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TOPIC-THE PROMBLEM OF URBANIZATION IN NIGERIA

1.0 Introduction

- **Urbanization** refers to the population shift from rural to urban areas, "the gradual increase in the proportion of people living in urban areas", and the ways in which each society adapts to the change. (UN 2007).
- It is predominantly the process by which towns and cities are formed and become larger as more

Introduction Continu.....

- Urbanization can also be seen as a specific condition at a set time (e.g. the proportion of total population or area in cities or towns) or as an increase in that condition over time. So urbanization can be quantified either in terms of, say, the level of urban development relative to the overall population, or as the rate at which the urban proportion of the population is increasing.(USLC 2013)
- It can also be define as the agglomeration of people

1.1 Nature of Urbanization

- Urbanization is not merely a modern phenomenon, but a rapid and historic transformation of human social roots on a global scale, whereby predominantly rural culture is being rapidly replaced by predominantly urban culture.
- The first major change in settlement patterns was the accumulation of hunter-gatherers into villages many thousand years ago.
- Village culture is characterized by common

1.1 Nature of Urbanization Continu.....

whereas

- urban culture is characterized by
 - distant bloodlines,
 - unfamiliar relations and
 - competitive behavior
-
- This unprecedented movement of people is forecast

2.0 The Trend Of urbanization in Nigeria

- **Urbanization in Nigeria Before and After Independence**
- Available data on urbanisation in Nigeria is largely conflicting. UN-Habitat and the World Bank are the most frequently cited sources of urban population statistics.
- Available data reveal that the population of Nigeria has been increasing at an alarming rate. Our towns and cities are growing rapidly. In 1921, the population of Nigeria was only 18.72 million (table 2.1). In 1952, it rose to 30.4 million and in 1963 to 55.67 million. The preliminary census data for 1991 (table 2.1) shows that the population of Nigeria has increased to 100.1 million. The population of Nigeria is still increasing at a rapid rate.

2.0 The Trend Of urbanization in Nigeria Continu.....

- In 1931, less than 7 per cent of Nigerians lived in urban centres, that is settlements with populations of 20,000 and above. The proportion rose to 10 per cent in 1952 and to 19.2 per cent in 1963 (see tables below).
- Reliable estimates put the 1984 and 1991 urban population at 33 and 42 per cent. At present (i.e., in 1995), there are seven cities with populations of over one million people ; 18 cities with over 500,000 people : 36 with over 200,000

2.0 The Trend Of urbanization in Nigeria Continu.....

Table 2.1 Population of Nigeria (1921-2006)

Year	Total Population	Urban Population	Urban Population (%)	Cities of 20,000 or more	Cities of 100,000 or more	Cities of 500,000 or more	Cities of over 1,000,000
1921	18,720,000	890,000	4.5	10	-	-	-
1931	20,956,000	1,343,000	6.7	24	2	-	-
1952/54	30,402,000	3,701,000	10.2	54	7	-	-
1963	55,670,000	10,702,000	19.2	183	24	2	-
1972	78,927,000	19,832,000	25.1	302	38	3	-
1984	96,684,000	31,906,000	33.0	356	62	14	-
1991	101,900,000	37,703,000	37.0	589	68	23	-

2.0 The Trend Of urbanization in Nigeria Continu.....

- As at 1921, only ten Nigerian settlements had urban status and by 1931 only two cities, Lagos and Ibadan had populations in excess of a hundred thousand people each. Post-independence Nigeria witnessed more rapid rate of urbanization.
- Nigeria since independence has become an increasingly urbanised and urban-oriented society. By

2.0 The Trend Of urbanization in Nigeria Continu.....

- In addition, there were twenty four cities with populations of not less than a hundred thousand people. However, it was not until the period between 1970 and 1995 that Nigeria witnessed an unprecedented high level of urbanisation reputedly the fastest urbanisation growth rate in the world at the time. By 1991, Nigeria was

Table 2.2 Population of some Nigeria Cities (1972-2000 AD in Millions)

City	1952 [*]	1963 [*]	1972 ^{**}	1982 ^{**}	% Increase in 30 years ^{**}	2000 ^{**}
Lagos	.27	.66	1.57	4.10	1,418	6.90
Ibadan	.46	.63	1.48	2.84	518	4.70
Ogbomoso	.14	.32	.50	.81	479	1.50
Kano	.13	.30	.58	1.50	1,054	2.60
Ile-Ife	.11	.13	.20	.32	199	.43
Abeokuta	.08	.19	.29	.62	641	1.32
Onitsha	.08	.17	.25	.31	309	.73
Oyo	.07	.11	.17	.28	293	.45
Port Harcourt	.07	.18	.35	.91	1,183	2.11
Enugu	.06	.17	.33	.85	1,244	1.75
Aba	.06	.13	.20	.33	471	.56
Maiduguri	.06	.14	.27	.71	1,147	1.48
Zaria	.05	.16	.26	.42	678	.68
Benin City	.05	.10	.20	.51	846	1.30
Katsina	.06	.09	.14	.23	263	.42

2.0 The Trend Of urbanization in Nigeria Continu.....

- In 1990 there were twenty-one state capitals in Nigeria, with estimated populations of at least 100,000 inhabitants each which were projected to double every fifteen years (U.S. Library of Congress, 2013). According to statistics 43.5% of the Nigeria people lived in urban areas as at 2000. Now we have approximately 50% of our population living in urban cities with predictions that the urban population will hit the 65% mark

2.1 The factors responsible for the high urbanisation in Nigeria

- The factors responsible for the high urbanisation in Nigeria was as follows:
- The oil boom of the 1970s and early 1980s;
- Government policies which resulted in the creation of new states and local government areas;
- Creation of a new federal capital territory in Abuja;
- Establishment of new universities; and

3.0 Conclusions

- The most notorious example of urban growth in Nigeria has undoubtedly been Lagos, its most important commercial center. Acknowledged to be the largest city in sub-Saharan Africa, Lagos has become legendary for its congestion and other urban problems.
- Aside from Lagos, the most rapid recent rates of urbanization in the 1980s were around Port Harcourt in the Niger Delta region, which was at the heart of the oil boom, and generally throughout the Igbo and other areas of the southeast.
- The Most Recent Urbanized City in Nigeria is the Federal

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