



Physical Planning Implications of Street Vending in Ogbomoso, Nigeria

David V. Ogunkan

Department of Urban and regional Planning, Bells University of Technology,
Ota, Nigeria
ogunkansvictor@yahoo.com

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Abstract: Following the observation of the proliferation of informal economic activities in Nigerian urban centres, this study examines the spatial pattern and environmental implications of street vending, the socio-economic characteristics of street vendors and public perceptions of street vending. Instrumentation of data collection includes direct counting, questionnaires and interview. The data was analysed using cross tabulations, structured observation and Mixed Method Content Analysis. The findings from the study show an appreciable number (1,080) of informal structures indiscriminately located along the major roads. The study also confirms the preponderance (44%) of metal containers among fixed vendors. The socio-economics characteristics of street vendors show that they are generally of low educational status, gender imbalanced, dominated by productive and agile young people with a relatively high daily income. The physical planning implications of street vending include; incompatible land uses, building deformations, the menace of temporary structures, change in land use functions, poor waste disposal and environmental eyesores. The study recommends the integration of street vending into urban planning policy to maximise the economic benefits of street vending while minimising its land use and environmental consequences.

Keywords: Urbanisation, informality, street vending, unemployment

1.0 Introduction

Urban planning in developing countries, particularly in cities with rapid urbanization, is facing a wide range of social, economic and environmental problems inflicted by unguided and uncontrolled urbanization. It is widely believed that urbanization generally creates a wide market base, and thus enhances production and consumption activities, which in turn generate economic growth and development. The reverse is the case in cities of less developed countries where the growth is taking place in the absence of significant industrial expansion. As a result, there is disequilibrium among demographic, economic, political and environmental factors of urbanisation. This is particularly true of Nigerian urban centres where city expansion is mainly based on informal processes (see Adeboyejo, 2013). Most of the urban agglomerations in Nigeria grow without any official planning. In the face of this unguided urban growth, “formal economies have failed to cope; socio-economic conditions have progressively become unpalatable and 'poor-unfriendly” (Kamete, 2013) These negativities constitute a growing and enduring urban crisis. Urban informality is a natural response to this crisis

Informality permeates all aspects of the urban system, including housing and land occupation (Roy, 2003), commerce, production and work (Maloney, 2006), and even the public sphere and political processes (Mizstal, 2001; 2005). However, the economic aspect of urban informality, expressed as informal sector or economy, dominates the debate on urban informality. Perhaps, as a result of controversy surrounding its continued existence within the urban

landscape.

The International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates that “the proportion of the urban work force engaged in the informal sector is highest in sub-Saharan Africa, and accounts for more than 50% of urban employment in two of the countries surveyed in 1999”. However, the capacity of the informal sector economy to absorb a teeming population of the unemployed into the labour force has posed a considerable challenge to urban land use planning and management in Nigeria (Adeyinka et al, 2006). This is as a result of the capacity of the sector to generate land use problems such as sprawl problem, incongruous land uses, building alterations, the menace of temporary structures, alteration of land use functions, open space conversions and land degradation (Okeke, 2000). Moreover, the appalling environmental conditions associated with informal sector activities and settlements constitute a major threat to the health and well-being of urban life (Nwaka, 2005). Expectedly, there emerged diverse viewpoints on what should be the appropriate attitudes and policies towards the informal sector. The exponents of the sector (Ademu, 2000), presents it “as a vital source of employment and income for the poor, the seedbed of local entrepreneurship, and a potent instrument in the campaign to combat poverty and social exclusion”. On the other hand, critics of the sector, mainly from urban planning profession (Okeke, 2000; Adeyinka et al, 2006; Abolade, 2012) and government authorities, dismiss the sector as an anomaly, a source of disorder, environmental nuisance and an obstacle to the development of a modern economy (see Nwaka, 2005). It is, th 54

obvious that the interest in informal sector has been sparked as much by dissatisfaction with its negativities, as by gratification of its positivities.

The conflicting positions on informal sector pose a difficult dilemma for planners and policy makers, and tend to reinforce the ambivalence and hostility of official attitudes towards the sector (Nwaka, 2005). Therefore, in an attempt to juxtapose the positions of the two schools of thought, this study examines street vending activities in Ogbomosho, Nigeria.

2.0 Conceptual and Theoretical Frameworks

There is a multitude of conceptualisations and definitions of informality as there are evidences of its proliferation in developing world. Informality, also known in the literature as informal sector, has been variously referred to as “instability”, “lack of organisation”, “disorganised”. However, the term was introduced into development literature four decades ago by social anthropologist Keith Hart in his article - Informal income opportunities and urban employment in Ghana. Hart (1973) coined the term informal sector and used it principally to describe a variety of employment mainly on the fringes of the organised of “modern” part of economy and sometimes technically illegal. He explained further that price inflation, insufficient wages, and a growing number of workers who were surplus to the requirements of the urban labour market had led to a soaring level of informality in the income generating activities of workers, which varied in terms of legality, official registration, skills required, and other factors.

In 1972, International Labour Organisation (ILO) began to codify the definition of informality, particularly keeping in mind the needs of national statistical authorities in measuring the extent and nature of informality. Two decades after Hart’s original contribution, ILO (1993) conceived informality as thus:

“They [informal enterprises] are private unincorporated enterprises (excluding quasi-corporations), i.e. enterprises owned by individuals or households that are not constituted as separate legal entities independently of their owners, and for which no complete accounts are available that would permit a financial separation of the production activities of the enterprise from the other activities of its owner(s). Private unincorporated enterprises include unincorporated enterprises owned and operated by individual household members or by several members of the same household, as well as unincorporated partnerships and co-operatives formed by members of different households, if they lack complete sets of accounts.”

From the foregoing, informality was originally and commonly restricted to economy but the definition has been extended to include “housing and land occupation’ (Roy, 2003), “commerce, production and work” (Maloney, 2006) “public sphere and political processes” (Mizstal, 2001; 2005) and all other aspects of urban system. In this direction, Watson (2009) conceptualises informality as “encompassing forms of income generation, forms of settlement and housing, and forms of negotiating life

in the city". However, in this study, the focus is on enterprise aspect of informality. Therefore, we talk of street vending as component of urban informal economic activities where individuals sell their wares along streets and sidewalks to passing pedestrians and motorists. A street vendor offers goods for sale to the public without having permanent built up structure. A fixed street vendor stays on site, occupying space by the road side, usually with temporary or semi-permanent structures while a mobile street vendor moves from location to location carrying his wares on carts, or in cycles or baskets on his head.

Theoretically, three contrasting frames dominate the current discussion of informality. These are the views as expressed by dualist, structuralist and legalist schools of thought. The dualists link the persistence of informal activities to insufficient formal job opportunities as result of "a slow rate of economic development and a faster rate of urbanization" (Tokman 1978). Therefore, the theorists working within this perspective view the formal and informal sectors as having almost distinguishable features from each other and therefore represent almost two opposite parts of the economy.

In a swift response to the dualists' sentiment, there emerged the structuralist understanding of informal sector. The Structuralist proponents oppose the view as expressed by the dualists to examine the way in which forms of production, productive units, technologies, and workers are integrated into various parts of the economy (Rakowski 1994). Based on their units of analysis, the

structuralists asserted that both the formal and informal economies are intrinsically linked. They argued that there are evidences of informality in formal enterprises. For instance, informal employment abounds in several formal enterprises in form of part time workers, temporary workers and home workers who were employed in formal businesses through contracting or sub-contracting arrangements. They also posited that both formal and informal enterprises wage workers are subordinated to the interest of capitalist development, providing cheap goods and services (Moser, 1978; Portes et al, 1989).

The legalist school of thought on informality was led by economist Hernando De Soto who focused on entrepreneurs and institutional constraints that make informality a rational economic strategy. The legalists attribute the growth of informal enterprises to the strict rules and regulation, taxes, time and effort involved in complying with formal state procedures (De Soto, 1989). They blame the rise of informality phenomenon on excessive state regulation and not to the dynamics of labour market. The legalist see informality as radical breaking of legal barrier, a natural response to real market forces, and not to the rise in unemployment and the need to for jobs. Although, the legalists focus on the regulatory environments of both formal and informal enterprises and not the firms, they acknowledge that capitalist interests collude with government to set the bureaucratic 'rules of the game' (De Soto, 1989).

3.0 Methodology

Based on the typology of street vending, data were collected on

prevalence of street vending in Ogbomoso. Data were also collected on the spatial distribution of vending activities, socio-economic characteristics of street vendors, land use and environmental implications of street vending and people's perception of street vending activities. For data on immobile vending, the two major roads in Ogbomoso (LAUTECH/High school axis and Grammar school/Federal axis) were delineated into corridors using major junctions (Table 1). In each corridor, the prevalence of informal structures such as kiosks, containers, sheds, big umbrellas and other makeshift structures being used for street vending, were obtained through direct counting. For data on mobile street vending, the head count of mobile vendors was conducted simultaneously in all major junctions along the corridors for duration of 40 minutes each on a weekend. To ensure pro-rata representation, fixed vendors were clustered into five units based on the types of structures used. On this basis, questionnaires were administered on 286 fixed vendors

using Yamane (1967)'s published table at $\pm 5\%$ precision level where confidence level is 95% and $P=0.5$. While 135 mobile vendors were sampled using accidental sampling method.

Data on land use and environmental implications of street vending were obtained through structured or systematic observation while data on people's perception of street vending were collected with the aid of structured interview. All data were collected with the help of trained Research Assistants on a weekend between 9am and 12am.

Data on the prevalence and incidence of street vending were analysed using descriptive statistic such as z score, tabulation and cross tabulation. The socio-economic characteristics of street vendors were presented in percentages. Narrative analysis was utilized to analyse data on land use and environmental implications of street vending while peoples' perceptions of street vending were analysed using Mixed Method Contents Analysis.

Table 1 Selected corridors and Junction for sampling purpose

SN	Road corridors	Major junctions
<i>Lautech / High School Road (6km)</i>		
1	Lautech to General	General
2	General to Starlight	Starlight
3	Starlight to Takie	Takie
4	Takie to Akande	Akande
5	Akande to Iyana Adeleke	Iyana Adeleke
6	Iyana Adeleke to High school	High school
<i>Grammar school / Express (5.3km)</i>		
1	Grammar schl to Oja Igbo	Oja Igbo
2	Oja Igbo to Takie	Takie
3	Takie to Odo oru	Odo oru
4	Odo oru to express	Express

4.0 Findings and Discussions

4.1 Street Vending in Ogbomoso:

Prevalence, Sites and Structures

There are widespread reports of uncontrolled infiltration of informal sector activities in virtually every segment of urban space, especially along major roads of cities (Jelili and Adedibu, 2006; Adedeji et al, 2014). The preponderance of vending activities in Ogbomoso has been confirmed in this study. Based on typology of vending activities, the incidence of fixed vending was obtained by counting the number of temporary and semi-permanent structures (Table 2) while the incidence of mobile vending was derived by head count of mobile vendors. (Table 3)

4.1.1 Fixed Street Vending Activities

Table 2 shows a remarkable incidence of fixed vending activities along the two major roads in Ogbomoso. The findings show that 1080 informal structures were indiscriminately located along the two major roads for vending activities. Analysis revealed that 73.6% of these structures are

scattered along LAUTECH/high school axis. When disaggregated by road corridors, General/starlight corridors claims the highest incidence of street vending. The reason for this is not farfetched, Sabo is a settlement mostly inhabited by migrants and it is expected that the vast majority of them engage in informal sector as it has been posited that migrants in non-industrialized cities were likely employed in informal jobs and contributed to the growth of informal sector (Kusakabe, 2006). Moreover, Sabo is an important commercial hub of Ogbomoso. Odo orun/Express corridor generated the lowest incidence of street vending. This may not be unconnected with the presence of two organised public buildings (Power Holding Office and Federal Government College) along this corridor. Federal Government College, apparently the most organised, occupies a vast land space along this corridor and does not allow the erection of informal structures along its fence.

Table 2 Incidence of Street Vending in Ogbomoso

SN	Road Corridors	Kiosks	Containers	Shed	Display Table	Big Umbrella	Total	Z scores
1	Lautech to General	10	28	3	4	9	54	-0.816
2	General to Starlight	44	80	44	35	30	233	1.889
3	Starlight to Takie	20	69	26	36	26	177	1.042
4	Takie to caretaker	11	24	7	12	21	75	-0.499
5	Caretaker to Iyana Adeleke	21	55	13	12	32	133	0.378
6	Iyana Adeleke to High school	15	56	12	17	23	123	0.227
7	Grammar schl to Oja Igbo	33	84	6	5	7	135	0.408
8	Oja Igbo to Takie	2	16	2	7	4	31	-1.164

9	Takeie to Odo oru	12	56	12	5	12	97	-0.166
10	Odo-oru to express	6	7	4	2	3	22	-1.300
	Total	174	475	129	135	167	1080	
	Percentage	16.1	44	11.9	12.5	15.5	100	

Figure 1 shows the types of informal structures used for street vending activities in Ogbomoso. From the Figure, 174 (16.1%) use kiosk, 167(15.5%) stay under big umbrella, 135 (12.5%) use covered display table, 129 (11.9%) erected shed while significant proportion (44%) use metal containers. The preponderance usage of metal containers has been observed

to have negative implications not only for the users but also for the environment (Adedeji et al, 2014) This, they attributed to the fact that steel is not biodegradable, has high heat storage capacity, high thermal conductivity, impairs users' comfort and builds general environmental discomfort.

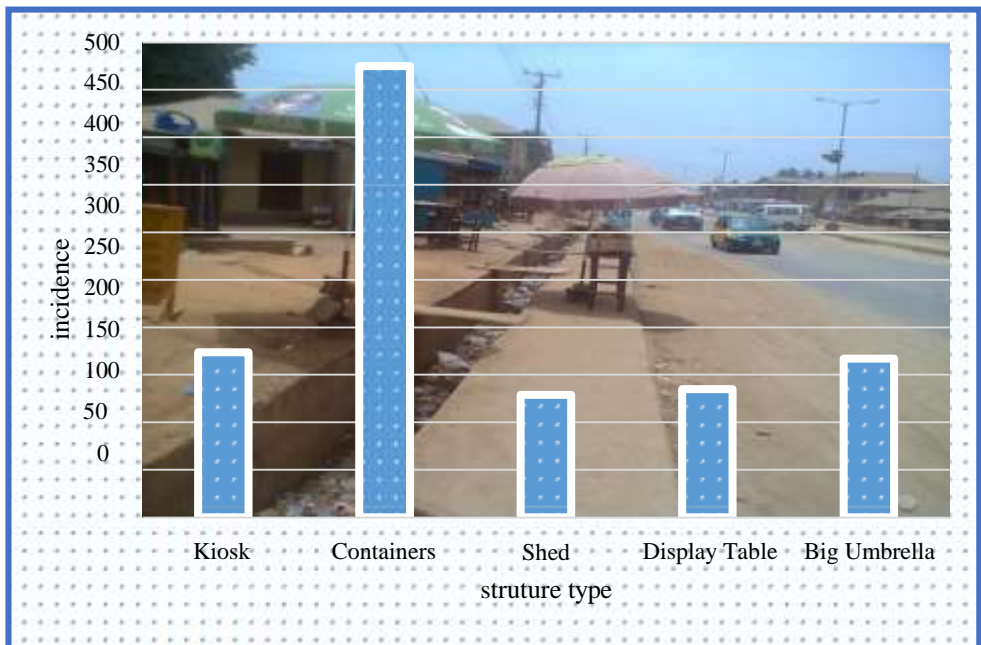


Figure 1: Structures used in Street Vending in Ogbomoso

4.1.2 Mobile Street Vending

There were considerable number of street vendors who move from location to location to sell their wares

in Ogbomoso. The locational pattern of mobile vendors indicated that they vary in numbers from location to location (Table 3). Mobile street

vendors are profoundly visible in Caretaker and Oja-Igbo junctions more than any other junctions. This may not be unconnected with the influence of Akande market and Oja Igbo markets respectively for the two junctions. There is also high incidence of vendors

in Takie, General, starlight and express. The reasons being that they serve as transportation nodes in Ogbomoso. Moreover, they are important commercial hubs in Ogbomoso.

Table 3 Incidence of Mobile Street Vending in Ogbomoso

SN	LOCATIONS	STREET HAWKERS			Z scores
	Major Junctions	Male	Female	Total	
1	General	11	37	48	0.278669
2	Starlight	14	35	49	0.359573
3	Takie	13	38	51	0.521381
4	Caretaker	18	41	59	1.168613
5	Iyana Adeleke	12	23	35	-0.77308
6	High school	9	19	28	-1.33941
7	Oja Igbo	15	43	58	1.087709
9	Odo oru	8	17	25	-1.58212
10	Express	12	36	48	0.278669
	Total	112	289	401	0.278669
	Percentage	27.9	72.1	100	

4.2 Characteristics of Street Vendors In Ogbomoso

Evidences as shown on Table 4 revealed that street vending in Ogbomoso is heavily dominated by female (62.8% vs 37.2%). This study corroborated gender disparity of street vendors as reported in similar studies in Nigeria (Adedeji et al, 2014; Nduka and Duru, 2014) and elsewhere (Kusakabe, 2006). However, there are relatively fewer female fixed vendors than female mobile vendors (57.8% to 67.8%). One significant implication of this distribution is street vending contributes to women's economic autonomy.

Street vending is more concentrated among vendors within 18–30 years

(30.1%). The population of street vendors tends to decrease as age increases. One important finding about age pattern of street vendors is that underage constitute an appreciable proportion of street vendors. They constitute almost half (42.5%) of the mobile vendors while in the overall, they accounted for more than one quarter (26.4%) of the sampled street vendors. This shows that street vending provides a ground for child labour to thrive. This validates the findings in some studies on child labour onshore (Ogunkan and Fawole, 2009; Abisoye, 2013; Ogunkan, 2014) and offshore Nigeria (Celik and Baybuga, 2009; Kangsangbata, 2008)

Table 4 Socio-economics characteristics of street Vendors

Characteristics	Street vendors					
	Fixed Vendors		Mobile Vendor		TOTAL	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Sex						
Male		42.2		32.2		37.2
Female		57.8		67.8		62.8
Age						
Under 18		10.2		42.5		26.4
18 – 30		31.3		29.2		30.1
31 – 40		28.2		12.3		20.3
41 – 50		16.5		9.8		13.2
Above 50		13.8		6.2		10
Educational Level						
No formal education		12.5		19.5		16
Primary Schl		33.7		55.5		44.6
Secondary Schl		44.2		22.7		33.4
Tertiary		9.6		2.3		5.9
Marital status						
Single		28.9		53.2		41.1
Married		57.3		27.8		42.5
Divorced		9.2		15.4		12.3
Widowed		4.6		3.6		4.1
Income per Day						
Less than N200		26		32.5		29.2
N201 – N500		21		27.5		24.2
N501 – N1000		29.1		23.5		26.3
N1001 - N1500		10.2		9.3		9.7
N1501 –N2000		8.2		7.2		7.7
Above N2000		5.9		-		2.9

There is an observable disparity in the education level of fixed and mobile vendors. Majority (54.2%) of fixed vendors are secondary school certificate holders while significant proportion (47.9%) of mobile vendors did not go beyond primary school. There is relatively fewer (12.5%) uneducated fixed vendor than mobile vendor (19.5%) while more fixed

mobile vendor (8.5%) attended tertiary education than their mobile vendor counterparts (1.3%). This pattern is in line with Kusakabe (2006)'s findings where a disparity in education level of fixed and mobile vendors was reported. However, an overall analysis revealed that education level of street vendors in Ogbomoso is generally low, almost

half (44.6%) of the vendors had only completed primary education. This is consistent with most findings in the literature (Ayeni, 1980; Rupkamdee et al, 2005). It indicates that most vendors possess low skills and lack the level of education required for the better paid jobs in the formal sector.

The income from vending varies among street vendors. A significant proportion (36.5%) of mobile vendors, realised a daily profit of less than N200 compared to 29% of fixed vendors who earned similar daily profit margin. A noticeable proportion (32.3%) of fixed vendors make a daily profit of more than N1000. This proportion include 31.6% that earned above N2000. On the other hand, 23.5% of mobile vendors earned more N1000 daily profit but none make it up to N2000. The overall income analysis indicates that more than two third (39.4%) of vendors realised more than N200 daily profit while an appreciable proportion (27.9%) make well above 1000 daily profit. Almost one fifth (18.3) of this group make more than N2000 daily profit. The income distribution of street vendors indicates that the income from street vending is relatively high. In view of this, Rupkamdee et al. (2005) noted that “street vending is not only a choice for the urban poor but is also

becoming an attractive occupation for the educated middle class”. Therefore, street vending is no longer an economic activity among the urban poor but serves as an ‘economic choice’ for other classes as well. This gives credence to the belief of legalist school of thought that “informality is a natural response to real market forces, and not to the rise in unemployment and the need to for jobs” (De Soto, 1989)

4.3 Reasons for Vending

The question has been asked over and over again in different studies as to why people get involve in street vending. The dominant answer has always been “unemployment” (Ayeni, 1980; Kusakabe, 2006. However, this is negated in this study, as less than a fifth (18.5%) of the sampled street vendors confirmed they resorted to street vending as a result of prevailing high rate of unemployment in the country. A vast majority (45.5%) embrace street vending as a means of livelihood. This shows a changed in orientation about street vending as a buffer for unemployed. Rather it has become a vital source of employment. Other reasons given by street vendors include low capital requirement (24.2%) and the need to supplement family income (11.8%).

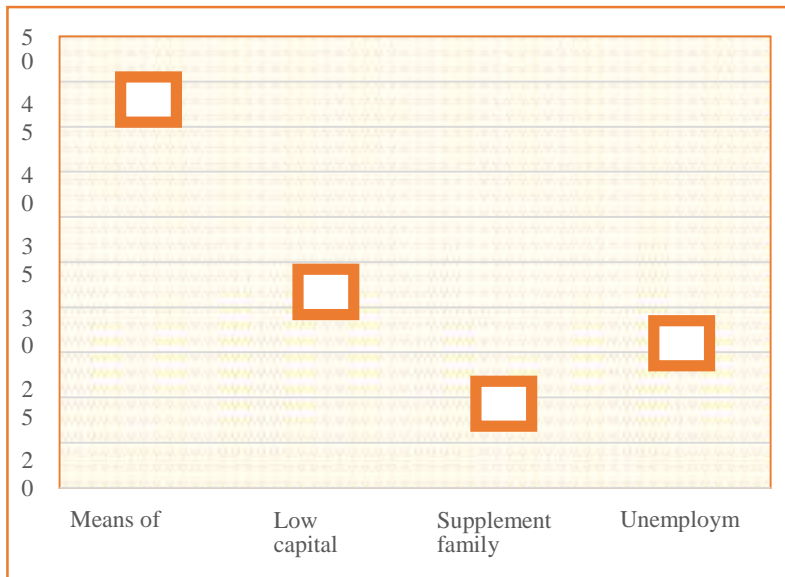


Figure 2: Reasons for Vending

4.4 Choice of Location

There are numbers of market in Ogbomoso, yet there are growing number of street vendors. The study sought to know the reasons why street vendors are attracted to road side or moving from location to location as oppose to other areas designated for trading activities. The findings show that appreciable proportion of vendors (44.5%) were attracted to the street because of high patronage. About one quarter (24.5%) of street vendors prefer to vend on the street because it is requires no formal application procedures. Almost one fifth (19.2%) of street vendors choose to ply their trade on the street because they do not have enough capital to sell sufficient goods in the market while slightly above one tenth (11.8%) cited nearness to home.

4.5 Street vending in Ogbomoso: Land Use and Environmental Implications

There are evidences in the literature that street vending has land use and environmental implications. “Informal

sector generates land use problems such as sprawl problem, incongruous land uses, building alterations, the menace of temporary structures, alteration of land use functions, open space conversions and land degradation” (Okeke, 2000; Adeyinka et al, 2006) as well as a number of environmental issues (Nwaka, 2005). Similar findings were recorded in this study and are as discussed

4.5.1 The menace of temporary structure

Temporary structures are synonymous to street vending in Ogbomoso. It is perhaps, the most obvious problem of street vending in the city. Temporary structures have become so pervasive that they appear more numerous than the legally approved shops, shopping centres, and other business structures. They have become so rampant that their social legitimacy appears to be no longer in question. At the time of the conduct of this study, there were 1080 temporary structures along the two major roads in Ogbomoso. The problem becomes more appreciable

when the number of temporary structures is normalised by road

distance. (Table 5)

Table 5 Informal structures normalized by road length

SN	Major Road	Road distance (km)	Temporary structures	Structure/km
1	LAUTECH to High School	6	795	133/km
2	Grammar school to Express	5.3	285	54/km
	Total	11.3	1080	96/km

From Table 3, it could be inferred that there are 133 temporary structures in every kilometre along LAUTECH/High school corridor while 54 temporary structures are located in every kilometre along Grammar School/ express corridor. It can also be pronounced that in every kilometre along the major roads in Ogbomoso, there are at least 98 temporary structures. The implication is that the proliferations of temporary structures along major roads distort urban landscape, deface urban sight and constitute environmental eyesores and therefore creates a poor impression about city for outsiders.

4.5.2 Incongruous land use

Driving by the quest to attract pedestrians and other road users,

vendors, especially fixed vendors, locate themselves at strategic points with heavy human traffic. where they can be seen by pedestrians and motorists. In the process they settle in streets spontaneously without any official allocation by erecting both temporary and semi-permanent structures on the road. This leads to conflicting land uses. The encroachment of structures on walkways has reduced the road capacity as the pedestrians make use of the vehicular way. This sight is common along Grammar School/ express axis (Plate 1). More worrisome is the locations of those structures within road setbacks



Plate 1 Encroachment of Pedestrians' Walkway along Takie to Odo Oru Corridors

Haphazard erection of structures for vending activities also has serious implication for residential and commercial land uses. These structures compete for land spaces to the detriment of planned residential neighbourhoods and organised commercial structures such as banks, supermarkets, filling stations among others. This grossly affected the ventilation in residential buildings along the road as it deprived them of

the necessary air space.

The far-flung vending structures also has serious implication for public land use. For instance, there are high concentration of containers by the fence of Anglican Grammar school (Starlight/Takie corridors). Apart from reducing the aesthetic value of the school, the activities of vendors are not healthy for conducive learning environment.



Plate 2 Indiscriminate Erection of Structures at Anglican Grammar School

4.5.3 Waste Disposal and Management

In the literature, it has been confirmed that street trading activities have negative impact on the urban cleanliness quality and urban metropolis (Adedeji et al, 2014). This is particularly true of street vending in Ogbomoso where different types of waste such as paper, pure water nylon, polythene bags, food leftover and agricultural waste are generated by street vendors. These wastes, which are largely organic, are generated from the sale of food items, provision, vegetables/fruit, water sachets, etc, dumped on the streets, gutters and drainages. To worsen the situation, those vendors have no proper waste disposal method. This challenge is compounded by mobile street vendors at various undesigned places where several food stuffs and other goods are sold. They litter the whole places with waste of different kinds. In the process, the waste so generated interfere with other elements of city infrastructures: blocked drainage leads to unwarranted floods which shorten

the life span of tarred roads. The large volume of garbage, dirt and often unsanitary waste generated by street vendors lead to unhygienic environment, health hazards and general deterioration and dilapidation of urban environment.

The problem of waste disposal is particularly visible in General/Starlight, Starlight/Takie and Grammar School/Oja-Igbo corridors where the problem of street vending is more severe. In those locations, roads are littered with heaps of waste after heavy downpours being/ transported by run-off water is a common sight. In those corridors, the trash of pure water sachet, rotten vegetables, leftover food and other wastes littered on the street, drainage and gutter have become an eyesore

4.6 Residents' Perceptions of Street Vending

Residents' opinions differ on street vending activities. Some of the residents see vending activities as a normal phenomenon, a means of subsistence and employment opportunity for jobless people. Most of

the advocates of street vending were of the opinion that the sector is an important source of income and employment as it provides an opportunity that minimizes the impact of social exclusion for many urban residents. They considered street vending as a means of subsistence and an important way to reduce urban crime.

“Many unemployed youth and adults who would have constituted security threat to our society have found solace in street vending. The sector has also reduced urban poverty significantly” R1, 54

“Street vendors contribute significantly to urban economy, they also sustain industries by providing markets for their products” R3, 38

“It is better to engage in some form of work than to remain idle. Street vending provides people with the opportunity to earn a living. It is better than stealing as there is dignity in work” R3, 45

On the other hand, critics of street vending express the opinion that the disadvantages of street vending outweigh its advantages. They disregard street peddling as a source of social disorder, citing haphazard and indiscriminate location of vending structures in urban centres. They also frowned at street vending because of its negative impact on the urban cleanliness quality and its implication for residents' environmental health. Others, speaking from their quest for order, perceived street vending as an anomaly to achieving urban modernity

“One cannot but raise concern about environmental health implication of street vending. Street vendors by their

activities generate a lot of solid waste without proper waste disposal method. This has resulted in unsanitary environmental conditions with dire consequences on residents' health and well-being” R4, 57

“While I am not against street vending as economic activity, I frowned at the problem Street vendors constitute to urban environment. I am particularly not in support of the way and manner they encroach pedestrians' walkway and sometimes, motorist drive way.....” R5, 47

“Street vending has become part and parcel of urban landscape but there is no hiding the fact that they deface urban environment.

Vendors are exposed to accidents and other vices” R6, 37

The question that readily comes to mind is why did the residents' opinions differ on the appropriate attitude to street vending? While it is intuitively appealing to assume that human perception of social, physical and natural phenomenon is a function of physiological and psychological processes, residents' background characteristics have an overwhelming influence in their perception of street vending in Ogbomoso. Mixed Method Content Analysis allows us to know how residents' perception vary with their background characteristics. This is achieved by transforming collated and analysed text from different interview into the frequency of each theme. Thereafter, the mean scores of positive and negative perception of street vending, were made comparable by scaling them 1-2 respectively. It is observed

from Figure 3, that none of the variables of has a mean value that tends towards negative perception (i.e 1.5 or higher). Nonetheless, this should not be mistakenly taken to mean that every resident embrace street vending, it is just that more

residents perceived street vending as a normal urban phenomenon. Therefore, with overall mean score of 1.36, it assumed significant number of residents are street vending apologists.

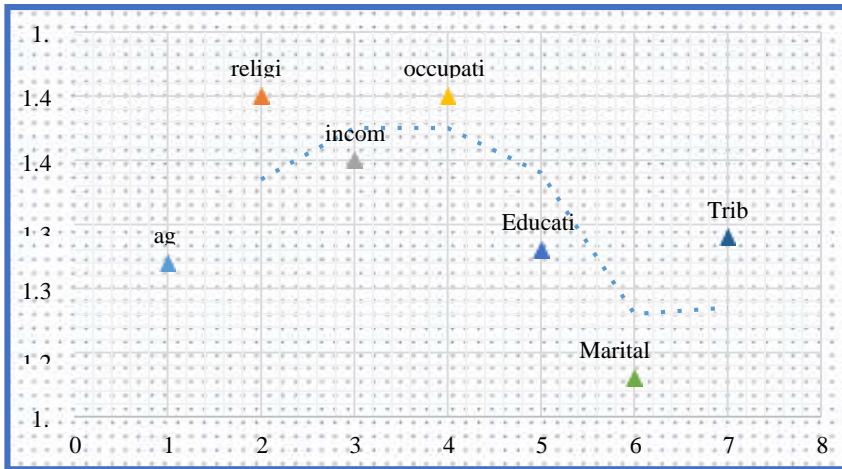


Figure 3 Perception of street vending by residents' characteristics
 Mean scores range between 1 and 2; and the higher the value recorded the more negatively disposed residents are to street vending

However, rather than generalised the effect of residents' characteristics, a disaggregation by socio-economic variables (see Table 6) shows that such perceptions vary across income group, education level and occupation. For instance, there is positive perception of street vending among residents earning N30000 or less while those earning higher than N30000 perceive street vending as having more negative value than positive value.

Residents' positions on the presence of

street vending also vary according to educational groups. That the mean scores increase with educational level indicates that more educated residents tend to perceive street vending from its negative value. The occupation of residents is also a determinant of their perception of street vending. While artisans and traders were positively disposed to street vending, civil servants and contractors were negatively disposed to it.

Table 6 Perceptions of street vending among different Categories of the Public

Characteristics	Residents' Perception			
	Positive (1)	Negative (2)	Total	*Mean
Monthly Income				
<i>Less than N7000</i>	7	1	8	1.13
<i>N7000 – N15000</i>	5	2	7	1.29
<i>N15001 – N30000</i>	7	3	10	1.30
<i>N30001 – N50000</i>	7	7	14	1.50
<i>N50001 –N100000</i>	4	2	6	1.34
<i>Above N100000</i>	1	4	5	1.80
Education Level				
<i>No formal education</i>	3	1	4	1.25
<i>Primary education</i>	6	1	7	1.15
<i>Secondary education</i>	17	10	27	1.32
<i>Tertiary education</i>	5	7	12	1.59
Occupation				
<i>Artisan</i>	5	2	7	1.29
<i>Traders</i>	19	3	22	1.14
<i>Civil servants</i>	5	9	14	1.65
<i>Contractors</i>	2	5	7	1.72

**Mean scores range between 1 and 2; and the higher the value recorded the more negatively disposed residents are to street vending.*

4.7 Major Implications of the Findings

This study has confirmed the ubiquitous spread of street vending activities in Ogbomoso. The remarkable incidence of fixed vending activities along major roads in Ogbomoso, where a significant number of informal structures for vending activities are indiscriminately located raised serious land use and environmental questions.

The study identified that temporary structures have become so pervasive that they seem to have outnumbered legally approved shops, shopping centres, and other business structures. The implication is that the proliferations of temporary structures

along major roads distort urban landscape, deface urban sight and constitute environmental eyesores.

The study also recognised haphazard erection of structures for vending activities as having serious implication for residential and commercial land uses. These structures compete for land spaces to the detriment of planned residential neighbourhoods and organised commercial structures such as banks, supermarkets, filling stations among others. The preponderance of metal containers has serious implications for the environment and users as it impairs comfort and builds general environmental discomfort.

The study has also revealed that there are variations in the socio-economics

characteristics of street vendors, however, they evolved a noticeable pattern of socio-economic characteristics as they are generally of low education status, gender imbalanced, and are dominated by productive and agile young people. The income distribution of street vendors indicates that the income from street vending is relatively high. This implies that street vending is no longer an economic activity among the urban poor but serves as an 'economic choice' for other classes as well.

The residents' perceptions of street vending differ along socio-economic attributes. The conflicting positions of residents on street vending will pose a difficult dilemma for planners and policy makers, and tend to reinforce the ambivalence reactions to physical planning initiatives to address the negative impacts of street vending.

5 Conclusion and Recommendations

This study finds that street vending serves as a vital source of employment and income for a section of urban populace. However, it constitutes a bane in the quest for order, a source of urban environmental problem and an obstacle to the development of modern economy. Therefore, it is reasonably appealing to integrate street vending into urban planning policy to maximise the economic benefits of the sector while minimising the land use and environmental consequences. In this wise, it is essential that the following are taken into consideration

- (i) urban authorities should embark on participatory economic programs where the voices of urban residents shall be included in formulating policies. In this wise, the inclusion of vendors' voices in the

management of the market shall provide constructive ways to improve both the urban space utilisation as well as enhance vendors' businesses

- (ii) Street vending is usually characterised by informal structures generally converge around transportation nodes in an unorganised manner. This disrupts pedestrian and vehicular traffic and undermines the value of the area. It is therefore, recommended that urban authorities in collaboration with urban planners should embark on sustainable urban renewal program that will provide appropriate-sized shopping facilities at an appropriate space along these transportation nodes.
- (iii) Recommendation (ii) above can be achieved through gentrification, a potent form of urban renewal whereby old and relatively new houses within specific area or along transportation are converted from their previous use to new uses especially for commercial activities.
- (iv) The government should provide organized markets at planned alternative locations through public participation. Necessary facilities should be provided in these markets in order to decongest vending activities along the major roads.
- (v) The extant planning and environmental laws on street vending should be evaluated and reviewed, where necessary. The laws should also be properly

implemented to discourage the erection of informal structures

along major roads.

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