

Refocusing the Focus, Metafocus and Profocus: Mopping Urban Violence in Developing Cities

Aluko Opeyemi IDOWU*

Abstract

In most developing countries, urbanization is often relegated to the major population centres, leaving secondary cities and rural communities neglected. Such acts of neglect have caused occurrence of certain forms of violence in large cities. In order to reduce and mop up the resultant menace of urban violence, policy makers should initiate refocusing processes from larger cities to secondary cities. This will reveal an enormous potential growth and developments within the secondary cities and the country. This paper uses the principles of metafocus and profocus to proffer how the refocusing on secondary cities can be actualised and benefit the development of the state. The relative deprivation theory is utilized to analyse how the deprivation and neglect leads to urban violence. The adopted methodology analyses the economic conditions and the achieved satisfactory level of urban violence management that ensues from the demographic delimitations in the selected three African countries of Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa. Conclusions are based on the premise that the economic conditions will improve and become balanced if the Pleuri-Potent Mega-City Stem Cell (PPMC-SC) of the metafocus principles and the defensive internal curative packages (M-DICP) of the profocus principles are applied in the countries' secondary and larger cities.

Keywords: development, poverty, public policy, secondary, towns, urbanization, urban violence.

Introduction

In most parts of the world, megacities represent a focal area where governments tend to place their infrastructural development, security and centre of attraction, and state capitals are usually situated in megacities, which is in particular common in Africa. Such approach concentrates attractions of the good, bad and the ugly on these few cities neglecting the satellite towns.

This entails potential overcrowding scenarios in megacities, rapid depletion of the facilities, rise in unhealthy competitions between "the have" and "the have not", and in such polity a regular phenomenon of urban violence mostly becomes inevitable (Anand & Kanbur, 1993; Kanbur, 2005; Nagler, 2015). Governments and public administrators have to face a huge task if this scenario is not properly managed.

Refocusing needs to be drawn towards the lateral potentials of the secondary towns to reduce and mop up any chances for high concentrations of urban violence in the focused primary cities. The rapid influx of rural and secondary city dwellers most especially comprising young adults and children of various backgrounds into the primary cities are alarming, which needs an urgent response from the

government and other policy makers/advisers. The major notion of these people is an unending quest for a greener pasture. Paradoxically, their initial habitat has far greener and untapped potentials than the quest for uncertainty and over flogged opportunities in megacities (Christiaensen & Todo, 2014; Jedwab, Christiaensen & Gindelsky, 2014; Østby, 2015).

Most of the migrants fail to fit in the major high requirements of big urban cities and may refer to a survivor's strategy, which ensures the presence of urban menace in large cities. Such remedies mostly reduce standards of the megacities and causes unnecessary problems for the government at large. These include street hulking, prostitution, increase in uncensored semi-skilled workers such as cobblers, roadside automobile mechanics, untrained security agents (vigilantes) and street beggars. Others cast bandwagons of thieves, car snatchers, advance-fee scams, criminal-errand boys/girls, hoodlums and community gangs that recruit school dropouts and no clear-cut good mission mindful young adults. In the long run this degenerates into a large scale urban violence (Auyero, 2015; Raleigh, 2015; Wakefield & Tait, 2015).

*Ph.Dc. Political Science Department, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria.
E-mail: opealukoheavenprogress@gmail.com

This paper believes that the main reason as to why people from secondary towns migrate to larger towns relates to economic reasons, which increases the migration rates. This means that their standards of living is enough to sustain them for the time being, before they start to think they are being deprived of their basic needs to live an appreciable life, which involves good roads, modern housing, portable water, stable electricity, good health facilities and affordable schools. Although, it is not that all or some of these amenities do not exist in the secondary cities, but their deficiency that underpins the problem. Most of the facilities are also at the rudimental stage of development and the poor maintenance culture completely dilapidates the existing ones.

A high number of young adults who desire to move to megacities, reside in secondary cities that have a growth potential and developed facilities - although relatively lower as compared to the larger cities (Kanbur, 2004; Proctor, 2014). Their potential and their maximum propensity towards further development should not be underestimated. It is important to note that the expansionist tendencies of the big cities rely on the accommodating prowess of the secondary towns (Kanbur, n.d; Cabas, Vallejos, & Garrido 2015).

Moreover, every developed city in the world at some stage used to be a secondary city, thus secondary towns require only mild structural adjustments to succour and absolve the immense pressure imposed by combined various populace from all sectors of economies on limited-capacity facilities of megacities (Fan, Kanbur, Wei & Zhang, 2013; Carter, 2015).

The metafocus and profocus principles are suggested to be able to navigate through the muddy waters of poverty and urban violence in any polity of the world, but most especially in the developing countries. The metafocus principles rely on the prowess of diverting attention away from an object of focus. Thus, before getting to the cynosure, most of the attention is diverted into a neo similitude of the original. A neo similitude of the original has the Pleuri-Potent Mega-City Stem Cell (PPMC-SC). PPMC-SC has the potential of transforming small towns into larger ones, if it is implanted at the heart of small towns. The profocus principles simply ensure that the metafocus principles work properly in any location of its application. It includes the monitoring and the defensive internal curative packages (M-DICP) of the local areas.

This paper explains how growth in secondary towns create more jobs through the profocus and metafocus principles, especially to rectify the income-distribution anomaly in growing towns as compared to the growth of large cities, and also offer solutions on to how the governments can decide the allocation of public investment across different sized urban agglomerations. The theoretical framework of relative deprivation theory is employed to explain the effect of deprivation on the community. The methodology adopted examines the extent of economic development and urban violence in three African states, namely in Nigeria, Ghana and South Africa. A conclusion draws attention on growing up the secondary towns to create and enhance more jobs

through the metafocus and profocus principles and other measures for rapid growth and even growth of the country at large.

Principles of Metafocus and Profocus Development

There are various developmental principles in political economy studies, such as the normative principles that allow the community to develop at its own pace. The Realist principle believes that the level of input within the state will give a corresponding outcome. Whilst, the Marxian principle believes in the dictatorship of the proletariat as against the capitalist, the system approach adopts individual sectors' functioning as independent, yet the resultant functioning of each influence the whole system's function (Kanbur, 2005). All these and other forms of developmental principles aid the growth, development and sustenance of a country.

In this paper, the metafocus and profocus principles of developments are advanced to analyse how a secondary city can serve as a medium of job creation and poverty reduction, which will in return reduce the pressure on a large city, reduce urban violence and aid the overall growth of a country at large. By replicating some developmental sectors of economy and situating corresponding governmental offices in secondary cities, the metafocus principle deals with a systematic shifting of attention from primary cities to secondary cities. Metafocus principles lie on the prowess of diverting attention away from an object of focus. Therefore, before getting to the cynosure, the majority of the attentions are diverted into a neo similitude of the original. The neo similitude of the original has the Pleuri-Potent Mega-City Stem Cell (PPMC-SC). PPMC-SC has the potential of transforming small towns into larger ones, if it is implemented at the heart of small towns.

The metafocus principle as a deviated principle from the cynosure to the periphery entails partial or total relocation of some of the major tertiary institutions and industries to secondary cities. This means that a major branch of a tertiary institution may be in a megacity, while its another branch may be situated in a secondary town. This is also applicable to some manufacturing, repackaging, production, mining industries, which can be established appropriately in sub-towns or hold a branch there while a major branch is positioned in a megacity. This refocuses a rapt attention of the migrants in terms of their unaided rush for megacity.

The metafocus principles bear high costs, as they require the profocus principles to gain a meaning and operate effectively within a polity. The profocus maintenance principles involve the enactment of the relevant government legislatures to keep and maintain a diversion of a majority of people from megacities to sub towns. It also entails triggering the psychological refocusing of people from congested facilities of mega cities to new and emerging ones of secondary cities through media and security check-ups.

The profocus principle will grant these secondary cities a psychological status of a developed town – similar to a perception of people living in megacities. The government

legislatures are essential to maintain the growth of secondary towns, which include a legislation to have dual arms of operations of old and new companies in mega cities and secondary cities as well –making it more strict to construct structures in large cities, while granting more freedom to do the very same in the sub- towns. In addition, a security level of sub-towns will improve to a high level, as the permission to live in some of the top large cities will be allowed according to work-permits and classified residential permits only. Within the profocus principle, these are referred as the monitoring and defensive curative packages (M-DICP).

The metafocus and profocus principles enable a government to navigate through the muddy waters of poverty and urban violence within the polity of the world and most importantly of the developing countries. The profocus principles simply ensure that the metafocus principles work properly in any location of its application. It includes the monitoring and the defensive internal curative packages (M-DICP) of the local areas. The Pleuri-Potent Mega-City Stem Cell (PPMC-SC) include the tertiary institutions and the industrial layouts refocusing, repositioning and branching off from the large cities to the secondary cities. They have a potential of turning any small town into a big town where people from all professional backgrounds will eke out a decent living.

The Pleuri-Potent Mega-City Stem Cells (PPMC-SC) of the metafocus principle have a full potential to reduce poverty in the community, create new jobs, produce more trained workers for the new industries, raise the majority of people above the poverty line level. Consequently, lead to happiness among the large population of people and in the long run reduce urban violence within the community. These Pleuri-Potent Mega-City Stem Cells (PPMC-SCs) are largely dependent on the efficacy of the actions of the monitoring and the defensive internal curative packages (M-DICP) adopted by the profocus principles.

Theoretical Framework

Relative Deprivation Theory

Relative Deprivation is a theory that was born out of feelings and perceptions of individuals and groups concerning the right of existence and equal treatment in a community. It was first articulated by Stouffer and his group (Stouffer et al, 1949) to explain feelings of satisfaction and perceptions on one's position in the army. The main premise of relative deprivation theory is that people generally experience dissatisfaction and resentment when their own outcomes do not match the outcomes of other people with whom they compare themselves (Gurr, 1970; Cook, Crosby & Henningan, 1977). Thus, the emergence of deprivation feelings is the result of comparative judgments, rather than being determined by an objective outcome. As a result, those who are objectively least well off are not necessarily the ones who feel most deprived (Crosby 1976; Walker & Smith, 2002).

When taking a closer look at the different ways in which the value of one's outcomes can be assessed, a basic distinction can be made between interpersonal comparisons

and intergroup comparisons. Unfavourable interpersonal comparisons may result in feelings of individual deprivation, while unfavourable intergroup comparisons may lead people to conclude that their social group is deprived, relative to other groups. This is an important distinction because egoistical (individual) and fraternal (group level) deprivation are predicted to have fundamentally different behavioural consequences (Tyler & Lind, 2002).

Fraternal deprivation is seen as an important precursor of political protest and intergroup social conflict, while the experience of egoistical deprivation has been associated with social isolation and individual maladjustment due to environmental deprivation or neglects.

Tougas and Beaton (2002) considered relative deprivation as personal, group and deprivation felt on behaviours of others. The latter is the experience of the advantageous group acting for the interest of the disadvantaged group. This may be against the advantaged group's personal interest or group interest. Relative Deprivation had also been used to address gender disparity. Crosby, Ozawa and Crosby (2002) opined that countries that are essentially individualistic such as Americans will easily implement the affirmative action to remedy gender relative deprivation while countries that are collectivistic such as Japanese will hardly implement the gender relative deprivation remedy of affirmative action. However, every developed country will be ready to spread the level of developments to the suburbs for even development than the developing or undeveloped ones.

In this paper, relative deprivation theory is used to explain the reason behind the mass migration from secondary towns to large or megacities, the history of urbanization in developed countries, why the governments decide on the allocation of public investment across different sized urban agglomerations and the effective policies to promote secondary town developments. The result of long-term relative deprivation brings about the agitation of the smaller cities dwellers against perceived neglect of government in relation to equally balanced developments. This neglect in most cases results in violence and the abuse of the developmental facilities in the big cities due to untold pressure caused by overcrowd populace.

Methodology

The methodology adopted uncovers the perception of people in Nigeria, Ghana and South Africa on the democratic implications of demographic delimitations adopted in their various multi-ethnic federal structures in terms of solving the present economic conditions and the resultant violence or crises that may ensue. The research conducted by afrobarometer round five (5) in 2012-2013 is used; validated and interpreted. The total sample size is two-thousand four hundred (2400) participants per country. The sample selection technique is simple proportionate purposive random sampling. Simple percentage, ratio and graphical illustrations were used as the analytical tool to analyse the result.

This research is appropriate as it reflects the true mind-set of Nigeria, Ghana and South Africa populace with regard to the demographic disparities in the urban developments of the secondary cities vis-à-vis the larger cities and the urban violence managements that ensues. The data analysis responds to the question as to what are the economic situations of the countries under considerations and effects of demographic delimitations on democratic peace and development within the polity. This invariably reveals the perceptions of the people on their country's present economic condition and handling and resolving violent conflict between communities.

Discussion of Finding

In the figure 1, it is evident that people from Nigeria, Ghana and South Africa overall perceive their country's economy as bad (a combination of very bad and fairly bad) and this perception rate is quite high. Sixty seven percent (67%) of

overall perception in Nigeria regarding the economy of the country is bad. Sixty four percent (64%) of overall perception in Ghana regarding the economy of their country is bad, while forty seven percent (47%) of all South Africans' perceptions with regard to the economy of their country is bad. This shows that there are some lacunas in the polity which make the efforts of the states on the economic matters poor and profitably unyielding for the majority. This might be invisible to the general populace such as the demographical delimitations. If not controlled, it may further lead to an increase in the rate of urban violence in the polity.

The table 2 depicts that the way and manner the government of Nigeria handles violence in the state is not very effective. Forty percent (40%) of the populace perceived it as well (a combination of fairly well and very well) while a larger percentage perceived it as bad. This indicates that the invisible hands of demographical delimitations inequalities still have a firm grip on the polity in Nigeria. The case takes a slight turn around in the perception of the populace

Table 1: Country's Present Economic Condition

Total	Nigeria	Ghana	South Africa
N=7,199; Weighted results			
Very bad	39%	40%	19%
Fairly bad	28%	24%	28%
Neither good nor bad	8%	6%	17%
Fairly good	21%	24%	28%
Very good	4%	6%	6%
Missing; Unknown	-	-	-
Don't know	1%	1%	2%
Total	2,400	2,400	2,399

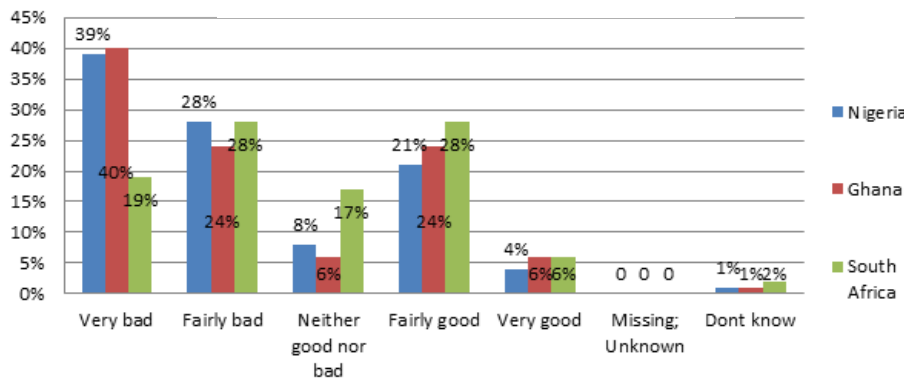


Figure 1: Country's Present Economic Condition

Table 2: Handling and resolving violent conflict between communities

Total	Nigeria	Ghana	South Africa
N=7,199; Weighted results			
Very badly	30%	15%	18%
Fairly badly	29%	19%	31%
Fairly well	33%	43%	36%
Very well	7%	20%	10%
Missing; Unknown	-	-	-
Don't know; haven't heard enough	1%	3%	5%
Total	2,400	2,400	2,399

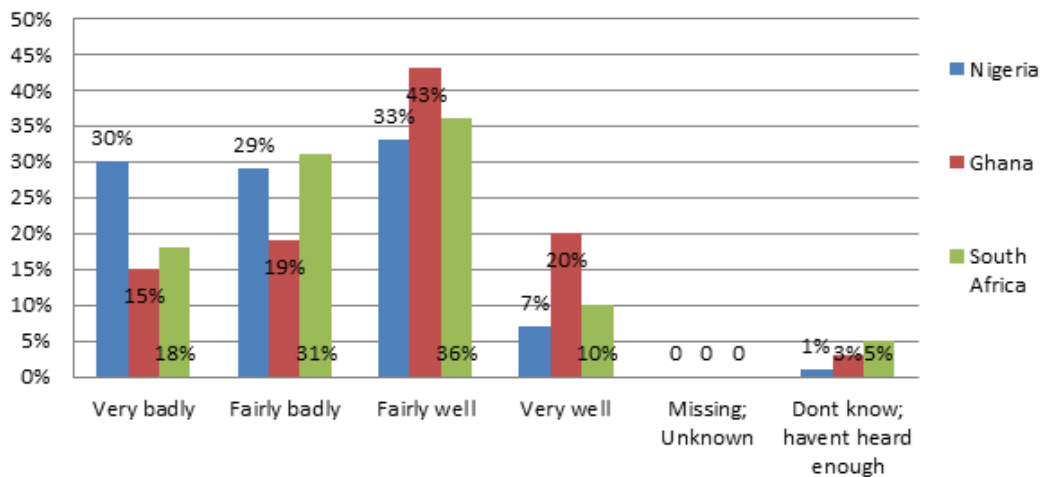


Figure 2: Handling and resolving violent conflict between communities

in Ghana. Sixty three (63%) of the populace perceived the government's way of handling violence in the polity as well (a combination of fairly well and very well) while a slightly significant percentage perceived it as bad.

These indicate that the demographical delimitations crises discussed in this work still have a grip on the polity in Ghana, but not as firm as compared to Nigeria. The case of South Africa is similar to that of Nigeria; Forty Six percent (46%) of the populace perceived the government's way of handling violence in the polity as well (a combination of fairly well and very well) while a significant percentage perceived it as bad. This indicates that the invisible hands of demographical delimitations discussed in this work still have a firm grip on the polity in South Africa - just very close to the one in Nigeria, but different from the one in Ghana.

Conclusion

The governments primary focus on megacities have concentrated attractions of the good, bad and the ugly on these few cities neglecting the satellite towns. As a result, overcrowding scenarios have emerged in the megacities, rapid depletion of the facilities, rise in unhealthy competitions between the "have" and the "have not", therefore the regular phenomenon of urban violence becomes inevitable in such polity. The rapid influx of rural and secondary cities dwellers most especially young adult and children into the larger cities are alarming and needs urgent response from both the government and other policy makers and/or advisers from the town and gown. The major notion of these people is an unending quest for a greener pasture.

Most of the migrants fail to fit in the major high requirements of big urban cities and may refer to a survivor's strategy, which ensures the presence of urban menace in large cities. Such remedies mostly reduce standards of the megacities and causes unnecessary problems for the government at large. The major reasons for the rapid migration of these people from the secondary towns to the larger towns relates to economic reasons and to enjoy amenities such as good roads, modern housing, portable water, stable electricity, good health facilities and affordable modern schools, which are also present in the secondary towns, but largely at rudimental levels.

The metafocus and profocus principles are suggested for the governments and policy makers across the world, but most significantly for the developing countries. The metafocus principles are focusing on diverting attention away from an object of focus. The majority of the attentions are diverted into a neo similitude of the original. This neo similitude of the original has the Pleuri-Potent Mega-City Stem Cell (PPMC-SC). PPMC-SC has the potential of transforming a small town into a larger one if it is implanted at the heart of the small and secondary cities. Such Pleuri-Potent Mega-City Stem Cell (PPMC-SC) include the creation of subsidiary or a major branch of a tertiary institution and some manufacturing, repackaging, production, mining industries in the secondary cities.

The profocus principles simply ensure that the metafocus principles work properly in any location of its application. It includes the monitoring and the defensive internal curative packages (M-DICP) of the local areas. It includes government legislations to support and ensure that tertiary institutions, manufacturing, repackaging, production, mining industries have dual or multi locations, which will cover both the larger cities and the secondary cities. This will also dissuade the psychology of migration to the larger cities from the secondary cities due to the neo-equal status the PPMC-SC conferred on the secondary towns.

The relative deprivation theory was used to explain why larger cities are potential sources of urban violence, which relates to the sole focus and concentration of the government developmental projects neglecting secondary cities. The methodology adopted focused on the current economic developments and how the urban violence that has been caused by the economic status of the country had been managed. Three countries in Africa which include Nigeria, Ghana and South Africa were assessed. The data analysis shows that the economic conditions of the three selected countries are relatively low and the urban violence management is bad due to uneven demographic delimitations in the states. Economic conditions will improve and become balanced if the Pleuri-Potent Mega-City Stem Cell (PPMC-SC) of the metafocus principles and the defensive internal curative packages (M-DICP) of the profocus principles are applied in the secondary cities and the larger cities of the countries.

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