MIGRANTS’ INTEGRATION EXPERIENCE IN IRELAND.

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contents</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contents</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgements</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. **Chapter One: Introduction**               | 6    |

2. **Chapter Two: Literature Review**         | 8    |
   2.1 Migration in Ireland and reasons people migrate | 10    |
   2.2 Integration policy in Ireland             | 12    |
   2.3 International experience                  | 13    |
   2.4 Migrants’ integration experiences in Ireland and barriers to their integration experiences | 15    |
   2.5 Gaps in research on migrants’ experiences | 17    |
   2.6 Conclusion of literature review          | 17    |

3. **Chapter Three: Methodology**             | 19    |
   3.1 Apparatus                                | 20    |
   3.2 Participants                             | 20    |
   3.3 Research Design                          | 21    |
   3.4 Procedures                               | 22    |
   3.5 Ethical Consideration                    | 22    |
4. Chapter Four: Results

4.1 Experience of life in Ireland since arrival
4.2 Integration experience
4.3 Discrimination, racism, and cultural differences barriers to integration
4.4 Cultural differences
4.5 Citizenship
4.6 Summary of results

5. Chapter Five: Discussion

5.1 Migrants’ experiences since arrival
5.2 Integration Experiences
5.3 Discrimination and Racism
5.4 The need for policy and research to address the issue of integration
5.5 Citizenship
5.6 Conclusion of themes
5.7 Limitations
5.8 Future Research
5.9 Conclusion

References
Appendices 1
Appendices 2
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ABSTRACT

This study will explore migrants’ experience of integration in Ireland. Using a qualitative method which involves interviewing 4 males and 4 females’ ages between 29 and 47. The focus of this study is to find out the challenges and barriers that the migrants are facing in the process of integrating into Irish society. While some of the participants expressed negative experiences of integration in Ireland, in contrast some have positive experiences of integration. Different factors such as the neighbourhood, cultural differences, racism and barriers were some of the factors that contribute to these varied experiences. Although despite Ireland limited experiences in immigration and integration issue it is evident from this research that things are gradually changing and improving; however, there is still a big room for improvement both from the policy making level and the from the society attitude at large.
1. CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

This study aims to explore migrants’ experience of integration in Ireland. This study is important as the researcher believe that it will enhance knowledge and contribute to a better understanding of integration experiences of migrants in Ireland. The research will look at factors contributing to migrants settling to life in Ireland and factors affecting their integration experiences. It will provide qualitative information on the migrants’ day to day experiences of integration in Ireland. The research will look at relevant policies and programmes on migrants integration in Ireland and compare with other countries; so as to inform and furnish public understanding of the migrants’ experiences of integration and to aid in recognising the barriers and challenges on the way of migrants’ integration to life in Ireland. The study will contribute to identifying key factors that will promote the integration experiences of migrant in Ireland.

The objectives of this study were to explore any difficulties migrants may be facing in integrating to Irish society and ways of improving those difficulties in order to enhance smooth and positive integration experiences for the migrants. How well migrants settle down or not can be agreed to have a major impact on every other aspect of their life. With this in mind the researcher identified that a qualitative method will be most appropriate in this study as it will give the migrants voices and allow the migrants’ the opportunity to express their opinion fully on their integration experience in Ireland. By extracting on evidence from different studies and researchers across a range of disciplines and field of interest, this study will shield light on the
migrants’ experiences of integration. Most often the society can presume what the migrants’ experiences are; however, the actual experiences and how it impact on their day to day living may be unknown or hidden to the wider society.
CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

While there are growing increase in studies on migration and integration in Ireland; the researches on integration experiences of migrants remains few and limited. Most of the researches focus on economic integration aspect of migrants’ life and not on integration experiences of migrants per se. (For example, studies by Barrett & Duff (2007) ‘Are Ireland’s immigrants’ integrating into its Labour force’ focus on migrants employments experiences. Pillinger, (2009) ‘Making a Home in Ireland: Housing Experiences of Chinese, Indian, Lithuanian & Nigerian Migrants in Blanchardstown’ which focus mainly on the housing experiences of migrants in Blanchardstown area only. Lonergan (2009) looked at ‘immigration and social change in Ireland’ focus on social change resulting from immigration. O’Neill, (2008) ‘Merging Cultures in the Model County: Immigration and Integration in County Wexford’; study was around migrants experiences of accessing services in County Wexford).

The two largest studies to date in Ireland specifically on migrants’ integration experience were studies conducted by Coakley and Mac Einri, (2007) which investigated the Integration Experience of African Families in Ireland and the other was the study carried out by Gilligan and Curry et el (2010) which investigated the front line of integration of migrants’ teenagers. Coakley and Mac Einri, (2007) study looked at ‘the experience of African immigrants in Ireland’. The research was undertaken in Cork and Dublin and 18 qualitative research dialogues took place. The research approach was non-directive and the actual voices of the migrants were
used as a result all the data from the project was from the participants themselves. The study finds that while migrants’ experiences of integration were different, some positives while some are negative. The study highlight the need for ‘government coherent approach in addressing migrants access to education and training, language provision, employment opportunity and recognition of foreign qualifications’ (Coakley and Mac Einri, 2007 p.7) in order to enhance better integration of African families in Ireland. While the study has its strengths one of which was the unstructured interview method used and the research was designed in such a way that it used the actual voices of the migrants to uncover what setting down truly means to them. However, the research focused only on the African migrants whereby, migrants in Ireland are not only limited to migrants from African origin alone, there are migrants in Ireland from all other part of the world. While it is understandable that there are practical issue on what is realistic to achieve as there are constrain and restrictions on how wide the target groups can be and the understanding that it might not be practical to cover all migrants’ representatives in a single study. The fact that integrating Ireland study only involves African families pose as a limitation because there are migrants’ living in Ireland from different parts of the world; as such the research was limited in the sampling and scope. Moreover, the fact that the participants were given the sum of 50euros for their time can be seen as a limitation also, while it can be said that given money for the participants time was a positive incentives in encouraging participations, it can be also influence the participants genuine desire to participate as they may not necessarily be interested in the study but decided to participate anyway for the sake of the 50euros (Coakley and Mac Einri, 2007).
Gilligan and Curry et al. 2010, conducted a study on ‘In the front line of integration study, explored the experiences of young people aged 15-18 who have migrated to Ireland. 169 participants took part in 19 open-ended focus group discussions, the group consisted of 86 girls and 78 boys, 5 of the participants did not disclose their gender. Participants were from Europe, central Asia and Africa. The study finds that young migrants faced many challenges in their integration experiences to life in Ireland. Challenges such as racism and social exclusion, language barriers and cultural differences. Also that each young person had to find their own way of coping and adjusting to these challenges on daily basis. Using the actual voice of the young people was one of the strength of this study and the fact that it was the first national study of its kind. However, it cannot be generalized that the sample is representatives of all young migrants in Ireland. While the young people may have better avenue for socialising and probably more interaction with others in the community or society, than an adult may have, their parents experience will have impact and to some or larger extent will shape the young people’s experience as well. Hence the need to explore adult migrants experience of integration in Ireland.

In order to do that, the researcher will discuss the following: migration in Ireland and reasons people migrate, integration policy in Ireland, integration indicators, international experience, migrants integration migrants experiences of integration in Ireland and barriers to their integration, and lastly gaps in research on migrants experiences (Gilligan and Curry et al. 2010).

2.1. MIGRATION IN IRELAND AND REASONS PEOPLE MIGRATE

Migration into Ireland is one of the biggest demographic changes to affect Irish society since the famine (Curry et al. 2010). Ireland experienced a substantial immigration a phenomenon that has been largely absent for most of its recent history (Share et al. 2007). According to the
Central Statistics Office (CSO); 47,500 people came to live in Ireland in the year 2002. Immigration became as important factor as birth minus death which are natural increase. By the year 2007, it was estimated that 10 per cent of Irish population are foreign-born (Share et el (2007). The origins of migrants to Ireland are also becoming diverse. MacEinri (2001) point out that until the mid- 1990s the major sources of immigration were found amongst former Irish emigrants. Different factors is said to have contributed to the inflow of migrants to Ireland one of the factors was the economic growth; Ireland was rated as the 3rd richest country during the boom. ‘Since the 1990’s Ireland saw the emergence of a different Ireland, the population profile has changed dramatically...different factors is said to have contributed to this’ (Share 2007 p.144). By mid 1990’s a pattern of return migration was established with many Irish people who have emigrated out is deciding to return to Ireland which is now experiencing a buoyant economy (Share (2007).

Reasons people migrate, can be said that every migrants has a distinct reason as to why they left their country of origin and migrate to another most commonly in search of a better life or to join a family member. There are different categories of migrants for example: economic migrants or migrant worker, asylum seekers, refugee, international students and etc. There are different categories of migrants for example: economic migrants or migrant worker, asylum seekers, refugee, international students and etc. According to the Central Statistics Office (CSO) there were 419,733 non-Irish persons resident and present in the State on Census night of 2006. Approximately 275,000 of these persons were of EU nationality, 24,000 from the rest of Europe, 35,000 from Africa, 47,000 from Asia and 21,000 from America.
2.2. INTEGRATION POLICY IN IRELAND

Einri (2007 p. 238) argues that ‘against a rapid changing Ireland, with limited immigration experience and less positive attitude towards difference and large mono-cultural tradition, Ireland is faced with difficulties of constructing immigration and integration policies’. Although there has been changes on integration policies in Ireland since 2007, especially with the creation of the office of the minister for integration, however, Ireland still have a long way to go in relation to integration policies. Castles and Miller (1998 p.212) point out that ‘the experiences of migrants are significantly shaped by the policies and practices of the state’. Integration and how it is to be achieved have only recently become objects of policy and discussion in Ireland and are influenced by both the EU Common Principles and the Irish specific experience of migration. In other word; policies on integration will determine whether the migrants’ experiences are positive or negative.

Up until recently, Ireland did not have a need for integration policy because Ireland historically has been a country of emigration rather than immigration (Share et al 2007). So it can be said that Ireland has limited experience in relation to immigration policies compared to other countries such as Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom. This changed with the establishment of the Office of the Minister for Integration in 2007 now renamed to the office for the promotion of migrants’ integration. The office was set up with responsibility for the development of integration policy in conjunction with other government agencies and non-governmental organisations. Yet it has been argued that Ireland’s integration policy is of ‘laissez-faire’ approach and that the integration policy in Ireland is not clear and not consistent (Boucher 2008 p.2). Up until year 2007 the only official integration policy was related to recognition of
refugees and there was a general belief that migrant workers would eventually go home (Quinn 2010). Report by the interdepartmental working to the Minister for justice on ‘integration a two way process argued that integration coordination at governmental level is poor as yet. Coakley & Einri (2007) argued that because the issue of migrants’ integration is such a new thing in Ireland makes it challenging and complex to manage. Therefore, one could argue that as a result of lack of integration and immigration experience, Ireland may not have the necessary experience that is required to address the issue of integration. Gray (2006) identified that both the sending and receiving countries have responsibilities for integration and well being of migrants. Therefore, both the migrants and the Irish society has to ensure that the policy in place promote integration and diversity. This is open to debate because, the question is how many sending countries especially the African nations are open to work in partnership with the host country?

2.3. INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE
Looking at where other countries stands in the issue of integration at the EU level, the European Council adopted eleven Common Basic Principles for EU immigrant integration policy. They focus on integration as a two-way process, while incorporating many of socio-cultural concerns expressed in some of the member states’ national integration programmes however; Boucher claimed that European Union integration policies are not legally binding on member states. It states that, the precise integration measures a society chooses to implement should be determined by individual states…reflecting each individual member State’s, individual history and legal framework (Boucher (2008)
Having discussed integration policy or model in the European context, it is also important to look at integration model of different countries for example, countries such as France adopted assimilation model of integration which means that migrants will not display their culture, religion, or national identity in the public places, this is a one way process in that migrants will give up their unique, social and cultural characteristics such as language and adapt to the life style of the majority culture and the value systems of the host society (Cagiano de Azevedo & Sannino (2004). However, the migrants has equal human right as any French citizens.

On the other hand for countries such as Canada and Australia, they practices multicultural model this is whereby, migrants will not be require to repress their national identity, culture, or religion. They interacts with the majority culture, they learn the core values, and culture of their host while at the same time also maintaining their cultural identity.

The migrants retain their culture and at the same time, learn the values, and culture of their host countries (Boucher (2008). However, since the incident of 9/11, there have been a shift in the thinking on whether multiculturalism is the best way to go or not and it has stirred up debates by political leader, for example Merkel Germany chancellor and British Prime Minister David Cameron, claimed that multi-culturalism has failed, although the same Merkel once claimed that multiculturalism is the way to go. The bottom line is to look critically on the model that will best support the migrants this issue continues to generates ongoing debates. In Irish context, integration policy or legislation previously has focused on immigration mainly on asylum seekers and refugee. However, since 2007 there have been different initiatives to promote integration of the migrants generally. It should be noted that Ireland are at an advantage as they have the opportunity to learn from other countries whether good or bad.
2.4. MIGRANTS’ INTEGRATION EXPERIENCES IN IRELAND AND BARRIERS TO THEIR INTEGRATION EXPERIENCES.

Castles and Miller (1998) point out that the experiences of migrants are significantly shaped by the policies and practices of the state. Bloch and Sigona et al (2010) argues that migrants’ incentives for migration are important variable in understanding their experiences. Each migrant’s experience of integration differs from one another, and how migrants settle does not occur at a similar rate across all aspects of life. Integration issues can arise long after arrival, some members of the migrant family may be well integrated while others are not. Is important to note that some migrants may be well settled in one dimension of their life for example they may be well settle in employment but poorly integrated in other aspects for example social aspect which could lead to isolation and in turns impact on sense of well being, self esteem and on their mental health (Coakley & Mac Einri, 2007).

Looking at the barriers to migrants’ integration, it is important to stress that because each migrant’s experience of integration differs from one another therefore what represent barrier to individual differs also. Research carried out by the Immigrants Council of Ireland in Fanning et el 2011 on ‘Taking Racism Seriously’ found that for many migrants, racism is a fact of everyday life and that there is high prevalence of racist harassment of migrant families in their homes, school, public places and within residential neighbourhoods by groups of minors (Fanning et el, 2011). Fanning et el (2011) suggested that ‘various surveys have documented disconcerting levels of racism in Irish society’...and that ‘anecdotal evidence suggests that there has been an increase in incidences of racism since the beginning of the economic crisis’ (Fanning et el, 2011)
While it is understandable that Ireland needs more time to develop in its integration programme fully, at same time there are so many barriers hindering the migrants to be fully integrated into the wider Irish society. One of these barriers is racism and discrimination. Racism as a key aspect of integration (Rolston and Shannon (2002) and Aniagolu (1997) both trace a long history of Irish racist attitude and practices, particularly in term of the role of Irish people within the British Empire. In order word, there is a need to address the issue of racism to enhance better integration experience for the migrants. While Watt (2008) highlighted that black people are at higher levels of disadvantage in experiences of discrimination at work and in looking for work. Farrell and Watt (2001) stress that addressing the issue of racism in an holistic way rather than reactive way is very important.

The migrants who have experienced racism were also said to finds it difficult to report the incidents due to different reasons such as the fear of not being believe by the Gardai, insecurity and the perception that they will be treated unfairly if reported (Fanning et el 2011 p.30). Pillinger’s (2009) research on ‘Making a Home in Ireland: Housing Experiences of Chinese, Indian, Lithuanian & Nigerian Migrants in Blanchardstown’ found evidence that some migrants experienced discrimination in housing including discrimination by landlords, neighbours and the local community... (Pillinger, 2009 p.10) Pillinger (2009) also found that migrants do not feel safe in their local neighbourhood and many had experienced theft or harassment, and in some cases local people were not found to be friendly or welcoming (Pillinger, 2009 p.9). Based on the studies mentioned above it is evident that racism and discrimination are prevalent issue for migrants in Ireland and as racism is a key aspect of integration this pose as barriers to migrants’ ability to integrate into life in Ireland.
The most commonly measures used are economic; for example, research carried out by the Economic and Social Research Institute on how well migrants has access the Irish labour force found that the percentage of migrants on skilled job is low considerable compare to the Irish.

2.5. GAPS IN RESEARCH ON MIGRANTS’ EXPERIENCES

Roeder (2010) argues that there are limited research on the issue of integration of migrants in Ireland. In order for the issue of integration to be properly addressed there is no doubt that there is need for more studies that will inform both the government policy and at a local level as it will be crucial to the shaping of the next generations of migrants’ in Ireland. The researcher will like to focus on the actual voices of the migrants as it will give the researchers first hand information and enriched the understanding of the complexity of their lives. There are different factors that may have contributed to the limited amount of studies done on migrants integration experiences; one of the factors may be due to the fact that Ireland in comparison with other country is new to the issue of integration and immigration; Gilligan and Curry et al (2010) argued that up until about three decades ago Ireland was predominantly ‘white’ however, Ireland of today is now a multinationals and multicultural nation, with people from all over the world ranging from Africa, Eastern Europe, Canada, United States of America to mention but few.

2.6. CONCLUSION OF LITERATURE REVIEW

In conclusion, according to Camilo (2010) quote that says ‘unless the barriers to integration are reduced in the UK, in another twenty years a new wave of migrants will be accused of having failed to integrate’. While it is understanding that Ireland is relatively new in immigration experience compared to other countries, as they had to deal with the issue of emigration rather
than immigration; however, Ireland has the benefit and the opportunity to learn from the experiences and policies of other countries that will enhance robust policy development which will in-turn address any integration issue that may arise. There is a need to learn from other countries both in their mistakes and in their success stories.
CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

The aims and objectives of this research project was to seek and highlight the experiences of migrants’ who are living in Ireland from different part of the world; for example, Africa, Poland, Sweden, Romanian, and etc. The study gave the migrants’ the opportunity and space to describe their experiences of settling to life in Ireland. It highlighted migrants’ personal and subjective meaning of their integration experience in Ireland. The study highlighted the challenges and obstacles remaining in the way of migrants’ integration in Ireland and highlighted areas of current struggles for the migrants’ in relation to their integration experience with the aim of gaining more understanding of the difficulties facing the migrants’ to integrate in Ireland. This was carried out through face to face one to one in-depth semi-structured interview with the participants; in order to make sure the interviews covered specific areas a pre-set questionnaire was used. This research project was framed in such a way that it used the actual voices of migrants’ to uncover the layers of subjective meaning of their experience. The participant’s experiences and their own interpretations of those experiences was the main focus.

The researcher choose qualitative research method because it produces more in-depth and comprehensive information (Ritchie & Lewis 2003). It allowed the researcher to explore the participant’s views, experience, and elicit understanding on the migrants’ feelings about the impact the issue of integration has on them. It is also more flexible in other words; they allow greater spontaneity and adaptation of the interaction between the researcher and the participants. Also qualitative methods involves an interpretive, naturalistic approach to the world. Which
means that ‘qualitative researchers study things in their natural settings, attempting to make sense of, or to interpret, phenomena in terms of the meanings people bring to them’ (Ritchie & Lewis 2003 p. 3). The rich and in-depth understanding of the participants experience cannot be gathered by the use of questionnaire, because the quantitative research involves asking questions which usually have ‘yes’ or ‘no’ responses which will not allow the participants to elaborate and give a subjective and true meaning of their experience of integration.

3.1. APPARATUS

The researcher used a Dictaphone and a laptop to record the interview. The interviews were then transcribed using Nvivo9 as part of analysis process to organize the data collected during the interviews, code the data, and organise the data into different themes for analysis.

3.2. PARTICIPANTS

The data was collected from 8 participants 4 females and 4 males. In order to get different perspectives of migrants’ experiences, the researcher choose participants from different nationalities namely: Nigerian, Romanian, Polish, Swedish and Spanish.

The participants were aged between 29-47 years; and they were all either in full time employment, or self employed. Access to the participants was sought through informal contact however; informed consent was sought from all the participants, the researcher explained what the research project was about and why the research was being carried out.

The interviews were planned to be conducted in participant’s choice of venue. Seven interviews were conducted successfully; one of the interviews had to be conducted for the second time as the background noise during the interview made it impossible to transcribe the data. Also there
was a child crying in one of the interviews which was conducted at one of the participant’s house.

3.3. RESEARCH DESIGN

Thematic analysis was used in this research project, with the researcher moving backwards and forwards between transcripts that was gathered from the recorded interviews. Thematic analysis is when data is analysed by themes. It is the uncovering of hidden meaning. The research design employed was a data-led qualitative study. This type of analysis is highly inductive, that is, the themes emerge from the data are not imposed upon it by the researcher (Gibbs, 2002). Since the participants experiences and their own interpretations of those experiences was the main focus; therefore, using this method of analysis enabled the researcher to use the actual voices of migrants to uncover the layers of subjective meaning of their experience. It is more exploratory and aims to understand rather than know the data.

In NVivo coding is carried out by connecting each of the passages or items to a node. A node is a way of connecting a theoretical concept or idea with passages of text that in some way exemplify that idea. The node in NVivo is therefore the focus of a lot of the analytical thinking that goes on in qualitative analysis. (Gibbs, 2002)

This process of coding is part of the analysis and it organises the data into a meaningful groups. For a more detailed explanation of the coding, before the coding to indicate the potential themes.

During coding, as many themes as possible were coded, and the code was inclusively data and were coded in different themes as they fit in. After this the themes were reviewed in order to refine the set of themes that were developed so far, with the aim of adequately capturing the
contours of the data that were coded. During the themes review it emerged that some themes have not enough data and some of the data were broken down into further themes. The criteria that was used to judge this was Patton’s (1990) dual criteria (Gibbs, 2002).

3.4. PROCEDURES
After the informed consent have been sought and the researcher explained the research topic and what the research was about the participants were all interviewed individually, in order to explore the participants experience of integration in Ireland during the interviews the following areas were covered: reasons for coming to Ireland, length of time in Ireland, employment status, family, participation in the community, ways in which they socialize, their experiences since arrival, discrimination dreams and aspirations experience of accessing resources for example education, housing, healthcare and etc.

3.5. ETHICAL CONSIDERATION
Although there were no concerns raised by any of the participants however, the deeply personal nature of this research means that the issue of ethics was not a small one. With this in mind, this research project sought informed consent from all the participants and they were informed that participation is completely voluntary and they are not mandated to take part. The participants were informed about their right to withdraw their participation at any time. The participants were also informed that participation is confidential and the interview, and all associated documentation, will be securely stored on a password protected computer. Lastly, they were informed that if, after the interview have been completed, and they wish to have their interview removed from the study that it could be accommodated up until the research study is published.
4. CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS

From the data analysis the following themes emerged: experience of life in Ireland since arrival, integration experience, discrimination, and racism, barriers to integration, and the needs for policy to address the issue of integration. New theme citizenship emerged in the process of the data analysis. The issue of citizenship came up as strong desire for some participants and they attached very high value to how important becoming an Irish citizen was for them and how it will help them to be well integrated and feel belonging to the wider community. In order to differentiate each of the participants’ responses, each participant was assigned a number.

4.1. EXPERIENCE OF LIFE IN IRELAND SINCE ARRIVAL.

Each participant has different reasons they decided to migrate to Ireland.

“I choose Ireland because I had a friend living in Ireland and I thought it will be easier for me P3”

Although each participant’s reasons were different with different feelings associated to why they came to live in Ireland the reasons were mostly for better life for themselves and their family.

“My reason is just to get a better life for my family P6”

“To look for a better life; I will say a change of environment, a better job and again for children to acquire a better education P7”.

For some it was the curiosity and the desire to live in another country.
“I have always wanted to leave my country since I was a child. I want to get the experience of living somewhere else; I suppose I was curious P5”

On the other hand for some participants they came to Ireland for security, sense of safety, and economic purposes.

“I could say is because of, I think is for economic reasons and security reasons P8”.

“What I enjoy most is security, you can work the way you want to work no harassment there is peace of mind P6”.

While participant2 have felt she was doing well in her country of origin yet she felt that Ireland was better for her children.

“Greener pasture, well is ehmm basically moving from one place to another is part of education because I was doing fine where I was; so it is for better standard of living for my children P2”

Although most of the participants came to Ireland for better life there is also that feeling of loneliness from the family they left behind in their country of origin.

“You have to leave your family, be very independent, and sometimes it can be very lonely, at the beginning you did not know the rules so every time you have to fight going to the tax office, bank and all P1”.

The experiences of life in Ireland for some participants have been enjoyable and positive.
“The Irish are patient, nice people, they try to help me to communicate better, they did not laugh at my English, and they were very patient with me. I think the Irish are nicer than my Polish people P1”.

“I will say 80% of the Irish are welcoming and acceptable and I mix very well with them P8”.

“I am very happy here, nearly everything in Ireland apart from sometimes I do not feel I am accepted in Ireland. I plan to live here for the rest of my life, I feel safe and secure. Even though I hear on the news about so many killing than I would have heard in Romania it is strange that I still feel safer in Ireland than in Romania. People seem more honest here but in Romania people will try to cheat you either your money or something else P3”.

“When I first came, I was really surprise at how approachable people are, it was so strange to my culture but over the years I have really appreciated that P5”.

In contrast this is not the case for all; some participants’ experiences of life in Ireland have been negative. Both in the neighbourhood and in workplace.

“Racism and discrimination are part of life in Ireland, in my neighborhood, some of those children living around will throw stone at my car, they call me names and they tell me to go back to my country P2”.

25
“My experience as I said earlier, I have been here for long 13 years so therefore, my experience is broad because I have met different people from different cultures some are good, some are racist. Irish is a very difficult society to live in both as a society and in the neighborhood I face a lot of racism, people throwing eggs at my house, they throw water balloons, name callings P7”

“Yes as a taxi driver, I am self employed and I have encountered uncountable times how people will stopped me and refused to sit in my car because of my skin, I finds that very bad and distasteful P4”.

In contrast to P4, and P7; P3, P6, and P8 have positive experiences

“I am living here now 4 years, and I love it, most of the time I feel that I belong, I love everything, the people, the places, and I love the freedom P3”.

“Generally it is great, it is ok P6”

“In my community people tends to be accepting, my experience in my community is a good one, my neighbor are very good and we go to each other houses and share information among ourselves when necessary P8”.

4.2. INTEGRATION EXPERIENCE

The participants’ views and opinion of integration experiences differs and varied.
“It is a gradual process I will say in the next 5-10 years we will become like London, they are used to ‘black’ in London but we are getting there P2”.

“To me it is definitely a process, it is not a matter of how long you are here that determine how you have integrated P5”.

“The Irish are still learning, they do not know much about foreigners but they are trying, though they are still far away P6”.

“Well we are getting into it but it is not that easy. The Irish have not integrated into the Africa; I know in time to come, they will. It will take time before the Irish people get used to the migrants especially the African migrants P6”.

Some participants pointed out that the cultural differences are one of the factors that hinder migrants to fully integrate into life in Ireland.

“IT is a little bit difficult to integrate in Ireland, the culture differences is one thing that make it difficult p7”.

Some participants felt that despite the challenges they face their integration experience has been positive.

“I will say that part of integration is our positive contribution in relation to our environment, community and volunteering. Well to a large extent; it is very positive; we
are everywhere I mean we are working; some are in businesses so we have really integrated well regardless of the hurdles P2”.

Some participants felt that they have integrated well to life in Ireland while some felt that they have not really integrated into life in Ireland.

“The Irish accept me already, they say ‘you have Polish heart and Irish body’ because I start to like the Irish food, I work with Irish people, I watch Irish movie, because of their language the word is even more interesting. I think I have feelings that I am accepted completely, I don’t feel like outsider in the community P1”.

“I am part of it, I have children here that I am raising up by God’s Grace, it is a home to my children then it is a home to me P6”.

“I can say that I am part of the Irish society but at the same time I am not believing that I am P7”.

One participant compared migrants’ integration in Ireland to her country and she expressed that migrants have integrated well in Ireland despite the fact that the Irish are reluctant in accommodating and welcoming them.
“By comparison with my own country there are far more different nationality residing and working in Ireland and they seems well integrated but there is a bit of reluctant from the Irish people in embracing people who are coming here P3”

One participant stressed that encouraging integration is everyone business; the government, the media, and the wider society has a role to play in order to encourage migrants’ integration.

“People are refusing to get into a ‘black’ man’s taxi and skipping to a ‘white taxi driver’ and because the Irish taxi driver are condoling the act it is becoming worst because if it is the case that if someone skip the ‘black’ driver and the white driver refuse to take them and redirect them back to the black taxi, it would help the integration of migrants. This shows how difficult it is to integrate in Ireland P7”.

“The government have to put more awareness about integration and also the media plays a very big role in this P7”.

One participant stressed that while most migrants are well integrated she believe that more could be done especially for the vulnerable groups.

“From my experience, I think that people are pretty well integrated; however, with some vulnerable group there is a huge room for improvement P3”.

“The community and everybody has to stand up, the school, the government need to start to include non-Irish national to cast their vote P7”.
Some participants expressed that certain things pose as barrier to them being fully integrated into life in Ireland.

“Two aspects that I think stops people from properly integrated are language barrier and lack of information P3”.

“Also people lack the information not just because of the English but for people to be able to see the relevant and the important of integration in their life P8”.

“It is it can be discouraging in as much as you want to feel belong, you want to feel part of society you want to belief you are part of the society you still come across these obstacles that make you feel rejected and it is bad P4”.

“Until our identity is accepted as people by the Irish then the Irish understanding and concept of multicultural is different. Because multicultural is about accepting each other cultures P8”.

“The migrants’ community needs to be empowered to understand the system P8”.

“Unfortunately, we as an immigrant we are constrain to follow certain laws and as Irish citizens you are not P4.”
4.3. **DISCRIMINATION, RACISM, AND CULTURAL DIFFERENCES BARRIERS TO INTEGRATION**

Participant’s experience of discrimination varies and they reported that it is in different form and shape. Neighbourhood plays a major role in the feeling of acceptance and feeling of being a part of that community. Neighborhood in which participants live was one of the determinants whether their experience is positive or negative.

“*Irish is a very difficult society to live in both as a society and in the neighborhood I face a lot of racism, people throwing eggs at my house, they throw water balloons, name callings the other day, I was cutting the grass in my drive way, some young people were calling me ‘niger’ and ran away, adult stick bad fingers at me; people behaviour generally towards me is bad. Whether you are working they are angry, if you are not they say you are milking the system P7”.*

“As a foreigner or as a non Irish in the place of work you are discriminated against and unfortunately is gradually becoming the norms and not so many people are standing up so as a result of the voiceless situation we finds ourselves the problem is becoming even worse P4”.

“*Some Irish people are not nice, sometimes; I get bad comments from people telling me to go back to my country that they do not have job here P1”.*

“It was not that easy, as minority and as a black person P2”

“The Irish can make you feel so sad sometimes with their horrible comments P7”
“There is nothing that I dislike apart from racism P4”

“I know deep down that I am discriminated against P3”.

“If you are in a country when you face discrimination at workplace, in the neighborhood, in school even where you do not expect even the principal of the school. It is at all level here in Ireland and it is very obvious and it is not interesting but we have to get used to it P2”.

P7 agreed with P2 in the experiences of discrimination everywhere

“The racist comment I also get from the young people I work with is unbelievable. A particular boy told me that he does not like black people and he does not like them to attend to him in the shop, he said if he goes to shop and a black shop assistant touch what he buys that he had to go and change it because he can never eat anything a black person touches. This same child often makes monkey sign at me P7”.

“It can be bad in the public places for example, I went out to Tesco with my children and a sister children and an Irish couple were counting how many children I have with me not knowing that there are not all my children P8”.

Some participants expressed that they have accepted the discrimination and have found ways of coping with the discrimination and racism experience.

“since I am not an Irish citizens being a ‘black’ or ‘coloured’ person you have to expect that, and again the Irish are so new to coloured people; but at the same time I try to be
the best I can be and maybe, I may be the part of people that will help the Irish to stop discriminating against other people P2”

“One will have to consider that the Irish societies are new to ‘black’ migrants’ and there is bond to be racism but it is something we can deal with. I am dealing with it but it is not easy P2”.

“I take whatever that comes my way and there is nobody that is above discrimination. I do not take things personally P6”.

Some of the participants reported that their children are also experiencing discrimination some in the neighbor but mainly in school.

“My children experience at the beginning they find it difficult, they were living in fear and they kept asking when they see people passing by if the people are bad people. They cannot go to the corner shop to buy milk due to fear; but with our support as parents we reassure them that no one will hurt them and through the support they became empowered and they are becoming old and bold enough to stand for themselves P7”.

“Even the children that are born here are being discriminated against and you will know it is obvious P2”.

“It was difficult for them because they were being called names at the time my children were the only ‘black’ they could not have friends in school because no one wants to be their friend, no one want to sits beside them P2.”
“Yes, their experience has not been positive within school it is always one story or the other. Sometimes, they come back crying and all you have to do as parents is to continue to encourage them to walk pass the barrier. For over three years no one in school wants to play with my daughter they are very hostile to her P8”.

“Yes my children are coping well in school but the issue of prejudice and discrimination is not exclusive to me alone the children are also affected so there are cases where they have been to school and other kids would not want to play with them P4”.

Some participants reported that the Irish discriminatory attitude towards migrants’ has worsened since the economy downturn/recession.

“The boom time were ok, we did not feel the discrimination that much now that there is recession, people tends to be very very hostile P4”

“The issue of discrimination in workplace is a thing we encounters every now and then there is so much animosity out there as a foreigner or as a non Irish in the place of work you are discriminated against and unfortunately is gradually becoming the norms and not so many people are standing up so as a result of the voiceless situation we finds ourselves the problem is becoming even worse P4”.

Some participants felt that the Government and media are not doing enough in raising public awareness and in combating discrimination and racism.

“They are not doing enough and that is why I said earlier on that it will be very important if the Government takes the issue of racism very seriously and it will help a great deal P4”.
Some participants expressed the feelings of helplessness in dealing with the racism and discriminations.

“When you encounter this prejudice you know, this despicable attitude when they are melted upon you; you feel rejected, you feel unwanted, and you feel like you do not belong here so it is very hurting so but like I said after a while you overcome it, you do not allow these things to get you down because is a thing I am beginning to realised that I can not do anything about it you know P4”.

4.4. CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

Some will like to adapt to the Irish culture.

“I feel I’m part because I work here, I am following the Irish law, and I am trying to embrace the Irish culture because there is so much I like about the culture that I will like to internalized P3”

P2 stressed the important of incorporating their culture into the Irish culture for a successful living.

“There are many people that I know that can be considered as part of this culture, they really like it here and they are doing really well but there are people who do not feel as part P5”.

Some participants stressed that they have to balance the two cultures
“I realized I had to take the culture into considerations. I am getting to know the culture, the history, the social problems, and etc. “I am living here and I am trying to be a part as much as possible but at the same time my identity of where I came from is very important P5”.

In contrast to P3, P1, P2 felt strongly about retaining their culture as part of their identity.

“You have to keep your own culture, language, background, your history and your root. I belief that when you came to other country they have to keep their own identity, you cannot be an outsider P1.”

“I am proud to be a Nigerian and I am proud to be black P2”.

Participants expressed the difference between the Irish culture and their culture.

“Culturally we have different cultures so I have to be able to work my way around it P2”.

One participant expressed that the children do not have to struggle with the cultural differences.

“I came here as a full grown adult, and my experience is different to my children experience because they are born here. I have to pick up the Irish culture as well as mine own culture and sometimes there is clash in belief P7”.

“The level of them being able to accommodate the ‘black’ is not really interesting but you have to deal with it because we are already living in it and we have to try and inculcate their culture into our own culture in order to blend as much as possible to be able to reside here successfully.”
You will bring part of the culture you feel good about and you discard the ones that you do not feel good about. For example habit and courtesy P2”.

Participants 7 expressed dislike about the rights of women and children in Ireland in comparison to own culture.

“I dislike the culture, and I believe that lots of power is being given to the woman and children. Women have the right to push their husband out here and therefore, our woman take advantage of this. Also the fact that children can do whatever they want and gets away with it P7”.

P8 think the culture is emerging but does not think that the Irish has accepted other cultures as yet.

“I think it is emerging but our own culture is not yet accepted by the Irish p8”.

In contrast to P8, P5 felt that the Irish are open to different culture

“The Irish are very open to different culture but then I wonder I am white, Polish and I always hear that there is that similar experience between both Ireland and Poland, for example, oppression from other countries would mean similar experience to Polish P5”.

Some participants like and enjoy the pub culture as a way of socializing in turn enhancing integration

“It is important to meet in the pub and I know some people are contesting the pub culture here but I think is a nice way to enjoy a nice chat over a drink or two it is a beautiful way of socialising whereby, you sit down and just relax P5”.
P1 and P6 had different opinions to P5 regarding pub culture.

“I dislike the Irish culture of drinking and the lifestyle half naked, and smoking P6”.

“I do not need to go to the Pub every day P1”

Participants P6 and P1 both agreed that learning the Irish culture is a great thing.

“Learning their culture is great and the learning continues P6”.

“I have blended to the Irish culture P1”.

4.5. CITIZENSHIP

Three participants both from African and European origin expressed desires to obtain Irish citizenship and how becoming an Irish citizen will open up opportunity to them.

“Naturalisation, it will give you freedom, open doors of opportunities, you feel you are now part of the Irish society so it is a great opportunity for business P6”.

”Citizenship is important firstly because you have the right to vote and able to express your opinion without fear and you kind of feel as part of the society when you have the citizenship. It gives you a sense of belonging when you have the Irish citizenship P4”.

“Now I am applying for my Irish citizenship which I belief in some cases it will make my life easier to have double citizens is good because you never know what might happen and if I do not want to live here anymore it would be easy for me to go somewhere else for example London and having an Irish passport could make getting jobs easier and quicker P1”.

38
In contrast to P6, P4 and P1; P7 who has already obtained the citizenship felt obtaining the citizenship does not make him an Irish.

“Personally I have Irish citizenship, yes having the Irish passport makes me Irish but personally I know that I am not Irish deep down P7”.

4.6. SUMMARY OF RESULTS

This study aims to explore migrants’ experience of integration in Ireland. How do migrants experience integration in Ireland? This study will enhance knowledge and contribute to a better understanding of integration experiences of migrants in Ireland. The research will look at factors contributing to migrants settling to life in Ireland and factors affecting their integration experiences. This study aims to explore migrants’ experience of integration in Ireland. The objectives of this study were to explore any difficulties migrants may be facing in integrating to Irish society and ways of improving those difficulties in order to enhance smooth and positive integration experiences for the migrants. The research findings indicated that although each participant’s reasons of coming to Ireland differ; however, their reasons are embedded into greener pasture and better life for themselves and their families. The following themes emerged: experience of life in Ireland since arrival, integration experience, discrimination, and racism, barriers to integration, the needs for policy to address the issue of integration and citizenship. These findings support Share (2007) who argues that different factors are said to have contributed to the inflow of migrants to Ireland and that one of the factors was the economic growth; Ireland was rated as the 3rd richest country during the boom year the Celtic tiger.
Therefore, people come here for a better life. Looking into integration experiences, it should be noted that interaction from the wider Irish society is vital in enhancing positive experience. However, it emerged that for a variety of reasons, many migrants do not fully participate in Irish life. The reasons include cultural differences, lack of time as a result of long working hours, and awareness of opportunities for interaction. Church seems to be the main avenue for socializing for most of the participants from African. ‘Church is the only place I socialise more or less’. ‘I do not socialize apart from work’ ‘My social life is mainly in the church and I think that church is very important and significant for us as a united place we all go and because of work scheduled.’ Most of the participants expressed desire to retain their cultural identity while at the same time trying to learn the Irish culture and lifestyle. There was also fear for those participants who have children that their children will have to struggle with the two identities and culture of being black Irish but in contrast some participant feels that the children do not have to learn the Irish culture despite the fact that they are born in Ireland. It is evident that some favour multiculturalism and while some are in favour of assimilation. This corresponds with Cagiano de Azevedo & Sannino (2004) and Boucher (2008) both argue on the mixed opinion of people around multiculturalism and assimilation.
5. **CHAPTER FIVE**

**DISCUSSION**

5.1. **MIGRANTS’ EXPERIENCES SINCE ARRIVAL**

The first theme to emerge was the migrants’ experiences since arrival: This research found that for some participants their experiences of life in Ireland have been enjoyable and a positive one. Some enjoys working and living here and they believes that Irish people are welcoming and friendly and that the quality of life in Ireland is better than their country. While in contrast, for some participants their experiences have been negative and they are living in fear. Migrants especially from the European Union feel that they have settled well and have integrated well into life in Ireland. In contrast, the majority of the participants from African origin felt that they have not integrated into the Irish society and they expressed not feeling as part of the society. Howbeit, some of the participants from African origin also reported positive experiences since their arrival in Ireland.

An interesting issue came up about the change in Irish societal attitude to family size (the acceptable number of children a family may have) as participant 8 reported: ‘*It can be bad in the public places for example, I went out to Tesco with my children and a sister children and an Irish couple were counting how many children I have with me not knowing that there are not all my children*. In contrast, other participant experience is different; as one participant pointed out ‘*I am very happy here, I plan to live here for the rest of my life, I feel safe and secure P.3*’
This is a big shift in the society perception on idea number of children one may have; because historically Irish used to have large family sizes. For example, (Walsh, 1968) states that family sizes in Ireland were extremely large by the standards of virtually all other western countries. Fahey (2001) point out that it was only in the 1990s that family sizes in Ireland ceased to be significantly larger than the international norm. It was not until the late 1990s that higher order births in Ireland dropped to something approximating normal levels for developed countries. Fahey argues that even then, however, Ireland was at the upper limit for fourth order births or higher, and one-third of births were fifth births or higher In Ireland in 1960 and 1980s, an extraordinarily large proportion by western standards. It is possible that the cultural valuation attached to children and childbearing as influence, for example, by religious belief has a bearing on the demand for children. Ireland particularly as regards a Catholic preference for large families. Ó Gráda and Walsh, (1995) suggest that the Catholic influence on fertility was strong in the 1960s and although it subsequently weakened, it continued to be presence in the early 1990s. It is important to note without generalizing that most participants from African origin are in favour of large families, although religion influence on this is not as strong as in the case of Ireland.

5.2. INTEGRATION EXPERIENCES

A second theme to emerge was integration experiences: The participants’ views and opinion of integration experiences differs and varied greatly. Some believe that integration is a gradual process while some expressed that Ireland is new to migrants and that the Irish need more time to get use to the concept of migrants’ integration. In contrast some believed that that the Irish are making effort in relation to migrants integration however some of the participants felt that the
Irish are not doing enough about migrants integration and that they are not open to accept the new comers. It is important to note that in this study, it emerge that the length of time the participants had spent in Ireland does not have any influence on their integration experience; because some participants had spent 13 years in Ireland and they expressed that they do not feel as part of the wider Irish society and that they have not integrated into life in Ireland as P3 puts it. While in contrast, some participants who are only in Ireland for 4 years expressed absolute satisfaction and expressed that they have settled well and integrated well into life in Ireland. According to one participant “I am living here now 4 years, and I love it, most of the time I feel that I belong, I love everything, the people, the places, and I love the freedom P3”. These findings are similar to those of Cox (1987) who argues that integration issues can arise long after arrival when migrants especially those from backgrounds of non-English speaking countries some members of the migrant family may be well integrated while others are not. Cox (1987) also argues that it is important to note that some people may be well settled in one dimension of their life for example employment but poorly integrated in other aspects for example social aspect which could lead to isolation and in turns impact on sense of well being, self esteem and on their mental health. In this study, The locality or the area where migrants lives has a major impact on their integration experience, this is in line with Fanning et el (2011) who also found that where people live and settle is important in determining the quality of their lives, their access to services, and their long-term integration.

5.3. DISCRIMINATION AND RACISM

Discrimination and racism was the third theme to emerge. Participant’s experiences of discrimination vary and they reported that it is in different forms and shapes. For some
participants racism and discrimination are part of their everyday life; they experience discrimination in their neighbourhoods and for some it is in accessing the labour force and the workplace while for others it is in the public places. Some participants reported that the neighborhood in which they live determines whether their experience is positive or negative as they felt that neighborhood plays a major role in the feeling of acceptance and feeling of being a part of that community. This finding correspond with the previous research carried out by (Fanning et el (2011, McVeigh,& Lentin, (2006) which found that there is high prevalence of racist harassment of migrant families in their homes, school, public places and within residential neighbourhoods by groups of minors (Fanning et el, (2011) and research carried out by Pillinger (2009) which found that migrants do not feel safe in their local neighbourhood and many had experienced theft or harassment, and in some cases local people were not found to be friendly or welcoming (Pillinger, 2009 ). Some of the participants reported that their children are also experiencing discrimination some in the neighbourhood but mainly in school and the impact this experience is having on the children; this finding corresponds to (Curry 2010) who finds that migrants’ children as young as seven or eight years are experiencing serious racist bullying in primary schools both inside and outside the classroom.

Some participants reported that discrimination and racism experience has worsened since the economy downturn/recession and that discrimination tends to have become more acceptable within the society. This findings support (Fanning et el. 2011) which argues that anecdotal evidence suggests that there has been an increase in incidences of racism since the beginning of the economic crisis.
5.4. THE NEED FOR POLICY AND RESEARCH TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF INTEGRATION

A further theme to emerge was the need for policy and research to address the issue of integration. At least half of the participants were not aware of the policy in place regarding integration, and for those that are aware they felt that there is a need the implementation of policy and that the government has the duty of care to take the integration issue seriously, by active implementation of the policy. This findings support (Boucher (2008) who argues that Ireland’s integration policy is of ‘laissez-faire’ approach and that the integration policy in Ireland is not clear and not consistent.

5.5. CITIZENSHIP

Citizenship came up as an issue in the course of this research though not included in the literature review. Because in the process of reviewing the existing researches, the researcher did not find at the time that citizenship has a direct impact on the integration experience for the migrant (Tarumoto, 2003). Three out of the eight participants expressed desire to obtain the Irish citizenship. They stated that becoming an Irish citizen is so important to them as it would open up doors of opportunity and grant them better access to resources without any restrictions; they pointed out that becoming an Irish citizen gives one the sense of belongingness. This findings are in keeping with the research carried out by (Cosgrave, 2011) with findings that sense of being accepted as part of the Irish society are closely linked to citizenship, migrants desire the Irish citizenship to formalize a sense of belonging and desire for security of permanent status.
However, in contrast, participant 7 who have already been granted the Irish citizenship expressed that having the Irish passport does not make him Irish and that he believe that this is the way the Irish sees him also. Participants 7 claims is in agreement with Share et el (2007) who claim that the Irish people toward difference are less than positive which Share claimed that it exemplified in the citizenship Referendum held in 2004, whereby, a large majority voted in favour of a constitutional amendment to remove automatic right to citizenship of a person not born in Ireland.

5.6. CONCLUSION OF THEMES

In conclusion, from this research, it is evident that the experiences of migrants integration to life in Ireland varied but it is important to stress that the experiences are not all negative, majority of the migrants interviewed had very positive experiences and feels that they have integrated well into life in Ireland. Even for those that the experiences of integration in Ireland has not been positive yet, despite the negative experiences they expressed that their life is better in Ireland compare to their country of origin. They aspire and hope to remain in Ireland. The research findings also indicated that there was a considerable difference between the experiences of integration by migrants from European countries and African. The finding of the current research is in line with Watt (2008) who highlighted that black people are at higher levels of disadvantage in experiences of discrimination at work and in looking for work. Although, the research aims were not to compare the experiences, it was evident that migrants from European Union among the participants did not experience the kinds of racist discrimination such as name calling that their fellow participants from African origin experienced. The African participants do not feel welcome in their community their experience, sense of distance from their neighborhood, and the
sense of hostility and non-acceptance by the Irish people is ongoing is impacting on their day to day living. In order for the migrants to feel as part of the Irish society and have a sense of belongings in Ireland; there is a need for some form of multicultural policy where migrants are able to retain aspects of their own culture, at the same time adapt to their new culture but in order for this to happen, there is a need for a collective effort both by the migrants and the wider Irish society. Raising awareness and educating the local community through different incentives such as organising cultural event celebration, and getting both the migrants and the wider community involved is of paramount important. Because the experiences migrants have in local settings will shape their integration experiences and opportunities (Fanning et el (2011) as it was evident from this study that area in which migrants resides was one of the determinant on whether they are well integrated or not. As one of the participants 7 rightly put it ‘It depend where you work, and the area in which you live. If you live in an estate where people there are from different culture, it might work out well’.

Twenty to twenty-five years ago, there was no need for Ireland to consider integration as an issue however, from the findings of research in general and also from the present study; today the integration phenomenon touches the lives of so many migrants. And there is little reason to believe that the integration issue will become less prominent in the decades to come. Therefore, the Irish Government, the wider society and the migrants themselves have a major role to play in ensuring that policies and initiatives that promote integration are implemented in a pro active and empowering nature. Because integration is a shared challenge for society as a whole and cannot be successful without each sector playing a constructive and active role.
There is a need for Ireland to learn from best practice of other countries such as Canada and Australia they are known to be firmly grounded in experience, good practice, organisation’s competence and knowledge of immigration and integration. Therefore, the Irish Government has a major role to play in ensuring that policies and initiatives that promote integration are implemented in a proactive and empowering nature.

Also the media and the society at large has a huge part to play in promoting positive integration experience for the migrants, because media play a role with regard to the shaping of attitude and the formation of public opinion (Share et al (2007). The ways in which the media portraits certain groups of people may have an influence on people’s perspectives of such group whether positively or negatively. As Ireland plans and implements policies and initiatives to assist migrants in integrating themselves into the wider Irish society successfully; they cannot lose sight of the interests and the need to educate and raise public awareness of the wider society. As it is a general knowledge that ‘the more one knows about a certain groups the less likely to discriminate against them’. Thus a mutual accommodation is required for Integration to be attained, involving the acceptance by both groups and the right for all groups to live as culturally different peoples.

5.7. LIMITATION

While this present study chooses a wide range of migrants’ representatives, it was still a small scale research because the time frame of completion for this research was only six months so therefore, the research content was limited. Also the participants were only drawn from Dublin area as such it limit the wide range of experience of migrants who resides in the rural area.
Lastly, although the research questions were semi-structure however, the focus of the questions asked were mainly around integration experiences.

5.8. FUTURE RESEARCH

There is a need for future research on the issue of migrants’ integration in Ireland as it is evident that the integration issue will become more prominent in Ireland in decades to come and it will be crucial to the shaping of the next generations of migrants’ in Ireland. Need for research that will not only be conducted just in Dublin but that will cover both migrants that lives in the rural area. It will be interesting to see how the rural dweller migrants experience integration compare to the urban dweller. Also a large scale research is require with mixed method of both qualitative and quantitative with general research questions both structure and informal.

5.9. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, from this research, it is evident that the experiences of migrants integration to life in Ireland varied but it is important to stress that the experiences are not all negative, majority of the migrants interviewed had very positive experiences and feels that they have integrated well into life in Ireland. Even for those that the experiences of integration in Ireland has not been positive yet, despite the negative experiences they expressed that their life is better in Ireland compare to their country of origin. They aspire and hope to remain in Ireland. There is a need for the development of an intercultural and more inclusive society. If the government at policy level will plan and implement integration policies that will accommodate and embrace cultural diversity both the migrants and the Irish society at large will benefit; therefore, it will be a win-win situation for both the migrants and the wider society and community.
REFERENCES


**OFFICER PUBLICATION**

APPENDICES 1

My name is Dolapo A., Ngadaonye; I am a final year social science student at Dublin Business School, School of Arts. As part of my degree requirement I am conducting a research on the “Migrants’ Integration Experience in Ireland”.

You are invited to take part in this study and participation involves an interview that will take roughly 45 minutes.

Participation is completely voluntary and so you are not mandated to take part. If you do take part and any of the questions do raise difficult feelings, you do not have to answer that question, and or continue with the interview.

Participation is confidential. If, after the interview has been completed, you wish to have your interview removed from the study this can be accommodated up until the research study is published.

The interview, and all associated documentation, will be securely stored on a password protected computer.

It is important that you understand that by signing this form that you are consenting to participate in the study.

Should you require any further information about the research, please contact dngadaonye@mail.com. Or my supervisor, Orna Farrell at orna.farrell@dbs.ie.

Thank you for participating in this study.

Participant signature: ----------------------------- Date: -----------------------------
APPENDICES 2

The questions below will help us better understand your situation and integration experience. It will enable us to hear your experiences of moving to Ireland and living in another country, culture, society and community. And it will give you the space to voice issues and concerns you may have on integration experience of living in Ireland. The best people to ask are you— you are the experts in this. Please be as honest as you can. All of this information is confidential.

PERSONAL:
Are you: Male: Female:
Age: __________________________

Marital Status (Please Circle)
Single Married Divorced Widowed Other (Please state)
________________________

Family Status:
Number of Children (If any) ____________ Number of children living in Ireland __________

Country of Origin

You reside in Ireland because you are: (Please tick)
  a. A Student
  b. The spouse of an Irish National
  c. On a Work Permit
  d. On Leave to Remain
  e. Other - Please State:

Language:
Do you speak English? Yes No

Employment Status in Ireland
Are you: (Please Tick)
  a. Employed
  b. Unemployed
  c. Not allowed to work
Can you tell me your reasons of coming to Ireland?

How long have you been living in Ireland?

How would you describe the Irish society in relation to multicultural?

Do you feel you are part of the wider Irish society? If yes why and if no why?

What are your life experiences of living in Ireland? (Experience at workplace, experience in the neighbourhood, experience in the public places)

Do you enjoy living in Ireland? If yes, can you tell me how and why? If no, please tell me why? Is there anything you dislike? Are you happy or anxious about being here? How safe do you feel living in Ireland?

If you socialise, how do you socialise in Ireland? Are you involved in any community groups e.g. church, mosque, youth club, etc.?

What do you think about the integration of the immigrants in Ireland?

Could you tell me about your own experiences of integration since your arrival?

How has the integration experience in Ireland affected you in any way, positively or negatively?

To compare your life with your experiences of previous country of residence; how has life generally been for you in Ireland? With respect to family life, money/finance, religious, employment?

Are you working, if yes, what kind of work do you do?

Could you tell me about your experience of seeking for work?
What do you think about the immigrants’ experience of access into the labour force?

What do you think of the immigrants’ access to resources such as education and healthcare?

Could you tell me about your own experiences of access to those resources?

Do you have school aged children? Could you tell me about their experiences of integration within the school?

Tell me about your experience in finding them a school?

What challenges do you face in the area of education, culturally, and within the workforce?

What do you do to overcome these challenges?

What are your dreams and aspirations for the future?

In terms of everything we have been talking about, do you have any final thoughts; anything you think might be missing from the discussion or any questions?

Thank you for giving me some of your valuable time, it is very much appreciated!