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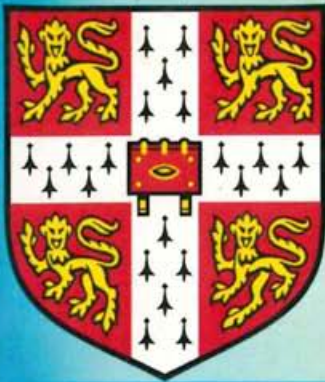
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MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS: IMPACT OF SUSTAINABILITY DISCOURSES, CONFLICT AND INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ACTIONS ON THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

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ABSTRACT

As part of the Millennium Cities initiative, organized by Earth Institute of Columbia University USA, Akure, Nigeria was selected as one of the cities in Sub-Saharan Africa to be assisted in achieving the millennium development goals (MDGs). Other cities selected in Sub-Saharan Africa include Kisumu, (Kenya); Blantyre, (Malawi); Kumasi, (Ghana); Bamako, (Mali); Segou, (Mali); Kaduna, (Nigeria) and Mekelle, (Ethiopia). It is necessary to point out that this initiative focuses more on inter-governmental actions than tackling the source of the developmental problem of the cities involved in the initiative. Using a mixed methodological approach, which included participant observation and structured interviews by means of convenience and snowball sampling methods administered in the study area. According to the aim of the project it is to promote investment from overseas (capitalist) companies, create employment and help in the domestic affairs of the cities involved. This paper examine the impact of the MDGs on the built environment and critique these 'lofty ideas' which has failed to address the local, regional and cultural specificity of the location; and which has not been productive in Sub-Saharan Africa. The paper concludes that the desire for an integrated city cannot be

**Microsoft Excel 14.0 Limits
 Report**

Worksheet: [Book1]Sheet1

Report Created: 11/21/2015
 12:36:48 AM

| Objective | | |
|-----------|----------------------|--------|
| Cell | Name | Value |
| \$E\$3 | Unit of profit total | 100000 |

| Variable | | | Lower | Objective | Upper | Objective |
|----------|---------------------------------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|
| Cell | Name | Value | Limit | Result | Limit | Result |
| \$B\$2 | Amount to Produced Product A | 659.9 | 0 | 69181.7 | 659.9 | 100000 |
| \$C\$2 | Amount to Produced Product B | 680.2 | 0 | 65992.1 | 680.2 | 100000 |
| \$D\$2 | Amount to Produced Product C | 659.9 | 0 | 64826.2 | 659.9 | 100000 |

According to a recent report by the UNDP (MDG Report, 2015), the concerted efforts of national governments, the international community, civil society and the private NGOs have yielded unprecedented success story. Hence, the 15 year developmental efforts facilitated by the MDGs goals have greatly impacted in poverty reduction campaigns in the developing countries. Number of people recorded to live under extreme poverty and under-nutrition has drastically reduced by almost half in the developing regions of the world like India, Pakistan and Nigeria More people now have access to improved lifestyle and access to water. Primary school enrolment for the girl child has increased to over 91 percent compared to 15 years ago. Gains are also seen in the fight against malaria, polio, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS with a sharp decrease in under-five mortality rate and maternal death in the developing countries of the world (World Bank, 2015; UNDP-HDR, 2014; Salomon, 2012).

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Concept of Sustainable Environment

The ideas of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are enshrined in the concept of sustainable development. The central idea of Sustainable development revolves around being able to meet the basic human demand for now and keeping some for the generation yet unborn. The impact of the present decision and activities were weighed in the light of future implications. In the construction industry, issue of sustainability, addresses the provision of healthy, safe, secure and enduring shelter and environment which are responsive to present needs and not jeopardizing the need of the future.

Discussion on Sustainable Development in the environmental conservation received significant exposition through the influential Brundtland report of 1987 (Pearce et al, 1990). Notable organizations such as the International Union for the Conservation of the Nature, World Wildlife Fund and the United Nations Environmental programme, all contributed to the enshrinement of the tenets of sustainable development in the environmental circles. The tenets of sustainability involve the possible ways of carrying out present activities without endangering the future for generations yet unborn. For any development to be sustainable, there are elaborate sets of minimum conditions to be present. These minimum conditions are based on "natural capital stock"

achieved without a radical approach to depart from the status quo of neo-colonial ideas.

Keywords: *City liveability, millennium development goals (MDG), sustainability discourses, spatial complexities and urban renewal projects.*

Introduction

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are United Nations initiatives, founded on the eight international development goals, which are focused to facilitate progress among the developing countries of the world. These goals are United Nations Millennium Declaration and are envisioned following the Millennium Summit of the United Nations in 2000, making those goals as pivots for development. Over 23 international organizations and 189 members states became committed to the realization of these goals by the year 2015 (ref). These goals include, eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability and developing a global partnership for development (see figure 1).



Figure 1: The eight pivotal targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Source: Green (2015).

Saharan Africa. Hence the desire for an integrated city cannot be achieved without a radical approach to depart from the status quo of neo-colonial ideas.

Discussion of Findings

It is necessary to take a closer look at the study area and developments in the Akure metropolis. These developments have impacted on the lifestyle of the various classes of people in the city. The elite and the middle class tend to live away from the inner city zone and tend to commute to the inner city area with their cars, hence their strong argument for parking areas in the core centre of the city (compare figure 2 and table 2). And in the quest to assuage some of the supposed shortcomings of the inner city appearance and transportation needs have problematized the city built environment.

Table 1: Class distribution and distance to inner city centre in Akure, Nigeria

| | Identity Makers (based on Income, Education and Profession) | | | | Overall (A+B) | |
|-----------------|--|----------|-----------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|----------|
| | A. Middle Class | | B. Working Class | | | |
| | <i>Frequen</i> <i>cy</i> | <i>%</i> | <i>Frequen</i> <i>cy</i> | <i>%</i> | <i>Frequen</i> <i>cy</i> | <i>%</i> |
| Less than 1.0km | 15 | 7.7 | 28 | 26.7 | 43 | 14.2 |
| 1.0km - 1.4km | 17 | 8.5 | 9 | 8.7 | 26 | 8.6 |
| 1.5km - 1.9km | 17 | 8.5 | 8 | 7.6 | 25 | 8.3 |
| 2.0km - 2.4km | 34 | 17.2 | 19 | 18.1 | 53 | 17.5 |
| 2.5km - 5km | 62 | 31.3 | 26 | 24.7 | 88 | 29.0 |
| More than 5km | 53 | 26.8 | 15 | 14.2 | 68 | 22.4 |

that should not decrease over time. The natural capital stock consists of all environmental and natural resource assets (Pearce et al, 1990). These environmental and natural resources must be properly managed to generate a cumulative effect which resulted in a sustainable built environment.

Hence, sustainable development can be defined as a development strategy that manages all assets, natural resources and human resources, as well as financial and physical assets for increasing long term wealth and well being (Pearce et al, 1990; WCED, 1987). Sustainable development reject all policies and practices that support current living standards by depleting the productive base, including natural resources and leaves future generations with poorer prospects and greater risks than our own (Repetto, 1986, Visser, 2004). Stohr and Taylor (1981) argued that development is an integral process of widening opportunities for individuals, social groups and territorially organized communities at small and intermediate scale, thereby mobilizing the full range of their capabilities and resources for the common benefit in social economic and political terms.

The Advent of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and its impact on cities in Sub-Saharan Africa

Akure is one of the selected Millennium City Project (MCP) of The Earth Institute at Columbia University to help developing societies focus on poverty reduction and to deliver Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) before year 2015. This is part of the Millennium Cities initiative, organized by Earth Institute of Columbia University, USA. Cities in Sub-Saharan Africa are selected, which are to be assisted in achieving the millennium development goals (MDGs). Other cities selected in Sub-Saharan Africa include Kisumu, (Kenya); Blantyre, (Malawi); Kumasi, (Ghana); Bamako, (Mali); Segou, (Mali); Kaduna, (Nigeria) and Mekelle, (Ethiopia). This approach based on this initiative focuses more on governmental actions than tackling the source of the developmental problem of the cities involved in the initiative. The project is aimed to promote investment from overseas (capitalist) companies, create employment and help in the domestic affairs of the cities involved. These are lofty ideas based on an approach that is not addressing the local, regional and cultural specificity of the location; and which has not been productive in Sub-

| | | | |
|---|--|---|------|
| The Akure International Auto market (M7) | Initial cost N450 million increased to N550 million. | Ondo State Direct Labour Agency and Ondo State Asphalt Company (OSAC) | 2010 |
| Proposed remodelling of Oja Oba Market (M1) | Estimated to be over N500 million | Not yet awarded | |

Source: Authors' Field Research, 2014, compare with figure 1

The middle class have also mobilized and deployed resources to effect changes at a cost to the local or indigenous people. This has happened to the extent that the ordinary or local ingenious population are now finding the city very different from what they used to know and how the city has been, and the local people have become 'alien' in their own city due to these changes, brought about by the desire to modernize. The rebuilding of the city infrastructure such as markets (see table 2) have impacted heavily on their way of life, it has lead to dramatic changes in their lifestyle that are less desirable, and lifeworld of various actors in the city (Habermas 1987). The public spaces they know in the traditional sense have been modernized and over motorized.

Inter-Governmental Actions, Conflicts and the City

When considering issues of sustainability and millennium development goals (MDGs), we also need to examine events and decisions made outside the immediate context of the city; how actants in the local, national and international arena overlap with and impinge upon events in the developments of the urban centre network. This encompasses issues like urbanisation, formal and informal development of land, changing lifestyles and how these changes relate to the wider international and globalization issues.

Table 3: Class Distribution and Means of Transportation in the study area

| | | | | | | |
|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Total | 198 | 100 | 105 | 100 | 303 | 100 |
|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

Source: Researcher's Field work (2014)

Table 2: Project Development and Modernisation of the Urban Core Area of the State Capital

| Projects | Cost of Contract | Contractor | Project Completion Date |
|--|------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| NEPA neighbourhood market Adegunle Ajasin, Akure (M2) | N400 million | Ondo State Direct Labour Agency | 2010 |
| Isinkan neighbourhood Market (Phase 1 and 2) ² (M3) | N210 million | Ondo State Direct Labour Agency | 2010 |
| Arakale (Cashhold) Neighbourhood (M5) | N80 million | Johnson Construction Limited | 2011 |
| Renovation of Isolo Market- (M4) | N100 million. | Ondo State Direct Labour Agency | |

² Isinkan neighbourhood Market has no parking space. Some concerned professional in Ondo State Ministry of Physical Planning also pointed to lack of proper planning on the part of the designer and deficiency in the construction due to lack of rigorous supervision.

| | | |
|---|--|--|
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and motorcycle) and sometimes bicycle. The societal symbol of poverty associated with bicycle riding in Nigeria especially among the elite, is making then not to recognize the contribution of bicycle riding to a sustainable way of life and to the reduction of CO₂ emissions in comparison to the use of cars. Bicycle transportation will promote healthy living, which will also reduce parking congestion, or make the spaces available for parking at the market easily accessible and available for increased number of people. In this regard, policies, and education should be encouraged among the urban dwellers in Nigeria to ensure the use of less fossil fuel. Similar policies had been adopted in cities such as London, California⁴, Copenhagen, Amsterdam and Münster⁵. In sum, as seen in table 3, the middle class tend to rely on their vehicles, official cars and company cars for errands and market visits; hence one of their pivotal desires to see the city transportation networks give way to a more motorized one. Currently, only 29% of the respondents from the survey use private vehicles to the market, a situation that changed when additional parking spaces are provided in the city centre (see figure 2). This is a clear departure from the sustainability drive and reduction in carbon emissions outlined in the MDG⁶ sustainable goals.

⁴ Buehler and Handy (2010) in their article on Fifty years of bicycle policy in Davis, California described Davis as the only city in USA that is designed for bicycle from the ground up. Available at: http://www.des.ucdavis.edu/faculty/handy/Davis_bike_history.pdf

⁵ Molkenboer (2009) described Munster as Germany's no. 1 cycling city.

⁶ As stated earlier, Akure is one of the selected city for the Millennium City Project (MCP) to facilitate developing societies focus on poverty reduction and to deliver Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) before year 2015.

| Identity Makers (based on Income, Education and Profession) | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|------|------------------|------|---------------|------|
| | A. Middle Class | | B. Working Class | | Overall (A+B) | |
| | Frequency | % | Frequency | % | Frequency | % |
| Personal Vehicle | 29 | 14.6 | 0 | - | 29 | 9.6 |
| Public transport (taxi and motorcycle) | 120 | 60.6 | 64 | 60.9 | 184 | 60.7 |
| Bicycle | 0 | - | 6 | 5.7 | 6 | 2.0 |
| Walking | 13 | 6.6 | 24 | 22.9 | 37 | 12.2 |
| Others - (Public transport + Personal Vehicle+ Walking) | 33 | 16.7 | 9 | 8.6 | 42 | 13.9 |
| Blank | 3 | 1.5 | 2 | 1.9 | 5 | 1.7 |
| | 198 | 100 | 105 | 100 | 303 | 100 |

Source: Researcher's Field work, 2014

Looking at the table 3 with class identity makers, 77.3% (60.6% and 16.7 %) of middle class respondents use the combination of personal vehicle and motorcycle, while 14.6% use personal vehicle alone. Among the working class and the less educated they prefer to walk and the use of public transport³ (taxi

³ The government does not provide taxis and motorcycles in Akure, but these public transports are private initiatives that urban dwellers irrespective of their status.

Figure 2: In the pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals in Ondo State, Nigeria. Map showing new development strategies in the State Capital, introduction of new road networks and New Neighbourhood Markets. Source: Field Research; (Map adapted from Ondo state Ministry of Lands and Environment and Fakere & Fadamiro, 2012).

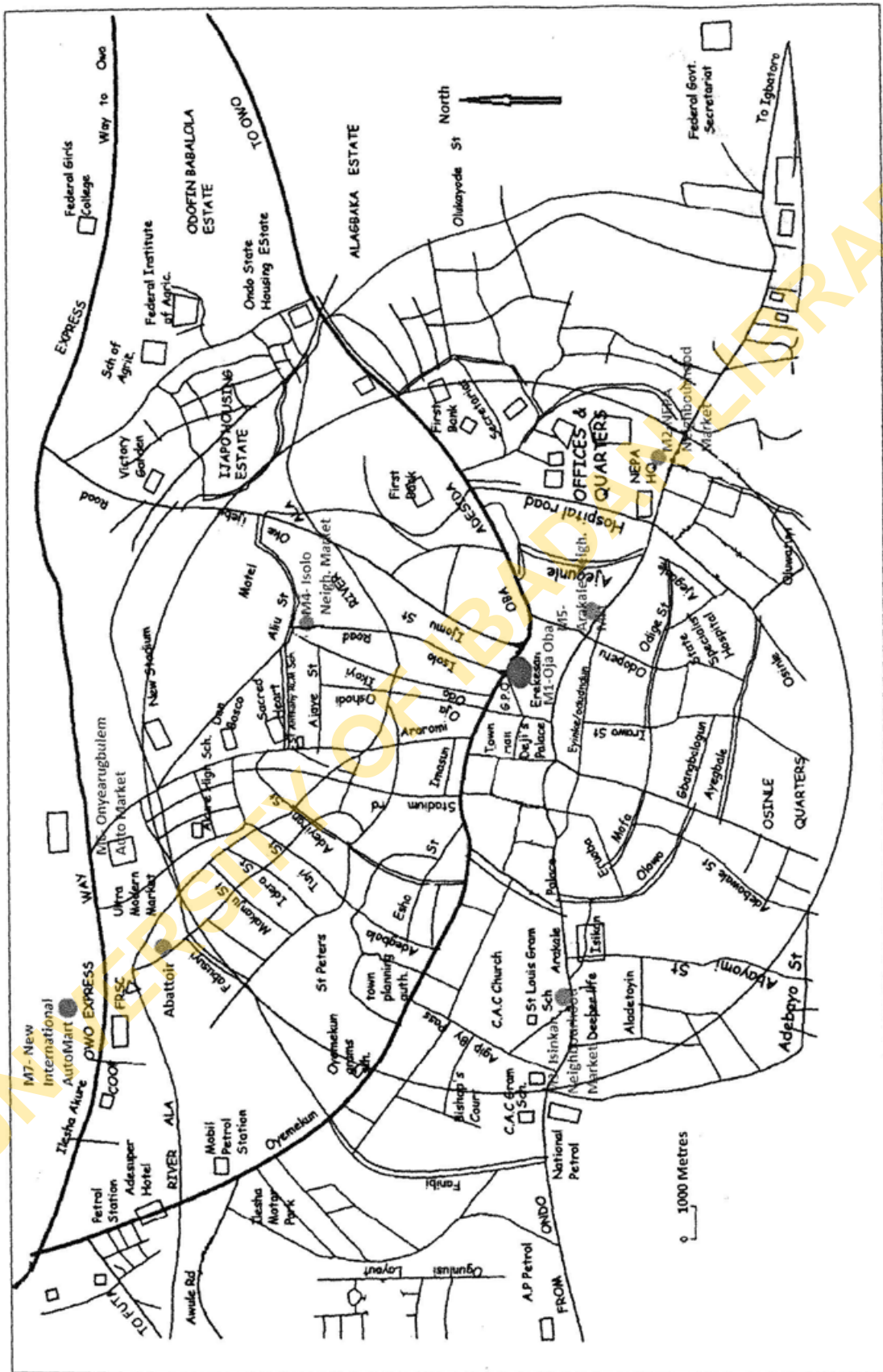
Transition from Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Recently there has been a shift in the international discourse from Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) tagged the 2030 Agenda or Global Goals. The concept of the SDGs was initiated during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, at Rio+20, in 2012. During the conference, some set of universally applicable goals are proposed that will intersect the three dimensions of sustainable development: environmental, social, and economic.



Figure 3: Sustainable Developments Goals

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) builds on the MDGs in order to ensure that no aspects of development are left behind. These goals are 17 objectives



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that touch at the heart of the broader sustainability agenda and poised to go much further than the MDGs (see figure 3). It is hope to address the underlying causes of poverty and persistence of underdevelopment in affected part of the world. It will also address the aspect of climate, disaster resilience and socio-cultural sustainability which includes justice, governance, peace building and participatory urban development (United Nations Development Group, 2014).

Conclusions

The powerful groups of actants formulate policy without giving due consideration to the cultural beliefs and practices with the large populace with the result that decisions intended to result in greater efficiency actually result in greater chaos. More localization of the SDG agenda will facilitate the coming together of different classes of people and diverse parts of society for greater development of cities in the developing world. Recognising the importance of individual society's cultural characteristics and development approaches will foster more favourable development outcomes for the benefit of the dwellers in the built environment. Intergovernmental relations and civil society can play a particular role in helping the inclusiveness of various actors who would otherwise be left out.

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