Socio-economic Dynamics of Slum Growth in Core Areas of Cities in Developing Nations – the Ado-ekiti Example

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Abstract: Globalization and urbanization have been identified as having inherent capacity for the disarticulation and dislocation of a nation's socio-economic structure. This paper identified the socio-economic forces responsible for slum development in the core of Ado-Ekiti. The core area was delineated using the acquired google image which was processed using ArcView GIS software; Twelve Data Delineation Areas (DDAs) were identified, having: 2,930 buildings and 14,650 households. A 2.5% of households (368) was adopted as the sample size. The landlord or the most senior household head was interviewed using a structured socio-economic questionnaire. The photograph of scenes of interest were taken to supplement information from the questionnaire. The DDAs formed the basis for questionnaire administration. Empirical analysis shows that there is poverty in the study area due to underemployment and low income. Government intervention through a holistic urban renewal and creation of enabling environment for job opportunities were proffered for a sustainable city core development in Nigeria and applicable to cities in developing nations of the world with similar characteristics.

Keywords: Ado-Ekiti, City Core, Developing Nations, Economy, Social, and Slum.

1. Introduction and Review of Literature:

Slum is a constituent of urban deterioration. It has been described as a place of permanent abode which has become degenerated through ageing and neglect (Onoekerhoraye, 1995; Omole, 2001). Also, Bello (2002), enumerated poverty as a factor of slum formation and revealed that congestion of buildings and people are potent factors creating opportunities for the emergence of low environmental quality and unsanitary conditions, which breeds contagious diseases and infections in such deplorable parts of urban areas.

Urban slums are also settlements, neighborhoods, or city regions that cannot provide the basic living conditions necessary for its inhabitants to live in a safe and healthy environment (Jordan, 2019). A household that is deficient in durable housing, sufficient living space, easy access to safe water, access to adequate sanitation and security tenure is experiencing slum condition (UN-HABITAT, 2006))

Furthermore, George (2016), defines a slum as group of buildings, or an area characterized by overcrowding, deterioration, unsanitary conditions, or absence of facilities or amenities such as portable water, drainage system, schools, health facilities, recreational grounds, post office, etc; which because of these conditions or any of them endanger the health, safety, or morals of its inhabitants or the community. A slum is a highly populated urban residential area consisting mostly of closely packed, decrepit housing units in a situation of deteriorated or incomplete infrastructure, inhabited primarily by impoverished persons [Wikipedia, 2018].

According to Planning Tank (2014), a slum area lacks any form of government presence as core facilities such as water, sanitation, and solid waste gathering, and lodging structures are majorly sub-standard, which does not conform to neighborhood building regulations.

From the ongoing and for the purpose of this study, a slum can be defined as a derelict, dilapidated, filthy and overcrowded urban housing district with broken-down infrastructure which is unhealthy for human occupation.

However, a slum is a slum to whom it is a slum. A slum to some people/nation is a place of comfort and home to others. At this juncture, it is imperative to identify factors that inform people's judgement of what a slum actually is. For instance, factors such as unemployment, poverty, social status, income level, availability of job opportunities at the city center and professionalism of individuals among others, influence people's verdict on slum identification. For illustration, informal job opportunities abound in the slum areas of cities especially at the city centers. This phenomenon make people relocate to city centers even when there are opportunities to live in other better parts of the city. A good example of this can be found in India, where the United Nations Statistics Division (2018) posits that the share of urban Indians living in slums is 24% - about 100 million people; and the government, in an attempt to rectify this situation, made it a policy to give land to slum dwellers on the urban outskirts. Since they were unable to secure jobs outside the city; they end up selling the land or giving it to relatives, and returning to more centrally located slums. It is therefore evident that to these class of 'slum dwellers', who find solace in relocating to slum areas themselves would never see anything decadent in living in slum areas neither would they call it slum, but home.

Again, slum dwellers are said to provide economic good as they subsidize the middle classes and the business world by providing a comparatively cheap source of labor (Brugmann, 2010; Malecki and Ewers, 2007). It has also been argued that their low economic standing and general lack of education forces them to accept low-paying jobs that may not be readily accepted by middle- and upper-class people (Pawar and Mane, 2013). Considering all these arguments, a low income earner, gainfully employed in the informal subsector at the city's blighted areas would never consider his work place or residence as a slum. In other words, the skill and level of education of individuals would judge his identification of a slum. So, a slum arena in the views and perceptions of a skilled worker such as a Medical Doctor or a Lawyer would not be a slum to a garbage collector or a cleaner at the city center.

Furthermore, the UN-HABITAT (2006), notes that the global housing crisis is responsible for slum conditions worldwide; with over 1.6 billion people living without adequate shelter. Characteristically, life in the slums is not desirable as families are cut off from the most basic services and often have to deal with violence. City centers in developing nations, especially in Nigeria, are usually unplanned and are typically not connected to basic services such as clean water, sanitation and hygiene facilities. Slum residents are at great risk of contracting water-borne and respiratory diseases (e.g. due to overcrowding). Besides, high population density, lack of proper toilets and close propinquity of homes allow diseases to spread quickly. This phenomenon creates a real risk for large populations who are often unable to access adequate health facilities to get treatment in time.

Additionally, in most slum areas, especially in developing nations, city centers do not enjoy modern planning. The streets do not conform to any form of street pattern; the roads are in deplorable conditions and without drainage facilities; abrupt dead-end roads and buildings without any form of access abound. With all these it is usually difficult for emergency and law enforcement vehicles to navigate as a result of unplanned and tightly woven pathways, without road signs resulting in difficulties monitoring and controlling crime and providing health services. This study therefore, accesses the socio-economic dynamics of residents in the core area of Ado Ekiti; examines the environmental, housing and transportation characteristics in the

study area in order to determining the level of slum in the city.

2. Materials and Methods:

2.1 Research Locale:

The study area is the core of Ado Ekiti. Ado-Ekiti is the cultural headquarters of the homogenous people of Ekiti which became the capital city following the creation of Ekiti State on 1st October, 1996. Prior to this development, the city was the headquarters of Ado Local Government Area in the old Ondo State, a state that was in itself carved out of the former Western State of Nigeria on February 3, 1976. Presently, Ado Ekiti plays the dual role of a Local Government headquarters, of Ado Local Government Area and the State Capital of Ekiti State.

This dual role has necessitated the convergence of government ministries and parastatals in Ado Ekiti; and has attracted people from other neighboring towns and villages culminating in population rise and consequent competition for housing and other facilities in the city especially at the city center. The city has therefore witnessed a phenomenal growth in population since its creation. From a total population of 127, 579 in 1991, the city's population was estimated at 199,753 for 2004 (ESDPA, 2004). By 2006, the population has risen to 2,384,212 (NPC, 2006). The projected population of Ekiti State is 3,728,803 using the 2.5% growth rate and the 2006 Census figure as the base population. Ekiti State is made up of three (3) Senatorial Districts – Ekiti Central, Ekiti North and Ekiti South. The State is located in the tropical climate region with distinct wet and dry seasons (Bankole, 2006). It is located between Latitude 7^0 31' and 7^0 49' North of the equator and Longitudes 5^0 7' and 5^0 27' East of the Greenwich Meridian. It is bounded on the North by Kwara and Kogi States; Osun State to the West; Edo State to the East; and Ondo State to the South. Ekiti State is a landlocked State and hence has no coastal boundary. Agriculture is the main occupation of the people, which provides income and employment to over 75% of the population. Some of the cash crops grown include cocoa, oil palm, kola nut, cashew, citrus etc; while food crops grown are rice, yam, cassava, maize and cowpea among others.

Awe (2017) notes that the core area of Ado Ekiti is populated by the low income earners and sparingly by wealthy people who are indigenes of Ado-Ekiti that appear inclined to living in the area as a result of attachment to traditional ties, culture and rites. The urban core of Ado Ekiti, cover places such as: Idolofin, Okeila, Okeyinmi, Ogbon Ado, Odo Ado, Irona, Ereguru, Mugbagba, Oke Agidi, Inisanya, Ilado, Ugbalitere, Imayo, OkeAge, Ojido, Imayo, Idemo, Ogbon Oba, Aremu, Orereowu, Okeoriomi and Atikankan (Awe, 2017). The maps of Nigeria, Ekiti State and Ado Ekiti showing the study area in its national regional and local settings is as shown in Figure 1.

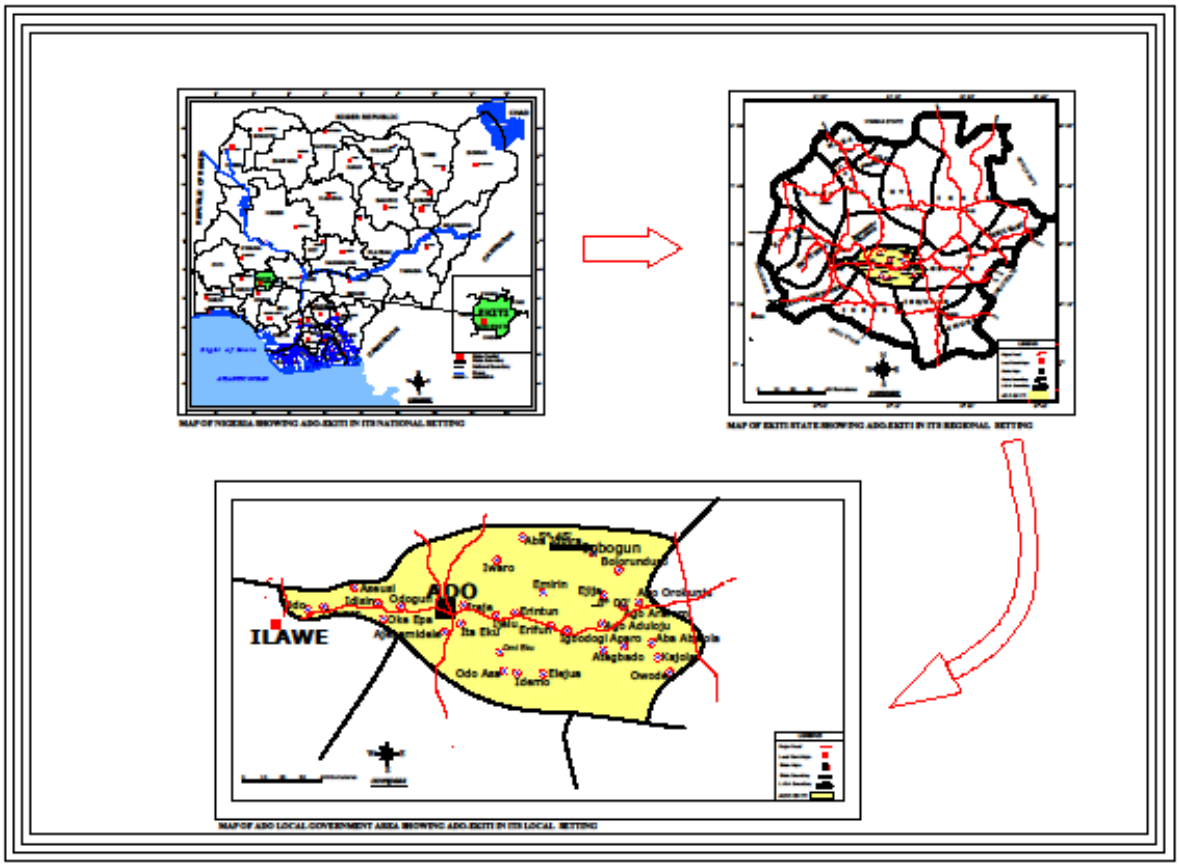

Figure 1: Map of the Study Area in Its National, Regional and Local Settings
Source: Ministry of Surveys, Abuja (Digitized in AutoCAD) by the Authors.

2.2 The Database:

This paper delineates the core area of Ado-Ekiti from the acquired Google image of the city; and examines the socio-economic characteristics of residents in the study area. The google image of the study area was analyzed using Arc View GIS software. Accurate distances and areas were calculated to supplement data on questionnaire administration. Characteristics such as the occupation, level of income, employment, education, length of stay in the area, number of persons per household, number of persons per room and marital status among others were scrutinized. The urban core of Ado Ekiti, cover places such as: Idolofin, Okeila, Okeyinmi, Ogbon Ado, Odo Ado, Irona, Ereguru, Mugbagba, Oke Agidi, Inisanya, Ilado, Ugbalitere, Imayo, OkeAge, Ojido, Imayo, Idemo, Ogbon Oba, Aremu, Orereowu, Okeoriomi and Atikankan. The variables for this study are as shown in Table 1.

Table 3.1: Definition of Socio-economic research variables.

S.No	Variable Name	Scalar Properties	Variable Specification	Measurement Scale
1.	SEX	Nominal	Sex of respondents	1=male, 2=Female
2.	AGE	Interval	Age of respondents	1=16-30yrs, 2=31-45yrs, 3=46-60yrs, 4=above 60 yrs.
3.	MARRY	Nominal	Marital status of respondents	1=Single, 2=Married, 3=Divorced; 4=Widowed
4.	FAITH	Nominal	Religion of respondents	1=Traditional; 2=Christianity; 3=Islamic; 4=Others specify.
5.	OCCUP	Nominal	Occupation of respondents	1=farmer; 2=Civil/Public Servant; 3=Trading/Business; 4=Artisan/Professional; 5=Driver; 6=Others Specify
6.	INCOME	Interval	Monthly income of respondents	1=Below N30,000; 2=N30,000-N100,000; 3=N101,000-N150,000; 4=151,000-N200,000; 5=Above N200,000
7.	EDUC	Nominal	Level of education	1=No formal education; 2=Primary; 3=Secondary; 4=Post-Secondary.
8.	HHSIZE	Interval	Household size of respondents	1=below 5; 2=6-10; 3=11-15; 4=above 16
9.	LESTAY	Interval	Length of stay of respondents	1=below 10yrs; 2=11-15yrs; 3=16-20yrs; 4=Above 20 yrs.
10.	NUMWIF	Nominal	Number of wives	1=1 wife; 2=2 wives; 3=More than 2 wives
11.	NUMCHI	Interval	Number of Children	1=1 Child; 2=2-4 Children; 3=More than 4 Children

Source: Authors' Fieldwork, 2019

The Core area was delineated into Data Delineation areas using the Google image of the study area as shown in Figure 2. The projected population figure for Ado-Ekiti in 2004 was put at 199,753 (Department of Population Activity, Ekiti State, 2004). With 50% of this population living in the Core Area (Olajuyigbe, 2007), and the average family size in Nigeria is estimated at 7 (Fasakin, 1985; Abumere, 1984); this implies that there were about 14,650 households in the core area of Ado Ekiti. For this research, a total sum of 368 households amounting to 2.5% was adopted for questionnaire administration based on suitability, land area, and homogenous characteristics permeating the study area (Table 1).

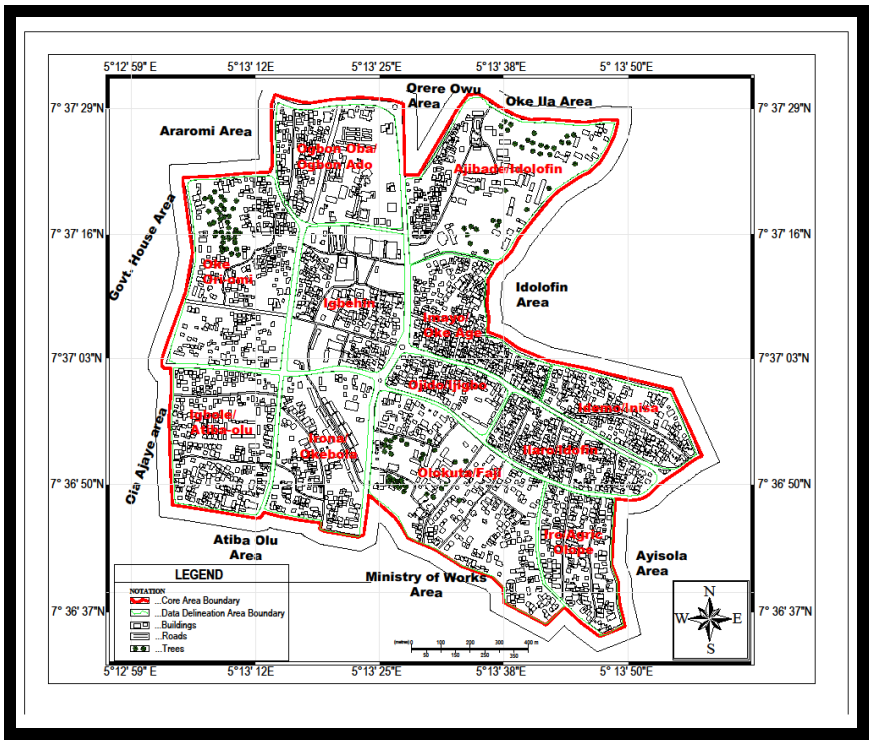

Figure 2: Data Delineation Areas in the Core Area of Ado-Ekiti.
Source: Authors' Fieldwork, 2019

Table 1: Sampling in Data Delineation Areas (DDAs) of Ado-Ekiti

S.No.	DDA	Total No. of buildings	Estimated No of Households (c*5)	2.5% of Households (d* 0.025)
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
1.	Oke Ori Omi/Isato	**346**	**1730**	**43**
2.	Igbehin	**191**	**955**	**25**
3.	Igbole/Atiba Olu	**340**	**1700**	**43**
4.	Ogbon Ado/Ogbon Oba	**220**	**1100**	**28**
5.	Irona/Okebola	**208**	**1040**	**26**
6.	Olokuta/Faji	**321**	**1605**	**40**
7.	Iro/Agric Olope	**182**	**910**	**23**
8.	Idofin/Ilaro	**269**	**1345**	**29**
9.	Ojido/Ijigbo	**122**	**610**	**16**
10.	Ajibade/Idolofin	**192**	**960**	**24**
11.	Imayo/Oke-Age	**335**	**1675**	**42**
12.	Idemo Inisa	**204**	**1020**	**26**
	Total	**2,930**	**14,650**	**368**

Source: Authors' Fieldwork, 2019

The household survey research questionnaire was adopted for this study. It consists of structured questions traversing the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents. Other instruments employed included the use of

direct observation method with the aid of cameras to capture sites of interest.

3. Data Analysis and Discussion of Results:

3.1 Delineating the Core Area of Ado-Ekiti:

The core of Ado-Ekiti was delimited using the google image of the study area. The Google image was loaded in AutoCAD environment, digitized, georeferenced and corrected for rotational error. The drafted map in AutoCAD was exported to ArcView GIS environment where distances and areas were calculated. From the ArcView analysis, the delimited core area covers a total land area of 173.647 hectares with a perimeter distance of 7.327km. The study area which happens to be the oldest residential portion of the city, conforms to the general morphology of the traditional core areas of *Yoruba* cities, with the major elements, which include the palace, the king's market (Oja-Oba), post office and the community/town hall among others.

The core area of Ado-Ekiti is an incidental center. The core was not planned but evolved due to the concentration of activities around notable infrastructure at the center. In *Yorubaland* the King is known as the *Oba*. He is the paramount ruler of his community. Traditionally, the Oba's palace is usually located at the center of most traditional cities in South West, Nigeria. Very close to the Oba's palace is the Oba's market which has traditional tie with the life of the Oba. During the colonial rule, the colonialists built post offices very close to the Oba's palace for security reasons. The community hall is also located close to the Oba's palace to ensure a short commuting distance for the Oba whenever he meets with the people.

From the ongoing, it is very clear that all other facilities such as the primary school, banks, police post, fire stations etc., revolve around the Oba's palace. In delineating the core area of Ado-Ekiti, all these facilities were captured. About 1km around the Oba's palace was adopted as the core area of Ado-Ekiti. Some of the popular streets close to the Oba's palace (and within 1km radius) include the Ogbon Oba (Oba's street), Ogbon Ado, Ereguru, Igbehin, Irona, Ojido, Okebola, Irode, Oke Age, Oke-Oriomi and Ugbalitere among others. The Google image covering the study area is as shown in Figure 2.

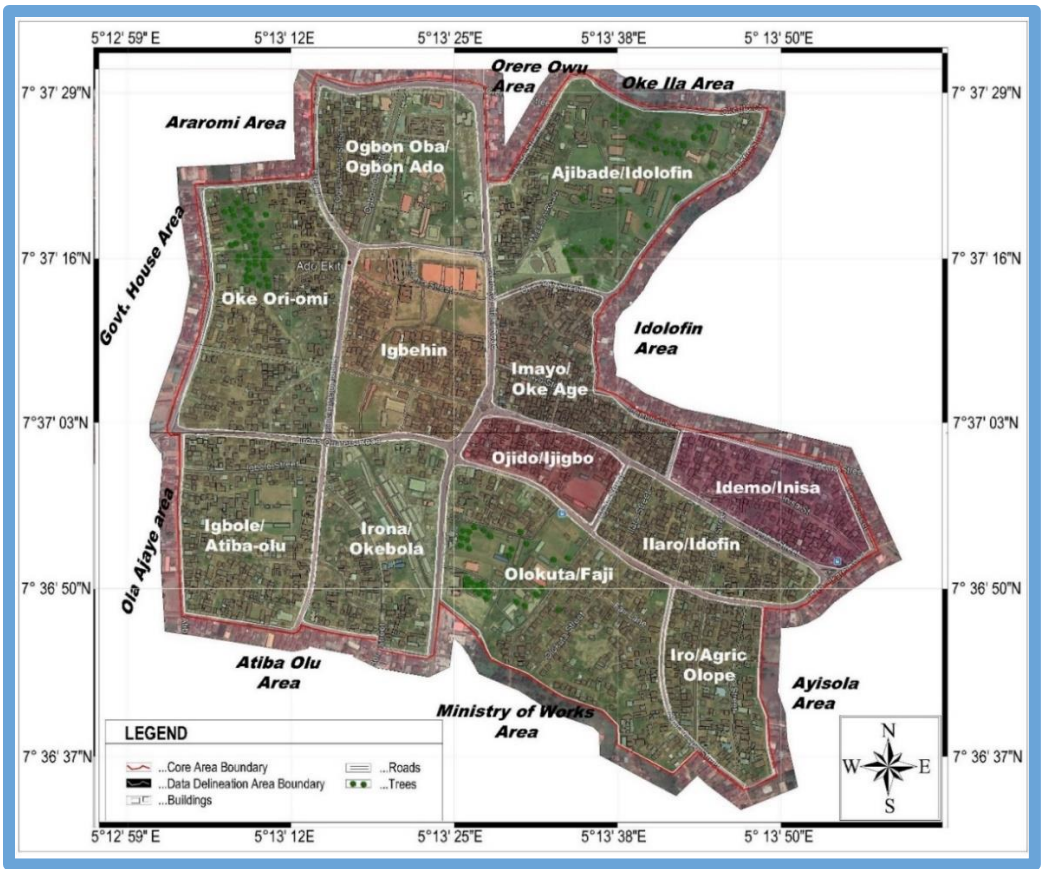

Figure 2: Google Image of the Core of Ado Ekiti
Source: Authors' Fieldwork (2019)

The delineated Core of Ado-Ekiti covers a total land area of 173.647 hectares with a building population of 14,650, housing about 102,550 population. The delimited core has a perimeter distance of 7.327km.

3.2 Socio-Economic Characteristics of Respondents

Table 2 shows the socio-economic characteristics of respondents in the study area. From Table 2, cumulatively, the proportion of persons in the younger age groups is substantially larger (89.7%) than the proportion in the older age groups (10.3%). This finding reflects the young age structure of the Nigerian population and is an indication of a population with high fertility (NDHS, 2003). A population that increases drastically unabated without a corresponding increase in infrastructure provision could lead to a slum situation.

It is also obvious from Table 2 that male respondents constitute about 48.9% of the total number of respondents while the female respondents constitute the remaining 51.1%. This finding agrees with that of Babatope (2013), who documented that of the 1.3 billion people who live in poverty-ridden areas around the globe, 70 per cent are women and are worst hit in times of crisis. This shows that women could be at the receiving end of the aftermath of slum crisis. For instance, they are the one who travel long distances in search of potable water during the dry season (Olajuyigbe, 2007).

The marital status of respondents shows that 53.5% were married, while 20.7%, 17.4% and 8.4% were widowed, single and divorced respectively. With majority of respondents being married and young, the rate of procreation would be high and population would increase without commensurable increase in infrastructure

development. This development is a drift to a full-blown slum situation.

On income level of respondents, Table 2 also shows that about 57.3% of respondents earn between ₦5,000-₦10,000 per month; while those who earn slightly above the new National Minimum wage of ₦30,000 per month constitute 10.3% of the total number of respondents. Cumulatively, over 89.7% of respondents earn below the controversial New National Minimum Wage (NNMW). This finding agrees with Olamiju (2014) in a similar study on Akure, Ondo State, South-Western Nigeria, where over 80% of residents was documented to live below the United Nations recommended $1.0 per day. It is obvious that the income of the people has impact on their way of life, quality of housing and infrastructure they can afford at any point in time. If the tide of poverty is not checkmated in the study area, the situation could grow worse and aggravate to a full-blown slum situation.

Analysis on occupation shows 52.4% of respondents are involved in trading/business in the study area. Other occupation of respondents included farming (10.6%), public service (17.9%), artisanship (12.0%), and driving (7.1%). The high percentage of respondents involving in trading could be as a result of the core area being the commercial hub of the city. Trading activities in textiles, agricultural products and food stuffs among others are common in the study area. This activity generates a lot of solid waste which if not properly managed could decimate the aesthetic of the study area, and enhance flooding hazard.

Table 2: Socio-Economic Characteristics of Respondents (N=368)

Variable	Frequency	Percent
Age of Respondents		
16-30yrs	83	22.6
31-45yrs	138	37.5
46-60yrs	109	29.6
above 60yrs	38	10.3
Sex of Respondents		
Male	180	48.9
Female	188	51.1
Marital Status of Respondents		
Single	64	17.4
Married	197	53.5
Divorced	31	8.4
Widowed	76	20.7
Monthly Income Level of Respondents		

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Age of Respondents		
16-30yrs	83	22.6
31-45yrs	138	37.5
46-60yrs	109	29.6
above 60yrs	38	10.3
Sex of Respondents		
Male	180	48.9
Female	188	51.1
₦5,000-₦10,000	211	57.3
₦11,000-₦15,000	107	29.1
₦16,000-₦20,000	8	2.2
₦21,000-₦30,000	4	1.1
above ₦30,000	38	10.3
Occupation of Respondents		
Farming	39	10.6
Civil/public service	66	17.9
Trading/business	193	52.4
Artisan/professional	44	12.0
Driving	26	7.1
Level of Education of Respondents		
No formal education	91	24.7
Primary	69	18.8
Secondary	129	35.1
Post-Secondary	79	21.5

Source: Authors' Fieldwork, 2019

On level of education of respondents, Table 2 also reveals that 24.7% of respondents have no formal education; while 18.8%, 35.1% and 21.5% have primary, secondary and tertiary educational qualifications respectively. This trend shows that majority of respondents are literate and could understand the basis of the research and could give appropriate responses making the data capturing processes valid and reliable. This development on level of education also shows that the residents are aware of the evil of living in a slum condition but, certain social ties are attracting them to the core area. One of these social ties could be inheritance of landed property at the core which is a source of wealth because of high prizes of the properties. People do not naturally move away from their source of wealth, hence, perpetual addition to the core population which aggravates slum situation.

3.2 Length of Stay of Respondents: Table 3 shows the length of stay of respondents in the

core of Ado-Ekiti. About 36.4% of respondents established to have stayed in the study area for at least 10 years. Cumulatively, Table 3 shows that majority of respondents (63.6%) have stayed in the study area for between 11 and 20 years. This trend shows that the current situation of poverty, poor housing facilities and poor environmental quality have endured for long (see Figures 4). If this condition persists unchecked, full blown slum condition is imminent.

Table 3: Length of Stay of Respondents in Core of Ado-Ekiti

Period (years)	Frequency	Percent
Below 10 yrs	134	36.4
11-15	82	22.3
16-20yrs	58	15.8
Above 20yrs	94	25.5
Total	**368**	**100.0**

Source: Authors' Fieldwork, 2019

Figure 4: Typical buildings with eroded foundation and rustic roofs
Source: Authors' Fieldwork, 2019

Figure 4 shows two photographs: the one on the left hand side depicts a typical foundation of most buildings in the core of Ado-Ekiti which had been eroded due to incessant flooding. The photograph at the right hand side shows the rustic condition of roofing materials in the core of Ado-Ekiti. The roofing materials are corroded and falling off, confirming the obsoleteness of the buildings. The inserted arrow in the photograph is pointing to a used car tyre put in place to hold the roofing sheet from being blown off by the wind.

3.3 Household Size of Respondents: According to Web-Finance Inc. (2019), a household include all persons living under one roof or occupying a separate housing unit, having either direct access to the outside (or to a public

area) or a separate cooking facility. Where the members of a household are related by blood or law, they constitute a family.

Table 4shows the household size configuration in the core of Ado-Ekiti.

Table 4: Household Size of Respondents in Core Area of Ado-Ekiti

Household Size	Frequency	Percent
below 5 people	140	38.0
5-10 people	202	54.9
11-15 people	22	6.0
above 16 people	4	1.1
Total	**368**	**100.0**

Source: Authors' Fieldwork, 2019

From Table 4, it is evident that about 54.9% of respondents have family members between 6-10 people; those with household size below 5 people constitute about 38.0%. Cumulatively, households having family members more than 10 people constitute about 7.1% of the total number of respondents. On the average, a typical household in the study area is (five) 5. This finding corroborates the NDHS (2003) report that the average household size in Nigeria is 5 (five). With an average of 7 households in a building (Fasakin, 2001), there would be an average of 35 persons per building. This population per building is too high, especially where most of the buildings do not have toilets and kitchen facilities and are flooded during the rains (see Figures 5 a and b).

Figure 5(a) Irona Area of Ado-Ekiti

Figure 5(b): Oke-Age Area of Ado-Ekiti

Figure 5: A Typical flooded building at Irona and a typical kitchen facilities at Oke-Age
Source: Authors' Fieldwork, 2019

Figure 5(a) shows a flooded area at Irona, Ado Ekiti. Flooding has led to erosion hazards and rendered buildings vulnerable to collapse and uninhabitable, while Figure 5(b) shows typical kitchens built with corrugated iron sheets. The major source of energy for cooking in them is the firewood which generates a lot of smoke that could inhibit the health of users. The kitchens are

usually hot and stuffy during cooking sessions, thus causing air pollution. The living housing conditions depicted above are inimical to health of residents and are the genesis of slum development.

4. Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations:

From Google image map analysis, the delineated Core of Ado-Ekiti covers a total land area of about 9.684 hectares with a building population of 14,650, housing about 102, 550 number of people. Empirical analysis shows, that majority of respondents in the study area are youths within the age bracket of 31-60 years. The proportion of female (59.1%) respondents is higher than that of their male counterpart (48.9%). Over 53.0% of respondents are married; while 57.3% lives on a monthly income of between 20-30 dollars which in most cases is less than 1dollar per day. The major occupation is trading which is mostly done by women. The literacy level is high with 74.4% in that category. Also, majority of respondents (63.6%) have lived in the study area for an average of 11-20 years. Observation reveals that the housing condition is poor and in nauseating environments. The average household size in the study area is between 5-10 people; living in houses without kitchen and toilets.

From the on-going, it is evident that majority of residents in the study area are the active population requiring better employment opportunities to boost their economic base. There is tendency for the population to increase rapidly due to the high number of married people and their youthfulness; which could further worsen the condition of living as existing infrastructural facilities are stressed and without additional ones. Poverty is very potent in the study area as majority of respondents do not earn up to one dollar per day. The high literacy level could be an advantage in future campaign for better hosing and living environment.

Based on empirical findings and their planning implications, it is clear that the link between effective economic development and city growth is missing in the study area. This study therefore recommend that the state government should as a matter of urgency declare a state of emergency on the core of Ado-Ekiti to stall the development of a full-blown slum condition. The emergency declaration should consider provision of employment opportunities for the teeming youth population; the local and state governments should empower traders financially to boost their daily income and alleviate the level of poverty among the people; and the state government should also undergo a systematic urban renewal projects in the study area to alleviate the living and environmental conditions of the people.

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