

THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL STUDIES

Challenges and Prospects of Urban Growth on Peri-urban Indigenous Communities: The Case of Danko Community in the Wa Municipal Area

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Abstract:

The study was undertaken to examine the effects of urban growth on Danko, a peri-urban indigenous community, within the Wa municipal area in the Upper West Region of Ghana. The central aim of the study is to identify the livelihood activities of Danko community; and investigate the extent of impact of urbanization process on the livelihood situation of the indigenous people. It also seeks to examine the mechanisms adopted by the local people to sustain the community's livelihood. The study indicates that the local people of Danko have been affected both positively and negatively due to the growth of Wa municipality. The positive effect includes improved socioeconomic infrastructure in the form of extension of the national electricity grid to some parts of the community and improved physical access to basic school due to increased school infrastructure in the community. However, the explosion of Wa's growth as a municipality has also negatively affected the Danko community, particularly the sustainability of the livelihood of the local people. Thus, the growth has not only led to increase in crime rate and put pressure on available services/facilities, but converted farmlands into other urban land uses, especially residential land use. This situation has greatly affected the major livelihood (farming) of the greater proportion of people in the community. The study, therefore, concludes that although Danko has somehow benefitted from the municipality's growth, the deleterious nature of such growth process is a major challenge to the sustenance of the peri-urban indigenous people.

Keywords: Peri-urban, urbanization, livelihood, indigenous community, farmlands, land use, municipality, impact, sustenance and local people

1. Introduction

The United Nation Population Fund's (UNFPA) report indicates that for the first time in history of humanity more than half of the world's population, totalling 3.3 billion will be living in settlements defined or classified as 'urban' (UNFPA, 2007) and by the close of 2030 all developing regions, including Asia and Africa, will have more people living in urban than rural areas. This is quite significant since urbanization has largely been described as one of the most significant processes, which affected human society, especially over the last century (UN-HABITAT, 2008). Hall and Midgley (2007) define urbanisation as both a process and a measure. As a process, it involves a growth in the absolute numbers of the people living in urban areas, and as a measure, they argued, it is the proportion of national population living in urban centres. Hall and Midgley (2007) then propose that a population of at least 20,000 be used to designate an urban area, while 100,000 be used to designate a city. In Ghana however, an 'urban area' is a settlement of 5,000 people or more. This has not changed since post-independence formal population census began (Obeng-Odoom, 2010; 2007a). Per this criterion, Wa municipality which has a population of 102,446 as at 2010 (Ghana Statistical Service [GSS], 2010) can be classified as an urban area. Urbanisation is also regarded as an inter-sectoral phenomenon involving all aspect of human society and the economy as well (ISSER, 2007; World Bank 2006; Kamete et al, 2001). The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) [2007] also identifies the growth of urban communities as the single largest influence on development in the 21st century. Yet, despite the numerous challenges faced by urban centres in the developing world, they still continue to attract inhabitants from rural communities, especially rural-urban migrants. This is because urban centres are still perceived as better propositions than rural areas. As a result, urban centres in the

developing world continue to grow and expand (UNFPA, 2007). In Ghana, urban population growth rate of about 4.3% has outstripped the overall national population growth rates of about 2.7%. The proportion of the population residing in urban areas rose from 32% in 1984 to 43.8% in 2000, and by 2010 the urban population in Ghana has reached 50.9% of the entire population (GSS, 2010). This rapid rate of urbanization in Ghana represents a major redistribution of population, with significant implications for national development. Available data on urbanization process in Ghana indicate the effects of rapid socioeconomic, environmental and institutional challenges affecting urban residents and the local authorities as well (Yankson, 2006). The key one among these challenges is the rapid conversion of large proportion of prime agricultural land to urban land use (mainly residential land use), mostly in the urban periphery, which is also known as the peri-urban areas (ISSER 2007; Owusu and Agyei, 2007; Rakodi, 1998).

2. Peri-Urbanisation

The term peri-urbanisation refers to a process, often a highly dynamic one, in which rural areas located on the outskirts of established towns/cities become more urban in character. This transformation occurs in physical, economic and social terms and often in piecemeal fashion (Webster, 2002). Peri-urban development usually involves rapid urban change, as small agricultural communities are forced to adjust to an urban or industrial way of life in a very short time. High level of in-migration is an important driver of this social change and rapid environmental deterioration and infrastructure backlogs are usually the features of the peri-urban landscape. Typically, peri-urbanization is stimulated by an infusion of new investment, generally from outside, including foreign direct investment (Webster, 2002).

Generally, peri-urbanisation has a high potential for creating discord due to its dynamic fluxes and increasing trend. Optimistically, this means that peri-urban areas also have an influential stake in whether city-regions are sustainable (Errington, 1994). For Mancebo (2008), life is idealised in these outskirts: safer, calmer, better schools, closer to "nature", "small town" atmosphere. From the very beginning, urban expansion has been associated in the collective imagination with notions of freedom of choice, nature and space. These ideals of peri-urban environs come together in the desire for a one-family house with a small garden. Maconachie and Binns (2006) characterised such zones as a blur between rural and urban areas. They also emphasize this area as possessing great dynamism with a focus on competition for basic resources, such as land. Peri-urban is not just an in-between fringe. It is instead a new and distinct kind of multifunctional territory, and often the location for opportunities such as airports, business parks and high value housing, which are all seen as essential to urban/regional development. However, in most cases, it is also the location for problems: urban sprawl, wasted public funds, traffic congestion, agricultural land under pressure, damage to landscapes and biodiversity, fragmented communities and social polarisation (Piore et al, 2011).

2.1. Urban Growth

Urban growth is the rate of growth of an urban population. It is seen as the increase in the number of people living in towns/cities. Urban growth is also referred to how fast and how much an urban population grows (UNFPA et al, 2014). The pace of urban population growth depends on two population factors: natural increase in population and migration to urban areas. Natural population growth results from excess of births over deaths, while migration is seen as the long term relocation of an individual, household or group to a new location outside the community of origin. Rural to urban migration is often viewed as the main cause of urban growth. Although the urban and rural populations of a country can change as a result of births, deaths; migration and reclassification of areas resulting from changes of the boundaries defining urban and rural areas; rural-urban migration is often viewed as the main driving force behind urban growth (UNFPA et al, 2014; see Hall and Midgley, 2007; UN, 2001). Earlier on Watson (1993) identified demographic changes and migration as sources of urban growth when he asserted that urban growth is fuelled in two principal ways: by demographic change and by migration. Demographic trends are well-known: declining mortality rates in most developing countries have not been matched by a corresponding decline in fertility. Rural areas often cannot accommodate the increasing population and many, especially young single people, migrate to urban areas in the hope of work, housing and an improved income, part of which may be intended as support for family members left behind in the rural areas. Potts (2012) also indicates that natural increase, rather than net migration, is the predominant growth factor in most urban populations - even though the causes of urban growth can also be linked to economic factors. Thus, towns/cities are perceived as places where one could have a better life because better opportunities and lifestyles, higher salaries, better services, are perceived to be associated with urban way of life. People therefore move to the urban areas mainly to seek for the economic opportunities (Bhatta, 2010).

The United Nations upholds that the speed of urban growth is slower now than it was in the past decades in all regions, largely because many countries have already reached high levels of urbanization. The rate of urban population growth is also declining and is expected to continue declining until 2050. However, the reverse is the case in Africa, which still exhibits very high annual urban growth rate of 3.4% between 2005 and 2010. In Asia, urban population growth averaged 2.8% in the same period. Nevertheless, the absolute size of these increments is unprecedented. Africa gained an average of 13 million additional urban dwellers per year between 2005 and 2010, and it is expected to gain some 25 million per year in the period between 2045 and 2050. Asia's urban population increased by 38 million per year between 2005 and 2010, and it is projected to grow annually by 35 million in the period of 2045 and 2050. During the same period, Africa and Asia will be losing 2.5 million and 27.3 million rural inhabitants per year, respectively (UN, 2011).

2.2. Prospects and Challenges of Urban Growth

According to Alaci (2009), well planned and managed urban growth and development can serve as a positive development factor. Positive implications of urban growth include higher economic production, opportunities for the underemployed and unemployed, better life because of better opportunities and better services and better lifestyles. Urban growth can extend better basic services (such

as transportation, sanitation and water) as well as other specialist services (such as better educational facilities) to more people. The benefits could also be seen in terms of high demand on agricultural produce, access to developed extension services and opportunities to non-farm employment (Satterthwaite and Tacoli, 2002). Migration, information, money and commodities intensify rural-urban linkages and increase livelihoods diversification. Temporary or permanent migration to or from a town/city, motivated by the search for housing and employment is a helpful mechanism for increasing earnings, expanding social networks and reducing vulnerability. Mobility and migration may also give rise to growing phenomenon of multi-spatial household enterprises (Adell, 1999). It may generate a local market for street vendors and hawkers and facilitate the arrival of high middle income dwellers in search of more space or cheaper housing. This in turn may constitute job opportunities for domestic help workers. Easy access to a variety of transport options might also provide opportunity for peri-urban commuters to have high access to town/city centre, and services such as health and education as well as work opportunities. Intense rural-urban interplay also creates the possibility of access to solid and liquid waste facilities (Adell, 1999).

Urban growth might also have negative impacts. Generally, in the developing world, such impacts are more highlighted. This is due to the fact that urban growth is often uncontrolled and uncoordinated. The negative impacts often result from unguided urban explosion, which negatively affect the natural environment and livelihoods, especially in peri-urban areas (UN-HABITAT, 2010). This could be attributed to changes occurring in land use, water resources management, waste dumping, and increasing competition of agricultural and residential use of natural resources (Bah et al., 2003). Urban growth could also bring a dramatic increase in the concentration of poverty and environmental degradation in peri-urban zones (Marshall et al., 2009). Similar to occurrences in other developing world cities, the growth of Accra is marked by fast, unplanned and uneven growth in mostly peripheral lands, especially in peri-urban fringes of the city's environs (Grant and Yankson, 2002; GSS, 2002, Yeboah, 2001). Thus, increasing urbanisation in Accra has directly affected household livelihood assets, strategies and outcomes (Gough and Yankson, 2006; Levin et al., 2000). Again, one of the major effects of rapid urban growth is the accompanying sprawls of the growth that increases traffic, saps local resources, destroys open spaces (Bhatta, 2010); and at the same time destroys other livelihood sources such as agriculture, which also impinge negatively on the well-being of urban households, particularly those located in the urban fringes and mostly engaged in agricultural activities (Levin et al, 2000).

Urban slums and low-income peri-urban areas in developing countries are characterized by a general lack of infrastructure. Empirical evidence shows that the populations are subjected to numerous challenges in accessing and tapping on critical innovations and interventions. Not only are interventions piecemeal and disjointed but also social investors in the human development agenda are very few. By and large, the housing conditions in peri-urban areas in Africa are a function of a rather distorted land market which is characterized by the co-existence of different modes of supply originating from the different stages of the cities' development (Chirisa, 2009; Kombe, 2005; Gough and Yankson, 2000). For McIvor (2001), peri-urban areas in almost all the developing countries are places of possible disaster outbreaks. Not only are they so in terms of liability to disease outbreaks but there are also social vices and demeanors, which make the situation more acute and desperate. People in the peri-urban fringe are exposed to risks due to exposure to liquid waste (e.g. effluents; water pollution). Furthermore, inadequate sewerage disposal often leads to cholera/ typhoid and health implications (Marshall et al, 2009). Peri-urban areas are also subject to many competing interests without an adequate institutional framework to strike balances which might contribute to relieve poverty, protect the environment, maximize the productivity of human and natural resources, or draw synergy from urban and rural relationships (Allen, 1999).

3. Study Area

The Wa municipal area, which is one of the eleven administrative districts that make up the Upper West Region of Ghana, comprises seven settlements, of which Danko community (the study area) is a part. The Municipality is located between latitude 1°40N to 2°45S and longitude 9°32 to 10°20W. The study community (Danko) shares boundaries with Bamahu to the West, Sing to the South, Kampaha to the East and Wa central to the North - all in the Wa municipal area. The vegetation of Danko community is guinea savannah woodland (Wa Municipal Assembly, 2008). The total population of Danko in 2000 was 826 and based on this the population was projected to reach 1232 in 2010. This represented the population of the indigenous people of Danko (Ghana Statistical Service [GSS], 2010). However, with the influx of people into the area due to the growth of Wa Municipal and the newly developed satellite UDS campus, it is estimated that the population of the indigenous and the new in-migrants could far exceed 2000. There are three main ethnic groups in the community, comprising Dagaaba, Sissala and the Wala, (GSS, 2010). The predominant occupation in the community is agriculture in its various forms; that is crop farming, livestock and poultry keeping as well as vegetable growing. Food production is poor, as a result of the seasonal rainfall and pressure on land for residential purpose - all leading to the problem of food insecurity. Local traditional craft especially smocks and straw hats making, and blacksmithing (making local guns, holes and cutlasses) are the industrial activities in the area. The service sector in the community also includes services such as teaching, hairdressing and dressmaking (GSS, 2010).

4. Methodology

The study examines the prospects and challenges of urban growth on peri-urban indigenous community of Danko in the Wa Municipal area of Ghana. Thus, it seeks to examine the impact of peri-urbanisation process on the livelihood situation of the local people in the study area. It used questionnaire and key informant interview to gather data from the Danko community. The study also made use of secondary information from Wa Municipal Assembly's Medium Development Plans, Ghana Statistical Service office in Wa, and relevant published journals. Purposive sampling was used to identify the peri-urban communities in the Wa municipal area, and simple random sampling technique was then applied to select the study community, Danko. Danko community was stratified into three strata based on the three main ethnic groups - Dagaaba, Sissala and Wala. A simple random sampling technique was again employed to

select 69 households (23 households from each stratum) representing about 50% of the total households in the study community. The heads of the selected households constituted the sample for the study. With the use of an interview guide, the study also solicited the opinions and experiences of the local people on the peri-urbanisation process and the mechanisms the people adopted to cope with the challenges of the process.

5. Results and Discussions

5.1. Peri-urbanisation in Danko

This section gives an insight into when peri-urbanisation process started in the Danko community. The responses from the respondents give different indications as to when peri-urbanisation started in Danko. Most of the respondents conceded that peri-urban activities begun in the community following the establishment of a satellite campus of the University for Development Studies (UDS) in Wa in 2002. The Assembly member for the area also indicated that “peri-urban activities became visible in the community in early 2005 when there was a surge in the demand for accommodation by the students of UDS”. However, responses from the study area (see table 1) give accounts of various period when peri-urbanisation process started. Table 1 gives the breakdown of the responses as follows. Most of the respondents (30) representing 43.5% said peri-urbanisation started in Danko between 8-11 years ago; 26 respondents representing 37.7% said is between 4-7 years ago. While the periods of 1-3 years and 12-15 years had 10 and 3 respondents each representing 14.5% and 4.3% respectively. Data from table 1 shows that the process might have started between 2001 and 2012 (about eleven years process)-Thus 95.7% of the interviewees in table 1 responded to that effect.

Period	Number of Respondents	%
1-3 years ago	10	14.5
4-7 years ago	26	37.7
8-11 years ago	30	43.5
12-15 years ago	3	4.3
Total	69	100.0

Table 1: The Start of Peri-urbanisation in Danko

Source: Field Data, 2014

5.2. Livelihood Occupation Activities before Peri-Urbanisation

The data presented in this section seeks to highlight the livelihoods activities of the people of Danko before peri-urbanisation. Data gathered in the community reveals that most of the local people were engaged in farming activities (see table 2) before the explosion of peri-urban growth.

Livelihood Occupation	Number of Respondents	%
Agriculture related	57	82.6
Industry related	5	7.2
Service/commerce related	7	10.1
Total	69	100.0

Table 2: Livelihood Activities of Respondents Before Peri-urbanisation

Source: Field Data, 2014

The livelihood activities identified from the field data (see table 2) were categorised into agricultural, industrial and service/commerce related activities. Agricultural activity, particularly farming (crop farming) was identified as the major livelihood occupation of the people in the study community. Thus, greater proportion of the respondents (57) representing 82.6% indicated crop farming as the major occupation of the people before the peri-urbanisation process. Service/commerce, particularly trading activities, came second recording about 10.1% of the respondents. Industrial activities which included dressmaking and pito brewing (locally brewed beer), recorded 7.2% of the sample population. This suggests that pre-peri-urbanization saw an appreciable number of the community members engaged in farming activities. The study revealed that apart from the main livelihood activity (crop farming), the local people were also engaged in other economic activities that could best be described as secondary/minor occupations (see table 3). These minor activities in the form of services were seen as a source of complementing income to their households.

Responses	Number of Respondents	%
Yes	32	46.4
No	37	53.6
Total	69	100.0

Table 3: Secondary Livelihood Activities of Respondents Before Peri-urbanisation

Source: Field Data, 2014

The professions identified by the respondents as secondary livelihood activities/minor occupation include carpentry, painting and masonry. About 46.4% of the sampled population indicated that they were engaged in a secondary occupation. The reason for

engaging in these activities was that farming (the major livelihood activity) is seasonal in nature, and after the off-season, the minor occupation generate additional funds to enhance their income levels. Also, 53.6% of the sampled population were not engaged in any form of secondary occupation. They attributed their inability to engage in other occupation to inadequate start-up capital. The analysis here suggests that before the movement of people into the Danko community, the local people were engaged mainly in farming, and some also participated in secondary activities as income-supplementing jobs to improve the living conditions of their households.

5.3. Farmland Size of Farmers before and after Peri-Urbanisation

This section reveals the farm size of the local people engaged in farming before and after the movement of people into the community due to the peri-urbanisation process (see table 4).

Before			After		
Number of Acres	Number of Respondents	%	Number of Acres	Number of Respondents	%
1-3	7	10.1	1-3	21	46.7
4-6	9	13.0	4-6	17	37.8
7-9	13	18.8	7-9	5	11.1
10-12	17	24.6	10-12	1	2.2
13 and above	23	33.3	13 and above	1	2.2
Grand total	69	100.0		45	100.0
Average Acres of land accessible to each farmer for farming	5.31		3.46		

Table 4: Farmland Size of Farmers before and after Peri-Urbanisation

Source: Field Data, 2014

Table 4 indicates that the average farmland size accessible for each farmer for farming purposes before the process of peri-urbanisation was 5.31 acres. Thus, about 70% of the interviewees revealed that each farmer has between 7 and 13 acres and above for farming and other agricultural purposes. The analysis here therefore implies that on the average, every farmer had approximately five (5) acres of land for farming activities before the movement of people into the community. The table further shows that the average farmland size for farming drastically reduced to 3.46 acres, implying about 24 farmers lost their farmlands after peri-urbanisation process. The analysis here also suggests that the movement of people into the community has not only reduced cultivable lands, it has as well affected the number of people engaged in farming activities (probably due to the pressure on farmlands). The cultivable land for each farmer has drastically reduced and some also losing their farmlands entirely. The local people therefore decided to resort to other occupations (mainly services and trading activities) in order to earn income, as a means of sustaining and improving their living conditions. This situation implies that farmers' output level will reduce, and hence, might affect their well-being as farming appears to be their mainstay. This confirms the point made by Maxwell et al (1998) that increasing in urban growth at the same time destroys other livelihood sources, such as agriculture. This invariably affects the wellbeing of farming households situated in peri-urban area affected by such growth.

5.3.1. Output Levels before and after Peri-Urbanisation

The analysis here seeks to identify and compare the output levels of farmers (particularly production of cereals-maize and millet) before and after peri-urbanisation. Table 5 represents the output level of farmers before and after peri-urbanisation.

Before			After		
Quantity (bags) of Cereals	Number of Respondents	%	Quantity (Bags) of Cereals	Number of Respondents	%
1-3	1	1.4	1-3	17	37.8
4-6	5	7.2	4-6	20	44.4
7-9	18	26.1	7-9	6	13.3
10-12	27	39.1	10-12	2	4.4
13-15	14	20.3	13-15	-	-
16 and above	4	5.8	16 and above	-	-
Total	69	100.0		45	100.0
Average Output per farmer	4.31		2.81		

Table 5: Output Levels Before and After Peri-urbanisation

Source: Field Data, 2014

Analysis in table 5 shows (responses from the interviewees) that over 90% of the farmers produced well beyond 7 bags of cereals per farming season, with about 65.2% producing over 10 bags. After peri-urbanisation, no farmer was able to produce beyond 13 bags, with just 4.4% of them producing between 10-12 bags. Thus, before peri-urbanisation, the respondents indicated that about 59.4% of

the farmers could get between 10 and 15 bags while after peri-urbanisation, only 4.4% could harvest up to 10-12 bags, with no farmer producing beyond 12 bags. The average output levels of farmers before the movement of people into the community was pegged at 4.31 bags per farmer. This suggests that before the movement of the people into the community, every farmer could produce approximately four (4) bags of cereals per farming season. It can again be seen from table 4 that farmers average output levels significantly reduced to 2.81bags per farming season, largely due to the activities of peri-urbanisation in the community which greatly affected lands available for farming purposes. Analysis here suggests that after peri-urbanisation process, farmers lost their farmlands thereby reducing their output levels. A situation which can affect income levels, and thus waning standards of living among farmers in the community. Analysis in this section also suggests that after the start of peri-urbanisation in the community, other equally important land uses begun competing for space with farming activities, these included residential and commercial land uses. Thus, as a result of population explosion due to peri-urbanisation in the study community, the need for housing became eminent, and thus, farmlands were accordingly converted into residential land uses. This resulted in significant reduction in the average farmland sizes and output levels as indicated in the preceding discussions.

5.4. Alternative Livelihood Activities/Coping Strategies Adopted by Farmers after Peri-urbanisation Process

The livelihood activities adopted by the local people due to the peri-urbanization process is discussed in this section. The study reveals that the local people's main economic stay was farming. As a consequent of the growth of Wa municipal, most of the farm lands were converted to residential and other urban land uses to meet the demand of the community. This situation, according to all the respondents (69) has seriously affected the income levels of the people (mostly farmers) in the community. In order to cope with the situation, most of them ventured into other livelihood activities in a bid to withstand the untold hardships peri-urbanization process. Table 6 therefore shows the various livelihood activities that have been adopted due to the urbanization process.

Alternative Livelihood Activities	Frequency	%
Painting	18	26.1
Carpentry	7	10.1
Trading	12	17.4
Masonry	27	39.1
Non-adoption	5	7.2
Total	69	100.0

Table 6: Livelihood Activities Adopted After Peri-urbanisation Process

Source: Field Data, 2014

The Table indicates that 64 out of the 69 respondents interviewed confirmed that they have adopted mechanisms to cope with the movement of people into the community which affected their livelihood. About 26.1% of interviewees adopted painting as a coping strategy. Seven (7) respondents, representing 10.1% adopted carpentry, about 17.4% adopted trading (petty trading), whilst 39.1% adopted masonry as their coping mechanisms in the community. Five (5) respondents (7.2%) have not adopted any form of coping mechanisms. Data in the table also suggests that farmers who had their farmlands size reduced or were laid off from the farming activities due to the changes in land uses pattern were compelled to adopt other occupations in order to generate income for a living. Masonry became the dominant occupation adopted by the laid off farmers. For instance, the Assembly person of Danko indicated large numbers of local people are now engaged in masonry, trading and painting. He further stressed that these income generating activities which are demand driven might have also increased the income levels of the local people in the community.

5.5. Prospects of Peri-Urbanisation on the Livelihood Activities of the People of Danko

Movements of people into the community will have positive implications on the livelihoods of people in the community if it is well managed and planned (Bhatta, 2010). Based on this, the study seeks to find out how such movements by people from different communities have positively affected the livelihood activities of the local people of Danko.

Prospects	N	Responses		%	Total
Land enriched as a result of fertilizer applied	69	Yes	18	26.1.5	100
		No	51	73.9	
Increased in sources of water	69	Yes	13	18.8	100
		No	56	81.2	
Toleration of different cultures	69	Yes	53	76.8	100
		No	16	23.2	
Extension of electricity to most parts of the community	69	Yes	30	43.5	100
		No	39	56	
Increased in the number of basic schools and enrolment levels	69	Yes	47	68.2	100
		No	22	31.9	
Presence of vehicle for commuting	69	Yes	39	56.5	100
		No	30	43.5	

Table 7: Prospects of Peri-Urbanisation

Source: Field Data, 2014

From Table 7, it can be deduced that the toleration of different cultures is the highest prospect that the peri-urbanisation process brought to the Danko community which represents 76.8% of responses. About 68.2% of the respondents also confirmed that the movement of people into Danko also resulted in increase in the number of basic schools (from 1 to 3) which has also led to increase in enrolment levels in the community. However, although not impressive, but improved access to electricity and water sources as indicated by 43.5% and 18.8% of the interviewees. The overall analysis in this section indicates that the indigenes and in-migrants who have settled in the Danko community peacefully co-exist in the community meaning that there is peaceful cohesion and interaction among the natives and migrants. It suggests that the in-migrants adopted and assimilate the local customs and values, thereby recuperating their acceptance by the natives, leading to the promotion of peaceful co-existence of the two groups (the indigenes and in-migrants).

5.6. Challenges of Urban Growth on the Livelihood Activities of the Danko people

The consequences of urban growth may have both positive and negative impacts. However, the negative impacts are generally more highlighted because urban growth is often uncontrolled or uncoordinated. Likewise in most developing countries, unguided urban growth negatively affects the natural environment and livelihoods in peri-urban areas (Bhatta, 2010). Danko, a peri-urban indigenous community, is not exempted from this situation and suffer a lot of challenges due to the growth of Wa municipality. The challenges identified during interviews with the respondents in the community are presented in table 8.

Challenges	N	Responses		%	Total
		Yes	No		
Conversion of farmlands into residential land uses	69	66	3	95.7	100
				4.3	
Increased in crime rate	69	38	31	55.1	100
				44.9	
Pressure on sources of water	69	43	26	62.3	100
				37.7	
Power fluctuation	69	35	34	50.7	100
				49.3	
Air pollution	69	38	31	55.1	100
				44.9	
Increase inequality	69	60	9	87.0	100
				13.0	
Marginalisation of the indigenes	69	24	45	34.8	100
				65.2	
High cost of living	69	39	30	56.5	100
				43.5	

Table 8: Challenges of Urban Growth on the Livelihood Activities of the People
Source: Field Data, 2014

The major challenge of the community resulting from the peri-urbanisation process was the conversion of farmlands into residential uses as indicated by 95.7% of the respondents (see table 8). One of the interviewees said, that "for we are not against the coming of people to settle in this community but the movement has succeeded in displacing us (farmers)". Another respondent said "these days, for us to get enough land to farm, we have to go far or even travel to neighbouring communities because our lands have been given to strangers to build houses". The analysis here suggests that the local people, mostly farmers, might have lost most of their farmlands, which have now been converted to other urban uses-mostly for building houses (residential land use). This situation invariably negatively affects the farm sizes of the farmers and output of farming activities (the major livelihood of the local people)-a major factor which will negatively impinge on food security in the community and also drastically affect the income levels of the people in the community.

Another challenge of the community associated with the peri-urbanization process was pressure on the sources of water, representing 62.3% of the field responses. This is the result of the movement of immigrants to the community, leading to a surge in the population without accompanying improvement in the water supply system to accommodate the population increased. The Assembly person of the Danko indicated, "building of new houses in this community have brought so many people who were not residing here into Danko, and now we are facing problem with the water sources we had. This situation is worrying, as it is affecting everyday activities of our people". Power fluctuation is also another challenge affecting the community after peri-urbanisation, 50.7% of the interviewees indicated. The effect here is the impediment associated with inadequate flow of power to boost smooth running of businesses and other activities, which depend on electricity.

Air pollution is another challenge that confronts the people of Danko after the movement of people to take residence in the community and this represents 55.1% of the responses. The road leading to the community is un-tarred and the frequency and continuous use of the road causes air pollution in the community. This suggests that the people living in the community could be highly vulnerable to respiratory diseases and therefore can reduce their productivity levels if not well addressed on-time. Crime is also on the ascendancy

in the community with respondents fearing it could threaten the peaceful nature of the community. About 55.1% of the respondents indicated that the crime rate was increasing. An elder among the traditional authority interviewed, confirmed that “stealing and other social vices are gradually becoming a habit amongst the youth in the community which does not augur well for our community’s development”. All the respondents were quick to blame this awkward development on the peri-urbanisation process which has succeeded in depriving them of their main pre-occupation and livelihood, farming.

Although the migrants and the indigenes peacefully co-exist, few of them rather complain of marginalisation. A farmer who also happens to be one of the respondents said “We are often treated with no respect in our home town by the so-called well-to-do migrants in the community”. Thus about 34.8% of the respondents complained that the indigenes are normally marginalised and treated as second class citizens due to the widening inequality gap (as indicated by 87% of the respondents) which is reflected in the type and conditions of housing facilities between the local people and the settlers in the community. This development is a potential threat to the peaceful co-existence the people enjoy if not properly addressed.

6. Conclusion

The paper has brought to light the nature of peri-urbanisation in the Danko community, how it started including its prospects and challenges. Some of the prospects include the extension of electricity into the community which enhances the daily economic activities of people in the community, increase in enrolment levels amongst pupils and so on. The pressure on water sources, increase in crime rates, persistent power fluctuations and conversion of farmlands to residential uses which threatens the economic survival of the indigenes were major challenges facing the peri-urbanisation process in the Danko area. The analysis here corroborates the findings made by UN-HABITAT (2010) that the consequences of urban growth might have positive and negative impacts. Thus, the negative impacts, which are often uncontrolled and uncoordinated, leading to an unguided urban growth, are generally more highlighted than the positive side. This situation negatively affects the natural environment and livelihoods in peri-urban areas. Conscious efforts could be made by the Wa Municipal Assembly and its development partners to meaningfully address these challenges and also harness its attendant prospects into opportunities for the development of the community. Farmers could be given entrepreneurial training to help diversify their economic activities in order to make use of the accompanying opportunities that comes with peri-urbanisation.

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