PERCEIVED SOCIAL CITY DISORDERS AND THE NEED FOR URBAN PLANNING IN NIGERIA: IMPLICATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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ABSTRACT
This paper examines the consequences of unplanned development structure on a physical setting and its implications for sustainable urban environmental management in Nigeria. Certainly, when things are left unplanned or allowed to evolve on its own, a chaotic spatial structure including other deviant behaviours are created against the aim of urban planning as a control mechanism. These chaotic spatial structures that emerged produced "social city disorders" which constitutes urban nuisance due to unplanned spatial development or poor urban environmental space. They include problems like unemployment/underemployment, housing, traffic congestion, inadequate urban amenities, poor sanitary conditions or environmental deterioration/pollution. As a control mechanism, urban planning is concerned with the design, growth and management of urban life; and to provide spatial arrangement of activities deemed better than the existing pattern without planning. Today, everybody particularly the politicians claimed to be pocket planners, creating complex problems than solving them through corruption and mismanagement of public funds/resources. Thus, planning an urban environment to meet specific requirements involves systematic or scientific methods to investigate reality for policy making and enforcement. This provides relevant authorities with the power to enact environmental laws which significantly regulates the direction and nature of spatial development and implementation in urban space. The paper thus recommends among others, the adoption of urban planning in Nigeria, adequate provision of urban amenities, all planning activities must be in accordance to specifications etc.
Keywords: Plan, Urban Planning, Unplanned Development, Urban-Disorders, Nigeria.

Introduction

Planning, being an activity of the mind is a way of thinking rationally which serves as a guide to action. In other words, it is an indispensable aspect of the thought process of human mind seen to be central to virtually all the human activities, be it the production of goods and services or running an industry (Obnoriz, 2012). As a guide to action, planning is also concerned with devising in advance, a set of intelligent actions for the achievement of some objectives (Akue, 2019). In the modern otherwise complex world of today, no community or society can provide adequate goods and services that improved living conditions for her teeming population without planning. Consequently, the concept of planning has generally become institutionalized in both public and private affairs as a device for societal guidance and enhancement of people's welfare. However, different types of planning exist in life but urban planning belongs to the category of physical planning of spatial structures including the spatial organization of space (Adeyemo and Arokoyu, 2002).

Globally, three cogent reasons are often given for the adoption of urban planning as a development policy of the urban environmental management (Arokoyu, 2002). Firstly, it is very obvious that productive resources are generally scarce relative to the demand for them; hence their planned allocation facilitates efficiency in their use. Secondly, it has been discovered through research experiences that unplanned urban growth has unpleasant spatial consequences on the urban environment such as congestion and pollution. Thirdly, the interplay of these challenges coupled with market failure, particularly the inefficiency of free market resource allocation have combined to make urban planning adoption not only a necessary policy of environmental management but indeed, very urgent to stop further deterioration and instability of urban environment. This observation corroborates Onibokun (2000) when he said;

> The city centres are gradually and systematically decaying withoutany tangible programme of rehabilitation. The peripheries emerged in an unplanned manner without the necessary infrastructure. If the colonial era left a legacy of central slums in African countries, post-colonial regimes have created suburban slums of greater dimension. Over-crowding, complex land-uses, marginal employment and inadequate social infrastructures characterized urban centres (Onibokun, 2000:p8).

In essence, since planning significantly focused on, the future, it has often been heavily depended upon for the attainment of current satisfaction as well as future survival of the people or society concerned. According to Umeuduji (2002), most societies today are evolving from laissez-faire conditions to those of planned intervention. As a matter of fact, several professional planners, e.g. Akue (2019), Arokoyu (2015), Agbola and Omirin (2014), Ogbazi (2014), Nnah (2002) and NITP (1993) have observed and individually demonstrated that over time and space, the interplay of private actions and market forces often result in situations which a developing economy is not willing to compromise and which can only be improved upon by the means of planning as a control mechanism.

One of the emergent of poor planning in recent times is the development of large-scale and unauthorized settlements arising from high population growth rate and concentration, dwelling and production purposes (Nwala, 2019). Such settlements for instance, slums grow up

rapidly as transit camps producing ephemeral and short-lived communities (Deekor, 2016). The development of settlement on urban environment is estimated to account for 30%-80% of urban growth in Nigeria and Africa at large (Wizor, 2013). This situation has raised the problem of inaccessibility of the poor to available urban resources. For example, in Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe), as could be observed elsewhere in other African cities, over 3,000 families are not only living in backyard makeshifts and squatter settlements in the Chinotimba area, but are also generally homeless (Aluko, 2011). Similarly, in the various waterfronts in Lagos e.g Agegule, Oshodi, Ikorodu and Port Harcourt such as Abonnema Warf, Eagle Island, Bundu, Creek Road, Elechi Beach etc.; an equivalent number of displaced persons are living in batchers with approximately six or more persons per room. On the average, one open-toilet serves about 507 urban dwellers while a water-tap is provided for 1,500 peoples (NBS, 2010).

These living conditions make urban planning not only a necessity, but urgent especially now that more pandemic diseases e.g corona Ebola, Lassa fever Monkey Porse etc are increasingly ravaging increase and killing people over night at random. Thus, planning urban areas means to impose certain deliberate order upon the use of urban space with the aim to achieving a desired standard of living and environmental quality. Nnah (2002) described urban planning as a rational activity, art and science of regulating the proper use of areas to create fundamentally efficient and aesthetically pleasing physical environment for living, working, movement and recreation. Hence, urban planning seeks to provide healthy, quality and sustainable environment devoid of environmental deterioration, flooding, pollution and threats to human lives (Igwe, 2019).

As an aspect of physical planning, urban planning guides the physical development of cities to ensure balanced growth and effective utilization of resources. According to Akue (2019), its practice is traditionally physical in nature with the aim of providing spatial structural arrangement in the urban environment. In other words, the essential aim of urban planning is to improve the entire quality of urban life including provision of spatial structure of activities or land uses considered in some ways better than the existing pattern without planning (Agbola and Omirin, 2014). Therefore, this paper is poised to examine the consequences of unplanned or poor physical development and need for urban planning policies as control mechanism in Nigerian cities.

Conceptual Framework
It is imperative to understand in detail the similarly but conflicting issues which undermine the differences between concepts like a plan, planning and urban planning so as to comprehend their usage and role in urban environmental management. According to Akue (2019), a plan is a strategy or policy which guides or governs a growth situation or a course of action. It could also be described as a written account of intended course of action (scheme) aimed at achieving specific goals or objectives within a given time frame. Thus, a plan explains in detail what needs to be done, when, how and by who and often includes best or worst case scenarios. That is to say, a plan is typically any diagram or list of systematic steps with timing and resources details. Applying the above explanations to urban environment, Arokoyu (2002) described an urban plan to mean a scheme that defines a set of goals of a particular society designed to be realized over a specific period of time using identified methods and instruments to achieving an objective for doing something. Hence, a plan is mostly understood as a temporal set of intended action in which one expects to achieve a goal within a given period of time (Nnah, 2002). It can also be descried as a document which outlines the organizational

goals and objectives, stating how these are to be achieved. In other words, a plan is an action oriented documentation with the view of achieving stated objectives (Oyesiku, 1998).

Conversely, planning is an ordered sequence of operations designed to lead to a single goal or to a balance between several goals (Arokoyu, 1999, Mbah et al, 1992). In essence, planning involves the plan itself, thought process, action and implementation. For this reason, planning gives more power over the future. As a matter of fact, planning is deciding in advance what to do, how to do it and who should do it according to specification. It is therefore, an active way of discussing the set goals and objectives while a plan is simply putting into documentation the planning process. That is to say, planning is a process with diverse methods of actualization of set goals whereas a plan is a blue-print of strategies, framework and scheme of a desired course of action (Ogbazi, 2014). For instance, the operation of a town and country planning system is referred to as planning while the professionals who operate the system are known as planners.

From the professional point of view, planning is a future-oriented process of developing and implementing policies, design and programmes of actions to meet the needs and goals of our communities; and to realize the potentials of the society (Ogbazi, 2014). He further acknowledged that planning is a process of preparing a framework or course of action for identifying and achieving desired results through systematic control of future uncertainties Lasseyin Akue (2019) also defines planning in the broadest sense as the process of identifying the complex of factors which contribute to the creation, change or development of a social and/or physical entity, studying the interrelationships and interactions of those factors in terms of their relative or specific influences, determining as precisely as possible the extent to which a specified unit of change in one factor contributes to changes in one or more other factors; predicting how changes in one factor ought to be made so that future society, will achieve sustainable improvement in human welfare without destruction or deterioration of the environment on which generations must depend. This implies that planning is spatially futuristic in nature and hence, should be healthy enough to sustain the environment on which the realms of all life forms such as air, water, soil including human economic activities take place and survived.

Thus, planning as a scientific method of investigating problem could be summarized from the foregoing explanations to encompass series of methodological processes involved in the formulation, evaluation and selection of thoughts and actions to achieve desired goals. In other words, it is simply a way of deciding future course of action from amongst alternatives which involves making and evaluating each set of interrelated decisions to achieve set goals (Obinna et al, 2010). Therefore, the planning process is systematic in nature, characteristically ever-ending and consists of certain logically and progressively inter related ordered of sequential steps to achieving set goals as discussed below.

1.   **Problem Identification and Definition**
First of all, planning specifically required the identification of the problem or problems to be solved. In other words, it defines in specific terms what actually constitutes the perceived problem/problems at hand; what are the contending issues involved that need to be sustainably addressed? What really constitute the problem or problems the way they are and to what extent are the nature or degree among several others are asked and answered in the course of planning, and they proffer sustainable solutions to the problems at hand. For

instance, in the case of urban or regional planning, one may need to find out the nature of the area under study, the characteristics of the environment which both the physical and socio-economic (human) attributes, available natural endowments or resources, level of productivity of the environment, the income-generating capacity of the inhabitants as well as their sources of livelihood sustainability in the area. The planners will also want to know what will be necessary to make life in the area not only habitable but also comfortable, meaningful and sustainable. Hence, planning is often being inquisitive to have clear and better understanding, adequate knowledge of the problems and the environment in specific terms and defining the extent to which such problem or problems exist.

2.   Formulation of Goals and Objectives

Goals and objectives are the most important target that must be clearly stated and hence, spelt out if existing problems are to be solved once and for all. These goals and objectives must invariably take adequate cognizance of the identified problem/problems with the sole aim of solving them. The purpose of such goals and objectives are to provide alternatives capable of solving existing problems. In other words, these set goals and objectives must reflect people's wants, needs and aspirations to be planned for and should be considerable enough within a given time frame and available resources. Goals are often times framed as vague generalization and most times not attainable. Hence, specific objectives are stated which specify the methods to be employed to realize the set goals. This shows that the objectives should be specific, measurable and clear enough about the anticipated results and should also be realistic in nature. In other words, both the goals and objectives must of necessity reflect the course of actions involved.

3.   Data Collection and Analysis

Data, be it primary or secondary are collected in line with the stated goals and objectives. Data collection involves the gathering and assembling of relevant information about the study from several sources and is geared towards the provision of specific solution to identified problem/problems. At this stage, it is necessary to identify the types, sources and methods of data collection and analytical techniques to be adopted. Data is said to be primary when the data are generated on the field by the researcher and assumes the status of originality. It is secondary when it is obtained from identified government publications or agencies, previous studies by eminent scholars, textbooks, journals, magazines, bulletins, internet including the findings of the other researchers. Data collected will be valueless without subjecting it to statistical test and analysis. Analyzing the data entails categorization, manipulation and summarization of data; and presenting it in a way that can be easily read, understood, interpreted, replicable and transmittable. That is to say, its analysis involves the use of appropriate statistical techniques and suitable methods for such analysis. In data analysis, both descriptive and inferential statistical tools are used to analyse data collected and assembled from the fieldwork for the purpose of planning (Oyegun, 2003).

4.   Development of Alternative Strategies or Refinement of Goals.

After data have been collected from the field and duely analyzed, it is assumed that there is better understanding of the real situation on ground and perhaps the major contending issues to be tackled. Hence, the researcher can review the specific objectives initially stated on the basis that objectives were formulated erroneously and so do not reflect the true situation under investigation. Alternative strategies are also designed as a result of the encountered

possible constraints and limited resources available to the researcher during the study. When this happens, the researcher seeks for alternative ways of achieving the desired result. This he/she does through the refinement of goals and objectives.

5.   **Evaluation of Alternative Strategies and Selection of a more suitable Strategy/Choice of a Plan.**

Evaluating the various alternatives is an important aspect of planning because it enables the planner not only to do proper survey analysis of the problem but also to reduce negative impacts of the programme or project already designed through the planning process. In this case, planners are exposed to a range of possible options referred to as alternatives. These options must be characterized individually. The evaluation should take into serious consideration the availability of resources, cost likely to be incurred in the process of overcoming constraints, benefits to be derived by the society at large and the general consequences of the action plans. In this type of evaluation, there is going to be the need for cost-benefit analysis, cost-effectiveness analysis, project/environmental impact assessment or the use of goal achievement matrix. The application of one or two techniques enables the planner to make suitable choice of action. The moment the choice has been made, a preferred alternative course of action is selected and thus adopted. Hence, the planner at this stage is concerned with the selection of possible alternatives that have been characterized, bearing in mind the purpose of the plan already stated in number, the constraints involved and the cost benefit analysis made with regards to socio-economic benefit. Here, the planner also chooses the course of action with greatest and maximum socio-economic benefit and the least socio-economic cost.

7.   **Monitoring and Review (Feedback)**

This stage provides an enabling environment to ensure that the plan does not remain in blue-print. Monitoring provides the necessary information for evaluation. It gives warning signals to policy makers and executors about the actual or potential problems in project/programme implementation and brings about reformation or even termination of out-dated existing policies and programmes. As a matter of fact, this involves re-assessment of the entire situation to find out if the implementation programme has really been taken care of the identified problems in the area under review. It is through this stage that the planner is able to know whether the objectives have been achieved or not. This is why planning is described as a cyclic process (Onibokun, 2000). If planning is to achieve its goals adstated objectives which is development focused, it is thus mandatory to go through this cyclic process of problem identification, set goals and objectives, data collection and analysis, development of alternative strategies and refinement of goals, evaluation of alternative strategies and make choice, implementation process, monitoring and review (Akue, 2019, Arokoyu, 2002). It is an important aspect of the planning process which cuts across all the stages discussed above. This has to do with the involvement of the clientel population that have direct benefits of the plan at all stages of the planning process.

Technically, urban planning involves the application of scientific methods, technical processes, considerations and features that are basically employed in planning for land-use, urban design, natural resources, transportation and infrastructure. Furthermore, it also involves techniques such as predicting population growth, zoning, geographic mapping and analysis, analyzing park space, surveying the water supply, identifying transportation patterns, recognizing food supply demands, allocating healthcare and other social services, and analyzing

the impacts of land-uses over time and space. Consequently, Ugwuorah and Igwe in Akue (2019:60) itemized the need for planning in what follows;

1.   Planning helps to check the mis-use of land or its abuse so as to avoid injury to the over-whelming public interest considered here as the hall mark of planning.
2.   It prevents the chaotic and disorderly growth of towns into slum and also helps to discourage unauthorized development.
3.   It ensures balanced growth and development between regions through the policy of spatial integration and to enhance effective utilization and mobilization of resources for equity development.
4.   Planning checks the over concentration of economic, social and administrative facilities in some favoured or selected areas to the neglect of other areas e.g rural/peripheral areas. This has in most cases resulted to the impoverishment of the already lagging regions.
5.   It reduces the rate of rural-urban migration by recommending deliberate policies of urbanization in the peripheral regions.
6.   Planning advocates for rational and optimal allocation of activities and resources while trying to avoid or reduce wastage.
7.   It saves the city from the spread of menace of undue human and vehicular traffic congestion, urban flooding, urban blight and degenerating environment occasional by improper solid waste management strategies, narrow access, unplanned neighbourhood and overcrowding of persons.
8.   Planning saves urban city and its surrounding environment from the emergence and spread of epidermics, environmental pollution, decayed facilities etc.

Thus, while discussing the principles guiding urban planning in human environment, Lee in Arokoyu (2002:2) opines that urban planning as an aspect of physical development is based on the following specific assumptions and understandings:

1.   Urban development planning involves deliberate efforts to speed up the process of social, economic and spatial development though policy intervention.
2.   A major concern of urban planning is the improvement of the standard of living of people in urban settlement concerned.
3.   Urban planning is a continuous process which involves the more efficient generation and allocation of the resources of the society for achievement of specific objectives.
4.   Urban planning aims to improve the quality of urban life and to provide for a spatial structure of activities or land-uses perceived as better than the existing pattern without planning or planned earlier.
5.   Urban planning must be based on the understanding of how the urban economic system works, how it might evolve and how it would react to different policies.
6.   An urban plan is a scheme that defines a set of goals of particular society designed to be achieved over time and space using identified methods and instruments.
7.   Urban planning seeks distribution equity by ensuring that the benefits of economic growth are passed on to the greatest number of people irrespective of housing locational structure.
8.   Urban planning as a process geared towards the efficient use of the urban space or territory, seeks to maximize the net utility of areas and places, maximize spatial integration at the minimum effort (cost) and brings related urban activities close together where possible.

9.   Urban planning also assumes that man's occupancy and activities on the earth's surface lead to the organization of the urban space into recognizable patterns or order.

However, the assumption according to Garner in Arokoyu (2002) rests on the following premises:

(a)   The spatial distribution of human activity rests on ordered adjustment of the factor of distance, which may be measured using linear or non-linear criteria.

(b)   Location decisions are generally taken in order to minimize the frictional effects of distance called the principle of least effort.

(c)   All locations are endowed with a degree of accessibility but some of them are more accessible than others.

(d)   There is the tendency for human activities to agglomerate to take advantages of specialization made possible by concentration at common locations.

(e)   The organization of human activity is essentially hierarchical in character, resulting from the relationship and accessibility.

(f)   Human occupancy is local in character.

Social Urban Disorders in Nigerian Cities

Urban centres by their composition and nature, have better facilities for employment, social amenities, diffusion of modern innovations and ideas than any other concentration of people in space. (Arokoyu and Adeyemo, 2002). These facilities include infrastructures, exchange of ideas with the heterogeneous urban population and employment opportunities in both offices and industrial houses located within the urban areas. Consequently, there used to be a constant rural-urban migration, leading to population explosion and inadequate basic urban amenities/facilities which generally threatened their elastic limit.

The perceived urban disorders found plaguing the peaceful co-existence among the urbanites and socio-economic development of most Nigerian cities today do not only constitute great nuisance and pollution but also threaten urban life and environment. Infact, their magnitude and complexities are so alarming that urban centres have become the home of many deadly and pandemic diseases and this has direct implications on urban environmental management (Igwe, 2019, Nwaerema & Weli, 2018, Weli &Worlu, 2012, Obafemi & Diagi, 2012). While acknowledging the above submission, Ebong and Animahaun in Nwala (2019) reported thus;

> *Most of the problems experienced in the cities such as unemployment, poor and inadequate housing, deficient transportation facilities and environmental decay are traceable to massive immigrations of people from the rural backlands. Such migrations are generally stimulated by the absence of facilities for personal survival and maintenance in the rural sectors, and the lopsided location decisions which favour over-concentration of jobs and amenities in the urban areas (Nwala, 2019:p3).*

Thus, the factors otherwise causes of social urban disorders in Nigerian cities are exhaustively discussed as follows;

1.   Unemployment/underemployment: Despite the attractiveness and opportunities offered by the city as compared to rural underdevelopment, migrants have come to live in the urban

centres and experienced a hostile environment characterized by urban stress, resulting from mass unemployment, poor housing accommodation, frequent traffic congestion, open display of criminal activities etc (Igwe, 2019). Besides, urban employment opportunities do not increase at the same rate which people are drifting on daily basis into urban centres. Again, many of the people particularly the youths including school leavers and graduates from tertiary institutions are merely attracted by the rosy appearance and captivating city environment. Nevertheless, most of these applicants have little or no good educational qualifications/skills for gainful employment opportunity and sustainable living conditions. This situation makes them to roam the streets and parasite on their relatives and friends. Hence, a good number of them in the course of being frustrated have turned harden criminals through joining bad gangs, armed-robbery and kidnapping squads, rapists and killers, thereby threatening urban life and prosperity.

2.   Housing Problems: The availability of affordable housing accommodation in Nigerian cities e.g Abuja, Lagos, Port Harcourt, Kaduna, Kano, Enugu, Ibadan, Benin city, etc is grossly inadequate to the demand for it due to constant influx of people into the area (Adediji, 2019). Apart from high rentage, tenants are often asked to pay their rents as much as two or more years in advance or forfeit their living accommodation (Abimaje et al, 2014). Worst still, even those who can afford to pay this exorbitant house-rent, hardly find comfortable accommodation except in areas prone to incessant robbery attacks, floodable areas, batcher or slum settlements which forced people to relocate from time to time for safety and security of life and property. Moreso, given the generosity of the extended African Culture including Nigerian family system, they live with relations and friends in an over-crowded single rooms apartment (Wizor, 2013). Such living conditions give rise to the development of squatter settlements or shanty towns across many urban centres and its environs in Nigeria (Ejenma, 2015). According to Nwala (2019), a squatter settlement is a haphazard conglomeration of housing units erected without approval and control by public authorities or government agencies (e.g the Ministry of Urban Development) and often lacks access to basic amenities like good road, potable water, affordable and accessible health facilities and services , sewage and education facilities, constant electricity supply etc which combined to heighten urban pollution and environmental decay.

3.   Traffic Congestion: According to the United States Department of Transportation in Emenike and Ibe (2010), traffic congestion refers to the level at which transport system performance is no longer acceptable due to traffic interference. It is a condition on road networks that occurs as vehicular use increased, and often characterized by slow speeds, longer trip times as well as increased vehicular queuing. As a matter of fact, movement within the urban centres particularly during the morning and evening hours of the day when people are going or returning from work or other business transactions are often chaotic, uncontrollable and uncomfortable posing inconvenience to the public and motorists in particular (Akue and Dapa, 2018). Sometimes, it takes about three or more hours to travel a distance of one kilometer for instance between Rukpokwu and Rivers State University Gate, Eleme junction and Trailer Park linking Onne, Ikwerre Road and the East-West road respectively in Rivers State despite road dualization and the construction of flyovers across Port Harcourt metropolis by the present administration.

4. Inadequate Basic Urban Amenities: In the urban area, the supply of basic amenities hardly meets the demand for them. Where potable water supply, electricity, sewage disposal etc are available, they are either inadequate or insufficient. As a result of the large percentage of the unemployed persons living in towns, only an insignificant number of the urbanites contribute to urban development in terms of tax payment, development levy/rates, electricity bills etc. Yet, the entire urban populations consume these social facilities and services. In fact, it has been observed that the unemployed urban dwellers consume more of the urban amenities than the employed who spend much of their time in their places of work. For instance, the unemployed secondary school leaver or tertiary institution graduand may remain indoor, playing musical set throughout the day thereby increasing electricity consumption from time to time. Hence, with population explosion at the expense of deficient provision of basic amenities in the cities, urban amenities are therefore characterized by gross inadequacy and deterioration. Today, the problem of waste management is becoming more pronounced as a result of inadequate provision of basic urban amenities, eg sanitary facilities and services.

5. High Cost of Living: Out of the four most expensive cities in the world, three of them are found in African continent. They are Lagos, Douala and Abidjan with Lagos leading as the most expensive city to live in. The same thing is applicable to cities in the oil and gas producing region of Nigeria e.g. Port Harcourt, Warri, Yenegoa etc. With the relocation of the headquarters of most multinational oil and gas companies to these cities in 1985, the highly paid oil workers increased the prices of stable food stuffs in the markets with their high salaries such that living conditions suddenly soar and become too expensive for the common man living in the urban areas. Presently, the price of one chicken in Lagos or Port Harcourt is equivalent to that of four in New York. While renting a car for a business trip in Lagos or Port Harcourt costs twice the price in New York City and Rome respectively.

Thus, cities in Nigeria are bound to be very expensive to live in because they are largely centres of consumption and not of production. The most common form of colonial cities inherited at independence from the colonial masters were centres of commerce and government bureaucracy and not manufacturing centres in which most of the inhabitants are civil servants and retail traders. Today, most of the Nigerian cities are evolving largely a service informal economy which lacks the support of industry (Adeyemo, 2002). Worst still, the rate of insecurity situation in Nigerian cities for instance, Port Harcourt has led to the relocation of most multinational companies from the area to Ghana where they operated without the challenges of kidnappings and killings of their workers (Oyegun, 2007). It should be recalled that the developed countries progressed from an agricultural economy to industrial economy before service economy. But in Africa, particularly Nigeria, they jumped directly to service economy without sustainable industrial based. (Adeyemo, 2002). Infact, cities in Nigeria are urban centres in the demographic sense of it but not in terms of the activities which they perform. As noted earlier, most of the workers are engaged in civil service employment and others are at best in distributive trade; and not manufacturing or any other form of direct production. Thus, under high cost of living, poverty and inequality among the people persisted to cause abnormal behaviours which characterized the lifestyle of some urban dwellers, particularly the jobless youths in our society.

Adeyemo (2003:77) identified the links between urban poverty and inadequacies of urban management as follows;

(a)   The poor consume fewer basic resources per capita because they lack services and appropriate information. They often can afford to buy small quantities of food at the same time, which means they generally pay higher prices per unit than if they could buy in bulk.

(b)   The lack of basic infrastructure and services generates an ecological and sanitary situation that affects health negatively.

(c)   Large sections of the poor live where the availability of social services is low and the costs of transport (money and time) are higher. These people also have fewer chances of finding a job in part because of the long distances to employment centres.

(d)   The poor are concentrated in high density areas characterized by slum or squatter settlements with overcrowding and substandard housing or in unplanned settlements with illegal tenure.

(e)   Eviction threatens the mechanisms by which the poor survive in cities because having secure housing accommodation is crucially important to the livelihoods of urban dwellers. Their houses are often basis for household enterprises and foundations for an entire network of social support.

(f)   The settlements are exposed to greater natural hazard, flooding, pollution etc.

(g)   In terms of population, these settlements have a high susceptivity to mobility and mortality caused by environmental factors, lower life expectancies, high infant mortality rates and more premature births among others. In other words, they often suffer from a higher exposure to environmental hazards over time and space.

6.   Poor Sanitation and Environmental Pollution: Poor sanitation results from over crowdiness, unhygienic ways of lifestyles and inadequate sewage and drainage facilities. Consequently, many parts of the cities especially the market places where foodstuffs are sold and bought became severely polluted, with waste dumps often located near them and which constituted not only a nuisance in the heart of the cities but a health hazard affecting the life of the people (Igbara, 2016). With this situation, it is not surprising to observe that urban centres are characterized by poor sanitary conditions, leading to the spread of deadly endemic diseases and environmental pollution. Infact, most of the open spaces in the cities have been converted into dumpsites, making urban environment a source of stench and pollution of underground water (Obafemi and Diagi, 2012).

Similarly, noise pollution is another serious urban disorder resulting from generators switched on during frequent power failures. The numerous religious activities by spiritual churches, the mosques with intermittent noisy calls to prayers, the music record shops and hawkers across the roads/streets, reckless and unnecessary horning of cars including home stereo music sets played regularly at full volumes. All these and many others too numerous to mention constitute poor social urban disorders in Nigerian cities in which the policy of urban planning adoption functions not only as a sustainable solution but mostly as an integral part of the urban environmental management in Nigeria (Alabi, 2010).

Advantages of Urban Planning in Nigeria

While writing concisely on the need for urban planning, Arokoyu (2002:2) itemized the advantages of urban planning adoption which summarizes the tenets of our discussion as given below.

i.   Ensure even distribution of basic amenities.

ii.   Reduce congestion and over-crowding.

iii. Ensure clean environment in our urban centres.
iv. Create a workable and effective road network.
v. Coordinate urban development especially layout.
vi. Facilitate the determination and implementation of the policies of the society on physical development.
vii. Ensure that society's limited resources are best utilized for the people living in urban centres.

Urban Crisis and Policy Options for Planning as Politics

The major problems of Africa including Nigeria were first recognized at the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in June 1996 in Istanbul (Turkey) (Nwosu, 2002). This conference adopted a global habitat agenda, acknowledging that adequate basic amenities especially shelter is a human right. Again, it also acknowledged the critical situation and needs of African countries. Thus, in June 2001, the United Nations' General Assembly, in a special session called "Istanbul + 5" reviewed the particular challenges confronting urban centres in Africa. Despite all these efforts, ineffective management, poor infrastructure, rising crimes insurgences and violence have combined to impact negatively on the quality of life and working environment in many of the African cities and towns (Nwosu, 2002). Consequently, African governments have developed certain form of policies to deal with urban growth crisis and imbalance namely, the anti-urban policies which aimed at evacuating the cities and forcing the inhabitants back to land. In Nigeria for instance, the school to land programme, green revolution strategy, the operation feed the nation, the green economy etc are good examples of anti-urban policy. This policy which is agricultural in nature was designed to decongest the cities by sending millions of the youth and the unemployed in general out of urban centres to the country side to work with the peasantry in the rural areas.

There are many failures associated with this strategy which include distortions between agriculture and industry, rural and urban areas etc. This has made agriculture and rural areas less attractive to investors and the inhabitants. This policy was not pro-active enough to check the consequences of rural-urban migration, most especially in a context where there is preferential income structure in favour of the urban centres and industry that have adequate supplies of basic amenities in the cities or good industrial base. It is thus, reiterated here that the most important conflict in the poor countries of the today is not between capital and labour but between rural and urban classes. The rural sector of the economy contains most of the poverty scenarios, and most of the low-cost sources of potential advance; while its urban counterpart contains most of the articulateness, organisations and powers, hence, the urban classes are able to win most of the struggles over available resources with the rural classes depreciating and leading to slow developments and transformation processes found to be unfair indeed. The poverty of the rural region in developing countries is associated with asymmetrical structure of political power (i.e. relative powerlessness of the rural population) and inappropriate conception of the role of agriculture in the development process. Articulating the major problems of rural poverty in the world countries, Lipton in Adeyemo (2003) reported this;

> *The major cause of rural poverty in developing countries is the power of the urban elite; and so long as the elite's interests, background and sympathies remain predominantly urban, the country side may get the "priority" but the city will get the resources. (Adeyemo, 2003: p74)*

Furthermore, the concentration of income and employment opportunities in urban areas, remain the drain of rural skills into urban areas and the urban centred nature of educational system, low-cost agricultural produce compared with high cost urban foods and price fluctuations of agricultural produce have contributed to heightened rural poverty and deprivation (Gana, 1985).

The alternative is the "pro-urban" policy which does not involve regulation of urban population or returning the young and unemployed to agriculture. In fact, it does not address the sectoral distortion between agriculture and industry. Rather, it is concerned with building brand new cities. For instance, in Nigeria, this policy informed the planning and construction of Abuja; the new Federal capital territory of Nigeria with a View to decongesting Lagos and other densely populated cities in the country. It includes upgrading of provincial or district headquarters. Apart from the political contentions generated by the policy, the cost of such new cities is often quite enormous. It constitutes a huge drain on already over-stretched limited national resources. The policy drives government into massive financial commitment involving external debts trap set servicing and manipulated by multinational bodies and corporations.

The legacy and trends of urbanization in Nigeria as well as the problems associated with them raised the political issue of justice in urban planning; which is essentially political and affects the life-chances of urban dwellers. With regards to urban population earlier noted, there is relative scarcity of resources against the level of pressures mounted on them. Hence, urban a high concentration of people from diverse cultural background and who differ spatially in wants, needs, desires and inclination (Obasi, 2009). There is bound to exist an identity and conflict of interests tending towards competition and struggle, implying the existence of social disorders and chaos among the urbanities. More so, since resources are often limited relative to the demand for them, competition, struggle and conflicts occurred among the people. Under this circumstance, social urban disorders and chaos become not only more real than apparent but indeed, a common place phenomenon. Thus, the political realms of urban planning are circumscribed by conditions which imposed a necessity for public action and better choices in the presence of more conflicting issues. In other words, urban planning is political because it makes necessary some actions of public consequences mandatory; especially when planners are compelled to make public choice among alternatives found to be more reasonable in the face of conflict despite the absence of an independent or impartial judgement.

Conversely, given the power structure of urban society, planning is also highly political, acting as a control mechanism for resource distribution that involves critical decision-making process of who gets what, when and how. That is to say, it involves making suitable choices amongst the obvious options for the future and then securing their implementation, which depends on equal allocation of the available basic resources. It is thus, a decision-making process concerning the value as well as the seemingly uncertainties of different possible futures. Hence, alternatives have to be selected which will not be necessarily beneficial equally to all the members of the society at once. Planning under this situation makes some assumptions that are not only political but also raise the issue of justice in the development, allocation and utilization of land and other resources. These assumptions are given below.
1.   No man has precisely the same needs and wants as his neighbour or one group as the other groups.
2.   When a number of men are living together in one society, it is obvious that there is not total compatibility among wants either at any given time or over a period of time.

3. What would help to satisfy some would at the same time, impinge on the welfare of others.

4. Under these conditions, planning believes that some methods become imperative to resolve the conflict apparent in decision-making process and distribution of resources.

From the foregoing, urban planning is not divorced from politics or justice, having being concerned with certain degrees of control mechanism over the use of urban resources including land. As earlier noted, urbanization is population bias. It is basically a large concentration of people with diverse interests and callings; making persistent demands of their choice and pressures on urban-resource allocation and utilization. In other words, urban planning ought to be focused on forces that generate demands and intensify pressures. Obviously speaking and in reality, planning brings about specific advantages to specific individuals or groups of individuals; and at the same time having specific disadvantages to others on the contrary. As spatial planners, we are more concerned about how the individual citizen (common man) in the society is to be affected by the resulting set of development policies, action programmes and projects implemented for them. Hence, urban planning brings about the issue of justice not only because decision is made on how much, for instance, available land for distribution given its non-increasing total size but also that there is focus on how and to whom land and other resources are been distributed.

Despite the above efforts and policies, there exists the role of community participation in urban planning and solving its associated crisis. Under this circumstance, a pro-active involvement by local authorities becomes perilous not only because urban poverty is multi-dimensional and complex due to deficient provision of social services for its heterogeneous population but that the associated problems require an integrated approach to achieve sustainable solutions. The identification of more than one poverty dimension is not a sum of problems but also a new and synergetic situation that emerges to demand more than a single or sectoral solution. However, most of the applied policy options aimed at alleviating urban crisis particularly poverty are highly technocratic in its approach, emphasizing policies that target the poor (Adeyemo, 2002). They thus explore the implications of directing available resources to people with the greatest need. Therefore, it is the opinion of the authors that planners and executors to be very focus on how the ordinary man is to be affected by development programmes/projects in space within the context of nation developments.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This research work is an elaborate appraisal of the fundamental dynamics of the physical environment which are often ignored erroneously by some professional planners, developers and spatial analysts. A very obvious critical point raised in this paper is that a good knowledge of the physical setting or space is fundamental to planning as a whole and urban planning in particular. Thus, this erroneous negligence of the physical geographical knowledge to planning generally manifested in the subject matter of our discussion – social urban disorders. Urban planning focuses attention on how to avoid the consequences of unplanned development in Nigerian cities. Hence, the paper highlights the necessity of urban planning in modern societies and the scientific approach to be applied when investigating problem or planning to solve and sustain societal problems are also discussed. The imperative of these technical steps inherent in urban planning advocate the desire to improve the quality of urban

life and to provide for spatial structure of human activities considered to be economically viable, socially desirable and acceptable without harm to all living organisms including man and his environment.

This summarizes the whole idea of urban planning not only as a development policy but a control mechanism of a growth situation. Thus, this paper contends that a well-ordered sequence of spatial structure of the physical environment (e.g. land-uses) as well as institutional arrangement of human activities in space is all inevitable in solving societal problems at large. The continuous uses of the master plan of an urban landscape dictates the developmental process, pace and focus of all urban economic activities in which the urban environment is host to them. Above all, the provision of adequate urban amenities is a human right and of course, non-negotiable if social urban disorders arising from unplanned or poor urban development in Nigerian cities are to be reduced and effectively controlled. Hence, it is recommended here that hence forth, both the ex-military officers and retirees be banned from civil rule in Nigeria, urgent need for constitutional reform, a holistic approach to harmonize Nigeria's cultural heritage and diversity, diversification of the economy from oil and gas to commercial agricultural production, provision of adequate urban-amenities, capacity-building for adequate security of life and properly in Nigeria.

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