occupation. This hypothesis was tested using Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient and the result is shown in table 2.

Table 2: Pearson Product Moment Correlation between Resettlement and Occupation of Bakassi People

Variables	$\sum x$ $\sum y$	$\sum x^2$ $\sum y^2$	$\sum xy$	N	df	r-cal
Resettlement	933	3423				
Occupation of Bakassi people	539	1127	1754	516	514	0.788*

* $P < 0.05$, critical $r = 0.088$, $df = 514$

From Table 2, it was observed that resettlement of Bakassi people has significant positive relationship with their occupation ($r\text{-cal} = 0.788$; $df = 514$, $P < .05$). Since 0.778 is greater than the table value of 0.088, $P < .05$, the relationship is positive at .05. The finding suggests that occupational change and unemployment among Bakassi people is associated with involuntary resettlement.

Hypothesis 2

Resettlement has no significant relationship with the accommodation and settlement layout of Bakassi people. This hypothesis was tested with Pearson Product Moment Correlation techniques. The result is presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Pearson Product Moment Correlation between Accommodation, Settlement Layout and the Resettlement of Bakassi People

Variables	$\sum x$ $\sum y$	$\sum x^2$ $\sum y^2$	$\sum xy$	N	df	r-cal
Resettlement	364	1709				
Accommodation and Settlement Layout	322	1629	1638	516	514	0.980*

* $P < 0.05$, critical $r = 0.088$, $df = 514$

Table 3 revealed a significant relationship between accommodation, settlement layout and the resettlement of Bakassi People ($r\text{-cal} = 0.980$; $df = 514$, $p < .05$). Since 0.980 is greater than the table

value of 0.088, the relationship is positive at 0.05. This significant relationship implies that the accommodation problem faced by Bakassi people and the disruption of their settlement layout/pattern is associated with the resettlement programme of government.

Hypothesis 3

Resettlement does not significantly influence the culture of Bakassi people. Pearson Product Moment Correlation was employed to test this hypothesis. The result is presented in table 4.

Table 4: Pearson Product Moment Correlation between Resettlement and the culture of Bakassi People

Variables	$\sum x$ $\sum y$	$\sum x^2$ $\sum y^2$	$\sum xy$	N	df	r-cal
Resettlement	342	1585	1602	516	514	0.939*
Culture of Bakassi People	364	1802				

* P< 0.05, critical r = 0.088, df= 514

Table 4 revealed that, the correlation coefficient was positively significant at 0.05 alpha level and 514 degree of freedom. This significant relationship implies that resettlement affect the culture of Bakassi people especially in the areas of traditional worship system and household items.

Discussion of Findings

The results presented in the previous section are indicative of the generally significant impacts of resettlement on the socio-economic and cultural lives of Bakassi People of Cross River State, Nigeria. The significant relationship between resettlement and the occupation of Bakassi people was discovered. There was significant dislocation of occupation, and domestic economy. Affected mostly were farmers whose farm lands were taken over by Cameroon government. Fishermen and traders were relocated to places where they could not carry out their occupations. The market structure is not yet organized and there is significant indication that the new one would be a shift from the previous patterns in Old Bakassi. This findings support Ayanda (1988), Cernea (1991a, 1993), Jackson and Sleigh (2000), and Olawepo (2008). They argued that resettlement tears apart social fabric of existing communities and disrupt occupation of indigenous population.

Jubril (2006) and Olawepo (2008) observed that resettlement causes not only occupational dislocation of the APs, but affects the socio-political and psychological lives, and the impact has been unavoidably high and in some instances irreversible. Ayanda (1988) argued that involuntary resettlement affects the organization and structure of local markets different from the old ones. The occupational disruption of traders in Bakassi resettlement camps supports this observation. Traders who trade on fish and other marine life could not do that effectively again, because of the relocation exercise; they are taken far from their source of trade.

The findings on the impact of resettlement on the accommodation, settlement layout and social networking were quit revealing. The study revealed that most displaced persons of Bakassi had no accommodation. Only 172 houses were provided for over 12,000 APs. It was also observed that the uprooting of Bakassi people from "Old Bakassi" affected their settlement layout or pattern. Families were scattered and social networking among family members was affected. This finding corroborates Cernea (1991a) Jibril (1990, 2006), and Olawepo (2008); they observed that resettlement leads to significant dislocation of accommodation of APs and disrupt social networking and fabric.

The accommodation problem in the resettlement site at Ekpri Ikang, is responsible for the lost of

dignity of life among Bakassi people, mostly because of lack of privacy and comfort. The support system establish among family ties was also destroyed because of new pattern of settlement layout which a ground departure from the old. Most spouses are temporary separated because of lack of accommodation. Olawepo (2008), observed that, though resettlement affect accommodation of APs, it could led to the establishment of modern houses with state of the art facilities and basic social infrastructure. The 172 housing units already provided in Bakassi Resettlement site lack the facilities Olawepo (2008) is talking about. APs at the site are yet to be provided with adequate and basic social amenities.

The findings indicated a significant relationship between resettlement and the culture of the Bakassi people. It revealed that the worship pattern of those who had shrine and cannot move them from "Old Bakassi" could no longer carry out their traditional worship practice. Although the Christians were affected, they are integrated to their fellow Christian faithful in Akpabuyo Local Government Area. The findings also revealed that masquerade play is disrupted; as they could not do so without the royal blessing of village or clan heads; that are now scattered because of accommodation problem. It was reported that the Paramount Ruler of Bakassi is now living in Calabar because of the resettlement. The local council court, which consist of clan and villages heads is also affected. Local cases involving traditional practices are hardly decided because of the involuntary resettlement. This finding is consistent with the observations of Cernea (1991a), Ayanda (1988), Jibril (2006) and Olawepo (2008); they posit that resettlement affects the socio-cultural fabric of APs.

Despite the negative impact of resettlement on APs, it could also be a source of protection to people during war. For instance United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) is using settlement as a major tool for protecting and providing durable solution for people who are displaced because of war (UNHCR, 2004). Civilian casualties and dehumanizing treatment of Nigerians by Cameroon Gendarmes was serially reported (Johnson, 2009; Editorial, 2010). The resettlement scheme of government has to some extent served the APs of Bakassi from the hands of the Cameroon Gendarmes, and findings supports the observation of UNHCR (2004).

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on these research findings, the following recommendations were made:

- a). Adequate accommodation should be provided for the people of Bakassi. The 172 housing units provided by the Cross River State government is grossly inadequate. The Federal Government of Nigeria and donor agencies should come to the plight of the Bakassi people; to avoid further humanitarian crisis in the region.
- b). Adequate compensation package should be given to APs. Title and non title APs should be eligible for compensation. The disadvantage group especially windows, the poor and disable should be properly considered in the compensation package.
- c). Basic social infrastructures including, markets, water, electricity etc should be provided by government at the resettlement site in Ekpri Ikang.
- d). Skill acquisition centres should be established by government to train the APs of Bakassi whose occupations were disrupted. Low or no interest loans should be provided for the APs that are trained by centres to start their business.
- e). The APs should participate actively in the decision making process of the resettlement programme; this would and thus reduce the impact of the scheme on the socio-cultural and economics lives of the Bakassi people of Cross River State.

CONCLUSION

The socio-economic and cultural impact of resettlement on Bakassi people of Nigeria is unavoidably high. Farming systems are destroyed and social supports network are dismantled, consequently most small and medium families are adversely affected and impoverished. Domestic economies are disrupted and occupations lost. The dignity to life is lost because of lack of privacy necessitated by inadequate accommodation for APs. Families are rooted out of their traditional practice and way of life. The situation at the resettlement site in Ekpiri Ikang, Cross River State commands the urgent attention of all stakeholders to avoid further humanitarian crisis.

REFERENCES

- Afolayam, A. A.. (1987). The Sasa Resettlement Project: A Study in Problems of Relocation. *Habitat International*, 2; 43-57.
- Akate, D.. (2010). Bakassi Returnees Allocated Houses. *Mofinews* 9, (3), 44.
- Akpanudoedehe, J. J. (2010). Socio-economic and Cultural Impacts of Resettlement on Bakassi People of Cross River State Nigeria. Unpublished Seminar Paper Presented at the Department of Sociology University of Calabar, Calabar – Nigeria.
- Asian Development Bank (ADP) (2010). Involuntary Resettlement. Online available at <http://www.retrived//13/5/2010>.
- Ayanda, J. O.. (1988). Economics of Traditional Fish Preservation and Storage Technique in Jebba. *NIFFR Annual Report*, 242 – 244.
- Ayeni, S. O., Roder, W. & Ayanda, J. O.. (1994). Kainji Lake Experience in Nigeria. In M. M. Cernea (ed) *Sociology, Anthropology and Development*: Washington D. C. World Bank.
- Babbie, E.. (1986). *The Practice of Social Research*, California: Wadsworth.
- BBC. (2006). BBC News Report on Bakassi Handover of 8 August 2006. Online Available at: <http://news.bb.co.uk/2/hi/africa/>. Retrieved 10/1/2010.
- BBC (2008). Report on Bakassi Handover of 14 August 2008. Online available at: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa>. Retrieved 10/1/2010.
- Brotoiosworo, E.. (2000). The Saguling Dam Project – Indonesia. Online available at: <http://www.ilec.or.jp/pubs/guideline/chapter/vol.2> Resettlement 12/5/2010.
- Cernea, M. M.. (1990). Population Displacement and Water Resources Development: Current Practice, Issues and Policy Responses Paper Presented at the Third Export Group Workshop on River/Lake Basis Approaches to Environmentally Sound Management of Water Resources, Otsu, Japan.
- Cernea, M. M.. (1991a). *From Unused Social Knowledge to Policy Creation: The Case of Population Resettlement*. Cambridge: Harvard University.
- Cernea, M. M.. (1991b) Involuntary Resettlement: Social Research, Policy and Planning. In M.M. Cernea (ed). *Sociology, Anthropology and Development*. Washington, D. C.: World Bank p.105.
- Cernea, M. M.. (1993). Africa Population Resettlement in A Global Context. In C. Cook (ed). *Involuntary Resettlement in Africa*. Washington D.C.: World Bank.

- Cernea, M. M.. (2000). Socio-economic and Cultural Approaches to Involuntary Population Resettlement. Online Publication Available at: <http://www.ilec.or.jp/pubs/guideline/chapter/vol.2>. Retrieved 12/5/10, pp. 177-188.
- Chambers, R.. (1983). *Rural Development: Putting the First Thing Last*. London: Longman.
- Cohen, A. & Manion, L.. (1986). *Research Methods in Education*. London: Croon Helm.
- Editorial. (2010). Plight of Nigeria in Bakassi Push Newspaper. Online available at: <http://www.punchng.com/article.aspx?> Retrieved 16/5/2010.
- Hagerstrand, H.. (1965) Cited in M. Woube (ed). *Effects of Resettlement: The Case of the Gambela Region, Ethiopia* (P.23). Floride: Universal Publisher.
- Hart, L. A.. (1969). Learning at Random. *Saturday Reviews*, 52, (16), 12-14.
- Jackson, S. & Sleight, A.. (2000). Resettlement for China's Three Gorges Dam: Socio-economic Impact and Institutional Tensions. *Communist and Post-Communist Studies*, 33(2), 223-241.
- Jibril, I. U.. (1990). Resettlement Problems in Usman Town of Nigeria's New Federal Capital Territory. Unpublished M.Sc. Thesis of Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria.
- Johnson, K.. (2009). Scars of Bakassi. *The Nation*. Online available at: <http://the nation onlineng.net/wb2/articles/25/212/1/scars-of-Bakassi>. Retrieved 16/5/2010.
- Lightfoot, R.. (1979). Planning Reservoir Related Resettlement Programme in North-East Thailand. *Journal of Tropical Geography*. 48, 47-57.
- Nkpoyen, F., Agba, A. M. O., Okoro, J. & Ushie, E. M.. (2009). External Agent's Role in Participatory Rural Community Development in Cross River State, Nigeria.
- Okwe, J.. (2009). Bakassi Plight Touches All. *Mofinews*, 8 (2), 43.
- Olawepo, R. A.. (2008). Resettlement and Dynamics of Rural Change in Jebba Lake Basin, Nigeria. *Journal of Social Science*, 16 (2), 115-120.
- Tan, Y. & Yao, F.. (2006). Three Gorges Project: Effects of Resettlement on the Environment in the Reservoir Area and Counter Measures. *Journal of Population and Environment*, 23 (4), 351-371.
- United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) (2004). Progress Report on Resettlement. Online available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/40c706964.html>. Retrieved 13/5/2010.
- Viser, S. A.. (1972). General Introduction in Kainji, a Nigeria Man Made Lake. *Kainji Studies One*. Ibadan: Nigerian Institute for Social and Economic Research.
- Walker, A.. (2008). Bakassi Plan Stirs Nigeria Tension. BBC News, Cross River State, Nigeria. Online available at: <http://www/news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/Africa/7557231.stm>. Retrieved August 13, 2008. Pp. 1-3.
- Wikipedia. (2009). Cameroon-Nigeria Boarder-Cost Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. Online available at: <http://www.mediawiki.org/ftime> 22:19. Retrieved 18th January 2009 pp.1-8.
- Woube, M.. (2005). *Effect of Resettlement Schemes on the Biophysical and Human Environments: The Gambala Region, Ethiopia*. Florida: Universal Publishers.