

# Ibadan In Ibadan: The University and The City

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## Introduction

It is a wonderful honour to stand before you today to speak about two major symbols of national development and the heritage of our dear nation, Nigeria.<sup>1</sup> The University, being the first, has served as the source of intellectual prowess of the nation and has constantly either produced great personalities in different walks of life or added to their scholastic formation or expansion. Second is the beautiful city of Ibadan, which has constantly reminded Nigerians of their heritage and served as a reference point of how progressive the existence of the town and gown can be. I believe, therefore, that it is not erroneous to affirm that the University of Ibadan has contributed to the conditioning of the City and that the City of Ibadan has its own impact on the University. And the two, have been more like the two proverbial elephants, but in this case, the two elephants are interacting rather than fighting and, in particular, making room for the growth of those who are lucky enough to seek refuge under them.

While the appellation, “*Ibadan nilé Ohíyòlè*”, describes the city historically, I believe it would not be far from the truth to use the phrase, “Ibadan Nile UP”, to conceptually capture the modern societal and identical references they both share. The dynamics of the above are quite important to discuss, critique and, most importantly, enjoy to appreciate the terranean beauty of this setting. Therefore, in the time I will be standing right before you, I intend to consider only the things that matter on how, first, the university has

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1 Text of Lecture to the Inaugural Association of Ibadan Indigenes who attended the University of Ibadan, Houston, 2020.

contributed immensely to the growth of the city, and second, how the University can affect the City and vice versa. Lastly, how “us” being part of the stakeholders can engage in active roles in ensuring that this great citadel of learning continues to have remarkable impacts on its surroundings. We believe that it is constantly making great strides and the people of Ibadan are imbibing the benefits of having the institution in their City.

Before I go into the crux of the matter, I must say that this address should not be misconstrued to imply the global nature of the University of Ibadan as centralizing the role of Ibadan city in the making of the University. It should also neither be misread nor implying that the University of Ibadan is the university of the Yoruba people. That the University of Ibadan is an institution of world stature and a global academy cannot be disputed. I am, however, particular about the idea of locality in the standing of a university and the university in the standing of a locality. Stanford University in California, United States, is the empire of growth in Silicon Valley. The same can be said of the University of Ibadan in Ibadan which has been the magnet that has attracted people from diverse cultures and groups. It has also created a bubbling economic hub around Ibadan, not just for the brave but also the faintest of hearts which is how Ibadan was formed and has remained so till this day.

### **The Birth of an Institution**

During colonial rule in Nigeria, there was a need to create educational institutions with university and college standards. In 1945, the royal commissions of Asquith and Elliot in respect of British Colonies in West Africa had seen these needs and recommended the establishment of Colonial Universities to develop Africans that can be delegated with more administrative duties and also supervise an easy decolonization process.<sup>2</sup> In 1948, the University of Ibadan was established to provide Africans and, in this case, Nigerians, their educational needs, when put side-by-side with some of their European counterparts. The relationship between the city and the University has been in place even before the establishment of the University itself. The present location of the University of over 2550 acres of land, after it moved from the old location at Eleyele, was wilfully leased to the University for an impressive period of 999 years.<sup>3</sup> This is an obvious case that the city must have recognized the positive influence and interaction that would potentially ensue from the establishment of the University. The Ibadan people welcomed the University with

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2 John D. Hargreaves, “The Idea of a Colonial University,” *African Affairs* 72, No. 286 (1973): 26–36.

3 J. K. Omifolaji, A. M. Taiwo and M. Modu, “Attitudinal Perception of Residents’ towards Ecological Tourism in University of Ibadan Community, Nigeria,” *PAT* 11, No. 2 (2015): 122-131.

open hands and a full embrace such that today, the University is also contributing to the city with all its hands. No doubt, it was a worthy investment that has birthed a symbiotic relationship and beneficial interaction. Since then, the developments of the University have been through the different historical timelines as well as the corresponding development of the city. The growth has also reflected the different facets of the national and state histories and, as such, has made itself an epitome of such historical treasures.

The University has been a standard to others and has been gaining accolades from its early days. Right from its inception, it quickly established itself as not just the country's epitome of civilization but as well the continent's pride. At this time, the University had been credited to be responsible for the various developments in the city and was already gathering a positive reputation in the global space.<sup>4</sup> The clause, "first and the best" has not just been put forward to be a visionary statement but has been met with excellence born from diligent, honest and deliberate hard work of the staff and students but, of course, the community as a whole.

One can talk about the development of the University from one phase to another and still manage not to over-flog any point. This is because the growth itself has been a treasure of knowledge worthy of dedicated studies and research. It is the University of Ibadan, it is rich, it is profound and it is fast becoming a discipline on its own. I believe that an institution such as this must position itself to constantly contribute and be a major catalyst for development in various sectors of the city. The University must be the glory of the city of Ibadan and should establish itself as the modern-day core of the existence of the city. However, before consideration is given to some things that the University can do to be what we expect it to be in the city, we must first ask one question; what exactly has the University been doing in Ibadan City?

### **The Role of The University in Ibadan City**

In the academic sphere and environment, it is easy to understand when Ibadan is used to refer to the University. It is not just limited to the location of the institution or where the degree is conferred but extends to the remarkable role of the University to the City of Ibadan. It is so important that the school gate rests solely in the heart of the state's crest and logo. Ibadan is a city of fame and history and the University has never stopped contributing to this. Throughout the years of development of the University, it has endeavoured to influence the city in different ways. It has been the hub of knowledge for human capacity and infrastructural development, the steerer of the educational frontiers of the city, the powerhouse for socio-political development and the

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4 L. F. Brosnahan, "Book Review: University College Ibadan," (1961): 142-144.

keeper of the city's most cherished history and knowledge. No doubt, it has become easy for many of us to understand that the essence of the establishment of the University of Ibadan in 1948 was to satisfy the educational needs of the colony geared at training and developing the country's administrators. The University has continued to uphold this objective and has been contributing greatly to the educational and research development of the city through its various purposive training, researches and community interactions.<sup>5</sup>

The University has been responsible for the distribution of knowledge across the city. Oftentimes, graduates from the University return to the institution either as lecturers or teachers to other institutions within and outside the city with the same values and orientations that they had imbibed as students.<sup>6</sup> As my area of interest, it is important to also note that the University has been a great keeper of the history of the city and the study of history both in Ibadan and the nation as a whole. To corroborate this assertion, the Department of History of the University of Ibadan, popularly known as the Ibadan School of History, serves as the first department of history in Nigeria.<sup>7</sup> One could, therefore, imagine how much the school would hold of all the series of events that make up the city of fame. The department and the University's archives and resources have been referred to as a go-to reservoir when the right research is needed to be made into the city and Nigeria as a whole.

Furthermore, the different research conducted in the University and its University College Hospital has restructured the understanding of the health sector. After the establishment of the Hospital in 1952, there have been different researches conducted to get the right understanding of diseases and as well discover more knowledge about them. The University, through different scholars in medicine and allied fields, have expanded knowledge of diseases in Nigeria, the city of Ibadan inclusive, and has affected the development of the country in this regard. An example of these endeavours is that of Professor Adesola Ogunniyi of the College of Medicine of this University in neurosurgery and his sub-Saharan pioneering research into dementia.<sup>8</sup> Similar

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5 B. Udegbe, and G.O.S. Ekhaguere, "University of Ibadan: A Beacon of Higher Education in Africa." In *Flagship Universities in Africa*, ed. D. Teferra, pp. 281-332. Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan, 2017.

6 J.D. Omer-Cooper, "The Contribution of the University of Ibadan to the Spread of the Study and Teaching of African History within Africa," *Journal of the Historical Society of Nigeria* 10, No. 3 (1980): 23-31.

7 A.E. Afigbo, Review: "The Flame of History Blazing at Ibadan," *Journal of the Historical Society of Nigeria* 7, No. 4 (1975): 715-720.

8 W.G. Balogun, A.E. Cobham and A. Amin, "Neuroscience In Nigeria: The Past, the Present and the Future," *Metabolic Brain Disease* 33, No. 2 (2018): 359-368. See also A. Salami and K.K. Kanmodi, "Translational Medical Research in Nigeria: Challenges,

researches have been made on similar diseases, and more than ever, success is being recorded.

Aside from this, Ibadan city has thrived historically as an agriculture-based economy. The people were largely farmers and a good crust of the economy and income are based on it. This famed largest city in West Africa, despite slowly developing into a full-fledged urban environment, still carries out these agricultural activities.<sup>9</sup> The University has constantly been providing different farming entrepreneurship programs, extension services, and conducted research that has influenced the agricultural practice and market in Ibadan.<sup>10</sup> Like every other community, the farming population is gradually equalling that of the ageing population.<sup>11</sup> This has been a major problem in the agriculture industry and poses a dangerous threat to its continuity. However, the University has been able to develop studies and town engagements with the youth which has seen the latter gradually taking over the agricultural industry. As if all of these were not enough, the University has established the University of Ibadan Research and Development Fair (UIRESDEV) to continue the local and global discussion, and push for innovative ideas and works that would encourage community development. This idea has allowed for different knowledge-sharing opportunities and the decentralization of the community. The UIRESDEV has also attracted various investors and indirectly shifted their attention favourably towards the city. The different efforts carried out by the University in recent times as regards lifting the face of agriculture in Nigeria has been laudable. However, more can be done.

The University of Ibadan and the city of Ibadan have historically had beautiful stories of mutual collaboration in the area of development in time past. Collaborations have occurred for direct influential activities and also, there have been indirect contributions to the city, although the city had developed greatly in culture, economy and civilization especially before the advent of colonial rule.<sup>12</sup> The current look of things has been spiced up by the exist-

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Prospects and Recommendations for the Future,” *European Journal of Translational and Clinical Medicine* 4, No. 1 (2021): 71-78.

9 A.A. Ladele and A.O. Omotosho, “Some Features of City Farming in two Nigerian Cities: Ibadan and Ilorin.” In *Sixth Annual Conference Of The Agricultural Extension Society Of Nigeria*. 2018.

10 A.A. Ladele and O.M. Agbebaku, “Analysis of Entrepreneurial Skills Development through Farm Practical Training Programmes of University of Ibadan and University of Agriculture, Abeokuta,” *Journal of Agricultural Extension* 9 (2006): 14-22.

11 O.A. Obayelu and I.O. Fadele, “Choosing a Career Path in Agriculture: A Tough Calling for Youths in Ibadan Metropolis, Nigeria,” *Agricoltura Tropica Et Subtropica* 52, No. 1 (2019): 27-37.

12 B. Awę, “Militarism and Economic Development in Nineteenth-Century Yoruba Country: The Ibadan Example,” *The Journal of African History* 14, No. 1 (1973): 65-77.

tence of the University of Ibadan from as far back as 1948. This development has been influenced by different elements including what Onibokun calls “socio-cultural traditionalism and processes.”<sup>13</sup> This has been responsible for early population growth. For example, there was a 36.6 per cent population increase in Ibadan between 1952 and 1963.<sup>14</sup> It has also influenced greatly the availability of job opportunities and housing across the city. This problem has persisted up to this moment. However, the University of Ibadan has been very instrumental in making sure that these problems are duly confronted. The existence of the University has brought enlightenment and hastened the modernization process of the city of fame.

The University has been instrumental in the infrastructural development of the city. Worthy of note are the various deliberate efforts by the University through their incorporation of Ibadan as a point of consideration in sustainable development along with observance of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) through the Centre for Sustainable Development (CESDEV).<sup>15</sup> Also, sometime in 2017, the University launched a Think-Tank via its UI-Research Foundation (UI-RF) towards interpreting research and turning it into innovative technologies for the developmental needs in the country.<sup>16</sup> This is a development I perceive would have a great impact on the nation and, in particular, the city of Ibadan.

It is not rocket science when we say that the University has directly or indirectly impacted the economic growth of its community. The Agbowo community, which is the closest to the University of Ibadan and directly opposite the University first gate, was projected to hit up to 97,219 people as of 2017. The population keeps growing as the area is regarded to be going through a sporadic urbanization process as a result of population exposure.<sup>17</sup> The area has been trying to develop itself to meet the demands of residents. The University is largely responsible for the influx of people into this area. One thing that attracts the concentration of a refined population in an environment is the economic advantage it bestows on such a population. Different innovations and commercial activities are bound to spring up and commence in the respective areas. Agbowo, which is the main point of entry to the University,

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13 A. Onibokun, “Forces Shaping the Physical Environment of Cities in the Developing Countries: The Ibadan Case,” *Land Economics* 49, No. 4 (1973): 424–31.

14 Onibokun, “Forces Shaping the Physical Environment.”

15 O. Olaniyan, *Sustainable Development of Ibadan: Past, Present and Future*. Ibadan: Centre For Sustainable Development, 2017.

16 L. Harolds, UI Launches Think-Tank to Translate Research to Development, *Nigerian Tribune*, 23 November, 2017.

17 F.A. Balogun, “Rapid Urbanization and Environmental Poverty in Residential Areas of Agbowo, Ibadan, Nigeria,” *IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science* 24, No. 4 (2019): 1.

has automatically drawn different types of traders and trade and has become a bustling market in a residential area. Bodija, Ojoo, Sango and Dugbe have also benefited from the population and development that the University attracts. Universities do not only provide commercialized knowledge but have been proven to be responsible for the inspiration of innovative ideas and the production of knowledge within the regions and communities surrounding it. The university is usually responsible for generating and ensuring knowledge transfer which, in return, affects the socio-economic status of the surrounding environments.

More so, as a result of the population concentration around the University, the society tends to develop commercially to meet the needs of the people. Bodija and Ojoo have served as both residential areas and food markets for the staff, students, visitors and people residing within and outside the University. They have developed to be the proper next available avenue for the satisfaction of human and non-human needs. Areas such as Sango also serve residential purposes but are majorly commercial spots. Dugbe market has been reputed for the sales of wears which is the most patronized item among students. Also, basic items are found in Dugbe and Sango. Students find it easy and they are sure of finding what they need or somewhat close to what they need at the Dugbe/Sango environments. We can see that the University of Ibadan has been the right agency for the economic development of many of the societies that surround her.

Ibadan which I recently referred to as “my city of fame” is very rich in history, art, culture, theatre and revolutionary music. A place that was originally a military camp has, throughout history, been exposed to cultures, civilization and urbanization that it has been able to establish itself when the consideration of the aesthetics of art and culture comes to bear.<sup>18</sup> The socio-political origin of Ibadan city has been such an interesting one. The Ibadan people are known for their bravery and visionary leadership.<sup>19</sup> The social structure has been built on the brave hard work of intentional heroes. In recent times, the University of Ibadan has given a huge coating to the fantastic socio-political structure of the city. The University has become one of the remarkable heritage of the city.

Ibadan city has witnessed an overhauling in art, theatre and music. It is not surprising that the products of the University are quite instrumental and important in the modern history of Ibadan. A basic example is the Mbari Club founded in Ibadan in 1961. “Mbari Mbayo”, an art-based society, was

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18 G.O. Ogunremi, ed., *Ibadan: A Historical, Cultural and Socio-economic Study of an African City*, Ibadan: Oluyole Club, 2000.

19 P.C. Lloyd, ed., *The City of Ibadan*, London: Cambridge University Press, 1967.

organized by the respected culture enthusiast, Ulli Beier, and many of the founding fathers that were University of Ibadan products.<sup>20</sup> People like Wole Soyinka, Chinua Achebe, Christopher Okigbo, John P. Clark and others of the University of Ibadan origin had been very instrumental in establishing this gathering. Later, the Mbari group accommodated revolutionary musicians like Fela Kuti among others.<sup>21</sup> The Mbari movement has been credited for its influence in post-colonial urbanization as well as the projection of nationalism in the country.<sup>22</sup>

The history of art and performing art in Ibadan is not different from that of European accounts of the genesis of drama. The European account of the history of drama has linked its origin to Greek tragedy in Athens. This was religious and more linked to a re-enactment of the acts of the gods. There is a similarity between the inception of drama and its adaptation in Ibadan. An early historical account has stated that at the time of the settlement of Lagelu from Ile-Ife, his settlement was cut short as a result of his disrespect and that of his people of the Egungun of the original settlers. This made him resettle at the hills of Eleyele.<sup>23</sup> This culture made it easy for the then settlers to adapt quickly to the introduction of the western practice of performing art. The Egungun is considered an incarnation of ancestral spirits portrayed in reality as well as a disguise.<sup>24</sup> Without much ado, as a result of the establishment of the University with a new curriculum, there seemed to be an introduction of a new way of interpreting nationalism and the phases of drama and performing art gained a new approach. New drama groups were formed and appeared different from the ideology of those that existed before. The Orisun Theatre was set up which was succeeded by Unibadan Masques of 1960. The establishment of the Nigerian Theatre Group by Taiye Ayorinde, and Christopher Kolade's *Players of the Dawn* and others brought a new look and orientation to Nigerian theatre. All these early stakeholders were brought together with Ulli Beier's Mbari group, including non-Yoruba writers and artists as earlier mentioned. The group developed, incorporated other people and had a publishing

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20 O. Raheem, Review: "The Mbari Artists and Writers Club in Ibadan," *Kulturwissenschaftliche Zeitschrift* 4, No. 1 (2019): 63-66.

21 "Ulli Beier," *The Telegraph*, 11 May, 2011, <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/8508079/Ulli-Beier.html>. Retrieved on 14 December, 2021.

22 O. Nwakanma, *The Mbari Movement: Postcolonial Modernity and Cultural Nationalism from Harlem to Ibadan*, PhD diss. Saint Louis University, 2008.

23 M.I. Okunola, "Ibadan and some of her Landmarks," Being an address given at the Nigerian Field Society, Ibadan Branch, On Tuesday, 4 March, 1997.

24 C.O. Adepegba, *Yoruba Egungun: Its Association with Ancestors and the Typology of Yoruba Masquerades by its Costume*, Ibadan: University of Ibadan, 1984.



outlet that published the magazine, *Black Orpheus*.<sup>25</sup> The University's environment served as a good and ready flourishing ground for this group.<sup>26</sup>

The University of Ibadan has also been a major player in Nigerian political history. The establishment of the institution has been able to instil the principle of nationalism in the heart of Nigerians when moves for independence were hatched. This made Ibadan a stakeholder city in the agitation for Nigerian independence. This trend continued through the experience of military rule to the present democratic dispensation. The University has influenced major policies made in the country. Aside from Herbert Macaulay and other nationalists who were educated abroad and returned with the verve of nationalism burning in them, the University of Ibadan created an avenue for homegrown nationalism. It made the city full of enlightened people and it is not surprising that it was made to be the capital of the western region.

One of the most remarkable contributions of the University environment along with the city on the national issue is the Anglo-Nigerian Defence Pact. The *Sunday Times* and *West African Pilot* had reported on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of February of 1960 about the secret bilateral agreement with the British Government to establish military bases in Nigeria. Many other news outlets reported the same news down the years. Also, on May 4 1960, *Nigerian Tribune* reported Chief Awolowo to have recounted that the agreement had been made a condition precedent for the declaration of Nigerian independence by Her Majesty, the Queen of England. This statement was, however, refuted by other major players including the British government.<sup>27</sup> In 1961, the Student Union body of the University of Ibadan alongside other student bodies across the nation embarked on a string of protests here in Ibadan until the government of Tafawa Balewa dropped the idea of the Anglo-Nigerian Defence Pact.<sup>28</sup>

In the face of the Nigerian civil war, the University of Ibadan environment was not left out. The University had led Ibadan to give various responses to the situations that arose from the war; Many members and students of the University were instrumental in the call for Unity in the country and the promotion of one Nigeria; The University had also made it easy for some of the

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25 P. Benson, *Black Orpheus, Transition, and Modern Cultural Awakening in Africa*, California: University of California Press, 1986.

26 D. Layiwola, *The City State of Ibadan: Texts and Contexts*, Ibadan: Institute Of African Studies, 2015.

27 G.J. Idang, "The Politics of Nigerian Foreign Policy: The Ratification and Renunciation of the Anglo-Nigerian Defence Agreement," *African Studies Review* 13, No. 2 (1970): 227–251.

28 S.A. Oyebade and S. Oni, "Student Union Activism: Maximizing the Impact in Nigeria." In *Exigent Issues in Education: Selected Essays in Honour of Professor Samuel Olajide Owolabi*, ed. Martins Fabunmi, pp. 139-162. Faculty of Education: Kampala International University College, 2012.

displaced students to continue their studies in the University. An example was the case of one K.P.E. Odili who had written to the University to allow him to continue his studies after being displaced from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. The University of Ibadan gave a positive consideration of his requests.<sup>29</sup> Similarly, towards the end of the war, the University extended the number of students to be admitted. There was a 60% increase in the number of students admitted between 1961/1962 and 1966/1967. Hence, Ibadan was fortified by the University to keep the education heritage and processes running during the civil war.

Ibadan as a city and the University of Ibadan environment have gotten their places in history as regards military rule. The planned conversion of the military government of Abacha to democracy which had been faced by strong opposition in Lagos was supposed to be boosted in Ibadan. There was a planned rally to show the western support for the continuity of the Abacha government at the Lekan Salami Stadium, Lagos, on 14 April 1994. However, this rally was confronted by a strong protest by Ibadan youth against the military government. The Abacha government responded by shooting at the crowd, leaving at least three people reportedly dead.<sup>30</sup> The efforts of the city and the University in support of the current democratic system of government has also been laudable in the country.

Aside from the rich history of the city, the University of Ibadan has indeed put Ibadan on the map and brought a global reputation to the city. According to the Centre for World University Ranking, the University of Ibadan is ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in Nigeria in 2020-2021. Webometric also ranks the University as first in the country as of June 2021.<sup>31</sup> The University of Ibadan is considered to be the best when any university is to be considered in the country. This feat has been achieved as a result of years of deliberate cutting-edge research and ground-breaking discoveries within the global space. Also, the University of Ibadan products have been able to contest and surpass many counterparts abroad when placed side-by-side. When these are considered, it is not surprising, therefore, that the University would be ranked first among others in the country.

The University has been able to engage other universities and organizations across the world in various areas of collaboration and knowledge production. The University is reputed for having links with other 184 Universities in the

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29 A.A. Adedire, "Civil Wars and the African Universities: The University of Ibadan Example, 1967–1970," *Ufahamu: A Journal Of African Studies* 40, No. 2 (2018): 131-142.

30 O. Lakemfa, "The Battles of Ibadan in the June 12 Uprising," *Vanguard*, 7 June, 2021,

31 A. Oyeniran, "Webometrics Ranks UI, Covenant, OAU Top Universities in Nigeria," *Independent*, 23 August, 2021.

world to give more reputation to her international programs in the country and mostly at the postgraduate level. There have been different collaborations with many organizations on manpower training and research collaboration centres. An example of this is the MacArthur Higher Education Initiative in Africa. The Office of International Programs at the University of Ibadan was established to continue the international legacy of the University and strengthen the link between the University and international donor agencies.

At the celebration of the University of Ibadan at 70, former Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Abel Idowu Olayinka, stated that the University has produced a total of 232,225 undergraduates scattered around the world and breaking standards across the globe. He also stated that the University holds the record of producing the highest number of PhD degree holders in Africa. The academic staff of the University have also made their way to achieve global accolades. There are about 400 in the professorial cadre in the University, a number that is more than the total lecturers in some other universities.<sup>32</sup>

Let us turn to human capital development and consider the role of the University in Ibadan city. In every society, there must be an emphasis on standards to keep the development continuous and to achieve standards, it is important to ensure we build and educate capable individuals.<sup>33</sup> The history of this city has rested on strong, diligent and capable persons who have taken us to where we are today. To maintain this standard, more of these personalities are needed. The major purpose of vesting interest and investing in human capital development is to increase the productivity and the effectiveness of the firms and the economy and, in this instance, those within the city of Ibadan.<sup>34</sup> We do not need to argue whether or not the University of Ibadan is capable of providing platforms for these developments because we know it has been doing that right from inception. The major purpose of the establishment of this university has been to increase and develop human capital for the use of the nation in general. However, it is high time we started focusing on the city of fame more than our past endeavours.

The first step is for the institution to review the curriculum of the University to reflect current trends of employability skills that would keep them above others in the labour market. If this is achieved, firms within the city would be able to first conder those from the University before those coming from outside the city. Shifting emphasis towards human capital development

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32 S. Saanu, "Celebrating UI at 70," *Nigerian Tribune*, 1 November, 2018.

33 O.J. Sankay, R. Ismail and A.H. Shaari, "The Impact of Human Capital Development on the Economic Growth of Nigeria," *Prosiding Perkem* 5, No. 1 (2010): 63-72.

34 J. Currie and D. Almond, "Human Capital Development before Age Five." In *Handbook Of Labour Economics*, eds. O. Ashenfelter and D. Card, pp. 1315-1486. Amsterdam: Elsevier, 2011.

has proven to have a positive effect on the economic development of the respective society.<sup>35</sup> An effort in this direction means that we are already setting Ibadan on a path to being an intercontinental standard mega-city and as such, would be a better point of affection to others. The University can come to an agreement with private and public firms, companies and bodies within the state to offer a scheme for convenient and cost-effective courses and diplomas to their current members of staff to increase their human capital development and capacity building. This scheme would be a welcome idea as the aim of every company will be the promotion of effectiveness and productivity. Hence, it is highly likely that these private and public institutions and bodies would embrace the offer. However, it is important to also put in mind the fact that fees and financial advantages should not be the top priority of the University. If this is done, it puts the product of the University in better stead compared to others as a result of the fact that the partner companies might feel a corresponding obligation to give preference to products of the University, thereby, assuaging the problem of unemployment.

While putting all these into perspective, it is important to also ensure that there is a sustainability plan for the human capital developmental programs that will ensure growth and economic stability.<sup>36</sup> The best way to approach this is to ensure that human capital development becomes a culture in society; a homegrown habit imbibed from the early stage, possibly from the primary schools up to the post-graduate level and also partner with the government to ensure compliance by companies and firms within the city. Models can be developed by the University.

Unfortunately, the number of out of school children in Nigeria is on the increase compared to the developmental stages that we have passed through. Human Capital Development starts from them. There is no point in building models when students are rather on the street. Through print and electronic media including the radio, much can be done in the area of public education. Coupled with what they see, children tend not to forget what they hear, too, and when they have access to this from time to time, there is a possibility that they would want more and adapt in the process.<sup>37</sup> The University, with the aid of sponsorship from relevant stakeholders, can make handbills, posters, billboards, outreaches among others to implore and sensitize both out of school

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35 Sankay, Ismail and Shaari, "The Impact of Human Capital Development."

36 P.M. Banerjee, "Sustainable Human Capital: Product Innovation and Employee Partnerships in Technology Firms," *Cross-Cultural Management: An International Journal* 20, No. 2 (2013): 216-234.

37 T. Agbola, T. Olurin and A. Mabawonku, "An Appraisal of the Contribution of the Print and Electronic Media to Environmental Education and Consciousness in Nigeria," *International Journal of Environmental Studies* 56, No. 4 (1999): 509-530.

children and their parents on the need to prioritize the enrolment of the children. Also, the University radio can be used from time to time to engage these children. We must also make sure we do not write off non-literate adults. If this is done, all efforts focused on changing the orientations of young ones would be a waste. The parents have a lot of influence on the educational lives of their children. There is a tendency that non-literate parents might not take education important and, in some instances, some would not want their children to end up like them.<sup>38</sup> Free programs could be established to educate the parents at least to the point of mild literacy.

For the city to develop, it needs the cooperation of major stakeholders and the University of Ibadan has been responsible enough to not lag in the discharge of her duties. For a smooth economic, social and modern development to take place anywhere, infrastructural development is paramount and germane.<sup>39</sup> Lack of adequate infrastructural development would surely hamper the progress and general development of any place. Nigeria and Ibadan, in particular, have not had the best infrastructure in terms of their quality and also their quantity, especially where they are needed the most.<sup>40</sup> This problem has hampered a lot of development. The existence of the University of Ibadan has necessitated the construction of several infrastructural facilities around the city to match up with the standards that have been lifted by the University.

While all the University has been doing through history have been commendable, its recent engagements are also worthy of praise. However, we must speak to the institution and those that are in control. Relying on the above contributions is not enough, as the University must be ready to do more. It must be ready to participate actively in the modern development of the city. This is because it would be embarrassing to see a developing Institution in an undeveloped city as it quite defeats logic. This then begs the question of how the University can catalyse Ibadan's development.

### **How UI Can Catalyse Ibadan's Development**

For a society to develop, it needs the concurrent commitment of every stakeholder and sector to move forward. The University of Ibadan, by history, has proven to be a major and interesting part of the city in recent times and

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38 A. Menheere and E.H. Hooge, "Parental Involvement in Children's Education: A Review Study about the Effect of Parental Involvement on Children's School Education with a Focus on the Position of Illiterate Parents," *Journal of European Teacher Education Network* 6 (2010): 144-157.

39 M.O. Alabi, "Prioritizing Factors of Failure in Controlling Physical Development in Nigerian Cities," *Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa* 12, No. 2 (2010): 215-231.

40 O.O. Oyesiku, "City Livability: Implications and Challenges," A keynote address in City Planning for Livable Human Settlements in Proceedings Of. 2009 Nigerian Institute of Town Planning, Commonwealth Association of Planners, West Africa Workshop, Lagos, Nigeria.

there is no pointer to the fact that it is going to stop anytime soon. Hence, as a major player, the University must understand that the city is also her responsibility as this will always encourage development.

Ibadan, the city of fame, is growing; however, the growth process can be multiplied if there are deliberate efforts in all ramifications to make sure that the city is good enough for an average individual to live. The Town and Gown Relationship must not stop just now as the gown must show how the town can take advantage of her wealth of knowledge for progress. The University of Ibadan is reputed for its long history of multi-faceted academic research into different areas of society and all of this can be directed towards human growth. First, as the University has been doing, more agricultural research can be carried out to increase the productivity level of the agricultural industry. The University can facilitate the establishment of an agrarian/agricultural hub for a dedicated study into farming and agriculture in general. To bring this to reality, more educated individuals are needed in the agricultural industry and those that are already in the industry need to be provided with the right kind of information. Research should be made into how to increase the productivity period and reduce the period of cultivation of crops and the rearing of animals through healthy scientific processes. The University can make available the knowledge of genetic engineering in agriculture. Genetically modified or hybrid seeds can be distributed and even sold at a cheaper price or rate by the University to the farmers either on small or large scales. This scientific approach has proven to be instrumental in promoting food security in society. Genetically modified seeds can increase productivity levels in society and can be a good approach towards the eradication of poverty in society.<sup>41</sup>

Similarly, research can be conducted and knowledge made available on how to combat crop diseases. An outbreak can lead to the end of a farmer's investment and can move society backwards in many ways. With the cooperation of the other stakeholders in the city, including the government, farmers can be trained from time to time on how to treat and prevent insect outbreaks on their farms. Also, those that are involved in the rearing of animals, including fish farming, can be provided with more in-depth knowledge of the animals they are dealing with and show basic procedures and treatments that can be carried out whenever they notice any anomalies among the livestock. This can be done through a periodic engagement of the university with the local farmers.

Aside from the different partnerships that have been entered with the State government in the past, a new partnership could be developed in building

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41 J.A. Thomson, "How Genetic Engineering can help small Farmers in Developing Countries," *Current History* 114, No. 775 (2015): 305–10.

and developing existing agrarian hubs to modern and technological-based ones within the Ibadan community. This approach will be a proper knowledge-based hub and decentralization of knowledge directly into the society. The University can provide the human resources needed and the state can provide other needed materials or incentives. Target research and Ibadan-focused agricultural study would be carried out in the society. This will be a clear collective effort and fusion of the society and the University on the basic need of Ibadan.

With an agrarian hub, the university will be able to achieve a certain level of food security in Ibadan city. There need not be much worry regarding the demand. It is commonplace among the people of Ibadan that whatever is from the University will be of outstanding quality. This popular belief can be tapped into and leveraged to boost the supply range for agrarian products. Besides, there are available markets like the popular Shasha and Bodija markets whose traders will be more than willing to partner with the University for the continued purchasing of their farm goods. By doing this, the University would have created employment for residents of Ibadan city, weighed in on solving the food insecurity epidemic, and cemented, even better, the growing relationship between the town and the gown. There are also many other ways that the University can give the right orientation and assistance to the farmers. The above efforts, if done well and executed adequately, the city would not have to worry about the availability of food and farm products. It would have a direct impact on the economy and also foster the development of the city at large. Ibadan can then be heading towards being the new food basket of the country.

No doubt, health is paramount and linked directly to the four pillars of sustainable development which are social, economic, governance and environmental.<sup>42</sup> The saying that “health is wealth” is far from being an overstatement. In fact, the Yoruba have a deeper perspective on this when they say “Ilera l’oogun oro.” It means good health is the precursor and panacea for wealth. Research could be made on common medical problems and disease outbreaks in the city. To affect the discovered recommendation, there can be a partnership with the Ibadan chapter of the Nigerian Medical Association and the Government to retrain health practitioners on newly discovered ways to combat diseases and approaches to resolving novel disease outbreaks. In addition, these discoveries can be domesticated in the training of healthcare workers in the University and other institutions that carry out similar functions in the city and the state. Also, public orientation can be carried out through dif-

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42 Thematic Group on Health for all of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Ed. “Linking Health to other Development Goals,” *Health in the Framework of Sustainable Development: Technical Report for the Post-2015 Development Agenda*. Sustainable Development Solutions Network, 2014.

ferent approaches. Aside from making use of the media, more students of the university should be mobilized on increased routines into the marketplaces, rural areas and even densely populated communities in the city to educate the populace on common diseases and provide more information on new diseases. Other preventive measures can also be made known in society. The University must allow the students to take the health state of the city to heart and be a worthy emulative example to others in the city. A beautiful example was the cooperation of the University and the state government and also the encouragement of volunteering students through the Students Union towards the decontamination of Ibadan major areas during the COVID-19 pandemic. More efforts and partnerships can be made in the future towards this path. It should be understood that a healthy Ibadan is a healthy UI, which explains why the University must be active in contributing to the health status of the city.

One thing that majorly characterizes the modern business and commercial space are their climatization to technological based environment. The world is experiencing a huge technological adaptation by almost every part of the population and every area, and it is important for the University to continue to move with this flow even in more remarkable ways.<sup>43</sup> In this light, it is then important to spring to action to bolster the technology prepare the community to not lag behind. To do this, first, the University can create technology hub where in-demand technical and modern skills will be taught to beneficiaries with and outside the city. What this will achieve will be to increase the in-demand skills of youths with and outside th university. It will also bring together like minds to cross-pollinate ideas. After this has been standardized, an innovative start-up pitching should be organized by the University, where the paticipants and beneficiaries of the Technology Hub would be encouraged to come up with disruptive ideas that are solutions-oriented to some of the problems in our society. . Having pitched and sorted the best of these ideas, the University can sponsor some who are ready to form start-ups with the help of the private and public sectors in the community. Such start-ups are to be monitored by the University who would have a part of the venture capital for business. By following up with these startups that emanate from the platform created by the university, , it will allow the University to have the option of re-investing the profit on other beneficiaries of the hub. By so doing, the University would achieve the diffusion of technological knowledge to the environments, assist in the creation of technology experts around the city, and as well make money from the investment.

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43 Hülya Kesici Çalışkan, «Technological change and economic growth,» *Procedia-Social and Behavioral Sciences* 195 (2015): 649-654.



More so, an aspect of the society that has been evolving critically in the recent times is sport and sporting activities. Countries in the world are already building more sporting facilities and creating sport cities. Sporting activities have been proven to be very lucrative and contribute immensely to the economy.<sup>44</sup> This talent laden industry needs intensive and special attention in the country. The University can position herself in such a manner that can inspire development in this area. As a first step, the University can partner with different sporting bodies and institutions across different types of sports to establish a Sporting Academy for the major areas of sports in Nigeria and ensure its promotion in the country. One of the reasons of partnership with these bodies is to increase the scouting possibilities by developed teams and to allow their investments in the project. This way, the university will not just be encouraging students and community members to also find validation with sports, they will also be creating an opportunity for these raw talents to be developed and discovered by international organisations and institutions who will offer them the platform at a global stage.

In order to showcase the talents that are built by the University, the University should ensure the establishment of leagues and competitions on different types of sports in the country and where such are in place, it should ensure participation by the students of the Academy. In addition, every respective team that the University might have for the purpose of this project, should be opened to everyone and developed to compete. And finally on this, the sporting facilities should receive more deliberate renovation in order to meet up with global standards and practices.

One vision of the international community that cannot be underestimated is the Sustainable Development Goals. These goals have been summarized to achieve a stable earth and the planet's life-support system, elimination of poverty and sustainable lifestyle of the people.<sup>45</sup> The goals have been stated to be integrable to provide a convenient framework that is easily achievable. Everyone in society must, therefore, try as much as possible to make sure that these goals are not taken with levity. The government must be deliberate to make sure that the right policies are made and directed towards the achievement of these goals to continually develop the city of Ibadan. More so, it is the duty of every individual residing in the city to be conscious of these goals and promote them in their basic day-to-day activities. A problem that may be faced in achieving this is the level of exposure of the citizens and the rate of literacy

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44 Themis Kokolakis, and Chris Gratton, "The economic value of sport." *The SAGE handbook of sports economics* 18, no. 21 (2019).

45 D Griggs, M.S. Smith, J. Rockström, M.C. Öhman, O. Gaffney, G. Glaser, N. Kanie, I. Noble, W. Steffen and P. Shyamsundar, "An Integrated Framework for Sustainable Development Goals," *Ecology and Society* 19, No. 4 (2014): 1-24.

in the community. The University of Ibadan can be an anchor of these goals by being the major promoter in the city. The University must first observe the SDGs and make conscious efforts in imbuing the values in the students of the university. It's however wise, to know that the SDG approach might not be the most appropriate for the development of the country as criticised by many, hence, we must be ready to open our doors for more approaches and their exhibition.

The infrastructural development of the city has been established earlier to have a direct impact on the development of the University. Where basic amenities are available around the University community, it is clear that the growth of the University itself would be continuous. To do this, the University must look inward to make a difference. For example, the University can make efforts to find a way of generating its electricity through partnerships and studies of the environment. If this is done, electricity can also be distributed outside the University area. As a bank of knowledge, UI can be instrumental in helping the city find a cheaper alternative means of generating electricity in the city and provide all needed intellectual supports to the government in achieving this. By doing so, it will help residents in their businesses and also attract more investors and increase the commercial status of the city.

Also, the University should be ready to share innovative ideas that will encourage the city to further develop. UI can be the leading promoter of technological advancement in the city of Ibadan through the decentralization of knowledge and the applications of the results of its various research. The University must try as much as possible to direct its members and students to focus more on research and activities that would contribute to the city's growth. In addition, this knowledge must be shared and executed within the city. In the long run, a large involvement or the government can partner to bring this innovation into the heart of the city. This will increase and create more researches, break more boundaries and hasten development in the city. It is going to be a visionary effort that may not be manifested in a short time but a long-time developmental process. However, patience must be exercised to allow the University to reach its maximum capacity in bringing these ideas into reality.

One sure feature and attribute of the existence of the University of Ibadan has been the corresponding increase in economic activities in the state. The University has been able to deliver a more informed population that has been able to take it upon themselves to find innovative ways to make money rather than the common and traditional means. The University has been attracting different economic activities around the areas and can do more. The encouragement of innovation fairs and business shows like the UIRESDEV can also draw the attention of investors and companies to settle in the city. In addition,

the University must be able to encourage an entrepreneurship curriculum in the school. This will allow the students to engage in more commercial and economic activities within the city. To promote this, the University must also be ready to go easy on student entrepreneurs and also encourage economic activities around its areas.

To arrive at a better society and to encourage development, every institution in the city must carry out one project or the other to give back to society. It should be noted that the society is large and the government might not be able to cater for all the needs of the society at large. Everyone must, hence, be active and be passionately interested in taking up one responsibility or the other for the benefit of all. The University of Ibadan cannot be excused in this responsibility. It must come to the reality that if one does not develop and take care of his home, no one will do it for them, and if there is anyone else that is ready to do it, they would not be able to do it better than them. The University should be able and ready to take on community-focused projects sponsored by means provided by the University. If funds are not available, the school can seek sponsorship or grants to execute these initiatives. By so doing, the city's development would be immediate as the government would not be the sole party in developing it.

In 2010, the World Travel and Tourism Centre predicted that in the next ten years, the growth of tourism in the world would be at 4 percent and also that it would be responsible for about 9.4 percent of the Gross World Product. No one needs to explain that Ibadan has not reflected this prediction and considering how rich the city is in history and natural resources, one would have expected it to be well established on the global tourist map. The development of tourism and the constant promotion of tourism centres will attract social and cultural development in the city and, as well, allow exposure. Several tourist centres in the city have to some extent lost their focus on development. The University of Ibadan can step in so many ways to revitalize the tourism sector in the city.<sup>46</sup>

First, the existing tourism facilities must be developed and furnished to meet up with modern standards and be promoted properly. The University of Ibadan Cultural Heritage Museum at Trenchard Hall can be remodelled and other cultural artefacts that would increase the interests of visitors need to be sought for. More so, many other cultural artefacts and items that have been notable throughout history could be automated to evidentially or physically explain the history of the people to visitors and others. Also, there is a need

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46 M. Jaafar, S. Ismail and S.M. Rasoolimanesh, "Perceived Social Effects of Tourism Development: A Case Study of Kinabalu National Park," *Theoretical and Empirical Researches in Urban Management* 10, No. 2 (2015): 5–20.

for the creation of a History Hub at the museum. The History Hub should have the display of historical facts, materials and documentaries and access to the history of Ibadan from every point in time. The hub would be a bank of knowledge for anyone ready to inquire about the history of the city and also the Yoruba people. For all these to serve their purposes, they have to be placed in a suitable place together. The purpose of the location should only be meant for tourism attraction and deliberate efforts must be made to keep developing the centre to compete successfully with others in the world. Secondly, the botanical garden of the University is a place of pride but can be developed to not just a place where people come around to party but a proper tourist centre. There is a need for that environment to be catered for appropriately while the importation and planting of more rare plants should be encouraged. In addition, the right attention must be given to the University of Ibadan zoo to facilitate its development.

If all of these are done effectively, the University community will draw more attention to itself within and outside the country. I believe that the University is in a proper position to present the best tourist centre in the city where a direct role can be played in the economic and social upliftment of the city. An Ibadan City Chamber of Commerce could be a collaborative NGO between the University and the City., which would facilitate the promotion of the town-gown cultural model.

### **Role of the City in the University**

The relationship between the city and the university has never been a one-way relationship but there have been mutual benefits for the two. The two parties have been beneficiaries of each other's development. The city of Ibadan was one of the newly-founded city-states of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The root of this city can be traced to a period of hostility and war as it was a settlement camp of warriors. The Fulani, in their efforts to spread Jihad into Northern Yorubaland and extend into the Old Oyo Empire by carrying out different assaults and the alliance of the Ife and Ijebu People in the attack of Ipele Owu in 1821, have been instrumental in the establishment of the present city of Ibadan. The army and refugees from the above wars and other wars came to settle in Ibadan in 1829 with the original Egba settlers. This new settlement attracted more people and more refugees as a result of the security and access to basic needs that is provided to them. Unfortunately, the founding Egba groups that were met in this area had to move to resettle at Abeokuta as a result of ranking issues that occurred in the new settlement. The city of Ibadan later became a full-fledged Oyo-Yoruba town after the similar expulsion of the Ife from the

settlement as a result of the same crisis that had occurred.<sup>47</sup> The city of Ibadan continued to develop and by 1870, it had become the largest empire in Yorubaland. The city-state had developed its chiefly system that reflected their cultures and upheld their values. Since then, the city has been growing both in population, size and economy.<sup>48</sup>

The city of Ibadan has been qualified to have been very receptive to strangers and try as much as possible to make them feel at home in the city. This led to fast population growth in the city. The growth of the population can also be attributed to its security as a result of its transformation from a war camp to a city-state. It was considered a new place for businesses and trades to flourish, and it was considered to be the best location for those yearning to pursue their careers in the military and warfare.<sup>49</sup> The receptiveness of the city and its people has created a soft ground for development in all ramifications. This culture has persisted through history and time and has reflected in the acceptance of the establishment of the University of Ibadan. The positive reaction is evident on the wilful leasing of the present permanent site of the university for 999 years.

Before, during and since the establishment of the University, Ibadan remained one of the most peaceful and secure cities in Yorubaland. This was a result of the military background of the city. The city had built a reputable strong military during the 19<sup>th</sup> century and had structured itself in a way that political instability had not been a major problem. The constitution of the city was built in a soldierly manner and leadership was attained not by inheritance or preference but by merit.<sup>50</sup>

The Yoruba adage that “*Ìròrùn igi nìròrùn ẹyẹ*” (When the trees in the forest are at peace, the perching birds will also be at peace) applies to the potential specificity in the peaceful co-existence of the duo neighbours. Besides, as the people further say, when a fowl perches on a line, both the line and the fowl would be uncomfortable. This means that when there is insecurity in either the city or the university, it is quite a certainty that both the city and the university will be affected. In other words, both bodies could ill afford an untoward relationship between them. In times past the security state of the city has not been much of a problem to the university environment and as such, students and staff of the school carry out their activities peacefully and without fear. However, in recent times, different occurrences in the city have warned

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47 B. Awe, “The Rise of Ibadan as a Yoruba Power in the Nineteenth Century,” PhD diss. University of Oxford, 1964.

48 Toyin Falola, “From Hospitality to Hostility: Ibadan and Strangers, 1830-1904,” *The Journal Of African History* 26, No. 1 (1985): 51–68.

49 Falola, “From Hospitality To Hostility.”

50 Awe, “Militarism and Economic Development,” 65–77.

that caution should not be thrown to the wind. The country at large is facing a huge security challenge and the city of Ibadan has received a fair share of it. Communities around the school environments are being attacked regularly such that the serenity that is usually enjoyed in the university environment is gradually waning.

On 12 August 2019, the *Vanguard* newspaper reported a sad incidence of a robbery at the Obafemi Awolowo Hall of the University of Ibadan.<sup>51</sup> This incident surprised many as such occurrences do not happen often. Such a breach in security is not just an affront to the respect that should be given to an academic environment but speaks more volumes about the state of security in the country and the city in particular. Other unfavourable security breaches have been reported by different media around the University community. Areas like Agbowo, Orogun, Samonda, Bodija and others face different security challenges almost daily. Understandably, this type of occurrence is not only restricted to the city, it has been a major challenge to the nation as a whole. However, if the reputation, efforts and legacies of those that have made the University of Ibadan enviable globally will not go to waste or be ridiculed, the government and the community must find a speedy solution to this problem.

The city of Ibadan today serves as the largest city in Nigeria and the second-largest in Africa after Cairo. What is known as Ibadan today is located in the southeast of Oyo State and the location is 119 Kilometres to Lagos and also 120 Kilometres to the Republic of Benin. Its strategic location is in such a way that movements from the coastal area of the country to the hinterland part of the country passes through the city.<sup>52</sup> On infrastructure, it is clear that Ibadan has different infrastructural facilities made available to the people of the city. Infrastructural developments are often the yardstick for the determination and measurement of the performance of every government in society. This is a result of the fact that a lack of adequate infrastructure will affect the productivity of society. It will also subject the citizens to poverty and can end up encouraging different social vices in the community.

The communities around the University of Ibadan have access to basic facilities either derived from the state's intervention or the University itself. Often time, infrastructural facilities and the people's access to them are always high within and among areas close to the schools. Sometimes, this is a result of the need to make life convenient for students and staff of the University residing in these areas. The University must be ready to collaborate with

51 O. Ajayi, "Two Injured as Robbers Invade UI Female Hall," *Vanguard*, 12 August, 2019.

52 Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Ibadan". *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 21 Jan. 2021, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Ibadan>. Retrieved on 15 December, 2021. .

the community to provide these basic amenities. More so, it is important to state categorically that the school should neither depend on the city nor the government before many of these amenities can be provided. The University can enter a partnership with private institutions and also seek sponsorships or grants to develop the communities around it. This is because a sane society is expected to breed sane products. Where the surrounding communities are impoverished and do not have access to basic amenities, it tends to affect the University directly or indirectly. However, this does not mean that the city and its government should shy away from its basic responsibilities.

### **Conclusion: Positioning Ibadan as a Mega, Pacesetter City**

No doubt, the city of fame of Ibadan and the famous University of Ibadan have enjoyed mutual benefits and have coexisted well from time past. The University is gradually taking the identity of the city despite its rich history. The relationship of the two entities has left us in-between a wealth of knowledge and the joy of innovative ideas over the years. The University has grown to become Ibadan in Ibadan itself, and virtually everyone in the city is lucky to witness this great relationship.

You will agree with me that the city of Ibadan has grown to, or is close to, being a proper megacity. This is because the city continues to exhibit the basic features and attributes of a megacity. According to World Population Review, Ibadan's population is estimated to be around 3,649,023 in 2021 and it is expected to keep growing at a faster rate. The city has also been able to reflect socio-cultural ties in its urban-rural homogeneity. Also, in recent times, urban development in Ibadan is gradually driving into the rural areas of the city. It is on the verge of being a full-blown urban centre. On infrastructure, one could see that different and new facilities are being put in place and old ones are being replaced to make life comfortable for the residents of the city. On the availability of road networks which could have been a major setback, it is evident that the construction of new roads and bridges across the city is going on at the moment. The University of Ibadan has been the major torch-bearer of educational development that has gradually been emerging since the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Many other educational institutions across all levels have been put in place in recent times. The existence of the University College Hospital and other healthcare facilities distributed across the city contributes to the assertion that Ibadan is, indeed, a megacity. Other attributes of a megacity have been showcased and exhibited by the city in various ways.<sup>53</sup>

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53 D. Afolayan and J. Thurston, "The Evolution of a Mega City: The Case of Ibadan, Nigeria," *Sensors and Systems*, 24 November, 2010, <https://sensorsandsystems.com/>

Positioning Ibadan as a megacity would cause a new dimension to the economy of the city and the state at large. Ibadan has been attracting new business and the level of industrialization is increasing. This is beneficial to the citizens as more market options and market opportunities are made available. In addition, there will be an increase in the employment rate in the state if this commercial expansion continues. In addition, this will pave way for innovations that can be originated from the city. Many activities in the city would be automated and also technological advancement would occur across the board. This kind of development would be advantageous to the University of Ibadan. This means that the University will have direct access to various resources. Also, there will be available new variables and conditions for the conduct of research and it will also be easy to secure funding and grants for many types of research and projects. Ibadan, as a megacity, will also add to the prestige of the University and win it more global respect.