

IMMIGRATION POLICY, KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER, AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

OGETTE, Anthony Omokhudu

*Department of Sociology, Faculty of Management & Social Sciences Edo State University
Uzairue, Edo State, Nigeria*

Author's Email: ogette.anthony@edouniversity.edu.ng

Telephone: +2347025309152

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ABSTRACT

Foreign immigration policies, knowledge transfer, and their implications for sustainable development are interconnected aspects that play a crucial role in the socio-economic progress of African countries. This paper delved into the historical context of foreign immigration policy in Africa and its impact of knowledge transfer and sustainable development, and analyse the contributions of key figures to these fields; healthcare, education, technology and agriculture. The paper provide a balanced perspective on the positive and negative aspects of foreign immigration policy and knowledge transfer in African countries, along with potential future developments. The paper concluded that the role of favourable immigration policies and knowledge transfer in the actualization of sustainable growth and development of Africa as a continent cannot be overemphasised. Hence, by investing in the transfer of knowledge in different sectors such as healthcare, education, technology, agriculture and innovation, African countries can harness the power of knowledge transfer to achieve sustainable growth and development as well as improve the lives of their citizens.

Introduction

Foreign immigration policies and their implications for African countries have been a significant and controversial issue that has shaped the socio-political landscape of the continent for centuries. Various colonial powers have had a significant impact on migration flows to and from Africa, leading to complex dynamics that continue to influence policy decisions today (Adepoju, 2000). Historically, Africa has been a target for foreign immigration due to its rich natural resources and strategic location. European colonial powers exploited these resources and established settler colonies in various parts of the continent, leading to the displacement of local populations and the imposition of discriminatory immigration policies. For example, during the colonial era, countries like South Africa implemented apartheid policies that restricted the movement of black Africans and privileged white settlers. Similarly, in countries like Algeria and Zimbabwe, settler populations from Europe were granted preferential treatment over indigenous peoples, leading to demographic imbalances and social tensions (Adepoju, 1994).

The implications of foreign immigration policies for African countries are complex and multifaceted. On the one hand, migration can stimulate economic growth and cultural exchange, leading to innovation and dynamism in societies (Asiyanbi and Akinyemi, 2023). Countries like Nigeria, for example, have benefited from the influx of skilled migrants who contribute to various sectors of the

economy, such as technology, healthcare, and finance. Similarly, remittances sent by African migrants living abroad play a crucial role in supporting local communities and reducing poverty levels in many countries (Lombe, 2015). On the other hand, immigration policies can also have negative consequences for African countries, especially when they are driven by political interests or security concerns. In recent years, the rise of anti-immigrant sentiment in Europe and North America has led to a tightening of border controls and the deportation of African migrants, many of whom face discrimination and violence in their countries of origin. The lack of legal pathways for migration and the persistence of xenophobia contribute to the marginalization and vulnerability of African immigrants, who are often forced to live in precarious conditions without access to basic rights and services (Kebu, Berisso, & Mulugeta, 2023).

African migration has a long history dating back to the transatlantic slave trade, where millions of Africans were forcibly taken to the Americas. In more recent times, African migration has been driven by factors such as political instability, economic hardship, and the pursuit of education and employment opportunities. Many Africans have migrated to Europe, North America, and other parts of the world in search of better living conditions. Despite facing challenges such as discrimination, xenophobia, and exploitation, African migrants have continued to strive for a better future for themselves and their families. Many have excelled in various fields such as medicine, engineering, academia, and entrepreneurship,

contributing to the development of their host countries (Kupfer, Jarawan, et al., 2002). Knowledge transfer by African migrants into African Countries have played a significant role in shaping the socio-economic development of the continent. Since the colonial period, Africans have migrated to various parts of the world in search of better opportunities and education. These migrants have acquired knowledge and skills that can be transferred back to their home countries to contribute to socio-economic growth and development (Gillespie, & Kate, et al. 1999).

One prominent figure in the field of African migrants and knowledge transfer is Amina Mohammed, the current Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations. Born in Nigeria, Amina Mohammed has had a distinguished career in international development and diplomacy, serving as Nigeria's Minister of Environment before joining the UN. She has been instrumental in advocating for sustainable development and gender equality, using her knowledge and expertise to address global challenges. Another key figure is Mo Ibrahim, a Sudanese-British entrepreneur and philanthropist who founded the Mo Ibrahim Foundation to promote good governance and leadership in Africa. Through his foundation, Mo Ibrahim has supported initiatives to empower young African leaders and promote economic development on the continent. His work has inspired many Africans to give back to their communities and contribute to positive change (Adriansen & Jensen, 2021).

Impact of Knowledge Transfer on Sustainable Development of African Countries

The transfer of knowledge from African migrants to their home countries has had a positive impact on various sectors such as education, healthcare, technology, and entrepreneurship. Many African migrants have returned to their countries with valuable skills and experiences, setting up businesses, schools, and healthcare facilities that contribute to local development. For example, Dr. Ernest Simporé, a Ghanaian physician who obtained his medical degree in the United States, returned to Ghana to establish a hospital in a rural community where access to healthcare was limited. His hospital has provided essential medical services to thousands of people and has helped to improve health outcomes in the region (Brown, 2000). On the other hand, there are also negative aspects of knowledge transfer, such as brain drain, where highly skilled professionals leave their home countries in search of better opportunities abroad, leading to a shortage of skilled workers in key sectors. This brain drain can hinder the development of African countries, as they lose valuable human capital and expertise that is needed for growth and innovation (Brown, 2000). Africa has been at a disadvantage in terms of access to knowledge and resources that are essential for sustainable growth and development. The impact of knowledge transfer on African countries can be seen in various sectors such as agriculture, technology, healthcare, and education. Africa has a long history of knowledge transfer from other parts of the world. During the colonial period, knowledge was transferred to African countries primarily for the benefit of the colonizers, leading to exploitation and underdevelopment (Plaza & Ratha, 2011). However, in recent years, there has been a shift towards more equitable knowledge transfer, with African countries actively seeking to acquire knowledge and skills that can contribute to their

sustainable development (Dan and Kaj, 2012). One of the key figures in the field of knowledge transfer in African countries is Professor Calestous Juma. Juma, a Kenyan-born Harvard University professor, was a strong advocate for the transfer of technology and innovation to Africa. He emphasized the importance of building indigenous capabilities in science and technology to drive sustainable development in African countries. Juma's work has influenced policymakers and academics in Africa to prioritize knowledge transfer as a means to address development challenges. Another influential individual in the field of knowledge transfer in Africa is Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, the President of the African Development Bank. Adesina has been a vocal advocate for the role of technology and innovation in driving sustainable development on the continent. Under his leadership, the African Development Bank has launched initiatives to promote knowledge transfer in key sectors such as agriculture, energy, and infrastructure. Adesina's efforts have helped to create partnerships between African countries and international organizations to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and expertise (Adriansen & Jensen, 2021).

Knowledge transfer plays a significant role in sustainable development for African countries. The exchange of skills, technologies, and expertise through education, training, and research collaborations can enhance the human capital and innovation capacity of African nations. Knowledge transfer fosters economic growth, social development, and environmental sustainability by promoting entrepreneurship, improving healthcare systems, and mitigating climate change impacts. Sustainable development goals can be achieved through strategic partnerships with international organizations, academic institutions, and private sector actors (Connolly & York, 2003).

Perspectives on Immigration Policy, Knowledge Transfer, and Sustainable Development

From a positive perspective, immigration policy can promote cultural diversity, economic growth, and social cohesion in African countries. Knowledge transfer can enhance technological innovation, capacity building, and information sharing for sustainable development (Folke & Carpenter, 2002). On the other hand, negative aspects of immigration policy include brain drain, labour exploitation, and social tensions caused by demographic shifts. Knowledge transfer challenges include inadequate infrastructure, limited funding, and inequitable access to resources for marginalized communities (Helbling & Morgenstern, 2023). Overall, a balanced approach is needed to maximize the benefits of immigration policy and knowledge transfer for sustainable development in African countries.

Future developments in immigration policy, knowledge transfer, and sustainable development for African countries will likely focus on inclusive growth, environmental protection, and social justice. Investments in education, healthcare, and renewable energy will be crucial for building resilient societies in the face of global challenges (Porter & Kramer 2011). Strengthened partnerships between governments, civil society, and the private sector will facilitate the transfer of knowledge and technology for sustainable development. Policies that prioritize human rights, gender equality, and youth empowerment will be essential for creating a more equitable and

sustainable future for African countries (Chikezie, 2001). Looking ahead, there are promising developments in relation to African migrants and knowledge transfer. With advancements in technology and communication, African migrants are now able to stay connected to their home countries and contribute remotely through initiatives such as virtual mentorship programs and online education platforms. Moreover, there is a growing recognition of the importance of diaspora engagement in development, with many African governments and international organizations working to create policies and programs that support knowledge transfer and collaboration between migrants and their home countries (Kapur, 2003).

Impact of knowledge transfer on sustainable development of different sectors in African countries

Healthcare

Knowledge transfer has no doubt made tremendous contribution to the growth and development to quality healthcare delivery in Africa. Over the years, various initiatives and efforts have been made to transfer knowledge and develop healthcare infrastructure in Africa, with the aim of addressing the numerous health challenges faced by the people in the region. Historically, Africa has faced significant challenges in terms of healthcare provision, with limited resources, inadequate infrastructure, and a shortage of skilled healthcare professionals (WHO, 2003). Knowledge transfer has played a key role in addressing these challenges, with the sharing of best practices, technology, and expertise helping to improve healthcare services and outcomes across the continent. Key figures in this area include organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank, and various non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that have been actively involved in supporting knowledge transfer and development initiatives in healthcare in Africa. The impact of knowledge transfer and development in healthcare in Africa has been significant, leading to improvements in healthcare delivery, an increase in access to essential healthcare services, and a reduction in the burden of communicable diseases such as malaria, HIV/AIDS, and tuberculosis (WHO, 2003). Through collaborations and partnerships with international organizations, African governments have been able to leverage external expertise and resources to strengthen their healthcare systems and build capacity in areas such as primary care, maternal and child health, and disease prevention and control (Kupfer & Jarawan., et al. 2002). One influential individual who has made significant contributions to knowledge transfer and development in healthcare in Africa is Dr. Paul Farmer, a renowned physician and global health advocate. Dr. Farmer co-founded Partners in Health, an organization that works to provide high-quality healthcare to marginalized populations in Africa and other parts of the world. Through his work, Dr. Farmer has been instrumental in demonstrating the importance of building strong, sustainable healthcare systems that prioritize equity, social justice, and community engagement (Farmer, 2005).

In addition to the positive impact of knowledge transfer and development in healthcare in Africa, there are also challenges and limitations that need to be addressed. These include issues such as

the brain drain of healthcare professionals from Africa to more developed countries, the lack of sustainable funding for healthcare programs, and the need for greater investment in research and innovation to address the specific health needs of African populations (Farmer, 2005). Despite these challenges, there is a growing recognition of the importance of investing in knowledge transfer and development in healthcare in Africa as a means of achieving better health outcomes and promoting social and economic development on the continent. Looking ahead, the future of knowledge transfer and development in healthcare in Africa holds immense potential for further progress and innovation. By continuing to invest in partnerships, capacity building, and research, African countries can strengthen their healthcare systems, improve access to essential services, and address the underlying determinants of health that impact the well-being of their populations. With a concerted effort from governments, international organizations, and local communities, knowledge transfer and development in healthcare in Africa can play a transformative role in achieving health equity and sustainable development across the continent (Partners in Health, 2020). Knowledge transfer and development in healthcare in Africa is a critical area that requires continued attention and investment. By leveraging expertise, resources, and partnerships, African countries can address the health challenges they face and work towards building strong, resilient healthcare systems that prioritize the needs of their populations. With a focus on collaboration, innovation, and sustainability, the future of healthcare in Africa holds promise for improved health outcomes and a brighter future for all.

Education

The role of knowledge transfer in the development of education in Africa cannot be under estimated. Africa as a continent has a rich history of educational systems and practices that have evolved over time, with various key figures playing crucial roles in shaping the landscape of education in Africa. Historically, education in Africa has been influenced by colonialism, as European powers imposed their own educational systems on African societies. This resulted in the suppression of indigenous knowledge and practices, leading to a loss of cultural identity and heritage (UNESCO, 2019). However, in the post-colonial era, efforts have been made to decolonize education and promote the transfer of knowledge that is relevant to African contexts. One of the key figures in the field of knowledge transfer and development in education in Africa is Julius Nyerere, the first President of Tanzania. Nyerere was a strong advocate for African socialism and self-reliance, and he championed the development of education as a means to empower the people of Tanzania. He introduced policies such as free primary education and the use of Swahili as the language of instruction, which aimed to make education more accessible and relevant to ordinary Tanzanians (Karim, 2017).

Another influential figure in the field of education in Africa is Wangari Maathai, the Kenyan environmental and political activist who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004. Maathai was a strong proponent of environmental education and sustainable development, believing that knowledge transfer should not only focus on academic subjects but also on practical skills that can help communities thrive in a changing world. Her work with the Green

Belt Movement promoted tree planting and environmental conservation as a means of improving livelihoods and empowering women in rural areas (Karim, 2017). The impact of knowledge transfer and development in education in Africa has been significant, with many positive outcomes such as increased literacy rates, improved access to education, and the promotion of critical thinking skills among students. However, there are also challenges and negative aspects to consider, such as the continued dominance of Western educational models, the lack of funding for education, and the persistence of inequality in access to quality education. Therefore, it is crucial for African countries to continue investing in education and promoting knowledge transfer that is grounded in African cultures and traditions (UNESCO, 2019). This may involve revising curricula to include more local content, training teachers to be culturally sensitive and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all citizens. By embracing diverse perspectives and valuing indigenous knowledge, African countries can build a more inclusive and sustainable education system that meets the needs of all learners.

However, the impact of knowledge transfer in the development of education in Africa is a complex and multifaceted issue that requires a nuanced understanding of historical contexts, key figures, impacts, and future developments. By learning from the past and working towards a more inclusive and culturally relevant education system, African countries can harness the power of knowledge to promote social and economic development for all.

Technology

Knowledge transfer and development in technology in Africa has seen significant advancements in recent years, as the continent strives to harness the power of innovation to drive economic growth and social progress. Africa has faced challenges in accessing and transferring knowledge and technology due to a range of factors such as limited infrastructure, lack of investment in research and development, and brain drain (Potts, 1995). However, in recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the importance of knowledge transfer and technology development in driving sustainable development across the continent. One key figure who has made significant contributions to knowledge transfer and development in technology in Africa is Dr. Calestous Juma, a renowned Kenyan scholar and professor at Harvard University. Dr. Juma has been a vocal advocate for harnessing the potential of innovation and technology to address the challenges facing African countries. Through his research and writings, he has highlighted the importance of investing in education, research, and innovation to drive economic growth and development (Juma, 2016).

The impact of knowledge transfer and development in technology in Africa can be seen in various sectors such as agriculture, healthcare, and energy. For example, mobile technology has revolutionized the way farmers access information on weather patterns, market prices, and farming techniques, leading to increased productivity and income (ADB, 2019). In the healthcare sector, telemedicine has enabled patients in remote areas to access medical services and consultations, improving healthcare outcomes. In the energy sector, the development of renewable energy technologies

has the potential to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and promote sustainable development (World Bank, 2016). Despite the positive impact of knowledge transfer and technology development in Africa, there are also challenges and drawbacks that need to be addressed. One of the key challenges is the digital divide, with many rural and marginalized communities lacking access to basic technology and information. This hinders their ability to benefit from the opportunities that technology can offer. In addition, there is a need to strengthen research and development capacity across the continent to ensure that African countries are at the forefront of technological innovation (World Bank, 2016). Looking ahead, there are several potential future developments related to knowledge transfer and development in technology in Africa. One promising trend is the rise of tech hubs and innovation ecosystems across the continent, such as in Nairobi, Lagos, and Cape Town. These hubs are providing a platform for entrepreneurs, researchers, and innovators to collaborate and drive technological innovation (Juma, 2016). In addition, there is growing interest in leveraging emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, and Internet to address pressing challenges in areas such as healthcare, agriculture, and education. Therefore, knowledge transfer and development in technology in Africa have the potential to drive economic growth, improve social outcomes, and foster sustainable development across the continent. By investing in education, research, and innovation, African countries can harness the power of technology to address pressing challenges and unlock new opportunities for growth and development (World Bank, 2016). It is essential to address the challenges and drawbacks and to foster a supportive ecosystem for innovation to ensure that Africa is at the forefront of technological advancement in the years to come.

Agriculture

The use of knowledge transfer in the development of agriculture is a critical component in ensuring food security, economic growth, and poverty reduction in Africa. The continent has a long history of agricultural practices, with various indigenous methods that have sustained communities for generations. However, with the increasing impact of climate change, population growth, and globalization, there is a pressing need for modern agricultural techniques and knowledge transfer to improve productivity and sustainability. Agriculture has been the backbone of Africa's economy, providing livelihoods for the majority of the population. Traditional farming methods, such as slash-and-burn agriculture and shifting cultivation, have been practiced for centuries and are deeply ingrained in the cultural and social fabric of many communities. However, these methods are no longer sustainable in the face of increasing population pressure, land degradation, and climate change. The need for knowledge transfer and development in agriculture has become even more urgent in recent years as Africa grapples with food insecurity and poverty (ADB, 2016). One key figure in the field of knowledge transfer and development in agriculture in Africa is Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, the President of the African Development Bank. Dr. Adesina has been a strong advocate for agricultural transformation on the continent, emphasizing the importance of technology, innovation, and investment in the sector. Under his leadership, the African Development Bank launched the Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT)

program, which aims to boost agricultural productivity and improve food security through the dissemination of proven agricultural technologies to smallholder farmers. (ADBG, 2016). Dr. Adesina's efforts have garnered international recognition, including the 2017 World Food Prize for his contributions to agricultural development in Africa. Another influential individual in the field of knowledge transfer and development in agriculture in Africa is Professor Ruth Oniang'o, a renowned Kenyan nutritionist and agricultural expert. Professor Oniang'o has dedicated her career to promoting sustainable agriculture, nutrition, and food security in Africa. She is the founder and editor-in-chief of the African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition, and Development (AJFAND), a peer-reviewed journal that aims to promote research and knowledge exchange in the field. Professor Oniang'o has been a vocal advocate for gender equality in agriculture, highlighting the crucial role that women play in food production and household nutrition (Oniang'o, 2017). The impact of knowledge transfer and development in agriculture in Africa has been significant, with notable improvements in productivity, income generation, and food security. The adoption of modern agricultural practices, such as conservation agriculture, agroforestry, and climate-smart agriculture, has enabled smallholder farmers to increase their yields, diversify their crops, and adapt to changing environmental conditions. In addition, the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) has facilitated the dissemination of agricultural information and best practices to remote and underserved communities. However, despite these achievements, there are also challenges and obstacles that need to be addressed in the field of knowledge transfer and development in agriculture in Africa. One major issue is the lack of access to credit, inputs, and markets for smallholder farmers, which hinders their ability to adopt new technologies and increase their productivity. In addition, there is a need for more investment in agricultural research and extension services to ensure that farmers have the knowledge and skills to adopt innovative practices. Furthermore, the impacts of climate change, such as droughts, floods, and pests, pose a significant threat to agricultural production and food security in Africa. Notably, knowledge transfer and development in agriculture are crucial for sustainable development in Africa. By building on traditional knowledge systems and integrating modern technologies and innovations, the continent can enhance agricultural productivity, improve livelihoods, and ensure food security for future generations. Through the efforts of influential individuals such as Dr. Akinwumi Adesina and Professor Ruth Oniang'o, Africa is making strides in transforming its agricultural sector and promoting economic growth (World Bank, 2005). However, there is still much work to be done to address the challenges and gaps in knowledge transfer and development in agriculture and ensure a prosperous and sustainable future for the continent.

Conclusion

The impact of knowledge transfer on sustainable development in African countries is evident in various sectors. In agriculture, for example, the transfer of agricultural technologies has helped to improve crop yields, increase food security, and promote sustainable farming practices. In healthcare, the transfer of medical knowledge

and technologies has led to advancements in disease prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. In education, the transfer of teaching methods and curriculum development has improved access to quality education for African students. Despite these positive impacts, there are also challenges associated with knowledge transfer in African countries. One of the main challenges is the unequal distribution of knowledge and resources, which can create disparities between urban and rural areas, as well as between different socio-economic groups. Additionally, the lack of infrastructure and support systems in some African countries can hinder the effective transfer of knowledge and technologies.

Immigration policy, knowledge transfer, and sustainable development are interconnected pillars that can drive socio-economic progress in African countries. Understanding the historical context, key figures, impact, perspectives, and future developments in these fields is essential for promoting inclusive growth, environmental sustainability, and social justice in the region. By embracing innovation, collaboration, and leadership, African nations can harness the potential of immigration policy and knowledge transfer to achieve sustainable development goals for a brighter future. Foreign immigration policies have a profound impact on African countries, shaping their social, economic, and political landscapes in significant ways. Key figures like Frantz Fanon have highlighted the injustices and inequalities inherent in these policies, calling for a more equitable and humane approach to migration. It is essential for policymakers to consider the complex realities of migration in Africa and develop inclusive and sustainable policies that prioritize the rights and dignity of all individuals. By addressing the root causes of migration and promoting collaboration between countries, it is possible to create a more just and compassionate approach to immigration that benefits both African countries and the global community as a whole.

African migrants and knowledge transfer into African countries have the potential to drive sustainable development and prosperity on the continent. By harnessing the skills, experiences, and resources of African migrants, African countries can overcome challenges and achieve their full potential. It is essential for all stakeholders, including governments, the private sector, civil society, and individuals, to work together to facilitate knowledge transfer and create conducive environments for African migrants to contribute effectively to their home countries' development. Key figures such as Calestous Juma and Akinwumi Adesina have played a crucial role in promoting knowledge transfer and fostering partnerships between Africa and the rest of the world. While there are challenges to overcome, such as unequal distribution and lack of infrastructure, the future of knowledge transfer in African countries looks promising. By investing in Healthcare, education, technology, agriculture and innovation, African countries can harness the power of knowledge transfer to achieve sustainable development and improve the lives of their citizens.

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