

# **Rural-Urban Inter-Relationships in an Urbanising World: The Literature Perspective of Nigeria (UN-HABITAT GLTN)**

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## **SUMMARY**

Ever since the beginning of formal planning system in Nigeria, there has been a dichotomous relationship between rural and urban areas. Rural areas in Nigeria are “usually” traditional in character and smaller than urban areas in size. Urban areas are “normally” equipped with more infrastructural facilities (schools, health, market, roads, etc.). However, this relationship is growing into a more interdependent one. This study examines rural-urban interrelationship and establishes a theoretical (and practical) understanding of how cooperation between urban and rural areas occur as inter-dependent spatial units. By way of methodology, the study used e-Focus Group Discussion to gain narratives about how lifestyles are affected by rural-urban interactions, with focus on backward and forward exchanges between rural and urban areas. On the policy side, the study found that the dichotomous relationship between rural and urban areas exist in Nigeria because, right from the birth of formal planning systems in Nigeria, different agencies (including procedures and remits) for the management of rural and urban space were created. On the aspects of living conditions, it found that there is increasing interactions between urban and rural areas. It outlined the various interdependencies observable in rural urban inter-relationships in the country. The study concluded that the peri-urban areas play the greatest roles in rural-urban interactions. It recommends a paradigm for understanding rural and urban areas based on their differences and commonalities. The study presented in this paper evokes a renewed discourse about urban-rural continuum from a spatial functional perspective in a highly urbanising.

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