

The Impacts and Challenges of the Growth of Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) on Samaru Area, 1962-2002.



Authors

**David Adah
Okwori (Ph.D),**
dokwori@gmail.com

&

**Henry Chwifeh
(Ph.D)**
Miyanuihenry170@gmail.com

Affiliation:

**Ahmadu Bello
University (ABU),
Zaria, Kaduna,
Nigeria.**



JHMS

Abstract

Remarkable socio-economic changes have been recorded in the Samaru Area within the past sixty years. These developments are inextricably tied to the establishment and continued growth of the Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria. Thus, this article examines the contributions of ABU to the socio-economic development of the Samaru Area from 1962 to 2022. Employing primary and secondary sources such as oral interviews, archival materials, journal articles, and newspapers, the study finds that the establishment of the university was largely responsible for the remarkable growth and development of the area of study. By 1970, nine streets having 1,066 houses were in existence in the Samaru, the popular Sokoto Road had about 70 houses, Market Road had 139 houses, Ali Basawa Road with 166 houses, Tanko Maikara Road with 135 houses, Iya Road with 62 houses, and the Railway with 120 houses, but by December 1974, it had increased to about 2,434 houses, a development tied to the university. Also, about thirty different types of businesses with three hundred and seventy-two business units existed around 1980-2000, but from the period of 2000-2020, the business outfits increased to about one thousand three hundred and fifty-eight outfits. The research is significant in the sense that it contributed to expanding the scope of research on urbanization and complements other historical research on the university.

Keywords: Ahmadu Bello University, Institution, Samaru Area, Socio-Economic, Surrounding Communities.

Introduction

The rate of growth and development of universities all over the world and Nigeria in particular is remarkable. This trend is based on the realization of their contributions to national development. Over time, universities had contributed to the development of human capital in various endeavors of life thus, leading to the socio-economic development of their host communities and the society at large. From the Ashby and the Elliot commissions which laid the foundations for the establishment of the first-generation universities in Nigeria, several universities had sprung up. It is estimated that Nigeria has about 118 universities; 36 Federal government-owned, 37 state/regional controlled, and 45 private controlled.¹ ABU's main campus, which is the focus of this study is located in Samaru, the immediate host community, a suburb of Zaria. Samaru is situated on latitude 11^o12 'N and Longitude 07^o37 'E at about 13km from Zaria on the Sokoto road 8km to Shika and 7km to Basawa. The establishment of the university in 1962 in Samaru, Zaria was a landmark event in the history of Samaru and the entire Northern Region given that it attracted people from different parts of the country and beyond to settle in the area.

Within the past sixty years of its existence, socio-economic changes have been recorded in demography, trade and commerce, urbanization, and infrastructural growth, among others. Despite significant advancements in the academic and institutional development of universities, there has been minimal focus on the critical role these institutions play in transforming their surrounding environments. Existing literature predominantly addresses the historical, developmental, and administrative aspects of universities, while overlooking the socio-economic impacts they exert on nearby communities. In particular, the influence of ABU on the Samaru Area remains underexplored, with little attention paid to how the university has shaped the socio-economic dynamics of the study area. This gap in the literature shows the need for further investigation into the reciprocal relationship between the university and the Samaru community. This study seeks to fill a major gap in the literature and provide a nuanced understanding of how the university has contributed to the social and economic transformation of its host community.

A Brief History of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria

The significance of the Asquith, Elliot, and Ashby commissions to the establishment of universities in Nigeria cannot be overemphasized because they laid the foundation for the establishment of first-generation universities.² The setting up of the Asquith Commission in August 1943 saddled with the responsibility to consider the principles that would guide the promotion of higher education, learning, research, and the development of universities in the

¹ Alloy Ejiogu and Sheidu Sule, *Sixty-Five Years of University Education in Nigeria: Some Key Cross Cutting Issues*, p.260.

² DEN.322, *New Educational Scheme Proposals by Provincial Superintendents, 1930*, (NAK)

colonies, as well the Elliot Commission in June 1943 gave impetus to the development of Ahmadu Bello University.³

The Carnegie Corporation in line with the recommendations of the various commissions initiated moves to support the establishment of universities in the colonies. On May 11, 1954, a meeting was held at the Carnegie Corporation's headquarters in New York. The meeting was attended by the Executive Assistants of Carnegie's educational programme, Alan Pifer and Steve Stackpole, Walter Adams, Secretary of the Inter-University Council, and Sally Chilvers, Secretary of the British Colonial, Social, and Science Research Council. It was aimed at notifying the secretaries of the two London Organizations responsible for the development of universities in the colonies that the focus of Carnegie's assistance in the British colonies would henceforth be universities, university colleges, and research institutions.⁴ With these developments, the ground was set for the University to be established. The outcomes of the meeting furthered the cause of the development of universities in the colonies.⁵

Consequently, ABU was established on October 4, 1962. It drew its existence from the approval of the Northern Regional Government on several institutions in Zaria such as the Zaria branch of the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology (NCAST), the Institute of Administration, Kongo Zaria, Ahmadu Bello College at Kano and the Institute of Agricultural Research, Samaru Zaria and the old Nigerian College. Samaru became a good site for the College which later became the University. The site was given by the District Head of Sabon Gari, Alhaji Mohammadu Aminu, stretching from the present Police Gate to the present Institute for Agricultural Research (IAR). The area occupied by the present faculty of Engineering, stretching from the present Staff School to the present Theatre Village was then occupied by Dandune Village and the Zaria-Sokoto Road separated the College site from Samaru. It was this location that served as the campus of the University when it was established.⁶

Demographic Change

One of the impacts of the University was on the demography of the Samaru Area. The early history of the area revealed that the inhabitants were predominantly Hausa and Fulani ethnic groups.⁷ The Hausas who comprised the highest percentage of the population are known as the Zazzagawa. Also, the settlement pattern was characterized by scattered settlement because the people were sparsely populated. By 1960 when Nigeria gained her independence from British colonial rule, the population of Zaria as a whole where the area of study is part was approximately 117,000. In 2022, however, the population witnessed a

³ Memorandum on Educational Policy in Nigeria

⁴ Carnegie Corporation, Annual Report, 1950, p.34.

⁵ DEN. 1326, Education Correspondence, 1935-1945, NAK.

⁶ Nigerian College of Arts Minutes, 1956-1958; CDN6/S1 NCAST Council Minutes, 1958-1962. Principal's Quarterly Reports to Council, 1953-1962.

⁷ Saliyu Ahmed, c. 93, interview at Kwangila, 10/8/2021.

tremendous increase. This development could be tied largely to the establishment of the university which brought about certain preconditions like employment opportunities, and the development of infrastructures like roads, and houses, among others, responsible for the increase in population.⁸ The table below shows the sequence of population growth in Zaria from the period 1960-2010.

Table 1: Zaria Historical Population Data

Year	Population	Growth Rate
1960	117,000	10.38
1965	182,000	5.81
1970	241,000	5.70
1975	320,000	5.96
1980	423,000	5.75
1985	525,000	2.34
1990	592,000	2.42
1995	625,000	0.64
2000	643,000	0.47
2005	662,000	0.61
2010	682,000	0.59

Source: United Nations World Population Prospects

From the table above, the population of Zaria as of 1960 was estimated to be 117,000 people. At every interval of five years, a significant increment was recorded in the population growth, and by 2010, the population was estimated at 682,000. The increase in the population strength of Zaria equally meant an increase in the population of the area of study. Evidence abounds that the Samaru Area equally witnessed an increase in population as shown in the table below:

Table 2 Demographic Increase from Various Census of Samaru

S/NO	YEAR	POPULATION	% GROWTH
1.	1963	4,147	-
2.	1970	6,000	125.4
3.	1975	20,000	44.7
4.	1985	60,000	233.3
5.	1997	80,000	250.0

Source: District Office Tax Period, Sabon Gari, Zaria.

The table above revealed that from 1963, a year after the establishment of the university, the population of Samaru was 4,147. In 1970, seven years after the first census, the population rose to 6,000 with a percentage increase of 125.4. In 1975, just intervals of five years, it

⁸ United Nations World Population Prospects, www.macrotrends.net.

increased to 20,000. By 1985, it was at 60,000, and by 1997, it rose to 80,000, a development that was largely attributed to the university which attracted people from different parts of the country and beyond for employment and education purposes.

The Growth and Development of New Settlements

Shika Community

Shika as a settlement was established in 1928 as a laborers' camp of the Government Stock Farm by the British colonial government. Before the establishment of the university, Shika was just an agricultural community whose basic economic activity was farming. It was a very small settlement made up of the Hausa community which settled in thatched houses. However, the establishment of the university opened it up for development. The establishment of the National Animal Production Research Institute (NAPRI) in 1976 furthered the development of the community. Furthermore, there was an increase in population growth due to the presence of people from different parts of the country for employment and research in the institute.⁹ With the take-off of NAPRI on 1st July 1976, the need to employ more manpower became glaring. The staffing of the Institute cut across different categories of workers with permanent staff working as junior and senior staff cadres and casual workers who were not permanent workers of the Institute.¹⁰

The inhabitants of Shika were not left out. Some were employed as junior or senior staff cadre of the institute, while others worked as casual staff. Through interaction with some of the inhabitants, it was discovered that Shika residents were among those employed to rear animals work on farms, operate tractors, and as security guards etcetera in the institute. There were equally those who worked in the administrative cadre. Given the nearness of the Shika settlement to the institute, some of the workers who came from other parts of the country got accommodation and settled. As a result of the pressure on the existing houses, buildings were developed to meet the increasing number of residents as people of different ethnic groups moved in and settled down as a result of the job opportunities in Shika. For example, there were the Igbos, Tiv, Idoma, Jaba, Kagoro, Edo, Gbagyi, and Kagoma among others cohabiting alongside the indigenes.¹¹

Over time, the institute was reorganized into five departments, namely: Livestock, Economics and Rural Sociology, Pasture Agronomy, Cattle Production, Small Ruminants' Animal Production and Artificial Insemination, and Poultry and Swine. The research activities of the institute were based at the departmental level until July 1987 when research programmes were created which were based on Forage and Crop Residue, Dairy, Beef, Poultry, Swine,

⁹ Tolulope B. "A History of Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital, C.1930-1980." A B.A Project, Department of History, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, December, 2008. 35-73.

¹⁰ Mallam Magaji. C.85, interview at Shika, 7/6/2021

¹¹ John N. O. "A Socio-Economic History of Shika, 1928-1985, A B.A Project, Department of History, Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, 2008. 17-24.

Animal Reproduction, Livestock Systems, and Small Ruminants. This development took place after an internal review took place. The resultant effects of the establishment and the reorganization of the institute could be seen in the continual impact the institute had on Shika.¹²

More so, the establishment of the Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital (ABUTH) in 1967 was also the catalyst for the growth of the Shika community. The impact of this hospital in the transformation of Shika cannot be overemphasized. It has been in existence since the colonial period known as *Asibitin Kofar Doka* located at Tudun Wada. It was a Provincial Health Facility that served the people of Zaria City, surrounding townships, and suburban communities. The establishment of the Teaching Hospital at Shika gave a fillip to the development of the settlement. The selection of the present site could be dated to 1971, but on Friday 4th November 2005, the hospital was moved to its present site.¹³

The presence of the hospital in its present location had attracted the settlement of people at Shika. It was revealed that as a result of the rapid development of Shika, a neighbouring settlement known as *Mil Goma* witnessed growth and development. The settlement was largely occupied by the staff of the hospital. Doctors, Nurses, Pharmacists, and other categories of staff who were all staff of Shika residents resided at *Mil Goma*. It was disclosed that the Shika settlement was a place that lacked any form of attraction as a result of the level of its underdevelopment, but with the establishment of the hospital, there was a remarkable change in the demographic composition and physical structures. According to one of the informants, in the late 1980s to early 1990s, a visitor could hardly get a house for rent because of the pattern of the building which existed there was the ancient family compound house made up of thatched roofs. With the establishment of the hospital, modern houses began to emerge for rent such as two-bedroom apartments. The annual cost for a two-bedroom apartment was within the range of N70, 000 to N120, 000 at *Mil Goma*.¹⁴

Additionally, the presence of the Hospital facilitated the development of many businesses in Shika. There were pharmacies in operation within the settlement that provided drugs for patients. Other businesses found within the settlement included: provision stores, fruit sellers, barbing salons, hairdressing salons, photocopy, typing business, auto mechanic, motorcycle mechanic, butchers, and sellers of household items. These businesses existed side by side to meet the needs of the community. Services such as cobbler, tailoring, Okada riders, computer operators, and transporters were also present in the area.¹⁵

Being one of the largest hospitals in Zaria and Nigeria at large, it had specialists in different fields such as Pediatrics, Urology, Cardiology, Ophthalmology, Dentistry, and Psychiatry,

¹² Tolulope B. "A History of Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital, C.1930-1980." 44-63.

¹³ Ahmadu Bello University at 50, 173.

¹⁴ Shaibu Mohammed, c. 91, interview at Shika, 9/6/2001.

¹⁵ Shuaibu Mohammed, c. 91, interview at Shika, 9/6/2021.

among others. As a result of these, it has continued to meet the health needs of the people in the surrounding communities, thereby, improving good health among the community. It was disclosed that the hospital's medical team regularly carried out visits to the community for health sensitization programmes through the organization of symposiums, diagnoses of various ailments, and the provision of drugs to those with medical challenges. This very development has immensely served the health needs of the people and contributed in no small amount to the welfare of the community.¹⁶

On the aspect of employment, the hospital also provided job opportunities for some residents of Shika thereby, reducing the level of poverty and dependency within the settlement. Interviews conducted revealed that the majority of the securities, cleaners, and potters among others were indigenes of the settlement. Likewise, the majority of the vendors of various household commodities and food items are indigenes of the community, which shows the extent to which the hospital has provided employment opportunities to the people.¹⁷

The implication was that the settlement witnessed an increase in infrastructural development. For example, water supply, electricity, buildings, and roads were greatly improved within the settlement. These developments stemmed from rapid growth in the population of the settlement that necessitated such developments. Also, with the presence of a noble medical institution such as the ABUTH, it had been envisaged that investment in infrastructure within the settlement by individuals or organization was guaranteed.

Grace Land (Anguwan Yusi)

Graceland was a recent coinage by the residents of the community, but originally, it was known as *Anguwan Yusi*. Oral interviews revealed that the area was a vast land mostly bushy and unoccupied whose first settler was called *Ayasih*. The exact time of his settlement could not be established due to the dearth of information or historical evidence. During the first phase of the interview, the residents of *Ayasi* which has existed for about 150 years are still present as disclosed by the respondents. However, it was demolished during the demolition of illegal structures by the Kaduna State Government in 2022.¹⁸ The area was named after him, *Anguwan Dan Ayasih*, subsequently, other settlers came such as *Yusi*. Whose settlement was referred to as *Gidan Yusi*. A third settler, a Fulani by origin, came to settle in the area whose residence was referred to as *Gidan Sarkin Tudun Fulani*. These were the first inhabitants of the area during the pre-colonial period.¹⁹

Before the establishment of the university, the area was sparsely populated, it was a kind of scattered settlement synonymous with the type present in Hausa land, characterized by a

¹⁶ Aderigbe Michael, c.71, interview at Samaru, 10/6/2021

¹⁷ Abubakar Biye, c. 52, interview at Mile Goma, 9/5/2021

¹⁸ Interview with Sannusi Ibrahim, age, 63 years, at Graceland.

¹⁹ Interview with Mohammed Musa (Maianguwa), age, 55 years.

compound house comprising the members of the family with the father as the head. Oral interviews revealed that Graceland was formerly a plain land with bushes, characterized by a few thatched houses scattered all over. It was a place designated for the grazing of animals belonging to the aristocrats especially from Zaria City, it was at this point some of the slaves began to settle. However, it was not ascertained exactly when the name Graceland was given to the area, but findings show that the rapid development of the area was a result of the influx of people from different parts of Zaria who were predominantly Christians. It is thought that the Christian dominance of the area holds the key to understanding its name.²⁰ The community as of the termination point of this study hosted staff members of the university which includes Professor Joseph Mudiare, a retiree of the Department of Agricultural Engineering, Professor Joseph Hellandandu, Department of Sociology, Professor (Mrs.) Kulomri Adogbo, Department of Quantity Survey, Dr. Damian Lawon, Department of Economics, Dr. Benedine Akpu, Department of Geography, and Dr. Joseph Michael, Department of Mechanical Engineering.

The area became populated by people from different ethnic backgrounds such as Yoruba, Igbo, Tiv, Idoma, Igala, Jaba, Birom, Edo, Hausa, and Gbagyi among others. At the heart of Graceland, was little land for sale due to its rapid development. It was not possible to establish the exact number of staff members of the university resident in the settlement, but through interviews conducted, a significant number of the staff members in various disciplines and professions such as Doctors, Pharmacists, Lecturers, Administrative staff, Technicians, Architects, Drivers, Security Personnel, and retirees were among the residents.²¹

The rapid development of the settlement and also a choice area contributed to the high cost of living. The cost of renting an apartment had drastically increased as more people continued to settle in the area. Averagely, a two-bedroom flat was about N200, 000 to N350, 000 annually as of the termination point of this study. Single-room self-contained was about N120,000 to about N150,000, a development that stemmed from pressure on the existing land due to an increase in the number of residents. Moreover, a plot of land which was usually sold for about N100,000 to N150,000 in the early 1990s, as of the time of the termination of this study in 2022 was sold for about N1,500,000 to about 3,000,000 depending on the location.²² The population increase in the area necessitated the development of different types of businesses to cater to the needs of the people.²³

²⁰ Musa, Interview.

²¹ Olalekan Adekunle, c. 74, interview at Kabama, 4/2/2021

²² Tajudeen Adesani, c.72, interview at Graceland, 3/4/2021

²³ Graceland had overtime become a centre of commercial activities, it was discovered that these businesses are sustained because of the level of patronage received from the people. Most of the residents and people outside owns shops stocked with varieties of commodities and different services in order to meet the demand of the residents. Within the past ten years, it had been noticed the emergence of shopping malls and plazas, a form of business providing the people with varieties of stock. According to one of the residents interviewed, it was disclosed that virtually all household commodities could be found within the settlement that one does not need to go to the market to stock the house.

Through interactions and surveys, it was discovered that several businesses existed to cater to the basic needs of the residents such as photocopying, typing, lamination, tailoring, event planners, bookshops, sale of phone accessories and repairs, butchers, fruit sellers, motorcycle mechanics, automobile mechanics, provision stores, electronic repairers, carpenters, shoe cobblers, laundry services, poultry farming, hairdressing salons, barbing saloons, patent medicine stores, boutiques, fridge repairers, iron welders, block industries and *okada* raiders among others. Most of these businesses were established during the period of study. The development of these businesses was a gradual process, but their development was rapid due to the exponential growth of the area.

Jama'a (Zango)

Jama'a is one of the communities around the university. Its history predates the establishment of not just the university alone, but also NCAST. However, the establishment of ABU greatly influenced the development of the settlement. The settlement is usually referred to as *Zango* but its original name is Jama'a. An interview conducted in the settlement revealed that Jama'a was located in the former site of the NCAST which includes the area occupied by the Danfodio Hall, one of the student hostels in the university. It also includes the present location of the Industrial Development Centre (IDC) and the present site of Silver Jubilee (one of the university staff quarters). Interviews also show that the establishment of NCAST was what led to the resettlement and concentration of the inhabitants in the present location.

Historical evidence points to the fact that Jama'a village comprised three main settlements which are *Jama'a honde* (located at the present area occupied by Energy Research), *Jama'a karaye* (located at the place occupied by the present Silver Jubilee Quarters), and *Jama'a kuroraye*. However, the establishment of the NCAST and subsequently the university brought all these settlements together to the present location known as Jama'a, though popularly known as *Zango*. The name *Zango* according to informants, was used to refer to a market in the area, but with time, people began calling the settlement *Zango* in the light of the popularity of the market.

The earliest inhabitants of Jama'a are the Fulani people. The present Jama'a encompassed *Hayin Mallam*, *Ringi*, *Kwaren Kubani*, *Hayin Liman*, and *Danduna* (which presently had been occupied by A.B.U Staff School). The first *mai ungw* of Jama'a was Sarkin Fulani Da'uda, followed by *mai ungw Gae*, *mai ungw Danmake*, and *mai ungw Harande*. Subsequently, the era of Sarki begins with *Sarkin Jama'a Sambo*, followed by Sarki Abubakar, Mohammodu Korau, and presently, Ibrahim Mohammed. It is pertinent to note that as a result of the dearth of written records, the time of the reign of these leaders could not be established, this information was established and substantiated by oral information given by the people.

Like other settlements in Zaria, the major economic activities of the indigenes were primarily agriculture and petty trading. Varieties of crops such as corn, millet, and guinea corn to meet the subsistence needs of the people were cultivated. Agriculture was a family business in

which the size of the land cultivated depended on the number of households, domestication of animals was also inclusive. The Fulanis are pastoralists, therefore, there was the rearing of cattle and sheep which helped in meeting the financial and food requirements of the people.

The establishment of the university greatly influenced the development of the area. Before the period of study, Jama'a was sparsely populated. It mainly comprised of the Hausa and Fulani people who were the original inhabitants of the area. With the establishment of the institution, the population of the place increased significantly, and the composition of the people changed. Unlike what was obtainable before the development of the institution, the place came to be occupied by people from different ethnic groups such as the Igbo, Yoruba, Idoma, Birom, Jaba, Tiv, Ogoja, Benin, Igala, Igbira, Ogoja, to mention but few. There was also the presence of people with different religious backgrounds. This development was tied to the establishment and development of the university because the history of Jama'a before this time shows a great disparity from what it was at the period of this study.²⁴

ABU staff members were residents of Jama'a, but it is important to note that some of them had retired but decided to settle in the area. Hence, a large number of the staff members of the university such as lecturers, administrative staff of different cadres, Doctors, Pharmacists, messengers, cleaners, and secretaries were residents of the area. Among the factors that contributed to this development was the proximity between the university and the settlement, and the road network was such that easily linked the residents to the university. Thus, making the moving of people and goods and services very easy. More so, the area was not far from the Sabon Gari market, a major market in Zaria that provided the people with basic needs. Other small markets like the Samaru market are not also far from the settlement.²⁵

Another development that resulted from the establishment of the university and the subsequent inhabitation of the settlement by the staff members of the institution was the physical development of new building structures and the utilization of existing land. Before the establishment of the institution, the number of buildings found in Jama'a could be easily counted; because they were largely mud and thatched houses with open space farmed by the residents. The establishment of the institution heralded a period in which modern buildings emerged and most of the lands used for farming were sold out to people who erected residential areas. Within the period of this study, numerous buildings sprung up and most of the lands had been developing through the erection of residential houses.²⁶

Several buildings found in the area could be attributed to the staff of the university, while others were built by businessmen and retirees of the university. According to interviews conducted within the settlement, lands were very cheap before the establishment of the

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Musa Bello, c. 78, interview at Kabama, 4/5/2021

²⁶ Ibid.

institution. According to a source, with N15,000 to N20, 000, a plot of land could be acquired in the early 80s but over time, especially from the late 90s, the price had been on the increase. From the late 1990s to the termination period of this study, a plot of land was between N1,000,000 to N2,000,000 depending on the location. This showed how the value of land had been appreciated. At a point, landowners who were mostly indigenes of the area began to sell their lands to settlers which led to the development of more building structures. It began until the entire area was engulfed.²⁷

The habitation of the settlement by the staff members of the university led to the emergence of many petty businesses to provide basic needs and services for the people such as tailoring, provision stores, auto mechanics, electronic repair, carpenters, shoe cobblers, laundry services, hairdressing, barbing and hairdressing salon, patent medicine stores, pharmaceutical stores, boutique, fridge repairer, iron welding, block industries, and okada riders among others. These businesses emerged as a result of the increase in the number of residents which created the need for essential services to meet the needs of the people. These businesses thrived because they enjoyed the patronage of the residents.²⁸

Urbanization and Housing Problems

The colonial period marked the beginning of town planning and urban development, as well as a shift from the traditional informal town planning or development to the establishment of Colonial Township cum urban development. In the Samaru Area, the colonial township development policy reflects the township ordinance which was applied to all colonial cities in Nigeria. Before the ordinance which served as a blueprint on which new settlements were established, other legislation had been in existence that paved the way for the blueprint upon which urban development was hinged. The cantonment proclamation of 1904 at the early stage of colonial rule set the stage for further legislation like the 1917 Township Ordinance. The 1904 proclamation was responsible for the creation of the European Residential Area (ERA) which later became the Government Residential Area (GRA). The European Residential Area was usually separated from the native area by a large track of open space, in between.

The 1917 ordinance later became the main ordinance upon which colonial town planning policies were hinged in the Samaru Area. European urban planning was categorized into four main units which were the European Residential Area and surrounding open space buffer, the public institutional area, the modern commercial and light industrial area, and the three native townships of Sabon Gari, Tudunwada, and Samaru. The colonial administration proposed different plans of urban development, starting from 1914, and revised them in 1918 and 1939 which were poised towards addressing the main European Residential Area and land uses. It is instructive to note that these were it was a blueprint for Township ordinance.

²⁷ Interview at Jamaá, 3/4/2021 with Mallam Jumare, 76 years.

²⁸ Isah Mailamu, c.53, interview at Kabama, 2/3/2021.

The ordinance provides for a large plot of residential land in the European section, a railway line, and a station linking Zaria to the city of Kano in the North and Kaduna in the South. The plan included some public institutions such as Police Station and Court.²⁹

The siting of the university in the Samaru Area was a major factor that fostered urban development in the study area. It is pertinent to state that population growth which was engendered by the university facilitated urbanization. As earlier noted, the establishment of the university drew people from different parts of the country and beyond who settled as students and staff of the university, and by implication, certain developments responsible for urbanization began unfolding, including the development of social amenities and infrastructural growth. For example, the population of the Samaru Area continued to increase until it assumed a cosmopolitan status.

In Samaru Area, three main public institutions are responsible for urban planning, the Local Planning Authority which is represented by the Kaduna State Urban Planning and Development Authority (KASUPDA), The Local Government (Sabon Gari), and the Ministry of Lands and Surveys. The Planning Authority was directly responsible for the planning and control of urban land use. The lack of urban planning by various agencies mentioned above which in most cases stemmed from administrative weaknesses had led to urban slums. In the area of study, this was a serious issue that had affected some community layouts. Urban laws were not adequately enforced, and the management of land and the control and coordination of physical development plans were not adequately implemented.

Increase in Crime Rate

The continual rise in the population of students and staff of the university had a corresponding effect on the population and development of the communities including crime. In the 1990s, there were serious security challenges on the university campus such as burglary, armed robbery, theft, and murder. These were a result of the fact that security services were ineffective due to numerous challenges such as ineffective organizational and command structure, poor staffing in quantity and quality, poor equipment and funding et cet era.³⁰

There had been a high level of youth involvement in drug abuse which had become a common vice. Youths involved in drugs in Samaru Area see the practice of drug abuse as a way of life. Among every 20 youths in the community, at least one or more are into drug or substance abuse such as Codeine and Morphine, Tobacco, Barbiturates, Alcohol, Marijuana, Heroin, Cocaine, and Tramadol, among others with their resultant negative effects. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in 2010, the World Health Organization estimated that more than 225 million individuals, or one in every twenty

²⁹ Zarprof/PLAN/GEN/115, Town Planning.

³⁰ The Five Years of Mahadi Administration in Ahmadu Bello University, 1999-2004, Nigeria, Ahmadu Bello University Press, 2004, p.175.

adults consumed an illegal drug once in the year 2010. Drug abuse has become a social menace affecting the Psycho-socio development of youths. It is prevalent among the age range of 14-40 years, however, it also affects other age ranges.³¹

Rape and sexual assault which were not common in the early history of the study area suddenly became a common occurrence, since the growth of the university. Among the reasons for the rise in rape and sexual assaults are drug abuse, alcoholism, and indecent dressing. The existing culture before the establishment of the university was that which encouraged descent dressing, however, things had changed with the coming of people from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds. All forms of seductive dressings among the female folks became noticeable within and around the campus, though the university authority had tried to address these challenges with little success. It has been noticed as a matter of concern the rate of robbery activities perpetuated in the surrounding communities. Even though this crime was in existence before the establishment of the institution, the nature and the dimension which it had taken is a point of concern. It has to do with taking something or valuable from a person using force or violence. It was aided through the use of weapons for intimidation or to overpower the victims. The increasing rate of robbery cases could be ascertained through the frequent occurrence of robbery cases in the area of study, residents were deprived of their valuables through attacks on their lives and properties. There are several reasons for the rise in robbery which include unemployment, and drug abuse among others, but these notwithstanding, crime is a criminal offense that cannot be justified for any reason. It is a crime that is common among youths between 18-35 years however, it affects all age categories.³²

In the course of interviews with some of the residents, it was discovered that incidents of different types of robbery had been recorded such as robbing individuals to collect their valuables, robbery at residential areas, and other public or private institutions. Though the law enforcement agencies have been proactive in curbing the rate of this heinous crime by arresting, prosecuting, and imprisonment. It was also a development that had taken place within the school campus, several incidents had been reported where students were robbed of their valuables such as laptops, and phones, among others. However, the security agents on campus had been proactive in curbing this menace.³³

The efforts of the NPF were also complimented by other relevant Nigerian security agencies such as the Nigerian Civil Defense Commission (NCDC), and the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) among others. These various security agencies have been instrumental in several operations to curb the menace of crime in society. In the area of study, some of these operations had been felt, for example, Operation Yaki, a combined team of various security agencies patrolled the environment to prevent crimes. Through intelligence reports,

³¹ Sadi Atiku, c. 48, interview at Bakin Dogo, Samaru, 13/7/2021

³² Hali Haruna, c.66, interview at Zango, 11/9/2021.

³³ Abdulaziz Bawa, c. 23, interview at ABU Campus, Samaru, 17/9/2021.

perpetrators of crimes were arrested and brought to justice. The efforts of the local vigilante groups in tackling crimes have also been commended. The increase in crime rate had an effect also on the university campus, the rate of crime within the university increased tremendously and if not checked, it could deter the progress and the development of the university. For example, in the year 2000, 234 cases involving different offenses were handled by the Security Division of the university, out of this figure, 55.1% were theft, 5.1% were armed robbery cases, 4.3 threat to life, accident 4.3%, interception of suspect 5.1%, unlawful attack 4.3%, fighting 3%, duping 1.7%, forgery 1.7%, Indian hemp smoking 3%, motorcycle theft 0.4% among others.

In the year 2001, there were 233 cases which theft was 42.5%, Indian Hemp smoking 7.3%, assault 5.6%, interception of suspect 4.3%, breach of trust 11.6%, fighting 3.9%, threat of life 3.4%, exam malpractice 7.6%, impersonation 1.7%, attack 0.9%, Car snatching 0.9%, forgery 0.9% and rape 0.4% among others. In the year 2002, the number of cases increased as there were about 316 cases handled by the Security Division. Theft 38%, threat to life 8.2%, breach of trust 11.7%, assault 6.3%, armed robbery 0.6%, interception of suspect 1.9%, impersonation 0.3. In the year 2003, the cases handled by the Security Division were reduced to 116 out of which violation of traffic rules was 22.4%, armed robbery 2.6% accidents 2.6% among others.³⁴

It had been discovered that unemployed youths formed the bulk of these criminal elements who had been terrorizing the university community. This proved the point that the university environment came to be seen by criminals as a potential place for stealing and other related crimes. It also proved the point that before the establishment of the university, the crime rate was minimal, but with the establishment, growth, and development of the university, students on campus tended to live a more flamboyant life which by implication made them targets by these criminals. The residents, especially the youths see some of the students as coming from wealthy families therefore, the temptation of wanting to be like them by stealing from them is high. The flamboyant life lived by some students on campus and off campus their admirers especially youths who want to have a feel of it at the slightest opportunity participated in armed robbery, burglary, and other forms of crime within and outside the campus.³⁵

The increase in crime rate in the area of study and its resultant effects on the university community spurred the university authority to take a proactive step to curb crime and its menace. On the 1st of November 1999, a security committee was set up by the university authority to come out with ways in which these nefarious challenges could be handled thus, the establishment of a partnership with the LYNX Security Consultants Limited, a security consultant trainee outfit, who trained all its officers and men on aspects such as information and crime investigation, intelligence, gathering, and basic security training. Other steps

³⁴ The Five Years of Mahadi Administration in Ahmadu Bello University, 1999-2004, Nigeria, Ahmadu Bello University Press, 2004, pp.175-180.

³⁵ Ambrose Sunday, c.71, interview at ABU Campus, 21/9/2021.

include a Defence Tactics Course attended by personnel, workshops on crime prevention and control, public relations and security in tertiary institutions, and seminars among others.³⁶

Conclusion

Without a doubt, the establishment of Ahmadu Bello University was largely responsible for the socio-economic transformation of the Samaru Area within the sixty years covered by this study. There was the growth and development of new settlements such as Shika, Jamaá, and Graceland. Other areas of impact were visible through the education and extension services, development of the transportation network, cultural impact, and university relations which to a great measure fostered positive relationships between the university and its surrounding communities.

Bibliography

List of Informants

Name	Approximate Age	Place of Residence	Occupation	Date of Interview
Professor Ibrahim Garba	Not established	The interview was carried out through a questionnaire	Former Vice Chancellor, ABU, Zaria, 2015-2020	19/9/2024
Ashiru Zango	66	Palladan	(Civil Servant) Chief Security Office	10/1/2021 18/1/2021 9/2/2021
Abdulkareem Bello	58	Zaria	(Civil Servant) A.B.U. Estate Mgt. Co. Ltd.	12/2/2021
Mohammed Musa	55	Grace Land	Traditional Ruler (Maiungwa)	5/2/2021
Bulus Iliya	69	Palladan	Retiree	11/2/2021
Usman Mohammed	64	Kabama	Farmer	12/2/2021
Mustapha Salisu	96	Kabama	Farmer	4/3/2021
Musa Bello	78	Kabama	Retired teacher	4/3/2021
Mallam Jumare	76	Kabama	Retired teacher	3/3/2021

³⁶ Sunday, Interview.

Isah Mailamu	53	Kabama	Trader	2/3/2021
Danjuma Mai kantinkoli	67	Kabama	Trader	5/3/2021
Olalekan Adekunle	74	Graceland	Retired teacher	4/3/2021
Tajudeen Adesani	72	Graceland	Retired ABU Staff	3/3/2021
Suleiman Abubakar	83	Graceland	Retired ABU Staff	4/3/2021
Salaudeen Adewunmi	67	Graceland	Retiree of ABU	2/3/2021
Saminu Bello	79	Samaru	Retired teacher	6/3/2021
Mohammed Usman	84	Samaru	Retiree of ABU	11/3/2021
Ibrahim Husseini	69	Samaru	Resident at Samaru	13/3/2021
Peter Johnson	77	Samaru	Resident at Samaru	14/3/2021
Mallam Magaji	85	Shika	Retired Teacher	7/3/2021
Shaibu Mohammed	91	Shika	Resident at Shika	9/3/2021
Aderibigbe Michael	71	Samaru	Retired Civil Servant	10/3/2021
Abubakar Biye	52	Mile Goma	Retailer	9/3/2021
Salisu Umar	79	Palladan	Resident at Palladan	8/3/2021
Shehu Sakaba	84	Layin Zomo	Retired Civil Servant	14/3/2021
Aminu Abubakar	75	Palladan	Retired teacher	16/3/2021
Mallam Hashimu	59	Layin Zomo	Civil Servant	18/3/2021
Usman Mohammed	49	Layin Zomo	Shoe Cobbler	15/3/2021
Bulus Iliya	62	Grace land	Civil Servant	8/3/2021
Martins Adeniyi	63	Palladan	Civil Servant	21/3/2021

Archival Materials

DEN. 74, vol.5 The Institute of Administration, Northern Region Correspondences, 1956-1957. (NAK)

DEN. 416 vol.2 Zaria Secondary School Senior Service Staff, 1947-1954, (NAK).

DEN 416 A Zaria Secondary School, Junior Service Staff, 1952-195, (NAK).

- DEN. 531 Posting of Northern Provinces Education Officers during Tour of Service, 1951-1952, (NAK).
- DEN. 735 vol.II Annual Reports Education Department, 1936-1945, (NAK).
- DEN. 940E University College Ibadan, 1955, (NAK).
- DEN. 1054 vol.2 Primary Schools Policy, Northern Region Compulsory Education.
- DEN. 1062B Housing Allocation, 1955-1956, (NAK).
- DEN. 1062B Education Housing Group, 1952-1955, (NAK).
- DEN. 1062B Housing Policy, 1955-1956, (NAK).
- DEN. 1326 vol. 1 Central Board of Education, 1949-1950, (NAK).
- DEN. 1371 Handing Over Notes, Zaria Province Schools, 1935-1955, (NAK).
- DEN. 1399B Commercial School Policy, 1953-1954, (NAK).
- DEN. 1400 vol. 1. IV Rural Education Scheme, (NAK).
- DEN. 2267A Libraries in Northern Region, 1954-1955, (NAK).

Unpublished Theses, Dissertations and Articles

- Abdullahi Rafi Augi, The Gobir factor in the social and political History of the Rima Basin, C1650-1808 A.D. unpublished thesis Ph.D, Zaria 1984.
- Ewelum, J.N. (2014). Community education needs as community-based organizations leaders in Anambra State, Nigeria. Unpublished Ph.D Dissertation of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka.
- Eze, C.S. The Socio-Economic and Political Impact of University of Nigeria, Nsukka on its Host Communities (Nsukka, Orba, and Obukpa), 1960-2008. An Unpublished M.A Thesis Department of History and International Studies Faculty of Arts, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, 2011.
- Idris, G. "Education for development", A Convocation Address by the Secretary to the Federal Military Government on the conferment of Honorary Doctor of Philosophy on him by Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi, October 1997.

Published Books

- Afolabi, F.O., & Loto, A.B. (2012). Socio-Political Vicissitudes and Bureaucratic Constraints on Educational Formulation and Implementation in Nigeria. In V.O. Edo, & E.F.K. Salami (Eds.), *Issues and Trends in Nigeria's Development: A Festschrift for Rev. (Fr) Abiodun, F.A Ibadan: John Archers.*
- Nwagu, N. Population and Education, Population Education sourcebook, Nigerian Educational Research Council, Lagos, 1985.
- Nyerere, J "Education for self-reliance" in Fafunwa Babs and Asiku, J.U. (1982 Eds) *Education in Africa: a Comparative Review* George Allen and Union, London, 1967.
- Okobiah, O. S. Historical Foundation, and comparative education, Heinemann Books Ltd, Nigeria, 1986.
- Okobiah, O. S. Population in history national and international: Population Education, sourcebook, Nigerian Educational Research Council, Lagos, 1987.

Osoba, S.O. & Fajana, A. "Educational, and Social Development during the Twentieth Century", in Ikime, O. (Ed.) *Groundwork of Nigerian History*, Nigeria: Heinemann Educational Books, 2004.

Internet Sources

Boniface, E. (2015). Assessment of Nigeria's universities environment. <http://www.nairaland.com/28285>. Retrieved on 23/05/2017.

Tibbitt, J. (2017). Placemaking and the university: Opening the university to the community. <http://pascalobservatorv.or/pas....> Retrieved on 23/05/2017.