

Can We Establish Predictable Trends in Quality of Life in Kaduna State and Nigeria?

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Abstract

Poor living conditions are common in both urban and rural areas of Nigeria. The nation's poor quality of life is exemplified by high poverty and large unemployment rate of 35%, low longevity of 54 years, high illiteracy level and insecurity, particularly in the northern part of the country. Kaduna state, in the north-western part of Nigeria, is a trade centre and a major transportation hub for the surrounding agricultural areas. The state is also known as the center of learning, as evident from the numerous educational institutions. Therefore, this paper examined if there are some predictable trends in the quality of life in Kaduna State and Nigeria. The study sourced data from 2018/2019 Nigeria Living Standards Survey (NLSS) by National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). The result shows that Kaduna State has higher dependency ratio and mean household size than the Nigeria's average. The findings also indicated that the percentage of working age population involving in wage employment in Kaduna State is slightly lower than the national average. These results highlight the need for sustained efforts by government and non-government institutions towards improving the quality of life in Kaduna State, in order to create jobs and attain inclusive growth.

Keywords: *Quality of Life, Health, Education, Nigeria*

JEL Code: *D63, I10, I20*

Introduction

The quality of life is how well people live. Its concerns comfort and happiness experienced by individual or household members in a given society. The appraisal of quality of life is often based on multi-dimensional measures, including health (mortality and suicide rates, access to health services), education (literacy rates), unemployment rate, and many subjective factors, such as individual sense of happiness, and family relationships (Szemik, Kowalska & Kulik, 2019; Rapley, 2003). This implies that the degree to which an individual is healthy, comfortable, happy, and able to participate in life events is quality of life. As Haid and Seiffge-Krenke (2013), Brand (2015) and Ek (2015) observed, quality of life is largely and highly subjective. This is because; different individual may define his/her quality of life, in terms of having ability to live a good life. For instance, a disabled person

may report a high quality of life, while healthy individual (without disability), but recently lost a job may report a lower quality of life.

Thus, quality of life is a broad ranging concept affected in a complex way by the person's physical health, education, psychological state, and level of independence, social relationships and their relationships to salient features of their environment (Ferdiana, Marcel & King, 2017). It also concerns everything from family well-being – maintaining social relationship or keeping good relationships/doing activities with friends, peers and family members (Szemik *et al.* 2019), to employment, being productive, earning income and work satisfaction (Brand, 2015).

It is worthy of note that, poor living conditions are common in both urban and rural areas of Nigeria, as well as states. The nation's poor quality of life is exemplified by high poverty where 40% of the population or almost 83 million people live below the country's poverty line of #137,430 per year or #376 per day (National Bureau of Statistics, 2020); large unemployment rate of 35%, low average life expectancy at birth of 54 years, high illiteracy level, kidnapping and insecurity, particularly in the northern part of the country. According to World Bank report (2018), despite being a middle-income economy, Nigeria fares astonishingly poorly in quality of living. For instance, while Southern zones recorded significant drop in poverty between 2011 and 2016; with little variation across the states. However, the poverty rate in the northern regions of the country has been increasing. The north accounts for 87% of all poor in the country with wide variation across the states (World Bank, 2018).

For example, Kaduna state, in the north-western part of Nigeria, is a trade and industrial centre of Northern Nigeria. The state is also a major transportation hub for the surrounding agricultural areas. Again, the Kaduna Refining and Petrochemical Company (KRPC), one of the Nigeria's four main oil refineries is located in Kaduna. The state is also known as the center of learning, as evident from the numerous educational institutions; and with an inland dry port. However, the state is one of the top six cities with the highest unemployment rate, where 20% of the population is estimated to be unemployed (World Bank, 2009). Therefore, considering the nature of Kaduna state's economy, can we establish predictable trends in quality of living in Kaduna state and Nigeria's averages?

From the literature, most of the studies have basically focused on either employment status (De Boer & Benneboek, 2016, Haid, 2013) or health

(LaMontages & Pirkis, 2016). However, this study conducted comparative analysis between Kaduna State and Nigeria averages on quality of life components. Similarly, convinced that quality of life coupled with industrial development, this is the bedrock of any modern economy. It is paramount to strengthen the quality of life in Kaduna State. Hence, the main purpose of this paper is to examine the quality of life among people in Kaduna State and Nigeria. The rest of this paper is organized as follows: Section one focus on introduction. The next section reviewed literature, while section three presents the methodology. The empirical results are presented in section four, and section five focuses on conclusion and recommendations.

Literature Review

Conceptually, despite the recognized importance of quality of life across nations of the world, the individual's perception on the concept has been emphasized in the definition of World Health Organization (WHO) Quality of Life Assessment (WHO, 1995). The components of Quality of Life associated with people's perceptions of their position in life in the context of the culture and value systems in which they live. These components as Figure 1 shown, relates to people's goals, expectations, standard and concerns.



Figure 1: Components of Quality of Life

Quality of life largely concern education, having skills and knowledge (Ferdiana *et al.* 2017); people's physical health (WHO, 1995); income, assets, wealth, and

mobility, maintaining self-esteem, self-confidence and safety, security, freedom and relationship with their God, as well as their environmental quality.

Theoretically, the focus on welfare research within economics was actually intensified by the different roles that were attributed to the standard of living of people over the time by several economists and analysts. Several economists emphasize that intervention to improve quality of life will be more successful, if it is culturally relevant and addressing the components of quality of life expressed by the population (Rapley, 2003; Szemik *et al.* 2019). From the above theoretical review, we can conclude that considerations of demography, cultural attributes of people are keys to their quality of life.

In terms of empiric, Audretsch and Thurik (2001) examined the link between entrepreneurship and quality of life in OECD countries from 1974 and 1998. Their study employed panel regression technique. Their finding shows that entrepreneurial activity increases growth, bringing about reduction in unemployment and improve quality of living significantly. In a similar study, Carree and Thurik (2010) investigated the impact of entrepreneurship on economic growth in Western Europe and North America. Their results indicated that entrepreneurship also improve quality of life.

Sorens (2013) presented the empirical analysis of inter-state migration, public policy and quality of life in United States. The study estimates spatial, matched-neighbors and dyadic models of the net interstate migration for all 50 states, covering the years 2000 and 2012. The evidence suggests that quality of living strongly correlated with land-use regulation, and both fiscal and regulatory components of economic freedom attract new residents. Haid (2013) emphasized that employment status is key to quality of lives. The finding of the study shows that employment status of residents significantly enhances quality of life.

De Boer and Benneboek (2016) assessed the employment status, difficulties at work and quality of life. The regression result indicated that people without paid employment experience lower quality of life, higher anxiety and depression rates. The study of LaMontages and Pirkis (2016) also empirically provides evidence for the role of psychological job quality on quality of life. Data were collected from cohort of 15,988 males. The analysis was restricted to 18-55-year-old working age participants. The empirical result indicated that there were higher magnitude associations between psychological job quality and quality of life.

Ouyang *et al.* (2020) assessed the resident happiness under uncertainty of economic policies in China during the periods of 2010 and 2018. Results show that the uncertainty of economic policy significantly reduces resident happiness. In the context of the uncertainty of economic policies, families can relieve such negative impacts as an increasing proportion of financial assets in their total assets.

In Nigeria, Akinyemi *et al.* (2012) examined the quality of life and associated factors among adults in a community in South-West Nigeria. A descriptive cross-sectional study of 527 adults in Oru community was conducted. The study also employed multivariate logistic regression which shows that those respondents less than 25 years had good quality of life. Similarly, living in flats and other bigger apartments, and lack of involvement in religious activities were shown to be predictors of good quality of life.

Akinyemi, Oyebisi and Odot-Ito (2018) examined the relationship between entrepreneurship, unemployment and economic growth in Nigeria over the period 1981-2011. Their finding reveals that there is a positive relationship between unemployment and entrepreneurial activity which in turn brings about economic growth. The study concludes that economic growth is not linked to total labour force, but to labour productivity given improved working conditions in Nigeria. Effiong and Bassey (2020) examined the effect of government expenditure on health on the quality of life. The Autoregressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) model was employed in the study. The result depicted a clear presence of long-run relationship between government expenditure on health and longevity proxy for quality of life.

In all these studies (developed and Nigeria studies), no attempt was made to include both micro and macro components of quality of life in their analysis. Again, convinced that quality of life coupled with industrial development is the bedrock of any modern economy. It is paramount to strengthen the quality of life in Nigeria, particularly the northern Nigeria where poverty and poor quality of living has been increasing with wide variation across the region's states. However, no attempt was made to include the possible national-state dichotomy, but several studies, such as, Akinyemi *et al.* (2018), Effiong and Bassey (2020) assumed that all states in Nigeria are the same in terms of their quality of lives. Besides, little is known about the quality of lives in northern Nigeria, particularly Kaduna State, which is a trade, educational and industrial centre of Northern Nigeria. This study, therefore, adds to the existing studies in Nigeria and fills these gaps.

Methodology

Research Design

The study area for this study is Kaduna State and Nigeria. It is located in the North-Western zone of the country. The state is also unique in terms of its commercial activities, trade, educational institutions, and industrialization. Kaduna State, with 23 Local Government Areas, is the third most populous state in Nigeria. The state had a population of 6.1 million people, next to Kano and Lagos States (NPC, 2006). The current population is projected at between 8.8 to 10 million, and with an annual growth rate of 2.5% (Kaduna State Infrastructure Master Plan, 2018-2050). At this growth rate, the population is estimated to reach almost 13 million by 2050; while about 40% of the population now lives in rural areas. Despite its economy advancement, the state is one of the top six cities with the highest unemployment rate, where 20% of the population is estimated to be unemployed (World Bank, 2009).

Data and Method of Data Collection

The study employed descriptive statistics, and sourced data from 2018/2019 Nigeria Living Standards Survey (NLSS). NLSS is a nationally representative survey with 5,000 households and 26,783 individuals. The survey was conducted by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in collaboration with the Living Standard Measurement Study (LSMS) by World Bank. The sample covers the six geopolitical zones as well as rural and urban areas. The data also covers the 36 states of the federation (and FCT Abuja).

The NLSS survey is a long-term project with the goal of collecting household-level panel information, such as data on household characteristics, welfare, and living standards. The survey is the result of a partnership that NBS has established the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and the World Bank (WB). This partnership helped develop a method of collecting welfare data in a way that allows for the study of household welfare's evolution over time. The NLSS sample consisted of 60 Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) or Enumeration Areas (EAs) chosen from each of the 37 states in Nigeria. This results in a total of 2,220 EAs nationally. Each EA contributes 10 households to the NLSS sample, resulting in a sample size of 22,200 households.

Findings and Discussions

The result from Table 1 indicated that the current average household size in Nigeria is 5.06 persons per family. It is worth of note that, the average family size in Kaduna

State is 6.24 for each household. This finding suggests that households in Kaduna State have more family members than the national average. By implication, to improve the welfare and quality of lives in Kaduna State, this will require additional efforts and good quality of living strategies beyond what is obtainable at the national level. Similarly, other northern states, such as, Jigawa (8.15), Kano (7.04), Katsina (6.8), Kebbi (6.39), and Sokoto (5.93) have higher family size more than the national average of 5.06. Compare to southern states, namely, Lagos (3.51), and Rivers (4.73). Perhaps, the high household sizes in the northern part of Nigeria might be a result of polygamous activities in the region. Hence, this result further suggests extra welfare strategies for the region.

Table 1: Average Household size and Dependency Ratio

	<i>Average Household size</i>	<i>Dependency Ratio</i>
Nigeria	5.06	0.97
Kaduna	6.24	1.07
Industrial States		
Lagos	3.51	0.63
Rivers	4.73	0.78
FCT	6.05	0.89
Other states in North-Western Zone of Nigeria		
Jigawa	8.15	1.40
Kano	7.04	1.28
Katsina	6.80	1.31
Kebbi	6.39	1.24
Sokoto	5.93	1.20
Source: NLSS, National Bureau of Statistics, 2020		

Furthermore, Table 1 indicates that the total dependency ratio in Nigeria on average is 0.97. In Kaduna state, the dependency ratio is 1.07. This statistic is also higher than the national average, and other industrial states in Nigeria, for instance, Lagos, Rivers states, and FCT Abuja. These findings are not surprising as World Bank (2018) also observed that the north accounts for 87% of all poor in the country with wide variation across her states. This might largely be the result of more family members and higher dependency ratio in the Northern part of Nigeria.

Table 2 also shows the percentage of literacy level by gender in Nigeria. The results indicate that male (with 58.5%) are literate to their female counterpart (49%). On the other hand, 47% and 34% of male and female are literate, respectively. On average, the residents of Kaduna State (40%) are less literate compare to the

national average of 53.7%. This suggests that despite Kaduna State is known as the center of learning, as evident from the numerous educational institutions in the state; educational sector of the state still need more improvement.

Table 2: Reporting Literacy Rate by Sex (in percent)

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Nigeria	58.5	49	53.7
Kaduna	46.8	33.5	40
Industrial States			
Lagos	92.9	88.6	90.8
Rivers	85	79.1	82
FCT	74	58.9	66.3
Other states in North-Western Zone of Nigeria			
Jigawa	21.2	13	17.2
Kano	36.8	25.9	31.1
Katsina	34	20.5	27.2
Kebbi	32.3	18	25.1
Sokoto	22	13.9	18.2
Zamfara	23	11.7	17.3
Source: National Bureau of Statistics, 2020			

In Nigeria, about 14.3% of population above 5 years of age has never attended school. This is presented in Table 3. Furthermore, compared to Lagos (3.7%) and Rivers (4.7%), Kaduna State statistics of 9.7% population perform better in terms of percentage share of population who have never attended school, compare to other Northern states, namely, Kano (26.8%), Kebbi (26.5%), Katsina (20.8%), Jigawa (9.9%) and Sokoto (11.8%). However, this statistic is still higher than Lagos (3.7%) and Rivers (4.7%), respectively. Among the primary reasons of never attending the school are: the reluctance and lack of interest on the parents' part dominate the list of answers.

Table 3: Share of Population who have never attended school (in percent)

	<i>Never Attended School</i>
Nigeria	14.3
Kaduna	9.7
Industrial States	
Lagos	3.7
Rivers	4.7
FCT	17
Other states in North-Western Zone of Nigeria	
Jigawa	9.9
Kano	26.8
Katsina	20.8
Kebbi	26.5
Sokoto	11.8
Source: National Bureau of Statistics, 2020	

Table 4 indicates the participation in the labour activities. Only 11.6% for Nigeria and 9.4% for Kaduna state of males, involved in wage employment, respectively. While 5.3% and 4% of females surveyed for Nigeria and Kaduna state are involved in wage employment. This suggests that the percentage of working age population involving in wage employment in Kaduna state is slightly lower than the national average. The percentage is higher in Lagos state with 30.3% and 16.8% for male and female, respectively, and lowest for Zamfara state (1.3% for male and 0.2% for female).

As Table 4 further indicates, among adults (age 15 years and above), 15.2% and 24% of men and women work in own non-farm enterprise in Kaduna State. While the national averages are slightly lower with 15% and 23%. Again, around 40% and 30% of males and 14% and 20% of females participate in farming activity for Kaduna State and Nigeria, respectively.

This also implies that more population within the working age in Kaduna state (like Jigawa, Kebbi and Sokoto states) involves in farming activities compare to the average statistics. Many individuals, 15.2% and 12.5% of men and 10.7% and 6.4% of women are simultaneously involved in several activities - combination of wage, farm and non-farm work – in Nigeria and Kaduna State, respectively.

Table 4: Participation in the Labour Activities in the Last 7 Days before the NLSS Survey

	BY ACTIVITY										NO ACTIVITY	
	Wage		Farm		Non-Farm		Apprenticeship		Mixed		M	F
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		
Nigeria	11.6	5.3	29.5	19.6	15	22.9	3.5	2.8	15.2	10.7	25.3	38.7
Kaduna	9.4	4	39.6	14.1	15.2	23.5	2.3	3.5	12.5	6.4	21	48.6
Industrial States												
Lagos	30.3	16.8	1.1	0.1	30.3	42.4	6.3	4	1.4	0.4	30.5	36.4
Rivers	14.6	7.8	18.1	23.2	14.4	18.8	3.4	2.7	6.9	5.7	42.6	41.9
FCT	13	6.5	38.6	40.1	10.1	13.2	1.6	1.5	14.3	10.8	22.6	28
Other states in North-Western Zone of Nigeria												
Jigawa	6.4	1.9	45.2	3.4	8.5	29.8	0.2	0	20.7	0.5	19.1	64.5
Kano	14.7	2.1	20.7	2.9	21.4	32.8	2.2	0.6	17.6	0.6	23.5	61
Katsina	3.6	0.5	27.5	16.3	12.1	30.4	1.3	0.6	41.3	26.1	14.1	26.1
Kebbi	2.2	0.3	46.6	22.6	7.9	23.9	1.2	0.9	35.5	30.4	6.6	21.9
Sokoto	4.9	1.1	51.5	3.1	7.1	7.7	0	0	8	1.1	28.4	87
Zamfara	1.3	0.2	45.6	9.5	4.2	35.6	0.2	0.6	32.5	17.8	16.1	36.2

Source: National Bureau of Statistics, 2020

Furthermore, in terms of male without income earning activities, the national figure is 25.3%, but the Kaduna figure is 21%. It does suggest that more men got job in Kaduna State, and this statistics is greater than the Nigeria's average. For female, however, there are most female that do not participate in any income earning activities in Kaduna State (48.6%) to national average of 38.7%.

Table 5: Industry of Activity for Wage Employment by Sex (% of people employed)

	Agriculture		Mining/Construction		Manufacturing		Electricity/Water/Gas		Scientific/Technical		Transportation	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Nigeria	8.6	7	11	1.3	6.3	3.5	2.3	0.7	7.6	4.8	10.1	0.5
Kaduna	3.6	2	10.7	0	2.3	1.1	1.2	0	10	6.7	20.5	0
Industrial States												
Lagos	0.4	1.8	5.5	0	12	4.6	2	0.7	25.4	20.9	11.5	0.6
Rivers	4.5	5	12.5	0.6	1.5	1.1	7.1	2.7	18.2	1.7	7.4	0
FCT	0.4	2.8	10	4.4	3.2	1	1.3	0.6	8.9	4.4	6.2	0.8
Other states in North-Western Zone of Nigeria												
Jigawa	13.7	0	4.9	0	3.9	0	1.6	0	0.7	0	8.6	0
Kano	8.9	7.8	5.7	0	7	0	0.9	0	2.1	0	12.5	2.7
Katsina	9.8	5.8	3.1	0	7.8	0	0.6	0	6.6	0	13.6	0
Kebbi	9.7	6.6	7	0	4.8	0	1.4	0	1.4	3.8	0.6	0
Source: National Bureau of Statistics, 2020												

Table 5 show the percentage of people's industrial activities by sex of those who are employed. For instance, among those who have wage employment, 8.6% of male and 7% of female engaged in agricultural activities. However, lower male (3.6%) and female (2%) were fully engaged in farming and livestock activities in Kaduna State. The finding suggests that considering the large male and female unemployment, agricultural production could be re-strategies to reduce this rate of unemployment in the state. The same is applicable to mining/construction, manufacturing, electricity/water/gas, except scientific/technical and transportation activities. This is not surprising because, the state is known as the center of learning,

as evident from the numerous educational institutions. Similarly, it is a major transportation hub for the surrounding states.

Table 5 (cont.): Industry of Activity for Wage Employment by Sex (% of people employed)

	Buying and Selling		Financial/ Insurance / Real Estate		Personal Services		Education		Health		Public Administration	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Nigeria	4.7	5.1	2.8	2.8	12.5	11.4	14.4	38.9	3.5	10.7	12.9	11.4
Kaduna	4.4	2	0.2	2.5	7	7.2	20.2	47.6	4.2	22.4	11.8	8.5
Industrial States												
Lagos	5	4.8	6.1	4.9	10.9	10.9	4.6	26.8	2.7	4.4	8.9	15.2
Rivers	2.5	9.8	1.3	4.7	4.9	4.2	11.9	38	2.7	12.2	23	19.9
FCT	2.7	9.7	1.5	3.5	13.2	11.6	12.2	37.5	3.2	3.8	31.8	18.9
Other states in North-Western Zone of Nigeria												
Jigawa	1.8	0	1	0	34.4	72.4	14.8	22.8	2.4	0	12	4.8
Kano	20.5	7.1	4.1	8.4	3.6	12.4	19.7	54.6	3.4	7.1	8.8	0
Katsina	3.2	0	2.1	0	10.3	0	19.7	40.8	8	53.5	14.1	0
Kebbi	0	0	3.1	0	11.8	20.7	20.4	48.6	3	0	29.3	11.4
Sokoto	1.8	0	0.5	0	0	0	37.8	62	20.8	38	15.2	0
Zamfara	0	0	0	0	0	0	34.1	17.4	18.5	82.6	12.2	0
Source: National Bureau of Statistics, 2020												

Table 5 (cont) further indicates that, 14.8% of male and 38.9% of female were employed in the educational sector in Nigeria. These national statistics is lower compared to Kaduna state's figure, where 20.2% of male and 47.6% of female are employed in education sector. Perhaps the state is known for its educational institutions. The same is applicable to health sector in the state. However, the national averages of trade, buying and selling, financial/insurance/real estate, personal services, and public administration perform higher than Kaduna state's

averages. All these findings are in line with the argument of Haid and Seiffge-Krenke (2013), Brand (2015) and Ek (2015) that quality of life is largely and highly subjective. This is because; different individual may define his/her quality of life, in terms of having ability to live a good life.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Based on the context of this study's research question of: can we establish predictable trends in quality of living in Kaduna state and Nigeria's averages. The empirical findings of the study clearly indicated that the trends in quality of living in Kaduna state and Nigeria's averages are not the same. For instance, among the major findings of this study, it was found that households in Kaduna State have more family members than the national average; the dependency ratio in Kaduna state is also higher than the national average; and men and women are unemployed compare to national average. All these implies that, to improve the welfare and quality of lives in Kaduna State, this will require additional efforts and good quality of living strategies beyond what is obtainable at the national level.

Therefore, the study's findings suggest the needs for policy makers and Kaduna State government to further invest in improving the quality of living in the state. Particularly, by focusing on agricultural activities, vocational skills and promoting entrepreneurship spirit across the 23 LGA of the state. Strategies should also focus on creating fiscal space for public financing of human capital development and social protection; and accelerated development of infrastructure. These imply that there is need to take rapid action to ensure investment in their people, with a fierce sense of urgency – especially in employment generation, health and education – the major building blocks of quality of life.

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