

A Regression Analysis of Residents' Socio-economic and Subjective Wellbeing Attributes in Nigeria Western Border Settlements

Abel Omoniyi Afon¹ and Deborah Bunmi Ojo^{1*}

¹*Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria.*

Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration between both authors. Authors AOA and DBO designed the study, wrote the protocol and the first draft of the manuscript. The authors managed the literature searches, collect the data, run the analysis and wrote the findings of the research. Both authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

This paper examined the various socio-economic attributes of residents such as gender, age, income, length of stay, occupation, household size among others in Seme border settlements of Nigeria using data collected from a survey of 329 randomly selected residents' in the study area. It also assessed the effects of these attributes on residents' overall quality of life with a view to determining the implication that the socio-economic attributes have on their well-being of life. Frequency and percentage was used in analysing the socio-economic attributes. Multiple Regression technique was used to evaluate the relationship that exists between these attributes and the overall quality of life of residents'. The results of the regression analysis revealed that length of stay in current residence and income among other socio-economic attributes affect the residents' overall quality of life in Seme border. The study therefore concluded that residents' socio-economic attributes does not generally influence the overall quality of life of residents in the border.

*Corresponding author: E-mail: oluwadaredeborah990@gmail.com, dboluwadare@oauife.edu.ng;

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1. INTRODUCTION

Border is defined as the physical line or wall separating two nations. It is a feature that indicates a boundary. Border towns according to [1] are towns or cities close to the boundary between two countries, state or regions. Over the years, research attention have been expanded to the study of boundaries, borders, borderlands and the border impacted population in both developed and developing countries [2,3,4,5,1]. These previous studies on borders are central on notions such as 'academic research in borderland studies', 'legal perspective on border issues', 'borders as institutions', 'the process of bordering', 'the descriptive analyses of boundaries, their location, political and historical processes leading to their demarcation', 'issues on border security, terrorism and crimes', 'boundary typologies' among others [6-13].

Border regions all over the world possess similar characteristics and problems. This is as a result of the special circumstances surrounding their evolution. These features and teething troubles include the artificial neglect of the border communities, illicit trade route, terrorism and crime, uncontrolled migration among others [14,15]. These characteristics are shared by all borders whether in America, Asia, Africa, Australia or Europe. It is the presence of all these characteristics that has influenced the residents' quality of life and the growing population growth along the border region and makes them all villages or rural area till date [16].

Growing concern over Quality of Life (QoL) of city dwellers has become more explicit [17,18,19]. Policy makers and researchers increasingly engaged in understanding social, economic problems, going beyond economic criteria and other objective measurements of QoL [20]. Quality of life is defined as the individual perception of their position in life in terms of culture and value system in which they live and also in relation to their goals, expectation, standards, and concern. It is also referred to as the general well-being of an individual [21,22,23]. Quality of life encompasses the fulfilment of all human needs such as a satisfactory standard of material life, health, education, security, the satisfaction of living in a clean environment as well as the enjoyment of the aesthetic and the spiritual. It relates to the

general well-being of the populace [19]. It can be described as a broad ranging concept that is affected by a person's physical health, psychological state, level of independence and their relationships to salient features of the environment. It focuses on all facets of life which includes cultural, social, environmental, physical, health and the local value systems among others.

In measuring quality of life, two approaches are traditionally conceptualized, which including objective and subjective indicators. Occasionally, both approaches are also being used. The predominant approach, often labelled the "objective" or "social indicators" approach, tends to measure quality of life in terms of aggregate measures of social condition factors external to the individual. On the other hand, subjective indicators focus on the individual's judgment of their condition in life and are designed to gauge the opinion of the individual about their QoL. Questions comprising such measures typically ask respondents to rate their overall satisfaction with life compared with some standard. A major strength of the subjective approach is that it facilitates examination of both overall quality of life and the various domains that comprise it, such as housing, neighbourhood, and socio-economic attributes of residents, health, social connectedness, environment, work and the family among others [24-30]. Studies have established that socio-economic characteristics are important in measuring quality of life [31-35]. These studies revealed that there is a correlation between an individual's perception on quality of life and his social, demographic and economic characteristics.

There is therefore a need to study borders not only from a top-down perspective, but also from the bottom up, with a focus on the individual border narratives and experiences, reflecting the ways in which borders impact upon the daily life practices of people living in and around the borderland zones. It is on this note that the study examine if socio-demographic characteristics (age, gender, occupation, educational attainment, household size) and length of residency in the city and neighbourhood) of the inhabitants affect their perceived quality of life in the border settlements. An understanding of these will assist planners and policy makers to know the existing state of the residents and also in determining the

implications that socio-economic attributes have on the quality of life of residents' in the border settlements.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The multi-stage sampling technique was adopted for the study. The first stage involved the stratification of villages in Seme border into different village grouping in accordance with their sizes. This grouping was adopted from UN-Habitat Global Report on Human settlements [35]. The area regarded as small villages were the groups of villages that have more than 100 buildings. While the hamlet are the villages that have between 51 and 100 buildings (51-100), the hut are group of villages with buildings between 1 and 50 (1-50). In the second stage, one (1) out of every two (2) settlements in each classification were randomly selected without replacement. This represented 50% of the sample frame. The list of the selected settlements in each group is as presented in Table 1 (see Fig. 1). There were 228, 1131 and 284 buildings in the selected huts, hamlets and villages respectively. Questionnaire were administered on household heads in every fifth (5th) building (20%) using systematic random sampling. A total of 329 respondents (329 questionnaire) in all were randomly selected in the settlements out of the 1643 buildings. Data collected included the residents' rating of their overall quality of life and the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents such as age, gender, income, occupation status, household size and the length of stay in the study area. Questionnaire were administered on the household head on each floor of the selected buildings. Data was analysed using Descriptive and inferential statistics including frequencies, percentages for the respondents' characteristics and Regression to investigate the attributes that have a significant relationship with the overall quality of life of residents. These statistics were conducted using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences [36].

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The research findings are discussed below. Unless otherwise stated, the information summarised in the tables emanated from the authors' field survey of 2014.

3.1 Socio-economic Attributes of Residents

The summary presented in Table 2 is the socio-economic composition of respondents in the study area. The findings revealed that 65% of the respondents were males while 35% were females. This elucidates the level to which men by tradition control most households in Nigeria. It was in the settlements classified as the hut that we had the highest male's household head (76.1%). In the villages, 40.4% were female household heads. This showed that it was in the villages where the lowest male household heads were found in the study area. Furthermore, the least of female's household heads when compared with other areas of the settlements was recorded in the classified as the hut. The study established that 83.6% of the respondents were in the age bracket of 31 to 60 years while the mean age for the border was 44 years. This indicated that there were more of active people in the study area. That more residents were in the active age in the border settlements may be explained by the fact that their major occupation which was cross-border trading (an informal activity) which required the energy possessed by the youths. Differences in the age of residents across the border settlements were not significant ($F = 1.752$, $p = 0.17$). The minimum monthly income of residents in hut, hamlet and villages were ₦=0.00k, respectively while the maximum was respectively ₦ 67,000.00 k (336.75 USD\$), ₦ 250,000.00 k (1,256.54 USD\$) and ₦ 20,000.00 k (100.52 USD\$). It can therefore be inferred that mean income of residents varied inversely with the status of

Table 1. Classification of settlements in Nigeria west-end border

Settlement category	Name	No of settlements
Villages (100 and above)	Ggbaji, Sito-Gbethrome	2
Hamlet (51-100 buildings)	Aivoji, Whanyingbeme, Tosuvi, Akoro, Ozimigbo, Azangbeme, Sapo, Boglo, Seme, Ashipa, Aketegbo, Ago-Hausa, Oglogbo	13
Hut (1-50 buildings)	Ganyingbo-Topa, Aganvi-Topa, Fanuvi, Falola, Custom Quarters, Salvation	6
	Total	21 villages

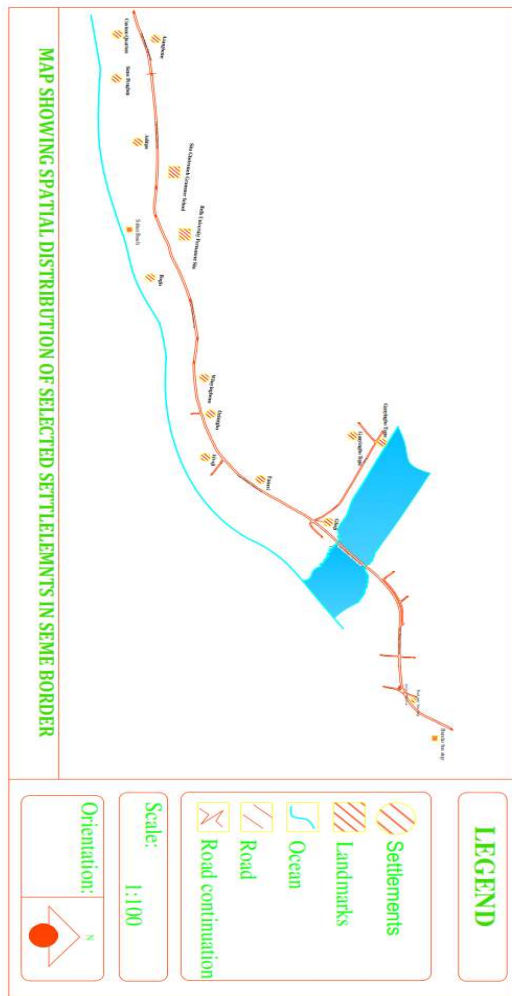


Fig. 1. Map showing spatial distribution of selected settlements in Seme border

settlements. The average monthly income for the study area was ₦22,197.00 k (111.57 USD\$) with a standard deviation of ₦34, 994.17k (175.89 USD\$). The mean monthly income for hut, hamlet and villages which was ₦ 25,652.00 k (128.93 USD\$), ₦24,630.00 k (123.79 USD\$) and ₦12,700.00 k (63.83 USD\$) confirmed this assertion.

Considering the marital status of residents, it was discovered that majority of the residents were married with 95.4% followed by the single and widowed with 1.8%, while 0.9% were separated respectively. This indicated that a very importance was attached to marriage institution in the study area. The result also implied that since there were many married middle aged and few unmarried, infrastructure such as the

maternity centres and educational facilities would be highly required. Differences in the marital status of respondents across the three settlements categories were just statistically significant. The χ^2 value of 12.7; $p = 0.049$ (which showed not much difference in the marital status) confirmed this. Information obtained for residents' ethnic group revealed that the predominant group in the study area was the Eguns (Ogu speaking people) which accounted for 77.80% of the household heads. The Igbos were the next important popular ethnic group. The group constituted 9.7% of the border residents. While the Anago's accounted for 5.54%, only 2.13% of the residents were Ogori (Benin Republic) and an ethnic group of the French water region of Togo (1.22%). This study confirmed the findings of earlier studies that the residents of border settlements were usually heterogeneous. The study established that the Igbo from the eastern part of Nigeria were becoming prominent in the border region based on the findings which showed that border regions provided those means for engaging in different kinds of business.

Majority of the respondents (86.0%) were Christians, 10.3% were Muslims while the remaining 3.7% were traditional religion adherence. The wide gap between Christianity and the other forms of religion in the border can still be attributable to the fact that Badagry was the first town in Nigeria where Christianity was first preached in 1842 through Thomas Birch Freeman of the Missionary Society to the inhabitants under the historic Agia Tree in Badagry. Furthermore, as 33.1%, 21.0% and 9.4% of residents had primary, secondary and tertiary education qualifications respectively. Over one third (36.5%) of the household heads were without formal education and thus complete literate. A higher percentage (64.4%) of the residents in the study area engaged in informal activities. They were business men and women involved in activities such as cross-border trading, plumbing, tailoring among others. More explicitly, 43.5%, 65.04% and 78.9% of the residents in the hut, hamlet and villages claimed that they were business men and women.

3.2 Socio-economic Attributes as Drivers of Quality of Life

Research in Quality of life revealed that certain social characteristics are linked with a greater well-being. Seven socio-economic attributes which includes gender, age, household size,

length of stay in the study area among others were used in a standard regression analysis to predict the overall quality of life of residents in Seme border settlements of Nigeria. The correlations of the variables as presented in Table 3 revealed that only 3 of the socio-economic attributes examined were statistically significant (Income = .135^{**}, Length of stay in building = .196^{**} and Household size -.081^{**}). The prediction model presented in Table 4 was statistically significant, $F = 4.761$, $P = 0.000$ and accounted for approximately 9% of the variance of the residents' overall quality of life ($R^2 = .094$), (Adjusted $R^2 = .074$). The overall quality of life of the residents' was primarily predicted by length of stay in current residence and income by higher levels of positive affect. The total variance explained by all the independent variables indicated that socio-economic attributes of residents' does not contribute a meaningful affect to the overall quality of life. This implied that there are other important factors that contribute to the overall quality of life of residents' in Seme border settlements. The major contributor among the attributes were the length of stay and the income of the residents with a variance of .246 (24.6%) and .203 (20.3%) respectively.

Presented in Table 6 are the Zero-order, partial and part correlations showing the Pearson r values, partial correlation and Semi Partial correlations of the dependent variable (overall quality of life) with each predictors (socio-economic attributes) when the other predictors are treated as covariates. More so, the Y intercept of the raw model is labelled as the constant and has a value of 2.096. The unstandardized and standardized coefficients of the predictors were also presented in the Table. The findings revealed that length of stay received the strongest weight in the model followed by income. Length of stay in current residence ($b = .025$) was positively correlated and significantly related to overall quality of life of residents. This indicated that the longer residents' stay in a place, the more stable and satisfaction with their quality of life. This study corroborates previous findings on length of stay in building and quality of life [21]. Likewise, the result of the income is positive ($b = .203$). This also revealed the importance of income to the overall quality of life of individual. It also affirm previous Studies that established that income positively affect one's life evaluation and quality of life [37,38,39]. With sizeable correlations between the predictors, the unique variance explained by each of the variables indexed by

the squared semi-partial correlations was quite low. Inspection of the structure coefficients suggests that, with the possible exception of length of stay in current residence and income which were strong indicators of quality of life and whose correlation is still relatively substantial, the other significant predictors were weak indicators of underlying (latent) variable described by the model.

3.3 The Policy Implication of the Result of the Study

From the research findings, two major policy implications that could enhance the quality of life of residents in the border settlements were identified. These include:

3.3.1 Increase the attractiveness of the area

Since length of stay is one of the variables that correlates with quality of life in this study, it therefore implied that residents in the study area were very familiar with their immediate environment. There was therefore a probability that residents' must have little contention with life, otherwise the length of stay would not be correlated. Therefore, infrastructural facilities that could enhance the residents' experience and neighbourhood confidence should be provided. This is essential because findings has revealed it as very important force that increases length of stay of residents. This will influence the quality of life of residents in the border settlements.

3.3.2 Improve economic condition

Closely related to the issue of income on economic condition is the major type of occupation people engaged in. This is because the type of job people do determine the income earned. Most (64.4%) of the residents engage in activities such as cross-border trading, plumbing, tailoring among others and farming (21.3%). Government intervention is necessary in the provision of employment opportunity and in the provision of infrastructure in the border so as to improve the economic situation of the dwellers. Establishment of industries such as agro-allied by government will generate job opportunities for the youths. For example, since the environment is naturally endowed with coconut, cottage industries such as soap production, cream making, and Mat making among others should be established. Other benefits that could be derived from coconut should also be harnessed.

Table 2. Socio-economic attributes of residents' in the study area

Attributes	Hut	Hamlet	Villages	Seme border
Gender				
Male	35 (76.1%)	146 (64.6%)	34 (56.6%)	215 (65%)
Female	11 (23.9%)	80 (35.4%)	23 (40.4%)	114 (35%)
Marital status				
Single	3 (6.5%)	3 (1.3%)	0 (0%)	6 (1.8%)
Married	43 (93.5%)	214 (94.7%)	57 (100.0)	314 (95.4%)
Widowed	0 (0%)	6 (2.7%)	0 (0%)	6 (1.8%)
Separated	0 (0%)	3 (1.3%)	0 (0%)	3 (0.9%)
Occupation				
Agriculture	10 (21.7%)	60 (26.5%)	0 (0%)	70 (21.3%)
Informal activities	20 (43.5%)	147 (65.04%)	45 (78.9%)	212 (64.44%)
Civil servant	11 (23.9%)	6 (2.7%)	0 (.0%)	17 (5.2%)
Retired	0 (.0%)	7 (3.1%)	0 (.0%)	7 (2.1%)
Monarch	5 (10.9%)	6 (2.7%)	0 (.0%)	11 (3.3%)
Student	0 (.0%)	0 (.0%)	0 (.0%)	0 (.0%)
Not working	0 (.0%)	0 (.0%)	6 (10.5%)	6 (1.8%)
Length of Stay				
1 – 10	8 (17.4%)	71 (31.4%)	0 (0%)	79 (24.0%)
11 – 25	24 (52.2%)	79 (35.0%)	45 (78.9%)	148 (45.0%)
26 – 40	7 (15.2%)	38 (16.8%)	6 (10.5%)	51 (15.5%)
Above 40	7 (15.2%)	38 (16.8%)	6 (10.5%)	51 (15.5%)
Ethnicity				
Yoruba	1 (2.17%)	2 (0.88%)	3 (5.26%)	6 (1.8%)
Egun	30 (65.21%)	188 (83.18%)	38 (66.65%)	256 (77.8%)
Anago	3 (6.52%)	8 (3.54%)	6 (10.53%)	18 (5.54%)
Ogori (Benin)	4 (8.70%)	2 (0.88%)	1 (1.75%)	7 (2.13%)
Togo	0 (0%)	4 (1.77%)	0 (0%)	4 (1.22%)
Ghanaian	2 (4.35%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2.0 (0.61%)
Hausa	1 (2.17%)	1 (0.44%)	2 (3.51)	4 (1.2%)
Igbo	5 (10.87%)	20 (8.85%)	7 (12.30%)	32 (9.7%)

Table 3. Correlations

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1- Gender	1							
2- Marital Status	.133*	1						
3- Occupation	.010	.049	1					
4- Income	-.286**	-.028	.104	1				
5- Length of stay in study area	-.260**	.039	-.204**	-.141*	1			
6- Household size	-.181**	-.023	-.009	.191**	.266**	1		
7- Length of stay in building	-.396**	-.050	.017	-.121*	.522**	.227**	1	
8- Overall quality of life	-.140*	.028	-.002	.135*	.083	-.081	.196**	1

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).
 **. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table 4. Model summary

Model	R	R square	Adjusted R square	Std. error of the estimate	Change statistics				
					R square change	F change	df1	df2	Sig. F change
1	.307 ^a	.094	.074	.92814	.094	4.761	7	321	.000

a. Predictors: (Constant), household size, occupation, age, Gender, income, length of stay in the study area and length of stay in current residence

Table 5. ANOVA

Model		Sum of squares	Df	Mean square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	28.709	7	4.101	4.761	.000 ^b
	Residual	276.525	321	.861		
	Total	305.234	328			

a. Dependent Variable: overall quality of life

b. Predictors: (Constant), house-hold size, occupation, age, Gender, income, length of stay in the study area, length of stay in current residence

Table 6. Coefficients^a

Model		Unstandardized coefficients		Standardized coefficients	t	Sig.	Correlations		
		B	Std. error				Beta	Zero-order	Partial
1	(Constant)	2.096	.463		4.528	.000			
	Gender	-.023	.124	-.011	-.182	.856	-.140	-.010	-.010
	Occupation	-.015	.036	-.023	-.418	.676	-.002	-.023	-.022
	Income	.411	.121	.203	3.388	.001	.135	.186	.180
	Age	.016	.130	.007	.125	.901	-.021	.007	.007
	Length of stay in building	.241	.067	.246	3.597	.000	.196	.197	.191
	length of stay in the study area	.020	.052	.025	.377	.706	.083	.021	.020
	household size	-.487	.151	-.185	-3.229	.001	-.081	-.177	-.172

a. Dependent Variable: overall quality of life

4. CONCLUSION

It is a questionable fact that all residents' socio economic characteristics are functionally correlated to the general well-being of individuals using this study. This findings revealed that only three variables were significant. In the preceding sections of this paper, the study examined the socio-economic characteristics of residents in Seme border settlements and went further to use Multiple Regression technique to evaluate the relationship between these variables and the overall quality of life of residents' in the border. The discussions of the results of analysis revealed that a statistically significant correlation existed between overall QoL and three socio-economic attributes of residents'. These implied that there are other important factors that contribute to the overall quality of life of residents in the border than the socio-economic attributes. The inverse correlation of income attributes indicates that there is reduction or decrease in quality of life of the residents as income improves. Therefore, in order to improve the overall quality of life of residents in Seme border, the condition and state of these other factors must be examined in other to know their contribution which will aid the enhancement of the quality of life of residents'.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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