

## A Review of The Negative Effects of Urban Population Growth in Nigeria

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### **Abstract**

*The negative effects of urban population growth in Nigeria results from two major factors which are rural-urban migration and natural population increase. The aim of the study is to investigate the negative effects of urban population growth in Nigeria. The aim was achieved by reviewing the effects of urban population growth on health, environment, socio-economic and waste generation. The study revealed that urban population growth caused by high rate of rural-urban drift, has resulted in various problems such as, unemployment, poverty, floods, squatter settlements, health issues, pollution (land, air, noise, water and visual), slums, overpopulation, traffic congestion, improper disposal of wastes, crimes, and food insecurity inter alia. There is high rural-urban drift in Nigeria because of the inequalities, in terms of infrastructural facilities, services, social amenities and heterogeneity economic activities in favor of urban centers. I recommend that there is a need to review various laws in charge of environmental in charge of environmental management in Nigeria like National environmental standards regulation enforcement agency (NESREA), federal environmental protection agency (FEPA) and other legislation concerned with environmental monitoring. The laws should be more effective in terms of compliance, enforcement and penalty.*

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### **1.1 BACKGROUND TO THE PAPER**

Urban population growth is referred to as the steady increase in the number of people living in cities or urban centers. This occurrence result from the continuous mass movement of people from village or rural settlement to cities or urban areas (Palan 2008).

Available data reveal that the population of Nigeria has been increasing at an alarming rate. Our towns and cities are growing rapidly. In 1921, the population of Nigeria was only 18.72 million. In 1952, it rose to 30.4 million and in 1963 to 55.67 million, effects of rapid urban growth in Nigeria are immense. More easily observable and perhaps very frightening are the general human and environmental poverty, the declining quality of life and the underutilized as well as the untapped wealth of human resources. Housing and associated facilities (such as water, electricity, waste disposal) are grossly inadequate. Millions live in substandard environments called slums,

plagued by squalor and grossly inadequate social amenities, such as, a shortage of schools, poor health facilities and lack of opportunities for recreation among others, ( Onibokun and Faniran1995).

An urban center is an agglomeration of people that are organized around non-agricultural activities, and urban growth is the rate of growth of an urban population. Urbanization in Nigeria and other developing countries has been very alarming over the past ten (10) years. This is as a result of high rate of rural-urban drift, which has resulted to various problems like, unemployment, poverty, floods, squatter settlements, pollution (land, air, noise, water and visual), slums, overpopulation, traffic congestion, crimes, and food insecurity inter alia. There is high rural-urban drift in Nigeria because of the inequalities, in terms of infrastructural facilities, services, social amenities and heterogeneity economic activities in favor of urban centers. There is a need to examine the existing impacts, and predict future challenges of urbanization and urban growth in Nigeria, while measures to greatly minimize the impacts are suggested in order to ensure sustainable developments in both the Nigerian urban centers,(Oyeleye, 2013).

## **1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

Urban population growth was a thing of joy in the early 1960s, until the late 70s when oil boom and the operation of ports in the some parts of the country was accompanied with physical development. This led to a massive populace from the countryside to cities which led to various effects like crimes, slums, poverty, environmental problems etc. Cities like Lagos, Ibadan, Kaduna, Jos, and Enugu suffer such due to lack of urban planning,(Angotti, 1993).

Most Nigerian urban centers have suffered from poor planning which results to slum housing condition, limited coverage of urban services, unreliable service provision, general environmental degradation, confused transport system, incessant flooding, fire disaster, congestion, pollution, unemployment, over-stressed facilities and services, as well as illiteracy and health problems etc. (Adetunji and Oyeleye 2013).

It is not a surprise for urban population growth to have enormous negative effects in Nigeria because of the population increase involved in its process. The index of urban population growth is mainly caused by rural-urban migration, (Aluko, 2010).

(Agbola, 2004) urban population growth refers to growth that makes intensive use of land for the location of buildings and impermeable surface to such degree. Urban population growth can be cause by natural population growth, reclassification of urban and rural system and rural-urban migration. The economy of Nigeria in which urban population growth is taking place has been described as stagnant and the growth of industrialization is negligible, the impact of urban population growth in Nigeria on employment, human and food security, economy, waste management, infrastructural facilities and services, health, social and its environment are alarming. Urban centers such as Kano, Port Harcourt, Lagos, Anambra state and other urban centers have been affected due to the steady increase of population in the urban centers of Nigeria.

### **1.3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The aim of this paper is to review the negative effects of urban population growth. To achieve this aim the following objectives were pursued:

- To review the health effects of urban population growth
- To review the environmental effects of urban population growth
- To review the effects on waste generation
- To review the socio-economic effects of urban population growth.

### **2.0 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK**

#### **“THE PUSH-PULL THEORY” OF MIGRATION**

This study is based on the pull and push theory which was postulated by Ravenstern(1889), who analyzed migration in England and Wales. This theory suggests that people move out of their location because they are pushed out, while others move because of forces pulling them from their location to a new one.

Migration occurs as a response to economic development as well as social, cultural, environmental and political factor and effect on areas of origin as well as destination, (Adewale 2005). People tend to move away from a place due to need to escape violence, political instability, drought, congestion in various dimension and suspected or real persecution. Also adverse physical condition such as flood, landslide, erosion, earthquake, insect, pest, soil infertility contributes largely to the reasons why people leave one environment to another.

Rural to urban migration is a response to diverse economic opportunities across space. Historically it has played a significant role in urban population growth process of several countries and continues to be significant in scale.(Lall, Harris and Zmarak 2006).According to Torum (2002) the interplay of both “pull and push” factors at the point of origin and destination of migration. The push factors which cause migration are: political fear, lack of food, unemployment, wars, unhappy lifestyle etc. Similarly the pull factors are the desire to better life, job opportunity, improved living condition, and desire for qualitative education, better housing, improved medical care and a good network of roads. The burden of rural to urban migration in Nigeria is multifaceted and intertwining. As such there are effects of this migration which are unbearable population density, impinge on other issues within the identifiable cycle of burdens. For instance in examining the immediate effect of rural to urban migration, which is an increase in population various subsequent effects are expected to be considered. Population explosion activates the housing challenge both at micro family and macro society levels. Congestion in household communities has implications for both the health and psychology of victims.

Nigerian cities such as Lagos, Port Harcourt, Kano and Onitsha among others are characterized by human traffic, vehicular congestion, environmental pollution, consistent in-

migration and spurious expansion of territories to accommodate human additions.(Nwokocha2006).

Unplanned population in most cities explains infrastructural decay in relevant contexts. This is especially the case in Nigeria where maintenance of existing amenities which abs-initio are haphazardly situated due to unprecedented corruption and biased award of contrast, is not prioritized.(Okafor 2005).

Migration to urban areas is placing increasing pressure on local governments' ability to respond to social services needs of urban population. This is a worldwide problem. On-going migration to urban areas is also placing pressure on limited appropriate housing, resulting in increase in the number of urban residents now found to reside in informal housing; informal settlements present a range of health and development challenges to government including access to water, sanitation, adequate health services and waste management services.(Thomas 2006).

Applying this framework to this study on “The negative effects of urban population growth in Nigeria”, it can be seen that the main reason for migration is because people are being pushed out of an environment(rural areas) due to violence, political instability, drought, congestion, mismanagement of waste, adverse physical condition such as flooding, landslide, erosion, pollution etc. while people are pulled into another environment (urban) to upgrade living standard and to gain better public services such as employment, quality education, better housing, improved medical care and good network of roads .now with the rapid movement of people from the rural to urban centers the population of the urban areas are unbearable causing population explosion, housing challenges, indiscriminate disposal of waste, environmental pollution, traffic congestion, which have effects on health, environment, on the socio-economic and also the effects on waste generation, due to the overexploitation of the resources and services of the urban area.

### **3.0 LITERATURE REVIEW**

- Health effects of urban population growth
- Environmental effects
- Socio-economic effects
- Effects on waste generation.

#### **3.1 Health effects**

Moore, Gould and Keary (2003) carried out a research on global Urbanization and impact on Health using a systematic search of data bases, JSTOR (which stands for Journal storage)Public medicine science Direct and social Science Research network, their study revealed that urban population growth results to poor sanitary conditions and the spread of diseases such as malaria, diarrhea, stomach ache, heart diseases and typhoid fever. The authors recommended the need to have an available, accessible, relevant health data and to use such data to inform policy, targets and evaluate interventions.

Allender, Wickramasinghe and Goldacre (2011) carried out a research on quantifying urbanization as a risk factor for non-communicable diseases using multi-component, quantitative measure of urbanicity. The result from their study showed that urban population growth results to high rate of hypertension, overweight (obesity), heart diseases and diabetes. The authors recommended that there should be an immediate level policy action to manage health issues arising from future unplanned urban population growth and to overcome the detriments associated with past unplanned urbanization.

Chinomso and Sonachi,(2014) carried out a research on urban and health using online journals, pub med/medline, Google and publications from world health organization and public libraries. The result from their study showed that urban population growth leads to hypertension and ischemic heart diseases, hearing impairment, tuberculosis, cardiovascular diseases and diabetes. The authors recommended that it is essential to direct urban development towards the following goals: stable family life; development of areas where people can live in healthy surroundings regardless of their financial status; creation of a healthy social climate by the development of small neighborhood units where communal life can be enjoyed and appreciated; prevention of septic fringes and overcrowding; provision of suitable economic opportunities; and restriction of migration to towns to a level which can be comfortably supported

Terranella, Eigiege, Gontor, and Dagwa(2006) carried out a research on urban Lymphatic Filariasis in central Nigeria using group/key informant discussions with community members, household survey with ICT testing, semi constructed interviews with healthcare workers and government officials and analysis of hospital records. Their results revealed that urban population growth leads to lymphatic filariasis, with its associated diseases such as ascaris lumbricoide, hook, worms, Taeniaspp, Schistosoma, mansoni, and strongyloides stercorallis, which affects the health of Urban dwellers.

Ali and Isa, (2014) carried proposed a research on the effect of urbanization on the health of urban residents, using pre-tested questionnaires, a total of 100 – 120 respondents aged 15years old and above were interviewed by trained interviewers. The results showed that urban population growth leads to diabetes mellitus, hypertension and heart disease also lack of good health services. The authors suggested that serious efforts by various parties are needed to increase knowledge and awareness of urbanized practices among the urban residents in order for the country's vision to be achieved in the new era.

### **3.2 Environmental effects**

Gehendra(2010) carried out a research on impact of urbanization on environmental resources, using the review of books journal articles, and professional reports from various governmental and non-governmental agencies, also the study employed ArcGIS as a tool to analyze the impact of urban population growth. The result of the research showed that urban population growth results in wetlands, floodplains, karst feature, biodiversity loss, water quality loss and slope failures, soil erosion, ozone layer depletion. The author recommended that citizens must be educated and well informed about the benefits of natural ecosystem secondly traditional administrative codes, laws

and regulations alone neither did protect our environment nor will promise us security from natural catastrophe, unless we reverse our thinking towards environment. Reversing our thinking from contemporary profit laden mind to a fair ground of harmony between humans and nature requires a sense of “obligation to civilization to continue civilization”.

Efe(2005) carried out a research on urban effects on precipitation amount, distribution and rainwater quality using data from archival material from the meteorological agency and hospital, climate data of temperature, rainfall and humidity were collected from the meteorological agency. Using Warri metropolis as a case study, result of the study showed that rain water in Warri metropolis contains a high level of acidity due to the high emission of particular matter and gases into the urban atmospheric environment. He stated that the resultant acid rain pollutes both surface and groundwater sources with negative effects on the health of inhabitant's. The author recommended that investigations on the urban climatology should be initiated soon by the state and federal government.

Seto, Fragkias, Güneralp and Reilly(2011) carried out a research on a meta-analysis of global urban land expansion using satellite or airborne remotely sensed data. Their result showed that urban population growth drives the loss of farmland, affects local climate, fragments habitats, and threatens biodiversity, also results in changes in land-cover, hydrological systems, biogeochemistry, climate, and biodiversity, habitat loss, and species extinction. These researchers recommended that there should be laws and policies to govern the exploitation of the natural environment.

Daramola and Ibem ( 2010) carried out a research on urban environmental problems in Nigeria using data derived from archival sources , observations and content analysis of different research findings in relation to environmental problems. The result of their findings showed that urban population growth leads to squatter and slum development, urban sprawl, erosion, pollution (air, land and water), flooding. The researchers suggested that built environment professionals (e.g. architects, urban planners, estate managers, builders, engineers, etc.) have a role to play in creating environment that does not jeopardize peoples' health and wellbeing. They should accept the responsibility of being the “watch dog” over the environment in making sure that they use their professional expertise to protect the environment for the present and future generations. Through appropriate design, construction and management solutions, significant result in environmental sustainability and by extension sustainable development can be achieved. Secondly psychological re-orientation of the people toward proper environmental management practices is central in developing environmental consciousness in individuals. To this end, environmental education such as public enlightenment campaigns in the mass and print media, churches, mosques, and community-based organizations is highly needed. Similarly, the introduction of environmental studies into the curriculum of the educational system at all levels will most likely contribute to creating the desired environmental awareness, and thus reducing unfriendly environmental practices (e.g. indiscriminate dumping of refuse on the roads, drains and unauthorized locations, defecating in the open field) in Nigerian cities.

Yang, Yue, Xu, Wu and He (2014) proposed a research on environmental consequences of rapid urbanization in Zhejiang Province. Remote sensing data and surface observational data were used as the methodology. The result of their study showed that urban population growth leads to urban sprawl, a significant Urban Heat Island, a major reduction in natural vegetation production, decreased ecosystem services and air pollution. The authors suggested that there is an urgent need to incorporate environmental issues into planning urban areas, to reduce the risks of further environmental degradation.

Onwuachu (2014) carried out a research on environmental pollution challenges in Nigeria: regulations and enforcement for sustainable development, using personal observation and secondary sources. The result of the research showed that urban population growth results in environmental pollution, sanitation, depletion of ozone layer, desertification, flooding, erosion, bush burning, deforestation soil conservation. The author recommended that environmental education at all levels of the society is highly indispensable in order to promote attitudinal change towards the environment which is a major step to tackling the environmental challenges in the country.

### **3.3 Waste generation**

Ifeoluwa (2019) carried out a research on harmful effects and management of indiscriminate solid waste disposal on human and its environment in Nigeria, she employed the use of extensive review from other write ups on waste management and disposal, also questionnaires was used as part of the methodology. Results showed that the effect of urban population growth on waste generation leads to health problems, illegal dumping of refuse, pollution, untidy environment, affects the entire livelihood and their major landscape, environmental degradation such as flooding, drainage obstruction, widespread of infectious diseases and waterway blockage. The author recommends that monetary resources should be made available by the government in the country to have well-paid waste workers and also provide the necessary amenities such as vehicles for collections, materials for storage facilities, modern sanitary landfill areas for recycling transportation of municipal, institutional, and domestic waste. Government needs to act fast because most of this unlawful wastes dumping contaminate water channels and make human vulnerable to infections.

Tahir, Hussain, Behaylu and Tilahun (2015) carried out a study on scenario of present and future of solid waste generation, the authors employed the use of Secondary data for this study. To analyze the data and project the population growth and Solid Waste Generation simple statistical techniques like percentage, mean, probabilistic model and geometric methods were used. Their results shows that the effect of urban population growth on waste generation leads to greenhouse gases emission, which are culprit for global warming and climate change, pollution, health problems, aesthetical nuisance and economic losses. The authors recommend that active participation and awareness of the public is very important, without which it is not only impossible but next to impossible.

Binyaruka (2015) carried out a study on patterns and correlates of solid waste disposal practices, the study used household budget survey (HBS) data and questionnaires as the method. The result

of the study shows that urban population growth leads to health implications, indiscriminate dumping of wastes and blockage of drainage channels as well as pollute the surface and groundwater. The researcher recommends the supply of enough waste containers on streets to increase the number of vehicles for garbage collection and to ensure the regular collection and in urban areas participation of the government, private sector and residents is required.

Joel and Fansen (2013) carried out a research on pattern and disposal methods of municipal waste generation in Kaduna metropolis, purposive sampling method of semi-structured questionnaires was administered to key stakeholders and residents and simple descriptive analysis was employed for the presentation findings. The result of the research showed that urban population growth results in infectious diseases, occurrence of flooding, improper disposal of wastes, substantial degradation of environmental conditions and degradation of the aesthetic value. The authors recommends that mobilization and capacity building intervention programs of the people on the essence of monitoring transportation of wastes, processing, disposal and recycle mechanisms not theoretically but practical, and participatory in delivery, chary of the level of literacy of the people.

Wajim (2020) proposed a study on consequences of indiscriminate disposal of solid waste on environment and humans' health in Nigeria using secondary sources of data, the result of the research is on the view that urban population growth leads to indiscriminate disposal of wastes, flooding, great environmental hazards and serious outbreaks of diseases such as cholera, typhoid and malaria, gargantuan damage on natural resources and impeding efficient and sustainable development in the country and accidents. The researcher recommends that adequate facilities for the collection of wastes should be provided by government.

### **3.4 Socio-economic effects**

Abubakar and Dano(2018) carried out a research on socio-economic challenges and opportunities of urbanization in Nigeria, desktop study of secondary data was employed as the methodology .The result showed that the impact of urban population growth leads to poor housing and basic services, slums (about half of Nigeria's urban population live in slums),unemployment and crime, poverty and social exclusion , inadequate provision of basic public services and lack of adequate health services, proliferation of the informal sector and crimes. The authors recommended the following; local economic development; promoting urban sustainability; and smart and knowledge city initiative.

Jaysawal and Saha(2014) carried out a research on urbanization in India using descriptive research, the data was gathered through secondary sources like Government Records, books, articles, and web-based journals. The author's findings revealed that urban population growth leads to housing problems, slums, and transport problems, lack of water supply, poor sanitation, water pollution, air pollution, and inadequate provision for social infrastructure (school, hospital, etc.) urban poverty, unemployment, housing-shortage, and crisis in urban infrastructure. They recommended that policy should be related to proper urban planning where city planning will consist of



operational, developmental and restorative planning. Operational planning should take care of improvement of urban infrastructure, e.g. roads, traffic, transport etc. also developmental planning should emphasize on development of newly annexed urban areas. Restorative planning should aim to restore original status of old building monuments which have historic value. In general, urban planning must aim at following components like

- (a) Balanced regional and urban planning
- (b) Development of strong economic base for urban economy
- (c) Integration of rural and urban sectors.

Project Writers Nigeria (2014) carried out a research on socio-economic assessment of urbanization problems and its impact on urban dwellers using questionnaires, interviews, and participant's observations. A total of two hundred and fifty (250) Members of Abakaliki urban including the government officials and the public at large formed the sample size. The method used in the selection of the respondents was the stratified random sampling. The method used for analyzing the data was simple percentage. The researcher's results showed that impact of urban population growth leads to rural unemployment, housing problem, high crime rate, prostitution. The researches recommended that government and non-governmental organization (NGO) should embark on skill acquisition problems for job seekers, Diversification of industries will help in creating job opportunities in rural areas, the government should develop the rural areas by providing basic social infrastructures like good road, hospitals, schools etc.

Momoh, Opaluwah, and Albeera(2018) carried out a research on challenges facing Nigeria's urban environment using literature review of both published and unpublished materials, as well as archival materials. The researchers found out from their research that urban population growth leads to increased population density, gentrification, overstretched public facilities and services, labor, development, increase in crime, reduced social infrastructure and housing deficiency, poverty, unemployment and health issues. These authors suggested that there should be consistency in policy developed within the urban development framework which should have a long term planning approach. Also these policies should be constantly revisited under short/medium term planning approach to follow current development within urban sciences. there should be consistent data collection which should feed into the research which should also affect the development within the changing nature of society Sustainability Urban Assessment Tool/Framework should be established in order to act as a mechanism for promoting the participation and collaboration of major actors involved in the process of achieving sustainable urbanism. Develop a capacity and promote a shared understanding by all actors of their roles and responsibilities in urban development and management.

Muggah(2012) carried out a research on researching the urban dilemma: urbanization, poverty and violence, using existing published and grey material as well as extensive personal and internet-based consultation with policy makers, practitioners and scholars, also using qualitative and inductive methods. The researcher proposed that urban population growth results in urban

poverty, under-and unemployment, poor infrastructure and services, inadequate and insecure living conditions, enhanced exposure to hazards and health risks, socio-spatial constraints to mobility, and inequality linked to exclusion, slums and high crime. The author recommended that pacification and community policing is essential, enhancing protection and reducing risks facing youth, promoting social capital and urban cohesion, urban renewal for security, slum upgrading and urban safety and urban governance for security.

### **3.5 SYNTHESIS:**

The following are the effects of urban population growth due to industrialization, overcrowding and indiscriminate disposal of waste in the urban environment: hypertension and ischemic, hearing impairment, tuberculosis, cardiovascular diseases and diabetes, overweight (obesity) and lack of good health services. (Ali and Isa 2014).

The breeding of mosquitos due to unsanitary environment caused by urban population growth, contamination of surface and ground water, the inhalation of smokes from automobiles can cause various effects like: malaria, diarrhea, stomach ache, heart diseases and typhoid fever. (Moore, Gould and Keary 2003).

Urban population growth affects the environment due to the over-exploitation and industrialization on the environment, some of these effects: wetlands, floodplains, karst feature, biodiversity loss, water quality loss and slope failures, soil erosion, ozone layer depletion and flooding. (Gehendra 2010).

Urban population growth have negative effects on the environment due to the emission of effluents into the atmosphere, over-exploitation of the natural environment and lack of urban planning, these effects are: urban sprawl, significant urban heat island, major reduction in natural vegetation production, decreased ecosystem services and pollution. (Yang, Yue, Xu, Wu and He 2014).

The following are the effects of urban population growth due over-crowding,: increased population density, gentrification, overstretched public facilities and services, labor, development, increase in crime, reduced social infrastructure and housing deficiency, poverty, unemployment and health issues. (Momoh, Opaluwah, and Albeera 2018).

Effects of urban population growth on waste generation due to increase in number of people and increase in productivity to satisfy urban dwellers can be seen as follows greenhouse gases emission, which are culprit for global warming and climate change, pollution, health problems, aesthetical nuisance and economic losses. (Tahir, Hussain, Behaylu and Tilahun 2015).

The following are effects of urban population growth on waste generation: health problems, illegal dumping of refuse, pollution, untidy environment, affects the entire livelihood and their major landscape, environmental degradation such as flooding, drainage obstruction, widespread of infectious diseases and waterway blockage, (Ifeoluwa 2019).

### 3.6 Gap in literature

From the literature review the following gap(s) were identified

Location: there was no study done in Anambra state in the literature review, hence there is a need for the study to be done because there are problems of urban population growth experienced there and therefore needs to be study to help the government and other stakeholders.

### 4.0 DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The study observes the impact of urban population growth on health in Nigeria such as malaria, diarrhea, stomach aches, chronic heart disease and typhoid fever with hypertension, overweight (obesity), heart diseases and diabetes, cancer, lung disease, stroke, respiratory infection, ischaemic heart disease etc. which could result in death, this is because of poor sanitary conditions, overcrowding, emission of effluents due to industrialization, agricultural activities contaminating the surface and ground water as a result of fertilizers. The study also observes that urban population growth is associated with lack of health services and poor medical equipment due to the number of dwellers making use of it.

This study observes the impact of urban population growth on the environment results in wetlands, floodplains, karst feature, biodiversity loss, water quality loss and slope failures, soil erosion, ozone layer depletion, changes in land-cover, hydrological systems, biogeochemistry, climate, and biodiversity, habitat loss, and species extinction etc. we can say these impacts are due to the over-exploitation and industrialization.

The study also observes the socio-economic impact due to urban population growth which results in poor housing and basic services, slums, unemployment and crime, poverty and social exclusion, inadequate provision of basic public services and lack of adequate health services, proliferation of the informal sector, transport problems, lack of water supply, poor sanitation, water pollution, air pollution, and inadequate provision for social infrastructure urban poverty, unemployment, housing-shortage, rural unemployment, prostitution, increased population density, gentrification, overstretched public facilities and services, labor, development, poverty, unemployment, health issues, urban poverty, socio-spatial constraints to mobility, and inequality linked to exclusion, all these due to overcrowding and lack of planning on the side of the government.

This study observes the following impacts of urban population growth on waste generation which are the degradation of the entire livelihood and their major landscape, greenhouse gases emission, which are culprit for global warming and climate change, pollution, aesthetical nuisance and economic losses, health implications, blockage of drainage channels as well as pollute the surface and groundwater, degradation of the aesthetic value, indiscriminate disposal of wastes, flooding, great environmental hazards, gargantuan damage on natural resources and impeding efficient and sustainable development in the country and accidents. Due to production and consumption of raw and processed materials by the increasing population.

## 5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The main cause of rapid urban population growth in Nigeria today is due to poor government policies that encourages the concentration of basic social amenities and employment opportunities in only the cities; leading to massive rural to urban migration. The poor urban planning; poor policy implementation; focus of the government in the development projects only in the urban centers has contributed to the rapid urban population growth in the cities of Nigeria resulting to urban lock jam of crisis. There are also other instances where a rural settlement can be transformed into a mega city due to industrialization or the conscious efforts of government to channel resources into such locality like the case of Abuja.

Urban population growth has given rise to several negative effects or problems such as commercialization of sex, increase rate of crimes, the buildup squatter settlements and shanty sites, high cost of housing, pollution, and spread of diseases, inadequate waste disposal and sanitation. Despite all these numerous challenges solutions can come through job creation and formulation of policies that favor rural settlements.

### RECOMMENDATION

- Rural-urban migration is a major problem of urban population growth in Nigeria. Rural-urban drift should be addressed more at the local level that is closer to the members of the countryside, by making them to know the environmental and economic implications of their migration to the urban centers through various public enlightenment programs.
- There is a need to review various laws in charge of environmental in charge of environmental management in Nigeria like National environmental standards regulation enforcement agency(NESREA), federal environmental protection agency (FEPA) and other legislation concerned with environmental monitoring. The laws should be more effective in terms of compliance, enforcement and penalty.
- There is a need to encourage mass transit in urban centers .The exhaust generated by vehicles is a serious threat to the environment. Government should mandate “kiss-and-ride” or “park-and-ride” system while approaching some business districts in urban centers to reduce traffic congestion, noise, accident rate, crimes and air pollution.
- Giving these realities, there is the need for all levels of government to take responsibility To address these challenges by showing serious commitment to overcoming them through various planned strategies.
- The major problem of urban population is rural to urban migration and this is due to regional inequalities, to halt rural-urban drift to a great extent, government at the state (regional) level supported at the federal (national) level, should embark on various physical developments and the provision of basic infrastructural facilities, services and social amenities (equipped schools, water supply, good roads, health facilities and other things) in rural areas.

This will reduce the level of inequalities between the urban centers and rural areas and this will naturally control the rural-urban drift.

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