



***PERSPECTIVES ON MEANING OF PATRIOTISM AMONG NIGERIAN  
POSTGRADUATES AT A PUBLIC UNIVERSITY IN MALAYSIA***

**ONWUBIKO EMEKA CYPRIAN**

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By

**ONWUBIKO EMEKA CYPRIAN**



**Thesis submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in**

**Fulfillment of the Degree of Master of Science**

**September 2011**

## DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to all those Nigerians who are being subjected to untold hardship by the few selfish leaders. God enkindle your presence in their perseverance.



Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science.

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Steven Eric Krauss (@ Abd. Lateef Abdullah) PhD.

Faculty of Educational Studies

Universiti Putra Malaysia.

This study seeks to understand both the meaning and feelings of patriotism among Nigerian students in Diaspora especially those who pursue studies overseas, and to shed light on the rationale behind the mass exodus of young Nigerian students from their homeland. By so doing, to assess the long- and short-term implications of this mass exodus from their country of origin. Qualitative research was employed to understand the perspectives of the respondents through individual in depth interviews. Snowball sampling was used also as the respondents assisted in providing contacts of more useful respondents. Finally, individual in depth interviews were conducted among seven (7) respondents who are post graduate students studying in one of the public higher institution of learning in Malaysia. They represented diverse voices and experiences.

The recent literature clearly demonstrates there is an obvious need to galvanise the many potentials possessed by Nigerian youth who have left their homeland for diaspora especially

for studies. The findings revealed that most Nigerians in Diaspora understand patriotism as giving their all to their home country in terms of loyalty. In addition, the study showed that most Nigerians in diaspora understand patriotism to mean a more constructive allegiance between the country's leaders and its citizens in upholding the ideals of the nation. It also suggests that most respondents are earnestly desirous to participate in the development of their homeland, but that there are lingering negative attitudes and feelings of ambivalence due to the country's leadership failure to harness its immense resources so as to facilitate inclusive participation in the country's development.

Despite the fact that majority of the respondents complained about the leadership failure to galvanise the immense resources in the country and to facilitate avenues for their participation in the country development as the future leaders, throughout the interactive sections with them it indicated their feelings of patriotism have not depreciated. Thus, for them they understood patriotism to mean nonnegotiable loyalty as majority of them desire in future to honour any nation's call to serve their nation as potential human resource capital in different capacities.

Abtrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Sarjana Sains dalam Pembangunan Sumber Manusia

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**Pengerusi:** Steven Eric Krauss (@ Abd.Lateef Abdullah) Ph.D

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Universiti Putra Malaysia

Kajian ini bertujuan menunjukkan bagaimana golongan belia Nigeria yang tinggal di luar tanah air mereka membuat penafsiran mengenai semangat patriotisma terhadap negara mereka. ( Dalam kalangan pelbagai bangsa di seleiruli) mempunyai permintaan tinggi terhadap lebih ramai patriot, terdapat keperluan menggembelng potensi golongan belia Nigeria yang selari dengan beberapa literatus. Dalam kajian ini, pemberi maklumat yang kini tinggall di Malaysia berkongsi perasaan dan pengalaman mereka dengan meluas mengenai isu-isu berkaitan semangat patriotisma.

Temubual mendalam secara individu telah dijalankan terhadap tujuh orang belia Nigeria yang tinggal dan belajar di institusi tinggi awam di Malaysia. Bagi memenuhi keperluan penyelidikan, kami memilih pemberi maklumat yang pandai bercakap dan merupakan warganegara Nigeria yang tinggal di luar tanah air.

Mereka dimaklumkan tenting kepentingan penyelidikan ini kepada negara mereka kerana golongan belia inilah yang bakal menjadi pemimpin pada masa hadapan dan modal insan berpontensi. Persetujuan mereka mengikut taraf etika telah diperolehi.

Penemuan mendedahkan kebanyakan orang Nigeria memahami patriotisma sebagai kesetiaan kepada negara secara menyeluruh. Mereka juga ingin membantu pembangunan negara mereka sebagai pemimpin masa hadapan. Walaupun terdapat banyak aduan tentang kegagalan kepimpinan menggunakan sumber-sumber di negara itu, perasaan patriotisma mereka tidak berkurangan. Tambahan pula, mereka memahami patriotisma bermaksud kesetiaan yang tidak berbelah bahagi dan majoriti daripada mereka mempunyai keinginan pada masa depan untuk berbakti kepada tanah air mereka sebagai sumber modal insan dalam pelbagai bidang.

Tesis ini diserahkan sebagai separa siap Ijazah Sarjana Sains dalam Pembangunan Sumber Manusia.

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As a fellow compatriot, I would also like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the respondents of this study for sharing their knowledge and experiences, the memorable interview sections I had with them were really fulfilling, and I appreciate their openness, trust, mutual respect and articulation on this issue of Diasporas and patriotism to the homeland. Their contribution was invaluable in the findings and conclusion found herein.

To my religious brethren I am grateful beyond words. I was met with hospitality and your prayers have helped me in no small measure.

Special thanks to Professor Azimi bin Hamzah, an erudite scholar and a father figure for his accommodating big heart, guidance and support. To the respected viva colloquium members, thank you for the therapeutic sessions and for being the guidance. Last but not the least; I would like to thank my relatives, colleagues, friends and my well wishers for their love and supports.

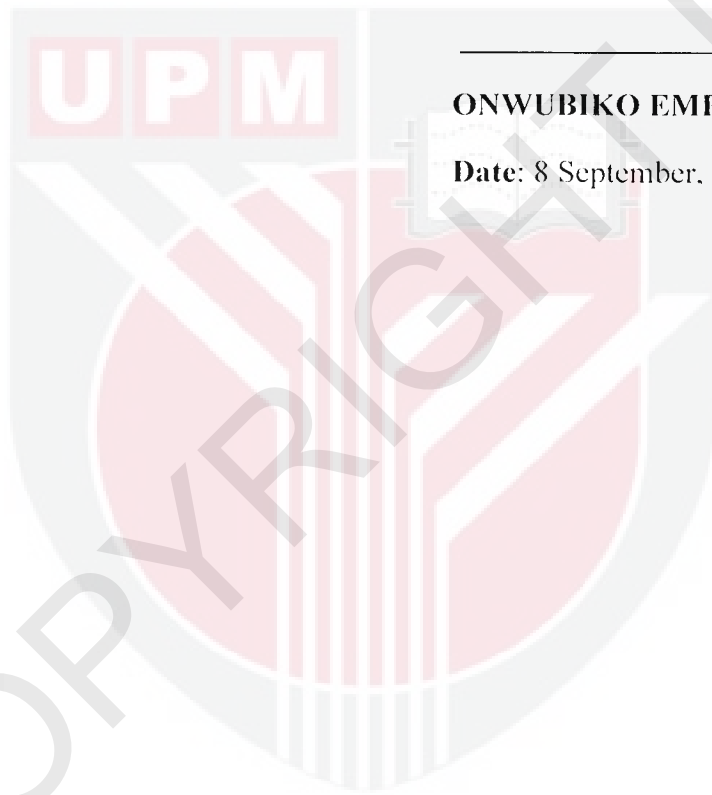
This thesis has been a learning journey for me, one that has been filled with great challenges and great joys.

*Onwubiko Emeka Cyprian*



## DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously, and is not concurrently, submitted for any other degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia or at any other institution.



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**ONWUBIKO EMEKA CYPRIAN**

**Date: 8 September, 2011**



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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AU	African Union
CBN	Central Bank of Nigeria
FGN	Federal Government of Nigeria
GNI	Gross National Income
HURIWA	Human Rights Writers Association
I.O.M	International Organisation for Migration
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NELM	New Economics of Labour Migration
ODA	Official Development Assistance
PRB	Population Reference Bureau
UN	United Nations
UPM	Universiti Putra Malaysia
USA	United State of America
USD	United State Dollar

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### **Background of the Study**

Africa migration is the product of various factors, both economic and political. Without doubt, major problems which have continued to plague the continent and cause her to retrogress, has been identified by several scholars to include unemployment, poor infrastructural development, corruption, indiscipline, poverty, unpatriotic attitudes and mass migration (Meyer and Brown 2009; Tettey, 2002).

This mass exodus of many, from developing countries in African has led to what is now known as the “brain drain syndrome” the mass exodus of professionals to developed countries for means of livelihood“. Virtually everywhere in Africa, several socio-economic reforms are currently being sponsored and implemented by donor and aid agencies, Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and also, by Africans themselves in collaboration with their respective governments, with the intentions of moving the continent forward. The Economic Commission for Africa in 2000 has led the call for Africans in the Diaspora, who are expected to spearhead the continent s reawakening, to retrace their steps and come back home to invest their skills and resources in the development of the continent to demonstrate patriotism. Thus this can be likened to the call for them to be patriotic in responding to the clarion call for development. The purpose of this study is to examine the extent to which young Africans in Diaspora; especially Nigerians in Malaysia perceived patriotism.

Is undoubtedly that Nigeria is endowed with a great deal of resources, (natural and human resources), which any society needs to really transform its people and the nation to the cynosure of all eyes. Nigeria as a nation has more than 250 different ethnic and linguistic

groups, with the major divide running from the north and south, especially in religion and culture. The major ethnic groups include the Hausa-Fulani (north), Yoruba (southwest) and Ibo (southeast) Nigeria land mass is area of 923,768 square kilometers and a population of 140.03 million people in 2006 (NPC, 2008). Currently, Nigeria is among the most populated countries globally. Precisely number tenth most highly populated country in the world and the most populous country in Africa region.

In the immigration Statistics, Nigeria has the majority Diaspora worldwide. Nigerians accounts for 15.15% of Africans population, and 51.66% of the entire Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) (PRB, 2007).The 1991 and 2006 census puts the annual population growth rate as relatively high, and estimated it to be between 2.4% and 2.8%.Also Nigeria is said to have 43%of its population below the age of 15 years, this group can constitutes potential migrant (PRB, 2007). Since, young people represent the vulnerable group subject of this country that is yet to develop because of the many limitations ranging from their vulnerable age; they can be easily subjected to pressures, disillusion and frustration, which can lead to migration.

The term “diaspora” is from the root Greek etymology “diaspeirei” which connotes dispersionof needs (Karim, 2003). Therefore, Diaspora (migrants) can be referred to settlers outside their home country. According to Safran (1991), diaspora is used as metaphoric designations for several categories of people for example: expatriates, expellees, political refugees, alien residents, immigrants and the ethnic or racial minorities. In Africa generally, especially in Nigeria this can be construed as migration from the African countries to the Western countries, Asia and others stemming for myriad of reasons. In the light of this, Legwaila (2006), predicts that there will be increasing in migratory pressure and is expected to intensify in the coming decades. Another reason for migration is: the increasing gap in wages of developed and developing countries, and their different age group distributions. In

USA alone, about 7,892 Nigerians were said to be admitted (IOM, 2005). The socio-economic and political instability in Nigeria has been linked to exacerbate the migration of young Nigerians. Africa has exceeded Asia as the world region with the majority of refugees that are stranded outside their home countries (Donald, 2006). Most Nigerian youths especially those in the rural area remain poor, three out of every four live on less than US \$2 per day, lacking the resources and skills to be competitive, hence they look for ways to travel to other countries for better educations or to secure menial jobs (World Bank, 2009).

In recent times, Nigerian migrants or diaspora organisations have made efforts to organise themselves to have a common front, to audit the skills of their fellow citizens in Europe, united state of America, as well as in other countries abroad (Adepoju, 2000). Nigerians living abroad have contributed with powerful intellectual and financial might to their homeland. Even during and after conflicts, the Nigerians in diaspora have been in the forefront of events in their homeland. However, they can play more important roles in the development of their county, if adequate resources are made available to them, in order to positively influence the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) diaspora, (2006).

As the United Nations Security Council s Global Policy Forum states that, Nigeria, is the most populated country in Africa, it s also one of the best endowed in terms of natural resources. Yet, its people are among the poorest in the world. As is the case with many oil-rich developing countries, oil reserves have brought about mixture of blessings, and a curse for Nigeria. The oil industry has expanded in Nigeria, at the expense of other previously important production sectors such as; agriculture and manufacturing, either by choice or default, in 1960, Nigeria got her independence from the British. But the creation of regions by the British colonialist has created regional imbalances and an increasingly unequal distribution of wealth, between different sectors of society, deepening the potential for

conflict in this complex multi-ethnic nation. It is pertinent to know that in spite of the great potential and all the resources that the country has, the situation in Nigeria shows clearly that Nigerians suffer from extreme poverty. From 1980 to 2000, per capita income fell. In 2004, GNI per capita stood at US \$400, lower than the US \$510 average for all low-income countries. Also in the same year, life expectancy at birth was 45 years against a 58 years average for low income countries. Approximately 90 million Nigerians are believed to be living in absolute poverty, on less than one dollar a day. Meaning that there are a lot of unused, or idle resources in the economy which could have been used to transform the society in general, and change it for better, but majority of her citizens are wallowing in abject poverty especially in the rural areas (Maduagwu, 2007; Aigbokhan, 2000).

The low standard of living of the nation, has been one of the major barriers to enterprising youths in Nigeria, whose contributions to national development cannot be realised and are being marginalised, in government activities because of the deplorable condition in the country (Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN; Annual Report). As these barriers persist, there is increase in mass exodus to other countries, and desperate measures are taken by Nigerian youths to escape destitution from a continent devastated by bad governance, lack of skill and quality education, distress, unemployment, economic and psychological poverty and political instability (Borjas, Bronars, and Trejo 1990; Bowles 1970; Mills and Hazarika, 2001). Several notable governments in Africa like Nigeria, Ghana, and South Africa have facilitated homecoming programmes for their citizens in Diaspora, which is used by the governments as a mechanism to woo citizens to have a sense of belonging to their home countries (Federal Government of Nigeria, 2004).



## Population

In Nigeria, youths are the largest group, the total population of those categorised as youths in Nigeria was estimated to be around 28 million in 2000. This represents over 70% of all youths and adolescents of the ages 15-34. Forty-four percent (44%) of these are males, while fifty-six percent (56%) are females (National Population Commission, 1991; Analytical Report at the National Level Abuja, 1998). The youths see little hope for the future through education or sustainable employment. It is imperative to note that Nigeria has enormous unfulfilled needs for services such as education, health and caring for youth s welfare. This has brought about an increase in the number of Nigerian youths migrating. They move away from their homeland because of many of the needs and services they required are unmet (Human Development Report, 2005).

Most of these Africans in diaspora, especially those from Nigeria, came from the poorest parts of the country with little or no opportunity to finding source of livelihood. This can be clearly seen because in most cases, they have to send funds to their families back home to contribute their quota in the development of the local economy. However, when highly qualified young Nigerians leave the country many do not want to go back, therefore the investment made by the developing country like Nigeria, in their higher education is as good as been lost. These contribute to the unmet needs in the country, which could be addressed if they are made to participate in the developmental programs of their country. This will enable them to connect to the society, channeling their energies for constructive tasks, enhancing self-esteem, patriotism, confidence, and improving their service and leadership skills.

In the same light, the researcher attempts to understand the extent to which Nigerians in Diaspora are patriotic, and how they pay allegiance to their country. Studying Patriotism is important because it will educate us more on how the young migrant groups retain, construct,

rebuild ties, and are being patriotic to their home country. Patriotism is important in the lives of the youths today for several reasons. Some reasons that serve as the rationale behind this study is that, the Nigerian youths of today will inherit the nation tomorrow, and they are also human capital for the country. If youths do not become involved in making their nation better, they may not receive a nation worth inheriting. Thus, the nation built by today's youths will be the nation they will pass as a legacy to their unborn children. If young Nigerians in Diaspora desire to have a transformed Nigeria, the responsibility lays on them to protect, defend and support their country's greatness, and work to make her better. Other reasons are that the youths of today owe a debt, to the heroes of past who sacrificed, worked hard, and even died to build their homeland. Another reason is to keep faith with those who have gone before and upon whose toil and sacrifices the nation was built. Nigerian youths in Diaspora need to show patriotism. Therefore, in this study Patriotism is a love for one's country, and a desire to make her better. Other similar meaning of patriotism by several scholars that support this study is by Conover and Feldman (1987), according to them, there is common consensus on the meaning of patriotism as, a deeply felt affective attachment to the nation. Also, Kosterman and Feshbach (1989) stated that patriotism is the degree of love for, and pride in one's nation.

### **Problem Statement**

The underlying principle of understanding patriotism among Nigerian youths in Malaysia does not only have relevance to Nigeria but also to all developing nations undergoing processes of migration. Understanding patriotism among those in Diaspora is to establish a cogent link between the nation and citizenry through identity construction, which is the core creed of patriotism (Oji, 2006). Any given nation that has made human resource (human capital) a critical means not just of economic growth but it's very survival, understands the interface between migration, national identity, and patriotism is instructive. Hence,

understanding patriotism among diasporas is an attempt to illuminate and minimise the negative impressions of migration (unpatriotic attitudes, brain-drain, saboteur, anti-behaviours) while maximizing the importance of developing patriotism, identity, and citizenship.

There is no consensus on the definite numbers of young Nigerians in Diaspora because of a lack of documentation. More recent reports by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP, 2009), estimated about 1.13 million Nigerians were living in other countries in 2010. This indicates the propensity at which Nigerian youths migrate to foreign countries.

Nigerian youths have great aspirations and expectations as well as an overwhelming frustration with the slow and ineffective manner with which the Nigerian leadership (past and present), whom they look up to in anticipation of good dividends of stewardship, has mishandled the actualization of their aspirations, especially in the rural areas (Udo, 1993; Afolayan, 1998, 2004; Awaritefe, 2000). Suffice to say that Nigerian youths have experienced a profound crisis of rising expectations amidst an unfriendly and oppressive socioeconomic and political environment engendered by prolonged military rule and corrupt civilian regimes.

In a report by the International Organization for Migration (I.O.M, 2005), differentiates youths who travel for various reasons into two strata: (1) those who migrate on their own volition, leaving for study, work or to join their families; and (2) others who migrate because of repression or natural disaster. Both strata have a common motive, that is, to improve their

situation. In addition to the aforementioned motives, a significant push and pull factor influencing decisions to migrate to foreign countries is an oppressive socioeconomic environment in their own countries. Many youths that have little or no probability of employment or opportunities for a good education, migrate to the said “promised lands” to make ends meet. The current rate of mass exodus amongst Nigerian youth abroad is alarming, and has generated a wide range of problems (Adepoju, 1998).

In recent years, there have been increasing efforts by some Nigerians to acquire higher education overseas and prepare themselves as future leaders. This is verified by several studies, Conover and Feldman,(1987); Kosterman and Feshbach, (1989), which affirm that feelings of patriotism among diaspora play a pivotal role in wooing citizens to channel the weight of their human resources – such as skills, expertise, remittances and knowledge – to their homeland combined with a desire to see their homeland progress as a whole. Such feelings of patriotism for their homeland also allow them to take pride in their actions and any decisions they make in Diaspora that will affect their homeland (Conover and Feldman, 1987; Kosterman and Feshbach, 1989). This implies that without patriotism citizens living in Diaspora will develop a nonchalant attitude which will definitely impede any developmental benefits for the home land (Conover and Feldman, 1987; Kosterman and Feshbach, 1989).

Little is known about the extent of patriotism among Nigerian youths towards their country. If the most talented young Nigerians are pursuing their studies overseas to be better prepared to take on leadership tasks in their home country, this study attempts to understand the meaning of patriotism among them specifically, among a group of students who are studying in one of the public tertiary schools in Malaysia. In other words, the questions that this study

seeks to answer are: What do Nigerians in diaspora understand by being patriotic to their country of origin? And, how do their feelings impact on their leadership roles in future? Thus, whether Nigerians living abroad would be willing to participate in development processes in their home country is open to question as it depends on the circumstances which compelled particular members of the diaspora community to migrate it.

In summary, therefore, the purpose of this study is to understand the meaning and feelings of patriotism among Nigerian postgraduate students in one of the public universities in Malaysia. In addition, the rationale behind this study is to assess the implications of the mass exodus of young Nigerians and tie it to our present understanding of patriotism. To achieve this, the study seeks to provide insights by filling in knowledge gaps on the perception of patriotism by Nigerian youth through the respondents' respective understanding and experiences.

### **Research Questions**

This study employed a qualitative research approach to understand the lived experience of Nigerian students, the meaning, and feelings of patriotism among Nigerian youths studying in Malaysia. Therefore, the research questions that guided this study are:

1. What is the meaning of patriotism for Nigerian youths studying overseas?
2. What contributes to their sense of patriotism?
3. How will their current feelings shape their future roles as leaders in the country?

## Significance of the Study

This study is of great significant because it illumined on some issues like of the migration of young Nigerians to other countries. In the human index development, there are many obvious reasons for this mass departure such as; education, disaster, health, and other reasons (World Bank, 2009). There can also be a reverse causation which is obvious that less advantaged migrants move to richer places with more opportunities, however, this study is not implying that only economic opportunities explain all the reasons why people migrate, but they obviously do explain more. While the increase migration of young Nigerian citizens is becoming more evident, it is important to know, how this phenomena is impacting the feelings of patriotism for the country. Also it will help future leaders, and nation builders in their decision making that has to do with emigration because, because not much research has been done on this in Nigeria, and this study showed how the issue of Nigerians in diaspora is often underrepresented in the mainstream scholarly discourse. This study therefore, is significant as it seeks to understand the meaning of patriotism among young Nigerians in diaspora for their country, as well as to document their views.

Another notable significance of this study is that it will give Nigerians a better understanding of the feelings of Nigerians abroad (be it constructive or unconstructive), and hopefully, it will assist in the future decision-making by all interested parties, specifically on the policies that directly affect youths in Nigeria. Moreover, the importance of this study is to further promote an understanding of the diasporas feelings, and how it can influence governments policies, and get governments support to turn brain drain into brain gain, and provide an environment that encourages world-class professionals to remain in Nigerian or to invest in Nigeria. Thus, this study has immense significance because, conducting research on why people migrate, and the extent of their patriotism to their homeland will be the first bold step to understand their feelings of patriotism.

This study is also significant in the field of Social Sciences, specifically Human Resource Development, since citizens are human capital of a country, understanding their level of patriotism to their country will foster development in all facets of the nation's life (Oji, 2006). The study also attempts to bring out relevant recommendations, which if adopted will shed more light on lived experiences of Nigerians in Malaysia, as it pertains patriotism, as well as to open new areas for further research and implementation, if only the attention of policy makers, researchers and those who execute policies in the nation are drawn from the outcome.

The conclusions of the study may result in a more comprehensive understanding of what a country needs to consider, and how to better serve Nigerians in Diaspora through support, and other incentives. The findings may also be utilised to explore institutional practices that encourage patriotism among youths especially in Nigeria. But, it does not claim to be all encompassing.

Above all, the experiences that were recorded in this study shed more light, on some important issues, such as; the role of human resource development in emigration, what are the implications in the career development and the country development if citizens are patriotic or not? This study will significantly contribute in these aspects.

### **Scope of the Study**

The scope of this study identifies the boundaries of the study in term of subjects, objectives, technique, area, and the issues to which the study focused. This study focuses on understanding the meaning of patriotism among Nigerian youths in Malaysia. The study employed the use of qualitative methodology in arriving at the conclusion. The population of

Nigerian students provided by the information desk of international office, in 2010 period is approximately 135, among this figure eleven (11) are females while, one hundred and twenty-four (124) are males (Universiti Putra Malaysia International Office, 2010). Both post graduate and undergraduate students within the school were targeted for this study because, the respondents basically consist of students. Seven students participated in this study.

The study looked at the issues of migration, and patriotism by Nigerian citizens extensively, covering other issues like; leadership, development of youths target groups, and themes were generated from respondents in a great variety of ways. In practice this meant that not only did the study sought to understand the feelings of patriotism by the respondents, but it went further to seek for answers about what will be their roles as the future leaders, or better still as prospective human resources, to the development of their country.

As specified in the introduction and the literature review sections, studies has shown that most migrants would choose to stay in their home countries if they could earn a living, and work in a safe environment, with better access to jobs, education and free access to basic amenities (Borjas, Bronars, and Trejo 1990; Bowles, 1970; Mills and Hazarika, 2001). On the whole, humans move to improve their quality of life. Priorities differ depending on their satisfied or unsatisfied needs. Maslow (1943), states that humans hierarchy of needs and motivation underscore why people decide to migrate to meet their unmet needs. Although there are other reasons that can cause migration. Hence, this study highlight on those issues according to the experiences of the respondents.



## **Limitations of the study**

Finance was one of the constraints that served as the limitation of this study, as it was a self-financed project. As such, it was not possible to conduct a wider research inclusive of Nigerian diaspora from other universities in Malaysia. Despite this limitation, the validity of the findings was still attained through data saturation. The full details of the methods used in the study are provided in Chapter 3. In addition, there was occasionally a poor connection during some of the long distance telephone calls, making it hard to arrange appointments with some of the interviewees who are living distance far from the school location. As a fellow Nigerian, avoiding personal 'bias and subjectivity' (Cohen, 1997, 184) in relation to what should or should not be presented in the thesis was difficult. However, the data finally arrived at, I believe, were representative of what I saw, heard and noted. I have biases and perspectives which I brought to the study. Efforts (especially through the method of bracketing) were made to abate my personal views on these issues throughout the interview sessions. I tried to maintain neutrality by acknowledging my understanding, relevance and bias on the issues being studied, but I was careful not to impose my views and opinions in the discussion. Regardless of these efforts, when working in this subjective field, personal values may be reflected in the research. This research employed a small sample size, generating insight about the dynamics of particular cases. They cannot, however, make claims about the generalisability across the entire Nigerians diaspora population.

Furthermore, research like this is characterised by multiple realities and complex social processes that involve the negotiation of meaning making among respondents, including the researcher, thus data cannot not be adjudged by statistical processes.

In conclusion, there were several limitations related to the identification of the sample. A notable constraint was that the collection of the study data was done during the students'

examination period, when the semester break was approaching, and most of the students were difficult to locate. Despite the timing of the data collection, most of the students approached for inclusion in the study agreed. Since this phenomenon has not been well-researched in relation to Nigeria, most references were based on studies conducted in other countries. All the respondents in the study were from one public university in Malaysia, thus, generalization to other respondents with the same criteria should be made with caution.

### **Definitions of Key Terms**

This section defined several common terms used in this study, and its objective is to define these words as they relate to the context of this study. These key words serve to provide a context for the current study and are defined according to their application to this study. It will also explain some of the amorphous terms used in the thesis, in addition to some other important key terms that are derived from local languages.

- 1. Youths:** in this study is defined as according to the National Youth Policy & Strategic Plan of Action (2001), which defined youths in relation to the objective conditions, and realities that exist on persons of ages 18 to 35, who are citizens of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. This group represents the most active, the most volatile, and yet the most vulnerable segment of the population socio-economically, emotionally, and in other respects.
- 2. Patriotism:** in this study is construed in the light of the common notion that, it concerns the love for one's country and the readiness to defend it. Indeed this readiness for action is the loyalty that most researchers find to be patriotism's most significant quality. It is this loyalty that keeps social power as an essential force in our world (Oldenquist, 1982). These social loyalties of ours are stronger than

many other moral ideas, and no wonder that due to their existence we may be willing to sacrifice and donate beyond any calculated logic (Oldenquist, 1982).

**3. Diaspora:** in this study refers to the populations who travelled outside their country for economic and skill acquisition, like education and training. The concept of diaspora has more recently been enlarged, they are diverse in nature, shaped by the reasons for migration, the scale, timing, geography of flow, and how they interact with social, political, economic, cultural, and environmental conditions in destination regions, how they were received in their new host country, and how they view their original homeland and its culture. Robin, (1997), categories diasporas in to five as follows:

- a. Victim diasporas (e.g., populations forced into exile, such as; the Jewish, African, Armenian diasporas);
- b. Labour diasporas (e.g., mass migration in search of work, skill and economic opportunities, such as; the Indian and Turkish diasporas);
- c. Trade diasporas (e.g., migrations seeking to open trade routes and links such as; the Chinese and Lebanese diasporas);
- d. Imperial diasporas (e.g., migration among those keen to serve and maintain empires such as; the British and French diasporas);
- e. Cultural diasporas (e.g., those who move through a process of chain migration such as; the Caribbean diasporas).

**4. Migration:** for the purpose of this study, migration is simply the spatial mobility or geographic mobility of population that involves a change of usual place of residence (VanWalle, 1982), or better still, migration is the process of changing residence from one

place to another, on a permanent or temporary basis (Kliot, 2004). Though, there are other categories of international migration: studies (post-graduates/undergraduate); permanent settlers; labour (unskilled/semi-skilled, highly educated/skilled professional transients) undocumented, illegal or clandestine; and refuge asylum seekers. (VanWalle, 1982).

5. **Homeland:** in this study homeland means an ancestral land for which one holds feelings of nostalgia and longing.

Lastly, Chapter One has introduced the study, established its objective, and provided the background. While the following Chapter Two discusses relevant literature related to diaspora, patriotism, and how this literature answers the research questions and identifies gaps. On the methodology angle, Chapter Three explains the research design, methods, and analysis I used to conduct an individual in-depth interview. It also discusses research validity and issues related ethical consideration. The next Chapter Four presents the data, noting discussion, descriptions, themes, discoveries, and impressions of patriotism among Nigerian students in this study. Chapter Five summarises the findings consider implications for the meaning of patriotism, among Nigerian students, and the conclusion

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