



Survey of Urban Poverty and Urban Slum Lifestyle in Selected Areas of Lagos State

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Abstract. The global growth of urban slums has been attracting interrogations in economic research as well as problems for policymakers. This study investigates the urban slum lifestyle of the people living in slums in selected areas of the three (3) senatorial districts of Lagos State, Nigeria. The research employs participant observation where the researchers are present within the focused areas to study the pattern of poverty, then applies structured questionnaire and interview. It further employs a random sampling of 120 individuals from each of the three (3) senatorial districts, giving a total number of samples from the population as 360 samples. The study employs Descriptive statistics, weighted poverty measures and Linear regression models as Tools for the analyses. It finds that the microeconomic environment has an impact on slum incidence in the urban areas. There is evidence that the higher the proportion of income spent on water, the greater the incidence of slums. This finding is in line with theory, following microeconomic theory that poorer households will spend more on necessities like water and such households are naturally more common in slums areas. Again, the results show that there is no link between urban development policy and proliferation of slums. In addition, the findings support evidence of different patterns of urban proliferation in the three regions examined. It further finds that urban settlers pose danger to the society and face danger in terms of unavailability and extreme difficulty to install infrastructural facilities. The study, therefore, recommends among others, a strategic urban development policy to address proliferation of urban slums. It also recommends that the slums should not be demolished since their demolition may be calamitous. Instead, peculiarity of the tribes living in the creek should be considered and amenities should be provided. Thus, microeconomic environments could be enhanced and danger they pose or face will be significantly reduced.

Keywords: Urban Slums, Microeconomic Environment, Poorer Households

1. Introduction

Several studies (Aku, Ibrahim and Bulus (1997); Oseni, Ogunlade, Oyetunji and Sanni, 2012; and Ogwumike (2002), have focused on poverty. From empirical analysis, there is a consensus on poverty being a rural phenomenon with above 50 percent of the world's poor living in rural areas. However, it is now becoming common knowledge that poverty is steadily creeping into major cities of the world as we now have words like 'urban slums', 'shanty towns' and other names to describe poor settlements in big cities. Due to general belief that poverty is a rural problem, the urban poor have been existing without much being known about them and as such most policies aimed at alleviating poverty in some developing countries have failed to capture the silently growing urban poor. For poverty to be tackled in totality, governments need to be aware of where the poor could be found. There is need to know the difference between the level of poverty in those areas, their socio-economic activities. Infrastructural facility needed to support fast growing urban cities also need to be investigated. Using primary data from designed questionnaire, interview and participant observation, this study hopes to investigate the issues of urban poverty, "urban slum" and systematic way to eradicate urban slums and shanty towns taking Lagos city as case study. Lagos State is the second most populous state in Nigeria, the largest commercial city and the state with the largest urban slums settlement in the country. With the aim of comparing poverty level in three major urban cities in the three senatorial districts in Lagos State Nigeria, urban slums and shanty town in the selected research areas shall be visited through participant observation to enable early morning,

evening, and weekend interactions with the dwellers and to collect data through observations, designed questionnaire and interview.

The research shall align with Central place theory, which is a spatial theory in urban geography proposed in the 1930s by a German geographer, Walter Christaller. He attempts to explain the reasons behind the distribution patterns, size, and number of cities and towns around the world. The theory was developed to explain the size and spacing of cities that specialize in selling goods and services and how people are attracted from the surrounding area. Lagos being the business capital of the country no doubt attracts both people from other States of the federation as well as those from other nationals.

According to National Population Commission, estimate population of Lagos was put at 21 million in 2016 to be largest city in Africa. Nigeria is a member of the Cities Alliance, (the Alliance is a global coalition of cities committed to poverty reduction). According to World Bank (2001) report, poverty is deprivation which encompasses both material and non-material needs. The “Cities Without Slum Action Plan” was launched by former South African President, late Nelson Mandela at the inaugural meeting of the Alliance in Berlin in December 1999. Consequently, for effectiveness and efficiency of policies aimed at alleviating poverty and eradicate ‘urban slums’ in Nigeria, there is the need to capture the silently growing urban poor and ‘urban slums’.

1.2 Definition of Operational Terms

a. Urban Poverty: It is seen as a type of poverty with the primary characteristic that it occurs in industrialized cities and that are the result of a mixture of processes such as the establishment of comfortable living standards, the increase of individualism, process of social fragmentation, and the dualization of the labour market, which translates into social dualization. Factors causing urban poverty are low levels of education or skills, lack of employment opportunities, low wages, large family size and lack of basic amenities, etc.

b. Urban Slums: A slum is an adjoining settlement where the inhabitants are characterized as having inadequate housing and basic services. A slum is not often recognized and addressed by the public authorities as an integral part of the city.

c. Lifestyle: Is the way of life of a person or group of people which encompasses their beliefs, orientation and behavior.

1.3 Statement of the Problem

It is an established fact that poverty has steadily crept into major cities of the world. This has led to ‘urban slums’, ‘shanty towns’ and ‘city ghettos’. These and some other names are now being used to describe poor settlements in the big cities. Consequently, urban poor and urban slum lifestyle have been existing without much being known about them.

1.4 Research Questions

The research seeks to answer the following questions:

- What is the nature of the linkages between the incidence of urban slums and the microeconomic environment?
- Is there links between urban development policy and proliferation of slums?
- Is there any difference in the pattern of urban proliferation in the different regions to be studied?
- What dangers do they pose to the society and what dangers do they face?

1.5 Objectives of the Study

This study aims specifically at examining the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the people in the three senatorial districts of Lagos state as well as their poverty profile in order to identify the determinants of incidence of poverty among the respondents in the ‘urban slum and ‘shanty towns’.

1.6 Research Proposition/Hypothesis

Ho1: There are no linkages between the incidence of urban slums and the microeconomic environment.

Ho2: There is no links between urban development policy and proliferation of slums

Ho3: There is no difference in the pattern of urban proliferation in the different regions to be studied.

Ho4: Slums dwellers and urban poverty pose no dangers to the society and faces no dangers

1.7 Significance of the Study

The identification of notable ‘urban slum’ and shanty town, the profiles and types of poverty deprivations and sensitization of the ‘urban slum dwellers’ through orientation for a normal city lifestyle as well as preparing them for the necessary change ahead that requires their cooperation will be the expected outcome of the research in the short term. However, in the long run it is expected that policy makers, the Federal and Lagos state governments and concerned

stakeholders will find the policy implementation outcome useful for sustainable development plans that leaves no one behind. It has the likelihood to change the quality of life of the 'urban slum' dwellers and others in the metropolis whose quality of lives are affected by 'urban slum' dweller's personal or physical deprivation, economic, social and political derivations to reduce incidence of poverty to barest minimum. In sum, the socio-economic lives of the 'urban slum' dwellers are expected to be enhanced in the long run.

1.8 Scope of the Study

This study covers three senatorial districts in Lagos State each comprising of Local Government Areas (LGAs) and Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs). The study examines the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of residents in the three senatorial districts of Lagos state in addition to their poverty profile in other to ascertain the determinants of incidence of poverty among the respondents in the 'urban slum and 'shanty towns'.

1.9 Limitation of the Study

The study will be restricted to the three senatorial districts in Lagos State consisting of Local Government Areas (LGAs) and Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs) as state earlier.

2. Literature Review

The effects of slum conditions on socioeconomic lifestyles and health conditions of its inhabitants are factual and clear. In a research by George (1999) for instance, he contended that the disregard of buildings caused by low capital base of the populations result in the development of slum while the physical deterioration of the area boosts springing up of slum development. Important features of slum areas consist of poverty, illiteracy, crowdedness, health problem, crime, and social vices. Previous studies focused much on the physical appearance of dwelling units with the aim to assess the dimensions of the slum problem externally. But recent studies have considered socio-economic aspect of slum as well as the health of the inhabitants very crucial. For instance, Bello (2002) emphasized that slum areas are locus of poverty where various factors that enhance slum development and growth are noticeable. He admitted that congestion of building and people as potent factors that created opportunities for the emergence of low environmental quality and unsanitary conditions, which breeds contagious diseases and infections in such deplorable parts of

urban area. In a related study carried out by Olanrewaju and Akinbamijo (2002), it was affirmed that environment has great and obvious effects on health as poor residents are often seen at zones, which imply poor health. They observed slum dwellers to be group of people who live in old houses with bad structures located in poor environments where they are exposed to ill health from polluted water. Such houses are without toilet and other essential utilities. Their drains are often filled with refuse deposits, which hamper the free flow of run-offs. Similarly, Onibokun and Kumuyi (1996) identified slum areas as regular abodes for urban poor. Such are characterized by low income, unstable employment, low status of job, poor housing conditions, large facilities, and constant struggle for survival. Also, they are distinguished by low access to limited information (Olanrewaju, 2004)

The United Nations Habitat Report (1989) stated that a large proportion of the third world's urban population lives and works in very poor condition. Apart from the fact that the poor inhabit many different low-quality forms of housing, there are two other basic environmental problems that are evidently noticeable. One is the presence of pathogens in the human environment due to lack of basic infrastructure and services. The second is crowded and cramped living conditions. The report shows that lack of infrastructures, readily available drinking water, sewerage facilities to dispose human wastes hygienically, garbage and refuse disposal facilities as well as lack of basic measure to prevent and provide primary healthcare ensure that many debilitating and endemic among the urban poor holds. Such diseases include diarrhea, dysentery, typhoid, intestinal parasites, and food poisoning. Malik, Roosli and Tariq (2020) investigated informal housing challenges and issues: experiences from slum and squatter of Lahore. The issues of informal housing based on field research and in-depth interviews of the residents of Karol Ghatti slum and Qalandarpura squatter was investigated. The objective of the study is to understand the complex phenomena of informal housing development by digging out respective reasons and their impacts on dwellers as a part of their daily survival challenge. Results confirm that inhabitants of slum and squatters exhibit socio-economic deprivations and lack basic infrastructure. This paper delivers a complete synthesis informal housing issues by providing social, environmental, operational, and physical constructs, which can lead to thorough understanding and thus, are viable approaches to tackle the challenge of slums and squatters at a national level.

Zainal, Kaur, Ahmad and Khalili (2012) examined the relationship between housing conditions and the quality of life of the urban poor in Malaysia. Housing conditions includes the physical conditions of dwellings, type of dwellings, house tenure, surrounding environment and availability of amenities. Quality of life is measured by 50 items on self-reported health, safety, and social support. The findings showed a small, but significant positive relationships between housing conditions, health, safety, and social support which provide empirical evidence of the relationship between housing conditions and quality of life. This enlightens the issue of considering housing condition as a social economic indicator of urban poverty.

Omole (2010) examined the importance of housing to man as an essential need and a prerequisite for the survival of man after food. It equally recognizes profound influence it has on the health, behaviour and efficiency of man and the nation. The study was carried out with the aid of questionnaire administration, building and facility survey Using random sampling technique, every 5th houses in the five district areas was picked for interviewed. Also, data were collected from related government ministries and departments to find out government's intervention in this area. Findings from the study reveal that the area chosen for the study exhibit slum condition that has undenied impact on the socio-economic lifestyles and the health of the residents, as well as the general outlook of the environment. Recommendations were proffered to guide the policy makers towards enhancing the lives of the residents of the area. Some of which include upgrading programme through the provision of urban basic services and improved sanitation strategies for sustainable management of the area, Public enlighten campaign is also recommended so that the residents will know the importance of good living condition to their health and as well to know the danger of abusing their environment.

Owoeye and Sogbon (2012) investigated the limiting role of socio-cultural attributes of slum residents on renewal policies which are implemented to minimize or eradicate such deficiencies. The study was carried out in Akure, in South-Western Nigeria. Using questionnaires, direct observation, housing demographic and facility survey for data collection, it was discovered that residence satisfaction is not to be measured only by the facilities therein or by the quality of the dwelling units. Other imperceptible cultural and social factors play prominent roles, which need be considered while framing policies for city development. However, full participation of slum

residents is noted very indispensable for the success of any large-scale renewal programme while effective public enlightenment, improved socio-economic base and sanitary education strategies will help in re-orientating the people and equipping them towards healthy and aesthetically decent environment.

3. Theoretical Framework

3.1 Theory of Marginality

According to Surbakti (1984), the symptoms of poor villages in urban areas can be seen from the theory of marginality. The theory sees the symptoms of poor settlements which are characterized by a slum environment, as a product of rural migrants who are socially, economically, culturally, and politically unable to integrate with the life of urban society.

According to the theory of marginality, the phenomena of the poor settlement growth is widely spread in urban areas due to the migration of rural people to cities with different rural lifestyles, even contrary to the city lifestyle. Migrants are seen as people who are displaced from the countryside, who do not have relatives in the city and do not have a place to live in the city. They are unable to adapt to the city life and are generally reluctant to return to their villages because they have nothing left there. In cities, they gather with people who are in the same boat-arms, then isolate themselves in poor settlements, in slums that are parochial and in a "ndeso (rustic)" lifestyle. In this socially isolated place, they are destitute, with inhuman environmental conditions and do not have permanent jobs. In cities, they do not make use of existing institutions that might help them in changing traditional values and attitudes to be more modern. The view of poverty, such as apathy, suspicion, fatalism, despair, dependence, inferiority, crime, wasteful and consumptive, oriented to-today (subsistence), lack of participation in development and lack of integration with city life. All of which are familiar scenes encountered in slums in urban areas. According to Even Lewis in Surbakti argued that the view of destitution or poverty in the slums is all socialized from generation to generation. In brief, this theory of marginality suggests the following propositions or opinions: Socially, inhabitants of poor settlements have an "internal disorganization", such as lacking social cohesion which tends to have a will to be living in groups, but individually, they feel lonely. They also experience an "external isolation", such as lack of being integrated into city life, because they do not widely make use of existing city bodies, such as institutions, offices, and other urban service

institutions. Culturally, the slum dwellers have traditional cultures, such as parochial attitudes and "rural" lifestyles, and are entangled in a vicious cycle of poverty. Economically, they are considered "parasitic" because they absorb more resources in cities rather than providing ones to the people of the cities, they also have parochial economy, such as wasteful, consumptive, quickly satisfied, market-oriented, and less market-oriented lifestyle, and lack of entrepreneurial spirit. Politically, it turns out that they are considered apathetic, because they do not integrate into city life, and lack of participation in the development or in the political life of the city and nation-wide. They tend to behave in the sense of radically or brutally being easily influenced by negative issues just like dry grass in the dry season which is easily flammable to be ignited by fire. This condition is due to frustration, social disorganization and the reality of life they have been through so far.

3.2 Theory of Dependency

Besides theory of marginality, in explaining the emergence of symptoms of poor settlements or slums in urban areas, it can be conducted through theory of dependency. According to Surbakti (1984), on contrary to the theory of marginality, theory of dependency is "structural" in explaining the symptoms of the growth of poor settlements or slums in urban areas. According to Suparlan (1995), from the point of theory of dependency view, the phenomenon of poor urban settlements is a form of capitalist penetration product of rural communities which are structurally "lame" when compared to urban conditions. Capital here is not in a narrow sense in the form of capital, but also includes technology (technocapital) and human (labour/skill). The presence of penetration especially in the form of capitalism experienced in rural areas results in the emergence of minority capitalist elites who dominate the fields of agricultural land ownership, knowledge, technology, information, and power, while most members of the community lack of access to these resources. Before the capitalist penetration occurs in the countryside, the relationship between landlords and farm workers is quite harmonious, in the form of high personal and social relations rather than economic relations which tend to be rational and straightforward due to the capitalist penetration. The broad effect of capitalist penetration is an increasing number of unemployment in rural areas, because if they want to get involved, they must have access to capital, land, skills, information, and power, while the majority has nothing, so that it leads to dependency on the elite living in the countryside. The situation and conditions in rural force them to find a

way out, such as, by migrating to big cities to find a job and to boost their income. In other words, there is *push factor*, that is, unemployment and poverty in rural areas, whereas another factor is the *pull factor*, which is interest and hope arising from rapid urban growth as a cause of their moves to cities. Because most migrants are not equipped with adequate skills, expertise and education, it is difficult for them to be get into formal economy fields, such as state companies, private companies, or government bureaucratic offices in big cities.

The jobs available for them are struggling in informal economy, in which do not require formal education requirements, high skills, and do not require permit documents, as well as large capital in producing types of goods and services. Some of them also do not have a decent place to live, due to inadequate income, so they live in slums with low rental rates near where they work or do business. In brief, it can be explained that the theory of dependency concludes that the existence of poor settlements or slums in urban areas; socially, they are set aside by people's lives; culturally, they are insulted and made "*scapegoats*" as criminals; economically, they are completely exploited and squeezed out in terms of their energy (at low wages); politically, they are shackled by not having a bargaining position in a decision-making. Even if they live in a slum environment, it is not merely because of "*marginal*" or a structured poverty culture, but rather than because they have been deliberately "*marginalized*" by the existing economic and political system. The explanation given through the structural dependency theory approach on the phenomenon of the growth of poor settlements or slums in urban areas seems to be closer to reality and more often found in cities in developing countries such as Indonesia, rather than the explanation given through the marginality theory approach. But some of the "*socio-cultural*" characteristics of slums - as suggested by the theory of marginality - may be true, such as a lack of ownership of communities outside the *RT / RW* (hamlet) organization and behavior with rural lifestyles. In contrast, what is stated in the theory of dependency is that the "*socio-political*" characteristics found in urban slums, such as the level, intensity, and participation in politics or in limited development, may not always be true.

4. Methodology

4.1 Data and Research Design

This research work is set to investigate the urban slum lifestyle of the people living in slums in Lagos State Nigeria. As to what constitute a slum, the study

will adopt the definition proposed by the UN-HABITAT Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on slum indicators, which states that: ‘A slum is a contiguous settlement where the inhabitants are characterized as having inadequate housing and basic services. According to the definition, a slum lacks access to improved water; access to improved sanitation; structural quality/durability of dwelling; sufficient living space that is not overcrowded; and security of tenure (UN-HABITAT 2003). Data will be obtain using questionnaire and participant observation on both quantifiable and non-quantifiable factors bordering on all the above-mentioned factors that constitute a slum and the use Descriptive statistics, weighted poverty measures and Linear regression models as Tools for the analyses.

4.2 Sample Size

The three senatorial districts in Lagos State comprise of Local Government Areas (LGAs) and Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs). Under Lagos West senatorial district, the research area will be Ikeja Local Government, under Lagos Central senatorial district, Lagos Island Local Government area was examined and under Lagos East senatorial

district, the research focus on Somolu Local Government area. These are part of Lagos metropolitan.

4.3 Sampling Techniques

The research will employ participant observation where the researchers will reside within the focused area to study the pattern of poverty, then apply structured questionnaire and interview. This said, a random sampling will apply to 120 individuals from each senatorial district. Total number of samples from the population is 360 samples.

5. Analysis and Discussion of Results

The descriptive demographic distribution of the respondent shows that there were more males (52.51%) in the study sample relative to females (47.49%). In terms of respondent age, most of the respondents were aged 20 – 30 years (35.1%). There were also many respondents (26.84%) who were aged 31 – 40 years when compared to those aged 41 – 50 years (18.29%). Similarly, persons aged from 41 – 50 years (18.29%) were more than those aged 51 – 60 years (10.62%).

Table 1: Demographic Distribution of Respondents

Variable	Freq.	Percent
<i>Sex</i>		
Male	178	52.51
Female	161	47.49
<i>Age of Respondent</i>		
Less than 20 Years	13	3.83
20-30 years	119	35.1
31-40 years	91	26.84
41-50 years	62	18.29
51-60 years	36	10.62
61 years and above	18	5.31
<i>Employment Status</i>		
Self Employed	166	48.97
Salaried	35	10.32
Regular Wages	17	5.01
Casual Labour	55	16.22
Others	66	19.47
<i>Education of Respondent</i>		
First Sch. Cert.	78	23.01
Secondary Sch. Cert	177	52.21
OND/NCE	49	14.45
B.Sc./HND	34	10.03
Post Graduate	1	0.29
<i>Marital status of head</i>		
Married	190	56.05
Single/never married	115	33.92
Widow/Widower	19	5.6
Divorced	4	1.18
Separated	11	3.24
<i>Household size</i>		

Less than 5 persons	143	42.18
5-9 persons	124	36.58
10-14 persons	46	13.57
15 persons and above	26	7.67
Total sample	339	100

Source: Authors' calculations from survey data (2022)

As per employment status, there was a good proportion of the respondents who are self-employed (48.97%) compared to those of other employment status. Particularly, there were some who were salaried (10.32%), but these were less than the casual laborers (16.22%) who were in turn, less than workers in the “Others” category (19.47%). On education qualification of the respondents, there seems to be more respondents with secondary certificate (52.21%) when compared to others. The proportion are specifically as follows: 23.01% (first school certificate), 14.45% (OND/NCE), B.Sc./HND (10.03%), and 0.29% (postgraduate). Household marital status reveals that there are more married household heads (56.05%) when compared to the never married (33.92%), widowed (5.6%), separated (3.24%) and the divorced (1.18%). Finally, the household size of respondents seems skewed in the direction of small households (42.18% for Less than 5 persons households, 36.58% for 5-9 persons households, and 13.57% for 10 – 14 persons households). Consequently, only 7.67% of the surveyed persons were in households with 15 persons and above.

Table 2: Distribution of Respondents by Incidence of Urban Slums

Variable	Freq.	Percent
<i>Do you have access to at least 20 litres of improved water per day?</i>		
Yes	241	71.09
No	98	28.91
<i>How can you describe your excreta disposal system?</i>		
Ventilated improved pit latrine	61	17.99
Pour flush latrine	142	41.89
Direct connection to septic tank	25	7.37
Direct connection to public sewer	4	1.18
Open defecation	107	31.56
<i>How many persons lived in a room in your household?</i>		
0-2 Persons	76	22.42
3-4 Persons	171	50.44
Above 5 persons	92	27.14
<i>What type of house do you live in?</i>		
One room in face-to-face house	212	62.54
One-room self-contain	45	13.27
Flat	39	11.5
Duplex	1	0.29
Others	42	12.39
<i>How do you dispose your waste?</i>		
Dump in gutters/canal	54	15.93
Dump in the river	43	12.68
Dump in government waste bin	143	42.18
Dump on the road	45	13.27
Burning	50	14.75
Others	4	1.18
<i>Do you have security of tenure on your accommodations?</i>		
Yes	142	41.89
No	197	58.11
Total Sample	339	100

Source: Authors' calculations from survey data (2022)

The distribution by incidence of urban slums is represented in Table 2. More persons have access to at least 20 litres of water per day (71.09%) than do not (28.91%). In terms of excreta disposal system, we find that the pour flush latrine is most popular (41.89%) while the highest proportion of the others practice open defecation (31.56%). Other relied on ventilated-improved pit latrine (17.99%), direct connection to septic tank (7.37%), and direct connection to public server (1.18%). The household size of 0-2 persons (22.42%) is less than that of 5 above persons (27.14%) and 3 – 4 persons (50.44%). The one room apartment in a face-to-face apartment is more common among the respondents (62.54%) than the one-room self-contained (13.27%) or the duplex categories (0.29%). In terms of waste disposal, we find that government waste bins are more common (42.18%) when compared to dumping in the gutters (15.93%) or dumping along the road (13.27%). Both are, however, more common than burning (14.75%), dumping in the river (12.68%), and others (1.18%). Also, most respondents do not have tenure security in their accommodations (58.11%).

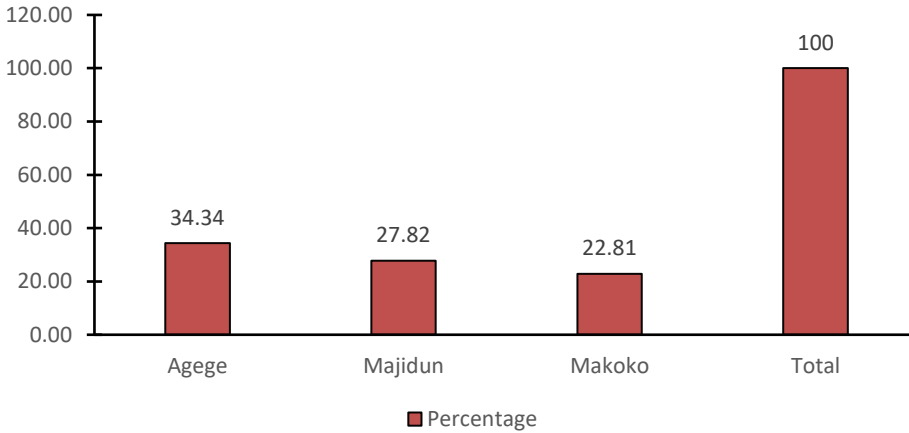
Table 3: Distribution of Microeconomic Environment Indicators

Variable	Freq.	Percent
<i>What is the range of your household monthly income?</i>		
Less than N20k	79	23.3
20k - 25k	63	18.58
26k - 30k	52	15.34
31k - 35k	37	10.91
36k - 40k	47	13.86
41k+	61	17.99
<i>How can you rate price of goods and services in your area?</i>		
Very low	4	1.18
Low	11	3.24
Moderate	26	7.67
High	167	49.26
Very High	131	38.64
<i>Percentage of income spend on buying gallon of water per week/month?</i>		
Less than 10%	174	51.33
10-19%	123	36.28
20% and above	42	12.39
<i>How much do you spend on living daily on the average?</i>		
Mean (SD)	Range	
N2642.77(N1582.40)	N400 – N10,000	
Total Sample	339	100

Source: Authors’ Calculations from Survey Data (2022)

Looking at the distribution of microeconomic indicators (Table 3), the income distribution of the respondents seems non-skewed in favour of any category. Be that as it may, most of the respondents (23.3%) earn less than N20,000 per month followed by those who earn N26,000 to N30,000 monthly. The least common income group turns out to be the N31,000 to N35,000. When asked to rate the price of goods and services in their areas, it became clear the price of goods and services has been high (49.26%) or very high (38.64%). There were other respondents who felt that prices have been moderate in their areas (7.67%). Very few felt that prices were low (3.24%) or very low (1.18%). From their responses on the proportion of their income spent on purchasing gallons of water per week, the study finds that there are more respondents who spends less than 10% (51.33%) when compared to those who spend from 10-19% (36.28%) or 20% and above (12.39%). The exact amount spent per day ranged from N400 to N10,000 with a mean of N2,643 approximately.

Figure 1: Distribution of Respondents by Location



Source: Authors’ calculations from survey data (2022)

Looking at the distribution of the sampled respondents by their location, there seems to be more people living in Agege slums (34.34%). Also, there are more respondents in the Majidun slums of Lagos (27.82%) compared to those in Makoko slums (22.81%).

Hypothesis One: Research Question One

Ho1: There are no linkages between the incidence of urban slums and the microeconomic environment.

In line with the first research question of the study, a linear regression model was used to estimate the relationship between urban slum incidence and the microeconomic environment around the slums (Table 4). The evidence documented in Table 4 shows that the microeconomic environment truly has an impact on slum incidence in urban areas. Starting with household income, we see that the incidence of urban slums decreases with household income, but the difference seems significant only between household income of N41,000 and above and less than N20,000. It can also be seen that the higher the rating of the respondent’s area’s price of goods, the lesser is the incidence of urban slums. This means that areas with better price rating experience less slum incidence than those with worse price ratings. There is also evidence that the higher the proportion of income spent on water, the greater the incidence of slums. This is in line with theory, since following microeconomic theory, poorer households will spend more on necessities like water and such households are naturally more common in slums areas. No wonder the study finds that average daily spending on necessities is also increasing with slum incidence. There is therefore the likelihood to the reject null because there is a linkage between incidence of urban slim and microeconomic environment.

Table 4: Linear Regression between Urban Slum Incidence and Microeconomic Environment

Variable	Coef.	St. Err.	t-val.	p-val.	[95% Interval]	Sig
<i>Household income: Less than N20k (Reference)</i>						
N20k - N25k	0.064	0.430	0.15	0.883	-0.783 0.910	
N26k - N30k	-0.388	0.445	-0.87	0.384	-1.263 0.487	
N31k - N35k	-0.172	0.507	-0.34	0.734	-1.171 0.826	
N36k - N40k	-0.760	0.471	-1.61	0.107	-1.687 0.166	
N41k+	-1.204	0.454	-2.65	0.008	-2.097 -0.310	***
<i>Price of good rating: Very low (Reference)</i>						
Low	-2.572	1.510	-1.70	0.090	-5.544 0.400	*
Moderate	-1.946	1.369	-1.42	0.156	-4.640 0.748	
High	-3.821	1.290	-2.96	0.003	-6.359 -1.284	***
Very High	-3.784	1.297	-2.92	0.004	-6.336 -1.232	***
<i>Proportion of income spend on gallons of water: Less than 10% (Reference)</i>						
10-19%	0.954	0.308	3.10	0.002	0.348 1.560	***
20% and above	2.112	0.459	4.60	0.000	1.210 3.015	***
Average daily spending	0.0003	0.0001	2.55	0.011	0.000 0.000	**

Constant	15.370	1.330	11.56	0.000	12.754	17.986	***
Mean dependent var	12.667		SD dependent var	2.719			
R-squared	0.209		Number of obs.	339.000			
F-test	7.168		Prob > F	0.000			
Akaike crit. (AIC)	1585.901		Bayesian crit. (BIC)	1635.639			

*** $p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.05$, * $p < 0.1$

Source: Authors' estimation with survey data using Stata 16

Hypothesis Two: Research Question Two

Ho2: There is no links between urban development policy and proliferation of slums

The second research question examines whether urban proliferation is affected by urban policy. Given the ordinal nature of the urban proliferation variable (i.e., Likert scale), the ordinal logit regression model is considered ideal. The results reported in Table 5 are quite intuitive. Urban development policy is negatively associated with urban proliferation and the effect is negative. In other words, it seems possible to reduce urban proliferation when government puts adequate urban development policies in place. Base on these findings, we may not be able reject the null because the results shows that there is no link between urban development policy and proliferation of slums.

Table 5: Ordered Logistic Regression between Urban Proliferation and Urban Dev. Policy

Variable	Coef.	St. Err.	t-val.	p-val.	[95% Interval]	Sig
<i>Urban Policy</i>	-0.064	0.020	-3.20	0.001	-0.103 -0.025	***
Mean dependent var	21.097		SD dependent var	5.128		
Pseudo r-squared	0.005		Number of obs.	339.000		
Chi-square	10.370		Prob > chi2	0.001		
Akaike crit. (AIC)	2039.107		Bayesian crit. (BIC)	2127.105		

*** $p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.05$, * $p < 0.1$

Source: Author's estimation with survey data using Stata 16

Hypothesis Three: Research Question Three

Ho3: There is no difference in the pattern of urban proliferation in the different regions to be studied.

The study also sought to examine whether urban proliferation differs by slum locations of the respondents. Again, this is captured using the ordered logistic regression model used in the previous table. The results displayed in Table 6 shows that indeed, slum proliferation differs by location in the urban areas. Reference to the present case, the Majidun area seems to have experienced significantly less urban proliferation when compared to the Agege area. On the other hand, the Makoko area appears to have had a higher occurrence of urban proliferation than the Agege area, but this difference appears to be insignificant as the result shows. There is the likelihood to reject the null because the findings support evidence of different patterns of urban proliferation in the three regions examined.

Table 6: Ordered Logistic Regression between Urban Proliferation and Location

Variable	Coef.	St. Err.	t-val.	p-val.	[95% Interval]	Sig
<i>Agege (Reference)</i>						
Majidun	-1.231	0.247	-4.99	0.000	-1.714 -0.747	***
Makoko	0.041	0.227	0.18	0.857	-0.404 0.485	
Mean dependent var	21.097		SD dependent var	5.128		
Pseudo r-squared	0.015		Number of obs	339.000		
Chi-square	29.349		Prob > chi2	0.000		
Akaike crit. (AIC)	2022.128		Bayesian crit. (BIC)	2113.952		

*** $p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.05$, * $p < 0.1$

Source: Authors' estimation with survey data using Stata 16

Hypothesis Four: Research Question Four

Ho4: Slums dwellers and urban poverty pose no dangers to the society and faces no dangers

The societal dangers of slum proliferation are examined next presented as given by the responses received in the field survey (Table 7). There seems to be mixed feelings about whether slum proliferation increases drug abuse. The relative high proportion of respondent who agree to that statement (21.83%) is surpassed by those who disagree (35.40%). Netting out the neutral responses, one could say that the consensus is in favour of slum area not contributing to drug abuse. A different picture emerges when the question relates to slum proliferation and cultural barriers. Most respondents agree (35.10%) and these are more than those who disagree (21.53%) and those who strongly disagree (7.67%) are combined. It can also be seen that slum settlers contribute to vandalism in the society when the study looks at the responses from the survey. Again, after accounting for neutral responses (20.65%), there are more respondents, on aggregate who agree/strongly agree (41%) than those who disagree/strongly disagree (38.34%). Moreover, popular consensus among the respondents shows that improving infrastructure has become extremely difficult by virtue of the chaotic and close-knit nature of the slums. On the other hand, respondents do not popularly share the opinion that slum areas are instigators of flood by virtue of the poor sanitary system prevailing in such areas. Based on these finding the study has the likelihood to conclude that urban settlers poses danger to the society and also faces danger in terms of unavailability and extreme difficulty to install infrastructural facilities.

Table 7: Societal Dangers of Slum Proliferation

Statements	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<i>Do you agree that slum areas contribute to high rate of drug abuse?</i>					
Freq.	14	74	92	120	39
Percent	(4.13)	(21.83)	(27.14)	(35.40)	(11.50)
<i>Does proliferation of slum create cultural barriers in the society?</i>					
Freq.	33	119	88	73	26
Percent	(9.73)	(35.10)	(25.96)	(21.53)	(7.67)
<i>Do slum settlers contribute to vandalism in the society?</i>					
Freq.	39	100	70	93	37
Percent	(11.50)	(29.50)	(20.65)	(27.43)	(10.91)
<i>Is the chaotic and close-knit nature make it very difficult to improve infrastructure within a slum area?</i>					
Freq.	55	126	59	64	35
Percent	(16.22)	(37.17)	(17.40)	(18.88)	(10.32)
<i>Do slum areas contribute to flood due to poor sanitary system?</i>					
Freq.	33	89	52	91	74
Percent	(9.73)	(26.25)	(15.34)	(26.84)	(21.83)

Source: Authors' calculations from survey data

6. Conclusions

This study interrogates urban slum and urban poverty and its proliferation in relation to urban development policy. It also examines the link between microeconomic environment and incidence of urban slums. This is in relation to pattern of urban proliferation in the different regions to be studied and if slums dwellers and urban poverty pose dangers to the society and faces no dangers. The study employs survey method and Linear regression models as analytical tools. It finds a strong links between microeconomic environment and incidence of urban as well as urban development policy and proliferation of slums. It also found different patterns of urban proliferation in the different regions. It concludes that urban slums dwellers and urban poverty have the likelihood to pose dangers to the society and faces dangers due to lack of necessary infrastructural amenities. Most of the findings of this study is in

consonant with the theory of Marginality according to Surbakti (1984) and theory of dependency according to Suparlan (1995). With the findings of this study on socio-economic deprivations and lack basic infrastructure, poor quality of live and house tenure, the study aligns with the work of Zainal, Kaur, Ahmad and Khalili (2012) in Malaysia and that of Malik, Roosli and Tariq (2020) in Lahore.

7. Recommendations

There are solutions to urban slum and urban poverty, one of them which is very imperative based on the findings is urban development policy. The paper recommends a strategic urban development policy to address proliferation of urban slums. It also recommends that demolition of the slums may be disastrous but rather, peculiarity of those tribes living in the creed should be considered and amenities can be provided thus microeconomic environments could

be enhanced and danger they posed or faced will be significantly reduced.

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