

AN EXAMINATION OF THE SPATIO-TEMPORAL DISTRIBUTION OF CEMETERIES IN URBAN SOKOTO, NIGERIA

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Abstract

Cemeteries are final resting place for humans and thus, a vital and indispensable social infrastructure which needs to be studied, understood and incorporated into the physical planning of towns and cities. This study analyzed the Spatio-Temporal distribution of cemeteries in urban Sokoto, Nigeria. Data were obtained through interview with cemetery attendants selected purposively from the entire cemeteries in the metropolis. Key Informant Interview was also conducted with officials of Sokoto Urban and Regional Planning Board to obtain information on the planning implication of cemetery locations and results were analyzed descriptively. Data was analyzed descriptively using tables, charts and figures. The major findings revealed that there are 44 cemeteries in the metropolis with 42 belonging to Muslims, One for Christians and one mixed. The pattern of the spatial distribution of the cemeteries revealed a dispersed pattern based on the nearest neighbour analysis conducted. The study also reveals that 10 of the 44 cemeteries are now dormant while 34 are still active. The study recommended among others, proper planning of cemeteries in the metropolis.

Keywords: Cemeteries, Spatio-Temporal, Urban, Sokoto