

Population and the Nigerian Socio- Economic Development Dilemma: A Case Study of Oshodi-Isolo L.G.A. Lagos, Nigeria

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Abstract: *The socio economic and development problems of Oshodi- Isolo L.G.A in Lagos, was discussed in this paper. The primary aim was to assess the relationship between population characteristics to planning and its implication to the environment. The study adopted questionnaire survey method and physical inventory for generation of data. Results were discussed and analyzed using descriptive methods. The paper revealed that in the study area, majority of the people live in sub- standard environments plagued grossly by inadequate social amenities. It recommended effective strategies to help alleviate the problem of population growth by causing a fundamental shift in current practice.*

Keywords: Population, Socio-economic facilities, Urbanization, Oshodi- Isolo.

1. Introduction

The world population is becoming increasingly urban and in order to accommodate urban population inflow and to promote development, better planning and effective management is required (UN Habitat, 2009). The population of Nigeria is growing at a rate of 3.75% per year indicating a doubling of the population every 23 years (Lagos State Government, 2007). The study area, Lagos in southwestern Nigeria has a higher population distribution of 1045 people per square miles.

The area under investigation is plagued with incidence of decay and deterioration, while supporting a large population irrespective of its small land mass (9.0km²). Population growth creates highly unfavorable circumstances for economic development and puts pressure on available resources. Social type capital like housing, educational facilities, health services, transportation, water supply, electricity among others is not sufficient for the urban centers (Oduwaye, 2009). As long as the population increases and the community retain certain pull factors which are stronger than the push factor, the community will grow and expand its geographical coverage. The housing conditions, drainage and sewage system is in a deplorable state and therefore calls for an engineered effort to remedy the existing situation. In an effort to meet the housing needs and demands of the increasing population, inhabitants end up settling in overcrowded areas, these are regions that are too small to support them, this affects their state of health and livelihood.

This paper is focused on enhancing awareness on the threats of rapid population growth, promoting proper management of socio economic variables as they relate to population and development. The paper is aimed at promoting knowledge thereby, encouraging best practices to control population growth in an effort to reduce the pressure on available social and environmental resources.

2. Literature Review

Nigeria illustrates complex interactions between demographic pressure, social, economic and political considerations. (Okpala, 1990), (Jiboye & Omoniyi, 2010). Prior to 1985, the Nigerian government followed a policy of non-intervention in population matter. Although the country's high rate of population growth constituted a serious obstacle to social and economic development, the official position was that the higher rate of economic growth and progress would reduce population growth (Okpala, 1990). As information from censuses and studies become available and economic downturn occurred with a sharp decline in oil prices in 1983, a growing awareness of dwindling resources and a perceived lack of progress in many social and economic areas resulted in the initiation of policies aimed at lowering population growth (Okpala, 1990). However, the shortage of human and financial resources, poor management, lack of commitment by the government, unrealistic policy initiation, and poor implementation strategies is a genuine reflection of the existing state of affairs within the country

One of the critical issues of concern to most national governments world over is the need to stem the rate of urbanization induced by the incidence of globalization, industrialization and an unprecedented population growth rate in the cities (Jiboye, 2009; Osasona et al., 2007). This concern has led to several global Summits organized at various level of government, international agencies including the United Nations. Specifically among such are, the Millennium Development Goals Summits, the 2002 World summit in Johannesburg and the 2005 La-Havana UN sustainable cities documentation of experience programme among several others. In Nigeria, there is high rate of overpopulation, congestion, pollution, inadequate shelter, squalor, underdevelopment and increasing incidence of poverty. The rapid population has not produced any appreciable improvement in the national economy and

welfare of the citizens. Rather, the uncontrolled and unplanned urbanization has brought about severe socio-economic, cultural and environmental problems (UNCHS, 2007; Jiboye, 2009; 2011). The degrading condition of the cities' environment affects the socio-economic and national development. A major developmental challenge facing Nigerian is how to cope with the increasing urbanization and minimize its adverse consequences on the cities' environment as well as the overall wellbeing of the people (Jiboye, 2011).

A large body of demographic literature documents the incidence of population growth in Nigeria (Farooq, 1985) (Ainsworth, et al 1996) (Anyinwe and Okojie, 1998) and (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2004a). In Nigeria the rapidly growing population is coupled with high dependency ratio and tends to reduce personal savings, bringing about high standard of living and acts as a barrier to socio-economic development. According to Hinchliffe (2002), in order for a city to function successfully, there must be a plan to meet the socio-economic needs of the population. The rapid rate of uncontrolled and unplanned urbanization in has brought with it complex urban problems in the form of competition for land, poor transportation facilities, acute housing shortage, rapid growth of slums and the accompanying health hazards and incidence of crimes of all types (Akinbode, 2002). Social services like safe drinking water, good housing and constant electricity supply have become luxuries in Nigeria because as efforts are made to satisfy some communities; teeming numbers elsewhere yearn for attention, thereby dwarfing whatever achievements are made in the realm of human development. The housing situation has worsened and the number of homeless people has increased, while urban slums have risen in size (Fourchard, 2003).

A World Bank data revealed that 60 percent of Nigerians live below the poverty line, only 50 per cent of the population has access to safe water, and about 38 per cent do not have access to primary health care (Abiodun, 1997). Thus, poverty jeopardizes the political stability, social cohesion and environmental balance of our cities, and until it is tackled decisively, sustainable development will remain a mirage (Olanrewaju, 2003). The explosive rates of growth have not only progressively complicated and exacerbated inter-related problems of human settlements and environment, but have also greatly accelerated poverty (Oladunjoye, 2005).

These submissions do not imply that once population is growing, social services must crumble. On the contrary, robust economic growth coupled with equitable distribution of income lessens the negative consequences of population growth on development as the experiences of China, Indonesia and South Korea demonstrate. Growth in population should not be a cause for concern since in certain circumstances, a large population could be to the advantage of a country in terms of the sheer size of its domestic market, better division of labour, increased productivity through improvement in the ratio of labour force to population as well as enhancement of its political and military power. A large population also diversifies the demand for products and services and promotes the tendency to increasing returns to scale, thereby raising economic development. In Nigeria,

however, growth has been sluggish and the gap between the rich and the poor keeps widening to the extent that the share of the poorest 20 per cent of the population in national consumption amounted to only 4 per cent in 2002, while that of the richest 20 per cent was 56 per cent.

Thus, a socially, economically or an environmentally sustainable system should achieve distributional equity; provide adequate social services including health, education, housing as well as functional and livable environment among many others (Jiboye & Omoniyi, 2010). Creating the need to integrate all aspects of development socially, economically, culturally and environmentally in achieving distributional equity and providing adequate social services including health, education, housing as well as functional and livable environment among many others. Although planning is vital for effective and optimum economic performance and development, the social, economic and political climate that give birth to an optimum city vary significantly between the developed industrialized societies and the developing countries. In Nigeria, the inability of the government to cope with the tempo of population has resulted to the centre of cities decaying without any tangible programme for rehabilitation. New urban peripheries are emerging in unplanned manner without the requisite infrastructure and this constitutes a serious obstacle to social and economic development.

Corruption and bad governance erode the confidence of the people in their government. This reduces their enthusiasm in the struggle for socio-economic revival and stability. Although there appears to be no link between population growth and low savings in Nigeria, the fact remains that as population grows, "capital widening" is needed to maintain existing per capita income and savings while declining fertility makes it possible for resources to be released for "capital deepening", which helps the cause of poverty alleviation (Jiboye, 2011).

3. Objectives of the Research

- To identify the need for population in addressing socio-economic problems in Nigeria;
- To establish the relevance of planning to the elements of population;
- To recommend ways to which the government, planners and interested stakeholders can meet the socio economic and development problems.

4. Research Question

- How does Population Characteristics relate with Planning?
- What impact does over-population have on the optimum use of social and economic facilities?
- What is the level of satisfaction derived from the use of social amenities and infrastructure?

5. The Study Area

Lagos State is one of the six states that make up the South West geo-political zone in the south Western part of Nigeria. It shares an international boundary with the Republic of

Benin to the South-West and has an interstate boundary with Ogun State (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2004). Its capital is Ikeja, it covers an area of 3,671 sq kilometers and has a population of 9,013, 534 (2006 census figures) with a population density of 2455 people/sq km. Its population makes up 6.4% of Nigeria total population (Lagos State Government, 2007). Oshodi-Isolo Local Government is one of the 57 Local Governments in Lagos State and is located on the North-East of Lagos State. The LGA covers land area of about 9.0sqk (9km²) and has a growing population of over 1,000,000 people / inhabitants. This area under consideration was not initially planned in a manner to accommodate the population that the growth pattern has caused. Problems of transportation, housing, violence, and improper planning have resulted. The facilities available are insufficient to meet population pressure and lack of maintenance thereby turning the area into slum.

6. Research Methodology

The study used a descriptive survey design. The population of the study was made up of the household heads in Oshodi-Isolo LGA, in the absence of which any other adult present in the household was interviewed. The sample technique employed was the random sampling technique. Data source involved a multi method approach. In this case, a quantitative methodology which incorporates the use of questionnaires, surveys and structured observation alongside focus group discussions and in-depth interviews was used. The qualitative approach will also be utilized to generate other useful supporting data especially from human subjects so as to strengthen quantitative evidence.

The questionnaire used for data collection was analyzed under 2 main sections: Section A, discussed the population characteristics of the respondents and its relationship with planning, while, Section B was designed to elicit information on the socio economic state of the respondents, the challenges of development, and efforts in place to ameliorate the existing situation.

7. Results and Discussions

Table 1: Questionnaire Distribution and Response Rate

Ward in the L.G.A	No of questionnaires distributed	No returned	Missing Figures
Shogunle	100	87 (87%)	13 (13%)
Ladipo	91	84 (92%)	7 (8%)
Bolade	87	79 (90%)	8 (10%)
Mafoluku	51	51 (100%)	0
Beesam	50	43 (86%)	7 (14%)
Oja	42	30 (71%)	12 (29%)
Alasia	37	29 (78%)	8 (22%)
	458	403 (88%)	55 (22%)

The socio economic pattern and population characteristics of the 7 different wards in Oshodi were assessed. 458 questionnaires were distributed to the respondents, out of which 403 were returned dully filled representing a response rate of 88%. Table 1 above represents the pattern of questionnaire distribution and the response rate.

Research Questions 1: How does Population Characteristics relate with Planning?

Table 2: Analysis of Data on Population Elements

Variables	Description	Frequency	Percentage
a) Sex	Male	320	79%
	Female	83	21%
b) Age	0-14	151	37%
	15-64	215	53%
	65 and above	37	10%
c) Family Size	4-Feb	32	7%
	6-Apr	83	21%
	8-Jun	278	69%
	Missing Figures	10	3%
d) Occupation	Civil Servant	51	13%
	Company worker	113	28%
	Trading	131	33%
	Unemployed	97	24%
	Missing Figures	11	2%
e) Annual Income	≤ ₦100,000	298	74%
	₦100,000 <	74	18%
	> ₦500,000	18	5%
	Missing Figure	13	3%

Discussions

Monitoring of birthrate facilities, income, and source of livelihood of the population is important in this study as such data will be useful in the formulation of policies concerning population control. Five variables were analyzed in Table 2 and these have a direct implication on the socio-economic characteristics on the population in the study area.

From the analysis on the gender and age characteristics, it is evident that there are more males (79%) in the study area. The sex composition and age factor are related to the incidence of rural-urban migration. Three major age groups exist in the population (0-14, 15-64, 65 and above) for the purpose of appraisal and planning for development and welfare of the people concerned. From the analysis it is clear that majority, (53%) respondents are within the working age group and reproductive stage. The population has a high dependency ratio (37%) as most women are in their reproductive stage. Onwuka (2001), in his work indicated also that old people need specialized welfare and this further puts burden on the economy. Age and sex composition influence fertility and mortality rates and therefore serves as a guide to planners in forecasting the range of women of child bearing age and the number of clinics to be provided. As Farooq, (1985) opined, the growth rate serves as a factor of measurement of development in a country and therefore enables comparisons over time and region to be made. The age pattern in the study area suggests a large labor force indicating the need to create more jobs.

The family size is of interest to the planner as many of the needs of the population have to be provided in relation to the size of the family (2-4, 4-6, 6-8); therefore analysis of family size is important for planning studies. From the analysis on family size, in Table 2 above, 69% of the respondents show a family size of 6-8 however, this group of people are made up of the low income group majorly and therefore are unable to provide for the social and economic needs of their family.

Occupation and income relate with the socio-economic grouping of the people. The analysis on annual income in table 2, reveals that 74%, 18%, and 5% of the respondents earn less than ₦100,000, ₦100,000 - ₦500,000 and above ₦500,000 respectively. Previous studies by Ajakaiye (2003) emphasized that what people do in their daily lives, their purchasing habits, their hours and place of work, their form of recreation is a reflection of their income and standard of living. Analysis of data on employment indicate 23% level of unemployment in the study area, however even most of the working population are under-employed, mainly small scale traders or an equivalent of salary grade level of 01-06 in government. The employment of the head of the household is taken as a proxy for income level, educational background, and social needs and habits. This provides vital information for land use planners to help them accommodate the people's physical needs. The relationship between people (population), their work (employment), where they live (housing) is at the core of planning considerations for example the provision of services for the population such as shops, schools, and recreational facilities.

Research Question 2: What impact does over-population have on the optimum use of social and economic facilities?

Table 3: Level of Satisfaction derived from the use of Social Amenities and Infrastructure

Variables	Very Satisfactory	Fairly Satisfactory	Not Satisfactory	Missing
Electricity		74(18%)	318(79%)	11(3%)
Water	86(21%)	98(24%)	201(50%)	18(5%)
Road	47(12%)	81(20%)	245(61%)	30(7%)
Market	28(7%)	250(62%)	112(28%)	13(3%)
Housing	18(5%)	11(3%)	360(89%)	14(3%)
Transport	63(16%)	46(11%)	290(72%)	4(1%)
Education	49(12%)	21(5%)	331(82%)	2(1%)
Hospitals	27(7%)	109(27%)	254(63%)	13(3%)
Security	15(4%)	39(10%)	340(84%)	9(2%)

Discussion

Analysis on Table 3 reveals that availability of social and economic services is insufficient in meeting the economic development needs of the population. The population is burdened by its own growth and this is a disadvantage in providing social services as shown in the table above. Rapid growing population increases the requirement for social services. The level of satisfaction derived from the use of social facilities is extremely unsatisfactory at 79%, 50%, 61%, 28%, 89%, 72%, 82%, 63% and 84% for electricity, water, road, housing, market, transport, education, health facilities, and security respectively. With a rapidly growing population through natural births and rural urban migration, more pressure is mounted on existing social facilities in an effort to make it serve more people than it was originally intended to service. The rapid population growth as found in Nigeria creates a highly unfavorable circumstance for economic development. Housing is a major concern for the Oshodi-Isola area the level of dissatisfaction derived from it use is outstandingly high (89%), next to this is education and electricity at 82% and 79% respectively. Further findings (Anyinwe, and Okojie (1998), (Oduwaye, 2009) (Oladunjoye, (2005) reveal that the rapid rate of uncontrolled and unplanned growth in Nigeria has brought

with it complex urban problems in the form of competition for land, poor transportation facilities, acute housing shortage, rapid growth of slums and the accompanying health hazards and incidence of crimes of all types. Also, infrastructure deficiencies and crises, inadequate infrastructure and unsanitary environment as evidenced in the study area have necessitated the need for an appropriate approach to solve the growing decay in the state. The spatial concentration of low-income population in poor areas due to the increase in commercial functions in the area is seen as a possible source of urban crime and violence.

The implications of this developmental challenge in Nigeria; are diverse socio-economic, cultural and environmental problems. Addressing these urban developmental challenges in Nigeria requires effective governance (Oduwaye, 2009). As Oladunjoye, (2005) opined, the socio-economic problems of Nigeria could be attended to if the gender structure, age pattern, spatial distribution, extent and rate of urbanization, human resources, and population distribution by geographical and political entities are put into consideration when planning. The findings strengthen the belief that Nigeria has a population load factor that weights too heavily on its limited resources to guarantee the welfare of the citizens. Since the basic needs of the people are not adequately catered for, exacerbation of poverty is inevitable as urban decay and urbanization crunch intensify.

8. Conclusion and Recommendations

Despite many efforts aimed at ameliorating the urban problems through the enactment of laws and regulations, the administration and implementation of these laws and regulation have been problematic. However, the contemporary question begging for immediate answer is, what we doing as planners to ensure that cities in Nigeria are sustainable economically, livable, socially and aesthetically? The prevailing situation calls for urgent actions so as to stem the tide of social and economic decay sweeping across the country. The following recommendations will go a long way ameliorate the situation.

1. The first step to any remedial action for effective and optimum economic performance and development is to know the size and rate of population growth with a fair amount of accuracy, its characteristics in terms of age and gender, the spatial distribution from which estimates can be made of the types, extent, location, and quality of social amenities that will be planned for as well as industrial, occupational and associated technological framework should also be known accurately.
2. There is urgent need to formulate and apply socio-economic policies, plans and strategies- ways and means to improve the various aspects of the economic and living conditions.
3. The government should put in place more practical population policies encouraging the lowering of fertility levels. People should be educated free of charge at the secondary and prevocational level. Women should be educated and sex education included in the curriculum. The government must play an active role in family planning programmes, educating the public on the pressure population growth adds on the environment.

4. The presence of a formal planning tradition; Taking strategic steps to improve the living conditions by carrying out skill acquisition and other community development programmes.

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