

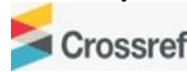
Social Reintegration and Life Satisfaction among Uganda Migrant Worker Returnees from Middle East

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Abstract

Purpose: The current study was undertaken to establish the contribution of social reintegration and life satisfaction of Ugandan migrant worker returnees from Middle East. Its objectives main objective was to analyse the influence of social reintegration on life satisfaction among Uganda migrant worker returnees from Middle East.

Materials and Methods: In an effort to address the set objectives, a cross-sectional survey design which followed both quantitative and qualitative research approaches was adopted. Data was collected from a total quantitative sample of 218 Ugandan migrant worker returnees from Middle East. A qualitative sample of 25 managers of registered labour export companies and ministry officials in Uganda was determined by saturation point approach. The data was analysed at descriptive and inferential level. Quantitative and qualitative research were used because they are complementary methods that work well together to provide insights that are both deep and wide. The key references in the study are by (Nimkar, R., Savage, E., Tesfalidet, I., & Adugna, G. (2020)) who revealed that that having a safe, satisfactory and affordable place to live is critical to successful reintegration.

Findings: The study findings show a poor life satisfaction amongst the respondent Ugandan migrant worker returnees (Mean = 2.63, SD = 1.53). Such poor life satisfaction were in

terms of the returnees not being self-sufficient upon returning, poor intention to return guided by achieving the migration objectives, life not being close to ideal in several ways and rarely having a safe, satisfactory and affordable place to live. The respondents also reported not satisfied with their well-being, with life conditions of poor and rarely secure a means of livelihood. The respondents equally reported rarely holding a stock of incomes alongside the savings and to date not getting the basic things needed in life. The study concluded that that sufficient evidence demonstrates a significant relationship exists between social reintegration and life satisfaction among Uganda migrant worker returnees from Middle East. These results shows that the more the social reintegration, the better the level of life satisfaction among Uganda migrant worker returnees from Middle East and vice versa.

Implications to Theory, Practice and Policy: Finally, the policy makers at the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social development need develop a well-informed local understandable framework and strategy for assessment of performance of government and external labour recruitment organisations in as far as migrant reintegration programmes are concerned for enhanced social reintegration.

Keywords: *Social Reintegration, Life Satisfaction, Migrant Worker Returnees, Programs*

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Returning more and more migrants with irregular status to their countries of origin has become a key European Union aim in efforts to reduce chaotic and dangerous migration flows (Bobić, M., & Šantić, D. (2020). The 2016 partnership framework with third countries attempts to enhance cooperation with partner countries on readmission, using a wide range of positive and negative policy incentives (Jumbert, M. G., Schweers, J., Tjønn, M. H., & Ike, N. (2022). To make the return option more attractive for migrants with irregular status, the EU's return policy promotes voluntary returns through reintegration assistance packages (Crane, A., & Lawson, V. (2020). No less than 90 specific assisted voluntary return and reintegration programmes (AVRR) have been established by EU Member States, co- financed by the European Union, and implemented mainly by the International Organization on Migration (IOM). Maximising sustainable returns, understood not only as absence of re-emigration, but also as a returnee's positive impact on the development of their communities of origin, is a key challenge (Ianioglo, A., Tabac, T., Pahomii, I., Ceban, A., & Onofrei, N., 2021). The nature of return chosen, and the success of economic and social integration of migrants in host countries, is the main factors of successful reintegration at the pre-departure stage, together with social and psychological counseling in preparing the reintegration project (Wickramasekara, P., 2020). Following arrival, training and in-kind assistance to start up a business, accompanied by measures to re-establish social networks, are what works best (Vollmer, R. (2023). Working in collaboration with local partners is obligatory to include reintegration support within existing development initiatives, to evade duplication, umbrage against returnees, and to respond to local needs.

East African countries like many other countries have a long history of labour migration within East Africa and also externally with other countries outside the region (Amasi, A., Wynants, M., Blake, W., & Mtei, K. (2021). Penetration of foreigners to East African countries has been long and this sparked movement of labour within East African countries (Southall, A. W. 2023). In East Africa, people have moved within and without the region for various reasons but the paramount reason is for labour purpose and cooperation within the East African countries has been quite long and extensive (Alpers, E. A. (2023). Labour movement has been prompted in many East African areas, recorded for work in plantations such as in (cotton and coffee areas in Uganda), mines (DRC and Uganda) and with the seasons (pastoralist communities in Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya) (Enns, C., & Bersaglio, B. (2020). In the colonial era, labour migration originated mainly from Rwanda, Burundi and Zaire to Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania (Mutinda, S. (2021). These movements have been supplemented by substantial forced displacement-- Kenya for railway building and Tanzania to work in sisal estates and plantations and there is also increased rural-urban migration within countries for employment or to earn a livelihood (Christopher, A. J. (2023). However, the levels of international migration have been generally low, except of recent when there is increased labour migration to the Middle East.

The global time trends however showed migrants as characterized by generally lower levels of life satisfaction among them compared to the majority group (Morawa, E., Brand, T., Dragano, N., Jöckel, K. H., Moebus, S., & Erim, Y, 2020). For more than two decades ago migrants report different levels of life satisfaction after compared to before migration, depending on their preferences to stay short-term, temporarily or not at all (Hendriks, M., & Burger, M. J. ,2021). The reasons for lower levels of life satisfaction are found in both migration specific factors as well as contextual host society effects (Morawa, E., Brand, T., Dragano, N., Jöckel, K. H., Moebus, S., & Erim, Y, 2020) and the existing data shows that there are large differences across countries in terms of life satisfaction among returnee migrant workers. Recent figures as of the year 2020 show better life satisfaction levels mostly in Nordic countries averaging above seven but with much lower national scores in African countries (Blanchflower, D. G., & Bryson, A. ,2023), like Central African Republic, South

Sudan, Tanzania and Rwanda and Haiti with average scores below 3.5. In Uganda, evidence tracking the returnee migrant workers on the life satisfaction still remains scanty and thus the current study. The most important principles of Ugandan government is to ensure there is a diversified portfolio of programs (Twinomujuni, R., Mawa, M., Musoke, H. B., & Rukanyangira, N., 2022) and the capability of differentiating the programs but without compromising on the Quality in order to gain the trust of migrant workers and be able to provide life satisfaction to migrant returnees.

Problem statement

Ugandans are increasingly migrating to neighboring countries and beyond for economic reasons Tumwesigye, S., Hemerijckx, L. M., Opio, A., Poesen, J., Vanmaercke, M., Twongyirwe, R., & Van Rompaey, A. (2021). While Ugandans have a long history of migrating to the United Kingdom, Europe and the United States for employment, in recent years there has been a growing trend of migrating to the Middle East (Capps, R., McCabe, K., & Fix, M. (2011). In introducing social reintegration through Family Relations, Community Relations, access to social networks, psychological and emotional well being it was deemed that when implemented through government respective private agencies, it would enhance the life satisfaction of migrant worker returnees in Uganda (Uganda Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development (MGLSD), annual report, 2022).

However, life satisfaction of migrant workers increased by only 10 % (from 45% to 55 %) instead of the desired 55 % raise (from 45% to 100%) leaving a big crevice of 45% not achieved (Uganda Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development (MGLSD), annual report, 2023). This is despite other interventions by Uganda through the several policies dealing with labour migration and some are in process of being formulated (Mulumba, D., & Olema, W. M. (2009). This may be attributed to Career and social status of returnees, financial status, physical health and community support.

However, there has also remained complaints on the number of structural and circumstantial challenges that can prevent the social reintegration of labour migrants and refugees (Vasquez Sosa, A. C., 2023). Some are inherent to the migration or displacement experience (Cabot, H., & Ramsay, G. , 2021). This seems to signify the migrant worker returnees are not experiencing life satisfaction as was expected. The unmet levels of life satisfaction leave a performance gap in terms of the existing social reintegration levels which the current study sought to fill.

Theoretical Framework

Dominant migration theories postulate opposing views on return migration and also on the reintegration of returnees to their home country. The four major theories of return migration are the neo-classical theory of labour migration, the new economics of labor migration theory, structural theory, and transnational theory (Setrana & Tonah, 2014). To return is considered to have failed under the neoclassical migration theory, while it is considered a success in the new economics of labor migration theory (Constant, A. F. ,2020). The first theory bases its argument on the assumption that migrants are rational beings who maximize their benefit. Accordingly, for neo-classical theorists, migration is initiated because of wage differentials (Bhagat, R. B. (2020). According to this theory, migrants want to move to the country of immigration as long as there exists an international wage differential; hence, return migrants are considered a failure if they return to their place of origin. Within this framework, migrants return home if they fail to derive the expected benefit of higher earnings at the destination (Wahba, J. (2022). On the other hand, the new economics of labor migration theory views migration as a household strategy to overcome financial constraints in the immigrant's home country (Gröger, A. (2021). According to this theory, return happens when the migrant household's financial goal is

achieved. Return in this case shows that the migration of objectives have been achieved (success), rather than failure (Cuttitta, P., 2020). Based on a large survey of Moroccan migrants across Europe, Caron, L. (2020), analyze whether return is the result of a failed migration experience or because the migrant has achieved their migration objectives, as outlined by neo-classical and new economics of labor migration theories. They conclude that no one theory explains all return cases. Rather, each of the theories provides a partial view of the intention of return migrants. Constant, A. F. (2021) reach a similar conclusion. Major criticism of neo-classical and new economics of labor migration theories and the reason for return under these theories is that both focus only on the economic motivation of the returnees (Rahman, M. H., Karim Bakshi, R., & Kamruzzaman, M., 2020) and moreover, how the returnees use the economic resources accumulated from migration and the reintegration of returnees in the home country are not discussed within these frameworks.

Purpose of the Study

The study is aimed at investigating the impact of social reintegration on life satisfaction of the Uganda migrant worker returnees from Middle East.

Specific Objective

To analyze the influence of social reintegration on life satisfaction among Uganda migrant worker returnees from Middle East

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

Nimkar, R., Savage, E., Tesfalidet, I., & Adugna, G. (2020) in the study in Emigration Dynamics in Developing Countries reported that having a safe, satisfactory and affordable place to live is critical to successful reintegration. To Nimkar, R., et al. (2020). however, needs, realities and expectations related to housing vary among returnees and are specific to the context of return. Identifying and securing available and affordable housing for returnees can be challenging –especially when it comes to securing long-term options (Rosenberg, A., Keene, D. E., Schlesinger, P., Groves, A. K., & Blankenship, K. M. ,2021). The authors pointed that housing (whether in the long- or short-term) can include: private rental accommodation; staying in hotels, guesthouses or hostels; living with family, friends or members of the community; or accessing private housing. In support Galván Reyes, J., Casanova Rodas, L., Saavedra Solano, N., Alanís Navarro, S., & Berenzon Gorn, S. (2023) indicated that that supporting returnees to find suitable accommodation can be contingent on word-of-mouth or informal relationships between case managers and service organizations, and the surrounding community which can lead to successful reintegration of migrant returnees and further enhance life satisfaction. The reviewed studies however remain silent on the social reintegration supports to the notion of life satisfaction amongst returnees thus a knowledge gap.

Leerkes, A., & Van Houte, M. (2020), suggested that all returnees needed to be able to access protection given by legal status (most notably citizenship) and associated identity documents. The authors argued that identity documents are critical for enjoying many basic rights and services, increasing freedom of movement and subsequent autonomy and which can enable individuals to participate in the labour market. Leerkes, A., & Van Houte, M. (2020) further noted that ensuring documentation is accounted for in reintegration plans as an essential task that can lead to the returnees' life satisfaction. In support Caldwell (2013) reported that returnees might need to access the following public services and social protection schemes to facilitate their life satisfaction when back home. Caldwell specifically pointed out social security, pensions or old age assistance, State-supported health insurance or disability insurance options as key to life satisfaction. Caldwell pointed out that even when countries of return offer formal public support services and social protection programmes,

returnees are not always aware of those services. Methodological gaps exist in the reviewed studies as they are only suggestions without empirical investigations on how they relate which the current study will attempt to address.

Bilsborrow, Oberai, and Standing (2016) while carrying Migration Surveys in Low-Income Countries opined that ensuring that returnees have access to suitable schools or educational opportunities is essential during reintegration. The authors Bilsborrow, Oberai, and Standing (2016) indicated that education acts as a protective mechanism. It builds resilience and is a vehicle for personal and social development which can easily result in life satisfaction adding that when designed and managed appropriately, schools and other education facilities can be a powerful tool for reintegration. Education can be offered through formal or informal channels. In addition, Özkan, Z., Ergün, N., & Çakal, H. (2021) pointed out that formal education and vocational training are not mutually exclusive and returnees can benefit from both for their wellbeing and life satisfaction. Conversely, the authors have not provided evidence that providing education to returnee migrant workers can ultimately result into their socio-economic wellbeing.

According to Salgado, L. (2022), facilitating medical assistance is an important part of reintegration services, ideally part of a continuation of care throughout and after the migration process. The author notes that all returning migrants should have access to health care. It is not uncommon for service providers to encounter challenges when attempting to help returnees manage their health problems (Salgado, L., 2022). Also, the reality that some types of medical treatment are simply not available in some contexts, staff in reintegration programmes should still strive to support access to treatment at appropriate institutions. In a related development, Tirado, V., Chu, J., Hanson, C., Ekström, A. M., & Kågesten, A. (2020) indicated that health care for returnees should also include comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care. The authors Tirado, V., Chu, J., Hanson, C., Ekström, A. M., & Kågesten, A. (2020). added that returnees require information about sexual and reproductive health that is age-appropriate and tailored to the level of education and understanding of the returnee, delivered with cultural and gender sensitivity. This includes information on available contraception and family planning options as well as information, voluntary testing, counseling and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne viruses.

More so, Talhouk, R., Coles-Kemp, L., Jensen, R. B., Balaam, M., Garbett, A., Ghattas, H., ... & Montague, K. (2020), avows that when returnees struggle to obtain enough food for themselves or their families, they might need help accessing food-related cash or voucher assistance if it is available. When connecting returnees to such services, pay attention to whether available food options meet any nutritional requirements or dietary restrictions (such as religion- or health-related) relevant to the returnee so as to enhance their life satisfaction (Lucombe, D. M. ,2021). Returnees experiencing malnutrition have unique needs and trained health-care practitioners should be involved in designing a treatment plan to address nutrition deficiencies and malnutrition (Murray, R. D., Kerr, K. W., Brunton, C., Williams, J. A., DeWitt, T., & Wulf, K. L. (2021) and any required therapeutic interventions should be provided by specialists with this expertise and follow appropriate nutritional assessments. Additionally, Eichelberger, L., Hickel, K., & Thomas, T. K. (2020) found that returnees needed to have water available in sufficient amounts for drinking, cooking, cleaning and personal hygiene.

Esaiasson, P., Dahlberg, S., & Kokkonen, A. (2020), argued that supporting returnees with the justice system for a variety of reasons improved their life satisfaction target standards. Esaiasson, P., Dahlberg, S., & Kokkonen, A. (2020 reported that case managers should include legal needs in their initial needs-driven assessment, which may include the need to report a crime that has been committed against the returnee; the need for legal aid and advice to engage with the justice system as a victim or witness; the need for legal

representation if they have been accused, charged or convicted of a crime; the need to have their rights upheld in cases like property restitution or compensation; or civil support in the case of divorce, custody or guardianship issues. In addition, Adediran, A. O. (2020) opined that referrals for returnees with legal needs should be made to specialist organizations or people focused on providing legal aid who can do a more in-depth analysis of legal needs and appropriate responses. Depending on the context and type of legal aid required, legal aid services can be provided by State institutions, UN agencies, NGOs or CSOs. Adediran, A. O. (2020) further asserts that any potential legal assistance costs should ideally be accounted for in reintegration planning.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

Research Philosophy

The paradigm helps in defining the philosophy to be used in this study relating social reintegration and life satisfaction of Migrant Worker Returnees from Middle East SSejinja, D., Rukanyangira, N., & Kiyingi, P. F. (2023). Epistemologically SSejinja, D., Rukanyangira, N., & Kiyingi, P. F. (2023) further avows, not only the objective but also positioning allowing opportunity for the Migrant Worker Returnees to construct and make meaning of their experiences about life satisfaction without interference will be adopted. Ontologically as per the reality of the knowledge, the relativism ontological position permitting multiple realities with the fact that truth keeps on evolving with reality possibly being similar across varied contexts but with truth created through experiences will be adopted by the researcher Norwich, B. (2020). A mixture of Methodological stances was therefore adopted but majorly the pragmatic research paradigm was espoused in the current study.

Research Design

The research design adopted in the current study was the convergent parallel mixed methods research design. The design was chosen because it permits the use of not only quantitative but also qualitative strategies providing much better comprehensive understanding of life satisfaction among Migrant Worker Returnees as a problem under study. As far as the study was concerned, the cross sectional research design was used. This design is effective for the study as it aims at studying returning migrants in Uganda The phenomenological approach enabled the researcher to know the returnee.

Research Approach

The study made use of triangulation constituting both quantitative and qualitative approaches to collect and analyse data. The quantitative approach was used to generate quantitative information that was important for quantitative analysis which enabled the study to investigate the descriptive components, relationship, effect and contribution of one variable on the other as set out in the study objectives. It is worth noting that qualitative approach was used to get informants and discussants opinions and sentiments concerning their experiences concerning reintegration of returnee migrant workers in Uganda.

Study Area and Population

The study considered the migrant worker returnees as the target population. The study population was the Ugandan migrant worker returnees from Middle East visiting during the study period. (Uganda Association of External Recruitment Agencies (UAERA). The evidence from the records shows that on average the Uganda Association of External Recruitment Agencies receives up to 239 new Ugandan migrant worker returnees from Middle East on a weekly basis (UAERA annual Report, 2021). The study thus targeted a total of 478 Ugandan migrant worker returnees from Middle East in the two weeks within which the study will be carried out. All those Ugandan migrant worker returnees from Middle East who failed to consent to participate in the study

were excluded. More so the study population included 216 managers of registered labour export companies in Uganda.

The total population of the study included all return migrant workers of 1,697,012 (UBOS, 2018). However, the target population for the study included 23,000 returnee migrants in Uganda. The composition of target population was some of the people who have returned from the UAE after completing their contracts. The population was selected because they can easily give relevant necessary information since they are instrumental in exercising the teaching and learning process.

Study Sample

The sample considered in the study was determined through a sample size determination formula as advanced by Taro Yamane formula (1967). This formula for sample size determination is;

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + Nd^2}$$

Where $d = 0.05$ is the level of precision at 95% confidence interval

N = The total population accessible during the study period

$$n = \frac{478}{1 + 478 * 0.05^2}$$

$$n = 217.76765$$

$$n \approx 218$$

In the study therefore a total quantitative sample of 218 Ugandan migrant worker returnees from Middle East were considered as the sample size. The qualitative sample for the study was determined by the saturation point approach as advanced by Ritchie and Lewis (2003). Whereas a total of 25 managers of registered labour export companies in Uganda were originally sought; at such a point when no new responses are echoed, was the point at which the qualitative sample size was determined.

Sampling Design

The systematic sampling approach was adopted in the selection of the Ugandan migrant worker returnees from Middle East attending Uganda Association of External Recruitment Agencies. The first Ugandan migrant worker returnee was selected through the lottery from an interval of $(\frac{478}{218})$ 3 Ugandan migrant worker returnees. Thereafter every 3 Ugandan migrant worker returnees from Middle East attending Uganda Association of External Recruitment Agencies was selected to participate in the study.

The managers of registered labour export companies in Uganda were however selected through a purposive sampling technique. The selection was based on their knowledge accumulated through experience in their encounter with the Ugandan migrant worker returnees from Middle East.

Sampling Procedure

Stratified sampling was used because the method was appropriate when the population has mixed characteristics, and you want to ensure that every characteristic is proportionally represented in the sample. The population was divided into subgroups (called strata) based on the relevant characteristic (e.g. gender, age range, income bracket, job role).

The study adopted purposive sampling, which involved a deliberate choice of informants due to the qualities they possess. The purposive sample was based on judgement because the respondents selected were in position to provide information by virtue of knowledge or experience.

Sampling Frame and Sample Size

Table 1: Showing Sampling Matrix for the Study Subjects

Population Category	Population Size	Sample (n)	Sampling Technique
Ugandan migrant worker returnees	478	218	Systematic Sampling
Managers labor export companies	216	25	Purposive sampling

Source: UAERA Annual Report (2021)

Data Collection Methods and Tools

The data collection methods used in the study is interview, document review and questionnaire /survey method.

Table 2: Methods and Instruments

Methods	Instruments
Survey method	Questionnaire
Interview method	Interview guide
Document Review method	Document review guide

Data Collection Procedures

The survey method of data collection was adopted in the collection of the data in the study. The method was chosen because it is quick and permits the gathering of large quantities of data in a short period of time. The study as per the qualitative data also adopted an interview method of data collection. This method involved asking questions and as well seeking clarifications and further explanations from the interviewees. This method was used to collect in-depth and rich data from the Managers of the registered labour export companies.

Data Quality Control

Validity

Validity relies on the adequacy and representativeness of the items in an instrument measure the attributes of the study. After designing the questionnaires and interview guides, they were given to experts in the area of Social economic reintegration, Migrant workers 'returnees policy' and life satisfaction so that validity of the questionnaires is tested using Content Validity Index (CVI). The content validity will be determined by expert judgment which requires experts in the area covered by the instrument to assess its content by reviewing the process that will be used in developing the instrument as well as the instrument itself and thereafter making judgment concerning how well items represent their intended content area. Therefore, the content validity ratio was used to calculate the Content Validity Index using the formula;

$$CVI = \frac{\text{Total Number of items declared Valid}}{\text{Total Number of Items in the Instrument}}$$

Table 3: Validity Results

Variable	Number of Items	CVI
Social re-integration	24	0.833
Migrant workers returnees' policy	19	0.737
Life satisfaction	10	0.700
Total	53	.757

As shown in Table above, the CVI results for social economic re-integration is 0.833, Migrant worker's returnees' policy is 0.737, and Life satisfaction is 0.700 which are all above the minimum of 0.7 (Parvaresh, A., & Amin, M. (2005). The tool was considered Valid since the overall Content Validity index of 0.757 is higher than the recommended 0.70 cut off.

Reliability

. Field pretesting was done in the of the selected respondents but not among the sampled ones by administering at least 20 questionnaires to determine content, reliability and completeness of the questions. The interview guides were pre-tested on three experts. Actual field pretesting was done in among the selected respondents in the camp by administering at least 20 questionnaires to determine content, reliability and completeness of the questions.

The researcher used cronbachs co-efficient Alpha (a) to further test for reliability as evidence below

Cronbach's

Where;

r_{KR20} is the Kuder-Richardson formula 20 k is the total number of test items

Σ indicates to sum

p is the proportion of the test takers who pass an item q is the proportion of test takers who fail an item

σ^2 is the variation of the entire test

Table 4: Reliability Results

Variable	Number of Items	Cronbach's Alpha
Social re-integration	24	0.794
Migrant workers returnees' policy	19	0.821
Life satisfaction	10	0.918
Total	53	0.844

Source: Field Data (2022)

As shown in Table, the Cronbach Alpha Coefficients results for Social economic re-integration is 0.794, Migrant workers returnees' policy is 0.821, and Life satisfaction is 0.918 which are all above the minimum of 0.7 (Amin, 2005). The tool was considered reliable since the overall Cronbach Alpha Coefficient of 0.844 is higher than the recommended 0.70 cut off.

Data Processing and Analysis

In this study both quantitative and qualitative data analyses were conducted. The selection of both analysis strategies is based on the fact that using both helps to overcome the weaknesses of using only one of them.

Data Processing

The process of processing data was continuous throughout the process of data collection. Each time the data was collected it was checked for completeness and the entered in an already prepared data entry system.

Data Analysis

Quantitative Data Analysis

For objectives one and two which aim to determine the relationship between social reintegration and life satisfaction among migrant worker returnees from Middle East and also determine the relationship between economic reintegration and life satisfaction among migrant worker returnees from Middle East, descriptive statistics was first processed. The descriptive statistics were the frequencies, percentages, means and standard deviations. Thereafter Pearson Correlation analysis was conducted at bivariate analysis level and multiple linear regression analysis at multivariate levels. For objective three investigating the mediating effect of migrant worker characteristics on the relationship between socio-economic reintegration and life satisfaction among migrant worker returnees from Middle East, Structural Equation Modeling through path analysis was conducted. All the data analysis was data in the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) computer software Version 20.0.

Qualitative data analysis: In this study, qualitative data analysis following a deductive thematic approach was adopted. The researcher constituted a team of four qualitative analysts. The text from the transcriptions was read and read several times. The verbatim responses that hold meaning in relation to study objectives was coded one at a time until they are all exhausted. The coded sentences with similar meaning were given a sub theme until all the codes were exhausted. The sub themes were read and re-read, and then those that are similar were provided one main theme. This main theme was then analyzed and illustrated using quotations from the respondent Managers of the registered labour export companies.

4.0 FINDINGS

The current study was aimed at investigating the impact of social reintegration on life satisfaction on the Uganda migrant worker returnees from Middle East so as to generate evidence to develop a migrant worker returnees' model for life satisfaction improvement. This chapter first provides the response rate, demographic characteristics of the respondents and finally provides an analysis of the influence between social reintegration and life satisfaction among Uganda migrant worker returnees from Middle East as it first objective.

Response Rate

The study had targeted a sample size of 218. Table 5 shows the results of the target responses and the actual responses following a field study.

Table 5: Response Rate

Category of Participants	Sample Size (S)	Responses	Percentage (%)
Ugandan migrant worker returnees	218	187	85.8
Managers labour export companies	25	20	80
Total	238	207	86.9

Source: Primary Data (2021)

The study had targeted a sample size of 218. As in Table 5; however viable responses were got from a total of 187 Ugandan migrant worker returnees. This is an equivalent of an 85.8% response rate which is adequate to address the set research objectives in ant survey related study of this nature. As for interviews, the study targeted 25 senior managers of labour export companies. Interviews were however held with 20 senior managers of labour export companies resulting in 80 % response rate. On the overall for both instruments, 238 respondents were targeted but responses were received from 207 of them which constituted 86.9% response rate. This response rate was considered sufficient because the perception of Socioeconomic Reintegration was geared towards providing migrant returnees with all the information needed and understanding what was needed then and in the future in the life satisfaction.

When the respondents were asked the understanding of social integration of migrant workers on life satisfaction, one key informant from the Migrant recruitment companies argued that;

“The politicians, other government officials major target about life satisfaction of migrant workers is all about the registration of recruitment companies, payment of the respective taxes to government and perhaps creating some source of foreign remittances to the country as a way of developing the country from every aspect hence sometimes considering pertinent issues about migrant workers”. (Key Informant Interview, 2023). This is in turn augurs with the intention to establish long term relationships with each migrant workers hence effective life satisfaction.

Table 6: Demographic Characteristics of the Ugandan Migrant Worker Returnees

Demographic Characteristics		Frequency (N = 187)	Percentage (%)
Age in years			
	Between 18 -28	60	32.1
	Between 29 -39	87	46.5
	Between 40-50	40	21.4
Gender			
	Male	40	21.4
	Female	147	78.6
Education level			
	None	10	5.3
	Primary	49	26.2
	Secondary	69	36.9
	Certificate	30	16.0
	Diploma	10	5.3
	Bachelors	9	4.8
	Others-Postgraduate	10	5.3
Marital status			
	Married	49	26.2
	Single	118	63.1
	Separated	20	10.7
Religious affiliation			
	Catholic	40	21.4
	Anglican	10	5.3
	Moslem	59	31.6
	SDA	20	10.7
	Pentecostal	58	31.0
Income level			
	Moderate	69	36.9
	Low	118	63.1
Employment status			
	Employed	78	41.7
	Unemployed	109	58.3
Length of stay abroad(Years)			
	<2 years	79	42.2
	2-3 years	59	31.6
	> 4years	49	26.2
Motivation to return			
	High	50	26.7
	Moderate	117	62.6
	Low	20	10.7

As in Table above, study results show that most of the respondents were between 29 to 39 years of age. Findings also show that most of the Ugandan migrant worker returnees were females 147(78.6%) as compared to the minority who were males 40 (21.4%). In relation to the education level majority Ugandan migrant worker

returnees had studied up to secondary level 69(36.9%) with most of them still single 49(26.2%) and belonged to the Moslem religion 59(31.6%).

Other findings show that most of Ugandan migrant worker returnees are unemployed 109(58.3%) and had stayed out of the country for less than 2 years 79(42.2%). As per the results the majority of the respondents demonstrated a moderate level of motivation to return back to Uganda 117(62.6%). In an interview guide when the key informants were asked about the age as respondents, majority of the participants all argued:

“I am above 29 years of age... am above 29years... am above 30years...” (Key Informants Interview, 2023).

29 -36 years: The Age bracket of 29 - 36 years emerged as the major theme from the participants’ discussion. This age category is in line with the findings in table.4.2 that had the highest age bracket of 29-36 years. The reason for this age bracket is because the respondents are in the working class and are able to participate and evaluate the life satisfaction. The research at hand is in concurrency with the findings in table.4.2 and the key informant’s argument is because most people in this age bracket are more productive and working harder for a sustainable living that enables them to participate in activities that enhance life satisfaction. In addition, in labour migration sector there are attitudes and people in this age group are liberal and highly considerate on any issues they pick interest in which is an important aspect for Labour advocacy to consider.

The findings Table 6 also indicated that most of the respondents are 147(78.6%) as compared to the minority who were males 40 (21.4%). This result possibly reflects how passionate the females are in regard to searching for opportunities in the Middle East or perhaps the Middle East is interested in women to a larger extent. Hence forth government should devise strategies of managing this gender or per category. The respondents when asked in a key informant interview held in one of the labour companies about the sex of participants gave the following responses:

“Women are given better priority when placing them for the most available opportunities and in fact women are taken for free but the men pay some fee to be considered for middle east employment” (Key Informants Interview, 2023).

Female dominance of labour migration: the female involvement in the labour migration sector has emerged as the main theme. The research at hand is in agreement with the findings in table.4.2 and key informant interview respondents on the participants’ response about the sex of participants. The fact is that the labour migration sector in Uganda is a domain of females (Uganda Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development (MGLSD), annual report, 2022). Additionally, through women emancipation programs coupled with single motherhood so many women have liberty to seek for employment opportunities and are capable taking strategic decisions which can affect their families. It is therefore of strategic importance that women should be targeted as a unique gender.

Findings further revealed that the education level of majority Ugandan migrant worker returnees had studied up to secondary level 69(36.9%) with most of them still single 49(26.2%) and belonged to the Moslem religion 59(31.6%). This result demonstrates the clear picture of Uganda’s education system where majority join at lower levels but keep dropping off as the education level goes higher.

When the informants were asked about the level of education in almost all areas, the following responses came out:

“I am a certificate holder... others are diploma holders, first degree holders, but majority of us are certificate and diploma people who participate in the programs of the labour migration sector” (Key Informants Interview, 2023).

Semi-skilled/medium citizens: the theme that emerges is that semi/medium skilled citizens are the majority of Uganda's citizens that commonly participate in labour migration programs.

The findings in Table 6 closely relate with the above responses from the key informant interview. This is because several people that participate in labour migration are certificate and diploma holders that form the semi-skilled citizens. Basing on the above critical analysis of findings from Qualitative findings, the study reveals that the young people who have qualified through teacher training colleges, technical colleges and other institutions (or Universities) with Certificates and Diplomas in various fields do the practical work in all life satisfaction aspects and are therefore are key in socio economic transformation decisions. The government and labour companies rely on them because of the Practical expertise and experience to take decisions for which labour migration relies. The government administrators and labour migration companies only play a supervisory and guiding role. Hence forth Labour migration as a policy should devise strategies of tapping into this citizen segment.

Descriptive Findings on the Extent of Social Reintegration

The first study objectives were to determine the relationship between social reintegration and life satisfaction among Uganda migrant worker returnees from Middle East. The descriptive results relating to the extent of social reintegration were as shown in the Table below;

Table 7: Descriptive Results about the Extent of Social Reintegration

Social Reintegration	Mean	Std. Deviation	Interpretation
On return to my home country I intermixed socially in the home/community.	4.19	1.68	Good
I was given support to find suitable and affordable accommodation.	3.51	1.82	Fair
I was able to access protection given by legal status (notably citizenship) and associated identity documents.	3.06	1.98	Fair
I was accessing public services and social protection schemes.	3.49	2.14	fair
I could access suitable schools or educational opportunities easily.	3.67	1.72	Fair
I could access health care services	4.40	1.67	Good
I could get enough food and water for myself and my family.	4.34	1.82	Good
I could get support in legal aid and advice to have my rights upheld in the various cases.	3.17	1.75	Fair
Enjoyed good social relationship and acceptance within my family and community back to my home.	4.31	1.78	Good
The potential legal costs were ideally accounted for the re-integration planning.	2.68	1.74	Poor
Identity documents were accounted for in the re-integration plan.	3.25	1.79	Fair
Overall Mean & Standard Deviation	3.64	1.81	Average

Legend: 1.0 – 1.99-Very Poor; 2.0-2.99-Poor; 3-3.99-Fair; 4.0-4.99-Good; 5.00-6.00-Very Good

As in Table above, there is a moderate level of social reintegration among the Ugandan migrant worker returnees (Mean = 3.64, SD = 1.81). Such moderate levels of social reintegration were with regard to support to find suitable and affordable accommodation, being able to access protection given by legal status (notably

citizenship) and associated identity documents, accessing public services and social protection schemes alongside accessing suitable schools or educational opportunities easily. Moderate social reintegration also had to do with getting support in legal aid and advice to have rights upheld in the various cases and identity documents being accounted for in the re-integration plan.

In response to the question of the interview guide about the elements of social reintegration considered at national level, the one informant at UAERA vividly asserted that;

Understanding the assumptions, concepts and principles of socio reintegration is fundamental framework for drawing strategic plans, budget allocation and encourages citizen to comply with life satisfaction mechanisms. This promotes a sense of royalty, obedience in the implementation of socio reintegration programs (Key Informant Interview, 2023).

Socio reintegration implementation: as a major theme that emerged from the above key interview was central in explaining the indicator of life satisfaction. In this perspective, high level of socio reintegration encourages high levels of conformity to life satisfaction implementation.

There are however high levels of variation among Ugandan migrant worker returnees with some characterized by poor levels of social reintegration and others a high level of social reintegration. The poor social reintegration was with regard to the potential legal costs that were not accounted for the re-integration planning. This is opposed to the high levels of social reintegration which were with regard to access of health care services, enough food and water for the returnees and their respective families alongside enjoying good social relationship and acceptance within my family and community back to the home.

Descriptive Results about the Level of Life Satisfaction

In this study the dependent variable was the level of life satisfaction that characterized the Ugandan migrant worker returnees. The descriptive findings in this regard were as presented in the Table below;

Table 8: Descriptive Results about the Level of Life Satisfaction

Life Satisfaction	Mean	Std. Deviation	Interpretation
Upon return, I am economically self-sufficient.	2.26	1.24	Poor
Intention of return was as a result of achieving the migration objectives.	2.47	1.49	Poor
In most ways my life is close to my ideal.	2.36	1.34	Poor
I have a safe, satisfactory and affordable place where I live.	3.30	1.60	Poor
I am satisfied with my well-being.	2.58	1.39	Poor
The conditions of my life are excellent.	2.52	1.46	Poor
I secured a means of livelihood.	2.51	1.72	Poor
I have a stock of incomes alongside the savings that I hold.	2.62	1.84	Poor
So far, I have got the basic things I want in life.	2.32	1.41	Poor
I evaluate the over-all quality of my life positively, ever since I returned from migrant working.	3.31	1.84	Fair
Overall Mean & Standard Deviation	2.63	1.53	Poor

Legend: 1.0 – 1.99-Very Poor; 2.0-2.99-Poor; 3-3.99-Fair; 4.0-4.99-Good; 5.00-6.00-Very Good

The study findings presented in the Table above shows a poor life satisfaction amongst the respondent Ugandan migrant worker returnees (Mean = 2.63, SD = 1.53). Such poor life satisfaction was in terms of the returnees not

being economically self-sufficient upon returning, poor intention to return guided by achieving the migration objectives, life not being close to ideal in several ways and rarely having a safe, satisfactory and affordable place to live. The respondents also reported not satisfied with their well-being, with life conditions of poor and rarely secure a means of livelihood. The respondents equally reported rarely holding a stock of incomes alongside the savings and to date not getting the basic things needed in life.

This overall poor life satisfaction was however characterized by a very high level of variation with some Ugandan migrant worker returnees reporting good life satisfaction and others very poor life satisfaction. Whereas such result can be attributed to lived experiences in the past, there was a fair quality of life among returnees who reported thinking positively, ever since they returned from migrant working from the Middle East. In order to relate social reintegration to life satisfaction Pearson Correlation analysis was undertaken using SPSS. The study results were presented in the tables below.

Table 9: Pearson Correlational Results between Social Reintegration and Life Satisfaction

Correlations			
		Life satisfaction	Social Reintegration
Life satisfaction	Pearson Correlation	1	.397**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	187	187
Social Reintegration	Pearson Correlation	.397**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	187	187

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

As per the Table 9; above, there exists a positive relationship on the use of Social Reintegration and life satisfaction of the Uganda migrant returnees from the Middle East ($r = 0.397$). This relationship is statistically significant since the associated p – value of 0.000 is less than 0.05 ($p < 0.001$). We thus fail to reject the null hypothesis that “There is no significant influence between social reintegration and life satisfaction among Uganda migrant worker returnees from Middle East”. It is thus concluded that sufficient evidence exist significant relationship exists between social reintegration and life satisfaction among Uganda migrant worker returnees from Middle East. This results shows that the more the socioeconomic reintegration, the better the level of life satisfaction among Uganda migrant worker returnees from Middle East and vice versa.

This result is in line with what was found by (Thomas, 2008) who revealed that lack of socio reintegration hinders effective life satisfaction. The results are also consistent with what Constant and Massey (2002) had earlier found in which socio reintegration contributions positively influenced life satisfaction. This result probably demonstrates the need for the ministry of Gender and labour development to monitor socio reintegration activities and formulate proper regulations to it before applying it in labour migration management.

The chapter aimed at analysing the influence of social reintegration and life satisfaction Uganda migrant worker returnees from Middle East. Socio reintegration perspective of migrant worker returnees was set to implement professional consultation through a Culture of investing more time into individual migrant worker returnees by dedicating genuine attention to every migrant worker returnees throughout the entire process.

5.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion

The current study was set ascertain the social reintegration and life satisfaction of migrant workers as to come up with a unified replica for improvements in Uganda. It analysed the the influence of social reintegration on life satisfaction, relationship and life satisfaction and examined the fit between social reintegration and migrant worker returnees policy and process. In an attempt to address the set specific objectives, the following hypotheses upon which conclusions were made were tested:

H₀₁: There is no significant influence between social reintegration and life satisfaction among Uganda migrant worker returnees from Middle East

It can thus be concluded that sufficient evidence demonstrates a significant relationship exists between social reintegration and life satisfaction among Uganda migrant worker returnees from Middle East. This results shows that the more the social reintegration, the better the level of life satisfaction among Uganda migrant worker returnees from Middle East and vice versa.

Recommendations

- i. The members of external labour recruitment organisations concerned with training, development and implementation of strategies need to critically assess decisions and objectively take decisions that enhance reintegration programs in Uganda.
- ii. The policy makers at the Ministry of gender Labour and Social development need develop a well-informed local understandable framework and strategy for assessment of performance of government and external labour recruitment organisations in as far as migrant reintegration programmes are concerned for enhanced social reintegration.
- iii. The return migrant workers should also start organisations and /or associations that will clearly understand the challenges and provide practical solutions.

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