The Effects of Resettlement Policy on Federal Capital Territory Indigenes

By

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ABSTRACT

The study examined the effect of resettlement policy on the Federal Capital Territory Indigenes. The study adopted primary and secondary methods of data collection. Questionnaire were distributed among the target population while key participant interviews were conducted. Study's findings showed that resettlement policy has not positively impacted on the socio-economic status of FCT indigenes while integration scheme succeeded. The study also revealed that incessant decline budgetary allocation to the department of resettlement and compensation in FCDA stunted the smooth implementation of the policy. Investigation showed that lack of accurate data on the real indigenes of FCT slow the pace of implementation of resettlement policy. The study recommended that government should revisit resettlement and integration policy by taking into cognizance the socio-economic wellbeing's of the victims. Efforts should be made by government to subsidize some essential services in integrated and resettled homes. Most importantly government should prioritize integration programme ahead of resettlement, and more funding and special attention should be given to FCT indigenes who have sacrificed their ancestral homes.

Keyword: Resettlement, Integration policy, Displacement and Indigenes

Introduction

The choice of Abuja as the new Federal Capital City (FCT) of Nigeria has necessitated the resettlement of a lot of indigenes as well as problem of accommodation for citizens who migrated to the city in search of greener pasture.

In accordance with the FCT ACT of 1976, the inhabitants of the FCT were to be evacuated and resettled in their states of origins (Niger, Plateau and Kwara) at the

Federal Government expense. The aim was to ensure that all Nigerians had equal access to land and other opportunities in the FCT without anyone laying claim to primordial rights (Abumere, 1995). The resettlement policy option that was employed in FCT was that of full resettlement. However, this policy suffered some setbacks due to the number of inhabitants to be resettled were too many, huge capital outlay was required for the project and the slow rate of development of this new city itself worked against the policy.

In rare cases, plots were allocated to some of the indigenes as replacement in some designated areas. Records show that the claimants who were allocated alternative piece of land ended up selling them and never moved out of the acquired land. This abnormal development created serious planning problems and has greatly distorted the Abuja Master Plan. Consequently, slums became a common site both in satellite towns and in the urban periphery. This unhealthy situation gave rise to the various compensation and resettlement policies of the FCT, and the 2005 comprehensive resettlement scheme remains outstanding (Abumere, 1995).

Within the last three decades in the FCT, the problems of finding an appropriate strategy for resettling displaced persons and at the same time, accommodating the influx of people from other states of the federation into the FCT have been a thorn in the flesh of the FCT Administration. The resettled indigenes socioeconomic status such as access to school, access to jobs, and access to stable income became a big challenge. Their welfare in terms of access to good and quality medical service, cost of medical service, pipe borne water, electricity supply, communal relationship and social interaction were adversely affected by the resettlement policy. Some of the affected indigenes were better off before the resettlement but after the resettlement, significant number of them lost their jobs as well as income which made the resettlement policy ineffective. Every resettlement according to (UNHCR, 2006) standard should be such that, "nobody should be worse off after resettlement than he or she was before resettlement". The reverse is the case in FCT where majority of the resettled and integrated could not make ends meet ever since the resettlement policy had been implemented.

The study intends to answer the following fundamental questions: What is the socioeconomic effect of the resettlement policy on the resettled FCT indigenes?

What is the effect of the implementation of resettlement policy on the wellbeing of resettled indigenes in FCT and how effective was the integration policy in Federal Capital Territory? The objectives of the study include to assess the socio-economic effect of the resettlement policy on the resettled FCT indigenes, examine the effect of the implementation of resettlement policy on the wellbeing of resettled indigenes in FCT and to assess how effective was the integration policy in FCT.

Conceptual Review

This section conceptualized some terms considered fundamental to the study in order to ensure clear understanding of the issues under consideration.

Resettlement

Many attempts have been made by various scholars to define resettlement being a term that is ubiquitously used wherever shelter discussion surface. The following scholars thought on resettlement are reviewed below.

Bridges (1962) view s resettlement as the transfer of a population from one area to another on a planned basis the object being to improve living standards. This seems to be the general idea held by many people with only slight variations in the details. Thus, (Chambers, 1969) took the view that resettlement can be regarded as a situation whereby a group of people are up-rooted from a familiar environment to an unfamiliar one. This view tends to emphasize on the social and psychological effect of resettlement exercises, rather than its motives, environmental issues or problems. Examples include the need to resettle people in response to the occurrence of natural disasters like fire, flood, earthquakes and landslide. It may also arise from the desire to change the settlement pattern to a more sedentary form. It also includes resettlement projects necessitated by development projects (river basin development, dam construction and agricultural development project) (Chambers, 1969).

Resettlement is a process of planning and implementing activities that mitigate the harmful effects on displacement. The Nigerian government receiving development assistance from the Australian Government bears responsibility for planning and implementing resettlement activities. Resettlement activities can include payment of compensation at replacement cost, transitional assistance in

relocation, measures to improve or restore living standards, and measures aimed at providing opportunities for those economically displaced to improve or restore their livelihoods (China Report, 1999). The underlying features in resettlement schemes include the following key elements.

i. A specific development or disaster that creates the need to evacuate people from their usual place of residence.
ii. Deliberate and planned project to meet the desired objectives of evacuating and resettling the affected population in an alternative location.
iii. The actual movement and resettling of the population to a new settlement or areas in line with the planned development or modification of their present settlements to suit new requirements (UNHCR, 2006).

It should be noted however, that resettlement might not always include a complete relocation of the entire population to a new area. This will only apply when entire settlements are evacuated. In other situations, relocation may only affect individual residences of some of the people to alternative sites within or around the existing settlement. This is what may happen when a project seeks to fuse existing developments with new ones with minimal changes on the location of the settlement itself (Nikuze, 2016).

Resettlement schemes may be adjudged successful or otherwise depending on how well they address the objectives for which they have been set with least negative repercussion on the affected population. In most situations, while the scheme may have objectives that would be beneficial to the population, they are often poorly implemented or may have certain unforeseen consequence that impact on the population negatively Nikuze, A. (2016). This study noticed that this was what happened in resettling the indigenes and settler of FCT. These may be due to social or environmental problems. The emergence of negative results due to any of those reasons outlined is a major cause of concern for resettlement schemes. Though this affects mainly large-scale projects that involve the movement of people to new milieus it is also of concern even in cases where wholesome movement of entire settlements are not involved.

Methods of Resettlement

Resettlement projects are more complicated than it may first seem. Depriving human beings of their land and homes even when the method adopted are technically perfect, they often create unexpected socio-cultural, political and economic problems. There is no resettlement exercise which is trouble free. However, what determines the relative success or failure of the exercise is the degree to which the people to be resettled are cared for and the extent to which their socio-cultural and economic needs are recognized and accommodated. An overview of resettlement schemes reveals the following methods through which the displaced persons had been resettled.

i. Comprehensive (Full) Resettlement: This is where authorities build houses for the resettles in their new abode. They are also involved as stakeholders as the design of the houses and facilities provided are done in conjunction with the authorities resettling them (Corsellis and Vitale, (2005). The new settlements are provided with basic infrastructure and basic amenities such as good road, schools, pipe borne water, "access to safe water is a fundamental human need and therefore, a basic human right" (WHO 2003:6), electricity, health centres, market, worship centres etc. It also involves the payment of disturbance allowance, allocation of plots of land for future family expansion by the Government.

ii. Partial Resettlement: This refers to a situation where the displaced persons are paid full compensation for their unexhausted improvement while the authorities provide them alternative site by way of plot allocation but the resettlers are left to build their own houses (Pate, et al, 2002).

iii. Monetary Compensation: The displaced persons are paid monetary compensation and are allowed to relocate to areas of their choice (Correa, et al, 2011). This method leads to creation of squatter settlements which though cheaper in short run, has more financial burden on government in the long run.

iv. Involuntary Displacement: The involuntary taking of land resulting in direct or indirect economic and social impacts caused by:

a. Loss of benefits from use of such land;

b. Relocation or loss of shelter;
c. Loss of assets or access to assets; or
d. Loss of income sources or means of livelihood, whether or not the project affected person has moved to another location (Correa, et al, 2011).

v. Involuntary Land Acquisition: The taking of land by Government or other government agencies for compensation, for the purposes of a public project against the will of the landowner (Corsellis and Vitale, 2005). The landowner may be left with the right to negotiate the amount of compensation proposed. This includes land or assets for which the owner enjoys uncontested customary rights.

(a) Integration policy as conceptualized by the Gado Nasko administration, integration means that the original inhabitants would be kept in their respective villages without the necessity to move them elsewhere for resettlement. This policy assured that the original inhabitants can equally be assimilated into city life like any other persons or communities that may be allocated their lands. The advantages of the integration policy of resettlement among others are:

i. **Little disruption to ways of life of the indigenes (culture, family ties and affinity) cheaper cost implication.**
ii. **Less political discord of replacing Nigerians with other Nigerians (FGN, 2013).**

However, the integration policy had failed with the Garki village example largely due to poor implementation. For the integration policy to succeed it has to be with the general improvement of the village/neighborhoods and extensive urban renewal/upgrading of available infrastructural facilities. A good resettlement policy we are reminded is the one in which the resettled should not emerge from it worse off than he/she was before the exercise. This cannot be said to be the case with the implementation of the integration policy in Garki village. Many of the original inhabitants of Garki are farmers, which meant that they need to have access to abundance of fertile land for farming and grazing which is not available in the city (Agba, 2010).

The FCT Act was enacted in 1976″ (FCT Act, 1976). The Govern me. It vests the entire 8,000 square kilometers of the FCT land area in the Federal Government of

Nigeria. "The ownership of the lands comprised in the Federal Capital Territory shall likewise vest absolutely in the Government of the Federation wanted a principle of "equal citizenship" within the territory where no one can "claim any special privilege of "indigeneity" as was the case with Lagos. It wanted all the existing population to be moved out of the territory. That was why it authorized not only a census of economic assets of all the inhabitants of the territory but also undertook to pay compensation for all their owners outside of the territory (Mabogunje 2006). A slight policy change in 1978 allowed the indigenous population to remain within the territory.

Between 1976 and 2003, (a period of 27 years) there has been about four major policy changes affecting resettlement within the FCT. "These series of inconsistencies and changes on Government resettlement policy have led to the springing up and massive development of squatter settlements within the areas earmarked for the city and other areas within the FCT, particularly those very close to the city" Jibril (2006).

Indigene

Indigene means a native of a particular place in most cases by birth or through marriage and longevity of stay in an area. When an African indigene claims that he is "son of the soil" he simply means that his origin could be traced to a particular indigenous family of specific clan which belongs to a particular ethnic group with ancentral history (http//indigenouspople.nl/indigenous- people/definition-indigenous; Jones 2012).

Resettlement Policy in Nigeria

In Nigeria, beginning from the construction of the Kainji dam in 1963 for hydroelectricity and its attendant resettlement scheme, several development projects emerged in the 70s including River Basin Development Projects, creation of military installations, Land Clearing Schemes, large institutional projects and urban renewal programs that induced massive population displacements and resettlement. From the 1980s, however, urban development and redevelopment projects such as provision of staff housing, the development of new administrative capital cities (for newly created states and local governments) and particularly the movement of the Federal capital from Lagos to Abuja emerged as the major drivers

of Development Induced Displacement and Resettlement in Nigeria (DIDR) (Abumere, 1981).

The development of Nigeria's new Federal Capital Territory (FCT) project at Abuja covering 8000km2 is the largest and most prominent development project in recent times that stimulated massive population displacement. The decision to relocate the administrative capital of Nigeria from the coastal colonial city of Lagos to more centralized location at Abuja was taken in the mid-70s. And to make the new capital city Abuja 'home for all Nigerians, about 300,000 indigenous inhabitants of 600 villages in Abuja were penciled out for displacement and resettlement in places of their 'choice' outside the FCT (Abumere, 1981). However, after due consideration, this decision was later considered to be economically unwise and that it would delay the development of the FCT; thus, the federal government again decided that the inhabitants be resettled within the FCT. Consequent upon this, several satellite settlements were considered for the resettlement programme, one of these is Kubwa.

In phase 1 of the Abuja Federal Capital City master plan, indigenous populations made up essentially of the Gbagi ethnic group from Garki, Jabi, Maitama and Kukwaba villages were subsequently displaced and resettled at Kubwa by the federal government. The Kubwa resettlement scheme was based on the United Nations philosophy that 'no resettled person should emerge from the resettlement scheme worse off than he was before displacement'. Translated in socio-economic terms this meant that the resettlement scheme apart from ensuring minimum disruption of the existing ways of life and social relations of affected persons (APs), would provide better opportunities for improving educational status, better jobs and improved incomes as well as access to better medical health care services and sanitation in a well laid housing environment (Kalgo and Ayileka, 2001).

Although government bureaucracy and political instability in the country at that time delayed earlier implementation of the project, by 1993, majority of the people penciled out for eviction from their original villages for the development of what is now the phase I and II or the 'Central Area' of Abuja city finally moved into Kubwa, a resettlement town built by the federal government. It is over two decades since the resettlement of the Gbagi people in Kubwa took place, and the

question arises "what is the socioeconomic condition of the Gbagi people resettled in Kubwa".

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical underpinning of this study is synthesis approach.

The Synthesis Approach

The synthesis approach was adopted as theoretical underpinning for this paper. It was propounded by Richard Elmore, Paul Sabatier and Goggins (Ujo, 2011). Because of the relative strengths and weakness of the top-down and bottom-up approaches, the researcher sought to combine the benefits of these approaches into one model or synthesis that can address both the structuring of policy from the top and the likelihood of its subversion at the bottom or at least the ultimate point of implementation.

Elmore (1978) has sought to combine his idea of "backward mapping" with a "forward mapping" element. A top policy maker can make choice of policy instrument or tools to structure implementation while realizing that the motivation and needs of lower-level implementers must be taken into account. Sabatier (1981), also argues that conceptual framework should be developed that combine the best of the top-down and bottom-up approaches. The top-down approach is best where a dominant programme is well structured and where the researcher's resources for studying implementation are limited. This is similar to a student researching the implementation of a programme for term paper or when an implementer, needs quick analysis in discussing with boss and colleagues on how to structure a programme. By contrast, the bottom- up approach is the best where there is no single dominant programme.

Refining and reconciling the top-down and bottom-up approaches, Goggin et al, (1980) have devised a theory of policy implementation that relies on sending messages between policy makers and implementers. This study takes into account important features of most policy design that implementation is as much a matter of negotiation and communication as it is a matter of command. Even commands are sometimes resisted because they are unclear or inconsistent with the receiver's expectations. Goggins et al (1980), sum up their arguments in two key propositions. Clear message sent by credible officials and received by receptive

implementers who have or are given sufficient resources and who implement policies supported by affected groups lead to implementation success. Strategic delay on the part of states, while delaying the implementation of policies, can actually lead to improved implementation of policies innovations, policy learning and bargaining.

The first of these propositions is a short summary of what has been learned in the study of implementation analysis in actual experience, messages are often unclear, officials often lack credibility, and implementers are often not receptive or, if they are, do not receive sufficient resources or are opposed by the affected groups. The second proposition counters some of the gloom that has settled around much policy areas, that states that "strategically delayed implementation in order to seek clarification of a policy, raise more funds, ensure support of affected groups and so on-often had better success in implementing policy than states that immediately implemented a policy. What may at first look like delay on the part of the state or local government, may in fact be a period of strategic positioning and adapting of a policy that actually improves the quality of the service being delivered under the policy, as well enhancing the likelihood of any implementation."

Synthesis approach is a theory of policy implementation which emphasized that when clear messages are sent by credible officials and received by implementers who are given sufficient resources to implement policies supported by the affected people, lead to implementation success and strategic delay on the part of government in policy implementation can lead to improved implementation of policies through innovations and policy learning (Ujo, 2011). The synthesis approach to policy implementation can be applied in this study in various ways. Looking at the top-bottom approach, the resettlement policy of the FCT was formulated by the top government functionaries (elite). Public servants the final implementers of the policy in the resettlement site were not consulted at the formulation stage. Civil servants were not adequately trained on how to implement the policy. Top government functionaries in the FCT went ahead to order civil/public servants to implement the resettlement policy without adequate preparations. The relocation of seat of government to the new capital city Abuja commenced in September, 1992. The arrival of seat of government to the new capital city, came with influx of people from all direction to the FCT. The pressure

for the resettlement of those who came into FCT became a thorn in the flesh of the newly established FCDA and the implementation of the resettlement policy started without adequate preparation in terms of fund and manpower. Public servants were ordered to implement the resettlement policy without delay. Public servants felt neglected. The top management of the department of resettlement and compensation of FCDA ought to have been involved in the policy formulation stage so as to ensure proper understanding and easy implementation.

Looking at the second proposition of synthesis approach, one of the problems that appeared to have militated against effective implementation of resettlement policies is inadequate preparation before implementing the policy. These policies were implemented in haste. The government would have delayed the movement of the seat of government from Lagos to Abuja, so as to give adequate time to study the policy and make adequate preparation in the area of funding and manpower before implementation.

Methodology

Research Design

The research design for the study is the survey approach. Survey approach is a systematic study of a representative sample drawn from a large population and the findings of the study generalized to the population. The survey approach is realistic as it compels the researcher to primarily draw a sample from the population under study and then develop the research instrument.

Population of the Study

To make the new capital city Abuja home for Nigerians about 300,000 indigenous inhabitants of 600 villages in Abuja were penciled out for displacement and resettlement in places of their 'choice' outside the FCT (Abumere, 1981). However, after due consideration, this decision was later considered to be economically unwise and that it would delay the development of the FCT. Thus, the federal government again decided that the inhabitants be resettled within the FCT. In other words, resettled, integrated, compensated population and various stakeholders in the resettlement programme formed the bulk of the study's target population.

Table 1.1 Targeted Population of the Study

Groups	Questionnaires distributed	Questionnaires returned	Percentage
Farmers	77	68	17
Salary workers	75	49	12.25
Informal sector	92	68	17
Policy makers	40	83	21
Integrated indigenes	30	23	18.2
Resettled indigenes	30	49	12.25
Estate Agents	55	50	12.5
Total	**400**	**390**	**97.5**

Source: Office of Statistics, **NPC 2006**.

Sample Size

In determining the sample size, the Taro Yamane formulae was used as shown below:

$$n = \frac{N}{1+ N (e)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{300,000}{1+300,000 (0.005)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{300,000}{1+300,000 (0.0025)}$$

$$n = \frac{300,000}{1+751}$$

$$n = 398.9$$

$$n = 399$$

The sample size adopted for this study is 400 approximately questionnaires were distributed to targeted population and analysis of data will be based on number of returned questionnaires out of the 400 distributed.

Table 1.2 Sampled Population

Table 1.1 shows the sampled population from the groups for distribution of the questionnaires. Policy makers are the highest target population with 21% followed by farmers with 17%, the informer sector was represented by 17% while salary workers, estate agents and resettled indigenes are represented by 12 and 12.5% respectively.

Table 1.2 Interview Design for the Study

S/N	Interviewees	Numbers	Location
1	Heads of affected household	3	Sauka,Toge and Payi
2	Principal officers in Resettlement office	3	FCDA and NGOs
3	Resettlement building contractors	3	Kubwa, Apo and Kwabara
4	Resettled families	3	Kubwa, Gosa and Apo
5	Real estate agents	3	Kubwa, Sauka and Apo
Total		15	

Source: Field Study, August, 2025

Table 1.2 shows the important 15 stakeholders sampled for the in-depth interview of the research. 3 persons each represent head of affected household, principal officers in resettlement office, resettlement building contractors, resettled families and real estate agents.

Sources of Data: The primary and secondary data were adopted. The primary sources of data came from personal contact with the respondents, through the use of structured and unstructured questionnaires and key participant interview techniques. The secondary data came from FCT Master Plan, resettlement policy, urban policy, urban policy, memo, reports, circulars etc. FCDA was also contacted from where vital information on the compensation and resettlement of indigenes

and settler of the FCT were got. The secondary materials were useful and shade lighter into the area of study and provide additional information.

Method of data analysis: Data analysis method refers to the tools adopted by a researcher in interpreting and analyzing data in a clearer and concise way. The research study used descriptive tools to analyze data obtained from the questionnaires. Simple percentages were used to enhance understanding and simplification of the data gathered.

Data Presentation

Table 1.3 ***Socio-Economic Effect***

Proximity	**Before resettlement**			
After resettlement				
Distance	**Frequency**	**Percentage**	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Less than 1km	153	39	20	5
Above 1km- 2km	128	33	89	23
Above 3 km- 4km	89	23	128	33
Above 5 km	20	5	153	20
Total	**390**	**100**	**390**	**100**

Source: Field work 2025

Table 1.3 shows that 153 respondents which represent 39% have access to primary and secondary school that is less tha1km before resettlement but after resettlement, 20 respondents which represent 5% have access to primary and secondary school that is less than 1 km, 128 respondents which represent 33% have access to primary and secondary school that is 1 km-2km and above before resettlement while 89 respondents which 23% have access to primary and secondary school that is 1 km-2km and above after resettlement. 89 respondents which represent 23% have access to primary and secondary school with distance of about 3-4km before resettlement while after resettlement 128 respondents which represent 33% have distance of 3-4km to cover before they can access primary or secondary school. 20 respondents which represent 5% have access to primary and

secondary school with about 5km and above before resettlement but after resettlement 152respondets which represent 20% have access to primary and secondary school after resettlement. This mean that after resettlement, majority of the students have to cover more distance before they can access primary and secondary schools which was not so before resettlement. The implication of this is that after resettlement students have to cover long distance to access schools unlike before where the schools were within range. In other words, access to school became a big challenge after resettlement.

Table 1.4 ***Occupational Disposition of the Respondents before and after Displacement***

	Before displacement		**After resettlement**		
Economic activity	**Responses**	**Percentage**	**Responses**	**Percentage**	**Percentage differentials**
Farming	162	42	89	23	22
Salary	70	18	76	19	-1.5
Informal	118	30	130	33	3
Unemploye	40	10	95	24	-14
Total	**390**	**100**	**390**	**100**	**100**

Source: Field work 2025

Table 1.4 shows that 162 respondents which represent 42% indigenes are farmers before resettlement but after resettlement 89 respondents which represent 23% were still farmer while 22% loss their farming land as a result of resettlement and others take to artisan and trading. 70 respondent which represent 18% are salary workers before resettlement but after resettlement 76 respondents which represent 19% were still salary workers. 118 respondents which represent 30% are workers in the informal sector before resettlement but after resettlement 130 respondents which represent 33% were working in the informal sector. 40 respondents which represent 10% are unemployed indigenes before resettlement but after resettlement 95 respondents which represent 25% were unemployed after resettlement.

This means that majority of the FCT indigenes are farmers but after relocation, many of them ceased to be farmers as a result of loss of farmlands. While salary workers were not badly affected, the informal sector workers increased due to some farmers who take up artisanship work. Number of unemployment increased significantly. The implication of this is that the resettlement policy of government in FCT affected the indigenes adversely as a result of jobs loss. The predominant occupation of the indigenes was farming and relocation caused them to lose farmlands. Jobs loss led to fluctuation of income which impacted negatively on wellbeing of the resettled indigenes.

Table 1.5 ***Household Income of Resettled Indigenes of FCT***

Options	**Household income**	**Cost of living**	**Adequacy of income**
Higher	137 (35)%	199 (51)	112 (29)%
Same	68 (17)%	35 (9)	97 (25)%
Low	185 (48)%	156 (40)	181 (46)%
Total	**390**	**390**	**390**

Source: Field work 2025

Table 1.5 shows that 137 respondents which represent 35% believe the household income was higher after resettlement while 68 respondents which represent 17% believe that the household income was same as before resettlement and 185 respondents which represent 48% believe that the household income was low after resettlement. 199 respondents which represent 51% are of the opinion that cost of living after resettlement was higher while 35 respondents which represent 9% are of the opinion that the cost of living was the same as before 156 respondents which represent 40% are of the opinion that the cost of living was low. 112 respondents which represent 29% believe that adequacy of income was higher while 97 respondents which represent 25% believe the adequacy of income was the same as before and 181 respondents which represent 46% believe that the adequacy of income was low. This means that household income after resettlement was low, cost of living after resettlement was higher and adequacy of income was low after resettlement.

Table 1.6 Assessment *of Wellbeing of Resettled FCT Indigenes*

Options	Access To Medical	Cost Of Medical Care	Water/ Electricity Supply	Communal Interaction
Higher	181 (47)%	204 (52)%	185 (48)%	112 (29)%
Same	154 (39)%	73 (19)%	68 (17)%	97 (25)%
Low	55 (14)%	113 (29)%	137 (35)%	181 (46)%
Total	**390**	**390**	**390**	***390***

Source: Field work 2025

Table 1.6 shows that 181 respondents which represent 47% believe that there was higher access to medical services after resettlement while 154 respondents which represent 39% believe access to medical services was same and 55 respondents which represent 14% believe that access to medical services was low. 204 respondents which represent 53% believe that cost of medical care was higher while 73 respondents which represent 19% believe that cost of medical care was the same as before and 113 respondents which represent 29% believe that cost of medical care was low. 185 respondents which represent 48% are of the view that water/electricity was higher in supply while 68 respondents which represent 17% are of the view that water/electricity supply was as the same as before and 137 respondents which represent 35% are of the view that water/electricity supply was low. 112 respondents which represent 29% are of the view that social interactions with neighbor was higher while 97 respondents which represent 25% are of the view that social interactions with neighbor was the same as before and 181 respondents which represent 46% was of the view that social interaction with neighbor was low. This means that access to medical clinic/service was slightly higher after resettlement while cost of medical care service was slightly higher, access to pipe borne water and electricity was quite high compared with what was obtainable before resettlement but communal relationship and social interaction with neighbor was at low ebb.

Table 1.7 ***Effectiveness of the Integration Process***

Variables	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Very effective	122	31
Effective	107	27
Fairly effective	77	20
Ineffective	49	13
Uncertain	35	9
Total	**390**	**100**

Source: Field work 2025

Table 1.7 shows that 122 respondents which represents 31% believed the integration of FCT indigenes programme was very effective while 107 respondents which represents 27% felt the integration was effective, 77 respondents which represent 20% believed the integration programme was fairly effective, 49 respondents which represent 13% was of the opinion that the integration policy was ineffective and 35 respondents which represent 9% were uncertain whether the integration programme was effective.

This means that the integration programme was very successful with many indigenes feeling satisfied with the option when compare with outright resettlement that will take them out of their ancestral home. The implication of this is that, the integration of FCT indigenes was fairly effective. Effective because the integrated indigenes now enjoyed better infrastructures compare to before but the attendant's shortcoming was the inadequacy of the programme intaking care of all affected indigenes.

Evaluation of the Research Propositions

Under this section, the major propositions of the study are evaluated to ensure alignment of the objectives with the findings of the study.

Proposition 1: The resettlement policy has not impacted on the socio-economic status of FCT indigenes

The socio-economic status of resettled indigenes was adversely affected and many of them could not make ends meet compare to when they were still at their original

homes. Since the predominant occupation of the indigenes was farming, relocation caused them to lose farmlands as well as Jobs. The attendant effect was fluctuation of income which impacted on wellbeing of the resettled indigenes. In other words, the resettlement policy has not positively impacted on the socioeconomic status of FCT indigenes.

Proposition 2: The impact of the implementation of resettlement policy has not reflected on the well beings of resettled indigenes in FCT

The wellbeing of the resettled indigenes is now better. Services like medical, provision of pipe borne water, electricity are relatively available but the cost of these services are unaffordable by the resettled indigenes. The impact of the implementation of the resettlement policy has partially reflected on the well beings of the resettled indigenes in FCT as there are now infrastructures that improve standard of living but some services such as health service, electricity bills payment, security bills etc. are still out of the reach of some indigenes.

Proposition 3: The integration of some indigenes in Federal Capital Territory has not been effective

The integration of FCT indigenes was fairly effective because the integrated indigenes enjoyed better infrastructures compare to before resettlement but indigenes still prefer it to outright resettlement depending on the motive behind the move. The few houses provided by government are decent, modern with commensurate infrastructures. Although, budgetary allocation affected the completion of some of them but the already completed ones are up to date standard. The integration of some indigenes in FCT was a success as indigenes are now better off. Taking the Garki village upgrade as example, Garki village can now boast of modern structures, decent and habitable, access to public utilities like market, hospital, parks, schools are now available and above all, family tiers and ancestral lineage are still much intact.

Major Findings

The study finding showed that the socioeconomic status of resettled indigenes were adversely affected and many of them could not make ends meet compare to when they were still at their original homes. Since the predominant occupation of the indigenes was farming, relocation caused them to lose farmlands as well as

Jobs. The attendant effect was fluctuation of income which impacted on wellbeing of the resettled indigenes. In other words, the resettlement policy has not positively impacted on the socio-economic status of FCT indigenes.

Our investigation revealed that the wellbeing of the resettled indigenes is now better. Services like medical, provision of pipe borne water, electricity are relatively available but the cost of these services are unaffordable by the resettled indigenes. The impact of the implementation of the resettlement policy has partially reflected on the well beings of the resettled indigenes in FCT as there are now infrastructures that improve standard of living but some services such as health service, electricity bills payment, security bills etc. are still out of the reach of some indigenes.

We observed that the integration of FCT indigenes was fairly effective because the integrated indigenes enjoyed better infrastructures compare to before resettlement but indigenes still prefer it to outright resettlement depending on the motive behind the move. The few houses provided by government are decent, modern with commensurate infrastructures. Although, budgetary allocation affected the completion of some of them but the already completed ones are up to date standard. The integration of some indigenes in FCT was a success as indigenes are now better off. Taking the Garki village upgrade as example, Garki village can now boast of modern structures, decent and habitable, access to public utilities like market, hospital, parks, schools are now available and above all, family tiers and ancestral lineage are still much intact.

Finding revealed that Bureaucratic behaviour exerted great influence on the resettlement policy as beneficiaries are selected without merit or transparent process and FCDA official often compromise to sabotage implementation. Factors such as paucity of fund, corruption and favoritism, discrimination and selfish interest of the officials did constitute bureaucratic behaviour that affect resettlement implementation.

We established that FCDA through its department for resettlement and compensation was fully and actively involved in the resettlement formulation and

implementation but their performance was hindered by paucity of fund to speedily implement the policy.

Decline in budgetary allocation to the ministry of Housing affected the resettlement policy as money budgeted to complete the implementation of the policy has not been forthcoming. Unreliable data regarding the real indigenes of FCT became a big issue which affected the slow pace of implementation while the controversy surrounding figure of affected original inhabitant resulted in a setback that affected the implementation of resettlement policy.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The study examined the effects of resettlement policy on the indigenes of Federal Capital Territory.

The resettlement policy in FCT has not positively impacted the indigenes socio-economic status. This conclusion was in agreement with that of Agba, et al (2010) that socio-economic and cultural impact of the resettled are always affected adversely. The wellbeing of the resettled FCT indigenes improved significantly owing to access to better infrastructures. Also, this conclusion was in tandem with that of Nikuze, (2016), that, resettled people's well beings should be better than their former condition before resettlement. The integration programme as alternative for resettlement did prove successful but grossly inadequate for affected victims. Bureaucratic behaviour greatly influences the resettlement policy as challenges of corruption, nepotism and discrimination marred the implementation. This conclusion corroborated that of Mabogunje and Abumere in (1981) finding on resettlement in Federal Capital Territory when they observed that, capacity of implementers was one of the obstacles of resettlement policy in FCT. The settlement policy suffered immensely from underfunding and unreliable data which did not allow for comprehensiveness and inclusiveness. This finding was not new as Federal Republic of Nigeria (2013) Report of the Technical Committee on Resettlement in FCT had earlier raised concern of underfunding of Department of Resettlement and Compensation of FCDA.

The study recommends that:

The government should revisit resettlement policy to take into cognizance the socioeconomic wellbeing's of the victims. This can be achieved by proving alternative jobs to victims that have been rendered unemployed as a result of resettlement. Alternative farmland, skills acquisition centres to enable them engage in economic activities that will impact on their wellbeing.

In their resettled homes, efforts should be made by government to subsidize some essential services. In most cases, availability is different from affordability. With the availability of infrastructures, services such as health, school, portable water and electricity should be made cheap for scarifying their original abode to allow development.

The integration programme by government has been commended. In other words, government should make it more comprehensive to accommodate many victims. Selecting and discriminating beneficiaries of integration will only lead to more acrimony among FCT indigenes. What is good for the goose is also good for the gander. Many aggrieved indigenes who have not been considered should be earnestly incorporated in the integration scheme.

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