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Evaluation of Distance Cover to Access Services/Facilities in Informal Settlements in Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, Nigeria

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Abstract: ***The study examines distance cover to access services/facilities in informal settlements in Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, Nigeria. Specifically, the objective of the study was to: evaluate the distance cover to access services/facilities in informal settlements in the study area. Data were collected through primary and secondary data. The study makes use of multi-stage sampling techniques involving three stages (random sampling for selecting two communities from the six area councils at the first stage, a systematic random sampling technique was used in the administration of questionnaires to the twelve randomly selected informal housing and the questionnaires were administered to each community in relation to population size. A total of 800 questionnaires were distributed, out of which 792 were return successfully. And it was analyzed using simple statistics table.***
The finding reveals that 46.1% of the respondents' access schools services/facilities at the distance of 4km and above. The paper also suggested that steps be taken to improve quality of housing scheme targeting the urban poor through public housing delivery by Government and the road network in the study area is un-tarred and dilapidated, therefore the government should construct a road to reduce the long distances cover for services and facilities like, health care, schools, market, police station, bank and water and also the suffering of the people living in these informal settlements may be reduce.

Keywords: Access, Distance, Housing, Informal Settlement, Abuja.

1. INTRODUCTION

The spatial structure of cities especially in developing countries is highly varied and complex, some area are adequately provided with services and facilities which in other are grossly inadequate. The variation in the spatial structure results in different socio-economic characteristics of urban dweller with strong challenges of getting equal and efficient urban service for the disadvantaged. The quality of life in most cities is poor and closely related to accessibility to alternative employment, education, and medical facilities, essential public services and nature of recreational open spaces (Vasconcellos, 2011)

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Housing literally is defined as buildings or other shelters in which people live. A place to live, a dwelling, and to a nation, it is a critical component in social and economic fabric (Victor, 2016). Housing represents one of the most basic human needs. As a unit of the environment, it has a profound influence on the health, efficiency, social behavior, satisfaction and general welfare of the community (Onibokun 1998 cited in Victor 2016). To most groups, housing means shelter, but to others it means more as it serves as one of the best indicators of a person's standard of living and his or her place in the society. (Nubi, 2008).

The process of urbanization had taken a new turn over the last few decades and population explosion had placed urban areas in a situation where the available facilities including housing were below margin in terms of meeting its equivalent demand. Considering the environmental nature of makeshift housing which depicts deteriorating housing facilities, environmental degradation, poor sanitary environment, bad roads and access, overcrowding, high crime rate, delinquents, etc. had tremendous negative influence on the health, safety and economic and social welfare of residents of any urban centre or community. In recent decades, there had been an increasing emphasis on the housing sector by different government of developing countries. Yet adequate provision of this basic need eludes a high proportion of the population of these countries (Money, 1978 cited in Nsing 2016)

Studies have shown that residential quality of life is a function of housing and environmental characteristics of distance cover to access services/facilities. It is indeed these attributes that the present study intends to assess using empirical data.

Study Area

The Federal Capital Territory (FCT) is home to Abuja Municipal Area Council, Abaji Area Council, Bwari Area Council, Gwagwalada Area Council, Kuje Area Council and Kwali Area Council located in the middle of the country and has a land area of about 8000km^2 of which the actual city that is Federal Capital City occupies 250Sqkm.The FCT is bounded on the North by Kaduna state, South by Kogi State, West by Niger State and East by Nasarawa State. It lies within latitude $9^0 25'$N and $9^0 20'$N of the equator and longitude $5^0 45'$E and $7^0 39'$E, (Ishaya 2013).

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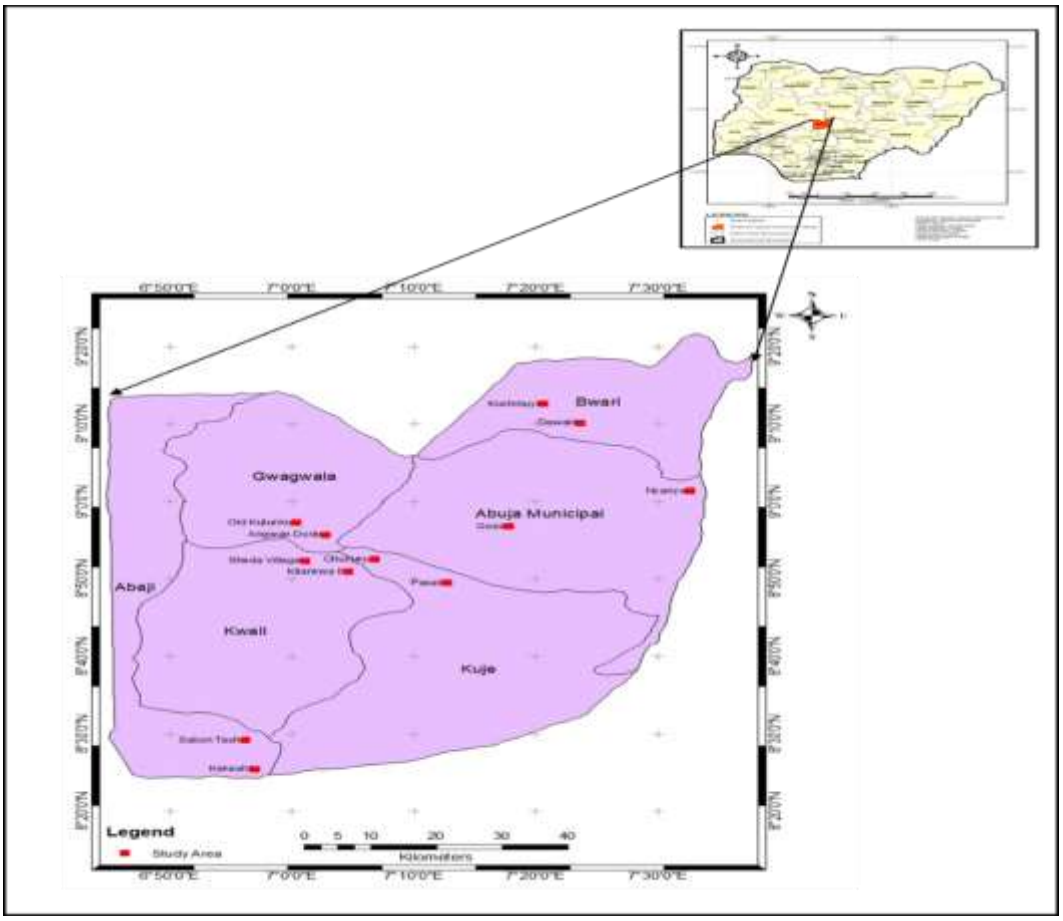

Fig 1. FCT Showing Study Area

Source: Department of Geography and Environmental Management University of Abuja, (2019)

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Data were collected through primary and secondary data. The study make use of multi-stage sampling techniques involving three stages (random sampling for selecting two communities from the six area councils at first stage, a systematic random sampling technique was used in the administration of questionnaires to the twelve randomly selected informal housing and the questionnaires was administered to each community in relation to population size. A total of 800 questionnaires were distributed, out of which 792 were return successfully. And it was and analyzed using simple statistics table,

Table 1: Distribution of sample size among the selected Area councils.

S/No	Area Councils	2006 population	Annual Growth rate (%)	2016 projected population	2016 projected population	Projected population (%)	Sampled Communities	Sample size

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1	Abaji	58,642	1.3	148,600	148,600	4.2	Kekeshi Sabon Geri	17 17
2	Bwari	229,274	1.4	581,100	581,100	16.3	Kwchibuyi Dewaki	65 65
3	Abuja Municipal	776,298	2.55	1,967,500	1,967,500	55.2	Gosa Nyanya	221 221
4	Gwagwalada	158,618	1.6	402,000	402,000	11.3	Angwan Dodo Old Kutunku	45 45
5	Kuje	97,233	1.3	246,400	246,400	6.9	Chikuku Pasali	28 28
6 C	Kwali	86,174	1.6	218,400	218,400	6.1	Kirangna Sheda	24 24
Total		1,406,239	9.75	3,564,100	3,564,100	100		800

Source: National Population Commission of Nigeria (web on Wikipedia, Google 2019).

Presentation and Analysis

Presentation and analysis of data, discussion of findings of the study were done in this section. The data include the distance cover to access services/facilities characteristics of the respondents in kilometer (km) in the informal settlement of the study area.

Table 2: Distance Cover to Access Services/Facilities

Study Area	**Service/Facilities**	**<1km**		**1km - 3km**		**4km and Above**	
		Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Abaji	Health Care	2	2	2	1	3	1
	Schools	3	3	2	1	0	0
	Market	1	1	3	2	0	0
	Police Station	3	3	1	1	2	0
	Bank	2	2	2	1	2	0
	Water	4	4	1	1	0	0
Bwari	Health Care	6	6	11	6	9	2
	Schools	3	3	17	9	11	2
	Market	4	4	7	4	9	2
	Police Station	2	2	11	6	1	0
	Bank	1	1	9	5	12	2
	Water	2	2	12	6	2	0

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Abuja Municipal	Health Care	9	9	8	4	55	11
	Schools	13	13	10	5	201	40
	Market	4	4	5	3	10	2
	Police Station	1	1	4	2	23	5
	Bank	2	2	2	1	83	16
	Water	3	3	2	1	3	1
Gwagwalada	Health Care	3	3	11	6	12	2
	Schools	8	8	15	8	13	3
	Market	1	1	2	1	7	1
	Police Station	2	2	2	1	2	0
	Bank	1	1	3	2	3	1
	Water	2	2	2	1	0	0
Kuje	Health Care	0	0	3	2	6	1
	Schools	0	0	7	4	6	1
	Market	0	0	5	3	2	0
	Police Station	0	0	3	2	7	1
	Bank	0	0	1	1	5	1
	Water	5	5	4	2	1	0
Kwali	Health Care	2	2	5	3	3	1
	Schools	3	3	9	5	1	0
	Market	1	1	1	1	4	1
	Police Station	3	3	2	1	1	0
	Bank	2	2	2	1	3	1
	Water	1	1	1	1	4	1
TOTAL		99	100	187	100	506	100

Source: Author's Fieldwork, 2020

Table 2 is an analysis of respondents on distance Cover to Access Services/Facilities in the study area. In Abaji area council informal settlements, two (2) 2% each of the respondent access health care and bank services/ facilities from a distance of 1km, three (3) 3% each of the respondent access school and police station services/ facilities at a distance of 1km, one (1) 1% of the respondent access the market services/ facilities at a distance of 1km, while four (4) 4% of the respondents access water services/ facilities at a distance of 1km. In the same Abaji, two (2) 1% each of the respondent access health care, school and bank services/ facilities from a distance of 1km – 3km, three (3) 2% of the respondent access market services/ facilities at a distance of 1km – 3km, one (1) 1% each of the respondent access the police station and water services/ facilities at a distance of 1km – 3km. while only three (3) 1% of the respondents access healthcare services/ facilities from a distance of 4km and above, none of the respondents in the study area access schools, police station and water services/facilities at a distance of 4km and above, and two (2) 0.5% of each of the respondents access bank and police station at a distance of 4kmand above.

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In the case of Bwari area council informal settlements, six (6) 6% of the respondent access health care services/ facilities from a distance of 1km, three (3) 3% of the respondent access school services/ facilities at a distance of 1km, four (4) 4% of the respondent access the market services/ facilities at a distance of 1km, two (2) 2% of each of the respondents access police station and water services/ facilities at a distance of 1km and only one (1) 1% of the respondents access bank at a distance of 1km. the table further revealed that in the same Bwari, eleven (11) 6% each of the respondent access health care and police station services/ facilities from a distance of 1km – 3km, seventeen (17) 9% of the respondent access school services/ facilities at a distance of 1km – 3km, seven (7) 4% of the respondent access the market services/ facilities at a distance of 1km – 3km, nine (9) 5% of each of the respondents access bank services/ facilities at a distance of 1km – 3km and twelve (12) 6% of the respondents access water services/facilities at a distance of 1km -3km. While nine (9) 2% each of the respondents access healthcare and market services/ facilities from a distance of 4km and above, eleven (11) 2% of the respondents in the study area access schools services/facilities at a distance of 4km and above, one (1) 0.1% of the respondents access police station at a distance of 4kmand above, twelve (12) 2% and two (2) 0.2% of the respondents access bank and water services/facilities at distance 4km and above.

In Abuja Municipal, nine (9) 9% of the respondent access health care services/ facilities from a distance of 1km, thirteen (13) 13% of the respondent access school services/ facilities at a distance of 1km, four (4) 4% of the respondent access the market services/ facilities at a distance of 1km, one (1) 1% of the respondents access police station services/ facilities at a distance of 1km, two (2) 2% and three (3) 3% of the respondents access bank and water service/facilities at a distance of 1km. The shows that, eight (8) 4% of the respondent access health care services/ facilities from a distance of 1km – 3km, ten (10) 5% of the respondent access school services/ facilities at a distance of 1km – 3km, five (5) 3% of the respondent access the market services/ facilities at a distance of 1km – 3km, four (4) 2% of the respondents access bank services/facilities at a distance of 1km – 3km and two (2) 1% of the respondents access bank water services/facilities at a distance of 1km -3km. fifty five (55) 11% of the respondents access healthcare services/ facilities from a distance of 4km and above, two hundred and one (201) 40% of the respondents in the study area access schools services/facilities at a distance of 4km and above, ten (10) 2% and twenty three (23) 5% of the respondents access market and police station services/facilities at a distance of 4kmand above, eighty three (83) 2% and three (3) 1% of the respondents access bank and water services/facilities at distance 4km and above.

In Gwagwalada are council informal settlements, three (3) 3% of the respondent access health care services/ facilities from a distance of 1km, eight (8) 8% of the respondent access school services/ facilities at a distance of 1km, one (1) 1% each of the respondent access the market and bank services/ facilities at a distance of 1km, two (2) 2% each of the respondents access police station and water services/ facilities at a distance of 1km. eleven (11) 6% each of the respondent access health care and police station services/ facilities from a distance of 1km – 3km, fifteen (15) 8% of the respondent access school services/ facilities at a distance of 1km – 3km, two (2) 1% each of the respondent access the market, police station and water services/ facilities at a distance of 1km – 3km, three (3) 2% of the respondents access bank services/ facilities at a distance of 1km – 3km. While twelve (12) 2% of the respondents access healthcare services/ facilities from a distance of 4km and above, thirteen (13) 3% of the

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respondents in the study area access schools services/facilities at a distance of 4km and above, seven (7) 1% of the respondents access market at a distance of 4km above, two (2) 0.2% and three (3) 1% of the respondents access police station and bank services/facilities at distance 4km and above, while none of the respondents access water services/facilities at a distance of 4km and above.

Kuje area council informal settlements shows that none of the respondent access health care, schools, market, police station and bank services/ facilities from a distance of 1km, five (5) 5% of the respondents access police station and water services/facilities at a distance of 1km. The table also indicates that three (3) 2% each of the respondent access health care and police station services/ facilities from a distance of 1km – 3km, seven (7) 4% of the respondent access school services/ facilities at a distance of 1km – 3km, five (5) 3% of the respondent access the market services/ facilities at a distance of 1km – 3km, one (1) 1% and four (4) 2% of the respondents access bank and water services/ facilities at a distance of 1km – 3km. At the distance of 4km and above, six (6) 1% each of the respondents access healthcare and schools services/ facilities from a distance of 4km and above, two (2) 0.2% of the respondents in the study area access market services/facilities at a distance of 4km and above, seven (7) 1% of the respondents access police station at a distance of 4kmand above, five (5) 1% and one (1) 0.1% of the respondents access bank and water services/facilities at distance 4km and above.

Lastly, in Kwali area council informal settlements two (2) 2%, three (3) 3%, and one (1) 1% of the respondent access health care, schools, and market services/ facilities from a distance of 1km, three (3) 3%, two (2) 2% and one (1) 1% of the respondent access school services/ facilities at a distance of 1km, In the same Bwari, five (5) 3%, nine (9) 5% and one (1) 1% of the respondent access health care, schools and market services/ facilities from a distance of 1km – 3km, two (2) 1% each and one (1) 1% of the respondent access police station, bank and water services/ facilities at a distance of 1km – 3km. at 4km and above, three (3) 1% each and one (1) 0.1% each of the respondents access healthcare, bank and school, police station services/ facilities from a distance of 4km and above, while four (4) 1% each of the respondents in the study area access market and water services/facilities at a distance of 4km and above.

The table reveals that of the eight hundred (800) respondents interviewed, ninety nine (99) (100%) access services/facilities at 1km, one hundred and eight seven (187) (100%) access service/facilities 1km-3km and five hundred and six (506) (100%) access services/facilities at 4km and above. This indicates that more respondents access service/facilities at 4km and above. The finding conform to the work of Tretter (2013) and Ukwayi, Ogaboh, and Michael (2013).

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Quality of housing is a function of the general well-being and satisfaction of the user population and influenced by the socioeconomic characteristics of the user. From the findings of the study presented, the following conclusion can be made.

The source of informal settlements in the study areas was as a result of poor income. The kinds of people who purchase/rent houses in these areas are genuine urban poor who lack shelter or forced by high standard of living in the city centre. The informal settlement found in the study areas share common features of slum and shanty houses as well as poor housing constructions. As the report on global human settlement was well summarized ”rather than being assisted in

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their efforts by governments, they have been hounded and their homes frequently demolished, they have been overlooked when basic services are provided, and they have been ignored and excluded from normal opportunities offered to other urban citizens."(UN-Habitat 2003) The settlements have the potential of creating environmental pollution and land degradation, being sources of health problems, crime and urban violence. They will be a social liability unless assisted and rescued from such living conditions. Based on the analysis of the data, and major findings of the study, the following policy recommendation are put forward for effective housing quality in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. Government should provide water facilities of dug boreholes in the study area as majority of the respondents depends on vendor for their domestic water use.

The importance of electricity to the development of community cannot be over emphasized therefore government should provide electricity in the study area as majority of use lamp, touch and rechargeable lamp. The road network in the study area is un-tarred and dilapidated, therefore government should construct road to reduce the suffering of the people living in these informal settlements.

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