



Assessing the Impact of Demolition of Informal Markets on the Socio-Economic Environment of Abuja

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ABSTRACT: The study aimed at assessing the impact of demolition of informal markets on the socio-economic environment of FCT, Abuja. The study adopted a survey research design, with a mixed method of data collection, involving the use of both primary and secondary data. A sample size of 385 was used. Two sets of questionnaire were administered; 200 copies on the affected traders across Abuja, while 185 copies on the nearby residents. Convenience sampling was adopted for questions meant for the traders, and stratified and simple random sampling techniques were used in collecting data from the Abuja residents. Descriptive statistics was used for data analysis. The Relative Important Index (RII) scores were applied in analyzing the effects of informal market demolition based on a five-point likert scale. The study revealed that, both traders of the demolished markets and the residents in such neighbourhood are majorly low income earners, with a family size of at least five persons, thus suffer huge socio-economic pains. The study also found that, most traders have lost their goods, and income in large quantity, means of livelihood, and suffer severe socio-economic pains, as a result, criminality and insecurity are inevitable as these traders have been rendered jobless. From the findings, re-emergence of series of informal markets in FCT, Abuja will not cease as the evicted traders take to new vacant space to sell their goods, move to roadside to trade, and are equally considering going back to the demolished site since there has been no proper resettlement plan by the authorities. It was revealed that Abuja residents who are of low income profile, build their socio-economic lives around informal markets for easy access and affordability. Waste management and pollution problems were not left out as demolition effects. Findings showed no viable ameliorating approach to cushion these effects have been adopted by the authorities apart from mere political promises. The study recommended the initiative to develop an inclusive urban development policy that will include the needs of the poor in urban upgrades and redevelopment initiatives in FCT, Abuja.

Keywords: Informal markets, Demolition, Eviction, Socio-Economic Environment, Abuja

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I. INTRODUCTION

Informal market evictions re-emphasize the belief that cities are not meant for the poor people as opposed to being an integral part of economic growth and development of the nation. Forced markets evictions are almost immediately followed by demolitions against the will of the traders. Forced evictions and the demolition of 'inappropriate' structures is a growing phenomenon, particularly in developing nations [1].

The rapidity of global urbanization suggests that urban population growth far outnumbers that of the rural population [2]. In what appears to be a confirmation of the Malthusian hypothesis, population growth across urban areas is unmatched by the resources needed for the entire population. Employment opportunities, affordable housing, and access to health care are just some of the social goods and services governments are unable to provide in proportions matching the increased population. Since these services are adequately lacking, owing to the inability of government at municipal, state, and federal levels to provide for its citizens, the effect will be the proliferation of informal markets. Researches have shown that there is an inextricable linkage between the viciousness, tenacity and complexities of poverty to the inaccessibility and non-affordability of formal markets.

Most times, informal markets are demolished and traders evicted under the guise of demolition of illegal structures, slum clearance or urban renewal, and this not new in Nigeria. The first slum clearance was recorded in 1920 when there was a demolition by the Lagos Executive Development Board (LEDB), which is

now known as the Lagos State Development and Property Corporation (LSDPC), in response to the outbreak of bubonic plague. This was followed by the pre-independence demolition which resulted in the celebrated Isale-Eko clearance to give the visiting Queen of England a pleasing view of the area. In the 1970s, which marked the pre-independence and immediate post-independence clearances in Nigeria, there were many evictions. Some of the documented evictions include Adeniji Adele with 5,000 people evicted from their homes and workplaces in 1975[3][4][5]

Though there are incoherent reports on the actual number of persons evicted from informal settlements across Nigeria, there is no question as to who suffers most as a [6] provides evidence that women and children are the most vulnerable and impacted in the aftermath of an eviction and demolition of informal market settlements. A subsequent report of [7] ranked Nigeria the third highest among worst violators of housing rights globally. Furthermore, the [8] report suggests that between 2000 and 2011, more than two million people were forcibly evicted from settlements in Nigeria. However, data supplied by the Nigerian Slums and Informal Settlements Federation suggests that the Nigerian government has in the last decade displaced over eight hundred thousand people through forced evictions and demolitions of informal settlements. None of these evictions were followed or preceded by the provision of alternative resettlement plan of any sort.

Although much of the data provided by the Nigerian Slums and Informal Settlements Federation shows that Lagos State has the highest migrant rate [9], it is somewhat understandable that it has the highest rates of forced evictions in Nigeria, but the FCT, Abuja seems to be following the statistics very closely as it also has huge record of eviction and demolition of informal settlements. Notably, in Abuja, informal markets have been demolished in Karmo, Aviation village (Gwagwalada), Karu, Dutse, Kubwa, Asokoro, Jabi, Utako, Gosa, Mpape, dutse, Garki, Kado, Jahi, and Gwarinpa amongst other places have been demolished repeatedly over the years often to justify this on the basis of “public interest” without a formidable resettlement plan. Market demolition and redevelopment in Abuja have followed a clearly discernible pattern in the last two decades of democratic governance. Either Government moves to demolish a market under the pretext of poor municipal facilities; roads, water, parking lots, toilets, etc. or a ‘mysterious’ fire engulfs a market and government quickly moves in to demolish the market after which the market usually gets fenced off pending redevelopment which typically lasts several years.

Amusingly the response by governments to the emergence of informal settlements appears to be determined by geography. While governments across the developed nations are cautious in their handling of informal settlements, developing nations (example, Bangladesh, India, Kenya, and Nigeria etc.) often tend to adopt a harsher option of eviction and demolition. It is this pattern of exclusion that further breeds new forms of inequality, poverty and marginalization in urban centers, and the totality of national economy. Thus, the study sought to investigate how demolition of informal markets and the eviction of traders affect the socio-economic environment of Abuja.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study is spatially focused on the Federal Capital territory, Abuja, adjudged as the eighth most populous city of Nigeria. Located in the centre of the country within the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), it is a planned city built in the 1980s based on a master plan by Japanese architect Kenzo Tange [10]. Abuja took over from Lagos as capiatl on 12 December 1991. At the 2006 census, the city of Abuja had a population of 776,298 making it one of the ten most populous cities in Nigeria; placing eighth as of 2006 [11]. According to the United Nations, Abuja grew by 139.7% between 2000 and 2010, making it the fastest growing city in the world [12]. In 2015, Abuja city was having an annual growth rate of at least 35%, maintaining its position as the fastest-growing city on the African continent and one of the fastest-growing in the world [13]. As of 2016, the metropolitan area of Abuja is estimated at six million persons, placing it behind only Lagos as the most populous metro area in Nigeria [13].

The Federal capital Territory Abuja is located in the geographical centre of Nigeria is found on latitude 8° 25” and 9° 25” North of the Equator and longitude 6° 45” and 7° 45” East of the Greenwich. It is bordered to the North by Kaduna state, to the east by Nassarawa state, to the west by Niger state and to the south by Kogi state (Figure 1.1). It has a land area of 8,000 square kilometres. The FCT’s natural endowments such as; its rolling hills, isolated highlands and other endearing features make it a delight. The savannah grassland of the North and the Middle Belt, the richness of the tropical rain forests of the south and an equable climate all combined to make the FCT a soil-rich agricultural haven. The soils of the FCT Abuja are basically Alluvial and Luvisols. The FCT is rich in infrastructure such as expanding road network, drainage and sewage systems, and piped water.

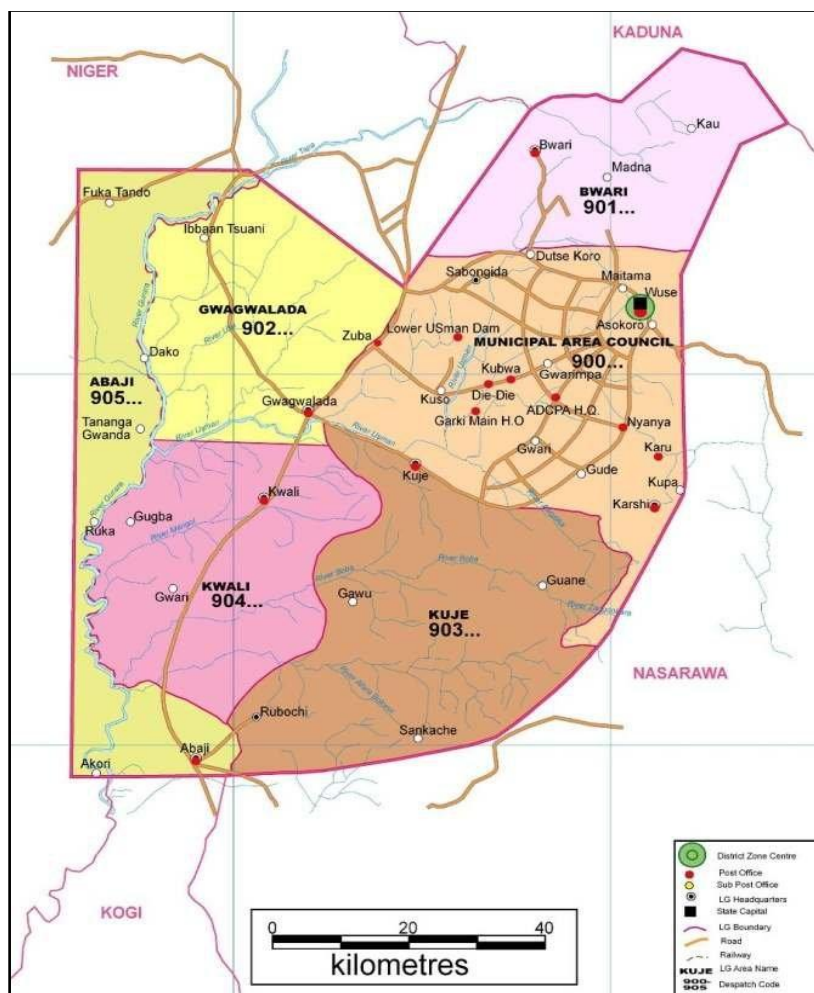


Figure 1.1: The Study Area (FCT, Abuja)

Source: Researchgate, 2021

The study adopted a survey research design, with a mixed method of data collection, involving the use of both primary and secondary data. Primary data was mostly gathered through survey questionnaire (administered on both traders and residents), interviews and direct observation while secondary data was obtained from verifiable published documents. The total estimated population of Abuja for 2021 stood at 3,464,123 [14]. A sample size of 385 was therefore derived using the online sample Size Calculator from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Two sets of questionnaire were administered; 200 copies on the affected traders across Abuja, while 185 copies on the nearby residents. Convenience sampling was adopted for questions meant for the traders, and stratified and simple random sampling techniques were used in collecting data from the Abuja residents. The study made use of descriptive statistics for data analysis. Tables, and simple percentages were used in analyzing demographic variables of respondents, while Relative Important Index ((RII) was used to analyze the effects of informal market demolition on the socio-economic environment of Abuja vi-a-vis a five-point likert scale scores of the assigned variables. The operation was carried out using SPSS (version 20.0).

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

TABLE 1.1: Gender of Trader Respondents

Classification		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male	90	45.0	45.0	45.0
	Female	110	55.0	55.0	100.0
	Total	200	100.0	100.0	

Source: Authors' Field work, 2021

Table 1.1 shows that 45% of the traders in Abuja who sell their goods at informal markets are male while 55% are female. This, implies that women are the most vulnerable when it comes to market demolition

and eviction. This corroborates with the [6] which provides evidence that women and children are the most vulnerable and impacted in the aftermath of an eviction and demolition of informal market settlements.

TABLE 1.2 : Gender of Abuja Residents

Classification	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Male	74	40.0	40.0	40.0
Valid Female	111	60.0	60.0	100.0
Total	185	100.0	100.0	

Source: Authors' Field work, 2021

Table 1.2 depicts that there are more female respondents in homes near settlement of informal markets as demonstrated by 60% as against 40% garnered by male respondents. For obvious reasons, most of the women stay at home to take care of the children while their husbands go to work. Also, the influence of the informal market in their neighbourhood has prompted some women to open a shop in their homes, where they sit back at home to sell their goods.

TABLE 2.1 :Age of Trader Respondents

Years	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid 20-24	20	10.0	10.0	10.0
25-29	30	15.0	15.0	25.0
30-34	30	15.0	15.0	40.0
35-39	10	5.0	5.0	45.0
40-44	70	35.0	35.0	80.0
45-49	30	15.0	15.0	95.0
50-54	10	5.0	5.0	100.0
Total	200	100.0	100.0	

Source: Authors' Field work, 2021

From table 2.1, it is shown that respondents between 40-44 years form majority of the traders in Abuja informal markets, with 35%. This is followed by traders with ages of 25-29 years, 30-34 years, and 45-49 years, all represented with 15% apiece. Traders under 35-39 years, and 50-54 years were left with 105 apiece. It thus implies that, greater percentage of traders operating in informal markets have families to cater for, judging by their age.

TABLE 2.2: Age of Abuja Residents

Years	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid 20 -24	18	9.7	9.7	9.7
25 -29	46	24.9	24.9	34.6
30 -34	46	24.9	24.9	59.5
35 -39	9	4.9	4.9	64.3
40 -44	38	20.5	20.5	84.9
45 -49	9	4.9	4.9	89.7
50 -54	19	10.3	10.3	100.0
Total	185	100.0	100.0	

Source: Authors' Field work, 2021

As shown by table 2.2, majority of Abuja residents who live in the neighbourhood of informal markets have their ages fall between 25-29 years, and 30-39 years with 24.9% apiece. Closely followed are residents with ages between 40-49 years (20.5%). Residents with ages between 50-54 years, and 20-24 years have 10.3% and 9.7% respectively. Those under the ages of between 35-39 years and 45-49 years constitute 4.9% apiece. Thus, the residents of nearby informal markets in Abuja are composed of youth population.

TABLE 3.1: Marital Status of Trader Respondents

Status	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Married	120	60.0	60.0	60.0
Single	70	35.0	35.0	95.0
Separated	10	5.0	5.0	100.0
Total	200	100.0	100.0	

Source: Authors' Field work, 2021

Table 3.1 shows that traders who are married dominate the informal markets. This is overtly demonstrated with 60% composition. Traders who are single, and those who have experience separation in their marriages have 355 and 5% respectively. Thus, increased household size is expected.

TABLE 3.2: Marital Status of Abuja Residents

Status	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Married	91	49.2	49.2	49.2
Valid Single	85	45.9	45.9	95.1
Valid Separated	9	4.9	4.9	100.0
Total	185	100.0	100.0	

Source: Authors' Field work, 2021

Table 3.2 depicts that there are more married people who live around where informal markets are settled in Abuja. Such residents who are married constitute 49.2% of the population while those who are single make up 45.9%. Thus, physical procreation is inevitable, and which in the final analysis will lead to increased household size, and consequently increased consumption pattern.

TABLE 4.1: Household Size of Trader Respondents

Size	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid 1-3	77	38.5	38.5	38.5
Valid 4-6	103	51.5	51.5	90.0
Valid 7-9	10	5.0	5.0	95.0
Valid > 10	10	5.0	5.0	100.0
Total	200	100.0	100.0	

Source: Authors' Field work, 2021

Table 4.1 shows that 103 traders out of 200 sampled had their household size between 4-6, making up 51.5%, while those with household size of 1-3 constitute 38.5% (77 traders). Traders with household size of 7-19, and more than 10 had 5% apiece. From the findings, it was revealed that the majority of the traders in informal markets are those with the sample size of 4-6, which implies that, on average, most of them have 5 persons per household. Where and when informal markets are demolished, and traders evicted, large families suffer economic hardship as ripple effects.

TABLE 4.2: Household Size of Abuja Residents

Size	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid 1 -3	56	30.3	30.3	30.3
Valid 4 -6	101	54.6	54.6	84.9
Valid 7 -9	19	10.3	10.3	95.1
Valid > 10	9	4.9	4.9	100.0
Total	185	100.0	100.0	

Source: Authors' Field work, 2021

Table 4.2 shows that, residents with household size of 4-6 has 54.6%, residents with household size of 1-3 constitute 30.3%, those with household size of 7-9 made 10.3%, while residents with household size of more than 10 had 4.9%. From the findings, majority of Abuja residents who live in the neighbourhood of informal markets has a household size of 4-6 as demonstrated in the percentage distribution. This means each of the 101 residents sampled has an average of 5 persons per household; same as the traders themselves. The results here further shows that there are more people to cater for vis-a-vis the location and function of the informal markets.

TABLE 5.1: Trading Items by Traders in the Informal Markets

Items	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Food Stuff	80	40.0	40.0	40.0
Valid Electronics	50	25.0	25.0	65.0
Valid Transportation Service	10	5.0	5.0	70.0
Valid Others	10	5.0	5.0	75.0
Valid Livestock	50	25.0	25.0	100.0
Total	200	100.0	100.0	

Source: Authors' Field work, 2021

As seen in table 5.1 above, food stuff is most traded item in the informal markets as represented by 40%, and those who trade on livestock make up 25%. These two items combined implies that the markets are basically open for food consumption which is very essential. Traders who sell electronic equipment make up 25%, and those who provide transportation services such as conveying passengers and goods constitute 5%. Those who trade on other items such as vehicle spare parts and P.O.S services were represented by 5%. In the event of market demolition and eviction, these traders stand the chance of incurring high social and cost.

TABLE 5.2: Items bought by Abuja Residents from the informal Markets

Items	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Clothes	10	5.4	5.4	5.4
Food Stuff	120	64.9	64.9	70.3
Others	9	4.9	4.9	75.1
Both Food Stuff and Clothes	37	20.0	20.0	95.1
Food Stuff and Electronics	9	4.9	4.9	100.0
Total	185	100.0	100.0	

Source: Authors' Field work, 2021

Table 5.2 shows that, of all the items bought by Abuja residents from the informal markets, food stuff is top in the list. 64% of the sampled residents confirmed that what they buy from the informal markets is basically food stuff. This finding is in alignment with what was obtained in table 5.1. Residents who buy both food stuff and clothes from the markets make up 20%, while those who buy only electronic equipment such as television, radio, phones, amongst others are composed of 4.9%. Residents who go to the market to buy both food stuff and electronics, and those who buy other things like vehicle spare parts and patronize P.O.S services constitute 4.9% apiece. Where such markets are demolished, the social and economic cost, in the course of looking elsewhere will be high on the residents.

TABLE 6.1: Monthly Income Level of Traders at the Informal Markets

Income Level	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
10,000 -20,000	20	10.0	10.0	10.0
21,000-30,000	50	25.0	25.0	35.0
31,000-40,000	70	35.0	35.0	70.0
41,000-50,000	60	30.0	30.0	100.0
Total	200	100.0	100.0	

Source: Authors' Field work, 2021

As revealed in table 6.1, majority of the traders operating at the informal markets earn monthly income of N31, 000 -N40, 000 (35%). Those with monthly income of N41, 000-N50, 000 constitute 30%. Traders with monthly income of N21, 000-N30, 000, and those with monthly income of N10, 000-20, 000 make up 25% and 10% respectively. This shows a very low earning considering the household size and the current economic realities. Consequently, if these traders are evicted from the market, then some might take to criminal ways of surviving.

TABLE 6.2: Monthly Income Level of Abuja Residents

Income Level	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
10,000 -20,000	46	24.9	24.9	24.9
21,000 -30,000	37	20.0	20.0	44.9
31,000 -40,000	28	15.1	15.1	60.0
41,000 - 50,000	38	20.5	20.5	80.5
> 50,000	36	19.5	19.5	100.0
Total	185	100.0	100.0	

Source: Authors' Field work, 2021

From table 6.2, 24% of residents who live around and enjoy the services of informal markets in Abuja earn N10, 000-N20, 000 monthly, 20.5% earn N41, 000-N50, 000 monthly, and 20.0% earn N21, 000-N30, 000 monthly. Residents who earn monthly income of N31, 000-N40, 000 and more than N50, 000 constitute 15.1% and 19.5% respectively. The findings show that the residents are low income earners as the majority earn N10, 000-N20, 000, implying huge unemployment. This is the more obvious reason why they could survive with the presence of informal markets around them. Demolition of these markets may ultimately usher in economic hardship for these residents.

Market Demolition Experience

TABLE 7.1: Traders Market Demolition and Eviction Profile

Profile	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Once	30	15.0	15.0	15.0
Twice	10	5.0	5.0	20.0
Valid 3 times	30	15.0	15.0	35.0
4 times & above	120	60.0	60.0	95.0
None	10	5.0	5.0	100.0
Total	200	100.0	100.0	

Source: Authors' Field work, 2021

Findings from table 7.1 shows that 60% of the traders have been evicted more than four (4) times from informal markets, 15% have had the experience 3 times, and 5% have experienced market eviction twice. Traders who have been evicted once and those that have never been constitute 15% and 5% respectively. The implication here is that, about 75% of the traders who have been evicted 3times, 4 times based on market demolition, must have gone through a lot of social and economic stress. It is important to also note that, these same traders pay taxes and other levies to the Authorities.

TABLE 7.2: Residents' Market Demolition and Eviction Experience

Experienc	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Once	28	15.1	15.1	15.1
Twice	10	5.4	5.4	20.5
Valid 3 times	64	34.6	34.6	55.1
> 4 times	83	44.9	44.9	100.0
Total	185	100.0	100.0	

Source: Authors' Field work, 2021

Table 7.2 shows that 15.1% of residents experienced market demolition once, 5.4% experienced twice, 34.6% experienced 3 times, while 44.9% of the residents experienced market demolition in their neighbourhood more than 4 times. This goes a long way to say that market is a key determinant for location preference for low and middle income earners. Consequently, when these markets are demolished and traders evicted, residents are most likely to incur unexpected social and economic cost. This could also result in urban – rural migration where people had to vacate the city they came to search for better lives.

Impacts of Informal Market Demolition

TABLE 8.1: Socio-Economic Impacts of Informal Market Demolition on Traders

Effects	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
1.You have lost huge income	200	2.00	5.00	4.70	.71593
2.You have lost huge quantity of goods	200	2.00	5.00	4.65	.79414
3.Large quantity of your goods have been damaged for being under the sun and in the rain	200	2.00	5.00	4.25	1.09246
4.Large quantity of your goods have been stolen by theft	200	2.00	5.00	4.45	.92291
5.Large quantity of your goods have been taken by demolition agents	200	2.00	5.00	3.25	1.13753
6.Large quantity of your goods have been damaged by bulldozers	200	1.00	5.00	4.25	1.30230
7.You fall sick	200	1.00	5.00	4.10	1.26412
8.You lost a family member due to shock	200	1.00	5.00	2.75	1.22269
9.You started skipping meal due to lack of income	200	2.00	5.00	4.30	.95633
10.You started skipping meal due to thinking	200	2.00	5.00	4.45	.97584
11.your child children dropped out of school	200	2.00	5.00	2.80	1.16912
12.You started begging	200	2.00	4.00	2.80	.87397
13.You started selling near the same demolished market	200	2.00	5.00	4.00	.83876
14.You moved to another vacant place to sell	200	1.00	5.00	3.75	1.13753
15.You moved to a road side to continue trading	200	1.00	5.00	4.00	1.14304
16.You continued trading where you stay	200	1.00	5.00	3.15	1.31764

17.You could not pay your house rent anymore	200	1.00	5.00	3.35	1.01620
18.You are considering another paid job	200	2.00	4.00	3.10	.70176
19.You are considering going back to your rural community	200	1.00	4.00	3.30	.84473
20.You are considering going back to demolished market after sometimes	200	3.00	5.00	4.20	.67993
Valid N (listwise)	200				
Acceptance Region(AMS)	3.78				
Cronbach's Alpha	0.872				

Source: Authors' Field work, 2021

Table 8.1 shows how market demolition affects socio-economic well-being of traders in FCT, Abuja. Mean score for each question/variable was benchmarked at the Average Mean score of 3.78 (acceptable region) for application of Relative Important Index (RII). Thus, the results imply that traders whose selling points have been demolished by the authority suffer significantly from the following effects: they have lost huge income (4.70), they have lost huge quantity of goods (4.65), and large quantity of their goods have been damaged for being under the sun and in the rain (4.25), large quantity of their goods have been damaged by bulldozer (4.25), and stolen (4.45) in the process of demolition. Most traders, after demolition and eviction fell sick (4.10), and started skipping meal (malnourishment) due to lack of income (4.30) and over thinking (4.45). Findings also revealed that, the evicted traders have started selling near the same demolished markets (4.00), some have moved to another vacant space (3.75), most of them are now selling by the road side (4.00), and are considering going back to the same demolished markets (4.20).



Plate 1& 2: Demolished Market at Gwarinpa.

Source: [15].

TABLE 8.2: Socio-Economic Impacts of Informal Market Demolition on Abuja Residents

Effects	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
1.You have incurred increased transportation fare	185	1.00	5.00	4.46	.91469
2.You have had accidents in the course of going to a distant market	185	1.00	5.00	3.03	1.57229
3.You don't get to eat in good time due to non-proximity of what to buy	185	1.00	5.00	3.75	1.10104
4.Extended Robbery attack from scavenging thieves	185	2.00	5.00	3.83	1.07290
5.Regular cases of robbery from those who have become jobless	185	3.00	5.00	4.55	.67510
6.Littering of roads with waste	185	1.00	5.00	4.25	.88022
7.Pollution due to indiscriminate escalation of business activities	185	2.00	5.00	4.25	.88176
8.Discomfort from fear of crises between demolition agents and traders	185	1.00	5.00	3.80	1.20145
Valid N (listwise)	185				

Acceptance Region(AMS)	3.99			
Cronbach's Alpha	0.736			

Source: Authors' Field work, 2021

Table 8.2 shows how Relative Important Index (RII) Scores were received to reveal variables that significantly affect the socio-economic environment of the residents of FCT, Abuja. Mean score for each question/variable was bench-marked at the Average Mean score of 3.99 (acceptable region) for application of Relative Important Index (RII). Consequently, the study affirmed that, residents who have experienced market demolitions have incurred increased transportation fare in the course of buying goods from other distant markets (4.46), and they have suffered regular cases of robbery attack from market evictees who have become jobless (4.55). Also, Abuja residents have been made to be having unsightly views as roads are littered with waste, and as evictees take to roadside to sell (4.25), and pollution due to indiscriminate escalation of business activities to other areas not earlier earmarked for, or not having the capacity to accommodate (4.25).

Ameliorating Approaches

TABLE 9.1 Ameliorating Approaches to the Socio-economic Cost of Market Demolition and Eviction incurred by Traders

Approaches	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
1.Area Council/ FCT Administration has given you money for lost income	200	1.00	1.00	1.00	.00000
2.You have been bought stock of goods for	200	1.00	1.00	1.00	.00000
3.Your child/children have been given scholarship	200	1.00	1.00	1.00	.00000
4.You have been given relief materials for your household	200	1.00	1.00	1.00	.00000
5.You have been resettled to a new place market to continue trading	200	1.00	3.00	1.10	.43698
6.Nothing has been given to you yet	200	1.00	5.00	4.55	1.20614
7.You have only been told that something will be done	200	3.00	5.00	3.80	.60151
Valid N (listwise)	200				
Acceptance region(AMS)	1.92				
Cronbach's Alpha	0.721				

Source: Authors' Field work, 2021

Table 9.1 shows how Relative Important Index (RII) Scores were received to reveal variables that were important (significant) in cushioning the socio-economic effects of market demolition and eviction on traders in FCT, Abuja. Mean score for each question/variable was bench marked at the Average Mean score of 1.92 (acceptable region) for application of Relative Important Index (RII). Thus, the study revealed that, nothing has been given to the traders yet (4.55), and they have only been told that something will be done about their situation (3.80). Conversely, the traders have strongly declined to accept that, Area Council/ FCT Administration has given you money for lost income (1.00), they have been bought stock of goods for (1.00), and that their child/children have been given scholarship (1.00). Also, traders have also strongly disagreed with the variables that, they have been given relief materials for their households (1.00), and have been resettled to a new place market to continue trading (1.10). From the findings, it is obvious that nothing has been done to ameliorate the socio-economic suffering of traders who have lost their means of livelihood to market demolitions in Abuja.

IV. CONCLUSION

Demolition of informal markets and eviction of its traders will ultimately leads to increased criminality and insecurity as shown in the findings of the study. For obvious reasons, informal markets will not cease re-emerging as evictees take to new vacant space and roadsides to sell their wares since proper and adequate resettlement plans have not been implemented by the authorities. This development has even caused waste management and pollution problem in such neighborhoods. From the foregoing, it is evident that, there is urgent need to develop an inclusive urban development policy that will include the needs of the poor in urban upgrades and redevelopment initiatives in FCT, Abuja. Such policies would offer poorer residents and informal traders a better access to housing and trading needs. For what has been a close observation, it is understandable

that the so called 'ultra-modern' markets could easily include poor traders' need for very small spaces in accessible parts of the new markets. These spaces would attract competitive rates that would be affordable to the poorer traders, who usually deal in highly perishable items, such as foodstuffs, vegetables, meat, fish, and fruit, amongst others. The private developers have equally lost sight of the conscious effort to also integrate needs of the poor into redevelopment plan when partnering with the government, and this shortcoming is biting the poor in Abuja real hard. Nevertheless, since the right things are not always visible to policymakers, it is time for the development experts and social, environmental, and human rights activists to gear up concerted efforts with the Federation of Informal Workers' Organizations of Nigeria (FIWON), so they can campaign vigorously for inclusive urban development policies, especially in the areas of housing and market redevelopments. It is also highly imperative for there to be the need to generate economic activity data for slum households so that a case can be made for informal settlers' contribution to informal economies, while future studies should include the factors propelling forced evictions from the state's perspectives so that a comparative analysis can be done to measure if the end need for such actions outweighs the cost.

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