

**POVERTY CHALLENGE TO GOVERNMENT MEGACITY PROJECT: ASSESSMENT OF
WORKER'S WELL BEING IN LAGOS STATE NIGERIA**

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Abstract

In order to make Lagos state a clean and habitable environment, successive democratic governments since 1999 have introduced 'megacity policy'. The most important of government initiatives of the megacity agenda are constructions of all major and access roads, provision of beautiful surroundings and landscapes and the building of the Lagoon city in the sand-filled areas along the Atlantic Ocean and Lagos lagoon. Government official have consistently claimed that Lagos Megacity project isto provide infrastructure and make the city habitable for low, medium and high income workers and the elites. However big projects were mainly provided in selected areas in the Lagos Island, mainland and other areas where the elites and the rich live. Shanty towns, ghettos and slums where most Lagos workers live have not really benefitted. This paper examines the challenge which increasing povertyposes to the megacity project. Descriptive method is employed to assess poverty among the Lagos workers. Residential areas were randomly selected and official records were used. Worker's income is assessed based on prevailing inflation and average earned wages, 672 households' headsin VIP areas and 1537 in ghettos, slums and shanty towns were interviewed for the study for two days in week for 24 months between 2015-2017. Affordability of foods, housing, access roads, hospital, schools, sewage system, toilet facilities, waste and refuse disposal and others were used formulate questions directed to measure the wellbeing of individual households of Lagos workers. Findings reveal that governments Lagos megacity projects have led to the provisions of many infrastructures and social services such as roads, schools, hospitals, housing and beautiful landscapes in few areas in the main city, but government efforts to provide the same in all identified ghettos, slums and shanty towns that dotted many areas in the suburbs where most of the low income workers live have not been quite effective. The paper concludes that megacity projects have not really improved the wellbeing of the Lagos workers. The paper recommends that pgovernment should implement megacity policy to improve the wellbeing of large section of its increasing population most especially poor workers in order to reduce the present and future ugly effect of poverty in Lagos state.

Introduction

A city is established by social congregation of people for economic, political, social and cultural reasons. It is a place where large numbers of people live together to transact business, established government, conduct ceremony and to enjoy their life. The Emergence of most early urban citieswas greatly influenced by the contact and contract between people from different locations through trading. Increasing population and rural-urban migration have led to the influx of many people from all major towns and villages in Nigeria to the Lagos city. This could be attributed to its industrial growth and to its position as commercial nerve centre of Nigeria. From the 1960's to date Lagos has grown from conglomeration of smaller shanty towns with a population of less than three million, to a mega city of about twenty two million people.

Side by side with the growth of population and urbanization is the increasing challenge of poverty that is the outcome of poor living condition the majority of the people. In all areas of the city infrastructural facilities have failed to move at the same pace with population increase. Poor housing, poor health facilities, and poor sewages and sanitation have subjected the people to various forms of diseases. Worker's low income, hyperinflation and high dependency ratio lowered their livings standard. Inadequate energy production, inefficient transportation system, mass unemployment, increasing crime rate, insecurity and violence have further depleted people's wellbeing and undermined major successive government initiatives of making Lagos a megacity with all facilities like other major cities in other developed and emerging nations.

Successive Lagos State governments have promised to make Lagos to be more comfortable and to be tension, conflict and stress free. Governments' policies and resources in the state have been directed to establish utopian and mega cities for her citizens to benefit from increasing government revenue. In the recent years, Lagos city witnessed physical, economic and social development of unprecedented scale, but the living condition of more than half of its inhabitant remain deplorable. Physical restructuring of the city have been undertaken and many people houses and properties have been destroyed to give way for improved transportation and communication of

the city dwellers. Coasts, beaches and beautiful landscapes have also been destroyed to build roads, mansions and skyscrapers, which in concrete terms have not really benefitted larger section of the population. The living conditions of the people in the suburbs surrounding the city have not witnessed substantial improvement.

After many years of the implementation of the Lagos megacity, project successes in some areas were recorded, but have not really justified the huge resources that are used for the project. Increasing poverty mostly among the majority lower echelon of the population has undermined all government initiatives to improve the workers wellbeing. Studies of poor households conducted to assess income and living standard of workers in Lagos city proved that most of the people in most major areas in Lagos state are living in the most deplorable conditions. Based on Dauda (2009, 2015-2017) comprehensive assessment of the living condition of the majority of suburbs surrounding the Lagos metropolis and other areas in Lagos state finds out that greater percentage of Lagos workers live in the shanty towns, slums and ghettos. They are mostly labourers, drivers, artisans, petty traders, clerks, gardeners, househelps and others that have to commute to their working places in the city on daily basis starting from as early as 5 a.m and get back to their various houses as late as 11 p.m. More than 70% of these categories of workers earn very low income with large families and other dependants and hardly survive under the condition of extreme poverty.

Megacity project increased infrastructural facilities in many areas in the city but it has forced many of the poor to relocate to the suburbs that are worse off than where they were formerly living. Some others were forced to relocate back to their villages and towns in other states when they realized that they don't have any hope of improving their livelihood in Lagos. Increasing inflation, mass unemployment caused by the close down of many industries further impoverished majority of the low income worker in Lagos state. Most households have high dependency ratio, minimal assets and poor education and connection among other numerous social disadvantages. They live in poor residential areas in the slums, ghettos and shanty towns. They suffered from various types of diseases and illness associated with their malnutrition, and inability to have access to a range of basic goods and services to maintain their wellbeing. They hardly patronize hospital as they cannot afford the price of private hospital that give quick service and few affordable government hospital are not within their reach. Except the 'Keke' motor cycle Federal government poverty alleviation programmes that are directed to ease transport problems in some of the areas where most workers live. Other governments poverty alleviation programmes have not yielded desired results. Increasing poverty and dwindling wellbeing among the lower echelon of the population goes on unabated despite the huge amount of government resources that are being used by the government on megacity project.

The questions that often arise are: Who are the beneficiary of megacity project? To what extent has megacity project relieve millions of the majority of Lagos workers of their deprivation and improve their wellbeing? How can the project be used to improve the wellbeing of the Lagos workers? These and other contending questions are considered in order to make the project provide succour to the already marginalized majority Lagos poor workers. Challenge of increasing poverty to Lagos State megacity project were critically examined in order to find out the extent the billions of naira that have gone to this project have improved the wellbeing of the people. The paper recommends that the megacity project should also be made to provide infrastructures and other socio economic programmes in the areas where majority of the workers are living and to improve workers income to reduce poverty. The paper concludes that megacity that megacity project directed to provide facilities in selected and few areas amidst increasing poverty among the workers can never provide any lasting benefit.

Methodology

Descriptive method is employed to assess poverty among the Lagos people and the extent which the megacity projects have ameliorated or reduce poverty in the areas where most workers live. Residential areas were randomly selected and official records were used to segregate the state into the elite and the poor workers areas. Income is assessed based on prevailing inflation and average earned wages by randomly selected workers in these areas. Heads of selected household were also interviewed to assess their wellbeing based on identified parameter related to poverty challenge. Affordability of foods and nutrition, housing, access roads, hospital, schools, sewage system, toilet facilities, waste and refuse disposal and others were used to measure the wellbeing of Lagos workers.

In order to fully understand the challenge which poverty poses to the Lagos governments megacity project worker's income is used to determine his quality of life. Poverty in Lagos is determined by the increase in the

ratio of individuals or households whose income falls below the poverty line or spends more than certain share of their income on basic needs. Low income leads to great workers discomfort. Discomfort Index (DI) is also an income-based poverty assessment method based on calculating the effect of inflation on the people's living standard and the rate at which the purchasing power of domestic currency falls as inflation rises.

Dependency burden on workers signified by upsurge in unemployment is also used to measure poverty. Enhanced and improved health, education, transportation, housing, nutrition could reduce poverty as they are directly related to livelihood and wellbeing. Poverty is seen as a state or condition in which human wellbeing falls due to low income or when earning are inadequate to maintain minimum living standards and to cater for basic means of livelihood (Black Wood and Lynch, 1994, Ravallion, 1992). Individual works to earn sustainable income to enable him to satisfy his needs. Dauda (2009) identifies low or insufficient income as a major condition for increasing urban poverty. There is a great correlation between what a worker earns and the level and type of resources that will be available to him for his living.

Many people in the developing nations are considered poor because their expenditures on food, housing, health and education are high and beyond what many of them could afford. For instance in Nigeria, workers' expenditures on health, housing, food and education from the year 2000-2004 increased despite their declining real wages (BOS, 2005). Ignorance, poverty and disease, operate in a cycle as each one leads to the other. An ignorant person is susceptible to disease and poverty as he may not have knowledge that could make him to understand his problem, let alone manage it. For instance, most poor people lack knowledge or requisite skills to get job or to earn sufficient income.

Development of Lagos from a City to Megacity

Lagos (or Lagos State) lies approximately between Longitude 20 426 B and 30 426 E and Latitude 6 226 N and 6 326 N. Lagos city is located in the South-West region of Nigeria. It is bounded in the north and east by Ogun State, in the west by the Republic of Benin and in the South by the Atlantic Ocean and the Bight of Benin. The coastline is about 200 kilometers long. It covers an area of 3,600 square kilometers. The metropolitan area comprises groups of islands connected to the Mainland by several bridges and surrounded by creeks and Lagoons. As a port city, Lagos offers easy access to the rich natural resources of Nigeria, including natural gas and oil. Within the Lagos hinterland, crude oil and bitumen can be found at Epe, silica sands at Badagry and Eti-Osa, clay at Ikeja and Ikorodu and woods such as teak and mahogany are also available in Epe, Badagry and Ikorodu.

Lagos State is perhaps the smallest state in Nigeria in term of land area; she represents only 0.4 percentage of Nigeria land space and accounts for about 9.7% of national population. Other parameters about Lagos city are: (a) Increasing rate of population growth of over 9% per annum, resulting to additional 1.4million persons per annum and about 4,000 persons per day (b) Her statistics of person per square kilometer is about 16 times the national average. (c) She also can boast of 170s of her 357, 700 hectares as made up of Lagoons and water a position close to Rotterdam or Mumbai. (d) Lagos State has an estimated population of about 13.4 million in year 2000 figures; about 5 times the size of Hong Kong and twice the population of Senegal and Gambia put together. (Lagos drawing from the model of city state, accounts for nearly 50% of the total value added by the manufacturing sector of Nigeria and increasingly capital intensive than other parts of the country

Right from the advent of British colonial administration and up till December 1991, Lagos had the unique advantage to have served as the Federal Capital City of Nigeria, during which it was transformed from a semi-urban fishing settlement to a burgeoning urban settlement with a sprawling population and sophisticated infrastructure. Lagos is a highly urbanized state, with over 80% of its current 18 million inhabitants domiciled in the metropolis. Lagos city is the largest urban agglomeration in Africa and the black world, being estimated as the 6th global megacity.

Population trend shows that Lagos urbanization growth is presently 6% - 8%, which is incomparable with Nigeria's rate of 2.9% and the global 2%. Against this background, its population, which constitutes about 27.4% of the country's urban population estimate (UN-Habitat), is growing ten times more than New York and Los Angeles, both in the United States of America. With the predictions of the UN-Habitat that "the number of people living in Lagos, 'the fastest growing megacity in the World, is expanding at more than 5% a year...," Lagos reached the 20 million population mark in 2010 with a corresponding potential of becoming the third global megacity by attaining a population profile of 24.6 million in 2015 (UN-Habitat, 2011). Having attained a soaring population, second only to Mumbai in India, Lagos faces enormous challenges. Lagos is the Nigeria's economic

capital as well as its financial and commercial nerve centre, contributing 31.98% and 30% to the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2004 and 2006 respectively. It is the nation's leading contributor in the non-oil sector with 19% attainment, which is equivalent to the contribution of 13 Nigerian states (Economic Associates, 2015).

The City of Lagos alone accounts for over 70% of National Industrial investment; 65% of its commercial activities; 70% of total national cargo freight; over 50% of Nigeria's GSM telephone subscribers; and over 70.61% of international and 58.30% of domestic aviation traffic. With three lighter terminals and two ports, Lagos generates 70% of Nigeria's port revenue. Murtala Mohammed Airport, located in the heart of Lagos, is the major hub for aviation within West Africa as well as between Africa, Europe, America and Asia. Lagos State parades a whole lot of economic peculiarities and opportunities that strategically position her as the commercial centre of ECOWAS region and Africa.

Other economic indices of Lagos include among others the followings:

- About 2,600 Settlements
- Africa's largest and fastest growing market
- Potential Market size (About 18 million)
- Annual Population Growth (Approximately over 1 million)
- Over 250 financial institutions.
- 22 Industrial Estates and Several Business Districts.
- Power Demand (12, 000 Megawatts).
- Water Demand (1, 800 Million liters/day).
- Location of local and foreign conglomerates and Transnational Corporations (TNC) headquarters.
- Focal point of International and domestic aviation and maritime activities (Home to 2 dockyards and 4 of the nation's 8 seaports)
- Media hub, gate way of national telecommunications and energy system.

Despite all efforts of democratically elected government since 1999 to date to make Lagos more habitable more than 80% of Lagos state residential highly populated areas where most of the workers live are slums and ghettos. Lagos population for example is higher than the population of 32 African countries and has one of the highest urban population increase rates in the world. There are few Very Important (VIP) areas in the cities live which were occupied by the rich and the affluent political and business elites and top government officials. Satellite towns are constructed and provided with conveniences and easy forms of transportation and communications to enable the people move freely and work efficiently. New towns are built to decongest the cities and existing places that create congestion are demolished and the dwellers relocated. Government housing estates were constructed to provide accommodation to the middle income workers. Skyscrapers and departmental stores are constructed at the central districts and other major locations to add glamour and utilize available spaces.

Majority of the workers in Lagos live in shanty towns, slums and ghettos. These areas are densely populated and generally insecure. Many of them have no government presence except police stations and road blocks manned by armed security agents for the poor are known to be prone to crime, violence and disorderly behaviours. Most of their houses don't have toilets and other conveniences. Waste generated could not be easily located and transported to major government waste dumps. Refuse dumps are created along the footpaths and opens spaces. Lack of motor-able roads and other basic infrastructure in these areas make them inaccessible. Solid wastes are uncollected. Industries located in some of them also send direct sewage from their septic tanks and send other industrial waste directly into the areas which found their ways into wells and flowing local streams that most people drink. Various types of industrial pollutions are caused by the, emission of gases in form of sulphur-dioxide, carbon monoxide from all kinds of motorized vehicles and equipment which make most areas in Lagos city unsafe for human life and wellbeing. .

Theories of Urban City and Poverty

The urban is a place of living situated in the city or town. An area can be classified as urban for its role as a central place for providing a range of shops, banks and offices. A city as "a conglomeration of people in a large locality" with a living system, made, transformed and experienced by people. "It is a place for tangible expression of their religious, economic and political forces that houses a host of activities in close proximity". (Burges, 1925) City is an expression of values and technological knowledge of a people, as it is created to meet their economic, social, political and cultural needs.

Goodman and Goodman (1960) relate the livelihood and ways of life of people in urban city to its engineering, architecture and planning. Morrill's (1963) model links growing urban systems to the network of towns, cities and their hinterland. The network provided for the movement of labour, goods, services and capital through the cities. Burgess (1925) model which focuses on the development of the city around the economic activity in the central business district as dominant centre of 'urban spatial organization'. He identifies sequence of five zones on which industrial city is based.

The first is the Central Business District (CBD) which occupies the centre stage. It is the focus of commerce, transportation, social and civic activities. "It encompasses departmental stores, shops, office buildings, banks, head-quarters of organizations, law courts, hotels and theatres. This is followed by zone of transition which consists of residential areas. It is where mansions have been converted to offices and abandoned houses destroyed to give way for urban renewal. The next is followed by the zone of working class, majority of which are slums where people whose lives dominated by diseases, poverty, illiteracy, underworld vices and unemployment. The zone of working class homes are inhabited by blue collar workers that had relocated from the zone of transition. Immediately after this is the zone of better residences which is farther from central business district is the single family middle-class dwellings. At the end of the ring is the commuter suburbs which are broad areas consisting of "incomplete built-up area of small satellite towns occupied by middle and upper class residents". The land uses of each of the zones from CBD exert pressure on usage of the next zone. See figure 1, for the Burgess five zone model

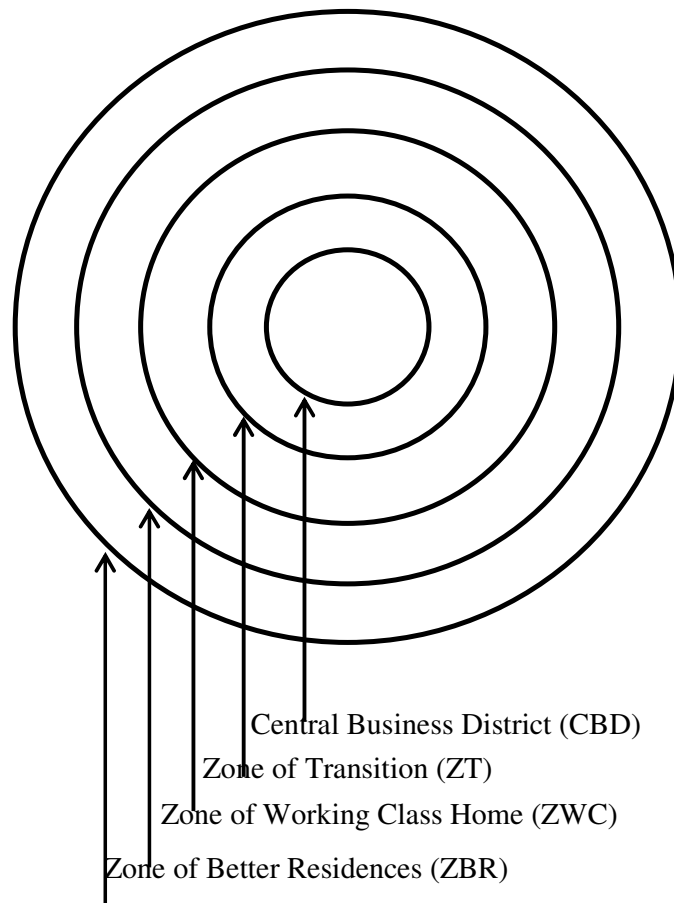


Figure 1: Burgess Model of Urban City Structure

Adapted from Burgess, E.W. (1925) Growth of the city in Park, R.E., Burgess E.W. and McKenzie R.D. (eds) Chicago University Press.

The sector model of the city by Hoyts (1939) considers accessibility as the major factor affecting spatial organization of urban city. The city follows the sequence which starts from high-rent residential, followed by low-rent residential and lastly industrial areas. Burgess (1925) divides urban city into five areas. They are central

business district followed by wholesaling and light manufacturing dominated areas, heavy industrial areas, and residential outlying dormitory suburbs. The number and location of differentiated districts depend on the size of the city, its overall structure and peculiarities of historical evolution.

A typical city consists of sector and rings. The heart of the city consists of vibrant central business districts and nearby concentration of the affluent elites that dominate the inner city. The Skyscrapers and office buildings are common in central business districts which extend to the entire sector with high quality housing, restaurants, theatres, parks and zoos which eventually give way to wealthy suburbs. A typical central business district is surrounded by zones namely zone of maturity organized and occupied by the middle class, the zone of accretion that consists of organized and unkempt area, where both poor and middle class live close to each other. The peripheral squatter settlement is unorganized and unkempt duty zone occupied by the poor. The final structural elements are slums occupied mainly by the poor workers and their dependants.

Lewis (1977) and Laderchi (1997) note that the poor are those trapped in culture of poverty, which they tend to adapt to and to cope with. The poor behave in a particular way, and their major characteristics to Bahala and Lapeyrae (2008) are strong feeling of marginalization, helplessness, dependence and inferiority. Human characteristics such as low intelligence and laziness, lack of access to education and jobs could also make individuals to be poor. The poor can be identified by where they live, work and the class they belong. People of certain ethnic and race background can be regarded as poor people. Children of certain background and class could be poor as well as old people and those that suffer from disability may be in poverty. (Thorbecke, and Nissanke 2006). The International Labour Office (ILO) sees poverty from social justice perspective. The poor suffer what the ILO regards to as 'deficit of entitlements' which should be reduced by governments to protect the rights of the poor through the improvement of their economic and social capabilities.

Poverty and Workers Wellbeing Measurements

Narayan *et. al.* (2000) undertake general and comprehensive assessments of the differences in the people's experiences of poverty in 23 countries, including Nigeria. They find out that poverty is manifest when some of the following general characteristics are present among the people: That is, when;

- Livelihood and asset are precarious, seasonal and inadequate
- Places where the poor live are isolated, risky, unreserved and stigmatized.
- Most people's bodies are hungry, exhausted, sick and poor in appearance.
- Gender relations are poor and unequal.
- Security is lacking in the sense of both protection and peace of mind.
- Social relations are discriminating and isolating.
- Behaviour of those more powerful is marked by disregard and abuse of the less powerful.
- Organizations of the poor are weak and disconnected
- Capabilities of the poor are weak because of lack of information, education, skills and self-confidence.

All these subject the poor to tortuous experiences that constantly remind them of the iniquity in the society and the agony, servitude and frustration which they are subjected to. (Dauda, 2013)

Income is employed to assess the poverty level and wellbeing of Lagos workers. Income is a form of money indicator, which determines the wellbeing of individuals and groups. The consumer is assumed to choose a consumption bundle based on his income and define his personal well-being on this same basis. The suitability of this approach in determining what goes to the workers from the outcome of production and possibly of an allocation process of the share of the resources produced to the working class is considered to be the major reason for its adoption. Dauda (2009) index the income of Nigerian workers in formal employment and found out that more than 70% of who are government workers are poor. He concludes that low income has contributed to workers' deteriorating living standards and poverty.

Income of a worker determines his capability as it represents workers' potential to spend and proxies for the rights and privileges enjoyed. Galbraith (1979) provides a broad approach to capability determinants and links it to a wide range of factors that are associated with poverty levels in any society. Sen (1999) also sees poverty as 'capability deprivation'. In economic sense, deprivation goes together with income. The income of an individual determines what he gets and his welfare in totality. Income and welfare inter-relate as they determine consumption pattern. Insufficient income also leads to 'capability deprivation' or poverty. UNDP (2016) identifies six social indicators for basic needs assessment; they are:

- Health:** Life Expectancy
- Education:** Literacy signifying school enrolment of percentage of population.
- Food:** Calorie per head.
- Water Supply:** Percentage of population with access to potable water.
- Sanitation:** Percentage of population with access to sanitation.
- Housing:** Percentage of those having decent accommodation.

Many areas and households where workers in Lagos state live lack most of these basic necessities are lacking and most of the workers that live in them while some have these basic needs. In Lagos people relate for social, political and economic reasons. This creates unequal accesses to resources that sustain life and create division between different classes of people, which often remind the workers of their deprivation.

Global Poverty and Peoples Living Condition in Lagos

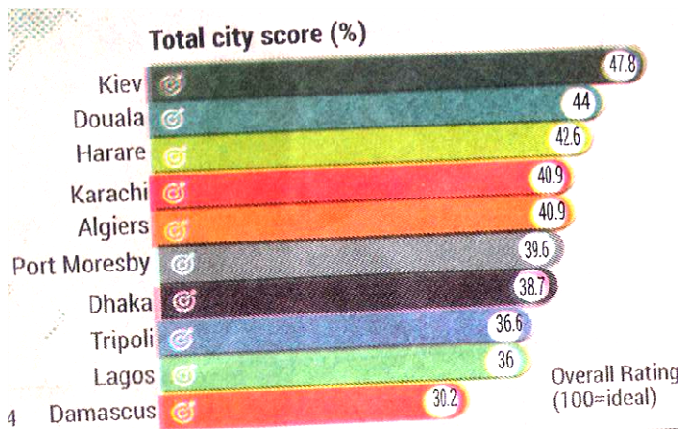
In many developing nations of the world people’s living condition are threatened by war, insecurity, diseases and hunger. Most problems confronting Nigeria today are connected to the increasing poverty. Lagos in the recent time recorded improved security that led to the migration of large number of the people from the war ravaged northern part and militant problem areas of south eastern part that increased its population to estimated 20 million in 2010 to 24 million in 2018. Despite the high rise buildings and magnificent houses that adorn areas such as Victoria, Ikoyi, Ikeja, Maryland, Ikorodu Road, Apapa, Banana Island, Ajah and some others, all other major towns areas as shown in figure 2 are mostly shanty towns, slums and ghettos by global standard. Large numbers and concentration of the poor people are found in them. Increasing mass unemployment, low income and dwindling wages have impoverished and marginalized the majority poor living in these areas.

According to the study conducted by Economic IntelligenceLagos is considered one of the least livable city in the world second only to the war ravaged capital of Syria, Damascus. Figure 2 shows the ten least livable cities in the world

Figure 2: The Ten Least Liveable Cities In The World

Overall ranking (total 149 cities)

Country	City	Rank
Ukraine	Kiev	131
Cameroon	Douala	132
Zimbabwe	Harare	133
Pakistan	Karachi	134
Algeria	Algiers	135
PNG	Port Moresby	136
Bangladesh	Dhaka	137
Libya	Tripoli	138
Nigeria	Lagos	139
Syria	Damascus	140



Source: 2017 Economic Survey, Economic Intelligence,

The major contributors to its being one of the least live able city in the world is its inadequate health care facilities, unhygienic environment, poor infrastructural facilities and insecurity. Government efforts most especially the megacity project have not really improved the wellbeing of the people. Majority of the poor workers have no adequate means to purchase and rent few housing facilities provided by the government. They could not afford to seek good medical care and to take care of their families. Their children are poorly fed and educated. They have poorly paid jobs or no jobs. Most Lagos workers face stressful and tortuous experience of having to commute to and from their place of work on daily basis as a result of poor transportation. These explain why workers in many Nigeria organisation in the private and public sectors recorded low productivity and the nation lower economic growth.

Poverty Challenge to Worker’s Wellbeing in Lagos State

The development of Lagos from a settlement to a megacity could be attributed to its responses to the changing condition. Successive Lagos State governments have put in place services and enabling environment to compete with any city of its size and population in the world. In order to cope with the status of a megacity, mass transportation facilities have been provided by the governments and individuals transport owners have been encouraged to provide transport service to enable workers to commute to their working place. The numbers of roads, schools, hospitals and other services grow at the same pace. But despite all the government efforts these facilities are inadequate for Lagos state inhabitants. Its increasing population from about 4 million inhabitants to about 20 million with a projection to 25 million by 2020 is closely related to the tons of wastes it is generating which successive governments have not succeeded in coping with especially in the suburbs where most of the workers live. About 15,000 metric tons of refuse is being generated daily, which is more than what Ghana as a country is generating. Dauda (2010) connects the problems of squalor, diseases, insecurity in the slums and ghettos to the dwindling wellbeing of the majority workers. Based on Burges Model Dauda conducted comprehensive research on the living condition all major areas in Lagos state between 2015-2018 and identifies major slums, shanty towns and ghettos in Lagos state as shown in figure 3. Many of the people workers in the metropolis and elite areas were living were destroyed by the successive government since the 1960’s. In the recent times people were evacuated to provide spaces for roads and beautiful environments for the city to achieve mega city status.

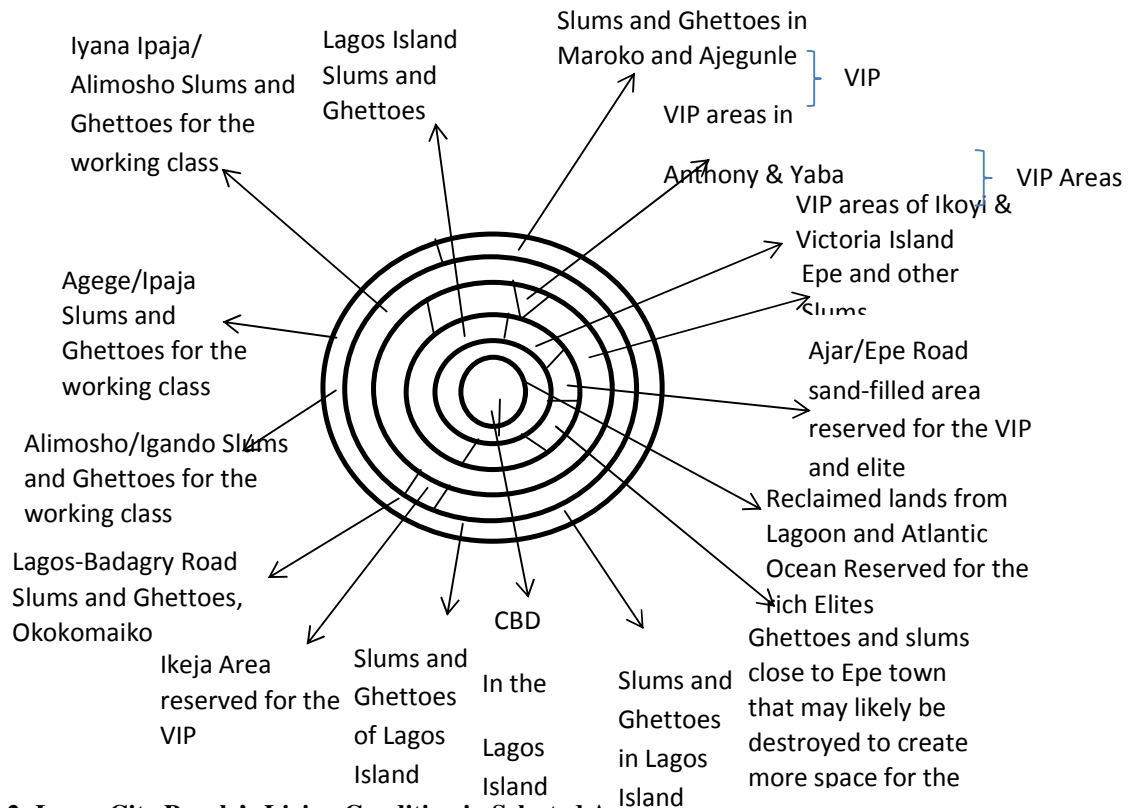


Figure 2: Lagos City People’s Living Condition in Selected Areas.

Source: Field Work 2015-2017

Urban slums, ghettos and shanty towns are mostly occupied or habituated by the poor Lagos workers who cannot afford a good accommodation in planned and developed residential areas which dotted different part of the city. The Lagos slums, shanty towns and ghettos as shown in figure 2 are heavily populated, dirty and unorganized with poor amenities and poor infrastructure. They are mostly inaccessible, with no motor able roads and sewages. The sewages, waterways and riverbanks are often flooded with waste and dirty waters. Open sewage and garbage dumps are breeding grounds for rats, cockroaches, mosquitoes, flies and other harmful pests. Slums dwellers trek over long distance before they could get to the main roads. All these are common in all the major slums in figure 3

Policy Options and Recommendations

In order to eradicate poverty and improve the well-being of the people Maddison (2001) argues that different approach should be employed based on each country's resources and level of development. Dauda, (2009, 2010 2013) recommends that government should provide policies that would reduce poverty of the working poor and use its resources to improve their well being which include the followings:

- Government to focus improved well-being of the poorest 40-50% in the society. Government to determine who the poor in the nation are? How numerous are they? What are the reasons for their poverty?
- Provision of the basic minimum needs of the poor irrespective of expression in the market. Market consideration should not be the only yardstick for improving the conditions of these categories of people.
- Market rationality should not be made the only parameter to determine or to fix national consumption and production target. The income of the poor should be indexed to inflation to improve their living standard.
- Development goals should be expressed in terms of the progressive reduction of poverty and this suggests eventual elimination of mal-nutrition, diseases, illiteracy, squalor, unemployment and inequalities.
- Social indicator plans should be developed to tackle poverty and the progress of the plans must be measured in terms of specific and quantitative growth that targets improved well-being of the majority in all aspects and not only in terms of average *per capital* income.
- Concern for more product and better distribution should be brought together and not treated separately. This means that employment should be treated as a primary not a secondary objective of development, since it is the most powerful means of redistributing income.
- Government policies should be directed to increase the productivity and power of the people through radical change in the direction of investment that improve the well-being of the poorest section of society.
- Drastic restructuring of political and economic power relationships should be made to promote development and to spread it to the vast majority of the population and to reduce unemployment/underemployment.
- Unemployment and under-employment should be reduced to reduce dependency ratio and poverty.
- Exchange rates, interest rates, terms of trade, price system and other policies should be made to protect the interest of the poor, not that of the few rich elite.
- Better utilization of capital, larger output and higher labour productivity should be promoted by governments and organizations to encourage socio-economic development.
- The use of intermediate technology – more labour intensive methods that are more suited to the need of country should be deployed to provide employment.
- Group formation should be encouraged to enable the people overcome a variety of market imperfections such as high transaction cost and inefficiency of the providers when the activities are carried out by individuals.
- Self-employed low income people should be provided with loans, subsidy, grants and other forms of assistance to increase their income in order to ameliorate the poverty of the “productive” or “economically active” but less privileged members of the society.

Szell (2012) recommends poverty reduction programme, improved workers income and provision of basic infrastructure as the solution the dwindling workers wellbeing. He suggested that governments should provide and promote pollution reduction, quality drinking water, improved public transportation, improved public health and other basic needs. These are capable of creating environment in which people can thrive and develop their full potential and live productive and creative lives in accordance with their needs and interest. People to Szell are the real wealth of nations and development is about extending their choices to lives they value and enlarging their choices. Implementation of these to Dauda and Kolawole (2016) will lead to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2016-2030 for the eradication of global extreme poverty.

Summary and Concluding Remarks

The Lagos megacity project initiative is directly connected with provision of infrastructure for the teeming population for their improved well being. This project no doubts have led to massive development of many areas most especially in the areas where Very Important People (VIP) and middle income people were living. However most of the areas where the majority of the low income workers live have not sufficiently attracted government attention. Environmental, ecological and socio-economic problems that were the outcome of the projects have posed serious challenge to the wellbeing of poverty stricken low income Lagos workers.

Megacity project objectives could only be achieved if it is directed to target poverty reduction for improved wellbeing of the people. This requires provision of social amenities and infrastructures and integration of poor workers into established social contract directed to provide employment and to check the increasing inequality between the poor and the rich. High level of economic development can only be achieved and sustained if the majority of the populations are integrated into social model by an established social contract. Rising income inequality, mass unemployment and poverty have divided the population into winners and losers. These have precipitated crisis and insecurity that are now threatened human development and workers wellbeing. Mega city project objectives could only be achieved if the project is made to reduce poverty and improve the well being of the workers. In a situation where poverty has become politically, socially and economically institutionalized megacity policies could only led to the toleration and reproduction of poverty over time. And even all the times.

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