Urbanisation and the Breeding of Terrorism in Maiduguri Metropolitan Council of Borno State, Nigeria

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Abstract

The study examines the impact of urbanization as a breeding ground for terrorism in the Maiduguri Metropolitan Council (MMC) of Borno State. Multi-stage sampling method was used for the study; ninety (90) respondents were administered with questionnaire. The findings of the study showed that the high rate (86.7%) of unemployed young people in the city of Maiduguri was as a result of the growing number of people migrating into the city, with direct impact on the security of the state. The result of the findings revealed that rapid urbanization and poor economic growth have compounded the problems of inadequate housing, poverty and unemployment in Maiduguri town. Based on the findings of the study it is recommended that government should improve on security and intelligence in the city of Maiduguri to cope with the increasing number of migrants from the rural to the urban centres.

Keywords: Maiduguri, Metropolitan, Terrorism, Youth & Urbanisation.

Introduction

One major challenge that hitherto has contributed to the rise and spread of terrorism in Maiduguri is the spontaneous and uncontrolled rural urban migration. It has been observed that the rapid growth in urbanization is a characteristic of the developing world, and this has been particularly so since the 1950s. Maiduguri town has attracted rural youths and the settlement of non-skilled and semi - skilled and to some extent skilled workers. As migrants arrive from rural areas, they live on the streets, make shift sub-standard accommodation, slums and ghettos, and are vulnerable to other dissident youths who introduce them to terrorism and terrorist ideologies.

High quality and well managed housing and proper policing is a cornerstone of sustainable security in urban communities. The reality of the scenario is that, the urban households in Nigeria with particular reference to Maiduguri town specifically accommodate extended family members, kin and people of the same ethnic descent, living in poor conditions with many inconveniences. Moreover the spatial congestion and infrastructure overloads, and the residential patterns cause problems in this living conditions, housing inadequacies, particularly for the low-income group, have been complicated by the high rate of population growth, in areas where rent is cheap, resulting to deplorable urban services, and infrastructures, and a lack

of implementation of urban policies and planning have exacerbated crime, criminal activities and terrorist cells in such areas (Oladunjoye, 2005; Glaeser, 2002).

The problems and challenges posed by the rapid urban growth, individualism, and secrecy in criminal activities and terrorism carried out by some individuals has devastated the economy of the state. More easily observable and perhaps very frightening is the general human and environmental poverty, the declining quality of life and the underutilized as well as the untapped wealth of human resources that are unemployed and underemployed who form a great number of the youth population who fall prey to fundamentalism and fundamentalist ideas (Mayomi & Mohammed, 2014; Faniran, 1982). Hitherto, Maiduguri has been and is still a centre for commerce and Trans-Saharan trade route to neighbouring Chad, Niger and Cameroun, and a centre for Islamic teaching and learning thus finding expression in the high level of migrants and the spread of fundamentalist ideas among the youths. Moreover, the capacity of law enforcement institutions to prevent crime and combat terrorism is increasingly hampered by technological and resource limitations and the style of attacks and hit and run form of engagement of the Boko haram group.

Terrorism is a new form of urban conflict in Nigeria. However, it is not a given that cities working together will themselves be able to tackle conflict and violence, let alone take the lead in combating global violence and conflict, especially in the developing world. This is because, as urban researcher, Engelke (2013, p.32) wrote:

> Across Asia and Africa, cities tend to be governed by complex and poorly coordinated governmental authorities at all levels (national, state, local). Moreover, local governments often lack both the financial resources and the technical capabilities to deal with the enormous problems created by rapid urbanization. The consequences of failing governance can be dire: As centres of power and conflict, cities are natural sites for criminal rent-seeking, or for political actors vying for the state's attention in which armed groups or "violence entrepreneurs" can use their control over territory and populations for political or financial ends.

Huang, Qiu, Sheng, Min and Cao (2019) asserted that, urbanization is as much a social process as it is an economic and territorial process. It transforms societal organizations, the role of the family, demographic structures, the nature of work, and the way we choose to live and with whom. It also modifies domestic roles and relations within the family, and redefines concepts of individual and social responsibility. Initially, the societal movement from rural to urban areas alters rates of natural population increase. There is high recorded overpopulation in the Third World countries and historically low fertility levels in developed countries have combined to produce a massive immigration into those cities in the latter countries that serve as contemporary immigrant gateways to world cities (Sassen, 2001; Castles & Miller, 1998). Those cities, in turn, have been transformed, in social and ethno-cultural terms, because of this immigration. Mabogunje (2007) maintained that living arrangements in cities and concentrations of people have an advantage and attraction for violence, which creates an incentive for people to disperse, but more commonly, neither terrorism nor wars have significantly altered urban form. Population level can positively affect terrorism

through multiple channels, allowing for a greater supply of terrorists; giving terrorists a means to hide in plain sight; and providing more targets and victims.

Statement of the problem

The problems and challenges posed by rapid urban growth in Nigeria have contributed to the rise of youth population in Maiduguri. This has contributed to the rise and spread of fundamentalist ideas, which have culminated in terrorism that have bedevilled Borno State since 2009. 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 of people in Maiduguri live in substandard environments called slums, plagued by squalor and grossly inadequate social amenities, such as, shortage of schools, poor health facilities and lack of opportunities for the development of a teeming youth population. Juvenile delinquency and crime have become endemic in many areas of Maiduguri because of the gradual decline of traditional social values and the breakdown of family cohesiveness and community spirit terrorist cells have grown in the midst of the people. Moreover, the capacity of law enforcement institutions in Maiduguri is hampered by the gorilla style of the insurgency activities, coupled with the technological and resource limitations (Linden & Selier, 1991).

Theoretical Framework

This study is anchored on the Social Disorganization Theory propounded by Shaw and McKay (2010). The proponents of social disorganization theory maintained that disorganized communities are characterized by poverty, ethnic heterogeneity, residential mobility and weakened social stability. Social disorganization is a theory that explains ecological differences in levels of crime based on structural and cultural factors shaping the nature of the social order across communities. This approach narrowed the focus of earlier sociological studies on the covariates of urban growth to examine the spatial concentration and stability of rates of criminal behaviour. According to the social disorganization theorists, such phenomena are triggered by the weakened social integration of neighbourhoods because of the absence of regulatory mechanisms, which in turn are due to the impact of structural factors on social interactions or the presence of delinquent subcultures (James, Louise & Nazia, 2017).

In the light of the social problems plaguing Chicago and its suburbs, Shaw and McKay (2010) studied crime and delinquency among some groups. Building on an ecological theory of urban dynamics, social disorganization theory explained the larger ratio of delinquency that occurred in certain Chicago neighbourhoods. It was found that high delinquency rates persisted in certain Chicago neighbourhood for a long period of time despite changes in the racial and ethnic composition of these communities - a finding that led to the conclusion that neighbourhood ecological conditions accounts for crime rates over and above the characteristics of individual (Huang *et al,* 2019). Furthermore, their study revealed that high rates of crime occur in those communities that exhibit increase in populations and physical deterioration.

At its core, social disorganization theory focuses on the effects of location and location-specific characteristics as they relate to crime (Mustaine, Tewksbury & Stengel, 2016). Neighbourhoods

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lacking organization lack the necessary social control and are unable to provide essential services. This leads to inability of the community to control its group. Social disorganization theory is intimately tied to conceptions of those properties of relationships that are indicative of social or communal organization.

The social disorganization theory emphasizes that once a person lives where deviants converge and carry out deviant behaviour, one may likely learn to become one of them. Criminal acts emerge in disorganized communities because informal social controls in these areas are not effective. In this regard, the zone where Boko Haram started and spread her attacks were the slums and ghetto areas of Maiduguri. This area accommodated deviants and hoodlums where the group practiced their ideological beliefs, values and laws. Most members of Boko Haram sect are products of such slums that lack primary socialization.

Description of The Study Area

Maiduguri, also known as Maiduguri Metropolitan Council (MMC) is the capital of Borno State in the North Eastern part of Nigeria. Founded in 1907 as military outpost by the British, the region has been home to the Kanem Borno Empire for centuries. Maiduguri actually consist of two cities MMC to the west, old Maiduguri to the East. Old Maiduguri was selected by the British as their military headquarter while MMC was selected at approximately the same time by Shehu Abubakar Garbai of Borno to replace Kukawa as the new traditional capital of Kanem Borno empire (Mayomi & Mohammed, 2014). The cities of MMC and old Maiduguri were merged to form Maiduguri town. It eventually grew into one of the largest cities in Northeastern Nigeria. The population of Maiduguri metropolis was projected at one million, one hundred and twelve thousand four hundred and nine 1,112,449 (National Population Commission, 2020).

Materials and methods

The multi-stage sampling was used for the study. Both probability and non-probability sampling techniques was employed. Maiduguri Metropolitan council has a total of 15 wards, these are; Bolori 1, Bolori 2, Bulablin, Fezzan, Gamboro Liberty, Gwange 1, Gwange 2, Gwange 3, Hausari Zango, Lamisula, Lmanti, Mafoni, Maisandari, Shehuri North and Shehuri South. In the first stage all the wards were clustered, and four (4) wards were randomly selected as cluster. The selected wards were Fezzan, Shehuri North, Bolori 1 and Lamisula wards. In the second stage, simple random sampling technique was used to select two (2) wards to ensure that each ward has an equal chance of being represented. In the third stage, purposive sampling was used in selecting ninety (90) respondents for convenience. Therefore, the data were collected from 90 respondents voluntarily with complete anonymity guaranteed. The data were analyzed using statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) Version 22.0 and the results presented using simple frequency table.

Result of the Findings

Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

The result of the study findings on the demographic characteristics of the respondents are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

S/N	Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents	Respondents	Percentage
1	**Sex**		
	Male	60	66.7%
	Female	30	33.3
	Total	**90**	**100%**
2	**Age group**		
	16–25	48	53.3%
	26– 30	30	33.3%
	31– 35	6	6.7%
	36andabove	6	6.7%
	Total	**90**	**100%**
3	**Marital Status**		
	Single	48	53.3%
	Married	30	33.3%
	Divorced	6	6.7%
	Widows	6	6.7%
	Total	**90**	**100%**
4	**Educational Qualification**		
	Qur'anic	12	13.3%
	Primary	6	6.7%
	Secondary	12	13.3%
	Tertiary	60	66.7%
	Total	**90**	**100%**
5	**Occupation**		
	Students	60	66.6%
	Civil servant	15	16.7%
	Farmer	15	16.7%
	Trader	0	-
	Total	**90**	**100%**
6	**Tribe**		
	Kanuri	48	53%
	Shuwa	7	8%
	Fulani	18	20.%
	Margi	6	6.7%
	Babur/Bura	6	6.7%
	Gwoza	5	5.6%
	Total	**90**	**100%**

Source: Field Survey, 2020.

Table 1 indicates that 66.67% of the respondents are male, while 33.33% are female. This indicate that, the society is patriarchal in nature (male dominated). Males have more freedom to socialize than their female counterpart. Significant numbers of the respondents 53.3% of the respondents are within the age range of 16-25 years. It is clear that, they are at their peak age. While 33.3% of them between the age of 26-30 and 31-35, 36 and above 6.7% respectively. Majority of them 53.3% are single, 33.3% married, divorced and widow constitutes 6.7% of the respondents. This indicate that there is low divorced rate especially among the literate. Majority of the respondents 66.6% are students, while very few 6.7% are civil servant and farmers respectively. Significant number of them 53.33% are Kanuri by tribe. This is because the dominant tribe in the state is Kanuri. While 20% are Fulani, shuwa 8%, Gwoza 5.6%, Marghi and Babur/Bura 6.7% respectively.

Reasons for Migration

Table 2: Respondents' Views on the reasons for migration into Maiduguri

S/N	Respondents Views	Frequency	Percentage
1	One of the basic reasons for youth migration and urbanization into Maiduguri Is to seek for employment		
	Agree	78	86.7%
	Disagree	7	7.8%
	Undecided	5	5.5%
	Total	**90**	**100%**
2	Islamic and western education is a factor of rural urban migration into Maiduguri		
	Agree	84	93.3%
	Disagree	5	5.6%
	Undecided	1	1.1%
	Total	**90**	**100%**
3	The increase in criminal activities and terrorism is a result of the Problems of urbanization		
	Agree	60	66.7%
	Disagree	24	26.7%
	Undecided	6	6.6%
	Total	**90**	**100%**
4	Lack of adequate security presence has contributed to insecurity in Maiduguri		
	Agree	80	88.9%
	Disagree	8	8.9%
	Undecided	2	2.2%
	Total	**90**	**100%**
5	Is lack of proper housing a problem of urbanization in Maiduguri		
	Agree	66	73.3%
	Disagree	24	26.7%
	Undecided	0	-
	TOTAL	**90**	**100%**

Source: Field Survey, 2020

From Table 2 above, 86.7% of the respondents agreed that the reasons for migration into Maiduguri is to seek for employment which is so everywhere in the world. 7.8% of the respondents disagreed with the statement and 5.5% of the respondents were undecided which indicate that majority of the respondents agreed with the statement. 93.3% of the respondents agreed that education is one of the reasons for urbanization, while 5.6% of the respondents disagreed and 1.1% of the respondents were undecided.

Also 66.7% of the respondents agreed that increase in criminals and terrorism is as a result of the problems of urbanization, while 26.7% of the respondents disagreed with the statement and 6.6% of the respondents were undecided. 88.9% of the respondents agreed that insecurity in Maiduguri is also a result of inadequate security apparatus, while 8.9% of the respondents disagreed with the statement and 2.2% of the respondents were undecided. 73.3% of the respondents were of the opinion that is lack of good housing is a problem of urbanization in MMC, while 26.7% of the respondents disagreed with the statement.

Table 3. Respondents 'views on consequences of urbanization in Maiduguri

S/N	Respondents 'views	Frequency	Percentage
1	Overcrowding is one of the problems of urbanization in Maiduguri.		
	Agree	84	93.3%
	Disagree	5	5.6%
	Undecided	1	1.1%
	Total	**90**	**100%**
2	The problems of urbanization		
	Poverty	45	50%
	Unemployment	30	33.3%
	Illiteracy	15	16.7%
	Total	**90**	**100%**
3	Is urbanization cause of terrorism in Maiduguri		
	Agree	84	93.3%
	Disagree	6	6.7%
	Undecided	0	-
	Total	**90**	**100%**
4	Increase in youth population is a consequence of urbanization		
	Agree	66	73.3%
	Disagree	24	26.7%
	Undecided	0	-
	Total	**90**	**100%**
5	Urbanization contributed to the increase in youth participation in terrorist activities		
	Agree	30	33.3%
	Disagree	42	46.7%
	Undecided	18	20%
	TOTAL	**90**	**100%**

Source: Field Survey, 2020

Table 3 above shows that 93.3% of the respondents believed overcrowded environments is one of the consequences of urbanization in Maiduguri, while 5.6% of the respondents disagreed with the statement and only1.1% of the respondent is undecided.

Also 50% of the respondents believed poverty is a problem caused by urbanization, 33.3% disagreed with the statement and 16.7% of the respondents said is overcrowding, 93.3% of the respondents who form majority agreed that urbanization contributed to insurgency, while 6.7% of the respondents disagreed with the statement. 73.3% of the respondents were in the opinion that increase in youth population is a consequence of urbanization, while 26.7% of the respondents disagreed with the statement. Also, 33.3% of the respondents agreed that urbanization cause increase in youth participation in terrorist activities, while 46.7% of the respondents disagreed with the statement and 20% of the respondents were undecided.

Table 4: Respondent's view on recommendations suggestions on how to reducethe negative impact of urbanization as the cause of terrorism in Maiduguri

S/N	Items	Frequency	Percentage
1	Provision of essential service by government should reduce the negative impact of urbanization		
	Agree	84	93.3%
	Disagree	6	6.7%
	Undecided	0	-
	Total	**90**	**100%**
2	Government should impose a law on population control in order to reduce negative impact of urbanization.		
	Agree	66	73.3%
	Disagree	24	26.7%
	Undecided	0	-
	Total	**90**	**100%**
3	Encouraging government to create more job will reduce the negative impact of urbanization and the breeding of terrorism in Maiduguri.		
	Agree	72	80
	Disagree	18	20%
	Undecided	0	-
	Total	**90**	**100%**
4	Provision of social amenities to the rural areas Should reduce negative impact of urbanization		
	Agree	84	93.3
	Disagree	6	6.7
	Undecided	0	-
	Total	**90**	**100%**
5	Provision of free education and vocational training will reduce the negative impact of urbanization.		
	Agree	84	93.3%
	Disagree	6	6.7%
	Undecided	0	-
	Total	**90**	**100%**

Source: Field Survey, 2020

Table 4 above shows that 93.3% of the respondents believed Provision of essential service by government should reduce the negative impact of urbanization, while 6.7% of the respondents disagreed with the statement. 73.3% of the respondents agreed that Government should impose a law on population control in order to reduce negative impact of urbanization, while 26.7% of the respondents disagreed with the statement. 80% of the respondents agreed that encouraging government to create more job will reduce the negative impact of urbanization on family unit in MMC, while 20% of the respondents disagreed with the statement. Also 93.3% of the respondents agreed that provision of social amenities to the rural areas should reduce negative impact of urbanization, while 6.7% of the respondents disagreed with the statement and finally 93.3% of the respondents were with the opinion that provision of free education and vocational training will reduce the negative impact of urbanization, while 6.7% of the respondents disagreed with the statement.

Discussion of the Findings

Based on the findings of this study it has been observed that majority of the respondents were males with 66.7% of respondents, that is because the society is male dominated in nature and patriarchal, hence they constituted the highest number of the sample. Also, majority of the respondents were between the age brackets of 16 – 25, 53.3% who fell between the age group of members of the youth population and the terrorist cells. The findings further showed that majority of the respondents, in terms of education are graduates of tertiary institutions with the highest percentage of 66.7% of the respondents. Majority of the respondents are Kanuri by tribe with 53.3%of the respondents. This is because the major tribe that form the population in Maiduguri are the Kanuris.

Based on the research findings, it has been observed that majority of the respondents agreed that the basic problem of urbanization is unemployment which has been a push factor to fundamentalism and terrorism. This finding is in conformity with the study conducted by Jo Beall (2007) where he found out that, there is a correlation between urbanization and unemployment rate. The findings of this research also showed that overcrowded environment is a factor of insecurity with 93.3% of the respondents agreeing. This has direct link with the study by Andersen and Jessen (2003) where it posits that, high rate of crime occurs in communities that exhibit increase in populations and physical deterioration. This can be seen in the terrorist activities that occurred in the study.

Conclusion

The pattern and characteristics of urbanization in Nigeria and Maiduguri in particular, as in other developing countries, have not been commensurable with growth in infrastructure, employment, education, and security, hence the breeding of insurgents and criminals. It has been observed that, rapid urbanization and poor economic growth have compounded the problems of inadequate housing in Maiduguri. The housing inadequacies particularly for the low- income group have been complicated by high rate of population growth due to the influx of rural migrants who are recruited into fundamentalism.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study the following recommendations are proffered.

i.   Based on the findings 93.3% of the respondents recommended that the negative impact of urbanization can be forestall with the creation of jobs and provision of social amenities, free western and Islamic education, vocational training in the rural areas, which will in turn stop youth migration and the negative impact of urbanization and terrorism.

ii.   The government should provide adequate housing in the low-income areas and suburb areas, couple with increase security and intelligence in such areas of Maiduguri to cope with the number of migrants.

iii.   Governments should pass laws that provide environmentally sound cities and smart growth techniques.

iv.   Agriculture is the main stay of the people, government should provide zero interest loans, fertilizers and improved seedlings to farmers in the rural areas, this will curtail urbanization and the Breeding of Terrorism in Maiduguri Metropolitan Council of Borno State, Nigeria.

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