

Challenges of Sustainability and Urban Development: A Case of Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria

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Abstract: Sustainable development is a development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generation to meet their own needs. As a result of the attraction of people to a particular geographical region due to perceived development, as time goes on, there will be competition in-various ways by which land can be put to use leading gradually to urban growth in such location. Data for this study were collected from primary sources, through personal observation and the random administration of 250 questionnaires on categories of respondents in the study area. Results for this study revealed that infrastructural facilities, poor health care delivery system, low standard of education and poor standard of living were the challenges of sustainability and development in the study area. This study therefore recommends that development programmes should be aimed at uplifting the standard of people in the area and as such maintenance culture should be imbibed by all and sundry in the study area.

Keywords: Challenges, Development Programme, Ekiti State, Sustainability and Urbanization

1. Introduction

The environment provides all life support systems with air, water and land, as well as the materials for fulfilling all developmental aspirations of man (Lawanson, 2005). The Nigerian environment today presents a grim litany of woes. Many Nigerian cities are vulnerable to flooding, erosion and storm (Adebayo and Jegede, 2010). Invariably, natural disasters in cities kill or injure members of low-income groups disproportionately because the poor often live in unsafe housing on vulnerable lands (Lawanson, 2005). The loss of homes, possessions and often livelihood because of a natural disaster often leads to further impoverishment. Motor vehicles and motorcycles also pose a significant environmental threat to urban residents. Reported road traffic accidents in Nigeria between 1990 and 1995 were 121,451 of these figures, 15.66% totaling 19,049 cases occurred in Lagos, Nigeria's metropolitan city (Danmole, 2002).

Sustainable development is a development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs (WCED, 1987). The primary objective of sustainable development is to reduce the absolute poverty of the world's poor through providing lasting and secure livelihoods that minimize resource depletion, environmental degradation, cultural disruption and socially instability (World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987).

The earth summit (UNCED), which recognized the pressing environment and development problems of the world, and through the adoption of agenda 21, produced a global programme of action for sustainable development in the 21st century. Agenda 21 stresses the importance of partnership in improving social, economic and environmental quality in urban areas. It suggests

renewed focus on effective land use planning to include adequate environmental infrastructure, water, sanitation, drainage, transportation and solid waste management, in addition to a sound social infrastructure capable of alleviating hunger (Afonja, 1999).

A close relationship exists between the growth of urban centers' and urbanization itself. However, it is regarded as a process, whereby an increasing proportion of the world, nations or region's population lives in developed areas (Falade, 2003). Falade (2003) further stated that many factors are responsible for the invasion of people to a particular region within a geographical location; some of this factor includes education, employment, housing etc. This emigrational factor often results to over urbanization, which constitutes a "strike back" effect on the environment.

As a result of the attraction of people to a particular geographical region, as time goes on, there will be competition in various ways by which land can be put to use leading gradually to urban growth in such geographical location (Ogundele and Jegede, 2011). The creation of Ekiti State in 1996 resulted to rapid growth within the geographical location and equally, the influx of people into Ekiti region. Since then, Ado-Ekiti which is the state capital has transformed into a full urban centre, serving as an administrative centre to other parts or areas in Ekiti State (Awosusi and Jegede, 2010).

Nigeria as a nation has been experiencing an accelerated shift of her populations from rural to urban areas, due mainly in search of greener pastures and better standard of living with adequate basic socio-amenities.

Today's Nigerian city, according to Mabogunje (2002) is typified by substandard and inadequate housing, slums, and lack of infrastructure, transportation problems, low productivity, poverty, crime and juvenile delinquency. Urbanization, according to him is the root cause of the high rates of environmental degradation, pollution and social delinquency. Nigeria ranks 151st on the Human Development Index of 177 countries worldwide (HDR, 2004).

The Human Development Report (2004) records that 45.9% of the 120.9million (2002estimates) strong population of Nigeria resides in urban centers. According to Mabogunje (2002), residents of urban centers in Nigeria in 1950 were less that 15% of the population. By 1975, this proportion had risen to 23.4% and by 2000 was 43.3%. According to him, urban population growth rate is 4.8% annually; markedly higher than the national annual growth rate of 2.2% (HDR, 2004). The prognosis is that by 2015, more than half of the nation's population would be urban dwellers. According to Mabogunje (2002), the 1991 National Population Census recorded 359 urban settlements of at least 20,000 people in the nation and estimated the figure to have increased to 450 by 2000.

Urban development problems in Nigeria could be viewed from both socio-economic and environmental perspectives. Increase in the urban population has resulted in the proliferation of slums and informal peri-urban settlements otherwise known as shantytowns. The shantytowns as described by Aina (1990) are deprived settlements characterized by excessive residential densities, largely uninhabitable housing and the absence of sanitation, basic infrastructure and social services. They harbour migrants from the rural areas who are unable to fit into the economy of the city and so tend to find solace in informal activities and crime. The proliferation of these shantytowns results in the unwieldy expansion of the urban centers which poses a major planning problem as provision and management of roads, drainage and sewage systems among other infrastructure proves very difficult. Furthermore, shantytowns, a consequent of urbanization, cause increases in the incidence of urban poverty, diseases and epidemics, environmental pollution, urban conflicts and crime

2. General and Specific Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study was to examine the challenges facing sustainable urban development in Ekiti State, Nigeria. The specific objectives were to:

- (i) Investigate the problems facing sustainable urban development in Ekiti State, Nigeria;
- (ii) Examine the factors that precipitates sustainable urban development in Ekiti State, Nigeria;
- (iii) Proffer appropriate remedial measures to the challenges and problems militating against sustainable urban development in the study area.

3. The Study Area

Ado-Ekiti is the capital of Ekiti State; Nigeria. Ado Ekiti is the administrative centre of Ekiti State, Nigeria. Ekiti State was created on the 1st of October, 1996 and its capital city, Ado-Ekiti has witnessed rapid population growth and urbanization (Awosusi and Jegede, 2010).

The land in Ado-Ekiti rises Northwards and Westwards from 335 metres in Southeast and attains a maximum elevation of about 730 metres in the Southwest (Adebayo, 1993). The low relief and gentle gradient characteristics of Ado-Ekiti region favour agricultural and construction activities, and make much of the region susceptible to erosion and flood hazards during the rainy season.

Ado-Ekiti is located between latitude $7^{\circ}31'$ and $7^{\circ}49'$ north of the equator and longitude $5^{\circ}7'$ and $5^{\circ}7'$ East of the Greenwich Meridian. Ado-Ekiti is bounded in the north by Ido-Osi and Oye local government Areas, in the West by Ijero and Ekiti West Local Government and in the South by Ekiti South West Local Government Area (Ebisemiju, 1993).

Ado-Ekiti has a plan metric area of about 884km^2 . Geologically, the region lies entirely within the pre-Cambrian basement complex rock group, which underlies much of Ekiti State.

The temperature of this area is almost uniform throughout the year, with very little deviation from the mean annual temperature of 27°C . February and March are the hottest 28°C and 29°C respectively, while June with temperature of 25°C is the coolest (Adebayo, 1993).

The mean annual total rainfall is 1367mm with a low co-efficient variation of about 10%. Rainfall is highly seasonal with well marked wet and dry season. The wet season lasts from April to October, with a break in August.

4. Conceptual Framework/Literature Review

The Concept of Sustainable Development is applied to this study. The concept of sustainable development was propounded by the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) in 1987. Development involves the purposeful change of the inherently complex environmental systems. The natural resources system (Agricultural Products, Climatic Factors, Mineral resources) are consumed and multi-purpose in their social and economic roles. The anthropogenic resources system (infrastructural facilities) is used to enhance improvement in the standard of living of the people. Consequently, the effects of bad management are often wide spread both geographically and socially (Birch, 1973). From the foregoing, it is crystal clear, that agricultural activities, environmental factors, human needs and infrastructural facilities are independent. A system analysis or assessment of the total environment and basic socio-amenities should be part of the overall planning process. In making developmental decisions to maintain or improve environmental quality, sustainable provision of basic socio-amenities and food security should be given sufficient weight. This is the basis of the concept of sustainable development, an idea first proposed in the eighties by the World Commission on Environment and Development (Railwani and Osayande, 2003).

The Concept of Integrated Urban Development (IUD) is equally applicable to this study. The concept of Integrated Urban Development was propounded in 1987, following the diversity in the

conceptualization of urban development various analytical frameworks and concepts are recognized in evaluating the different urban developmental approach.

The nature of the processes of urban development and the size of the problem of promoting economic and social progress in urban areas brought about the concept of integrated urban development (IUD). Within this context urban development milieu calls for a set of policies and projects, which when designed and co-ordinated, will rise and sustain the standard of living of the people as a whole. This concept applies strategies and activities that would bring about an increase in productive power and changes in human attitudes and cautiously replaces the sense that urban development is dependent on the natural features in our environment, through improvements in the agricultural sector.

The concept further identified the most striking feature of the urban economy as, over-population, limited access to technical knowledge, high rate of unemployment, shortage of capital to finance development activities and shortage of basic socio-amenities. Thus, adequate socio-economic resources and infrastructural facilities should be provided, which will in-turn will generate development for the people, then improved infrastructural facilities provided will attract investors to the development of the area.

On the review of literatures, Doughas (1994) refers to urban growth as the increase in urban population either by natural increase as result of increase in birth ratio, or reason due to emigration purpose. He further noted that rapid urbanization in most developing countries is due to rural-urban migration and high birth rate, whereas, urbanization in most developed countries of the world was basically due to industrialization.

Williams (2004) noted that urban development involves a series of quantitative and qualitative changes occurring among a given urban population, whose convening effects indicate a sure rise in the standard of living and favourable changes in the way of life of the people concerned.

Odeyemi (2006) observed that the provision of facilities as a determinant of urban development should be a living habit of the locality that should be carefully studied, so as to determine whether modification of the required standard is desirable.

5. Methodology

Ado-Ekiti is the capital of Ekiti State. It has a total population of 308,621(National Population Commission Census Report, 2006).

This study employed the primary sources of data collection. Primary data were collected through personal observation and the random administration of two hundred and fifty (250) questionnaires on categories of respondents in the study area, containing variables such as transportation, electricity power supply, health facilities, standard of living, level of education, employment opportunities, portable water supply, quality of housing units and credit facilities etc.

The questionnaire was administered on ten (10) communities in Ado-Ekiti Local Government Area using stratified sampling technique to select the communities. The communities were Ajilosun, Olorunda, Basiri, Adebayo, Ijigbo, Irasa, Temidire, Okeyinmi, Oke-Ila and Odo Ado. Random sampling technique was thereafter employed in the administration of questionnaire on categories of respondents (25 each) in the ten (10) selected communities in the study area. Effort was made to incorporate people from all walks of life (professionals, artisans, farmers, traders, students etc) on the list of respondents. The researcher distributed the questionnaire to respondents, waited and collected the instruments from the respondents. The uneducated respondents were assisted by explaining sections of the questionnaire to them. Descriptive statistical tools, using frequency table and simple percentages were employed in analyzing the data collected.

6. Findings

On the challenges of urban development in Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria, it was revealed in this study that:

- (i) Transportation system in the study area is poor. Most of the existing roads, in the study area are narrow roads, characterized with pot-holes and in deplorable condition. This hinders the free flow of transportation of goods and services in and out the study area. This was corroborated by the fact that 114 representing 45.6% of the respondents strongly agreed that there is a problem of transportation in the study area, another 66 representing 26.4% also agreed to the fact above. The study area is equally devoid of air and water transportation system, as such solely depends on the road transportation system available in the study area. See table 1.
- (ii) The available social and infrastructural facilities in the study area are inadequate, characterized with poor electricity power supply, which hinders mechanical storage of raw materials and agricultural produce from farms, boring environment; little or no pipe borne water supply, which mainly led to people in the area dependent on water from streams and bore holes; coupled with wasted man-hour. For respondents' opinion on this, see table 1.
- (iii) The problem of health care delivery system resulting to various types of diseases or illness, which affects the rural dwellers. The available health care facilities in the area were highly inadequate with obsolete equipments. This reduces the health strength and potentials of the people in the area. Malaria, cholera, dysentery and typhoid were discovered to be very rampant on the area. A cursory look at table 1, it was revealed that 161 respondents of the total 250 representing 64.4% believed that poor health care system is a challenge to sustainable development in the study area.
- (iv) The standard of living of the people in the area is also a challenge to sustainable development of the area. These results from low per capital income of the people, with little or no savings for investment and the high cost of purchasing modern agricultural equipments that would bring about increase in output of agricultural produce. As such, the people were being portrayed as less privileged, less materialistic and less aggressive in their pursuit of goals, see table 1.
- (v) The level of education of the people in the study area is comparatively low. This emanates from the low standard of educational facilities in the study area, poor access to standard education due to financial constraints. This leaves the people to dwell in ignorance and as such poor attitude towards the development of the area, see table 1.

Table 1. Challenges of urban development in the study area

Variables	Strongly Agree		Agree		Unsure		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Total	%
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%		
Poor Transportation	114	45.6	66	26.4	14	5.60	28	11.2	28	11.2	250	100
Poor Infrastructure	155	62.0	72	28.8	09	3.60	05	2.0	09	3.60	250	100
Poor Health Facilities	161	64.4	53	21.2	04	1.6	17	6.8	15	6.0	250	100
Poor Standard of Living	149	59.6	68	27.2	06	2.4	16	6.4	11	4.4	250	100
Low Level / Quality of Education	143	57.2	79	31.6	09	3.60	14	5.6	05	2.0	250	100

Source: Fieldwork Report, 2011.

7. Discussions

On the impetus to sustainability and development of the study area.

- (i) It was discovered from the responses of respondents from the ten (10) communities (see table 2) that: The use, development and management of the resources in the area, as well as those from the rural areas are dependent on good transportation system of an area. Good roads, railways, and airport should be sited in the study area, so as to enhance importation and exportation of goods and services with ease, which means greater income and revenue generation into the study area.
- (ii) There is need for the introduction of diversified economic activities, (such as forestry, tourism) in the area. The identification and promotion of these resources will in-turn offer the communities the opportunity to benefit economically from their culture and environment. And as such, provides more employment opportunities with improved standard of living for the people.
- (iii) Health centers' and dispensaries should be located in the communities to meet health needs and demands. These medical centers' should be provided with modern technological equipments and adequate human resources. Quality medical services will improve the health of the dwellers and encourage people to stay in the areas. For this will in-turn, improve the labour force in the study area.
- (iv) A comparable quality education to what is obtainable in other urban areas should be provided in the study area. Knowledge will empower them to accept change and reformation that will enhance development. Parents should be encouraged and mandated in sending their children to school. For education provides economic benefits, builds strong societies and politics of the people.
- (v) The areas should be provided with pipe borne water supply. The areas should benefit from the resources flowing from the taps. Drinkable water should be provided to reduce vulnerable diseases contacted through unhygienic water system. Enlightenment on the treatment of water before consumption should be propagated among dwellers.
- (vi) The people should be trained in making use of the rural resources available coupled with modern technology in building quality houses in the study area. Local employment in resource-based activities in addition to agriculture could be the basis of housing development in suitable areas. These houses should be developed to social environmental and economic standard, so as to market the available natural resources for optional patronage and utilization.
- (vii) Electricity power supply is one of the most important infrastructures that modern societies needs. Constant and adequate electricity power supply is highly needed in the study area, for the illumination of homes, streets and the towns. And also as a source of power to offices, industries and various establishments in the area, for this will equally improve the social status of the areas, by providing a lively environment for social activities and investors.

8. Further Recommendations

- There is need for a considerable increase in the budgetary allocation from the Federal and State Government to the area. This will assist Local Government Authorities in the construction, maintenance and improvement of the existing educational, administrative and health facilities of the area.
- There is need for the equitable development of all sectors in the urban areas so as to avoid lapses in the development of the area.

- Development projects in the study area should aimed at uplifting the standard of living of the dwellers and break the vicious and routine cycle of poverty and corruption in the areas.
- There is need to create a serene and accommodating environment in the study area, so as to attract investors into the area.
- All the deplorable roads in the study area should be rehabilitated and new one's constructed to enhance the free flow of goods and services in and out of the study area.
- There is need for the provision of adequate basic socio-amenities and the creation of employment opportunities in the area, to better the lives of dwellers, and also to attract people to settle down in the area.

Table 2. Imperatives of development in the study area

Variables	Strongly Agree		Agree		Unsure		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Total	%
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%		
Good Transportation System	119	47.6	68	27.2	15	6.0	18	7.2	30	12.0	250	100
Affordable Credit Facilities	148	59.2	73	29.2	04	1.6	16	6.4	09	3.6	250	100
Employment Opportunities	130	52.0	98	39.2	03	1.2	11	4.4	08	3.3	250	100
Modern Health Facilities	137	54.8	91	36.4	01	0.4	14	5.6	07	2.8	250	100
Improved Education	198	79.2	19	7.6	04	1.6	16	6.4	13	5.2	250	100
Improved Electricity Supply	201	80.4	22	8.8	01	0.4	12	4.8	14	5.6	250	100
Portable Water	188	75.2	37	10.8	03	1.2	14	5.6	18	7.2	250	100
Improved / Quality Housing	166	66.4	54	21.6	06	2.4	13	5.2	11	4.4	250	100

Source: Fieldwork Report, 2011.

9. Conclusion

Environmental degradation is both a cause and consequence of poverty. Therefore, addressing the most pressing challenges of the urban poor will result in the reduction of environmental degradation and the achievement of sustainable urbanization. If sustainable urban development is to be achieved, we must recognize the prime place of rebuilding and expanding our critical infrastructure, just as we cultivate a determined effort to rapidly regenerate our national economy. We also should be determined to create and sustain the macro-economic prerequisites of a globally competitive and acceptable environment friendly economy. By the same token, we should be conscious of the imperative of ensuring that our economic regeneration efforts are environmentally sustainable.

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