

THE IMPACTS OF URBANIZATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN IKARE AKOKO, ONDO STATE, NIGERIA

Abstract

The influx of people to urban area to enhance positive survival and self fulfillment, have definite consequences at the places of destination. The paper posits that urbanization and unemployment could be understood from the perspectives of its consequences in Ikare Akoko, Ondo State, Nigeria. This study adopts both primary and secondary sources of data. The first stage in the collection of primary data involves the reconnaissance survey of the study area. Fifteen questionnaires were randomly administered in each of the identified fifteen quarters, making a total of 225 questionnaires; but on the whole 217 questionnaires were retrieved for the analysis. The paper reveals that urbanization is high, while the major causes of unemployment is urbanization. The research has found out that the effect of urbanization on employment accessibility, infrastructural facilities as well as on housing is negative, while the effect of urbanization on crime rate is high. The paper also reveals that urbanization and unemployment phenomena have impacted negatively on the standard of living, while government efforts in curbing high urbanization as well as alleviating unemployment problems is inadequate. The paper however, recommended that government should sensitize the masses about family planning which will enhance birth control. Also, government should provide more employment as well as improving the infrastructural facilities in the study area.

Key Words: Urbanization, Unemployment, Consequences, Ikare-Akoko.

INTRODUCTION

The concept of urbanization is rather arbitrary, what constitutes an ‘urban’ area is conceptually and practically ambiguous. Broadly speaking, urban settlements refer to a demographically large, relatively densely populated, built-up area. Urbanization today is most rapid in the relatively less developed countries of Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, where overlapping processes of economic, social and environmental transformation are pushing and pulling people into urban lives and livelihoods. Urbanization is a process by which rural populations become urban residents.

32 The world is witnessing a rapid urbanization, especially in developing countries,
33 where, by 2020, more than half the population is projected to be urban (United Nations,
34 2011). The main constituents of urbanization are the shift of an ever-increasing labour force
35 from agriculture to the non-agricultural sector, and a change in population distribution from
36 scattered rural areas to more compact towns or cities, often followed by a change of lifestyle
37 (Carter 1975; King and Golledge 1978).). Urbanization essentially involves a transition of
38 labour from traditional industries to modern industries. Employment of labourers is therefore
39 a major subject in studies of urbanization. There are two types of employment; the wage
40 earners and the self-employed, while stability of employment are of two fold, stable wage
41 labour and casual work (Bromley and Gerry 1979).

42 Urbanization is a process; and it must be noted that the movement of labourers from
43 the agricultural to the non-agricultural sector is constrained not only by personal qualities but
44 also by the capacity of non-agricultural industries. Thus employment is closely related to the
45 development of the nonagricultural sector, especially industrial development. Though
46 urbanization is the spatial consequence of economic growth, policymakers needed to realize
47 that they must treat cities as a key site of policymaking in order to achieve the broader aims
48 of sustainable development and inclusive growth.

49 One of the most important roles that cities have to play in economic development is
50 creating more and better jobs, but unfortunately creating better jobs seems to have become
51 secondary in the global urban agenda, even in cases where there is a clear nexus between
52 urban services and job creation. Good jobs have been neglected in definitions of good
53 urbanization, while urban livelihoods have become secondary to urban services. The
54 connection between urbanization, industrialization, and the growth of formal employment is
55 far more insubstantial in the developing world. There is varied and tenuous relationship
56 between urbanization and job creation – particularly productive, formal employment;
57 urbanization is treated as a one-to-one proxy for expanding economic opportunity. High birth
58 rate coupled with unemployment and low standard of living in the rural areas led to constant
59 influx of people to the urban areas, where opportunities, such as attractive jobs, better
60 education and modern life style abounds and thereby leads to the very dynamic growth
61 process.

62 In the contexts of developing country, the major feature of the urban areas is the rapid
63 change not always linked to economic activity, but driven by rapid population growth,

climate change, and internal conflicts. World Bank surveys report that the factors affecting industrial enterprise in Africa includes lack of access to credit, weak infrastructure and an unskilled workforce thereby posing biggest obstacles to expansion and increased demand for labour (see Melamed, et al., 2011).

CONCEPTUAL ISSUES AND RELEVANT LITERATURE

There has been diverse opinion by researchers concerning the relationship between urbanization and urban employment rate. Some opined that during urbanization process, a great number of rural labour force will migrate into cities to earn higher wage (Gregory, 2016) or to find new jobs (Cai, F. and M. Wang, 2010). The huge shift of labour from the countryside to cities will invariably increase the labour supply and further enhance the pressure on urban employment

There is concentration of high-skilled workers in large cities. Ultimately, both high-skilled and low-skilled workers can benefit from the expansion of cities. Urban size has a positive influence on individual employment (Liu et al. 2012). Most urban unemployment in developing countries takes the form of underemployment, in which people are obliged to undertake any available economic activity, however poorly paid and unproductive, because there are no social-safety nets and no alternatives in the form of unemployment insurance or job training for formal sector work ILO (1996).

The clustering of a country's urban population in few localities, known as urban concentration, could generate more economic growth and jobs; this is because innovation and ideas are generated as a result of concentration of people from diverse origin, profession and field of life. The new economic geography literature, for example, emphasizes how urbanization fosters economies of scale and agglomeration, which are found to propel economic growth (World Bank, 2009). But as population grew advancement in innovation and ideas will be unable to have positive impacts on employment creation, Fagbohunka (2014). It must be noted that unskilled and semi-skilled workers often make up the vast majority of the workforce in rural towns, while semi-skilled and skilled workers dominate the workforce in the cities, as observed for example in Ethiopia and Uganda (Christiaensen, et al. (2013)).

95 **The Study Area and Methods**

96 Ikare is a major commercial town in Ondo State, and headquarter of Akoko North
97 East Local Government, is about 120km from Akure the State capital. It is located between
98 latitude 4° and 5° north of the equator and longitude 3°and 4° east of the Greenwich
99 Meridian. Ikare is bounded by Arigidi Akoko to the North and to the South by Akungba
100 Akoko and Ogbagi-Akoko respectively. Ikare is about 100 kilometers from Akure the state
101 capital. It has a land area of 406sqkm with undulating topography interspersed with isolated
102 hills. It is surrounded by chains of hills including; Ale, Reje, Urere, Otado, Belu and Gudegbe
103 which render the town as a valley.

104 Ikare contained several industrial base and markets which include Oja-Oba, Okore
105 market, Osele market and Jubilee market. This commercial uniqueness has facilitated the
106 establishment of many financial institutions such as First Bank Plc., Spring Bank, Skye Bank
107 and Oceanic Bank among others. It must be noted that other small scale industries also
108 abound in Ikare.

109 The mean temperature in Ikare area is relatively constant with mean density
110 maximum and minimum temperature of 26⁰c and 24⁰c respectively. The temperature range is
111 3⁰c. The maximum temperature fall during the wet season and gradually becoming hotter in
112 the dry season. The two main seasons are the rainy seasons, which start in April and ends in
113 October and the dry season which start in November and ends in March. Ikare is located
114 within the tropical rain forest zone on firm soil which is good for agriculture and noted for
115 the growth of palm trees and other valuable types of trees. Majority of the men are farmers
116 while the women are mostly traders. The people specialized in both cash and food crops on
117 large scale and subsistence level, the crops growing are kolanut, yam, cassava, cocoa, maize,
118 melon and millet. It has a population of 700,000 inhabitants according to the 2006 national
119 census.

120 This study adopts both primary and secondary sources of data. The first stage in the
121 collection of primary data involves the reconnaissance survey of the study area. Fifteen
122 quarters was identified in the study area, namely: Okela, Okorun, Eshe, Odo, Ilepa, Okoja,
123 Iku, Odeyare, Odoruwa, Okeruwa, Iyame, Igbede, Oyinmo, Ishakunme and Ekan. Fifteen
124 questionnaire were randomly administered in each of the quarters, making a total of 225
125 questionnaires, but on the whole 217 questionnaires were retrieved for the analysis.

127 **Findings**128 **Table 1 Socio-Economic Variables of the Respondents**

Gender		
Sex	Number of respondents	Percentages
Male	128	60
Female	89	40
Total	217	100
AGE (Years)		
< 18	45	25
18-28	96	46
29-39	39	16
Above 40	37	13
Total	217	100
Occupation		
Farming	46	21
Trading	62	29
Civil Servant	49	23
Artisan	39	18
Others	21	09
Total	217	100
Education		
No Formal education	16	07
Primary education	49	23
Secondary Education	71	33
Tertiary Education	81	37
Total	217	100
Religion		
Christianity	129	29
Muslim	79	37
Traditional	09	04
Total	217	100

129 **Source: Field Survey, 2018.**

130 Table 1 shows the socio-economic variables of the respondents. Out of the 210(100%)
131 respondents 128(60) were males, while 89(40) were females. Also, 96(46) were between the
132 age 18 and 28, whereas 37(13%) were over 40 years. Furthermore, 62(29%) were traders,
133 while 39(18%) were artisans. Another, 16(07%) have no formal education, while 81(37%)
134 have tertiary education. Moreover, 129(29%) are Christians, while 79(37%) were Muslims.

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138 **Table 2 Level of Urbanization in Ikare Akoko**

Urbanization Level	No of Respondents	Percentages
Very High	78	36
High	103	47
Moderate	36	17
Total	217	100

139 **Source: Field Survey, 2018.**

140 Table shows the level of urbanization in Ikare Akoko. Out of 217(100%) respondents,
 141 103(47%) agreed that urbanization is high, while 78(36%) opined low. Another, 36(17%)
 142 respondents agreed that urbanization level is moderate.

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144 **Table 3 Causes of Urbanization**

Causes	No of Respondents	Percentages
Employment Opportunities	36	17
Infrastructural Facilities	52	24
Trade and Commerce	81	37
Political Reasons	14	06
High Birth Rate	34	16
Total	217	100

145 **Source: Field Survey, 2018.**

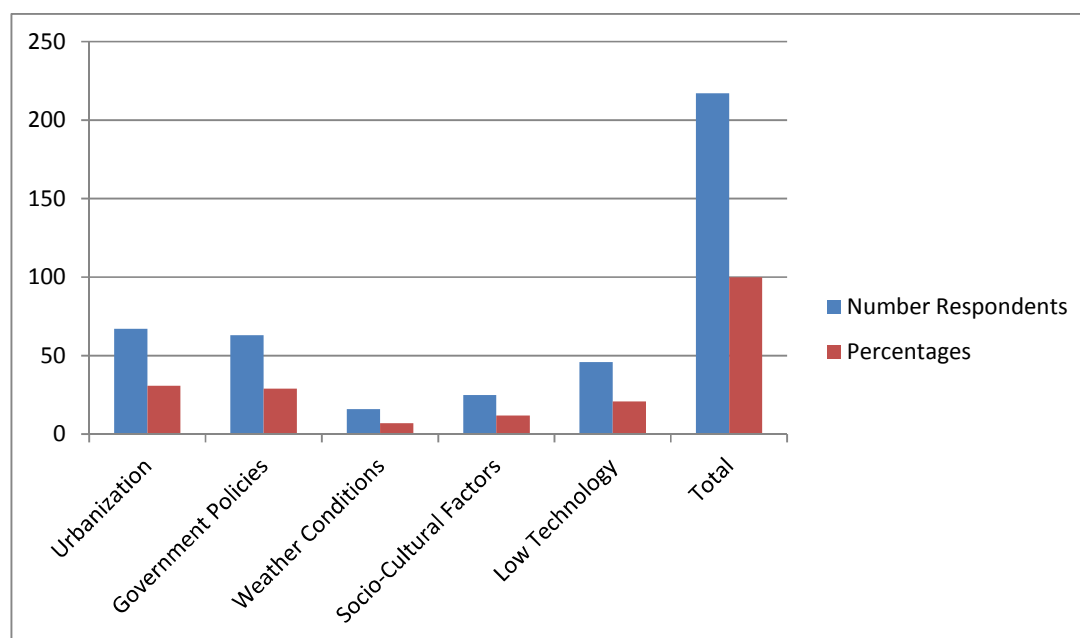
146 Table 3 depicts the causes of urbanization, 81(37%) respondents agreed trade and
 147 commerce, whereas 14(06%) opined political reasons. Also, 52(24%) believed that
 148 infrastructural facilities is the major cause of urbanization, contrary to 34(16%) respondents
 149 who opined high birth rate.

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153 **Fig. 1 Causes of Unemployment**



155 **Source: Field Survey, 2018.**

156 Fig. 1 shows that 67(31%) respondents believed that urbanization is the causes of
 157 unemployment, while 25(12%) respondents opined socio-cultural factor. Furthermore,
 158 63(29%) respondents opined government policies, contrary to 46(21%) respondents who
 159 agreed that low technology is the reason for unemployment.

160 **Table 4 Effect of Urbanization on Employment Accessibility**

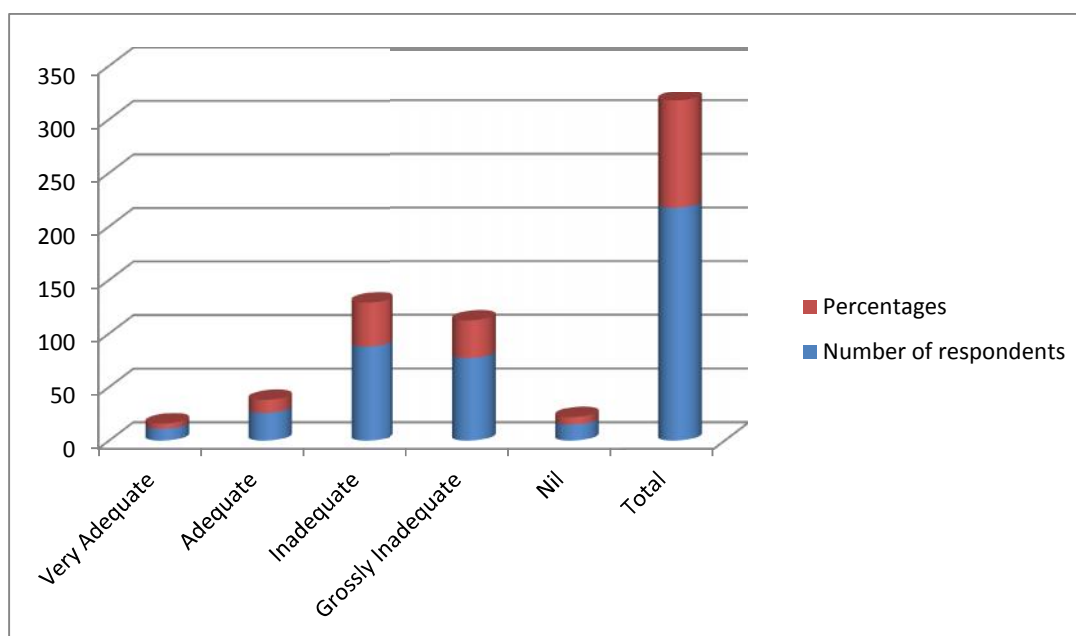
Effect	No of Respondents	Percentages
Positive	32	15
Negative	167	77
No Effect	18	08
Total	217	100

161 **Source: Field Survey, 2018.**

162 Table 4 reveals that 167(77%) respondents believed that urbanization has negative
 163 impacts on employment accessibility, while 32(15%) opined positive effect. Another,
 164 18(08%) respondents believed urbanization has no effect on employment accessibility.

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166 **Fig. 2 Urbanization and Employment Adequacy**



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169 **Source: Field Survey, 2018.**

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171 Fig. 2 reveals that 88(41%) respondents agreed that urbanization has led to inadequate
 172 employment, contrary to 11(05%) who opined very adequate. Also, 77(35%) agreed grossly
 173 inadequate, whereas 26(12%) believed that urbanization has led to adequate employment.

174 **Table 5 Effect of Urbanization and unemployment on Housing**

Effect	No of Respondents	Percentages
Positive	88	41
Negative	122	56
No Effect	07	03
Total	217	100

175 **Source: Field Survey, 2018.**

176 Table 5 shows that 122(56%) respondents believed that urbanization and
 177 unemployment has impacted negatively on housing, while 88(41%) agreed positive impacts.

Another, 07(03%) respondents believed that urbanization and unemployment has no effects on housing.

Table 6 Effect of Urbanization and unemployment on Crime Rate

Effect	No of Respondents	Percentages
Very High	75	34
High	106	49
Low	23	11
Very Low	13	06
Total	217	100

Source: Field Survey, 2018.

Table 6 shows the effect of urbanization and unemployment on crime rate. Out of 217(100%) respondents, 106(49%) agreed high, contrary to 13(06%) who agreed very low. Also, 75(34%) respondents opined very high, whereas 23(11%) believed that urbanization and unemployment has low effect on the rate of crime.

Table 7 Effect of Urbanization and unemployment on Infrastructural facilities

Effect	No of Respondents	Percentages
Positive	74	34
Negative	137	63
No Effect	06	03
Total	217	100

Source: Field Survey, 2018.

Table 7 reveals that 137(63%) respondents believed that urbanization and unemployment has negative impacts on infrastructural facilities, contrary to 74(34%) who agreed positive effects. Also, 06(03%) believed that urbanization and unemployment has no effect on infrastructural facilities.

194 **Table 8 Effect of Urbanization and unemployment on Economic Development**

Effect	No of Respondents	Percentages
Very Satisfactory	59	27
Satisfactory	45	21
Not satisfactory	96	44
No Effect	17	08
Total	100	100

195 **Source: Field Survey, 2018.**

196 Table 8 depicts the effect of urbanization and unemployment on economic
 197 development. Out of 217(100%) respondents, 96(44%) opined not satisfactory, contrary to
 198 17(08%) who believed that urbanization and unemployment has no effect on economic
 199 development. Another, 59(27%) opined very satisfactory, whereas 45(21%) agreed
 200 satisfactory.

201

202 **Table 9 Notion about Government doing enough to Curb High Urbanization and**
 203 **Solving**

204 **Unemployment Problems**

Effect	No of Respondents	Percentages
Very Adequate	38	18
Adequate	26	12
Inadequate	81	37
Grossly Inadequate	72	33
Total	217	100

205 **Source: Field Survey, 2018.**

206 Table 9 show that 81(37%) respondents believe that government efforts in curbing
 207 high urbanization and solving unemployment problems is inadequate, whereas 26(12%)

opined adequate. Furthermore, 72(33%) respondents agreed grossly inadequate government effort, contrary to 38(18%) who believed that government effort is very adequate.

Table 10 Influence of Urbanization and Unemployment on the Standard of Living

Effect	No of Respondents	Percentages
Positive	24	11
Negative	148	68
No Effect	45	21
Total	217	100

Source: Field Survey, 2018.

Table 10 shows that 148(68%) respondents believed that the urbanization and unemployment have a negative impact on the standard of living, whereas 24(11%) agreed positively. Also, 45(21%) respondents believed that urbanization and unemployment have no effect on the standard of living.

Summary and Conclusion

The paper has investigated the consequences of urbanization and unemployment problems in Ikare Akoko, Ondo State, Nigeria. Urbanization has increased tremendously in most of Nigerian cities, leading to inadequate employment accessibility. Urbanization and unemployment has a lot of influence on the general socio-economic welfare of any region.

The paper reveals that urbanization is high, while the major causes of unemployment is urbanization. The research has found out that the effect of urbanization on employment accessibility, infrastructural facilities as well as on housing is negative. This lends credence to the fact that, people has to compete for the few available employment opportunities, while adequate housing became a serious problem. Inadequate housing could also make people to live in shanties which also have consequences on their health and lifestyles. Urbanization and unemployment impact negatively on infrastructural facilities, it also leads to strain on the infrastructures. The effect of urbanization on crime rate is high; this may be as a result of lack of contentment, idleness or the quest to make two ends meet.

The paper also reveals that urbanization and unemployment phenomena have impacted negatively on the standard of living, while government efforts in curbing high urbanization as well as alleviating unemployment problems is inadequate. The research reveals unsatisfactory effects of urbanization and unemployment on economic development. The paper however, recommended that government should sensitize the masses about family planning which will enhance birth control. Also, government should provide more employment as well as improving the infrastructural facilities in the study area. Adequate security should be provided to annihilate the incessant crime.

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