



## **Implementation of Urban Policy and Sustainable Development Goal 11 in Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja**

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### **Abstract**

The quest to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 target through implementation of urban policies has continued to pose challenges in developing countries including Nigeria and Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja in particular. The purpose of this paper is to examine the ways implementation of urban policies has influenced the realization of SDG 11 goals in the FCT given the challenges confronting the residents in the city, particularly in the areas of clean water and efficient transportation system. The paper was anchored on the elite theory which helps in explaining the connection between implementation of SDG 11 target and elite preferences. The population of the study consisted of 3,510 respondents, while the sample size of the study was 360 respondents determined using Rakesh sample size formula. 360 questionnaires were administered. Twenty-five (25) respondents were selected for an in-depth interview on the basis of their knowledge on issues under study. Data, particularly in the areas of clean water were also collected using secondary sources. Data from questionnaires were analyzed using percentages and frequency tables, while data from in-depth interviews were analyzed using textual methods. Data from secondary sources were analyzed using relational-content analysis. Among other things, findings revealed that the level of implementation of urban development before the introduction of SDG 11 has been very poor, while the SDG 11 has not brought meaningful development in FCT since inception based on the records available. On the basis of the findings, it is concluded that significant improvement in the level of implementation of urban development policies in the FCT is vital to ensuring the objectives of SDG 11 target in the city and in its suburban areas are achieved. Among other things, it was recommended that urban development policies regarding availability of clean water should be adequately implemented in FCT in order to achieve SDG 11 targets in the city, while at the same time, implementing the Abuja Master Plan to achieve an efficient transportation system in the city.

**Keywords:** Urban; Policy; Urban Policy; Development; Sustainable Development

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## **Introduction**

The quest to realize Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) has continued to pose huge challenges to urban development planners globally and even in Nigeria. Over the past half century, cities and urban centres have increasingly been developed through deliberate planning by governments of countries at all levels. These new settlements are often called ‘planned cities’ or ‘new towns. They are defined by being largely planned in advance, rather than being additions to existing towns or cities. Thus, as existing cities became too crowded and overstretched, governments created new cities for people to move to. They do this by denying planning permission on the edges of the bigger cities while granting it in the new town area, and by paying for the basic infrastructure in the new places (e.g., building highways, electricity and water services, schools and hospitals) (Onu, 2020).

Urban areas are bedeviled with numerous problems such as rural-urban migration which has given rise to increase in urban population, overburdened/overstretched of infrastructures, worsening air pollution, varied environmental problems, growing slum dwellers, shanty settlements, unplanned urban sprawl, increase demand for affordable housing and transportation problems (traffic congestion/gridlock), unavailability of some basic services, and as well as lack of jobs particularly for the nearly 1 billion urban poor who live in informal settlements (Ugwu & Ogunremi, 2019; Nkwede, 2001).

In Nigeria urban development is already a big issue, with an annual urban population growth of 4.3 percent and the country hosting five of the 30 largest urban settlements on the African continent (Ronald et al, 2018). As cities in Nigeria continue to grow and urban population keep rising, the demand and pressure on social and public services at the same time continues to be on the increase. And as a result of that, ensuring equitable access to priority services such as healthcare, shelter, transportation, infrastructure, functioning amenities and other urban services becomes a serious challenge (Obinna et al, 2021). Moreover, the concentration of more people in urban areas of the country has brought more pressure on the land space both for food production, infrastructure, transportation, housing and industrialization. This equally affects the carrying capacity of the environment as each person increases the demand on the infrastructure, social services and natural system, thereby creating ecological imbalance which comes with adverse environmental consequences such as hazards and disaster (Daramola & Ibem 2010).



The creation of Federal Capital territory (FCT) came with the challenge of increase in population, dearth of urban infrastructures, among other challenges, same like other big cities in the world. Regrettably, urban development in the FCT has not been encompassing as its implementation has not shown a corresponding level of development to every part of the city in terms of provision of urban amenities especially in the area of portable drinking water, among others, to all parts of FCT and notably in the satellite communities of the city. Moreover, urban development has been more concentrated in the city centre and elitist settlement areas such as Asokoro, Maitama, Wuse II, Central Area, Garki, Wuse, Gwarimpa etc., where the infrastructures, amenities, access road, good waste management, steady running water are provided together with good physical design of the areas. The nature of challenges confronting the FCT shows that there are gaps in implementation of urban policy in the city. Besides, these challenges have hampered the quest in realizing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 Target in the city which aims to make cities and human settlement inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable by ensuring access to affordable housing, safe and clean water and basic services, sustainable transport systems, upgrade of slump, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management (UN, 2015). Although, the Abuja Master Plan was designed to make development evenly spread across all the 6 phases in the FCT, but, in reality, implementation of urban and development in the FCT has been skewed and concentrated mostly in the city centres where access to clean water and urban services/amenities are provided, then to the detriment of satellite communities that are left without needed urban amenities.

Consequently, FCT, especially its satellite areas are characterized with lack of infrastructure, amenities, urban services, motorable roads, inefficient transportation system, inadequate housing for the teeming population in the area, over-crowding, and congestion. In addition is the growth of shanties, slump, lack of proper waste management as well as uncontrolled, unmonitored and uncoordinated physical design and development (Obinna et al, 2021).

Although the Abuja Master Plan stipulated that urban development in FCT including the development of satellite town shall be conducted in such a manner that land use, infrastructure development, housing, amenities, transportation system, recreation, economic and social services are to be encompassing and carried in all parts of the FCT. However, implementation of urban development as provided by the Master Plan has not yielded expected result and the living condition in these areas are becoming worst due to total neglect of the area with no



amenities, infrastructures, workable transport system nor portable drinking water being provided for the large teeming population in these areas (Onu, 2020). Therefore, this paper examines the impact of implementation of urban policy on sustainable development goal 11 in the FCT.

## **Literature Review**

### **Urban Planning**

Before reviewing the concept of urban planning, it is important to review the concepts of urban, urbanization, and planning first. Although it is hard to define or characterise what urban is all about, as a theme it encompasses many fields which go beyond nature and residents in the cities. As the world is getting more urbanized every day, with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) it is crucial that urban areas are strengthened in their role as key development actors. Moreover, the urban goal, SDG11, underlines the need to “Make Cities and Human Settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”. Urban is a place-based characteristic that incorporates elements of population density, social and economic organization and the transformation of the natural environment into a built environment (John, 2010). This shows that the concept of urban has elusive character, making many scholars to define it in diverse ways in the academic literature.

Furthermore, an attempt to consider how different disciplines define the urban area was presented by McIntyre, Knowles-Yanez, and Hope (2000). After surveying many of the social sciences they aimed to derive a consistent quantitative description of the urban. The success of this endeavor could be debated as many social scientists could take issue with how their discipline has been reductively characterized. However, it can also be argued that this effort made ecologists aware that other academic communities think about the urban, and that they do so in ways that might help ecology address some of its own conceptual and methodological shortcomings.

The concept of plan has been defined by Tiwari (2002) as a programme of action for realizing specific goals or objectives. A plan has equally been defined as a policy statement, while planning is defined as policy making. The foregoing definition of planning and plan are related to the meaning of the concept in this paper. Nathathiga (2019) defined planning as a scheme, a design, or a framework of programmes of action, strategies as well as activities.



According to Ugwu (2008), urban planning is a crucial aspect of urban development. Thus, urban planning means a technical as well as political process concerned with the control of the use of land and design of urban environment, including transportation, networks to guide and ensure the orderly development of settlement and communities. Though the definition of urban planning by Ugwu is related to the idea of the concept in this paper, it did not cover the overall purpose of urban planning necessary for facilitating the realization of SDG 11 targets.

Furthermore, urban planning means the process that is adopted with a view to organizing the dynamics of human actions in cities to enhance spatial occupation through typological patterns of use, distribution of equipment, mobility, services and natural benefits derived through development of infrastructures (Nkwede, Ndukwe, and Nwuzor, 2016). The purpose of urban planning is to solve challenges confronting the dynamics of events that concern cities (Eckert & Padilha, 2019). The foregoing definition is adopted in this paper.

### **Development**

Development, as a concept, has been associated with diverse meanings, interpretations and theories from various scholars. According to Reyes (2001), development is understood as a social condition within a nation, in which the needs of its population are satisfied by the rational and sustainable use of natural resources and systems. Todaro and Smith (2006) see development as a multi-dimensional process that involves major changes in social structures, attitudes, and institutions, as well as economic growth, reduction of inequality, and eradication of abject poverty.

Furthermore, Gboyega (2003) in his study captures development as an idea that embodies all attempts to improve the conditions of human existence in all ramifications. It implies improvement in material wellbeing of all citizens, not the most powerful and rich alone, in a sustainable way such that today's consumption does not imperil the future. It also demands that poverty and inequality of access to the good things of life be removed or drastically reduced.

According to Gandhi (1964), the realization of the human potential' is the way toward development. From this view of development deprivation, degradation, poverty all indicate underdevelopment wherever they are found, and it is crucial to provide basic infrastructures that drive economic activities in order to reduce poverty. From this view of development



deprivation, degradation, poverty all indicate underdevelopment wherever they are found, and it is crucial to implement SGD 11 targets in order to reduce poverty.

On another perspective, development represents a transformation of society, a movement from traditional relations, traditional ways of thinking, traditional ways of dealing with health and education, and traditional methods of production, to more 'modern' ways. For instance, a characteristic of traditional societies is the acceptance of the world as it is. The modern perspective recognizes change, it recognizes that individuals and societies can take actions that for instance, reduce infant mortality, extend life spans and increase productivity. Key to these changes is the movement to scientific ways of thinking, identifying critical variables that affect outcomes, attempting to make inference based on available data recognizing what we know and what we do not know (Okereke, 2018).

Development therefore, seeks to remove the three (3) central challenges, which are poverty, unemployment, and inequality must all be on a decline if not mitigated for development to take place (Seer, 1969 cited in Impalure & Dore, 2020). Accordingly, much of the concern of this dimension is to bring about visible and significant change in people circumstances. The implication here is that development entails high degrees of capacity, equity, empowerment, sustainability, and interdependence (Bryant & White, 1982). In this paper, the definition of development is defined as significant reduction in poverty, unemployment and inequality in a state.

### **Sustainable Development**

Sustainable development as a concept is a response to the challenges facing urban areas, such as globalization, decentralization, and rapid population growth. These changes affect such matters as the economy, the social conditions, and the environment, and bring about problems recognized as social inequalities, slums or informal settlements, and climate change. Sustainable development is meant to resolve the economic, social, environmental, and governance issues in an urban setting (Malkina-Pykh, 2002). However, a clear definition or conceptualization of "sustainable development" (which has more than 200 definitions) is still vague (Parkin, 2000 as cited in Keivani, 2010). Besides, among all of those definitions, Saha & Paterson's study has tried to evaluate the commitment of the principle of sustainable urban development in planning activities. Thus, an appropriate sustainable urban development



planning should be a response to the global changes and trends affecting cities, especially in the developing countries.

Moreover, sustainable development idea as was disclosed by the Brundtland commission's report "Our Common Future" (1987), postulate that sustainable development is the kind of development, which satisfies the current needs without endangering the future generations to meet their own needs. Even though the primary objective of sustainable development is to reduce the absolute poverty of the world's poor through providing lasting and secure livelihoods that minimize resource depletion, environmental degradation, cultural disruption and social instability. This definition however presented two essential concepts; the concept of needs, especially the needs of the world' poor, which should be given priority, and the ideas of limitations arising from the effects of technologies and social structures on the ability of the environment to satisfy present and future needs.

In this paper, the concept of sustainable development encompasses three fundamental aspects namely; economic, environmental and social development which are interrelated and complementary. Traditionally, the concept of sustainable development involves three equivalent components; environmental, economic, and social development; as well as three dimensions of wellbeing, economic, ecological and social, and their complex interrelations. In other words, sustainable development compromises, among others, environmental, economic, and social goals of community allowing for wellbeing for the present and future generations (Ciegis, Ramanauskiene & Martinkus, 2009).

### **Theoretical Framework**

The paper is anchored on the Elite Theory. Elite theory's origins lie most clearly in the writings of Gaetano Mosca 1858–1941, Vilfredo Pareto 1848–1923, and Robert Michels 1876–1936 and Max Weber 1864–1920. Mosca 1858–1941 emphasized the ways in which tiny minorities out-organize and outwit large majorities, adding that "political classes" – Mosca's term for political elites – usually have "a certain material, intellectual, or even moral superiority" over those they govern (Asogwa, 1999). The major assumption of the theory is that in a society with truly unrestricted social mobility, elites would consist of the most talented and deserving individuals. But in actual societies elites are those most adept at using the two modes of political rule, force and persuasion, and who usually enjoy important advantages such as inherited wealth and family connections. The strength of the theory lies in



the fact that elite theory is relevant in the understanding of the impact of implementation of urban policy on sustainable development goal 11 in the FCT since public policy really reflects the preferences of elites.

### **Methodology**

The research design adopted in this study was a descriptive research design involving both quantitative and qualitative methods. The population of the study was 3,510 comprising of staff in FCTA (Urban and Regional Department), OSSAP-SDG, and National Assembly Committee on SDG, Department of Environment AEPB, Federal ministry of works (Department of Urban and Regional Planning), Department of Urban Development in AMAC, Bwari and Kuje Area Councils. This also included residents of Piwoyi, Jikwoyi, Karimo, Kango, Dafara, Byazin, Peyi, Dutse, Kuchiko and Bamushi in the three selected area councils. The sample size of the study was 360 respondents determined using Rakesh statistical formula (2013). Also, 360 questionnaires were administered to the respondents, while proportional stratified random sampling technique was used in administering the questionnaire based on their comparative population weights. Twenty-five (25) respondents were selected for in-depth interview on the basis of their knowledge on issues under study. Data was also collected using secondary sources. Data from questionnaires were analyzed using percentages and frequency tables, while data from an in-depth interview were analyzed using textual methods. Data from secondary sources were analyzed using relational-content analysis.

### **Data Presentation**





Data relating to the level of implementation of urban policy in FCT, Abuja are presented in Table 1 as follows:

**Table 1: Level of Implementation of Urban Policy in FCT, Abuja**

Question/Statement	SA	A	U	D	SD	Total
Through the implementation of urban policy, satellite communities in the FCT were provided with the needed infrastructure, clean water and other essential amenities that enhance human life	63 (22.6%)	27(9.7%)	30(10.8%)	85(30.5%)	74(26.4%)	279(100%)
Through the implementation of urban policy, access to safe water and affordable housing were improved with the proportion of people living in informal settlements reduced	42 (15.1%)	47 (16.8%)	29 (10.4%)	100(35.8%)	61(21.9%)	279(100%)
The proportion of urban residents with access to improved sanitation and urban sustainability has significantly increased particularly in the satellite communities	20 (7.2%)	56(20.1%)	41(14.5%)	78(28%)	84(30.1%)	279(100%)
The level of implementation of urban policy in FCT contributed largely in addressing urban transportation problem, improved urban renewal and guaranteed access to safe, inclusive, green and public space for women and children	25(9%)	37(13.2%)	37(13.2%)	55(19.7%)	73(26.2%)	279(100%)
The level of implementation of urban policy in the FCT, Abuja has improved	40 (14.3%)	47(16.8%)	53(19%)	75 (26.9%)	64(23%)	279(100%)

Source: Field survey, (2023) SA= strongly agree, A= agree, U=undecided, D=disagree, SD=strongly disagree

Data on how the implementation of urban policy affects the realization of SDG 11 in FCT, Abuja were presented in Table 2 as follows:

**Table 2: Effect of Implementation of Urban Policy on the Realization of SDG 11 in FCT, Abuja**



Question/Statement	SA	A	U	D	SD	Total
Implementation of urban policy in the city/satellite communities and villages has greatly improved with a large number of people enjoying clean water and other essential services	31(11%)	36(13%)	50(17.9%)	78(28%)	84(30.1%)	279(100%)
Implementation of public policy has greatly improved access to basic services such as efficient and accessible transportation system I the FCT	25 (9%)	30(10.8%)	57(20.4%)	76(27.2%)	91(32.6%)	279(100%)
Implementation of urban policy has resulted in the reduction in the growth of shanties, slums and efficient waste management in the FCT	19(6.8%)	33(12%)	45(16%)	60(21.5%)	122 (43.7%)	279(100%)
Implementation of Abuja Master Plan has largely preserved green areas and ensured clean environment in the FCT	43(15.4%)	31(11.1%)	48 (17.2%)	85 (30.5%)	72 (25.8%)	279(100%)
Implementation of urban policy has largely led to the realization of SDG 11 in FCT, Abuja	32(11.5%)	47(16.8%)	39(14%)	91(32.6%)	70(25.1%)	279(100%)

Source: Field survey, (2023) SA= strongly agree, A= agree, U=undecided, D=disagree, SD=strongly disagree

### Discussion of Findings



### **Investigation of Research Proposition (i)**

Research Proposition (i): The level of implementation of urban policy in FCT, Abuja has been very poor.

Findings from the questionnaire showed that 85(30.5%) of the respondents disagree that through the implementation of urban policy, satellite communities in the FCT were provided with needed infrastructure, clean water and other essential amenities that enhance human life, while 100(35.8%) of the respondents disagree that through the implementation of urban policy, access to safe water and affordable housing was improved with proportion of people living in informal settlement reduced. Also, 84(30.1%) of the respondents disagree that through the implementation of urban policy in the FCT, the proportion of urban residents with access to improved sanitation and urban sustainability has significantly increased, particularly in the satellite communities, while 89(31.9%) of the respondents strongly disagree that the level of implementation of urban urban policy in FCT contributed largely in addressing urban transportation problem, improved urban renewal, and guaranteed access to safe, inclusive, green and public spaces for women and children. Similarly, 75(26.9%) of the respondents disagree that the level of implementation of urban policy in the FCT, Abuja has improved.

Findings from an in-depth interview clearly showed that the programme fall below its objectives in the FCT because it did not lead to efficient provision of clean water, affordable housing, efficient transportation system, efficient waste management system and adequate environmental protection. Beyond identification of the fact that the implementation of SDG 11 in the FCT is generally poor, findings also showed that lack of political will, corruption, and other primordial considerations impeded effective implementation of the programme.

Nevertheless, findings from previous studies are significantly different from findings from our questionnaire and in-depth interview. Findings by Nsiah-Gybaach (2013) showed that although urbanization is associated with unemployment, air and water pollution, congestion, overcrowding, social disturbances, crime, ethnic conflicts, environmental degradation, among other things, it provides opportunities for growth and development of markets for consumer goods and a source of human capital for managing natural resources, which are disconnected from the findings of this study. Ogbodo, Agbo, Bichi, Hamisu and Ogbodo (2021) found that there is a gap between what can be achieved in the research domain regarding policy-making



and policy implementation in environmental-related SDGs in Nigeria. Inamura and Kumar (2022) found that SDG 11 has stronger association with social sustainability, while SDG 13 has a stronger association with environmental sustainability, but this does not show the level of implementation of urban development before the introduction of SDG 11. Similarly, Abioro and Adefoso (2014) found that sustainable development is possible only if components as well as the total systems are available, while Ejaro (2009) found that challenges of inadequate power supply, poor environmental health management, poor waste management, growing slums, traffic congestion, among others, do not place Nyaya on the path of sustainable development. This shows that our findings from previous studies, in-depth interviews and questionnaires significantly support our research proposition, which shows that the level of implementation of urban policy in the FCT, Abuja, has been very poor.

#### **Investigation of Research Proposition (ii)**

Research Proposition (ii): Implementation of urban policy has not largely led to the realization of SDG 11 in FCT, Abuja.

Findings from the questionnaire showed that 84(30.1%) of the respondents strongly disagree that implementation of urban policy in the city suburb/satellite communities and villages has greatly improved with a large number of people enjoying clean water and other essential amenities. Also, 91(32.6%) of the respondents strongly disagree that implementation of public policy has greatly improved access to basic services such as efficient and accessible transportation system in the FCT, while 122(43.7%) of the respondents strongly disagree that implementation of urban policy has resulted in the reduction in the growth of shanties, slums and improved efficient waste management in the FCT. Also, 85(30.5%) of the respondents disagree that implementation of Abuja Master Plan has largely preserved green areas and ensured clean environment in the FCT, while 91(36.2%) of the respondents disagree that implementation of urban policy has largely led to the realization of SDG 11 in FCT, Abuja in terms of increase in the number of people with access to clean water, infrastructure, electricity, improved human settlements, clean environment and urban sustainability in FCT since inception.

Meanwhile, findings from an in-depth interview showed that SDG 11 has not brought about meaningful development in the FCT since inception. This is because those factors that constituted hindrances to urban development in the FCT have not been adequately mitigated



to usher in sustainable development in the city and its satellite settlements. The respondents blamed the situation on poorly executed projects, poor maintenance culture, lack of funds to carryout infrastructure development, building on water channels and conversion of green areas into residential in the FCT, especially in its satellite and informal settlements.

However, findings from previous studies are not directly related to the findings from our questionnaire and in-depth interview. Lawrence, Ihebuzor and Lawrence (2020) found that inadequate provision of school infrastructure, inadequate teaching, motivation of the teaching force, cultural factors, and cost of schooling, among others, hinder realization of SDG 4 target. Similarly, Lawrence, Onyalowo and Nubi (2021) found that paucity of data, weak institutional capacity and poor governance of strategies are major impediments for mainstreaming SDG 11 in Lagos. Thus, Ajiboye, Adebayo and Obakin (2020) found that deplorable and pathetic situations in urban housing conditions in Lagos and Ibadan cities showed that SDG 11 targets have not been met. Elias and Albuquerque (2022) found that cities remain the epicenter for infrastructure and management of global challenges, which are threatening the achievement of SDGs in Africa similarly, Iroka, Nwosu, Idowu and Nwankwo (2021) found that the city of Aba is far from being a mega city by 2050 given its low level of attainment of SDG 11 targets. Finally, Momoh, Opalawuwah and Albeera (2018) found that loss of biodiversity, high population density, risk of epidemic outbreak, security threats and reduced access to school infrastructure are some of the challenges confronting Abuja, which showed that SDG 11 has not been realized in the FCT. The foregoing is further supported by data in Table 3.

**Table 3: Nigeria Clean Water Access 2000-2022**

Year	% Annual Change	% of population
2000	0.45	13.72
2001	0.45	14.17
2002	0.43	14.69
2003	0.43	15.03
2004	0.43	15.46
2005	0.42	15.88
2006	0.42	16.30
2007	0.41	16.71
2008	0.41	17.12
2009	0.41	17.53
2010	0.40	17.93
2011	0.40	18.33



2012	0.39	18.72
2013	0.39	19.11
2014	0.38	19.49
2015	0.38	19.89
2016	0.37	20.23
2017	0.37	20.60
2018	0.38	20.96
2019	0.36	21.32
2020	0.35	21.67
2021	NA	NA
2022	NA	NA

Source: World Bank (2023)

Table 3 shows that SDG 11 target on the provision of clean water in Nigeria, including the FCT, especially its slum settlements has not been significantly met. This hinders the realization of SDG 11 targets in the FCT. Therefore, findings from our questionnaire, previous studies, and in-depth interviews showed that implementation of urban policy has not largely led to the realization of SDG 11 in the FCT, which led to the acceptance of research proposition (ii).

Similarly, findings from investigation of research proposition (i) are supported by the findings that the level of implementation of urban development was not able to address urban problems in the FCT, notably in the urban suburbs before the introduction of SDG 11. This is supported by the fact that through implementation of urban development policies, the needed infrastructure, clean water, access to improved sanitation, urban transportation system, among others, still remained huge challenges in the FCT. Findings equally showed that lack of political will, corruption, nepotism and other primordial considerations impeded effective implementation of SDG 11 programme in the FCT. Findings from previous studies by Nsiah-Gybaach (2018), Ogbodo, Agbo, Bichi, Hamisu and Ogbodo (2021), Inamura and Kumar (2022), Adefoso (2014), among others, did not contradict the acceptance of research proposition (i). Therefore, research proposition (i) is accepted.

Finally, investigation of research proposition (ii) showed that the majority of the respondents either strongly disagreed or disagreed that SDG 11 has brought meaningful development in terms of increase in the number of people with access to clean water, infrastructure, electricity, improved human settlement, clean environment and urban sustainability in FCT since inception. This is because access to clean water, effective healthcare, and efficient transportation system/network have not greatly improved. Given this, there is still the



problem of increasing the number of slums settlements, inefficient waste management, inefficient preservation of the environment, among other things, that hinder the realization of SDG 11 targets in the FCT. This showed that SDG 11 has not brought about meaningful development in FCT since its inception based on records available. Therefore, research proposition (ii) is rejected. The theoretical consequence of the findings is that SDG 11 policy in the FCT is implemented to reflect the views, preferences and values of growing elites since the masses are apathetic and ill-informed about the policy especially in satellite communities in the FCT.

### **Conclusion**

This paper examined implementation of urban policies and realization of sustainable development goals in the FCT from 2010 to 2021. The purpose of the study was to examine the way and manner urban policies have been implemented in ensuring the realization of SDG 11 target in FCT, especially in the rural areas with a view to ensuring sustainable development. The major findings of the study are that the level of implementation of urban policy in FCT, Abuja has been very poor. Also, it was found that implementation of urban policy has not largely led to the realization of SDG 11 in FCT, Abuja, in terms of increase in the number of people with access to clean water, infrastructure, electricity, improved human settlements, clean environment and urban sustainability in FCT since inception.

On the basis of the findings, it is concluded that significant improvement in the level of implementation of urban policies in the FCT is vital in ensuring the objectives of SDG 11 target in the city and in its suburban areas are achieved. It is only when the above is in place that SDG 11 can bring meaningful development in the FCT going forward. Therefore, if urban development policies are not properly implemented in the FCT, the hope of realizing SDG 11 target would continue to elude the city in the distant future.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the findings and conclusion, the following recommendations are made:

- i. Given the poor level of implementation of urban policy in FCT, the FCTA should as a matter of urgency solve the problems of provision of clean water through effective implementation of urban policy by targeting the provision of portable water to the satellite



communities. This is because access to water is one of the most effective ways to improve the overall health of a community which contributes to sustainable development.

ii. The FCTA should ensure adequate implementation of the Abuja Master Plan in order to achieve an efficient transportation system in the city which is necessary for achieving SDG 11 in the FCT.

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