**NAME: OGUNTUNDE RACHAEL OPEYEMI**

**MATRIC NUMBER: 19/MHS10/003**

**DEPARTMENT: OPTOMETRY**

**COLLEGE: MHS**

**COURSE CODE: GST122**

**FLOOD IN NIGERIA: THE RESULT OF BAD GOVERNANCE AND POOR ROAD CONSTRUCTION.**

Flood is a common environmental problem in Nigeria. It is when a body of water moves over and above an area of land which is not normally submerged. It could also be seen as the inundation of an area not normally covered with water, through a temporary rise in level of stream, river, lake or sea.

Flood menace in Nigeria has become the new normal and a re-occurring phenomenon which most times have devastating impacts on human livelihoods and infrastructural development. Causes of this problem includes; rapid population growth, poor governance, poor drainage facilities, decaying infrastructures, lack of proper environmental planning, poor practice of dumping waste and climate change coupled with inadequate preparedness. Human activities in terms of developmental involvements are adjudged to be very important factors in accelerating the rate of this disaster which often leaves in its wake spread of diseases, loss of thousands of lives from various parts of the country and properties worth billions of naira being destroyed.

The impacts of floods are more pronounced in low-lying areas. In more recent years, 2011 and 2012 appears to be the worst incidence of flooding in Nigeria with a lot of reported cases. Flooding in Nigeria is a serious issue requiring the attention of all stake holders aimed at preventing and remedying its adverse effects which threatens human existence.

Due to the corrupt system in Nigeria, we rarely see good roads that come with excellent drainage system especially in local communities. A good community should possess good roads with adequate drainage system and this should be properly managed by the people in the community in other to prevent flood. We lack this in Nigeria mainly because of poor governance. In Nigeria, a little downpour equals flooding. This should not be happening at this time and age. Each road constructed in Nigeria should come with a good drainage system and should be managed properly. Waste or refuse should not be found in a drainage because it can lead to blockage of the drainage thereby preventing the free flow of water. Once a drainage is blocked due to waste or debris it will not flow properly as it should, hence, the drainage will end up getting filled up. If there is a rain downpour, the water will automatically find its way to the road thereby damaging roads and also leading to flood. In Nigeria, we only find good roads on major roads due to corruption and poor governance. Minor roads are neglected and these are areas where flood is prominent.

The usual universal cause of flood is heavy or prolonged rainfall or even both. Flood can manifest along marine coasts from wind-driven storm surges and rain-swollen streams associated with tropical typhoons and hurricanes. Besides, flooding can also occur on the shorelines of large inland lakes. Climate change is also a major cause of flooding and it is an issue that affects the economic, social, cultural and physical environment of any nation. In this case, the Nigerian government should try to ensure houses are not built on or near water-logged areas. Bad planning also brings about flood and as humans try to harness available water resources which have resulted in the construction of dams and other water control structures, the failures of these structures have resulted in floods. A good example is the collapse of the Bagauda Dam near Kano in 1988 which resulted in disastrous environmental consequences.

Over the years, one of the cities greatly ravaged by flood menace in Nigeria is Ibadan in Oyo state. Ibadan does not possess excessive rainfall regime which favours frequent flooding, yet the city is one of the most frequently flooded non-coastal cities in Nigeria. Flooding is not only becoming more frequent in Nigeria especially in the cities, it is also becoming more severe and devastating over the decades. Rainfall amount on the contrary, has overall, been on the decrease. Rather they are in response to an increasing rate of urbanization in the absence of well articulated and comprehensive physical planning and planning control, which invariably have left many of our coastal cities in flood dilemma.

Flood which can be a natural disaster in Nigeria can also be avoided in some parts of the country if proactive and preventive options involving structural and non-structural measures are adopted and implemented. The structural measures such as checking dams, levees, flood walls and constructing adequate drainage systems, will help control periodic inundation in the areas that are liable to flooding.

Flood menace have ravaged several towns in Nigeria for several decades leaving in its wake loss of thousands of lives and tens of billions of naira worth of properties damaged which calls for holistic urgent action on our part as individuals and that of the government.

The importance of sensitizing government at all levels on the reality of climate change and on possible risk reduction strategies is crucial in preventing flood menace in Nigeria. The need for an effective community based early warning system for flood prevention and control for Nigeria cannot be over emphasized. Government at all levels need to shift to being proactive in responding to flood menace. There is also the need for government at all levels and its agencies to fund and map out contingency plans and emergency preparedness plans to prevent flood outbreaks crisis in Nigeria.