

MODULE 2

Unit 1	Urban Growth
Unit 2	The Rational Use of Urban Space

UNIT 1 URBAN GROWTH

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Urbanisation processes consist of two elements: expansion and aggregation. While expansion relates to the spatial growth of towns, aggregation implies the accelerating increase in the proportion of the total population concentrated in urban areas. Most studies on urbanisation have tended to concentrate on the expansion aspect believing that the other aspect is the most critical facet of the urbanisation process. The main issue has been whether such a rapid rate of urbanisation is desirable or not especially in view of the concomitant ill-effect and weak generative influences of the cities on the rest of the space economy. Considering the rapid rate of urbanisation and consequent explosion in the growth of major cities coupled with the attending problems, it is desirable to shift the analysis of urbanisation from the cities as individual physical entities to one of analysing cities as integrated and organised system interacting through multiple links relationship.

2.0 A: OBJECTIVES

By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- relate increase in population to the growth and spread of urbanization; and
- analyse the factors that encouraged urbanisation in the twenty-first century.

2.0 B: HOW TO STUDY THIS UNIT

1. You are expected to read carefully through this unit twice before attempting to answer the activity questions. Do not look at the solution or guides provided at the end of the unit until you are satisfied that you have done your best to get all the answers.
2. Share your difficulties in understanding the unit with your mates, facilitators and by consulting other relevant materials or internet.
3. Ensure that you only check correct answers to the activities as a way of confirming what you have done.
4. Note that if you follow these instructions strictly, you will feel fulfilled at the end that you have achieved your aim and could stimulate you to do more.

3.0 MAIN CONTENT

3.1 Natural Increase and Urban Growth

The natural increase of the population is a non-economic force, which has played an important part in the twentieth-century urban growth. This is particularly influential in the largest centres where there is a greater absolute number of people and where, because of recent immigration, the population contains a higher than average proportion of people of fertile age. Until relatively late in the nineteenth century, many large urban centres experienced natural decrease, that is, more people died in them than were born there infectious diseases could spread easily because of overcrowding and because the provision of essential urban services like pure drinking water, sanitation and refuse disposal required capital investment, engineering development and municipal involvement, all which took time and effort to achieve. Improvements in medical techniques, sanitation and the general standard of living have changed this balance of birth and death rates, so that large modernised cities now show considerable natural increase, often at a rate higher than rural areas, which have lost many young adults to the cities. This has produced a new, but very important, encouragement to urban growth.

Recent fluctuations in fertility in urbanised societies and the difficulty of estimating future migration into small areas like individual cities make population forecasts fraught with uncertainties. For example, in south-east England, dominated by the London metropolitan area and its satellite towns, the population was expected to have grown by 2.4 millions between 1961 and 1981, largely as a result of natural increase. More recent figures hide the fact that the demand for homes, and therefore the pressure for urban growth, is growing much more rapidly than the total population, since changing life-styles are leading to the formation of more independent households, even though family size is likely to be smaller.

In most of the non-western world, however, where little check to population growth is apparent, natural increase tends to be a dominant encouragement to rapid urban growth and such subtleties of demographic interpretation have little relevance. The demographic factor in the growth of large cities does not end with natural increase. Large urban centres, because of their relatively buoyant, economies attract more than their share of new immigrants, who come from both short and long distances, lured by the availability of jobs and by flow of information from the existing immigrant population about the opportunities available.

The processes encouraging the growth of very large cities have been important since the 1870s and have steadily increased in significance since then. In the twentieth century, there have been two further developments, which have had important geographical results. These are the development of motor transport and the spread of very large cities to the Third World.

3.2 Urban Growth in the 21st Century

One of the most important of the changes of emphasis in the process of urbanisation in the 21st century city has been in the nature of manufacturing industry. Heavy industries, in which the expense of handling raw materials is a significant element in their costs of production, have become relatively less important. For expanding lighter industries, many of those end-products are designed for sale to domestic consumers; the environs of the largest cities seem to offer an increasingly attractive location, specifically as these cities also provide rapid access to national and international markets. Access to skill labour, close links with other manufacturers of related products and availability of ancillary services, such as those provided by advertising agents and wholesalers: these and similar facilities are more likely to be found in the largest cities and also prove attractive to industries, although government intervention may attempt to reduce that attraction.

At the same time, the productivity of manufacturing industry has increased as a result of the adoption of more sophisticated machinery, hence contributing to a reduced proportion of industrial workers in the total workforce. As a result, another important element in modern urban growth has been the increasing proportion of the population of the technically advanced countries employed in tertiary occupations. This sector of the economy includes a wide diversity of jobs involving the provision of services which are therefore located in towns and cities where they have access to urban concentrations of population and to those people living in zones of influence around about.

Partly, this growth in the tertiary sector has been associated with rising standards of living, partly with the increasing proportion of workers required to service modern industry. In fact, this sector of the urban economy has grown to such an extent that it has been suggested that it is best to subdivide it further, limiting the tertiary sector to those who provide personal service and recognising in addition a quaternary sector consisting of workers involved in the 'transactional economy'. The most obvious expression of this development is the growth of massive office buildings in the centres, and now on the peripheries of large cities of the modernised world.

Social factors have also encouraged urban growth. These non-economic factors are not a recent addition to the range of city-building forces, but in the modern world they are particularly influential in encouraging the growth of largest settlements, particularly if they are capital cities. Social facilities may make it more attractive for highly-educated workers to live in a particular city; and, as it is from the ranks of these people that key management and research personnel are recruited, their significance in encouraging the location of certain kinds of manufacturing is greatly magnified.

The attraction of a cultural centre may perhaps lie at a much less sophisticated level, since the snobbish overtones of living in a socially-desirable city may have an appeal for certain executives. Many young people have felt the pull of the 'bright-lights', the glamour of being a metropolitan resident with access to the entertainment facilities of the large city. Such an influence is strongest where one city dominates the life of a nation, like Paris in France. It is also strong in the developing world, where, for good or ill, urban life appears to provide a path towards the seductive appeal of 'westernisation'.

SELF ASSESSEMENT

1. Differentiate between natural increase and urban growth.
2. Describe the nature of urban growth in the 21st century.

4.0 CONCLUSION

Although the seeds of change had been sown earlier, a distinctively different brand of urban life emerged in the nineteenth century in areas where the 'Industrial Revolution' was having its most direct impact. The economy of these cities was often supported by industrial activities; and they produced concentrations of population larger than had ever been experienced. These growing cities were eventually linked together economically, to form part of international economic and social systems.

5.0 SUMMARY

In this unit, you have learnt that:

- natural increase of the population is a non-economic force, which has played an important part in the twentieth-century urban growth;
- the demographic factor in the growth of large cities does not end with natural increase;
- there has been increase in the proportion of urban population of the technically advanced countries employed in tertiary occupations;
- there has been the growth of massive office buildings in the centres, and now on the peripheries of large cities of the modernised world;
- economic and social factors have played significant roles in the growth of largest settlements in the modern world.

6.0 TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT

1. Analyse the socio-economic parameters that accounted for the rapid rate of urbanisation in the modern times.

7.0 REFERENCES/FURTHER READING

- Abiodun, J. O. & Salau, A. T. (1993). "The Systems of Cities in Nigeria", *In: Abiodun, J. O. (ed.) Issues in Urban and Regional Development in Nigeria*. Nigeria: John West Publishers, pp. 25 - 42.
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UNIT 2 THE RATIONAL USE OF URBAN SPACE

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

One result of the presence of a large number of poor people in the large cities of the developing world is the remarkable widespread growth of ‘shanty’ towns or squatter settlements, which bring some of the poorest in urban society to the periphery of the city. In their initial stages, these shanty settlements consist of temporary buildings, although with the passage of time larger and more permanent buildings may be constructed. The people who live in squatter settlements are there because they are occupying land, which is not sought after for other uses. Sometimes, this is derelict land within the city, but more commonly it is on the fringe, beyond the legal limits of the city. These are locations, which, in these cities of the developing world, are often distant from employment and are poorly provided with transport and other services.

2.0 A: OBJECTIVES

By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- describe the layouts and the internal structures of a typical Nigerian city; and
- discuss the development of squatter settlements in urban areas.

2.0 B: HOW TO STUDY THIS UNIT

1. You are expected to read carefully through this unit twice before attempting to answer the activity questions. Do not look at the solution or guides provided at the end of the unit until you are satisfied that you have done your best to get all the answers.
2. Share your difficulties in understanding the unit with your mates, facilitators and by consulting other relevant materials or internet.

3. Ensure that you only check correct answers to the activities as a way of confirming what you have done.
4. Note that if you follow these instructions strictly, you will feel fulfilled at the end that you have achieved your aim and could stimulate you to do more.

3.0 MAIN CONTENT

3.1 Urban Land Use Patterns

Before we proceed further, it is essential to have a picture of the arrangement of the inner portion of a city. Most of the theories and models attempting to explain the internal structure of cities seek largely to understand the patterns of their growth. Three of these models, popularly referred to in the literature as *the Ecological Theories*, have become relatively well known: Concentric Zone Model, Sectorial Model, and the Multiple - Nuclei Model. The Concentric Zone Model is a theory on the pattern of organisation of urban land use formulated by E.W. Burgess (1925). In this model, five land uses are arranged in concentric zones around the city centre: the Central Business District; Zone of Transition; Zone of Independent Working People Homes; Zone of Better Residence; and Commuter Zone. On a general note, the *Concentric Zone Model* assumes a relationship between the socio-economic status of households and the distance from the city centre. Thus, the farther one moves away from the CBD the better the housing quality, but the longer the commuting time.

The *Sectorial Model* put forward by Hoyt (1959) suggests that the arrangement of land use is in sectors rather than the concentric zones put forward by Burgess. Thus, the effect of time and direction was added to distance. Hoyt suggested that growth along each sector is of relative homogeneity and expands outwards in a particular direction from the CBD, high-rent sector occupy certain sectors and rent decreases in all directions away from these areas. Transport corridors are responsible for the creation of these sectors, thus cities would grow along major axis.

The *Multiple-Nuclei Model* proposed by Harris and Ullman in 1945 explains that land uses in cities are not build around a single city centre, but several. The numbers of nuclei, however, depends on how large the city is. Each of the nodes would become specialised and differentiated in the growth process and are not located in relation to any distance attribute, but are bound by a number of attributes such as differential accessibility, land use capability and incompatibility, and location suitability. It therefore follows that the larger an urban area becomes the more numerous and specialised the nuclei become. This poly-nuclei

model was the first to represent the fragmentation of urban areas, specialised functions as well as sub-urbanisation.

In sum, each of these theories concentrates on one or just a couple of factors in an attempt to explain urban land use pattern. However, in real life situation, it is common that a combination of two or all the three models would characterise a particular city. In like manner, there could be a situation whereby the identified layout would not match any of the three models, particular the modern cities with more dispersed structures.

3.2 Development of Squatter Settlements in Urban Areas

One result of the presence of a large number of poor people in the large cities of the developing world is the remarkable widespread growth of 'shanty' towns or squatter settlements, which bring some of the poorest in urban society to the periphery of the city. In their initial stages these shanty settlements consist of temporary buildings, although with the passage of time larger and more permanent buildings may be constructed. The people who live in squatter settlements are there because they are occupying land, which is not sought after for other uses. Sometimes this is derelict land within the city, but more commonly it is on the fringe, beyond the legal limits of the city. These are locations, which, in these cities of the developing world, are often distant from employment and are poorly provided with transport and other services.

The essential nature of these squatter settlements is a matter of debate. To outsiders, they appear areas of squalid homes inhabited by the dregs of urban society, although research has suggested that the possession of a shanty home sometimes represents a step up in the world for a poor inhabitants of a Third World city. Certainly to their inhabitants these shanty settlements may offer the benefits of proximity to a large city, without being controlled by its bureaucracy. They are spared urban taxes and building costs, but, as a result, forego urban services and proper homes.

Not only are these settlements often peripheral within the geographical extent of the city, but their inhabitants are also peripheral to urban society. Some view these squatter settlements as being occupied by people, who, because of their poverty or their rural background, are unable to enter fully into urban society. Others interpret the inhabitants of these fringe settlements as being at a transitional stage on the way to becoming more fully absorbed into urban life.

In fact, all these observations may be true in particular areas since squatter settlements exhibit a wide range of social conditions. What they have in common is that these fringe sites are apparently not highly valued for residential purposes by more prosperous urban dwellers in these societies. The squatter settlements thus reflect a different evaluation of urban location from that commonly found in western cities, with access to central facilities still having a strong pull for the leaders of society, leaving residential sites in some parts of the urban periphery disregarded by those with financial power.

The rapid in-migration of population from an un-modernised countryside, often coming to live in squatter settlements, has meant that in many large cities in the Third World a large section of the urban population may not have broken its ties with village life and its only partially 'urbanised', in a sociological sense. For example, Bert Hozelitz has pointed out that in India the cultural impact of urban life on the modernisation process is exerted upon a population, which is further removed from accepting change than was the population of nineteenth-century Europe.

SELF ASSESSEMENT

Write short notes on

- (a) development of squatter settlement in urban areas;
- (b) urban land use patterns

4.0 CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the cultural elements of modern urbanisation have been adopted from a foreign culture that is not indigenous. There was economic growth closely associated with rapid urbanisation in the developing countries. Europe is much less likely to accompany the current urbanisation of the Third World, since many of the important social attributes of western urbanisation have not been absorbed. It is to these social characteristics that attention must be turned.

5.0 SUMMARY

In this unit, you have learnt that:

- the layout of a city has no particular structure
- wide-spread growth of 'shanty' towns or squatter settlements in the developing countries is as a result of the presence of a large number of poor people in the large cities
- squatter settlements are often peripheral within the geographical extent of the city as their inhabitants are also peripheral to urban society

- shanty towns are spared urban taxes and building costs, but, as a result, forego urban services and proper homes.

6.0 TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT

1. Discuss the relevance of the *Ecological Theories* to the present structure of Nigerian cities.

7.0 REFERENCES/FURTHER READING

Ayeni, M. A. O. (1978). "Patterns, Processes and Problems of Urban Development". In: Areola, O. & Filani (Eds.) *A Geography of Nigerian Development*. Heinemann, pp. 156 –174.

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