

Slum Formation: A Corollary of Urban Development A case study of Akure, Ondo, Nigeria.

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DOI: 10.29322/IJSRP.9.06.2019.p9067

<http://dx.doi.org/10.29322/IJSRP.9.06.2019.p9067>

Abstract

Taking into consideration the trend of urban development in recent times, the ineluctable evidence of slum formation can be seen as a resulting effect of urbanization in developing countries such as Nigeria. Urban centres are undoubtedly central to the changes in any society that lead to socio-economic advancement and urban development. Yet, in spite of the availability of collective services such as education, health, industrial, commercial and technological services, in most of these cities, regardless of their size, slums continue to have a dominant appearance across them. These slums reflect the challenges experienced by the urban poor, challenges which include population pressure, socio-cultural and socio-political exclusion, descent in the physical environment and standard of living. This paper therefore assesses the reality behind slum proliferation, the causes, effects and characteristics. The study employed the use of relevant literature, case study and Empirical survey. The study examines the central area of the city of Akure, as the case study. Findings were summarized and interpreted from the empirical survey. Investigations affirmed that the study area is indeed a typical slum environment. The paper therefore concludes that concerted efforts by government and relevant environmental organization must identify and set up the necessary machinery to prevent slum formation in new and old areas alike.

Keywords: Corollary, Development, Formation, Slum, Urbanization

Introduction

Slums are complex phenomenon that continue to plague cities world over, with sufficient evidence through series of physical manifestations serving as proof of its importance as a critical component of urbanization, (Morakinyo, Kolawole, Ogunrayewa and Olabode, 2012). Slums are fair examples of elements of environmental decay. One of the most acceptable definition for slums was given by United Nations Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), as a series households living within a geographical defined area considered to be lacking access to any or all of the following conditions: readily available clean municipal water, adequate sanitation, tenure security, quality affordable housing (UN, 2003). Formation of slums are a common corollary of urbanization with particular reference to developing countries such as Nigeria. Confirming the above, is the unavoidable evidence of "SLUMS" in the following locations; Cazenga in Angola, Nima in Accra Ghana, Ajegunle in Lagos Nigeria, Mukuru Kwa Njenga in Kenya and so on. Due to the nature to which slums are formed they are often categorised as informal settlements and as Arimah (2011) observed, in spite of the cosmopolitan approaches adopted when planning the development of cities or urban centres there seems to be no decline in sight to the formation of these informal settlements. Nigeria, a developing country has been observed as being one amongst the lot of rapidly

developing nations in Sub Saharan Africa SSA, (Olotuah and Adesiji, 2005), hence the avid prevalence of slums across the cities in Nigeria, where inhabitants are forced to live under impoverished living conditions with no means of escaping their plight.

Several literature over the years have reported that due to the challenges that slum formation pose, appropriate authorities within affected countries or regions often times take proactive measures to alleviate any potential urban decay a city might experience and chief amongst the factors responsible for this decay being slum presence.

Understanding that the determinants leading to slum formation are multifarious, a problem bedevilling households, communities and authorities of affected countries, this paper, prequel to suggesting apposite remedies to slum formation, examines the underlying factors leading to slum formation.

Review of Related Literature

Man constantly interacts with his environment and this interaction can either lead to environmental improvements or degradation. Rapid urbanization which also results in environmental degradation quickens the formation and growth of slums. (Goswami and Manna, 2013). For this reason, it should be understood that examination of slum factors and characteristics must include the basic concept of urbanization

Basic Concept of Urbanization & Slum

Understanding the concept of urbanisation can appear complex due to several definitions of the term URBAN and also a lack of reliable data. In many developing countries, there are cities that have an appearance of urban centres but mostly in terms of population sizes and territorial extent. Urbanization, a process simply involving an increase in population in urban areas, habitually as a result of migration from rural to urban areas. It is a major social transformation occurring world over. It is a process of definite alterations or modifications to form and distribution of urban population both in character and size of a settlement. (Bobadoye & Fakere, 2013).

Slums however are unplanned settlement within urban centres lacking suitable housing amenities, with apparent poor living conditions. Guillermo Alves (2015), while studying the concept of slums identified four key dimensions that form part of an ideal slum definition they include: Lack of services, Agglomeration, Housing quality & Legal Aspects. These dimensions can be observed in the attributes of slums, whereby slum settlers endure life threatening situations such as insecure tenure, poor supply of municipal water, poor or absent waste management policies, high presence of squalid and dilapidated shelters, non-existent sanitary facilities, an array of complex health problems and lastly a persistent change in residential population, all of the forgoing which are categorised under the following Social, Economic, Political and physical attributes. Guillermo Alves (2015), posited that if the aforementioned dimensions were traits observed in any form of settlement in urban areas, such areas are considered slum areas. Undoubtedly, Africa in recent times has experienced rapid urbanization and the quality of structures that accompany this development varies from simple sheds to proper structures and the series of poorly built structures transforms the environment in to one which is beset with poor sanitary conditions, high occupancy ratio, dilapidated structures and the eventually austere health challenges.

However, it should be borne in mind that slums are basically the type of settlement affordable and readily available to the urban poor, where quest for land and profits is highly competitive, hence the formation of slums and the prevalence thereof becomes inevitable. (UN-HABITAT).

Incidence of Slums in the Nigerian context

The incidence of slums in urban areas nationwide cannot be understated. These slums have continued to prevail in urban centres experiencing increasing levels of urbanization, urbanization which is fraught with incommensurate socio-economic, technological and infrastructural development. (Olotuah and Adesiji, 2005). In the course of studying slum formation, Adegun, (2011), presents an evidence of slum proliferation between the years 1990 to 2007 which can be seen in a Table 1 below. The table reveals the percentage of urban slum settlers to the entirety urban population is still on the high.

Table 1: Urban population and proportion of urban slum settlers in Nigeria.

Year	Population (Thousands)	Percentage (%) of Urban Population in slums	Urban slum population (Thousands)
1990	33,325	77.3	25,763
1995	45,372	73.5	31,127
2000	53,048	69.60	36,930
2005	65,270	65.8	42,928
2007	70,539	64.2	45,309

Source: Global Urban Indicators Database, 2010.

The Society for the Study of Reproduction (SSR) recognises Nigeria as a developing country and as earlier reviewed, developing countries have more occurrence of slums compared to their advanced counterparts. Nigeria has a copious amount of urban centres with slum infection and this is reflected in Table 2, as presented by (Bobadoye and Fakere 2013) in their findings.

Table 2: Select Urban Centres with slum infection in Nigeria.

S/N	Nigeria Cites	Slum Regions
1	Lagos	Ajegunle, Makoko, Agege, Bariga, Badia, Ilaje, Iwaya, Amukoko
2	Kaduna	Angwar kurmin Gwari, Television, Angwar Shanu
3	Enugu	Akwuke, Ugwuaji, Abakpa, Emene, Akegbuegwu
4	Ibadan	Beere, Oje, Inalende, Mapo, Oke-Padi, Yemetu, Oniyanrin
5	Port Harcourt	Njemanze, Igbo-et che, Bundu Waterside, Mlie 1, Eleme
6	Abuja	Dutsen Alhaji, Karimu, Gwagwa, Kabusa, Apo wumba
7	Jos	Bayan Rogo, Gangare, Katako, Angwan Rukuba
8	Makurdi	Wadata, Agwan Jukun, Idye, Logo
9	Minna	Tudun Fulani, Kpakungu, Angwan Biri, Dutsen Kura
10	Ado-Ekiti	Oke-Isa, Irona, Oke-Ila

Source: Bobadoye and Fakere (2013).

Causes of slum formation

A glut of factors can be ascribed to as reasons for slum formation. Majority of these factors are connected to low level of socio-cultural and economic lifestyle of slum settlers. These factors are categorised under Population Growth and Governance. (Omole, 2010).

Population Growth:

Rapid urban population growth translates to changes in economic policies. These changes inadvertently lead to slum formation. The ensuing problem or effect of this population growth is in fact the emergence of the urban poor. Today a significant amount of the world's population reside within urban centres.

- *Overcrowding*
- *Poverty and Illiteracy*
- *Urban Migration*

Governance:

Poor governance on the part of constituted authorities often times fails to identify and integrate the poor while developing a plan for urbanization. This invariably contributes to the growth of these informal settlements. Hence due to the lacklustre efforts from the government, most affected areas are unable to respond positively to rapid urbanization.

- *Infrastructural Neglect*
- *Ineffectual Sanitation Laws*
- *Deficient Building Materials*
- *Insecurity of Tenure*

Research Setting, Materials and Methods

This study adopted the Quantitative method of data collection that employs the use of textual and visual analysis, Structured and unstructured interviews (individual or group) and observation in order to gauge views. The Study focuses on a number of slum areas within Akure, Ondo State, Nigeria, the area occupies an expanse of land of about 3.6sq.km. With the combined use of related literature, secondary data and photographic representations, trends in urban and socio-economic activities, the general profile of the existing slum settlements within the study area are illustrated within.

The land use is majorly residential while commercial activities exist within the Central Business District (CBD). The study areas include; Isolo Quarters, Odo-Ikoyi and Obele Estate, which happens to be situated within the city core except for Obele Estate which is slightly on the fringe.

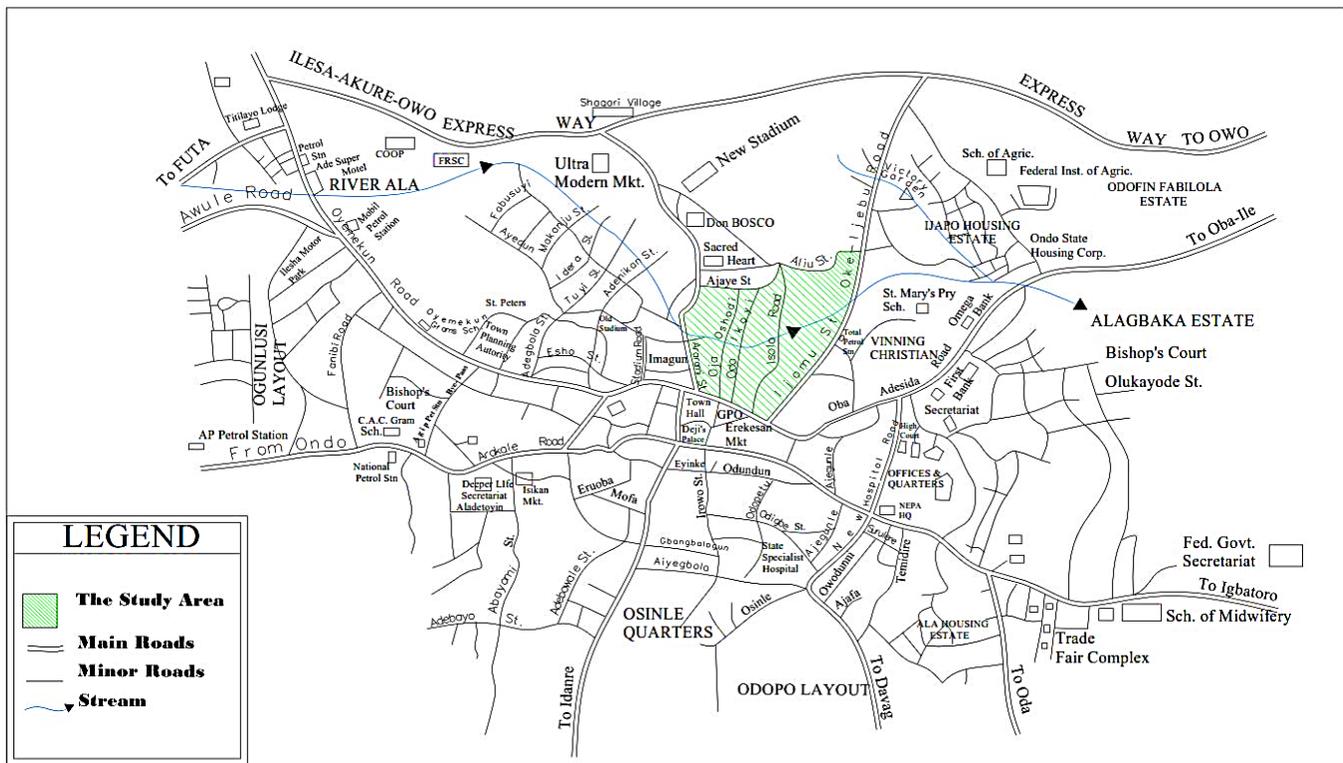


Fig. 1: Layout Map of the City of Akure, Ondo State, showing the study area

Source: Ondo State Ministry of Lands and Housing, Akure (2010) updated.

Results and Discussion

The findings presented were based on considerations for the following variables, socio-economic characteristics of respondents, condition of buildings, condition of the existing infrastructure, sanitary facilities and general environmental conditions of the area. Questionnaire administration, direct observation and also unstructured interviews were employed in collecting data on the field. 210 questionnaires were administered based on random selection during the survey across the focus areas. However only 185 of the administered questionnaires were effectively retrieved thereby representing 88.1% of the expected responses while 11.9% failed to return the questionnaires.

Socio-economic Characteristics of Respondents

Generally the level of education of the respondents was very low. As presented in Table 3, 42.2% of the respondents were without formal education while just 10.8% obtained education beyond the secondary level. This impacts negatively on their level of income which is evident as about 80.2% of the majority are either street traders, craftsmen or unemployed. Also, 55.1% have no fixed income or income at all while just 13.5% earn above ₦35000 monthly. The obvious indication is that poverty level is high, as very good amount of the populace maybe deprived the benefits of quality housing and social services.

Table 3: Socio-Economic characteristics of the Respondents

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Educational Level		
No-Formal Education	78	42.2
Primary	52	28.1
Secondary	35	18.9
Tertiary	20	10.8
<i>Total</i>	<i>(185)</i>	<i>100</i>
Occupation		
Trading	54	29.2
Public/Civil Servant	36	19.5
Self employed	48	26
Unemployed	47	25.4
Others	0	0
<i>Total</i>	<i>(185)</i>	<i>100</i>
Household Size		
1>3	42	22.7
4>6	82	44.3
7>9	50	27
Above 9	11	6
<i>Total</i>	<i>(185)</i>	<i>100</i>
Income Monthly Rate- Naira(₦)		
₦7000-₦25000	30	16.2
₦26000-₦35000	28	15.1
Above ₦35000	25	13.5
No Fixed Income	62	33.5
No Income	40	21.6
<i>Total</i>	<i>(185)</i>	<i>100</i>

Source: *Researcher’s Field Survey*

The average household size across the study area falls within 7-9, with an average density of 11 persons per building. The overall implication of this is continued poor living conditions if proactive and positive measures are not taken to improve the current situation.

General Environmental Conditions

The variables investigated in this category include, state of sanitary services, water supply and quality based on the source, drainage conditions, sewage and waste disposal methods, also considered were housing conditions and adequacy of infrastructure. Fig. 2 shows that 79% of the respondents publicly and privately source their water from hand-dug wells with a fair amount of these wells located in dirty environment while 21% get water supply from pipe borne water. 62% of the respondents reacted by saying the quality of water was poor as they had to spend extra money on treating the water after collecting from its source. This puts these dwellers in danger of being infected by water borne diseases.

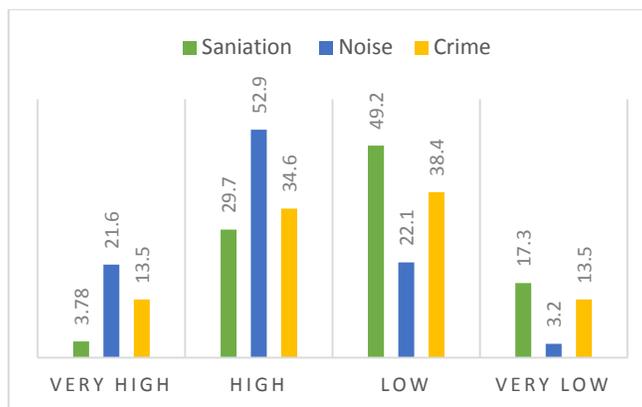
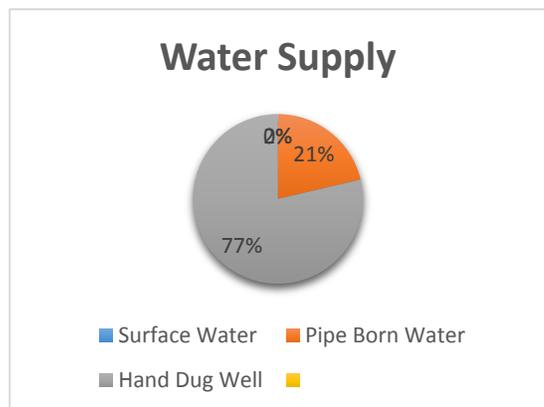


Fig 2: Source of Water Supply

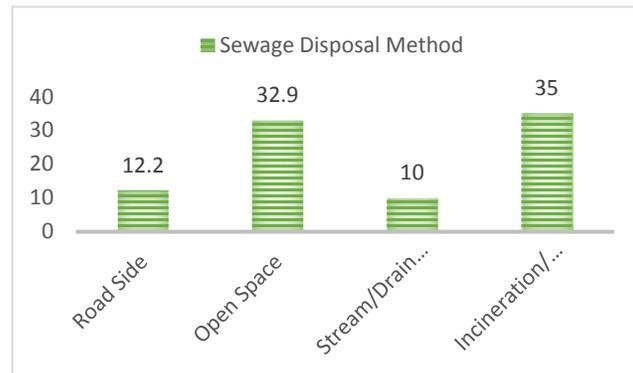
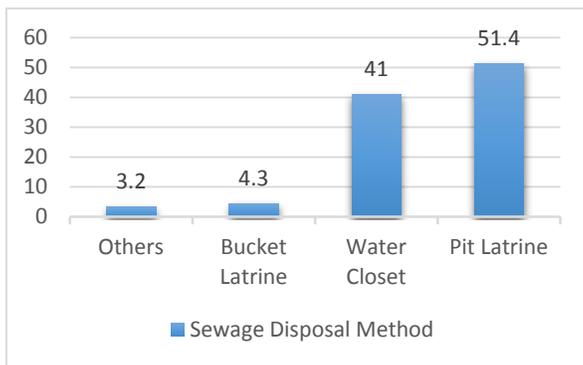
Fig 3: Environmental conditions

Source: Researcher's Field Survey

On account of sanitary conditions 66.5% reacted to the sanitary condition of their environment being poor, 52% corresponded that economic activities were high which is partly responsible for the high noise levels with 74.6% agreeing that indeed noise levels were high. There were conflicting responses on crime rate yet a significant amount of respondents, 48%, agreed crime was high although mostly property related crime (Petty Theft), the implication being that the populace within and around the area are potential victims of this crime.

Fig 4: Sewage Disposal Method

Fig 5: Waste Disposal Method



Source: Researcher's Field Survey

As shown in Fig.4, findings further revealed that 51.4% make use of pit-latrines, 41% have access to water closet systems, while for those without sewage disposal facility resort to the use of bucket-latrines and 3.2% accounts for those who dispose sewage through drainage channels or dunghills. Refuse disposal methods are equally appalling, due to the indiscriminate dumping of waste in open space and the delayed reaction of the waste management authorities in clearing the waste. Fig. 5, 35% adopt the use of incinerators and 33% resort to dumping refuse in open space. It should be noted that both methods impact the environment negatively in terms of air and soil pollution. 12.2% accounts for road side dumping while 10% dispose of their waste through flowing stream and drainage. Evaluating the adequacy of facilities as shown in fig. 6, 85% accounts for drainages being inadequate, 62% for waste disposal, 78% for poor condition of health facilities while 56.2% account for roads being inadequate in terms of construction and condition.

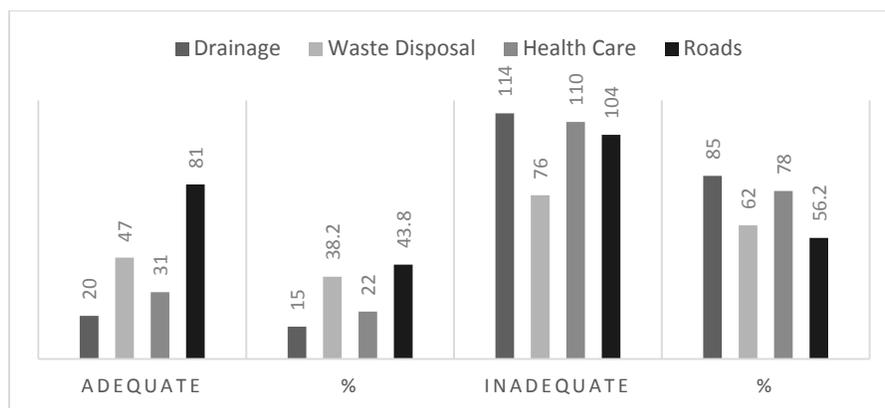


Fig. 6: showing adequacy levels of available infrastructural facilities

Source: *Researcher's Field Survey*

Table 4: Building Quality and Condition

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Material Used		
Walls ---- Mud-Brick	89	58.2
Sand-Crete Block	64	41.8
<i>Total</i>	(153)	100
Roofing ---		
Corrugated Iron Sheets	126	82.4
Asbestos	27	17.6
<i>Total</i>	(153)	26
Physical Condition --		
Functional	35	22.9
Defective	61	39.9
Very Defective	20	13.1
Dilapidated	37	24.2
<i>Total</i>	(153)	100

Source: *Researcher's Field Survey*

Findings further revealed that housing conditions and quality in the study area were equally poor.

Table 4 shows 58.2% accounts for the use of Mud-Bricks for their walls while 82.4% use corrugated sheets as roof covers the reasons being financially incapable of opting for quality building materials, meaning most of these buildings are susceptible to housing defects. On the basis of housing conditions, a combined reaction of 53% accounts for buildings needing either minor or major repairs while 24% accounts for old and dilapidated buildings.

Conclusion and Recommendation

Conclusion

This paper after careful appraisal and review of slum situation in the study area, Akure, Ondo State, Nigeria, it was discovered that the study area is an obvious reflection of slum formation in other cities across the country. The study revealed that the government needs to adopt sustainable urbanization with adequate planning that will guide the process of subsequent urbanization exercises. In addition, it findings also revealed that government policies on urban development lack institutional framework for successful implementation. Finally based on the reactions observed from respondents, the most unpredictable, elusive and complex of factors which was discovered in the course of the study as one of the major contributors to slum formation is the human nature. Observations revealed that even though slum dwellers faced numerous life threatening conditions, they were unwilling to leave and in the same vein, some others are drawn to slum environments as a result of the psychological conditioning from bad governance (corruption, sabotage and counter-productive behavior), sentimental socio-cultural ties and most importantly deviant behaviors.

Recommendations

From the foregoing findings as discussed, given careful appraisal, the following recommendations were made:

- The bulk of the task of arresting slum formation rests on the hands of the government by measure of effectively addressing the developmental needs off rural areas thereby discouraging rural-urban migration and in turn reduces pressure on socio-economic services and infrastructure in urban areas.
- Still tasked with the duties of eliminating slums, the government can through private business partnership, if the need be, make adequate housing policies to favor the socially excluded and as a result discourage squatter settlements this should be done in tandem with upgrading facilities in areas exhibiting slum infections.
- Also as a matter of urgency, the constituted authorities should make endeavors in educating and enlightening the slum dwellers on behavioral conducts, environmental sanitation and health education. This will further aid in communicating the relevance of environmental sanitation policies and laws.
- Lastly all stakeholders in the building industry and environmental sciences, should advise all prospective property developers against building in slums areas and also encourage them to comply with building regulations and environmental policies.

Observations made from of this study concludes that concerted efforts by government and relevant environmental organization to identify and set up the necessary machinery to prevent slum formation in new and old areas alike.

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