
Assessment of the Effects of Urban Population Growth On Student's Behaviour and Attitude to Environmental Sanitation of Secondary Schools in Anambra State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT: *The effects of urban population growth on student's behaviour and attitude to environmental sanitation in selected public secondary schools in the three main urban centres of Anambra State, Nigeria were assessed in this Study under the following objectives: to identify the effects of urban population growth on student's behaviour and attitude to environmental sanitation; determine the level of significance of the identified effects in the study area and recommend possible ways of reducing these effects in the study area. Descriptive survey research design was adopted with the use of questionnaire. Four hundred (400) copies of the questionnaire were administered using the stratified random sampling technique and three hundred and eighty-one (381) were returned. It was found that the effects of population growth on students' behaviour and attitude to environmental sanitation include: high level of social insecurity with increase in cultism and theft amongst the students; increase in indecent dressing and sexual immorality amongst the students; increase in ingestion of alcohol, smoking of cigarettes and hard drugs as well as general drug abuse; very poor compliance to sanitation rules; indiscriminate dumping of wastes; among others. The test of hypothesis showed that there is significant effect of population growth on students' behaviour and attitude to environmental sanitation. The study then recommended as follows: authorities should set strict sanctions against student lawbreakers and staff alike; appreciation to be shown to students who are worthy not only in academic performance but also in character, cleanliness and obedience; forming environmental sanitation clubs for students will go a long way to enhance positive attitude of students to environmental sanitation; paying teachers for excess work load will motivate them to commit more time in attending to the students even when the students are much.*

KEYWORDS: assessment of effects, urban population growth, student's behaviour, environmental sanitation.

INTRODUCTION

The population of Nigeria is growing at a rate of 3.75% per year indicating a doubling of the population every 23 years (Lagos State Government, 2007). Nigeria illustrates complex interactions between demographic pressure, social, economic and political considerations (Okpala, 1990). A large body of demographic literature documents the incidence of population growth in Nigeria (Farooq, 1985; Ainsworth, Beegle and Nyamete, 1996; Anyinwe and Okojie, 1998; Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2004; Jiboye and Omoniyi, 2010 and Nwosu, 2013).

The rise in population is likely to place greater strain on Nigeria's already strained physical and social infrastructure, and services, with increase in poverty, unemployment and political instability being inevitable. The case of Anambra state is pronounced as the three major cities (Onitsha, Nnewi and Awka) are crowded by consistent population growth as people migrate continually into these urban centers in search of better life. To contain this ever increasing population, these urban centers have sprawled into the surrounding towns, but the population pressure on social infrastructural facilities like markets, schools, hospitals and recreational facilities is a very serious challenge. Rapidly growing population necessitates large investments in social infrastructure and diverts resources from directly productive assets to other areas.

Due to the scarcity of resources, it becomes almost impossible to provide enough educational, health, medical, transport and housing facilities to satisfy the entire population. It is noteworthy that due to overcrowding within these major cities, the quality of services provided in our educational institutions has gone down. The case of Onitsha, Nnewi and Awka in Anambra State is very pathetic where every household with little space can run a private school whether with qualified personnel or not, thus leading to the springing up of numerous private schools but decay of the quality of services due to rapid population growth in these urban centres with its attendant negative impacts on students' behaviour and their general attitude to environmental sanitation.

Statement of the Problem

There is immense pressure on the land and resources can no longer cope no matter how well economic analysts may present it. Our social institutions are over-crowded and our infrastructures are stretched to the farthest limit. For instance, most of our universities facilities that were built to accommodate six thousand students now accommodate over twenty-five thousand students. Our markets are over-crowded with stalls and make-shift stores by traders who desire to make a living. Our roads, hospitals, libraries, housing and schools can no longer cope with such increase in population (Birdstal, 2007 and Richards, 2013).

The situation of educational institutions in Anambra State urban centres is one that is besieged with overcrowding and its attendant negative effects. The massive outpour of students of primary and secondary schools in urban centres in the State at dismissal hours causing traffic congestions daily as confirmed from reconnaissance survey is a serious issue. To tackle this issue now stares us in the face. There are lots of efforts by governmental and non-governmental bodies to arrest this situation. Lots of research works have been done to design the containment of this problem; lots of policies to reduce the pressure of an ever increasing population on the environment, but the population growth rate increase within Anambra state and other states of Nigeria as well as the unsustainably high degree of pressure on the available public educational institutions, justify the assertion that they had all failed. One of the areas that has been given little or no attention by earlier scholars and researchers is the effects of urban population growth on urban public schools and this is on the rise in Anambra State. This study therefore becomes imperative.

Aim and Objectives

The main aim of this study is to Assess the effects of urban population growth on student's behaviour and attitude to environmental sanitation in selected public secondary schools in the three main urban centres of Anambra State, Nigeria.

This study set and pursued the following objectives: to identify the effects of urban population growth on student's behaviour and attitude to environmental sanitation; determine the level of significance of the identified effects in the study area and recommend possible ways of reducing these effects in the study area.

LITERATURE REVIEW

According to Ehrlich (1968) in his book "Population Control or Race to Oblivion", over population (arising from population growth) has been blamed for a variety of issues including poverty, high unemployment rate, environmental degradation, famine and genocide. Due to population explosion the resources of a country cannot satisfy the populace anymore. That is why many people struggle for very few available resources. This overflow is experienced in many other sectors, be it employment, medicare, fuel provision and even land tenure. FAO (2000), in their review on Issues and Concepts for Population Programmes, has it that population increase affects the environment.

Oramah (2006) in his study on the effect of population growth in Nigeria through literature review, highlighted the following environmental effects of overpopulation in Nigeria:

1. Non-renewable resource consumption and depletion like crude oil, and coal.
2. Land degradation and waste disposal.
3. Weather modification/Climate Change.
4. Rapid urbanization.
5. Water pollution, soil pollution and air pollution.

Adewole (2012), in his assessment of the effects of overpopulation on economic development in Nigeria, using questionnaire survey method, affirmed that rapid population growth has economic, social and political effects and that it also interacts with public education. According to him, it affects economic development in two ways: by promoting economic development and this occurs in developed economies like United States of America (USA), Great Britain, and Germany as well as retarding economic development and this occurs in developing countries like Nigeria, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Rumani (2014), in his paper titled "Overpopulation in India" stated that every nook and corner of India is a clear display of increasing population. "Whether you are in a metro station, airport, railway station, road, highway, bus stop, hospital, shopping mall, market, temple, or even in a social or religious gathering, we notice that all these places are overcrowded at any time of the day. This is a clear indication of overpopulation in the country". According to the Indian census carried out in 2011, the population of India was exactly 1,210,193,422, which means that the population of India has crossed the one (1) billion mark. This is the second most populous country of the world after China and the various studies have projected that India will be world's number-one populous country, surpassing China, by 2025. "In spite of the fact that the population policies, family planning and welfare programmes undertaken by the government of India have led to a continuous decrease in the fertility rate, yet the actual stabilization of population of the country can take place only by 2050". The negative effects of population increase as identified by Rumani (2014) include but not limited to: unemployment, manpower utilization, pressure on infrastructure, resource utilization, decreased production and increased costs as well as inequitable income distribution among others.

Lombardo (2016) in his paper also noted that having a large population is dangerous since it spreads meager resources too thin. As a result, people do not get enough food, water, shelter, and clothing. Thus, distributing basic services like healthcare and education becomes a huge challenge. A high population density, meanwhile, forces people to live closer to each other than normal (which can compromise health and sanitation) and reduces the amount of land that is available for agricultural use.

Victor (2018) in his paper titled "The menace of overpopulation in Nigeria" highlighted facility provision as one of the major causes of population growth in one area than others or one school than the other. He stated that this has grave socio-economic effects. He stressed gave instances that illnesses that had claimed thousands of lives in the past are now curable as a result of the intervention of vaccines developed by medical scientists and improved medical facilities. According to him, people now live longer because of better medical facilities available to them in Nigeria and this impacts population growth.

Study Area

The study area is Anambra State, Nigeria. Considering the goal of the study, the three main urban centres in the State were purposively selected: Onitsha, Awka and Nnewi. The Figure 1 below shows the location of these urban centres within the State.

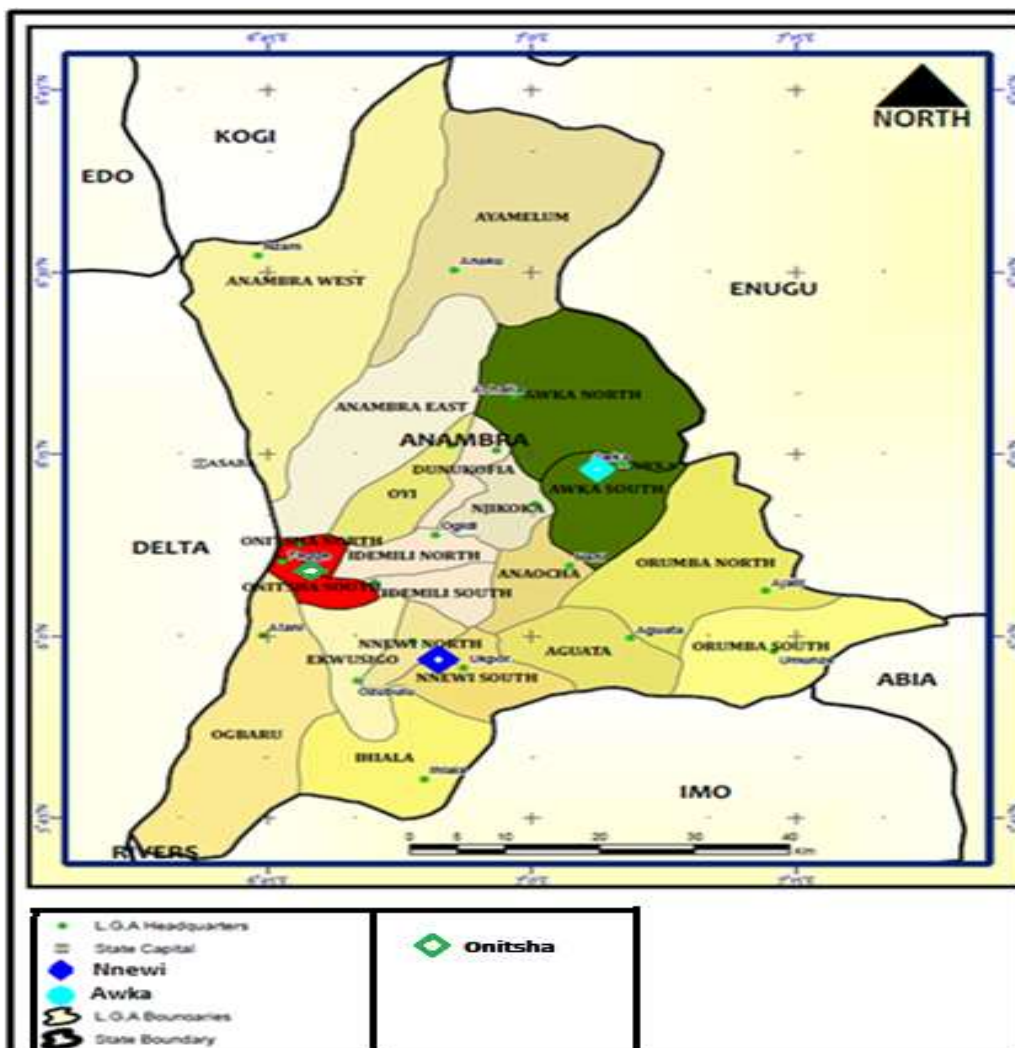


Fig. 1: Anambra State Showing Onitsha, Awka and Nnewi. (Source: Excel GIS Lab, 2019)

These three cities: Onitsha, Awka and Nnewi are incidentally located differently in the three senatorial zones of Anambra State, Nigeria. The geography as well as the human attributes of these three main urban centres in relation to social infrastructure provisions and utilization is examined below:

The Onitsha Urban and Its Environs

The city of Onitsha is located on Latitude 9° 09 'N and Longitude 4° 47 'E. It occupies the eastern bank of River Niger covering about fifty square kilometers of land in terms of coverage. Onitsha urban area spans seven local government areas as shown in Fig. 3.2.

1. Onitsha town which is divided into two local government areas of Onitsha North L.G.A. and Onitsha South L.G.A.
2. Ogbaru L.G.A. (Odekpe and Okpoko)
3. Idemili North L.G.A. (Nkpor, Ogidi, Obosi and Umuoji)
4. Idemili South L.G.A. (Oba)
5. Oyi L.G.A. (Ogbunike, Umunya and Nkwelle-Ezunaka)
6. Anambra East L.G.A. (Nsugbe)

Onitsha's strategic location, which combines both road and waterway access points to make it to be one of the four main industrial and commercial growth areas in Nigeria that has attracted the influx of people especially traders from all parts of the country and the Cameroon to buy at Onitsha which is the most important factor that invariably contributed to the city's physical and population growths.

In addition to commerce, Onitsha also grew to become a major industrial, educational, religious and administrative centre. As an industrial centre, it houses the largest number of industries in Anambra State. As a major religious centre, it has the largest cathedrals for both the Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches east of the Niger. As an administrative centre, Onitsha town has two Local Government Areas and has the high Courts and other government institutions. A major feature of Onitsha's growth and attraction of traders over the years is that non-indigenous accounted for more than seventy percent (70%) of the total population.

Demographic indicators show that from 1857 when Onitsha was visited by the missionaries till 1921 when the first census was conducted, the population figure was 8,084 inhabitants. By 1931, the population increased more than threefold to 26,921. This reflects the rapid population growth of Onitsha and its environs by in-migration of traders, school leavers seeking employment and civil servants.

The population growth of Onitsha has continued to the present. From 52745 in 1953, the population reached 163,032 in 1963. By 1991 census, the latter figure had increased to 256,941. Using the National population commission's growth rate of 2.83%, the 2006 population of Onitsha projected from the 1991 figure would have been 390,509 persons as against 261,604 recorded at the census.

This rapid growth in population of Onitsha has obvious implications for physical planning and recreational, tourism and other social infrastructural development of the city. Recreational, tourism and other social facilities in Onitsha are usually found in hotels, schools, open public and private parks, hospitals, religious and cultural centres. The availability and quality of these social infrastructural facilities will be discussed in relation to population growth in Onitsha urban.

Awka Capital Territory

Awka Capital Territory covering about ten kilometers in radius is located between latitudes $6^{\circ}66'$ and $6^{\circ}17'17''$ North of the Equator and also between Longitude $6^{\circ}55'55''$ and $7^{\circ}8'07''$ East of the Greenwich Meridian. The area covering ten kilometers (10km) in radius occupies the middle of the eastern border of Anambra State, lies due west of Manu River which forms its eastern boundary.

Awka Capital Territory has six Local Government Areas including Awka South L.G.A which account for more than half of the land area. Others are Awka North, Anaocha, Dunkofia, Njikoka and Orumba North Local Government Areas (L.G. As). Urban growth has been rapid in the area. The three towns of Awka, Amawbia and Okpuno have grown to merge with each other, thus, forming a conurbation which now constitutes the urban core of the Awka Capital Territory.

Awka was believed to occupy the site between the present village of Amudo and Ifite villages, a favourable flat fertile agricultural land from about A.D. 900. The people were originally engaged in various kinds of craft activities particularly, blacksmithing, wood carving, ivory carving and art work. Others engage in other non-agricultural activities like herbal healing and trade in various goods including slaves, ritual objects and products of craftsmen. Their trading activity was promoted by Awka which was the Aro trade route to the Niger and west of River Niger.

With increasing number of these nonagricultural specialists, Awka gradually developed into a pre-industrial urban centre both by natural increase and by immigration. By 1850, the population of Awka was estimated at 18,000.

Awka capital territory has witnessed one of the fastest population growths in Nigeria. The annual growth rates witnessed in the area for the past 16years vary from 2.20% per annual for Orumba North LGA to 6.47% per annum for Njikoka LGA. Both Awka North with its figure of 5.3% and Njikoka LGA recording 6.4% are experiencing faster population growth rates when compared to other local government areas in the area. The average rate of population growth per annum for Awka Capital Territory is 2.63%.

Before the creation of Anmabra State in August in 1991 with Awka as it capital, the town had played different roles as administrative/zonal headquarters to different governments. In these roles, the city had remained more rural than urban in scope and essence. This had to change as soon as it became a state capital. The influx of population made up mainly of civil servants, employees of federal ministries and parastatals; teachers and pupils of pre-primary and primary schools as well as staff and students of secondary and tertiary institutions as well as traders and other immigrants have brought tremendous pressure of existing social infrastructure and services.

Nnewi Urban and Its Environs

Nnewi urban is located between longitudes $6^{\circ}45'E$ and $7^{\circ}30'E$ East of the Greenwich Meridian and also between latitudes $5^{\circ}55'22''N$ and $6^{\circ}52'26''N$ North of the Equator. It covers an area of seventy two square kilometers, a third of which is occupied by buildings.

Topographically, Nnewi which is a city in Anambra South Senatorial Zone of Anambra is located in the undulating mountains of the southeast of Niger that rise from four hundred and fifty meters (450m) and peaking at one thousand and fifty meters (1050m) above sea level. River Idemili and River Mmili Eze are the two major rivers that drain in the areas.

In terms of coverage, Nnewi urban and its environs cover four Local Government Areas, including Ekwusigo L.G.A., Idemili South L.G.A., Nnewi North L.G.A. and Nnewi South L.G.A. Nnewi's history can be traced to 11th C A.D. and its organizational structure was originally configured into four quarters - Otolu, Uruagu, Umudim and Nnewichi.

Between 14th and 19th Centuries, Nnewi was exposed to the outside influences of the British and Europeans in West Africa - an era known for trading in economic products and slaves. By mid 19th century, the slave trade gave way to period of evangelism by Christian church missionaries who followed the British colonial administration. Both the missionaries and British colonists brought western civilization which produced positive changes in the area of its institutions, sociopolitical and religious values. It was said that Christianity was central to the development of the city and through it, the landscapes of Nnewi began to experience positive change.

The Nigerian civil war of 1966-1970 boosted the growth of Nnewi. Fleeing Igbos from the northern part of Nigeria during the war migrated to Nnewi for one economic activity or another. Agriculture is a thriving industry for people living in the town and villages surrounding Nnewi. As an industrial town, Nnewi is known as the Japan of Africa and also referred to as the 'Land of Gold'. Commerce, industry and education has helped the rapid growth of Nnewi as it has attracted a lot of people including industrialists, workers, students, teachers and traders all seeking work.

The 1991 and 2006 population census for Nnewi urban and satellite towns stood at 431,784 and 757,141 respectively (Table 3.2). The average population growth rate for the area is 3.57 percent per annum. The annual growth rate varies from 1.88% per annum for Nnewi South LGA to 4.84% per annum for Ekwusigo.

Using 5% annual growth rate of population for Nnewi and its environs, it is expected to rise to approximately 2.6 million people by the year 2027. With this projection, the state, local governments and city authorities need to do more to fill the existing gaps in the provision of essential urban social infrastructural facilities and meet the additional needs that will arise from the anticipated population growth.

METHODOLOGY

Considering the aim and objectives of this study, descriptive survey research design was befitting which made use of questionnaire and personal interviews, the responses of which were utilized to generate data for the analyses.

The population of the teaching staff in the selected area, that of the students' enrolled and the number of schools becomes the target population. From the data collected from the Director of Research and Statistics at the Ministry of Education and Anambra Post-Primary School Board secretariat, Awka, the total number of public secondary schools in Anambra State are two hundred and fifty-seven (257) with one hundred and fifty-four (154) within Awka, Nnewi and Onitsha. The total number of teaching staff in the schools within Awka, Nnewi and Onitsha in Anambra State is three thousand two hundred and seventeen (3217) and they made up the target population.

The study was sourced from both primary and secondary sources. The three major urban centres selected are incorporated into two Local Government Areas each, that is, Nnewi North and South for Nnewi, Awka North and South for Awka and Onitsha North and South for Onitsha Local Government Areas. The population for the selected urban centres is shown in Table 1:

Area	No. of		No. of Tutorial Staff		
	LGAs	Schools	Male	Female	Total
Awka Zone	5	62	128	1,121	1,249
Onitsha Zone	3	42	94	1,109	1,203
Nnewi Zone	4	50	105	660	765
GRAND TOTAL	12	154	327	2890	3,217

Source: Data Modified from ASUDEB and Ministry of Education, Awka

Having a total number of three thousand two hundred and seventeen (3,217) Teachers from one hundred and fifty four (154) Secondary Schools in Awka, Onitsha and NNewi zones of the Anambra State Secondary Schools collated from the data sourced at the Anambra State Post-Primary Schools Board, Awka Office, the sample population was determined as follows”

$$SS = \frac{N}{1+N(e)^2}$$

Where N is the target population and e is 5% level of significance

Thus the sample population for the teachers is determined by the formula as:

$$\begin{aligned} SS &= 3,217/1 + 3,217 (0.05)^2 \\ &= 3,217/9.0425 \end{aligned}$$

= 355.764 approximately a total of 400 respondents were selected from the teachers and copies of the questionnaire was administered to them individually.

Four hundred (400) copies of the questionnaire were administered and three hundred and eighty one (381) were returned.

For the number of schools sampled, fifty (50) secondary schools were selected purposively from the total number of one hundred and fifty four (154) public secondary schools within the three zones. The location of the schools within urban centres in the three zones was the major criteria for the selection of the schools sampled.

The sampling technique adopted in selecting the teachers sampled is stratified random sampling. While purposive and snowball sampling techniques were utilized in sampling the teachers who have stayed above five (5) years in their school of assignment and a total number of sixty six (66) teachers were sampled from the fifty (50) secondary schools purposively selected in the study area with at least one (1) teacher of this status coming from each of the fifty (50) secondary schools. Purposive sampling was also employed in determining the school heads/administrative staff who were interviewed from the fifty (50) secondary schools with at least one coming from each of the secondary schools.

PRESENTATION OF RESULTS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Results of Responses on Effects of Urban Population Growth on the Social Environment, Students Behaviour and Attitude to Environmental Sanitation

The effects of urban population growth on students' behaviour and attitude to environmental sanitation, relevant issues relating to objectives of this work were itemized and responses of the respondents presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Effects of Population Growth on the Social Environment, Students' Behaviour and Attitude to Environmental Sanitation of the Secondary Schools

S/N	The following are true about the effects of population growth on social environment, students' behaviour and attitude to environmental sanitation in your school	SA	A	N	D	SD	Mean	Remark
1	There is high level of social insecurity with increase in cultism and theft amongst the students	191	103	29	57	1	4.12	Agree
2	Increase in indecent dressing and sexual immorality amongst the students	71	119	89	45	57	3.27	Agree
3	Increase in ingestion of alcohol, smoking of cigarettes, hard drugs and general drug abuse	66	148	112	43	12	3.56	Agree
4	Increase in the rate of bullying students cases	93	162	67	18	41	3.65	Agree
5	Increase in disobedience to teachers	84	154	47	96	0	3.59	Agree
6	Students do not comply to sanitation rules	123	184	8	51	15	3.92	Agree
7	Senior students feel lazy to participate in sanitation activities leaving it for the young ones who are not strong enough to handle it	114	159	17	56	35	3.69	Agree
8	There is indiscriminate dumping of waste	56	194	71	12	48	3.52	Agree
9	Sewage facilities are readily filled up	46	165	44	100	26	3.28	Agree
10	Drainage facilities are blocked with wastes	69	138	44	86	44	3.27	Agree

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2022

Based on the responses of the respondents, the following are the effects of the urban population growth on students' behaviour and attitude to environmental sanitation:

- a. High level of social insecurity with increase in cultism and theft amongst the students;
- b. Increase in indecent dressing and sexual immorality amongst the students;
- c. Increase in ingestion of alcohol, smoking of cigarettes, hard drugs and general drug abuse;
- d. Increase in the rate of bullying cases;
- e. Increase in disobedience to teachers;
- f. Students do not comply to sanitation rules;
- g. Senior students feel lazy to participate in sanitation activities leaving it for the younger ones who are not strong enough to handle it;
- h. There is indiscriminate dumping of waste;
- i. Sewage facilities are readily filled up, and
- j. Drainage facilities are blocked with wastes.

Test of Hypothesis:

There is no significant effect of population growth on students' behaviour and attitude to environmental sanitation.

Statistical Tool Used: One-Sample T-Test.

Reason for choice of Tool: One level of observations was compared with a known standard.

Degrees of Freedom: 9.

Decision Rule: Accept the null hypotheses if the p-value is greater than or equal to 0.05, otherwise reject it.

Table 4a: One-Sample Statistics for Hypothesis Three

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Effects of population growth on students' behaviour and attitude to environmental sanitation.	10	3.5870	.28087	.08882

Source: Researcher's Statistical Computation, 2022

Table 4b: One-Sample Test for Hypothesis Three

	Test Value = 3.0					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Effects of population growth on students' behaviour and attitude to environmental sanitation	6.609	9	.000	.58700	.3861	.7879

Source: Researcher's Statistical Computation, 2022

The one simple statistics for hypothesis one are contained in Table 4a showing that the mean of effects of population growth on students' behaviour and attitude to environment is 3.5870.

Decision and Conclusion: Reject null hypothesis and conclude that there are significant effects of population growth on students' behaviour and attitude to environment sanitation. This decision is because the p-value is 0.000, less than 0.05.

The effects of urban population growth on students' behaviour and attitude to environmental sanitation in the study area were found to include: high level of social insecurity with increase in cultism and theft amongst the students, increase in indecent dressing and sexual immorality amongst the students, increase in ingestion of alcohol, smoking of cigarettes, hard drugs and general drug abuse, increase in the rate of bullying cases, increase in disobedience to teachers, students do not comply to sanitation rules, senior students feel lazy to participate in sanitation activities leaving it for the younger ones who are not strong enough to handle it, indiscriminate dumping of waste, sewage facilities readily filling up and broken drainage facilities. This also tallied with the outcome of the studies of Marais (2016), who found that various problems in overcrowded schools related to disruptive behaviour (such as screaming, fighting, chaos and destruction in the classroom), vandalising resources, bullying, not paying attention, not participating in activities such as general clean ups and sanitation, no respect for student teachers, unmotivated and indolent learners, and no time for proper lesson presentation and classroom assessment due to unmanageable learners. According to Olaleye et al, (2017), overcrowded schools negatively

affected student behaviour, being the major factor responsible for poor participation in sanitation of students in public schools. Arnette (2018) also opined that overcrowding will import more negative attitudes like: drug usage and abuse, gang mentalities and a lack of education idealism.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

In conclusion, it was found that the effects of population growth on students' behaviour and attitude to environmental sanitation include: high level of social insecurity with increase in cultism and theft amongst the students; increase in indecent dressing and sexual immorality amongst the students. There is increase in ingestion of alcohol, smoking of cigarettes and hard drugs as well as general drug abuse. There is also increase in the rate of bullying cases; increase in disobedience to teachers; students do not comply to sanitation rules; senior students feel lazy to participate in sanitation activities thus, leaving it for the younger ones who are not strong enough to handle it. There is also indiscriminate dumping of waste. Sewage facilities are readily filled up and drainage facilities are blocked with wastes.

The test of hypothesis showed that there is significant effect of population growth on students' behaviour and attitude to environmental sanitation.

The study then recommended as follows:

1. Authorities should set strict sanctions against student lawbreakers and staff alike
2. Appreciation to be shown to students who are worthy not only in academic performance but also in character, cleanliness and obedience.
3. Forming environmental sanitation clubs for students will go a long way to enhance positive attitude of students to environmental sanitation.
4. Paying teachers for excess work load will motivate them to commit more time in attending to the students even when the students are much.

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