THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT POLICY ON THE INTEGRATION AND DEPORTATION OF AFRICAN MIGRANTS

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ABSTRACT
Migration from Africa to Europe and Germany is a complex and controversial phenomenon with major socioeconomic impacts on countries. The phenomenon has reached an unprecedented level at the dawn of the 21st century hitting records globally. Migration in Africa has been preoccupied and shaped by pre-colonial, colonial, and post-colonial eras. The Trans-Atlantic slave trade is a typical example of this which shows the movement of millions of Africans to America and Europe in particular. To migrate means to move from one settlement to the other and this movement is always guided by policies and regulations. The stay of African migrants in Germany has both advantages and disadvantages. German policy on the integration and deportation of African migrants is well outlined and discussed in the work. Evidence shows that the country’s migrant policy comprises a set of rules and regulations that respect humanity and order. The author discussed the key main policies on integration and deportation and propose some recommendations to the German policymakers. This work used a qualitative research method to build a convincing chain of evidence, which entails the exploration of scholarly works such as books, journal articles, newspapers, magazines, etc. However, in this paper, only field notes and secondary data are utilized. Furthermore, theoretical analysis and approaches are also used.

Keywords: Migration, Government, Deportation, Policies, Germany, and Africa.

ABSTRAK

Kata kunci: Migrasi, Pemerintah, Deportasi, Kebijakan, Jerman, dan Afrika.
INTRODUCTION

Migration as a global phenomenon is as old as humankind. It traces its origin far away and people always migrate from one place to the other in search of better living conditions for themselves, their families, and friends. To migrate means to move and it normally takes place when individuals or groups of people moved from a specific boundary to a new settlement. (Castelli, 2018). The United Nations 2018 reports on migration said that the world has witnessed drastic and historic changes in migration at the global level. A statistic in the same report shows that the number of international migrants on the global scale has increased to almost 272 million globally (McAuliffe et al., n.d.). Migration is a significant tool in enhancing the sustainability of EU countries' welfare systems and their economies (Schiestl et al., 2021a). The phenomenon is said to have two forms, regular and irregular (legal & illegal) migration. The movement is a feature of social and economic life across the globe. Its economic impact has been extensively studied and numerous results show that it boosts the country's economy in many ways. The social impact on the other hand deals with the free movement of people and their integration into societies (Migration Policy Debates © OECD Is Migration Good for the Economy? 2014). Migration in the African continent has been preoccupied and shaped by pre-colonial, colonial, and post-colonial eras. The Trans-Atlantic slave trade is a typical example of this which shows the movement of millions of Africans to the wider world in the 16th-19th century (Abebe, 2017a). The European commission’s narration on African migration tells that migration in Africa also used to take place within Africa itself (Migali et al., n.d.). The modern-day migration from Africa to Europe and the west, in general, is more centered on people searching for a greener pasture. Migration, in essence, is said to have impacts on both people and places that they have moved to. It brings about inclusive and sustainable development for both migrants’ country of origin and their countries of destination with proper policy regulations (Nations et al., 1975).

Germany is not only the principal destination and country for immigration in Europe, but its policies and politics have also evolved substantially over the decades. The country has for decades involved itself in accepting migrants all over the world and Africa in particular. Germany has formulated and implemented numerous migrants policies for the integration and deportation of migrants on their land especially those who are not very much vigilant with those policies. According to (Rosenberger et al., n.d.) European societies and Germany, in particular, have been confronted with rapid social and immense cultural transformation, which took on a new magnitude with the long summer of migration in 2015. But later, the perceptions and experiences change due to the rise of conflicts and struggles over collective identities, policy, and legal matters. Due to the increase of international migration in the country and other related issues things like asylum-seeking and deportation also emerged as the order of the day in the country. This became one of the most controversial and politicized topics on
which political parties’ campaigns on. Meanwhile, some political protests were articulated by movements, activists, grassroots organizations, and ordinary citizens within Germany itself. In outlining the article discussion, I will explore the subject or topic entitled *The German policy on the integration and deportation of African migrants* in Germany. The article will explain in detail what the German immigration policies are and also the integration of migrants into their societies. Deportation is also another prominent issue that the researcher has discussed in this work. The work is descriptive, analytical, and argumentative.

**LITERATURE REVIEW**

Countries and their government specialists and many other world experts on migration have currently found an important connection between migration and development. Many modern-day types of research have shown the potential contributions of migrant communities to sustainable development and poverty reduction in their countries of origin and their living societies (Hatzigeorgiou & Lodefalk, 2021). International migration according to Ivan Etzo is a complex phenomenon and it involves the movement of people across different countries around the world (Etzo, 2008). Migration policy, in general, refers to government rules and regulations, decisions, and laws put in place regarding the selection, admission, settlement, integration, and even deportation of foreign citizens living in a particular country. The phenomenon is multidimensional, and this literature review will work to show the different dimensions and areas it entails in general and shall narrow it to German society. To migrate to Germany has three steps and dimensions and these are entry, settlement, and full membership. The entry part has to do with the way and how immigrants from Africa and other parts of the world used to enter Germany. The entry of migrants into Germany normally takes place with the use of airplanes, Sea, and smuggling through the borders of its neighboring countries and many other ways. The Entry part deals with the admission policies too which monitor and regulate the in and out movements of migrants into Germany. The settlement and full membership on the other hand has to do with the proper integration and well documentation of the migrants in the German communities and also how to help them become temporal and permanent citizens of the country (Solano & Huddleston, 2021).

Moreover, Germany is known for migration and its favorability due to its well-performing economy, education system, and greater employment opportunities. People all over the world and Africans in particular want to move to Germany in search of greater opportunities (Brücker et al., 2019a). Research funded by the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa reported that many Africans migrated to Europe and other western countries in the world and Germany to be specific simply because of the rise of the unemployment rate of young educated African youth in the urban areas. The most likely to migrate are young people from the age of 15 to 35 who lack employment
opportunities and access to better livelihoods. Another compelling factor of African migration according to the research is high levels of poverty and low wages in the various African countries (Gregson, 2020). According to Robert C.M. Beyer, migration in Germany has been on the rise in the aftermath of the Global Financial Crisis which took place in the year 2015. After this incident, millions of people came to Germany as asylum seekers, and this has made the country the second most popular migration destination. In Robert’s article, he surveyed the population of migrants in Germany, and it shows that a very high portion of the country’s population is foreign-born. In the year 2013, nearly 10 million foreigners including African migrants lived in Germany and this is about 13 percent of the population (Beyer, 2016).

In a nutshell, this review has examined different scholarly works and has also determined to show how migration from Africa and different parts of the world to Germany has been increasing in number.

**METHOD**

The method used in this paper is a qualitative research method. This research method reveals textual descriptions of migration from Africa to Europe and Germany as a case study. The research method further provides information about German policy on the integration and deportation of African migrants. Qualitative research is narrative and is also said to be a research method that deals with words rather than quantification and these words are later critically and carefully analyzed and examined in research work. In qualitative research, three types of data collections or more are usually made, and these are field notes, audio or video recordings, artworks, and transcripts. But in this paper, only field notes and secondary data are utilized. Theoretical analysis and approaches are also used. In essence, Qualitative research entails the exploration of books, journal articles, newspapers, magazines, and many other academic scholarly works and it is always narrative (Wholebook2021, n.d.).

**The Theoretical Perspective of The Country Study**

Migration is too diverse, complex, and multifaceted to be explained and portrayed by a single theory in academia. This country study uses neoclassical economic theory by W. Arthur Lewis to explain migration. This neoclassical model shall guide the discussion in this study, but more attention will be drowning to the legal instrument of the EU in which Germany is a member. As cited in (Rosenberger et al., n.d.) the model of economic development with an unlimited supply of labor, is an influential model of development in dual economies in which migration plays a crucial role. In critically analyzing the theory one can say that migration has the potential to supply adequate labor and perhaps cheaper labor if it is properly managed and well-considered. Neoclassical economic theorists pointed to wage differences between countries and Germany that ignite migration in large magnitude across the world, especially in the developed countries such as Germany, France, Italy, Austria, and Malta, to mention but
result/discussion

What Are German Migrants’ Policies?

Germany passed a controversial package of bills on June 7th, 2019. The bills intend to bring major changes to the country’s asylum and immigration policy following a hot and fierce debate in parliament as far as migration is concerned. The discussion of this package includes the so-called “Geordnete-Rückkehr-Gesetz” which means an Orderly Return Law. This law package facilitates the deportation of failed asylum seekers in the country, and it also expands related powers of the police and immigration authorities in the country. The policy also includes measures that were put in place to improve access to Germany’s labor market for skillful migrants. This package was later constructively criticized and it brought a lot of controversies especially their legislation on deportation which advanced or promoted countless debates in the parliament. These debates have changed the political landscape of Germany and the country remains divided over migration policies. In the country, the Green party, and the far-left Die Linke party had tried their utmost best to remove the vote on the legislative package, but it was unsuccessful, and they said such legislation has infringed-on asylum seekers’ rights and it should be addressed. This and many other migration policies were significant turning points in Germany’s migration policy. In the year 2020, new regulations were enacted by the German government in response to the 2019 Skilled Immigration Act. The government policy states that to qualify for a visa under the new rules, “applicants must obtain an official recognition of their professional qualification from a certification authority recognized by the German government”. Further, the applicant must meet language competency requirements and obtain a declaration from their prospective employer as needed. The new regulation expands the framework under which qualified professionals from non-EU countries and Africa, in particular, can come to Germany and work (Brücker et al., 2019).

Moreover, the German migrant policy comprises a set of rules and regulations that respect humanity and order. The policies enshrine the significance of granting a foreign skilled worker who in turn will have better access to Germany’s labor market. Besides, Germany’s policy and stand on embracing immigration and its positive view of immigrants were a relatively new phenomenon. According to (Heckmann, 2015) guest workers in the 1950s were viewed as temporary migrants but measures were taken to include them in major state welfare institutions. However, this in the long run was not
regarded as an integration policy but rather as a welfare measure for temporary workers. And this is also intended to protect native workers from wage dumping even after large-scale family reunification which began in the late 1960s and early 1970s. This was a clear sign that shows that immigrants in the German community were not infant temporary. But after the German government refused to recognize immigration as an everlasting phenomenon the government finally took appropriate measures to integrate new arrivals as legislated. The country’s government has undertaken various steps to reform laws about immigration and shape the opinions of the masses in bringing about better integration and management of migrants (Süssmuth, 2009).

**Migrant Integration in German**

Immigration and integration have become a contentious topic in German society for decades now and likewise in many other European countries. Evidence shows that these issues were politicized, and they have also generated myriads of disagreements and misconceptions between major political parties. Hatred and passion were all voiced out in so many political media debates as far as the issues are concerned. According to (Heckmann, 2015). Since the 1990s, immigration and integration have turned to violence by a series of xenophobic and criminal attacks on the residential places of asylum seekers. The integration of African migrants in Germany has become part and parcel of the general immigration policies. This was evident in a lot of academic research works conducted regarding the integration policy of immigrants in Germany and almost each member state of the EU for the last two decades.

Furthermore, many African migrants were integrated into German society through assimilation. The migrants were expected to comport themselves within the society and get accustomed to the tradition and culture and the way of life of the people in German societies. The assimilation of the African migrants was more of conformity and acculturation. In a summary, the integration of migrants in general and African migrants in particular in Germany has different approaches. To name them, you have the multicultural model of the approach to integration, the folk or ethnic model, the assimilationist approach of integration, and above all, the differential exclusionary approach to integration. The multicultural model defines the nation as a political community based on the constitution. It gives the possibility of admitting newcomers into the society and at the same time, accepting cultural diversities, differences, and the formation of ethnic communities. The assimilationist approach is a model that assumes that contact between the minority group of migrants and the dominant culture results in a gradual process of change in the minority group. This gradual process is what is termed conformity and acculturation. Lastly, the folk or ethnic model defines the nation based on ethnicity I mean people of common descent, language, and culture. This advocate for the exclusion of minorities from citizenship and also from the community of the nation. (Relations & Thesis, 2005). Looking at the theoretical perspective of
integration is mainly figured out by the neorealist who argued that the nature of state behavior is what determines the integration of migrants. The neorealist theory attempt to advance auxiliary theories to account for the anomalies created by the EU which represents all its member states including Germany. But the theory on the other hand also failed to make any theoretical renovation and draw any policy implications (Fasani et al., 2018a).

The Challenges of Migration and Integration of African Migrants today in Germany

The modern-day intertwined migration history has created and generated a series of endless challenges for Germany. These challenges are linked to individual types of migration and closer scrutiny shows that they are contradictory. According to (Hess et al., 2016) these challenges can be categorized under two key headings namely, pressures toward liberalization and pressures toward restriction.

On the one hand, there are evidence and compelling arguments advanced for Germany to open for more migrations especially from Africa the reason being, its increasing and looming demographic crisis of an aging and shrinking population. Germany as a country faces employment shortages in key sectors of its economy. These shortages are both in the skilled and unskilled sectors, reflecting the often-observed migration system of the country where labor is recruited to fill those jobs. The data indicates that the old, aged population is either not qualified or unwilling to perform certain jobs. Despite all these increasingly open recruitment regimes, the actual number of high-skilled migrant arriving in Germany remains low. By critically and analytically examining this factor, it is fair to say this trend shall continue to be a pressuring factor partly because of the country’s aging population.

On the other hand, pressures toward liberalization that portrays clear interests towards restrictions are another challenge. The pressure towards restriction is structured around the challenge of integration in the country. This has become particularly acute considering record levels of asylum claims and as well as those who reject Germany's emerging and famous cultural pluralism out of principle. There are persistent and numerous restriction gaps between the population with and without migrations intergrown in areas such as employment, poverty, and education. The country has restricted certain job facilities, education, and permanent residence permit. The fundamental translation of these two broad positions into the country’s policy is complicated simply because they are not aligned with political parties, especially the CDU (Christian Democratic Union of Germany) which cuts across all of these. Thus, its economic wing, on one hand, argues in favor of liberalization, while its social conservative wing on the other hand points to the cultural challenges of integration, and its Christian wing also emphasizes the party's humanitarian obligations and regulations. To sum it up, the challenges faced by the African migrants in Germany are many. Some
find it difficult to be integrated into society because of the language barrier. Many on
the other side are not literate in Deutsch language meaning they cannot read and write,
and they lack certain human skills. Therefore, their integration becomes more and more
complicated and as a result, some ended up being deported especially those irregular
migrants. Meanwhile, the challenges of the African migrants in Germany continue to
revolve around the issue of proper integration as far as their policymakers are concerned
(Eichhorst & Wozny, n.d.).

**Labor Market Integration**

If integration is defined as the chance to pursue dignified and absolute participation
in the core aspects of life in a host country, then the gainful employment of refugees and
migrants may be the most significant and vital factor for their successful integration into
German society. Besides that, employing refugees and migrants in workplaces not only
reduces feelings of alienation and homesickness among them, but also lessens public
transfer payments, increases tax revenues, and helps to alleviate labor shortages in the
country. The integration of migrants into the German labor market has significantly
increased in late 2017. Between October 2017 to 2018, the number of migrants from
Africa and other parts of the world living in Germany grew up by 47%, and some of
them were all employed in different institutions. The integration of some of these
African migrants from the sub-Saharan African countries and West Africa in particular
from countries such as Nigeria, Ghana, Mali, Senegal, The Gambia, and many other
countries has a significant impact on both the host country which is Germany and also
the countries they came from. After some of these migrants and refugees entered the
labor market, they start to help their families back in their home coun-
tries hence their
purpose of traveling was basically to change their life and the economic status of their
families (Schiestl et al., 2021b).

**Participation in Education as a Form of Integration**

Given that formal academic qualifications and German language abilities are an
important necessity for one to have access to higher-skilled jobs and entry into
vocational training programs in schools. Migrants and refugees need to participate in
education to its fullest if possible. About one-third of the asylum seekers who arrived in
2015 and 2016 were under the age of 18 to 20 which means that hundreds of thousands
of the new arrivals the migrants had to be integrated into the school system. Specific
regulations vary between the German states, but migrants and their children are
generally required to have completed nine or 10 years of school or less than that until
they reach the age of 18. Depending on the school they attend, most migrants and
refugee children first take special integration classes that emphasize German-language
education before they participate in regular classes since that will help them
communicate with the native people. There are also special programs provided in the
country that allow adults to go back to school to learn a basic German secondary school diploma called “Hauptschule”. This will help them qualify to embark on vocational training programs in applied trades (Making Migration and Integration Policies Future Ready Making Migration and Integration Policies Future Ready Ministerial and Forum on Migration, n.d.)

The research indicates that only 5 percent of migrants and their children in Germany were not attending school in 2016. This was reported according to the latest available statistics. By looking at this report, it means that integration into the school system seems largely successful if one analyzes and digests the system in quantitative terms. It should be noted, however, that some migrants are too old for their respective grades in the system, and that some are enrolled in lower-level general schools that challenge their mental status. Those with a migrant background are generally underrepresented in university-preparatory schools and upper-secondary vocational schools simply because of their low-level understanding of the Dutch language. Analysts in immigration warn about the segregated and inferior school education for the migrants, because of their limited German language abilities in societies. Despite all these, the German authorities must find ways to speedily transfer migrants and their children from special needs classes to regular classes for them to earn standard education (Fasani et al., 2018b)

Migration from Africa

Migration in Africa involves large numbers of migrants moving both within and from the region through the Mediterranean Sea to Europe. The journey of migration to Europe takes place in two ways and that is regular and irregular way. In the case of regular migration to Germany, migrants seek a visa at the embassies of Germany in the various African countries to come to Germany for different purposes. Irregular migration on the other hand is usually a voyage that migrants used in risking their lives by crossing the Mediterranean Sea with the use of boats from either Libya or Morocco to certain European countries and finally to Germany. Over 21 million African migrants are living in some African countries and millions of others have also migrated to Europe and Germany in search of greener pasture. International migration within the African region has increased significantly in the past 20 years. Since 1990, the number of African migrants who crossed the Mediterranean Sea living outside of the region has more than doubled, with the growth of Europe’s economy. In 2019, most African-born migrants living outside the region were residing in Europe. The statistic shows that 10.6 million are in the European countries such as Germany, France, Italy, and the likes, in Asia 4.6 million, and in Northern America 3.2 million (Abebe, 2017b)

According to (Danson & Soeparna, 2020) 2.5 million immigrants entered Europe from non-EU member countries including African migrants among which are refugees meaning people who flee from war and conflicts while others migrated in search of
better living conditions. The migration of African citizens from their various countries to Europe and Germany is caused by so many factors such as political, economic, and conflicts which bring about instability and discomfort in their own countries. To be precise, the economic aspect of the African migration to Europe is a result of the poor economic system in Africa. The African leaders disappointed their citizens and they failed to provide them with certain economic institutions that will help improve the living conditions of their citizens. Their failure to provide this is one of the reasons that normally compel the youth of the sub-Saharan African countries to migrate to Europe and among them, some find their way and settle in Germany. The political and conflict aspect of migration is usually centered on instability and political confrontation. Some politicians will abandon their countries for Europe because of political differences. The conflict, on the other hand, is caused by ethnic confrontation, tribal war, or political crisis that compels many to abandon Africa for Europe and Germany to be specific.

Migration in Africa is not a zero-sum game where one party loses to the benefit of others. It usually benefits both parties involved because among the African migrants some used to help families at home and the receiving countries do also benefit from the migrants in many ways. Statistics show that between 33% to 55% of African migrants from countries such as Angola, Burundi, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Gambia, and Tanzania are with higher education backgrounds and they impact the lives of many from their countries of origin and their receiving states too. The WHO statistics report that over 20,000 Nigerians and 12,000 South African doctors migrated to Europe and other parts of the World for employment benefits (Kohnert, 2007).

Deportation of African migrants

Despite the late global acknowledgment of Germany being a country of migration, which has been a heated topic of debate throughout the last few decades, with peaks in the late 1980s, the early 1990s, and the mid-2010s, and until recently. Now migration in the country has been marked by an increasing Europeanization of policies concerning asylum and deportation. Policy developments and innovation in this field are thus influenced by academic and political debates and struggle both on the national as well as the supranational level as far as migration is concerned. These controversies and multilevel politics have resulted in an ambiguous mixture of restrictive rules and regulations regarding the integration of migrants, as well as increased possibilities for their residence in Germany. Regulations regarding deportations in the country also show a similar ambivalence. Part of the laws of deportation in Germany is that if a person is sentenced to at least three years in prison he or she must be deported to their country of origin. In Germany, an African migrant with a German family and also with a steady job is likely to face no deportation even after committing a serious crime the person just faces the laws of the country. Moreover, deportation in Germany if we want to trace
how it came about, we must go back to the early 1970s when the economic crisis of the German guest worker's regime came to an end. (Rosenberger et al., n.d.)

**How deportation to Africa happened and its consequences**

Deportation from some European countries such as Germany, Italy, Spain, Netherlands, and other countries normally happens by plane. The initial mobility of the informants is reversed by force in the act of deportation from Germany and other EU countries. A comparison of migrant deportation suggests that the level of force used when deporting African migrants varies. This is partly because the deportations happened at different times and at different moments as the country's ways of the settlement are different. In terms of numbers, the deportations of migrants range from Maria’s deportation in 1995 from the Netherlands alone on a plane with no police escort which also leads to the mass deportations such as those experienced by Pauline who was deported together with some 100 women from Italy in 2003 whom many regarded as sex workers. In most cases, the deportees were taken hand-cuffed onto the plane for safety purposes and after they boarded the plane, they remove their handcuffs. There was little or no physical resistance and fight from the migrants who are on their way to being deported back to their countries. (Ratia & Notermans, 2012). Deportation in Germany happens when the application of asylum seekers is conclusively rejected or in any case when they lose their residence permit in which they are obliged to leave the country until when everything is shorted out. When their asylum application is rejected, the migrants used to receive a deportation order along with a rejection notice from the BAMF. The deportation orders normally are sent as registered letters, and the BAMF (Bundesamt fur Migration und Fluchtlinge) use to know when the letter arrives in your mailbox. And in the case of simple rejection, you are expected to stay in Germany for 30 days, and after you can voluntarily leave or the authority deports you (Bundestag, 1949)

Furthermore, Germany has been the focus of my country's study and is still on the deportation of African migrants especially those from the western part of Africa in countries such as Gambia, Senegal, Mali, Nigeria, Ghana, and the likes. There is massive deportation going on at the moment in Germany of migrants whose stay in the country is not recognized by the country’s immigration policies. There are myriads of African migrants in Germany who are living in fear of deportation because when they are deported, they face difficulties, hardships, tears, and agonies that they go through. The consequences of the deportation of African migrants are always detrimental to the societies in which they live in their various home countries after they are deported. The reason is, that when some are deported, they come home with nothing except the clothes on their body. The money they make, and the investment they do in Germany all go in vain. A case study in my country can be used as evidence for this. In the Gambia, after the deportation of some of the youth, they turned out to become criminals, because many of them are jobless and frustrated looking at their situation when they were in
Europe. Now that they are deported, they have nothing to offer to society especially if they are less educated and have no talent or endowed with any skills that they can use to secure jobs within their new environment. Deportation, in a nutshell, occurs when migrants living in a particular country are not wanted due to reasons known to their government, and with that, they are sent back to their countries of origin, and this is the case in Germany and the African migrants lived in there (44543NCJRSdeportation Laws, n.d.)

CONCLUSION

From 2005 to recent years, Germany found itself in a unique position as far as migration is concerned. The country has a favorable economic circumstance that was influenced by its elites and this brought about necessary changes in their immigration and integration policies. The country has found ways in which it can help integrate migrants from Africa and other parts of the world. This recent research work shows how integration and deportation of African migrants in Germany take place and also how the government dealt with it. In the country study, the following were carefully studied as far as migration to Germany is concerned. Firstly, the work explained the migration policies of the country and the integration of migrants into German society. Secondly, the challenges that the migrants face when it comes to integration in societies and the labor market integration were also explained. Thirdly, the participation of migrants in educational programs was outlined briefly in the paperwork. Moreover, the theoretical perspective on migration and deportation of African migrants is succinctly explained in the work. I finally recommend to the German government to flexible their migration policies for the better integration and adaptation of African migrants in their societies.
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