

# Factors Influencing the Growth and Development of New Towns: A Case Study of Ondo Town, Ondo State, Nigeria

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**Abstract:** This study provides an insight into the origin of Ondo town and a comprehensive analysis of the factors influencing growth and development within the town. Having in mind that urban development and growth are as a result of man's actions, either deliberately or not, dwellers' perceptions were collected about factors they think are responsible for the emergence, growth and development of Ondo town. The research was carried out through a critical review of existing literature on the growth of towns and Ondo town, as well as an empirical investigation using the quantitative method of data collection through a questionnaire survey on randomly selected inhabitants. We subjected the collected data to proper organization and analysis, leading to the conclusion. Factors influencing the growth and development of Ondo town, as well as its current rate of urbanization, such as agriculture, economics, politics, and administration, were discovered through the analysis of data using a scientific process that is well known. The study gathered that factors influencing the emergence of towns and growth vary from one to another and that factors influencing growth and development of towns have a tendency of changing, but a dominant factor can easily be identified. The paper, therefore, strongly recommends that development efforts in towns should tend towards creating a sustainable society, where the needs of the present generation are catered to without endangering the future generations.

**Keywords:** *Urbanization, Growth and Development, Christian Missionaries, Ondo Town.*

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## I. INTRODUCTION

### ➤ *Background Study of Settlements*

Over the years man has always devised means to adapt within his environment, in order to aid the performance of activities imperative to his survival. In pre-historical time, human settlements were established with great consideration given to protection from human enemies, wild beast and also the possibility of cultivating crops for food. Human settlement refers to the totality of man's community, whether rural or urban, with all cultural, economic, spiritual, social and materials that aids its sustainability and growth.

### ➤ *Factors Influencing Establishment of Settlements*

Modern established settlements exist basically as a result of economic, political, and socio-cultural factors. During pre-historical time, the average man was a nomad,

always in search of food and water, survived by hunting, gathering of fruits, with little agricultural activities. Unlike that of the modern age, other factors apart from food and water influence the establishment and growth of settlements such as culture, religion, economic activities, agriculture, politics, education, topography for defense, among others.

### ➤ *Urbanization of Settlements in Nigeria*

Development of urban settlements in Nigeria cannot be separated from colonialism. Before colonization, most settlements were scattered and sparsely populated. The colonial era brought about organization of the socio-economic and political structure of settlements, merging them together with the aim of exploiting all available resources to their advantage. In trying to achieve this, a foreign administrative system was established which was alien to the culture and ways of those indigenous dwellers.

Administrative centres, communication means and basic transportation routes were developed towards the achievement of their aim. These structures put in-place led to the transformation of rural settlements into urban areas Oliver *et al.*, 2021 Over the years, Nigeria 's population has continued to increase giving way to rural urban growth and increase.

#### ➤ *Scope of the Study*

The scope of this research is to examine factors influencing the growth and development of Ondo Town. This research is limited to factors influencing growth and development of Ondo town, and dwellers perception of urbanization.

#### ➤ *Brief History of Ondo Town*

Ondo is a town situated in the South-western belt of the Nigerian rainforest, known for its rich agricultural land for the cultivation of cocoa, cassava, vegetables, among others. The origin of the town can be explained using three different myths.

Firstly, there is a claim that Ondo was founded by a wife of Oduduwa, the founding father of the Yorubas. Oduduwa's wife, Pupupu, gave birth to twins which were regarded as a symbol of misfortune, leading to her exile with her twins. She moved southward until she came to the current location of Ile-Oluji. Pupupu became the first ruler of the Ondo Kingdom in the 16th century and her descendants wear the crown today. There is another account similar to the first, but that Pupupu was the wife of Ajaka, Oduduwa's grandson, and not Oduduwa's wife.

A final origin myth contends that Ondo was founded by people from the Kingdom of Benin during the reign of Ozolua. One could suggest from the above that there is a very real possibility that the Ondo people are a mix of both the Yoruba on one hand, and the Edos on the other. Ondo kingdom lies on the edge of Yoruba land with Benin City being the next major city in terms of proximity to the Western Region of Nigeria. The origin of Ondo town has been traced by historians and scholars, to have originated over 500 years, surviving both pre-colonial and post-colonial era.

#### ➤ *Statement of Problem*

It is a known fact that one element or another leads to the formation and continuous growth (or decline, as the case may be) of every town. Some of these factors are easily deduced, while some others stay unknown to people. Many of these factors responsible for the emergence, growth and development of towns have not been properly understood and communicated to dwellers of most towns, as well as researchers and observers of the town.

#### ➤ *Justification*

It is imperative that dwellers understand factors responsible for the growth and development of towns, and how these factors can be influenced to better improve the rate of urbanization of towns.

#### ➤ *Research Questions*

- What are the factors responsible for the emergence of Ondo town?
- How do dwellers perceive development in Ondo town?
- What are factors influencing the growth and development of Ondo town?

#### ➤ *Aim and Objectives of the Study*

The aim of this study is to identify and analyze the factors influencing the growth and development of Ondo town.

The aim of this research will be achieved through the following objectives:

- Examine the factors responsible for the emergence of Ondo Town.
- Investigate perception of dwellers on development.
- Investigate factors affecting the growth and development of towns.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

#### ➤ *Concept of New Towns*

As a result of increase in population and physical expansion of major Nigerian towns, many facilities are under increased pressure. High demand for affordable housing, transportation, electricity, water supply and employment opportunities is an evidence pressure. A lot of work has been done to expand urban infrastructures in order to cope with the growing population. For example, the Federal government and state governments have entered directly into housing provision programmes. Also, different levels of government have different investments in transportation and traffic management, as well as for other urban services. The rate of population growth and the pressure on available infrastructure makes the input of government and private sector in solving these problems almost insignificant.

Adagun, (2021) stated that the plan to construct new communities surrounding several of the main cities has been executed, especially in and around Lagos. These Towns served as a way of reducing the population and checkmating the rapid growth of the major cities. One of the most revealed and richly planned of the new towns is Ajoda New Town near Ibadan. Another one is Urhoboland in Niger Delta.

Worgu *et al.*, (2026) additionally pointed out how migration causes rural impoverishment and underdevelopment while metropolitan regions still face difficulties with sustainable development and resource allocation. New towns might just be what Nigeria needs to put an end to the rampant rural-urban migration. This will help to achieve the creation of new towns in a very short time and also decongest our overcrowded cities, increasing the standard of living of our people in the process.

Niemietz, (2024). A new town is planned in a rural or undeveloped area, garden cities every year to meet and exceed rising demand. They should be designed to be self-sufficient with their own facilities for housing, education, commerce, recreation among others. They should be able to solve our housing problems, address the issue of low demand and also promote an appreciable use of land. New Towns should be able to solve the problem of housing, create employment opportunities and provide facilities to the timing population of people who chose to make their abode there. The maintenance culture in Nigeria is poor and this can pose a serious problem to the creation of New Town in Nigeria.

#### ➤ *Factors Influencing Growth of Towns*

Many factors lead to the formation, sustenance and further development of towns. Some of these factors include surplus resources, industrialization, transport and communication, political power, markets and commercial activities, science and technology, educational facilities, environmental stability, increase in employment opportunities amongst others. Ozili, (2022).

#### ➤ *Factors Affecting the Development and Growth of Ondo Town*

Akinyemi *et al.*, (2021). gave a fresh insight into new discourses and intellectual development in African oral traditions and folklore occasioned by new directions in development studies however, some factors play an important roles in the development and growth of Ondo Town. These factors would be explained under subsequent sub-headings.

- *Christian Missionaries*

The Christian missionaries who brought civilization to the town, came with a couple of developmental benefits, of which the establishment of Primary School is one. With the knowledge gained from the primary education, the existing inhabitants and natives of Ondo town were able to identify other commercial opportunities and seize these opportunities. Akinyemi *et al.*, (2021).

- *Traditional Political Organization of Ondo Town*

In Ondo town (as applicable to all Yoruba settlements), the *Oba* is recognized as the highest political authority and the spiritual head of the Ondos, and also heads the Council of the Senior Chiefs called *Eghae*. The *Oba*, alongside the *Eghae* chiefs, make up what is considered a cabinet called *Iwarefa*. Next in rank to the *Eghae* are the *Ekule* Chiefs, who are six in number. There exist other junior chiefs such as the *Elegbe* Chiefs, and under them exists other chiefs such as those who perform spiritual duties. Ondo is one of the few Yoruba kingdoms with a tradition of female kings in charge of women affairs. Women here are headed by the female king (called *Lobun*), but she is also subject to the *Oba*. Oladapo, (2025). She is in charge of the community market and also perform important ritual functions in the crowning of a new king.

- *Ondo Economy*

For a long time, the dominant occupation in Ondo town was farming of cash crops such as cocoa, rubber and food crops like yam, plantain, cassava and palm produce. Cotton farming is also prominent, which is processed into *Aso Oke* (an attire particularly identified with the Yorubas). Kunle, (2023). A service sector, consisting of building construction, motor servicing and furniture making is also common. There exist few industries such as wood processing, stone crushing, cocoa bean processing and paper producing industries.

Another prominent occupation is Brass making, popularly known as "*ude*". This profession is common among the *Ifore* people (one of the first group to settle in Ondo Town). It was acknowledged that they have the best society in Ondo Town. Most of the villages and hamlets in Ondo started as farming settlements or market places. Ologundudu, (2021), pointed out, structural functionalism, dialect, that the principal market of the town is always in the centre of the town and in front of the house of the chief ruler, which is an institution in Ondo Kingship structure.

- *Education*

One of the positive and appreciable impacts of missionaries in Ondo Town, is the establishment of the first community secondary school in Old Ondo and Benin Provinces, which is also the first community secondary school in Nigeria. The school which goes by the name Ondo Boys' High School was integrated in 1919 after six years of informal existence. A degree awarding institution such as Adeyemi College of Education, which has been in existence for over 35 years, and Methodist University of Science and Technology, are key players in the development process.

- *Investment Climate*

Investment opportunities available in Ondo town is also a noticeable factor leading to the growth and development of the town. As a result of abundance in agricultural resources and land, agricultural industries are being attracted to the town. Ondo town is few miles away from the major centers of bitumen deposit, and the proposed seaport and free trade zone between Ondo and Ogun states. Akinbinu (2017), wrote "*Ilu mi, ONDO CITY*" where he highlighted the factors that led to the development and growth of Ondo Kingdom. Omotosho *et al.*, (2020). These factors include Strategic Location, Medical Facilities and Sporting facilities. Ondo town is situated along major transport routes, and is a transit point to other neighboring cities in the south-western and south-southern part of Nigeria. This has also opened up the economy of the state. Lots of agricultural produce are transported into Lagos from Ondo town. Medical facilities such as the Medical Village, Gani Fawehinmi Diagnostic Centre, Trauma Hospital, Kidney hospital, Emergency Medical Services as well as the Government and Private Hospitals, have also been a contributing factor to the development of the town. In addition, the presence of sporting facilities in the Ondo town, such as the 5,000-capacity stadium in Adeyemi College of Education and Ondo City Stadium which has the

capacity of accommodating 10,000 people, has brought about increased development.

### III. METHODS

A case study has been used to provide an insight into the factors that influence the growth and development of towns in Nigeria because it is an ideal method of capturing a snapshot of a wider issue, and it is impossible to analyze the whole of Nigeria. Hence, Ondo town, Ondo State has been used as a case study.

Ondo town is situated around the central part of Ondo state. Ondo town stretches over two different local

government areas, namely Ondo East Local Government Area and Ondo West Local Government Area. Ondo town is one of the ancient Yoruba traditional settlements. It was one of the earliest towns recognized by the early missionaries and colonial masters and its name was adopted for the administrative area, known then as the Ondo Province. The Ondo State is a development from that administrative unit. In size, Ondo town is moderate, as reflected by its population sizes of 364,960 (2006) and 492,600 (2016 projection). In addition, but not included in these population figures, there are adjoining settlements which include Laje, Bolorunduro, Olokuta, Oka, Igburowo, Ilunla, Basiri and Gbagia (Akorede, 1997).

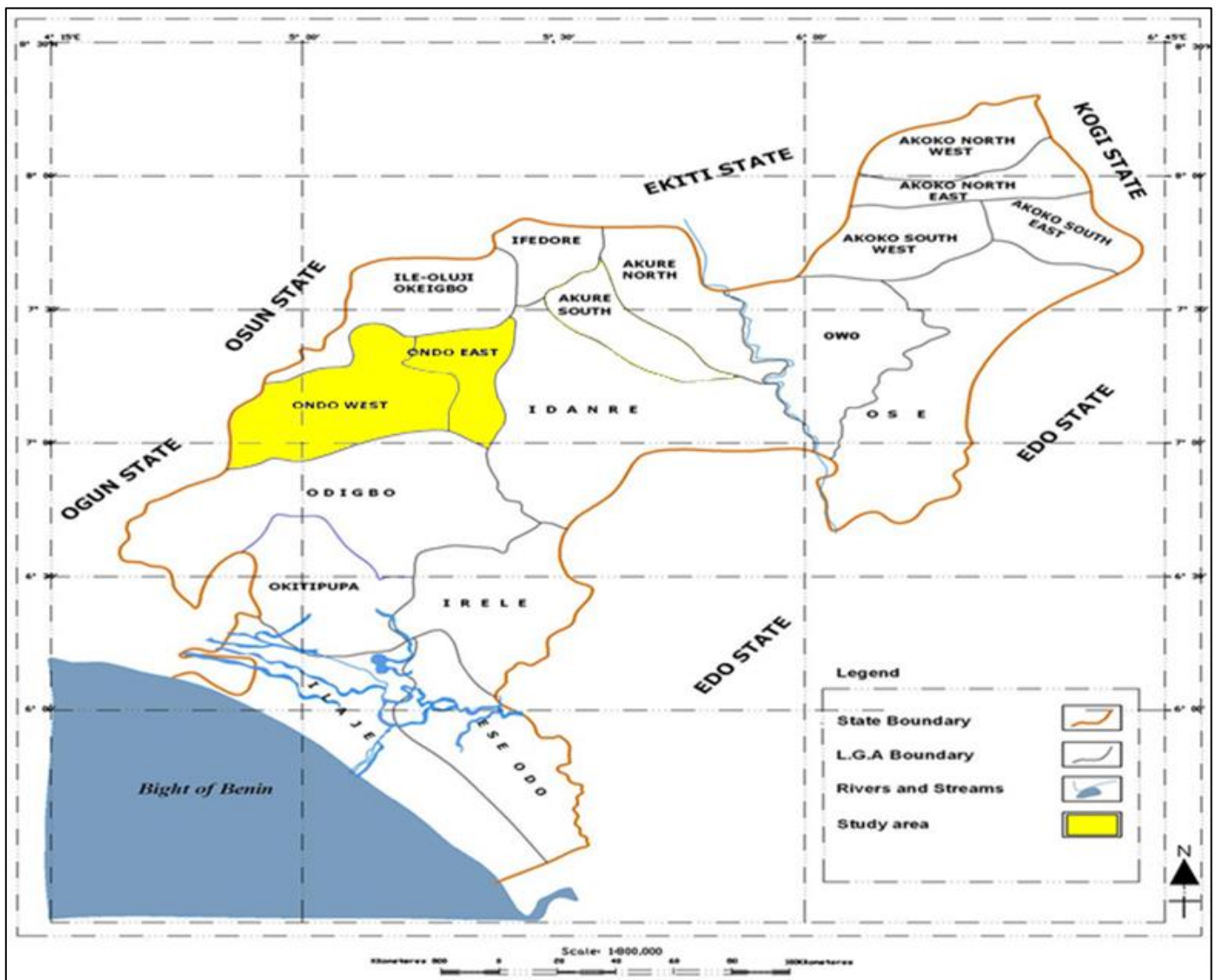


Fig 1 Map of Ondo State Showing Study Area

For the purpose of this research, a structured questionnaire was developed and used by the researchers. The instrument gathered information from the respondents such as demographic characteristics, name of neighborhood and/or street, perception about the location, as well as their ideas about the factors influencing past and present growth and development of the town. The questionnaires were

distributed and collected mainly through personal contact with the respondents.

#### ➤ Sources of Data Collection

The data required for this research is gained from two sources i.e. primary and secondary sources.

• *Primary sources*

Primary data are the direct source of information gotten via questionnaire, field observation and interviews made during the course of the research in the study area. For this study, the primary source of data collection is through the means of interview.

• *Secondary sources*

These are indirect source of information gotten through already existed executed materials such as textbooks, journals, articles etc. The secondary form of data used will be the systematic review of literatures, seminar papers, base maps as well as street guide. The internet as a major source of research materials was also effectively used. These gave an in-depth knowledge on environmental values, planning, the physical environment and Ondo town.

Data providing answers to these enquiries were sourced from questionnaires administered to the respondents. These questionnaires were administered to individuals (respondents), randomly selected from different communities, all being residents of Ondo town. A total of thirty questionnaires were distributed, and all were returned with responses.

**IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

➤ *Background Information and Characteristics of Respondents*

The occupational classification of respondents is shown in the table 1 below. A good percentage of the respondents (47%) were traders. 13% of the respondents were tailors, 3% were students, 7% were civil servants, and 27% were artisans.

Table 1 Occupation of Respondents

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Traders	14	47
Tailors	4	13
Students	1	3
Civil Servants	2	7
Artisans	8	27
No Response	1	3

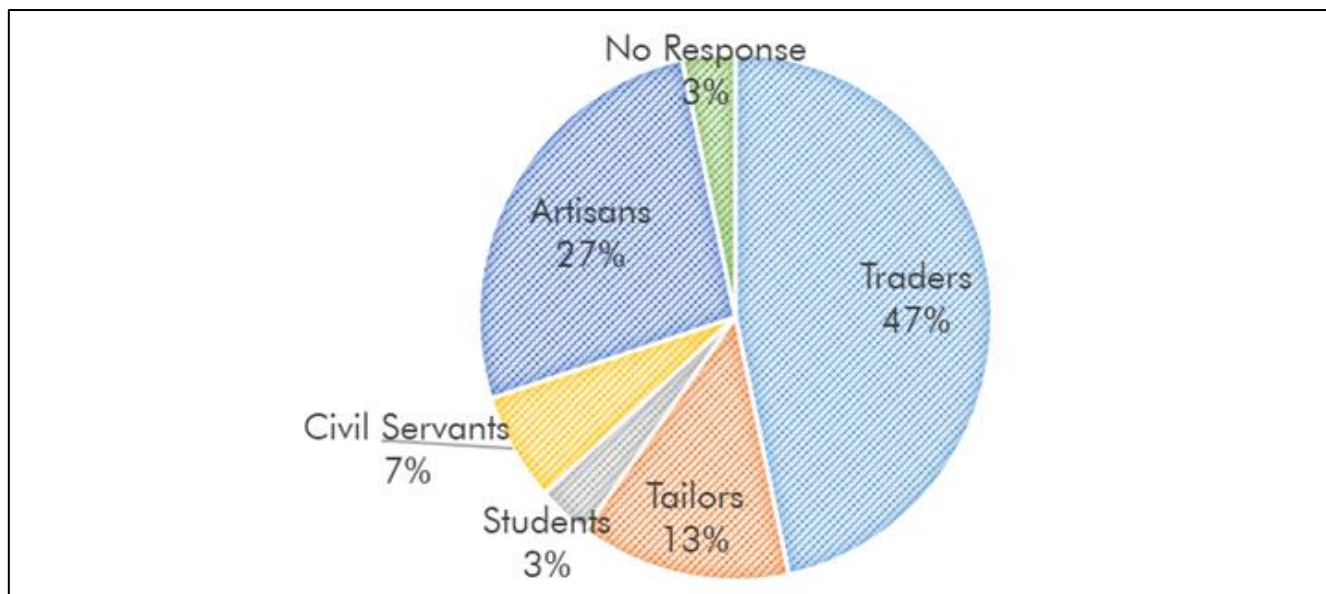


Fig 2 Graphical Representation of Respondents' Occupation

Table 2 shows the income stratification of the respondents, in which a greater percentage (63%) fell under the Middle-income group. None of the respondents fell

under the high-income category, while 2 respondents (7%) held back their responses. The remaining 30% of the respondents were low-income earners.

Table 2 Income stratification of Respondents

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Low	9	30
Middle	19	63
High	0	0
No Response	2	7

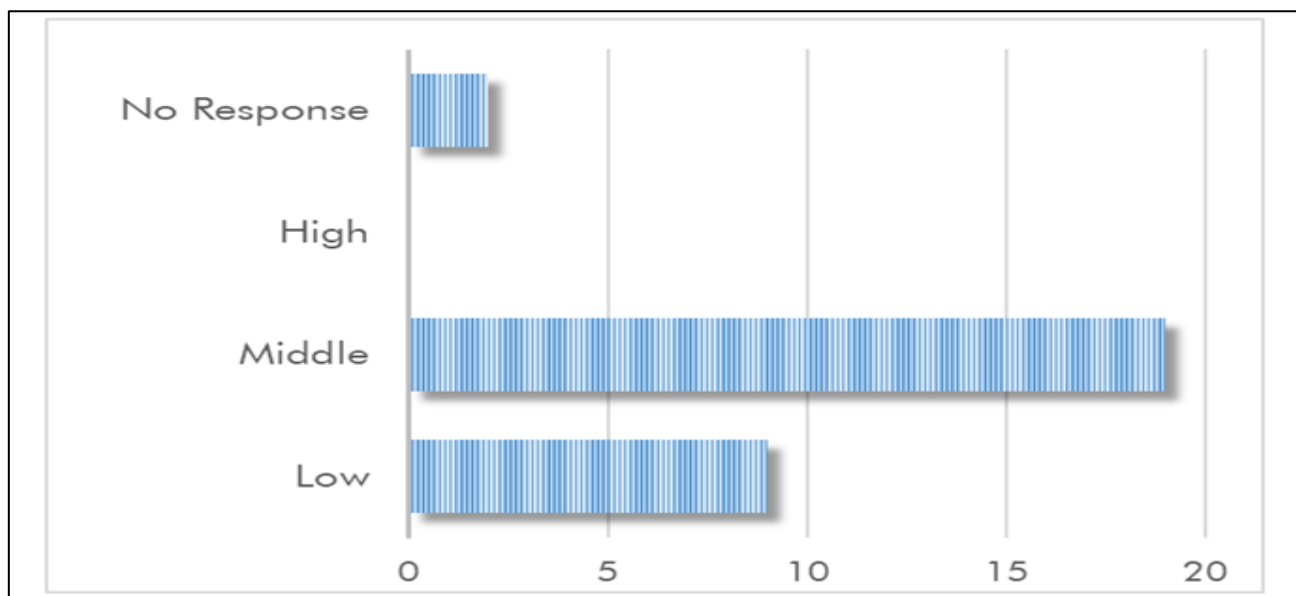


Fig 3 Graphical Representation of Respondents' Income Level

Respondents were asked for how much time they had spent in Ondo town. Majority of the responses received were “Above 10 years”, reaching a frequency of 16 (53%). 13% of the respondents have been conversant with the town for 6-10 years, and 30% have lived there for less than 6

years. One respondent (3%) did not return a response to the question. This indicates that their responses and sense of judgment can be relied upon, based on the average level of exposure and experience of Ondo.

Table 3 Duration of Stay

	Frequency	Percentage (%)
0-5 years	9	30
6-10 years	4	13
Above 10 years	16	53
No Response	1	3

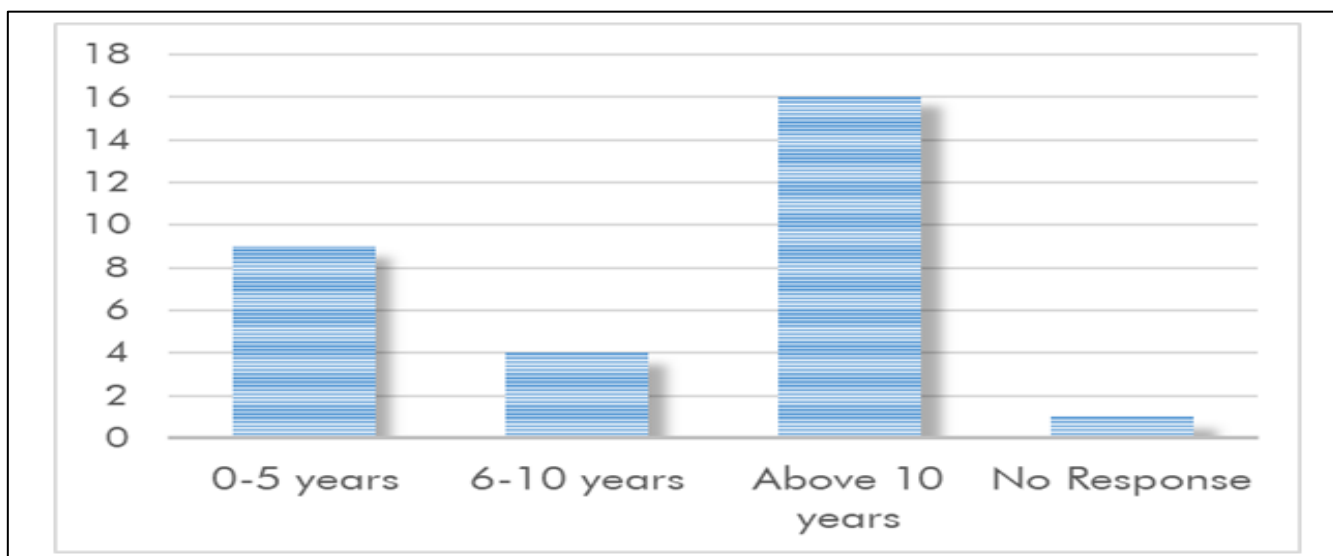


Fig 4 Graphical Representation of Duration of Stay

➤ *Criteria for Development*

In order to get a reasonable idea of the perception of development of the location (Ondo), respondents were asked about their views about the status of the area. Options of “Village” and “Town” were given, as well as an “Others” option, where respondents were required to give their own

individual classifications. A total of 18 individuals (60%) classified Ondo as a town, while the remaining 40% went for “Others”. Most of the individual classifications accompanying “Others” read “City” and a few others read “Big town”. None of the respondents selected the “Village” option.

Table 4 Perception of Location

	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Others (mostly city)	12	40
Town	18	60
Village	0	0

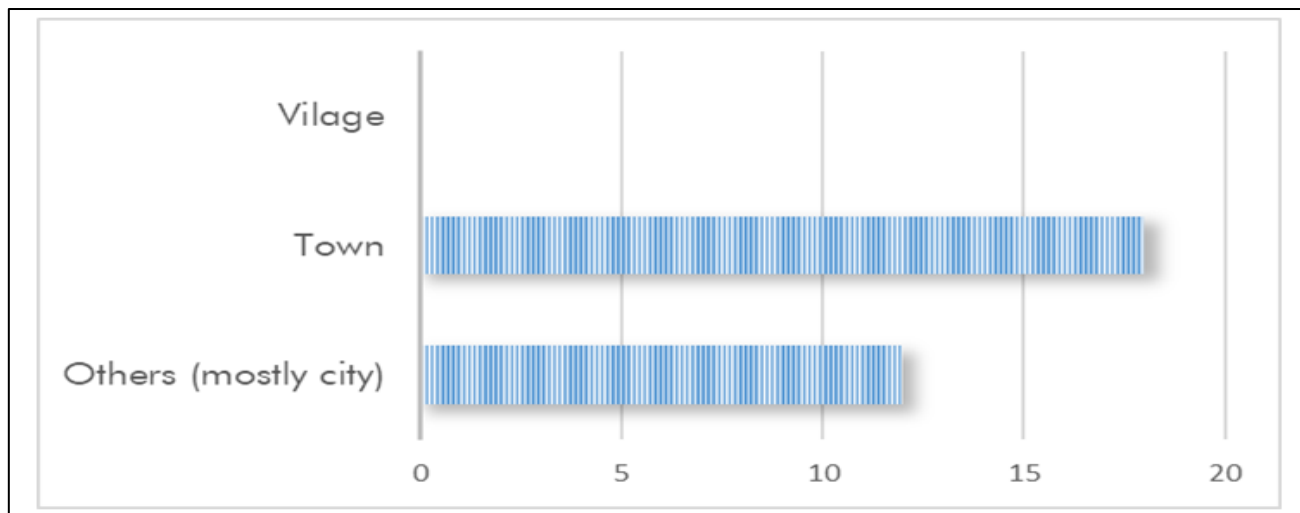


Fig 5 Graphical Representation of Perception of Location

Respondents were asked if the population of Ondo increased over their years of stay. The dominant response, reaching a frequency mark of 27 (90%), was Yes. 2

respondents (7%) claimed to not know, while the remaining 1 person (3%) responded with a “No”.

Table 5 Increase in Population

	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	27	90
No	1	3
I don't know	2	7

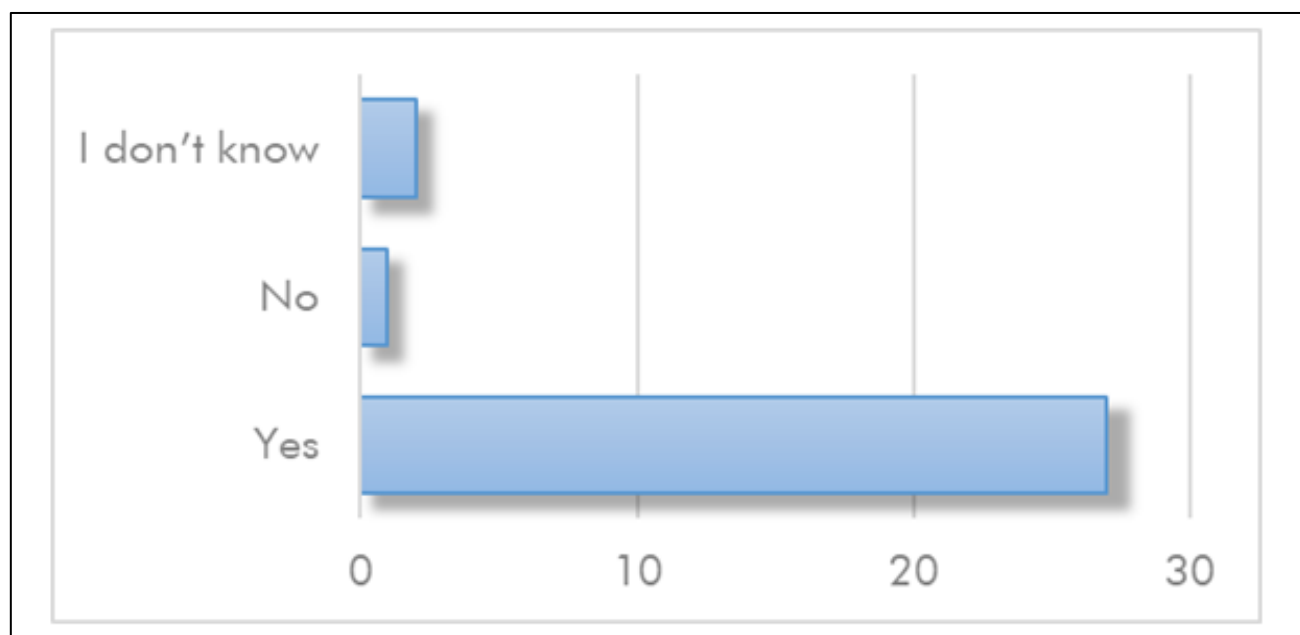


Fig 6 Graphical Representation of Increase in Population

About the group of individuals most affected by the perceived increase in population, leading the pack was the “Youths” group with 60%. Coming in second was the

“Adults” with 27%. “Children” had 7%, while nobody chose “Elderly”. 7% of the respondents did not know, and the remaining 3% did not return a response.

Table 6 Group Most Affected by Increase

	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Children	2	7
Youth	18	60
Adults	8	27
Elderly	0	0
I don't know	2	7
No Response	1	3

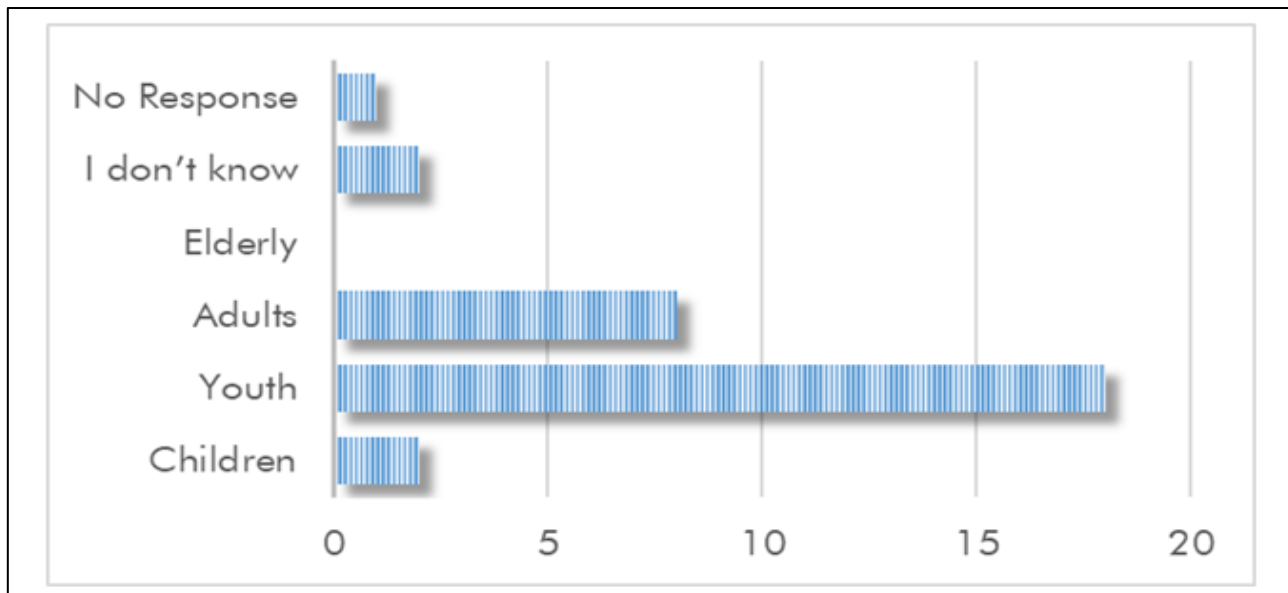


Fig 7 Graphical Representation of Group Most Affected by Increase

Along with an increase in population comes an increase in construction activities, a further pointer to development of a location. A question was asked about whether construction activities have also increased, and the

major response retrieved was “Yes” (83%). 10% of the respondents chose “No”, and the remaining 7% claimed to not know.

Table 7 Increase in Construction Activities

	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	25	83
No	3	10
I don't know	2	7

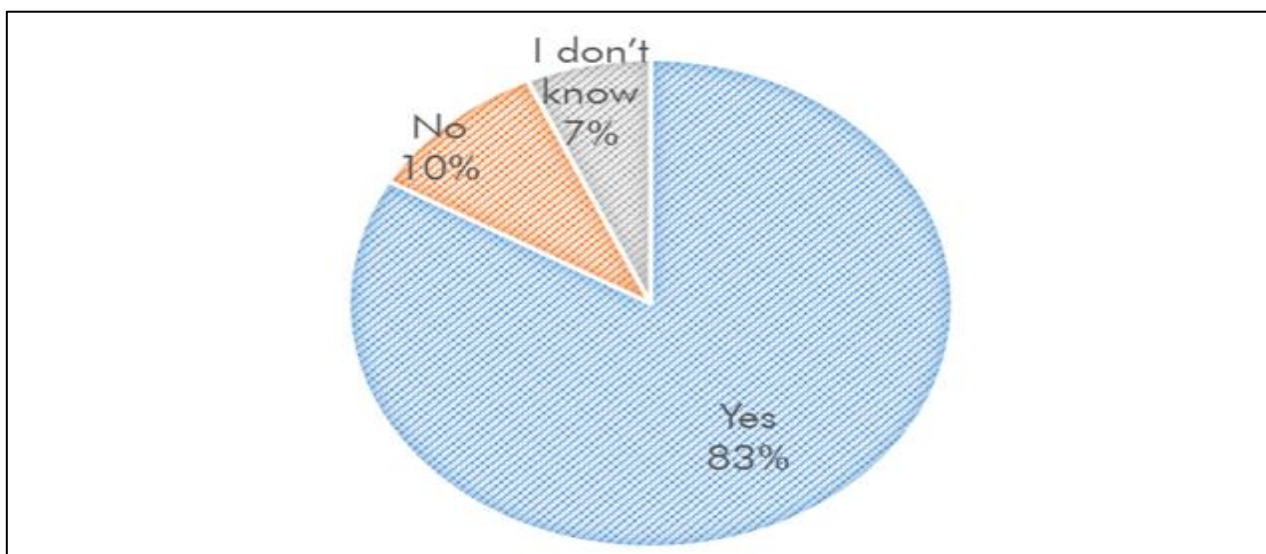


Fig 8 Graphical Representation of Increase in Construction Activities

When asked about increased government presence in their location, 43% of the respondents replied “No”, 40%

replied “Yes” and 7% replied “I don’t know”. The remaining 10% did not return a response.

Table 8 Increase in Government Presence

	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	12	40
No	13	43
I don’t know	2	7
No Response	3	10

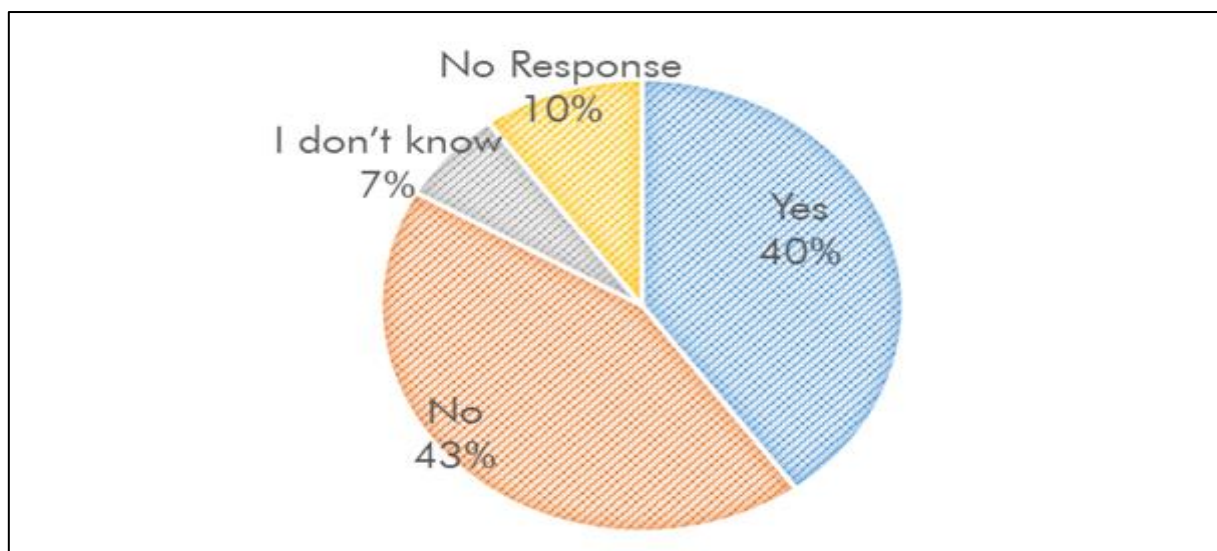


Fig 9 Graphical Representation of Increase in Government Presence

Public infrastructure could serve as a good avenue to check out development in an area. For this cause, we selected a few amenities to find out how much the respondents enjoyed of each of them. The selected amenities are potable water supply, electricity, health care, educational institutions and recreational facilities. Respondents were asked to give their ratings as one of “Not present”, “Poor”, “Average” and “Adequate”.

Table 9 revealed that water supply is not adequate in any part of Ondo town. This is made evident by the 0-frequency “Adequate” gathered. 46.7% of the respondents claimed that they have no public water supply at all, choosing the “Not present” option. 36.7% rated it “Poor”, while the remaining 16.7% chose “Average”.

Table 9 Result of "Water Supply"

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Not present	14	46.7	46.7	46.7
Poor	11	36.7	36.7	83.3
Average	5	16.7	16.7	100.0
Adequate	0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Total	30	100.0	100.0	

Table 10 shows the ratings of electricity by the respondents. Electricity is also not adequate in any part of Ondo town as none of the respondents selected the “Adequate” option. No one also picked “Not present”,

showing that electric supply actually exists in the location. 86.7% of the respondents claimed that power supply is poor, while the remaining 13.3% said it is adequate.

Table 10 Result of "Power Supply"

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Not present	0	0.0	0.0	46.7
Poor	26	86.7	86.7	83.3
Average	4	13.3	13.3	100.0
Adequate	0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Total	30	100.0	100.0	

Based on the level of effectiveness of health care facilities, Table 11 reveals that 75.9% of received responses were “Average”. No respondent picked “Not present”,

10.3% picked “Poor”, and the remaining 13.8% picked “Adequate”.

Table 11 Result of "Health Care Facilities"

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Not present	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Poor	3	10.0	10.3	10.3
Average	22	73.3	75.9	86.2
Adequate	4	13.3	13.8	100.0
Total responses	29	96.7	100.0	
No response	1	3.3		
Total	30	100.0		

Table 12 shows that 17.2% of the returned responses indicate “Poor” for the rating of educational facilities.

44.8% picked “Average”, 37.9% picked “Adequate”, and nobody went for “Not present”.

Table 12 Results for "Educational Facilities"

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Not present	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Poor	5	16.7	17.2	17.2
Average	13	43.3	44.8	62.1
Adequate	11	36.7	37.9	100.0
Total responses	29	96.7	100.0	
No response	1	3.3		
Total	30	100.0		

The ratings for recreational facilities showed majority of the respondents (44.8%) going for “Poor”, 31% going for

“Average”, 3.4% going for “Adequate”, while the remaining 20.7% chose “Not present”.

Table 13 Results for "Recreational Facilities"

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Not present	6	20.0	20.7	20.7
Poor	13	43.3	44.8	65.5
Average	9	30.0	31.0	96.6
Adequate	1	3.3	3.4	100.0
Total responses	29	96.7	100.0	
No response	1	3.3		
Total	30	100.0		

As a way of finding out the prevailing economic activities in the town, a question was asked about the dominant occupation in the location. The question was an open-ended one, where the respondents are not given options to select from. The responses received are composed of occupations like entrepreneurship, trading, bike riding

and teaching. Entrepreneurship had 30% of the responses, Trading had 50%, Teaching had 7% and Bike riding had 7% also. One respondent (3%) stated that No specific occupation was dominant, and one other respondent did not return a response to the question. The results are shown in Table 14 below.

Table 14 Dominant Occupation

	Frequency	Percent
Entrepreneurship	9	30
Trading	15	50
Bike riders	2	7
Teaching	2	7
Not specific	1	3
No response	1	3

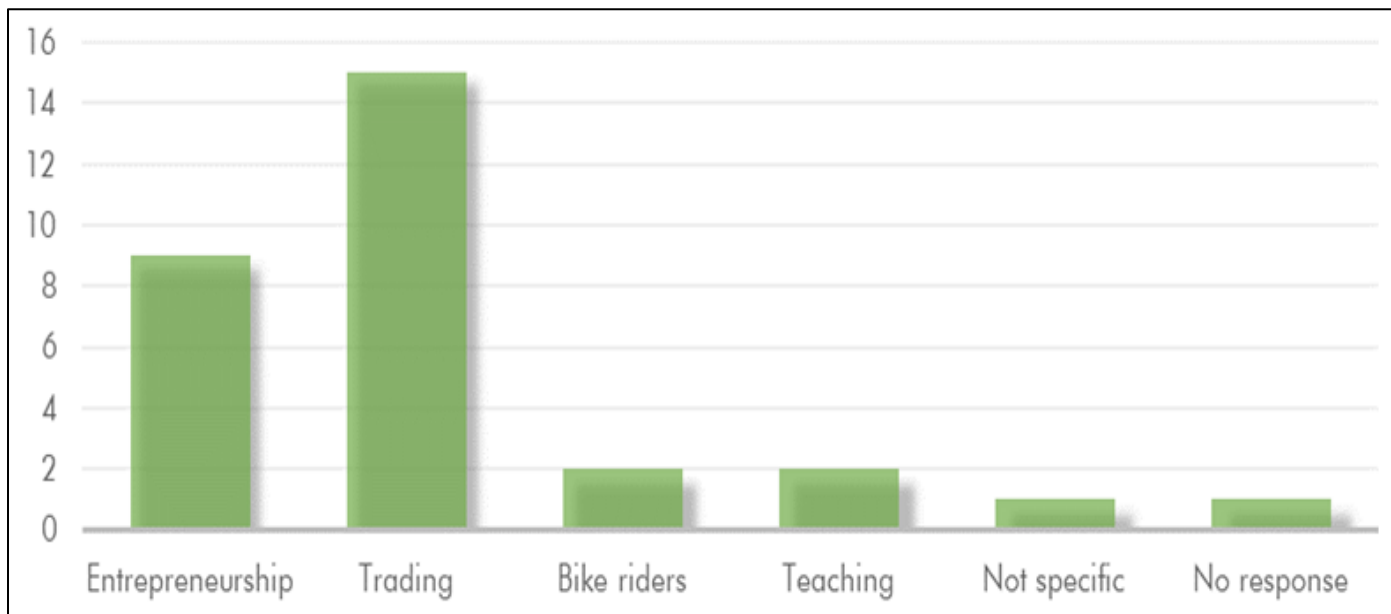


Fig 10 Graphical Representation of Dominant Occupation

The availability and adequacy of markets in the area contribute to the commercial activities in an area. The question on the adequacy of markets was provided with three options of Yes, No and I don't know. 80 percent of

total responses answered "Yes", 13% answered "No" and 3% answered "I don't know". The remaining 3% did not return an answer. The results are shown in Table 15.

Table 15 Adequacy of Markets

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	24	80
No	4	13
I don't know	1	3
No response	1	3

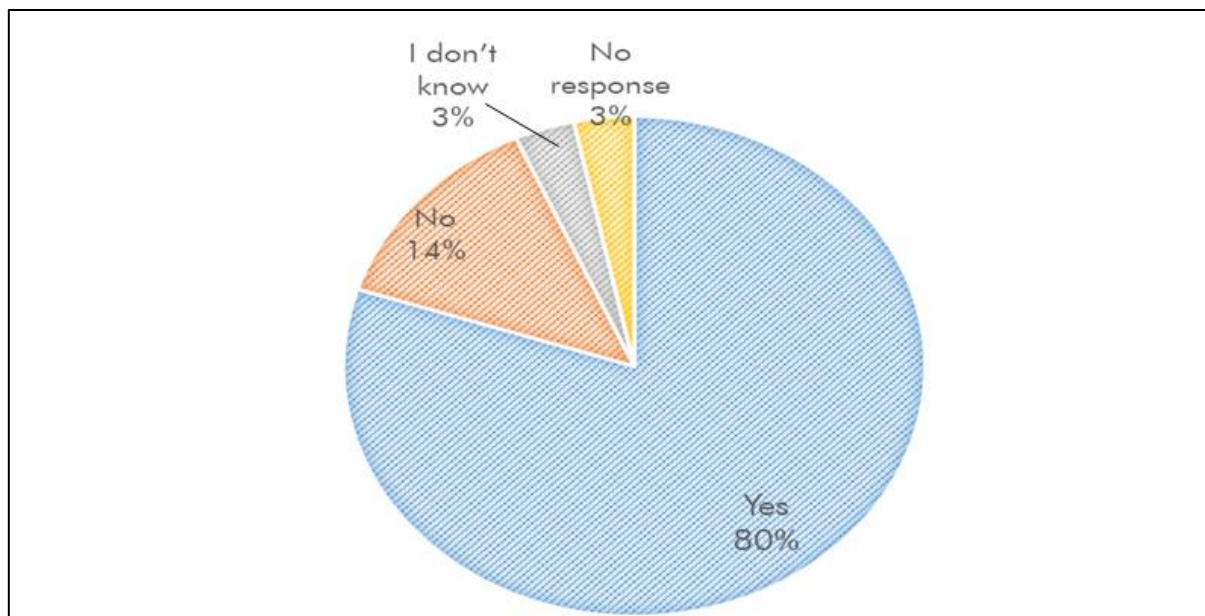


Fig 11 Graphical Representation of Adequacy of Markets

An increase in commercial activities in a location is likely to be accompanied by an increased presence of financial institutions in the area. Table 16 shows the results of the question on the availability of financial institutions in

the area. While 7% of the respondents did not know, 77% said "Yes", and 13% said "No". The remaining 3% did not respond to that question.

Table 16 Availability of Financial Institutions

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	23	77
No	4	13
I don't know	2	7
No response	1	3

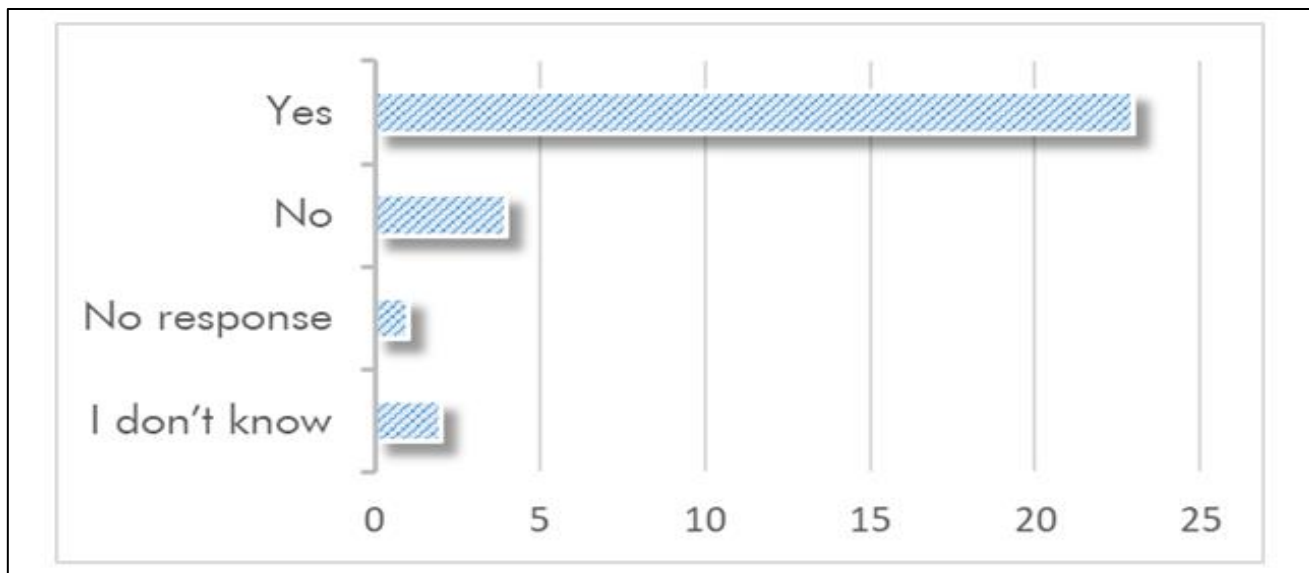


Fig 12 Graphical Representation of Availability of Financial Institutions

➤ *Factors Affecting Growth and Development of Ondo Town*

The final question of the questionnaire centered on the main factors that influence growth and development of towns. A number of factors are known to have had a role to play in the growth and development of different towns around the globe. These factors were included in the questionnaire to test if they also contributed and still contribute to growth in Ondo town. The factors considered

include Rich History, Strategic Location, Stability, Industries, Sporting Facilities, Employment Opportunities, Cultural Heritage, Agriculture, Educational Institutions, Medical Facilities, Tourism and Hospitality, Economic Activities, Political System, Social Structure, as well as Investment Climate. Table 17 below shows the number of respondents that selected each factor as one that actually influenced growth in Ondo town.

Table 17 Factors Influencing Growth and Development of Towns

	Frequency
Rich History	6
Strategic Location	8
Stability	15
Industries	9
Sporting Facilities	8
Employment Opportunities	15
Cultural Heritage	2
Agriculture	12
Educational Institutions	17
Medical Facilities	12
Tourism and Hospitality	10
Economic Activities	13
Political System	6
Social Structure	6
Investment Climate	3

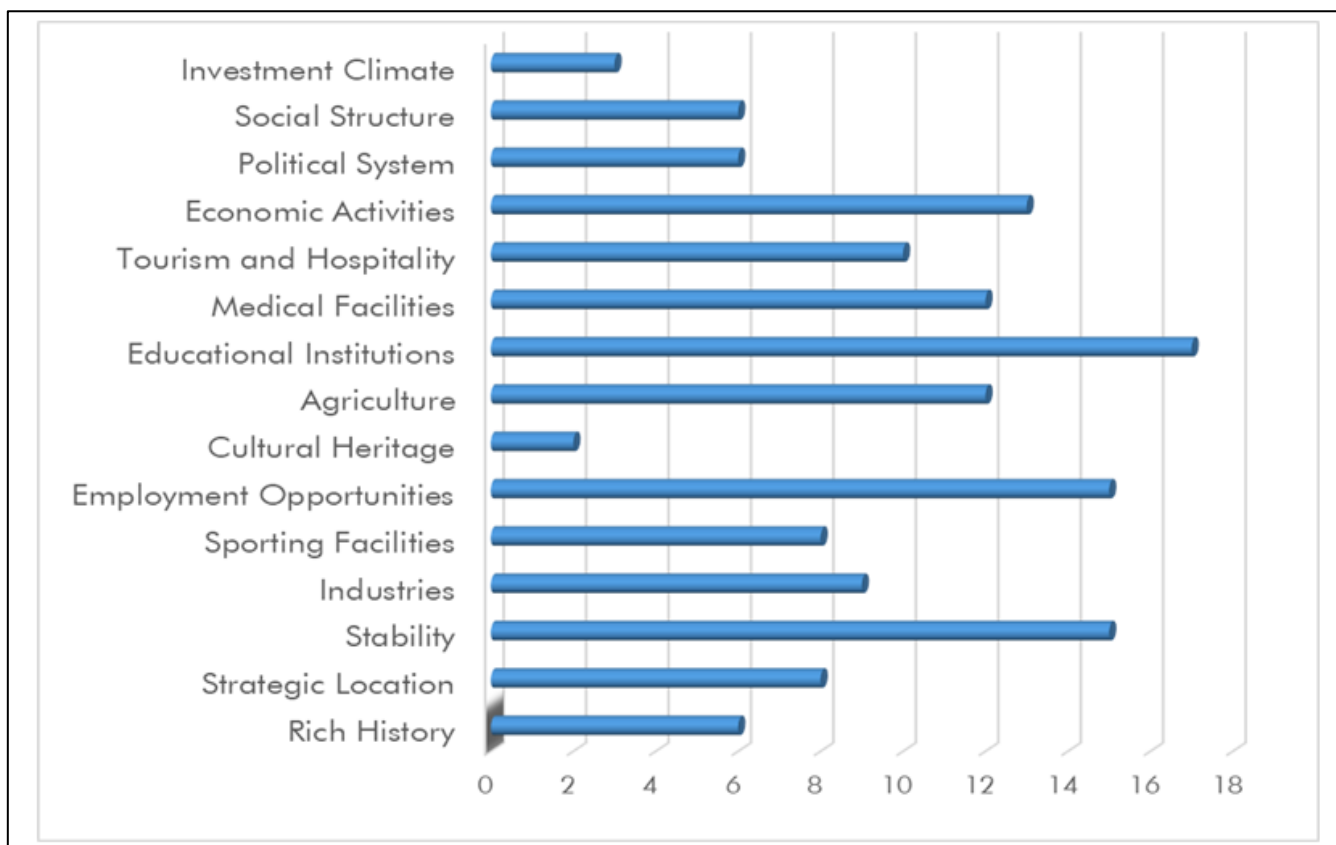


Fig 13 Graphical Representation of Factors Influencing Growth and Development of Towns

➤ *Research Findings*

From the data analyzed above, it is observed that the general response to the dwellers’ perception of development in Ondo (as represented in Table 4) shows that most of the inhabitants see their location as a town, even though the label on the entrance gate portrays it as a city. A smaller percentage of the inhabitants see it as being more than a regular town, calling names like “a developed town”, “a city”, “a big town”, amongst many others.

Data analyzed in Table 17 shows that a number of factors have been generally agreed upon to have significantly affected the growth and development of Ondo town (ones that received approval from at least a third of the respondents). Arranged in order of importance, the factors are: educational institutions, employment opportunities, stability, economic factors, medical facilities, agriculture, tourism and hospitality.

The other factors suggested returned “less than desirable” responses from the respondents.

**V. RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION**

➤ *Recommendations*

This research is centered mainly on the factors influencing the growth and development of the town of Ondo. The study investigated the factors responsible for the emergence of the town, the perception of dwellers on development of the town, as well as the factors affecting

growth and development of the town. The data collected was limited to the confines of Ondo, making the result sufficient for generalization in Ondo town. It is important to investigate similar issues in other locations in Nigeria to verify the theories propounded by researchers.

The critical role of cites and urban areas as drivers of growth and prosperity is indisputable; no country can develop without industrialization and urbanization. At the same time, many countries, particularly developing countries like ours, face significant challenges in planning and managing sustainable cities and urbanization processes. If unmet, they will leave development opportunities lost for many generations to come. To attain the goal of sustainable development of Ondo town, the following recommendations are suggested:

- Developing public transport systems and reducing dependency on private motor vehicle use;
- Fostering growth in the service sector;
- Encouraging sound waste management practices;
- Developing environmental capacities and controls on emissions to improve, among other issues, resilience to natural disasters;
- Managing urban expansion and reducing settlements in risk prone areas;
- Promoting efficient water resource management;
- Providing decent job opportunities, including for rural and migrant workers and integrating them in urban planning.

- Sustainable cities and neighborhoods should be inclusive, connected and environmentally friendly, engaging all stakeholders in the planning and decision-making process.

➤ *Conclusion*

The development and growth of a town passes through diverse formulation stages and styles. To ensure adequate growth and development of towns, it should be kept in mind that adequate financing, good governance and effective partnerships are essential requirements for successful application of these principles and should get further attention. Also, efforts in developing towns should be aimed at upholding the principles of inter- and intra-generational equity. To achieve this, these efforts should tend towards creating a sustainable society, where the needs of the present generation are catered for, without endangering the future generations.

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