

Urban Space Expansion and Loss of Family Land Holdings In Idah And Its Environs, Kogi State, Nigeria

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Abstract:- The Mounting Concern Of Urbanization and Anthropogenic Alterations of Water Bodies, Vegetal Cover And Other Natural Resources Has Continued to Dominate The Front Burner In Contemporary Academic Discuss Across The Globe. In A Related Development, This Study Examined Urban Space Expansion And Loss Of Traditional Land Holding In Idah And Its Environs, Kogi State, Nigeria. To Achieve This Broad Objective, 740 Household Heads Were Sampled In Addition To 36 Discussants From 3 Focused Groups Made Up Of Community Chiefs, Elders Between The Ages Of 40 And 65 Years Old. Three Research Questions Were Raised To Guide The Study. The Cultural Consensus Theory Guided The Analytical Process Of The Study. Both Quantitative And Qualitative Data Were Gathered In The Course Of The Study. The Quantitative Data Were Analyzed Using The Analytical Tool Of Simple Percentage, While The Qualitative Information Was Analyzed Using Narratives And Excerpts. The Result From The Analysis Revealed That Urban Space Expansion Has Led To The Loss Of A Significant Amount Of Family Land And Natural Resources. Based On These Findings, The Study Proffered Recommendations Which Are Protection Of Lands And Resources From External Threats And Maintaining Livelihood Security And Participatory Urban Development. The Findings And Recommendations Have Implications For Theory And Practice. First It Opened Up Knowledge For Further Research And Secondly, It Stands As A Guide For Urban Policy Makers In Preserving Land And Other Natural Resources In Idah And Its Environs.

1.1 Background To The Study

Urban Space Expansion, Urban Sprawl And Urbanization Can Be Used Interchangeably To Capture The Spatial (Horizontal Or Vertical) Expansion Of Urban Areas Or Cities Arising From Population Growth (See; Un, 2009; Raimi, Ekpenyong & Wabah, 2011 And Potts, 2013). The Growth Of Cities And Unprecedented Rural-To-Urban Migration Throughout The World Are Frequently Cited As Defining Global Trends Of The 21st Century. All Over The World, Academic And Not Least Policy Concerns Are Beginning To Mount Especially With The Need To Understand And By Extension Check The Growing Loss Of Land Holdings And The Extinction Of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (Tek..

Kogi State Which Is Located In The North Central Region Of Nigeria Is No Different As The Major Urban Areas In The State Namely Lokoja, Okene, Idah, Ankpa Etc Are Fast Expanding. For Instance, Unihabitat (2010) Rated Lokoja The Kogi State Capital As One Of The Fastest Growing Cities In The World. The State's Urbanization Trajectory Is Likely To Put Pressure On Nearby Local Communities Especially With The Recently Signed Usd 1.3 Million Urban Development Agreements With Unihabitat. Hence, As The State Becomes More Concerned With Urbanization Empirical Effort Is Required To Understand Its Effect On Local People, Particularly, Their Land Holdings.

1.2 Statement Of The Problem

Although, Quite A Number Of Empirical Works Are Replete Within The Field Of Tek Especially, Traditional Land Holdings, It Is Nevertheless Worthy To Point Out That Most Of The Studies Have Been Carried Out Outside The Shores Of Nigeria. Literature Shows A Concentration Of Tek Studies In Latin American Countries, Especially In Brazil And Mexico With Particular Focus On Economic Development And How This Affects The Ecological Knowledge Of The People.

In Nigeria, However, While There Are Numerous Studies On Economic Development, Urbanization Or Even Capitalist Expansion, Empirical Works On How These Mutually Reinforcing Activities Affect Traditional Ecological Heritage Of Aboriginal People, Particularly In The Area Land Holding, Are Almost Non-Existent Thereby Creating A Vacuum For A Study Of This Nature. Based On The Above, The Challenge Of Urbanization For Local Knowledge In Kogi State Becomes Very Attractive For An Intellectual Enterprise Of This Nature Due To Recent Growth Trends Of Its Cities.

1.3 Research Questions

The Following Research Questions Guided The Data Collection Exercise In This Study:

- To What Extent Does Urban Space Expansion Lead To Loss Of Family Land Fuse In Idah And Its Environs
- What Is The Effect Of The Loss Of Family Land Holding On The Overall Wellbeing Of Idah Community Life?
- How Can The Land And Vegetative Heritage Be Conserved In The Face Of Urban Space Expansion In Idah?
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1.4 Objectives Of The Study

The Main Aim Of This Study Was To Find Out How Urban Space Expansion Impacts Traditional Land Holding System Of The Rural Environment/Areas Of Idah In Kogi State, Nigeria.

Study Objectives Are To:

1. Determine Impact Of Urban Space Expansion On Family Land Holding, Natural Resources And Traditional Ecological Heritage In Idah And Its Environs
2. Document The Impacts Of Traditional Land Holding Due To Urban Space Expansion On The Overall Wellbeing Of Idah Community
3. Examine Ways Of Conserving Land And Vegetative Heritage As Urban Space Continues To Expand In Idah And Its Environs

1.5 Significance Of The Study

Theoretical Significance: Sociological Theorizing In The Area Of Urbanization Has Focused More On Using Mainstream Perspectives Such As Marxism, Functionalism, Symbolic Interactionism, Anomie, And Concentric Zone Among Others. While These Theories Have Their Specific Relevance In The Study Of Urban Space, Testing The Subject With Other Variables Such As Ecological Knowledge Could Reveal Their Weaknesses. As A Result, Measuring Traditional Knowledge Requires A Theory That Has Sociological, Anthropological And Cultural Value. In This Study, The “*Cultural Consensus Theory*” Would Be Adopted To Provide The Much Needed Analytical Framework. In Doing This, The Study Hopes To Contribute To Existing Knowledge And Literature On The Subject Matter By Showing That Tek Related Knowledge Resides In The Cultural Space Of The People Especially Old Members Of The Community. In Addition, The Study Hopes To Be Relevant By Opening A New Research Model To Scholars In Sociology, Cultural Anthropology, Urbanization And Development Studies.

Practical Significance: Every Study Aims At Providing Solutions To Problems In Society. Practically, This Study, Through Its Recommendation Hopes To Provide A Proper Framework That Will Guide Policy Makers To Make Practical Changes In Urban Planning In Kogi State And Nigeria At Large.

1.7 Scope And Limitations Of The Study

The Scope Of The Study Is Viewed In Terms Of Its Spatial And Content Coverage. With Regard To Spatial Coverage, The Study Covered The Urban And Rural Areas Of Idah In Kogi State.

2. METHODOLOGY

This Essentially Examines Issues Such As; The Research Setting, The Research Design, Research Population, Sample Population, Sample Technique, Data Collection Method, And Method Of Data Analysis.

2.1 Research Design

This Study Is Both A Quantitative And A Qualitative One. Based On This, The Cross-Sectional Research Design Was Adopted For The Study. Within The Purview Of The Above Design, Two Types Of Methods Were Adopted Namely; The Survey And Ethnographic Methods. The Survey Method Allowed The Use Of Question Based Instruments Or Statistical Tools To Collect Information About How People Think And Act. On The Other Hand, Ethnographic Method Involves The Collection And Analysis Of Qualitative Data About Cultural Groups. Agar (1986:72) Described Ethnographic Method As “Encountering Alien Worlds And Making Sense Of Them”. The End Purpose Of Ethnographic Research Is The Development Of Cultural Linkages Between Variables.

2.2 Research Population

The Target Population For This Study Is Family Heads, Older People Within The Age Bracket Of 40 Years And Above, In Addition To Chiefs And Traditional Rulers. Based On Kogi State Urban Planning Figures, Idah Has A Total Household Or Family Heads Of 4, 210 And About 2,350 Older People From 40 Years And Above (Ksup, 2013), While Preliminary Baseline Population Data Gathering Revealed That Idah Alone Has About 100 Village Heads And Traditional Title Holders (Chiefs) And 1 Paramount Ruler. This Put The Target Population At 6,661 For Idah Alone.

In Addition, The Target Population For The Other Six Villages (Ogbobo, Oforachi, Ajaka, Ugwolawo, Okenya And Onyedega) Surrounding Idah Is Put At 3,951 (Ksup, 2013). This Includes Household Heads Numbering 2750; Older People Aged 60 Years And Above 1,137, Traditional Title Holders/Chiefs 64. Consequently, The Overall Target Population For This Study Is 10,612

2.3 Sample Size And Sample Technique

In This Study, Two Sets Of Samples Were Used. The First Is Determined Using The Taro Yamane Formula Thus= $n = \frac{N}{1+N(E)^2}$ Where N = The Expected Sample Population, N = The Population Of The Study And E = Level Of Significance. Thus Applying This Formula To The Population Above, The First Sample Size For This Study Is 740 (See Table 3.1 Below).

Table 3.1: Sample Size Computation Using Taro Yamane Formula			
Taro Yamane	Idah	Other Villages	Sample Size
$n = \frac{N}{1+N(E)^2}$	N= 6661	N= 3951	740
	$(E)^2 = .05 \times .05 = 0.0025$	$(E)^2 = .05 \times .05 = 0.0025$	
	$0.0025 \times 6661 = 16.65$	$0.0025 \times 3951 = 9.87$	
	$1 + 16.65 = 17.65$	$1 + 9.87 = 10.87$	
	$\therefore N = 6661 \div 17.65 = 377$	$\therefore N = 3951 \div 10.87 = 363$	

Source: Compiled By Author.

On The Other Hand, The Second Sample Size For This Study Is Determined Using The Convenience Approach (Fagi, 2001). On This Note, A Sample Size Of 36 Persons (Mostly Chiefs And Older People Above 60 Years) Was Used. The Convenience Method Of Sample Size Determination Was Adopted Given The Need To Be Purposive In Selecting This Category Of Respondents. As A Result Of The Above, The Overall Sample Size For This Study Amounts To 776 (Including 740 Questionnaire Respondents And 36 Fgd Participants).

To Select The Entire Sample Of The Study, One Probability (Simple Random) And Two Non-Probability (Purposive & Snowballing) Sampling Techniques Were Adopted. The Simple Random Sampling Technique Was Used To Select 377 Household Heads From Idah And 363 Household Heads From The Six Surrounding Villages. The List Of Household Heads From The Kogi State Urban Planning Unit Constituted The Sampling Frame. As A Result, Each Of The Households Was Numbered On A Piece Of Paper And Put In Baskets To Form A Basis For A Ballot System. Thereafter, Each Of The Elements In The Basket Was Selected One At A Time Without Replacement Until The 740 Participants Were Picked.

Finally, The Snowballing Technique Was Used To Select The Second Set Of Respondents (36) For The Fgd Sessions. These Techniques Were Most Preferred Over Others Due To The Fact That It Is Not Everyone In The Study Area That Has Depth Of Knowledge In Teh Issues. Hence, Through The Snowballing Method, Chiefs, Elderly Men And Women As Well As Youths Were Selected To Participate In The Fgd Sessions. This, As Already Highlighted Earlier Brought The Total Sample Size To 776

2.4 Sources Of Data

The Study Depended On Both Primary And Secondary Sources Of Data. The Primary Source Of Data Collection Was Derived From Questionnaires, And Focus Group Discussions (Fgds) Made Of The Following Group Structure 1) Traditional Rulers 2) Elders Aged 60 Years And Above 3) Culturally Defined Leaders And 4) Compound/Family Chiefs Of Idah Extraction. While The Questionnaire Method Was Used To Source Information From The General Public, The Fgd Technique Was Used To Source Information From A Predefined Target Population. On The Other Hand, Secondary Source Of Data Collection Was Derived From The Works Of Other Scholars Published In Text Books, Newspaper And Magazines, Publications In Journals And The Internet.

2.5 Method Of Data Collection

Following The Sources Of Data For This Study, Four Types Of Primary Data Collection Techniques Were Used. These Are Questionnaire, Observation, Key Informant Interviews And Fgds. The Questionnaire Was Divided Into Four (4) Sections Covering The Various Research Questions And Objectives Raised In This Study. The Research Instrument (Questionnaire) For This Study Is The Urbanization And Loss Of Traditional Ecological Heritage Questionnaire (Ultehq). The Instrument Is Based On The Literature Review, The Questions Generated And Other Research Instruments Used In Similar Studies. It Is Designed In Line With The Modified Four-Point Likert Scale Format (Olum, 2004) Of Strongly Agree (Sa); Agree (A); Disagree (D) And Strongly

Disagree (Sd). As Stated Above, The Instrument Is Made Up Four (4) Sections; *Section A* –Required Personal Or Socio-Demographic Information From Respondents (Sex, Age, Educational Qualification, Marital Status And So On.); *Section B* –Required Information On Urban Space Expansion And Loss Of Family Land Holding, Natural Resources And Traditional Ecological Heritage; *Section C* - Required Information On Aspects Of Traditional Ecological Heritage That Have Been Affected By Urban Space Expansion And Lastly, *Section D* – Required Information On The Impact Of The Loss Of Traditional Ecological Heritage On Community Wellbeing And Their Adaptive Mechanisms Or Strategies To These Negative Impacts. In Addition To The Use Of Survey Questionnaire For Primary Data Collection, Observational Techniques Were Employed. The Observational Techniques Was Participant In Nature; Hence The Researcher Resided In The Study Area For A Period Of Time In Order To Observe The Way Of Life Of The People And Cover Existing Social Distance Between The Researcher And The People Of Idah. The Third Primary Data Collection Technique Was The Focus Group Discussion (Fgd) Which Involved A Cluster But Face-To-Face Interview With Key Informants Who Were Considered Knowledgeable In Traditional Ecological Heritage Of The People Of Idah And Its Environs. The Study Also Involved A Secondary Method Of Data Collection That Strongly Depended On Document And Or Published Works Of Other Researchers That Are Related To This Work.

2.6 Method Of Data Analysis

The Data Collected From The Field Work Were Analyzed Using Both Quantitative And Qualitative Methods. For The Quantitative, The Simple Percentage Method Was Adopted To Analyze Information Related To The Research Questions. However, For The Key Informant Interviews And Focus Group Discussions, Analysis Was Based On Purely Qualitative Technique Derived From The Grounded Theory Method (Strauss And Corbin, 1990). As A Result, The Interview And Fgd Responses Were Analyzed Through Content Methods As Highlighted By Strauss And Corbin In Their Grounded Theory Approach. This Was Achieved Through Narratives, Excerpts, Axial And Selective Coding In Order To Realize A Rigorous Empirical Outcome Leading To Models Of Land And Other Teh Conservation.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This Is Focused On Analyzing The Data Gathered During The Fieldwork. Two Types Of Data Analysis Techniques Were Adopted. These Are Simple Percentages And Grounded Theory Analytical Model. The First Was Used To Analyze Research Questions And Presented In Diagrams Such As Histograms, Pie Charts And Trend Graphs, The Second Method Which Is Descriptive Employed Narratives And Excerpts As Well As Grounded Theory Analytical Technique For The Analysis Of The Qualitative Information Derived From The Fgd Sessions. Finally The Concluding Section Of The Chapter Deals With The Discussion Of The Findings Based On The Outcome Of The Analysis. This Is Done In Line With The Specific Objectives And Research Questions

Table 3.0: Number/Percentage Of Questionnaire Distributed /Collated			
Location	Analysis		%
	Distributed	Retrieved	
Idah	377	368	97.6
Other Villages	363	350	96.4
Total	740	718	97

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Table 3.0 Above Shows Copies Of Questionnaire Distributed And Collated. The Summation Of Questionnaire Collated From Field Survey Puts The Total Figure At 718 Out Of 740 Constituting 97% Response Rates. The Presentation And Analysis Of Data Below Were Done Based On The Total Number (718) Of Questionnaire That Were Duly Filled, Returned And Collated.

4.0 RESULTS

This Section Is Divided Into Three Subsections. The First Deals With The Presentation Of The Socio-Demographic Information Of The 718 Sampled Respondents That Were Involved In The Survey. The Next Subsection Focuses On The Evaluation Of The Research Questions Using Data From The Questionnaire. Finally, The Last Subsection Presents The Fgd Results.

4.1 Socio-Demographic Information

Table 4.1: Socio-Demographic Data		
Variables	Frequency	Percentage %
<i>Age</i>		
40-49	122	17
50-59	401	56
60 And Above	195	27
Total	718	100
<i>Sex</i>		
Males	672	94
Females	46	6
Total	718	100
<i>Marital Status</i>		
Single	12	2
Married/Cohabiting	570	79
Separated/Divorced	82	11
Widow/Widower	54	8
Total	718	100
<i>Educational Level</i>		
No Formal Education	70	10
Primary Education	183	25
Secondary Education	318	44
Tertiary Education	58	8
Vocational Training	89	12
Total	718	100
<i>Type Of Religion</i>		
Christians	432	60
Muslims	206	29
Traditional	80	11
Total	718	100
<i>Occupation Of Respondents</i>		
Farming/Hunting/Fishing	194	27
Petty Trading/Business	316	44
Civil Servant	120	17
Private Company Staff	66	9
Others	22	3
Total	718	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Table 4.1 Above Provides Information That Shows The Socio-Demographic Character Of The Respondents In This Study. The First Part Of The Table Reveals The Age Distribution Of The Respondents. From The Data Presented In The Table, It Is Easy To See That 122(17%) Of The Respondents Were Between The Age Bracket Of 40-49 Years, 401(56%) Of The Respondents Were Aged Between 50-59 Years, While 195(27%) Of Them Fall Under The Age Bracket Of 60 Years And Above. The Next Part Of The Table Above Shows The Gender Status Of Respondents Who Participated In This Study. From The Table, It Can Be Seen That 672(94%) Of The Respondents Are Males, While The Remaining 46(6%) Of The Respondents Were Females.

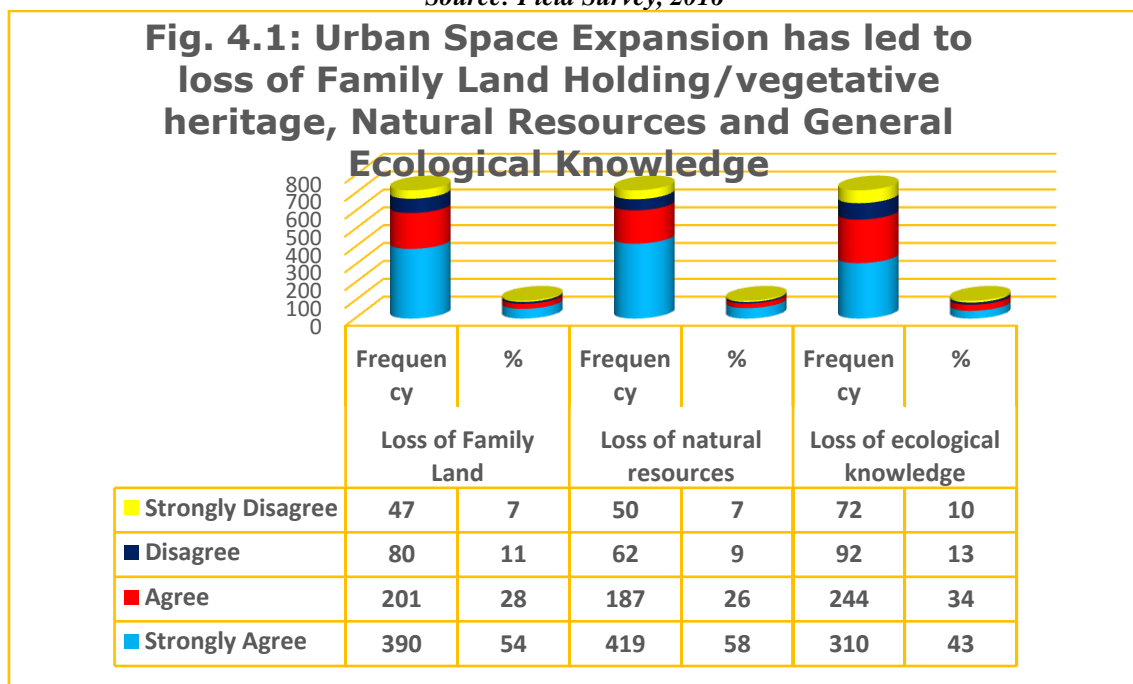
Next Is The Information On The Marital Status Of The Respondents Who Participated In The Study. The Table Reveals That 12(2%) Of The Respondents Are Single, 570(79%) Of Them Are Either Married Or Cohabiting, 82(11%) Of The Respondents Are Either Separated From Their Partner Or Divorced, While 54(8%) Of Them Are Either Widows/Widowers. The Table Also Shows The Educational Qualification Of Respondents. It Can Be Deduced From The Table That 70(10%) Of Participants Have No Formal Education As At The Time Of The Study, 183(25%) Had Primary Level Education, 318 (44%) Of Them Have Secondary Level Education, 58(8%) Of The Respondents Attended Tertiary Institutions, While The Remaining 89(12%) Of The Respondents Have Some Form Of Vocational Training.

The Religion Of Respondents Is Also Shown In The Table Above. From The Table, 432(60%) Of The Respondents Say They Are Christians, 206(29%) Were Muslims, While 80 (11%) Say They Practice Traditional Religion. Lastly, The Table Captured Information Concerning The Occupation Of The Respondents. The Data Presented In The Table Above Reveal That 194(27%) Of The Respondents Are Either Famers, Hunters Or Fishers, 316(44%) Of The Respondents Said That They Engage In Petty Trading Or Business, 120(17%) Of The Respondents Said They Are Civil Servants, 66(9%) Of Them Said They Work In Private Organizations, While 22(3%) Of The Respondents Said Others.

From The Socio-Economic Data, It Is Easy To See That A Large Number Of The Respondents Fall Under The Age Bracket Of 50-59years And 60 Years And Above. This Justifies The Initial Target Group Of The Study. This Again Reflects The Fact That There Are Less Youth Headed Households In The Study Area Since Most Of Them Have Migrated To The Major Cities In Search Of Greener Pastures. Again, A Significant Proportion Of The Respondents Had Secondary Education. This Goes To Show That Most Of The Respondents Have A Fair Educational Attainment. This Socio-Demographic Information Shows Also That The Respondents Have The Mental Capacity To Respond To The Next Part Of The Instrument Which Focuses On Answering The Various Research Questions That Guided This Study.

4.2: Determine Impact Of Urban Space Expansion On Loss Of Family Land Holding, Natural Resources And Traditional Ecological Heritage In Idah And Its Environs

Source: Field Survey, 2016



Source: Field Survey, 2016

Figure 4.1 Shows Data On Whether Urban Space Expansion Has Led To A Loss Of Family Land Holding/Vegetative Heritage, Natural Resources And General Ecological Knowledge In Idah And Its Environs. From The Information On The Table, It Can Be Seen That With Regard To Loss Of Family Land, 390(54%) Of The Respondents Strongly Agree That This Have Been Lost Significantly, 201(28%) Of Them Agree, 80(11%) Of Them Disagree And 47(7%) Of Them Strongly Disagree. With Regard To Loss Of Natural Resources, 419(58%) Of The Respondents Strongly Agree; 187(26%) Of Them Agree, 62(9%) Of Them Disagree And 50(7%) Of Them Strongly Disagree, While Regarding Loss Of General Ecological Knowledge, 310(43%) Of Them Strongly Agree; 244(34%) Of Them Agree, 92(13%) Of Them Disagree And 72(10%) Of Them Strongly Agree. Plates 4.1 And 4.2 Below Shows Graphical Variations Overtime Of Urban Space Expansion Resulting From Anthropogenic Activities In The Study Area. This Provides Strong Geographical/Spatial Support For The Opinion Of Respondents Regarding Loss Of Land Holdings As Well As Other Related Natural Resources (Water Bodies, Vegetations Among Others).

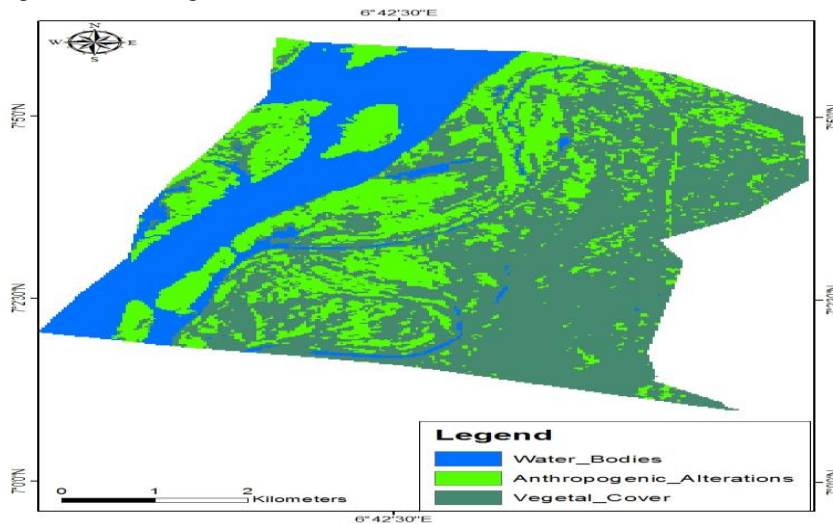


Plate 4.3: Idah Local Government Showing Landcover Analysis In 1987
 Source: Global Land Cover Facility, Landsat Imagery, 1987

Plate 4.3 Above Shows The Analysis Of Image Of The Study Area In The Year 1987. From The Analysis The Blue Colour Represented In The Imagery Shows Area Covered By Water Bodies In The Entire Local Government While The Medium Apple Colour Represent The Area Altered By Man In His Bid To Expand Space. The Vegetal Cover Is Represented By The Colour Deep Green.

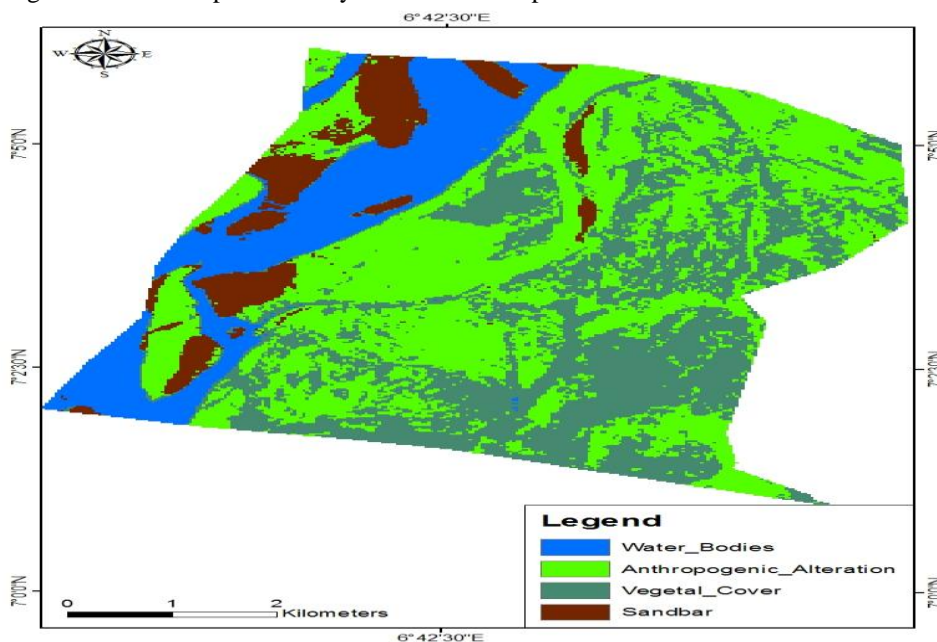


Plate 4.4: Idah Local Government Showing Landcover Analysis In 2010
 Source: Global Land Cover Facility, Landsat Imagery, 2010

Figure 4.4 Above Shows The Analysis Of Image Of The Study Area In The Year 2010. From The Analysis The Blue Colour Represented In The Imagery Shows Area Covered By Water Bodies In The Entire Local Government While The Medium Apple Colour Represent The Area Altered By Man In His Bid To Expand Space. The Vegetal Cover Is Represented By The Colour Deep Green.

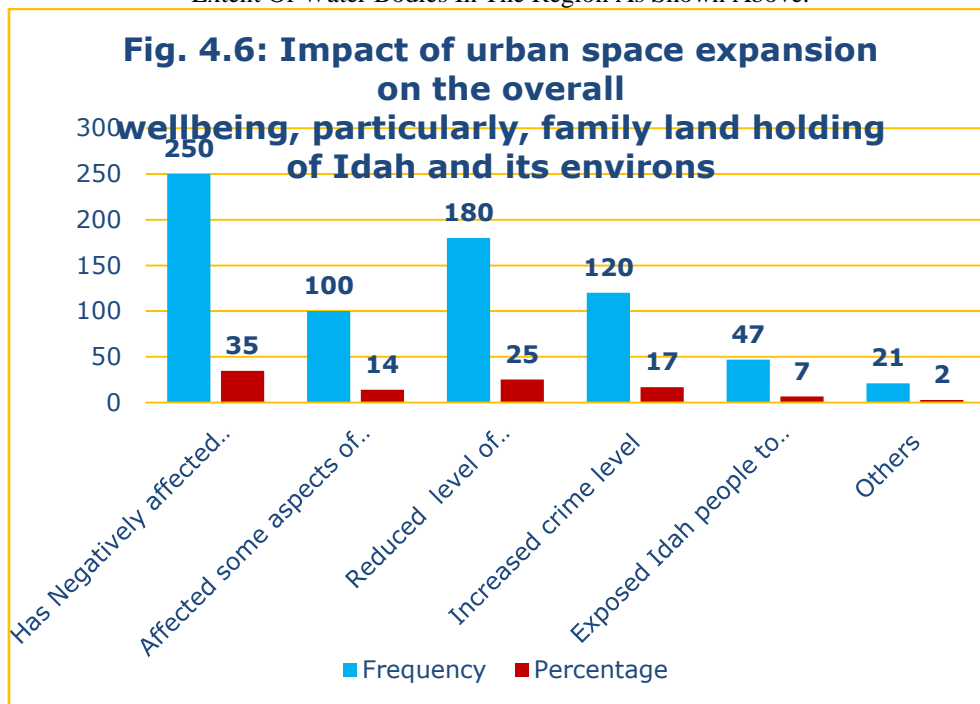
Table 4.5: Spatial Representation Of Land Covers Extent Between 1987 And 2010

Year	Water Bodies (M ²)	Anthropogenic Alterations (M ²)	Vegetal Cover (M ²)
1987	252,969	1,084,190	1,481,852
2010	25,682	2,005,691	1,199,326

Source: Computed From The Data In Plates 4.3 And 4.5 Above

From The Analysis It Is Obvious That Human Activities Has Significantly Impacted On The Vegetal Resources Of The People Resulting In A Loss Of Land In The Tune Of 2,005,691 As Against 1,084,190 As Observed In A Base Year Of 1987. This Alteration Has Encroached In To The Area Covered By Water Hence Affecting The

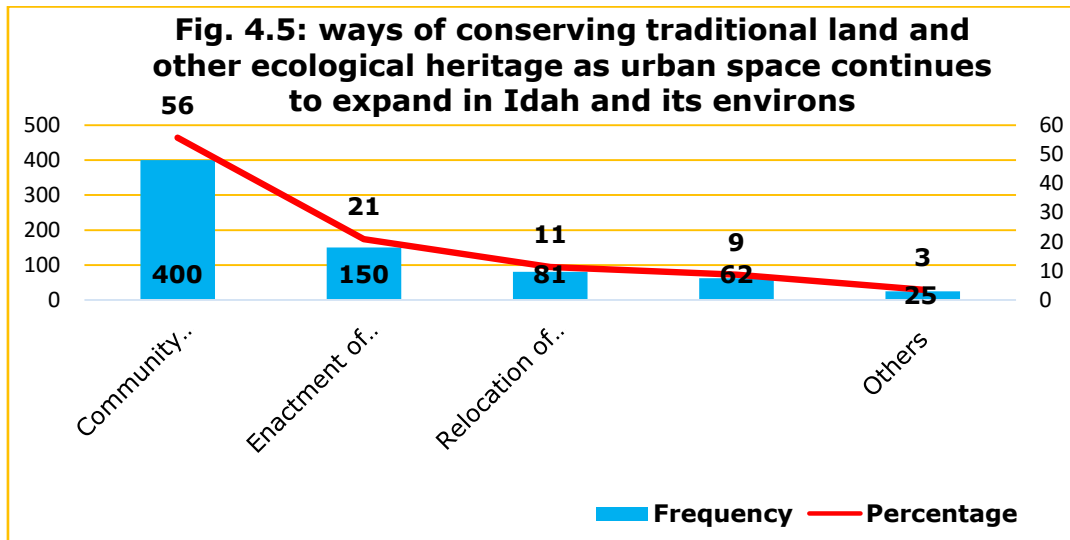
Extent Of Water Bodies In The Region As Shown Above.



Source: Field Survey, 2016

Figure 4.6 Above Shows Data On The Impact Of Urban -Space Expansion On The Overall Wellbeing Of The People Of Idah And Its Environs Particularly As It Concerns Traditional Land Holding System. From The Information Provided In The Figure, It Is Observed That 250(35%) Of The Respondents Said It Has Negatively Affected Indigenous Development, 100(14%) Of Them Said It Has Affected Some Aspect Of Language Since The Loss Of These Heritages Often Lead To The Loss Of Its Knowledge And Language In Most Cases, 180(25%) Of Them Said It Has Reduced The Level Of Communal Life Associated With The Pre-Urban Era, Others (120/17%) Said It Has Led To The Increase Of Criminality, 47(7%) Of Them Said It Has Exposed The People To A New Way Of Life That They Must Adjust To, While 21(2%) Of Them Said Others.

4.7: Examine Ways Of Conserving Traditional Ecological Heritage As Urban Space Continues To Expand In Idaho And Its Environs.



Source: Field Survey, 2016

Figure 4.7 Provides Information On Suggested Ways That Land And Other Traditional Ecological Heritage Of The People Can Be Conserved Even With Urban Space Expansion. From The Information Provided, 400(56%) Of The Respondents Said Community Members Should Be Involved In Urban Planning, 150(21%) Of Them Said There Should Be Enactment Of Laws To Stop Urban Expansion, 81(11%) Of The Respondents Said The Communities Affected Should Be Relocated To A New Habitat, 62(9%) Of Them Said Existing Traditional Ecological Heritages Should Be Properly Documented, While 25(3%) Said Others.

4.3.1 Impact On Family Land Use

Under This Theme, The Impact Of Urban Space Expansion On Family Land Use Was Evaluated As Participants Were Asked How Urban Space Expansion Affected Family Land Holdings And Use In Idaho And Its Environs. It Is Important To Note That All Of The Participants At The Different Points Where The Fgds Were Held Had Closely Related Viewpoints Or Perspectives On The Impact Of Urban Space Expansion On Land Tenure Systems In Their Various Communities. Some Of The Participants From Idaho Point To The Fact That Urban Space Expansion Has Significantly Undermined Family Land Holding And Use. For Instance, One Of The Participants Who Were Very Specific Added That:

A Good Part Of Their Family Land Was Lost Through The Siting Of Modern School, Health And Church Infrastructures. This Is In Addition To The Associated Domestic Buildings That Sprang Up In Response To These Infrastructures. He Argued That The Citing Of This Infrastructures As Well As Houses For Living Led To Massive Deforestation And Land Loss (In Most Cases Without Compensation) To The Extent That Family Land Holdings Reduced A Great Deal (65 Years Old Male, 30th January, 2016; 3:48 Pm)

The Discussion Generated Some Understanding That As More Family Land Holdings Were Lost As A Result Of Urban Space Expansion; Farming Activities Were Also Affected Since In Most Cases, Farming Happened On Family Lands Either As Commercial Lease Or As A Support System For Family Members. On A Similar Note, One Of The Fgd Participants Emphasized On The Fact That:

Apart From The Siting Of Churches, Schools And Education Infrastructures, The Most Devastating Effect Of Urban Space Expansion On Family Land Holding Or Any Kind Of Tenure System In Idaho And Its Environs, Is The Gradual Purchase Of Family Lands By Banks And Other Modern Industries. This She Said Is A Major Source Of Population Influx In The Areas Which Further Exacerbate The Problem Of Loss Of Family Land (Female Participant, 60 Years Old, 30th January, 2016, 4:01pm).

While There Are Several Other Comments From A Good Number Of The Participants, The Two Cited Above Formed A Widespread Opinion And Gained High Acceptability As Well As Represented A General Opinion Of The Participants On How Urban Space Expansion Affects Family Land Use In Idaho And Its Environs. This Consensus Among Participants Provides Justification For The Fact That There Is Usually A Cultural Consensus When It Comes To Indices Of Traditional Ecological Heritages Thereby Supporting The Theoretical Framework Adopted In This Study.

4. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Objective 1: Determine Impact Of Urban Space Expansion On Loss Of Family Land Holding, Natural Resources And Traditional Ecological Heritage In Idah And Its Environs. Objective Two Above Was Measured With Three Items On The Questionnaire Which Revealed Data On Loss Of Family Land, Natural Resources And Ecological Knowledge In General. The Data Gathered In This Regard Were Presented In Figure 4.1 And Weighed On A Four-Point Likert Scale. The Analysis Of The Data Led To The Findings That A Significant Amount Of Family Land Has Been Lost As A Result Of The Expansion Of Urban Space In Idah And Its Environs. Over 82% Of The Respondents Point To The Fact That The Acquisition Of Land For All Forms Of Urban Infrastructure Undermines Existing Land Tenure Practices Especially Family Land Holding Which Is The Dominant Land Tenure System In The Study Area. Similarly, Urban Space Expansion Has Equally Had A Major Effect Leading To A Significant Loss Of Natural Resources. Again, 84% Of The Respondents Were In Consensus On The Fact That Urban Space Expansion Negatively Affected Natural Resources In The Area. Two Clear Links Between Urban Space Expansion And Adverse Impact Or Loss Of Natural Resources Were Established In This Study. The First Is The Rapid Rate Of Deforestation Which Leads To Loss Of Forest Resources Such As Trees And Animals As Well As Medicinal Knowledge. Secondly, Is The Contamination Of Natural Sources Of Drinking Water For The People Such As Rivers. Lastly, About 77% Of The Respondents Were Equally United In Agreement On The Fact That Urban Space Expansion Leads To Massive Loss In Ecological Knowledge. This They Argued Is The Outcome Of The Loss Of Material Traditional Ecological Items. A Large Number Of The Respondents Support The Fact That When The Physical Item Is Lost, There Is The Real Danger Of Equally Forgetting The Knowledge Associated With The Item Especially In Terms Of Its Language And Use In The Future. The Opinion Of Respondents Was Strongly Supported By Landsat Imaging Of The Study Area Which Showed A Progressive Alteration Of The Vegetal Cover Within Idah Lga Between 1987 And 2010.

Objective 2: Document The Impacts Of The Loss Of Land Holding Due To Urban Space Expansion On The Overall Wellbeing Of Idah Community

The Objective Above Was Measured With A Single Item On The Questionnaire And The Information Gathered In This Regard Was Presented In Figure 4.3 Above. The Analysis That Followed Led To The Finding That One Of The Critical Areas Bothering On The Welfare Of The People That The Loss Of Family Land Holding Has Affected Is Indigenous Development. A Significant Number Of The Respondents (35%) When Compared To Other Response Rates, Point To The Fact That The Extinction Of Some Of The Tehs Of The People Has Slowed Down Indigenous Development. They Emphasized That It Would Have Been Possible For Some Of Their Local Technologies To Have Evolved Into More Sophisticated Ones Today If Not For Their Gradual Extinction Due To Urban Space Expansion. Another Area That Is Of Concern To The People Is The Level With Which Communal Lifestyle Has Gradually Reduced To Individual Life As A Result Of Urban Space Expansion. Respondents And Fgd Participants Pointed Out That The New Way Of Life Brought About By Urbanization Has Undermined Traditional Communal Living Which Was Underpinned By Brotherliness And Care For Others And Replaced It With Egocentric Behavior That Is Viewed As Antithetical To The Tradition Of The People. Generally, This Is Seen As A Major Negative Effect On The General Wellbeing Of The People.

Objective 3: Examine Ways Of Conserving Traditional Ecological Heritage As Urban Space Continues To Expand In Idah And Its Environs.

As A Follow Up To The Coping Mechanisms Adopted By The People Of Idah And Its Environs In The Face Of Urban Space Expansion, We Attempted To Find Out Ways Of Conserving Tehs As Urban Space Continues To Expand. This Objective Was Measured With A Single Item On The Questionnaire And The Information Gotten In This Regard Was Presented In Figure 4.5 Above. The Analysis That Followed Led To Some Findings. First Those Community Members Should Be Involved In Future Urban Planning Activities In Idah And Its Environs. 56% Of The Respondents Point To The Fact That If Community Members Participate In The Urban Planning Activities Of The Government, It Would Help In Pointing Out Areas Of Traditional Significance For The People And Suggest Ways Of Conserving Them. However, Some Of The Respondents Believe That Urban Space Expansion Should Be Stopped Out Rightly Through The Enactment Of Laws. There Reason Is Simply That It Spells Doom For The Future Of Their Children Who Are Likely To Have No Traditional Ecological Heritages In The Near Future.

5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 CONCLUSION

The Research In The Loss Of Traditional Family Land Holding Whether As A Result Of Urbanization Or Other Factors Is A Large Intellectual Enterprise For The Academia Especially In Latin America And Other Parts Of Africa-Ghana For Instance. Our Research Stands Out As A Ground Breaker In This Area Of Knowledge In Nigeria. From The Fieldwork, It Was Evident That A General Understanding Exists Among Survey Respondents

And Focused Group Discussants Who Took Part In The Study Concerning The Issue Of Loss Of Land Holding Due To Urban Space Expansion In Idah And Its Environs. A Good Number Of The Respondents Who Participated In The Study Especially The Fgd Sessions Showed Overwhelming Enthusiasm For The Study And A Lot Of Understanding Of The Subject Matter And How It Affects Their Wellbeing.

It Is Therefore Concluded That The Loss Of Traditional Land Holding Is Strongly Linked To Urban Space Expansion In The Study Areas With Major Effects On Traditional Medicinal Knowledge, Cultural Values And Belief Systems, Indigenous Technologies And Methods Of Resource Conservation As Well As Nutrition.

Similarly, It Is Also The Conclusion In This Study That The Magnitude Of The Effect Of Urban Space Expansion On Traditional Land Holding Of The People Of Idah And Its Environs Is High With Negative Effect On The People's Wellbeing.

5.2.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

Following The Findings And Conclusions Reached In This Study, It Is Important To Note Here That Two Distinct Types Of Actions Are Required To Address The Problems Of Loss Of Land Holding Resulting From Urban Space Expansion In Idah And Its Environs 1) Actions That Prevent Loss And Erosion Of Knowledge. This Corresponds Mainly To The Interface Between Environmental Management Of Indigenous And Traditional Peoples' Lands And Resources, And Enable Strengthening And Revitalization Of Their Cultures And Institutions; And 2) Actions Which Protect Rights To Knowledge And Relate To The Area Of Legal Protection Of Intellectual Property.

Based On The Above Actions, The Following Recommendations Are Proffered:

- *Protection Of Lands And Resources From External Threats And Maintaining Livelihood Security.* For Many, If Not All, The Indigenous People Affected By Loss And Erosion Of Teh, The Fundamental Problem Remains Land-Tenure And Livelihood Security. Especially In The Context Of The Expansion Of Urban Areas Where Inter-Cultural Connections Are Inevitable And Happen Mostly In Asymmetric Ways At The Expense Of Weaker Cultures, Securing The Traditional Lands And Resources Of The Affected People Is The First Priority. This Implies Also Helping Them Effectively In Protecting Those Lands And Resources From External Threats And Pressures.

- *Participatory Urban Development:* There Is Also The Need To Facilitate And Promote Active Community Involvement In All Actions Directly Or Indirectly Related To Their Present And Future Lives. This Should Be Done In A Way That People Get Involved With Their Own Views, Perceptions, Feelings, And Knowledge. This Will Help Future Urban Space Expansion Plans In Idah And Its Environs As Well As Kogi State In General.

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