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Oluwatoyin Matthew Ayiti

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# Impacts of Decaying Infrastructure in Urban Areas of Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria

Oluwatoyin Matthew Ayiti

Department of Geography and Environmental Management, School of Social and Management Sciences, Bamidele Olumilua University of Education, Science and Technology, Ikere - Ekiti. Ekiti. Nigeria.

Email: ayiti.toyin@bouesti.edu.ng

## Abstract

This research delves into the pressing issue of decaying infrastructure within the urban areas of Ibadan, Oyo State. The problem statement identifies a deteriorating urban environment, affecting the lives of residents and hindering socio-economic progress. Employing a mixed-methods approach, the study combines primary data gathered through surveys and interviews with secondary data from government reports and scholarly sources. Thematic analysis and statistical methods were employed for data interpretation. The key findings underscore a range of infrastructure challenges, including dilapidated roads, inadequate water supply, and strained public services. These deficiencies have led to diminished quality of life, restricted economic activities, and environmental degradation. Governance issues, inadequate funding, and population growth were identified as primary contributors to the decaying infrastructure. The study recommends a multi-pronged approach for intervention. Immediate attention is required for urgent repairs and maintenance. Long-term planning, including infrastructure upgrades and expansions, should be pursued for sustainable urban development. Policy and governance reforms are crucial for the effective management and maintenance of infrastructure. Community engagement is highlighted as a pivotal factor for success in addressing this critical urban issue. This research serves as a call to action, emphasizing the urgency of revitalizing Ibadan's urban infrastructure for the betterment of its residents and the advancement of the city's socio-economic landscape.

**Keywords:** Urban Decay, Infrastructure Decay, Urban Areas, Ibadan, Oyo State.

## Introduction

A common challenge is evident in urban areas across Nigeria, where essential infrastructures contend with wear and tear exerting a lasting impact on communities (Oyeleye, 2020). The ripple effect of urban decay extends beyond crumbling structures, touching every aspect of community life, from diminished opportunities to strained social dynamics. The research introduces the city of Ibadan, the capital of Oyo State, Nigeria, highlighting its rapid urbanization. This growth has led to an increased demand for infrastructure to support the growing population (Aliyu, & Amadu., 2017). Rapid population growth and urbanization often

lead to the concentration of people in cities, resulting in overcrowding and over-utilization of existing infrastructure (Singh & Jena, 2015).

This can lead to accelerated deterioration. Consequently, appropriate authorities may struggle to maintain and expand existing infrastructure, resulting in a decline in its quality and effectiveness. The importance of urban infrastructure in sustaining growing populations in a safe, efficient, and sustainable manner can't be neglected, especially in a big city like Ibadan (Babalola., 2023).

However, there has been a noticeable decline in the state of infrastructure within Ibadan's urban areas over time (Olatunji et al., 2021). This neglect has affected roads, bridges, water supply, and public services, negatively impacting the urban environment and residents' quality of life. Therefore, this research aims to comprehensively analyze the implications of this decaying infrastructure on Ibadan's urban areas. Understanding the root causes, consequences, and potential solutions is crucial for the city's sustainable development and the well-being of its inhabitants. Urban decay, characterized by dilapidated buildings, inadequate public services, and an increase in informal settlements, has become increasingly apparent in Ibadan in recent years. This concerning trend raises questions about the city's livability and long-term sustainability. Thus, it is imperative to investigate the specific factors driving urban decay in Ibadan and comprehend their far-reaching impacts on both the urban environment and residents' well-being.

### **Problem Statement**

The decaying state of infrastructure in urban areas of Ibadan is a pressing concern that significantly hampers the socio-economic progress and quality of life for its residents. Dilapidated roads and bridges not only hinder transportation but also lead to increased accidents and economic losses. Inadequate water supply and strained public services result in health hazards and diminished living standards. Without prompt intervention, this deteriorating infrastructure will continue to impede urban development in Ibadan.

### **Literature Review**

Urban decay is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that has been extensively studied in various urban contexts worldwide. In the case of Ibadan, the issue of urban decay has garnered increasing attention in recent years. Scholars such as Negeri et al (2023) have highlighted the rapid population growth and inadequate urban planning as significant contributors to the decay of the city. Additionally, Brorström, & Styhre (2020) emphasized the role of ineffective governance and lack of urban renewal initiatives in exacerbating the problem.

Alade et al (2021) identified population growth and urbanization as the determinant of urban decay in urban areas. Claimed that rapid influx of people into urban areas can lead to overcrowding and strain on existing infrastructure leading to obvious decay and reduction in usefulness. Kunte (2019) established that the major determinant of urban infrastructural decay is the fact that there are Inadequate Infrastructure. Insufficient provision of basic amenities such as water, sanitation, and electricity contributes to the deterioration of urban areas. Similarly, Ayiti (2023), emphasized that fostering rural development and inclusion can decrease the migration from rural to urban areas, achieving a more equitable distribution of economic activities. This shift has the potential to alleviate the pressure on urban centers by reducing population concentration and mitigating strain on urban infrastructure.

However, Uhunmwuango, & Ekpu., (2012) reiterated that the effectiveness of infrastructural facilities in the nation, and provided an insight into how weak the various organs of the federal and the state governments are in terms of provision of infrastructures in Nigeria.

Disparities in access to resources and services can also lead to the concentration of decay in specific neighbourhoods or communities by (Hilmers et al., 2012). Also, Esra (2013) focused on neglect of environmental conservation measures as a key factor that causes degradation of natural resources within urban areas.

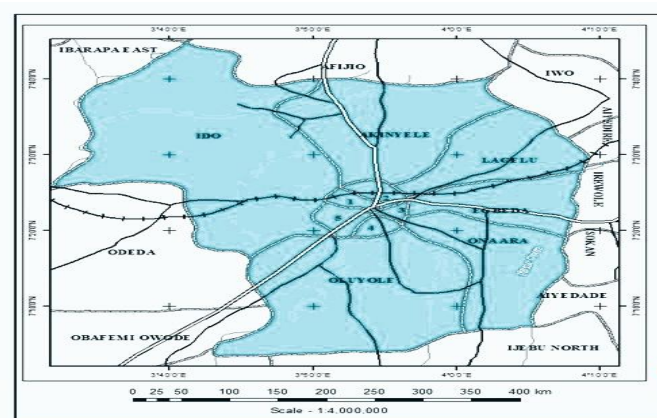
The concept of Infrastructure refers to the fundamental physical and organizational systems and facilities needed for the functioning of a society or enterprise. It encompasses a wide range of elements, including transportation networks (roads, bridges, airports), utilities (water supply, energy, telecommunications), public services (schools, hospitals), and more. Effective and well-maintained infrastructure is essential for economic development, social well-being, and the overall quality of life in urban areas.

Urban infrastructure decay is the process by which vital physical and organizational systems within urban areas deteriorate or become inadequate over time. This decay can manifest in various ways, including the degradation of roads and bridges, unreliable water and energy supply, inadequate public services, and inefficient transportation networks. Factors contributing to urban infrastructure decay may include insufficient maintenance, population growth, inadequate funding, and poor governance. The consequences of decaying infrastructure extend beyond the physical realm, affecting the socio-economic and environmental aspects of urban life.

The literature review highlights that urban decay in Ibadan is a multifaceted issue influenced by various interconnected determinants. In particular, inadequate infrastructure, weak governance and planning, population growth, economic challenges, environmental degradation, social disparities, and abandoned buildings have been identified as major contributors to urban decay.

It is observed that urban decay is interchangeably used as infrastructural decay, however, it is necessary to not that infrastructure decay if not checked would lead to urban decay, but there are other factors that could lead to urban decay, such as, economic decline, population decline, social disparities and segregation, and more. Hence, this study will focus on factors that drive urban decay and the relevance and urgency of investigating the impacts of urban infrastructure decay in Ibadan.

## The Study Area



Map of Ibadan, Showing the L.G.A.

Ibadan, the capital of Oyo State in southwestern Nigeria, is positioned about 129 kilometers northeast of Lagos, Nigeria's largest city. Geographically, Ibadan covers an extensive area marked by rolling terrain and numerous hills, with the historic Oluyole Hill being a prominent landmark. This hill holds special significance in the city's topography.

The city's location facilitates connectivity to Lagos and other significant urban centers in the vicinity, historically solidifying its role as a regional hub for trade, governance, and cultural interchange. With a diverse population, Ibadan has experienced rapid urban growth, accompanied by challenges in infrastructure. Within the city, various neighbourhoods exhibit evident signs of deteriorating infrastructure, including worn-out roads, insufficient public services, and vacant structures. This research will concentrate on specific neighbourhoods within Ibadan for an in-depth exploration of the factors influencing urban decay, its consequences, and potential remedies. The ultimate aim is to contribute to well-informed strategies for revitalizing the city.

### Methodology

The study involved 400 participants chosen from four different locations in the study area. The areas are; Bodija, Molete, Oje and Olomi. Data was collected through a well-designed questionnaire, supplemented by secondary references like textbooks, academic papers, on-line materials, maps, and periodicals. The gathered information was analyzed using descriptive statistical techniques.

### Results and Discussion

Table 1

*Age Group*

Area	21-40	40-60	Above 60	Total
Bodija	45	35	20	100
Molete	55	35	10	100
Oje	48	40	12	100
Olomi	35	48	17	100

Source: Researchers' field work (2023)

Table 1 shows a diverse representation of age groups across the four areas, ranging from 21 to above 60 years old. The 21-40 age group is prominently represented in all areas, indicating a substantial presence of younger adults. This demographic may have distinct perspectives on urban decay, possibly influenced by their life stage and priorities. While group 49-60 is also well-represented in Bodija, Molete, and Oje, signifying a significant middle-aged population in these areas. Their experiences and concerns related to urban decay may be influenced by different factors compared to younger or older age groups. While the above 60 age group is the smallest in each area, it's noteworthy that Olomi has the highest representation. This

could imply a higher concentration of older residents in this particular area, and their experiences may be influenced by factors unique to this age group.

The distribution reflects a relatively balanced age diversity across the areas, which is important for capturing a comprehensive range of perspectives on urban decay. Different age groups may have varying priorities, needs, and experiences related to urban infrastructure.

Table 2

*Gender Distribution*

Area	Female	Male	Total
<b>Bodija</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Molete</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Oje</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Olomi</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Researchers' field work (2023)

Table 2 demonstrates a relatively balanced representation of both male and female respondents across all areas. This balance is essential for ensuring a diverse range of perspectives in the study. In each area, the proportion of male and female respondents is very close, with a slight difference in numbers. This suggests that both genders are equally engaged in sharing their experiences and viewpoints on urban decay. The balanced gender distribution is significant as it ensures that the study captures a comprehensive array of perspectives.

Table 3

*Occupation*

Area	Skilled	Semi-skilled	Unskilled	Total
<b>Bodija</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Molete</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Oje</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Olomi</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Researchers' field work (2023)

The table provides a detailed breakdown of occupational distributions across different areas in Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria, concerning the impacts of decaying infrastructures. In Bodija, there's a substantial presence of skilled workers (50), indicating expertise, alongside a moderate representation in semi-skilled (35) and a smaller portion in unskilled (15) occupations. Molete showcases a noteworthy concentration of expertise (45) and a substantial semi-skilled workforce (43), with a smaller representation in unskilled roles (12). Oje exhibits a substantial presence of skilled workers (48), a balanced semi-skilled workforce (40), and a smaller portion in unskilled occupations (12). Olomi demonstrates significant



expertise (40), a substantial semi-skilled workforce (45), and a smaller representation in unskilled roles (15).

The distribution of skilled, semi-skilled, and unskilled workers in each area could reflect on the economic and social repercussions of deteriorating infrastructure. For instance, areas with more skilled workers might be better equipped to address infrastructure challenges, while a higher proportion of unskilled workers could indicate potential vulnerabilities. Further investigation is needed to explore the relationship between infrastructure conditions and occupational distributions comprehensively. This detailed examination will offer insights into how decaying infrastructures may influence the workforce and economic dynamics in urban areas of Ibadan.

Table 4

*Roads and Public Service (Experience of decay)*

Area	Roads(1-5) Poor	Road (1-5) Fair	Roads (1-5) Good	Public Services (1-5) Poor	Public Services (1-5) Fair	Public Services (1-5) Good
<b>Bodija</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Molete</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Oje</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Olomi</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>20</b>

Source: Researchers' field work (2023)

Table 4 illustrates the perceived condition of roads and public services, categorized on a scale from 1 to 5 (1 being poor, 5 being good), across different areas in Ibadan. In Bodija, the road conditions show a distribution of 10 in poor, 30 in fair, and 60 in good. Public services exhibit 25 in poor, 40 in fair, and 35 in good. Molete indicates 20 in poor road conditions, 40 in fair, and 40 in good. Public services in Molete are reported as 35 in poor, 45 in fair, and 20 in good condition. Oje's road conditions are 15 in poor, 25 in fair, and 60 in good. Public services in Oje show 30 in poor, 50 in fair, and 20 in good condition. Olomi reports 25 in poor road conditions, 45 in fair, and 30 in good. Public services in Olomi are 40 in poor, 40 in fair, and 20 in good condition.

It appears areas with better road conditions and public services may attract more skilled workers, potentially influencing the occupational makeup. Additionally, exploring how the perceived decay aligns with occupational distributions could provide valuable insights into the interplay between infrastructure, public services, and the local workforce.

Table 5

*Housing condition and Amenities Experience*

Area	Housing. (1-5) Poor	Housing (1-5) Fair	Housing (1-5) Good	Amenities (1-5) Poor	Amenities (1-5) Fair	Amenities (1-5)Good
<b>Bodija</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Molete</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Oje</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Olomi</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>25</b>

Source: Researchers' field work (2023)

Table 5 assesses housing conditions and amenities in the respective areas. In Bodija, 10 respondents rated housing condition as poor, 30 as fair, and a substantial 60 respondents perceived it as good. For amenities, 15, 40, and 45 respondents respectively rated them as poor, fair, and good in Bodija. In Molete, 25 and 40 respondents perceived housing condition as poor and fair, while 45 respondents considered it good. Regarding amenities in Molete, 25, 40, and 35 respondents respectively rated them as poor, fair, and good. In Oje, 20 respondents found housing condition to be poor, 35 considered it fair, and 45 respondents perceived it as good. In terms of amenities at Oje, 20, 50, and 30 respondents respectively assessed them as poor, fair, and good. In Olomi, 25 respondents viewed housing condition as good, 45 as fair, and 30 as good. For amenities, 30, 45, and 25 respondents respectively rated them as poor, fair, and good in Olomi.

In summary, Table 5 offers a detailed overview of respondents' perceptions regarding housing conditions and amenities in the selected areas of Ibadan. This information is crucial for comprehending the current state of infrastructure and for devising effective urban revitalization strategies.

Table 6

*Structural Condition and Facilities*

Area	Structure (1-5) Poor	Structure (1-5) Fair	Structure (1-5) Good	Facilities (1-5)Poor	Facilities (1-5) Fair	Facilities (1-5)Good
<b>Bodija</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Molete</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Oje</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Olomi</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>30</b>

Source: Researchers' field work (2023)



Table 6 evaluates the condition of buildings and facilities in the surveyed areas, with respondents categorizing them as poor, fair, or good. In Bodija, a substantial number of respondents 50 perceive the structural condition as good, while 35 view it as fair, and a smaller group 15 consider it poor. In terms of facilities, 45 respondents see them as good, 35 as fair, and 20 as poor. In Molete, 35 respondents rate the structural condition as good, 20 as fair, and 20 as poor. Similarly, 35 respondents perceive the facilities as good, 40 as fair, and 25 as poor. At Oje, 60 respondents consider the structural condition as good, 30 as fair, and 10 as poor. For facilities in Oje, 40 respondents see them as good, 45 as fair, and 15 as poor. In Olomi, 35 respondents view the structural condition as good, 40 as fair, and 25 as poor. Also, 30 respondents see the facilities as good, 40 as fair, and 30 as poor.

Bodija and Olomi have a higher proportion of respondents perceiving both structural condition and facilities as good. Molete, on the other hand, has a higher proportion of respondents viewing structural condition as fair. This data on structural condition and facilities offers valuable insights into how residents perceive the quality of buildings and the availability of essential facilities in their respective areas.

In summary, Table 6 presents a thorough overview of respondents' assessments of structural condition and facilities in the selected areas of Ibadan. This information is crucial for understanding the current state of infrastructure and for formulating effective urban revitalization strategies.

### Recommendation

1. Infrastructure Improvement: there's need to prioritize the improvement of housing conditions and amenities in Molete and Oje to bring them in line with the standard.
2. Targeted Revitalization Efforts: There is need to focus on areas with fair structural conditions, implementing strategies for improvement to enhance overall livability.
3. Community Engagement: Engage residents in the planning and execution of urban revitalization projects to ensure their specific needs and concerns are addressed.
4. Regular Maintenance: there's need to Implement routine maintenance programs for buildings and facilities to prevent further deterioration.

### Conclusion

The study conducted a comprehensive assessment of urban decay in selected areas of Ibadan, focusing on housing conditions, amenities, structural condition, and facilities. The findings indicate varying perceptions and experiences of urban decay across these areas. Recommendations are provided to guide urban revitalization efforts, emphasizing the importance of community involvement and targeted interventions. Overall, this study contributes valuable insights for informed decision-making in addressing urban decay in Ibadan, ultimately enhancing the city's livability and sustainability.

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