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Migration as a factor of urbanisation in Udu local government area of delta state, Nigeria

Jomata Lucky Igben

ABSTRACT

This study investigated the contribution of migration to urbanization in Udu Local Government Area of Delta state, Nigeria within the migration-urbanisation nexus. It is aimed at ascertaining the size of migrants, and assessing their investment in the physical development of the study area. Primary data were obtained from research questionnaires administered on a sample of 700 household heads randomly selected from one settlement, chosen from four identified urban settlements in the study area. The questions included social, economic and demographic characteristics of migrants in line with the Social Area Analysis (SAA) model of measuring urban society. Focus Group Discussion (FCD) with five community leaders was held to complement data collection. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics. The study shows that 43.6% of sampled population were migrants from various ethnic nationalities, with 68.2% being males. Majority of 259 migrants' household heads or 84.9 % had investments such as dwelling units, hotels, shops, commercial vehicles and other business ventures, 18.0% of which was valued at over \$\frac{14}{2}\$,500, 000, thus, contributing to the urbanization process. A comprehensive planning of the area is recommended to cope with the rapid population increase and physical development caused by urbanization.

Keywords: Migration, Urbanisation, Social Area Analysis (SAA), Economic Expectation and Action, Delta State

1. INTRODUCTION

Migration, in conjunction with fertility and mortality are the determinants of population dynamics. As a social activity, it is defined as mobility of the population involving a change of permanent residence of substantial duration (Knowles and Wareing, 1983). According to Thomas (2018), migration refers to a physical movement involving an intended permanent change in residence. Permanent change in residence implies that the person or household in question intends to stay in the new residence for an indefinite period of time. It is simply the process through which individuals, families and groups move from one location to another. The above definitions presuppose that migration has distance-time reference and is a spontaneous effort to achieve a balance between



population and resources. Based on the destination of the movement, it is two-pronged: viz, immigration and out-migration. The former is the mobility of the persons into an area while the latter is the movement out of an area, both of which increases and decreases population respectively (Weeks, 1978). Continuous and uncontrolled immigration leads to rapid population growth, socio-economic and cultural transformation of a settlement; thereby resulting in urbanisation.

Urbanisation, according to Dike (1981) has a dual connotation. It is both a process and a condition. As a process, it involves physical movement, migration of individuals, socio-economic transformation of rural areas is introduced into its meaning. It becomes a condition when individuals in urban or rural areas enculturate behaviours such as formally prescribed relationship, impersonality, anonymity, blasé, attitude etc. which are normally attributed to urbanism. Whether it is a process or condition, it is pertinent that there must be population increase and physical expansion of settlement: hence, Mabogunje (2005) asserted that urbanization results in large, compact, densely built-up area where spaces are often in short supply except at the periphery and where population tends to be heterogenous and socially diversified. In other words, urbanization has both human and physical dimensions.

According to Faniran *et al* (1987), urbanization is either technologically supported as found in advanced industrialised nations or socio-economically handicapped as found in emerging nations with inadequate economic activities and hence inadequate employment opportunities which can absolve the masses as a consequence of increased population. Conversely, the increased in population results to corresponding increase in economic and social activities as well as physical development such as buildings and other infrastructure.

The impact of migration on urbanization in the developing countries was the focus of the 2012 International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) Conference between 2010 and 2015. It was observed in the conference that 'the 21st century is experiencing the effect of the inter-related process of rapid urban expansion and massive internal migration. According to the United Nation's new projection, virtually all expected population growth of the world before 2050 would be concentrated in urban areas of developing countries; at the same time, internal migration continues to be one of the major components of urban growth and socio-economic transformation and a major mechanism for population redistribution in these countries (IUSSP, 2012).

Furthermore, Beauchemin and Bocquier (2004) stated that migrants have traditionally been viewed as responsible for increased growth in urban centres or uncontrolled expansion of urban areas and surplus labour. In other words, urbanisation is usually conceived as an outcome of migration which, according to Owusu (2017) cited in Teye and Awumbila (2018), refers to increasing shift of population from rural to urban places, or a consistent increase in the number of the persons living in towns and cities.

Williamson (1988) argued that rural-to-urban migration contributes significantly to the urbanization processes in Africa and most developing countries in the world. Also, Bakker et al (2016) study of migration and urbanization in post-Apartheid South Africa revealed that exogenous population shocks such as migration, leads to population increase in urban areas relative to rural areas, which can foster urbanisation in the near future. Tacoli (2017) asserted that urbanization is driven by net rural-urban migration responding to better economic opportunities in urban areas, or by lack of economic opportunities in the rural home areas. In other words, people's movement reflects the spatial disparity of economic opportunities. In sum, Oyefara (2018) asserted that both concepts are components of the same processes within the population dynamics and they therefore interact constantly.

Although, natural increase in towns due to high fertility rate, and the re-classification of settlements into urban areas accounts for a large percentage of urbanization in Africa, long-termed migration into urban settlements accounts for a significant proportion of urban growth (Teje and Awumbila, 2018). Ikwuyatum (2016) examined the factors that drive the linkage between the two phenomena in Nigeria. He identified education, health, employment, communication, trade and commerce, social conflict and violence as determinants of the nexus. However, the study did not include the impact or contribution of migration to the urbanisation process.

In spite of the numerous studies linking migration to urbanisation, no empirical study on the proportion and contribution of migration to urbanisation generally and in the study area in particular has been carried out. Consequently, this study is aimed at determining the impact of immigration to the urbanization of parts of Udu LGA. Specifically, its objectives are to; (i) ascertain the size of migrants in the study area, (ii) determine the social, economic and demographic characteristics of the migrants in the area and (iii) assess migrants' investment in the physical growth of the area. The information generated in this study would be useful in the formulation of a comprehensive plan for the socio-economic and political development of migrants and the physical replanning of the area.

Conceptualization of Study

This study is predicated on the concept of Economic Expectation and Action, which according to Ajaegbu (1972) is 'the level of living and achievement which individuals, group of persons, or society consider appropriate for them. These levels of living and

achievement can be classified as low, intermediate and high'. However, the concept is dynamic and lacks uniform standard for measurement, as it varies over time and space. Ajaegbu (1972) further posits that economic expectation and action can be influenced by the following factors; the economic and social status the people achieve, the material things they want to own, their willingness to emulate their more successful neighbours, accept or adopt new practices and ideas, and invest money, labour, land etc. with a view to increasing the level economic activities. These factors measure the migrants' willingness to achieve high expectation for the households and enhance serious economic decision and action that would lead to economic development. This is because they will expect and also make efforts to achieve a higher level of living, social and economic status for themselves.

In applying this concept to this study, we assume that people move into the study area because they have positive images for higher income and standard of living of the area. Such images have been created by the type of information they had received. Against this background, migrants invest their abilities in new economic practices, investing both material and financial resources in different economic ventures so as to make profit; thus, accelerating the process of urbanization.

The concept is measured by the variables of Social Area Analysis (SAA). These variables which are used in measuring the degree of urbanization in a society are classified into three categories; namely, economic status or social rank (years of schooling, employment status, class of worker, major occupational group, value of home, person per room etc.), family status or urbanization (age, sex ownership of dwelling unit, home structure), and ethnic status or segregation (race, nationality and citizenship).

2. METHODOLOGY

Study Area

Udu Local Government Area (LGA) is situated in Delta State, Nigeria. It lies roughly between latitudes 5°45" and 5°50" north and longitudes 6°20" and 6°50" east over an area of about 138 square kilometres. It is bordered in the North by the Warri South LGA, Ughelli South LGA in South and East, while the Warri South West LGA is its western border. The LGA occupies the plain land between the Warri River and the Okpare Creek, with a vegetation of freshwater swamp, and a general land elevation of less than 10 metres above sea level (Igben, 2014). The population of the LGA in 2006 was 142,480 persons, made up of 71,813 males and 70,667 females spread across 32 towns and villages (NPC, 2006). The projected population in 2016 was 196, 200 persons with population density of 1,432 persons per square kilometre (NPC, 2016; NBS. 2016). In 2019, using the national population growth rate of 2.7%, was estimated to be 218,136 persons.

However, following the creation of the LGA in 1991 and the rapid influx of people from the neighbouring Warri Township, the population is estimated to be over 300,000 persons, with some of the settlements undergoing rapid urbanisation as indicated by the of spatial dimension of build-up areas shown in Figure 1. The estimation of population is done due the fact that projections only consider natural increase by fertility or birthrate. Furthermore, the urbanisation of the area is manifested in increased economic activities such as number of medium scale industrial and commercial enterprises. The area had only one daily market (Udu market) in 2006, but the number has increased to six daily markets located at Aladja, Ubogo, Ekete, Orhuwhorun, Ovwian and Ohwase town (Lafua and Igben, 2019).

The people of Udu LGA engage in numerous economic activities which include farming, fishing, hunting, trading, manufacturing etc. While people in the rural areas engage mostly in the primary sector occupations such as farming, fishing, hunting and lumbering, those in urban areas are involved in trading, manufacturing, transportation etc. Industrial activities in the area include prospecting for petroleum resources as the area is home to the Abura oil field and the Otorogu Gas plant. The largest industrial enterprise in the area is the Delta Steel Company located at Ovwian-Aladja. There are also medium and small-scale industries and these include Niger-Benue Transport Company (NBTC), Ovwian, Plastic producing company at Okpaka, numerous sawmills, large-scale bakeries, modern markets and workshops for various vocations in the urban areas.

Research Design

The study is a descriptive survey which involved a description of the migrants' characteristics based on Social Area Analysis Model proposed by Shevky and Bell (1955). The model centred on three basic constructs; namely, economic status or social rank (years of schooling, employment status, class of worker, major occupational group, value of home, person per room etc.), family status or urbanization (age, sex ownership of dwelling unit, home structure), and ethnic status or segregation (race, nationality and citizenship).

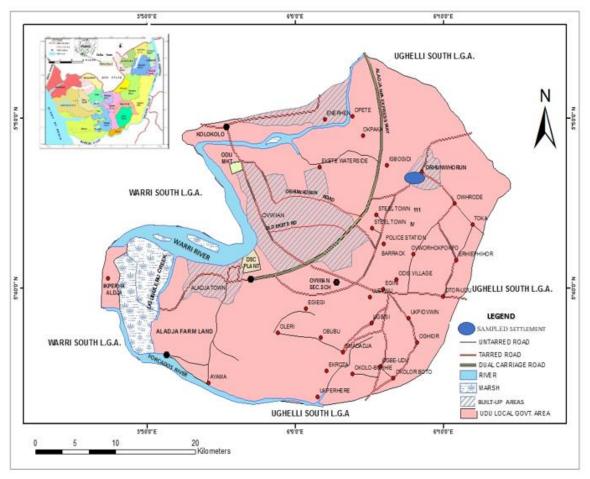


Figure 1: The study Area Adapted from Lafua and Igben (2019)

Population and Sample

The target population for this study include all males and female migrants in the area. Primary data were obtained from a structured questionnaire administered on a population sample obtained through the random selection of one settlement from a list of four settlements identified to be undergoing rapid urbanisation, using the table of random digit. The selected settlement is Orhuwhorun town as shown in Figure 1. The town has an estimated population of 30, 000 persons and over 5,000 households spread across seven sub-areas thus, can pass as a big town in the classification of urban settlements in Nigeria (Ikwuyatum, 2016). In each sub-area, 100 households were randomly selected. Thus, a total of 700 households were targeted and interviewed. The household survey was adopted because the study population is family based and to avoid duplication of information which could have arisen if an individual survey was conducted. The questionnaire covered Social Area Analysis for measuring urban society listed above. The data collection process was complemented by Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with five community leaders, who assisted in obtaining the population records available in the town, as there were no available reliable official data.

Data Analysis

Data collected were collated and subjected to statistical analysis. The frequencies of occurrence of events, means, mode, standard deviation and percentages were worked out and presented in tables and graphs as in most descriptive surveys.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Proportion of Migrants in the Study Area

The number of migrants in relation to the sample interviewed is indicated in the Pie Chart (Figure 2).

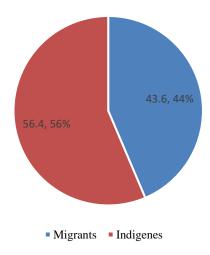


Figure 2: Proportion of Migrants Source: Fieldwork, 2019

Figure 2 shows that 305 respondents, representing 43.6 percent of the 700 respondents interviewed in this study, were non-indigenes or migrants who moved into the area at various times while 395 respondent or 56.4 percent are indigenes. The number of migrants in the area implies that migration is a major contributor to process of urbanization.

Ethnic nationalities of Migrants

The table below presents the various ethnic nationalities or sources of the migrants sampled in the area. Ethnic nationality of the migrants is a measure of the area of their origin or source and c is a parameter for determining the distance they have travelled to their present location.

Table 1: Ethnic nationalities of Migrants

Ethnic Nationalities	Frequency	Percentage
1. Urhobo	111	36.4
2. Itsekiri	27	8.9
3. Ijaw	50	16.4
4. Edo	31	10.2
5. Isoko	5	1.5
6. Yoruba	28	9.2
7. Ibo	42	13.8
8. Hausa/Fulani	3	1.0
9. Others	8	2.6
Total	305	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2019

Table 1 shows that a majority of 229 migrants' households, representing 71.9 per cent are from the neighbouring ethnic groups. Of this proportion, 111 respondents or 36.4% are from Urhobo, where the study area is situated. This is followed by Ijaw which accounted for 50 respondents (16.4%). While Edo accounted for 31 respondents (10.2%), Itsekiri accounted for 27 respondents (8.9%). The Yoruba, Ibo and Hausa/Fulani accounted for 28 respondents (9.2%), 42 respondents (13.8%), and 3 respondents (1.0%) respectively. The Isoko had 5 respondents, representing 1.5 per cent. Other ethnic nationalities such as Kalabari, Tiv, Idoma, Igbirra, Ibibio. Efik etc. accounted for 8 respondents or 2.6% of the sample. The finding that the migrants are from various ethnic nationalities, resulting in heterogenous population is indication of urbanization, and is in tandem with Social Area Analysis Model proposed by Shevky and Bell (1955).

Age and Sex Composition

The age and sex characteristics of the Migrants' households captured in the sample is presented in table 2 below.

Table 2: Age and Sex Composition of Households Heads

Age C	Group	Males	Females	Total	Percentage
1	Below 20years	3	1	4	1.3
2	21 – 30	23	19	42	13.8
3	31 – 40	71	29	100	32.8
4	41 – 50	63	15	78	25.6
5	51 – 60	38	26	64	20.9
6.	Above 60 years	10	7	17	5.6
	Total	208	97	305	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2019

Table 2 shows that 159 persons, representing 52.1 per cent were above 40 years. Out of this percentage, 17 respondents or 5.6 per cent were over 60 years, followed by those between 41 and 50 years old (78 respondents or 25.6%) and those in the 51-60 years cohort with 64 respondents, representing 20.9 per cent. In the lower age cohorts, 100 respondents or 32.8 per cent were between 31-40 years, and 42 respondents or 13.8 per cent and 4 respondents or 1.3 per cent respectively for 21-30 and below 20 years old. In addition, majority of 208 household heads were males, representing 68.2 per cent and 97 household heads or 31.8 per cent who were females. The predominance of male-headed households agrees with the National Population Commission (NPC) documented Household statistics of 2000. The statistics showed that 83 per cent of total households in Nigeria are headed by males while females headed only 17 per cent. However, the slight deviation from these statistics is because of the respondents who are migrants.

Sizes of Migrants' Households

The size a household varies considerable in the area. It indicates the marital status of the migrants and their number of children. Table 3 shows the sizes of the migrant's households. This include household heads their spouses, children and other relatives.

Table 3: Sizes of Sampled Migrants' Households

Household Size	Frequency	H/H Heads	Spouse	Children/ Relations	Total
1	8	8	-	-	8
2	29	29	25	4	58
3	28	28	24	32	84
4	26	26	23	55	104
5	40	40	42	118	200
6	46	46	49	181	276
7	34	34	39	65	238
8	17	20	25	115	160
9	18	18	25	119	162
10	13	13	21	110	130
11	16	16	26	134	176
12	18	18	27	171	216
13	10	10	16	104	130
14	1	1	1	1 12	
15	1	1	1	13	15
Total	305	305	344	1,233	1,882

Mean Household Size = 6.1, Mode = 6.0, Median = 7.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2019

Of the total sampled population of 305 households, 177 households had size of less than six persons. In this category, 46 households had a size of 6 persons and 40 households had 5 persons while 16, 28, 19 and 8 households had 4,3, 2 and 1 person (s) respectively. However, 168 households had sizes ranging from 7-15 persons. The breakdown shows that 34 households had an average of 7 persons and 20 households had an average of 7 persons. While 18 households had 9 persons each, 10 households had 13 persons each. Others household sizes and frequencies are as follows: 11 persons (16 households), 12 persons (18 households), 13 persons (10 households), 14 persons (1 household) and 15 persons (1 household). The minimum size of the households is one person, while the maximum is 15 persons. The mean, mode and median of sampled household size is 6.1, 6.0 and 7.0 respectively. This figure is a slight deviation from National Bureau of Statistics (2016) survey which put average household size in Nigeria at 5.9 persons and 4.9 persons for rural and urban areas respectively.

Educational Attainment of Migrants

Figure 3 indicates the educational attainment of the migrants.

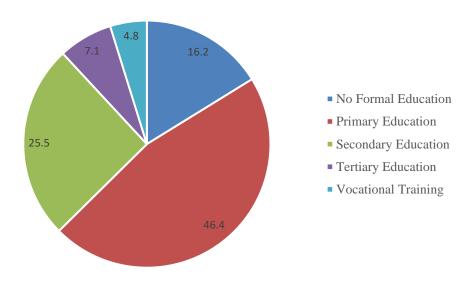


Figure 3: Educational Attainment of Migrants Source: Fieldwork, 2019

Figure 3 reveals that 16.2 per cent of the sample population had no form of formal education. While 46.4 per cent and 25.5 per cent had primary and secondary education respectively, 4.8 per cent of the sample had vocational training in motor-cycle and motor repairs, welding, tailoring and hair dressing, only 7.1 per cent had tertiary education such as diploma and degree certificates in various fields. The high percentage of migrants with formal education and vocational training agree with the finding of Ikwuyatum (2016) that educational attainment is a factor of the migration and urbanization nexus.

Occupational Composition of Migrants

The employment status or occupational engagements of migrants' household heads is a variable of social area used in measuring urbanisation process. Table 4 depicts the occupational composition of sampled migrants' household heads.

Table 4: Occupational Composition of Sampled Migrants' Household Heads.

Types of Occupations	Freque	ncy Percentage
1. Trading	67	22.0
2. Transportation	38	12.4
3. General Contractors	17	5.6
4. Civil Service	69	22.6
5. Company work	84	27.5
6. Primary Occupations	11	3.6

DISCOVERY I ANALYSIS ARTICLE

7. Others	9	3.0	
8. Unemployed	10	3.3	
Total	305	100.0	

Source: Fieldwork, 2019

Table 4 reveals company work was the major occupation, employing 84 household heads or 29.1 per cent. This was followed by Civil Service, mostly teaching and local government employees which engaged 69 household heads, representing 22.6 percent. However, trading and transportation employed 67 household heads (22.0%) and 38 household heads (12.4%) respectively. Furthermore, 11 household heads (3.6%) were engaged in primary occupations such as farming growing crops, such as cassava, yams, maize, vegetables and fishing in nearby stream. The main catches are tilapia, mudfish, snakefish, eel and catfish. Reptiles, such as turtles and river snakes are also products of fishing. General contracts such as supplies of oil field tools and industrial spare parts, stationery, building materials, and building contracts etc., engaged 17 household heads or 5.6 per cent. However, few households were engaged in other economic ventures such as hair dressing salons, barber shops, vulcanizers, motor and tricycle repairs, etc. This category of work employed 9 household heads representing 2.9 percent. However, 10 household heads, representing 3.3% were unemployed during this investigation.

The occupations which are mostly secondary and tertiary is an indication that the study area is in the process of urbanisation, unlike a rural settlement which is dominated by primary occupations. This finding agrees with Ikwuyatum (2016) view that urban centres are characterized by diversity of functions where all types of occupations, industries and services are present. Furthermore, the preponderance of secondary and tertiary occupation agrees with their level of formal education and vocational training which is often conceived as a push factor of migration.

Migrants Investments in Study Area

The increased variety and number of houses and other investments in a settlement is a measure of urbanization; hence, migrants' investments in physical properties is a contribution to urbanisation. Table 5 shows the nature and estimated values of migrants' investments.

Table 5: Nature and Estimated Value of Migrants' Investment

	Estimated Value of Migrants' Investment (₩'000)						
Nature of Migrants' Investment	<500	500- 1,000	1,000- 1,500	1,500- 2,000	2000- 2,500	>2,500	Total
I. Dwelling Unit(s) only			40	38	34	16	128
2. Dwelling Unit(s)/house(s) hired out			3	7	2	28	40
3. Dwelling Unit(s)/ Shops	5	3	2	3	8	6	27
4.House(s)/Commercial vehicle			1	2		3	6
5. Commercial vehicle			1	4	5	3	13
6. Shops	9	5	2	3	4	7	30
7. Workshops	3	1	1				5
8. Others		2	3	2	1		8
9. Hotel(s)						2	2
10. No investment							46
Total	17	11	53	59	54	65	305

Source: Fieldwork, 2019

Table 5 shows that 259 migrants' household heads representing 84.9 per cent have one form of investment or the other where they live. These investments which are either economic ventures or assets provide employment and income for their owners. More so, most of these investments are concrete, thereby constituting the physical dimension of urbanisation. Furthermore, about 238 migrants or 78.0% of the households have raise buildings of their own which are used as dwelling units, hired out to tenants, hotels, shops, and other business purposes. Also, 35 households or 11.4% own shops as either retail outfits or workshops for repair work. Commercial vehicles such as cars, buses, tricycles and motor cycles were investments by 13 households, representing 4.2%. Only 46

households or 15.1 % have no investment of any sort yet. The percentage of migrants who own houses in the area is higher than the average percentage of house owners in Nigerian urban areas, which according to the National Bureau of Statistics was 68.5 % in 2016.

The estimates of migrants' investments show that 17 households heads or 5.6% have investment of less than \$\frac{1}{2}\$ 500,000.00 each. While only11 household heads or 3.6% have investment of between \$\frac{1}{2}\$ 500,000 - \$\frac{1}{2}\$ 1,000,000, 53 households heads or 17.3% have investment between \$\frac{1}{2}\$,000,000 - \$\frac{1}{2}\$,000,000 each. Those with investment worth between \$\frac{1}{2}\$,500,000 - \$\frac{1}{2}\$ 2,000,000, \$\frac{1}{2}\$,000,000 - \$\frac{1}{2}\$,000,000 and over \$\frac{1}{2}\$,500,000 are 59 household heads (19.3%), 54 household heads (17.7%), and 65 household heads (21.3%) respectively. The value of migrants' investment is graphically presented in the bar chart (Figure 4). The investments in dwelling units and business places leads the physical growth of the area, which add to its urban characteristics as explained by Mabogunje (2005).

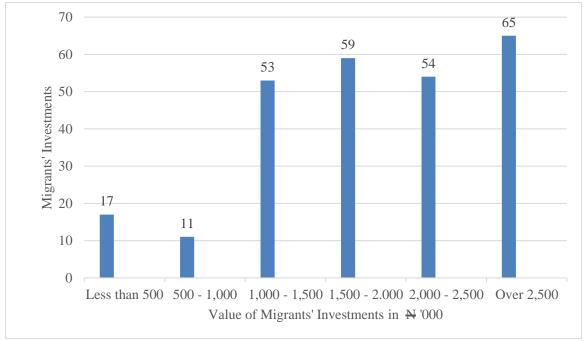


Figure 4: Estimated Value of Migrants' Investments Source: Fieldwork, 2019

4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The link between migration and urbanization has both human and physical dimensions. While the former is manifested in the increased heterogeneity of the area, the latter results in the physical development of spaces for dwelling units and business ventures. The finding buttresses the above views as it revealed that the population of the area are migrants from neighbouring ethnic nationalities. Furthermore, it indicated that migrants have investments in housing projects and business ventures, some of which were estimated to cost millions of Naira. Thus, migration accounts for the increasing population and physical expansion, which are important variables for measuring urbanization. Following from the above, the study recommends that proper physical planning of the area should be done to cope with the rapid population increase and physical development caused by the urbanization. This would enhance sustainable development of the human and the physical environment.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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Data and materials availability

All data associated with this study are present in the paper.

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