

THE CHALLENGES OF URBANIZATION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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Abstract

Developing countries are experiencing a rapid growth in the urbanization. However, urbanization in these developing countries are facing with numerous challenges such as high population density, inadequate infrastructure, lack of affordable housing, flooding, pollution, slum creation, crime, congestion and poverty. This study examines the Challenges of Urbanization in Developing countries. Conflict theoretical perspective was used in analyzing the study. The study found that urbanization in developing countries is associated with socio-economic and environmental challenges which includes: poverty, unemployment, severe risk pollution, high cost of living, housing shortages, overcrowding, and illegal discharge of industrial waste, open defecation, poor sanitary conditions, traffic congestion and violence. It was recommended that Governments of Developing Countries should provide quality education to its citizens and also encourage entrepreneurship and skills acquisition programmes in order to reduce the rate of poverty and unemployment in urban areas. Moreso, Government should make legislation to protect urban environment from all forms of pollution and violence and that adequate quality accommodation should be provided by Government at affordable rate so as to address the challenges of housing in urban areas. The study concludes that there is urgent need for Governments in developing countries to enunciate sound urban road map policies with the view to addressing all the numerous challenges facing urban areas in developing countries.

Key Words: Challenges, Urbanization, Developing Countries, Conflict Theoretical Perspective.

Introduction

Every day, in many villages of developing countries, young men and women pack up their small belongings and travel to urban centers, either alone or sometimes with family or friends. It is estimated that in China alone, “some 300 million rural villagers are expected to migrate to urban centers over the two or three decades” (Handelman, 2006:170). However, urbanization is not limited to a particular region of the world. The rate of urbanization is increasing in both the developed and developing countries. In fact, various studies indicate that more than half of the world lives in urban areas. There has been rapid growth of cities over the world, especially since the time of the industrial revolution in Europe. Urbanization is not a new phenomenon. From the earliest development, many cities were not documented in Mesopotamia and Egypt until the 18th century and a clear difference existed between the vast majority of the population that engaged in subsistence agriculture in rural context, and small centers of populations in the town where economic activities, consisted primarily of trade markets and manufacturers on a small scale, flourished. With the onset

of agricultural and industrial revolution in the late 18th century, there was an unprecedented growth in urban population both through continued migration from the country side and due to the tremendous demographic expansion that occurs at that time. In England (the first industrialized country) the population increased and laborers were freed up from working the land due higher agricultural productivity. They converged on the new industrial cities such as Manchester and Birmingham which were experiencing boom in commerce, trade and industry. Thus, urbanization rapidly spread across the western world and, since the 1950s, it has spread in the developing countries as well. At present, the cities of the third world countries have been growing both through natural increase and through un-abating rural urban migration. In the developing world, Latin America is by far the most urbanized region with the portion of each population (77 percent) living in cities almost equaled that of the United States or Western Europe. While Africa and Asia are considerably less urban with less than 40 percent living in cities, one significant difference of urbanization process in Africa and Asia and other continents (Europe and Latin America) is that much of growth is taking place in the absence of reasonable industrial expansion (Ode, 2006, Handelman, 2006). However, be that as it may, migrants continued to crowd the urban centers in search of better future. Although, in most developing economies of the world, urban centers serve as engines of growth by providing opportunities in meeting people's needs and accommodating the by-products of the urban population for employment, education, knowledge and technology transfer and ready markets for industrial products. However, urban population places enormous challenges on natural resources and imposes social and environmental problems in the urban areas. Thus, urbanization in developing countries is associated with many challenges.

Conceptual Clarity

It will be expedient to clarify some of the following concepts for the understanding of this study:

Urbanization: Urbanization has to do with the increasing number of people that migrate from rural to urban centers. Rural area is a geographical area that is located outside cities and towns. According to *Oxford Dictionary*, urbanization is the situation of having lots of towns, streets, factories, rather than country side. Urbanization is the physical growth of urban areas as a result of rapid migration and even suburban concentration into cities particularly the very large ones. It can also be seen as the increase in proportion of people living in towns and cities. Ode (2006:9) pointed out that "urbanization is a manifestation of the interplay of the population dynamics which have to do with the distribution and concentration of population within a defined settlement area". Thus, urbanization can be succinctly described as a process of human agglomeration in the multi-functional settlements of relatively large size (Mabogunje, 1981). This has to do, predominantly, with the physical growth of urban areas. This explains why Davies (1962:34) defines urbanization as the proportion of the total population concentrated in urban settlements. However, Broom and Selzink (1968) define urbanization as the process of transforming societies from simple and agrarian forms into complex and heterogeneous structures characterized by increasing population density and size. From this point of view, urbanization involves total transformation of a society. It is closely linked to modernization, industrialization and the sociological process of rationalization. Therefore, the term urbanization can not only describe a specific condition of development at a certain time but can also describe the increase of this proportion overtime. So the term urbanization can represent the level of urban development relative to overall population or rate at which the urban population is increasing. It is a rapid and historic transformation of human social roots on a global scale, whereby the predominantly rural culture is being rapidly replaced with predominantly urban culture. For example, rural (village) culture is characterized by common bloodlines, intimate relationships, and communal behavior while urban culture is characterized by distant bloodlines, unfamiliar relationship, and competitive behavior.

Urbanization can simply be defined as a shift from rural to urban societies involving an increase in the number of people in urban areas in a particular year. It is the spread of urban settlements over a particular territory or an increase, either in the number of people in towns and cities or in the proportion of dwelling in such places (Davies, 1976). Urbanization is an age-old phenomenon that has evolved from demographic, political, socio-cultural and economic factors of human existence. In strict sense, urbanization connotes civilization and, if properly controlled, socio-economic progress ensues. Urbanization, generally, creates a

wide market base, and enhances production and consumption activities, which generate economic growth and development, especially in the developed world.

Sociological study of urbanization began in the early years of the discipline, central to this study has been the degree to which cities are impersonal and alienating for their inhabitants. A German sociologists Ferdinand Tonnies (1887/1963) discussed extensively the changes that occurred as society's changes from small, rural, and traditional cultures to larger, urban, and industrial settings. He was of the view that a sense of community, or *Germeinschaft*, characterizes traditional societies. In these societies, family, kin, and community ties are quite strong, with people caring for each other and looking out for one another. However, Tonnies noted that, as societies grew and industrialized as people moved to cities, social ties weakened and become more impersonal. He called this type of society a *Gesellschaft* and was very critical of the development. The German sociologists lamented the loss in urban societies of close social bonds and strong sense of community and feared that a sense of rootlessness in these societies begins to replace the feeling of stability and steadiness characteristic of small, rural societies.

The French scholar, Emile Durkheim, one of the key founders of sociology, was more optimistic (positive) about the nature of cities and urbanized societies than Tonnies. He admired the social bonds and community feeling, which he called **mechanical solidarity**, characteristic of small, rural societies and submitted that these societies stifled individual freedom and that social ties still exists in larger, urban societies. He named these latter ties **organic solidarity**, which he said stems from the division of labour. When there is a division of labour, everyone has to depend on everyone else to perform their jobs. This interdependence of roles creates a solidarity that retains much of the bonding and sense of community found in small, rural societies. It is important to agree with Durkheim that some strong elements of social bonds do exist in cities. Though, cities have weaker sense of community and weaker social bounds than do rural areas. However, cities generate more creativity and greater tolerance for new ways of thinking. Urban residents are more tolerant than rural residents of nontraditional attitudes, behaviours, and lifestyles, in part because they are much more exposed than rural residents to these nontraditional ways.

The Concept of Developing Countries

A developing country is a country with a less developed industrial base and a low human development index (HDI) relative to other countries. The term developing countries is used here to refer to countries that are not fully developed from an economic and quality of life standpoint or countries whose state of economic development is characterized by low national income, high rate illiteracy, disease and population growth, unemployment, poverty, dependence on commodity exports and unstable government. Such words like "third world", "less developed countries", "under-developed countries", "periphery nations", "developing world", "nonaligned nations", and "developing nations" are sometimes used interchangeable.

Theoretical Perspective on Urbanization

Conflict approach will be considered more appropriate in analyzing the trend of urbanization in the developing world. Conflict theory assumes that the diversity of social backgrounds found in cities contributes to conflict over norms and values. Conflict theory rejected the functionalists mixed views about the benefits (functional aspects) and disadvantages (dysfunctional aspects) of cities and urban life and thus of urbanization which assumes that cities are both good and bad as they are sites of creativity, high culture, population diversity, and excitement, but they are also sites of crime, impersonality, and other problems. Conflict theorists insists that cities are run by political and economic elites that use their resources to enrich their positions and take resources from the poor. Conflict between society's "haves" and "have – nots," or between the economic and political elites and the poor manifests itself especially in the nation's cities, in which the "haves" and "have – nots" live very different lives. In many cities, the rich live in luxurious apartments and work in high-rise corporate buildings, and they dine at the finest restaurants and shop at the most expensive stores. While the poor (the have not) live in dilapidated housing and can often barely make ends meet. In addition, diverse backgrounds and interests of city residents often lead to conflict because some residents' beliefs and practices clash with those of other residents.

Conflict theory of urbanization places emphasis on the importance of political economy, or the interaction of political and economic institutions and processes. In line with this way of thinking, political and economic elites in a city (bankers, real estate investors, politicians, and others) collaborate to advance their respective interests. Thus urban development often takes the form of displacing poor urban residents from their homes so that condominiums, high – rise banks and other corporate buildings or other buildings favouring the rich can be built. More generally, these elites treat cities as settings where real people live, go to school, work at a job, and have friends and acquaintances. It is in connection with this that, Logan and Molotch (2007) used the term growth machine ideology to characterize the view of the city that guides these elites' policies and practices.

From the conflict approach, urban centers are human creations that reflect (serves the interest) the needs, choices and people's decisions. Although, some people have more influence in the decision making than others. The social forces that guide urban growth are largely economic in nature. Thus, "central business districts may be upgraded or abandoned depending on whether urban policy makers grant substantial tax exemptions to developers" (Schaefer, 2008:487). Most of the urban cities have good business climate that attracts the interest of people. However, inequality remains a major social issue. Using the world system approach, urbanization considered from a global perspective, views urban centers not as an independent and autonomous entities, but as the out of decision making processes directed or influenced by the dominant classes in the society and by the core industrialized economies (nations). Thus, "the rapidly growing cities of the world's developing countries were shaped first by colonialism and then by a global economy controlled by core nations and multinational corporations. The outcome has not been beneficial to the poorest citizens" (Schaefer, 2008, p.487).

The above statement confirms the fact that urban centers reflect the interest of the dominant classes. For example, in Nigeria, such a statement that "Abuja is not for the poor" is common among high ranking (top) politicians. This, no doubt, portrays the social inequality that prevails in urban centers. The existence of large squatter settlements, massive human suffering, poverty, daunting challenges to urban housing, sanitation, education, transportation, employment opportunities, shanty towns, slums, quality water, personal safety, high cost of food prices and the general high cost of living are all the problems created by the upper class in the urban centers who do not care for the interest of the lower class. In fact, Schaefer, 2008) again submitted:

Developers, builders and investment bankers are not especially interested in urban growth when it means providing housing for middle or low income people. Their lack of interest contributes to the problems of homelessness. These urban elites counter that the nation's housing shortage and the plight the homeless are not their fault, and insist that they do not have the capital needed to construct and support housing. But affluent people are interested in growth, and they can somehow find capital to build new shopping centers, office towers, and ballparks (p.487).

The implication is that, most of the houses built by the affluent people in urban centers are not affordable for the lower majority who are underemployed, underpaid, and unemployed. The upper classes of developers are primarily concerned with profit maximization and not with solving social problems. They view their housing projects as an investment rather than relief of housing problems. Therefore, urban centers are human creations that reflect interests but some benefit more than others.

Causes of Urbanization in Developing Countries

Urbanization is caused by natural births (more birth than deaths) or population growth and migration to core cities due to industrialization and other socio-economic factors, as more and more people leave villages and farms to live in the cities, urban growth results. There are various types of settlements which constitute urbanization or urbanized settlement and they include: towns, cities and conurbation and mega polis.

Demographic factors have accounted largely for the natural increase in the growth of the cities in the third world. This is as a result of the rapid population growth in countries owing to rising birth rates vis-à-vis declining death rates. Technological and economic factors have also accounted for rural urban

migration. Technological advancement in the area of transport and communications has also facilitated migration. The quest for white-collar jobs (employment opportunities) in the cities' industries also facilitates migration. Industrialization is a major cause of urbanization. Urban cities have expanded the employment opportunities. Therefore, push factors such as lack of employment opportunities, decline in agricultural income, increasing population pressure on land and lack of education and health facilities among others have made rural people to migrate to cities on account of better employment opportunities. Many social factors such attraction of cities, better standard of living, better education facilities, and the need for status induce people to migrate to cities. In rural sectors people have to depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Whereas, urban areas are characterized by sophisticated technology, better infrastructure, communication, and medical facilities. People however, feel they can leave a comfortable life in cities and migrate to cities. Accessibility to economic activities, administration, provision of social amenities, nature of soils, absence of disaster, relief, climate, etc are factors responsible for the growth of urbanization.

Characteristics of Urbanization in Developing Countries

Urbanization could be characterized by large densely populated settlement with socially heterogeneous people who do not know one another very well, coming from different languages under a nucleated settlement. They are made up of many buildings with thousand settlements. Helping has been found to be more prevalent in rural areas than urban centers. People are less helpful in urban centers than in rural areas. This may not be due to differences in values but because the stress associated with urban life cause people to keep to themselves and avoid being overwhelmed by it.

Functions of Urbanization

Urbanization serves several functions in developing countries which includes:

1. **Industrial Function:** Owing to the presence of industries, urban centers are associated with the manufacturing of finished goods.
2. **Commercial Functions:** The presence of markets, business activities and banks enable urban dwellers (inhabitants) to engage in commercial activities (the buying, selling and consumption of good).
3. **Administrative Function:** Most urban centers are the seat of government headquarters. Therefore, urban dwellers perform administrative jobs.
4. **Socio-cultural Function:** Urban settlements are centers for the establishment of institutions of learning such as Universities, Polytechnics, Colleges of Education, Nursery and Primary Schools, places of worship (churches and mosques) and hotels, etc.
5. **Residential Function:** Due to large concentration of people in urban settlement, residential houses are built in order to cope with the ever increasing population.

Challenges of Urbanization in Developing Countries

Every continent, region or country has its own challenges so also is urbanization in developing countries. In other words, urbanization in every part of the world has its own problems. However, the problems of urbanization in the less developed countries are not the same with that of developed world. In developing countries, apart from political instability, communal crisis, religious persecution and environmental hazards, the population factor, specifically migration and urbanization tend to have an adverse effect on social services which constitute serious problems. For the purpose of this study, the challenges of urbanization in the developing world will be discussed under three of the following factors (subheadings): Economic implications, environmental challenges and social effects.

1. **Economic Implications:** As a considerable number of some unskilled and agricultural workers moved to urban areas, the informal economy finds it difficult to absorb the influx into the workforce. In many developing countries, it is the informal economy that creates opportunities for the people without jobs (those who cannot find formal work) to meet their needs. The informal economy not only employed vast numbers of people who would have nothing, but it also provides substantial proportion of the economies (formal) of most contemporary less developed countries. This range from "casual work in manufacturing and construction to small scale trading activities, the unregulated informal sectors offer earning

opportunities to poor or unskilled workers” (Giddens, 2010. P.233). In as much these informal economic activities assist many families to survive in urban conditions, they however have economic implications on developing countries.

The implication here is that the informal economy is untaxed and unregulated. Therefore, workers are not protected by minimum wage laws and lack access to government health programmes (Handelman, 2006). It is important that attention should be paid to formalizing or regulating the large informal sector. Another implication is that, informal economy associated with urban dwellers is less productive than the formal economy. In most developing economies where economic activity is largely dependent on this sector fail to collect much needed revenue through taxation. The low level of productivity also affects the general economy. In fact, Giddens (2010) argued that “the proportion of the GDP generated by informal economic activity is much lower than the percentage of the population involved in the sector” (p. 233). Economic survival remains an ongoing struggle.

2. **Environmental Challenges:** Indiscriminate urban growth in developing countries are confronted by severe risk pollution, housing shortages, inadequate sanitation and unsafe water supplies, unemployment, violence, traffic congestion, high cost of living, disintegration of joint family, overcrowding, rural depopulation, increased demand of goods and services, increase demand for social amenities, poverty, illegal discharge of industrial waste, massive emissions of toxic gases from automobiles and factories. According to Zhi et al (2013):

Urbanization has improved various aspects of human living conditions. At the same time, however, environmental problems resulting from urbanization (e.g., global warming, air pollution, and environmental deterioration) have negatively affected the quality and comfort of urban living. The urban population is forecast to reach five billion by 2030, and land surfaces will be severely altered as large numbers of people migrate into metropolitan areas. Urbanization has become a major cause of environmental problems. The change from non-urban to urban uses can result in climate changes in urban areas, and land surface temperature (LST) (p.93).

Though, cities everywhere in the world, even in the industrialized world, are faced with environmental problems; however, those in the developing world are much more serious in nature (Giddens, 2010). The common environmental problems associated with urbanization in developing countries includes;

1. **Houses Challenges:** Housing is one of the most acute challenges facing developing countries. Of all the problems confronting the urban poor, none is more severe than finding quality housing (Giddens, 2010: Handelman; 2006: Fada, 1992). The United Nations (UN) report for instance, has estimated that Nigeria’s population would hit 289 million by the year 2050. One key area which will require serious attention is the largely inadequate housing. This is particularly true given the fact that rapidly growing population invariably put enormous pressure or demands for shelter and other basic utilities and services. In most cities in the developing countries such as Lagos, Port-Harcourt, Ibadan, Kaduna, Kano, Abuja in Nigeria, Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Aracajo in Brazil, Cairo in Egypt Abibjan in Cote d’Ivoire, Nairobi and Kisumu in Kenya most of the homes and apartment houses built for sale or rental privately are designed for the middle and upper classes, since low income housing are not profitable to attract much investment. The consequent result is that many people crowded into existing urban slums, massively congested. This is because the poorest city dwellers, lack the resources to rent or build, and most of them are left homeless, residing under bridges or indoor ways, unused construction materials. According Handelman (2006, p.177), “In all, the total shantytown residents, slum dwellers, and homeless account for over half the population of the third world cities”. No wonder, the United Nations (UN) reports estimated that 100 million people worldwide were homeless. This is not an over exaggeration. In the less developed countries of the world like Cairo, several hundreds of thousands of people with no place to stay, live in cemetery. While about one third of the populations in Manila and Sao Paulo live in squatter settlements and other forms of spontaneous shelter (Handelman, 2006). Sanitary conditions among these people are particularly problematic. In industrialized countries, new migrants are more

likely to settle close to the central part of the city while in the developing countries the reverse is the case (Giddens, 2010). The consequences of urban housing shortage in Nigeria are overcrowding, and the growth of slums and shanty settlements which have both physiological and psychosocial implications for the population that are imprisoned in them.

2. **Population Density and Overcrowding Problem:** A series of studies have documented the detrimental effects of population density and overcrowding, an environmental problem often associated (linked) with urbanization. Again, Zhi et al (2013) hinted that:

Increased population density is linked to higher anthropogenic heat release, including heat releases from power plants, vehicles, building materials, and air conditioners. Furthermore, urban temperature will increase as human – made structures and impervious surfaces replace vegetation, greenery, and water, which world otherwise lower the LST (p.101).

Many families pay severe penalty mainly to lack of clean fresh air and close contact with sufferers of air-borne diseases like tuberculosis, meningitis, measles, influenza, cough, chickenpox, diphtheria, pneumonia, etc. More so, crowded conditions among criminals led to increased aggression, abnormal behavior, physical disorder and high mortality (Idemudia, 1994: Freeman, 1975). The population density was found to be positively related to mental illness (Hollingshed and Pedllich, 1958). A correlation has been established between overcrowding and psychopathologies. Studies indicate that whenever people are exposed to excessive stimulation, they experience sensory overload and this is very unpleasant and it interferes with the people's ability to function properly; sufferers scream out some stimulations and only attend only the one that is important, since overcrowding one source of stimulation can sometimes produce overload. It may lead to stress, upset and turn off in the people living in an overcrowded environment. Relationship is also found between population density and juvenile delinquency, mental illness and other pathologies (Galla, et al, 1972: Schmilt, 1966: Wimborolg, 1965).

3. **Transportation Challenges:** Transport system plays a vital role supporting socio-economic activities all over the world, especially in enhancing the activity and attractiveness of urban areas. Urban areas are locations having a high level of accumulation and concentration of economic activities. Mobility of people and goods is an essential part of all socio-economic activities. Goods and consumers must move as well as people who work in the numerous industries. However, in developing countries, population growth and increasing urbanization have led to rapid growth of large cities, which are crippled by the sudden rise in the travel demand. The supply of transport infrastructure and services in most developing countries lagged far behind demand. Urban transport system in developing societies is associated with loss from traffic congestion in the form of lost of hours and gallons of wasted fuel. Billions of man hours are lost in a stunk in traffic. The cost of travel has increased considerably, especially for the commercially lower class. Increased use of private vehicles and lack of strict and periodic emission checks and control have led to increased carbon emissions and noise pollutions. This results in unhealthy air qualities and thus public health impairment. Several cities in developing countries face problems of heavy influx, congestion, traffic accidents, and air, noise and visual population as well and decaying transport infrastructure. Other urban transport challenges in developing cities are: rapid urbanization, very rapid increased in motorization, low quality public transport, lack of hierarchical high way, road and street systems, substantial increase in traffic congestion, poor or non-motorized transport infrastructure, lack of essential technical skills in urban transport planning, management and operations, relative decline of public transport usage and services, fragmented institutional arrangements without effective coordination, poor enforcement of road rules and regulations, etc.

4. **Noise Pollution,** an associate of overcrowding, has also been found to have a very negative effect on human beings. Noise generally put people in a bad mood. Noise also makes people to narrow or loss their focus or attention (Cohen and Weinstein, 1981: Broadbent, 1971). Noise pollution is the disturbing noise with harmful impact on the activity of human or animal life. Machines and transport systems, motor vehicles engines and trains may cause noise pollution. The primary causes may include; poor urban planning which gives rise to noise pollution. The situation where residential

buildings are placed side-by-side with industrial building may cause noise pollution. Vehicle, air craft, prolonged exposure to loud music and industrial noise causes noise pollution. Adverse effect of noise pollution may include: induced hearing loss or hearing impairment, hypertension, ischemic heart disease, annoyance, sleep disturbance, induced tinnitus, cardiovascular adverse effects; it creates stress, stimulates aggression and other anti-social behaviours, higher risk in developing dementia, especially among those living within 50 meters from a road.

5. **Air Pollution** also has its own side effect. Air pollution is a major problem coming mostly from cars, buses trucks, industries, etc. It has been reported that living in some developing countries like Mexico and China is equivalent to smoking 40 sticks of cigarettes a day.
6. **Visual Pollution:** This refers to aesthetic issue and the pollution that impairs one's ability to enjoy a vista or view. It is the whole of irregular formations, which are mostly found in natural and built environments. Visual pollution disturbs the visual areas of people by creating harmful changes in the natural environment. Visual pollution is worst when there are many signs in a smaller area. Visibility is a measure of how far and how people can see into the distance. Examples of visual pollution include: bill boards, antennas, electric wires, building and automobiles. Causes include: an overcrowding of an area is the primary cause of visual pollution. Insensitivity of local urban administrators is another cause of visual pollution. Urban administrators sometimes lack control over what is built and assembled in public places. For instance, poorly planned buildings and transportation systems create visual pollution. The increase in high-rise building can cause adverse change to the visual and physical characteristics of a city, which reduce the readability of the city and destroy the environment. Other sources of visual pollution are: Haze due to dust and air pollution, garbage heaps and landfills, telecommunication and electric wires and poles signboards, barren lands and deforestation, house constructed with bad design, smoke spewing chimneys of factories, etc. Visual pollution can also occur when light is absorbed or scattered by pollution particulars such as sulfates, nitrates, organic carbon compounds, soot, and soil dust. Wood smoke is another contributor. **Effects:** Adverse consequences of visual pollution are multiple. Effects of exposure to visual pollution include: distraction, eye fatigue, decreases in opinion diversity, and loss of identity. Visual pollution ruins the beauty of nature and cities. **It discourages tourists.** If an area has a very large amount of visual pollution, tourists might not want to go there, and this implies the loss of state revenue. Depression such as stress and anxiety may be accompanied due to bad views. High rate of crime; Crime rate is lower in areas with less visual pollution. However, crime rate often increase due to high level of visual pollution. Visual pollution causes accidents; billboards and advertisement in highway roads distract driver's attention and cause accidents. In addition, a building that is constructed entirely by glass reflects sunlight, which is dangerous for the people driving. Government can pass laws that can limit or reduce the amount of billboards along high ways. Educating people to understand the importance of beautiful surroundings, the faster change will be seen. Education will help people improve the visual environment in their communities.
7. **Light Pollution:** Photopollution or light pollution refers to artificial light that is excessive, misdirected and obtrusive. It occurs in urban areas because of the increased number of street light poles, bill boards, commercial activities and many events that take place during the night.
8. **Poor Quality Water Supply** is a major problem of urbanization in developing countries. No doubt, water is the most important need of man. Yet, both quality and quantity of water supply does not meet the requirement of the growing population in developing countries. The problem of water scarcity is acute, particularly in the dry season where people go around looking for water in the streams, rivers, and water taps. People have to travel several kilometers to search for water. No wonder, the United Nations report estimated that close to 20 percent of the third urban inhabitants has no access to clean water. These pose dangerous health implications on consumers. As result of poor quality water in towns and cities, people become more vulnerable to water-borne diseases like dysentery, cholera, and typhoid fever.
9. **Violence, Delinquency and Crimes:** These are problems associated with urbanization in the developing world. Environment generally influences human behavior, the level of violence,

delinquency and high crime's origins are traceable to poverty, discrimination, income inequality, inadequate school, and broken families (Handelman, 2006). The urban poor often contributes disproportionately to both criminal activities and their victims. For instance, in countries like South Africa that has higher level of income, inequality tends to have higher crime rate than other countries with comparable or lower incomes but less equality (Handelman, 2006). Government crime in the form of corruption also affects people in less developed countries.

10. **Urban Unrest and Riots** considering the scope of challenges facing urban areas in developing countries, sometimes the multiple disadvantages such as decaying infrastructure and housing, unemployment, and poverty may fuel violence in the form of organized protests, demonstrations, political unrest, and rioting. According to Giddens (2010), large cities have become concentrated and intensified expressions of social problems that afflict society as a whole. Examples of such protest and demonstration across urban centers include the one that toppled president Hussein Mubarak of Egypt, Muaman Gadafi of Libya, President Ali Abdulsalami and Tiananmen square in Beijing, China in 1989 where about 3,000 activist and students campaigning against corruption and calling for political reforms were killed in military crackdown during protest. Acts of violence and destruction may arise from serious social and economic causes that just need the trigger of a local event to spark pretests (Giddens, 2010).

Urbanization in developing countries often ushered rapid social change and new behavioral patterns that affect social institutions such as family and marriage. The disintegration of the extended family and highly monotonous life pattern has serious consequences on socialization of young members of the family as it results in divorce, breaking homes and delinquent behaviours reported among children from poor family background. With the advent of urbanization and consequent growth of cities, the structures that kept people together in precolonial days were weakened. Thus, the mass influx of people into the urban centers in search of jobs and other things began and different political, social and economic organizations operate with diverse interests. Relationship in urban center is strictly individualized and personal. Urban centers are highly characterized by secondary relations. The concepts of neighborhood, community life are obscene in towns and cities. People are highly self-centered and they have no concern for one another.

Environmental problems are inexcusable. In fact, Jacoby and Pennance (1972) have summarized the three basic forces that operate to change the urban physical environment for the worst. These include: 1. **Population Concentration**, 2. The **Rising Affluence** and 3. **Technological Change**. They heat that the concentration of people in cities generates has harmed the environment in many ways: traffic congestion, crowding, shopping and living conditions with massive generation of refuse, rising levels of air, water and noise pollution. They further elaborated that growing affluence made people to buy and consume more goods and discard them more quickly, thus, generating more solid waste. More so, advancing technology, according to them, has widened the variety and complexity of product for consumption, and added more problem of waste disposal. It becomes obvious to note from this, that the greater the level of population concentration or urbanization, the higher the problems of environmental degradation.

3. **The Social Cost or Social Challenges of Urbanization in Developing Countries:** Many urban dwellers in underdeveloped nations are overcrowded and exposed to the danger of hunger, disease and numerous wants. Majority of the urban population concentrate in shanty towns or slums (ghettoes). In fact, Giddens (2008) expatiate:

Many urban areas in the developing world are overcrowded and under-resourced. Poverty is wide spread and existing social services cannot meet the demands for health care, family planning advice, education and training. The unbalanced age distribution in developing countries adds to their social and economic difficulties. Compared to industrialized countries, a much larger proportion of the population in the developing world is under the age fifteen. A youthful population needs support and education, but many developing countries lack the resources to provide universal education. When their families are poor, many children must work full time, and others have to scratch a living as street children, bagging

whatever they can. When the street children matured, most become unemployed, homeless or both (p.234).

Poverty affects urban dwellers most. In fact, Sada (1975) classified the urban poor into two: 1. **hopeless poor** and 2. The **hopeful poor**, the former comprise mainly the old and unskilled indigenous class and migrants, while the unemployed new migrants form the bulk of the hopeful poor. He observed that the latter group is the more dynamic class and the source of large proportion of urban poverty and further argued that urban poverty is a chronic problem of almost every contemporary developing country, resulting from two main reasons viz:

1. The pattern of urban population growth, which is rapid and almost accounted for by rural-urban migration which is in search of work in cities and towns and
2. The nature of urban employment, which is characterized by an increasing level of urban labour surplus as a result of massive rural-urban migration.

Conclusion and Recommendations

There is no doubt that urbanization serves several functions in developing countries which includes industrial function for the manufacturing of finished goods, commercial, administrative, socio-cultural functions as well as residential function. They also serves as sites for creativity, high culture, population diversity, and excitement. However, despite these numerous functions, the story of benefit and development of urbanization in developing countries is not told by all. Urbanization in developing countries are facing many challenges among which are: high population density, inadequate infrastructure, all forms of pollution, overcrowding, poverty, unemployment and violence. There is therefore urgent need for Governments of developing countries to enunciate sound urban road map policies with the view to addressing all the numerous challenges facing urban areas in developing countries.

The following recommendations are made in the foregoing discussion:

1. Government should make the economy of rural areas and small scale fully viable. This will curtail the efforts of rural dwellers from moving into urban settlements to cause overcrowding.
2. Government should improve the traffic control system in urban areas to avoid accidents.
3. Government should provide funds to encourage entrepreneurship programmes in order to reduce the rate of poverty and unemployment in urban centres.
4. Government should modify the urban development process in order to accomplish a developed city and make efforts to lessen the possibility of problems that might arise.
5. Urban dwellers should work closely with government authorities to assist in modernizing life in urban areas.
6. The drive to industrialization brings with it inevitable problems in many cities in the developing world. These industries release their pollutants into the air, land and water. Therefore, government should make legislation to protect the environment from such abuses.
7. Government should provide adequate quality accommodation at affordable rate so as to address the challenges of housing in urban areas.
8. Government should initiate sound economic policies aimed at reducing the high level of poverty and unemployment in urban areas.
9. Government should provide cities with better infrastructure and utilities such as good roads and transportation, water and electricity.
10. Government should provide urban dwellers with clean water supply, and make provision for waste collection and disposal or recycling.
11. Road transport authorities in Nigeria should intensify traffic education and awareness campaign for private and commercial drivers and motor cycle and tricycle riders.
12. More fly overs should be built in urban areas to ease traffic congestions.
13. There should be a deliberate attempt to fix more traffic lights signals and road signs in urban areas.
14. Government should make transportation affordable and accessible to all urban dwellers and extend its benefits to the disadvantaged – the poor, elderly, school children, and the physically challenged – including those with disabilities.

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