

ANALYSIS OF CEMETERY MANAGEMENT IN SOKOTO METROPOLIS, NIGERIA

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Abstract

Cemeteries are critical infrastructure of the built environment. Their location and management have generated debate over the years particularly within the realm of urban planning and sustainability thereby prompting a study of this nature. This paper conducts an analysis of cemetery management in Sokoto metropolis. The study was based on three objectives which are to identify the major cemeteries and their growth over the years, the nature of management practices and the associated challenges. Data were obtained through administration of structured questionnaire to cemetery attendants 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 results also revealed that the cemeteries were not properly funded, managed and maintained and there exists several challenges in their management which includes lack or insufficient infrastructure like lightening, fencing, water, drainage, poor record keeping, low salary and lack of formal administrative structure. The study recommends among others, proper funding and establishment of well-developed structure for administration and management of cemeteries in the metropolis.

Keywords: Cemeteries, Management, infrastructure, Urban Planning and Sustainability.