



ABSTRACTS

Contents

Acronyms

GLSS...Ghana living standard survey

WB.....World Bank

IMF.....International monetary fund

DANIDA.Danish International Development Agency

MDGs....Millennium Development Goals

DGI.....Denmark Gymnastic

US..... United States

UK.....United Kingdom

BOG.....Blank of Ghana

IOM.....International Organization for Migration

NGO.....Non- Governmental Organization

ECOWAS...Economic community of West African States

GPRS.....Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy

IMS.....International Migration Stock

SAP.....Structural Adjustment Programme

ODA.....Official Development Assistance

NELM.....New Economic

DFID.....Department of International Development

NLC.....National Libration Council

GDP.....Gross Domestic Product

HIPC.....Highly Indebted Poor Country



LIs..... Legislative Instrument

PNDC.....Provisional National Defence Council

SADC.....Southern African Development Cooperation

List of figures

Fig. 1 The model of research for the thesis.

Fig.2 The political map of Ghana.

Fig. 3 The structure of the analysis of the thesis

Fig.4 The flow of remittance into Ghana, 2002-2010.

Fig.5 The consequences of international migration.

List of Tables

Tab.1 The characteristics of the neo-classical economic theory.

Tab. 2 The characteristics of the world-system theory.

Tab.3 The characteristics of the network theory.



ABSTRACTS

The purpose of this study is to examine the possible factors that accounts for the influx of Ghanaians across national boundaries mostly to the developed worlds. Not only is the study intended to examine the causes of international movement, but also to assess the socio-economic impact of the phenomenon on the migrant, his household and the nation in general. The socio-economic and political ramifications of international migration has not be left out in the study.

To effectively carry out this study, thick relevant literatures were reviewed and qualitative research strategy were used to conduct investigations that will help explain the research questions raised in the introductory chapter. The study has been designed in a way that, chapter one consist of introduction with the purpose of the study, the statement of problem the significance of the study, literature review and research questions. Chapter two is made up of definitions of concepts like migration, remittances, the brief history of Ghana, justification of selection of case and finally emigration from Ghana. Chapter three discusses the methodological aspect of the study whiles chapter four contain passages of theories that are selected to guide the study. The fifth chapter will be the analysis of the findings whiles chapter six will revisit the research questions together with the conclusion and perspective.

The relevant of the study is to go beyond the traditional causes of international and investigate to see whether there are emerging reasons that accounts for the movement of people across the national boundaries. Interestingly, It has also revealed that factors that account for the massive flow of people include economic factors but should not be mistaken as poverty being the driving force because it has be found out that the poor in Ghana do not mostly embark on international migration due to the cost associated with international migration. The demand of foreign degrees in



the Ghanaian job market constitute another issue of concern since the issue of brain drain another “monster” that should be critically looked at .Another key findings include of the triggers of population movements from Ghana include bad governance which as well as bad economic policy like SAP which resulted into massive unemployment in Ghana. This eventually led to ghain-migration

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DECLARATION

I, Abdul salam Awudu, hereby declare that this thesis submitted to Aalborg University, Denmark for the award of a Masters of Science in Development and International Relations has been produced by me and has not been submitted to any other institution for the purposes of earning a degree.

Signature.....

30th June 2011

Pages: (Keystrokes:)



contents

CHAPTER ONE	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Statement of problem	3
1.3 The research questions	5
1.4 The purpose or the objective of the study	5
1.5 Significance of the study	6
1.6 Literature review	6
1.7 Trends and Triggers of international migration in a global perspective	7
1.8 The socio-economic impact of migration on the development of Ghana	9
1.9 Summary	11
CHAPTER TWO	
Definitions of concepts	11
2.1 Migration	11
2.2 Remittances	12
2.3 A Brief History of Ghana	15
2.4 Case study	16
2.5 Emigration from Ghana	18
CHAPTER THREE	21
Methodological consideration	21



3.1 Introduction.....	21
3.2 A model of research.....	21
3.3 pre- empirical stage.....	21
3.4 Empirical stage	21
3.5 Research design	22
3.6 Reflections on Qualitative vs. Quantitative methods.....	23
3.7 Qualitative research.....	23
3.8 Quantitative research.....	24
3.9 Theoretical framework.....	2.5
3.9.1 Case study.....	27
3.9.2 Reliability and validity of the study.....	28
3.9.3 Data collection methods: primary and secondary data.....	29
3.9.4 Semi-structured qualitative interview.....	31
3..9.5.Interviews.....	32
3.9.6 Empirical data.....	33
3.9.7 Critique and limitations of methods.....	33
CHAPTER FOUR.	
THEORY SECTION.....	3.5
4.1 Introduction	35
4.2 The dual markets theory.....	36
4.3 Assumptions of dual markets theory.....	37
4.4 Critique of the dual markets theory.....	37
4.5 The neo-classical economic theory.....	38
4.6 Assumptions of neo-classical economic theory.....	39
4.7 weakness of the neo-classical economic theory.....	40
4.8 The world -system theory.....	40
4.9 Critique of the world system theory.....	42



4.9.1 The social network theory.....	42
4.9.2 The concept of strong ties and weak ties.....	43
4.9.3 critique of the social network theory.....	44
4.9.4 Connecting the theories together.....	44
4.9.5 Transnational approach to international migration.....	45

CHAPTER FIVE

Analytical section.....	47
5.1 Introduction.....	47
5.2 Factors that triggers international migration in Ghana.....	49
5.3 Economic factors.....	49
5.4 Social factors.....	50
5.5 Political factors.....	56
5.6 Migration- development nexus.....	57
5.7 Household and community at origin.....	60
5.8 Nation.....	60
5.9 Migration, remittances and poverty reduction in Ghana.....	63
5.9.1 The consequences of international migration.....	65

CHAPTER SIX

6.1 Revisiting the research questions and suppositions.....	69
6.2 research questions.....	69
6.3 The dual markets theory.....	70
6.4 The neo-classical economic theory.....	70
6.5. the world-system.....	71
6.6 the concept of transnationalism and network theory.....	73
6.7 conclusion and perspectives.....	74
References.....	76



CHAPTER ONE

1.1 Introduction

The right to movement within and across the national borders is a right enshrined in the universal declaration of human rights, Article 13 “Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state” and “everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country”.¹ Notwithstanding this declaration, international and national state still enact policies that seem regulate control and in some instances prevent population movements as part of their policy direction of the regime to satisfy their ideological interest or the national interest.

¹ <http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/ittmig2002/2002ITTMIGTEXT22-11.pdf>



Over the last two decades, international migration has attracted public discourse across the globe especially in the developed worlds. These debates, trumpeted by the destination countries came in a wake massive dimension and its accompanying ramifications of international migration, which seem to be posing a threat to their system they think they ought to protect. It is estimated by the United Nations department of economic and social Affairs, population divisions (2009) that, the global population movements show that about 213.943 815 million people now reside outside other than their country of origin. These movements can either be voluntary or involuntary. The former has to do with movement to seek greener pastures, which is more of a pull factor with the aim to seeking a better standard of living through education, employment opportunities and in some instances, family unifications. The later phenomenon becomes imperative when a person or a group of persons decide to drift to seek refuge in another country as a result of fear of been persecuted or put under captivity by extremist and despotic regimes in their respective country of origin or force to move as a result of armed conflicts of all kinds or environmental catastrophic events such as tsunamis, earthquakes, typhoons, floods and many others. This is more of a push factor as it mostly against ones will.

Some writers have augured that, the creation of national economies since the 18th century forced radical changes to an inherited hitherto borderless economic geography. It forced also an increase in the mobility of the factors of production, capital and labor, within national boundaries, severing linkage that had hitherto extended beyond the borders. It also created new patterns of domestic interdependent economic specialization at the expense of what had now become external transactions. This experience provides us with some suggestions as to the results of globalization, the creation of a single global economy (Mariama Awumbila, 2008). In this regards, mariama points out that the perpetuation factors include the above.

At the continental level, Sub-Saharan Africa has been dramatically influenced by the increasingly globalised world, which has affected everything including migration. The ECOWAS protocols which advocates for easy movement of persons of member states, has facilitated the movements of persons from all directions. The same can be said about Southern African Development Cooperation (SADC). For the past decades, the continent of Africa has experienced an en masse flow of people to countries that is regarded developed, in other words the core countries in Europe and America and in some cases Asia with the hope of raising their standard of living. Available statistics indicates that as at 2010, the



total number people emigrated out of Africa is estimated as 19,263,183 million to seek refuge against repressive regimes or religious persecution and to better their standard of living. (International migration stock, 2010). This whopping figure represents the entire facet of international migration as significant number of it emanated from the various behavior of despots in the continent. This culminated into violent armed conflict resulting into genocidal killings like what happened in Rwanda and Burundi in the 90s. These horrendous acts were believed to have government or state backing in the sub-region which has triggered massive movements of people out of the continent. It is important to state that the pull and push factor developed by Lee in 1966 was later modified and reversed by Oberg in 1996 where the pull which is the attracting factor and the push the repelling in international migration can be seen in terms of hard and soft. The former refers to catastrophic events and the later refers to much more sober issues like problems of social inclusion and unemployment etc.

At the national level, Ghana being my focus as far as this thesis is concerned has not been spared by this phenomenon. It is important to state that Ghana was the first sub-Saharan African country to achieve independence from British colonial rule. After several periods of economic difficulty following independence, the Ghanaian government sought extensive external financial aid when the economy was experiencing difficulties. Ghana adopted structural adjustment programmes (SAPs) upon the advice by the Breton Woods institutions, thus, International Monetary Fund and World Bank in the mid 1980s. These programs required the Ghanaian government to reduce its overall government expenditure, and downsize its public and private sectors workers. In addition to these funding cuts, the government introduced user-fees for health care and education, as well as cutting subsidies to these sectors. SAPs resulted in about 20% to 35% cuts in the country's health and education budgets which resulted into massive lost of jobs in both public and private of the economy, (Borfor Authur 1999, Resource Centre 1993). As a result of these long-term economic difficulties, as well as cuts to public services, it is not surprising that Ghanaian health workers among others started leaving the country in substantial numbers since the 1980s. Officially, statistics shows that Ghana emigration figure stood at 1,851,814 by mid 2010 which is about 0.9% of the total population of Ghana. It is important to state that, right down from the global level, through the regional or continental level and zero it down to the national level, the figures are frightening.



1.2 Statement of problem

Ghana is classified as a country of immigration as well as an emigration place. That explains why in the 50s it attracted migrants who came seeking for jobs from other British west African colonies and few others from the French west African colonies (Anarfi,et al,2003;) This was as result of the economic boom the country was recording at that time. It is interesting to state that the situation somewhat reversed a few years after Ghana got independence. This was partly due to the skyrocketed price of oil that hit the world in the 70s couple with political instability and bad governance which forced the government to succumb to the IMF and the World Bank policy of adherence to the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) in the middle of 1980s. This policy exacerbated the economy situation of Ghana exerting untold hardships to Ghanaians because, SAP recommends downsizing, in other words cutting down public expenditure, which means reducing the public workers and removing subsidies leading to massive unemployment. The plight of Ghanaians were worsened culminating into increased out-migration to seek greener pastures within Africa and lately in Europe and America (Anarfi et al 2000) . Anarfi assertion is sound in that, the consequences of the SAP in Ghana exerted a lot of pressure on the private sector jobs which has limited capacities to absorb the excess labor which made to new decision to emigrate highly possible.

It is significant to emphasize that the recent phase of the migration of Ghanaians is more importantly characterized by their transnationalism, which begun in the middle of the 1980s. This transnationalism in most cases, perpetuated migration because of the continuous linkage between transnational communities and the respective countries of origin scattered.

Van Hear classifies Ghana as one of the ten countries involved in producing transnational communities in recent times (Van Hear 1998). The observation of Van has received further boast by the recognition of transnational communities in Europe by the government of Ghana. For instance, Ghana President Kufor during his reign recognized Ghanaians in abroad, notably in Britain and the United States. The recognition of the role Ghanaian migrants' play in the socioeconomic development has been confirmed owing to the fact the president, whenever he is outside the country had to schedule meetings for Ghanaian migrants living in most part of the world. This has not come as a surprise when the central Bank of Ghana figures confirmed that \$1.27 billion of individual remittances were sent to Ghana in 2005, far more than what was earned by exporting either gold or cocoa. The Governor of the Bank of



Ghana typifies the new thinking on the enhanced significance and benefits of remittances, noting in 2006 that they ‘bridge the gap between the standard of living between the family members resident abroad and the beneficiaries living in the home country, and can directly mitigate poverty’, adding that some may represent repatriation of savings and capital for portfolio or direct investment that can contribute to higher growth. Ghana has also strengthened its statistical monitoring of such flows, and is one of the few African countries to have opened a debate on granting voting rights to its citizen’s resident abroad. This idea has a transnational outlook since they can still participate in the political, social and economic development of Ghana. Since the 1990s, large numbers of Ghanaians have moved to major cities such as London, Amsterdam, Hamburg and New York (David Styan in Black, Tiemoko et al. 2003). According to the UK Home Office, Ghana was among the top ten sending countries to the UK. In 1996 and in the decade 1990–2001 about 21,485 Ghanaians entered the UK. Meanwhile, North America has become increasingly dominant as a destination for Ghanaians. From 1986 to 2001 49,703 Ghanaians immigrated to the US. By 2001, 104,000 Ghanaians were living in the US, whilst 114,335 were registered in Canada. This statistics shows the proportions at which the phenomenon has reached. A number of reasons explain this continuous growing numbers in international migration. Overall, there is a long history of emigration from Ghana to other West African states, as well as Europe and North America, for various reasons including employment and education. Details of the factors that accounts will be captured in the Out migration in Ghana, in chapter three of study. It is for this reason that this study is being conducted to collect adequate data to explain the factors that has contributed to the massive population movement from the periphery to the core and the overall socio-economic impact of these movements especially on the sending countries, transit countries and the receiving countries.

1.3 The research questions

The main research question the study seeks to answer is **“what have been the causes of recent unprecedented flow of migrants from Ghana to the west with specific reference to Denmark?”**

The research will also answer the following I will describe as sub-questions:

- ❖ . **To what extent can international migration contribute to the development of Ghana?**
- ❖ **What are the likely consequences of international migrants to:**



- (i) **The migrant and the household**
- (ii) **The migrant community**
- (iii) **The nation(Ghana)**

1.4 Purpose or Objectives of the Study.

The United Nations declarations couple with the rapid shift of events as result of globalization has led to uncontrollable levels in population movements across the globe in recent times. This has made social researchers and students like me to investigate come out with findings that will lead to providing answers to my research questions as mentioned above. It is also hoped that after the findings and revelations, some of the interlocking issues surrounding international migration, it will help the civil society, individuals, nations and other actors in the international scene to design a framework to handle the global movement of people that will seek to protect the human rights issues associated with the phenomenon.

The purpose of the study, therefore, is to explore and examine the causes, and how international migration will impact on the socio-economic lives of the people of Ghana. In this regard, the study will focus on the following key issues.

- ❖ Outline and examine the causes of international migration in Ghana.
- ❖ The main determining factors or variables associated with the international migration and its impact to national economy of Ghana.
- ❖ And specifically examine how the phenomenon augments the Ghana poverty reduction efforts.
- ❖ The possible consequences of international migration to the migrants, the migrant household, the community of the migrant and the nation at large.

1.5 Significance of the study

Reviewing some literature on international migration it is clear that quite a number of extensive works has been done on the subject matter. But I consider the dimension of my study quite interesting in the sense that my focus is the socioeconomic impact of international migration on the country, the migrants themselves and the household and communities with specific reference to Ghanaian migrants in Denmark. Over the past decades, international migration has become a global issue that needs rigorous attention by researchers. This will provide adequate information after the study that will be used as



framework for policy formulations on international migration since the phenomenon is highly inevitably. It is for this reason that I consider this piece of research very important.

1.6 Literature Review.

International migration has received global attention notwithstanding the fact that the United Nations is yet to have an agency that is responsible for handling international migration and integration matters. For the first time, a global forum on migration and development was held in Brussels to discuss modalities that can be adapted together with the civil society to design and enhance the positive impact of migration on development and the other way round by adopting a more consistent policy approach, and further identifying new instruments and best practices, exchanging know-how and experience about innovative tactics and methods and, finally, establishing cooperative links between the various actors involved.

The latest attention has called for a literature review on the subject matter to critically assess the debates that has been used by various researchers and writers in the past decades. The review will focus particularly on the core thinking of various writers and the theoretical foundations used by various writers and inferences that has been drawn on the subject matter. To cast greater illuminations on the subject under review, it is important to build the literature review in a thematic parlance.

1.7 Trends and triggers of international migration in a global perspective.

The global migration has reached an alarming proportions in recent times as it became evidently clear that the recent about 213.943 815 million people reside outside other than their country of origin. These movements can either be voluntary or involuntary, (Trends in international migration stock).² A significant amount of paradigms have been used to explain the mass movement of migrants across national boundaries including Granovetter's idea of social network paradigm. For him, he sees the whole facet of attraction to migration to be interconnected to the social network paradigm. According to him, social network as *"a specific set of linkages among a defined set of persons, within additional property that the characteristics of these linkages as a whole may be used to interpret the social*

² U.N Population Division: The migrant stock, 2008 revision: <http://esa.un.org/migration/> retrieved on the 15-03-2011



behavior of the persons involved". It is a widely accepted view among researchers that migrants often make use of social networks and these networks serve as channels for migration (Vertovec, 2003:650). By the paradigm, It can be deduced from his argument that the theory is centered on three key variable, thus, Kinship, friendship and ethnicity. This means that anybody who is associated with a migrant in any one of the above gets valuable information regarding the destination of the said migrant, thereby establishing contacts and connections which has the greatest tendencies of initiating new movements. The prospective migrant is likely to have it easier since he or she will be coached properly to avert of cost and stress of migration.

In reviewing the literature, factors that propels international migration, Stark et al opined out that international migration is a strategic behavior undertaken by families and household or even the entire community to manage risk and to overcome failures. This model forecast migrant's greater remittances and investment in the origin. The theory has it that, discrepancies in wage in most cases are not longer a necessary condition for international migration what matters most is using the information fed them by their kinsmen, friends or family as basis for the movement. In most cases, the economic situation like unfair income distribution in the sending country may trigger new movements. This is the notion of the proponents of neo-classical theory where decision making is at the micro level.

To examine the causes of international migration and its socio-economic impact on Ghana, it will be imperative that a review of postulations and theories that has been used in the past, and still being used, should serve as the guiding principles by researchers to explain the initiation and perpetuation of international migration bearing in mind the radical changes of events in the contemporary globalised world. According to Wallenstein, The global mass movements have changed drastically as a result three important factors: "the first is the technology of transport, which makes the process far easier. The second is the extensiveness of the global economic and demographic polarization, which makes the global push far more extensive. The third is the spread of democratic ideology, which undermines the political ability of wealthy states to resist the tide. He further expatiated on the phenomenon by the application of his world system theory to explain the phenomenon. To wallerstein, the theoretical foundation in explaining international migration stems from the fact that capitalism is specific socioeconomic system which has a feature of world division of labor which would be good, but



unequal trade among the zones, thus, core, periphery and semi periphery, where the core represent the development worlds like US, UK CANADA DENMARK, the periphery represent the developing worlds like Ghana and the semi periphery include countries that are on transit to the developed world like china and India. What he meant was that, at the macro level, globalization brings about social change which brings about inventions into the employer and labor relations resulting into modern means of production pushing unskilled laborers out of jobs. The greatest tendency for these unemployed to see migration as an attraction is simply high, even if it demands making it through “*strong way*”³ to Europe via north Africa.

1.8 The socioeconomic impact migration on the development of Ghan.

The contribution of Ghanaian migrants to the economic wellbeing of Ghana cannot be under estimated. This is evident from the recent statistics released by the central bank of Ghana indicate that not only do the nation benefit financial but the human capacity building leading to transfer of knowledge is significant point to note. In reviewing the literature it has become glaring that the Recent global estimates show that, migrants’ remittance flows have assumed a significant prominence. In the developing country like Ghana, remittances now surpass Official Development Assistance (ODA) receipts (Ratha, 2003). Official development Assistance transfers to developing countries in 2001 stood at about US\$52.3billion (The World Bank, 2004). This figure compares with global remittance flow of about US\$77.0 billion the same year, up from US\$51.1 billion in 1995 (The World Bank, 2004).

³ Strong way is used in this study to mean using illegal and unapproved routes in migration. This refers especially to Africans who passes through the Sahara desert by land.



According to the World Bank report, remittances by migrants of developing countries contribute significantly to the growth of the economics of the least developed countries especially the sub-Saharan African. Remittances, the money sent home by migrants, are three times the size of official development assistance and they provide an important lifeline for millions of poor households. Remittances to developing countries are estimated to have reached \$325 billion in 2010. This according to projections by the World Bank is expected to rise in 2011 to 2012 despite the fact that the world is still recovering from the economic recession. According E K Y Addison Director of research at Bank of Ghana revealed that a nation-wide survey was conducted and it came to light that remittances flow to the country was used in buying land, performing funerals and constructing houses reserving a little for savings and investments. The result seem to suggest that remittances does not serving its real purpose.

In another development, some literature on the other hand argues that remittances contribute to savings and investments thereby leading to economic growth and development of any economy. It is clear that remittances increase the purchasing power of migrant's household thereby mitigating the economic hardships they would have been exposed too. It is evidenced in Ghana that remittance-receiving households create a contingency fund with the little they receive from their family member because portion of it is saved which serves as insurance against future (E K Y Addison 2004).

In review of some literature on international migration, they appear to be two schools of thought, thus, "pro-migration" described by some authors as migration optimists where as the "anti- migration" are described as migration pessimists Notwithstanding the macro-economic significance of remittances and incomes of migrants' families, the extent to which international migration and remittances can bring about long-term, sustained development and economic growth in migrant-sending areas in poor countries is another question. This very issue has been the subject of intensive debate over the past decades, in which the more pessimistic views have tended to dominate. Up to the 1960s especially, developmentalist 'migration optimists' argued that migration and the flow of remittances, as well as the experience, skills and knowledge of migrants who were returning would help sending regions in developing countries in their economic transformation process (Penninx 1982,etal1970). Apart from the tangible remittances which has been identified by governments and policy makers as resource that



has the ability of bringing about social change and development to the sending countries like Ghana, the intangible remittances like knowledge, skills and experiences will complement in attaining real transformation since lack of quality human resource has been identified as one of the drawbacks of development at the periphery. According to the World Bank 2006, the position of the optimist in recent years seems to be experiencing and gaining some prominence as a result of the immense contribution of migrants to the economy of their various countries of origin.

On the other hand, 'migration pessimists' hold the view that migration leads to growing inequality and individualism, lead to the breakdown of social system, traditional, stable communities and regional economies, leading in turn to the development of passive, non-productive communities, which become increasingly dependent on remittance thereby killing local initiatives of people to make it in life. The latter are said to be spent mainly on luxury goods and 'consumer' investments, and rarely invested in productive enterprises. In a process known as cumulative causation (Myrdal, 1957), migration is claimed to undermine the local economy by depriving communities of their valuable labour force. South-North migration is perceived as discouraging the autonomous economic growth of migrant-sending countries (Rahman, 2000 et al).

1.9 Summary

The chapter introduces international migration which has become a subject of intense debate in Ghana. The rate at which it has assumed calls for some in-depth investigation into the phenomenon to at least try to come out and assign reasons why the massive flow and proceed to examine the contributions of international migration to the development of an economy like Ghana. This has necessitated the review of some relevant literature to be able to support the study.

CHAPTER TWO

Definitions of concepts



2.1 Migration.

A fundamental characteristic of people is their movement from place to place. The right to move was recognized globally over a half century ago with the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Declaration states in Article 13 that “Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state” and “Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.” It is against this background that the number of population movements increased significantly in recent times. The concept of migration can not lend itself to a simple definition. Migration can be defined as the movement of people from one place to another. This can be voluntary or involuntary. It will be voluntary when the movement takes place as a result of the migrant’s quest to finding a place where their standard of living can be raised. It can also be involuntary when the migrants had to move as a result of fear of being persecuted by despotic leaders or being harmed by natural or supervening events like quakes and tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, floods etc.

2.2 Remittance

Remittances may be defined as that part of migrants’ earnings that are sent from the migration destination to the place of origin. Remittances refer to monetary and other cash transfers transmitted by migrant workers to their families and communities back home. It is important to state that remittances can be put into tangible and intangible. Tangible remittances include cash and other item like cars and general consumer goods that are sent back to families and friends at origin, while the intangible are those knowledge acquired by migrants, technical expertise and know how and social networks exported to the origins of migrants.

Remittances has become a subject that is provoking interest to researchers, development experts, policy makers and implementers in the development arena owing to its immense contribution to most economics of in the developing world in Africa. It has been observed by the world Bank ,2006 that, Remittances through informal channels could add at least 50 percent to the globally recorded flows. Despite this underreporting, many studies have highlighted the important nexus between the international migration, remittances and development. The benefits of remittances, as private financial flows to households in developing countries, are well documented in the literature. Remittances are



more stable and predictable as compared to other financial flows and, more importantly, they are counter-cyclical providing buffer against economic shocks. In conflict or post-conflict situations, remittances can be crucial to survival, sustenance, rehabilitation, and reconstruction. In providing primarily for household livelihoods, remittances are spent on general consumption items in local communities that contribute to local economies by supporting small businesses. A fair share of these expenditures is directed to the construction of homes, health care and education, alongside savings in financial institutions, thereby generating employment in these critical services sectors. Moreover, in contributing to foreign exchange earnings, remittances can lead to economic growth by improving sending countries foreign exchange, thereby bringing about micro economic stability because of the injection of hard currencies into the infant economy like Ghana. Remittances represent one of the largest sources of external private finance for developing countries. However, the impact of remittances on poverty has led to considerable debate. Studies that argue against remittances having poverty-reducing effect point out that given the high transaction costs of migrating, “truly poor” do not migrate. While this argument has some merit, it has little evidential support as a stream of studies from different countries has shown that “very poor” and “poor” do migrate.⁴

According to the IMF balance of payment statistics yearbook indicates that between 1983 to 1990, the amount of remittances that was injected into the economy of Ghana stood at \$ 24.6 million. However, the Bank of Ghana estimates migrants’ remittances at 400 million this year representing about 20% of Ghana’s export earnings. Remittance is important not only to migrants themselves, their household, but to the receiving and sending countries like Ghana. Remittances have varied impacts on the destination countries, the agents that help in transmitting it, migrant’s home country, in this case Ghana and the household of migrants. The host country benefit in the form of bank transfers and money transfer agents like money gram, Ria money Transfer service, the post office and western union money transfer. All these impact positively to the economy since it calls for engagement of personnel to work in these agencies.

Despite the growth of formal transfer mechanisms, substantial amounts of remittances continue to flow through informal (and sometimes underground) channels, outside the purview of government

⁴ http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/ditctncd20108_en.pdf retrieved on 10-3-2011



supervision and regulation.⁵ People carry money and in some instances send money through unofficial channels. In addition to the above, most migrant in Denmark here ship items to Ghana through companies such as maersk group which generates revenue to the government of Denmark. Obviously, the government of Ghana will also benefit enormously through the cargo handling and import tax the importers inject into the Ghanaian economy. More importantly, migrants and their household acting as ultimate beneficiaries are undeniable. In the first place, remittances are significant source of external financial to developing countries as it became evidently clear that remittances of late has emerged as the second largest source of financial flow to developing countries.⁶ Furthermore, remittances provide social protection to poor households in developing countries which mitigate untold hardships of the vulnerable. Although the immediate impact of remittances can not easily be felt but in the long term but for now, the positive effects would not be underestimated. Another interesting question that needs to be answered is whether the very poor household has families as migrants abroad to turn their fortunes to realities? This question will probably be taking care of in a way after the study.

The UK Department for international development (DFID) conducted a research which revealed that 1.64 million dollars were remitted in 2010, which I according to the research could be more than that if the Bank of Ghana liberalizes the system by removing the restricting and allow other non-banking institutions that will reach out to beneficiaries at both the urban and rural areas.⁷ The impact of remittances on the economies of these countries is enormous notwithstanding the fact that international migration has some modicum of negative consequences. Despite the importance remittances play to the development of the actors especially the sending countries, it is not without some negative effects to the migrant, their household and receiving and sending countries. In the first place, remittances kill the local initiatives of household family of migrants to strive hard to unearth their full potentials in other disciplines thereby rendering them perpetual dependents.

There are theoretical approaches to the motives of remittances that have been implored to explain the concept. These approaches include the Altruistic Motive, where remittances are seen as an obligation to

⁵ http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/gdsmdpb2420045_en.pdf

⁶ <http://www.umsi.edu/~naumannj/professional%20geography%20articles/Migrants%20as%20transnational%20development%20agents.pdf>

⁷ <http://news.myjoyonline.com/finance/201104/63786.asp> extracted from [myjoyonline .com](http://news.myjoyonline.com). On the 5th of april 2011.



the household. Remittances are seen and sent out as a sign of care and responsibility towards the family. Another motive is interest Motive where he savings of the migrant gives him or the motivation by op the economic and financial motivation to remit their household and invest home.

Family Contract I: Loan Repayment is another approaches of motives for remittances which to my understanding is that, in most developing or peripheral countries the cost of migration are financed by the entire family including education with the hope when one becomes successful in life he or she pays back in varied ways.

2.3 A Brief History of Ghana

Ghana, the First African country to gain independence from the colonial administration of the British on 6th march, 1957, has passed through a mixed political history that has impacted on the progress of the country in terms of economic and social development for more than a half of a century now. It is sharing borders with Cote d'Ivoire to the west, Burkina Faso to the north and Togo to the east and the Gulf of Guinea to the south, as illustrated in figure.2. The country is divided into 10 regions and 130 districts. The population is 23,832,495 and life expectancy is just below 60 years. There are about 46 ethnic groups provide their members with a common identity and some temporary emotional release from the strains and anxieties of the daily life. Ghanaians do not have a uniform local language, because every tribe has its tribal language. However, English is the official language of Ghana, and most Ghanaians speak and write English. See below the political map of Ghana in fig.2.

Fig.2 The political map of Ghana.



The above diagram in Fig. 2 is political map of Ghana that gives readers a fair idea about the location of Ghana. Economically, Ghana has always been dependent on a small number of major export products, thus, Gold and Cocoa. The cocoa industry is often affected by unstable prices and whether making difficult for the government to plan how to adequately support farmers. This makes the Ghanaian economy vulnerable, since cocoa is one of the two main export products, as mentioned above; a slight shock in that sector therefore has a greater consequence of the entire economy. Ghana is in the Heavily Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) program and 29% of the population lives below the poverty line.

Historically, Ghanaians are known for their quest to voluntary movement especially in the 70s and late 80s. Ghanaian migrants migrated to countries like Libya as expatriate workers upon the request of the Libyan government to build their capacity in the field of education. The next mass Ghanaian migration within the region was Nigeria in the 80s to fill the gap in the teaching profession of the country. Unlike the past where out migration in Ghana was controlled by the state or the state playing



pivotal role in determining migration across national borders, however, the “sovereignty” has been lost by the advent of globalization with the emerging consensus built on the various declarations and conventions ratified which grants free movement of people across the globe. This has culminated in the proliferations of actors in the migration industries like agents and lawyers. This has drastically twisted the flow of migration especially international migration in Ghana in uncontrollable parlance attracting researchers including myself to do an investigation into the phenomenon. The above is short background information of Ghana which I have chosen as my case study area

2.4 Case selection

International migration has become common and increased in Ghana for the past two decades. This can be attributed to the current wave of globalization that has affected almost everything including the very migratory phenomenon under consideration. The “wind” of globalization has blown off the national borders and the unified global markets which call for migrant workers to augment the shortage of labor in the industrialized countries known as the core countries. The scale of migration in Ghana is unknown because persons who intend to migrate simply vacate their posts without notifying authorities. This is largely due to the fact that Ghana has no effective and reliable registration system to monitor and track the inflow and outflow of persons. What has further aggravated the situation is the fact that there hasn’t been a ministry that is responsible for out-migration issues in Ghana. The immigration service of Ghana only concern with immigration issues.

Ghana has become my prime concern regarding this study because I consider it an important because I want to examine the causes of out-migration, how it has impacted on the socio-economic development of the country and its citizens. Ghana has no national policy on both international and internal migration, despite the existence of department of immigration service. This case is worth investigating because the scale of out-migration in Ghana has grown at an appreciable level leading with growing transnational communities and organizations which has the greatest tendency of resulting into chain migration. Can we therefore attribute the formation and strengthening of the transnational communities in by Ghanaian abroad to the relaxed emigration policies and rules of the country? There have been a host of legislative instruments (LIs), Acts of parliament that were enacted in the past that I think has rather boasted the



incidence of out-migration in the country. For instance, The under mentioned Acts and LIs were not explicit policies per se but acts that seeks to regulate migration through these legal instruments. The 1992 Constitution, Immigration Act, 2000 (Act 573) Dual Citizenship Act, 2000 (Act 591) Immigration Regulations, 2001 (LI 1691) Refugee Law 1992 (PNDCL 30) Labor Regulations, 2007 (LI 1833) Children's Act, 1998 (Act 560) Human Trafficking Act, 2005 (Act 694) Representation of People's Amendment Act, 2007 (Act 669) Ghana Investment Promotion Centre Act, 1994 (Act 478) The Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (promotion of tourism) Instrument, 2005 (LI 181) (Ghana 1992 constitution).

Significantly, the Dual citizenship act and the Representation of people's Amendment Act, 2007 pave way for people outside the country to contribute in the socio-economic and political live of the country of origin, thus, encouraging and strengthening their transnational attachments to the origins. The above acts make it possible for one to stay outside and still contribute politically, economically and socially to the development of Ghana in different forms. For instance, early this year, an aspirant of the second largest political party, the NPP parliamentary candidate who resides in the UK used Skype and face book, campaigned and won elections in and Ghana and now preparing to get back to Ghana.

The out-migration scale in the country and its anticipated consequences on Ghana has prompted the current vice president of the republic to Ghana to start drafting a comprehensive emigration policy to regulate the phenomenon.

It is important to state clearly that since antiquity, Ghanaian did move both within the country and outside, but the scale of the movement is what has attracted the public outcry including social science researchers to investigate into the nitty-gritty of the entire phenomenon.

2.5 Emigration from Ghana.



The government of Ghana has not made a conscious effort to regulate emigration in the country. This probably may be due to the high unemployment rate that has faced the country and still not over. The country has found itself in a dilemma regarding the repercussions and debilitating effects of emigration have on the country on one hand and the positive gains emigration will inject into the economy in terms of the human resource capacity of the country, the financial flows and above all providing a temporary solutions to the unemployment situation in the country on the other hand.

It is important to state that the migratory phenomenon and history has experienced a pattern that looks distinct in the sense that it has been categorized into four phases. These phases include the

- Period of minimal emigration from Ghana
- The initial period of emigration
- The phase of large-scale emigration and finally
- The period of intensification and transnationation of Ghanaians.

During the pre-colonial era and immediately after independence, the economic boom of Ghana attracted host of migrants workers across the sub-region in unprecedented scale to argument the acute shortage of labor in the cocoa and mining sectors (Anarfi 1982). This period saw Ghana as a centre of attraction for migrants in the region especially those with economic motives. The situation in the country at that time did not trigger emigration from Ghana except a few number of Ghanaians mostly students and some professionals. The focus of this group was the UK and other English speaking countries owing the colonial thighs. For instance in 1967, only 100 Ghanaians were known to be living in Canada (Awusabo-Asare et al,2000).

The initial emigration from Ghana actually begun after 1965 where Ghana experienced economic shambles in greater magnitude, leading to balance of payment deficits, increasing unemployment which brought untold hardships to both foreigners and the citizenry. This situation compelled the government of Ghana to come out with the Alliance Compliance Order in 1970, where non Ghanaians who were illegally staying were expelled from the country, majority of whom were Nigerians.(Mike Ocquaye, 1999). This situation forced majority out of the country to seek greener pastures in neighbouring Cote D'voire, Europe, Canada and America.



The large scale emigration started in the early 1980s onwards. This was a period where the Ghanaian economy was almost on its knees making it extremely difficult for the ordinary Ghanaian to make ends. The situation was further worsened by the food shortages as a result of drought that hit the country in the early 80s. This period came slightly ahead of the formation of the 16 member regional organization, thus, the ECOWAS, which has one of the objectives being free movements of goods and persons within the member states. This facilitated easy and free movements of people across the region. This is the state which is significant to my study in the sense that the increasingly flow of people across national boundaries couple with the global attention it has captured makes it an attractive field worthy of investigation by researchers and institutions.

In recent times, the migration of Ghanaians outside the country goes beyond mere migration but has assumed a transnational dimension. Van Hear, 1998 opined out that Ghana is one of the ten countries that produces *new diasporas* in recent times. This confirms the unprecedented dimension it has assumed which needs attention especially by researchers, civil society and governments. Notwithstanding the transnational dimension it has assumed, there have been some return migration to Ghana according to the World Bank report in 1994 in recent times. This was presumably due to the improvement of the economy of Ghana. This assumption confirmed the revelation I have had during my interview with the official of the bank of Ghana where a similar point was made to the effect that the astronomical increase in remittances could be attributed to two possible factors. One, the desire of migrants to return to Ghana to settle thereby remitting to invest ahead their return, and that the global financial recession is still not over and affects financially, which making their destination not to be worth living.



CHAPTER THREE

Methodological consideration

3.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the methods that will be used to carry out useful data throughout the process of the study. This roadmap is the methodological consideration. This part of my study will focus on two main dimension namely per-empirical and empirical data.

3.2 A Model of Research



The research model that would make it easier and understandable to our readers to get the methodology at glands implored to give direction from the introduction of the study to the conclusion. This can broadly be viewed under the following two main headings.

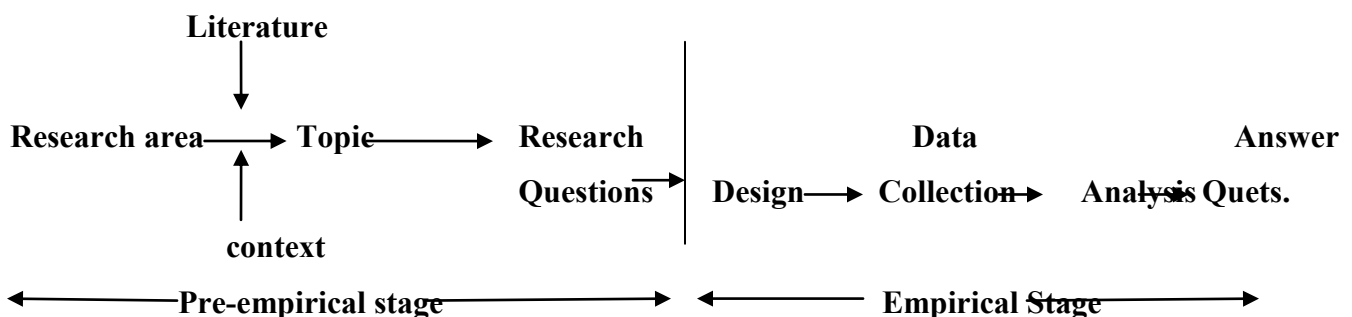
3.3 Pre-empirical stage

It can also be used as a guide for the researcher in the process of collecting, analyzing and interpreting observations. These include project design, qualitative research design, case study research design, research questions etc. That is what Yin asserts as “...an action plan for getting from here to there, where here may be defined as the initial set of questions to be answered, and there is some set of conclusions (answers) about these questions.”(Yin 1994: 19) Yin’s initial set of questions here refers to my research questions and there I find the number of major steps mentioned above, such as collection, analysis and interpretation. They represent my conclusion – the result of analysis and my findings.

3.4 Empirical stage

This stage of the methodology has to do with the real data collection process and analysis. At this level, the researchers employs the chosen research tools that will help in the interpretation of the data collected, analyze the data and above all answer the research questions in the study. The below pictorial diagram illustrate the road map of the thesis from the introduction to conclusion

Fig.1 A FIGURE SHOWING THE RESEARCH MODEL.





where deductions will be made from empirical sources so as to enable me to answer my research questions. In other words, I shall use the theories together with the institutional and other documents to help offer explanation to the empirical findings of my case study and my theories have been chosen just on this basis; as a framework for an explanation, investigation and interpretation of the case in question. I am however, not going to use test the hypothesis after the finding..

3.5 Research Design

”Research design relates to the criteria that is employed when evaluating social research”(Bryman 2004). Research design also represents a structure or a frame that guides the application of a research methods and future analysis of the data. The term research design does not have one set definition. Bryman defines it as “... a frame work for the generation of evidence that is suited both to certain set of criteria and to the research questions in which the investigator is interested...” Yin views it as a “logical sequence that connects the empirical data to a study’s initial questions and ultimately, to its conclusion.” (Bryman, 2004:27). It also means connecting the research questions to the empirical data. In other words it situate between the research questions and data and indicating how the research questions will be answered.(Keith F Punch,2006:47).The research design acts as a scheme of work in conducting research and is important because it averts a situation where the findings do not answer the research questions, since the framework laid out provides a guide for the researcher.

3.6 Reflections on qualitative vs. quantitative methods

The differences between qualitative and quantitative research is very important in conducting academic research of this sort. It is important to state clearly that what determines the use of either qualitative or quantitative research methods depends upon how the research question. It is observed if a research is phrased that seeks to make a standardized comparison and sketching, then it implies a quantitative data is necessary and suitable in this regard. On the other hand, if a study questions is framed in a way that seeks to examine a phenomenon in detail, the qualitative method will be suitable.(Keith F Punch,2006:46).



This two different strategies of generating empirical knowledge that is *sine qua non*⁸ in providing a good and common ground for proper analysis to be conducted on my research topic. Yin argues that “regardless of whether one favors qualitative or quantitative research, there is a strong and essential common ground between the

Two” (Yin,1994:15). Following the argument of Yin, it stands to reason that the two strategies are all important to researchers in the social sciences who wish to conduct credible academic research.

3.7 Qualitative research

Many authors on research methods find it quite difficult if not impossible to come out with an acceptable definition of qualitative research. Bryman defines qualitative research “...as a concept that can be construed as a research strategy that usually emphasizes on words rather than quantification in collecting and analysis of data, and that it rejects the practice and norms of the natural scientific models.”(Bryman 2004: 21-22). The merits of qualitative research cannot be overemphasized given the fact that the perspective of those being studied. I see qualitative research methods suitable to this piece of work for the following reasons.

In qualitative research, investigators are more involved with the person being investigated, which provides a unique opportunity for the researcher to properly understand the world of the said person. Also, Qualitative research also allows the researcher to study people in naturally occurring settings in contrast to the quantitative research which is established for the purpose of research in which variables are controlled as it is done in a natural science experiment (Spicer, 2004 in Seale 2004).

Qualitative data can be linked to both primary and secondary data depending upon the type one adopts. (Bryman, 2004: 287). Even though, qualitative research has many merits it is not without problems. For instance, investigations and findings in relation with the research questions, i.e. international migration, the case of Ghana, cannot necessarily be generalized and applied to other settings. In addition, because of the unstructured nature of qualitative data, the investigator may sometimes find it extremely difficult if not impossible to suspend his or her personal convictions in the process of data collection.

Notwithstanding the limitations associated with qualitative research, it still stands tall as far as social science research is concerned. Furthermore, due to geographical distance of my research field and

⁸ Latin term which means necessary and sufficient condition for something to happen.



limited time, we considered it most suitable to use the qualitative research strategy and secondary data as well.

3.8 Quantitative Research

Quantitative research is another research strategy, which emphasizes on quantification in the collection and analysis of data. It also “...entails a deductive approach, which incorporates the practices and norms of natural scientific models and embodies social reality as an external, objective reality.” (Bryman, 2004). I do not intend to use quantitative research or data generation techniques in this study due to the following demerits associated with that strategy. In the first place quantitative research does not differentiate between individuals or persons and social institutions where social scientist uses natural science models in treating social world without distinguishing them from the natural order. (Bryman, 2004:78).

Also, over reliance on instruments affect the linkage between research and everyday life. This according Alan Bryman, is further compounded by the fact that, in most cases respondents of questionnaires do not have adequate knowledge about the subject matter or respondents sometimes finds it difficult if not impossible to suspend their personal convictions about a subject that affect or threatens their beliefs and faith like Religion and ethnicity. I will however, base my analysis on secondary data documents obtained from the internet as well the central bank of Ghana, one of the areas adequate information can be found for my analysis in chapter 6 of this thesis.

3.9 Theoretical framework

This segment of the methodology is to offer readers the framework of the theories that I intend to use to guide the study and offer explanation to the topic under consideration. Due to the pervasive nature of the phenomenon, I will implore as many as five theories to guide the study. I think a single theory will not be enough to cover a broad spectrum and offer answers and to clarify some other issues that might arise in the process of the study. I have decided to use the dual markets theory, the neo-classical economic theory, the world-system theory, the social network theory alone side the concept of transnationalism to offer the theoretical foundations for the conduct of the research. Below offers a brief explanations to the theories that been chosen to guide the study. A detail explanations of the theories will be done subsequently in chapter four.



The segmented or the dual markets theory hold the thinking that, in the advanced economies, the labor market is divided into two, thus, primary and secondary. The primary segment is characterized by security, high paid jobs and a secondary market labeled low-wage work. The theory further prescribes that immigrants are employed to fill the vacancies that are necessary to the over all development of the countries economy but are avoided by the native population because of the way those categories of jobs are tagged and poorly remunerated as well as poor working conditions associated with it. This structure according to (Poire 1979) require external labor force mostly from the developing countries to fill in the undesirable sector mostly the secondary sector by the local population. On the basis of these theoretical foundations makes a lot of potential migrants to look for destinations among the core countries that will meet their individual economic and social hopes and aspirations. This is where the theory of neo-classical economic theory becomes useful in examining the migratory phenomenon. The assumption that there an abundance of labor in the developed worlds triggers individual decisions to move. These decisions are influenced by the segmentation of the labor market in the developed countries creating acute shortage of labor in the secondary sector where the native population sees as inferior in doing such jobs

It is however, further assumed that migrants are human and that will act rationally with the main aim of improving their economic and social live which the objective of this study is intended. The focus of this theory is at the macro level because the geographical differences in age, employment and capital investments opportunities causes migration. Thus, wage differentials constitute the primary basis for migration because potential migrants from Ghana believed that minimum wage in Denmark per se will obviously be higher than Ghana thereby constituting a source of migration. The economic conditions at sending countries like poverty, unemployment mostly push people out of these places with attractive features like better working and job opportunities at the receiving countries. This has boasted the phenomenon as owing to the Emmanuel Wallnsteins world-system explanation to international migration where is believed that the contemporary patterns of international migration tend to be from the periphery (poor nations) to the core (rich nations) because factors associated with industrial development in the First World generated structural economic problems, and thus push factors, in the Third World countries. . But it is important to state that the increasing international migration that the



world is currently experiencing does not mean that migrants decision is based of the fact that their origins are poor regions, isolated and disconnected regions but it is somewhat a fast changing and transforming regions with respect to social change and technological advancement rendering a host of energetic men and women unemployed, thus, making these category of people to look for alternative livelihood culminating into migration with the hope of making their lives better.

The social network theory was propounded by Granovetter to explain the factors that initiate and perpetuate new international migration movements in recent times (Granovetter, 1999). According to Mitchell (1969b in Laumann, 1973:7) defines a social network as “a specific set of linkages among a defined set of persons, within additional property that the characteristics of these linkages as a whole may be used to interpret the social behavior of the persons involved”. This theory focuses on micro level factors of international migration where international migrations or movements are initiated by the connection between migrants and their friends; kinsmen back-home leads to initiation of new migration movements. The decisions are normally at the individual and the household level with the help of close family relations and chums. According to him, such social networks lower risk or cost of newcomers and leads to expansion of such networks in both origins and destination ultimately leading to migration flows. logistic regression models on aggregate statistics, it has been shown that individuals related to someone with migrant experience are far more likely to migrate than individuals without that relationship. In addition, households that have relatives living in destination areas, or that have members with experience in those areas, are more likely to send migrants than those who do not (Massey, 1987; Massey and Espana, 1987).

The concept of transnationalism has become very difficult to define. This is because, most scholars who attempted defining it placed greater emphasis on migrant networks and organizations as the core part of their definitions(Thomas F.et al,2010).Transnationalism may be defined as the “*sustained ties of persons, networks and organizations across the borders across multiple nation-states, ranging from little to highly institutionalized forms*”. (Thomas F. et al,2000a:189).

3.9.1 Case Study

Research design has many types and can be sorted into five categories, including experimental design, cross-sectional design, longitudinal design comparative design and case study design. Among those



types, I have found case study design to be the one that is most appropriate and suitable for my study. Below are some of the reasons that have dictated the choice of a case oriented strategy to conduct my research.

A case study can regard single or multiple cases and contain numerous levels of analysis and continues to be one of the most suitable research strategies within social sciences. It has become important to use case studies as a strategy and a way conducting findings when how and why questions are being posed, when the investigator has little control over events, and when the focus is on a contemporary phenomenon with some real-life context. In this work, I have chosen to look at the causes of international migration and its impact on the socioeconomic development of both Ghana and Denmark

Furthermore, the fact that there exist multiple sources of information in case study strategy is a plus which the other strategies lack. *“The case study’s unique strength is its ability to deal with a full variety of evidence – documents, interviews, and observations.”* (Yin R, 1994). In addition, Yin defines a case study as “...an empirical inquiry that investigates a contemporary phenomenon within its real-life context, especially when [bullet omitted] the boundaries between phenomenon and context are not clearly evident. And also states that a case study “...relies on multiple sources of evidence..[and] benefits from the prior development of theoretical propositions to guide data collection and analysis.” Bryman and Bruggess define a case study as “...a research strategy which focuses on understanding the dynamics present within single settings.”

The above-mentioned explanations and definitions favor my choice of the case study as my research strategy. This case study falls under the category of a critical case study, as described by Flybjerg and Yin, in the sense that it has been chosen to test some prepositioned theories. The research approach of case study, which I have chosen for this study has been criticized by many scholars. For example, it is supposedly argued that it is too small a basis for scientific generalization, also researchers are biased towards verification and there is the claim that case studies are only useful in the preliminary and exploratory stages of a research process. Flyvbjerg, though, states the case study is a very useful research approach, in the sense that “... it is important for the development of a nuanced view of reality, including the view that human behavior cannot be meaningfully understood as simply the rule-governed acts found at the lowest levels of the learning process and in much theory... [and]... cases are important for researchers’ own learning processes in developing the skills needed to do good research.”



(Yin R. 1994). He also states it as advantage of the case study that it is usually narrow and leads to deeper understanding and it is possible to apply theories and different views on ongoing, contemporary real-life situation. As for the view that researchers are biased towards verification, Flyvbjerg also argues that researchers using the case study approach are in fact more biased towards falsifying those preconceived assumptions they might have, than towards verifying them.

3.9.2 Reliability and validity of the study.

A major characteristic of social research is to comprehend that society, culture and humans are not 'objects' but subjects who are capable of describing their own reality. Reliability is the consistency with which research procedures deliver their results relating to whether they are true or no

(Seal 2004). It is also the consistency of a measure of a concept (Bryman 2004). He categorized reliability into three, thus,

Stability. This means that whether a particular measure is stable over some time. The response one will get from a carrying out a interview for one group at one place should be too varied with the same information at another place.

Internal reliability. It should be designed in a way that the results or the scores of on one indicator is related to others.

Inter-observer consistency. Here it is appropriate that there should not more than one individual in the translation and recording of data to ensure consistency in the process.(Bryman 2004) By the use of quantitative method or approach in this research I used semi structured interview guide which provided my respondents to express themselves freely and in a way manner that provided me enough information of the research area. It is important to start to state that before I proceeded to conduct the interview, I carefully selected my respondents taking into consideration the experience if it is an official such that he or she will have control of the field he or she occupies. For instance my interview respondent at the bank of Ghana worked there for fifteen years. Also, I made sure that any migrant interview in Denmark here linked me to his or her household to contact to authenticate whatever I have had from their member in Denmark here. The qualitative method which I have chosen to consumes time; recording problems all the way from Ghana with occasional cuts posed a methodological problem



to the research. Nonetheless, there is a justifiable reason to accept the reliability and validity of the data collected. The data collected will be used in the subsequent chapters for my analysis.

3.9.3 Data collection methods: Primary and secondary data

Of the several kinds of data collection in academic research has its own distinct pros and cons. Data collection for a research can consist of the collection of primary data, secondary data, or a combination of the two. There are several forms through which primary data can be collected. These are interviews, Participant observation, focus group discussion, and so on. But with respect to my study I will make use of both. I will implore interviews as my major source primary sources whiles my Secondary sources like books, articles, newspapers, internal and external case, organisation and company materials, and internet materials (Bryman 2004).

This study has adopted both primary and secondary data. The primary data was based on interviews with the director of central bank of Ghana, I have chosen to solicit information from this officers because I see the central bank as the fulcrum around which all the economic and social development of Ghana is concerned. But, specifically, in the central bank of Ghana, the international unit is very important to my study because it is a unit that deals with the financial flows that is injected into the country. This is an important ingredient to my study. Hence, getting information from such officer will be more relevant and accurate for study. Also, the statistics Denmark could also be useful in getting information about immigrants and more particularly Ghanaian immigrants and their stakes in political, social and economic live in the country. This officers and for that matter the department is necessary for my study because it acts as the data bank of Denmark that captures everything including the activities of immigrants in the country. I have also decided to interview one migrants household and two migrants in Denmark here to get first-hand information about whatever we have been reading from literature and in media about international migrants and it consequences.

These people are necessary to be involved in the data collection process because they are more or less the subject under consideration. The household of migrants are also included in the data collection



process because they play a pioneering role as far the migration of the family outside the country is concerned. Above all, in an African context, the household should be the next direct beneficiary after the migrants themselves making important to gather some views from them on their economic situation before and after the migration and the consequences of migration on the community as a whole.

On the other hand, the secondary data were generated through literature, and articles on international migration and internet material on international migration stock website and other internet sources. One advantage of primary data is that it is more reliable because they are data that is originated by the researcher for the specific purpose of addressing the problem at hand. Also, concerning the advantages of secondary data, Kumar (2000) thinks that secondary data may be seen as second hand considering that the data have been generated in older piece of work which will be in a new work. However, the use of secondary data may have some limitation. This is because it has been collected for other purposes than the problem at hand; hence, their usefulness may be limited in several ways.

3.9.4 Semi-Structured qualitative Interviews

The study used semi-structures interviews as one of the sources of empirical data for the study. Kvale (1996) defines interview as “a *specific form of human interaction in which knowledge evolves through dialogue*” (Kvale 1996: 125). There are many ways of conducting interviews among which are face-to-face, conversation, telephone interview, internet interview and so on. In my case I shall make use of both since time and space will not permit me to reach out with interviewees in Ghana. However, narrowing it down to semi-structured interview, Kvale (1996) defines semi-structured interview as an “*interview whose purpose is to obtain descriptions of the life world of the interviewees with respect to interpreting the meaning of the described phenomenon*” (Kvale, 1996: 6). In this form of interview, it is flexible in its methods of data collection such that the interviewer has several questions in general forms organised in an interview guide. In the course of the interview, the interview guide serves as a guide to cover the list of the themes itemised in the guide such that several wide range of sub-questions are covered in the interview. In this way, some questions can be ignored to avoid repetition while some additional follow up questions can be asked during the interview process.



The interview guide was designed taking into consideration the theoretical foundations of initiation and perpetuation by proponents such as g levels of Granovetter postulations social network theory, the world neo-classical economic theory of international migration and other theories like segmented markets theory. The interview guide has been designed to enable participants to provide first hand information on the origin, the initiation and perpetuation of international migration and the socio-economic impact of the phenomenon on Ghana and Denmark on one hand and the migrants and their household on the other hand.

Generally, interviews form an importance source of techniques for data generation. (Kvale 2006) states that interviews give the interviewer or the researcher the opportunity to directly experience, the interviewee's point of view. In this sense, the direct conversation with the interviewee reveals lots of things such as implicit body language, and emotions. Specifically, Semi-structured interviews are very useful because interview questions may not follow an exactly pattern in the way it is outlined in the interview guide.

3.9.5 Interviews

Four interviewees will be involved in the study. They were the Director of central bank of Ghana in charge of international section, two Ghanaian migrants in Denmark and one household of migrants back in Ghana. At the start of the research, an email was sent to these personalities and phone calls to create a rapport regarding the interview. This was meant to seek the consent and approval of the officers involved. When the approval was given, the first data collection interview is expected to last for about 38minutes. This interview was designed to gather the initial set of general data concerning international migration and its impact on development of Ghana and the migrants and their household back in Ghana.

The second interviews design will be more structured than the first as it involves migrant's household who will be asked general questions on the subject matter. Each of the interviews will last for about 20-40minutes. Before the interviews were conducted, a phone call was sent made since internet accessibility is a problem to my interview participants. This was meant explain to them the rationale of the interview and what the information was going to be used for. Also, the interview guides were sent



to the interviewees to give them idea of the interview questions. Some of the interviews will be conducted via “Skype video call”. [Skype video camera is an internet based free video calls where both parties who have accesses to internet and have the device on their computer can communicate with each other and at the same time see each other through a video device] . This technique will be used partly because of the advancement in information and communication technology which now makes it possible, and easy for researchers to interview people from far away distance where both the interviewee and the interviewer discuss interview questions through a video call. This method is beneficial because it is much more convenient, less costly, and less time consuming as compared to the traditional face-to-face interviews or administering a questionnaire. However, notwithstanding the numerous advantages of conducting interviews through “Skype video calls” the system is sometimes not reliable due to limited and instabilities in the internet service in the country especially in the northern part of Ghana where some of participants live. However, those of my respondents in Denmark here and those in the cities of Ghana have improved internet service. The interview will be transcribed using a Sony digital editor. It is software that allows me type the interviews while the audio connected to my computer voice plays.

3.9.6 Empirical data

In order to conduct the present case study, empirical data has been gathered to describe the case, and to be used in my analysis. Yin states that “[e]vidence for case studies may come from six sources: documents, archival records, interviews, direct observations, participant-observation, and physical artifacts” (Yin, 1994). In the present case study, my empirical evidence consists mainly of primary and secondary data; these include information gathered through the response of the interviews and other secondary sources such as official documents of state institutions such as central bank of Ghana, , journals, profiles, articles, books and internet sources.

In order to create the theoretical framework or foundation for my analysis of the case study, various academic sources such as books, articles and reports written by various scholars and theorists have been carefully selected for the present project as well. The data analysis procedure I have adopted is the primary analysis where the data to be analyzed are collected by the researcher himself rather data collected on behalf of the researcher. Also, the transcribed version which has to be edited to ease



reading will support my other sources like the theories, literature and all forms of official documents to generate meaning and eventually aid in answering my research question in the analysis. The transcribed version of my interviews will be attached to thesis as appendices.

3.9.7 Critique and limitations of methods

In the elaboration of this piece of work there were, of course, certain limitations to consider. One of these being is a rather short timeframe. Due to lack of time and inadequate funds has not been possible to travel down to Ghana to conduct interviews face-to-face in the data collection process. Even my interview participants that I selected in Denmark here was a challenge as to how to convince them to interview them as most migrants seem to be too busy with work schedules, while others find it difficult releasing information about themselves and their household. However, with the advancement of technology it is still possible for me to reach out with my interviewers without physically travelling down to Ghana. I can conduct *Tele interview* using modern technology such as Skype and mobile phone. Nevertheless, Ghana still at its embryonic stage in terms of development still faces a lot of problems. It is worth noting that apart from institutions, individuals with personal computers are few and interestingly individual that I have selected to interview don't have access to personal computers. This will pose a challenge to having a smooth conversation with respondents. In addition, the empirical data or evidence gathered to be used in analysis consists of purely qualitative research strategy, which naturally constitutes a methodological problem of lapses. This research tools could otherwise have enabled a more thorough analysis, maybe even with a different outcome, but part of an academic work is also to recognize such limitations and yet conduct the most careful research possible within the means possible. It is therefore important to state that with undertaking interviews will help straitened the empirical data that will yield a qualitative outcome. Obviously, as in any other research situation it is of utmost importance to be critical towards sources and to understand the weaknesses of these. It is important thus, to note that there has been rather limited access to documents and archival records for fear of leaking vital official information to inappropriate hands. serve as empirical evidence for my research, as I have not yet had access to all key agencies, I think may be due to privacy reasons of the actors involved, as well.



CHAPTER FOUR

THEORY SECTION

4.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the theoretical framework I intend to use to address the research questions. Several theories could be used to explain international migration experiences over the years. But, for the purposes of this thesis, I am therefore limiting myself to four theories that will guide the study and explain the main research questions and the sub-questions. It is necessary to be familiar with theories because facts do not speak for themselves. One needs some lenses and those lenses are the theories. The factors that have culminated to the increased in population movements and its perpetuation in recent times have to be addressed. But it has become evidently clear that one will not be able to answer this question adequately without the use of theories. It is important to state that there are benchmarks for identifying which theories that has to be used. According Robert Jackson and Georg Sørensen has to be *coherent*. Which means the theory should be free of internal contradictions in other words should be consistent. This is because, migration is too complex a phenomenon and pervasive for a single



theory to used in explaining it. Framing a theoretical perspective to understand the causes and the affects of the international migration on the development of the destination, the host, the migrants themselves and their household has been main concern for many scholars all around the world. In this context there are different approaches to explain the phenomenon. Each approach ultimately seeks to elucidate the major causes, mechanisms, and dynamics behind the labour movement across borders. On the one hand, macro approaches namely the World Systems approach, Dual Labour Market approach, and Equilibrium approach focus on the structural factors leading to migration of labour. On the other hand, the neoclassical economics approach and social network approach evaluates this phenomenon with a micro level of analysis and conceives this phenomenon as an individual decision for income maximization (Arango 2000). These theories include among other things, the neo-classical economic theory, the world system theory, the dual market markets theory and the social network theory. The theories identified will be applied both the macro and micro level. The study is also designed in a way that, the main research question will be explained using the first two theories, whiles the last two research questions will be explained using the last two theories respectively.

4.2 The dual markets theory

Firstly, *segmented labor-market theory* (Piore 1979) argues that First World economies are structured so as to *require* a certain level of immigration. This theory suggests that there exist two segments in the market of developed economies thus, primary and secondary. The primary segment is characterized by security, high paid jobs and a secondary market labeled low-wage work. The theory further prescribes that immigrants are employed to fill the vacancies that are necessary to the over all development of the countries economy but are avoided by the native population because of the way those categories of jobs are tagged and poorly remunerated. The dual labor markets theory justifies the segmentation of labor markets – the local population moves to more attractive professions, while immigrants take up the ‘3D’ (dirty, dangerous and difficult) jobs. On the top of that, this division is intensified by the very nature of various occupations – the attractive ones are usually capital-intensive which in most cases lack in peripheral countries like Ghana because the foundation for a sound economic development is being laid, however, in a slow pace, while the 3D – labor-intensive. Moreover, immigrant workforce is a more flexible production factor than the local one, protected by various institutions (trade unions,



regulations of work conditions, etc.), which is another factor petrifying the labor market dualism. This also gives reasons for the dominance of women and young people among migrants – they are more willing to accept poorly-paid jobs in unfavorable conditions than other groups (Massey et al., 1993: 441– 443).

The dual labor markets theory is based on an observation that migration flows are to a large extent determined by labor demand characteristics at the destination. This notion puts forward that immigrant labor is necessary for the economies of the developed countries. An important explanation is that wages are not only the price of labor, but also a proxy measure of the employee's position in the occupational and social hierarchy. If there are labor shortages at the bottom of the hierarchy, the entrepreneurs would prefer to hire immigrant workers without aspirations to a higher social status, than to raise wages in order to attract local labor force (Jajub B.2006). The latter option would require proportional wage increases in the whole sector to preserve the whole job ladder, and would ultimately lead to a structural inflation. Using this theory to explain international migration it is obvious that, Ghana regarded by development experts as peripheral country pay as low as 5 dollars a day making some authors including a poet Dr. Ben Abdullah to described Ghanaian a country with 20 million magicians. According to him the meager salaries they take are not living wage, yet, they are able to manage for the whole month. Another dimension of the segment of this theory that is relevant to the phenomenon is that my case study area has significant of its population being illiterate or inadequate education denying of employable skills which is key the current globalised world.

4.3 Assumptions of the dual markets theory.

The segmented or dual market approach outlines some conditions that will ensure the practical application of the theory to the problematique. These assumptions or conditions include among other things, that they should be a categorization of the market into two, which I will describe as white color and menial jobs. The menial jobs are the occupation that labeled jobs for the foreign because the citizens of the host country abhor and often see those ones as an attractive. This include occupations such as domestic agricultural work and cleaning in the hospitality industries not whiles occupation that



are prestigious in nature are taken up by the natives not only does it remunerate well but the social status attached to it is what matters to them.

4.4 Critique of Dual markets theory.

One of the difficulties of dual market theory is that it cannot be used to predict migration especially at the macro-level. Also, proponents of the theory and other researchers overlooked the reactions people during economics crises. It has been personally observed that the prescription of the theory was disrupted during the hit of the financial crises where local populations do not long have jobs that are meant for them and those for the migrants. Apparently, during those times several jobs would have been lost and survival becomes the central issue rather than prestige. Also, the theory fails to explain clearly population movements across the world. This is because migration policies and rules vary from one host nation to another. For instance, Japan for instance labeled some jobs as migrants jobs but it is extremely difficult if not impossible to migrate into the country due to hard immigration rule.

Notwithstanding the above critic of the theory I still believe strongly that the segmented markets theory is can still offer significant explanation to the topic under consideration. The literature, the responses from the interviewers about their work situation as immigrants would be used to explain the phenomenon in my analysis. I will lay bare the core thinking of the theory and compare it to the behavior of labor market to see whether, at least there is some modicum of connectivity between the theory and the problem under investigation. This is because the prescriptions of the theory emphasis on the division of the labor market into two where some jobs are considered prestigious and the other inferior.

Also, theory fails to explain clearly population movements across the world. This is because migration policies and rules vary from one host nation to another. For instance, Japan for instance labeled some jobs as migrants jobs but it is extremely difficult if not impossible to migrate into the country due to hard immigration rule. In this regard, the information that will be gathered would be viewed along side the core thinking of the segmented market theory to offer explanations and attempt answering the research questions in my analysis in chapter six of the study.



4.5 The neo-classical economic theory

Using the neo-classical economic theory to explain the international migration with respect to the initiation, perpetuations and socioeconomic impact of Ghanaian migrants in Denmark needs a combination a strong theoretical foundation together with empirical data to carry out a rigorous and a scientific study. Several theories have in the past been used including, *neoclassical economic theory* suggests that international migration is related to the global supply and demand for labor (Sjaastad 1962; Todaro 1969). For instance in 2004, there was urgent need of artisans and administrator in Qatar which brought Rahman consultancy firm to prepare their visas which saw close to 1000 people undertaking that trip to Qatar. Nations with scarce labor supply and high demand will have high wages that pull immigrants in from nations with a surplus of labor. Relating the theory to the study of the problem field, explains why most Ghanaian potential migrants who have the means migrate to places where they think their investments will actually yield dividends in the long run.

4.6 Assumptions of neo-classical economic theory.

According to the theory of neo-classical economic theory the decision to migrate is taken at the individual level based on certain factors. These factors may be economic, political and social. It is significant to note that before this theory or approach can be understood and applied its assumptions has to be clearly stated.

The neo-classical economic theory assumes that the individual maximize utility. This implies that the individual attempt to undertake a movement looks for destination that would be meet his or her economic, social, political hopes and aspirations. This is often obstructed by the financial requirement of the immigration agencies of the competing host country (Stephen Castles and Mark J. Miller, 1998). The neo-classical economic theory further assumes that there is an abundance of labor in developing countries which produces emigrants and abundance of capital in the developed part of the world which will also act as a recipient of the immigrants. In this case, Ghana is regarded as the developing country and has abundance of labor because of high unemployment rate (Terry-Ann Jones and Eric Mielants, 2010).

It is however, further assumed that migrants are human and that will act rationally with the main aim of improving their economic and social live which the objective of this study is intended. The focus of



this theory is at the macro level because the geographical differences in age, employment and capital investments opportunities causes migration. Thus, wage differentials constitute the primary basis for migration because potential migrants from Ghana believed that minimum wage in Ghana will obviously be higher than Ghana thereby constituting a source of migration. The economic conditions at sending countries like poverty, unemployment mostly push people out of these places with attractive features like better working and job opportunities at the receiving countries.

4.7 Weakness of the neo-classical economic theory.

The theory has been central in explaining population movements over the years but it not without some weakness. It has been criticized by a host scholar as looking very simple and incapable of explaining the population movements across the world in the short-term and the long-run.

Also, the approach also fails to explain why a certain group of migrants goes to one country rather than another (Stephen Castles e tal, 1998:20). The critics also fail to look at the take into consideration the political and economic co operation between that particular sending and the host countries. Furthermore, Stark opined out that income discrepancies between host and sending nation should not the only benchmarks to use in explaining the flow of people from one place to the other unless there is sufficient chances of security as far jobs are concerned and of course the chance to manage risk at least for a significant level of time. (Stark in Stephen Castles e tal, 1998:22)

Despite the shortfalls associated with the above theory in explaining the migration phenomenon, the literature, the interview responses especially from the migrant and their household would be used as the cardinal issues that will guide the study in my analysis. The theoretical foundations vis-a-vis the empirical data will be used together in answering my research questions in the analysis.

4.8 The world- system theory



The world system theory was developed by Emmanuel Wallenstein in 1974 in response to dependency theory to ensure development. In an attempt to generalize the macroeconomic perspective, the world systems theory assumes that international migration is associated with the advances of the capitalist system and global markets, not only in the world's economic 'core', but also in semi-peripheral and peripheral regions. A flow of goods and capital from the core to the peripheries "in search of land, raw materials, labor, and new consumer markets" (Massey et al., 1993: 445) is counterbalanced by the flow of labor in the opposite direction. According to Massey there are many driving forces behind this process. On one hand, there is an increasing demand for low skilled labor in the core regions, where the jobs in the manufacturing sector become less and less desirable for the local population, following the shift towards the service-based economy like tourism, the hospitality industries and the financial institutions.

The *world-systems theory*, according to Sassen argues that international migration is a by-product of global capitalism. The argument of Sassen is sound notwithstanding the fact the human migration existed since time immemorial but it somewhat became massive and unprecedented in scale as a result of globalization, shrinking the world and deterritorising national boundaries paving way for easy movement of goods and human persons. Contemporary patterns of international migration tend to be from the periphery (poor nations) to the core (rich nations) because factors associated with industrial development in the First World generated structural economic problems, and thus push factors, in the Third World countries.

According to the prescriptions of the theory, the gradual transformation of agricultural production in the peripheries like Ghana has drastically reduced the demand for local labor because of capital flows creating surplus labor leading to an increased in productivity. These factors triggers migration of the surplus of agricultural workforce, drift from the peripheries in the search of either white color jobs or the 3 Ds jobs⁹ opportunities in the low-paid segments of the manufacturing and services sectors in the core. But it is important to state that the increasing international migration that the world is currently experiencing does not mean that migrants decision is based of the fact that their origins are poor

⁹ The 3 Ds Jobs refers to the Dirty,dangerous and difficult jobs.



regions, isolated and disconnected regions but it is somewhat a fast changing and transforming regions with respect to social change and technological advancement rendering a host of energetic men and women unemployed, thus, making these category of people to look for alternative livelihood culminating into migration with the hope of making their lives better. I shall examine the characteristics of the world-system theory to see points of agreements and departures between the theories and my secondary data implored to guide the study when I analyses the data in chapter 5 of this study.

4.9 Critique of the world system theory.

According to Hall and Kardulias(1999), the world system do not cause migration but somewhat curtail it or at best transform it due to the opening out of the world rapidly n terms of political economic and social front. It has been observed that migration in the past used to be done in a group form or some kind of organized form whiles in recent times it has become more or less at the individual level. This is in conflict with prescription of the theory which seeks to proclaim that the theory is built around macro level only.

4.9.1 The social network theory

The social network theory was propounded by Granovetter to explain the factors that initiate and perpetuate new international migration movements in recent times (Granovetter 1995). According to Mitchell (1969b in Laumann, 1973:7) defines a social network as “a specific set of linkages among a defined set of persons, within additional property that the characteristics of these linkages as a whole may be used to interpret the social behaviour of the persons involved”. It is a widely accepted view among researchers that migrants often make use of social networks and these networks serve as channels for migration (Vertovec, 2003:650. A social network may include neighbors or others drawn from the category of kin and ethnic group. Social network is an important concept when it comes to my analysis of migration of Ghanaian migrants in Denmark in the ensuing paragraph.

This theory focuses on micro level factors of international migration where international migrations or movements are initiated by the connection between migrants and their friends; kinsmen back-home



leads to initiation of new migration movements. The decisions are normally at the individual and the household level with the help of close family relations and chums. According to him, such social networks lower risk or cost of newcomers and leads to expansion of such networks in both origins and destination ultimately leading to migration flows. This theory has for the past few years been extensively used by migrants and their agents. Ghana has a lot of transnational communities across the world including Denmark which developed as a result of strong social ties between the migrants and their pals and kinsmen back in the origin thereby easing the process of potential migrants. This will further be supported and confirmed in my analysis with the help of my empirical evidence in further discussions. It is believed that new movements are normally initiated by these relations and ties. Related to this unprecedented prominence of social networks in migration theory is the pivotal role of kinship and the household, which, following Becker (1976) and other proponents of ‘social choice theory’ (Agarwal 1997), are frequently stressed as the most powerful driving forces of international migration from the developing world.

4.9.2 The Concepts of Strong Ties and Weak Ties

Based on the social network theoretical perspective, the conceptual framework I used for the research is grounded in Granovetter’s social network theory of “strong ties” and “weak ties” (Granovetter 1983; 1995). Granovetter used the concepts of strong and weak ties to classify and analyze the strength of social networks. According to Granovetter, interpersonal ties could either be strong or weak. He identifies strong ties to be kin-based; that is, from close family members, ethnicity, class and close friends. The weak ties comprise of a collection of friends or acquaintances. He postulated four dimensions to measure the strength of a tie and the role it plays in perpetuation of new migration. These are: a) the amount of time spent in interaction, b) emotional intensity, c) intimacy, and d) reciprocal services. According to Granovetter (1995), individuals with mostly weak ties are more likely to acquire information than individuals with mostly strong ties. This, I strongly believe, will be examined and analyzed from the response of the interviewees when it is solicited and transcribed for analyses in chapter 5.

He pointed out that members in a kin-based network will have access to information among the closely knit network but will be limited in the source of information when it comes to information outside the



immediate kin group. In these cases, the weak ties then play a major role in the acquisition of relevant information across space. This is because with the weak ties, the network is widespread. That is to say, a friend could be a friend to someone and that someone is a friend to a different person. Therefore, when there is a transfer of information, it moves faster through the weak ties than through the strong ties which are more closely linked (Granovetter 1983:202). A critical analysis would therefore be made when empirical data are collected which then will be applied together with the theory to find answers to the problematique in the ensuing paragraphs.

4.9.3 Critique of social network theory.

Scholars of migration have developed a keen interest in ‘chain migration’, more importance than ever is currently being attributed to social networks in generating migration, facilitating the dissemination of information on labor market opportunities which dictates the migration process.

However, in this contemporary era, information flow is very crucial to the realization of whatever objective one wants to undertake but management and use of this information is another challenging task. In relation to the my research field it has become critical and complex and create a lot of uncertainties because within the migration industries comprises lawyers, agents, smugglers, and what have you. These people can be of good help to migrants and the same times exploiters of migrants. This is a challenge to the social network approach to international migration.

Another challenge to the social network approaches the fact that the network building leads to the formation of transnational communities which was not part of the origin intention of the approach intended to explain. In other words, transnational communities are a by-product of the social network approach

Also, there are a host of migrants who undertake migration outside the networks, this I belief will be unearth when I conduct my interviews and subsequently analyze it in chapter six of my thesis.

4.9.4 Connecting the theories together



The complexities associated with international migration have made it necessary to employ as many theories as possible to be able to explain the phenomenon. In the case of segmented market theory where its proponents like (Piore 1979) believes that international migration is not caused by push factors in the sending countries but by pull factors like the acute shortage of unavoidable need of foreign workers. This nonetheless does not mean that push factors is not a cause of international migration. Acute shortage of labor at the core will not in itself initiate the movement unless those at the periphery are adequately informed about it and the possibility of preparing enough grounds to make it softer for a new migrant to arrive. This will lead into another paradigm which will also be use to guide the study, thus, the network theory propounded and popularized by Granovetter. Because migrant network constitute a social capital which is very much in conformity with the customs and traditions of the African of which is not an exception, will prompt migrants to assiduously employs all means possible to make it easy for new movements to initiate.

Despite the willingness of the migrant to relay useful information to the kinsmen and friends back at origin that can help them to emigrate out of the origin will very much depends on the demand for labor at the destination, which is considered a country with limited labor with respect to capital where it is characterized by high wages and employment opportunities. The interplay of the international demand and supply for labor will determine the flow of people for the core regions who, are constantly looking for options and opportunities to reverse their current state of impoverishment to a more stable, secure and hopeful future. That is the point the neo-classical economic theory sets in to explain the movement of people especially the international movement.

The segmentation of markets at the international level, the formation of transnational communities and the demand for labor to augment the existing ones in the core regions has become necessary owing to the global expansion of the market since in the sixteenth century(Castles 1089 e tal). This expansion and penetration of the development world into the markets of the peripheral regions, culminate into building good infrastructure networks which facilitate the easy transfer of goods and services within the core regions and abroad thereby which initiate movement. The world-system is inextricably linked with the other theories of international since it will be extremely difficult if not impossible for a single to effectively explain complex subject like international migration especially where specific questions ought to be answered.



4.9.5 Transnational approach to international migration

Transnationalism has become a modern concept that seeks to provide explanations to the international migration phenomenon in different dimensions. The increasing flow of population movements from one country other than the other, and the factors motivating the large flow of people in recent times are the dimensions transnationalisms takes.

The concept of transnationalism has become very difficult to define. This is because, most scholars who attempted defining it placed greater emphasis on migrant networks and organizations as the core part of their definitions(Thomas F.et al,2010). Transnationalism may be defined as the “*sustained ties of persons, networks and organizations across the borders across multiple nation-states, ranging from little to highly institutionalized forms*”. (Thomas F. et al,2000a:189). These ties develops into powerful political and civil society organizations that seeks to protect individuals, the whole transnational communities and their respective country of origin using social capital as a major tool because scholars like Thomas F. believes that transnational organizations be given the necessary opportunity to “facilitate and sustain various forms of transnational engagements by individuals and communities. As Castles argues, the emergence of the concept of transnationalism has abolished old boundaries between nations as well as disciplines. This concept is linked to the network theory which I chosen among the theories to guide the study.



CHAPTER FIVE

ANALYTICAL SECTION

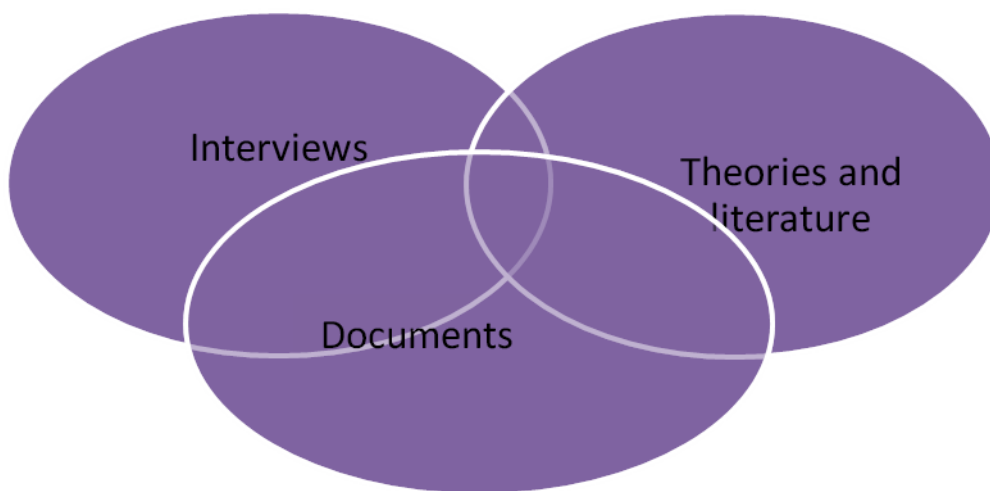
5.1 Introduction

This aspect of the study will constitute the analysis and presentation of the data that aims at addressing the research questions outlined in the introductory chapter. In line with my research objective I will use the theories outline in my theoretical framework to examine my research questions. Central and focus of the study will be the main research question where attempt will be made to examine and explain the factors that has accounted for the recent flow of people from sub-Saharan African and Ghana in particular to the developed countries with reference to Denmark. For a thick and comprehensive coverage of the study questions, I have decided to approach using themes generated from the research questions outlined in the introductory chapter. The combination of the theories, interviews and relevant documents and articles as seen from the below diagram Fig.6 reaffirms the complexities associated with international migration as a subject. The phenomenon over the years has been on the ascendancy which has attracted researchers to examine the philosophy and the reasons for migrants and sometimes their household, to move. This will need a holistic approach as migration has become complex, a phenomenon to explain.(Stephen Castles and Mark Miller,1998). After reviewing literature on



international migration it came to light that the push and pull factors, which acts as the pivot around which most of the paradigms of international migration revolves is in conformity with some of the findings gathered from my respondents during the interview session. Below is the pictorial illustration structure of the analytical tools to be used in this study.

Fig. 6 A diagram showing the structure of the analysis



Source. Self design

The above diagram is designed to give pictorial view of the modus operandi that I intend to use in the analysis of my data. The reason for coming out with the above diagram stems from the fact that there are findings that I got in the interview which points to the same issues in my literature and theories and the vice versa. I have realized in reviewing the literature certain revelations emerged which permeates through the theories to secondary data like my documents as well as my interviews. These relationships



will give a shared meaning and understanding to the topic under discussion. For this reason, I have decided to blend the interview conducted, documents from institutions concern and theories and literature will achieve the aim of doing a comprehensive and reliable study.

5.2 Factors that triggers international migration in Ghana.

Migration is not a new phenomenon in Ghana. Nevertheless, it used be internal, but of late it has assumed an international dimension simple because of the benefit associated with migration where potential migrants have reference point to make. This will be discussed in detail in the ensuing paragraphs. To make it easier and understandable to readers it will be discussed in the following headings

- (a) Economic factors
- (b) Social factors
- (c) Political and ideological factors

5.3 Economic factors

The decision to move and the actual movement is linked to economic factors. In reality among the motives of migration, economic reasons are normally behind the scenes. Whatever reason that may be provided for undertaking the journey, the ultimate aim is to improve the standard of living of the migrant and the household. Economically, the migrant household indicated that their family member abroad support the family in varied ways ever since he left Ghana. For that reason they will always encourage other family members to also migrate if the opportunity comes. This was what a household interviewed in Ghana said about the economic impact migration have on the household in Ghana. *Apendx.1, there is an economic impact on the family because it increases the disposable income of the household thereby providing financial security because of regular remittance they get from the*



migrant. Also having family member outside the country increases the social status of the household and above all see it as insurance against eventualities. This income security increases their purchasing power thereby reducing poverty at the household level which indirectly will benefit other members of society because they can now hire labor if businesses are revamped. Apart from the above impact it has on the household he also indicated clearly the assistance the migrant give to the extended family members in economic terms. Appendix.2 *Yes, he helps other members of the family who are in need. He also used to support some of the family members especially the hard working once who may want to do some other businesses either to revamp or establish new ones.* To actually affirm the economic motivation behind the movement, I asked a brother of a migrant back in Ghana whether he will encourage him to stay, he answered in affirmative but was quick to add that he will do the opposite if he gets a lucrative job back in Ghana. This is demonstration that an even economic factor has not come out explicitly in his submission, there is some elements of the push and pull factor which probably will be economic in nature. As to whether he will encourage him to continue to stay there for some time, he said the following. Also, in the literature it revealed that people migrate to places where they think will their lives will improve. This may seem to suggest that those who migrate are from poor background. Interestingly, as far as international migration is concerned, the poor do not mostly migrate as it has been thought. This is because, the cost associated with international migration is beyond the means of the poor. To find out whether people's movement is actually motivated by economic factors. I asked him whether he will encourage his brother to continue to stay. This was what he replied.

Appendx.2. *Yea I am saying that I will do encourage him to stay there because his stay has positive impact on the family. But I will rather do the contrarily if he gets a lucrative job in Ghana here this is because he has a lot to do in making the entire family happy.* This implies that the initial supports by the family members were motivated by anticipated economic benefit that will accrue to the migrant and the household. Their decision was rooted from the neoclassical core thinking of analyzing the cost as against the benefit. The expectation was that the benefit will exceed the cost in sponsoring a family member to migrate out of Ghana. The respondent pointed out that the motivation to support the family member were high because they have a reference point to make regarding successful migrants from the same community whose household looks comfortable, financially, as compare other families. This



notion by the household of migrant does not only lead to encouragement of their young ones in the family to emigrate but they contribute financially towards the trip. This can be confirmed in a significant number of literatures that outlined the motives of remittances. For instance, it has been observed by many researchers including E.K Addison of the central Bank of Ghana that part of the reasons include loan repayment

5.4 Social factors

Social factors remain crucial propellers to the international movement, especial to the developed world. One of the social factors that emerged at the apex is education. It is important to state that individuals, the state and civil society groups in the developing countries like Ghana see education as surer way or means of mitigating the both social and economic challenges facing its citizenry. This was noted by the government statistician, Dr Twum Baah after The Ghana living standard survey (GLSS) *“The more educated the household head or the members of the household are the less likely it is that the members of the household will be below the poverty line”*¹⁰ This is because a family that have educated person(s) live a better life than those who lack such people. Hypothetically, imagine two men from a village, one educated and employed and the other one doing subsistent farming because there are no opportunities like credit facilities to farmers, subsidies for agric implements to be able to do commercial farming, When they become old, the educated man can rely on his pension whiles the other will be worse off since they will be no any form of social security for him. They have been a modicum of changes in migration for educational purpose in recent times. Hitherto, this category was initiated and organized by the states, where state scholarships were awarded to citizens to study abroad. For instance, as to what has been the motivation factor for migrants to move out of Ghana, a respondent indicated that *I came to Denmark to study*.

This reason permeates through out the responses I have gathered from my selected interviewees. This means that the attraction here is the education in Denmark and the greatest possible repelling factors at origins will be the challenges in Ghana’s educational system, like uncertainties in number of years to complete a given course due to frequent strikes by lectures for better condition of service. This indeed

¹⁰ Twum Baah e tal, 1999: The distribution of welfare in Ghana, Working paper 75, the world Bank, warshinton DC
http://www.dfid.gov.uk/r4d/PDF/Outputs/ImpOutcomes_RPC/povertyandeducoutcomes.pdf extracted on the 21-06-2011



confirms that non economic remittances like education are some of the reasons that propel most people to emigrate out of the country. Education, Remittances and migration are interconnected according to Yaw Nyarko et al, New York university thinks “*Increasing education levels would make it easier for nationals to migrate out of the country*”¹¹ - those migrating legally would, one would imagine, have a better chance of obtaining visas if they can at least speak the language of the destination country, usually a European one. One would further suspect that those with higher education would do better in the destination country if they have better education and that those who do better abroad would send more remittances back home To the extent that education levels may enhance the amount of remittances and to the extent that these are important when there are adverse shocks to the economy, then indirectly education gets another boost in its influence on vulnerability of the poor. The remittances of those who migrate may be used in the education of relatives who remain in the home country. This aspect has also been corroborated by respondent in Ghana in Appendix 2 where he outlined the uses of remittances which include school fees, cushion family during hardships. The migration of one group may encourage others to invest in education through imitation and through the establishment of migrant networks abroad which makes migration easier and publicizes the opportunities, thereby increasing perceived benefits to migration. It is has been noted by the government of Ghana that the development and attainment of the MDGs Will be a mirage if education is not regarded a priority by the nation. That explain why the government has come out with a lot reforms in recent times on education by promoting girl child education which is a challenge facing and declaring the free compulsory universal Basic Education(FCUBE) programme to promote education.

This has motivated people who have the means to sponsor their wards and other family members to school abroad. These current changes of events could be due to the following reasons. It could be the growing population as against the number of universities in the developing countries or academic facilities and frequent disruptions in the academic calendar. It may also be due to the commercialization of education especially in the capitalist societies which has shrunk the number of scholarships available to governments in the developing countries. The migrants I interviewed

¹¹Yaw Nyako e tal 2010, Social safety nets: The role of education, remittances and migration.
http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTABCDE/Resources/7455676-1292528456380/7626791-1303141641402/7878676-1306270833789/Parallel-Session-8-Yaw_Nyarko.pdf. retrieved on the 20-062011



indicated clearly that education is the reason for their migration. This is what former student of Aalborg University, now an author said when he was asked whether he think it will be a good idea to encourage other member of your family to migrate outside Ghana?

Apendx.1. That is a relative questions to some extent ,it depends, it is a situational question for instance if a any family of mine have a higher qualification, I will encourage them to come and get international experience and then get the opportunity to be educated here. In that case, I will encourage them to come. Apart from that I will not encourage a family member to come and seek greener pastures or to look for menial jobs.

It is evident that Ghanaian employers prefer people with foreign degrees than those trained locally. What has further compounded the situation is the high standard of qualification as requirement to seek employment in Ghana. So the demands of the employers are dictating the pace in Ghanaian job market which culminates into migration across national boundaries to seek knowledge through formal education in the core countries. It is the believe of most potential migrants that, educating abroad prepares one adequately and teaches how to apply the knowledge acquired in any sector of the economy in Ghana.. Most migrant that I interviewed indicated to me that they have intention of going back to Ghana to help build the nation, but their continuous stay abroad is that fact that they have ambitions of pursuing greater height in education. He said in *Apendx.1* “*I am still staying here because I still have the ambition to further my education and I think the environment here allows me. I mean to prepare towards that.*” My interviewee in *Appendx.1* is a past student of Aalborg University who indicated to me that he started as an author after his masters, but interested in doing a doctorate programme. This will help in achieving his long-term goals of becoming an authority in intercultural management.

Still on education as one of the social factors, researchers such Dovlo 2003,2005 e tal has identified another factor accounting for the increasing flow of migrants from Ghana to be a perennial problem of the structure, curriculum and funding and management education in Ghana. Lack of adequate funding of education in Ghana resulted in perennial striking of teachers and university lecturers disrupting the educational academic calendar and schedules making the citizens to loose confidence in the



educational system compelling the some especially, the affluent to look for good schools outside Ghana for their wards, in most cases Europe and America.

Even though unemployment is a global problem, the repercussions of it have seriously affected developing economies such Ghana. It has been reaffirmed to be one of the many factors that trigger mass movements of Ghanaian. This partly will be as a result of conservatism on the part of government of Ghana and policy makers of education to switch from the traditional theoretical -based system to practical oriented system of education that will turn out graduates with employable skills capable of providing the middle level manpower needs of the country. This has not been in place thereby continued to turn out graduates from our universities and polytechnics without practical skills rendering them redundant. This makes international attracted to these unemployed graduates. This is what a migrant household in Ghana I contact via mobile phone had to say regarding causes of migration with particular reference to his kinsman in Denmark.

Appendx.2 Actually they have friends who stay outside the country especially in Denmark furnished them with useful information and above all also, because of the underemployment situation in the country that is the work they do not commensurate with the pay they take. So these are the factors that actually push them to actually move. This corroborate with the core thinking of the network and transnationalism because of relaying useful information to friends and relative and keeping close ties with the people at the origin. I further interrogated him about the conditions in the country right now and that was what he had to say on the situation in the country? This information may include the high wages offered by employers and good educational facilities and general standard of living as some of the motivations that can initiate new migration. To further reveal what the condition in Ghana is like, the respondent noted that in Appendix.2. That “The condition in the country here is actually unbearable. I say this because you know Ghana for example is a developing country, You known people are underemployed other people are unemployed. So I will not put it on the government because underemployment and unemployment are characteristics of a developing country. Actually the condition in the country here is not good”.



Looking at the world-system approach in explaining the causes of international migration is in line with the above, where the economic and social transformation will render some people redundant because technological advancement and economic transformation render skills and knowledge of personnel of some sectors of the economy useless forcing them to seek greener pastures else where. For instance, the modernization and mechanization of agricultural sector has rendered a lot of people unemployed due to the introduction of new technologies in farming like the use of combine harvesting machines, insecticides etc. The manual labor used to be engaged in this sector. I agree with the argument that the transformation of a nation leads to this structural unemployment whose consequences can even affect migration.

Another interesting finding in this study that can trigger international migration has to do with the development of new forms of partnership between cities across the world. The world-system paradigm can help explain that. Due to the shrinking of the world it has made it possible for social, political and economic co operations to exist between nations and civil society organizational across the globe to partner one another to bring about mutual benefits to all. This partnership is known in the development arena as “sister cities” or known in certain circles as bond or twin cities. This friendship can exist between school to school, non profit organizations to schools and between a community in the developed country and another community in the developing country. This collaboration does not come by chance, it has been negotiated mostly by migrants who go to abroad link philanthropic organizations and negotiate as individuals or through transnational organizations on behalf of their community back the country of origin. After linking up the two parties to solicit support to develop their community in the process pave way for migration through reciprocal visits and exchange programmes in the field of education. A typical example is the friendship existing between DANIDA partners in Denmark known as Danish Gymnastics and Sports Association (DGI) uses sports as a tool for development in *Dalun*¹² and six communities in *Tolon/Kumbungu*¹³ district in the northern regions of Ghana. The initiator of this partnership and friendship is Mahama Shani, a native of *Dalun* and a tutor of Silkeborg Folk High School in Denmark. As part of the programmes they should be a reciprocal visits which influences members to migrate after the visit.

¹² Dalun is a name of a village in the northern region of Ghana that partners with the Danish Gymnastic and Association.

¹³ Tolon Kumbungu is name of a District in the northern Region of Ghana.



Another example is partnership between *Bimbilla*¹⁴ senior high school and All Saints Church secondary school in the UK. I personally took part in friendship visit between *Bimbilla* senior High School and All Saint Secondary School in Weymouth in December 2008. My visit to the UK influenced my decision to migrate to Denmark in the sense that developed interest to further my education, but our friends in the UK advised me to search in the Scandinavian where tuition fees are moderate and in some don't charge fees. The commercialization of education in the UK made it difficult to further ones education there because of full cost recovering.¹⁵ There are numerous of such partnerships in most cases between community in the developed countries and poor rural communities in the developing world like Ghana.

5.5 Political factor

The political and ideological links among countries determine the flow of people at international level. The political factors that accounts for international migration has historical antecedence. This dates back in the 60s where the east and the west were competing for political and economic power. Ghana under the first president Nkrumah was an ally of the east which gave the nation a lot of political and ideological support. During that period the east precisely the soviet union (S.U) offered training to Ghanaian security personnel, offer scholarships to the government of Ghana to train Agric engineers, medical doctors, to boost the human resource base of the country. Then followed the period of political instabilities where the military interventions in the country produced a lot of asylum seekers in the west notably the UK, USA and CANADA because by then the eastern block had collapsed.

Another factor that is responsible for the movement of Ghanaians across national boundaries has to do with the adherence to the policy of the Breton wood institution known as the structural adjustment programme (SAP). SAPs prescription were that, Ghana should implement certain austerity measures in the public sector which includes budget cuts in the health sector and full cost recovering in education where academic user fees were instituted. These measures of down-sizing the public sector worker affected two major institutions, thus, the education and health. Sadly, they constitute the major employees of the central government of Ghana. Agriculture became unattractive due to removal of

¹⁴ Bimbilla is a name of a district that also partner with All Saint Secondary School in the UK.

¹⁵ <http://www.bimass.com/page7.htm> extracted on the 22-06-2011



subsidies on its inputs. The consequences of the SAPs were massive unemployment in the Ghanaians, lost of confidence in our education systems as result of the austerity which led to poor working condition. Most Health professional and university lecturers and others could not withstand the condition than to look for options elsewhere. During that period there were massive movement of Ghanaians outside the country, which continues to trigger the flow because many migrants ended up marrying there or unified their families and still maintaining strong networks and transnational ties with origin. This has the tendency of initiating new movement.

The political arrangement of the most African countries and Ghana in particular has been the “winners take all affair” where changes in governments renders a lot of experience executive officers who worked with the previous regimes redundant. It creates a scenario which becomes difficult for the erstwhile members of government to secure employment. If this situation remains like that for the while you will find these bureaucrats looking for avenues to migrate out of Ghana to seek greener pastures in the west.

Past research has found out that part of the reasons why majority of Ghanaians immigrants are located in the UK has to do with the political and ideological reasons. This however, changed with the current political dispensation, making Ghana the beacon of hope in Africa for the peace and stability. Ghanaians feel comfortable migrating to the UK than France because of colonial tights that exist between Ghana and the UK.

5.6 Migration-development nexus

Of late countries throughout the world has intensified its policies issues and agenda focusing on development. This is in line with the conventional quest to achieving the MDGs. This has generated a lot of interest by researchers and development experts to examine and assess possible areas that the help build the build the economy. One area that has seen consensus by researchers as a field that needs evaluation is migration. However, it is interesting to point out clearly that migration can lead to development and the vice versa. However, they have series of debate on above subject for some years now where the proponents of open migration opined out that international movements of persons contribute to development at home and destination, whiles, opponents are skeptical and argue that



international migration can have serious debilitating effect on the origin since the loss of labor can affect the production of basic goods and services for their development.

It is against this backdrop that I set to examine the extent at which migration can indeed lead to development. For the purposes of this study my discussions will begin at the individual level to the community level and finally to the state level.

Individually, international migration has contributed immensely to the development of the individual in so many ways. The migrant is the first beneficiary of what ever is accrued as a result the movement before it trickles-down to community and to the nation as a whole. To back my claim, one of my interviewees from Ghanaian, a past student of Aalborg University indicated to me that the environment here has made him to become an author and he hopes to reach greater heights in his career. I asked whether he sees his stay here as brain-drain? This was what he said:

Apex.2. "I don't think so, because I still contribute, like I said, I have done a small work. You see, I have just published a book, and now I have the feeling that even it is not yet accessible for the people of Ghana and I have the intention to make, to market it, so if anybody lay hands on it is not brain drain but brain gain. ok and the environment here has provided or has made it possible for me to come out such a document. So I feel that it is brain gain because it is ideas it knowledge, people are going to gain" This is an asset that cannot be quantified but very useful that accrue to an individual. In most cases, people downplay the intangible remittance like knowledge, experience and ideas. They focus so much on financial flows, electronic equipment, cars etc to neglect of the former. Can this be attributed to the percentage of illiteracy in Ghana which is as high as 52%? Notwithstanding the high illiteracy rate, knowledge, ideas and experiences that migrant acquire can have a benevolent manifestation on the family at origin, the community and the country in totality. Migrants' business ideas are normally remitted back to origin which creates employment at the community level. Being a migrant myself, I know successful migrants who have established small scale businesses like pure water production plant and incubators that has engaged at least some idling youth in my community. Also, two of the interviewees in Denmark here had master's degrees and working. This means that they have added value to themselves educationally that can benefit them, their household back in Ghana and Ghana especially when they return to the country after some times. Asked why he is still in the Denmark after



completion he said the following Despite having the masters and started as an author, he still wants to pursue greater heights in education which has the greatest chances of changing economic conditions himself and his family and community where he or she hails.

Another revelation I came out from the findings was that remittances flow by migrants to the origin are meant to purchase plot of land for building and business purposes are some of the personal development the migrants have been carried out whiles here. Even though, this piece of information did not come out clearly, what came out of the discussion with my respondent was remittances to wives and children for their upkeep and payment of school fees. But one interesting revelation that I stumbled into during my interview with a migrant household in Ghana affirmed that the remittances sent are used in acquiring lands, helping other family members of the migrant. *Apendx.2 Actually in African and Ghana which is not an exception, it is obligatory on every child to take care of their parent when they attain some age. ok So, the total remittances of the family ranging from pocket money, school fees for the younger once and brothers and sisters and sometimes funerals, and also acquisition of land rest on their shoulders.* There is a an adage in Ghana that says that “ *If someone takes care of you to develop teeth, it is incumbent on you to also take of him until he she losses his or hers*” This literally implies that the social security of most families in Africa are the children who are obliged to take care of him or her during old age. And one of those things includes the performance of funeral rights of the late father or mother or any close family member. In Africa, funerals performance is revered and now very expensive that some family had to families had to poll resources to be able to perform them.

In this case, the social development the migrants have acquired will have a spill over effects on his economic development on the migrant himself, his household, the community and the country in general. One other important development that accrues to migrants unconsciously is political benefits. For instance the egalitarian society of Denmark is an inspiration to some migrants including myself. The political arrangements in the country is a source of admiration to most migrants that when, “exported” to Ghana will add to the political development of the country. He thinks the society is close to a perfect one, which worth emulation. I asked what he has seen in Denmark here that he think can be emulated and sent to Ghana.



He said in appendix.1. *“there are a lot, when you talk of modesty in terms of living is a very good example Ghanaian migrants can or could emulate and when they return back to Ghana they could, I mean translate that to either the work environment to their small family or to the general society in which they find themselves and then when you see here they is a systematic order. When I talk about systematic order I mean every thing work, everything interconnect and it functions and that is a very good observation and that the system we have here, the few years that I have been here. My stay here has taught me lot of experiences which are think are good ones worthy of emulation. I have not done any scientific investigation or research, but it appears that there are not corrupt. Every one does his or her possible best to perform their duties because they see it as their duty. But back in Ghana you will still find people are employed and paid yet they still expect that you give out money to them to facilitate the work.. All these pity things when we are able to transmit that back home I think we can get greater change, not only those in Denmark but those in UK, Canada and other parts of the world they can emulate the good examples of those country and when their back home they try to integrate and intermarry them with the better ones for us to get an excellent result .*

The above remarks shows that when people embark on migration there are life time experiences when replicated back in their country of origin it can bring about social change and development. One of such experiences can also be a form of intangible remittances that is accrued to migrants.

All in all, the contribution to the international migration to the development of individual (migrants) themselves is enormously unequivocal reading from the data harvested in this study. This ranges from social to economic to political life.

5.7 Household and community at origin

The contribution of international migration is not limited to only the migrant and the nation, but to the community in most cases migrants hometowns. In Ghana there is a new form collaboration that is emerging in the communities where migrants invest in their local communities that has the tendency of promoting local employment for the people. It has been observed that transnational organizations poll resources, sometimes appeal to its partners to assist migrants home countries especially their local community. One such transnational organization in Denmark that has helped in the past is the African



Danish network which, through the hard work of members shipped a container full of furniture to Tanzania while arrangements are being made to ship to Ghana as well.¹⁶

5.8 Nation

To answer my research questions of the impact of international migration on the socio-economic development of Ghana can be effectively discussed in three dimensions. One from the few interviews I conducted, the institutional reports and other documents and finally the theories and literature implored to guide the study. In examining the question, I wish to look at it from the economic, the social and the political point of view.

Economically, Migrant worker remittances have become so important source of foreign exchange to the nation and the citizens. An interview with the director of currency stability unit of the bank of central bank of Ghana on remittances revealed that remittances also known as inward transfers accrue to individuals, NGOs, Embassies, service providers is on the rise since September 2002 to 2010. This was what he said. *Yea, remittances, we call it inward remittances that are inwards transfers so to speak. That we receive from individuals, service providers, NGOs and stuff. So what we monitor there are inflows accrue to individuals, accrue to service provide and accrue to NGOs. They are the ones we monitor and these are in fact the details will come through the banks.* What this means is that remittances flow has seen a dramatic increase for the past nine years which can be attribute to so many factors. One can attribute it to the increase in the volume of emigration from Ghana which will invariably affect the quantum of inward transfers or remittances in the country. That is not all, it could also be attributed to the improvement in Ghanaian economy in recent times makes Ghanaian resident abroad are preparing to return to the country thereby increasing their remittances to put up houses and invest prudently in businesses in the country that will serve as social security on their return to the country. Also, globalization can be another possibility. The proliferation of money transfers agencies aside the traditional banking is due to globalization making it easy for most migrants especially the illegal ones to now have the opportunity to send money to their household without difficulty or Ghanaian resident abroad are now well placed and earning more couple with the call of transnational leaders and government to need for migrants to repatriate their income to help build the Ghanaian

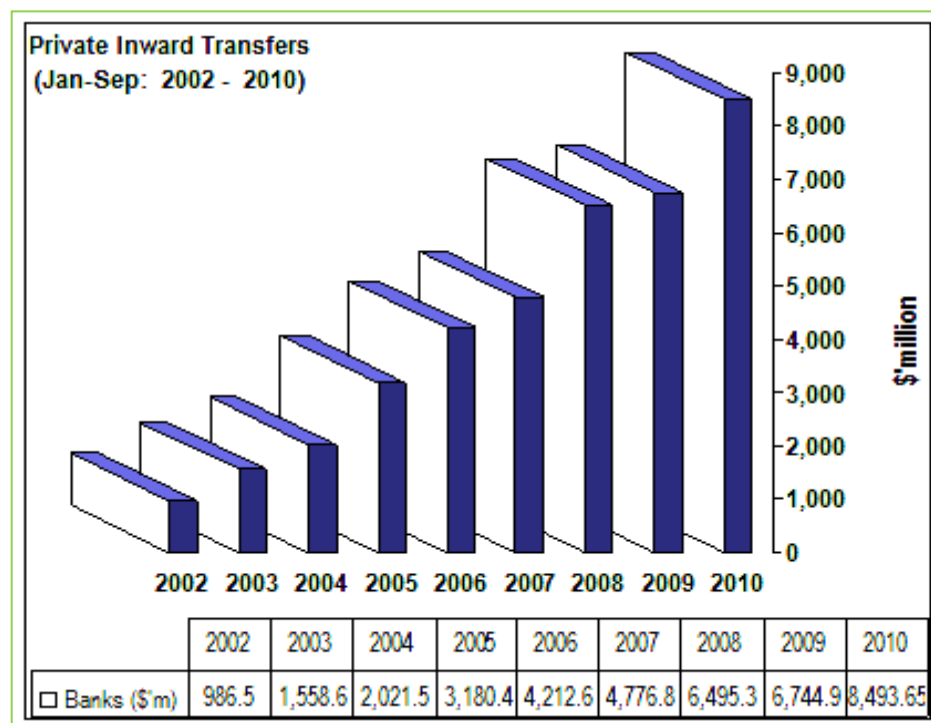
¹⁶ <http://www.african-danish-network.dk/English%20Web/activities.html> retrieved on 26-06-2011



economy. This is evidently clear where the former president of Ghana Kufour is reported to have met Ghanaian transnational community in UK CANADA and US in particular calling on them to return or invest in the country.¹⁷

Available statistics indicate that since 2002 there has been an increase of inflows or inward transfers injected into the Ghanaian economy. The diagram below illustrate the flow of remittances within the last couple of years between 2002 to 2010

Fig.7 A FIGURE SHOWING THE FLOW OF REMITTANCES TO GHANA FROM 2002-2010



Source: The Central Bank of Ghana.

¹⁷ Ellie Vasta et al 2007. "London the leveller":Ghanaian work strategies and community solidarity. Working paper, university of oxford <http://www.compas.ox.ac.uk/fileadmin/files/pdfs/WP0752%20Vasta%20and%20Kandilidge.pdf> retrieved on 20-04201



The above data was obtained from the central bank of Ghana showing the pioneering role remittances are playing in maintaining micro economic stability of the Ghana because of the inflow or foreign currency injection into the economy. As at 2010 fiscal year, the amount of dollars that were injected into the economy of Ghana was 8.5 million dollars as private inward remittances. This excludes those that pass through unofficial channels. Even though this inflow goes to a few individuals, the multiplier effect on the entire country is what is important in this case. This is the biggest inflow so far in the history of the country. These remittances pump some amount of hope to the economies of infant economy like Ghana in the area of currency stability, increasing the purchasing power of the citizens especially those who have relatives outside the country. In appendix.2 a household said when he was asked what uses are these remittances put into he said, instance he remit family members to established or create new small scale businesses at the community level. The economic and social impact will be enormous. It will provide employment to people outside the family of the migrant at least, at the micro level. This was also corroborated by a research done by the Head of research unit of the Bank of Ghana who indicated that building of houses and investing in small scale businesses at the community level were some of the uses remittances are put into. This will impact positively on the rural economy as it will create employment for people who are outside the families of the migrant. This category are benefiting indirectly from the remittances. This helps in redistributing income at the community level.

5.9 Migration, Remittances and poverty reduction in Ghana

The remittances of migrant workers from Ghana have become a useful source of income to many Ghanaians, particularly in times of economic hardships and this is also evidenced by the proliferation of money transfer institutions in Ghana and the rapid growth in the volume of migrant remittances to Ghana. It has been argued that migrant remittances are becoming a potential source of foreign exchange and its magnitude exceeds the amount of ODA to Ghana. Data from the Central Bank of Ghana for instance shows that private inward remittances through the banks and other finance companies amounted to about \$ 1.4 billion in 2002 as compared to \$ 31 million recorded for the year 1999. As a result of the significant role remittances played and continue to play has made researchers and major institutions like the central bank of Ghana to monitor the flow closely in recent times.



From the above diagram, you can see that the figures are quoted in US dollars because all remittance accrue to the central bank of Ghana are recorded in US Dollars. The diagram in fig.9 show clearly the inward transfer have been increasing radically since 2006 to 2010 which means a lot to the economy of Ghana. This increase has so many interpretations. For the inwards remittances to jump from 986.5 million dollars to 8.493.65 million dollars in 2010 shows a significant increase in inward transfers. But interestingly, the global financial crises that hit the world almost halted social, economic and political activities across the world. The effect of the financial crises is can be clearly seen in the above diagram where between 2008 and 2009 the increase was marginal, confirming the connection between employment and remittances

The revelations I have had in interacting with some of the hitherto impoverished household of migrant in Denmark here confirmed that their family member took the decision in consultation of the entire family to emigrate because of underemployment of their kinsman in Ghana. This according his response meant that the income status has changed positively after the emigration of their family member to abroad. The migrant foot bills ranging from living expenses, funeral support, school fees of even extended family members and above assisting sisters and other members of the family in varied ways, includes establishing of small scale businesses for them.

It is important to state that the migrant is obliged to help any member of the family since it incumbent on him to offer help to other hardworking members of the family because all the family members aided in one way or other in your success. This is what he said when I pose a question regarding the help the family extended to the migrant

What role did you play in your in having your family member migrated to Denmark for example?

Apendx.2 It is a characteristic of African to see the success of one family member as a success for all. And that is one of the cultural values of Africa. So when a family gets his papers to migrate, it behooves on every member of the family who can support to extend a helping hand make the journey a fruitful. Ok .That is a characteristic of our family here.

This is a clear manifestation that the principle of communalism is a factor that can initiate and facilitate migration since the entire family will be ready to finance the cost of migration which will have been so



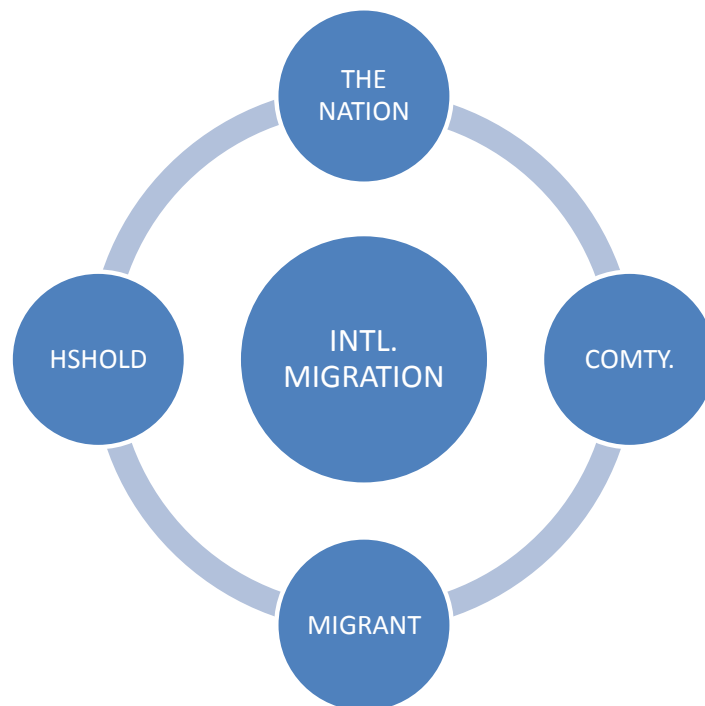
huge for an individual to foot. That is why one can strongly argued out that most migrants who are able to make it either come from an affluent homes or middle income bracket given the cost associated in embarking on international migration.

5.9.1 Consequences of international migration.

This aspect of the study will attempt examining the consequences of international migration on the migrant, his household the community and the country at large. Despite the significant role international migration is playing and continues to play in the economies of sub-Saharan African and Ghana in particular, it also poses some threat to the socio-economic development of Ghana in varied ways. The diagram below shows how international migration impact negatively on the nation, the society or community, the migrant and the household. It is important to state that the consequences of each level affect the other. It is a vicious circle. For instance it has come to light from the findings that migration and dependent on remittances will kill the initiative of our people. The individual will be the first to be affected, thereby, becoming a liability rather than an asset to the community and the nation as a whole. The government too has an obligation to take of its citizens.



Fig.8 A diagram showing the consequences of international migration.

**Source. Self design**

The economic benefits have been overshadowed by the social consequences on the migrant, their household and the community and the nation at large. In the public discourse, there are concerns that international migration will kill local initiatives of migrants, their household and the community making them perpetual dependence on migration as a household strategy for hope and survival. The concept of brain as one of the consequences of international migration has become a source of worry to most sending countries including Ghana the lost of human resource as a result of the phenomenon. The



trickle down effect of the lost of this human resource on the community and nation is debilitating enough to allow a country to grow. It has been documented by researchers that the brain drain in Ghana has enormous negative impact on the country since developing the human base of a country is a necessary and a sufficient condition to the development to bring about social change and development. Nonetheless, it will be frightening to note that about 2909 graduates and PhD scholars reside in the US along which means that Ghana is among the 30-top suppliers of PhDs to the US.¹⁸ The has to be viewed in line with the countries quest to achieving the Millennium Development Goals(MDGs) which the country assent in 2000 to be achieved in 2015. Similarly, the medical professionals in Ghana are in indifferent where little close to 50% of physicians trained in Ghana has left the country due to poor working conditions. The negative impact of this hooping lost of human resource of the country will have direct impact of the MDGs set universally and adopted by Ghana. The potential of the country's population to continue to grow is evident looking at the exponential increase of the population after every decade from 18million in 1990 to 20million in 2000 22million in 2010 is a clear evidence that the Doctor-patient ratio of 1:30,000 will somewhat widened if adequate mechanism is not put in place to curb massive flow of these professionals in the nearer future. Of the eight goals where health, education, poverty are depended on the human resource. Education which is bedrock of every nation will also be affected by this phenomenon because a greater number of lecturers in the public universities are retired ones are contracted augment the few regular lecturers.

The issue of brain drain has been an issue of intense debate in Ghana. Most migrants reprimand the government of not providing good working conditions that can attract and maintain the professional who are working under poor conditions especially the public sector in Ghana. However, the question that remains unanswered is the whether the government has the ability to pay. This result into a situation in Ghana where the government will be pretending to be paying whiles workers are also pretending to be working leading to low productivity. The lost of hope and fate in the system result in most professional looking for alternatives outside the country to seek greener pastures somewhere in the developed worlds. For instance, more than 40% of doctors trained in Ghana are working outside

¹⁸ http://perso.uclouvain.be/frederic.docquier/filePDF/DR_creme.pdf retrieved on 20-06-2011



Ghana. This mass movement is a great lost to the nation not only their unavailability to render services to the nation but in terms of the quantum or the cost of money that goes into their training. We are told it cost about US\$30,000 to have one medical doctor trained. The situation has not been easy to arrest because of the fact that the government does not have a policy of regulating professionals whose cost of training are extremely high. My respondent was asked whether he himself is a victim of the concept of brain-drain that has been a topic of public discussion in Ghana. In appendix.1 he said” *International migration that gives birth to brain drain is like a “two-way sword.” If you look the positives and the negatives on the sending country on one hand and the positives and the negatives on the receiving countries is what has confused most nations especially the sending countries mostly developing countries in formulating policies to guide or regulate migration in the country. You can talk about development of human resource (brain-gain), inward transfers or remittances etc as some of the positives. On the other side it could also mean brain drain, lost of cultural identity etc as the negatives.*

So it depends what comes to abroad to do. If you acquire knowledge and return to your origin or even still remain here and contribute to the development of Ghana which is now possible in this era of globalization. The way concept of brain drain, according to the respondent not just the matter of professional leaving the country, but what matters is ones contribution to the development of your country. He indicated in the same to me he has published a book titled *managing cultural differences in an international organization*. This book according to him is on Amazon.uk. He added that ones Ghanaian get hold of the book and read, they will gain in terms of knowledge which will he described as “brain-gain”. I think it makes sense and agree with him.

Finally, looking at the consequences of international migration on the migrant household in Ghana and the community general is another aspect that worth discussion. Notwithstanding the fact that household benefit in the short-run through remittances, to a point that they become dependent on remittance, hence, resulting in the lost of initiative to innovate. What is likely to happen in a long-run is when the migrant is fully integrated into the mainstream society of the destination country, the tendency to remit less is high as the migrant will be absorbed by the system compounding the problem of the household who, hitherto, relied solely on remittance as their source of hope and survival. The youth who should have been engaged in Agriculture and other vocational skills as a source of their livelihood are idling



about leading to their youth being liabilities rather than assets to the community and the nation as a whole. The communities sometimes are denied of the valuable assets especially when of human capacity at the origin keep depleting.

CHAPTER SIX

6.1 Revisiting the research Questions and Suppositions

This chapter presents the revisiting of the research questions stated in chapter 1. Attempts were made to answer using theories chapter.5 But the pervasiveness and complex nature of the phenomenon under discussion needs to be supported with other empirical evidence from institutional reports and interviews. The suppositions made are dealt with in the course of the chapter. This aspect of the discussion will show how the theories are applicable and will ultimately aid in answering the research questions.

6.2 Research questions

(a) What have been the causes of recent unprecedented flow and perpetuations of international immigration from Ghana to the west with specific reference to Denmark?

(b) To what extent can international migration contribute to the development of Ghana?

(c) What are the likely consequences of international migrants to:

- (iv) The Migrant
- (v) The migrant household
- (vi) The migrant community
- (vii) The nation

6.3 The dual markets theory



The segmented markets theory applicability to study is partly high owing to the prescriptions of the theory making room for external demand for labor as most native populations shun away some categories of job described as secondary which most looks unattractive to the local population of the destination. This came to light when I interview one my respondents whose claim is inline with basic assumptions and postulations of the dual markets theory. I tried finding out whether he gets job satisfaction? He remarked that *“May say I err am employed but employment the ,work I am currently I am doing is not inline with what I have studied”* He does not, according to him get job satisfaction since he is absorb in the secondary segment of the market where the native population see as unattractive and not dignifying to work to work. So the link between the theory and the research is partially high

6.4 The neo-classical economic theory

The neo-classical economic theory is characterized by economic motives of migrant. Therefore, its applicability to the study is indicated in the below Figure 4 indicated clearly that the interview responses does not show clearly that their motive for migrating was purely economic but subsequent response revealed that remittances flow to the household and the use of the remittances is confirmation that the fact that it did not explicitly emerge in the interview process does not mean that it does not exist.

In any case the decision by the family to sponsor and see migration as an insurance against contingencies are enough evidence to show that there are economic motive underpinning the whole decision point of migration taking into consideration the cost-benefit analysis and expected benefit in the long-run. It can therefore be agued that most migrants expected to be better off at destinations than the country of origin(Ghana)

Table. 1

A SUMMARY OF CHARACTERISTICS OF THE NEO-CLASSICAL ECONOMIC THEORY OF MIGRATION



THEORY	CHARACTERISTICS	APPLICABILITY TO THE STUDY AREA
NEO-CLASSICAL ECONOMIC THEORY		
	Benefits expected to exceed cost	Partial
	Viewed as investment decision	High
	Migration is primarily an economic phenomenon	High
	Expectations of being better off	High

Interestingly, what came out clearly from my interactions with my respondents showed that education was their motives for migrating to Denmark for instance. Any other benefit was regarded secondary to them. The remarks expressed by one migrant household back in Ghana shows that having a family member in abroad accords the family some respect, as the migrant is seen by the entire family as insurance against any unforeseen contingencies. *Yea, there is a concept of economic impact, they is a rise in social status, and again they see it as an insurance to have somebody like that outside the country ,yea.* If a prospective migrant including the household see migration as an investment he will be motivated to even if he or she knows that the benefit will accrue in future. It is important to state that, the characteristics of the neo-classical economic theory outlined above and the information from the text and responses solicited from my interviewees point out that the theory to some extent can be used in answering my research questions especially the main one despite the few lapses it poses.

6.5 The World-System Theory

The applicability of the world-system theory to the findings of the study can only be partly achieved contextually owing to the micro nature of the study. The characteristics contained in Fig. 4 do not explicitly explain significantly any of the characteristics that will lead to answering of the study questions posed in chapter 1 of this study. However, transport and communication channels played a



crucial role the enhancement of the movements. Nonetheless, land consolidation and labor demand as a feature of the theory cannot explain the research question because the research question is not in line with the core thinking of the theory. The fact of remittances flow from migrants to families back in Ghana shows that, at least there is some element of connectivity of the world-system theory to the study. It is assumed that economic globalization leads to some degree of bondage between the sending and the destination countries. For instance consumer taste and language can be transfer to Ghana which will ultimately encourage international migration to developed world like Denmark.

Table.2

A SUMMARY OF CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WORLD-SYSTEM THEORY OF MIGRATION

THEORY	CHARACTERISTICS	APPLICABILITY TO THE STUDY AREA
The world-system theory	Land consolidation	Not applicable
	Labor demand	Not applicable
	Trans./communication links	High
	Global cities	partial
	Ideological Link	partial

6.6 The concept of transnationanism and network theory

The migrant relationship with pals and kinsmen at origin remain the driving force in using the network theory as a theoretical approach in explaining the cause and impact of international in Ghana. Maintaining the relationship with those at origin as a migrant is in line with the core assumptions of the network theory. This can be seen from below diagram in Fig 5. The network theory can be applicable to the study based on the assumption of reduction in the cost and risk of migration for the potential migrant. This is partly due to the gradual expansion of the networks, thereby making much easier for new migrants. For instance, a family at origin(Ghana) was interviewed who pointed out clearly that he



has two brothers in Denmark and ever since they left Ghana for Denmark they have relentlessly looking for an opportunity for at least a family member to join him.

Table.3

A SUMMARY OF CHARACTERISTICS TO THE NETWORK THEORY OF MIGRATION

THEORY	CHARACTERISTICS	APPLICABILITY TO THE STUDY AREA
Network Theory	International migration expands over a time	High
	Falling cost and risk of movement	High
	Institutional migration	High
	Govt. policy experience difficult control migration	Partial

The applicability of the network theory to the study has been very high looking at the characteristics serving as the core thinking of the theory. However, the characteristics that government policy experience difficult in controlling migration is not highly applicable to the study because the whole idea is done at the micro level which is outside the purview the state. So it can partly explain the phenomenon but not comprehensively.

A household has confirmed that he has a brother in Denmark who, through him, has been able to guide two other brothers within the household to join him. This was what he said:

Apendx.2. Yea, ever since he got to Denmark, he left no stone unturned to making available useful information that will pave the way for other family members to get there. Through him, a family member joined him in Denmark. Ok However, a decision for undertaking such a movement if it is education he will always encourages. This affirmation stands to reason that the risk and transport cost will reduce since the issue of accommodation and mental trauma involves in the process would have



been averted. This network will ultimately expand over some time if the new migrant also decide to assist in bringing some other family member abroad.

From the forgoing discussions it is evidently clear that some conclusion can be drawn now that the research questions have been revisited using the various theories alongside the data that was gathered during the course of the study. The fact that some core points in each of the theory is unable to answer the research questions adequately, is a confirmation of the earlier discussions that suggest that migration is a complex phenomenon for a single theory to used in offering a comprehensive explanation to it.

6.7 Conclusion and perspectives

The findings of this study can be compared favorably with similar study on international migration in Ghana. However, some discrepancies in causes and patterns of migration were observed. An analysis of the main reasons that triggers out-Migration in Ghana confirms that economic reasons are still central to the numerous causes of migration in Ghana and other countries within the continent. A typical example is the statistics of migrant remittances and the reasons assign to their transfer. The main vehicle being the network of friends and relatives who are resident abroad with specific reference to Denmark, appear to be playing a central role as friends and relatives indoctrinate and shape the perceptions of prospective migrants on the possible economic prospects.

Another revelation from the study confirmed that the massive out-migration in Ghana has to do with high demand of foreign degrees in the Ghanaian job market. That explains why migration of students constitute almost 45% of the total out-flow of people from Ghana.

Another driving force with respect to the causes of international migration is the new wave of partnerships and friendship between states and communities in the developed countries and its counterparts in the developing countries which eventually leads to reciprocal visits exposing their counterparts in the developing countries to develop interest in migration once the opportunity comes.

The study further revealed that bad governance unfavorable economic policy triggered massive flow of people in the last two decade in Ghana which has resulted into chain-migration since most of migrants



have been integrated into the mainstream societies at the destination countries paving way for relatives and immediate family to migrate with relative ease. The case in point was the adherence to the SAP by Ghana government in the 80s.

To sum up some of the other causes of out-migration in Ghana include inter-alia, low wages as in the case of health professional in Ghana couple with high demand of labor for health professional, improved telecommunication and transportation system, all as a result of globalization and modernity.

Using the findings to explain the contribution of the migration to the socio-economic development of the Ghana it became evidently clear that remittances showed by the central Bank of Ghana play a central in this development process. These include both the tangible and the intangible remittances accrue to individual migrants and its multiplier effects on the country, the household and the communities in Ghana. The remittances accrue to Ghana exceeds the export of our major resource, that gold and cocoa last year. At the grassroots in Ghana individual migrants established small scale businesses that enhances rural economic by creative local jobs not only for family of the migrant but other persons within the community.

In responding to the final research question of the study using the findings, it is evidently clear that Ghana needs human resource to build its economy but has lost a chunk of them as a result of migration. Ghana lack lecturers in the universities and above all the patient- doctor ratio in the country is 1:30,000 where there are about 2,909 professors in the US alone whiles 35-40% of all physicians trained in Ghana works outside the country.

Another interesting revelation from the findings is that, the quest by Ghanaians to migrate outside the country has culminated into practice of cyber crimes popular known in Ghana as *Sakawa*¹⁹. This practice has dropped a lot of intelligent young ones from school, with optimism that migrating out of the country is the surer way. The initiatives of those who are dependent of remittances are killed.

From the foregoing discussions it is evidently clear that international migration as a phenomenon, is a complex subject to be explained using a single approach and model due to demographic, political,

¹⁹ Sakawa is a term in Ghana means cyber crimes, fraud etc



economic and cultural differences, hence the need for fellow research to continue to venture into the phenomenon since research is an ongoing process.

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