An Assessment of Housing Condition and Socio-Economic Life Styles of Slum Dwellers in Akure, Nigeria

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DOI: https://doi.org/10.7903/cmr.2980

Abstract

This paper examines the importance of housing to man as an essential need and a prerequisite for the survival of man after food. It equally recognizes profound influence it has on the health, behaviour and efficiency of man and the nation as a whole. The study was carried out with the aid of questionnaire administration, building and facility survey. Using random sampling technique, every 5th houses in the five district areas was picked for interviewed. Also, data were collected from related government ministries and departments to particular find out government’s intervention in this area. Findings from the study reveal that the area chosen for the study exhibit slum condition that has undenied impact on the socio-economic lifestyles and the health of the residents, as well as the general outlook of the environment. Recommendations were proffered to guide the policy makers towards enhancing the lives of the residents of the area. Some of which include upgrading programme through the provision of urban basic services and improved sanitation strategies for sustainable management of the area, Public enlightenment campaign is also recommended so that the residents will know the importance of good living condition to their health and as well to know the danger of abusing their environment. Keywords: Housing, Life-Style, Slum, Income, Health
Slum dwellers also appear to have vastly better opportunities for getting jobs, starting small businesses and climbing out of poverty than rural inhabitants (Akinyode, 1998). Nigeria is ranked as one of the countries with high slum prevalence. The proliferation of shanty dwellings, squatter settlements and slums in most of our cities in Nigeria including the cross rivers state which is the being focused on in this study. Omole, F. K., "An Assessment of Housing Condition and Socio-Economic Life Styles of Slum Dwellers in Akure, Nigeria", Contemporary Management Research. Vol 6. No 4. Pp 273-290, 2010. Get the Complete Project. ASSESSMENT OF THE HOUSING CONDITION AND SOCIO ECONOMIC LIFESTYLES OF SLUM DWELLERS IN AKURE NIGERIA Slums are home to the poorest of urban. The proliferation of shanty dwellings, squatter settlements and slums in most of our cities in Nigeria including the cross rivers state which is the being focused on in this study. However, it has been asserted that the presence of slum increase the rate of crime in the area thereby affecting the value of the residential property (Omole, 2010). The prevalence of slum in Nigeria has significantly affected the value of residential properties in the affected areas. This value is determined by the prices of the residential property or by the value of rent per a period time that is collected on the Slum dwellers also appear to have vastly better opportunities for getting jobs, starting small businesses and climbing out of poverty than rural inhabitants[6]. Nigeria is ranked as one of the countries with high slum prevalence[3]. The proliferation of shanty dwellings, squatter settlements and slums in most of our cities in Nigeria and other less developed nations of the world is attributed to a chain of factors. Of course, such factors are closely associated with the low level of socio-economic and cultural lifestyles of the inhabitants[18]. The proliferation of slums in Nigeria has been over the years a matter of great concern. As cited by[16], 75% of the dwelling units in urban centres in Nigeria are substandard and the dwellings sited in slums. 3. Improving living conditions in slum settlements: a review of the evidence of four programmes. 4. What works in slum upgrading? More than half of the world’s population now lives in urban areas, and this is set to increase, mostly driven by growth in developing countries. This is one of the greatest transformations of the 21st century. UN-Habitat defines a slum household in operational terms, as lacking one or more of the following indicators: a durable housing structure; access to clean water; access to improved sanitation; sufficient living space; and secure tenure. The first four rely on conventional definitions; the last is the most difficult to assess and is not currently used in slum measurement (UN-Habitat, 2003).