Impact of Socio-economic Conditions on Quality of Life: Yenagoa City Experience

Eyenghe, Tari[1] & Owei, Opuenebo Binya[2]

[1&2]Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Rivers State University, Port Harcourt

Abstract

Urbanisation and urban growth has increased urban population and affected socio-economic conditions in urban areas. The study aim is to assess the impact of socio-economic conditions on quality of life (QOL) of residents of Yenagoa City, Nigeria. Objectives are to determine social and economic indicators to assess QOL of residents in the study area; assess the impact of social and economic indicators on QOL of residents in the study area; and suggest urban planning policy and socio-economic framework to improve QOL of residents of Yenagoa City. The study employed Mixed Methods Research (MMR) approach using concurrent triangulation research design. The study identified 29 communities in the study area and 6 communities (20%) namely; Famgbe, Yenagoa, Ovom, Yenizue-Gene, Yenegwe and Igbogene communities were randomly selected for the study. A total of 399 respondents were selected for interview using stratified sampling technique and key informant approach was also used to obtain quantitative and qualitative data. The study revealed that there are inadequate quantity of healthcare and educational facilities and services in the study area which has increase mortality rate and access to education. Employment rate and monthly income is low as most residents are in the informal sector. This has increase crime and violent activity in the study area. These conditions have impacted negatively on QOL of residents of the study area. The study suggested that Yenagoa Master Plan 2004 should be reviewed to provide urban social and economic facilities and services to improve QOL; control, guide and manage urban growth and development, prepare urban renewal schemes for the communities; develop a Local Economic Development (LED) plan and apply Participatory Planning Approach (PPA) to planning and development of communities to achieve sustainable urban development.

Keywords: Urbanisation, Urban Growth, Social and Economic Conditions, Quality of Life & Urban Planning

Background to the Study

In recent times the globe has experienced rapid urbanisation and urban growth which is occurring more in developing economies such as Asian and African countries (United Nations (UN), 2018). It has been projected that by 2030 the world urban population will be more than 5 billion (60%), though currently estimated to be 4.2 billion (55%) populations at 2019 (UN, 2018; United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), 2007). Though, this growth has increased urban socio-economic growth and development such as increased production, provided urban infrastructure and services, better housing and employment opportunities in many developing countries (UN, 2014). This urban population and spatial area growth have also brought many negative conditions to urban dwellers. These problems include overcrowding, shortage in urban public infrastructure and services such as healthcare and educational facilities, water and electricity supply, poor waste management and pollution problems, traffic congestion, increased unemployment and urban sprawl and formulation of informal settlements. These conditions

have increased disparity amongst urban dwellers and increased urban poverty in urban areas (Enger, Smith and Bockarie, 2006). These deplorable conditions are rising because of lack of urban planning and management which has indicated as a major problem to many cities and towns in developing countries (Samantha, 2015).

These negative conditions that accompanies unplanned urbanisation and urban growth has impacted on the quality of life (QOL) of many urban dwellers especially social and economic conditions of urban life and these has increased social and economic disparities amongst urban populace (Masoumeh, 2012). QOL study provides the basis for assessing individuals and societal satisfaction of life considering all positive and negative features existing in the urban environment (Barcaccia, 2013). In Nigeria, social and economic gaps amongst urban dwellers are observed across many urban areas whether cities or towns and this is also observed in Yenagoa City. Yenagoa City that promise to be a well-planned city having prepared a master plan in 2004 by the Bayelsa State Government is observed to be opposite from the present urban social and economic conditions as this has affected QOL of residents in the city (Yenagoa Master Plan, 2004). Increase in population and demand for land for development is not coping with the level of provision of social and economic infrastructure and services in communities of the city to meet residents' demands. This is because of ineffective urban planning and landuse management which impacted on QOL of the city inhabitants. There is need to assess the socio-economic conditions on QOL of residents of the city and suggest efficient urban policy and socio-economic framework that will improve QOL of residents of the city.

Statement of the Problem

Assessment of QOL is a fundamental avenue for assessing liveability in urban areas in the world today. Yenagoa City has transformed from a local government headquarters and now the capital city of Bayelsa State. This has made the city to attract people and investments and this has impacted on the social and economic conditions of residents. Observations show that there is inadequate social and economic infrastructure and services in communities of the city. These has increased the inadequacy supply of healthcare and educational facilities, increased unemployment, urban poverty and insecurity and safety such as crime and violence activity. This has further caused the deplorable social and economic conditions of residents of the city. This has impacted on QOL of the citizenry. This study intends to assess the impact of socio-economic conditions on QOL of residents of Yenagoa City and proffer efficient urban policy framework to improve QOL of the inhabitants of the city.

Aim and Objectives of the Study

The aim of the study is to assess the impact of socio-economic conditions on quality of life of residents of Yenagoa City, Nigeria.

The specific objectives of the study are:

I.   Determine social and economic indicators to assess QOL of residents in the study area;

II. Assess the impact of social and economic indicators on QOL of residents in the study area; and

III. Suggest urban planning policy and socio-economic framework to improve QOL of residents of Yenagoa City.

Scope of the Study

Scope of the study geographically covers communities within the Action Planning Area of Yenagoa City covering about 15 kilometres radius as declared by the Yenagoa Master Plan, 2004 (see Figs 1 & 2). The study also covers the impact of socio-economic conditions on QOL of residents of Yenagoa City.

Fig. 1: Map of Bayelsa State showing Yenagoa City LGA, the Study Area
Source: Surveyor General Office, Bayelsa State, 2019
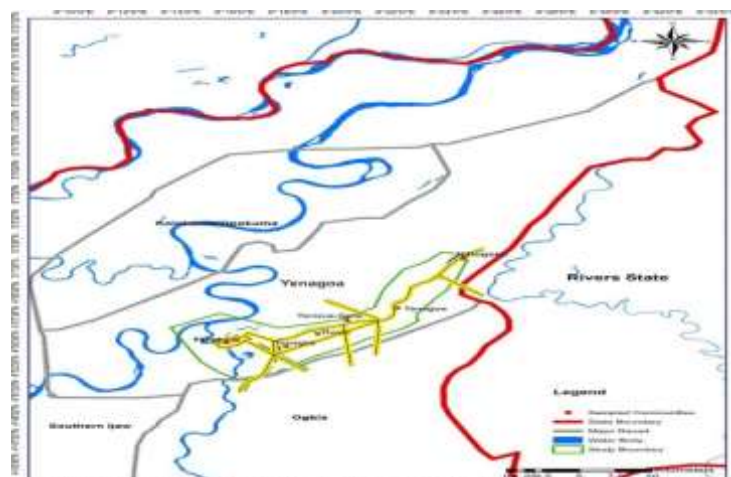
Fig. 2: Map of Yenagoa City LGA showing the Study Area and Communities
Source: Surveyor General Office, Bayelsa State, 2019

Literature Review

Nature and Characteristics of QOL

Nature and characteristics of QOL has provided urban planners and policymakers the basis for addressing urban issues relating urban dwellers satisfaction with their environment. This has help urban areas to develop urban planning policies to achieve sustainable development. Assessment of QOL requires a multi-dimension approach covering social, economic and environmental features with subjective and objective judgement on QOL (Garau and Pavan, 2018). This has helped many cities to evaluate QOL, identify problems and allocate resources to tackle urban problems and this has provided policies and strategies to improve QOL of citizens (Bosch, Jongeneel, Rovers, Neumann, Airaksinen and Huovila, 2016).

QOL study must consider both subjective and objective assessment methods comprising various indicators of life. Subjective assessment of QOL must consider individuals and group perceptions and opinions about life to provide quantitative and qualitative indicators including income, employment, health, literacy, housing, social and recreational opportunities and the environment. Objective assessment must consider experts' opinions and available urban facilities and services, and governance with indicators including healthcare and educational facilities, transportation, environmental quality, housing quality and governance (Kladivo and Halás, 2012). Subjective and objective indicators are used to build QOL index for measurement and assessment of QOL.

Determinants of Social and Economic QOL

Social Indicators

There are about four (4) social indicators for determining QOL in urban areas. These social indicators are health, education, security and safety and social interactions (Eurostat, 2015).

Health

This aspect covers healthcare facilities availability, physical and mental health of citizens and general progress of the society. All these affects QOL of individuals and the general city (Eurostat, 2015). Subjective health indicators are access to healthcare and self-evaluation of one's health and objective health indicators include life expectancy, infant mortality, the number of healthy life years (Eurostat, 2015).

Education

Education is important to any society and determines the QOL of individuals and the society at large. The level education determines the employment opportunities, skills acquired and technology progress (Eurostat, 2015) Subjective education indicators for QOL are self-and skill assessment and learning process available while objective indicators are the proportion of the population's educational attainment, available educational facilities and school leavers (Eurostat, 2015).

Security and Safety

Security and safety of a city speaks volume of progress of the citizens and investments. Ssecurity and safety indicators subjectively look at crime and violence rates occurring against the citizens. Objective security and safety indicators include number of crime, theft, homicide and violence occurring in the neighbourhoods and city generally and safety measures available in the neighbourhoods and city to protect life and property (Eurostat, 2015).

Economic Indicators

Economy and Employment

Economy and employment determine the standard of living of individuals and societies. This aspect of QOL assessed occupation, income, consumption level per capita (household budget) and material conditions (deprivation and housing) provide important complementary information to these monies based approaches (Eurostat, 2015).

Productive Activity

This aspect provides information on level of production from jobs provided in the society from individual economic activities (jobs) to measure QOL. This measures the quantity and quality of jobs available, working hours, employment safety and ethics (Eurostat, 2015).

Impact of Social and Economic Indicators on QOL

The city might have various healthcare facilities and services but may not make the inhabitants healthy. Emotional stress and poor dieting can affect their health conditions. Though it is very important to provide these facilities and services in the settlement for people to access them to improve their satisfaction level. Education is also another crucial basic urban facility and service as this provides the fundamental for social and economic growth of a city. Level of educational attainment provides opportunities for jobs and increase level of technology to improve

production. This also impact on the security and safety of the city. When large proportion of the population are fully engaged in daily, the level of crime, theft, homicide and violence will be very minimal and people can work freely anytime of the day feeling secured and safe. These conditions make the inhabitants to optimistic and improve QOL and well-being of the inhabitants of the city but pessimistic people always have negative intensions and impact negatively on QOL of the inhabitants (Medhorizone, 2018).

Likewise, the economic conditions of a city, the level of employment and investments provide the basis of increasing production. Available opportunities and resources within the city encourages production with the accompanying level of education and this impact on QOL of the citizens and per capita of individuals and households. Large proportion of the citizens employed guarantees positive impact while large unemployed and underemployed population impact negatively on the local economy of the neighbourhoods and citywide (Pitlane Magazine, 2018). Available money to spend by individuals and households and available urban facilities and services speaks the level of satisfaction perceived by the society and equally the level of production to explain the QOL in the society (Fellmann, Getis, Getis, and Malinowski, 2005).

Methodology

The study area population was 72,173 persons in 1991 (National Population Commission (NPC), 1991) and was projected to the study year (2019) which was 420,841 persons using Exponential Growth Model formula with 6.5% growth rate (NPC, 2018). The study employed Mixed Methods Research approach which concurrent triangulation research design was used which simple random and stratified sampling techniques and key informant approach with closed and open ended questionnaires were used to obtain data for the study. Primary data were collected from residents of communities of the study area, government officials and experts through interviews and physical observations to characterise the impact of social and economic conditions of communities in reference to QOL. The study identified 29 communities in the study area which 20% representing 6 communities were randomly selected for sampling in the study namely; Famgbe, Yenagoa, Ovom, Yenizue-Gene, Yenegwe and Igbogene communities. Sample size for the study was determined using 5 persons per household (National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), 2016) to select respondents (household heads) for the study which 399 respondents were selected using Taro Yamane formula and was proportionately distributed across sampled communities selected for the study. The study employed

stratified sampling technique to select respondents interviewed for the study (see Table 1). Thus, key informant interview of staff of the Bayelsa State of Ministries of Health and Education, experts such as Town Planners, health officers and educationists were also interviewed. Secondary data were collected from Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of Bayelsa State Ministries of Health and Education, and Bayelsa State Physical Planning Development Board (BSPPDB) to characterise the communities in reference to the impact of socio-economic conditions on QOL of residents of Yenagoa City.

Table 1: Determination of Sample Size for the Study

S/No.	Sampled Communities	1991 Population	2019 Population (Projected Using 6.5% Growth Rate)	No. of Households (HH) (5 Persons per HH)	No. of Households Sampled in the Communities
1	Famgbe	5,229	30,490	6,098	78
2	Yenagoa	8,723	50,864	10,173	131
3	Ovom	6,320	36,852	7,370	96
4	Yenizue-Gene	2,086	12,164	2,433	33
5	Yenegwe	473	2,758	552	7
6	Igbogene	3,536	20,618	4,124	54
	Total	**26,367**	**153,746**	**30,750**	**399**

Source: NPC, 1991; NPC, 2018; NBS, 2016; Researcher's Fieldwork, 2019

Findings

Social Indicators

Healthcare

The study revealed that there is high and very high under 5-years and maternity mortality rate in communities in the study area as assessed by respondents which 29.3% and 22.3% of affirmed to this record. Maternity mortality rate also recorded same scenario as record showed that 28.1% and 22.1% are high and very high respectively (see Table 2 & 3). However, irrespective of government effort in providing most of healthcare facilities and services in different locations in the study area such as hospitals, health centres and some forms of vaccination programmes administered to residents in the city, this has not yielded much successes. Though, there are some private healthcare facilities and services in the communities such as clinics and maternities to support government efforts. Thus, most of households acknowledged that they access healthcare services within their communities they are living and some within the study area. The high mortality rate recorded in the study has caused several public health challenges to residents of the study area and government. There are prevailing sicknesses and diseases recorded in the study area. these

sicknesses and diseases are more of malaria, typhoid, cholera, diarrhoea and other illnesses such as dysentery, pneumonia, fever, arthritis and heart related diseases (see Table 4).

Table 2: Assessment of Under 5-years Mortality Rate

Assessment of Under 5-years Mortality Rate	Famgbe		Yenagoa		Ovom		Yenizue-Gene		Yenegwe		Igbogene		Aggregate (Total)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No	%	No.	%	No.	%
Very low	33	42.3	1	0.8	2	2.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	9
Low	24	30.8	4	3.1	6	6.3	0	0	0	0	4	7.4	38	9.5
Uncertain	12	15.4	19	14.5	22	22.9	9	27.3	3	42.9	10	18.5	75	18.8
High	3	3.8	53	40.5	33	34.4	12	36.4	3	42.9	13	24.1	117	29.3
Very high	1	1.3	30	22.9	25	26	8	24.2	1	14.3	24	44.4	89	22.3
NA	5	6.4	4	18.3	8	8.3	4	12.1	0	0	3	5.6	44	11
Total	78	100	131	100	96	100	33	100	7	100	54	100	399	100

Source: Researcher's Fieldwork, 2019

Table 3: Assessment of Maternity Mortality Rate

Assessment of Maternity Mortality Rate	Famgbe		Yenagoa		Ovom		Yenizue-Gene		Yenegwe		Igbogene		Aggregate (Total)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No	%	No.	%	No.	%
Very low	35	44.9	1	0.8	2	2.1	0	0	1	14.3	0	0	39	9.8
Low	25	32.1	4	3.1	8	8.3	0	0	0	0	1	1.9	38	9.5
Uncertain	10	12.8	16	12.2	23	24	8	24.2	2	28.6	5	9.3	64	16
High	2	2.6	44	33.6	36	37.5	12	36.4	4	57.1	14	25.9	112	28.1
Very high	1	1.3	27	20.6	23	24	9	27.3	0	0	28	51.9	88	22.1
NA	5	6.4	39	29.8	4	4.2	4	12.1	0	0	6	11.1	58	14.5
Total	78	100	131	100	96	100	33	100	7	100	54	100	399	100

Source: Researcher's Fieldwork, 2019

Table 4: Prevailing Illness in Communities

Prevailing Illness	Famgbe		Yenagoa		Ovom		Yenizue-Gene		Yenegwe		Igbogene		Aggregate (Total)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No	%	No.	%	No.	%
Malaria	32	41	49	37.4	42	43.8	10	30.3	3	42.9	15	27.8	151	37.9
Typhoid	21	26.9	31	23.7	22	22.9	8	24.2	1	14.3	8	14.8	91	22.8
Cholera	14	17.9	18	13.7	11	11.5	6	18.2	2	28.5	12	22.2	63	15.8
Diarrhoea	8	10.3	15	11.5	13	13.5	5	15.2	1	14.3	6	11.1	48	12
Others (specify)	3	3.9	18	13.7	8	8.3	4	12.1	0	0	13	24.1	46	11.5
Total	78	100	131	100	96	100	33	100	7	100	54	100	399	100

Source: Researcher's Fieldwork, 2019

Education

The study revealed that average years spent in school by children 1-6 years, 16 years + and 7-9 years representing 19.3%, 18.5% and 9.5%. This showed that most of children are within primary and junior secondary school while some are attending tertiary education. The study observed that most of households' children access primary school within the community which about 64.2% affirmed this while 43.1% of households' children access to secondary school within the community and 16.8% access secondary school outside their communities but within Yenagoa (see Table 5, 6 & 7). However, with improvement in provision of educational facilities in communities and across

the study area by government many households have access to education. This effort has been improved upon by some corporate organisations and individuals to support government. The study also revealed that government has rehabilitated many existing primary and secondary schools to increase quantity and quality of education facilities in the study area and has boost literacy level of household members in communities in the study area as many of them have completed their secondary/technical vocational schools and tertiary education.

Table 5: Average Years Spent in School by Children

Average Years Spent in School by Children	Famgbe		Yenagoa		Ovom		Yenizue-Gene		Yenegwe		Igbogene		Aggregate (Total)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No	%	No.	%	No.	%
0 year	2	2.6	6	4.6	2	2.1	1	3	1	14.3	4	7.4	15	3.8
1-6 years	13	16.7	27	20.6	17	17.7	10	30	0	0	9	16.7	77	19.3
7-9 years	9	11.5	12	9.2	10	10.4	3	9.1	0	0	4	7.4	38	9.5
10-12 years	4	5.1	13	9.6	7	7.3	1	3	2	28.6	9	16.7	36	9
13-15 years	2	2.6	8	6.1	19	19.6	0	0	0	0	2	3.7	31	7.8
16 years +	21	26.9	19	14.5	21	21.9	5	15.2	2	28.6	6	11.1	74	18.5
NA	27	34.6	46	35.1	20	20.8	13	39.4	2	28.6	20	37	128	32.1
Total	78	100	131	100	96	100	33	100	7	100	54	100	399	100

Source: Researcher's Fieldwork, 2019

Table 6: Household Access to Primary School

HH Access to Primary School	Famgbe		Yenagoa		Ovom		Yenizue-Gene		Yenegwe		Igbogene		Aggregate (Total)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No	%	No.	%	No.	%
Within the community	54	69.2	81	61.8	60	62.5	16	48.5	4	57.1	41	75.9	256	64.2
Outside the Community but within Yenagoa	10	12.8	19	14.5	19	19.8	14	42.4	2	28.6	2	3.7	66	16.5
Outside Yenagoa	0	0	2	1.5	4	4.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	1.5
NA	14	17.8	29	22.1	13	13.5	3	9.1	1	14.3	11	20.4	71	17.8
Total	78	100	131	100	96	100	33	100	7	100	54	100	399	100

Source: Researcher's Fieldwork, 2019

Table 7: Household Access to Secondary School

HH Access to Secondary School	Famgbe		Yenagoa		Ovom		Yenizue-Gene		Yenegwe		Igbogene		Aggregate (Total)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No	%	No.	%	No.	%
Within the community	43	55.1	48	36.6	42	43.8	8	24.2	4	57.1	27	50	172	43.1
Outside the Community but within Yenagoa	10	12.8	20	15.3	26	27.1	6	18.2	2	28.6	3	5.6	67	16.8
Outside Yenagoa	1	1.3	2	1.5	7	7.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	2.5
NA	24	30.4	61	46.6	21	21.9	19	57.6	1	14.3	24	44.4	150	37.6
Total	78	100	131	100	96	100	33	100	7	100	54	100	399	100

Source: Researcher's Fieldwork, 2019

Security and Safety

The study revealed that there is very high incidence of crime in communities as recorded in the study area which about 80.2% affirmed to experience crime activity in their communities. Issue of violent activity is also prominent in communities as recorded by respondents in their communities. About 74.9% of respondents said they are witnessing violent activity within their communities. Types of crime and violent activity that is mostly recorded witnessed by respondents as revealed by the study include cultism, stealing and armed robbery. Other crime and violent activity are thuggery, assault, rape, fraud and kidnapping. These activities always occurred in communities which has caused injuries, effected property and threatened life of residents thereby increasing level of insecurity and safety of communities in the study area (see Table 8, 9 & 10).

Table 8: Incidence of Crime

Incidence of Crime	Famgbe		Yenagoa		Ovom		Yenizue-Gene		Yenegwe		Igbogene		Aggregate (Total)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	63	80.8	104	79.4	85	88.5	29	87.9	5	71.4	34	63	320	80.2
No	12	15.4	6	4.6	9	9.4	1	3	1	14.3	14	25.9	43	10.8
NA	3	3.8	21	16	2	2.1	3	9.1	1	14.3	6	11.1	36	9
Total	**78**	**100**	**131**	**100**	**96**	**100**	**33**	**100**	**7**	**100**	**54**	**100**	**399**	**100**

Source: Researcher's Fieldwork, 2019

Table 9: Incidence of Violent Activity

Incidence of Violent Activity	Famgbe		Yenagoa		Ovom		Yenizue-Gene		Yenegwe		Igbogene		Aggregate (Total)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	49	62.8	101	77.1	88	91.7	23	69.7	4	57.1	34	63	299	74.9
No	23	29.5	12	9.2	5	5.2	4	12.1	2	28.6	17	31.5	63	15.8
NA	6	7.7	18	13.7	3	3.1	6	18.2	1	14.3	3	5.6	37	9.3
Total	**78**	**100**	**131**	**100**	**96**	**100**	**33**	**100**	**7**	**100**	**54**	**100**	**399**	**100**

Source: Researcher's Fieldwork, 2019

Table 10: Type of Crime and Violent Activity

Type of Crime and Violent Activity	Famgbe		Yenagoa		Ovom		Yenizue-Gene		Yenegwe		Igbogene		Aggregate (Total)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No	%	No.	%	No.	%
Armed robbery	10	6.4	89	16.6	73	18.5	21	19.3	5	20	18	12.9	216	15.9
Stealing	51	32.7	107	19.9	82	20.8	25	22.9	5	20	40	28.6	310	20.8
Kidnapping	2	1.3	20	3.7	15	3.8	5	4.6	4	16	11	7.8	57	4.2
Assault	11	7	55	10.2	44	11.1	18	16.5	3	12	12	8.6	143	10.5
Fraud	3	1.9	30	5.6	24	6.1	3	2.8	0	0	7	5	67	4.9
Rape	4	2.6	54	10.1	36	9.1	4	3.6	1	4	6	4.3	105	7.7
Cultism	63	40.4	111	20.7	78	19.7	27	24.8	4	16	36	25.7	319	23.4
Thuggery	12	7.7	71	13.2	43	10.9	6	5.5	3	12	9	6.4	144	10.6
Others (specify)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.7	1	0.1
Total	**156**	**100**	**537**	**100**	**395**	**100**	**109**	**100**	**25**	**100**	**140**	**100**	**1362**	**100**

Source: Researcher's Fieldwork, 2019

Economic Indicators

Employment

The study revealed that 52.6% of respondents are employed while 38.1% are not employed and very few are retired from their employment in the study area. Status in employment indicated that 34.6% of respondents' employment is permanent and 25.6% have temporary employment while few are casual and contract employees (see Table 11 & 12). Employment reflected type of occupation most of respondents and their households are engaged in. Employment includes trading/businessmen, civil servants, teachers, technicians/artisans, company workers, farmers and fishermen. Very few are religious leaders, politicians, local manufacturers and legal personnel and military/para-military personnel. This occupation shows that many respondents are engaged in informal activities to support their households such as street trading and other retail activities. Their occupation from the study indicated the monthly income (Naira) of the respondents. The study revealed that 26.8% of respondents' monthly income is less than ₦18,000 while some are earning between ₦18,001-₦30,000 and ₦30,001-₦60,000 representing 22.8% and 17.3% respectively (see Table 13).

Table 11: Employment Status of Respondents

Employment Status	Famgbe		Yenagoa		Ovom		Yenizue-Gene		Yenegwe		Igbogene		Aggregate (Total)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No	%	No.	%	No.	%
Employed	41	52.6	69	52.7	50	52.1	21	63.6	3	42.9	26	48.1	210	52.6
Unemployed	28	35.9	48	36.6	33	34.4	11	33.3	4	57.1	28	51.9	152	38.1
Retired	5	6.4	5	3.8	2	2.1	1	3	0	0	0	0	12	3
NA	4	5.1	9	6.9	11	11.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	6.3
Total	**78**	**100**	**131**	**100**	**96**	**100**	**33**	**100**	**7**	**100**	**54**	**100**	**399**	**100**

Source: Researcher's Fieldwork, 2019

Table 12: Status in Employment of Respondents

Status in Employment	Famgbe		Yenagoa		Ovom		Yenizue-Gene		Yenegwe		Igbogene		Aggregate (Total)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No	%	No.	%	No.	%
Permanent	26	33.3	40	30.5	33	34.4	19	57.6	0	0	20	37	138	34.6
Temporary	24	30.8	33	25.2	22	22.9	7	21.2	4	57.1	12	22.2	102	25.6
Casual	4	5.1	4	3.1	4	4.2	0	0	0	0	3	5.6	15	3.8
Contract	3	3.8	1	0.8	3	3.1	0	0	0	0	2	3.7	9	2.3
NA	21	26.8	53	40.5	34	35.4	7	21.2	3	42.9	17	31.5	135	33.8
Total	**78**	**100**	**131**	**100**	**96**	**100**	**33**	**100**	**7**	**100**	**54**	**100**	**399**	**100**

Source: Researcher's Fieldwork, 2019

Table 13: Monthly Income of Respondents

Monthly Income (₦)	Famgbe		Yenagoa		Ovom		Yenizue-Gene		Yenegwe		Igbogene		Aggregate (Total)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No	%	No.	%	No.	%
Less than ₦18,000	26	33.3	28	21.4	23	24	10	30.3	3	42.9	17	31.5	107	26.8
₦18,001-₦30,000	19	24.4	22	16.8	29	30.2	4	12.1	3	42.9	14	25.9	91	22.8
₦30,001-₦60,000	8	10.3	34	26	15	15.6	8	24.2	0	0	4	7.4	69	17.3
₦60,001-₦90,000	9	11.5	8	6.1	7	7.3	2	6.1	0	0	4	7.4	30	7.5
₦90,001-₦120,000	2	2.6	6	4.1	3	3.1	4	12.1	0	0	4	7.4	19	4.8
₦120,001-₦150,000	3	3.8	2	1.5	2	2.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	1.8
₦150,001-₦180,000	0	0	1	0.8	2	2.1	1	3	0	0	2	3.7	6	1.5
₦180,001-₦210,000	0	0	1	0.8	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	2	0.5
₦210,001-₦240,000	0	0	1	0.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.3
₦240,001+	1	1.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.3
NA	10	12.8	28	21.4	15	15.6	3	9.1	1	14.3	9	16.7	66	16.5
Total	78	100	131	100	96	100	33	100	7	100	54	100	399	100

Source: Researcher's Fieldwork, 2019

Economy

The study revealed that the economy of the city relies on the informal sector which does not account for the GDP of the city as most of the activities are not taxed by the government. Few respondents and their households are within the formal employment category and this is what drive the city economically. Their purchasing power is low and little above the minimum wage in the country. The study revealed the 41.6% of households' access shopping facility in the study area outside the community they are living but within the city while 29.3% do their shopping within the community and very few access shopping facilities outside the city (see Table 14).

Table 14: Household Access to Shopping Facility

HH Access to Shopping Facility	Famgbe		Yenagoa		Ovom		Yenizue-Gene		Yenegwe		Igbogene		Aggregate (Total)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No	%	No.	%	No.	%
Within the community	17	21.8	4	3.1	42	43.8	16	48.5	6	85.7	32	59.3	117	29.3
Outside the Community but within Yenagoa	39	50	62	47.3	38	39.6	17	5.5	1	14.3	9	16.7	166	41.6
Outside Yenagoa	0	0	1	0.8	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	3.7	4	1
NA	22	28.2	64	48.9	15	15.6	0	0	0	0	11	20.4	112	28.1
Total	78	100	131	100	96	100	33	100	7	100	54	100	399	100

Source: Researcher's Fieldwork, 2019

Impacts of Social and Economic Indicators on the QOL

Social Impact

The study observed that there is inadequate provision of social facilities and services in the study area has giving rise to the many social problems amongst residents of the communities in the study area. Population increase and demand for social facilities and services has put pressure on the quantity and quality of supply of these facilities and services. This has increase social problems such as increased the mortality rates across households in communities as different sicknesses and diseases are prevailing in the study area. Educational facilities are also inadequate in supply irrespective of the improvement recorded on the provision of more educational facilities and rehabilitation of existing ones to accommodate the number of children attending primary and secondary schools in the study area. There are also increased in incidence of crime and violent activity such as cultism, stealing, armed robbery, thuggery, rape and other social vices in communities causing injuries, loss of property and threatening life of residents in the study area. These activities have increased security and safety challenges in communities which are seen as flashpoints by residents and government. All these abnormalities have impacted on QOL of residents of communities and brought concern to the government.

Economic Impact

The study observed from the findings that unemployment and underemployment rate is increasing amongst households which has made many household heads and adults to be involve in the informal sector activities for survival as their status in employment are temporary, casual and contract in term of condition of service in their work place. Traders/businessmen, technicians/artisans, farmer, fishermen and other occupation such politicians, local manufacturers, religious leaders are the occupation people are engaged in the study (see Table 11 & 12). This has shown their monthly earning levels which between N18,001- N60,000 averagely which is about 4USD per household and less than a 1USD per person in many households. This affects the local economy of communities and city generally as the level of purchasing is low. Though, some of residents are within the formal sector which are employed by the state and local governments. The residents within the informal sector employment are not taxed adequate reducing government earning thereby reducing government expenditure for capital projects especially in provision of social and economic facilities and services in communities in the study area. However, residents and experts opines in their assessment that government has tried in provision of urban facilities and services but not quite satisfactory especially in relation to social and economic facilities and services in the study area. These deficiency

has affected the local economy and has impacted on QOL of residents of communities making economic life not striving to the fullest.

Conclusion

QOL study has become a crucial tool for assessing satisfaction of city dwellers in reference to provision of urban facilities and services in urban areas. The study has revealed that the city of Yenagoa is growing spatially and increasing in densification of the communities, thereby increasing demand for social and economic facilities and services. Inability of government to provide sufficient social and economic facilities and services to improve the local economy of communities and living conditions has affected QOL of residents of the communities and the city generally. The study identified that there is inadequate provision of healthcare and educational facilities, increased in crime and violent activity, increase in urban poverty as a result of large proportion of the population are unemployed and underemployed making the local economy not buoyant and sustainable. These challenges need to be address to enhance socio-economic conditions of residents of Yenagoa City to improve their QOL. Thus, the study has suggested efficient and effective urban planning and management framework to improve socio-economic conditions and QOL of residents of the study area.

Recommendations

I. Yenagoa Master Plan 2004 should be reviewed and implement specific goals and targets of the plan to provide urban social and economic facilities and services to improve QOL and well-being of residents;

II. Provide urban planning and management framework to control, guide and manage urban growth and development in the city especially at the suburbs and within communities to achieve sustainable urban development;

III. Prepare an urban renewal scheme for communities in the study area to improve social and economic conditions of residents;

IV. Develop a Local Economic Development (LED) plan to build the economic capacity of communities to provide job opportunities, reduce poverty level and economic backwardness in communities;

V. Participatory Planning Approach (PPA) should be employed in planning and management of communities to achieve good urban governance in the study area; and

VI. Provide a sustainable security framework by formulation of synergy between security agencies and communities to enhance security and safety in the study area.

References

Barcaccia, B. (2013). *Quality of Life: Everyone Wants It, But What Is It?* Retrieved 6th June, 2018 from https//www.forbes.com/.../2013/quality-of-life

Bayelsa State Government (2018). *Map of Yenagoa.* Yenagoa, Bayelsa State: Surveyor General Office.

Bayelsa State Government (2004). *Yenagoa Master Plan 2004.* Port Harcourt, Nigeria: AS&P–Harcourt Adukeh Associates, pp. 7–28.

Bosch, P., Jongeneel, S., Rovers, V., Neumann, H.M., Airaksinen, M. & Huovila, A. (2016). *Smart City KPIs and Related Methodology.* Retrieved 29th May, 2018 from http://nws.eurocities.eu/MediaShell/media/D1.4CITYkeys_D14_Smart_City_KPIs_Final_20160201.pdf

Enger, E.D., Smith, B.F. & Bockarie, A.T. (2006). *Environmental Science: A Study of Interrelationships.* (Tenth Edition), New York, USA: McGraw-Hill Companies Inc.

Eurostat (2015). *Quality of Life Indicators - Measuring Quality of Life.* Retrieved 29th May, 2018 from http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php /Quality_of_life_indicators_-_measuring_quality_of_life

Fellmann, J.D., Getis, A., Getis, J. & Malinowski, J.E. (2005). *Human Geography: Landscapes of Human Activities.* (Eighth Edition), New York, USA: McGraw-Hill Companies Inc., USA, pp. 428-437.

Garau, C. & Pavan, V.M. (2018). Evaluating Urban Quality: Indicators and Assessment Tools for Smart Sustainable Cities. *Sustainability, 10*(575), 1-18.

Kladivo, P. & Halás, M. (2012). Quality of Life in an Urban Environment: A Typology of Urban Units of Olomouc. *Quaestiones Geographicae, 31*(2), 49-60.

Masoumeh, B. (2012). The Challenge of Slums: Socio-Economic Disparities. *International Journal of Social Science and Humanity, 2*(5), 410-414.

Medhorizone (2018). *Quality of Life Factors.* Retrieved 10th June, 2018 from https://www.medhorizons.com/quality.html

National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) (2016). *General Household Survey – Panel Wave 3 (Post Planting) 2015-2016.* Abuja, Nigeria: National Bureau of Statistics.

National Population Commission (NPC) (2018). *NPC Puts Nigeria's Population at 198 Million.* Retrieved 27th February, 2018 from https://www.vanguardngr.com/2018/04/npc-puts-nigerias-population-198m/

National Population Commission (NPC). (1991). *1991 Population Census Report of Nigeria.* Lagos, Nigeria: Federal Government Press.

Pitlane Magazine (2018). *Factors that Affect Quality of Life.* Retrieved 10th June, 2018 from http://www.pitlanemagazine.com/lifestyles-and-subcultures/factors-that-affect-quality-of-life.html

Samantha, W. (2015). Quality of Life Study on Slum Dwellers (With Special Reference to Sri Lanka). *International Journal of Scientific Research and Innovative Technology (IJSRIT), 2*(3), 36-65.

United Nations (UN) (2018). *UN: 68 Percent of World Population Will Live in Urban Areas by 2050.* Retrieved 12th December, 2018 from https://m.phys.org/.../2018-05percent

United Nations (UN) (2014). *World's Population Increasingly Urban with More Than Half Living in Urban Areas.* Retrieved 8th December, 2018 from http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/news/population/world-urbanization-prospects-2014.html

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) (2007). *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2007 Revision.* New York, USA: Population Division of the Development of Economic and Social Affairs, p. 244.

Yamane, T. (1967). *Statistics: An Introduction Analysis*. (Second Edition), New York, USA: Harper and Row.