

Assessment of Socioeconomic Characteristics of Peri-Urban Residents in Ibadan, Nigeria

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Abstract

Purpose - Peri-urban areas are crucial transitional zones where urban and rural structures intersect, often leading to unique challenges and opportunities for residents. This study explores the assessment of socioeconomic characteristics of peri-urban residents in Ibadan, Nigeria. It identified key socioeconomic factors influencing the lives of peri-urban residents and understood the dynamics of socio-economic development in these areas.

Research Approach - Using a mixed-methods approach, this research gathered comprehensive data on the demographic profile, age, gender, income, education levels, employment status, and housing conditions of the respondents.

Findings - The findings show a gender distribution of 6:4 male and female residents while their marital status reveal about 68% married in the study areas. The age distribution gives a mean age of 46years, 18 and 82 years as minimum and maximum respectively. On occupation, 41% are engaged in business, 33.5% civil servants, and 9% are technocrats. Ownership status showed about 68.5% owns their houses.

Research Limitation - The sampled communities comprising Eleyele 70, Adetokun 148, Alafara 86 and Ologuneru 42, totaling 346 questionnaires out of which 325 was retrieved leaving behind 21. This gives a 94% recovery. Notwithstanding, most vulnerable or marginalised population may have been inadvertently excluded.

Practical Implications - The study has implications for urban planning, social policy, and community development initiatives in the areas. Additionally, it would help policymakers and stakeholders develop more sustainable and inclusive strategies for urban growth and development.

Originality - The study provides valuable insights for fostering more equitable and sustainable development and enhancing the overall quality of life for their residents.

Keywords: Assessment, Interface, Peri-Urban, Socioeconomic, Residents

1.0 Introduction

Peri-urban areas, situated at the interface of urban and rural spaces, are dynamic zones experiencing rapid population growth, economic transitions, and social transformations (Tiwari, 2019; Dutta, 2020). Across the globe, peri-urban regions are characterized by diverse livelihoods, varying access to services, and complex patterns of poverty and inequality. As urbanization continues to expand, peri-urban areas have emerged as key sites for understanding the intersection of urban development, rural dynamics, and socio-economic disparities (Salem, 2024).

In many low- and middle-income countries, peri-urban communities face unique challenges related to infrastructure, land tenure, environmental degradation, and social exclusion, making them vulnerable to poverty and marginalization (Piorr, 2010). Abubakar (2018), summed up these myriad of challenges related to the socioeconomic status of peri-urban residents, stemming from limited access to basic services, food insecurity, unemployment and underemployment, inadequate housing and infrastructure, health and sanitation challenges, poverty/income inequality, and climate change vulnerability particularly peri-urban areas susceptibility to the impacts of climate change, including increased frequency of extreme weather events, changes in rainfall patterns, and environmental degradation.

Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive approach that integrates targeted interventions in areas such as infrastructure development, social services provision, livelihood support, and community empowerment (Ball, 2015). By recognizing the multifaceted nature of the socioeconomic challenges faced by peri-urban residents, policymakers, development practitioners, and community stakeholders can work together to implement sustainable solutions that promote inclusive growth, social equity, and improved quality of life for all residents (SA News, 2024).

Ibadan, the capital city of Oyo State in Nigeria, exemplifies the complex urban-rural dynamics and socioeconomic diversity present in peri-urban areas (Jelili, 2022). As one of the largest cities in Nigeria, Ibadan has witnessed rapid urban expansion and spatial transformations, leading to the emergence of peri-urban settlements characterized by a mix of rural and urban livelihoods (Akanle, 2024). Understanding the socioeconomic characteristics of peri-urban residents in Ibadan is vital for addressing poverty, inequality, and development challenges in these transitional spaces.

The assessment of these fringe settlements in Ibadan reveals a diverse range of income sources, including formal employment in the city center, informal sector activities such as street vending and small-scale agriculture, and remittances from rural areas or migrant family members. Many of the residents face challenges accessing stable and quality employment opportunities, leading to income vulnerability and economic insecurity.

Housing conditions in the areas vary widely, with informal settlements, inadequate housing structures, and lack of basic services such as water, sanitation, and electricity prevalent among lower-income households. The assessment highlights the need for improved housing conditions, infrastructure development, and access to essential services to enhance living standards and well-being in these communities (Maina, 2023).

Educational attainment and health outcomes among the residents reflect disparities influenced by socio-economic factors, including access to schools, healthcare facilities, and social services. They often rely on social networks, community associations, and informal support systems for coping

with economic hardships, social exclusion, and environmental risks. The assessment explores the role of social capital, community solidarity, and participatory processes in promoting resilience and collective action among peri-urban residents facing poverty and marginalization (Mottelson, 2023).

Land tenure issues, urban planning regulations, and land use conflicts impact periurban communities in Ibadan, influencing access to land, property rights, and spatial development. The research work would highlight the importance of inclusive land governance, participatory planning processes, and sustainable land management practices to address tenure insecurity, land conflicts, and informal settlements in the study areas.

By assessing the socioeconomic characteristics of these residents in Ibadan, Nigeria, researchers, policymakers, and development practitioners can gain insights into the diverse experiences, needs, and priorities of communities living at the urban-rural interface (Anjerobi, 2023). This assessment provides a foundation for designing context-specific interventions, policies, and programs that address poverty, inequality, and exclusion in peri-urban areas, fostering inclusive and sustainable development pathways for residents in these dynamic spaces.

2.0 Literature Review

Peri-urban areas, characterized as transitional zones between urban and rural environments, are complex spaces where diverse socioeconomic dynamics intersect (Sahana, 2023). Understanding the socioeconomic characteristics of peri-urban residents is crucial for informing policy interventions, development programs, and urban planning strategies tailored to the specific needs of these communities (Hutchings, 2022). The existing studies on the assessment of socioeconomic characteristics of peri-urban residents, focuses on themes such as poverty, employment, education, health, housing, and access to basic services (Sharma, 2023).

There is a prevalence of poverty among peri-urban residents, with many households facing economic vulnerabilities due to limited access to formal employment opportunities, low wages, and inadequate social safety nets. Income inequality within the communities has been linked to disparities in wealth distribution, access to resources, and social mobility, contributing to persistent cycles of poverty for vulnerable populations (Rajendran, 2024). Research conducted by Bonga (2024), in peri-urban settlements in Sub-Saharan Africa, the effectiveness of poverty alleviation strategies implemented by local governments and non-governmental organizations was examined. The study investigated the impact of initiatives such as microfinance programs, skills training interventions, and community-based development projects on poverty reduction and livelihood improvement among periurban residents, providing insights into best practices and challenges in addressing poverty in these settings (Goba 2022).

Adewoyin (2024), observed that these urban fringe settlements often exhibit high levels of unemployment and underemployment, with residents engaging in informal sector activities, seasonal work, or subsistence farming to sustain their livelihoods. Challenges such as lack of skills training, limited job markets, gender roles, and economic fluctuations have implications for income generation, job security, and overall economic well-being of the residents. Chan (2023), in a study of the peri-urban areas of Southeast Asia examined the intersection of gender and

poverty, exploring how gender roles, power dynamics, and access to resources influence women's and men's experiences of poverty in these settings. The research highlighted the importance of gender-sensitive policies, economic empowerment initiatives, and social support mechanisms in addressing gender disparities in poverty outcomes and promoting inclusive development in peri-urban communities.

Education plays a crucial role in shaping the socioeconomic outcomes of peri-urban residents, yet access to quality education remains a challenge in many these areas. Studies have identified issues such as inadequate school infrastructure, teacher shortages, and financial barriers that hinder educational opportunities for children and youth affecting their academic performance and future prospects (Burchi, 2006).

The health status of peri-urban residents is influenced by factors such as inadequate sanitation facilities, limited access to healthcare services, and exposure to environmental hazards (Debnath, 2020). Research has documented the prevalence of communicable diseases, malnutrition, and maternal health issues among peri-urban populations, highlighting the need for targeted interventions to improve health outcomes and reduce health disparities. Burki (2021) and Mabogunje (2002), in comparative studies analyzed the relationship between environmental degradation and poverty in peri-urban regions across different continents, investigating how factors such as pollution, deforestation, and land degradation contribute to economic hardship and social exclusion among residents. The researches explored the implications of sustainable natural resource management, green technologies, and community-based conservation efforts on poverty reduction and environmental sustainability in peri-urban areas.

Housing conditions in periurban areas are often characterized by informal settlements, substandard construction, and overcrowding, posing risks to residents' health, safety, and well-being. Studies have shown that inadequate housing infrastructure, including lack of basic services such as water and sanitation, contributes to social instability, environmental degradation, and housing insecurity among periurban residents (Falegan *et al.* 2024). A study conducted by Fuseini (2024), in a multiple peri-urban areas in Latin America explored the dynamics of poverty among residents, highlighting the structural factors such as limited access to formal employment, inadequate social services, and housing challenges as factors that contribute to high levels of poverty in these transitional zones.

Access to services such as clean water, electricity, transportation, and social amenities is essential for enhancing the quality of life for periurban residents. Research has underscored the challenges faced by periurban communities in accessing basic services, with issues such as infrastructure deficits, unreliable service delivery, and high costs of utilities impeding residents' ability to meet their daily needs and participate fully in social and economic activities (Falegan & Adewoyin, 2023).

The assessment of socioeconomic characteristics of peri-urban residents is essential for identifying key challenges, opportunities, and priority areas for intervention in these dynamic spaces (Wolff, 2021), observed the multidimensional nature of socioeconomic issues facing peri-urban communities, which underscores the importance of holistic approaches that address the interlinked challenges of poverty, employment, education, health, housing, and access to basic services. Future research and policy efforts should strive to develop context-specific strategies that empower

peri-urban residents, promote social inclusion, and foster sustainable development in these critical urban-rural interface zones.

3.0 Methodology

In assessing the socioeconomic characteristics of residents in the study area, a multidimensional approach that combines quantitative and qualitative research methods was employed. A survey was conducted, targeting a representative sample of peri-urban interface residents in both Ido and Ibadan North West local council areas of Ibadan. A structured questionnaire was used to collect data regarding socioeconomic characteristics. The survey consisted of demographic information and questions related to gender, age, income, education, employment, housing types, household numbers and access to basic amenities. A total of 346 respondents participated in the survey, comprising Eleyele 70, Adetokun 148, (Ibadan North West), Alafara 86 and Ologuneru 42 (Ido) representations from both council areas.

The research utilized a variety of data collection techniques to gather comprehensive information on the population in the study. They are basically primary and secondary sources. The primary source of data are gotten through administration of questionnaire (household surveys), focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and participatory rural appraisal (PRA) technique. The secondary data source are existing datasets from government surveys, census reports, academic studies and spatial analysis, to supplement primary data collection for assessing the socioeconomic characteristics of peri-urban residents in Ibadan, Nigeria.

By conducting household survey, data on various socioeconomic indicators such as gender, age, monthly income, education level, employment status, housing types, household numbers, and access to basic services were collected. The survey was structured to capture information from a representative sample of the study households, providing insights into the overall socioeconomic profile of the population.

The Focus Group Discussions within peri-urban residents helped to understand the residents' perspectives, experiences, and challenges in-depth. These discussions allow for a more nuanced exploration of social dynamics, community priorities, and local economic activities shaping the socioeconomic landscape of the study area. The engagement with key informants such as community leaders, local government officials, and nonprofit organizations provided valuable insights into the broader socioeconomic context of regions. These interviews helped to gain a comprehensive understanding of the factors influencing the livelihoods and well-being of residents.

Utilizing participatory approaches such as reconnaissance survey of the study areas, and community development association meetings facilitated active engagement with the residents in the communities. This enabled the residents to share their knowledge, identify priorities, and co-create solutions for addressing socioeconomic challenges in their neighborhoods.

In the same vein, secondary data analysis from government surveys, census reports, and academic studies and spatial analysis (satellite imagery acquisition) of the study area supplemented the

primary data collection efforts. Secondary data analysis provides additional context on trends, patterns, and disparities in the socioeconomic characteristics of study area.

3.1 Sample and Sampling Techniques

The research work was carried out in selected peri-urban areas of Ibadan North West and Ido Local Government Areas. The selected areas are; Eleyele and Adetokun communities on one part, Alafara and Ologuneru on the other part. The former are in Ibadan North West while the later are in Ido Local Government Areas respectively.

These four locations comprises of 26 number communities, 74 number Community Development Associations (CDAs) and 1,826 Housing Units out of which 346 of them were sampled, using Systematic Random Sampling Technique. A total number of 346 questionnaire were administered on the four communities within the two local government Areas. The sampled communities are: Eleyele 70, Adetokun 148, Alafara 86 and Ologuneru 42 making a total of 346 questionnaire out of which 325 was retrieved leaving behind 25. This gives a 94% recovery.

4.0 Analysis and Discussion

The socio-economic data of respondents in each of the four locations in the study are hereby analysed and presented in Table 1 based on the variables; gender, marital status, age, occupation, income, numbers in the household, and housing type.

Table 1: Socio-Economic Background of Peri-Urban Dwellers

	Residential Communities				Total <i>n</i> = 346 Freq. (%)	Chi- square p-value
	Eleyele <i>n</i> = 70 Freq. (%)	Adetokun <i>n</i> = 148 Freq. (%)	Alafara <i>n</i> = 86 Freq. (%)	Ologuneru <i>n</i> = 42 Freq. (%)		
Gender						
Female	24 (34.3)	62 (41.9)	32 (37.2)	12 (28.6)	130 (37.6)	0.399
Male	46 (65.7)	86 (58.1)	54 (62.8)	30 (71.4)	216 (62.4)	
Marital status						
Never married	8 (11.4)	10 (6.8)	15 (17.4)	4 (9.5)	37 (10.7)	0.713
Married	55 (78.6)	123 (83.1)	64 (74.4)	34 (81.0)	276 (79.8)	
Cohabiting	1 (1.4)	4 (2.7)	1 (1.2)	1 (2.4)	7 (2.0)	
Separated	2 (2.9)	3 (2.0)	1 (1.2)	-	6 (1.7)	
Widower/widow	4 (5.7)	8 (5.4)	5 (5.8)	3 (7.1)	20 (5.8)	
Age (years)						
≤ 30	8 (11.4)	7 (4.7)	14 (16.3)	3 (7.1)	32 (9.2)	0.106
31 – 40	9 (12.9)	28 (18.9)	9 (10.5)	5 (11.9)	51 (14.7)	
41 – 50	29 (41.4)	65 (43.9)	33 (38.4)	22 (52.4)	149 (43.1)	
51 – 60	18 (25.7)	32 (21.6)	22 (25.6)	12 (28.6)	84 (24.3)	
Above 60	6 (8.6)	16 (10.8)	8 (9.3)	-	30 (8.7)	
Occupation						
Civil Servant	24 (34.3)	58 (39.2)	21 (24.4)	13 (31.0)	116 (33.5)	
Retiree	8 (11.4)	15 (10.1)	8 (9.3)	2 (4.8)	33 (9.5)	

	Residential Communities				Total <i>n</i> = 346 Freq. (%)	Chi-square p-value
	Eleyele <i>n</i> = 70 Freq. (%)	Adetokun <i>n</i> = 148 Freq. (%)	Alafara <i>n</i> = 86 Freq. (%)	Ologuneru <i>n</i> = 42 Freq. (%)		
Technocrat	4 (5.7)	16 (10.8)	6 (7.0)	5 (11.9)	31 (9.0)	0.258
Business	28 (40.0)	54 (36.5)	41 (47.7)	19 (45.2)	142 (41.0)	
Student	6 (8.6)	5 (3.4)	10 (11.6)	3 (7.1)	24 (6.9)	
House ownership						
Owner	47 (67.1)	105 (70.9)	55 (64.0)	30 (71.4)	237 (68.5)	0.691
Tenant	14 (32.9)	43 (29.1)	31 (36.0)	12 (28.6)	109 (31.5)	
Household size						
1 – 3	14 (20.0)	42 (28.4)	15 (17.4)	6 (14.3)	77 (22.3)	0.041**
4 – 6	45 (64.3)	93 (62.8)	58 (67.4)	35 (83.3)	231 (66.8)	
7 & Above	11 (15.7)	13 (8.8)	13 (15.1)	1 (2.4)	38 (11.0)	
Monthly Income						
< ₦50,000	7 (10.0)	12 (8.1)	7 (8.1)	6 (14.3)	32 (9.2)	0.850
₦50,000 – ₦75,000	27 (38.6)	55 (37.2)	37 (43.0)	19 (45.2)	138 (39.9)	
₦75,001 – ₦150,000	24 (34.3)	47 (31.8)	24 (27.9)	11 (26.2)	106 (30.6)	
> ₦150,000	12 (17.1)	34 (23.0)	18 (20.9)	6 (14.3)	70 (20.2).	

Source: Fieldwork 2023

Results from Table 1 revealed that majority (62.4%) of the respondents are male while 37.6% are female. A comparison of the gender distribution across the different residential communities revealed a similar result as the overall study area.

However, there was no statistically significant difference in the gender distribution of respondents across the different peripheral communities ($\chi^2= 2.955, p = 0.399$).

The marital status of respondents in the study area revealed that 79.8% are married. On the other hand, 10.7% of the respondents had never been married while 5.8% spouses are deceased. Respondent who cohabitated accounted for 2.0% while separated respondents accounts for 1.7%. Across the sampled communities, a similar result was observed, as majority of the respondents are married. The differences in residents' marital status in the sampled peri-urban communities was statistically not significant at 0.05 p-value.

In terms of age distribution, the mean age of respondents in the study area is 46 years. In addition, the minimum and maximum age are 18 and 82 years respectively. Findings from the study further revealed that 43.1% of the respondents are between the ages of 41 and 50 years. Respondents in the group 51-60 years accounted for (24.3%), while those between 31-40 years is 14.7%. Respondents below 31 years of age accounted for 9.2% while respondents above 60 years accounted for 8.7%. It was however observed that statistically significant difference exists in the age distribution of respondents across the four peri-urban communities ($\chi^2= 18.330, p = 0.106$).

In relation to respondents' occupational status, it was established that majority of the respondents are employed. Findings as depicted in Table 1 shows that 41.0% of the respondents engaged in business vocation, 33.5% are civil servants and 9.0% are technocrat. However, 9.0% of the respondents are retirees while 6.9% are students. In Adetokun community, a high proportion (39.2%) of the respondents are civil servants compared to other sampled communities.

In Figures 1 and 2 the occupational characteristic of the respondents are presented.



Figure 1: Trading as Major Business Occupation in the Study Area

Source: Fieldwork 2023

The core original settlers who were primarily farmers have changed vocations and businesses especially in building materials, modern trades like telecommunications accessories sales and repairs, mini cooking gas sales outlets, consumable sales in lock-up shops, POS money exchange centers and so on, are typical of these peri-urban dwellers occupation.



Figure 2: Typical Trade in Building Materials in the Study Area

Source: Fieldwork 2023

The house ownership status of the respondents showed that more than half (68.5%) of the respondents own their residential apartments. 31.5% of the respondents indicated to be tenants. Further findings revealed that there was no significant difference in respondents' house ownership status across the four peri-urban communities ($\chi^2 = 1.461, p = 0.691$).

Furthermore, the result of respondents' household size in the study area revealed an average household size of approximately 5 persons. In similar manner, the minimum and maximum household size was 2 and 6 persons respectively. However, it was observed that a large proportion (66.8%) of the respondents had a household size of 4-6 persons. This was followed by respondents with household size 1-3 persons (22.3%) and above 6 person (11.0%) respectively.

Further findings from Table 1 across the sampled communities revealed more of the respondents in Ologuneru community had a household size between 4-6 person compared to Eleyele (64.3%), Adetokun (62.8%) and Alafara (67.4%) communities. These differences were statistically significant at p-value of 0.05 ($\chi^2 = 13.333, p = 0.041$).

Findings into respondents' monthly income showed a bulk of the respondents (39.5%) earns between ₦50,000 and ₦75,000. This was followed by 30.6% of the respondents who earns between ₦75,000 and ₦150,000. In addition, 20.2% of the respondents received a monthly income above ₦150,000 while only 9.2% of the respondents claimed to earn less than ₦50,000 on monthly basis. Similar results were observed across the peri-urban communities. However, no statistically significant difference in residents' monthly income across the four communities was observed ($\chi^2 = 4.817, p = 0.850$).

5.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

The assessment of socioeconomic characteristics of peri-urban residents in Ibadan, Nigeria, reveals complex dynamics that require comprehensive and targeted interventions to address the challenges faced by these communities. The findings of this study underscore the importance of understanding the unique needs and vulnerabilities of peri-urban populations in the context of rapid urbanization and economic growth assessment of socioeconomic characteristics in Eleyele, Adetokun, Alafara and Ologuneru areas of Ibadan.

Income levels varied among respondents, with a notable percentage falling below the poverty line. House ownership in the study was higher at 68.5%, suggesting greater access to decent and affordable accommodation opportunities within the area. Respondents demonstrated diverse occupational patterns, including both formal and self-employment. Overall, majority are male with high marital status that denotes a relatively balanced family set up, translating to peaceful and secure neighbourhood. Access to basic services such as water, electricity, healthcare, and transportation seemed relatively good in the study areas, although certain improvements could still be made.

These findings provide valuable insight into the socioeconomic profile of residents in in the study areas, enabling policymakers and relevant stakeholders to identify areas for intervention and development. Efforts can focus on reducing poverty, improving educational opportunities,

promoting employment, and enhancing access to vital services, thereby fostering overall socioeconomic development in these areas.

The research highlights that peri-urban residents in Ibadan exhibit diverse socioeconomic profiles, with varying levels of age, income, marital status, employment, and access to basic services. These disparities underscore the need for tailored interventions that address the specific needs of different segments of the peri-urban population.

Moreover, the study emphasizes the critical role of socioeconomic factors in shaping the well-being and livelihoods of peri-urban residents. Access to education, employment opportunities, affordable housing, and basic services are all essential components of improving the quality of life for peri-urban communities in Ibadan.

Moving forward, policymakers, urban planners, and community stakeholders must prioritize sustainable and inclusive development strategies that take into account the socioeconomic characteristics of peri-urban residents. This includes implementing targeted programs to improve access to education, healthcare, infrastructure, and job opportunities in periurban areas.

Lastly, the assessment of socioeconomic characteristics of peri-urban residents in Ibadan serves as a crucial step towards fostering more equitable and sustainable development in these transitional zones. By addressing the challenges identified in this study and leveraging the opportunities present in periurban areas, stakeholders can work towards creating vibrant, resilient communities where all residents have the opportunity to thrive.

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