OBSERVATIONAL SECTOR IN URBAN GOROKA: A REAL DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

Johnson Ahupa
Teaching Fellow
University of Goroka
While economic prospect looks promising for PNG, development challenges continue to paint a different picture of country in an exciting period of growth.

“Opportunist Sector” in Goroka is one that thrives on residual demand, and it is identified within the context of informal sector.

The term “Opportunist sector” is coined somewhat loosely to cluster services that are monetarily unfulfilling but is created by residual demand and cross cutting socio-economic issues.
The purpose and focus of this research is to offer theoretical insight into this development dilemma which policy makers and authorities are confronted with.

Various reasons offered by respondents interviewed are discussed to shed light into multi facet issues surrounding the Opportunistic Sector.

The opinion and arguments provided are sure to generate further scholarly interest in the area.
Research Questions

- Research questions are structured to draw from the experiences of individual in the sector.

This includes the questions that allow them to:

- describe their engagement in the activity, how they see themselves in terms of what they are doing.
- the importance of what they do, describing their experiences in the undertaking,
- describe how they fit into the sector and also the benefits that is derived, possibility of change and how society and family perception.
Urbanization

Employment

Equality and Participation

Education and Empowerment

Poverty and Disparity
The conceptual Framework shows the relationship between Urbanization and the challenges that pertain to it.

Goroka can draw from international best practices; South Africa is one area that has similar urban development challenges like PNG.

According to 1997 Urban Development Framework, that the process of urbanization holds a great promise for economic and social progress, thus, the promotion of literacy and education, the improvement to access of better services to greater number of people and for cultivating democracy and equality.
Research method used in this research is qualitative, mostly unstructured interview, group discussion and direct observation.

Literature research using the web source also carried out to anchor research to literature.
The sampling method used in this research is convenience sampling. Samples selected based on convenience of time, social space, and cultural consideration, in particular with the female sample.

Security consideration also played part in deciding the sample size.

The sample size is 20, of which three quarter is male and 5 female respondents. Of the five female one is a child and four adults, while on the other hand 11 adult male samples and four male child samples.

Sample areas are randomly selected; most of the respondents are from block opposite Raun Raun Theater, main market town and Brick House.
Research Findings

- Based on the preliminary research done, five services were identified, while there could be few others given the current socio-economic state of Goroka.

- The activities differ markedly, yet they tend to serve the same purpose, services are rendered for insignificant monetary reward.

- All these services in the sector are provided by settlers from the different settlements within the town margins.
Five Kina Crew

The need to persuade and influence passengers into Lae, Madang and Highlands buses in shortest possible time had created this demand and service.
Wheel Barrow Boys

This service operates to serve the mothers who bring in their produces to the market. In this service the lowest cash payment is K1.00; the amount due to service providers is determined by, the size and quantity of the goods and the distance it takes to transport the goods.
Shopping Bag Assists

This service is provided mostly by children under age of 13, in particular boys. The activity is confined to big shops. Most obvious sight in Goroka is Bintagor.
Candle Children
This service is provided mostly by children under the age of ten are allowed or are coerced to sell candles to every PMV vehicle that stops to offload passengers.
Identifying practical approach to deal with the challenge’s, harnessing development part ways envision in Medium term development strategy and vision 2050 will be a significant step forward for Goroka and the province at large.

Creating conducive economic environment in rural area (Rural Development) is important. It will contain people because income earning opportunity is there. Invest in road infrastructure, so they can have access to market and other financial service.
Flour Ball Carriers

This service in the sector is provided mostly by woman, even though men are involved, it is more fitting with woman because load is carried on the head, which only women are adept.
Discussions/What the respondents Say

Limited or non existence of Income earning opportunities in Rural Areas

Cultural Obligation

Education

Coercion-Children

Family Security
Low level of education and financial literacy is another important factor that exacerbates poverty. Financial literacy and awareness would be significant step towards alleviating poverty as people will tailor their income and use it proportionately for basic needs and save the surplus for future.

Align service industries with government funding’s, in particular training institution to provide training for settlers.
Opportunist activities will continue to challenge the urbanization process and will continue to stand in the way of urban development.

All of opportunistic and informal activities at this stage demands holistic and concerted attention from the town authority and other stakeholders.

These activities not only impede development but are constantly contributing to disorder, beauty and tranquility that were once the grandeur of Goroka.
Thank you