

An Intra-Metropolitan Comparative Assessment of Slum-Indicative Parameters: A Case Study of Ikeja And Ifako-Ijaye, Lagos Nigeria

The global-level report on the state of slums, which indicates that at least one-fourth of the existing human habitats is characterized by slum attributes, constitutes genuine concerns to urban planners, dwellers and managers. A greater worry is the revelation that the preponderant share of such habitats is found in the poorer countries, which have low capacity to address slum proliferation without external assistance. Besides, the need to monitor and compare the event of slum-incipience and eventual festering between or among metropolitan areas is also poorly appreciated among these countries. However, the fact that available external assistance would at best address only a fraction of the problem, underscores the relevance of slum symptoms auditing, which aims at assisting objective proactive slum-intervention decisions. It is in this context that this study compares the perceived states of slum indicators in two contrasting Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Lagos metropolis, a city reckoned to have over 200 slums. The study employed purposive and simple random sampling techniques respectively for selecting the LGAs and the individual buildings that form its unit of analysis. Using qualitative and quantitative techniques, it compared the LGAs with reference to UNhabitat's 17 slum-defining indicators. Primarily, the study examined the extent to which the quality status of slum-indicator variables varied between the two LGAs, given their contrasting location and politico-administrative identities within the state. Results of data analysis among others show greater perception of pro-slum conditions for the suburban Ifako-Ijaiye LGA than for Ikeja, the politico-administrative capital of the state.

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