

RAPID INCREASE IN POPULATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL POVERTY IN RESIDENTIAL AREA OF AGBOWO, IBADAN, NIGERIA

Introduction

Rapid urbanization that is not well managed poses great challenges to the quality of the physical environment especially in cities of Sub-Saharan Africa. According to Mannion (1997), rapid urbanization coupled with modernization processes exert a strong impact on the peripheral and core of the urban areas with the increased demands for land, housing, physical infrastructural development and transportation system. Owoeye (2013) attributed these changes to the improvement of infrastructural facilities as well as the socio-economic development which play crucial roles in organization and changes in the periphery of the urban centres.

Mabogunje (1985) expressed that the increasing environmental poverty in the large metropolitan centres have become much pronounced which involved not only the living conditions but also the ease of circulation in the city, housing congestion, poor waste disposal and management, inadequate water and power supply, inadequate parking space, traffic congestion and delay, flooding and host of others. Mabogunje (1985) further said that poor management of Nigerian cities is manifested through an inability to generate adequate resources and anticipation of future needs. Therefore, the cause of the problems in Nigerian cities could be attributed to the growing disequilibrium in the processes of development and capabilities to manage them.

Agbowo is characterized with some of the indicators of environmental poverty such as housing congestion, traffic congestion, poor drainage and sewage system, indiscriminate discharge of liquid and solid waste, environmental pollution, inadequate social facilities and over-utilization of existing infrastructural facilities. There has been a lot of informal physical development in Agbowo due to uncontrolled increase in population; some houses that were hitherto residential have been converted to commercial uses, places that were originally earmarked as setback are used for shops and stores against this background, the study examines the influence of rapid urbanization on environmental poverty in the residential areas of Agbowo, with a view to improving physical environmental quality in Ibadan.

Research Questions

1. How can rapid increase in population influence poor housing conditions?
2. How can rapid increase in population be responsible for inadequate social facilities?
3. How can rapid increase in population cause environmental degradation?

Conceptual and Theoretical anchor

The concept of urban slum and theory of urban regeneration would provide the framework for the study. Olotuah (2012) defined urban slum as an area characterized by poor buildings in physical state of disrepair, degraded environment, insanitary conditions, and absence of basic and essential facilities such as electricity, potable water, drainage system, schools, health facilities and recreational grounds. UNHabitat (2022) opined that urban regeneration brings back underutilized assets and redistributes opportunities, increasing urban prosperity and quality of life. Review of literature in urban slums will be used to validate or invalidate the influence of rapid increase in population on the physical environment in Agbowo while

literature review on the theory of urban regeneration would be used to validate or invalidate the probable assertion of urban revitalization.

Methodology

The research shall adopt a cross-sectional survey research design. Quantitative method design would be used in data gathering, analysis and presentation. Agbowo is one of the communities in Ibadan North Local Government areas of Oyo State, Nigeria where environmental poverty is predominant, hence, the justification for its selection as study area. Residential buildings in the study area would be determined with the use of Google Earth, ground truthing and relevant information from National Population Commission (2006). The Systematic sampling method would be used for the selection of sampled buildings while sample size would be chosen for the study. The sampling interval would be determined which imply the selection of 'n' buildings from every 'nth' residential building along the roads. A total number of houses to be selected for the administration of questionnaires would be determined. In each of the selected residential buildings, a household would be randomly selected irrespective of its residential status (whether it is the landlord's or tenants) and the head of the selected household would be interviewed with the aid of the set of pre-tested questionnaires. It is only in the absence of the household head that the oldest adult member of the household aged at least 18 years would provide the required information.

Expected Research Findings

Pearson Product Moment Correlation would be used to show a significant mean relationship that exists between urbanization and social facilities, housing conditions and environmental pollution. Regression analysis would be used to reveal if: urbanization poses challenges to social facilities; environmental pollution and housing conditions

Expected Conclusion and Recommendations

The study is expected to validate or invalidate the following research questions: How can rapid increase in population influence poor housing conditions? How can rapid increase in population be responsible for inadequate social facilities? How can rapid increase in population cause environmental degradation? Appropriate recommendations on enhanced physical environmental quality would be made.

References

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