

**SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE FEDERAL  
CAPITAL TERRITORY (FCT) ON SULEJA TOWN, 1976-  
2015**

**BY**

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**SPS/10/PHT/00002**

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## **APPROVAL**

This thesis titled “Social and Economic Impact of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) on Suleja Town, 1976-2015” by Muhammad Awwal Adamu has been examined and approved as meeting the requirements for the award of Doctor of Philosophy Degree in History, Faculty of Arts and Islamic Studies, Bayero University, Kano.

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## **DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that this Ph. D Thesis is the product of my effort undertaken under my first Supervisor, Professor M. S. AbdulKadir before he was appointed as the Vice Chancellor, Kogi State University, Anyegba when Professor I. K. Abdussalam took over to its conclusion. The work has not been presented to any institution for the award of a degree or certificate. All sources of information have been duly acknowledged in the bibliography.

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## **CERTIFICATION**

This is to certify that the research work for this thesis and the subsequent preparation of it by Muhammad Awwal Adamu (SPS/10/PHT/00002) which commenced under the supervision of Professor M. S. Abdulkadir were completed under the supervision of:

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## **DEDICATION**

This work is dedicated to my Daddy, ProfessorBawuroMubiBarkindo for the fatherly role he has been playing to me and my entire family since I came into contact with him in 2006 when he joined the Department of History and Diplomatic Studies, University of Abuja, where I'm working currently. Part of the dedication also goes to my late father Mallam Adamu Abdullahi Limamin Yarima, who left this earthly life after a protracted illness on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2009. May Jannatul Firdausi be his abode in the hereafter, Aamin. It is also dedicated to my loving Mummy, Hajiya Hussaina Ahmad Zarif.

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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

ABU	Ahmadu Bello University
AD	Anno Domini (in the year of the Jesus Christ)
AGOMBAS	A Group of Muslim Brothers and Sisters
AKA	Also Known As
ATM	Automated Teller Machine
BUK	Bayero University Kano
BCGA	British Cotton Growing Association
CAN	Christian Association of Nigeria
DO	District/Divisional Officer
ECN	Electricity Corporation of Nigeria
ECA	Ebira Community Association
EPA	Ebira People's Association
(Ed)	Editor
(Eds.)	Editors
ECWA	Evangelical Church of West Africa
FCT	Federal Capital Territory
FCDA	Federal Capital Development Authority
FRCN	Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria
FCMB	First City Monument Bank
GSM	Global System for Mobile
GSS	Government Secondary School

INEC	Independent National Electoral Commission
ICA	Igbo Community Association
IBWA	International Bank for West Africa
IBB	Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida
IBBU	Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University
ICA	Igbo Community Association
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IPA	International Planning Associates
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
JJC	Johnson & Joe Chemist
LGA	Local Government Area
LGEA	Local Government Education Authority
Ltd	Limited company
MA	Master of Arts
MESDA	Motorcycle Express Service Development Association
MFCTA	Ministry of the Federal Capital Territory
MMS	Multi Media Messages
NA	Native Administration or Native Authority
NAK	National Archives Kaduna
No.	Number
ND	No date
NYSC	National Youth Service Corps

NPN	National Party of Nigeria
NPP	Nigeria's Peoples Party
NSCDC	Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps
NASFAT	Nasrullahi Li Fathi Society of Nigeria
NUPAS	Nupe Association
NNPC	Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation
NARTO	National Association of Road Transport Owners
NIPOST	Nigerian Postal Service
NITEL	Nigerian Telecommunication Limited
NCC	Nigerian Communications Commission
NSTA	Niger State Transport Authority
NTA	Nigerian Television Authority
NEPA	National Electric Power Authority
OC	Officer in Charge
P/PP	Page/Pages
Ph D.	Doctor of Philosophy
PDP	People's Democratic Party
PRO	Public Relations Officer
RNC	Royal Niger Company
SBTC	SulemanuBarau Technical College
SECSC	Suleja Emirate Civil Security Corps
SCC	Standard Construction Company
SMS	Short Messages

SSS	State Security Service
UN	United Nations
UAC	United Africa Company
UBA	United Bank for Africa
UPE	Universal Primary Education
Vol.	Volume
WAFF	West Africa Frontier Force
YCA	Yoruba Community Association

## GLOSSARY

### Hausa

Achibalbal

Alkali

Awwalawa

Baduku (Pl. Dukawa)

Baki

BakinKasuwa

Burkutu

Basharawa

Boko Haram

Bori

Daddawa

DodonGwari

Dorawa

Dunya

### English

Local Lamp

Judge

Supporters of Mallam Muhammad Awwal Ibrahim  
(The Incumbent Emir of Zazzau Suleja)

leather worker

Black

Market side

Local wine made from guinea corn

Supporters of Alhaji Muhammad Bashar Sulemanu  
Barau (The dethroned Emir of Suleja)

Western education, influence or culture is prohibited  
in Islam

Fetish dance

Black cakes made from the fermented seeds of the  
locust-bean tree, used for flavouring soups.

Terror of the Gwari

Locust-bean tree

A tree with black plum-like fruit used in making a  
sweet drink

Dagachi	Village Head
Dogarai	King's body guard
Dallatu	An official title and position. In Suleja, the Dallatu is the fourth in Command. In the pre-colonial period, when the Emir went to war, the Dallatu was responsible for building his quarters in the war camp. He also performed all those duties which the Galadima performed in the town.
Dangalfai	A wooden clog
Fari	White
Fartanya	Hoe
Gabashi	Eastward
Galadima	An official title and position. In Suleja, the Galadima is the third in Command. In the pre-colonial period, the Galadima was responsible for overseeing the affairs of the town when the Emir and the other chiefs went out to war. He also arranged the marriages and naming ceremony of the children of the Ruling Houses.
Galma (Garma)	Traditional (local) plough
Goro	Kolanut
GidanSarauniya	Queen's house
Gwangwala	Bamboo tree



Hauni	Chief Executioner
Iku	The Major River in Suleja town
Iya	An official title amongst women. It also connotes a mother or maternal aunt.
Kadanya	The shea-butter tree
Kanawa	Kano people
Kantoma	Corrupted name for Mr.Coatman who constructed the Kantoma Bridge in Suleja town
Karofi	Dye pit
Kasuwa	Market
Kasuwan Dole	Compulsory market
Kofa	Door, gate or entrance
Kwaruru	Young, boiled, Bambara groundnuts.The Bambara groundnut.It is also called gujiya.
Maje	Evergreen tree
Mayanka	A water fall, one kilometre southwest of Abuja town. In the pre-colonial period, the rulers of Abuja used to execute those who committed grave offence, like murder through the Hauni (the chief executioner).
Mai DogonGemu	The long bearded person
Mai Jaki	Possessor of donkey
Mai Karfi	Able bodied person

Mai Jan Kunni	Albino
Ma'aji	An official title and position in charge of the treasury
Madawaki	An important official title and office. In Suleja, unlike Kano and Hadejia, the Madawaki or Madak is next to the Emir or second in Command. In the pre-colonial period, the Madawaki was the commander of the Warriors
Malfa	A large native hat of plaited straw.
Mafichi	A local hand fan
MazaWaje	Men Outside
MajeBariki	Visitor to the Barracks
Makeri	Blacksmith
Makera	Blacksmiths/blacksmith centre
Liman	Imam, one who leads the devotions in a mosque
Rimi	The silk cotton tree, from which is obtained Kapok
Rizga	A small edible tuber. Also known as Coleus (Kaffir) Potato
Sarakuna	Kings
Sarki	King
SarkinAyyuka	Supervisor of works
SarkinKasuwa	Representative of the Emir in the Emirate Markets
SarkinPawa	Head of butchers

SarkinMakera	Head of blacksmiths
SarkinZango	Chief of a caravan camp
Sarauniya	Queen
Tafinta	Interpreter
Tumuki	A potato-like tuber
Tagwayenqwara	Twin Cocoanut Tree
Tambari	A royal traditional Instrument reserve for the Emir
Tunga	Cottage
Unguwa	Ward
Unguwanni	Wards
UnguwarGwari	Gwari ward or quarters
Wambai	An official (traditional) titleand office.In Suleja traditional institution, the Wambai is the third in Command to the King. He is also an adviser to the King. He also took part in the naming of the children. In the pre-colonial period, theWambaiwas responsible for seeing that the private latrines and urinals of the Emir and his wives were kept clean.
Wakili	Representative
Yamma	West
Yara	Mini Markets in Abuja Town
Yan Doka	Native Authority Police
Zage-zagi	The citizens of Zazzau

Zazzau The Southernmost Hausa Kingdom

Zauren Zazzau The Hall/Court of Zazzau

### **Arabic**

### **Meaning**

Asr Early Afternoon Prayer

Eid-el-Fitr End of Ramadan Festival or Lesser Feast

Eid-el-Kabir Sacrifice Festival or Greater Feast

Ibn Son of

Jihad Struggle in the Cause of Allah

Jihadists Those Spear heading the Struggle in the cause of Allah

Jummu'a Friday

Maghrib West or Evening Prayer

Maulud Birth day

Rabiul Awwal Third Month in the Islamic Calendar, when some Muslims celebrate Prophet Muhammad's birth

Sheikh Great Islamic Scholar

Tafsir Commentary of the Holy Qur'an

Tahajjud Voluntarynight prayer

### **Gwari**

### **Meaning**

Abuchi A villagewest of Suleja town inhabited by the Koro and theGbagyi.Its meaning was lost in obscurity.

Alubi

War Camp

**Igbo**

**Meaning**

Eze

Chief

Ogbono

Bush Mango

**Nupe**

**Meaning**

Shaba

An official title in the Nupe traditional institution.

The Shaba is the second in command to the Emir of  
Nupe

## **ABSTRACT**

This study deals with Social and Economic impact of the FCT on Suleja town from 1976 to 2015. The study clearly shows that the establishment of the FCT in 1976 marked a turning point in the history of Suleja town. The argument in this thesis centres on the fact that the relationship between Abuja and Suleja is reciprocal. The two entities impacted on each other. While Suleja contributed to the establishment and development of the new Federal Capital Territory, the establishment of the new FCT also led to the transformation of Suleja town. It was the establishment of the FCT that led to unprecedented changes in the history of Suleja town. It is not only that it became more expansive and metropolitan but it also accommodated some of the workforce that was employed by the newly established FCT which remained up to 2015. The methodology employed in this study involved collection and interpretation of information that are found relevant. The findings of this study include that the establishment of the FCT led to the unprecedented influx of peoples into Suleja town from various parts of Nigeria and beyond. The influx led to the growth of Suleja as one of the major urban economies in northern Nigeria. The study has also revealed that Suleja has become a melting pot for different ethnic, religious and social groups. The study also shows that the establishment of the FCT has resulted into expanded infrastructure in Suleja. This expanded infrastructure has facilitated further social and economic activities. This thesis therefore submits that the establishment of the FCT contributed to the social and economic development of Suleja, which ultimately transformed it from an agrarian society to an urban centre.

# **CHAPTER ONE**

## **GENERAL INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1.Introduction**

In 1976, two major events took place in Nigeria which led to the social and economic transformation of Abuja town. The first was the creation of new states out of the existing 12 states of the federation, when Niger state was carved out of the defunct North-West state.<sup>1</sup> Following this development, Abuja town became the headquarters of the newly created Abuja Local Government Area.<sup>2</sup> The second, and by far, the most important event was the establishment of the new Federal Capital Territory. When the Federal Military Government concluded the processes of establishing a Federal Capital Territory, large expanses of land were excised from the four Local Government Areas neighbouring the earmarked site. These were Abuja, Lapai, KotonKarfe and Keffi Local Government Areas of the then Niger, Kwara and Plateau states respectively.<sup>3</sup> Out of these three states, Niger State contributed 79.11 per cent of the total land mass of the Federal Capital Territory, with Abuja Local Government Area contributing about 75 per cent while Lapai Local Government Area contributed the remaining 4.11 per cent.<sup>4</sup> Similarly, Abuja Local Government Area was believed to have ceded about 71 per cent of its total population<sup>5</sup> to the establishment and development of the new Federal Capital Territory.

After concluding the plan for the establishment of the Federal Capital Territory, the Federal Government realized that for expediency, a nursing ground very close to the earmarked site must be identified to facilitate the building of the capital city and the territory at large.<sup>6</sup> Abuja town, the headquarters of Abuja Local Government Area was

chosen as that nursing ground. The reasons for the choice of Abuja were not far-fetched. Being the headquarters of Abuja Local Government Area, Abuja town was by far the most developed of all the neighbouring communities near the earmarked site, such as Zuba, Gwagwalada, Kuje, Kwali and Bwari. In addition to the factor of proximity and accessibility to the earmarked site, there were in place such infrastructure like roads, health care facilities, post office, electricity and water in Abuja town.<sup>7</sup> Thus, the Federal Military Government moved the operational base of the new nation's capital from Lagos to Abuja town.<sup>8</sup> Consequently, the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) established by Decree Number Six of 1976 to facilitate the development of the capital city sited its temporary office known as FCDA Field-Base in Abuja town. This edifice served as the office as well as residential accommodation for the FCDA administrators. In addition, other government parastatals were temporarily sited in Abuja town. It was not until 1983 when those offices and residential accommodation were made available in the capital city and the territory at large that the FCDA, other FCT agencies and parastatals relocated to the capital city. Some private organizations also established their various outfits in the town before they also relocated to their permanent locations in the capital city and the territory.<sup>9</sup>

Abuja town began to witness influx of people from various parts of Nigeria, who participated either directly or indirectly in the building of the new capital city, which was named Abuja three years later in 1979.<sup>10</sup> This followed the surrendering of the name Abuja for the new capital city to adopt, while the town adopted the new name of Suleja here on to refer to as such. (See Chapter Three for details on the process of surrendering Abuja to the new FCT and adopting the name Suleja) Among those who migrated to the



town were some members of the non-Zage-zagi Hausa, some elements of Yoruba, Igbo, Edo-speaking peoples otherwise known as Bendelites and the Ebira. These groups established various commercial activities in the town, such as Block industries, Guest-Inns and Hotels, Brothels, Restaurants and Food canteens, Bakeries, Departmental stores and some medium scale industries, which were patronized by both the earlier and later migrants.<sup>11</sup> The various commercial activities engaged by these migrant groups contributed to the economic growth of Suleja town. Consequently, the population of the town which was 10,608 in 1976 rose to 13,795 in 1979.<sup>12</sup> Since then, the population of the town continued to increase so much that it rose to 216, 578 in 2006.<sup>13</sup>

Another factor which explained the influx of people into Suleja was the inadequate tenement houses, exorbitant and unaffordable costs of rent for the few available residential and administrative bottlenecks in the process of acquiring land in the face of very high demand in the capital city. Unlike in the capital city, tenement houses in Abuja town were available to the low and middle income earners at affordable prices. In addition, the process of land acquisition in Suleja was less cumbersome than what obtained in the capital city and the territory at large. In Suleja town also, there was (and still is) less standard and less stringent measures with regards to development control compared to the capital city.<sup>14</sup> Thus, many of the middle and low income earners in the capital city eventually sought and obtained accommodation in Suleja.<sup>15</sup>

Consequently, there was high demand for housing accommodation in the town. As a result, the indigenous people erected new buildings and additional rooms in their

existing houses within the walled town and leased them for rent.<sup>16</sup> Similarly, the wealthy individuals in the town constructed flat apartments outside the walled town and gave them out for rent.<sup>17</sup> In their attempt to improve their economic status, as from 1999, some of the indigenous groups began to sell their inherited lands to some of the new immigrants such as the Yoruba, Igbo and the Ebira, who built houses and gave them out for rent, thereby becoming landlords in the community.<sup>18</sup> The cumulative effect of these was that the economic status of both the earlier and later immigrants became significantly enhanced and their social life also changed.

The expansion of markets and the establishment of some medium scale industries in the town led to a significant increase in economic activities. It is worth noting that these commercial activities were not only patronized by the inhabitants of Suleja alone, but also the middle-income earners living within the capital city and the territory at large.<sup>19</sup> The high cost of goods in the capital city and the territory, was one of the reasons why these middle income earners living in the capital city and the territory patronize Suleja markets and other commercial activities.<sup>20</sup> Consequently, Suleja became a commercial hub generating the highest Internally Generated Revenue in Niger State.<sup>21</sup> For example, in 2015, the Local Government IGR amounted to N130,610,000.<sup>22</sup>

Another factor for the expansion and population growth of Suleja was the movement of the seat of the Federal Government from Lagos to the new capital city (Abuja) by the Babangida regime in 1991.<sup>23</sup> In addition to the absence of affordable residential accommodation in the capital city, many of the new arrivals which included the federal civil servants and some entrepreneurs settled in Suleja due to its proximity to

the capital city.<sup>24</sup> Thus, the influx had a dramatic influence on the social and economic growth of Suleja.<sup>25</sup>

The successive waves of demolitions in the capital city, between 2003 and 2007 also profoundly influenced the social and economic growth of Suleja. In his attempt to restore the Abuja Master Plan following its distortions during the previous administrations, the civilian administration of President Olusegun Obasanjo under the FCT Minister, Mallam Nasir El Rufa'i, embarked on massive demolitions of illegal structures and squatter settlements both in the capital city and the territory as a whole. During this period, according to most of the affected people who settled in Suleja, they relocated to the town because of affordable accommodation and its proximity to the capital city. As a result, Suleja again witnessed rapid increase of its population, physical environment as well as economic activities.

The geo-strategic location of Suleja enabled it to play a critical role in the development of Nigeria's new capital. Even though Suleja was not part of the FCT, but its role in providing accommodation to substantial number of civil servants, businessmen and women, as well as labourers working with the numerous construction companies located within the capital territory enabled it to become an unofficial satellite town to the FCT.

## **1.2. Statement of the Research Problem**

The study of social and economic impact of the Federal Capital Territory on Suleja town has not been given serious research attention. Although there exists

some patches of historical and other writings on the evolution and transformation of Suleja town, the inconsistencies and disparities existing in some of these existing written literatures raise a justification for this study. These existing literatures have only attempted to look at how Suleja was founded with emphasis on political development the town witnessed. Only few of those works attempted to discuss the impact of the FCT on Suleja. These few works lack in-depth discussion and analysis. Generally, these works did not look at the politics and policies of the Federal Government as they impacted on the social and economic development of Suleja. However, this present study identifies how political decisions affect urban policies as it is in the case of Suleja following the establishment of the FCT in 1976.

A fundamental problem confronting urban settlements within the FCT and its neighbouring communities, including Suleja, which has not been given attention, has to do with the development of some social problems such as slums, ghettos and squatter settlements. More often scholars paid attention on the development of modern economy and hybrid buildings within the urban settings. In the case of Suleja, the town was placed at the receiving end because some areas within the town had become hideouts for perpetrators of crime. As the population of Suleja town increased following the establishment of the FCT, the government found it very difficult in planning due to the lack of background information on how Suleja came about. Thus, the inconsistencies in the government policies and above all low funding affected proper planning and implementation of major capital projects in the city most especially in the area of urban housing and infrastructures generally. As the town is growing due to the lack of proper planning, it became so congested and the existing infrastructures overstretched.

### **1.3.Aim and Objectives of the Study**

The aim of this research is to examine the social and economic impact of the Federal Capital Territory on Sulejatown from 1976 to 2015. The specific objectives of the study are to:

- i. Examine the level of socio-economic development of Suleja town before the establishment of the Federal Capital Territory in 1976.
- ii. Assess the role played by Abuja town in the establishment and development of the Federal Capital Territory.
- iii. Explore the social and economic impact of the FCT on Suleja town
- iv. Discuss the major challenges of urbanization facing Suleja during the location of the FCDA Field Base in the town and thereafter.

### **1.4.Research Questions**

The fundamental questions which this research intends to provide answers to include the following:

- i) What was the level of socio-economic development of Abuja town before the establishment of the new Federal Capital Territory?
- ii) What role did Abuja town play in the establishment and development of the new Federal Capital Territory?
- iii) What was the nature and impact of the establishment of FCT on the socio-economic development of Suleja town?

- iv) What were the major challenges of urbanization facing Suleja during the location of the FCDA Field Base in the town and thereafter?

### **1.5. Justification of the Study**

This study examines social and economic impact of the Federal Capital Territory on Suleja town, from 1976 to 2015. The justification of the study centers on the fact that Suleja town is one of the most important cities in northern Nigeria, because its development dated back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It first started as the capital of a breakaway Kingdom of Zazzau as a fall out of Sheikh Uthman Ibn Fodio's Jihad. Secondly, it became an Emirate created by the British. It also became a Divisional headquarters of the Abuja Division. Thirdly, it became a Local Government Headquarters following the creation of States in 1976. These are some of the information that formed the basis for our justification.

Another justification for the study is that Suleja town became very important in terms of providing the initial support for the development of the new capital city. The town housed the pioneer staff of the FCDA when the authority sited its first Secretariat there. In addition, many construction workers were accommodated in the town. In fact, if you know Suleja you have known Abuja. Similarly, the establishment of the FCT led to the emergence of Suleja as a melting pot for various ethnic and religious groups who exploited the proximity of the town to the new capital city to advance their economic status. The town also became a commercial hub and a major market for Korean, Japanese, Chinese and Taiwanese goods, particularly electronics and generator sets. These goods were not only patronized by the inhabitants of Suleja but also many people

in the neighbouring Local Government Areas such as Gawu and Wuse Local Government Areas as well as the FCT. These electronics and generating sets businesses in Suleja have created a scenario of intergroup and intercultural relations amongst the various groups in the town.

The study has also shown that the relevance of Suleja can be seen in its strategic location on the road that traverses from Lagos to northern Nigeria. Suleja became more relevant in the early 1970s when Dumez Construction Company handled the construction of the Lokoja-Kaduna road. It established its camp at the outskirts of the town along the highway. The construction camp later metamorphosed into a motor park and a resting point for travellers. Today, the area is submerged with so many houses on both sides of the road that linked Abuja and Kaduna.

The above provides our justification for embarking on this study. It is a way of contributing to the understanding the dynamics of the development of Suleja which was triggered by the establishment of the FCT in 1976.

#### **1.6.Scope and Limitations of the Study**

This thesis on the social and economic impact of the FCT on Suleja town starts from 1976 and ends in 2015. In essence, the research work covers a period of thirty nine (39) years. The choice of 1976 as a starting point is dictated by the establishment of the FCT which was an important landmark in the post-colonial history of Nigeria. As an important project, the establishment of the FCT had profoundly influenced the social and economic transformation of Suleja town. The termination of the research work in

2015 was basically because it will enable us look at the devastating impact of the Boko Haram terrorist attacks between 2011 and 2012 which also impacted on Suleja town and its suburbs, such as Kwamba, Maje and Madalla. Apart from causing wanton loss of lives, destruction of properties worth millions of Naira, psychological trauma and worsening relation amongst peoples of various faiths, the menace also crippled economic activities in the town.

This study is limited to Suleja town and its suburbs, such as Kwamba and Maje to the north, Bakin-Iku and Gwazunu to the east and Rayin-Sanyi and Madalla to the south. Understandably, developments within the township have really impacted on these settlements. The town itself is located 110 kilometres north of Minna, the capital of Niger State, and 60 kilometres to the capital city. The same town is both the headquarters of Suleja Local Government Area and the Suleja Emirate, which comprises of Suleja, Gurara and Wuse Local Government Areas respectively.

Among the important areas the study focused included the siting of the FCDA field base which led to unprecedented influx of various group of people into the town and introduction of a wide range of commercial activities. The role of the major migrant groups such as the non-Zage-zagi Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo, the Edo, and the Ebira in the growth and expansion of the town was also examined. Finally, the study also examined some urban challenges in the town such as the dilapidation and inadequate infrastructure, social problems and security issues which pose problems to the town.



### **1.7. Research Methodology**

Historical research method which involves careful collection, critical analysis and unbiased interpretation of information gathered was employed in this research. However, due to the paucity of written source materials, the research was largely based on primary sources, particularly oral information, government publications, newspapers, magazines, internet materials, among others. Thus, the research involved rigorous field work where relevant information on the social and economic impact of the establishment of Federal Capital territory on Suleja town was obtained.

Oral interviews were extensively conducted between 2011 and 2018. In this regard, efforts were made to interview some traditional title holders and retired civil servants who have vast knowledge and information about events and developments in the town since 1976. The interviews were conducted both in Hausa and English languages depending on the proficiency of the language of the person interviewed. Similarly, interviews were conducted with the various migrant groups-the Rubawa, Aho, Nupe, Igbo, Yoruba, Edo and Ebira groups, who were well acquainted with their history, vis-à-vis their migration into the town and their contributions to the economic growth of the town. Worthy to note is that these informants cut across various shades of life, amongst them were farmers, traders, entrepreneurs, civil servants, Muslims and Christians alike. Most of my informants were not able to stick to the appointments given to me. We kept on rescheduling our appointments due to their busy schedules. As a result, we were unable to interview some of the informants since some of them died before we could meet again. Our efforts to source for data from government ministries in Minna and

Abuja proved futile, as most of the records were not available. In fact, this posed a serious problem to our research endeavour.

Therefore, in addition to the few works acquired during our preliminary investigation, more written works were in the course of the research consulted at the relevant libraries, such as the libraries of the Department of History, Bayero University Kano, Department of History and Diplomatic Studies at University of Abuja, Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, Usman Danfodio University, Sokoto and Arewa House at Kaduna. In Abuja, some relevant materials were sourced from the Ministry of the Federal Capital Territory, Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA), Development Control office, among other places. At Minna, the capital of Niger State, some documents were obtained from the State Archives, Ministry of Lands and Housing, Ministry of Information and Culture and the Niger State Information and Geographic Information System (NIGIS).

The use of secondary sources was utilized. In this regard, available published books and journals were consulted. Even though the focus of this work is social and economic impact of the FCT on Suleja town, from 1976 to 2015, the study explored the history of the town before the establishment of the FCT. Doing this enabled us to have a proper grasp of the socio-economic setting of the past before observing the changes the establishment of the Federal Capital Territory brought to Suleja town and its environs.

Field observations that enabled the researcher to observe the physical structures established in Suleja town between 1979 and 2015 were conducted. Doing this enabled

the researcher to assess the information transmitted by the informants concerning certain developments in the town.

### **1.8. Conceptual Clarification**

In the course of writing this research, quite a number of concepts were used to analyse historical developments and changes wrought by the establishment of the FCT on Suleja town. These concepts included migration, urbanization, economic growth and social development.

#### **1.8.1. Migration**

Migration is the movement of peoples either to a hitherto vacant environment or to an existing one either voluntarily or involuntarily. Human migration is as old as man himself. Man, by his nature is a migrant being of one kind, depending upon the circumstances of his period. Arguably, migration is the basic inherent tendency of man since his existence in the universe. Migration is the basic fact of human history and existence. The concept of migration has received the attention of various scholars who looked at it from different perspectives. However, whatever the perspectives, one thing is common to them all, which is movement. The Microsoft Encarta Dictionary sees migration as:

Movement of people, especially of whole groups, from one place, region or country to another, particularly with the intention of making permanent settlement in a new location.<sup>26</sup>

On his part, Reuben Udo gives a broad definition of migration thus:

The permanent or semi-permanent change of residence from one administrative unit (district, country, province, state or country) to another. Movements may involve

relatively short distances of under 10 kilometres or may cover long distances exceeding 1,000 kilometres. Migration is an important component of population in some countries and especially in the growth of towns of tropical Africa.<sup>27</sup>

Judging from the above, migration is the movement of people over a vast expanse of space with the aim of establishing permanent dwelling places. This movement could either be local, regional or international. The net result of human migration is usually population growth and urbanization of places where the people moved into.

According to Ravenstein, the most consistent generalization about migration is probably the fact that economic considerations or the desire inherent in most men to improve or better their economic status forms the single most important reason why human migration takes place.<sup>28</sup>

It is also evident that geographical movements of population are caused by two fundamental causes: economic migratory movement of pastoralists, fishermen, traders and non-economic migratory movement of pilgrims, political and ethnic refugees, among others. Giving support to this view, John Arthur postulates that combinations of economic, social and psychological factors are the basic motivation behind human migration and settlement.<sup>29</sup> Arthur further argues that people move because they sense a need, which could either be economic, social or psychological, and which they want to satisfy.

Modern migration arises from the desire of potential migrants to select locations or areas that maximize their anticipated gains from migration, simply because the decision to migrate was informed by expected income differential. Thus, migration was viewed as the result of individuals cost benefit calculation. Migration in modern times

therefore becomes a personal investment that will be made only if the returns for the behaviour are justified.

Modern migration to Suleja, which the establishment of the FCT triggered, is the migration of both people and labour. One of the determinants of modern migration is the preference system, which tends to attract people to a new area. In both cases, there is the obvious dominance of economic motives, the advantages and disadvantages, the positive and the negative factors in both the place of origin of migrants and the place of destination. Caroline Hutton argued that the existing socio-economic opportunities in the urban centres are the major pull factors influencing rural-urban drift. She posits that the absence of cash earning opportunities in the rural areas, high level of rural poverty, lack of infrastructure and amenities constitute the push factors for rural-urban drifts.

It is obvious that modern migrants must overcome two sets of problems: the problem of surmounting the intervening obstacles and the problem of institutional dispersion into the recipient community's institutions and culture. The process of full integration of migrants into their host societies included acculturation through the learning of a number of new roles and norms, personal adjustment factors and institutional dispersion of migrants expressed in the non-concentration of migrants in one sector, such as economic, political, ecological, environment and cultural.

The economic impact of migration is usually seen in the areas of transfer of skills and capital by the migrant groups into the economy of the host society thereby bringing about economic development. The creation of businesses and commercial activities in the host community have multiplier effects on the economy, such as the creation of job

opportunities, the development of infrastructure and social amenities like roads, houses, pipe-borne water, electricity, schools, hospitals, industries, among others. On the other hand, migration can also impact negatively on a host society in terms of the repatriation of capital or capital flight out of the economy, the import of negative and harmful cultural traits on the social life of the host society and indeed the dilapidation of the existing infrastructure.

From the above discussion on migration, it is certain that human migration is a by-product of man's interaction with his environment in the economic, social and psychological spheres, in his quest to better his means of survival. It is clear therefore that the creation of Federal Capital Territory triggered migration or massive influx of peoples into Abuja following the citing of the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) Field Base between 1976 to 1982, the transfer of the seat of Nigeria's government from Lagos to the new capital territory in 1991 and indeed, the demolition exercises in the capital territory. The combination of these events and/or exercises significantly contributed to the socio-economic transformation of Abuja. Thus, the oldtown which was prior to the establishment of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja predominantly agrarian and which was composed largely of the Zage-zagi, the Gbagyi and other groups metamorphosed into a cosmopolitan settlement, comprising of people of diverse ethnic backgrounds. In a nutshell, the town transformed from a predominantly rural settlement to an urban centre.

### **1.8.2. Urbanization**

Since migration facilitates the physical growth of settlements, it is imperative to examine the concept of urbanization. Urbanization is not merely a modern phenomenon, but a rapid and historic transformation of human social roots on a global scale, whereby predominantly village culture is being rapidly replaced by predominantly urban culture.

The concept has been interpreted in different ways by various scholars and organizations to the extent that one single definition is impossible to come by. While the demographers use it to refer to redistribution of population between rural and urban areas, the economists, geographers and the sociologists refer to it as the changing morphological structure of urban agglomeration and its development.<sup>30</sup> However, in spite of the different opinions, urbanization has been described as a process whereby human beings congregate in relatively large number at one particular spot of the earth surface. The number of people would determine the size of the settlement which in itself is a product of time and location. In other words an urban centre has more population concentration than a town or a village. For example, Wirth, a Sociologist defines urbanization on the basis of population density, size and heterogeneity.<sup>31</sup> This means that urban centres tend to have more population concentration than a town or a village. Larson fixed population of 1,000 people to distinguish an urban centre.<sup>32</sup> Sjoberg went a step further by adding some significant factors that urban centres constitutes, such as advanced technology, a complex organization, as well as having well developed power structures.<sup>33</sup> On his part, Mabogunje contends that an urban centre is that large, dense and permanent settlement of socially heterogeneous individuals.<sup>34</sup> He went further to mention

some public services that prevailed in urban centres that included law and order, education, public health, transportation, communications and water supply.<sup>35</sup> Cater analysed urbanization on population wise and with functional role, consisting industries, shops, banks and offices and similar institutions.<sup>36</sup> The Online Encyclopaedia Britannica contends that, the course of human history has been marked by a process of accelerated urbanization.<sup>37</sup> The UN World Urbanization Prospects defines urbanization as the movement of people from rural to urban areas with population growth equating to urban migration.<sup>38</sup> The report further reveals that the twentieth century marked the rapid urbanization of the world's population in general.<sup>39</sup>

In explaining what facilitates the growth of urban centres, Paul and Jeffery emphasized such factors like economic growth and developments, technology change, increase in population, shift from rural to urban areas as well as shift towards the preponderance of non-agricultural activities by people to constitute the determinants of urban growth in a social formation.<sup>40</sup> This view was described as Eurocentric by Mabogunje, who observed that contrary to urbanization in Europe, most, if not all urban centres in Africa were not product of either technology change or shift towards the preponderance of non-agricultural activities by people. As Ki-zarbo emphatically showed, demographic concentration in Africa has been one of the pre-conditions of major qualitative changes in the social, economic and political spheres or structure of a given formation.<sup>41</sup> In most cases, the demographic concentration was a result of large scale migration of people trooping into the new area. Achi argued that population alone cannot serve as the only criteria to define an urban centre. He therefore mentioned other



accompanying factors such as existence of city walls, high level of technology and a variety of specialized services.<sup>42</sup>

In his discourse of urbanization in Nigeria, Mabogunje clearly states that the ruling elite played the leading role in the growth and expansion of their capitals during the pre-colonial period. He observed that the ruling elites provided protection to their subjects against external attacks by building walls to fortify the cities, and creation of peaceful atmosphere against social disorders within the setting. These combined to attract more people into the cities leading to their expansion.<sup>43</sup> In another study, Mabogunje mentioned some public services that prevailed in urban centres that included law and order, education, public health, transportation, communication, electricity and water supply.<sup>44</sup>

A Nigerian urban historian, Oyedele, regarded the term as a complex phenomenon that consisted of many dynamics some of which differ from one urban centre to another.<sup>45</sup>

From the above therefore, urban transformation is a multi-dimensional process involving changes in the structure of the society, attitudinal change, infrastructural development, institutions and the acceleration of economic growth. It includes the combined efforts of government, its agencies, and private individuals to overcome urban challenges. It also includes the formulation and effective implementation of appropriate policies. The provision of infrastructure facilitates the growth and development of the society as industries will expand and reduce unemployment rate leading to the reduction of poverty.<sup>46</sup>

As noted by Ezeani, urban transformation in Nigeria is characterized by the existence of slums, degraded environment, unemployment, poverty, as well as multiplication of population.<sup>47</sup> That is the case in Suleja today, where due to inadequate space in the Suleja metropolis, many people acquired plots and constructed their houses at the rocky and hilly places both within and outside the town.

Judging from the above therefore, it is clear that the creation of FCT which triggered migration into Suleja further accelerated the phase of the urbanization of the town. The creation of FCT opened new windows of opportunities for migrants in Suleja, who established a wide range of commercial activities for the economic growth of the town.

### **1.8.3. Economic growth**

Economic growth is an increase in the capacity of an economy to produce goods and services, compared from one period of time to another.<sup>48</sup> According to Cornwall, it is the process by which a nation's wealth increases over time.<sup>49</sup> In simple terms, economic growth refers to an increase in aggregate productivity. Often, but not necessarily, aggregate gains in productivity correlate with increased average marginal productivity. This means the average labourer in a given economy becomes, on average, more productive. It is also possible to achieve aggregate economic growth without an increased average marginal productivity through extra immigration or higher birth rates.<sup>50</sup> There are some few ways to generate economic growth in a given society. These included the discovery of new or better economic resources, the growth of the labour force, the creation of superior technology and increased specialization.<sup>51</sup> The indices for economic

growth included improved agriculture, markets, industries, commerce and trade, road infrastructure and transportation system.

The activities in the FCT since its establishment determine the volume and level of economic activities in Suleja town. Suleja town witnessed a new economic system which did not exist before 1976. For example, following the influx of people in the town after siting the FCDA Field Base, new commercial activities were established which contributed to the growth of an urban economy. Banks and some financial institutions established their branches in the town providing services to the inhabitants. Similarly, entrepreneurs seized the opportunity to establish companies and manufacturing industries. The emergence of these new commercial activities did not only improve the social life of the people but also led to the growth of the economy. In the same vein, the influx of people led to a tremendous improvement in road infrastructure and transportation system in Suleja. Suleja Township was connected by road to some towns and cities such as Minna, the State capital, Lapai, Agaie and Bida, Kaduna and Abuja, the capital city and the territory at large.

#### **1.8.4. Social Development**

The theory of social development attempts to explain qualitative changes in the structure and framework of society that helps the society to better realize its aims and objectives.<sup>52</sup> Miah defines Social development as an all-inclusive concept connoting the well-being of the people, the community and the society.<sup>53</sup> In other words, it is about improving the well-being of every individual in society so they can reach their full potential. The success of society is linked to the well-being of each and every citizen.

Understandably, social development is about putting people at the centre of development. This means a commitment that development processes need to benefit people, particularly but not only the poor, but also a recognition that people, and the way they interact in groups and society, and the norms that facilitates such interaction, shape development processes.<sup>54</sup>

Clearly therefore, social development is all about human beings and how they live in a society. It also entails the efforts of the government as well as the private organizations in the provision of and continual upgrading of the existing social services to improve the lives of the people. The indices for social development included education, health care facilities, housing, electricity, water, communication and sanitation system.

The activities in the FCT determine the volume and level of social activities in Suleja town. The establishment of the FCT led to the social development of Suleja town from 1976 to 2015. For example, following the influx of people in Suleja, the various public and private institutions such as education, health, electricity, water, housing, and communications witnessed tremendous expansion. Furthermore, in its quest to keep the urban space clean, neat and more habitable, the government emphasized the cleanness and sanitary condition of the town.

### **1.9. Review of Related Literature**

There is a dearth of literature on social and economic impact of the FCT on Suleja town. The few works that are directly relevant to the present work included that of

Bako,<sup>55</sup>Bala<sup>56</sup> and Shuaibu.<sup>57</sup>However, these studies could not provide much to our present work. Thus, in addition to the works of Bako, Bala and Shuaibu, other related works were considered for review.

The earliest and only published work on the history of Suleja is that of Hassan and Shuaibu titled *A Chronicle of Abuja*.<sup>58</sup>The book discusses the political history of Suleja since its foundation in 1828. Specifically, the authors give vivid accounts of the efforts of the Zage-zagi in establishing a safe haven after they were overthrown from Zaria, their former home by the jihadists. The authors also chronicle the role of the ruling family in the consolidation, growth and expansion of the town up to the colonial period. The work therefore only provides us with background information of the early history of the town, such as the geography, physical features and the earlier migrants into the town.

One of the earliest research works is the B. A. Degree of Abubakar titled, “The Coming of Zage-zagi and its Effects on the Gwari/Koro relations in the Abuja area in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.”<sup>59</sup>It largely concentrates on relationship between the two dominant groups in the Abuja area-the Gwari and Koro. Abubakar argues that the coming of the Zage-zagi profoundly impacted on the Gwari-Koro relations. This work is only relevant to our present study as it provides us with some background information on the establishment of the town in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Barde, in his M. A. Dissertation titled, “A Last Post of AHabe Community: The Establishment and Consolidation of the Zazzagawa at Abuja, 1828-1902,”<sup>60</sup> largely focuses on the political history of the Zage-zagi, particularly their effort at establishing a new location after they fled the Jihadists’ onslaught in 1808. Barde also treats the efforts

of the Zage-zagi in consolidating their position in the area peopled by several linguistic groups. The author argues that the Abuja ruling class implemented some deliberate policies for the growth and expansion of the polity before the colonialists came in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. This work also provides us with background information about the foundation, growth and expansion of Abuja during the colonial period.

One of the few works that touches on the impact of the establishment of the FCT on Suleja is the extensive M. A. Dissertation of Bako titled “The Historical Development of Abuja Town, 1850-1979.”<sup>61</sup> Bako discusses the political, social and economic development of the town since its foundation in 1828. He argues that the ruling class greatly contributed to the establishment, growth and expansion of the new settlement. He also discusses the conquest and domination of the town by the British colonialists as well as the impact of their rule. Bako also discussed the socio-political and economic development of the town during the first two decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He highlights the political transformation of Abuja and the later change of the name to Suleja, which took place in 1979, the terminal period of his research. This work did not go beyond 1979, the year when the FCDA sited its Field Base in the town to facilitate the development of the new capital city. The present work therefore is a build up from where Bako stopped. It will succinctly fill the gap in examining the social and economic impact of the FCT on Suleja town from 1976 to 2015.

There is also the M. A. Dissertation of Abdullahi titled, “The Economics of Colonial Domination: A Case Study of Abuja Polity, 1902-1960”.<sup>62</sup> The work mainly concentrates on the colonial economic exploitation of Abuja polity. Abdullahi examines

the economic factors that determined the historical development of Abuja polity during the colonial period. Thus, the work is only useful in our understanding of the colonial history of Abuja.

Bala's M. Sc. Dissertation titled "The Impact of Rapid Population Growth on Suleja,"<sup>63</sup> examined the impact of the FCT on the physical growth of Suleja. Bala focused on the impact of the FCT on land use in Suleja, such as residential, commercial, government or institutional and open space land use between 1976 and 1982. Thus, the work did not go beyond 1983 to examine the real impact of the FCT on the social and economic transformation of Suleja.

Shuaibu's M. Sc. Dissertation titled "The Impact of Abuja on the Physical Development of Suleja,"<sup>64</sup> basically highlights the impact of the influx of people on the existing infrastructures. In other words, the work lacks in-depth discussion. For example, it only merely mentioned some of the impacts such as population growth of Suleja, the dilapidation of some infrastructures up to 1997, but it does not discuss the efforts of successive governments and the private individuals in the rehabilitation and upgrading of the existing infrastructures. This is a huge gap which this present work will fill.

Abayomi in his M. A. Dissertation, titled, "Infrastructural Development of Abuja City, 1976-1998,"<sup>65</sup> mainly focuses on the efforts of successive governments in the provision of infrastructure in the capital city, Abuja. The work only made reference to the naming of the FCT when the then Abuja surrendered its name and took the name Suleja. This present study among other things provides some details on the process of

ceding the name Abuja to the Federal government to name the new capital territory and how the name Suleja was arrived at.

An M. A. Dissertation conducted by Solomon titled, “The Establishment and Development of Abuja, 1976-2007”,<sup>66</sup> largely focuses on the development of the Federal Capital Territory without making reference to the historical role played by Suleja in the establishment and development of the capital territory. Similarly, the work does not examine the impact of the establishment of the FCT on neighbouring communities, including Suleja which played a pivotal role in the establishment and development of the FCT. Even where he made some references especially on the administration of the Abuja area up to 1976, the discussion was scanty.

Komo, in her B. A. project, titled, “The Politics of the Distortion of Abuja Master Plan and the Demolition Exercise”,<sup>67</sup> argues that the smooth implementation of the Abuja Master Plan was marred by politics, the effect of which was distortions that led to successive waves of demolition exercises within the capital city. However, Komo was silent on the consequences of the demolition exercises on the towns and communities neighbouring the capital territory, particularly Suleja, which absorbed a substantial number of those affected by the demolition.

Mallo and Obasanya in their article titled, *Socio-economic Effect of Demolishing Squatter Settlements and Illegal Structures in Abuja Metropolis, Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria*,<sup>68</sup> specifically focuses on the demolition exercises in the capital city and its effects on the people in the capital city. Like the work of Komo mentioned above, Mallo and Obasanya did not take cognizance of the effects of the demolitions on the



communities outside the capital city or the territory as a whole, particularly Suleja, which played host to many people affected by the demolitions.

Dauda in his article titled, *The Establishment of a New Federal Capital in Abuja, Central Area: An Appraisal*,<sup>69</sup> basically assesses how the FCDA administration handled the resettlement and compensation of those who were to leave the FCT priority areas. Dauda concludes that the resettlement schemes were not conducted appropriately, as most of the resettled people later sold their houses, farm lands and became impoverished. However, Dauda does not give account of those communities resettled outside the capital city, such as Wuse and Gawu who were relocated to new Wuse and new Gawu in Suleja Local Government Area before they were carved out and designated separate Local Government Areas in the 1990s.

The work of Balogun titled *The Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria: A Geography of its Development*,<sup>70</sup> is largely geographically inclined. In other words his focus is on the land before the establishment of the FCT and how the physical environment was transformed after the establishment. Similarly, Balogun discusses those physical advantages the new territory has which Lagos, the former capital lacked. Like Dauda's work above, Balogun too has not mention the role Suleja played in the establishment and development of the new capital territory.

Since the present work concerned itself with the role of migrant groups to the economic growth of Suleja between 1976 and 2015, it is therefore imperative to review some works on the role of the migrants in the economic growth of their host communities since the experience of migrants in Suleja is similar to other plural societies.

In his work on *The Hausa in Lokoja 1860-1966*,<sup>71</sup> Suleman studies the migration and settlement of the Hausa community and unravels the dynamics of relationship they established with other groups in Lokoja. The author observed how the Hausa community established their hegemony over the other groups in the society. Furthermore, he reveals the participation of the Hausa in the Accra and Southern Nigeria Kolanut trade. Whereas Suleiman's work concentrated only on the Hausa in Lokoja this present work unravels the migration of not only the non Zage-zagi Hausa but also other migrant groups and their contributions to the economic growth of Suleja.

Wilfred, in his "The Migrant Factor in the Economic History of Tiv Land, 1903-1999,"<sup>72</sup> discusses the commercial activities of some migrant groups in Tiv land. He identifies the Hausa, Igbo, Yoruba and the Ogoja groups as the major migrants in Tiv land. He examines the origins, migrations, settlements and the specific contributions of the migrants to the economic history of Tiv land in three distinctive phases, viz: the pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial. In the post-colonial era in particular, Wilfred argues that the Igbo, Yoruba and Hausa migrants, taking advantages of developments such as the civil war, oil boom, state creation and the expansion of infrastructure, consolidated their domination of the commercial sector in the small and medium enterprises in Tiv land. He reveals that the various commercial activities of the migrants contributed to the economic development of Tiv land. Whereas Wilfred's work concentrated on Tiv land the present work examines the activities of migrants in the economic growth of Suleja.

In his study on "Ibo Spare Parts Entrepreneurs in Kano Metropolis: A Case Study of Automobile Spare Parts 1970-1998",<sup>73</sup> Fabian traced the migration of the Igbo to Kano from the early years of colonialism up to 1967 when the civil war brought to a halt the

movement of the Igbo to Kano. He pointed out that after the civil war in 1970 Kano witnessed the dramatic influx of the Igbo. He revealed that the Igbo in Kano mobilized ethnic identity as a source of capital, training and business strategy to dominate in the automobile spare parts trade in Kano. He concluded that the Igbo spare parts entrepreneurial activity contributed to the economic development of Kano. The Igbo spare parts business in Kano as explained by Fabian also occurred in Suleja which this work reveals.

“The History of the Igbo Patent Medicine Dealers in SabonGari Market, Kano, 1970-2010”,<sup>74</sup> like many studies on the Igbo in Kano, Christian also reveals that the Nigeria Civil War of 1967 did not only lead to the exodus of the Igbo to their homeland in the eastern part of Nigeria for safety but also halt the migration of the group to Kano. He also argues that after the civil war in 1970, Kano witnessed dramatic influx of the Igbo returnees. He points out that, Kano, being the commercial nerve centre of the north, provided opportunities for various migrant groups to advance their economic fortunes, the Igbo inclusive. He examines the Igbo patent medicine dealers in the SabonGari market of Kano metropolis and their impact on the lives of Kano people. Whereas Christian focuses on the Igbo patent medicine in Kano, this study looks at the major migrants in Suleja including the Igbo who also pioneered and dominated patent medicine stores in Suleja.

In his “The Ebira Community in Kano, 1949-2005,” Yusuf studies the socio-economic contribution of Ebira migrants in Kano. He argues that the commercial importance of Kano influenced the movement of various migrants into Kano, including the Ebira. He contends that harsh economic conditions in their homelands and

favourable economic prosperity in Kano constituted the push and pull factors for the migration of the Ebira to Kano. He opines that the Ebira contributed to the economic development of Kano, especially in the supply of the Ebira woven cloth called *Iyarode*. He points out that the Ebira migrants in Kano are also active in other areas such as education sector, civil service and politics. The work focuses on the Ebira in Kano whereas the present work looks at the migrant groups in Suleja including the Ebira who also engaged in some commercial activities for the economic growth of Suleja. This became imperative as the commercial activities of the Ebira migrants in Suleja have not been documented.

On the theme of urbanization, the works of Alhaji Garba Na-Dama,<sup>75</sup> Arthur Dhilwayo,<sup>76</sup> Enoch Oyedele<sup>77</sup> and Mile<sup>78</sup> provide useful information on the factors and impact of urbanization on the societies they studied. For example, Na-Dama in his “Urbanization in the Sokoto Caliphate”, reveals some factors that accounted for the foundation and urban growth of Sokoto, such as fertile land and availability of resources, Islam and migration of some persons from across the region for scholarship in the town, the role of the leaders of the jihad as well as the British who introduced new pattern of urbanization that led to the social and economic growth of Sokoto.<sup>79</sup> Even though the work concentrated on pre-colonial and colonial urban development, it is useful to our present study as it provides us with information on the role both the state and migrants played in the social and economic growth of Suleja.

Dhilwayo in a study titled “A History of Sabon Gari Zaria, 1911-1952: Study in Colonial Urban Administration”, discusses the role of the British in the urban growth of Zaria city. Specifically, Dhilwayo argues that the railway, colonial administrative

machinery and the European trading firms led to the migration of various groups some of who served under the British that led to the emergence of the SabonGari as a segregated part of Zaria. Furthermore, he reveals that the overcrowding in SabonGari led to the development of Tudun Wada. He also contends that the nature of the colonial contacts led to the rise of ethnicity and ethnic conflicts, politics and the struggle for independence.<sup>80</sup> This work though treated colonial urban growth of Zaria, it is useful to the present work since migrant groups contributed to the social and economic growth of Suleja.

Oyedele's work titled "Colonial Urbanization in Northern Nigeria: Kaduna, 1913-1960", examines the colonial urbanization process in Kaduna. Oyedele argues that urbanization involves a complex inter play of geographical, political, socio-economic, cultural and technological factors. Specifically, the work demonstrates how Kaduna emerged as both the military and administrative capital of British Northern Nigeria in 1913, after Lokoja and Zungeru temporarily acted as capitals. He mentions some factors that led to the relocation of the British colonial capital to Kaduna such as centrality, favourable weather and climatic conditions, availability of water and the absence of parasites.<sup>81</sup> These factors as explained by Oyedele in the emergence of Kaduna as the northern British capital also played to the establishment of the FCT in 1976 which impacted on the social and economic growth of Suleja. His work therefore is useful in unfolding the urban nature of Kaduna which was exploited in the understanding of urban growth and challenges in Suleja.

In his study titled “Urbanization in Northern Nigeria: The Establishment and Development of Makurdi Town, C. 1927-1999, Mile discusses the urbanization process in Makurdi from the colonial and post-independent period. The author argues that certain factors such as European penetration, conquest and domination of Makurdi Town were responsible for the migration of new group of peoples to Makurdi. Mile further identifies the infrastructural development Makurdi town witnessed during the colonial period, such as the provision of hospitals, schools, churches and ward administrative system. The author also examined the factors that led to the urban growth of Makurdi in the post-independence period to 1999. Such factors included the creation of states and the Nigerian Civil War of 1967-1970. Despite the fact that this work was on Makurdi, it serves as a guide to our present study especially in relation to the social and economic developments that took place in Suleja within the period of study.

From the above reviewed works, it is evident that comprehensive social and economic impact of the Federal Capital Territory on Suleja town has not been given adequate attention by scholars and other writer which prompted this present study.

## **Conclusion**

This chapter has made an attempt to give a general overview of the research. It has also gave an insight into the study. In essence, the chapter discussed the statement of the research problem, the aim and objectives of the study, the scope and limitations of the study. Our review of related literature gave a vivid picture of the lacuna in those previous works. Clarification of some concepts as well as the methodological approach to the work was also clearly stated.

## Endnotes

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<sup>6</sup> A. L. Mabogunje (2011), *A Measure of Grace The Autobiography of AkinlawonLadipoMabogunje*, Nigeria, Book Builders, p. 453

<sup>7</sup> Interview with Alhaji Abdullahi Ladan, Wazirin Zazzau, Suleja, interviewed at his resident, UnguwarJuma, Suleja, 5/6/2012

<sup>8</sup> Alhaji Abdullahi Ladan, Ibid

<sup>9</sup> Alhaji Abdullahi Ladan, Ibid

<sup>10</sup> A. L. Mabogunje (2011), *A Measure of Grace The Autobiography of...*, Op cit, p. 466

<sup>11</sup> Interview with Alhaji Sai'du, Dan Buran Zazzau Suleja, interviewed at his Guest House (Sai'da Guest House) State Low-cost, Off Sulemanu Barau Road, Suleja, 3/3/2012

<sup>12</sup> Niger State Official Census Figure of 1979

<sup>13</sup> 2006 National Census Figure

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<sup>17</sup> Alhaji Bala Jos, Ibid

<sup>18</sup> Interview with Alhaji Mustapha, SarkinYarbawa and MajidadinSarkin Zazzau, Suleja, interviewed at his resident, BakinKasuwa, Suleja, 11/8/2012

<sup>19</sup> Interview with Alhaji Bala Jos, Op cit

<sup>20</sup> Alhaji Bala Jos

<sup>21</sup> Interview with SaniHussaini, Revenue Officer, Suleja Local Government Area, interviewed at his office, Local Government Secretariat, 3/12/2017

<sup>22</sup> SaniHussaini, Ibid

<sup>23</sup> L. Joseph (1995), *Nigeria: A Shadow of a Great Nation*, , Nigeria, Dubeo Press Ltd., p. 41

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<sup>26</sup>“Migration.”Microsoft(R) Encarta(R) 2009 (DVD). Redmond, WA: Microsoft Corporation, 2008



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