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''Ogya'' Syndrome: Exploring Impacts of Ghanaians' Admiration for International Migration on Sustainable Economic Development

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Abstract: ''Ogya'' syndrome jargon is a synonym for international migration. The study examines the impact of Ogya syndrome on Ghana's sustainable economic development to determine whether it has positive or negative effects on the economy. The study is grounded in Haas' structural functionalism theory and relates the topic in practical terms, which makes this study distinct from existing research. The paper employs a literature review method, also known as a 'meta-study'. The study's findings reveal that Ogya syndrome enhances significant benefits to Ghana's economic development through rewards and remittances sent into the country, Ghanaian migrants upskill themselves, and on migrants' return, they transfer knowledge acquired internationally to non-migrants. Further, migrants undertake investments, developmental projects, and entrepreneurship ventures in Ghana's economy, which have positive impacts on economic development. The negative findings reveal brain drain, remittances' high dependency, and social impacts (loved ones' separation and divorce). The paper argues that good government of Ghana's (GoG) foreign policies will attract international migrants to contribute to sustainable economic development, whereas bad foreign policies will push them away. Therefore, effective foreign policies must be developed with strategies to harness the positive effects of international migration. However, negative effects such as brain drain and dependency need management and social intervention policies to curb them. The paper recommends good governance, stewardship, probity and accountability from all institutions. Further, Ghanaian immigrants' remittances, investments into businesses, and other developmental projects should be charged less tax to encourage Ghanaian Diaspora's remittances flow and migrants' return to contribute to economic growth and development.

Keywords: *Ogya syndrome, International migration, Migration, Economic development, Ghana*

1. Introduction

The term ''ogya'' syndrome is a jargon, especially among Ghanaian youths both at home and abroad. The word ogya, meaning ''uncomfortable economic conditions'', or ''unbearable economy'', ''underperforming economy'' or ''ailing economy'', is used to describe Ghana's harsh economy from the people of the Akan tribe. Interestingly, the ogya syndrome jargon refers to Ghanaians' migration to any part of the world. Ogya syndrome becomes a synonym for international migration. Simply, Ogya syndrome is Ghanaians' migration as ''self-exportation'' or ''self-exodus'', to the world (Ikuteyijo, 2020). The study is grounded in Haas' (2024) structural functionalism theory and relates the topic in practical terms, which makes this study different from previous research. Do the Ghanaian migrants contribute to the sustainable economic development of the country?

Migration is defined as people's movement from one place to another. Migration is not a new phenomenon to Ghanaians, but rather an old wine in a new bottle. Since independence in 1957, Ghanaians have migrated internally and internationally. Internal migration is people's movement within the country's borders. In other words, internal migrants are migrants who live within the country in places other than their birthplace. Usually, internal migration in Ghana's context is sparked by migration from the northern to the southern part of the country, due to high poverty rates, lack of basic infrastructure, and amenities (Vorvornator, 2025).

Over the years and presently, Ghanaians migrated within, and to neighbouring countries for fishing, mining or farming (Vorvornator, 2025). Currently, Raghuraman and Chaturvedi's (2021) research estimated the number of internal migrants to be a total of 763 million globally. China and India are the countries with the most internal migrants. As of 2021, close to 80 per cent of Ghanaians engaged in internal migration, and about 70 per cent migrated to urban areas to benefit from infrastructural development (Africa Development Bank, 2022). International migration is migration across the borders of a country. International migration examples are migration from South-South, South-North, North-South, and North-North migration (Leal & Harder, 2021).

Ghanaian migrants move from the South-South and South-North regions. This means Ghanaian migrants migrate within the African continent, or to other developing nations outside the continent, or they migrate to Western nations (Vorvornator, 2024). Currently, international migrants worldwide are estimated to be a total of 280.6 million, which represents 3.6 per cent of the world population, and two-thirds live in developing nations (Raghuraman & Chaturvedi, 2021). In 2008, according to statistics from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), now known as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration (MoFARI) in Kandilige et al (2023), indicated that the majority of Ghanaians reside outside Ghana, were in not least 33 countries in the world. However, some Ghanaians and students targeted Western countries.

West African countries were the host for the majority of Ghanaian migrants, followed by the United Kingdom (UK), the United States (US) and Canada. Most of the emigrants were professionals: teachers, lawyers, administrators, nurses, lecturers, and doctors who went to other African countries (Nigeria, Uganda, Botswana and Zambia), to seek greener pastures and later migrated to the UK, the US and Canada. Kandilige et al. (2023) estimated that about 1.5 million to 3 million Ghanaians resided outside the country. As of 2023, the Ghanaians living abroad are estimated to be 4 million (MoFARI, 2023). Ghanaians' migration did not occur spontaneously, but in various phases, and was triggered by different social, economic, and political factors (Korsi, 2022). The paper suggests that good GoG's foreign policies enhance migrants' contribution to economic sustainable development, whereas bad foreign policies discourage migrants' contributions to the country.

As of 2024, Ghana's economy experienced a current account surplus of 3.2 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), bolstered by higher exports of crude oil, gold and remittances inflow. This resulted in a surge in gross international reserves from $5.92 to $8.98 billion in the last financial year (World Bank, 2024). However, the fiscal outturn deteriorated with deficits and unbudgeted spending in the economy.

The study is structured as follows: the Ghanaians' migration background; explores phases of Ghanaians' migration, followed by the literature review, then the theoretical framework and the study's methodology. The rest are research findings; presents both positive and negative impacts of Ghanaians' migration to the economy, and later conclusions and recommendations. The next section presents the background of Ghanaians' migration.

Background of Ghanaians' migration

After the 1960s, there was an internal migration in Ghana due to economic activities and mismanagement. The economic decline led to a recession. A recession is defined as an economic decline in a country's productivity for two consecutive quarters. Recession sparks emigration from the country, and migration becomes a means of diversification, and an ''insurance'' to overcome the economic woes. During the 1960s majority of Ghanaians migrated to the countries within the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and only a substantial number migrated outside the regional blocs (Awuse et al., 2020). In the early 1980s, Ghana witnessed an economic sanction that led to harsh economic conditions coupled with drought. This sparked international migration in Ghana's history (Awuse et al., 2020). Ghanaians, both skilled and unskilled workers, migrated. This scenario originated the jargon ogya syndrome (Korsi, 2022).

Ghana's economy was once prosperous but declined during the eighties (80s due to the Structural Adjustment Programme's (SAP's) implementation. This era triggered another phase of Ghanaians' migration. The SAP is an economic policy used by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank for countries to strictly adhere to before loans are secured. The SAP economic policies had adverse effects on Ghana's economy, resulting in economic meltdown in the 1980s (Taye, 2022).

The recession created a shortage of basic goods in the country. Dairy goods such as sugar and milk became luxury goods and were sold at exorbitant prices in the 'black market'. The black market is the place where goods are hoarded and traded at higher prices illegally (Iqbal, 2020). Basic goods' shortage once again triggered emigration. Ghanaians migrated to Europe, North America, and North Africa, especially to Libya, and other African countries, like Nigeria (Vorvornator, 2025).

Currently, the harsh economic conditions after the COVID-19 pandemic have sparked another migration phase for both skilled and unskilled labourers (Korsi & Mdiniso, 2021). This 'reignite' the jargon ogya syndrome. To

put the ogya syndrome into perspective, OECD (2022) data revealed that Ghanaian migration skyrocketed from 762,000 in 2010 to 1,004,000 in 2020, and 466,000 resided in the West African countries. According to OECD (2022), out-migration among Ghanaians to ECOWAS doubled between 2000 and 2019 (starting from 12,900 in 2000 to 23,000 in 2008, and to 27,400 in 2019). Yet, Ghanaians migrate beyond Africa. Scalabrini Institute for Mobility in Africa (SIHMA) (2021) statistics revealed that Europe, Canada and the US were destinations for Ghanaians. In 2019, 283,000 Ghanaians lived in Europe, 198,000 resided in North America, and 9,600 in Asia and Oceania countries combined (SIHMA, 2021). OECD (2022) research data revealed that between 2000 to 2019, among the OECD nations, the US hosted 8,400 Ghanaians, followed by the UK, Italy and Spain. The four nations hosted an average of 85 per cent of Ghanaian migrants among OECD nations.

Ghana's Minister of Finance, Dr Amin Adam, in the 2024 mid-budget presentation to the parliament, indicated that Ghana's provisional total debt stands at GHC 742billion (US$ 50.9billion), representing 70.6 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP). Repayment of Ghana's total debts affects investment for the economy to grow (Daily Guide Network, 2024). On August 6, 2024, due to economic hardship conditions made Dr Amin apologised to Ghanaians during a town hall meeting that the economic hardship imposed on them for the implementation of the Domestic Debt Exchange Programme (DDEP) is not intentional, but rather a policy from the IMF (Daily Guide Network, 2024). Dr Amin states that:
"We decided to restructure our debts because it was one of the requirements by the IMF. We started with the domestic debt exchange programme, the domestic debt exchange programme was very successful, achieving 95 per cent participation. On this note, I would like to appeal to the people of this country to forgive us" (Dr Anim).

The DDEP is an approach imposed by the IMF to allow nations that borrow loans to reduce debt obligations and risks' default. Balima and Sy's (2021) research revealed that, usually, socio-economic and political instability sparks international migration worldwide. What is Ogya syndrome on Ghana's sustainable economic development? The next section presents a literature review of the study.

2. Literature Review

Arguments and discourses in favour of international migrants' contributions to sustainable economic development

Migration is inherently complex, especially international migration, where people migrate from one place to another across borders for different reasons. This is elaborated by Malmberg's (2021) research work by grouping the reasons that trigger migration into the international world. However, economic factors are considered to be paramount for people's migration. Malmberg's (2021) research identified economic factors such as employment, trade, insecurity, high rate of economic decline, low income, high prime rate, and interest rates as factors that spark international migration. Ghanaians migrate to international countries such as the ECOWAS sub-region or to OECD nations. However, figures for international migration in most cases are contested because it is difficult for governments and organizations to determine the precise number of emigrants who cross the border. Due to a reason such as unauthorized route use to reach destination countries (Bahri, 2021).

Recently, the South-South migration corridor has been on the rise among Ghanaian domestic workers to the Middle East. However, there have been bans on the visa, namely ''Visa 20'' due to reports of human rights violations in the Middle East (Bahri, 2021). But due to Ghana's unbearable economic conditions, the migration flows have steadily risen. Awumbila et al's (2023) research figures on domestic workers migration provided by the Ghana Labour Department indicate private agencies recruited 2,372 domestic workers to the Middle East region in 2016, and 1,589 from January to May 2017. The actual numbers are likely to be higher, since these figures excluded domestic workers who travel individually (Bahri, 2021).

Könönen's (2020) research only focused on immigration across legal routes without dealing with the use of unauthorized routes. This makes it difficult to establish the number of migrants who used the unauthorized routes to reach destination countries. However, Awumbila et al's (2023) research indicated that immigration across borders nowadays involves professionals from developing nations engaging in unchecked and unregulated migration. Awumbila et al. (2023) revealed that authorized and especially unauthorized use to leave the country is due to an ailing economy, which leads to dissatisfaction, unemployment, underpayment,

and low living standards among Ghanaians. Abioro and Akinyemi (2022) concur that individuals from Ghana and the West African sub-region migrate to Europe and America's exploitative labor market through unauthorized borders. The unauthorized routes considered to be dangerous are: the English Channel, the desert, the Canals, and the Mediterranean Sea. In some instances, migrants lose their lives during the journey. On arrival in the destination countries, improvement in the GDP and infrastructural development entice some Ghanaian migrants to denounce their citizenship for the admiration of other international countries. The reason could be harsh economic conditions, which triggered their migration to the Western world.

A case in point is a recent development where a Ghanaian citizen by birth in the Netherlands got his citizenship status and posted on the social media platform 'TikTok', indicated that his Dutch passport is worth more than Ghana's Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) qualification (Modern Ghana, 2024). The statement indicates a loss of patriotism and Ghanaians' admiration for the Western world over their nation. Such sentiment is triggered by the economic meltdown in the country where the political class, especially the corrupt politicians, live an affluent life and the masses suffer. The Ogya syndrome spurs such remarks for the Ghanaian-Netherlands citizen. Because he knows that living in the Netherlands makes him comfortable financially compared to the PhD holders in Ghana, apart from the political class (Modern Ghana, 2024).

Importance of international migration to Ghana's economy

The mass exodus of Ghanaians to foreign nations has negative impacts such as brain drain (loss of skilled labor to other nations), high dependency on remitters, family separation, and it destroys family structures. However, Ghanaian migrants remit to Ghana through remittances inflow, upskill themselves, and on their return, their skills are transferred to non-migrants. Ghanaian migrants attract foreign direct investments (FDI) into the country and establish capital-intensive businesses due to the availability of funds. Ghanaian Diasporas' contributions help to reduce households' level of poverty, improve living standards, and have positive impacts on the economy. Remittances inflow from offshore is the potential incomes that spur the Ghanaian economy. In Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), Ghana is noted to benefit from the remittances.

Importance of remittances to Ghana's economy

As of 2021, remittances flowing into Ghana totalled $4.5 billion, which represents 5.9 per cent of Ghana's GDP (Migration Data Portal, 2023). According to the World Bank (2024), personal remittances remitted into Ghana amounted to 4.3 billion USD, representing 6 per cent of GDP. But data on unofficial remittances are not known to the nation. Unofficial remittances are sent through trusted family members and friends who visit Ghana (Yeboah et al., 2021). Also, remittances are given to recipients on the migrants return. In other cases, remittances are sent as in-kind into the country. This means remittances sent in the form of clothes and food.

Perhaps, the importance to Ghana's economy led the GoG to engage in policies to ensure a sense of belonging among the broader Ghanaian Diasporas (Yeboah et al., 2021). The sense of belonging is 'fanned' through the formation of organisations such as the Diaspora Homecoming Summit in 2017, the Ghana Diaspora celebration and Homecoming Summit, and the Year of Return in 2019. Major events held to recognise the immense contributions of Ghanaian Diasporas' nation builders (MoFARI, 2023).

Further, dual citizenship is implemented to attract Ghanaian emigrants to contribute economically to the country. For instance, during the COVID-19 pandemic, due to the global economy's shutdown, the GoG encouraged expatriates through Ghana Commissioners to various nations to remit families, which alleviated economic distress during the lockdown (EEAS, Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP), 2021). Therefore, a surge in migration leads to substantial remittance flows in the country, and skills returned from the diaspora are transferred into Ghana's economy for development.

Practically, remittance recipients create demand for goods and services, and this entices business owners to increase their supply. An increase in supply spurs demand for factors of production such as labor, land, and capital to produce more goods and services. Laborers are employed by the producers, resulting in job creation and reducing unemployment. Further, incomes earned by the workers create value-chain employment (for drivers, transport owners, and landlords), through creation of demand for services, transport and houses (Moloi et al., 2022).

Moreover, remittances are transferred mostly through financial institutions, and recipient families deposit the money into bank accounts; this enables financial institutions to have more funds to lend to investors, which increases goods and services (World Bank, 2024). Remittances also serve as stabilization effects to Ghana's currency (Cedis). Ghana's currency is stabilized through remittances spur Ghana's currency to be in demand, which stabilizes the exchange rate (World Bank, 2024). Remittances are invested in building projects, electrification projects, community bore-holes, and pipe-borne water. In some instances, remittances are used to sponsor brilliant but needy students. Remittances used for community building projects spur the local economy through job creation and the GoG also benefits from taxes. Taxes are used for economic development. Further, unofficial remittances through friends and families promote private investments and self-employment among the recipients. Therefore, remittances contribute to Ghana's economic development (Yeboah et al., 2021).

However, research reveals that remittances hurt the economy as the main cause of inflation, popularly known as 'Dutch disease'. Dutch Disease is defined as a phenomenon where one sector of the economy affects others to decline. In the case of remittances into the country, if it is not well spent, it leads to high inflation in the economy. This means remittances spent on luxury goods (expensive) instead of conspicuous consumption (basic needs) hurt the economy. Whereas, remittances spent on conspicuous consumption instead of luxury goods create value-chain employment and have positive impacts on the economy (De Haas, 2020).

Brain drains and brain gains

Brain drain is defined as the process of professionals leaving the country for another nation, whereas brain gains involve the remittances and skills migrants return to the country for economic growth and development (Ukaegbu & Okpoko, 2023). In the observation of Peter Obi (2023), the youths' international migration is considered a brain drain today; however, if migration is properly managed, our loss of laborers today will be our brain gain tomorrow. Peter Obi (cited by Ukaegbu & Okpoko, 2023, p.1), in favour of ogya syndrome, states that:

"I have always preached and maintained this same position that 'our brain drains today will be our brain gains tomorrow'.... Ghanaians *leaving the country may look like a loss today, but when we start doing the right things, and taking the governance of our nation more seriously, the knowledge and resources from them will be critical in the building of the* New Ghana*, as it happened in China, India, Ireland and other developing countries "* (Emphasis is mine).

This implies that Ghanaians who leave Ghana's coast today may return and invest in the economy, which has a positive effect on the labor sector. However, there should be good governance in place and foreign policies must be designed to ensure migrants return. Since knowledge and resources from migrants serve as an anchor and critical skills to develop the nation's economy. This means Ghanaians will be willing to return home with acquired skills, training, and resources, and contribute immensely to the nation's economic development if there is good governance. Just as nations such as Portugal and Germany were immigrant nations, but now they are immigration states (Ukaegbu & Okpoko, 2023).

Take, for instance, a Ghanaian who migrated to the US for 10 years, returned to establish a University in the country where staff and non-staff workers are employed in the institution. Practically, Ashesi University in Ghana was established by Mr. Patrick Awuah, who spent 15 years in the US, working at Microsoft Corporation as an engineer and program manager for eight years. Mr Awuah's return benefit Ghana to have Ashesi University, which add value to human resources and contributes to Ghana's economy (Ghana Web, 2017). Despite initial negative impacts such as brain drain, it later results in brain gains, which leads nation's economic growth and development

High dependency on the remitters

The non-migrants' reliance on remittances from both internal and international migrants leads to high dependency on the migrants. This, to some extent, encourages 'laziness' among the recipient households and families. Further, skills that are supposed to develop locally are lost due to over-dependency on remitters. In case of unfortunate events such as sickness or accident 'strike' remitters, and their inability to work and remit to recipients, the family suffers economically (Ukaegbu & Okpoko, 2023).

Social impacts on both migrants and non-migrants

Migration leads to loved ones' separation and responsibilities are shifted to people who might not be in a position to assume such responsibilities. For instance, children in some cases assume parental roles by providing food to the family and taking care of their siblings. This results in children's frequent absenteeism from school and poor academic performance. In other instances, migration leads to divorce in the community, family neglect, social challenges and loss of cultural identification (Leal & Harder, 2021). The next section presents the theoretical framework of the study.

Theoretical Framework

Structural functionalism theory

The study is grounded in Haas' (2024) structural functionalism theory to explore Ogya syndrome on Ghana's sustainable economic development. Structural functional theory explains the procedures that institutions in society should follow. It considers institutions as interdependent. This implies that institutions' effective functioning has positive effects on one another and their malfunctioning affects each other negatively. The structural functionalism theory's central point is the political arena and institutional effects on the country. Political institutions are organizations that have specific functions and authorities to manage a state's resources. This means political institutions are mandated to contribute to society's smooth functioning.

Elements of structural functionalism theory

Structural functionalism theory aims at collaboration between various institutions in the country. This means social institutions such as health, education, family, infrastructure development, and others depend on political institutions for effective and cohesive functioning to deliver services. Structural functionalism theory presents society as a system that is related to the human body or a car. Institutions consist of the government, organizations, and political parties, which work to maintain law and order in the country. Further, to ensure economic growth and stability among institutions.

Structural functionalism theory assumes that political institutions can adapt to changes and challenges. This implies that when challenges occur, political institutions deploy available resources to solve them and ensure economic growth, stability, and national development. Political institutions' inability to adapt and solve challenges affects other structures negatively. This brings disequilibrium in the entire society and bestows hardship among the citizens. International migration becomes an alternative to unbearable economic conditions.

Structural functionalism theory application to this study

Based on the structural functionalism theory assumptions enumerated above, it is undeniable that the theory fits into the framework of this research. Structural functionalism theory explores political institutions, migrants' contributions, and functions to ensure economic growth, stability, and development. Practically, the institutions in this context are the GoG, the Migration Unit in the Ministry of the Interior, the Diaspora Affairs Office at the Office of the President, and the Ghana immigration services. Such institutions function and play positive roles in contributing to Ghana's economic development, about international migration. And their negative roles regress economic development.

Structural functionalism theory stipulates that it is the primary duty of political institutions within their jurisdiction to ensure stability and the development of society. In a practical sense, the GoG and Ghana immigration agencies are entrusted to ensure that international migration benefits are harnessed and tapped to contribute to the state's sustainable economic development. This implies that positive shift in emigration to the international world, the GoG needs to implement policies to ensure the equilibrium and stability of economic growth and development. The next section presents the methodology of the study.

3. Methodology

The study adopts a literature review (LR), otherwise known as a 'meta study', to explore Ghanaian migrants' impact on sustainable economic development (Herman and Whitaker, 2020). The LR is adopted to identify

research gaps, understand the state of knowledge and refine research objectives and questions to enable researchers to present impactful research.

Several keywords, including 'internal migration impacts', 'international migration impacts', and 'sustainable economic development', were used. Search engines such as EBSCOhost, Web of Science, Google Scholar, migration journals, and websites, namely, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and Journal for International Migration and Integration, were explored. The study acquired 872 publications; 857 of these emerged from an electronic search, and fifteen were derived through backwards and forward search. Eligibility criteria was conducted a total of 35 articles were selected, through criteria as follows; a) the articles that concentrate on both internal and international migration impacts on sustainable economic development; b) focus on either internal or international migrants' contributions to the economy; c) published in English and not later than 2015 (Creswell, 2021). And 2015 was considered because it was the first year after the Great Recession, which triggered migration from developing to developed nations.

I then proceeded to the information analysis stage. It involves coding important articles related to the study. I employed 'framework analysis', which deals with methodological procedures and analysed the literature review, because it facilitates analysing important information. Maxwell (2021) described the process as "sifting, charting and sorting materials according to key themes and issues". Indexing was done through sifting the data related to particular themes; charting the data was also done, and ideal headings and subheadings were carried out during the thematic framework stage (Creswell, 2021). An interpretation that involves assembling all the criteria features of the dataset was performed to synthesise data.

Key articles selected employ a range of qualitative and quantitative methodologies. Meta-analysis for the quantitative data was done because the research methods did not share the same variables. Textual data was coded appropriately using framework analysis processes. The concepts and LR present a clear understanding of existing literature on the topic (Maxwell, 2021). The LR assists in avoiding duplication of previous works by researchers. However, the disadvantage is that since not all academic search engines were used, there could be some previous literature that the literature might not explore. The next section presents findings of the study.

4. Findings

The ogya syndrome impacts on the Ghana's sustainable economic development findings has both positive and negative impact. The positive impacts are:

Sustainability of economic development

The study's findings reveal that Ghanaians' international migration to the international world is significant to the sustainable economic development. The study identifies that Ghanaians' migration decreases unemployment rates, alleviates poverty among families and households whose relatives are abroad through remittance receipts (Awumbila et al., 2023). The major benefits to the state remain remittances sent back into the country, which have proven to reduce financial crises, economic downturn and economic recession.

Remittances benefit Ghana's economy.

The study's finding reveals that Ghanaian migrants send remittances into the country in the form of reward or money to their loved ones and families while residing overseas (World Bank, 2024). Remittances received by Ghana stimulate economic growth and development of the nation. The study indicates that the final beneficiaries of the remittances are not only the loved ones or families, but rather remittances sprinkle and spur the entire economy (World Bank, 2024). Remittances lead to the creation of value-chain employment for drivers, transport owners, and landlords through demand for services such as transport, houses and security among others (Moloi et al., 2022).

Further, remittances are transferred mostly through financial institutions, which generates income for them (financial institutions) to have more funds to lend to investors. This results in stimulating economic growth and development (World Bank, 2024). Remittances also stabilize the country's exchange rate (World Bank, 2024). Remittances invested in building projects spur the local economy and increase tax revenues for Ghana, which creates jobs for the unemployed in the economy, hence the unemployment rate declines (Yeboah et al.,

2021). The study's finding reveals that in some instances, the remittances assist brilliant but needy students to pay school fees. This helps to reduce the level of drop-out rates in the schooling system, increase human resources development, and equip individuals with the necessary educational skills. The unofficial remittances through friends and families promote private investments and self-employment among the recipients; therefore, remittances contribute mainly to Ghana's economic development (Yeboah et al., 2021).

Skills return (brain gains)

The study identifies that apart from remittances stimulating Ghana's economic growth and development, the returnee migrants with new skills and technologies lead to industrial development. Skills acquired by Ghanaian Diasporas in various fields are transferred to non-migrants in Ghana's economy. Ghanaian migrants with acquired skills in high-tech return home, establish industries which create job opportunities in the country (Balima & Sy, 2021). Value-chain jobs are created in the economy as a result of the demand for goods and services such as transport and houses (Moloi et al., 2022). And the industries broaden the tax base for the GoG. The negative impacts of Ogya syndrome findings are discussed below:

Remittances cause inflation

The study's finding reveals that remittances spent on luxury goods instead of conspicuous consumption have negative impacts on Ghana's economy. This causes inflation known as Dutch disease. The Dutch disease deepens the inequality gap between the rich and poor since the price of goods and services increases, making affordability expensive for poor households (De Haas, 2020).

Brain drains

Professionals such as academics and doctors with expertise leave Ghana for the Western world; this creates job opportunities for unqualified laborers to fill and it affects Ghana's economic productivity. Especially, in the sectors where a high level of technology is required (Awumbila et al., 2023).

High dependency on the remitters

Over-reliance on remittances leads to dependency on the migrants. This, to some extent, breeds 'laziness' among the recipient households and families (Ukaegbu & Okpoko, 2023). In case of unfortunate events on the emigrant, such as sickness or accident, and the migrant's inability to remit to the recipients, the entire family suffers financially.

Social impacts on both migrants and non-migrants

Migration might lead to the separation of loved ones, which can lead to divorce, family neglect, social challenges, and loss of cultural identification (Leal & Harder, 2021). The paper argues that whether international migrants would contribute to Ghana's sustainable economic development or not depends on the foreign policies the GoG implements towards the international migrants. Favorable foreign policies that aim to attract Ghanaian migrants would yield economic development, whereas unfriendly foreign policies would deter migrants' contribution to economic development.

Overall, building from the positive and negative impact about the Ghanaian migrants' admiration for international migration on the sustainable economic development, the study positions that, ogya syndrome is beneficial to the Ghana's economic growth and sustainable development, despite the brain drains and high dependency on remitters, especially at the time where GHC equivalent plummeted to almost US$16. Further, the international migration was realized during the COVID-19 lockdown when the GoG encouraged Ghanaian Diasporas to send money home to support their loved ones' economic hardships. Moreover, returnee migrants spur economic growth and development through the establishment of factories, which create job opportunities, reduce unemployment, and stimulate the nation's economic development.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

The study explored how ogya syndrome in the Ghanaian context contributes to achieving sustainable economic growth and development. It means international migration enhances Ghana's economic growth and development through remittance receipts and knowledge acquisition by Ghanaian migrants abroad. Migrants implement acquired skills on their return, establish businesses, attract foreign direct investment (FDI) into

Ghana, and undertake investment projects such as school building constructions, electrification projects, and providing pipe-borne water, which are necessary ingredients for economic development. Therefore, the GoG must develop strategies to tap and harness the migration's positive effects. However, negative effects such as brain drain and dependency, management policies should be implemented to curb them. The paper recommends good governance, stewardship, probity and accountability among all institutions in the country to attract Ghanaian diasporas to contribute to economic growth and development. In addition, migrant remittances, business investments, entrepreneurial ventures, and developmental projects should attract less tax payment to encourage Ghanaian Diasporas' contributions to ensure national sustainable economic growth and development.

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