A Path towards Sustainable Neighbourhood: A Comparative Analysis of Maitama and Garki Districts in Abuja, Nigeria

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Araştırma makalesi

Abstract

This research conducts a comparative analysis of sustainability practices in the Maitama and Garki Districts of Abuja, Nigeria, with a specific emphasis on environmental, social, and economic dimensions. The goal of sustainable urban development is to minimize the adverse effects on the environment, foster social fairness, and encourage the local economy. The key ideas included in this context are energy efficiency, affordable housing, green infrastructure, and community participation. The Maitama District places importance on the environment, community, and economics, but Garki has difficulties in waste management, pollution, and the availability of clean water and sanitation. Both districts strive to cultivate inclusive communities, however, Maitama encounters obstacles in waste management and pollution, and Garki confronts environmental concerns such as insufficient green areas and little community engagement.

Keywords: Sustainable development, Urbanization, Neighbourhood, Abuja, Nigeria

Özet

Bu araştırma, Nijerya'nın Abuja kentindeki Maitama ve Garki Bölgelerindeki sürdürülebilirlik uygulamalarının çevresel, sosyal ve ekonomik boyutlarına özel bir vurgu yaparak karşılaştırmalı bir analizini gerçekleştirmektedir. Sürdürülebilir kentsel gelişimin amacı, çevre üzerindeki olumsuz etkileri en aza indirmek, sosyal adaleti teşvik etmek ve yerel ekonomiyi teşvik etmektir. Bu bağlamda yer alan temel fikirler enerji verimliliği, uygun fiyatlı konut, yeşil altyapı ve toplumsal katılımdır. Maitama Bölgesi çevreye, topluma ve ekonomiye önem veriyor, ancak Garki atık yönetimi, kirlilik ve temiz su ve sanitasyon mevcudiyeti konularında zorluklar yaşıyor. Her iki bölge de kapsayıcı topluluklar oluşturmaya çalışıyor, ancak Maitama atık yönetimi ve kirlilik konusunda engellerle karşılaşıyor ve Garki, yetersiz yeşil alanlar ve az sayıda topluluk katılımı gibi çevresel kaygılarla karşı karşıya.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma, Kentleşme, Mahalle, Abuja, Nijerya

Doi no:

1. INTRODUCTION

Creating sustainable neighborhoods is essential for a more environmentally friendly and healthier future. These neighborhoods play a vital role in addressing pressing environmental issues such as climate change and resource depletion. By prioritizing energy efficiency, waste management, and the creation of green spaces, it is possible to decrease carbon emissions and enhance the overall well-being of residents. Many people in the world live in cities, which are the focal point of major economic, social, and environmental processes that have an impact on humans. Urbanization is now seen as one of the social processes that have the most significant impact on the environment on a local, regional, and global level (Yıldız, 2016).

Sustainable development in Nigeria is a vital goal aimed at achieving economic growth, social equity, and environmental preservation. Nigeria faces significant challenges, such as overreliance on oil, poverty, and environmental degradation. Efforts include diversifying the economy, reducing poverty, promoting responsible resource management, requiring effective

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governance, and international cooperation for long-term progress (Oyedepo, 2014). Abuja, the capital of Nigeria, is renowned for its well-designed urban development and contemporary infrastructure. Established in the 1980s as a replacement for Lagos as the capital, it is situated in the geographical middle of the nation. Abuja was meticulously designed as a prototype city to accommodate the administrative operations of the nation and alleviate the burden on Lagos, which was struggling with fast population growth and overcrowding. Abuja is currently facing challenges like rapid urbanization and population growth, climate change impact, informal settlements and slums, socioeconomic inequality, and inadequate infrastructure (Abubakar, 2014)

Maitama and Garki have become major points of economic, social, and cultural activities due to the rapid urbanization experienced in Abuja in recent decades. Nevertheless, the rapid expansion of urban areas has presented a multitude of issues about infrastructure, environmental sustainability, and fair development. With the growing focus on sustainability, it is crucial to examine how urban districts tackle these challenges to gain a comprehensive understanding. Similarly, urbanization is a well-recognized worldwide trend, and Nigeria has seen tremendous urban expansion as it strives for economic progress. Consequently, architects, urban planners, and legislators have recognized the need to consider the planning and sustainability of communities as crucial factors (Obiadi et al., 2019).

This research aims to conduct a comparative examination of two prominent areas in Abuja, namely Maitama and Garki. The main aim of the research is to assess and contrast the extent of environmental, social, and economic sustainability practices in these districts and suggest ways to improve sustainable neighborhood development. Nevertheless, this comparative research might also enhance the overall comprehension of sustainable urban development and its obstacles in attaining global sustainable development objectives.

Additionally, this study will adopt a qualitative research approach to provide a comparison of sustainable development in the Maitama and Garki areas of Abuja, Nigeria. Nevertheless, there are other limitations to consider, such as the dependence on pre-existing literature, the subjective nature of interpretation, the limited capacity to generalize findings, the lack of primary data gathering, and the ever-changing nature of urban growth. Notwithstanding these factors, the research will offer useful perspectives on sustainable urban development.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Sustainable Urban Development

The concept of sustainable development seeks to establish a comprehensive political, economic, and cultural initiative that effectively integrates environmental considerations with long-term economic development goals. The interests of future generations are openly prioritized alongside those of current generations, and the economic optimization processes are restricted by the need to respect the biosphere's finite reproductive capacity. The Brundtland Report, published by the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987, provided a concise definition of sustainable development. It stated that sustainable development is a transformative process that aligns the utilization of resources, allocation of investments, the trajectory of technological advancements, and institutional reforms with the needs of both the present and future generations (Camagni, 1998).

Sustainable development encompasses the notion of attaining growth that satisfies the demands of the present generation while also guaranteeing that future generations are capable of fulfilling their own needs. Sustainable urban development is a fluid and evolving notion, including many viewpoints on the economic and social aspects of sustainability, and incorporating the participation of public people in the process of land development. Efficient urban areas should strive to be attractive and desirable for both residents and workers, accommodating the varied requirements of current and future inhabitants, while also being mindful of the surrounding ecosystem and enhancing overall well-being. Sustainable urban development encompasses various aspects, including the balance between land development and nature conservation, the ability of nature to sustain human activities, the overall functioning of a city as a complex system, and the well-being of its residents (Tang & Lee, 2016). Figure 1 shows the three aspects of Sustainable urban development.

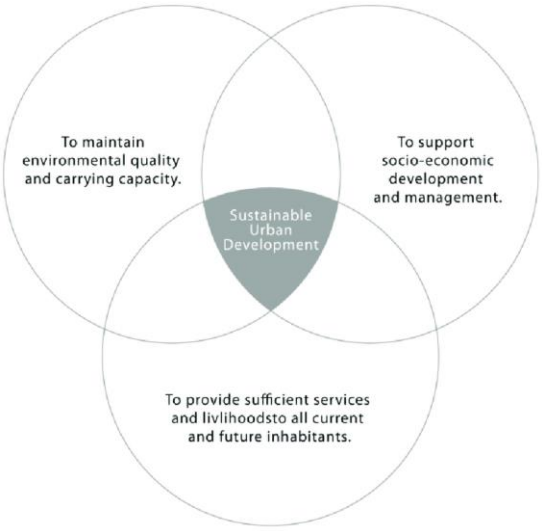

Figure 1. The three Aspects of Sustainable Urban Development (Tang & Lee, 2016)

For twenty-five years, the UN World Commission on Environment and Development has emphasized sustainable development as a worldwide concern. It addresses resource use and ecological footprints in wealthy cities while emphasizing the fulfillment of fundamental human needs, especially for the impoverished. Mitigating climate change, decreasing energy use, cutting pollution, safeguarding natural areas, and ensuring a safe environment for vulnerable populations are among the main problems (Næss & Vogel, 2012).

The main objectives of sustainable urban development are to reduce the negative effects on the environment, advance equity in society, and boost the local economy in residential areas. Energy efficiency, affordable housing, green infrastructure, and community involvement are important components. The circular economy, smart cities, green infrastructure, and growing urbanization are all part of the global backdrop. Population increase, climate change, inequality, and inadequate infrastructure are among the problems. These are addressed via comprehensive methods and community engagement in sustainable urban development (Mersal, 2016). Based on the literature reviewed, this study defines sustainable urban development as the ability of human settlements to uphold environmental quality and carrying capacity, facilitate socio-economic development and management, and ensure adequate services and livelihoods for both present and future residents.

2.2. Urbanization

Urbanization is the transformation of cities in terms of their size, density, and diversity. Urbanization is often accompanied by factors like population mobility, segregation, and industrialization. In a nutshell, urbanization refers to the development and expansion (or contraction) of cities (Marsella, 1998). Urbanization is a process that involves the movement of populations from rural to urban areas, resulting in significant social and cultural changes. To facilitate the process of urbanization and take advantage of the benefits it offers, it is necessary to establish proper institutional frameworks and create physical distance between families. This is because younger individuals tend to migrate to cities in search of opportunities, while older generations often choose to remain in their hometowns due to the advantages of agglomeration economies (Henderson, 2005).

The global urban population is projected to increase, resulting in urban expansion and the development of extensive interfaces between urban and rural regions. By 2015, almost 1 billion individuals resided in peri-urban regions, with a significant concentration of residents in low- and middle-income nations. This questions the effectiveness of dividing places into urban and rural categories and highlights the necessity for more theoretical and conceptual advancement of the peri-urban boundary. Peri-urban areas are intricate zones characterized by diverse environmental and ecological factors, land utilization patterns, and interconnected urban and rural activity. This prompts inquiries on the infrastructure and services available and the capacity of peri-urban areas to offer inclusive, secure, resilient, and sustainable communities. (Hutchings et al., 2022).

A theoretical framework for rural-to-urban transitions, emphasizing alterations in natural and manmade infrastructure, as well as distant and proximate institutions. The model recognizes four semi-autonomous transitions: high levels of natural infrastructure in rural settings, low levels in urban areas, and an inverse correlation between nearby and faraway institutions. As cities expand, communities undergo profound changes, entering a transitional phase known as peri-urban living marked by rapid and unpredictable spatial and temporal transformations (Hutchings et al., 2022). For better understanding, figure 2 below is the graphical representation of the rural-urban area transition process in which infrastructure levels differ among rural, peri-urban, and urban locations, and access to services differs among persons in each region (black arrows), and nature may serve as a safety measure in many regions in the Global South (green line).

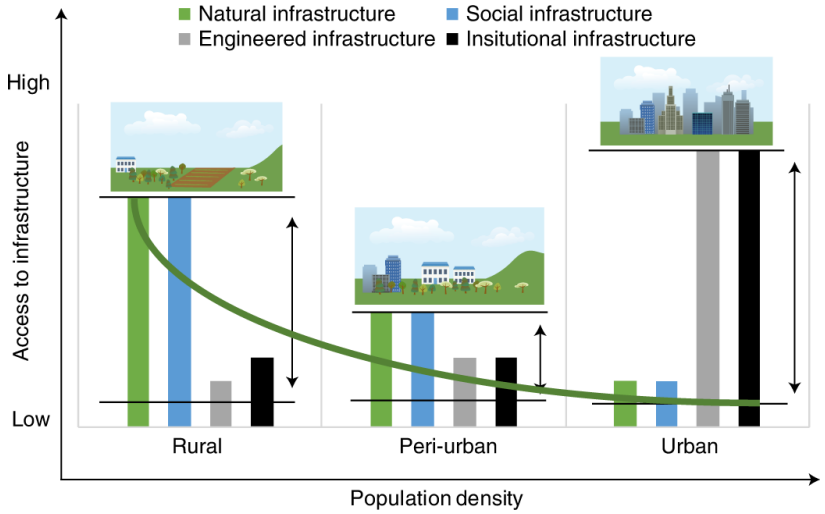

Figure 2. Rural-Urban transition process (Hutchings et al., 2022)

As previously mentioned, urbanization is the result of shifts in national output composition, transitioning from rural agriculture to urbanized modern manufacturing and service production. Government policies have a significant impact on urbanization by shaping the national sectoral composition. Policies that impact the terms of trade between agriculture and modern industry, or between traditional small-town industries like textiles and food processing and high-tech large-city industries, also influence the allocation of population between rural and urban areas, or between small and big cities. Various policies, such as tariffs, price controls, and subsidies, are implemented. Urbanization fosters advantages from agglomeration, including localized information and knowledge spillovers, which can lead to economic growth. Nevertheless, the available evidence indicates that urbanization does not inherently lead to economic growth. The process of urbanization follows a pattern characterized by gradual growth at the initial stages, followed by a rapid acceleration in the intermediate stages, and finally a deceleration in the later stages (Henderson, 2005).

Urbanization is the phenomenon of people gathering in large, diverse settlements, leading to the transformation of towns, cities, and metropolitan areas, and a decrease in population in rural areas due to migration from rural to urban areas. Africa has experienced rapid population growth since 1900, and it is projected to reach 1.5 billion by 2030. Metropolitan urban areas have experienced significant growth in cities like Lagos, Kano, Ibadan, Cairo, Johannesburg, Kinshasha, and Addis Ababa. Nevertheless, the rapid and unregulated expansion of urban areas has resulted in a wide range of environmental issues. These include the depletion of biodiversity, the exacerbation of greenhouse warming, the spread of desert-like conditions, the deterioration of agricultural land, pollution of air and water, the degradation of the environment, the emergence of slums, unsanitary conditions, overcrowding, housing congestion, increased crime rates, and violence(JIBOYE, 2011). Figure 3 below shows the current and future scenario for urban populations in African cities.

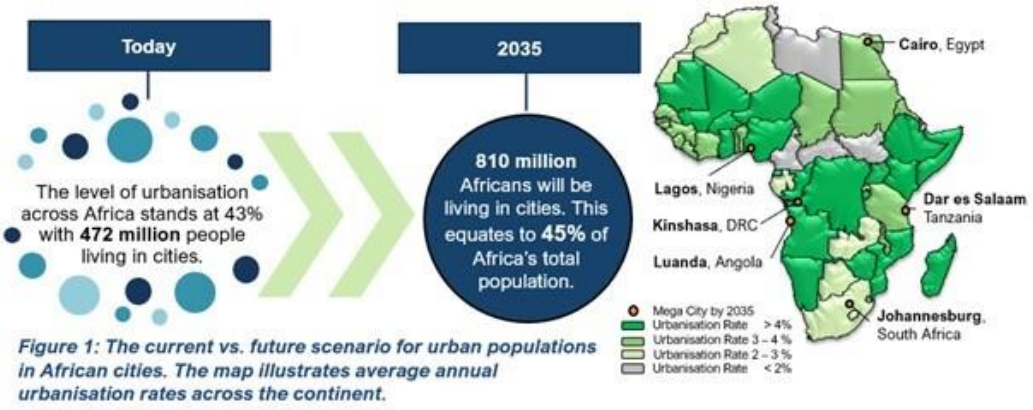

Figure 3. Illustration of the average annual urbanization rate across Africa (Costaras, 2020)

Urbanization is reshaping the planet since more than half of the world's population resides in metropolitan regions. Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) is seeing the most rapid urbanization, with a current urban population of 472 million people. Urban areas are crucial for reducing poverty and fostering economic progress. Many SSA nations lack the necessary resources to manage dangers related to fast population increase. Structural changes, enhanced coordination among stakeholders, and investment in urbanization capacity are essential elements for long-term economic success. Urban populations in Africa will surpass rural populations over the next 30 years (Saghir, 2018).

However, Nigeria's rapid urbanization has resulted in a range of socio-economic, cultural, and environmental issues. These include the loss of biodiversity, greenhouse warming, desertification, degradation of agricultural land, air and water pollution, environmental decay, slums, insanitation, overcrowding, housing congestion, crime, and violence. To tackle these challenges and promote sustainable development, it is crucial to establish efficient governance and implement measures to manage urban population growth and city expansion (JIBOYE, 2011). The city of Abuja, which was supposed to be constructed in four stages and with a population goal of three million people, has encountered difficulties as a result of insufficient housing and unplanned human settlements. There has been a significant flow of workers from Lagos to Abuja without appropriate housing, which has resulted in the formation of shantytowns and squatter communities. These settlements are completely overcrowded and lack even the most basic services. Residents and workers in urban areas are subjected to a variety of challenges, including insufficient sanitation, traffic congestion, air and water pollution, and inadequate supply of food and energy. Only a small number of parkways, recreational facilities, parks, and gardens have been constructed, although the Federal Capital Territory Plan intends to make use of open space and urban structural components. The majority of the land that was designated for leisure purposes has been used for residential reasons (Plan, 2013). Figure 4 below shows the statistics of urbanization in Nigeria from 2012 to 2022.

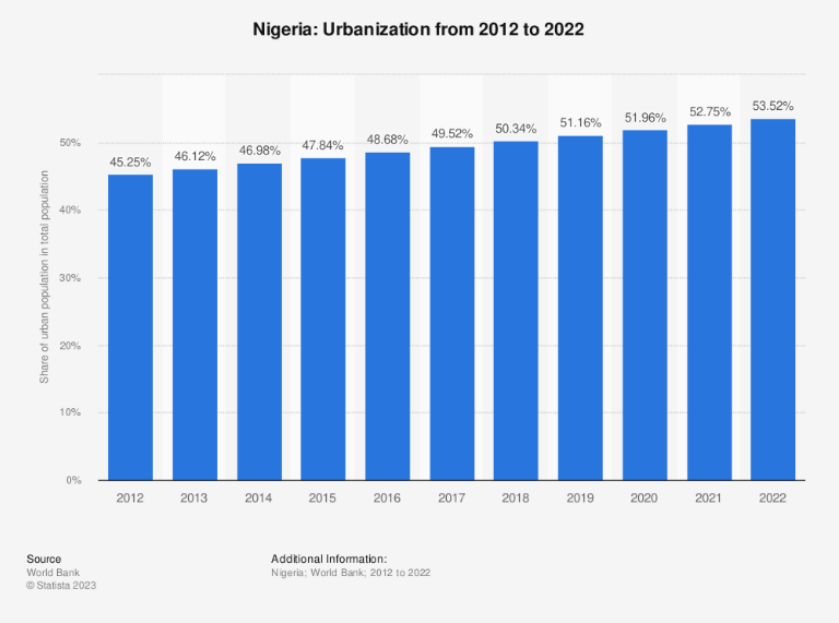

Figure 4. Statistics of Urbanization in Nigeria. Source: (Statista, 2018)

2.3. Urban Planning and Sustainable Neighbourhood

The concept of "neighbourhood" has been a longstanding topic in urban planning, encompassing various definitions that span from geographically localized communities to areas where residents are united by shared interests. The perception of a neighborhood varies depending on the individual, and there is no set population size or universally defined civic function that a neighborhood must adhere to. The origins of modern urban planning can be attributed to Howard's ideas for garden cities, which revolutionized the field by shifting its focus from public health concerns to the intricate spatial organization of urban activities. In

1929, Clarence Perry further expanded on the concept, highlighting the significance of citizen involvement and social engagement within a clearly defined neighborhood. Clarence Stein and Henry Wright incorporated this concept into the planning of Radburn, which became the first garden city in the USA (Choguill, 2008).

Furthermore, Key principles of sustainable urban planning encompass a range of factors such as mixed-use zoning, compact design, transit-oriented development, green infrastructure, and community engagement. Key considerations for optimal outcomes encompass energy efficiency, promoting walkability and bike-ability, ensuring affordability of housing, implementing sustainable water management practices, and integrating smart technologies. These principles are essential for creating neighborhoods that are environmentally sustainable, socially inclusive, and economically viable. Implementing these principles and best practices in urban planning promotes a comprehensive approach that considers a range of perspectives, addresses local needs, and fosters sustainable development (Medved, 2016). Figure 5 below shows the basis and dimensions of a sustainable neighborhood.

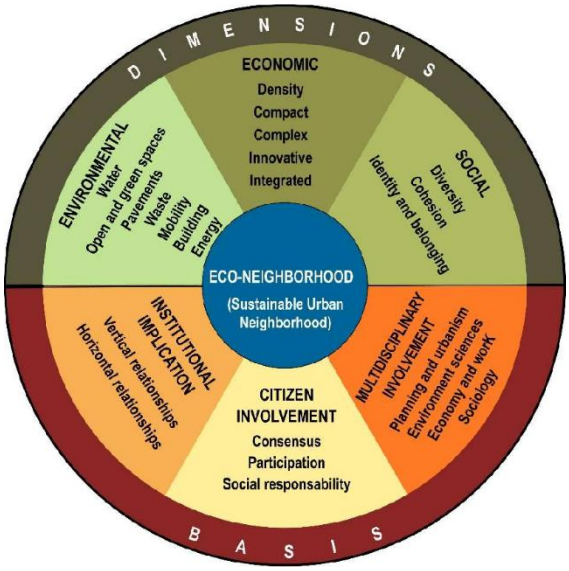

Figure 5. Structure of Sustainable Neighbourhood (Canosa Zamora & García Carballo, 2018)

However, Neighborhoods extend beyond being mere subdivisions of a city; they encompass communities of individuals residing within them. The size of a community has a significant impact on the dynamics of interpersonal interactions among its members. According to Fisher (1984), there is a negative correlation between community size and neighbor involvement. A sustainable neighborhood is characterized by its compact size and high population density, which fosters easy interaction and social engagement among residents. Achieving technical sustainability involves establishing clear boundaries, reducing internal traffic, and integrating green spaces. Establishing communal spaces, such as schools and parks, can foster social engagement among residents. These attributes are essential when considering the development of sustainable neighborhoods (Choguill, 2008).

2.4. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, endorsed by all United Nations Member States in 2015, serves as a strategy for achieving peace and prosperity for both people and the environment. The emphasis is on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that target poverty eradication, health and education enhancement, inequality reduction, economic development promotion, climate change mitigation, and ocean and forest conservation. The SDGs are based on extensive efforts made by governments and the UN, especially the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, over many years. The Earth Summit in 1992, the Millennium Declaration in 2000, and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development in 2002 all influenced the creation of the SDGs. The Rio+20 conclusion document in 2012 restated the global community's pledges to eliminate poverty and protect the environment. The UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development is the primary UN venue for monitoring and evaluating the progress of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs offers assistance and training for the SDGs and other subject matters (United Nations, 2024).

Similarly, The Rio+20 meeting in 2012 resulted in the establishment of global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to guide global sustainable development beyond 2015. The objectives are pragmatic, succinct, and globally relevant, considering national circumstances and priorities, and concentrating on areas of utmost importance (Osborn et al., 2015). The Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development aim to eradicate poverty and hunger, uphold the human rights of all individuals, achieve gender equality, empower women and girls, and guarantee the long-term preservation of the earth and its natural resources. The Global Goals are cohesive and inseparable and harmonize the three facets of sustainable development: the economic, social, and environmental components (Regeringskansliet, 2015). The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a worldwide project designed to enhance living circumstances globally. In Nigeria, the SDGs have not been reached because of issues including greed, instability, and inadequate governance. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) ended in 2015 and were replaced with Agenda 2030, which is a more extensive agenda consisting of 17 objectives, 169 targets, and 200 indicators, figure 6 (Nwogbo & Kadiri, n.d.).

Figure 6. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Source: Staying On-Track to Realize the Sustainable Development Goals, 2019

However, in 2015, the United Nations introduced the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to advance peace and prosperity for both individuals and the environment. These objectives concentrate on the environmental, social, and economic aspects of sustainable development. The Sustainable Development Goals include objectives such as poverty eradication, food security, healthcare improvement, education quality, gender parity, water cleanliness, sanitation access, cheap energy availability, decent employment opportunities, economic expansion, industrial advancement, innovation promotion, inequality reduction, sustainable urban development, and climate change mitigation (Nations, 2020).

3. METHODOLOGY

The study adopted a qualitative method for data collection through observations, document/ data analysis, and an extensive literature review of academic publications, government reports, and documents related to sustainable urban development. The study will categorize findings according to the social, environmental, and economic concepts of sustainable urban development. The United Nations' sustainable development goals (SDGs) will serve as a reference for the data collection. Furthermore, the utilization of comparative data analysis will offer valuable insights into the existing state of sustainable development in the Maitama and Garki Districts.

3.1. Study Area

Abuja is situated in the Federal Capital Territory and has a population of 2,238,800. The location is within the Guinea savannah vegetation region and has both dry and rainy seasons. The city has an average daily temperature range of 20.5°C to 30.8°C, with an average rainfall of 119.2mm and a humidity level of 58.4% (Olaide M & Dias A, 2020). Figure 7 below shows the map location of Abuja in Nigeria.

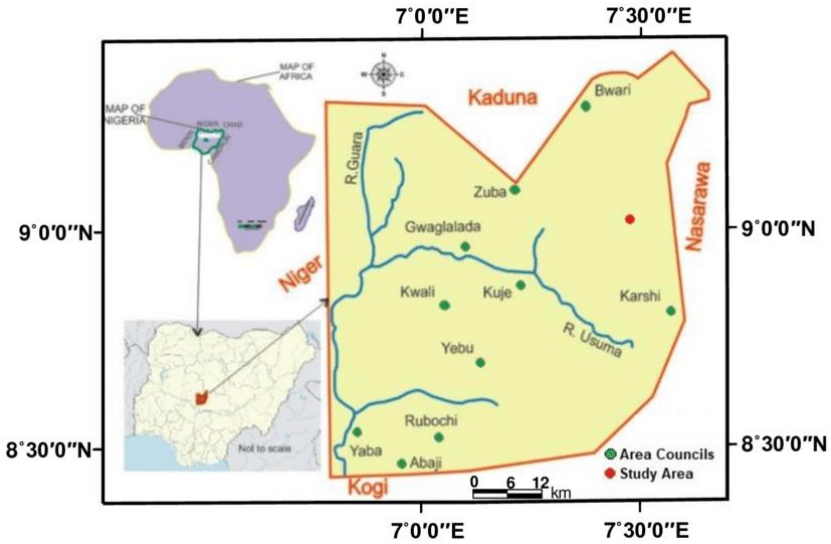

Figure 7. Map showing the location of Abuja, Source: adopted from (Map Location of Abuja - Google Search, n.d.)

Maitama and Garki are separate districts in Abuja that play a significant role in shaping the capital's dynamics. Maitama is well-known for its luxurious atmosphere, diplomatic community, and government establishments. In contrast, Garki is a district that offers a mix of commercial and residential features, highlighting the wide-ranging character of Abuja, the nation's capital of Nigeria. Figure 8, Figure 9a and b below show the map location of the two districts that will be used as the case study using Google Earth Maps.

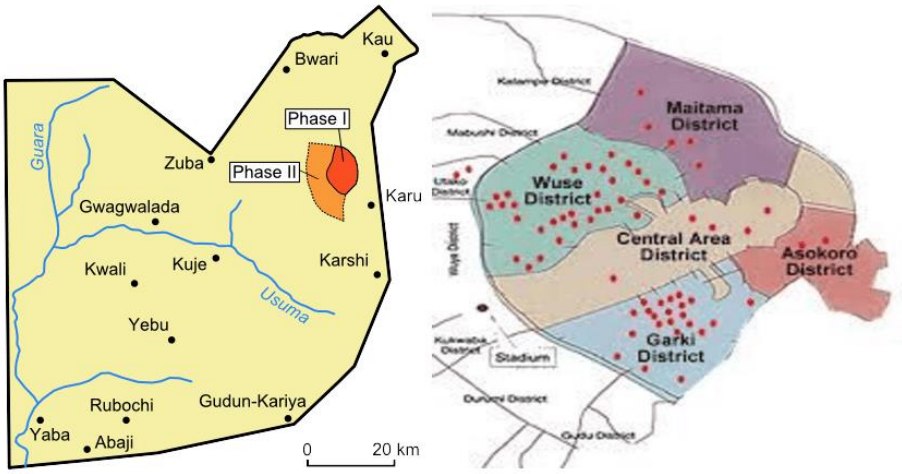

Figure 8. District location of Maitama and Garki District in Abuja, Source: adopted from (Nigeria, 2019)

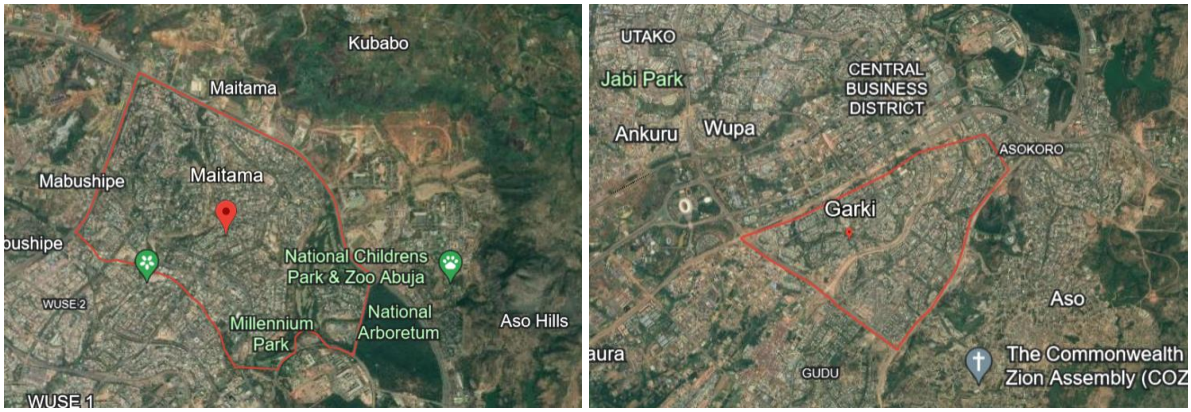

Figure 9a and b Maitana and Garki Districts. Source: (Google Earth, 2024)

3.2. Data Analysis

The data will be comparatively analyzed using the three key dimensions for analyzing sustainable urban development environmental, social, and economic sustainability through the lens of the United Nations' 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs).

3.2.1. Maitama District

The Maitama District in Abuja, Nigeria, has undertaken the implementation of a plan for sustainable urban development that places equal emphasis on the economics, community, and sustainability. The illustration that may be seen below provides a visual representation of the image of the Maitama district, figure 10.

Figure 10. Maitama District, Resource: (Google Earth, 2024)

Key factors include green spaces, sustainable infrastructure, efficient public transportation, waste management, renewable energy, community involvement, water conservation, and technology integration, figure 11.

Figure 11. Maitama District, Resource: (Google Earth, 2024)

These efforts support biodiversity, promote sustainable lifestyle practices, and encourage walkable neighborhoods. The district also conserves water and promotes communication among residents, authorities, and service providers, table 1.

Table 1. Neighbourhood Sustainability Observational Analysis for Maitama District (Author)

No	Sustainability Goals	Maitama District
1	Affordable Housing	Maitama is renowned for its luxurious housing options and is often associated with a higher quality of life. The Maitama district provides upscale residences for affluent families. In terms of SDG1 (No poverty)
2	Security	The Maitama district is known for its robust security measures, which are in place due to the high-profile residents in the area. These measures contribute to the promotion of SDG 16, which focuses on fostering peace, justice, and strong institutions.
3	Basic Services	Residents of the Maitama district have access to essential services such as electricity, water, and healthcare. Aligning with the goals of SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation) and SDG 3 (good health and well-being).
4	Communal Facilities	The Maitama district offers residents access to top-notch communal facilities such as schools, recreational areas, and communal gardens, in line with SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities)
5	Social Cohesion	The residents in Maitama have a strong feeling of community and social cohesiveness. SDG 16 focuses on promoting peace, justice, and strong institutions.
6	Education	Concerning SDG 4 (Quality Education), In Maitama a higher concentration of prestigious schools is provided in the community to ensure that residents have access to high-quality learning environments.
7	Community Support	Maitama District knows how important it is to include everyone and give everyone the same chances. The main goal of community support programs is to reduce inequality by helping underprivileged groups get better schooling, health care, and economic opportunities. The district works to get rid of discrimination and make sure that everyone, no matter their background or situation, has a fair chance to succeed through information campaigns and focused programs. Maitama is trying to make a community where no one is left behind by encouraging a feeling of togetherness and shared duty. This is in line with SDG 10.
8	Responsible Consumption and Production	In line with SDG12 (Responsible Production and Consumption), residents of the Maitama district have a satisfactory level of consumption and production patterns but sometimes they do face challenges such as waste management and pollution.
9	Climate Change	In Maitama district, residents have a shorter commute to work which regulates the impact of carbon emissions on the environment and traffic congestion. SDG13 (Climate Action).
10	Employment opportunities	Maitama is often regarded as a prestigious and prosperous neighborhood, characterized by luxurious

	residential and business zones. It has a greater concentration of government offices and private firms, which contributes to economic growth. Therefore, offering employment prospects to residents. SDG8 and SDG9

3.3.2. Garki District

Garki District, located in the Federal Capital Territory, is currently grappling with the task of managing its deteriorating crowded neighborhoods, figure 12.

Figure 12. Arial view of Garki District, Resource: Garki – Neighbourhood Guide – Property Finder, 2023.

The district's unfavorable location and substandard living conditions present significant obstacles in this regard. The informal settlements are characterized by deteriorating structures, inadequate drainage, and waste accumulation, figure 13.

Figure 13. Garki District, Resource: (Google Earth, 2024)

Additionally, there is a limited presence of educational and healthcare facilities, as well as a lack of water and sewage infrastructure. The district is being considered for revitalization because it stands out in contrast to its surrounding environment, table 2.

Table 2. Neighbourhood Sustainability Observational Analysis for Garki District (Author)

No	Sustainability Goals	Garki District
1	Affordable Housing	Garki has a different range of housing options including high, middle, and low-class affordable housing. In terms of SDG1 (No Poverty).
2	Security	Garki district security measures are not like the ones in Maitama because of the dense population and different classes of residents. These measures contribute to the promotion of SDG 16, which focuses on fostering peace, justice, and strong institutions.
3	Basic Services	Garki offers fundamental services, but the quality of these services provided to its people falls short compared to the services provided to the residents of Maitama. This discrepancy does not correspond with the objectives of SDG 6 (which focuses on clean water and sanitation) and SDG 3 (which emphasises excellent health and well-being). Consequently, the basic services in Garki are substandard.
4	Communal Facilities	In line with SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), Garki district is a mixture of commercial and residential areas, they have all the facilities but in a more diverse range, in terms of quality is low.
5	Social Cohesion	SDG 16 priorities the advancement of peace, justice, and robust institutions. However, in Garki, the population density is such that social cohesiveness is not as strong as it is in Maitama.
6	Education	Concerning SDG 4 (Quality Education), in Garki they have a high concentration of schools in the area with diverse levels of quality learning environments.
7	Community Support	This is in line with SDG 10. Garki district is not committed to combating inequality by promoting equity in resource access and inclusion. Its initiatives aim to reduce disparities in economic, medical, and educational opportunities. Garki's efforts align with SDG 10's goal of creating a more inclusive society.
8	Responsible Consumption and Production	For Garki the level of consumption and production pattern is not as satisfactory as in Maitama, similarly, the residents of Garki do face challenges with waste management and pollution, both are in line with SDG 12 (Responsible Production and Consumption).
9	Climate Change	Garki is longer for the residents thereby impacting negatively on the environment and traffic congestion. SDG 13
10	Employment opportunities	Garki on the other hand, is less luxurious compared to Maitama. Moreso, Garki has a diverse range of

	economic activities encompassing both commercial and residential areas. SDG 8 and 9.

4. DISCUSSION

In this section, the study will be discussed according to the three sustainability dimensions based on the above comparative analysis of both districts Maitama and Garki.

To begin with, Maitama and Garki districts share certain aspects of social sustainability. The aspects include economical housing, protective measures, fundamental amenities, shared facilities, societal unity, and education. Maitama is well-known for its luxurious housing options, while Garki has a combination of both business and residential areas. Maitama's main focus is to provide security and deliver vital services, along with the objectives of SDG 16 and SDG 6. Conversely, Garki prioritizes the promotion of clean water and sanitation access, which is in line with the goals of SDG 3. Maitama's plethora of esteemed educational institutions ensures access to exceptional learning settings, while Garki's diverse range of amenities aligns with Sustainable Development Goal 11. Both districts emphasize community assistance, aiming to reduce inequality and promote justice in terms of resource distribution and inclusiveness. The main goal of both districts is to promote a more inclusive society, while also pushing for peace, justice, and the building of strong institutions.

However, regarding environmental sustainability, the Maitama area has more sustainability and exhibits appropriate consumption and production patterns. However, it encounters difficulties in waste management and pollution. Garki people have comparable challenges, while the degree of sustainability is not equivalent to that of Maitama, with following SDG 12. The shorter journey in Maitama leads to a decrease in carbon emissions and traffic congestion, but the lengthier travel in Garki has a detrimental effect on the environment and traffic. Maitama and Garki exhibit disparities in infrastructure, education, and job prospects. Maitama has superior infrastructure, but Garki has inequalities in basic service access, especially in low-income regions. Maitama is a center for commerce, but Garki is characterised by lower-paying occupations and informal work. Both districts have environmental obstacles, and Maitama's community involvement efforts may be influenced by wealthy people and commercial sector entities. Policymakers should focus on inclusive urban planning, fair resource distribution, and community-led efforts to advance sustainable development in both areas. Finally, Maitama is a prestigious locality renowned for its affluent residential and commercial districts. Due to its prosperous economy, it offers many work prospects. Conversely, Garki, although lacking in luxury, provides a diverse array of commercial and residential activities.

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

In conclusion, the study analyses the sustainability practices of the Maitama and Garki districts in Abuja, Nigeria, specifically addressing environmental, social, and economic concerns. Maitama is known for its luxurious residential areas and high-end commercial amenities, whereas Garki serves a more diverse population. Maitama prioritises infrastructure development comprehensively, whereas Garki is addressing challenges including inadequate road networks and informal settlements. Prioritizing environmental sustainability is crucial due to climate change and ecological deterioration. Maitama's emphasis on green areas and eco-

friendly projects demonstrates a commitment to environmental preservation, whereas Garki has difficulties in waste management and pollution control. Prioritizing social inclusion and community development is essential in sustainable urban design. The elite atmosphere of Maitama hinders social cohesion and togetherness, whereas Garki's diverse socio-economic composition fosters communal resilience. Addressing these difficulties together might set a precedent for a diverse community.

Similarly, Maitama demonstrates its commitment to environmental preservation, social inclusiveness, and economic durability, emphasizing its progressive character. Garki has several obstacles, such as difficulties in waste management, a scarcity of green areas, and little community engagement. The study suggests that the government should implement measures to address environmental concerns and integrate sustainable practices into urban development plans to mitigate the ecological effects of both areas.

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