



**RURAL DEPOPULATION: THE PLANNING IMPLICATIONS ON
THE DEVELOPMENT OF BIDA URBAN AREA, NIGER STATE.**

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ABSTRACT

The paper examined the causes of rural depopulation and the planning implications for the development of urban area of Bida, Niger State. The objectives are to; examine the forces contributing to rural- depopulation of the study area, ascertain the urban preparedness in accommodating the rural migrants of the study area. Both primary and secondary sources of data collection were adopted. Structured questionnaire and personal observation were used and copies of questionnaire designed were administered to 214 selected residents through stratified random sampling techniques in the study area The data collected were carefully analyzed using frequency tables pie chart and histogram. The following finding were revealed, After the careful analysis of the data; majority of respondents revealed that they lack of social amenities in their rural area, the respondents concurred with availability of job opportunities in the urban area,91.1% of the respondents attest to the availability of jobs and 8.9% responded against the availability of jobs in the study area. Recommendation Provision of essential services and facilities for both the urban area and the neighboring rural areas to bring about a balance;, Population Control, Key stakeholders in urban areas must provide campaigns and counseling for effective medical health clinics and family planning to help reduce the high rates of population growth.

KEYWORDS: Depopulation, Rural, Urban, Facilities Counseling.

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Globally, the issue of migration and development has remained an important debate for the academics (Adam 2006)Therefore, the movement of people to other areas in search of a better life is not a new thing now .What has however gained currency is the increasing voluntary movement in quest of better quality of life by low-skill and low-wage workers as well as high-skill and high-wage workers from less developed rural areas to more developed urban areas. .The process of urbanization continues to be more rapid and massive, challenging and affects a greater part of the world than ever before. The move from mainly rural society to an urbanized world has also impacted on all aspects of human lives. In 1950 less than one third of the human

race were living in cities, but by 2025, it is expected that two-thirds will live in cities and 90 percent of this will be living in the cities of developing countries (Kante, 2004). The migration of hundreds of millions of rural residents to cities in these still predominantly agrarian countries is the result of both institutional and structural changes caused by economic growth and this is revolutionizing the life of humanity just as are the other major aspects of economic and social modernization (Kante, 2004).

The rate at which people move to the cities, caused impact by the attraction of opportunities for wealth generation and economic development, bringing about rapid growth in population. This incredibly rapid growth of mega-cities causes severe ecological, economical and social problems. It is increasingly difficult to manage this growth in a sustainable way. It is recognized that over 70% of the growth currently happens outside of the formal planning process and that 30% of urban populations in developing countries live in slums or informal settlements, where vacant state-owned or private land is occupied illegally and used for illegal slum housing (Karl, 2011). Indeed, leaders in developing countries see urbanization as a product of distorted policies that favour city growth and produces 'urban elites' thereby encouraging excessive migration to the cities, and in the process creating an army of unproductive and underemployed informal workers (Abass, 2011).

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The unprecedented rates of over-all population growth due to natural increase, rural-urban migration and city expansion are helping to swell the populations of individual cities more than ever before as a result, significant social, cultural, economic, and political problems are being created in the cities. This is because, where urbanization in the developed countries went hand in hand with infrastructure development, economic growth and improved welfare, this is not the case with developing countries, where rapid urban growth in these countries is both a problem for both cities and depopulating rural areas (Kante et al 2004,).

In particular, the town of Bida, Niger state is an urban area with promising and attractive infrastructural facilities such as Health facilities like the Federal medical Centre (FMC) BIDA, Institutional facilities like The federal polytechnic BIDA, The state polytechnic, The college of nursing BIDA e.t.c. and good road network within the town will surely attract people from far and near thereby yielding constraints such as overcrowding, poor waste management, unemployment, urban crime, Presence of slums e.t.c (Ajetunmobi, 2014).

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The Aim of this paper is to assess rural depopulation on the planning implications aroused by the development of the urban area of Bida, Niger state with the view of providing effective measures in controlling these problems. The specific objectives include the following:

1. To examine the forces contributing to rural- depopulation of the study area.

2. To ascertain the urban preparedness in accommodating the rural migrants of the study area.
3. To assess the implications of rural migration on the study area.

THE STUDY AREA

Bida is an old settlement, whose existence is dated back to sometimes in the 15th century. The town gradually from an agglomeration of huts to become a village and it eventually expanded to become a town. Since the inception of the town, it has gained predominance over other Nupe settlements and consequently it has expanded tremendously over the years (Raji, 2018).

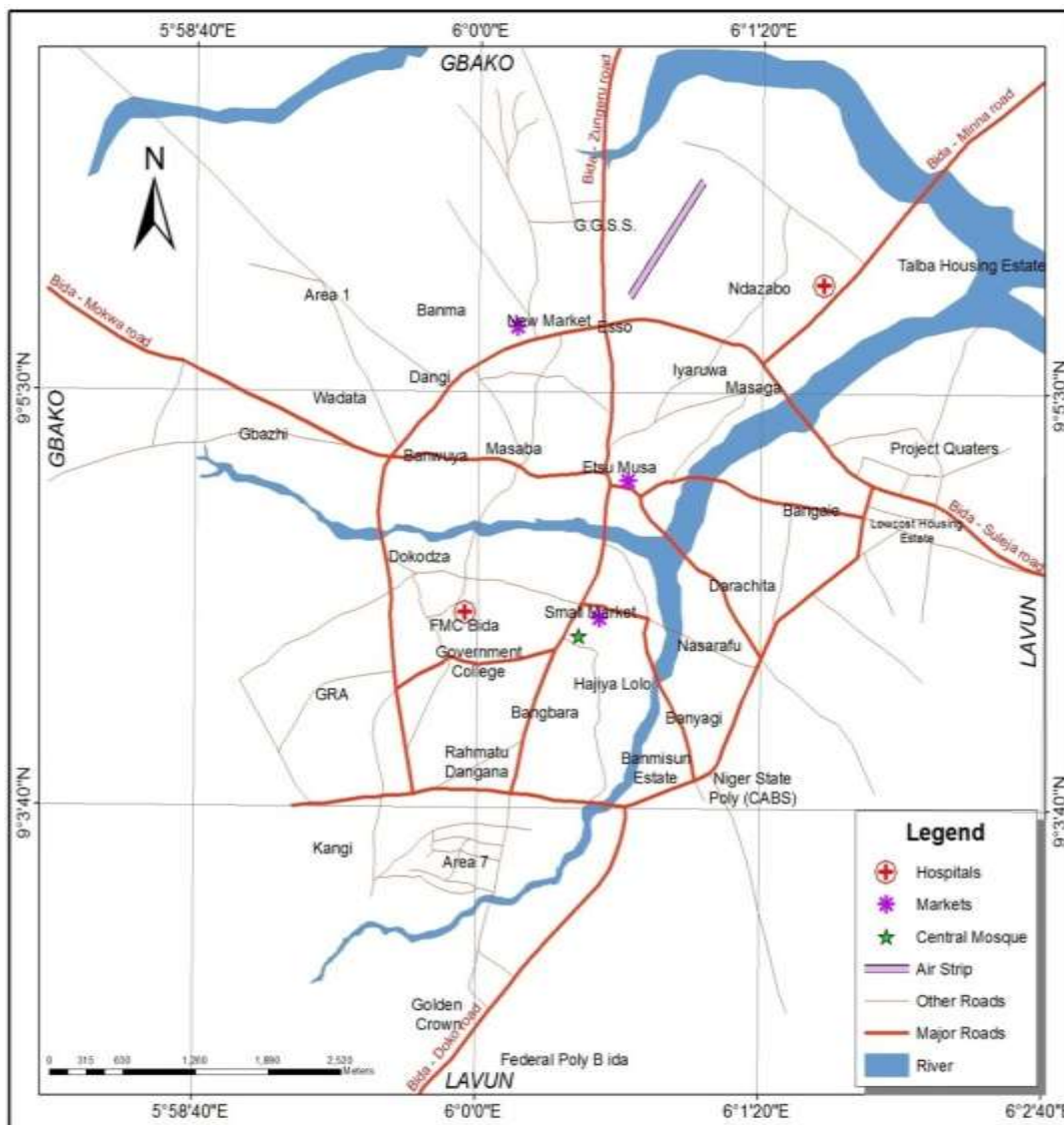


Figure 1.3 : A Map of Bida, Niger State.

Source: Ministry of Land and Housing, 2022.

LITERATURE REVIEW

RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION

Rural-Urban migration also known as Urbanization refers to the population shift from rural to urban areas, the corresponding decrease in the proportion of people living in rural areas, and the ways in which societies adapt to this change. It is predominantly the process by which towns and cities are formed and become larger as more people begin living and working in central areas. Urbanization is relevant to a range of disciplines, including urban planning, geography, sociology, architecture, economics, education, statistics and public health. (Danmole, 2008) The phenomenon has been closely linked to modernization, industrialization, and the sociological process of rationalization. Urbanization can be seen as a specific condition at a set time (e.g. the proportion of total population or area in cities or towns), or as an increase in that condition over time (George, 2010).

Rural -urban and urban –rural migration is common in the Igbo speaking areas of Nigeria. This is because the mass exodus of people from the overpopulated areas of Igbo land has been one of the most spectacular phenomena of the 20th century in Nigeria .(Hossain, 2001)An assessment of changes in urban-rural ties from 1961 to 1987 in Eastern Nigeria was one of studies of urban – rural migration(.Mabogunje, 1970) Moreso,, another study in Anambra state found that many Igbo families belief that for one to prosper financially there is need for him to migrate from rural to urban centre (Gugler,1991) Moreover, a study carried out in Aba, southeastern Nigeria, focused only on rural-urban interactions without examining the migratory processes that yielded the interactions (Chukwuezi,1999). while (Nwajiuba,2005) centrated on international migration and its impact on livelihoods

Therefore, urbanization can be quantified either in terms of the level of urban development relative to the overall population, or as the rate at which the urban proportion of the population is increasing (Adejana,2004). Developing urban resilience and urban sustainability in the face of increased urbanization is at the center of international policy in Sustainable Development Goal 11 "Sustainable cities and communities"(Olajuyin, 2002).

The first major change in settlement patterns was the accumulation of hunter-gatherers into villages many thousand years ago. Village culture is characterized by common bloodlines, intimate relationships, and communal behavior, whereas urban culture is characterized by distant bloodlines, unfamiliar relations, and competitive behavior This unprecedented movement of people is forecast to continue and intensify during the next few decades, mushrooming cities to sizes unthinkable only a century ago.

METHODOLOGY

The researcher conducted a reconnaissance survey of the study area to obtain the existing situation caused by rural-urban migration as a result of development in the study area. Which it's preliminary findings form the basis of the design. Both primary and secondary sources was

adopted in data collection, primary source data was collected through questionnaires, interview, reconnaissance survey and personal observations while secondary data was collected through published/unpublished, journals, text books, Internet

The population of this study comprises of all the selected residents in Bida area, Niger State. Due to the fact that the whole residents in Bida cannot be assess due to the large population as seen to be up to 266, 188. It is therefore necessary to use stratified random sample technique in order to achieve the possible outcome of the whole population which was about 214 respondents selected. The data were treated statistically in accordance with research questions generated earlier Tables and descriptive statistics were used as techniques of analyzing the research questions also Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 4.1

AGE COMPOSITION OF THE RESPONDENTS

AGE RANGE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
18-40	125	58.4%
41-60	67	31.3%
61-ABOVE	22	10.3%
TOTAL	214	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

Table 4.1 revealed the age composition of the respondents. 18-40 year is 58.4.1%, 41-60 years is 31.3% and 61 years is 10.3%. It implies that there are more working classes or youth in the study area that migrate to urban centre.

Table 4.2

MARITAL COMPOSITION OF THE RESPONDENTS

MARITAL STATUS	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
SINGLE	28	13.1%
MARRIED	170	80.2%
WIDOWED	14	5.8%
DIVORCED	2	0.9%
TOTAL	214	100

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

Table 4.2 above shows the marital composition of the study area. 80.2% of the people are married, 13.1% are single, 5.8% are widowed and 0.9% is divorced. This implies that majority of migrants to urban centre are married couples.

Table 4.3

CONDITION OF FACILITIES IN THE NEIGHBORING RURAL AREAS

FACILITIES	PERCENTAGE		PERCENTAGE		PERCENTAGE		TOTAL
	GOOD		FAIR		POOR		
HEALTHCARE CENTRE	17	7.9%	72	33.7%	125	58.4%	214
SCHOOL	2	1.0%	28	13%	184	86.0%	214
ROADS	4	1.9%	79	36.9%	131	61.2%	214
ELECTRICITY	40	18.6%	46	21.4%	128	60.0%	214
MARKETS	134	62.6%	55	25.7%	25	11.7%	214

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

Table 4.3, The above table shows the five condition of facilities that made rural people to migrate to urban area. it reveal that only 7.9% of the respondents agree that the healthcare center is in good condition, 33.7 % agree that healthcare center is in fair condition and 58.4% of the majority of respondents agree that the healthcare centre is in poor condition, this made the rural dweller to migrate to urban centre where they can receive better treatment. Only 1.0 % of the respondents agree that the schools are in good condition, 13 % agree with fair condition of school and 85 % concurred with poor condition of the school. 1.9% of the respondents agree that the roads are good condition, 36.9% of the respondents agree with fair condition of the road and 6.12% agree with the poor condition of the road in the rural area. 18.6% of the respondents agree with good condition of the electricity, 21.4% of the respondents' agree with fair condition of the electricity and 51.8% of agree with the poor condition of the electricity. 62.6% of the respondents agree with good condition of the market, 25.7% agree with fair condition of the market and 11.6% agree that the condition of market is poor. A high number attest to poor state in the facilities in the rural areas which reveals the reasons for migration from rural to the urban area.

Table 4.4

AVAILABILITY OF FACILITIES IN THE STUDY AREA

FACILITIES	AVAILABLE	UNAVAILABLE	TOTAL
ROADS	214	0	214
ELECTRICITY	214	0	214
MARKETS	202	2	214

HOSPITALS	214	0	214
WASTE MANAGEMENT	149	65	214
INDUSTRIES	205	9	214
RECREATIONAL FACILITIES	198	16	214

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

Table 4.4 shows the response from the respondents on the availability of facilities in the study area. A high number attest to availability of facilities in the study area which characterize the study area as an urban area.

Table 4.5

PREPEDNESS IN ACCOMMODATING THE RURAL MIGRANTS INTO THE STUDY AREA

FACILITIES	SUFFICIENT	INSUFFICIENT	TOTAL
SECURITY	64	150	214
INDUSTRIES	82	132	214
EXPANSIONS	128	86	214
MARKETS	69	145	214
HOUSING UNITS	77	137	214
WASTE MANAGEMENT	22	192	214
HOSPITALS	65	149	214
WATER SUPPLY	14	200	214

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Table 4.5 shows the response of the respondents on the facilities that can accommodate rural migrants. A higher number attest to insufficient facilities to accommodate the migrants thereby confirming constraints in the study area.

Table 4.5.1 PRESENCE OF OVERCROWDING

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
NO	4	1.9%
YES	210	98.1%
TOTAL	214	100%

Source: Field Survey,

Table 4.5.1 shows response from respondents on the issue of overcrowding in the study area. 1.9% responded against the presence of overcrowding and 98.1% of the respondents attest to the presence of overcrowding in the study area as a result of high population.

Table 4.5.2

AVAILABILITY OF JOB OPPORTUNITIES

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
YES	19	8.9%
NO	195	91.1%
TOTAL	214	100%

Source: Field survey, 2022.

Table 4.5.2 shows the response from respondents on the availability of job opportunities in the study area. 8.9% of the respondents agree with the availability of jobs and 91.1% responded against the availability of jobs in the study area which is due to high population.



Plate 4.2: Image showing residents who are either self-employed or unemployed (Image taken before Etsu-Musa Market)

Source: Personal field survey, 2022.

Table 4.4.3

PRESENCE OF SLUMS

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
YES	214	100%
NO	0	0%
TOTAL	214	100%

Source: Field survey, 2022.

Table 4.4.3 revealed the response from the respondents on the presence of slums in the study area. 100% of the respondents agree to the presence of slums which is as a result of high population.

Table 4.4.4

WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

STATUS	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
EFFICIENT	35	16.4%
INEFFICIENT	179	83.6%
TOTAL	214	100%

Source: field survey, 2022.

Table 4.4.4 Shows that 16.4% of respondents attest to an efficient waste management system in the study area and 83.6% confirm to inefficiency in waste management in the study area.



Plate 4.3: Image showing poor waste management in the study area (Dump site at Efu Kusodu area).

Source: field Survey, 2022.

Table 4.4.5

PRESENCE OF TRAFFIC CONGESTION

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
YES	202	94.4%
NO	12	5.6%
TOTAL	214	100%

Source: field survey, 2022.

Table 4.4.5 shows the response from respondents on the presence of traffic congestion in the study area. 94.4% of the respondents confirm to the presence of traffic congestion and 5.6% disagree to the presence of traffic congestions.



Plate 4.4: Image showing problem of traffic congestion in the study area.(Image taken at Etsu-Musa Market).

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

Table 4.4.6

PRESENCE OF CRIME

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
YES	212	99.1%
NO	2	0.9%
TOTAL	214	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

Table 4.4.6 shows that, 99.1% of respondents attest to presence of urban crime and 0.9% attest of absent of crime in the study area

Table 4.4.7

EFFECTIVENESS OF PLANNING AUTHORITY

STATUS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
HIGH	33	15.4%
MODERATE	60	28%
LOW	120	56.6%
TOTAL	214	100%

Source: field Survey, 2022.

Table 4.4.7 shows the level of effectiveness of the planning authority in the study area as revealed by the respondents. 15.4% of respondents attest to high level of effectiveness 28% attest to a moderate level, 56.6% attest to a low level of effective by the planning authority.

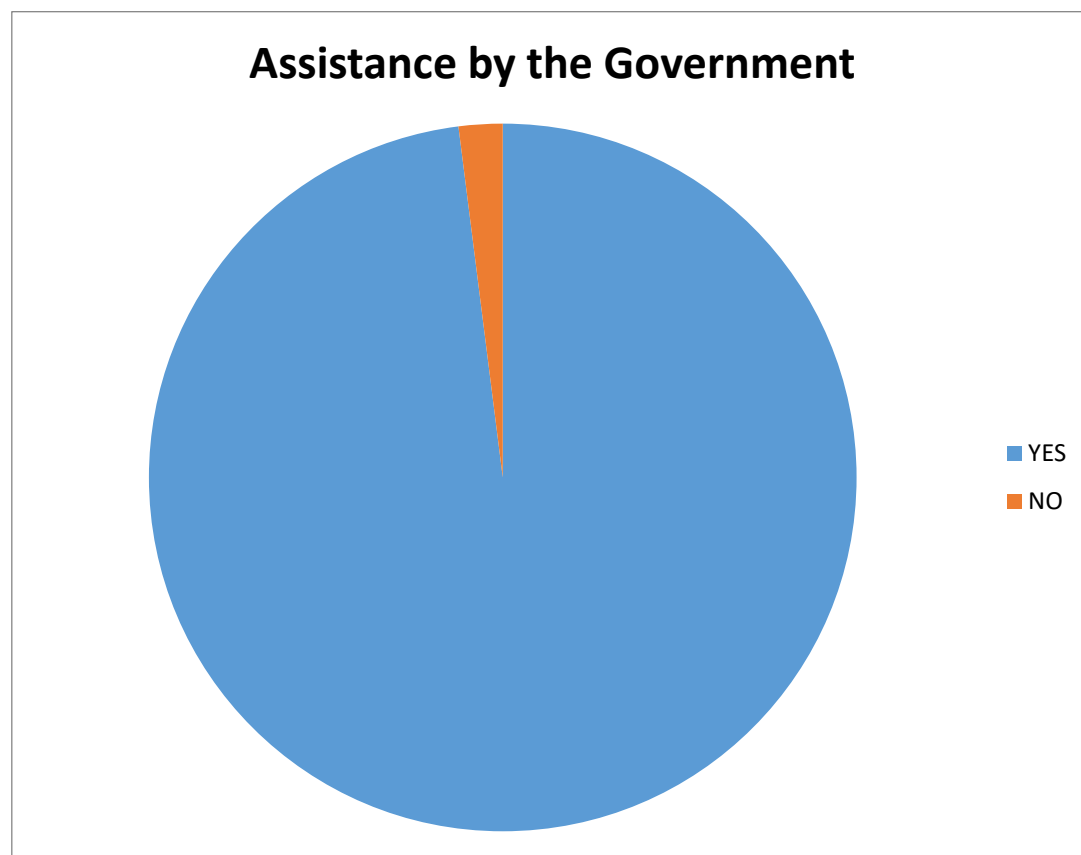


Figure 2

Source: field survey 2022

Figure 2 shows that 98% of respondents agree that there have been government interventions and 2% respondents that there is no government assistance .

CONCLUSION

Population decline is set to overtake population growth and become the main trend of population change in most of developing countries, with wide –ranging societal and economic implications. Yet, we know very little about the temporal and spatial dynamics of population decline across the rural –urban migration.

However, all the benefits that are traceable to urbanization and the growth of large cities have continued to elude people and nations in developing countries due to lack of vision, planning, good governance, transparency and accountability. As a result, urban and rural poverty and other indices of backwardness are the rule rather than exception in study area and other cities in developing countries.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Governments should pass laws that plan and provide environmentally sound cities and smart growth techniques, considering that people should not reside in unsafe and polluted areas. The objective here is to build sustainable cities that embrace improved environmental conditions and safe habitats for all urban populations.

Governments should also encourage sustainable use of urban resources and support an economy based on the sustainable environments such as investment in green infrastructure, sustainable industries, recycling and environmental campaigns, pollution management, renewable energy, green public transportation, and water recycling and reclamation.

Provision of Essential Services and facilities for both the study area and the neighboring rural areas to bring about a balance:

Urban stakeholders must ensure all populations within the urban areas have access to adequate essential social services namely education, health, sanitation and clean water, technology, electricity, and food both in the study area and the proximate rural areas.

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