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AN EXAMINATION OF URBANIZATION IN NIGERIA AND THE IMPACT ON THE FAMILY STRUCTURE IN KARU, NASARAWA STATE

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Abstract

There has been rapid urbanization in the world in the 21" century particularly in the developing countries like Nigeria. This study examines the challenges faced by the family as a result of urbanization, identify the coping strategies by families in urban areas, examine the effect of urbanization on the family structure in Karu Local Government Area among others. A survey design was used to gather data through the instrument of questionnaires. Simple percentages were also used for data analysis. Findings reveal that the general living standards is low, where most households live in dilapidated, congested and overcrowded apartments characterized by lack of ventilation and space due to high cost of living explained in terms of the economic changes that have greeted societies in recent times. It is recommended that policy makers in both private and public sectors should come to the plight of urban dwellers in the provision of basic infrastructures to ameliorate the challenges of congestion and overcrowding through housing schemes, and as well make agricultural policies that will support food production and agricultural activities through incentives as subsidies, loans and financial empowerment to the general populace.

Key Word: Examination, Urbanization, Family Structure and Challenges.

Introduction

"The world has been experiencing rapid growth of cities in the 21" century. Since 1950 urban population has more than tripled, from just over 750 million to about 3 billion. Rapid urbanization first started in today's more developed regions. In 1920, just fewer than 30 percent of Europe, North America, and Oceania's population lived in urban areas, compared to more than half in 1950. By 2007, over 70 percent of the population of Australia and New Zealand and over 80 percent of the population of North America lived in urban area. Among the less developed regions, Latin America and the Caribbean had a similar high level of urbanization- 78 percent in 2007, higher than that of Europe. Africa and Asia have 38 and 41 percent of their population living in urban areas respectively" (Nallari& Griffith, 2011).

"All over the world, an increasing proportion of the population is living in large nucleated settlements and most countries in Africa have doubled or tripled their urban population. By 1975, there were only five (5) mega cities (cities with 10 million or more residents) worldwide. Currently, there are nineteen (19) mega cities, of which fifteen (15) are in developing countries" (Sapru, 2012).

"Urbanization is a major change taking place globally. The urban global tipping point was reached in 2007 when for the first time in history over half of the world's population 3.3 billion people were living in urban areas. It is estimated that a further 500 million people will be urbanized in the next five years and projections indicate that 60% of the world's population will be urbanized by 2030" (Adekunle, 2010).

This rush to the cities, caused in part by the attraction of opportunities for wealth generation and economic development, has created the phenomenon of 'megacities': urban areas with a population of 10 million or

more. There are currently 19 megacities in the world and there are expected to be 27 by 2020. Over half of this growth will be in Asia where the world's economic geography is now shifting.

This incredibly rapid growth of megacities causes severe ecological, economic and social problems. It is

increasingly difficult to manage this growth in a sustainable way. It is recognized that over 70% of the

growth currently takes place outside the formal planning process and that 30% of urban populations in developing countries are living in slums or informal settlements, i.e. where vacant state-owned or private land is occupied illegally and is used for illegal slum housing. In sub-Saharan Africa, 90% of new urban settlements are taking the form of slums. These are especially vulnerable to climate change impacts as they are usually built on hazardous sites in high-risk locations. Even in developed countries unplanned or informal urban development is a major issue Adekunle(2010). Urbanization is also contributing significantly to climate change. The 20 largest cities consume 80% of the world's energy and urban areas generate 80% of greenhouse gas emissions worldwide. Cities are where climate change measures will either succeed or fail (Adekunle, 2010).

Rapid urbanization is presenting the greatest test for land professionals in the application of land governance to support and achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The challenge is to deal

with the social, economic and environment consequences of this development through more effective and

comprehensive land administration functions, supported by effective Spatial Data Infrastructures,

resolving issues such as climate change, insecurity, energy scarcity, environmental pollution, infrastructure chaos and extreme poverty.

Urbanization is the process whereby numbers of people move and settle in an area, eventually developing social institutions, such as businesses and government, to support themselves. Urban areas or those pockets of people and institutions thereby created are generally characterized as relatively dense settlements of people. Furthermore, it is claimed, they sometimes originate from the effort by authorities to consciously concentrate power, capital, or both at a particular site. "The process of urbanization has gone on throughout history. Large congregations of people have existed across the world, from ancient China to ancient Rome and Greece. Although the numbers of residents of such cities pale by comparison with urban areas today, the relatively large and dense congregations of people still helped to foster new institutions and, in general, to make urban life in many ways preferable to that of living in relatively isolated rural areas. Urban residents typically benefit from better forms of education, improved medical care, the availability and distribution of information, and the greater supply of life sustaining goods, such as food and shelter" (Kunle& Wale, 2006).

Today, more than half the world's population resides in urban areas. Furthermore, demographers project that between 2000 and 2025 the population growth of urban areas will constitute about 90 percent of all world population growth. Major concentrations of people today can be found on all continents. Yet urbanization is more than just the process leading to dense settlements. Social theorists across the ages have wrestled to understand it. Indeed, one might say that the process of urbanization is a focal point for many sociological concerns; the urban area serves, in effect, as a major stage on which social change plays itself out.

The rapid increase in the population of urban centres has increased the cost of living. Higher cost of housing which is often in short supply and out of the economic reach of most urban family/ household (Oladapo&Olutuah, 2007). Nigeria urban centres today are populated by a large mass of people who are on

low wages and those who faces irregular employment. These segments of the urban population are indeed poor, and also constrained to limited, insufficient, crowded and cold, dirty shelter and a generally degraded environment (Galbraith, 1968;Mabogunje, 1980). Fulani (1989) has succinctly shown that most urban centres in Nigeria are characterized by high densities of building of space for open air living between houses; poor health, substandard housing and acute environmental and sanitary problems. The shortage of affordable and decent accommodation for the urban poor is thus a major housing problem in Nigeria and Nasarawa state. Studies have shown the deplorable condition of urban housing problem in Nigeria (Onokorhoraye, 2007). The studies further affirmed that 75% of dwelling unit in Nigeria urban centres is substandard and the dwellings are cited in slums. The studies again shows that buildings are often unsafe, insecure and do not provide adequate shelter from the element of nature.

In large urban centres like Lagos, Port-Harcourt, Abuja and Nasarawa state, poor housing often manifest in the number of poor families living in one room and paying exorbitant rents. This is physical overcrowding which is a determinant of two major types of problems to the structure of the urban family: a health hazard and harmful social behaviour (Bernstein, 1968). Overcrowding is hazardous to health where sleeping accommodation is congested and ventilations are poor. Many of the families resort to constructing make shift dwellings with all sort of refuse in illegally occupied land. The result is the development of slums and squatters settlement which the United Nations (UN) (UN-Habitat, 2006) estimates the number of people living in slums to have exceeded one (1) billion in 2007 and could reach 1.39 billion in 2020.

Karu local government area of Nasarawa state is rated as one of the fastest growing urban centre in the world at the rate 40% (Peace work, 2005). This rapid increase comes with its antecedents problems of unemployment which have affected the economic structure of most urban family where children are seen hawking in various streets as their part of contributing to the economic source of their family instead of being in school like most of their peers. This case is rampart in Karu local government area of Nasarawa state. This area is also characterized by a shortage of urban service and infrastructure like ineffective waste management, portable water, and efficient transport system. In a bid to provide this lacked services and infrastructure for themselves, the resultant effect is enormous decay of the urban environment, and poor housing system with waste heap competing with human beings in every corner. And human activities in this area have an adverse effect on the ecological system. Most urban poor families in this area have suffered environmental pollution, erosion and flood devastation. Flood devastation in this area has led to loss of lives and properties which has drastically affected the economic, social, physical and emotional structure of most families in this area.

Conceptual Analysis of Urbanization
"Urbanization is a major change taking place globally. The urban global tipping point was reached in 2007 when for the first time in history over half of the world's population 3.3 billion people were living in urban areas. Urbanization is the process whereby large numbers of people congregate and settle in an area, eventually developing social institutions, such as businesses and government, to support themselves. Urban areas or those pockets of people and institutions thereby created are generally characterized as relatively dense settlements of people. Furthermore, it is claimed, they sometimes originate from the effort by authorities to consciously concentrate power, capital, or both at a particular site. Urban life has stripped the family of many functions in production, consumption, recreation and education. Educational institutions with their day care programs has stripped or deprived children of their early closeness with their mothers, making a child with a mother, to lack this must important period in their lives" (Dobson, 2004).

Davis (1962) defines urbanization as the proportion of the total population concentrated in urban settlements. To him the urbanized societies, in which a majority of a majority of the people lives crowded together in towns and cities, represent a new and fundamental step in man's evolution. Urbanization is a manifestation of the interplay of the population dynamics. It has to do with the distribution and concentration of population within a defined settlement or area (Ode, 2006).

Although, Demographers, social scientist in Nigeria, and the united nations generally accept as urban a settlement that has a minimum population of twenty (20,000) people, population diffusion, occupational differentiation, physical and structural expansion of an area (Gyuse, 2004). Other scholars conceptualized urbanization as the agglomeration of human population or people in urban settlement or areas. They are mostly concerned with number. But then urbanization as a process is a consequence of industrialization or economic development. It connotes the shift of people from principally agricultural productive activities to

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non-agricultural productivity. There is also a change in the nature of human relationship and interaction from simple or primary contacts to complex or secondary relationships (Ode, 2006). To support this claim, Dobson (2004) sees urbanization as the process by which urban values are diffused; movement occurs from rural areas to cities, behaviour patterns are transformed to conform to those which are characteristic of group in the city.

However, Wirth (1964) asserted that, urbanization no longer denotes merely the process by which persons are attracted to a place called the city and incorporated into its system of life. It refers also to that cumulative accentuation of the characteristics distinctive of the mode of life which is associated with the growth of cities, and finally to the changes in the direction of modes of life recognized as urban, which are apparent among people wherever they may be, who have come under the spell of the influences which the city exerts by virtue of the power of its institutions and personalities operating through the means of communication and transportation.

From an in-depth perspective, the United Nation (UN) (2002) definition of what constitutes an urban area or urbanization falls into three (3) major types: classification of minor division on a chosen criterion which includes: a. Type of local government, b. Number of inhabitant, c. Proportion of population engage in agriculture; secondly, classification of administrative center of minor rural division as urban, and the remainder of the divisions as rural. Thirdly, the classification of certain size/localities as urban irrespective administrative boundaries. That is in terms of number of the population in a locality.

In the developed nations, increased urbanization resulted from rural to urban migration stimulated and sustained by technological improvement and industrial growth. Besides, there was a low urban birth rate. Those moving into the cities were easily employed or gainfully engaged in useful ventures. Agricultural mechanization made rural farm labor surplus with the excess being absorbed on the urban factories and related facilities. Both cities as well as rural areas are growing rapidly due to high birth over deaths. In-spite of the growing high rate of unemployment in the cities, the excruciating poverty level in the rural areas is leading to exodus of people to the cities (Ode, 2006).

Statement of the Problem
The rapid growth of urban centers has a negative impact not only on the environment but also on the family structure. A large number of families in Nigeria's urban areas do not have enough income to meet their needs. Their income is insufficient to cover minimal standards of food, water, fuel, shelter, medical care, and schooling. According to Smith (1999), in spite of this low living standard most urban family still sees the city as a place of hope, opportunities and survival compare to the rural area. Rendering most kids hawking wares and engaged in divers anti-social activities to provide for themselves what their families cannot provide for them. A situation that has swallowed the sound or proper socialization and provision function of most urban families. Sound values and norms taught in the family, depends on factors like: religious orientation, environmental influence, economic position of the family and so on (Dauda, 2002). Most urban family lived in areas with poor environmental conditions that lack the basic services. Poor housing conditions often manifest in the numbers of families living in one room and paying exorbitant rents. This shows the degree of the situation and conditions of infrastructure in karu local government area.

Furthermore, most Nigeria urban cities are characterized by poor infrastructural and social services. Primary and secondary health centres are grossly inadequate. The available ones are several miles away from most families. Public schools which are the only affordable educational institution to most urban families are crowded with dilapidated structures- making learning conducive. And this is where bulk of the urban poor family children's attends school. Due to the poor nature of most urban families, their children mostly engaged in drug abuse, sexual mischief, vandalism and petty crime. A condition that has greatly affects the socialization function of most urban families.

Most urban families are ti 'bled with the problem of making ends meet; mothers seek employment outside the home. As a result, chil 'n are left to be taken care of by day care institutions without their parents' supervision. There is an abs 'ce of constructive family conversation, family group activities. and even a sense of what an intact famil; unit is like as a result of the pressure exerted by urban life. For many youth there is simply no adult to talk to, to listen to, or to learn from. The oldest daughter may raise her younger brothers and sisters while her mother and father are out working to provide for the family (Olatipo, 2007).
Challenges of Urbanization on the Family Structure

Given the increase in total urban population, it is not surprising to discover that the world is experiencing both an increase in the absolute number of large cities and seeing cities reach unprecedented sizes. For example, the average size of the world's one hundred largest cities has grown from under 200,000 in 1800 to over 5 million in 1990 (Hardoy and Mitlan, 2001). In 1950, there were only eight cities in the world that had a population of over 5 million. New York, Tokyo, and London were the three largest, containing 12.3, 11.3, and 8.4 million residents, respectively. In 1950, Shanghai and Buenos Aires were the only cities in a developing country that contained more than 5 million residents while cities such as Mumbai (formerly Bombay), Mexico City, and Rio de Janeiro were still relatively small cities: each contained just fewer than 3 million residents. By 2000, there were forty-two million plus cities, thirty of which were in the developing world. As a result of this high population growth, the family institution has undergone and is still going through changes which have posed great challenges.

The state of being inferior in quality in amount, Conventionally urban poverty was defined based on economics that is, the use of income or consumption complemented by a range of other social indicators such as life expectancy, infant mortality, nutrition, the proportion of the household budget spent on food; education, school enrollment rates, access to health clinics or drinking water. Urban poverty has a serious challenge on the family. Many people who come to city in search of livelihood end up in insufficiency. They end up being homeless Mondal(2011)the housing problem in the city is very acute. Many people who are unable to pay high rents remain shelter less or squatter on public property. In some other cases, people live in crowded dilapidated apartments.

The greater the number of individuals participating in a process of interaction, the greater is the potential of differentiation between them whereby the personal traits, the occupations, the cultural life and the ideas, and beliefs and values get widely separated. These variations give rise to the spatial segregation of individuals. The bonds of kinship, neighborliness and sentiments of living together for generations are absent among these people due to such diverse origin and backgrounds. In such circumstances, competition and formal control mechanisms substitute for the bonds of solidarity that hold a folk or a family together. This is because as the cities and towns grow and develop, people living in these cities also change. Cities although in reality do not destroy intimate relationships or community identities, but because of commuting long distances people hardly have any time to develop any social relations. Moreover, the modern city is in fact a mosaic of communities, which provide protection and support to their members.

On report on family structure, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa UNECA, (1960), there are a large percentage of males than females in then cities. This, coupled with the continued practice of polygamy, makes it difficult for men, especially the young men, to find mate in the urban communities. Thus, men marry much later in life than women. For instance, it was found at that the number of single men were almost as twice as single women. For Dakar, for males over 14 years of age show that 40% of the permanent residents and 62% of the temporary workers were bachelors. UNECA further reports that, out of the whole population studied in Dakar, 41% of the households had small nuclear families, 32% included on additional person and 27% two additional persons. As regard family fertility, women over the age of 20 had an average of 4.99 children. More marked variations are related to social and occupational status of the husband. For example, families of foremen average 3.2 children, farmers and fishermen 2.4, senior non-manual workers and officials 2.7, and the liberal professions 2.3, unskilled and domestic workers 2.1, and traders 2.06. Junior non-manual workers and officials show the lowest average of 1.1. The average number of children per male is 2.4 for monogamous husbands and 3.4 for polygamous husband.

As a result of urbanization, the family structure has changed from what it used to be where men take responsibility of the needs of their families. Women have assume new roles as family breadwinners as a result of increase in female education where women are seen participating in all works of life such as politics, teaching, health, and businesses, top mention but a few UNECA (1960), women now hustle just to contribute and support their family. To support this claims, Adepoju (1997) also states that, there is an increasing rate of female-headed households due either to the demise of husband or migration in search of economic fortunes. He further stated that assumption of women to such roles is an indication that the participation rate of women in formal labor force is increasing due to rise in formal education among them. Similarly, in a study conducted by Onu (1995), it was discovered that, there is an increasing movement of women in urban centers into one form of economic activity or the other. Onu further pointed that before then, women were full-time house wives but now they have suddenly abandoned such positions and are now engaged in some level economic activities ranging from petty trading, fetching of water at

construction sites, hawking along high ways, etc. These income augmenting strategies goes a long way to provide needed income and financial stability in the family.

Impact of Urbanization on the Family Structure

Urban life has stripped the family of many functions in production, consumption, recreation and education. Educational institutions with their day care programmes has stripped or deprived children of their early closeness with their mothers, making a child with a mother, to lack this must important period in their lives (Dobson, 2004). The new mobility of young people and the anonymity of city life reduced the pressures toward traditional behaviour exerted by the family and community (Notestein, 1953). In a period of a rapidly developing technology, new skills were needed, and opportunities for individual advancement arose, education and a rational point of view become increasingly important. As a consequence, the cost of child bearing grew and the possibilities for economic contributions by children declined. Falling death rate at once increased the size of the family to be supported and lowered the inducements to have many births. Women, moreover, found new independence from household obligations and economic role less compatible with child bearing. Under these multiple pressure, old ideas and beliefs began to weaken and the new ideas of a small number of children gained strength (Onokheroraye, 1994).

The vitality of the family structure has continued to decline due to the pressure exerted on it by urban life. Urban life has not only impacted negatively on the reproductive and companionship function of the family, but also her intimate and spiritual bonding functions. The contemporary urban family lacks a great deal of commitment. Parents now hardly take proper care of their children like: instilling in them the right values through proper socialization, packing of lunches for them to school, helping with homework, tucking kids into bed at night, and saying prayers over them. The family structure as we can see is gradually passing from the scene (Dafoe, 1999).

In addition, for the social group, the three factors of increase in heterogeneity and differentiation, population size and density of the urban centers and life gave a picture of the impact of urbanization on the family as noted by Wirth (1964) that, social groupings as a result of economic competition and division of labour, there is fragmentation of social life between home, school, work place, friends and relatives such that peoples time and attention are divided among unconnected people and places. These, Wirth further said, weakens the social support and control of primary social group such as the family, friends and neighbor leading to lack of social order and increase in social disorganization. This trend is reinforced by the weakening of social norms. In relation to that effect, Mailgram (1970) states that the intense stimuli of city environment sometimes generate what is called 'psychic overload' which leads to anxiety and nervous strain. In addition, the loosening of personal bond tends to leave people unsupported in times of crises and unrestrained in pursuing ego center behaviour.

Furthermore, urbanization emerged with divergence ideas, behaviours and life. Lack of family values, non-adherence to traditional family values and mores. The family structure has been rocked to its foundation as a result of this. And in the process, sexually transmitted diseases have reached an epidemic proportion, including the onset of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. It has further created millions of hurting people- husbands, wives and children- for whom everything stable and predictable has been shattered. They represent the agonies of loving wives who committed themselves wholly and unreservedly to men who later rejected them for other city lovers. There are husbands who are struggling to raise their kids alone because their wives decided they didn't want to be mothers anymore due to the pressure of urban life. And, of course, the breakup of families results in millions of pitiful children who cry themselves to sleep at night because they miss their mom or their dad who is not there to give them a hug or make them a treat. This is the legacy of divorce and sexual promiscuity-brought about by urbanization. Urban life has produced these tiny victims who cry out for compassion, protection, love, companionship and understanding (Dobson, 2004).

More controversial than the lack of values in the family is the creation of lone parent (single parent) which has various effects on children raise in such families. Mclanahan and Booth (1991), claimed that single or lone parenthood affect children. They said, children from lone parent have lower earnings and experience more hardship as adults; that children of mother-only families are more likely to become lone parents themselves; and that they are more likely to become delinquent and engage in drug abuse . They further pointed out that the differences noted above is stem from low income of lone-parent families and not directly from the absence of the second parent from the house hold. Although, not all lone-parent families are afflicted with poverty, few are very affluent, but the majorities do suffer from poverty (Haralambos and

Holborn, 2008).

The wave of urbanization has continual undesirable effects on the family as it creates room for high cost of living, crime, traffic congestion, unemployment, environmental pollutions, housing problem, and unhealthy competition between among small and large business owners which may result to low patronage in business (Kendall, 2008:656). And in situations where families, especially the poor ones cannot afford the high cost of housing and living standard in general, they retire to slums, squatter settlements that are characterized by dilapidated facilities, overcrowded habitation, lack of waste management, inadequate water and power supply, which further cause serious health issues (Flanagan, 2002, Mabogunje, 1978). To crown it up, Pitzer (2003) and Schutske (2002), added that urbanization is accompanied by problems such as divorce, alcoholism abuse, loss of farm land and businesses, crises, loss of family and social life due to harsh economic conditions, as result, economic opportunities becomes limited and where there is, the salaries are averagely lower to cater for the long lists of family needs.

However, despite the numerous negative impacts of urbanization on the family stated above, it has also impacted positively on the family. For example, Cohen (2004) and Montgomery et al., (2003) noted that despite the high rates of urban poverty that are found in many cities, urban residents, on average, enjoy better access to education and health care services that takes care of their educational and health need, as well as other basic public services such as electricity, water, and sanitation than people in rural areas. In order to accommodate present and future urban growth, local authorities have provided urban poor with serviced lands to build and improve their own housing and some cases, build homes in form of quarters, and sale them or rent them out at lower prices.

More so, globally, more people live in urban areas than in rural areas. In 2007, for the first time in history, the global urban population exceeded the global rural population, and the world population has remained predominantly urban thereafter. The planet has gone through a process of rapid urbanization over the past six decades. In 1950, more than two-thirds (70 per cent) of people worldwide lived in rural settlements and less than one-third (30 per cent) in urban settlements. In 2014, 54 per cent of the world's population is urban. The urban population is expected to continue to grow, so that by 2050, the world will be one-third rural (34 per cent) and two-thirds urban (66 per cent), roughly the reverse of the global rural-urban population distribution of the mid-twentieth century. Levels of urbanization vary greatly across regions. In 2014, high levels of urbanization, at or above 80 per cent, characterized Latin America and the Caribbean and Northern America. Europe, with 73 per cent of its population living in urban areas, is expected to be over 80 per cent rban by 2050. Africa and Asia, in contrast, remain mostly rural, with 40 per cent and 48 per cent of their ¿spective populations living in urban areas. Over the coming decades, the level of urbanization is expected ɔ increase in all regions (also referred to as major areas), with Africa and Asia urbanizing faster than the rest. Nevertheless, these two regions, which are projected to reach 56 and 64 per cent urban by mid-century, respectively, are still expected to be less urbanized than other regions of the world (United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division [UNDESAPD], 2014). This urban rise in population could be as a result of improved basic services such as water and sanitation (WHO and UNICEF, 2006).

Urbanization further creates a rural-urban interaction. Ode (2006) mentioned that the urban areas do not exists as parasite on the rural communities. There is a relationship of interdependence. Ode said the relationship taking place between the city and surrounding rural areas is a complex one. It features the flow of manufactured goods from the city to the rural areas while agricultural produce comes from rural areas to feed the numerous mouth and agro-based industries in the cities thereby improving the income of rural dwellers that produce and sell agro products. He further states that cities are centers for innovations and ideas which readily diffuse outward to rural peripheries.

From the above, one can conclude that the impact of urbanization on the family structure will be felt more by the children in a world of decaying family values and functions. More than ten thousand studies have concluded that kids do best when they are raised by loving and committed mothers and fathers. They are less likely to be on illegal drugs, less likely to join bad gangs, less likely to drop out of school, less likely to commit suicide, less likely to be in poverty, less likely to be juvenile delinquents, and, for the girls, less likely to become teen mothers. They are healthier both emotionally and physically, even thirty years later, than those not so blessed with traditional parents as a result of urbanization. Social scientists have equally been consistent in warning about the impact of fractured families as depicted by the urban family structure.

Functionalism Theory and the Urbanization Problems

Functionalism was the dominant theoretical tradition in sociology. Durkheim (1964) Parsons (1964) and Merton (1966), each of whom drew extensively from Durkheim, are two of its most prominent adherents. The theory has it background, particularly in the United States and other part of Europe.

Functionalism is concerned with the relationship between the whole and its parts. It explains the parts by examining their role and contributions to the larger whole. However, the whole is greater than the summation of its parts. While the main focus is the functions, it is also recognized that contributions of the parts are not always positive; some of the contributions are negative and dysfunctional. This is explained by the concept of latent and manifest function; where manifest function is the contribution that is intended and that is recognized and the latent is contribution which might be unintended.

Functionalist like Comte and Durkheim, have often used an organized analogy to compare the operation of society to that of a living organism. They argued that the parts of society work together, just as the various parts of the human body do, for the benefit of society as a whole. To study a bodily organ like the heart, we need to show how it relates to other parts of the body by pumping blood around the body; the heart plays a vital role in the continuation of the life of the organism. Likewise the family, it performs important tasks which contribute to society's basic needs and helps to perpetuate social order. The family is the most important arena for the development of the human personality (Hughes & Ferguson, 2000).

The increasing rate of cities with it attendant consequences have exerted undue pressure on this core and important role of the family. In a conventional family for example, it takes one adult usually the father to work outside the home while the mother cares for the home and the children. In practical terms, this specialization of role within the nuclear family involved the husband adopting the instrumental role of breadwinner, and the wife assuming the affective, emotional role in domestic settings. This conventional role of the family have been greatly affected by the increasing rate of population in urban areas as both parents- father and mother have to work outside the home to ensure survival without any adult around to take care or provide the affective and socialization functions. Again, the increasing rate of urban population and the pressure city life have continue to exert on urban family, nuclear families are often distanced from their extended kin and are unable to draw on larger kinship ties as families could prior to urbanization and increasing rate of urbanization (Giddens, 2004).

From the above theory, one can conclude that the impact of urbanization on the family structure will be felt more by the children in a world of decaying family values and functions. Other studies have concluded that kids do best when they are raised by loving and committed mothers and fathers. They are less in social vices, less likely to be in poverty, less likely to be juvenile delinquents, and, for the girls, less likely to become teen mothers when their parents put on all measures on ground to their upbringing.

The analysis of this school of thought refers also to that cumulative accentuation of the characteristics distinctive of the mode of life which is associated with the growth of cities, and finally to the changes in the direction of modes of life recognized as urban, which are apparent among people wherever they may be, who have come under the spell of the influences which the city exerts by virtue of the power of its institutions and personalities operating through the means of communication and transportation.

When everybody including the Children play his/her part in the families, no matter the changes or Urbanization, the Children are less affected in the family because all parts are playing their roles or functioning as the above school of thought suggested.

In all, the family is the only institution which can fulfill the sexual reproductive, economic and educational function together. No other institution fits this. Other institutions may perform one or two roles but never all together as the family does (Adesokun, 1977). The family apart from religion is the only institution which is formally developed in all human societies. Functionalism has remained a legitimate theory in sociology. It can be used for the analysis of all issues such as education, economy, family, crime and so on. Hence it's adoption for this study and adoption.

Research Design
Survey design was used in carrying out the study. Survey design was chosen due to its ability to elicit data

from a large population and also gives the researcher the opportunity to access certain relevant information from their original sources. The nature of this research can be best studied by survey method because the units of analysis are human beings and survey research is the most appropriate method available to a social researcher who is interested in collecting reliable data to describing a population too large to observe directly.

Methods of Data Collection

The method of data collection entails primary and secondary data. The primary data was gathered using questionnaire which is structured pattern and was administered by the researcher and assisted by one of the staff of the local government in Chairman's office. The researcher also obtained permission to undertake the administration of the questionnaire to the respondents in the local government. While the secondary data was sourced from government official statistics, journals, articles, newspapers, local government publications, international and national reports. The data was used for literature and other information for statistical information.

Methods of Data Analysis

The data weregathered through questionnaire for this study.Frequency and percentage was used for clear understanding of the data generated responses from respondents. The analyses showed the responses of the respondents in relation to the impacts of urbanization on family structure in Karu Local Government Area of Nasarawa State.

PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION
Table 1: Head of the household

Head of household	Frequency	Percentage
Father	130	46.4
Mother	115	41.1
Father and mother	25	8.9
Uncles, Aunties.	10	3.6
Total	280	100

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Table 4.1 shows that 46.4% of the respondents stated the father as the head of household, 41.1% chose mother, 8.9% indicated that both father and mother are the head of the household while 3.6% opted for others: (uncles, aunties). From this analysis, it shows clearly in that fathers are the heads of households. Although, motherto a large extend from results constitutes heads of households due to single parenthood and widowhood.

Table.2: Effects of urbanization on family size

Effects of urbanization on family size	Frequency	Percentage
High cost of living	112	40
High cost of education, and housing	102	36.4
Change in birth rate	46	16.4
Others: death, family planning.	20	7.1
Total	280	100

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Table 4.2 shows that high cost of living constitutes 40%, high cost of education and housing gulp 36.4% and change in birth rate is 16.4% while death and family planning is 7.1%.
This shows that the size of family is affected due to high cost of living, high costs of education and housing, change in birth rate and others such as deathand family planning associated with urbanization are some of the ways the family is affected.

Table 3: Adequacy of health facility in family place of residence

Adequacy of health facility	Frequency	Percentage
Very adequate	29	10.4
Adequate	51	18.2
Inadequate	121	43.2
Unavailable	79	28.2
Total	280	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Table 3 shows the adequacy of health facilities in Karu as thus; 10.4% of the respondents said it is very adequate, 18.2% said it is adequate, 43.2% said it is inadequate and 28.2% responded that it is unavailable.

Table 4: Major problems faced by families as a result of urbanization.

Major problems	Frequency	Percentage
Armed robbery	61	21.8
Theft/burglary	57	20.4
Rape	51	18.2
Overcrowding	63	22.5
Child molestation	48	17.1
Total	280	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Table 4.Shows the major problems faced by families as result of urbanization in Karu. The respondents indicated that armed robbery 21.8%, theft/burglary, 20.4%, rape 18.2%, while child molestation, 17.1%, constitutes some problem, overcrowding, and 22.5% is the major problem they face respectively. This therefore means that all the above mentioned problems are the obvious social problems faced in Karu as a result of urbanization.

Discussion of Findings

The research was focused on studying the impact of urbanization on family structure in Karu Local Government Area of Nasarawa State with the purpose of examining the challenges and effects of urbanization on family.

The findings show that in recent times, the proportion of female-headed households has increased and women's participation in formal labor market has increased therefore, shifting the balance of economic responsibility in families. For instance, Adepoju (1997) also confirm this finding, that there is an increasing rate of female-headed households due either to the demise of husband or migration in search of economic fortunes.

Also, from data collected and analyzed, in respect to the effects of urbanization on family in Karu, it was revealed that family size has been limited due to high cost of living which includes; food, housing, education, medical care, deaths and family planning. As a result people break away from extended families, control their birth rate, and delay in marriages so as to meet up with the economic demands of urban living. This finding further aligns with Weeks (2005) and Ocholla-Ayayo (1997) who stated that the phenomenal rates of population growth in the world and the rapid increase in the urban population have far reaching implication for social and economic world today. As a result of these implications, the traditional characteristics of family especially in Africa are fast being swept aside. Typically, the extended family system is gradually fading away. He further reported that, family size is fast declining and this could be explained in terms of the economic changes that have greeted societies in recent times. This has created a vacuum that would have enabled constructive family conversation, family group activities, and even a sense of what an intact family unit is like as a result of the pressure exerted by urban life (Olatipo&Olutuah2007).

Similarly, findings reveled that due to urbanization, there is a gross shortage of food as many urban dwellers live on two square meals or less per day. This is because of the rampant increase in population and the fact

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most urban dwellers do not engage in the production of their own food and in most cases cannot afford them the much needed food. This is proven by the 58% responses that favours below three square meals a day. This finding aligns with the findings Ahmed et al., (2009) which states that replacement of agricultural lands for other uses and the continual increase in size of urban population has induce food shortage and rice in prices of food stuff where low-income urban dwellers like those in Karu find it difficult to access quality food which has further explains their adjustment in their daily feeding patterns.

Apart from the aforementioned challenges, findings also show that Karu people are faced with other social problems as a result of urbanization and these includes; armed robbery, theft/burglary, rape, and child molestation etc, to validate this claim, Pitzer (2003) and Ode (2006), crowned it up as they said urbanization is accompanied by problems such as divorce, alcoholism, sexual abuse, loss of farm land and businesses, crises, loss of family and social life due to harsh economic conditions. And that the rising spate of urban violence is an evidence of urbanization. Mondal (2011) also added that rapid growth in population is affecting the urban city, they are facing various kind of social effect ranging from traffic congestion to poverty, increasing crime rates, especially theft, vandalism, air pollution, despoliation of the physical environment, housing problems and financial problems.

However, despite negative impacts and the challenges of urbanization on urban family, findings also shows that it has equally impacted positively on the urban family as it provides modern housing, more medical facilities, educational facilities, well trained children, provides means of birth control and family planning, provide employment for both parents, as well as introduce nuclear family that help reduce burden. To elucidate this impact, Kunle and Wale, (2006) noted that urban residents typically benefit from better forms of education, improved medical care, the availability and distribution of information, and the greater supply of life sustaining goods, such as food and shelter than the rural areas. Urbanization also provides an opportunity for individuals as it gives many urban dwellers employments of all kinds, these includes both skilled and unskilled employments (ILO, 1972 in Ode, 2006).
Finally, this research revealed that, creation of employments, provision of quality but affordable houses and schools, provision of adequate health care services which constitutes the needs of urban dwellers themselves, will go a long way to alleviate poverty and raise the standard of living in Karu generally.

Summary
This study examines the challenges, and impacts of urbanization on the family structure. It also tries to identify some of the coping strategies adopted by families in urban areas of Karu Local Government Area. To achieve that, the questionnaire technique of social survey was employed to gather the needed data for study.

The study found that the cost of living is high but the living standard is generally low characterized by poverty, inadequate urban infrastructures such as health care services, water and electricity supply, poor sanitation, low income, and poor housing etc. this was evident where a larger part of the studied population of about 64% lives on wages between #10,000 to #30,000 monthly which is practically not enough to cater for the ever increasing needs and demands of urban life..

It was also found that apart from the cost of living, urbanization has bestowed on women in recent times, a new role of breadwinners as they become heads of their various families due to migration, death or divorce of spouse. Besides that, findings further show that urbanization is accompanied by other ills such as unemployment, environmental pollution, congestions, housing problems, and crimes like theft, armed robbery, rape, and shortage of food.

In the study, harsh economic condition has made people to adopt different strategies so as to cope. Such includes; reduction of family size by birth control, rural-urban migration, and delay in marriages, also both parents working to support their families, staying with little or no relative. This has weakened the extended family social bond as individuals become aloof with happenings around them in pursuance of economic opportunities.

Finally, the study found out that housing, school, health care facilities, employments, water and electricity supplies are some of the needs of urban dwellers. Hence, a provision of those where needed can help improve their living standards.

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Conclusion

The study examines the impact of urbanization on the family structure in Karu LGA. Urbanization has largely impacted negatively on the family especially in the developing country like Nigeria, especially in areas such as housing, health, and basic sanitation. Othersarea include, congestions, overcrowding, unemployment, crime, and a general low standard of living characterized by low income earnings. However, despite the enormous negative effects of urbanization on the family which may include shortage of food and lack of basic infrastructures and services due to an explosive population growth, we have seen that it also have contributed to the physical growth of many towns especially when proper measures and policies are put in place to check it. It has also made life worthy of living in towns than in rural areas. This is because it has provided to an extent, though not enough, some basic services and opportunities that are not found in the rural areas.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, this research draw the attention of policy makers in both private and public sectors to the plight of urban and rural dwellers especially as regards to gross inadequacy of basic infrastructures such as schools, hospital, electricity and water supply, road connections so as to alleviate the pains of people in both urban and rural areas, as the provisions of such will improve the living standards of the people. This will also have significant control on rural-flight because; most rural-urban migration is triggered by the gross inadequacy of these basic infrastructures in the rural areas.

Also, since congestion and overcrowding is one of the biggest challenges faced by families in the urban areas and beyond, government must make efforts to disperse population through it housing schemes by encouraging private partnership in the provision of descent housing where needed. And these houses should be made affordable to people who cannot build their personal homes. This dispersion of population will go a long way in reducing the problem of traffic congestion and mammoth pilling of waste in the urban centers. In addition, the sanitary practices must be made compulsory by way of observing regular sanitation to be supervised thoroughly by ministry of environment.

Also, government must help train urbanites and rural ties in different vocational schemes that will give people with little or no formal education, self-employment because government alone cannot absorbed the teaming number of populace that are willing to improve their standards of living by way of getting paid jobs.

Finally, although the government of federal republic of Nigeria has been striving to provide essential commodities and facilities for cities residence in Nigeria but however these amenities are not enough because of rapid urbanization. There for, this work recommends adequate provision of infrastructural facilities and strict adherence to the maintenance culture by the authorities in charge of the resident. Also areas of communities where social amenities such as water, roads, electricity, housing, drainage, schools and hospitals were provided for them, they should make it has part of their social responsibilities or obligation to protect and preserve such amenities so that any sincere government in power will be encourage to provide more and better service that will enhance rapid growth and development of the areas.

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