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SOCIAL EFFECTS OF POPULATION DENSITY IN LAGOS
ISLAND, LAGOS STATE NIGERIA
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Abstract

The rapid growth of population in Lagos State Nigeria has led to series of social effects. Lagos Island, the center and one of the most densely populated and busy part of Lagos, Nigeria, is an active with diverse races, businesses, and activities. This paper examines the social effects of the high population density in the heart of Lagos state and intended to focus its study on its (social) effect on the environment, exploring both the challenges and opportunities that arise from this unique urban environment. The paper draws on academic research, news articles, and anecdotal evidence to provide a nuanced understanding of the social dynamics at play in Lagos Island. In addition, it seeks to identify potential strategies and interventions that can control and reduce the challenges caused by the overpopulation in Lagos Island and promote sustainable development.

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CHAPTER ONE

Introduction

An estimate of 7,675 people lives in Lagos Island, a heavily populated location of Lagos state, Nigeria, per square km 1. Between 2000 and 2015, Lagos Island's population increased by 47.6% (*City facts, n.d*). The population's median age is 24.9 years old. It is one of the most densely populated areas in Nigeria with population density of 4,713/km square (Oduku, Lawanson, & Ogodo, 2021). The current estimate of the population in Lagos Island for 2022 is 314,900 and population density of 62,378/km² (*Source: National bureau of statistics 2022*)

The island's strategic location as a port city, its small land size, and its function as the center of Lagos State's economy and culture all contribute to its high density.

However, the high population density has brought about several negative societal repercussions, such as overcrowding causing poor air quality, inadequate sanitation, poor hygiene (environmental majorly), high demand, leading to greater competition and high cost.

The competition and demand for available resources is one of the most important consequences alongside environmental pollution. Resources like food, water, and housing are in high demand because of high population density. The cost of living rises due to the demand creating a shortage of resources (*City facts, n.d*). This is obvious when comparing the standard of living in Lagos state to other states in Nigeria.

The environmental effects of population density are another social influence. A high population density increases the amount of waste produced by humans, industries, machines like cars and generators, which can contaminate the environment. The inhabitants' health is at risk caused by

the pollution, which can result in an increase in respiratory illnesses and other health issues. The current atmosphere in Lagos Island and Lagos is said to be unhealthy (*Acuweather lagos*).

Loitering and littering of the environment, are some other effects. With too many people and hawkers of snacks for people to buy and much, the chance of littering the environment with nylon, paper and plastics is high and public urination as well.

The social behavior of the inhabitants can also be influenced by the population density. Competition for resources increases in densely populated areas, which can cause social unrest and conflicts. There are several ways that this tension might show up, including crime, violence, and social instability. Very often in Lagos Island, there is always conflict between persons, a group with another.

CHAPTER TWO

Statement of problem

The high population density in Lagos Island has led several economic factors among which are shortage of affordable housing and housing space, pollution (Noise, air and water) which has resulted in many unhealthy living, high cost of living due to high demand among other.

Lagos Island is home to many densely populated settlements that have poor structures and ventilation, poor sanitation, and restricted access to essential utilities like power and clean water. Numerous social issues have resulted from this, such as building collapse, elevated rates of crime, subpar health results, and constrained economic prospects.

To address this problem, there is a need for a comprehensive approach that includes both short-term and long-term solutions. Short-term solutions could include the provision of basic services such as clean water, electricity, and sanitation, while long-term solutions could proper town planning and strict government policy and control on housing structure, cost and management.

This research aims to focus majorly on the effect of population density on the building construction cost and environmental effects. It also aims to find out how the community are trying to manage these situations.

Purpose of the study/objectives

The purpose of this study is to examine the social effect of population density in Lagos Island Lagos state, Nigeria but will focus more on housing and environmental effect.

The objectives of this study are:

To examine the effect of population density on housing in Lagos Island

The effect of population density on its environment

To find out how the Muslim community in this area are contribution or interfering to manage these effects.

Research Questions:

To achieve the objectives of this study, the following research questions were raised to guide the investigation:

1. What are the social effects of population density on Lagos Island environment?
2. How does population density affect the quality of residence and residents in Lagos Island?
3. What measures can be taken to mitigate the negative social effects of population density in Lagos Island?
4. What are the contributions of the Muslim communities to mitigate these?

Methodology: This research will use quantitative research methods. The study will involve a survey of residence and residents in Lagos Island to gather data on their experiences and perceptions of the social effects of population density. The survey will be conducted using observation and express-survey method. This is a small scale preliminary study that could be used to explore further for a large scale research.

In addition to the survey, the research will also involve a review of existing literature on the social effects of population density.

Expected Outcomes: The research is expected to provide insights into the social effects of population density in Lagos Island, hearing the effects on the residents and knowing how they live and feel in regards to the quality of their residence and environment. Also, ways in which the Muslim community are giving to their community. The findings of the study will be useful to policymakers, urban planners, Muslim community, and other stakeholders in developing strategies to mitigate the negative social effects of population density in Lagos Island.

Significance of the study

The significance of this study is that it highlights the need for the government, urban planners, landlords, Muslim communities and policymakers to consider the social effects of population density when planning buildings and implementing policies. It is important to ensure that the basic needs of residents are met, such as access to affordable housing, good structure, hygienic environment, and proper electricity. It is also important that societies (Muslims) intervene and give to their communities. As a religious community, it is mandatory to interfere to the state of your community. This will help to reduce the negative social effects of population density and improve the quality of life for residents of Lagos Island, and people will know that there is someone or a body for them in times of distress.

CHAPTER THREE

Literature review

The economic situation of the country forced people out of their homes in search of sustenance and better life. Lagos state being home to many investments, companies and business is centre of attraction to people looking to thrive and to those who want to flourish their business.

Lagos state with 20 Local government areas (citypopulation n.d) is considered as the largest city in Nigeria and in Africa with an estimated population of 17.5 million by the Lagos state government (worldpopulationreview 2024).

Nigeria's capital, Abuja, replaced Lagos State, which was established on May 27, 1967, by virtue of states. On April 11, 1968, the State became an administrative entity, and Lagos Island assumed the dual position of the State's and the Federal Government's capital, respectively. But when the Federal Capital Territory of Abuja was established in 1976, Lagos lost its status as the state capital and was replaced with Ikeja. Likewise, Lagos lost its status as Nigeria's political capital on December 12, 1991, when the Federal Government's official headquarters were moved to Abuja. Lagos is still the business and economic hub of the country, nevertheless (*Lagos state government official website, n.d*). It is basically inhabited by the Yoruba ethnic group. However, as people immigrate and population increased, different ethnic groups are found as its inhabitants.

Lagos state attracts people due to its high job opportunities and business efficiency. Its economy is mostly based on the financial sector, with additional contributions from manufacturing, higher education, and more recently, "fintech" and internet-related companies. Over 53% of Nigeria's manufacturing jobs are found in Metropolitan Lagos, which is 7% of the country's

GDP, derived from manufacturing (Oduku et al., 2021). It is the state with the highest GDP (Olamide Fadoju, 2023) (Nigeria bureau of statistics 2021).

Lagos Island's high population density contributes to its distinct sense of community. Common areas, such as crowded bus stations and corner stores, serve as gathering places where people get to know one another and the rhythms of the island. With traders peddling their goods, music streaming through open windows, and chatter filling the air, street life is thriving.

As they say, inventions come from necessity. Its population encourages creativity and business. Small businesses flourish, ranging from food carts to repair shops, meeting the urgent requirements of a crowded neighbourhood. This culture of entrepreneurship helps to keep the island's economy thriving by fostering a vibrant marketplace where creativity and opportunity meet.

Lagos island the centre and one of the busiest parts of Lagos state is characterized by dense and clustered population and settlement, busy traffic and crowd movement. The high population even though it has some merits such as its contribution to the state's economy, it creates some challenges. Most times, due to large number of cars and transport vehicles, there is usually heaving traffic in the mornings due to people trying to resume work and, in the evenings, due to people returning home.

This high number has also led to high demand in accommodation hence, the need for more space and buildings. But the small area and land mass could not accommodate the population. This has generated great clustering and crowding.

There is rise in building of constructions to contain the demand for accommodation. With desire to rush to complete structures, and to earn profit, structures are not properly designed and all necessary factors like ventilation, durability, building materials are not considered adequately.

This has caused collapse of building and structures, which are regular occurrence in Lagos state (Oyedele, 2018), fire outbreaks (Umanah II, IK, & Rukewe, 2018) among others.

Other challenges are inadequate waste management, traffic congestion, and pollution. The consistent competition for space can cause conflict and social tensions, especially when it is between different ethnic groups fighting for the same opportunities and resources.

- **Overcrowding:** Lagos Island's small land area results in a high population density and clustering in a constrained location. This can result in crowded residences, educational institutions, and public areas. Diseases can spread faster in crowded environments, and social unrest and violence can also arise.
- **Inadequate Infrastructure:** Lagos Island's infrastructure is under stress due to the island's explosive population increase. Accessible housing, good water, and sanitary facilities are in low supply. This may result in deterioration of the environment, health issues, and a lower quality of living.
- **Social Inequality:** Many Lagos Island residents find it difficult to afford basic essentials due to the island's high cost of living. Poverty and social inequality may result from this. And for instance, high net worth individuals, high income earners, big businessmen live in places like Lekki, Banana Island, VGC in Lagos state, where the structures and environment are in good states and less competition. However, low-income earners live in places with high competition for basic needs. The island also has

a large informal sector, which increases the risk of exploitation and unstable employment.

RECENT HAPPENINGS IN LAGOS ISLAND

The quest for seeking of sustenance and shelter by the people and amassing wealth those in power or influencers have caused another unimaginable occurrence. On the of May 2024, an under-bridge residence was discovered by the Lagos state government, where the residents pay a sum of N250,000 for rent a year. This is a space under bridge made into residential area with planks and woods and into 86 rooms! (PM News 2024).

The fire outbreak in Lagos on the 9th of April 2024 has shown some of the negative social effects in Lagos Island. It was barely three weeks after a three-storey building was razed in Dosunmu-Idumota market that another outbreak took place. This was barely 24 hours after fire outbreak in another market (Balogun) not far from Dosunmu market. (Premium Times 2024) (The cable.ng 2024). The fire outbreak took more than 15 buildings closely packed together. It was said to have been caused by filling of generator with fuel while it was still on and containers stored with fuel around (premium timesng). Many goods and properties were lost although no injury or life was lost. People lost their homes, shops and goods.

The densely packed structures and extensions of shops plus street marketers caused hinderance for the fire services. There was barely enough space for the vehicle to pass and some building had to be removed to allow space to kill the fire. It took about three days to eventually stop the fire however, many goods had been lost and some houses fell, and others had to be demolished for the effect has eaten deep. The state government had to pass a law that all extensions must be removed, and the market was closed indefinitely.

As it is the 11th fire incident alone this year, the state government, though the fire service has made some regulatory measures: appointment and training of fire marshals in all buildings, mandatory provision of fire extinguisher in every shop, inspection of electrical wiring professionals, regulation of generator placement and prohibition of fuel storage within the buildings. It was stated that the Governor of Lagos state (Mr. Babatunde Sanwo-olu) has ordered the “ministry of physical planning and permit agencies” to go after structures not complying with building codes and regulations (nairametrics).

The agency has been in place since before now and so is their policy. However, we have seen buildings being marked for evacuation and demolition but stands for years after being marked. Sometimes these people refuse to leave maybe because of their goods or because they don't have where to stay. The state is crawling with millions of people and thousands competing for space and housing in one of the state's business centres, Lagos Island. Other places are not as densely populated as Lagos Island, but it is one of the busiest places in the state for market and residence.

House are scarce, landowners rush to complete tiny structures within months, poorly constructed and rent at high price. People with money and in need of the space and location which is good for their market will go for it. Those who have no money and want to maintain that vicinity for their market or because they just don't have anywhere to go will keep residing in such marked or poor building until something bad happens.

Where are the town planning agencies when these buildings are being constructed? And when these buildings are being marked for evacuation and demolition, is there any alternative

provided for these residents in a location that housing is scarce and expensive? Is the government making any move to extending the markets and preventing clustering?

In the Governor's statement, he said: "I am disappointed with the conversion of *residential buildings* into storage for hazardous materials" (same as above).

Yes, these are supposed to be residential buildings but were gradually converted to shops and stores because of the higher prices they are rented for, and more buildings are being rushed to be completed and leased at higher prices for more profit. This has caused more clustering and conversion of residential areas to market. There is hardly any residential building without shop on any of its floors and the ground floor is most certain shop while parts of its stories will be stores.

Very little or ineffective regulatory policies in these areas with the high population, has caused dumping of refuse anywhere including the drainages. This causes environmental pollution and clogging of drainages by litters causes stagnant drainages and flooding during rainy season. The stagnant movement of drainages destroys the roads as water eats through them, gives chances to pollution as poor disgusting smells are emitted and higher chances of spread of diseases especially malaria. Sometimes the sewage in the buildings leads to the public drainage and wastes from the toilets leaks into it. In some buildings the toilet sewage leaks directly into the environment because of poor construction. This is a great contributor to environmental pollution and spread of diseases.

A mall in Ajah was sealed for illegal waste disposal (Punch News) by Lagos state environmental protection agency. As the residential environment is more of a market environment, with little or no regulatory policy effect, the streets bubble with music even at

nights beside the normal street bustling. Loudspeakers are placed in shops to draw passerby and the never-ending partying on the streets are great contributors to noise pollution. Sometimes, the music vibrates the buildings that one would find it difficult to sleep. Recently, some churches and hotels have been closed for noise pollution in Lekki, Ifako-Ijaiye, Abule Egba, Abesan Estate and Dopemu in Lagos state (Punch News 2024). These areas are not in Lagos Island.

Indeed, there are several regulatory and management bodies in Lagos state, it is either that the population in this area (Lagos Island) makes it too difficult to manage or that people seek their way out of law through bribery as it is a common thing in Nigeria. Or it might be that these laws can be easily passed in some areas than others and in some parts laws can only be passed when something bad happens and is only followed for little time, like in Lagos Island. Some regulatory bodies in Lagos state includes:

Lagos State Signage & Advertisement Agency (LASAA)

Lagos Waste Management Authority (LAWMA)

Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA)

Lagos State Building Control Agency

Lagos State Infrastructure Maintenance & Regulatory Agency

Lagos State Planning & Environmental Monitoring Authority

Lagos State Urban and Regional Planning Authority

Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency

Some of these agencies seem to function in some places than another. You never even hear about some until you hear them on new or read about them online. For those we see very often like the LAWMA, they seem not to properly manage their tasks or maybe the population is making it difficult to manage. It might also be that proper regulatory policies are not in place due to incompetence or due to no much concern for such affairs in such areas. During the time of Babatunde Raji Fashola (Former Governor of Lagos state from 2007 - 2015), Lagos state seemed to be less out of balance, with the affairs properly managed, the state witnessed immense growth (Lagos state government official website, 2017), (Legit.com 2014), (Institute for transportation & development policy 2009) even though the population might not be as much as it is today. However, it also seems that whoever oversees an office determines the performance of such office.

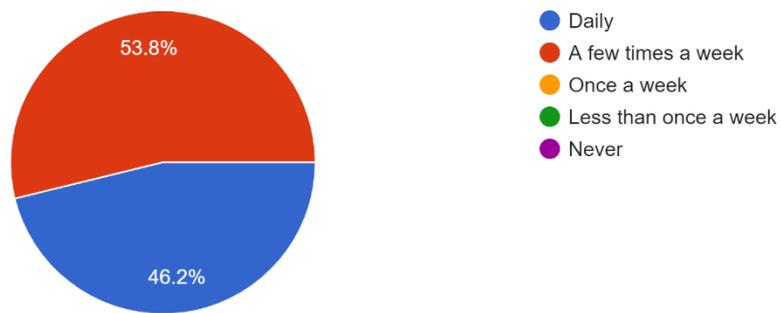
CHAPTER FOUR

A survey was done in two forms which have 13 respondents between the ages of 20 – 30 and 30 - 40. One is a general question in respect to living in Lagos Island. The other is focused on the impact of the Muslim community in curbing these challenges.

Majority of the respondents have lived in Lagos state their whole life, but it seems most of them interact less often with their neighbours.

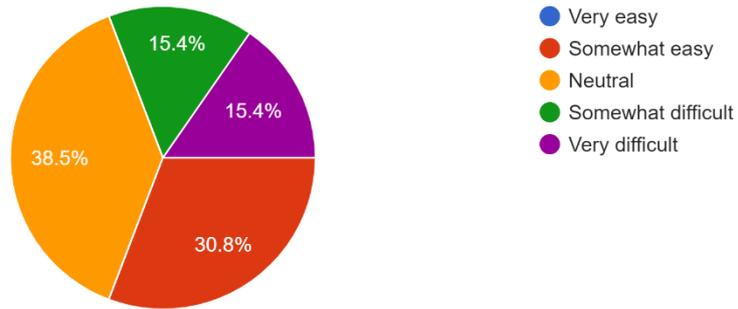
How often do you interact with your neighbours

13 responses



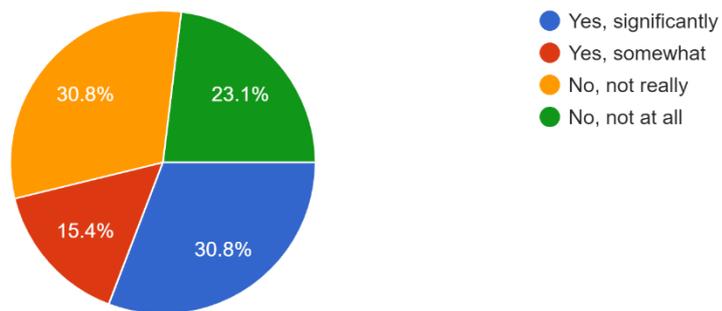
How easy is it to find private space for yourself in your home or neighbourhood? (Select one)

13 responses



Do you believe the high population density on Lagos Island affects your ability to socialize with friends and family outside your neighbourhood? (Select one)

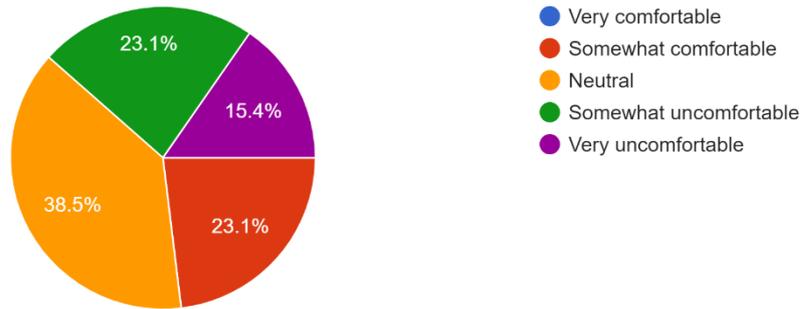
13 responses



There seem to be no much impact by the population density on the ability to socialize with family and friends.

How comfortable do you feel spending time in public spaces on Lagos Island? (Select one)

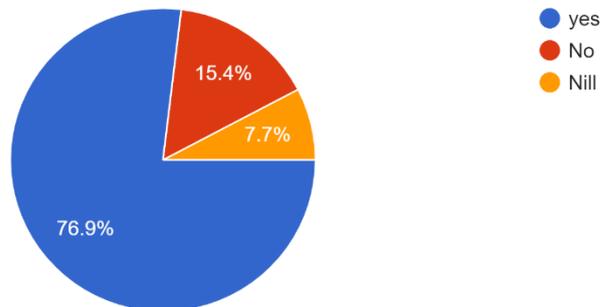
13 responses



No one from the respondents seem comfortable spending time in public spaces in Lagos Island. Especially in the evenings when it is dark, and it is easy to commit crime. Theft happens during the day, what more of in the nights.

Do you feel a sense of community and social cohesion in Lagos Island despite the high population density?

13 responses



Majority agree that there is a sense of community and social cohesion in Lagos Island. Absence of this will be impossible in a space of large number. There are people with similar mindset and different mindset as well. What we understand as social and community cohesion differs. The

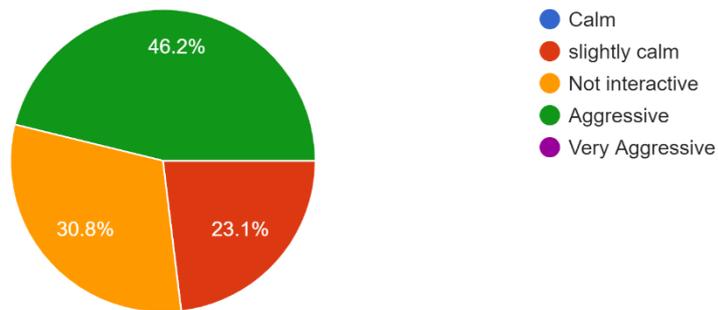
major ones we can see are the non-desired cohesion (Cyber-fraudsters, hooligans, touts...).

These people form a community like a cult or clique but doing frivolous activities, like loitering around and lurking in the dark, committing various crimes (violent attacks -there used to be street fights among these guys where they injure and kill one another to the extent of counting scores with the number of the opponents killed i.e. 1-0, 5-2). A rape attack was committed some months ago on a lady who was suspected to be from their opponents.

Rarely would you find a religious community that bond together as commanded by Islam. We do have some Islamic groups like NASFAT, Ansarudeen, NADWAT e.t.c. The presence of these Islamic groups is not as obvious and impacting as these major community/group in Lagos Island. Moreover, you find these people at religious centres too. There is a saying by these people “only God knows who serves Him”, so they do not care about abiding by the religious command but only to do it their way. That way, there is little or no effect of religion on them. The so-called religious leaders or Imams encourage or facilitate acting out of desire against God’s will. For instance, these Imam collect money from cyber fraudsters! And they fail to address their bad character to promote a good society except during Ramadan. Even then, it is just to get money, majority are driven by money.

How do people interact with each other in crowded areas?

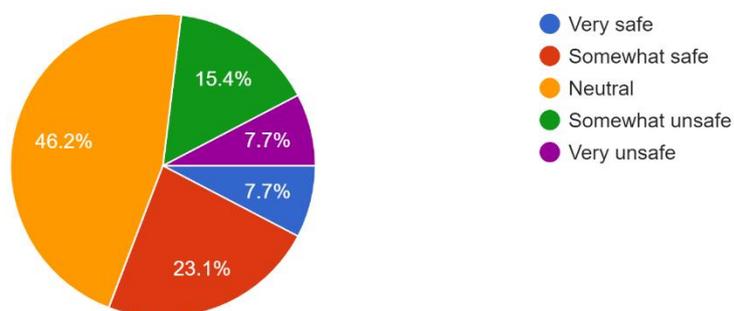
13 responses



From the chart, most of the respondents do not feel safe living in Lagos. There is a popular saying that “No one is sane in Lagos state”. The chart above shows that people interact aggressively, especially at bus stops and transport workers, when competing for resources like when fetching water.

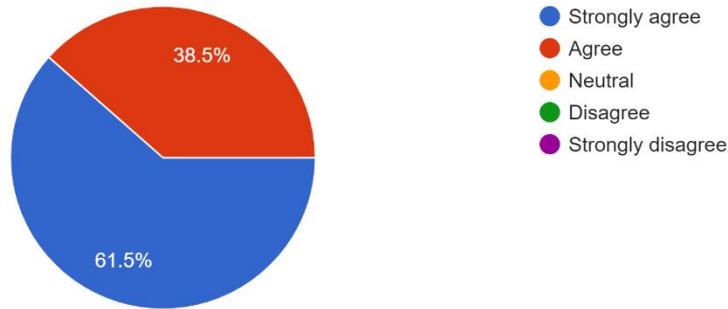
How safe do you feel living on Lagos Island?

13 responses



Do you believe the high population density contributes to crime rates on Lagos Island? (Select one)

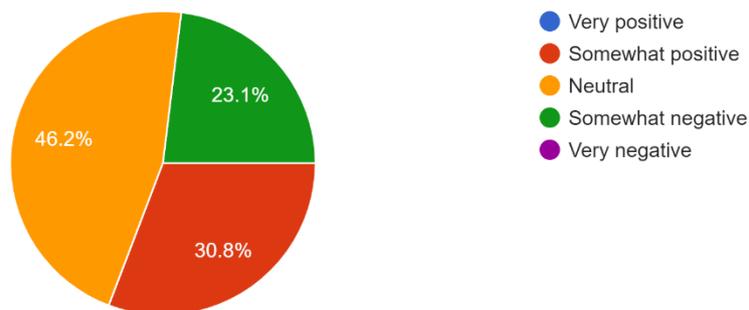
13 responses



Safe is not what we would describe living in Lagos Island as. There are various crimes taking place even at daylight such as robbery, mobbing, and assault. You need to have your eyes at the back of your eyes if you move in Lagos island, for you might not know when someone is picking your pocket or bag.

How would you describe the overall impact of population density on your social life on Lagos Island? (Select one)

13 responses



It appears that the respondents feel the population have no positive impact on them. This might seem otherwise for some as they profit from the population. The high number of people makes businesses thrive as they get patronage easily.

- In your opinion, are there any benefits to the high population density on Lagos Island in terms of social interaction? Relevant responses:

1. Economic growth, increased demand for goods and services, and cost efficiency
2. Population growth increases density and, together with rural-urban migration, creates higher urban agglomeration.
3. In my view, there's none except for negative influencing.
4. Enables you to get more information about job opportunities and connection.
5. No appreciable benefit.
6. Three Yes and two No responses.

- How does population density affect income distribution and access to resources?

Relevant responses:

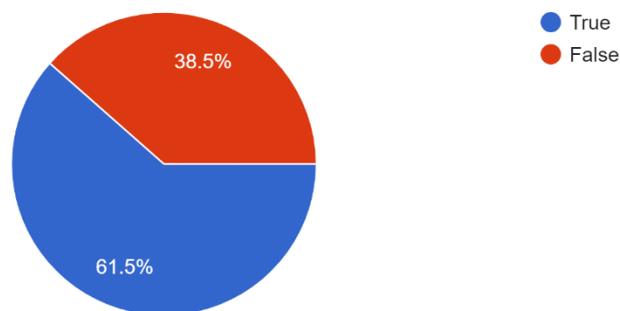
1. It makes most needs easily accessible.
2. Higher population density is associated with lower income inequality, suggesting that formerly high-density regions have lower income inequality today.
3. Competition.
4. It makes opportunities for resources slim.
5. there are limited resources for a lot of people.
6. To a large extent, positively and to a very large extent, negatively.

7. There is High demand of resources as there's low resources making room for deficiency.

The respondents majorly attached negative effects to income distribution caused by the population density. Resource like space, barely available in some areas causing clustering, poor ventilation, heat and pollution. The load on some light transmitters is high due to the high number of consumers leading to overload and sparking and eventually blackout. We have poor and illegal tapping of light causing transformers to blow up sometimes. Other resources are easily accessible like market commodities and transport to some locations. Transport to other locations is not so accessible due to large number of people struggling to board a vehicle.

Are there disparities in social and economic opportunities based on population density?

13 responses



- Are there any specific challenges related to housing, such as overcrowding or affordability?

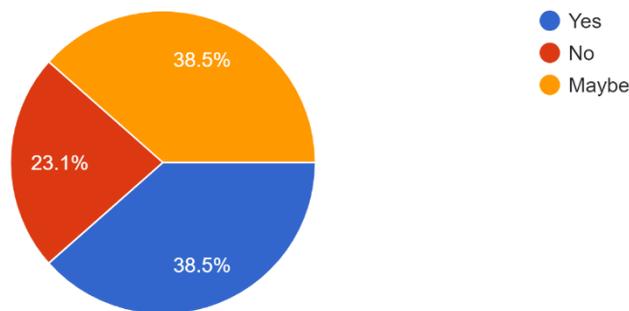
The respondents agreed that there are challenges such as: Overcrowding, affordability, suffocation or lack of ventilation, traffic, and congestion.

- How does population density impact traffic congestion and transportation options?

Respondents believe that it contributes to the high traffic in movement. This is true for both people and vehicles. In locations like Idumota, Oluwole, Balogun and around the Lagos central mosque, hardly would you move without bumping into someone else. You cannot walk straight and freely. You have to keep changing your route looking for better route.

Are there any initiatives to improve transportation infrastructure in Lagos Island?

13 responses



Someone assumes that: as population density increases, car use tends to decline while public transit use rises. Why? Because of the cost of burning fuel in traffic and due to the improved transportation in Lagos state, we have the BRT (Broad rapid transit) and the blue rail line (Train) both which are design to have roads of their own and not to be shared by any other vehicle else they are sanctioned. Except for the BRT in some locations where its lane joins with general lanes. However, rise in car purchase in Lagos state has been recorded and is suggested to be high due to dissatisfaction in the public transit (Bodunrin et al 2024) an inconvenience.

- How does the high population density in Lagos Island impact the environment (waste management, pollution, etc.)?

Many agree that it contributes to environmental pollution. One responded that: the more the population, the more the waste.

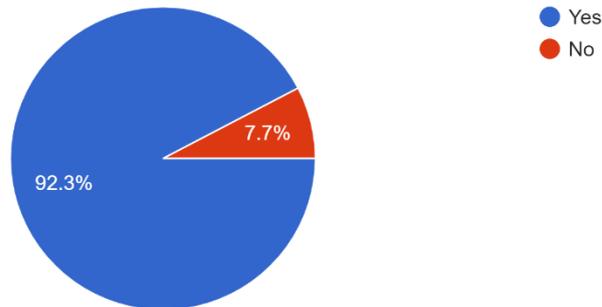
Another said: “The facilities and amenities that were put in place many years ago for the few people living there have been stretched to their limits and beyond by the excess number of people living there now”.

This also contribute to the dense structures. The people themselves are adding extension to buildings making them more congested. The waste management system has seen no innovation or advancement in the last decade since their creation. According to an article (Olamide, March 2024) he stated that: “Inadequate waste collection services, insufficient landfill capacity, and lack of proper disposal facilities have exacerbated the problem (waste management challenges), resulting in widespread environmental pollution, health hazards, and social inequalities”. He further stated that lack of public awareness and civic responsibility regarding waste disposal have further escalated this problem.

This I agree to especially in market area when the rate of littering of the environment is high. These same people face flooding issue when it rains and clean the gutters on Thursdays only to allow waste dumping into their drainages. Many drainages are clogged due to direct disposal of waste into it. Sometimes when the gutters are cleaned, and their contents are left on the road. Rain washed them back into the gutter and they mess up the environment.

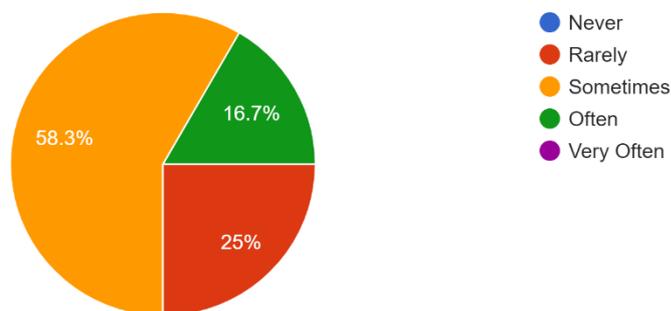
Have you witnessed any conflicts arising from competition for scarce resources (housing, water, etc.)?

13 responses



If yes, how often do you witness these conflicts?

12 responses



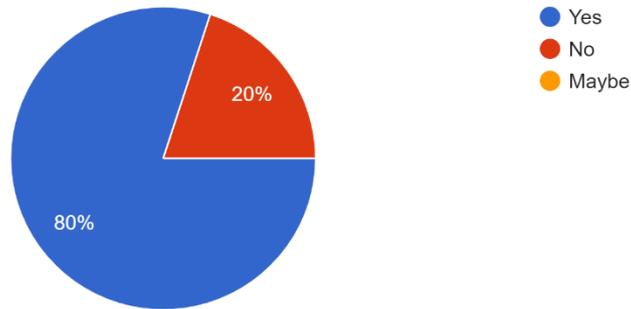
- Do you have any other comments or suggestions about the social effects of population density on Lagos Island? Relevant responses:

1. The human density of the metropolis, its pace of daily life, the complexity of its transactions, and the cosmopolitan reach of its flow of products, and people, have all combined to project Lagos as a member of the world metropolitan club.

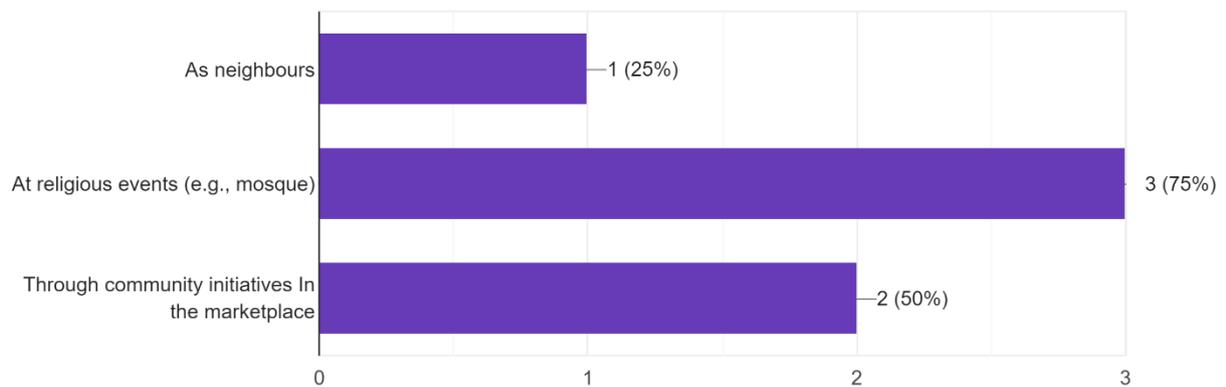
2. New low-cost settlements should be developed in new areas aside the congested Island together with appropriate means of transporting people from and to key economic areas such as the island itself to achieve all the benefits of what amounts to decongestion of locale.

Survey and responses from Muslims regarding their interaction with the Muslim community.

Have you interacted with members of the Muslim community on Lagos Island?
5 responses



If yes, in what contexts have you interacted with them? (Select all that apply)
4 responses



Majority of the respondents interacted with fellow Muslims at the Mosque, due to the daily prayers. Interactions are also at events as well like, Mawlid celebration, Naming ceremonies, Sunday's religious activities (usually called "Asalatu") or casual prayer. While few interacted as neighbours. Unlike in Ilorin, Kwara state where I schooled during my undergraduate years for six years, Muslims interacted majorly as Muslim Neighbours and then at the Mosque, Madrasah and other religious activities.

- In your experience, how do the teachings of Islam promote social cohesion in densely populated areas? Relevant response:

1. Greetings-'Salam Alaikum'
2. Relationship-during Ramadan
3. Islam preaches unity, there is no compulsion in Islam. We should live in harmony irrespective of our belief, race, and complexion. Firstly, we are humans.
4. By ensuring that we work together as brothers and sisters in Islam.
5. Islamic teachings promote good morals and provide blueprints for living beautifully among one another as human being as we have learned from the scholars.

The second response says: Relationship during the month of Ramadan. To some people or majority around this part, the Month of Ramdan is when you engage in good deeds. This shows poor understanding of Islam and has caused major setbacks in the Muslim community here.

- Have you observed any specific initiatives undertaken by the Muslim community to address challenges related to overcrowding? (e.g., charity programs, conflict resolution):

There is one yes response, and two no responses and blank responses.

This is also a major set back in the Muslim community. Charity program is majorly during Ramadan and after the month is gone, no one barely check on another as Muslims not to mention the environment. Although there are other societies that offer charity to widows and less privileged. However, these contributions have very little impact.

There is little or no sensitization to the congregation about the society, educating them about the environment, there is no discussion to addressing major and contemporary issues of the society. Only tales of the past that have little relevance to the current society. There is no making relevance of the Islamic teachings to contemporary times. Majority of the clerks are after their pockets and worldly affairs.

With the number of gatherings in the mosques and people coming, an initiative could be made to enlighten the people about how Islam addresses relationship with the society, and how it deals with contemporary issues. Importance of cleanliness could be emphasized upon and how we as Muslims can contribute to reducing environmental pollution.

- **If yes, please describe these initiatives and how they have been helpful:**

1. They organized initiative for windows, and it helped some of them start up a business to support the family.
2. The conflict resolution initiative helped to solve a rising issue of people praying on the road, thereby blocking other people from passing.

3. Masjid charity programmes

4. None

The response in number two, this is a fault on our end as Muslims. The road was not built for Mosque and neither for Muslims only. The teachings of co-existence in Islam with people of other faiths speaks of not causing discomfort to others, not even disbelievers. The Prophet (pbuh) demonstrated this with the Jews of Medinah. This is part of what is affecting the community.

It is note-worthy to mention that Imamship and roles in the Masjid or Islamic community is now based on age, title, wealth, and influence in this location rather than knowledge and qualification. Hence, the society loses the chance to acquire knowledge from the expected source. The Muslim community in these area are now being led majorly by ignorance.

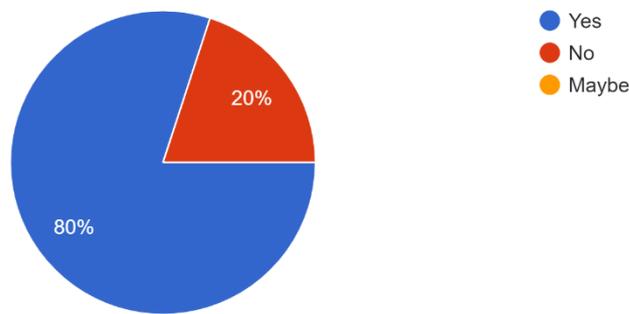
I do observe my Jumaah solat on Fridays at a masjid from work. Although the location is different from the location of discussion, but it is in Lagos state and is worthy to mention. The Imam there to my best of knowledge lacks the knowledge and qualification as he speaks things not in conformity to Islam and acts out of its confines. Why did I say that? I'll mention an incident: On one Jumaah Occasion, the king (Local king, belonging to that small community) of the location (Oniru, Lagos state) arrived for Jumaah and he prevented anyone from standing feet to feet and shoulder to shoulder to the king because he is a king while the rest of the congregation observed this right. He did that saying, "He is a King, and the Prophet tells us to respect leader -May Allah accept it like that". This I believe is to get some tips as many politicians aside the King do pray in that mosque.

I see this as another effect of the population density. Whereby there are too many people, and anyone can have their own congregation out of the inspection of the Islamic regulatory body

which I do not think functions as I barely hear or see their activity. There are few bodies like The Nigeria Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA) and the Lagos State Muslim Pilgrims' Welfare Board, for Hajj. However, their activities on religious affairs aside moon sighting, pilgrimage affairs and Muslim festivals are not visible.

Do you feel that the Muslim community plays a positive role in mitigating the social effects of population density on Lagos Island?

5 responses



- In your opinion, how can the Muslim community interfere and contribute to managing the effects of this overpopulation? Just one relevant question:

In environment such as the Lagos Island which is densely populated it is not unusual to find all varieties of vices however following the teachings of Islam many people will find it easy to live another umbrella of Islam and coexist meaningfully with other members of overpopulated areas.

- Are there any additional thoughts or experiences you would like to share about the Muslim community's role in mitigating the social effects of population density?

1. sensitization
2. More enlightenment

3. Supporting people in need of help
4. Organising programmes that will motivate people more about Islam.
5. Muslim communities should endeavour to not only bear the name of Muslims, not only teach Islamic lessons but also, I mean relate all that the religion teaches including coexisting peacefully and beautifully with all creatures respective of demographics.

CHAPTER FIVE

Conclusion

From the literature review, observations and responds, the effect of the population density in Lagos Island has far more negative effects than positive. While some prefer to stay and settle down in it, some hardly want to, after experiencing the struggles and vices in the location. The state being centre for commercial activities has been attracting settlers seeking for sustenance which has contributed majorly to the increase in population in the last years. The Government with different regulation agencies put in place tries to manage the population. However, it seems like the offices are not performing their duties rightly or some measures are not put in place.

The incessant building collapse, fire outbreak, traffic, pollution (noise, air, and environmental), and several vices ranging from robbery to fraud. There has been increase in the number of cyber fraudsters and it is almost legal in the region. These are major effects of the population density and although the population increase is contributed to by the high rate of unemployment in Nigeria.

For these crises to be resolved or reduced, the Government should consider:

- Creating more Jobs
- Implementing strict laws or regulatory policies like charging defaulters and punishing those receiving bribes.

- The waste management system should be improved and there should be officers or people who will monitor the environment and caution people from littering the environment. That way, there can be job opportunity for some.
- Clearing the drainages and creating more where needed.
- People should also be sensitized and informed on the effect of poor environmental hygiene.
- Repairing the roads to create more space and plainness on the street and to prevent stagnant water.
- The transport cost should be reduced and made more affordable. It should also be made more comfortable and accessible that way, car purchase can reduce and hence traffic.
- Building contractors and construction should receive proper approval before they proceed with construction and assessment should be done regularly.
- Stable electricity to allow air-conditioners that will create more ventilation and reduce heat and suffocation.

The Muslim community should have proper organization and people should be made to lead based on knowledge and qualification to promote growth in the Muslim community and hence, the Muslims can contribute better to the society.

They should also work hand in hand with the government as a large body to call the government's attention to necessary actions.

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