

**EFFECTS OF URBAN GROWTH INCURSION INTO RURAL AREAS IN
SELECTED COMMUNITIES IN ABEOKUTA, OGUN STATE, NIGERIA**

BY

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SSP13/14/ H3140

B.Sc.(Ed) Geography and Regional Planning (O O U Ago-Iwoye)

**BEING A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
GEOGRAPHY IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE AWARD OF M.Sc GEOGRAPHY, OBAFEMI AWOLOWO
UNIVERSITY ILE-IFE, NIGERIA**

NOVEMBER, 2016

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DEDICATION

This Thesis is dedicated to God Almighty, My Wife and My Mother

AKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I give glory, honour and thanks to Almighty God who has bestowed on me all round favour throughout the period of this programme. I am sincerely and wholeheartedly grateful to my distinguished supervisor, Dr. A. M. Olayiwola for his continuous guidance, immeasurable assistance, suggestions and constructive criticism towards the successful completion of this work.

My sincere gratitude goes to Dr. N. O. Adeoye, the Head of Department, Geography for his support during the course of my studies in this institution. My special appreciation goes to Dr. O. A. Ajala, Dr. M. O. Olowale, Dr. O. Babatunhin, Dr. O. O. Oritogunje, Dr. A. O. Eludoyin, Mr. M. R. Adolabi, Mr. O. M. Oloju. I want to express my profound gratitude to, Professor A. S. Aguda, Professor O. Kufoniyi, Professor O. O. Ogunkoya, Professor F. A. Adesina, Professor T. O. Odekunle, Professor Remi Adediji, Dr. Baloye, Dr. A. Ayanlade and Mrs. J. O. Nwaezeigwe for their encouragement and supports during the period of this work. I am also grateful to the non-academic staff of the Department for the support during this programme. To all my colleagues at the Department, you are wonderful!

My special gratitude goes to my mother Mrs. Racheal Ouyemi Lawal for her support and words of encouragement during my difficult periods in this institution. Dr. (Mrs) Peters, Staff of the National Population Commission Abeokuta, Community elders in the communities selected for the study, members of the Association of Farmers in the communities selected for the study, Dr. Abiodun Ojo: The Provost of Tai Solarin College of Education Omu Ijebu, Ogun State, my good friends Adefowope Abiodun Adesanya, Ousegun Oadebo, Emmanuel Igbovia, Ajetunmbi Ayobami, Jide Amukunra, and Aderonke Ezekwe (Nee Orida)

Finally, I am sincerely grateful to my wife, Adebimpe Abosede Lawal for her love, patience, understanding and prayers during this research. My thanks also go to Oluwa Tolu and my sons Ademilade Okikiola and Abraham Abolaji Lawal for their obedience and understanding during the programme.

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Title: Effects of Urban Growth Incursion into Rural Areas in Selected Communities in Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria.

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Department: Geography

Degree: M Sc. (Geography)

Year: 2016

Abstract

The study assessed the trend of expansion of Abeokuta between 1968 and 2014 and examined the changes in types of land use in the area within the study period. It also examined the influence of urban expansion on the socio-economic and livelihood of the surrounding rural communities in the area. These were with the view to determining the influence of urbanization on the adjoining rural communities in the area.

The study used both primary and secondary data. The primary data were obtained through questionnaire administration and focus group discussion. The study population comprised selected rural communities that fell between 10 km from north (Bode Oude), south (Ogere), east (Agboku), west (Akewe), southwest (Apena), southeast (Oke Misan), northwest (Onigangan) and northeast (Olose). In each of the communities one-fifth (20%) of heads of

households were selected for the study to ensure adequate coverage and optimum representation of the sample frame. The samples drawn were selective of age and occupation; they were at least sixty years of age and must have been, or were still, farmers within the community of residence. However, there were cases where the heads of some households did not possess either one or both of the set criteria for selection; such a household or the entire building was skipped to the next household or building as warranted. On the whole, a total of 275 questionnaires were administered in the eight selected communities. For the secondary data, a topographical map of Abeokuta for 1966, Landsat 1986, Landsat TM 2006 and Landsat ETM+ 2015 were used using Geographical Information System (GIS), which were digitized and overlaid using ArcGIS 9.3.

The results showed that the settlement (Abeokuta) has expanded by 2,890 hectares of rural land engulfed between 1968 and 2014. The built-up area has increased by 80.9% whereas areas covered by vegetation, bare rock and water body have reduced by 85.06%, 96.7% and 96.2% respectively. Furthermore, the influence of urban expansion indicated that there is serious encroachment on agricultural land, increase in distance to farmlands, reduction in farm size, changes in socio-economic base of the communities, occupational diversification, changes in means of livelihood, and divestment of land.

The study concluded that urbanization influenced the livelihoods and physical structures of the adjoining rural communities in the area.

Supervisor: Dr. A. M. Olayiwola

Number of Pages: 116

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

One of the most important transformations across the world in the modern times is the expansion of cities and metropolitan regions and the sprawling growth of megacities. Much of these explosive growths are unplanned, particularly, in the developing countries where cities have absorbed many rural settlements. Aina (1992) contend that in the developing countries, contemporary urbanization has not only been extremely rapid in nature but also devastating in impact.

As a process of increase modernization system, urbanization modifies the socio economic activities and revolutionizes the land cover practice according to time frame (Chabra 1985). Urban development has enlarged the modification of natural resources and has changed land cover and land cover patterns. The expansion of residential and commercial land cover to rural areas at the periphery of metropolitan areas has long been considered as a sign of regional economic vitality (Agunbiade et al, 2012). However, the rate at which this expansion encroaches into rural lands vary considerably between different regions. Studies in the developed countries show that rapid urbanization in some of the great cities had displaced rural lands. For example, Best (1970) revealed that in Britain about 5,700 acres of agricultural lands are transferred to urban uses each year. Bernstein (2003) showed the loss of agricultural lands to urban development in different countries. He revealed that in Zheijiang province of China, vast areas of agricultural land on the fringe of cities were being converted to urban uses. In addition, he showed that while an estimated 40,000 hectares of rural land is converted to urban use annually

in Jarkata, in Egypt more than 10% of the nation's productive farmlands have been converted to urban use during the last 30 years. Chabra (2005) established that the loss of agricultural land to human settlements is far more serious in India than elsewhere. He observed that about 1.5 million hectares of agricultural land was used for urban growth between 1975 and 1995. Chabra (2005) predicted that a further 800,000 hectares would be transformed to built-up area between 1995 and 2010.

In Nigeria, Onibokun AG (1995) gave example of the rate at which urban development has encroached into rural land in Enugu. They reported that in 1963, Enugu lost 72.52 square kilometres of arable land to urban development, about 180 square kilometres in 1975, and by 1985 it increased to as much as 204.5 square kilometres. Since then, there was an average physical expansion rate of 5.89 square kilometres. Salami (1997) observed a kind of lateral expansion in all directions in Ibadan. He added that between 1977 and 1990, Ibadan expanded by about 4 kilometres to the north, 8 kilometres to the east, 4 kilometres to the south and 3 kilometres to the west engulfing most of the neighbouring rural areas. Adedibu et al (1998) revealed that in 1935 the built up area of Ilorin was just 2.0 square kilometres, 4.5 square kilometres in 1963 and 22.3 square kilometres in 1973. This shows that the city has grown at an astronomical rate and the expansion has claimed most of the surrounding rural lands. Adindu et al (1998) revealed that, in Owerri the capital city of Imo State, there was loss of agricultural land up to a distance of 13 kilometres from the city. They established further that between 1975 and 1998, proximity to the city resulted in loss of significant proportion of neighbouring farmlands and from the rate of expansion the city may encroach more into the adjoining communities. Adeboyejo (2004) indicated in his study on Ogbomosho that the direction of growth was towards the northern outskirts border of the settlement where Ladoke Akintola University of Technology

is located. This is because about 69.5% building plans were approved in the north compared with 31.5% in the southern part of the settlement. Salau et al (2013) studied urban growth incursion in parts of Lagos State, Nigeria. They observed intense urban encroachment along the south-west end of Ojo-Badagry Expressway, south-east along the Lekki-Epe corridor, the north-east along Ikorodu corridor, Alimosho-Igando-Iba-LASU corridor in the north-west and the Lagos-Ibadan axis towards the northern part of the Metropolis. They asserted that the corridors along the Lagos-Ogun State borders have experienced the highest pressure. Furthermore, they observed that Ojo, Ibeju-Lekki, Ojo-Akute, and Ojo areas were under intense pressure of urban expansion.

In almost every part of the world, cities are experiencing new patterns of cultural and demographic super-diversity (Adriana, 2003). Growth and physical expansion of human settlements are global phenomena (Middleton et al, 2011). The process of urbanization represents increase in proportion of people living in town and cities as a result of people's movement from rural areas to urban areas. Growth in urban populations is considered as the factor directly responsible for the unprecedented rate of urban expansion and development being witnessed across the world. As the population of urban centre increases, its need for spatial services and structures increases which in turn, results into expansion of the urban area. More than 50% of the world populations now live in cities (Caneshan, 2011).

Urbanization is a complex process which has a strong global dimension that overcomes the spatial barriers, acting as real centres of progress with a significant impact on natural resources and on life quality. Consequent upon this, there are several problems of various dimensions: social, economic or environmental in nature. One major consequence of increasing rate of urbanization in most of the developing countries is the uncontrolled rate of spatial

expansion as well as of physical development in most cities. The logical outcome of this haphazard development is environmental stress on the physical components of the ecosystem. These also attenuated the efficiency and aesthetic value of the city with implication on a functional and balanced environment.

Furthermore, the urban setting is no longer limited to the core city with its surrounding suburbs, as urbanization has created metropolitan region that include spaces outside the borders of cities. As cities continue to expand and push into bordering rural areas, the pressure destroys traditional ways of life and replaces them with urban solution for growth. Due to expansion of the city, the urban-rural hybrid zone has become a contested space where conflicts over the exchange value and land cover value are only a part of the larger problem (Minas, 2003). In areas where independent municipal governance is favoured over the collective regional approach, rural town and suburban municipalities are competing directly with bordering cities to access the desirable and perceived benefit of developing projects. Additionally, resident groups within these rural communities are in conflict over each other over preservation of the new opposing way of life (Logan and Monotch, 2007).

In addition, cities are dynamic entities; they continually go through unprecedented changes both in spatial extent and population size. These changes call for expansion especially on the immediate rural lands where agriculture is the predominant land cover. The effects of this kind of urban growth incursion are numerous. One is physical effect including destruction of farmlands or vegetation. Another effect is biological where most of the wildlife in the forest zone is killed and some species have become extinct (Agunbiade et al, 2012). Moreover, there are some other effects that relate to haphazard development in the adjoining rural lands. Since these fringes are not given adequate physical planning attention, development springs up in

diverse directions especially along transportation route and if not checked, it could result into slums and non-functional built environment.

Nigeria has become an increasingly urbanized and urban oriented society since the attainment of independence in 1960. Because of the great influx of people into urban areas, the population of Nigerians living in urban areas has tremendously increased thereby expanding the areas in form and pattern. Nigeria is urbanizing at an astonishing pace. According to the World Bank, Nigeria has one of the highest urban growth rates in the world (World Bank, 1991). The share of the country's urban population increased from 20% in 1970 to about 38% in 1993. While national population grew at an average of 2.9% per year from 1980 – 1993. Likewise, United Nations, (2002) reported that