

Urban Renewal Practice Pre-and Post-intervention among selected Residents of Ibadan

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Abstract

This study investigated urban renewal practice before and after intervention among selected residents in Ibadan metropolis. The mixed methods design was adopted. Four communities; Gege and Opopo Yeosa (noted for poor environmental sanitation), in Ibadan South-East and North-West local government areas, respectively; a well as Ohuyole and Bodija estates (noted for good environmental sanitation), in Ibadan South-West and Ibadan North, respectively were purposively sampled. The instruments used was Urban Renewal Practice Scale ($r = 0.81$). Two research questions were answered. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics and content analysis. The results showed that pre-intervention practice of the residents was low (20.0%), but it increased to 70.0% post-intervention. Based on the findings it is recommended that inauguration and empowerment of urban management taskforce should be embarked upon by the government for effective and adequate urban renewal activities programmes.

Key words: Urban renewal, Practice, Opopo Yeosa and Gege Residents, Urban Management, Environmental taskforce

Introduction

Social Studies had grown rapidly to occupy a very important place in the curriculum of schools in Nigeria particularly, in the first nine years of the country's education system. One reason for this is that the subject deals with social, economic, and political human behaviour. Another reason is that the flexible nature of Social Studies as a school subject places it at an auspicious position in accommodating emerging social, political, economic and other global issues such as Environmental Education (EE), Multicultural Education (ME), Citizenship Education (CE), and so on. In a bid to improve the quality of life, humankind have recorded progress and development in such areas as population growth, health, food production, economic growth, and the unchecked control over the environment. However, these achievements have also had substantial consequences on the living environment. Thus, environmental Education is an important concern of Social Studies. The concept 'environment' has to be defined since the aim of environmental education may not be known without first measuring the pattern it takes the roles and dynamics of the environment. Moreover, different professionals make use of the term the 'environment,' in different ways as it relates to their own fields such as architects, doctors, sociologists, engineers, geographers, or perhaps

anthropologists. Environmental Education (EE) is learning that takes place throughout one life. It assists people to appreciate and as well as have deep understanding of their environment as regard their relationship with and their influence on the environment (Oyekanmi, 2021). Environmental education involves equipping people with understanding, awareness, knowledge, balance positive attitude and as well as skills that can be of help to learners to have the best evaluation of their environment (Oyekanmi, 2021).

Way through which people could be trained towards ecological sustainable future is environmental education. It encourages lifestyle which is highly sustainable in preparation of future generation to know how to maintain earth's natural system (Oyekanmi, 2021). There must be balanced among economic, social and environmental aspects as basic requirements for development. Moreover, environmental education is concerned with giving value for the past efforts of people in the past and as well as supporting and preservation of previously built environment with a hope of making realised the effort of some people as regard environment. This kind of discussion has spiritual concern that can trigger emotional undertone to sensitize response from people which will make people to feel the environment they live in as one with them, apart from their appreciation of natural environment endowment (Macionis, 2007).

When environmental education is incorporated into the school curriculum, or infused into various subjects, students learn *about* the environment; develop skills to investigate and solve issues *in* the environment; acquire attitudes of care and concern *for* the environment; adopt behaviours and practices which *protect* the environment; and understand the principles of ecologically sustainable development. By so doing, environmental education will help and find way to ensure that the level of citizenship and competence in every student will give them opportunity to attain sustainable societies (Wikipedia, 2010). Student develops ability to live sustainable lifestyles and as well as making rational decision as regard their environment due to changes in skills, knowledge and attitude as result of environmental education (Elstgeest, 1997). Both life cycle analysis and environmental accounting cost knowledge that is technical skills, are acquired through environmental management.

The goal of environmental education is to create a world population that is aware of, and concerned about, the environment and human impacts on the environment (wiser Earth, 2007). An environmentally educated population will have the knowledge, skills, attitudes, motivations and commitment to work individually and collectively toward solving current problems and preventing new ones. If this focus of environmental education sets to enhance learners understanding about the environment in an holistic manner and as well develop every learner skills and appropriate attitude that can enable them to attain ecological sustainable development, then the focus is bound to have implications on the social studies curriculum objectives; on the students on the school and on the wider society.

The level of worsening of urban centres has been properly explained in the findings of Dimuna and Omatson (2010) as a development that stands out of wilful act but which cannot be put into correction. It requires joint effort that comes from different fronts to bring about a kind of renewal of those deteriorated urban areas in order to reflect standard level of civilisation at the point of renewal. It has been noted that citizens efforts along with public institution can really address the damaging impact or uncontrollable surge of urbanisation on urban existing cities.

It is very essential to know that there are different urban renewal programmes that government wants to undertake but was confronted with criticism from the public. However, there are many factors requiring considerations that stimulate the need for urban renewal such as congestion in transportation, insufficient and poor drainage as well as poor environmental conditions and so many others. There are amenities necessary to make urban environment function well and also to ensure both stability as well as family life development. Such amenities are adequate water supply, school, social services, electricity and good roads (Agbola and Jinadu, 1994; Gbadegesin et al, 2011).

Urban renewal effort that took place in Nigeria were those of Maroko in 1990 and Aja in 1995. Another set took place in Abuja, Federal Capital Territory in 2010 around Kubwa and Lugbe in which there were serious demolitions as well as displacement. The main effects of renewal experience in Nigeria is also the same with that of America because those whose housing conditions were best before experienced improved housing conditions but it was proved otherwise for those whose housing condition were poor before because they were put to worse. The present weekly and monthly environmental sanitation exercises being observed in Oyo State and other states in the country underscores the importance of environmental education in our society. These weekly and monthly environmental sanitation exercises are not properly executed because refuse gathered are still being dumped on the streets for the refuse collectors to remove. Many of these do not get removed. Likewise, refuse in many areas are dumped into the streams and rivers which later result in flood and erosion of neighbouring areas. An example is, the 2011 Ogunpa River flood in Ibadan Metropolis that led to lose of many lives and destruction of many properties. Undoubtedly, flooding is one of the major problems of Ibadan. Other environmental problems of the city are; refuse collection and disposal, burning of refuse, deforestation, bad roads and unplanned structures.

Various governments in Oyo State had embarked on various projects to alleviate these problems. For instance, in the 1980s, the government of Oyo State embarked on Ogunpa river channelisation programme to the extent of

getting World Bank loan for the project but no success. Likewise, in the 1990s, efforts were also made by the Oyo State government to alleviate the problem of waste disposal in the state, but to no success. Moreover, in the 2011 onward government bought refuse disposal vehicles for the evacuation of refuse in the state urban centres, especially Ibadan metropolis. But the effort of the government to that effect was not successful as a result of the activities of the people that jeopardise the government efforts. In addition, people were not fully educated on the importance of environmental cleanliness.

However, the immediate past administration in Oyo State embarked on the Urban Renewal literacy that involved various activities like, planting of trees and flowers along the major roads of the urban communities in the state and the beautification of the environment. Also, the administration in the state enforced and made it mandatory for each house to have dustbin and empower environmental health officers to arrest any house owner who does not comply. These activities come under the urban renewal literacy and have resulted in the ongoing debates. Likewise, the present administration in Oyo State does not deviate from the past administration activities on the processes of urban renewal literacy in the state.

Urban renewal is a major usual phrase among politicians, land use experts and urban planners whose main aims are to ensure that the scarce land resources that are allocated in urban areas are properly utilised so as to ensure that those land resources available are put to maximum use according to planning design standard, (Nelson 1988). Major things that move along with the urban growth is the environmental deterioration of its infrastructure and amenities in urban areas. The likely end of most urban area after sometimes is that those amenities and infrastructure that have been seen as adequate and as well available to the best use are not beginning to be found to be otherwise. This development found in urban areas leads to the pursue of rehabilitation, improvement, renewal or redevelopment of the infrastructure and amenities in order to meet the demand of economic and socio-political, and as well as meeting the needs of the ever changing culture of people in terms of taste and fashion.

Urban renewal is a process in which neighbourhood is being refined and this is done by total transformation of environment through renovation, removing of old structure via demolition, building up new set of modern structure and as well as provision of modern infrastructure. Agbola, (1987) defined urban renewal as a process of total redevelopment of a community in which the community concerned wants changes in the area of re-fashioning in terms of rebuilding of some aspects of the community's physical structure so that the community will be able to address successfully the different problems they are facing.

Urban renewal is a kind of programme for land development in which moderate land use areas are translated to high density areas even though this has its failure as well as successes (Nelson, 1988). Urban renewal involves building structures, demolition, movement of businesses from one location to another, people movement to other areas, and as well as making use of legal processes to translate private property into development project initiated by the state.

Therefore, the components of urban renewal include city expansion, redevelopment, comprehensive road development, redesigning and beautification of settlements layout, upgrading of facilities and public goods and services, repair, construction and sitting of drainage system within an urban centre, and enforcing slum upgrading and city development.

Urban Renewal activities also involve landscaping, that is, beautification of public places and spaces in the urban communities of the state. This also involves the physical planning and structural organisation of building in the urban communities of the state. These includes the removal of shanties, that is, the illegal building of shops, packing of vehicles along the major roads, street trading and a host of other activities that are environmentally illegal.

Likewise, the prompt evacuation of solid wastes or effective management of solid wastes in the urban centres are essential aspects of the Urban Renewal Programme (URP). The environmental sanitation activities which government embarked upon, especially the weekly environmental sanitation exercise form an aspect in the urban renewal activities. If people really participate well

in this exercise the urban centres will wear a new look for the development of the urban communities. Not only that, the urban centres will be attractive to investors, as a result, there will be development and job opportunities. But in the real sense of it, many individuals such as the traders and marketers do not always participate in this weekly environmental sanitation which makes it become an unsuccessful exercise. Sometimes, traders attack the environmental sanitation officials on duty during the exercise. This serves as a form of challenge facing the urban renewal activities and exercises, therefore people need to be educated on the importance of these activities.

Planting of trees and flowers also form an aspect of urban renewal programme embarked upon by the Oyo State government. One of the environmental problems facing the communities presently, even globally, is global warming which its causes include deforestation activities caused by human activities, such as felling of trees either for commercial or domestic purposes without planting other trees for replacement. Planting of trees and flowers in our urban centres will provide essential breeze which humans need for survival. Trees and flowers will take in carbon dioxide breathed out by humans and release oxygen which humans need for their survival. More-so, the oxygen coming out of trees and flowers will cool the environment and reduce the effects of global warming. This serves as afforestation.

Another essential aspect of urban renewal programme is the stone pitching which will add to the beauty of the environment. This involves the setting of fancy stones beside the major roads and painting with different beautiful colours including major roundabouts in the urban centres. This beautifies the environment and makes the environment attractive and worth living. This beautification serves as agent of attraction to both indigenous people and visitors. This helps to remind people about the fact that such environment is worth living in. Not only this, investors will be attracted to come and invest their resources.

Moreover, construction of railings to prevent people from indiscriminate crossing of the major roads and eventually damaging the objects of beautifications is part of the urban renewal activities embarked upon by the Oyo State government. Not only to prevent damages, this also

added to the beauty of the environment. Urban renewal/rehabilitation is a challenge to policymakers, planners, managers, land users and all other stakeholders concerned with urban development. This is so as urbanisation is an inevitable process in national development. Urban renewal involves such projects as greening of the urban environment.

In Nigeria, most of urban centres are both unplanned and grown. This poses serious problem for urban environment. These have resulted to cities that are blighted, declined, disorganised, overcrowded, as well as creating of more slums. Urban slums are characterised by deplorable living conditions with poor land use planning, inadequate social services, coupled with high levels of communicable diseases, and exposure to fire outbreaks, floods and violence (Agyarko-Oduro, 2009; Butala, Rooyen, and Patel, 2010; Njoku and Okoro, 2014).

As it is discussed above, it is worth noting that the process in which an area or an urban neighbourhood redeveloped, rehabilitated or improved is referred to as renewal. The renewal involves different processes and activities that can include demolishing of old structure or building, reconstruction of new sets of building, housing pattern that is up-to-date, or act of making provision for new urban social amenities like carriage way (dual), stadium, overhead bridges, good settlement layout with standard beautification and so forth. The South African Minister for Advisory Team suggested that every activity that involve urban renewal should place emphasis on three major things which are improved individual personal safety, improved housing conditions and as well as economic development (Egolum and Emoh, 2017). Urban renewal is required in every nation in order to make the dwellers to live safely, more comfortable and secure. It is also desirable so as to make the environment more appealing to wealthier people to find the place interesting to them to live or to bring total transformation into the economic activities of such area. Urban renewal is tantamount to urban rehabilitation or redevelopment in actual social innovation system. Therefore, the objectives of this activity (urban renewal) include; (1) to eradicate epidemics; (2) to improve the face value of the environment; (3) to

attract both local and foreign investors to invest their resources in the communities, (4) to improve the economy and employment opportunities through the incoming of investors and (5) to reduce mortality (death) rates in the state.

Upon all the good will of the government on the activities (Urban Renewal), the stakeholders are not in line with the government due to the people's negative attitudes towards the activities. Therefore, there are many challenges faced by the government and its agents (personnel). The challenges include the wilful damage of the work by the miscreants (hoodlums). Many of the works done towards this renewal are being destroyed by unscrupulous elements (bad people). The activities are presently facing condemnations from the stakeholders, with statements like, "Is it the flowers that we are going to eat?". What are we gaining from the painting of stones?' and a host of other condemnations. Another challenge facing the activities is non-availability of enough funds to be used to carry out the activities. Also, it was discovered that, there is no supportive enactment (law) guiding the activities except the tribunal which is not available for a long time past, unlike in Lagos State where there is effective law guiding the activities. Apart from this, there is no effective legal document to back up the activities.

Therefore, there is need to involve the grassroot people. It is important to sensitise people about urban renewal activities in order to enlighten them. If the awareness of the grassroot people is drawn to the effects of the negative attitudes of their people to the urban renewal activities, they will be able to educate their people and they themselves will not deviate from the positive attitudes towards the urban renewal activities. That is why the focus of this study is based on Community-Based Experiential Programmes and residents' attitude to, knowledge and Practices of Urban Renewal Activities in Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria. As a result, it is very essential to embark on this study in Ibadan Metropolis of Oyo state, where there are lots of environmental problems like, ineffectiveness of waste disposal, dirtiness, lack of good sources of drinkable water, lack of toiletry facilities, dumping of refuse into the streams and gutters, bad roads, defecating just anywhere in the community (Oyewale, 2015). All these identified environmental problems and many

others not mentioned, usually resulted into epidemics and spread of diseases like, cholera, typhoid fever, guinea worm to mention just a few. In this case, experiential learning strategy needs to be used in order to be able to involve residents in environmental education awareness and urban renewal activities.

To ensure effective participation within the community, people of all grades should be involved in the management of the environment and in addressing environmental issues. Members of the community should be adequately involved in finding solutions to the environmental issues and problems in their environment. Ibadan metropolis, with its teeming huge reserve of human resources, also holds the key to solving many social and environmental problems. In fact, without the active involvement of citizens, government efforts to preserve the integrity of urban ecosystem may well be doomed. This is because the problem of waste management, pollution, flooding, deforestation, had reached a crisis point in Ibadan (Oyewale, 2015). In fact, the situation was so severe that the Ibadan Solid Waste Management Authority (ISWMA) officials recognized that they had no choice but to involve citizens in the course of solving these environmental problems (ISWMA, 1995). Based on the constitutional provision, waste management and other environmental related problems are some of the responsibilities of the Local Government. However, in Nigeria today, there seems to be no Local Government that can afford the huge requirements (financial, technical, personnel and administrative) to effectively carry out the wastes management exercise.

Over the years, citizens were not involved in the formulation and implementation of policies on environmental problems. Overtime, state and federal governments, have to come to the rescue of the local government by lending helping hands in carrying out this enormous responsibility. As at present, there is a lack of coordinated jurisdiction on the part of the three (3) tiers of government (local, state and federal), their various agencies responsible for waste management, the private operators, waste generators and the general public for meaningful and effective waste management system to be put in place in various communities in Nigeria.

The attitude of people in the indigenous areas towards waste generation and management awareness is generally low. (Ibadan Solid Waste Management Agency, ISWMA, 1995, Laurent, 2004). In government reservation (Planned area, that is, GRA) where people are more enlightened, situations are a bit different. According to Ajitoni (2005), the best way to reduce the effect of environmental degradation is through environmental education intervention strategy. Environmental education can take place both in non-formal and formal education. The main focus of environmental education is the total transformation of all people in social spectrum in term of behaviour and values from desiring for ordinary ecological apathy and exploitation of nature to new set of habit and spirit. It focuses to transform people's ethos, morals, principles, ideals, customs, lifestyles and norms in way that people will have sincere appreciation of nature and develop environmental culture, preserve and as well as environmental management for sustainable development that will have positive influence on both present and the coming generation (Olatundun, 2008). All these could be achieved through education.

A number of studies have been carried out on pupils, students, in-service and pre-service teachers' environmental practices in Nigeria on ways of mitigating the harmful effects of human's activities on the environment (Gbadamosi, 2012; Oladapo, 2012; Oyerinde, 2012; Ajiboye and Ajitoni, 2007, 2008). Yet, the problems of environmental degradation persist. Some of these studies were qualitative while others were quantitative. Some active learning strategies were used in some of these studies to improve students' and or pupils' environmental practices, but not much has been done on the use of active learning strategies to improve the environmental practices of communities at the grassroot.

Statement of the Problem

A major component of the Ibadan Urban Renewal activities of Oyo State Government is tackling environmental problems such as waste disposal, flooding and erosion, among others. Despite the transformative impact of the activities, it was discovered that some indigenous areas in Ibadan such as Gege, Opo Yeosa, Nalende, Oke

Sapati and Agbadagbudu, still experience environmental hazards. Consequently, residents of these filthy areas are ravaged by various health problems such as diarrhea, cholera, air and water pollution among others. The inability of these areas to catch up with the rest of the city has been attributed to residents' poor practice of urban renewal activities. Previous studies largely focused on community support and interventions to improve environmental literacy of school age children, with little emphasis on residents' urban renewal practices. This study, therefore, was carried out to investigate urban renewal practices of residents' in selected areas of Ibadan, Oyo State.

Research Questions

This study provided answers to the following research questions.

1. What is urban renewal practice of residents pre-intervention?
2. What is urban renewal practice of residents post-intervention?

Scope of the Study

This investigated residents' practices of urban renewal activities in Ibadan, Oyo state. The study covered environmental education concepts and issues like, flooding, pollution and waste disposal. These environmental concepts would be focused because the areas of study are experiencing problems related to these environmental concepts and issues which even led to outbreak of epidemics.

Significance of the Study

The result of the study is significant in many respects. For example, findings from the study had revealed residents practice of urban renewal activities, thereby helping to throw light on areas that need intervention of government. Findings from the study would provide feedback to Oyo State Government, Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Health on the intervention needed to support the residents in the quest to achieve sustainable wholesome urban renewal practice.

Methodology

This study adopted the survey research design. Adult residents of the study areas of Gege, Opopo Yeosa, Bodija Estate and Oluyole Estate

were the participants in the study. The instruments used were Urban Renewal Activities Practice Scale ($r=0.81$). The researcher sought for the permission of community leaders of the study areas. Researcher made use of research assistants so as to help the researcher in carrying out the research effectively. The research assistants were sensitised with adequate knowledge and

awareness about environmental issues. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics and content analysis

Results

Research Question 1: What is urban renewal practice of residents pre-intervention?

Table 1: Urban renewal practice before and after intervention

Variables	N	Mean	Std. Dev.
Urban Renewal Practice Pre-intervention	110	19.54	8.15
Urban Renewal Practice Post-intervention	110	38.76	10.50

It is revealed in table 1 that the residents' pre-intervention practice of urban renewal activities ($\bar{x} = 19.54$), was low at the threshold of 25.0

Research Question 2: What is urban renewal practice of residents post-intervention?

Table 1 shows that the residents' post-intervention practice of urban renewal activities ($\bar{x} = 38.76$), was high at the threshold of 25.0

Reports from Focus group discussion

Before the treatment, residents' practices of urban renewal activities was low it was 28.0%. But after the treatment the residents involved in the Focus Group Discussions saw the needs for them to be fully involved in the urban renewal activities practices and participated in practicalising urban renewal activities so as to be part of the solution to the environmental problems in their communities, therefore, their practices of urban renewal activities increased 70.0%. It was after the treatment that they made it compulsory for each household in the communities to always clean their gutters every morning and to put in place dustbin for effective refuse and waste disposal. They also warned every one of them to desist from burning of refuse and dumping of refuse into gutters and streams. For instance, the chairman of the community association of the area (CDA) said *"We implore government to come to our aid by providing public toilets for our communities as*

those constructed since 1970s had been dilapidated and out of use, therefore, we need modern toilets and we want government to channelise Gege river and other streams in our areas so as to guide against future water flood in the communities".

Discussion of Findings

The findings of this study revealed that there was a significant improvement in the practices of urban renewal activities of residents' in Ibadan from pre-to post-intervention. The treatment had significant effect on practices of urban renewal activities. The effect revealed that intervention accounted for (88.2%) improvement in residents' practices of urban renewal activities. This findings was in line with Mimi (2003) and Ugras (2008) who said it was very important for the community participation in the solving of urban renewal problems and it is significantly necessary for the community residents' to join hands in finding solutions to the urban renewal issues in their environment. I also agrees with that of Oyekanmi (2021) who reported an improvement in Ibadan residents practice of urban renewal pre and post intervention with a community-based experiential learning programme.

Recommendations

On the basis of the findings, it is recommended that:

1. There should be a regular review of urban renewal strategies for each region of the federation to enhance the integration of innovation practices particularly in urban renewal for sustainability.
2. The inauguration and empowerment of urban management taskforce should be embarked upon by the government for effective and adequate urban renewal activities programmes.
3. Government should involve stakeholders and regeneration neighbourhood in government urban renewal plans so as to give room for people's compliance with the plan.

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