

## APPRAISSAL OF URBANIZATION TRENDS IN ILORIN, NIGERIA

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### ABSTRACT

The rapid urbanization which is common feature of countries of developing nations since the last century has constituted great threat to urban sustainable development. It is against this backdrop that this paper examines the urbanization trends in Ilorin, Nigeria. The data used for the study were obtained from secondary sources. Some of these data include population growth of Ilorin since pre-colonial era, annual population growth, spatial expansion of Ilorin between 1960 and 2010; and Built-up area of Ilorin from 1986-2006. Findings from this study show that the spatial expansion of the study area was propelled by rapid population growth i.e. in 1931 the total population of the town was 100,592, it grew to 208,546 in 1963, while in 1991 Ilorin population was confirmed to be 532,088 by the National Population Commission and it is believed that by the year 2020 the population of Ilorin will reach 3,518,771 based on projection. Moreover with the spate of the growing population, demand for land to build houses was on the increase, thereby causing the physical growth of the study area. For instance the built-up area of study area was 1235.84 Ha in 1960, and in 1980 it was 3170.24Ha and in 2010 the physical built-up area reached 14,306.71Ha. In addition, the study revealed that as the built up area is increasing due to population growth, the land consumption is also increasing, for instance the land consumption rates in hectare of land use was 0.0054 in year 2003 and in year 2012 it has reached 0.0091. The study recommends integrated National programmes for spatial distribution of population and to this effect priority consideration should be given to the preparation of master plan which will make provision for a more equitable system of distribution of development in all areas. This will no doubt address the issue of rapid urbanization and thereby enhance sustainability of the city.

**Keywords:** Integrated National Programmes, National Population Commission, Population Growth, Spatial Expansion, System Of Distribution Of Development, Urbanization Trends.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The pervasiveness and spontaneity of the global Urbanization process has been an issue of concern over the years. This essentially constitutes serious challenge to the attainment of sustainable development (Jiboye, 2011). Urbanization, which refers to the expansion in the proportion of a population living in urban areas, is one of the major social transformations sweeping the globe. Nigerian urban centres are perhaps the fastest growing cities in Africa (Onibokun 1987). The country has many large urban centres with too few well-planned cities and towns. Nigeria has a dense network of urban centres owing to a peculiar urbanization history - most of these cities having transformed in recent times, as a result of their political administrative reclassification. Many were recently designated as capital cities within the administrative structure of the country (Ibrahim et al., 2014).

There were at least 183 urban centres with population of 20,000 and above (NPC, 1953). The number of such cities rose to 210 by 1980 (NPC 1980), 235 by the 1990 (Aderamo 2010) and 250 by the year 2000 (NPC 1991). The percentage of people who live in urban centres of 20,000 and more people increased from 11 percent in 1953 to 35 percent in 1991 while it rose to 45 percent in year 2002. In terms of shared population of people, while the population of the country increased from 30.4 Million to 81 Million between 1953 and 1991, the urban component in the same period increased from 3.2 Million to 32.2 Million. That is more than 10 folds within the 40 year period. (Aderamo, 2010).

Unprecedented Urbanization has been a common feature of countries of developing world since the last century (Aderamo, 2010). This has been in form of rapid population growth and physical expansion of cities. Thus cities are no more able to provide the basic service especially housing to sustain their teeming population. While the situation in the cities are unsatisfactory in terms of housing requirement, the major problem of the rapid growth of urban centres in Nigeria is in the provision of basic facilities and services such as housing, water, electricity, transportation, sewage and drainage. When there is excessive pressure on urban service, the cities become inefficient, unworkable and unlivable (Aderamo, 2010). This study, however, seeks to examine the trends of urbanization in Ilorin Nigeria. This is with a view to providing rationale for effective utilization of existing resources for sustainable urban development in Nigeria.

## **CONCEPTUAL ISSUES AND LITERATURE**

### **Sustainable Development**

The concept of "Sustainable Development" has been in existence even before the turn of the century. It is a socio-ecological process characterized by the fulfillment of human needs while maintaining the quality of the natural environment indefinitely. This concept came into general usage following publication of the 1987 report of the Brundtland Commission - formally, World Commission on Environment and Development. It is this Commission, set up by the United Nations General Assembly that coined the most often-quoted definition of sustainable development which is "development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising future generations to meet their own needs" (WCED, 1987; Jiboye, 2011c; Daramola & Ibem, 2010). However, several other definitions have been given to explain this concept; one of such emanated from the National Affordable Housing Agency of Britain, describing it as a means of ensuring a better quality life for everyone, now and for generations to come (NAHA, 2006). It is the process of building our communities so that we can live comfortably without consuming all of our resources. This implies, living in

a sustainable way by conserving more of the things we all need to share - this is not just about consuming resources, but includes changing our culture to make conservation a way of life (Mediawiki, 2008).

With regards to “urban growth”, sustainable development implies the ability of the urban areas and their regions to continue to function at levels of desired quality of lives by community without limiting the options available to the present and future generations; and resulting to diverse impacts within and outside their boundaries. Nevertheless, the pace and scale of growth in urban areas have outstripped the capacity to maintain acceptable standards of public health, environmental safety, and sustainable economic growth in the less developed nations of Africa, Asia and Latin America (Adedeji, 2005; Daramola & Ibem, 2010).

## **Urbanization**

Urbanization is the process of human agglomerations in multifunctional settlements of relatively substantial size (Mabogunje, 1985). It represents the movement of people from rural areas to urban areas with population growth equating to urban migration (Misilu, et al., 2010). The United Nations Habitat in 2006 described it as the increased concentration of people in cities rather than in rural areas (UN-Habitat, 2006). Urbanization contributes to sustained economic growth which is critical to poverty reduction (World Bank, 2008). The process of urbanization also involves the improvement of urban quality including renewing the city, optimizing urban spatial organization and improving urban function. The way it is managed and administered has a direct bearing on its ability to support economic development, social development, health systems and mitigate poverty (Akhmat, 2010).

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The data used for the study were obtained from cross-sectional surveys. Virtually all the information gathered for the study were from secondary sources. Some of these data include population growth of Ilorin since pre-colonial era, annual population growth, spatial expansion of Ilorin between 1960 and 2010, and Built-up area of Ilorin from 1986-2006.

## **RESEARCH FINDINGS**

### *Urbanization of Ilorin: The Growth and Development*

Urbanization is a complex phenomenon. It is believed to be the major surrogate for growth and development characterized by population growth, industrial growth and pluralism of the population for the purpose of this study, the quantitative measurement of urbanization involved: the average rate of growth of the city over the period of 30 years (1991-2020). The average yearly additional land consumed in the city and pluralism of both the human and industrial population measuring the state of anomie and anonymity.

### *Level of Urbanization in Ilorin*

The level of urbanization in Ilorin can be appraised under the following historical periods:

**Pre-colonial Period:** Ilorin was founded around 1600 to 1700 A.D. In 1911, the population of Ilorin was 36,000 and in 1921 it was 38,700, an increase of seven percent (7%) in ten years. In 1931, Ilorin had a population of 47,600 while in

1952 it was 41,000 (Evan krapf- Askari,1969: Kwara state Government 1977). During this period there was relatively slow growth.

**Colonial Period:** During the Colonial era, Ilorin was a provincial headquarters of Kabba province. The first estimate of the population of Ilorin after the establishment of the British colonial administration was made in 1911 and this put the population of Ilorin at 36,343. The 1953 census indicated the town’s population to be 40,994. This period witnessed a relatively phenomenal growth.

**Post-Colonial Period:** The most important factor that has influenced the urban development of Ilorin after the colonial period since 1960 is its selection as the capital of Kwara State when the latter was created in 1967. Thus the public administration has been one of the major functions of Ilorin since then; Ilorin experienced a relatively slow growth rate before it was made a state capital city in 1967. Ilorin is one of the fastest growing cities with highly heterogeneous population in Nigeria. Her population of 40, 994 in 1952/53 was found to have increased to 208,546 in 1963 (NPC, 1963) about 408 percent increase in 10years. By 1982 the population was estimated to have reached over 400,000 (Adedibu, 1989). The population figure according to the 1991 population census however puts it as 532,088. It has also been estimated to have reached 743,867 in 2000 (Ogunsanya and Aderamo, 1993). With a growth rate of 2.6%, however, the year 2003 figure was estimated to be 801,888 (Salawu, 2004).Moreover by the year 2020 the projected population of Ilorin will be about 3,518,771.

**Table 1 Population Growth of Ilorin 1931-2020**

Year	Total population	Rate of growth
1931	100,592	1.4
1952	136,704	1.9
1963	208,546	2.5
1970	254,094	
1980	324,937	
1991	532,088	2.8
2006	2,365,353	3.2
*2010	2,682,963	
*2015	3,059,149	
*2020	3,518,771	

*Sources: Census under colonial Administration 1930, Population census of Nigeria 1963, 1991, 2006, \*Projected figure based on 1991 census at the rate of 2.6%*

Table 1 shows that pace of urban growth is historically unprecedented with rates of growth typically increasing in late 19<sup>th</sup> century. For instance the 1991 National Census shows that Ilorin had a population of 532,088 while the 2006 census figures shows that the figure had increased to 864,755. Thus within 15 years the city’s population had increased by 75% showing annual rate of 2.6% and it is believed that by year 2020 the population of Ilorin will reach 1,272,908.

Furthermore the population growth measure was observed from 1991-2020 by using 1991 National population census figure to project population growth as shown in table 2. The result shows gradual population growth in the city.

**Table: 2 Annual population growth of Ilorin**

S/NO	Year	Population
1	1991	532,088
1	1992	546,986
2	1993	562,302
3	1994	578,046
4	1995	594,231

5	1996	610,869
6	1997	627,973
7	1998	645,556
8	1999	663,632
9	2000	682,214
10	2001	701,316
11	2002	720,953
12	2003	741,140
13	2004	761,892
14	2005	783,225
15	2006	864,755
16	2007	888,968
17	2008	913,859
18	2009	939,447
19	2010	965,752
20	2011	992,793
21	2012	1,020,591
22	2013	1,049,168
23	2014	1,078,545
24	2015	1,108,744
25	2016	1,139,789
26	2017	1,171,703
27	2018	1,204,511
28	2019	1,238,237
29	2020	1,272,908

Source: Authors' compilation, 2014

The result shows that there is an explosive expansion of the urban population due to a high population growth rate of 2.6%. Therefore Ilorin is experiencing fast rate of urbanization, hence Ilorin has become an urban centre.

#### Spatial expansion of Ilorin

Most of the urban expansion of Ilorin occurred between 1975 to 1997 due to rapid population growth. The built-up area of the town was 2.0km<sup>2</sup> in 1935 and in 1963 the physical built-up area reached 4.5km<sup>2</sup> (Opeloyeru, 1983). The built-up area of Ilorin grew from 1235.84 hectare in 1960 to 14,306.71 hectare in 2010, as shown in table 3.

**Table 3: Built-area of Ilorin 1960-2010**

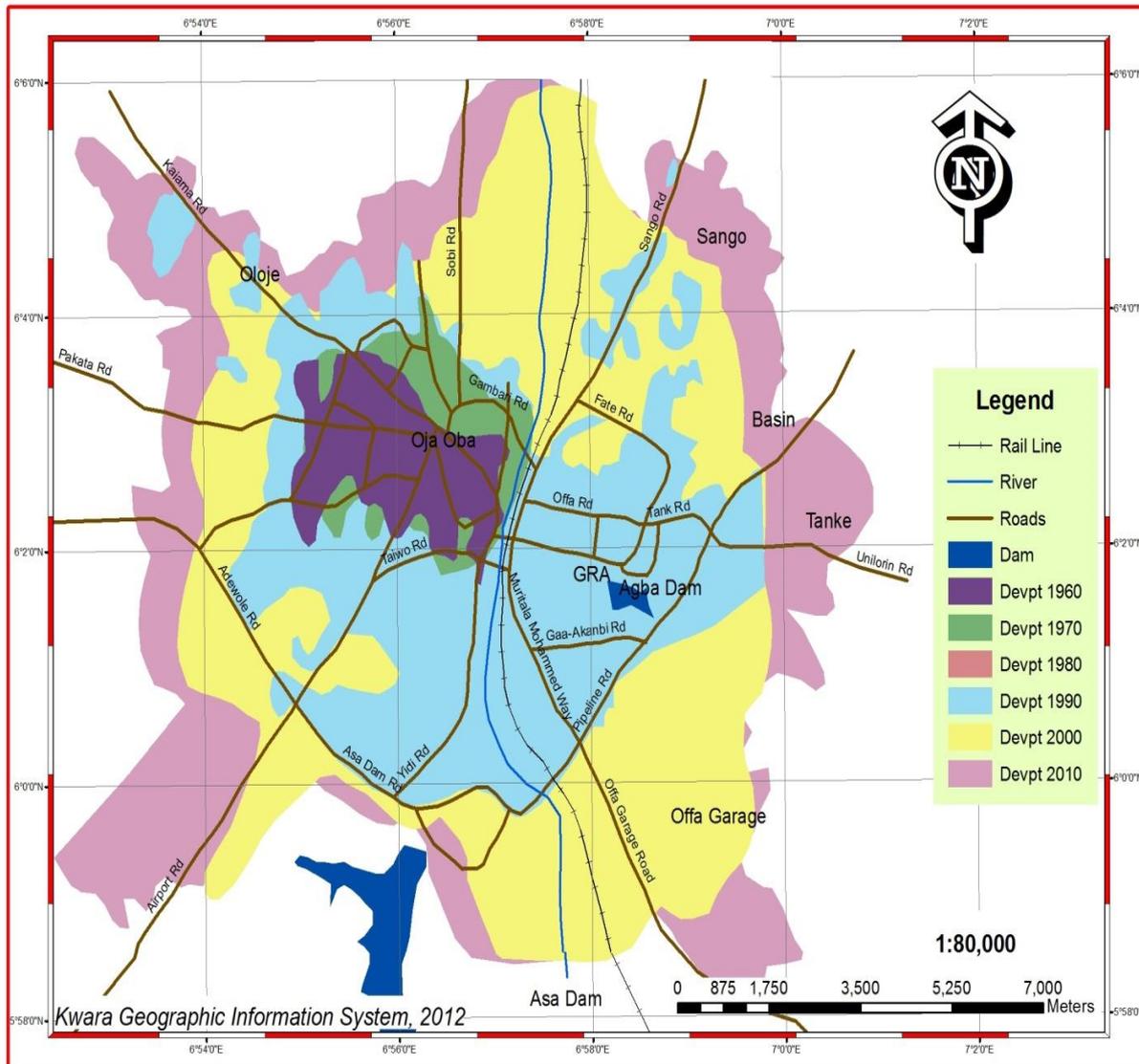
S/N	Decade	Total Built-up area (ha)	Absolute change	Percentage change	Rate of change
1.	1960	1235.84	-	-	-
2.	1970	1877.87	642.03	51.95	5.2
3.	1980	3170.24	1292.37	68.82	7.7
4.	1990	4515.65	1345.4	42.44	7.1
5.	2000	10815.92	6300.281	58.25	15.9
6.	2010	14306.71	8343.421	64.65	28.3

Source: Adapted from Aderamo (2003) and updated by the Authors' (2014).

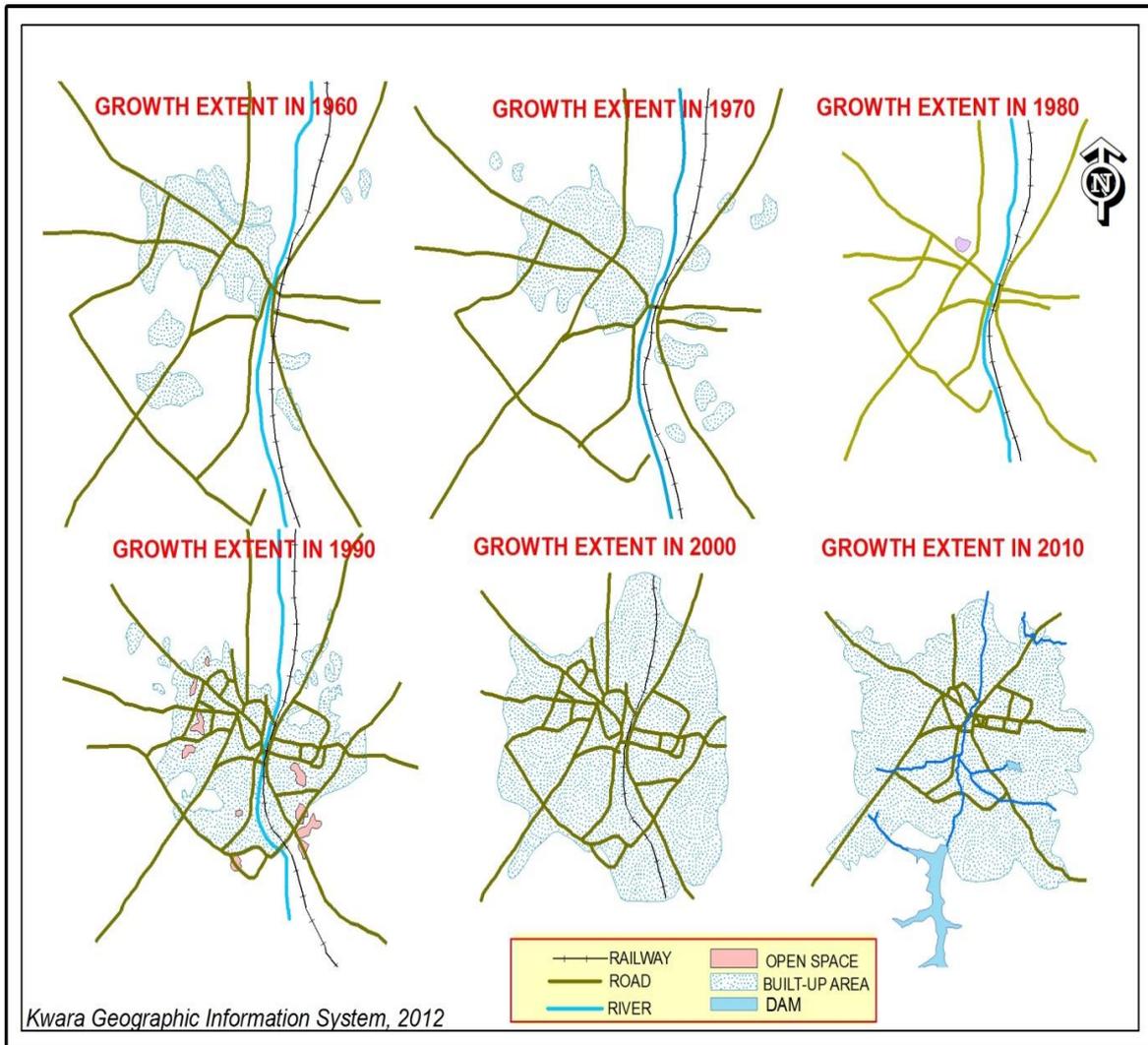
Table 4 shows the extent of built-up area of Ilorin for each decade. The spatial built-up area of Ilorin between 1960 and 1970 was 3,113.71 hectares covering places like, Oja-Oba, Idi-Ape etc. Between 1970-1980 the spatial built-up area of Ilorin has increased to 3,170.24 hectares, covering places like, Gambari, Oja-Gboro, Pakata etc. while between 1980-1990 the spatial built-up area of Ilorin has further shot up to 4,515.64 hectares covering places like Fate, Gaa-Akanbi, Adewole etc. Moreover between 1990-2000 the city recorded 10,815,921 hectares in spatial built-up area which covers

places like Taiwo, Oloje, Akerebiata, etc. and finally between 2000-2010 the spatial built-up area expansion of Ilorin reached 14,306,71 hectares, covering places like, Olorunsogo, Agbabiaka, Opolo, Itaisha etc., as shown in the figure 1 and 2 below.

**Figure 1: Spatial Growth and Development of Ilorin 1960-2010**



**Figure 2: Spatial Growth and Development of Ilorin**



In a similar development, a study carried out on land use and land cover analysis of Ilorin by (Olaleye, 2012) reveals the trend and rate of built up in Ilorin as shown in the tables 4, 5, and 6.

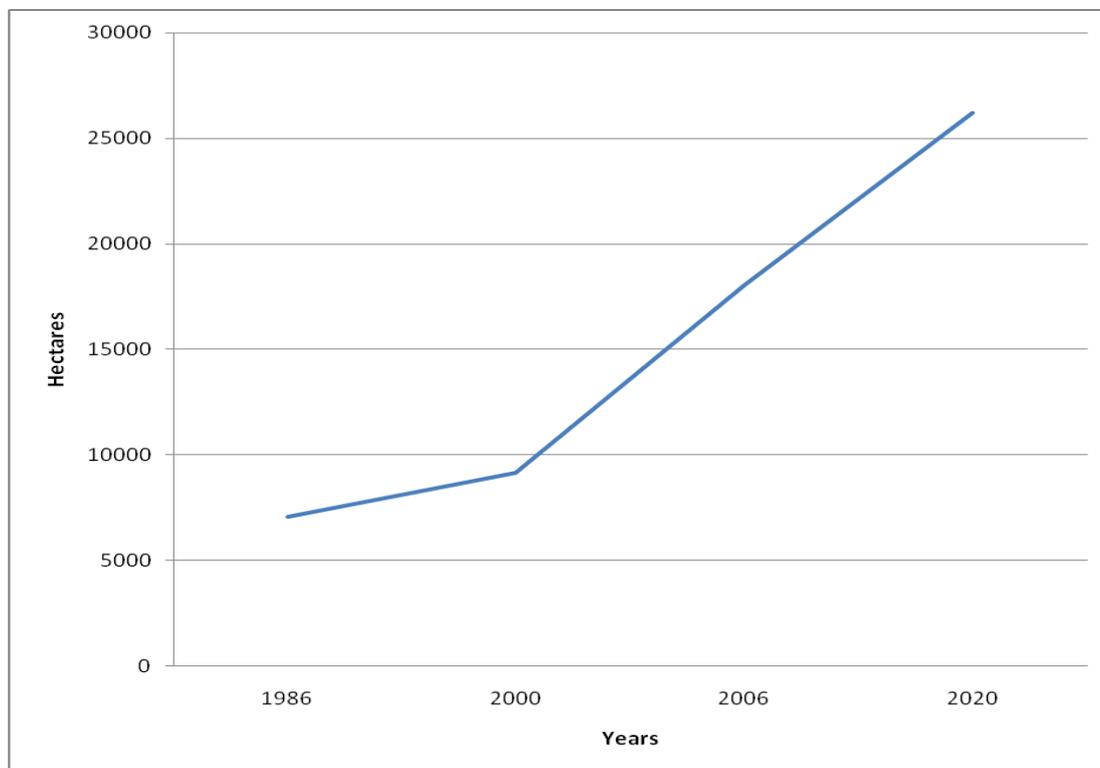
**Table 4 Built-up area of Ilorin from 1986-2006 and 2020 projection**

Year	Area (Ha)	Area (%)
1986	7,091	3.46
2000	9,158	4.47
2006	18,086	8.82
Projection 2020	26,231	12.79

Source: Adapted from Olaleye 2012

From the table 4 the built up area of Ilorin in 1986 occupies 3.46% of the total land cover distribution while it increased to 8.82% in the year 2006. However the increase recorded in built-up area between year 2000 and 2006 is alarming, as graphically depicted in figure 3.

**Figure 3: Built-up areas of Ilorin from 1986 to 2006 and 2020 projection**



Source: Authors' compilation, 2014

Furthermore, the magnitude of the built up area of Ilorin metropolis has further increased by 2067ha between 1986 and 2000 within a period of 14 years. Invariably there was an increase of 89.28 ha in total built-up area of the city between 2000 and 2006 in a period of 6 years with percentage increase of area of 49.36%, at 8.23 annual rate of change as shown in table 5.

**Table 5: Trend and rate of built-up area of Ilorin from 1986-2006**

1986-2000		2000-2006		Annual Rate of Change	
Area (Ha)	% Change	Area (ha)	% Change	1986-2000	2000-2006
2067	22.57	89.28	49.36	1.61	8.23

Source: Adapted from Olaleye 2012

This increase in built up area was as a result of population growth. Thus this increase has contributed to spatial expansion of Ilorin metropolis.

**Table 6: Land Consumption and Absorption Rate**

Year	Land consumption rate (hectares)	Year	Land absorption coefficient	Population
1986	0.014	1986/2000	0.0078	524,379
2000	0.012	2000/2006	0.0784	790,185

2006	0.02			904,102
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Source: Adapted from Olaleye 2012

Land consumption is described as a measure of consumption of new urban land by each unit of increase in urban population. The oil boom era of the 1970s attracted a lot of people to the state coupled with the creation of Kwara state in 1967 in which Ilorin was made the state capital, thus contributing to the physical expansion of the city as evident in the increased land consumption rate from 0.012 to 0.02 and land absorption coefficient by 0.0784 between 2000 and 2006 as evident in table 6.

According to Olorunfemi (1981) the land consumption rates in hectares of land use in Ilorin was about 0.0007 but increased to 0.006 in 1963, 0.007 in 1973, and reached 0.01 in 1982. Table 7 further corroborates the annual increase in land consumption in recent time. The land consumption rates in year 2003 was 0.0054 but further increased to 0.0091 in 2012, why the average yearly Land consumed from year 2003 to 2012 was 0.00742 Ha and this could be attributed to population growth.

Therefore the physical growth of Ilorin can not be divorced from the increase in the town population. The increase in the town population is directly brought about by different centrifugal forces which in turn affect the land consumption rate. The land consumption rate is calculated using the formula  $L.C.R=A/P$ . where A is the area covered by the urban area and P is the population of the urban area at that particular year.

**Table 7: Annual increases in Land Consumption Rate**

Year	Annual population growth	Area land cover km <sup>2</sup>	Land consumption rate(hectare)
2003	20187	110.02	0.0054
2004	20751	116.24	0.0056
2005	21333	130.43	0.0061
2006	21931	152.75	0.0067
2007	22554	172.46	0.0076
2008	23176	184.56	0.0079
2009	23824	198.25	0.0083
2010	24492	210.75	0.0086
2011	25177	224.42	0.0089
2012	25883	235.06	0.0091

Source: Authors' Fieldwork, 2014

These statistics described the progressive spatial expansion of Ilorin city into its peripheral. Therefore Ilorin has grown from a traditional settlement to a multi functional urban area. However, considering the trend in the physical growth, of Ilorin Adedibu et al. (1998) identified that the growth of Ilorin was relatively slow before it was made a capital city in 1967. The city began to take a new shape by 1973 with a physical built up area of 22.359/km, which was a phenomenal increase of about 450 percent in 10 years (Adedibu et al. 1998). Adedibu et al (1998) further identified three major phases of physical growth of Ilorin, that is; 1935-1960, which was a relatively slow growth rate period; 1960-1972, when the city experienced a phenomenal growth as the capital; 1973-1998, which was characterized by an astronomical growth rate due to the government policy and the movement of population into the town with the spontaneous growth of the city

and movement of people into the city, presently the city is now experiencing a new trend of centrifugal distribution of the population to the suburbs thereby causing the city to continue to grow till date.

### *Industrial Development in Ilorin*

The concept “industry” is closely associated with the industrial revolution of the 1700 and early 1800 in Western Europe especially in Britain. This generated an enormous increase in production due to improved technology therefore there was a shift from agrarian to industrialization era. However, shortly after the Nigerian independence in the 1960s and 1970s, some industries were established. Spurred by the oil boom prosperity of the 1970s and the massive improvements in social facilities this attracted great influx of people from rural area into the urban area. The city with its concentration of industry, commerce and administration acts as a central place that integrates different programmes for spatial distribution of population.

The creation of Kwara State in 1967 and Ilorin being made the state capital, the gate of the state was then thrown open for various investors to come in and set up industries of different types and grades. The establishment of these industries leads to the employment of a large chunk of the people, thereby improving the standard of living of the people. These industries also aid the concentration of large population working in different established industries in the town. Table 4.8 shows registered industries existing in the town.

**Table 8: Trends of Registered Industries in Ilorin**

S/N	Name of industries	Products	Year established
1	Nigeria match company	Matches	1963
2	International tobacco company	Cigarettes	1967
3	Nigeria bottling company	Coca-cola, Fanta, table water	1968
4	Prospects textile mills	Handloom yarn	1972
5	Steelfab Nigeria Ltd.	Metal chair, and Metal doors	1976
6	United Enamel Ware	Fabricated enamel wares	1978
7	Bisi foams Ltd	Matresses, foams and pillows	1978
8	Bio chemicals services Ltd	Infusions, concentrations fluids	1978
9	Abiola bottling company	Pepsi-cola, 7up, mirinda	1979
10	De-Johnson Nig Ltd.	Refrigerators, Gas-cooker	1979
11	Kwara metal/chemical	Iron rods/chemical	1980
12	United foams Ltd.	Matresses, foams and pillows	1982
13	Iya Okin Ltd.	Solid minerals	1982
14	Global Detergent Industries	Detergents, soap, and chemicals	1984
15	Kwara textile company	Textile products	1985
16	Raj-Rab pharm.co Ltd.	Infusion drugs	1986
17	Cinsere sewing machine industry	Sewing machines and machine accessories.	1987
18	Kamwire Industry	Nails and copper wire	1996
19	Tuyil-Pharm.co.Ltd	Drugs and Table water	1997
20	Peace standard pharm.co.Ltd	Drugs	1998
21	Lubcon-oil Nig Ltd	Aero oil, and lubcon oil	2003
22	Padson Nig.Ltd	Adhesive gums	2004
23	Dangote flour mills	Flour, spaghetti, & confectionaries	2005
24	Chellarams industries	Motorcycle and Bicycles	2005
25	Olaiya metal works	Furniture and doors	2008
26	Trevo Nig Ltd	Lubricant oil	2011
27	Cobat Nig Ltd	Aluminium product	2003
28	Modern concept Nig Ltd	Aluminium product	2003
29	Metal specification	Fabricated enamel wares	2003
30	Segloye Nig Ltd	Adhesives	2003
31	Fatilewa Nig Ltd	Metal furnitures	2003
32	Jivco convectionaries	Beverages	2004
33	Lofty Nig Ltd	Wires	2003
34	Samad paper converter	Stationeries	2003
35	Dasola Nig Ltd	Industrial starch	2005
36	Coylat Nig Ltd	Chemicals	2006
37	Salizca Nig. Ltd	Beverages	2010
38	Mosfaty Enterprises	Cane furniture	2006
39	Faslid Nig Ltd	Chemicals	2009
40	Jimks Industry	Liquid soap	2009
41	Fady Enterprises	Toiletries	2011
42	Picso chemical Ltd	Infusions	2012
43	Demfab Nig Ltd	Paper converter	2012
44	Stico chemicals	Chemicals	2012

*Adapted from Olawepo 2008 and updated by the authors*

The trend of industrial development as revealed from table 8 shows that between 1971 and 1990, the city experienced astronomical growth rate due to the government policy that favoured the establishment of industries and this in turn attracted drift of population into the city of Ilorin, this thus paved the way for a new trend of centrifugal development that attracted and influenced growth around the suburb of Ilorin.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

This paper has examined the trends of urbanization in Ilorin in realization of sustainable urban development in Nigeria. The study has shown that the rapid increase in population of Ilorin has contributed to the physical growth of the city in term of spatial expansion. Also, most visible and obvious consequences of urbanization in Ilorin are rapid deterioration of housing and living condition and this is traceable to the fact that urbanization leads to explosive population growth. This problem of spontaneous urban growth has been necessitated by the features of spatial expansion, industrialization and population explosion, with its attendant challenges of uncontrolled growth of cities, which has led to a degraded environment and poor living standard of the people. Considering that growth within the context of urbanization should be guided towards improving the environment rather than harming it (Newman, 2002; Jiboye, 2009), it is essential that cities are sustainably developed.

In order to arrest the drift from rural areas to urban centres, government should place emphasis and a higher priority on the establishment of rural industries, the creation of other forms of employment and the provision of more adequate infrastructural facilities and other services in the rural areas.

Also, there should be integrated National programmes for spatial distribution of population and to this effect priority consideration should always be given to the preparation of Master plan which will make provision for a more equitable system of distribution of development in all areas.

In addition, rural areas should be made attractive with incentives to site industries, provide conducive environment for the enjoyment of other basic necessities of life. It is noteworthy at this juncture that all causes of rural-urban migration should be looked into by the government and see that they are resolved. If the situation could be abated and reversed it will remove some pressures on urban resources, therefore urban areas will be depopulated; the visible consequence of urbanization will be reduced; and thereby enhance urban sustainable development in Nigeria.

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