

**RURAL-URBAN DRIFT AS A FACTOR OF URBAN  
SQUALOR IN LAFIA, NASARAWA STATE**

*BY*

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**IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE  
AWARD OF POST-GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN ENVIRONMENTAL  
MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGY OF THE FEDERAL  
UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY  
MINNA – NIGERIA**

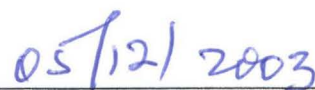
**NOVEMBER, 2003**

**CERTIFICATION**

I certify that I have read, supervised and accepted the project written and submitted by YAKUBU AHMED HUNI (PGD/GEO/2001/2002/228) in partial fulfilment of the requirement for the award of Post- Graduate Diploma in Environmental Management of the Federal University of Technology, Minna, Niger State



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**DEDICATION**

This project is dedicated to my father, Alhaji Ahmed B. Huni, my late mother, Hauwa'u; and my beloved wife, Maryam.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I hereby express my profound gratitude to my supervisor professor Baba,J.M, for his close supervision, tolerance, constructive criticisms and intellectual guidance.

My heart- felt appreciation also goes to Mallan Salihu (PGD Co-ordinator) and all the lecturers of the department of Geography, Federal University of Technology Minna for their contributions towards this project. Your efforts are most commendable, and may God reward you abundantly.

May I also acknowledge with thanks the contributions of the Bureau for Lands, Survey and Town planning, Lafia; The National population commission, Lafia; Urban Development Board, Lafia and the Lafia Local Government for providing me with vital information.

My gratitude also goes to my father, Alhaji Ahmed B. Huni for his moral and financial support.

To you all, I am indebted

**YAKUBU AHMED HUNI**

## ABSTRACT

In Nigeria, Urban areas provide sources of attraction to rural dwellers due to the in – adequate attention been paid to rural development by the government. One of such urban areas is Lafia, the capital of Nasarawa state. Migration from rural areas into this urban centre assumed greater dimensions with the creation of Nasarawa state and the new status of Lafia as a state capital. This development has resulted in a score of consequences on the physical environment of Lafia. This project therefore, aims at examining the effects of rural- urban drift on the urban environment with a view recommending appropriate solutions. The study amongst other things examines some socio- economic characteristics of the population and the existing state of the urban environment. Data to this effect was obtained from primary and secondary sources. The primary source involved the carrying out of interview through the use of questionnaires addressed to 20% of the house hold heads, selected using the stratified random sampling technique. Secondary sources of information for this project include government records and publications, textbooks, journals and unpublished materials. The data obtained shows that Lafia is endowed with a lot of socio-economic infrastructure, which provide source of attraction to rural migrants. The influx of these migrants into Lafia has resulted into congestions, high occupancy rate, increase environmental pollution, and excessive pressure on existing facilities and services among other indices of urban squalor. Recommendations, which include the provision of rural infrastructural facilities; rural human resource development and utilization, promotion of rural production activities and the initiation and implementation of planning scheme for Lafia, have been made in order to check these problems.









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## CHAPTER ONE

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The concept of rural – urban drift has been looked at as “essentially ... a basic transformation of the nodal structure of the society in which people move from generally smaller, mainly agricultural communities”. (Mabogunje 1968).

In Nigeria, previous attempts at national development have divided the country into two distinct sectors – the urban sector and the rural sector. Each of these sectors showed great potentials in terms of natural resource endowment, level of productive investment and quality of life of the inhabitants. The rural sector with abundance of human and natural resources has remained the “treasury trove” of the nation accounting for over 70% of the nation population (Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, 2001). In spite of this, the Nigeria rural communities are centres of neglect because successive governments gave so much emphasis to the development of the urban areas at the detriment of the rural areas. As such, life in rural areas become devoid of opportunities and choices and the rural environment becomes lacking in basic infrastructure facilities such as pipe – borne water, good road network, organised refuse

collection and disposal systems, educational and health facilities, etc. These contribute in making the rural dwellers power – less and unable to initiate actions that will improve their material and economic conditions.

It is against this background and the compelling need to make ends meet that the rural dwellers continue to migrate to the urban areas in great multitudes, in search of greener pastures. This phenomenon of rural – urban drift is undoubtedly one of the most problematic issues facing all tiers of government in Nigeria, particularly in the newly created states, and Nasarawa State is no exception.

While the state and local governments strive to evolve policies and strategies aimed at eliminating, or at least reducing conditions of over – crowding, pollution, diseases, unemployment and other agents of environmental degradation; rural – urban drift – a major and dynamic component of population change, now compounds environmental problems and constitutes a threat to sustainable development.

Nasarawa State, created in 1996 out of the former Plateau state, experienced relatively less number of physical and socio – economic problems in its urban areas, but in recent times (especially with the

creation of the state), the emergence of urban socio – economic infrastructure, and a relatively less emphasis on rural development, rural – urban drift started setting in remarkably. This trend is being accompanied by many consequences on the urban environment of the state, especially in Lafia – the state Capital. Moreso that there has not been a defined physical or socio – economic plan to accommodate the creation of the state.

## **1.2 NATURE OF THE RESEARCH PROBLEM**

In recent times, especially since the creation of Nasarawa State in 1996, up – surge in urban populations became more noticeable especially in Lafia – the State Capital. This increasing population is largely attributed to the movement of people from the rural hinterlands to the state capital. The up – surge in the population of this urban centre is not accompanied by a corresponding increase or improvements in urban infrastructure. This ugly trend is resulting in the development of blighted/slum areas, pressure on existing urban infrastructure, accumulation of garbage, environmental pollution, and a score of other environmental problems, which have resulted in a marked decline in environmental quality and standard of living.

While the state and Lafia Local Government try to tackle the chain of socio – economic and physical problems facing them, with limited resources at their disposals, the threat to the sustenance of the Lafia urban environment (largely due to rural – urban drift) is becoming a source of concern.

### **1.3 AIM AND OBJECTIVES**

The aim of this project is to examine the effects of rural – urban drift on Lafia urban environment with a view to recommending appropriate solutions.

The aim shall be achieved through the following objectives:

1. To examine the rate of rural – urban migration into Lafia, especially after the creation of Nasarawa State.
2. To examine the income, household size, occupancy rate, refuse generation/disposal and other socio – economic characteristics of the population.
3. To examine the existing state of Lafia urban environment.

### **1.4 JUSTIFICATION OF STUDY**

This project shall help in providing some useful data necessary in the formulation of policies for arresting the increasing influx of rural

migrants into the urban centres; and the attendant problems of congestion, pollution, and environmental deterioration, amongst others. This will enhance the creation of sustainable urban environments and provide an avenue for improved standard of living.

### **1.5 SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

The study examines trends in rural – urban migration into Lafia between 1990 to date, and the effects of this population drift on the physical environment of the urban area.

### **1.6 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY**

1. Lack of a documented data on the trends of rural – urban – migration into Lafia.
2. Difficulties in obtaining sensitive, but vital information (such as income and household size) from some respondents.



## CHAPTER TWO

### 2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 THE CONCEPT OF MIGRATION AND URBANIZATION

As opined by Oni (1989), "In theory, migration is regarded as an adjustive process for relocating factors of production and given the fact that natural resources are essentially immobile, the other complementary resources, notably human factor and capital tend to move from areas of poor to better natural endowment in order to promote a better utilization of factors of production". Based on this submission, natural endowment becomes the major attraction for migration. The concept of natural resources, which is an important factor in migration, is being viewed in different perspectives depending on individuals and their abilities. While some individuals see abundant resources that are awaiting proper utilization for developmental purposes, others look towards the cities for opportunities for the realisation of their life ambition and goal. Oni, (1989).

No doubt, migration into the urban centres in Nigeria is not a homogenous phenomenon but a multi – dimensional one, as articulated by Adegbola (1976), the same place may present different images to different people in terms of opportunities. As

such, new migrants may be attracted to a place where others are leaving.

Migration can be looked at from four points of view namely, rural – rural, rural – urban, urban – rural and urban – urban. Oni, (1989).

Rural – rural migration involves the movement of people from one agricultural locality to another. According to Ajaegbu (1982), the source regions of the rural – rural migrants in Nigeria may be classified into four groups.

- a. Areas of rapid (natural) population growth such as the Urhobo/Isoko area of Bendel State (now Edo and Delta State) and the Ibo core area of Anambra and Imo states;
- b. Areas of rural population densities such as the Ibo core areas in Anambra and Imo state as well as Kano core area;
- c. Area of low, deteriorating or decrease resource base in (a) and (b) above; and
- d. Areas of ecological difficulties such as areas of extensive gullying (Angulu – Nanka) or areas of prolonged drought conditions (parts of the far northern part of Nigeria).

Urban – rural migration have not received a greater attention by the Nigerian scholars. Of all the four dimensions of migration, it is the

least understood, because there is no documented information. Oni, (1989)

However, this lack of documented information does not signify that there is no urban – rural migration in Nigeria, because many migrants move back to their villages or hometown in the rural areas to live for the rest of their lives, after retirement from work in the urban centres.

Urban – urban migration, the least important of all the dimensions drawn on migration, in normal circumstances, involves only a few people who may be interested in having a change of environment. In most cases, urban – urban migration occur in Nigeria with the creation of new states where civil servants are forced to move to their new state capitals.

The most significant, among the dimensions drawn on migration, is the rural – urban migration. This movement as opined by Oni, (1980) “constitutes a problem of global proportions, prominently including the developing countries and Nigeria is no exception”.

## **2.20 RURAL – URBAN MIGRATION INTO NIGERIAN CITIES**

The phenomenon of migration from rural to the urban centres is, no doubt one of the most problematic issues facing the governments in most developing countries for the past three decades. Oni, (1989).

The above named phenomenon as pointed by Oni, now constitutes a disturbing factor in formulating plans for rapid socio – economic development. This is because, governments continue to evolve development policies aimed at avoiding, or at least curtailing conditions of poverty, overcrowding, housing shortages, diseases and other environmental problems; rural – urban drift – a major component of population change now constitutes a threat in this direction.

Nigeria's population growth rate, prior to the Second World War, was approximately 1.8% per annum. Rural – urban migration (mostly seasonal and temporary) was the major population movement then. As at 1952, the largest town was Ibadan, consisting of 460,206 persons with a population growth rate of about 2.1% per annum. These figures show an insignificant rate of urbanization. The second largest town was Lagos consisting of 206,407 persons, and then Kano with a population of 131,316 persons. It is worth

mentioning here that Ibadan and Kano owed their expansion to natural increase in population rather than any tangible degree of rural – urban migration. Oni, (1989)

According to green and Milone (1972) the only evidence of imminent “take – off” into urbanization appeared in Lagos. This is because the 1950 census in Lagos and the 1952 national census showed a marked increase in population growth to 5.5% mainly due to in – migration within a period of about ten years (1952 – 1963), Lagos witnessed a dramatic increase in population. This trend also extended to other parts of the country, resulting in an unprecedented rise in the overall growth rate of Nigeria from 1.8% to 2.8% per annum, as put forward by many authorities. Eke (1966)

There was a remarkable increase in internal migration from rural to urban areas, as the country’s population continues to increase. According to green and Milone (1972), Lagos grew to 665,246 inhabitants within a decade, and spread beyond its boundaries, resulting in the formation of a metropolitan complex of 1,089,868 persons. Over 644,000 people are estimated to have migrated to metropolitan Lagos. Out of this migrant population, about 510,000 persons migrated from Western Nigeria; over 23,000 from mid –

western Nigeria; 106,000 from eastern Nigeria; and over 6,000 from Northern Nigeria. The magnitude of these movements (which was neither seasonal nor temporary, but permanent) was the first of its kind in the history of Africa. Precisely, these movements occurred at the rate of about 59,000 persons per year. Oni, (1989)

In northern Nigeria then, increase in population attributed to in – migration were also recorded. The population of Kano rose to 295,432 inhabitants as reflected by the 1963 figures. This indicates a growth rate of 7.6% per annum. The population of Kaduna and Zaria increased from 42,647 to 129,133 inhabitants; and from 92,434 to 166,170 inhabitants, respectively. This indicates a growth rate of 10.6% and 5.5% respectively. The central core area of northern Nigeria had an increase in its urban population to 685,186 persons and a combined growth rate of 7.6% per annum. Out of this figure, 271,000 persons are estimated to have migrated to this central core area and over 232,000 to the cities of Kaduna, Kano and Zaria. 182,000 of these in – migrants originated from Northern Nigeria (including 100,000 persons from the rural parts of the core area itself). Over 33,000 persons originated from Eastern Nigeria, and about 2,000 persons from mid – western Nigeria. Green and Milone (1972)

The south – eastern Nigeria also recorded a remarkable up – surge in its population, the censuses show that between 1952 – 1963, the population of Port Harcourt grew from 59,548 to 179,563 inhabitants. This indicates a growth rate of 10.5% per annum. Onitsha grew from 77,087 to 163,032 inhabitants at the rate of 7.0% per annum; and Enugu grew from 63,212 to 138,457 inhabitants, representing a growth rate of 7.4% per annum. South – eastern Nigeria had a combined urban growth rate of 8.2% per annum and an estimated 262,000 in – migrants. Green and Milone (1972)

It is worth mentioning here that migration also extended to other state capitals and cities outside the three growth poles mentioned herein. Population expansion within these urban areas was estimated to be twice that of the national rate. This trend in population change extended beyond 1963 as a result of developments in the industrial, commercial, educational and administrative sectors of the urban areas.

Between 1952 and 1967, migration accounted for between 6% and 8% of the country's rural population, Oni, (1989)

Rural – urban migration became more pronounced right from the era of the oil boom to the present. This may be attributed to the relative

development of urban areas, especially state capitals, to the detriment of the rural areas. Many apprentices, as observed by Oni, have moved out of the rural areas to the urban centres in order to take advantage of the construction industry and other aspects of the urban economy. In an observation he made at Oro – Ago in Kwara State, a great proportion of the rural populace, especially the youths, migrated from Oro – Ago to Ilorin for white – collar jobs. At the end, the community (Oro – Ago), which used to export foodstuffs to Ilorin and western Nigeria in the past, has to be importing food from Ilorin and Abuja.

Observations regarding the causes of rural – urban drift have been made by Nigerian scholars. Some scholars attribute this movement to educational pursuit while others attribute it to poverty and harsh rural environment as a push factor. Makinwa (1981) in her study of the former Bendel State identified education as a significant factor in rural – urban migration. Her study also indicated that lack of pipe – borne water, lack of electricity and a general dullness of the rural environments contributes significantly to rural – urban migration.

The reasons for rural – urban migration as identified by Onokerhoraye (1985) are a significant and widening gap between



rural and urban incomes, employment opportunities (particularly non – farm employment); the desire for better educational facilities/resources; social and cultural attractions of urban areas; marriage and presence of friends and relatives at the prospective new place of residence; and the availability of means of transport.

Furthermore, as observed by Kehinde (1999), most of the rural – urban migrants are recent school leavers who cannot be gainfully employed in the villages. Others perceive a better life in the urban areas and therefore migrate to these areas no matter how slim the employment opportunities are. The number of migrants, as asserted by Kehinde, is difficult to determine but the rate of growth of the urban population shows that this movement is reaching alarming proportions. This situation is increasingly compounding environmental problems in our urban centres. The rural – urban dwellers amongst other things, find solace in poor quality housing and filthy environment. They feel a sense of alienation from the whole urban system of life and are satisfied with the fact that they can find a place to live in though substandard. Kehinde (1999).

## CHAPTER THREE

### 3.0 GEOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY AREA

#### 3.10 NASARAWA STATE IN NATIONAL SETTING

Nasarawa State is one of the thirty – six (36) states of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. It is situated almost at the centre of the country between latitudes  $7^{\circ}$  and  $11^{\circ}$  north and longitude  $7^{\circ}$  and  $25^{\circ}$  east and occupies an area of about  $30,000\text{KM}^2$ . The state shares boundary with six states of the federation, including Abuja – the Federal Capital Territory. Nasarawa State is bounded to the north – east by Plateau State; to the east by Taraba State; to the south – east by Benue State; to the south – west by Kogi State; and to the north – west by Kaduna State and the Federal Capital territory. Federal survey Department.

The state is made up of undulating lowlands of average height  $2,737\text{KM}^2$  above sea level, and composes of a variety of solid minerals (the state is regarded as the ‘Home of Solid Minerals’) such as Marble, Iron ore, Granite, etc Beside this, the state is rich in agricultural productivity, especially with regards to the production of Yam, Rice, Maize, Corn and Cassava.



**LEGEND**

National Boundaries.....

State Boundaries.....

Study Area.....

Figure 1 MAP OF NIGERIA SHOWING NASARAWA STATE

SOURCE: Bureau For Lands,  
Survey & Town planning,  
Lafiq.

Nasarawa State is made up of twenty-seven local government areas with a combined population of about 1.7 million people.

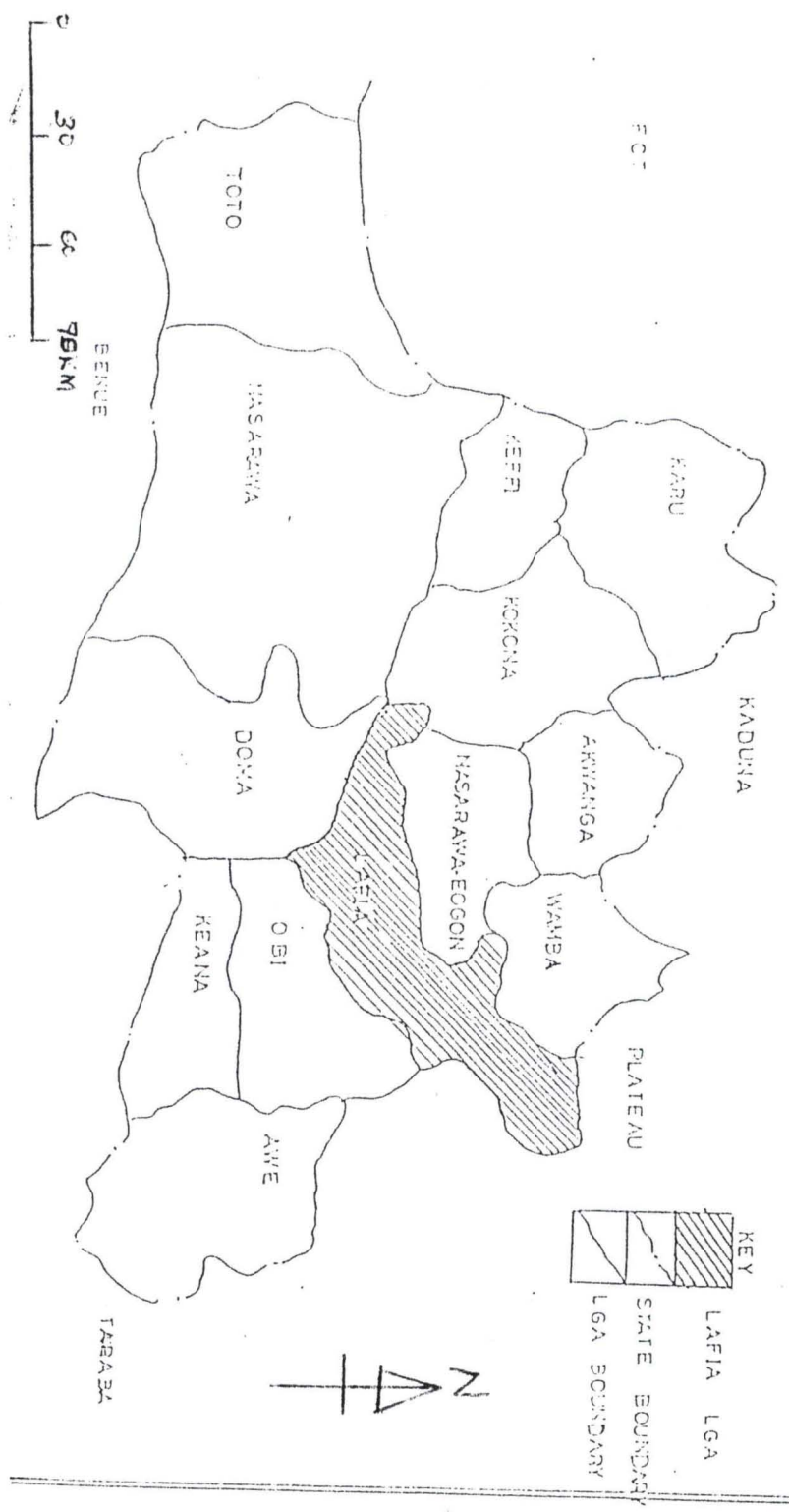
### **3.20 LAFIA IN STATE SETTING**

Lafia urban area is located in the eastern part of Nasarawa State. It is the administrative headquarters of Lafia local Government and the capital of Nasarawa State.

The urban area is accessible to a trunk 'A' road (Federal Road) and a railway, both of which emanate from Jos (the Plateau State Capital) and pass through the centre of the urban settlement (see fig 4) to the eastern part of Nigeria. Lafia has a variety of urban infrastructure facilities such as electricity (NEPA), pipe – borne water supply, postal and communication services, banks and allied financial institutions.

Furthermore, this urban centre has a variety of medical facilities, including one government owned specialist hospital and a general hospital. Educational facilities in the area include about twenty primary schools, eight secondary schools, one college of Agriculture, a state Polytechnic and campuses of different higher institutions of learning.

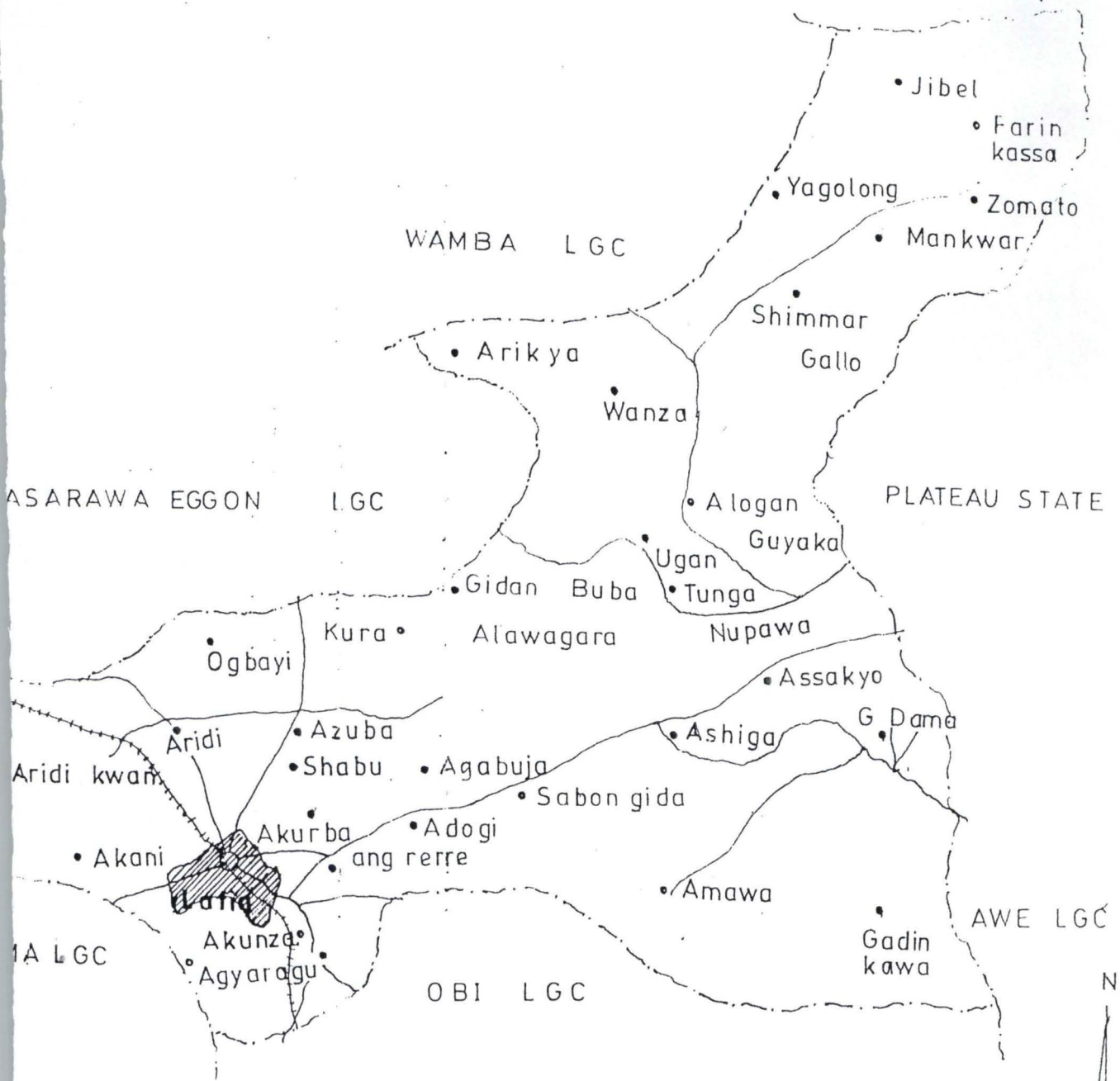
FIG 2: MAP OF NASARAWA STATE SHOWING LAFIA L.G.A







SOURCE: Bureau for Lands, Survey, and Town Planning, Lafia

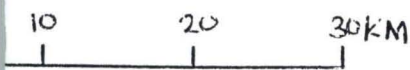
FIG 3:

MAP OF LAFIA L.G.A SHOWING LAFIA TOWN



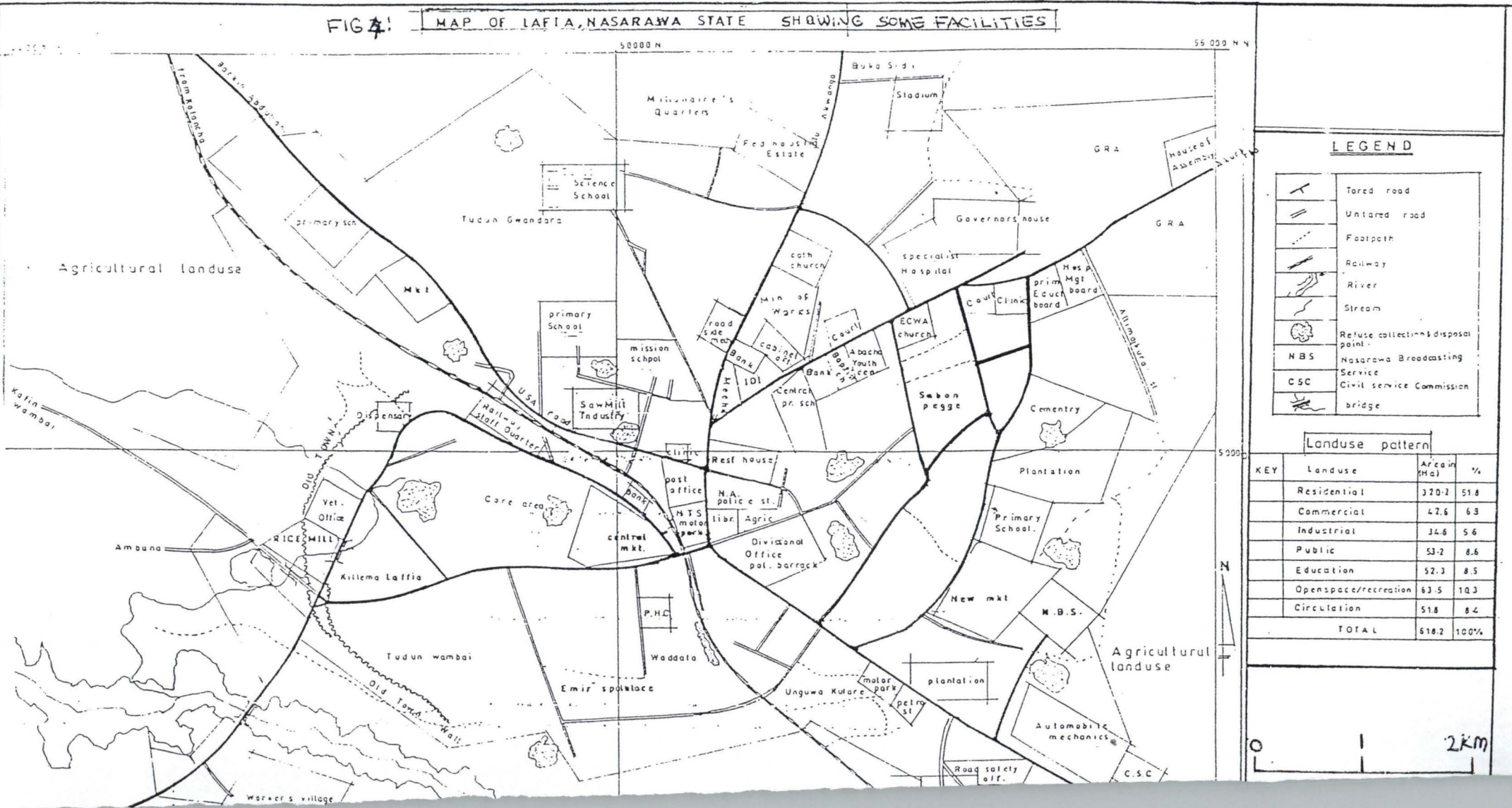
LEGEND

-  Local Govt boundaries
-  Major links (roads)
-  Villages
-  study area (Lafia)



SOURCE: Bureau For Lands, Survey & Town Planning, Lafia

FIG 4: MAP OF LAFLIA, NASARAWA STATE SHOWING SOME FACILITIES



LEGEND

- Tored road
- Untored road
- Footpath
- Railway
- River
- Stream
- Refuse collection & disposal point
- Nasarawa Broadcasting Service
- Civil service Commission
- bridge

Land use pattern

KEY	Landuse	Area (Ha)	%
	Residential	370.2	51.8
	Commercial	42.6	6.3
	Industrial	34.6	5.6
	Public	53.2	8.6
	Education	52.3	8.5
	Open space/recreation	63.5	10.3
	Circulation	51.8	8.4
	TOTAL	618.2	100%

2km

Lafia serves as the commercial nerve centre of Nasarawa State. It has a sizeable number of industrial establishments, mostly small – scale agro allied industries.

The urban area has a population of 78,247 persons (1991 National census) and occupies an area of about 618.2 hectares (Okah, 2003)

### **3.30 CLIMATE**

Lafia has two seasons as follows:-

- a. A dry season without or with very little rain. This season is from November to March.
- b. A wet season from April to October. The mean annual rainfall is 1250mm (Lafia Township Master Plan, 1985)

Lafia experiences the highest temperature in March, which marks the end of the dry season. The lowest temperature occurs in the middle of the dry season (December or January) when outgoing radiation is encouraged by low humidity, clear sky and longer nights.

Furthermore, in the middle of the wet season when daily minimal temperatures are low, the lowest monthly temperature is experienced in the area.



This urban centre experiences a decrease in relative humidity from south to north, during the dry season, in the rainy season, this variation does not occur. Throughout the year, there is a marked decrease in relative humidity from the early morning to the afternoon. Moreover, cloud cover is usually extensive and the daily average sunshine hours is greater during the dry season than the wet season.

The movement of the inter-tropical convergence zone dominates the direction of wind in the area. This zone represents the movement frontier between the moist Atlantic air from the south and the dry air from the Sahara. The north = east trade wind prevails in the area during winter period (September – April), while the south – west monsoon wind prevails for the remaining part of the year. The former is associated with extreme aridity and harmattan, while the later is associated with rainfall.

Generally, wind velocity is relatively low in the study area.

### **3.40 TOPOGRAPHY**

Lafia lies relatively close to the geographical centre of Nigeria (the Jos Plateau) which forms a central water divide that descends in a

series of steep slope to the wide Benue trough from an elevation of about 1,500 – 1,800m.

The lowlands which occupy the northern part of the Benue trough for a continuous plain about 100KM wide and this plain slopes from the front of the Plateau towards the Benue River. The western part of the plain shows a slightly slope, descending from the foot of the Plateau escarpment south of the northern low – lands follow the Benue flood plains.

Lafia is situated within the western part of the northern low – land which is an area of transition, only part of it can be regarded as belonging to the Benue plain.

### **3.50 GEOLOGY AND SOIL**

The geology of Lafia consists of Basement Complex covered by three (3) lithological units in the Lafia geological form. The main town is located on the sandstones lithological unit.

South and south – east of the sandstones boundary, the geology consists of gray shales, which also form a northern belt. Lying between the sandstones and the northern belt of Grey shales is a zone of red shales unit.

The geology shows that it belongs to the Benue formation resulting from the deposits of the Benue trough. Owing to earth movements, they were gently folded to form the undulating topography.

The sandstones consist of three groups. These are fine to medium grained feldspathic sandstones; fine grained micaceous sandstones and coarse-grained ferruginous sandstones. Savannah Landed Konsults (1998).

Nasarawa State generally, is an assembly of basement complex metamorphic rocks, granite and basalt. The crystalline rock surface drops in steps to the northern part of the basement complex covered by shallow soil and shows a number of inselbergs or outlines of granite. Soil type is generally impervious to water and it hardens by exposure to surface.

### **3.60 VEGETATION**

The vegetation cover of Lafia is made up of mainly tall grasses, fairly thick shrubs and relatively stunted trees. This situation could be attributed to the wet – dry climate of the zone.

The town is situated within the Guinea Savanna zone; and the principal crops that form parts of the vegetation cover of the area are cashew, orange, mango, yam, maize, rice and groundnuts.

### **3.70 SOCIO – ECONOMIC SETTING**

#### **3.71 SOCIAL SETTING**

Lafia town comprises of different ethnic groups from within and outside Nasarawa State. The dominant ethnic groups are Kanuri, Hausa, Koro and Eggon. The town consists of a core area (which is situated in the heart of Lafia) comprising mostly of the indigenes of the town, this core area is made up mostly of traditional housing types, an emir's Palace/Town Square and a central mosque. These depict the people's culture and the dominant religion (Islam) of the early settlers. From the core area, the town spreads extensively towards all directions, forming neighbourhoods such as the 'Sabon Pegi' (New layout) and the 'Millionaires quarters' most of which are inhabited by non – indigenes.

The hospitality of the inhabitants and inter – marriages that exist among the different ethnic groups, among other things are responsible for the peace the town is known for, and the increasing influx of migrants into the town.

Social institutions strongly recognised and respected in the area include the paramount Chief (Emir of Lafia), the 'Mai Angwas (ward Heads) and other establishments carved out by government to run the affairs of the area, and the state.

### **3.72 ECONOMIC SETTING**

Lafia is the economic nerve centre of Nasarawa State. The economy of this urban settlement hinges strongly on commerce. The items traded in are mostly agricultural and industrial products, which may be obtained from the large central market or pockets of neighbourhood markets that exist in the area.

Another major aspect of the economy and a major source of employment for the inhabitants are farming. In fact, Lafia is one of the major fore runners in terms of agricultural productivity in Nasarawa State. The major agricultural products in the area are rice, cashew, cassava, groundnut, yam and orange. All these products are sold in high commercial quantities.

Lafia is also well known for its industrial activities in the state, which provide sources of employment for a large number of skilled and unskilled labours. The town has the highest variety and concentration of industries in Nasarawa State. These industries are

mostly agro – allied small – scale industries that utilize the rich agricultural potentials of the area. Examples of such industries are rice mills, cassava flour processing industries and oil mills. Medium scale industries that exist in the area include the Al – Makura Industry (agro – allied) and the Delta Prospectors (solid minerals based).

Other institutions that have significant impact on the urban economy are commercial banks, insurance houses, co – operative societies and a score of private sector and government establishments.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### 4.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

#### 4.10 SOURCES OF DATA

The sources of data for this project can be classified into two – primary source and secondary source.

- a. **PRIMARY SOURCE:-** The primary source of data for this project involved the administration of questionnaires to household heads or their adult representatives, by interview method. Data obtained from this source include places of origin of household heads, duration of stay in Lafia, income level and method of household refuse disposal amongst others.

Furthermore, personal observation and the use of photography were employed to record scenic views of some major components of urban squalor in the study area.

A traffic survey was also conducted through the establishment of six survey stations spread across the urban landscape of Lafia, in order to secure understanding of the traffic volume.

- b. **SECONDARY SOURCE:-** secondary sources of data for this project include the library and its resources (Textbooks, Journals, etc) previous planning schemes and reports of surveys carried out for the study area.

Specifically, some data sets such as the total population of Lafia and the total number of households there in were obtained from government records and publications like the National population data sheets and the Lafia master plan (1998)

Furthermore, principles and concepts derived from existing literature on rural urban migration were taken into cognizance, especially in making recommendations aimed at checking the problem of rural – urban drift and its attendant consequences. This existing literature was obtained from textbooks, journals and unpublished materials.

#### **4.20 SAMPLE SIZE**

The sample size used for the purpose of the socio – economic survey is 20% of the total number of households in Lafia.



### 4.30 SAMPLING TECHNIQUES

The sampling technique employed is the stratified random sampling. In order to obtain a representative data, the whole study area (Lafia) was divided into sixteen (16) neighbourhoods or units and two thousand and thirty – two (2032) households heads were interviewed randomly through the use of questionnaires, in all the neighbourhoods as contained in table 1.

TABLE 1: SAMPLING REPRESENTATION OF LAFIA

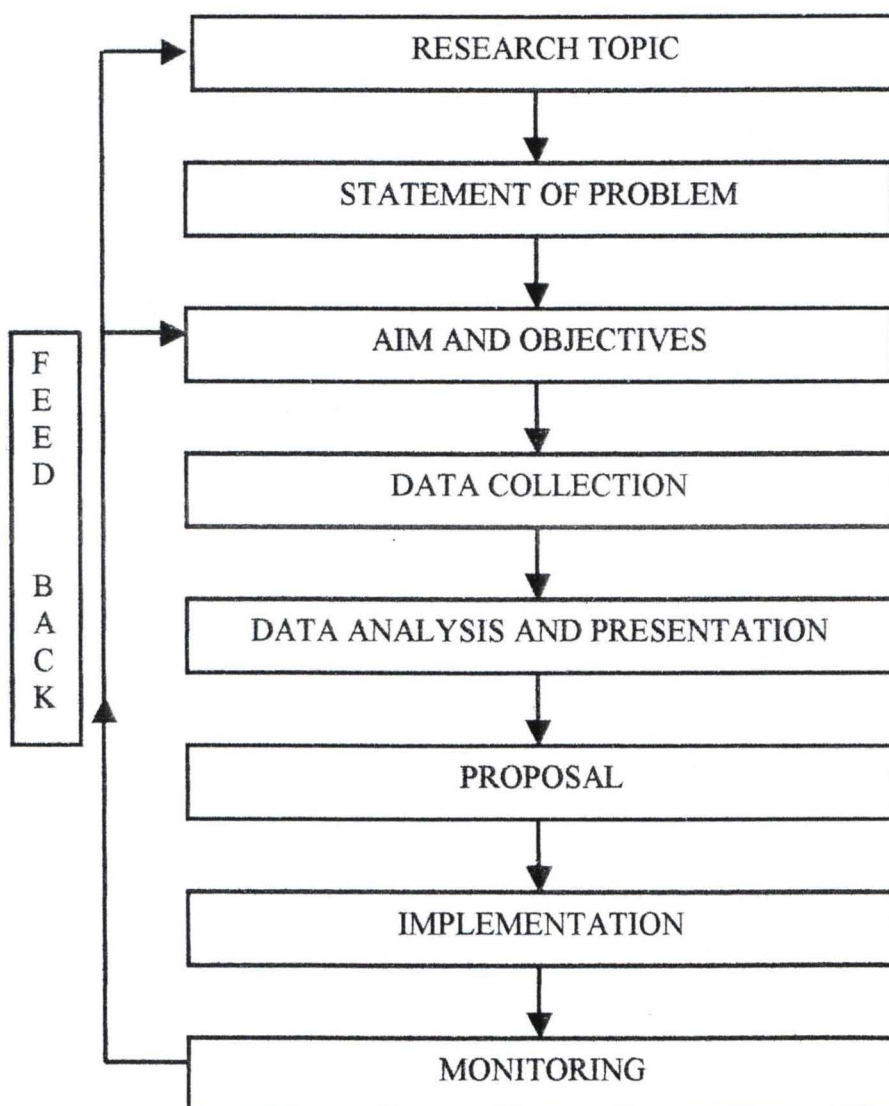
S/N	NEIGHBOURHOOD	NO OF HOUSEHOLD HEAD INTERVIEWED	%
1.	Kilema	150	7.38
2.	Sabon Pegi	150	7.38
3.	Unguwar Tiv	150	7.38
4.	Tudun Gwandara	150	7.38
5.	Unguwar Kutare	150	7.38
6.	G. R. A.	50	2.47
7.	Bukan Sidi	150	7.38
8.	Millionaire's Quarters	50	2.47
9.	Tudun Amba	150	7.38
10.	General/Specialist Hospital Area	100	4.92
11.	Central Market Area	150	7.38
12.	Doma Road	82	4.04
13.	Kofar Sarki	250	12.30
14.	Workers' Village	100	4.92
15.	USA Road	100	4.92
16.	Central Motor Park Area	100	4.92
	Total	2032	100

SOURCE: Field Survey, 2003.

#### 4.40 DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION TECHNIQUES

The data obtained have been analysed and presented in the form of charts, tables, maps and pictures, from which appropriate inferences were drawn.

FIG 5; SCHEMATIC REPRESENTATION OF THE RESEARCH METHODOLOGY



SOURCE: - Filed Survey, 2003

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **5.0 DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS**

#### **5.10 SOCIO – ECONOMIC SURVEY**

#### **5.11 PLACE OF ORIGIN**

The socio – economic survey conducted shows that the migrant (rural/urban) population constitute 56.8% of the population. Out of the migrant population, 85.40% migrated from the rural areas into Lafia Urban Area, as indicated in Fig. 7.

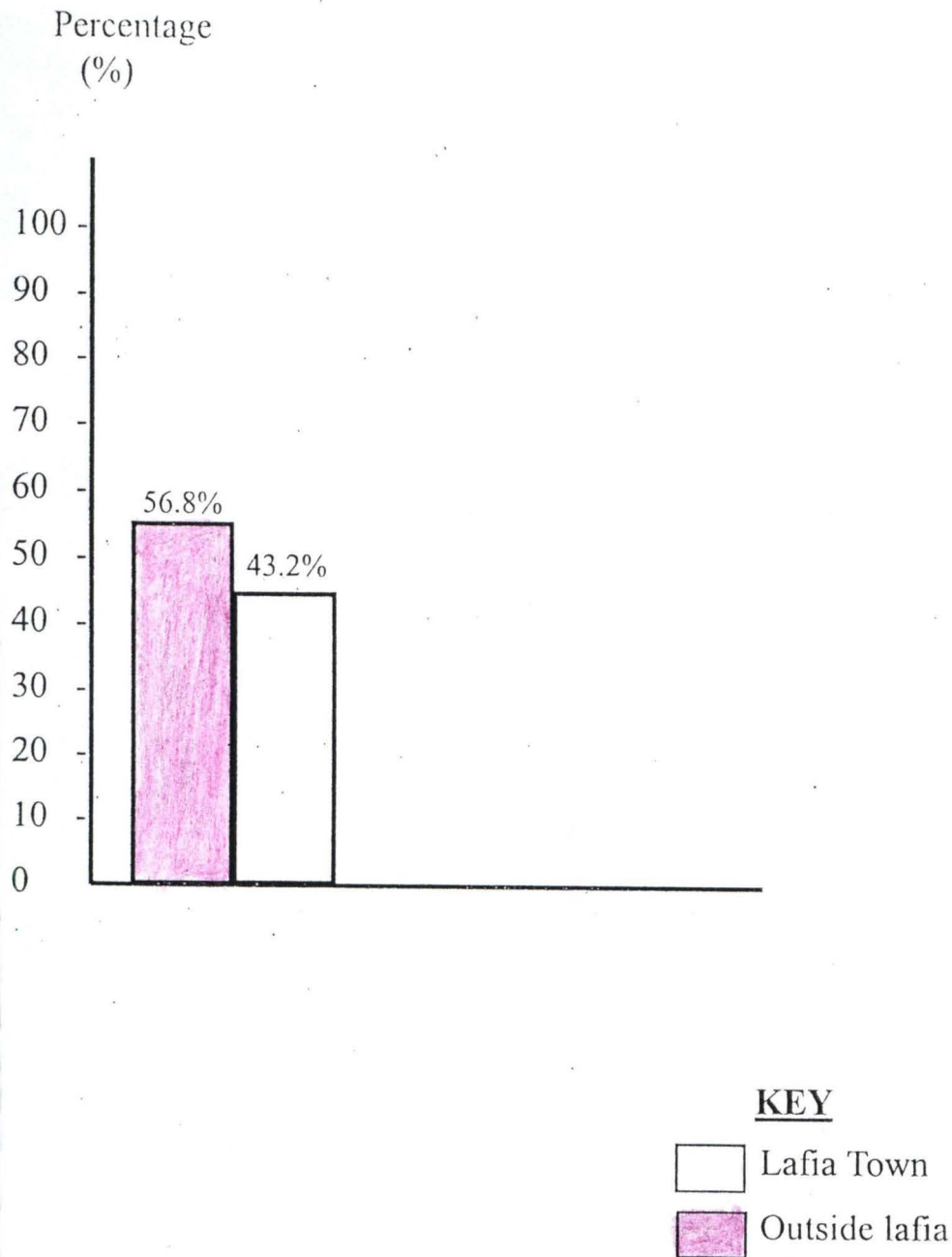
From fig 6 and 7; it may be deduced that rural migrants constitute a significant part of the urban population of Lafia.

It is worthy to note that from the survey conducted; over 90% of the rural migrants are from rural areas within Lafia Local Government Area and other rural areas within Nasarawa State.

#### **5.12 DURATION OF STAY IN LAFIA**

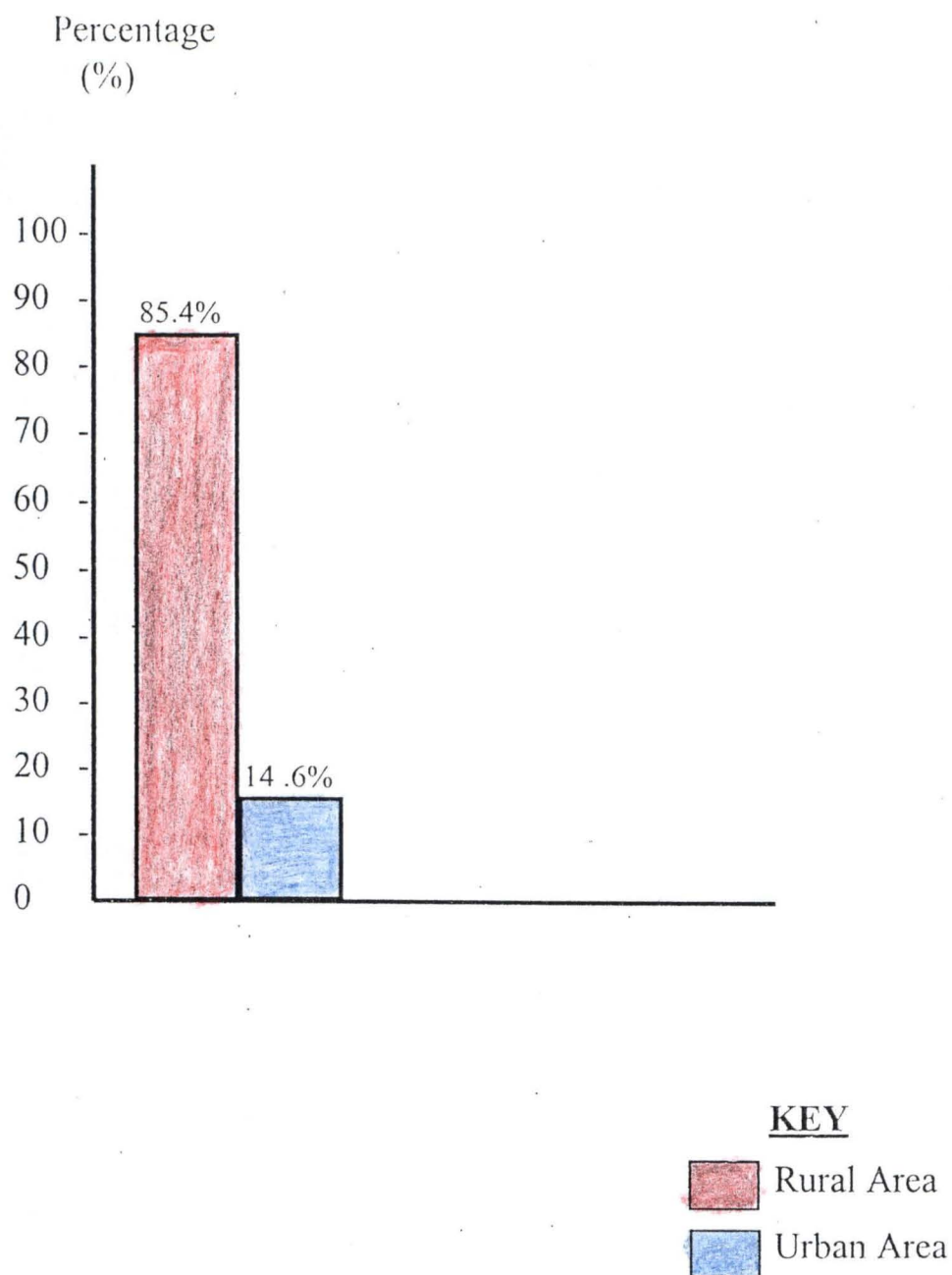
In order to determine the rate of rural – urban migration into Lafia, the duration of the rural migrants' stay in Lafia was sought for, during the socio – economic survey. Table 2 shows details of the rate of migration from rural areas into Lafia.

**FIG 6: PLACE OF ORIGIN**



**SOURCE: Field survey, 2003.**

**FIG 7: PLACE OF ORIGIN (OUTSIDE LAFIA)**



**SOURCE: Field survey, 2003.**

TABLE 2: DURATION OF RURAL MIGRANTS' STAY IN LAFIA

S/N	DURATION OF STAY	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE	CUMULATIVE %
1	0 – 4 years	243	24.6	24.6
	5 – 10 years	167	16.9	41.5
	11 – 15 years	101	10.2	51.7
	Above 15 years	475	48.3	100.0
		986	100:00	

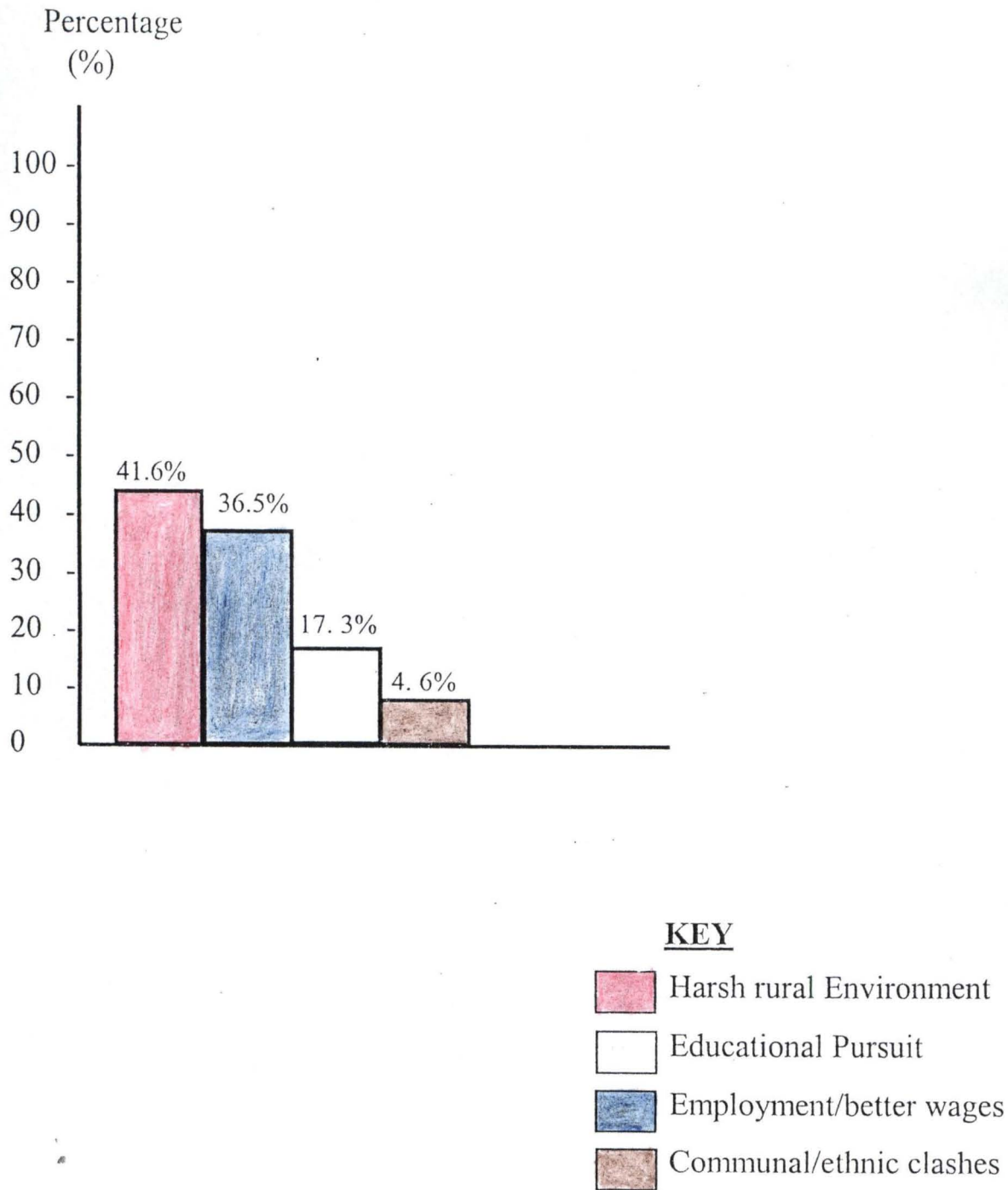
SOURCE: - Field Survey, 2003.

From table 2, it may be inferred that the rate of population movement from the rural areas to Lafia, has been increasing significantly, especially within the last ten years. This may be attributed to the new status of Lafia as a state capital.

### 5.13 REASONS FOR RURAL – URBAN DRIFT INTO LAFIA

In order to provide a guide for the formulation of relevant policies to check rural – urban drift, the survey conducted sought for the reasons responsible for the movement of the rural migrants into Lafia urban area.

**FIG 8: REASONS FOR RURAL - URBAN MIGRATION INTO LAFIA**



**SOURCE: Field survey, 2003.**

The respondents (those that migrated from the rural areas) according to this survey migrated to Lafia for reasons such as harsh rural environment, educational pursuits, search for employment/better wages and communal/ethnic clashes at the point of origin, amongst others. This data is indicated in Fig 8.

Based on the information contained in Fig 8, and personal observation made during the field survey, the reasons for rural urban drift into Lafia are further examined as follows:-

- a. ***HARSH RURAL ENVIRONMENT:-*** As shown in Fig 8, 41.6% of the rural migrants interviewed gave harsh rural environment as the reason for migrating to Lafia. This entails the absence of basic rural infrastructure facilities such as pipe – borne water, electricity, health facilities and access roads, amongst others.

It may be deduced from this submission that there is the need for the provision of adequate rural infrastructure facilities in order to uplift the living standards of the rural dwellers.

- b. ***EDUCATIONAL PURSUIT:-*** The quest for formal education is one of the major reasons for rural – urban migration into Lafia, as discovered during the field survey.



As indicated in Fig 8, 17.34% of the respondents (rural – urban migrants) migrated to Lafia for various educational pursuits. This may be attributed to the existence of many secondary schools; a college of Agriculture, a polytechnic and campuses of some higher institutions of learning in Lafia.

- c. **EMPLOYMENT/BETTER WAGES:** - The search for employment and/or better wages is also a major reason for the movement of many people from the rural areas to Lafia urban area. This can be attributed to the emergence of job opportunities in the area, especially as a result of the creation of Nasarawa State with Lafia as the headquarters.

From the field survey conducted, 36.46% of the rural – urban migrants migrated to Lafia mainly because of this reason.

- d. **COMMUNAL/ETHNIC CLASHES:** - The survey carried out revealed that communal/ethnic clashes within some parts of the state, and neighbouring Benue state are responsible for the movement of many rural dwellers to Lafia urban area. As indicated in Fig 8; 4.60% of the rural – urban migrants interviewed migrated to Lafia due to communal/ethnic clashes at their various places of origin.

#### **5.14 HOUSEHOLD SIZE/OCCUPANCY RATE**

The average household size of 7.7 and an average occupancy rate of 3.85, according to this socio – economic survey put Lafia as one of the urban areas with problem of congestion.

Moreover, in a separate survey conducted by Savannah Konsults (1998), about 69.7 of the compounds in Lafia are shared by more than one household, 42.5% are shared by more than three households. This further gives an insight into the problem of congestion experienced in Lafia largely due to population change aggravated by the movement of people from the rural areas into Lafia urban centre. This problem is responsible for the development of blighted residential environment (see plate 1).

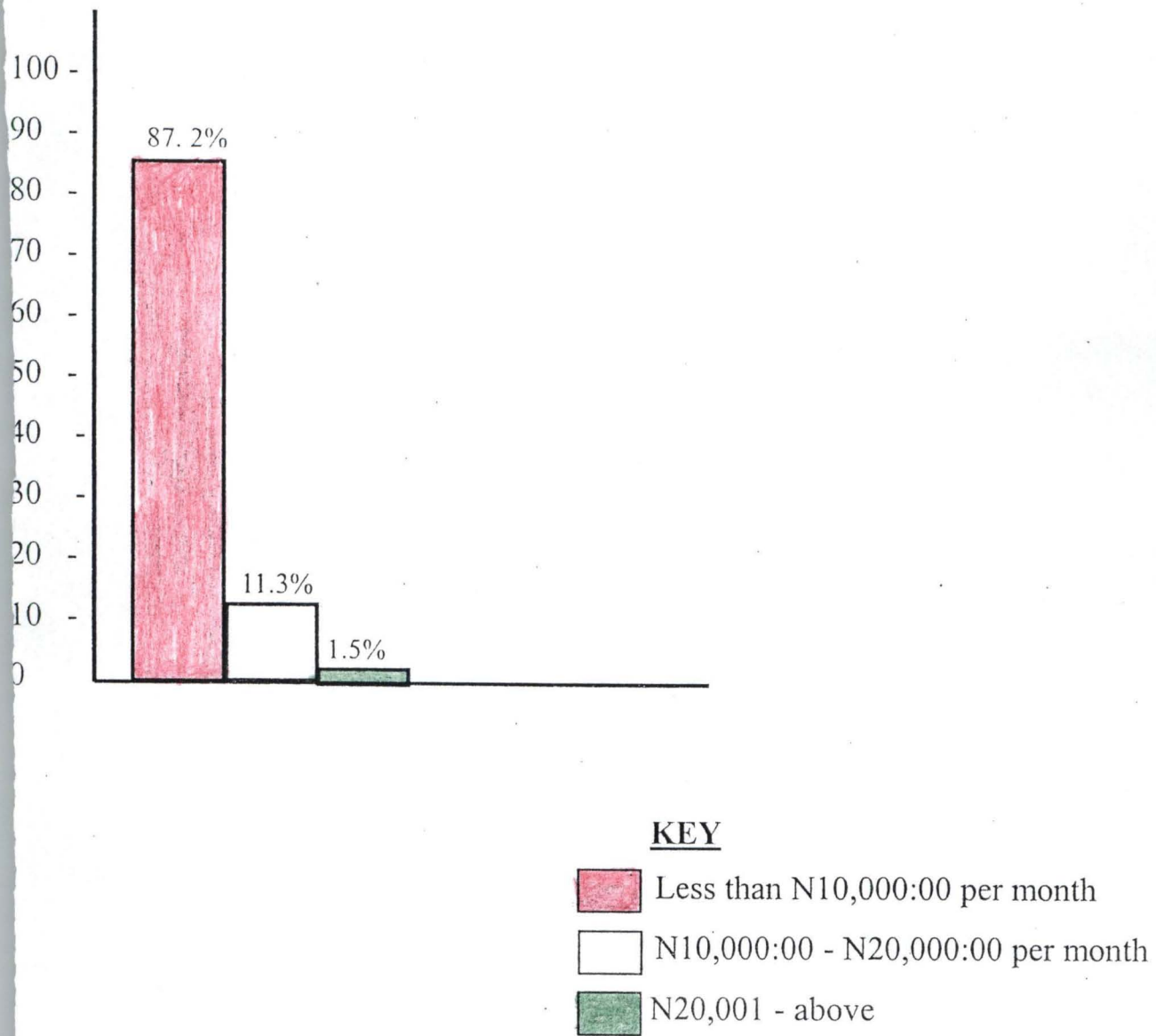
#### **5.15 INCOME LEVEL**

The socio – economic survey shows that most of the rural migrants (87.2%) fall within the low – income class. The implication of this on Lafia urban environment, all things been equal is environmental deterioration resulting from activities associated with this income group.



**PLATE 1:** EVIDENCE OF BLIGHT IN KILEMA, LAFIA - A HIGH DENSITY (LOW INCOME) RESIDENTIAL AREA WITH HIGH CONCENTRATION OF RURAL MIGRANTS

**FIG 9: INCOME LEVEL**



**SOURCE: Field survey, 2003.**

## **5.16 REFUSE GENERATION/DISPOSAL METHOD**

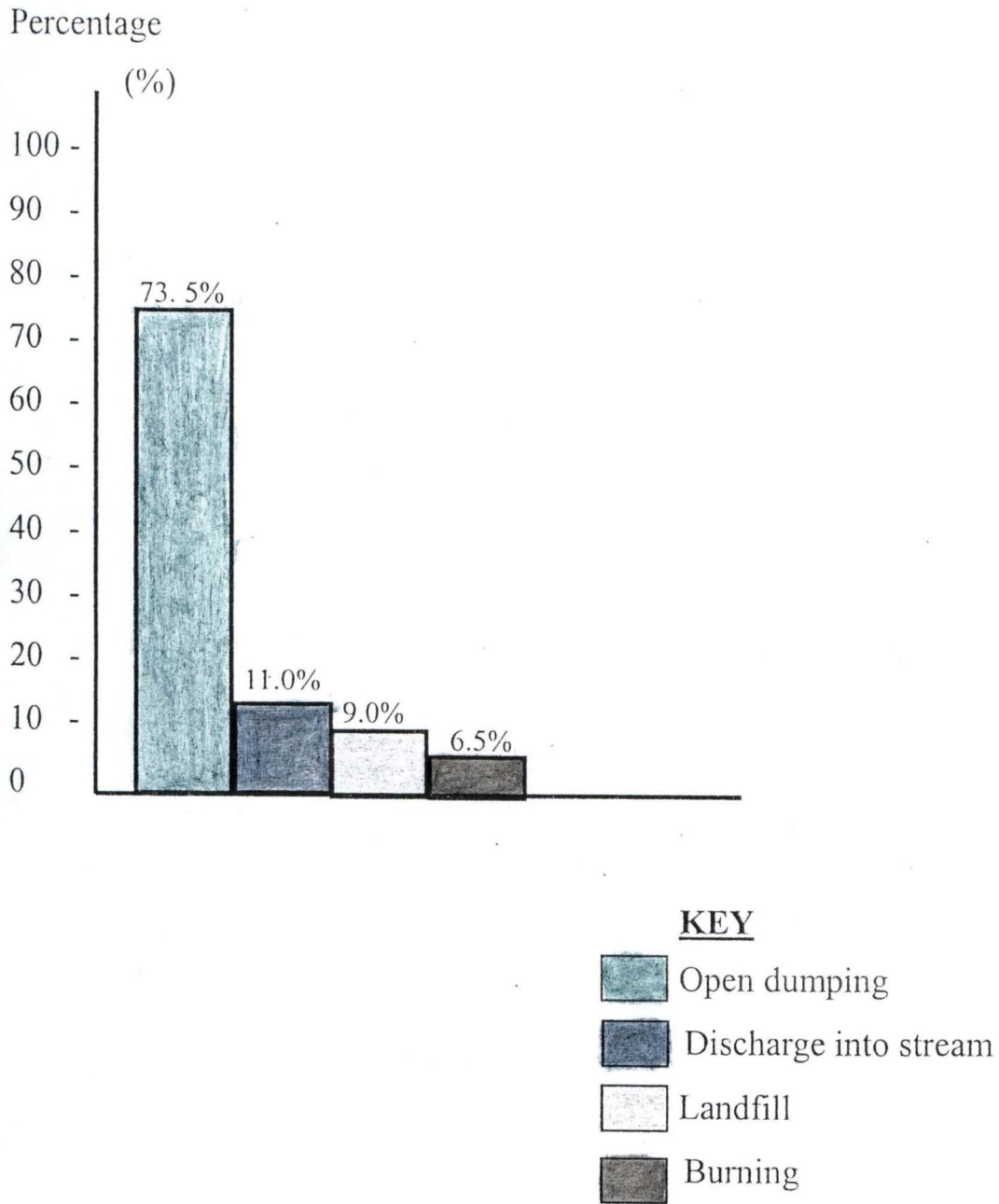
Rural – urban drift, as a major component of population change in Lafia greatly affects the volume of refuse generated and aggravates environmental pollution in Lafia. From the survey conducted the average volume of refuse generated by a household is ½ drum (or 6kg – 10kg) and the disposal techniques employed, as indicated in Fig 10 are not environment – friendly. This problem is more prominent in the high density (low – income) residential areas, where a greater proportion of the rural migrants reside (see plate 2,3,4 and 5).

It could thus be inferred from the information contained in Fig. 10 and plates 2,3,4 and 5 that there is the problem of environmental pollution (a component of urban squalor) in Lafia, which is aggravated by rural – urban drift.

## **5.1.7 ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ASSESSMENT OF LAFIA**

In order to determine the effects of rural – urban drift on the urban environment an environmental quality assessment based on the data obtained from the socio – economic survey and personal observations made has been done as shown in table 3. The criteria

**FIG 10: REFUSE DISPOSAL METHOD**



**SOURCE: Field survey, 2003.**

used in assessing the environmental quality are population density, occupancy rate, and sanitation.

From the assessment made, most of the neighbourhoods dominated or greatly inhabited by rural migrants have poor sanitary condition, high population concentration and high occupancy rate; while other neighbourhoods have better conditions as shown in Table 3.

The results of this assessment implies that poor environmental quality is mostly associated with areas inhabited by the rural migrants.



**PLATE 2:** WATER, AIR AND LAND POLLUTION IN A RESIDENTIAL AREA DOMINATED BY RURAL MIGRANTS, ALONG AMBANA RIVER, DOMA ROAD, LAFIA.



**PLATE 3:** A MOUNTAIN OF DOMESTIC REFUSE BEHIND CENTRAL PRIMARY SCHOOL, LAFIA.





**PLATE 4:** INDISCRIMINATE REFUSE DISPOSAL AT TUDUN-GWANDARA-ANOTHER HAVEN FOR RURAL MIGRANTS



**PLATE 5:** DOMESTIC REFUSE IN THE HEART OF LAFIA (BEHIND CENTRAL MOSQUE).

TABLE 3: ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ASSESSMENT OF LAFIA URBAN AREA

S/N	NEIGHBOURHOOD	% OF RURAL MIGRANTS (OUT OF 100)	POPULATION DENSITY	OCCUPANCY RATE	GENERAL SANITARY CONDITION	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
1	Kilema	48.7	High	High	Poor	Poor
2	Sabon Pegi	14.2	Medium	Medium	Good	Good
3	Unguwar Tiv	92.0	High	High	Poor	Poor
4	Tudun Gwandara	82.1	High	High	Poor	Poor
5	Unguwar Kutare	63.2	High	High	Poor	Poor
6	GRA	12.2	Low	Low	Good	Good
7	Bukan Sidi	37.6	Medium	Medium	Fair	Fair
8	Millionaires Quarters	2.4	Low	Low	Good	Good
9	Tudun Amba	63.1	High	High	Poor	Poor
10	General / Specialist Hospital	19.8	Low	Low	Good	Good
11	Central Market Area	57.0	High	High	Poor	Poor
12	Doma Road	49.8	High	High	Poor	Poor
13	Kofar Sarki Area	11.2	High	High	Poor	Poor
14	Worker's village	39.8	Medium	Medium	Fair	Fair
15	USA Road	31.2	Medium	Medium	Fair	Fair
16	Central Motor Park	14.8	Medium	Medium	Fair	Fair

SOURCE: - Field Survey, 2003

## **5.2.0 PHYSICAL SURVEY**

In order to determine the state of the Lafia urban environment, some physical surveys were also conducted, as follows:

### **5.2.1 VEHICULAR/PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC**

Rural – urban drift into Lafia has added significantly to the volume of vehicular/pedestrian traffic. From a survey conducted (Traffic Count) conducted, Lafia urban area experiences the problem of traffic congestion in many parts of the urban area. This too, can be linked to the up – surge in the population of Lafia, largely due to the increased number of rural migrants.

The average volume of traffic, as indicated in table 4 is 76,587 PCU. As observed during the field survey, driving along many roads or streets of the urban area e.g. Doma road, emir’s Palace road, Shendam and Makurdi road) at peak hours in a tedious task due to the high volume of traffic and the atmospheric pollution associated with it, as shown on plate 6.

Traffic congestion in Lafia is compounded by alarming increase in the volume of motor – cycles; mostly used for commercial transport



**PLATE 6:** TRAFFIC CONGESTION AT THE JUNCTION TO THE EMIR'S PALACE, LAFIA.

by a great proportion of rural migrants, as ascertained during the field survey.

TABLE 4: TOTAL VOLUME OF TRAFFIC (IN PCU) RECORDED AT SIX STATIONS, IN LAFIA

TIME	STATION					
	A	B	C	D	E	F
6 – 7am	615.58	449.19	787.68	622.60	791.53	-
7 – 8am	1244.87	721.97	1492.74	1706.48	198.11	1299.58
8 – 9am	1177.66	918.89	1349.30	1374.68	627.11	1299.58
9 – 10am	1422.06	846.56	1293.41	1363.26	766.69	1208.33
10 – 11am	1446.52	1034.36	1013.51	1407.09	979	1282.50
11 – 12noon	1120.47	1049.74	716.44	1378.82	115.34	1499.12
12 – 1pm	1007.73	1080.45	812.59	1341.59	911.00	934.16
1 – 2pm	983.81	821.08	833.80	1313.36	777.17	765.81
2 – 3pm	1010.89	1112.58	973.19	1841.44	763.66	1249.75
3 – 4pm	1078.82	1465.51	223.56	2190.78	763.81	703.43
4 – 5pm	1096.14	1236.61	1026.80	1801.32	743.56	515.92
5 – 6pm	1097.03	1208.55	1479.28	2080.25	712.45	882.91
6 – 7pm	-	-	747.78	295.31	-	-
	13301.58	11945.49	12750.08	18716.98	8149.99	11723.01

Average = 76,587.13 PCU

SOURCE:- Field Survey, 2003.

## 5.2.2 INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Findings from a survey of some selected urban facilities in Lafia show that as a result of increasing urban population of Lafia (largely due to the influx of rural migrants) without a corresponding

increase or improvement of urban infrastructure facilities, excessive pressure is being exerted on these facilities. Some of these facilities are examined as follow: -

- a. **PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS:** - A survey of a sample of six primary schools and three secondary schools indicate that, in spite of the morning and afternoon sessions practiced by most of the schools, the occupancy rate per class is relatively high as shown in table 5.

TABLE 5: AVERAGE OCCUPANCY RATE PER CLASS IN PRIMARY/SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN LAFIA

	SCHOOL	OCCUPANCY PER CLASS (AVERAGE)
1	Primary Schools	51
2	Secondary Schools	37

SOURCE: Field Survey 2003.

- b. **ELECTRIC POWER SUPPLY:** - Although efforts to get information on the total power demand for Lafia and the voltage supplied at present, proved abortive, observations made in the conduct of this research show the increase in power demand associated with the rapid population growth of Lafia (largely due to rural – urban drift) has accounted for the low voltage and load shading practice in this urban area. This affects commercial

and industrial services as well as potable water supply and telecommunication, thus compounding environmental problems in the urban centre.

- c. ***REFUSE DISPOSAL FACILITIES:*** - The only defined/existing refuse collection/disposal facilities provided by government are a few refuse disposal trucks and tractors. However, no defined disposal sites have been created within neighbourhoods. The facilities thus provided are grossly inadequate considering the urban population of over seventy thousand people. This accounts for the indiscriminate disposal of refuse as shown on plate 2, 3, and 4.

From these submissions, it may be deduced that rural – urban drift, through the heightening of the urban population, causes the exertion of excessive pressure in the use of urban infrastructure facilities, thus acting as an agent of urban squalor in Lafia.

## CHAPTER SIX

### 6.0 SUMMARY OF RESEARCH FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

#### 6.1.0 SUMMARY OF RESEARCH FINDINGS

Based on information obtained from both primary and secondary sources in the course of carrying out this project, a summary of the research findings is presented as follows:-

- a. Lafia – the administrative headquarters of Nasarawa State is endowed with a score of socio – economic facilities, utilities and services required for the satisfaction of basic human needs. It has a population of about 78,247 persons and occupies an area of about 618.2 hectares.
- b. There has been a significant increase in the rate of migration from the rural areas to Lafia urban centre, especially in the last ten years, due to the creation of Nasarawa State with Lafia as the headquarters.
- c. Over 90% of the rural migrants in Lafia Township are from rural areas within Lafia L.G.A. and other rural areas within Nasarawa State.
- d. The major reasons for the rural urban drifts are harsh rural environment (resulting from lack of basic amenities); search for



employment/better wages; educational pursuits; and communal/ethnic clashes.

- e. Rural – urban drift has helped in the creation of housing shortages in Lafia, thereby resulting in congestions, high occupancy rate, and the proliferation of areas affected by blight.
- f. Population up – surge due to the influx of rural migrants into Lafia also increase the volume of refuse accumulation and indiscriminate refuse disposals, especially in the high density (low – income) residential areas, inhabited by most of the rural migrants. This pollutes the environment and present unsightly spectacles.
- g. Rural – urban drift, as a major component of population change, also adds to the volume of pedestrian and vehicular traffic in Lafia, thus aggravating traffic problems in many parts of Lafia.
- h. Lafia urban population up – surge (due to continuous influx of rural migrants) is not accompanied by a corresponding increase or improvement of environmental facilities thereby resulting in the excessive pressure in the use of these facilities.

## 5.20 RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to check the problem of rural – urban drift and its negative implications on the urban centre, there should be a balanced growth of developments both at the urban centre and the rural areas on one hand and the preparation and implementation of urban planning schemes in order to check the existing environmental problems.

These entail the following:-

1. **PROMOTION OF RURAL PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES:-** As mentioned earlier, the search for employment/better wages is a major reason responsible for the movement of some rural dwellers to Lafia. To this end, all levels of government should give adequate attention to employment and income generating opportunity and activities in the rural areas since enhanced individual and household's income is the most effective and sustainable means of improving the quality of life of the rural dwellers.

The government can promote rural productive activities through the exploration and exploitation of the natural, mineral and cultural endowment of the rural areas for employment and income generation; encourage active

participation by the private sector in the expansion of employment and income generating activities in the rural areas and encourage labour – intensive technologies and techniques in the implementation of its projects, so as to utilize effectively, the rural labour force. All these will go a long way in creating rural employment and curtailing urban – rural wage differential and reducing rural – urban drift.

## 2. ***PROVISION OF RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE***

***FACILITIES:-*** As identified during the field survey, harsh rural environment due to lack of/or inadequate basic rural infrastructure such as potable water, electricity and good road are also responsible for rural – urban migration, government at all levels, should therefore promote the development and improvement of rural infrastructure so as to ensure a sustainable growth of all rural productive activities and qualitative rural life.

In the provision of these rural infrastructures, special attention should be paid to housing, environment, water,

sanitation, transport and communication infrastructure, amongst others.

3. ***RURAL HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND***

***UTILIZATION***:- As mentioned earlier, the quest for formal education is partly responsible for the drift in population from the rural areas to Lafia urban centre. The government can check this through rural human resource development and utilization by paying attention to rural education, appropriate technology and relevant skills development and utilization. These will help in promoting rural public participation in the economic, socio – cultural and political development of the rural areas.

Rural human resource development should entail emphasis on research and extension services, provision of institutions of learning, cultural/social development and information and communication, amongst others. These will no doubt, curtail rural – urban drift.

4. ***PUBLIC ENLIGHTENMENT***:- Persistent communal clashes as identified during the field survey, have been responsible for rural – urban drift into Lafia. The

Nasarawa State Government and the Local Governments, in particular, should in consultation with community leaders educate the public on the need for peaceful co – existence among communities, ethnic groups and all shades of opinion.

Moreover, the remote causes of such clashes must be ascertained and addressed properly with a view to preventing future occurrence.

5. ***INITIATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF URBAN***

***PLANNING SCHEMES***:- In order to cushion the effects of rural – urban drift on the urban environment of Lafia, concerted efforts should be made by Lafia Local Government and the Nasarawa State Government, in the initiation and implementation of urban planning schemes for Lafia. These entail the following:-

- a. Provision of adequate refuse collection, disposal and treatment facilities in order to check pollution.
- b. The provision of housing estates (especially low – income housing units) in order to reduce congestions.

- c. The creation of more access roads so as to improve traffic flow and curtail traffic congestion experienced in many parts of the urban area.
- d. Provision of storm water drains within the different land uses and the improvement of all urban infrastructure facilities and services in order to check the excessive pressure exerted on them by the population.

6. ***STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF PHYSICAL PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION:-*** physical planning and environmental laws, bye – laws and edicts should be strictly enforced in order to check the development of blighted areas/slums, pollution, and environmental deterioration of the urban area. This legislation includes building bye – laws and sanitation edicts.

7. ***ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS DRIVE:-*** In order to check the effects of rural – urban drift on the Lafia urban environment, there is also the need to inculcate in the public environmental awareness so as to guide them in the use of environmental resources.

### 5.30 CONCLUSION

It has been identified in this report that rural – urban drift contributes significantly to the deterioration of Lafia urban environment. Tackling this problem requires a two – dimensional approach – curtailing rural – urban drift into Lafia and finding solutions to the environmental problems already created or aggravated by this population movement. It is hoped that the recommendations made here in shall help in the formulation of viable policies and strategies to check this problem thus facilitating a sustainable growth of the urban area.

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Review.

## APPENDIX 'A'

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY  
SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND SCIENCE EDUCATION  
FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY  
MINNA

**PROJECT TITLE:** RURAL – URBAN DRIFT AS AN AGENT OR  
URBAN SQUALOR IN LAFIA, NASARAWA  
STATE

### QUESTIONNAIRE: TO HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD

Dear Respondents,

This questionnaire is designed to enable the researcher, who is a post – graduate student of the above address, carryout a project on ‘rural – urban drift as an agent of urban squalor in Lafia. Nasarawa State.

Your co – operation is therefore highly solicited. Information supplied in this regard shall be treated with strict confidence and secrecy.

Please feel free to tick/fill in the answer, as appropriate.

1. Are you an indigene of Lafia town?  
a. Yes [    ]                      b. No [    ]
2. If you answer to question (1) is No:
  - i. What is your place of origin?

Town/Village..... LGA..... State.....

- ii. How long have you been in Lafia?
- a. 0 – 4 years [ ]
  - b. 5 – 10 years [ ]
  - c. 11 – 15 years. [ ]
  - d. Above 15 years [ ]
- iii. What is your major reason for migrating to Lafia?
- a. Educational Pursuit [ ]
  - b. Search for Employment/Better wages [ ]
  - c. Lack of/inadequate social amenities at place of origin [ ]
  - d. Others (Specify):.....
3. What is the size of your household?:.....
4. What is the number of habitable rooms occupied by your household?.....
5. What is your monthly income?
- a. Less than N10,000:00 [ ]
  - b. N10,000:00 – N20,000:00 [ ]
  - c. N20,001:00 – N50,000:00 [ ]
  - d. Above N50,000:00 [ ]

6. What is the average volume of refuse generated by your household per day?

- a. Less than 3kg [    ]
- b. 3kg – 5kg [    ]
- c. 6kg – 10kg [    ]
- d. above 10kg [    ]

7. How do you dispose the refuse generated by your household?

- a. Open dumping [    ]
- b. Land filling [    ]
- c. Discharge into Stream [    ]
- d. Others (specify):.....

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