

EPISTEMOLOGY OF FAMILY, GENDER AND URBANIZATION IN NIGERIA: A THEMATIC REVIEW

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Abstract

In Nigeria, like other parts of the world, urbanization means different things for men and women. Urbanization is the process through which cities grow, and higher percentages of the population come to live in the city. Gender refers to the cultural and social characteristics attributed to men and women on the basis of perceived biological differences. This thematic review adopted the research scholars' database such as the Google scholar, amongst others to search for literatures using the keywords of "Family", "Gender" and "Urbanization" in the search databases. The review's conclusion ranges from the fact that urbanization is on the high increase in Nigeria, which as a results can leads to improved household gender with males increasing unpaid work, erodes gender norms; migrant fathers increase unpaid care work amongst others. Furthermore, education and income support urbanization in improving household gender equality and that, time-costs of Children Analysis yields important for fertility. Finally, the submission of the World Bank (2020) is apt in this conclusion.

Keywords: Family, Gender, Urbanization, Migrant father, unpaid care work

Introduction

A family is a group of two or more persons related by birth, marriage, or adoption who live together; all such related persons are considered as members of one family. Gender refers to the cultural and social characteristics attributed to men and women on the basis of perceived biological differences. Urbanization is the process through which cities grow, higher and higher percentages of the population comes to live in the city.

Specifically, Urbanization denotes a process whereby a society changes from a rural to urban way of life or redistribution of populations to urban settlements associated with development and civilization. For millennia, urban areas have been centers and drivers of commercial, scientific, political and cultural life, having a major influence on the whole countries and regions (Aliyu and Amadu, 2017). Urbanization means the share of urban population in the total population of a country (O'Neill, 2022). According to the Department

of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations (2015) the global urban population increased from 13% in 1900 to 29% in 1950, 49% in 2005 and it is estimated that by 2030, 60% of the population will live in the cities. Urban population that increased from 220 million in 1900 to 732 million in 1950 and is expected that there will be 4.9 billion urban dwellers by 2030 (annual urban growth rate of 1.8%).

Nigeria Population by gender

According to statista.com, in 2020, Nigeria's female population amounted to approximately 101.67 million, while the male population amounted to approximately 104.47 million inhabitants. According to knoema.com, in 2020, male to female ratio for Nigeria was 102.75 males per 100 females. Male to female ratio of Nigeria increased from 99.54 males per 100 females in 1950 to 102.75 males per 100 females in 2020 growing at an average annual rate of 0.23%.

Households and Urbanization Epistemology in Nigeria

The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations (2015) estimated that the numbers of urban and rural dwellers in the world were almost evenly split, with slightly more in urban areas. However, the share of urban dwellers is expected to rise to 70 per cent by 2050 (Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations, 2015). Thereby, the number of households in Nigeria reached 43.0 million in 2020 (National Statistical Office, 2020). This is 2.52% more than in the previous year. Historically, number of households in Nigeria reached an all-time high of 43.0 mil in 2020 and an all-time low of 15.7 mil in 1990. These metamorphosed Nigeria to be ranked 8th within the group of 111 countries we follow in terms of interest rate on number of households. According to National Bureau of Statistics' Nigeria Living Standards Survey 2020, the average household size in Nigeria is 5.06 persons per family: in rural areas, the size is higher - 5.42 individuals versus 4.50 in urban areas.

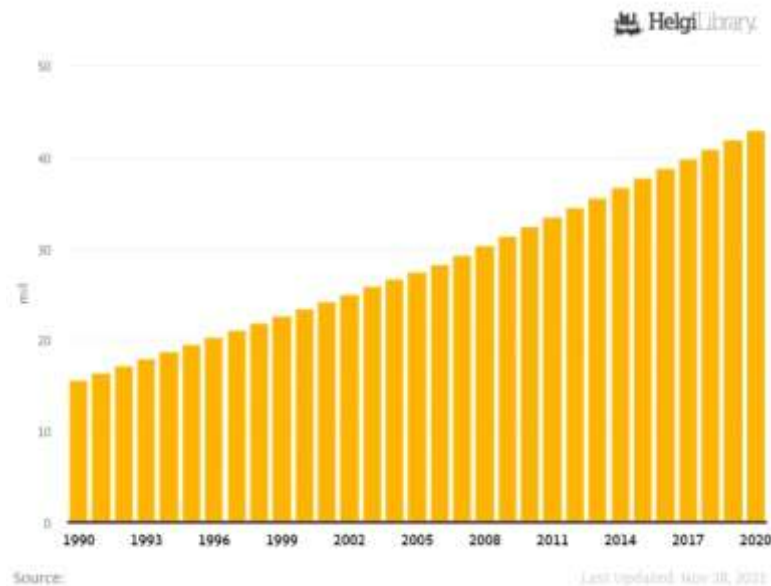


Figure 1: Number of Households in Nigeria from 1990 to 2020

Source: HelgiLibrary.com

Furthermore, Onibokun and Faniran (1995) gave very revealing figures about urbanization in Nigeria. From Table 1, in 1921, Nigeria's population was 18, 700,000 out of which 4.8 percent was urban population. There were only ten cities with population of 200,000 and above. Ten years later in 1931, the percentage of urban population had risen to 6.7 percent two cities with population of 100,000, and twenty-four with population of over 200,000. By 1952/54, urban population had risen to 10.2 percent; there were seven cities with population of 100,000, fifty-four cities with population of 200,000 and above. By 2020 estimates, there was a steep increase to 68.0 percent of urban population, 680 cities with population of 200,000 and above, and thirty-six cities with population of 500,000 population.

Table 1: Population of Nigeria, 1921-2020

Year	Total Population (000's)	Total Urban Population (000's)	Percentage of Total Population	No. of Cities with Population 100,000	No. of Cities with Population 200,000 and above	No. of Cities with Population 500,000
1921	18,720	890	4.8	-	10	-
1931	20,056	1,343	6.7	2	24	-

1952/54	30,402	3,701	10.2	7	54	-
1972	78,924	19,832	25.1	38	302	3
1984	96,684	31,902	33.0	62	356	14
2020	160,000		68.0	132	680	36

Source: Onibokun and Faniran (1995)

Table 2 shows Nigeria's Rural and Urban Population, 1950-2025 by percentages. In seventy-five years, from 1950-2025, urban population rose from 10.1 percent of total population to a projected figure of 61.6 percent.

Table 2: Nigeria's Rural and Urban Population, 1950-2025

Year	Rural Population	Urban Population	Urban Population as % of Total
1950	29,595,000	3,340,000	10.1
1955	32,605,000	4,489,000	12.1
1960	36,220,000	6,058,000	14.3
1965	40,396,000	8,280,000	17.0
1970	45,252,000	11,319,000	20.0
1975	50,835,000	15,511,000	23.4
1980	57,188,000	21,242,000	27.1
1985	63,448,000	28,568,000	30.9
1990	70,383,000	38,159,000	35.2
1995	77,533,000	50,16200	39.3
2000	84,853,000	64,768,000	43.3
2005	91,960,000	82,347,000	47.2
2010	98,435,000	102,831,000	51.1
2015	103,411,000	125,343,000	54.8
2020	106,458,000	148,935,000	58.3
2025	107,758,000	173,135,000	61.6

Source: Onibokun and Faniran(1995)

Table 3 shows the percentage of population residing in urban areas in the World, Africa and Nigeria from 1950 to 2025. The world figures are higher

the figures for Nigeria. However, comparing Africa figures with those of Nigeria, Nigerian figures were lower than those for Africa were until 1985 when urban population figures for Nigeria started to outstrip the African urban population figures.

Table 3: Percentage of Population Residing in Urban Areas in the World, Africa and Nigeria, 1950-2025

Year	World	Africa	Nigeria
1950	29.2	14.5	10.1
1955	31.2	16.3	12.1
1960	34.2	18.3	14.4
1965	35.5	20.6	17.0
1970	36.6	22.9	20.0
1975	37.8	25.2	23.4
1980	39.5	27.8	27.1
1985	42.2	30.6	31.0
1990	45.2	33.9	35.2
1995	48.1	37.3	39.3
2000	51.1	40.7	43.3
2005	53.9	44.0	47.2
2010	59.3	50.7	54.8
2020	62.0	53.9	58.3
2025	64.6	57.1	61.6

Source: Onibokun and Faniran (1995)

Urbanisation is already a big factor in Nigeria, with an annual urban population growth of 4.3 per cent and the country hosting five of the 30 largest urban settlements on the African continent. It will play an even more pivotal role by 2037, when the urban population in Nigeria's cities will have doubled. To keep up with this steady growth, 700,000 housing units must be built every year, with cities like Lagos, Ibadan, and Kano experiencing an annual increase of 20 per cent in housing demand (URBANET, 2018). Managing urban growth and urbanization in Nigeria have become one of the most important challenges of the 21st century. (Aliyu & Amadu, 2017).

Implications of urbanization

The promise of jobs and prosperity, among other factors, pulls people to cities. Half of the global population already lives in cities, and by 2050, by projection; two-thirds of the world's people will live in urban areas (National Geographic, 2022). The World Bank (2020), however, noted that the speed and scale of urbanization brings challenges, including meeting accelerated demand for affordable housing, well-connected transport systems, and other infrastructure, basic services, as well as jobs, particularly for the nearly 1 billion urban poor who live in informal settlements to be near opportunities. Conflicts are on the rise, resulting in 60% of forcibly displaced people living in urban areas (The World Bank, 2020).

In cities, two of the most pressing problems facing the world today also come together: poverty and environmental degradation. Poor air and water quality, insufficient water availability, waste- disposal problems, and high energy consumption are exacerbated by the increasing population density and demands of urban environments. Strong city planning will be essential in managing these and other difficulties as the world's urban areas swell (National Geographic, 2022). Many research findings show that while cities in Nigeria, as in other developing countries, have been growing at a very rapid rate, there has been no commensurable growth in the rate at which social services and infrastructural amenities are provided. The result has been a gradual decline in the quality of the environment and in the quality of life. Educational facilities such as primary and secondary schools, have not been able to accommodate the sharp increase in the number of pupils; the ratio of population to health facilities such as dispensaries, maternity homes and hospitals is unfavourable, health facilities are neither well-staffed nor adequately equipped. The same findings apply to housing, employment opportunities and crime prevention facilities” (Onibokun & Faniran, 1995).

Two major problems, the current housing and water deficits in Nigeria, support the position of Onibokun and Faniran (1995). The Speaker, Nigeria Federal House of Representatives, Femi Gbajabiamila was quoted to have said that the estimated housing deficit in Nigeria, which is estimated to be between 17 and 20 million housing units and also said to be increasing annually by 900,000 units, the potential cost of overcoming this deficit is about N6 trillion. (Nwabughio, 2021). UNICEF, Nigeria (2021) stated further that sustainable and equitable access to safe drinking water remains a challenge in Nigeria, with over 86 per cent of Nigerians lacking access to a safely managed drinking water source. The problem is compounded by poor drinking water quality and lack of equity in access.

Conclusion

This review concluded that high rate of urbanization in Nigeria tend to improve household gender with males increasing unpaid work. It is worthy to

note that migration equally erodes gender norms; migrant fathers increase unpaid care work. Another conclusion reached is that Education and income support urbanization in improving household gender equality and that, time-costs of Children analysis yields important for fertility.

Finally, the submission of the World Bank (2020) is apt in this conclusion. It states, “Building cities that “work” – inclusive, healthy, resilient, and sustainable – requires intensive policy coordination and investment choices. National and local governments have an important role to play to take action now, to shape the future of their development, to create opportunities for all”.

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