



Urban Issues and Challenges

Opportunities of Urban

Growth in Lagos

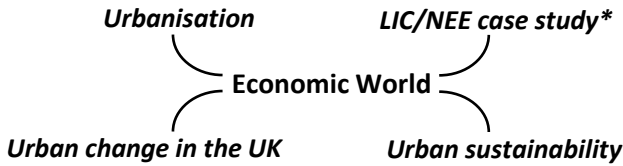


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The Big Picture



Key Terms



Social opportunities – Chances for people to improve their quality of life e.g. access to healthcare and education.



Economic opportunities – providing an equal chance for people to earn a living wage.



Social Opportunities



Health Care – Health care throughout Nigeria is generally underfunded, underequipped and understaffed. In Nigeria, there are, on average, 0.4 doctors per 1000 people, compared to 2.6 per 1000 people in the UK. However, healthcare is better in Lagos than in rural areas, with greater access to doctors, clinics and hospitals.



Education – All children are offered a basic education by the Lagos State Government for their first 9 years. Lagos is home to many universities and training colleges. There are over ten universities in Lagos. Education a significant pull factor in attracting people to Lagos, particularly from rural areas.



Water supply - Lagos offers a reasonable water supply, particularly compared to rural areas. Many people access freshwater by digging wells or from public taps. Others buy fresh water from water vendors. Wealthier residents have fresh water piped to their homes. The Lagos Water Corporation claims to supply over 12 million people with water.



Energy - Many rural areas in Nigeria have limited access to lighting and power. Despite access being better in Lagos, there are frequent power cuts which have a negative impact on industry, water supply and other services. Around 80% of the population of Lagos rely on diesel generators, though these are polluting.



Economic Development



Manufacturing – Food and beverages, pharmaceuticals and vehicles dominate the manufacturing industrial sector in Lagos. This provides employment opportunities for local people. As the city's wealth increases, the market grows, and will generate further economic growth.



Infrastructure – Future improvements in transport infrastructure and electric supply will create major economic development are expected by the Lagos State Government.



Industrial Sector – Most industrial areas in Lagos are on the mainland with good access to the port or close roads and railways. The thriving industrial sector provides employment opportunities for people new to the city.



Informal Sector – Most people not formally employed work in the informal economy to get by. This includes jobs such as shoe shining, waste recycling or street vending.



Commercial and Industrial Zones – Considerable economic development has occurred due to the growth of commercial and industrial zones in the Ikeja district. Industries have been attracted to the area, as it is also home to the main international airport and is very accessible.