

## **Nexus of Poverty, Environment and Urbanization in Nigeria: Implication for Sustainable Development**

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This paper examines the nexus of poverty, environment and urbanization while also examining its implication for sustainable development in Nigeria. Poverty is a major challenge of the third world countries and in Africa particularly to which Nigeria belongs. The nations GDP has not translated into decreased level of poverty, as a lot of the population still lives below the poverty line. As a result of the level of poverty experienced in the rural areas and the conflict prone areas of the nation, there is increased in-migration of people from the rural to the urban centers as many believe in the idea that there are lots of opportunities in the urban centers thereby creating an environmental challenge of congestion, pollution, increase in slum areas and so on. Urbanization experienced as a result of the influx of population and the need to provide housing also translates to environmental challenges.

Successive Nigerian administrations from the colonial era has placed little attention to environmental issues but rather to their own wealth generation which drove up the level of corruption, poverty and inequality in the country, hence a challenge of meeting the criteria for achieving sustainable development in the nation as all hope seem to fade. The environmental challenge of oil spillage in the southern part of the country which has affected the livelihood of the rural dwellers in those areas has led to a history of unrest in the south, thereby translating to increase poverty in the area. Also the rising number of internally displaced persons in the northern part of the country; Internally displaced monitoring center (IDMC) estimates that there are almost 2,152,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) in Nigeria as of 31 December 2015 which has also resulted in increased level of poverty in the region.

There is a great need for poverty eradication in the country as without achieving or reducing the level of poverty which is GOAL 1 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and reducing the level of unequal distribution of wealth in the nation, Nigeria could not be said to have achieve its goal of sustainable development.

This paper therefore looks at the relationship between the concept of poverty, poverty eradication, environment and urbanization and its implication for sustainable development.