hImpact of Slum Development in Mararaba Gurku, Karu Local Government Area of Nasarawa State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

The study impact of slum development in Mararaba Gurku was aimed at identifying the extent and to determine and confirm the nature of slum in the area. The methodology adopted was a household survey undertaken by using the stratified random sampling method; questionnaires were prepared and administered in seven wards of the study area. A systematic type of observation was also used. This was undertaken by the researcher and his assistants that were recruited during the field survey at street/ward levels especially where wastes are dumped. Observations were recorded with notes and photographs of the streets/wards. The result of the analysis revealed that high rate of urban drift (migration), low rate of buildings, houses easy to erect and inaccessibility of decent houses in the city center were the causes of urban slum while the effect was that many of the slums residents are involved in prostitution, drug trafficking, hijacking, the slum residents are always involved in conflict in the slums and squatter is a regular phenomenon. Increase incidence of communicable disease that may spread to city dwellers from the work place, degradation of air quality with frequent slum fire and provides hideouts for criminal were also the aftermath. In conclusion, the major causes of slums development are high rural- urban drift, shortage of accommodation in the town and low rent for slum houses. It is also recommended that Government should check slums development through poverty reduction schemes and monitoring the indiscriminating sale and resale of land in satellite areas.

Key words: Drift, houses, prostitution, sale, slum development.

INTRODUCTION

The world's population has now shifted from predominantly rural to predominantly urban (Davis, 2006). For the first time in history, majority of people now live in cities and towns. This shift reflects the astonishing trend towards urbanization that has occurred over the last several decades. In 1975, the urban population represented just over a third of the world's population (UN-HABITANT, 2002). In 1950, "there were 86 cities in the world with a population of

more than one million; today there are 400, and by 2015 will be at least 550." (Davis, 2006). With this trend it is projected that in a short while, cities will house virtually all additional population growth (UN-HABITANT, 2002) and this immense urbanization will be felt most strongly in developing countries. Between 1950 and 2000, the percentage of the population in developing countries living in cities and towns rose from 18 per cent to 40 per cent, and this percentage is expected to rise to 56 per cent by 2030 (Davis, 2006).

The growth of cities and towns is attributed to two main causes :(1 migration from rural areas, and 2 natural population growths (Ibid). Among those who migrate to urban areas, the reasons underlying their migration vary. One of the primary reasons identified and discussed in the literature of urbanization and migration is economic: simply put, individuals often come to urban areas in search of jobs and the opportunity to earn more income than they can earn in rural areas (Shandra et al, 2003).

The growth of slum has become a natural indicator of the process of the country's urbanization. It is estimated that at least 60 percent of the urban population lives in slums. It is also estimated by (UN-HABITAT 2002) that nearly 1 billion people live in slums in the cities of the world. That is one-sixth of humanity! Every single second, somewhere around the world, one person moves into a slum or squatter settlement. Most of these slums are in the cities/towns of the developing countries of the world. The annual urban growth rate in Sub-Saharan Africa is almost 5 percent, twice as high as in Latin America and Asia. It has also the world's largest proportion of urban residents living in slums, which today are a home to 72 percent of urban Africa's citizens representing a total of some 187 million people. With the adoption of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2000, the poor living conditions in unplanned urban settlement were placed on the global development agenda. UN statistics indicate that by 2020, more than 1.5 billion people will live in slums and informal settlements without significant intervention to improve access to water, sanitation, secure tenure and adequate housing.

The term "urbanization and urban poverty" describes the process of cities becoming more and more the places where the poor of the world can be found (Ogunyemi, 1998). These areas are thickly populated with low income earners and are characterized by haphazardly erected structures of poor quality often lacking amenities with deteriorating conditions of living and lack of utilities layout around it.

METHODOLOGY

Location

Mararaba Gurku area is one of the major towns in Karu Local Government Area that share common boundaries with the Federal Capital Territory to the West, Kaduna State to the North and Keffi Local Government Area to the East and Nasarawa Local Government Area to the South. Its location is marked approximately by latitudes 9° 00′ and 9° 15′N and longitudes 7° 45, and 8° 00′E. The study area is well served with inter-city road network. It is also one of the Major towns bordering the nation's Federal Capital, Abuja.

Reconnaissance Survey

The survey of the study area was carried out to obtain firsthand information and for identifying the extent of the study area and also to determine and confirm the level of slum in the area.

Method of Data Collection

To achieve the aim of this study, two different sources of data were employed. The sources of data employed are as follows:
i.   =   Primary source of data and
ii   =   Secondary source of data.

Primary Source of Data

The primary sources of data collection are done through the administering of questionnaire, interview and field survey in respect of the study area.

Primary Data
Questionnaire

According to Akeurezuilo (2004) a structured questionnaire would achieve greater uniformity and enable the researcher to obtain aggregate information in a uniform and standardized way. Such a procedure minimizes the element of "unevenness" in the response of the individual respondent as well as reduces "biases" on the part of the interviewers. However, it will be difficult to prepare a questionnaire that will cover every aspect of slums development in Mararaba Gurku area within the frame of time and other resources of this research.

A household survey was undertaken by using the stratified random sampling method; questionnaires were prepared and administered in seven wards of the study area. A systematic type of observation was used. This was undertaken by the researcher and his assistants that were recruited during the field survey at street/ward levels especially where wastes are dumped. Observations were recorded

with notes and photographs of the streets/wards, for Robson (2007) emphasizes that when undertaking fieldwork, researchers should take photographs of people and places as part of their primary data collection method.

Sample Frame and Size

The Questionnaires were prepared and served to the residence that is, those that reside within the Mararaba Gurku area. The population of Mararaba Gurku Area of Nasarawa State is about 256,800 and the Mararaba Gurku is under Gurku/Kabuso ward and it have seven (7)ward and a total of two hundred and fifty (250) questionnaire for household for data collection. For this research purpose, the researcher use stratified random sampling method for questionnaire administration, houses were selected randomly. In each building, household heads were met and interviewed or their spouse were the household head was absent. The table below gives summary of the study sampling framework.

Table 1: Questionnaires distributed based on wards.

	Names Of Ward	No of Household	Numbers of questionnaires distributed
1	Baba ward	84	36
2	Abacha Road	70	36
3	Kabayi	80	36
4	Ochobo ward	60	35
5	Zamani ward	64	35
6	Deeper life Junction	64	36
7	Aso Road	65	36

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Method of data Analysis

Percentages were the basic techniques of analysis the figure obtained from the field. Other techniques as tables were also employed amongst others.
Percentage were obtained through the use of the formula

$$\frac{X}{n} \quad X \quad 100$$

Where X= Variable
n = Total Population
Y= Resultant Percentage

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The socio-economic characteristics of the respondents, the nature of their physical environment, the effect of slum development in the study and pictures showing the terrain are presented herein.

Socio-Economic Characteristics of Respondents

Table 2: Sex of Respondents

Sex	Frequency of Response	Percentage
Males	120	60
Females	80	40
Totals	200	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

This shows that 60 percent of the respondents are male who are heads of sample households, while 40 percents are females. These female respondents may be single, divorcees, widows, separated or single.

Table 3: Marital Status of Respondents

Marital Status	Frequency of Respondents	Percentage
Single	143	71.5
Married	37	18.5
Others	20	10
Total	200	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Table 3 shows that 71 percentages are single, 18.5 percent are married while 10 percent are widows, widower, and divorcees comprising others.

Table 4: Age of Respondents

Age Group (yrs)	Frequency of Respondent	Percentage
(a) Under 20	38	19
(b) 20 – 30	41	20.5
(c) 31 – 40	77	38.5

Source: Field survey, 2016

The results in table 4 revealed that 19 percent are less than 20 years of age; 20.5 percent are between 20 to 30 years old; 38.5 percent are between 31 to 40 years of age

while 22 percent are from 41 years old and above. This implies that close to 60% are within the active labor force.

Table 5: Occupation of Respondents

Occupation	Frequency of Respondent	Percentage
(a) Business	43	21.5
(b) Civil/Public Servants	60	30
(c) Schooling	24	12
(d) Apprentice	25	12.5
(e) Others	48	24
Totals	200	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Table 5 shows that 21.5 percent are business men and women; 30 percent are civil/public servants; 12 percent are students; 12.5 percent are apprentices while others are 24 percent. These include retirees, unemployed, and clergy men and so on.

Table 6: Income of Respondents.

Range of Income Monthly	Frequency of Respondent	Percentage
Less than N7,500.00	63	34
N7,500.00 to N22,500.00	65	32.5
N22,500.00 to N67,500.00	41	20.5
N67,500.00 to N112,500.00	26	13
Total	200	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The result shows that 34 percent of the slum dwellers are unskilled; 32.5 percent are described as low income. 20.5 percent as middle income earners while 13 percent as high income earners. It implies that the level of income somehow affect the growth of slums. Poor income earners usually are confined to marginal areas with poor infrastructural facilities leading to slums. As a matter of fact, these attributes are common among slum dwellers. This is because they are compelled by

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low income to live in such areas. If they were highly skilled, they would have been earning higher income that could afford them better accommodation in decent areas. Nevertheless, it can also be ascertained that some high income earners have been compelled by acute shortage of accommodation in the city center to live in fairy good house sparsely located in slums. Thereby purchased plots in slums which they developed into modern buildings.

The Nature of Physical Environment of the Study Area
Table 7 Nature of Physical Environment and indices of slums

Nature of Physical Environment	Frequency of Respondent	Percentage	Ranking of Indices of Slum
a. Poorly designed houses and streets	36	18	3
b. Over-crowding	63	31.5	1
c. Poor drainage and sewage disposal	25	12.5	5
d. Inadequate social amenities	45	22.5	2
e. Poor Environment sanitation	31	15.5	4
Total	200	100	15

Source: Field Survey, 2016

This table shows that 18 percent are of the view that the house and streets of the study area are poorly designed. 31 percent are over-crowded in the house. 12.5 percentages have poor drainage and sewage disposal systems. 22.5 percent are lacking inadequate social amenities while 15.5percent are staying in unhygienic environment. A ranking of the indices of slums revealed that overcrowding is the highest indicator, followed by inadequate social amenities. The least is poor sewage disposal. The study area is generally characterized by unplanned and poorly designed by unplanned and poorly designed house which are construction with poor and inferior building materials. Mostly are mud house and prefabricated structure.

They are not well-spaced out. Often these are over-crowded with people. There are no well planned streets. A time the paths are widen and pass through compounds. Very distinct in these areas are poor drainage and sewage disposal systems. The paths are always waterlogged with waste drainage out from compounds. Only recently have landlords converted their pit toilets to water cistern.

Often social amenities such as pipe-borne water and electricity are inadequately provided. An over view of the entire area shows poor environmental sanitation. Most of the people living in slum are low income earners and the unemployed. Criminals always use such areas as hide outs. The houses are irregularly numbered and so criminals cannot be easily traced there. Political violence is always planned in these areas since the criminals become political thugs during elections. However, this does not mean that the entire inhabitants have socially undesirable characters. Many decent men and women also live there because of shortage of accommodation in the city center.

Assessment of the Causes of Slums Development in Mararaba Gurku.

Causes	Frequency of respondents	Percentage
(a) High rate of rural-urban drift (migration)	62	31
(b) Shortage of accommodation in the decent areas of the city	59	29.5
(c) House rent is relatively low	31	15.
(d) Buildings are cheap to erect here	13	6.5
(e) All of the above	35	17.5
Total	200	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

31 percent attribute emergence of slum to high rate of rural-urban drift. 29.5percent attribute it to shortage of accommodation in the decent area of the city. 15.5percent attribute slum to relatively low rent being for house in such areas. 6.5 percent attribute it cheap cost of building houses in such areas while 17.5 percent attribute slum to all these factors. As house rent continues to rise, the poor individuals who cannot afford it look for alternatives cheap house found in slums. Soon new but cheap settlement develops in such places. Again, owners of land find it cheap to erect poorly designed structure which they offer at relatively cheap rent to those who are in dire need of accommodation.

Effects of slum development in the study area

The results of field survey revealed the following effects of slum development in Mararaba Gurku:

- Many of the slums residents are involved in prostitution, drug trafficking, hijacking.

-The slum residents are always involved in conflict (Quarrels, clashes, fighting) in the slums and squatter is a regular phenomenon. This creates noise and violence that disturb the city dwellers, especially the nearby residents.

-Increase incidence of communicable disease that may spread to city dwellers from the   work place.

-Degradation of air quality with frequent slum fire.

-It provides hideouts for criminal. This is facilitated by the nature of the buildings with inadequate space which makes the environment cluster.

-Environmental pollution which it is the release of harmful substances into the environment that is air, water or land in quantities or to the level that are harmful to animal and plants. The substances that cause pollution as a result of slum in the environment are called pollutants

Plates depicting Various Aspects of Slums in the Study Area

Plates 4.1-4.8 show the different aspects of slums captured during the field survey.

Plate 1: Slums in Mararaba Gurku Area of Nasaarawa State

Plate 2: Slums Residential Housing in Mararaba Gurku Area of Nasarawa State

Plate 3: Typical Road Shop at Aso Road, Mararaba Gurku Area of Nasarawa State.

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Plate 4: Typical Road Street At Aku village, Mararaba Gurku Area of Nasarawa State.

Plate 5: Typical Solid Waste Disposal At Deeper Life Junction, Mararaba Gurku Area of Nasaarwa State

Plate 6: Uncompleted Building Converted As Refuse Ground within the Residential Area of Mararaba Gurku Area of Nasarawa State

Plate 7: Pit Latrine at Angwan Hausawa By Dantata life camp, Mararaba Gurku Area of Nasarawa State.

Plate 8: Drainage Been Blocked by Waste at Abuja–Keffi Express Way, Mararaba Gurku Area of Nasarawa State.

CONCLUSION

From the findings, the major causes of slums development are high rural- urban drift, shortage of accommodation in the town and low rent for slum houses. Thus, and influential factor perpetuating slums development in urban center is low income. Government can only check slums development through poverty reduction schemes and monitoring the indiscriminating sale and resale of land in satellite areas.

RECOMMENDATION

Government should check slums development through adequate monitoring of indiscriminating erection of buildings, sale and resale of land in satellite areas.

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