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An Appraisal of Urbanization Problems in Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria

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Abstract

The level of urbanization in developing countries of the world indicates that more people live in cities than before. This pattern induces pressure on traffic flow and makes living in urban area difficult. The situation, described above, has started to manifest in Ado-Ekiti, medium urban centre in Nigeria. Urbanization can be described as a process by which urban population increases in absolute number in proportion either through the natural increase in procreation of the existing population of our cities or through the growth of new town. This paper is to examine the problems facing urban centre, such as traffic congestion, crime rate, pressure on infrastructure, flooding, high standard of living among others, the research methodology adopted for the study is

systematic sampling method through the administration of questionnaires; however, the information gathered from the questionnaires was statistically analyzed and graphically represented. Some of the findings revealed that, the movement of people into Ado-Ekiti is due to the fact of many benefits readily available in the area being the state capital. Also, facilities that has been the pull factor of the migrants to Ado-Ekiti can no longer cope with the population that depends on it for survival. Hence, there is need to create employment opportunities, provision of more infrastructure and development of the rural areas across the state to reduce urbanization problems in Ado-Ekiti.

Keywords: Urbanization, Infrastructure, Development

1. Introduction

More than two decades ago, many urban areas have experienced dramatic growth, as a result of rapid population and as a world economic setting have been transformed by a combination of rapid technological and political change (Barley, 2013) ^[7]. He further emphasized that, the level of world urbanization today and the number and size of the world largest cities are unprecedented. The United Nations projects further that 60% of the world population will live in urban areas of whom 77% will be located in developing countries (Basorun, 2015) ^[6]. The processes of urbanization, however; differed between developed and that of developing countries. Urbanization in the developed countries was closely associated with industrialization and economic development.

Urbanization is the physical growth of rural or natural land into urban areas as a result of immigration to an existing urban area (Wikipedia, 2009) ^[10]. While the United Nations defined it as movement of people from rural to urban areas with population growth equating to urban migration (The Associated Press, 2008). Urbanization is the transformation of rural settlement to urban status and the ability to retain and maintain that status (Ibimilua, 2014) ^[8].

The impact of rapid population growth on urban development and conditions is far more than merely a demographic or quantitative one. Whereas the urbanization process in the developed countries was the result of rapid industrialization, the urbanization in Nigeria like most of other developing nations is a consequence of the 'push' of the rural areas and the 'pull' of the town. The majority of African urban centres developed and continue to develop as commercially administrative and servicing entities. Meanwhile, as city grows, problems emerge as a result of mismanagement of urban centres due to improper planning. The available resources that will make life pleasant for city dwellers must be able to cope with population of the people of particular region. Ado-Ekiti as an urban centre has been experiencing increase in population since it has been declared as the capital city of Ekiti-State in 1996 (Adebisi, 2013) ^[2]. But as the population of Ado increases, problems emanate. Ado-Ekiti as a city has witnessed remarkable growth in recent years, and its population during the past few decades has more than triple (Balogun, 2010) ^[5]. Most of the population growth in the cities is due to migration, therefore, this study focuses on some of these challenges and problems facing Ado-Ekiti emanating from the consequences of urbanization.

1.1 The study area

Ado-Ekiti is an ancient traditional and rapidly growing city in south-western part of Nigeria. It is located on latitude 7 0 15 1 north of the equator and longitude 5 0 15 1 east of the Greenwich meridian. Ado-Ekiti double as the administrative and economic capital of Ekiti State, Nigeria, a status that has impacted swift urban transformation.

Ado-Ekiti is about 21.34 metres above the sea level (Olfanso, 2010) and has a relatively flat terrain but like other settlement in the region, the outcrops of the basement complex formation appear as rock dame around the outskirts of the town. According to the result of 2006 population census, the population of Ado-Ekiti was 360,268 people.

2. Material and method

Reconnaissance survey of the study area was carried out prior to the actual sample collection. The instrument used was structured questionnaire. Hence, closed ended questionnaire was adopted to collect information from the

public. Personal observation and interview were also used in the study area. Due to large population of Ado-Ekiti, five important areas were selected at the core area of the study area in due course, vis-a-vis Ijigbo, Atikankan, Ojumose, Okeyinmi and Ereguru. Therefore, 200 questionnaires were administered in the selected parts of the study area. For the purpose of validity of the result, the head of every household was picked as the respondent to supply answers to the drafted questionnaires. The questionnaire administration exercise was done in the evening so as to meet the potential respondents at their place of abode. Also, collection and collation of completed questionnaires were done immediately after the exercise.

Since descriptive survey method was used in the study area, the data collected was analyzed through simple bar charts, pie charts, histogram and tables.

3. Results and discussion

Table 1: Factors that attract people to the study area

	Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
Valid Education factor	39	19.3	19.3	19.3
Economic factor	107	52.9	52.9	72.2
Job opportunity	48	23.8	23.8	96
Others	8	4	4	100
Total	202	100	100	

Source: Field survey, 2022

The above table shows the factors that attract people to the study area. The highest percentage was accorded to economic factors which accounted for 52.9% and 23.8% indicated job opportunity while 19.3% accounted for

education. Therefore, it can be deduced that the major factor attracting people to the study area is economic factor, which enhances the socio-economic activities of the occupants of the study area.

Table 2: The extent by which urbanization affects the study area

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Valid Positively	73	36.1	36.1	36.1
Negatively	129	63.9	63.9	100
Total	202	100	100	

Source: Field Survey, 2022

It is observed from the above table that out of 202 people sampled, 73 which is 36.1% respondents indicate that urbanization has affected the area under study positively, while 129 which is 63.9% indicate that urbanization affected the area negatively.

It implies that despite the fact that urbanization contributed to the development of the study area, urbanization also is the root cause of multiple problems in the area.

Table 3: Problems encountered due to movement of people into the study area

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative percent
Valid Traffic congestion/overcrowding	33	16.3	16.3	16.3
Housing problem/misuse of land	25	12.4	12.4	28.7
Waste management problem/indiscriminate dumping of refuse	16	7.9	7.9	36.6
Pressure on utilities/high house rent	31	15.5	15.5	52.1
Poor standard of living/poverty	24	11.9	11.9	64
High rate of unemployment	28	13.9	13.9	77.9
Flooding	15	7.4	7.4	85.3
Increase in crime rate	25	12.4	12.4	97.7
All of the above	5	2.3	2.3	100
Total	202	100	100	

Source: Field Survey, 2022

From the survey above, it was discovered that there are a lot of problems encountered in the study area due to the influx of people, it is observed that, higher percentage of the

problem is traffic congestion which accounted 16.3% of the respondents sampled, 12.4% for increased in crime rate and 15.5% accounted for pressure on utilities such as pipe-

borne water, electricity and the likes while 13.9% accounted for poor standard of living and poverty and 12.4% for unemployment in due course.

It is vividly revealed that there is a lot of problems encountered by the people in the study area due to the movement of people to the study area. Traffic congestion has assisted the people to lose their precious hours in the traffic-holdup especially during the pick hours.

4. Conclusion

This research work has examined the challenges of urbanization in Ado-Ekiti. The administrative purpose, social amenities (civic centers, institutions hospital and relaxation centers), infrastructural facilities: pipe-borne water, power supply and road network and accommodation availability has prompted the rural dwellers to be drifted to Ado-Ekiti. The rural-urban migration and other forms of migration were responsible for the problems of urbanization in Ado-Ekiti. If above mentioned facilities are readily available and accessible in the rural areas coupled with the reduction in the aspect of insecurity in the country, the rural people will be forced to stay in their settlement and the problems of urbanization will reduce drastically and considerably to certain extent or level. Moreover, availability of accurate and reliable data on population and other facilities (and its functionality) must be ascertained in order to foster the reduction in urbanization problems.

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