



## **Socio-Economic Consideration and Livelihood Sustainability in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The centre piece of this study is devolved around urbanization prospects and problems. It is aimed at examination of people in their place context. It is the circumstantial assessment of the urban dynamics premised on individual geographies and melieux. In the urban place there are the very poor, the average and the highly placed persons who live on the basis of their where withal. And there, the crucial role of urban dynamics of interaction across and within the social spectra of individuals and groups. These are encapsulated in our introduction, problem statement, justification and objectives of the study. Accordingly, the literature is reviewed along relevant themes. Methodologically, inclusion has been made of description of study design, area of study, population of the study/sampling techniques, instruments for data collection and techniques of data collection, and method of data analysis. Additionally, the anticipated outcome of our findings is well brought out.

### **Introduction/background**

Urban socio-economic issues are enormous. It's quite very illusive to attempt a compendium of the whole gamut of it. Fundamentally, urban ecology is a whole world of departure from the rural country sides.

At the centre stage of the analysis is the urban demographic problematic. The sheer size of urban population demands a whole lot of concern prominent among in this concern or attention is the urban housing or settlement challenge.

Besides the issue of accommodation, there is the grave needs of settling the heterogeneity of the people in terms of culture, status, taste and preferences and overall orientation. This ushers in the neighbourhood problematic which means the demand for settlement aggregation. This brings to bear, Gregory's (2015) theory which posits that in in the urban area people of similar characteristics and status dwell in proximity. This is rather called the Greodemographic principles of settlement aggregation. Hence, it evident that the profile of urban settlement development depicts a clear picture of distinct neighbourhoods. In this neighbourhood analysis, it was Mabogunje (1984) who said that in all Nigerian urban settlement, they exist dual model in the settlement domiciliary of its residents.

This division he mentioned to include, the well planned residential neighbourhood belonging to the well-to-do residents and the unplanned residential area where the poor and under privileged occupy. While the former belong to the satellite suburban districts occupied by the rich and aristocrats, the latter belong to the impoverished and under privileged lots. This has also been christened in different urban planning nomenclature as urban slum, Ghetos, Shanties and so on. So the housing settlement question takes the lead in urban neighbourhood analysis.

Closely knit with the settlement/housing issue is the challenge of rent. This may take a variety of forms ranging from house rent to land rent, space rent in business premises, parking lot bills, market space rent, tenement rates, light bills, and other such bills.

The grave question of employment or useful engagement is at the backdrop of the ability to meet the rent demand and the likes. Mass migration of the virile youths of the country side to the city lead eventually to the swelling of the ranks of the urban demographic makeup. Unemployment results from the inadequate provision of gainful employment for the migrants youths. This results in the situation of misery, deprivation and frustration. This may cause the emergence of other behaviour and traits that may be couched in the popular phrase of criminality, urban crime is one hallmark of socio-economic Malays that throttle livelihood sustainability in the city domain.

Legal issues bordering on urban crime activities is lofty in the judicial concern of criminal waves. There is the grave problem of security of lives and properties. Most urbanites feel more secure in the day time. This recalls J.P. Clerks poem, "Night fall in Soweto" where the whites torment the blacks mercilessly during the night in South Africa.

Urban live ability is also tied to other myriads of social fabrics that cannot be readily exhausted. The big question of isolation or individuality is manifest in what is called "mind your business" spirit. Isolation results from disregard of neighbourhood concern. The urban poor are more prone to this isolation

malady. A good Number have lost knowledge of their roots (home land) and they live and thrive without kit or kin. Indeed they are in the world of their own.

These categories are domiciled in the areas where government's attention is less evident. They live in makeshift dwelling or fabricated shelters known as the urban slum. They exist in a state of abject poverty and survive in squalor or unhealthy livelihoods with high degree of disease Burden. Okoye (1982) has clearly stated that the urban slum areas have distinct environmental and human images which are characterized by filth and squalor.

Generally speaking, the urban social, ecological and economic identities have a plethora of challenges that require urgent attention for the avoidance of eventual decay. It is the recognition of these facts that spurred the problem identification of this study concerning Calabar urban Liveability from the stand point of its economic and social challenges.

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### **Statement of the problem**

Urban socio-economic livelihood is a matter of great concern to scholars in urban sociologist, environmentalists, anthropologists, geographers and other fields of human endeavour. Much of the intricacies of this concern has been elucidated in the background to this study. Livelihood sustainability is variegated according to the heterogeneity of the people's mosaic of culture who are involved in the quest for a clear understanding of the urban social ecological fabrics. In Calabar as elsewhere, there is much left to be explored towards unravelling the labyrinth of the social and economic network of the people. The concern is a whole motely of what happens to the people, as a group and individual levels of existence. Wealth creation and affluence, poverty and deprivation, health and disease, arts, music, business urban graffiti and invisible surfaces are to be unrivalled. Ecology also plays an important role in the explanation of urban socio-economic perspectives of the people. Here we can probe issues such as climate, landscape/terrain, disease and so on for a clear evaluation of the co-connection between environmental characteristics and human environmental behaviour.

The study particularly aims at designating the social and economic Millieux in the context of place. It will strive to appreciate the basic underlying facts behind the unique life forms of residents in their specific environmental context. It is this quest that has engendered the crave for problem identification of this research.

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### **Justification of Research**

Socio-economic sustainability is vital to livelihood of the society in all ramifications. Societal progress made possible when people live and work in a congenial environment amongst each other. This research is significant in understanding the entire gamut of what goes in the community of residents in any part of the world.

This research findings will elucidate the clear perspectives of what goes on among the residents of the proposed area of study. Calabar like every city in this world is made up of mosaic of people; activities and challenges that are attendant on the life mode of individuals on a daily basis. Population pressure on resources demands a clear appreciation of the inherent challenges that are evident. Neighbourhood issues border on what goes on between people of different cultures, religion, and socio-economic status and so on.

The research will present a clear picture of how to grapple with the myriads urban environmental problem. Urban environmental planning with benefits by the findings of this study so as to properly allocate land and other resources for appropriate use. Medical and health workers will find the suggestions put forward by this as worthwhile and valuable.

Safety and sincerity measures will be guaranteed by a recourse to the results of this research. Urban sociologists, urban environmental managers, actuarians and other engaged in human resource management will find it a veritable tool in their profession.

Individual socio-economic status which is the pivot of the problem identification of this study shall be well clarified in the explanation of the selection strategies of towards solution of the barrage of challenges that beset them.

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### **Objectives of the study**

This study is backed up by the following specific objectives

1. The quest for an understanding of the true perspective of resident's livelihood modes.
2. The need to adequately appreciate the nature of neighbourhood pattern among residents in their social and environmental circles.
3. To evaluate how settlement aggregation are predicated on social-economic status.
4. To investigate how behavioural patterns are conformal with environmental images of the residents.

### **Research Hypothesis**

Ho: Urban Form, Scale and Socioeconomic Livability does not have any significant effect on Socio-Economic Consideration and Livelihood Sustainability in Calabar.

## Literature review

Cities and/or urban centres generally are hearths of population agglomeration and so are mosaics of social interaction. As residents converge from the kaleidoscope of sources of migration to the new destination, they encounter new images of livelihood challenges that require wholesale re-orientation and adaptations. Overall the new life demand is so enormous that require wholesale attention by the individual themselves, neighbours, urban or city authorities and other professionals in the field of urban planning. This study is primed by the conscious realization that life challenges in urban centres are a fundamental departure from those of the country sides or rural areas. This review borders on examination of the intricate meshes of the life demands that buffet citizens and residents in their domain. In doing this, a number of inter related themes shall be brought to bear in the review.

“urbanization”, “urbanism” and “urban ecology”. These are related terms that are necessarily operationalized from different dimensions as follows “URBANIZATION”.

Different expressions have been rendered from official circles concerning the term “urbanization”. For instance, Barney (2015) stated that urbanization is the shift of population from rural to urban areas. “The gradual increase in the proportion of people living in urban areas” and the way in which each society adapts to the new change.

### “Urbanism”

This has equally provided a terse explanation by Roggmond *et al* (2022) that, “urbanism is about what happens inside the city”. The form and functions of cities and how cities relate to rural areas. The last phrase appeals directly to what Salharwaite *et al* (1992) will term “cities ecological foot print”. This means the extent to which a city draws its resources from the rural countryside.

This is one of the premises of our problem statement in this study which introduces the perspective of urban ecology.

### Urban Ecology

"Urban ecology" has been explained to focus on the studies of the relationship between mankind with each other, and their surroundings including cities and urbanizing Landscapes. It is therefore used to define the study of humans in the urban environment, of nature in cities and of the relationship between humans and nature (Marzluff *et al* 2008).

It is also referred as the "Ecology in cities and ecology of cities". The first phrase alluded to the effect of urbanization on the ecology of living organism as well as the differences in ecological processes in cities and those others.

The second phrase predicates on the interaction between ecological processes and social systems in the urban environment. Grossly, these interaction modes cannot be extricated one from the land they dovetail to our injunction of the socio-economic considerations which is the fundamental starting point of our problem identification.

It therefore deals directly with the basic tenets of the push and pull factors of urban livelihood sustainability which is consonance with the perspective of urban sociology.

### Urban Sociology

Following Boundless "sociological perspectives on urban life 2016" urban sociology is the sociological study of life and human interaction in metropolitan areas. It seeks to study the structures, processes, changes and problems of urban areas and to subsequently provide input for planning and policy making. Urban sociology deals with the network of interaction that prevails between city residents and other transient population who commute their areas.

By so doing, the urban social are breded leading to the demand for adjustments and adaptation. The negative side effects of urban sociological perspective demand concerted environmental agenda for creation of adequate and congenial urban liveability.

In line with this, Saltarhwaite *et al* (1992) proffered that "A new environmental agenda will be needed by the third cities based on the need for enhancing, the capacity of city authorities, professional groups and Non- Governmental Organizations. Others to address their environment problems the range of such problems is wide.

With this realization, our investigations have been flushed in a bid to addressing some specific areas of concern amongst which are (1) Cox, or *et al* (2018) work on the impact of urbanization nature does and the implication for human health, (2) Sol, E. *et al*. Findings on "The world wide impact of the urbanization on avian diversity, (3) Vandom, L.A. *et al* investigation on the impact of urbanization on house prices and affordability" and many other similar efforts, signifying the grave issue of urban environmental effect.

Along similar lines, efforts have been directed at the effects of urbanization on different spheres of our world such as (1) Brand (2009) who focused the point that families living in cities could take advantage of opportunities and diversities; (2) C. Laeser's (1998) focus on mechanisms of urban heat islands in cities, and Allender *et al* (2000) on implications to human health and life expectancy at birth.

Following the brief review so far it can be adduced that urban livelihood perspective is not grossly a "bed of roses" for all resident. As the introduction put it, "it is variegated and circumspect" there the "do wells" and the "never do wells".

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## METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

### Study Design

This research design is a field exploratory design at investigating the mosaic of life forms that are in existence among the urban residents of Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria.

### Area of Study

The study destination is Calabar, Cross River State. Calabar falls among the earliest urban settlements in Nigeria. H's advantageous location on Atlantic Ocean on the Gulf of Guinea places it on a strategic opportunity to overseas trade and other diplomatic contracts. As early as 1905, Calabar began its administrative role as the first administrative headquarters of Nigeria under the British colonial rule. All along it has metamorphosed into geopolitical state through being the headquarter of the then south eastern state from 1967 to 1985 and headquarters of Cross River State from 1991 to 1981 when Akwa Ibom State was carved out of the then Cross River State currently the state comprises of 18 local government areas including Bakassi. Calabar with its Burgeoning population, its urbanization status has correspondingly change by the rapid expansion of its settlement and its growing ecological footprint. Due to its hospitable serene environment of the people and place, it worn the nick name such as "Canaan city" and/or the "People's Paradise". Due to its urbane city ecology there is much to discern from its life patterns of the mosaics of population that coexist together.

Its marina tropic/sub-equatorial location presents another ambience for visitors and residents alike.

### Research Population

The population of this study includes residents from the age of 18 years and above. The choice of this age range predicates on the recognition that the lower limit of this bracket commence the distribution of population that are eligible to vote and be voted for and there could engage in meaningful economic life sustainability.

### Population Sampling

The sampling procedure was undertaken in stages such as:

- i. Purposive delineation: This stage considered delineation or demarcation of the entire city into blocks for convenient access. The criteria for city blocks demarcation entailed consideration of elements of contiguity/ uniqueness of settlement identities status or class distinction or geographical distinctions.
- ii. Systematic sampling: This focused on selection of households using the process of "serpentine" selection which will entail alternate enlisting of households within city blocks.
- iii. Random sampling: Randomization entailed aggregation of the sample households and adoption of selection using "cap draw" method.
- iv. Stratified: Here the final choice of the sample size was made by categorizing the households based on such classification as low, middle class and high class residencies.

### Instruments for Data Collection

Surrogate instruments like land use maps, digital cameras and the global positioning system (GPS) were being used.

The questionnaire: will be employed directly for elicitation of responses from respondents in during field data collection.

### Method of Data Collection

Data was collected in the following procedures:

- i. City block demarcation or delineation.
- ii. Population sampling/selection.
- iii. Prefield/reconnaissance survey.
- iv. Field data collection in sequence such as
  - (a) Low class population assessment or interview
  - (b) Middle class field data capturing
  - (c) High class field data capturing.

### Data Analysis

One-way analysis of variance was employed in testing the hypothesis.

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## DATA PRESENTATION/ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

### Data Presentation:

Field data was collected strictly in line with the objectives stated for the research. Hence, the questionnaire instrument which was administered to elicit responses from livability as predicated on socio-economic considerations.

Results from ANOVA						
<i>Source of Variation</i>	<i>SS</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>MS</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>P-value</i>	<i>F crit</i>
Rows	3772.75	3	1257.583	30.31843	2.48E-08	3.008787
Columns	260.0556	8	32.50694	0.783693	0.621334	2.355081
Error	995.5	24	41.47917			
Total	5028.306	35				

### Decision Rule

Here, we can see that  $F_{\text{tabulated}}$  is greater than the  $F_{\text{calculated}}$  at alpha level of (0.05). We therefore accept the alternative hypothesis and reject the null hypothesis and conclude that Urban Form, Scale and Socioeconomic Livability have a significant effect on Socio-Economic Consideration and Livelihood Sustainability in Calabar.

### Discussion of results:

Urban Scale, Form, and Economic Viability Compared to measures of centrality and diversity, indices of built environment intensity were found to be statistically more significant for socioeconomic livability metrics. This outcome emphasizes the significance of taking into account the socioeconomic impacts of urban shape when formulating plans for urban densification procedures. Although density contributes to economic vitality, it must be carefully weighed against other factors that affect livability. The findings from both clustering analysis demonstrate that density can have a significant negative impact on home affordability—a factor that is typically overlooked in comparisons of the world's livability.

However, it's crucial to remember that there are two ways in which urban design and socioeconomic characteristics are related. This means that just though a specific physical characteristic is connected with a certain socioeconomic trait, it does not always follow that it is the cause of that trait. Socioeconomic factors may also have an impact on urban design. It is important to balance trade-offs between socioeconomic consequences that the same morphological indicator may have. Policymakers and planners might take into account a higher density of buildings with moderate height distributed among parcels with different sizes since building density contributes to economic vitality, parcel diversity contributes to affordability, and the number of stories had a negative impact on affordability.

Both the health of the economy and the affordability of housing may benefit from this. All parties involved in the urban environment should carefully discuss these trade-offs. When planners and designers take on such difficulties, public input and openness are required. This finding appears to support the idea put forth by Hillier et al. in 1976 that the built environment's global characteristics significantly affect its local characteristics. Additionally, the network centrality indicators were crucial for predicting the accessibility index, which supports the contention made by Hillier et al. (1976) that the layout of the street network strongly influences mobility patterns.

The literature frequently discusses the connection between geographical diversity and socioeconomic indicators (Rosner & Curtin 2015; Talen 2008), but more research is needed to fully understand this relationship. In this example study, morphological diversity characteristics were crucial in predicting social diversity and affordability. Contrary to the idea that a mix of building ages promotes social diversity, the model showed that building age diversity had a detrimental effect on forecasting social diversity (Talen 2008: 25).

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## CONCLUSIONS

The study demonstrates that it is possible to relate morphological characteristics to livability results. The ease of accessibility, social diversity, affordability, and economic viability may be taken into account in the application of this knowledge to policymakers, though favorable relationship Impervious surfaces, the amount of tree cover, the variety of homes, and street length a canopy of trees Area of the parcel and a range of parcel sizes Katz Centrality, Year Built, and Area of the Parcel negative connection Amount of rooms age variety in the building, parcel size Age diversity in the building, the number of stories, and the total finished area Total finished area on which such morphological characteristics are decided.

Since it is more difficult to alter building age and street network metrics, they should be used in large-scale, long-term planning procedures. In places that are just beginning to become more densely populated, controlling the number of stories and parcel size is quite simple. Impervious surfaces and tree canopy indicators, on the other hand, are simple to manage even in already densely populated areas. Given that parcel area was found to be a key factor in predicting affordability in this scenario, it may be pertinent for municipalities or developers to take into account how parcel assembly procedures may impact the overall livability of the city.

Additional research could examine in greater depth how localized densification processes interact with other socioeconomic livability factors. By analyzing the socioeconomic effects of changes in urban form, models have the ability to support policymaking. The most significant factor influencing socioeconomic attributes was intensity indicators. Indicators of intensity are already commonly employed in urban design processes involving density restriction, permitted building heights, permitted building footprints, etc. The application of the network centrality and spatial diversity metrics, however, is rather low. By including these factors in urban decision-making, design solutions that may promote the establishment of livable densification processes may be supported.

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