



An evaluation of the quality of life of urban dwellers in selected streets in Diobu, Port Harcourt, Nigeria

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Abstract The comprehensive goal of this research project was to evaluate the quality of life of the urban dwellers in Mile II, Diobu, Port Harcourt. Specific objectives included assessment of the happiness and contentment of the inhabitants even amid conditions of deprivation, ascertaining residents' satisfaction with life as a whole and identifying the planning response and mechanisms for improving residential quality of life in the community. The study adopted the Passive-Observational survey design such that the research respondents were observed *in-situ* without experimental manipulation. Furthermore, the research population was studied using a "snapshot approach" or cross-sectional study within a three day period. The data for this study was drawn from primary and secondary sources. The results revealed that the quality of life of residents in Mile II Diobu was dependent on a variety of factors. A case in point was that most of the residents were not satisfied with the quality of the environment they lived in and would desire to move out, although 30% considered the quality of their life to be high. Improvement of the physical condition of the neighbourhood through use of planning mechanisms such as massive urban renewal, maintenance of roads and streets, government intervention on matters of security through provision of street lightning and the frequent patrol of the police and law enforcement agencies, provision of adequate recreational facilities (e.g. playground), improvement of drainage network systems in streets without paved drainages such as Nwachukwu Street, Achi, Chief Hobobo and Osina streets. These would greatly influence residents' perspective of the neighbourhood and improve on the quality of life in Mile II Diobu.

Keywords Evaluation, Quality of life, Urban dwellers

Introduction

In recent times cities around the world over are experiencing several challenges amongst those are: insufficient public utilities and services, tainted sense of place, tainted sense of security, segregation in land uses, massive unemployment, poor literacy levels and others too numerous to mention. These negativities oftentimes affect the quality of life and living conditions of most urban settlers as it is very evident in Port Harcourt Municipality. The incidence of rapid unplanned and uncontrolled urbanization in the city of Port Harcourt has taken its toll and has created myriad of complex environmental issues raised in the foregoing.

Quality of Life (QoL) is multidisciplinary, multifaceted and dynamic in nature and its applications are related to its context and requires multiple approaches from different theoretical perspectives. Literature is replete with attempts by researchers to define QoL. The study and measurement of QoL according to Marans and Stimson (2011) has led several researchers to conclude that QoL defies exact definition. In the rendering of Serag El Din *et al* (2012), Quality of life denotes daily living that is enhanced by wholesome food, clean water and clean air. It also entails the enjoyment of access to unencumbered public open spaces and bodies of water, conservation of wildlife and natural resources, security from crime, protection from toxic substances and radiation in the environment.



However, the QoL paradigm tends to expose the existing inequalities between inter and intra (through comparative and analytical studies) of some residential neighbourhoods and some urban centres. This has led to turning of the attention on some factors affecting the perceived residential satisfaction of some of the residents. Assessing QoL of intra-urban residents provides insight on the level of satisfaction experienced in the neighbourhood. QoL in its broad sense is dependent on the total well-being including the physical, mental, social and environmental fabric and not just perceived as the nonexistence of infirmity and illness.

The consequences of rapid urbanization and its attendant challenges in Nigeria are quite widespread. According to Onibokun and Faniran (2013) these challenges are: the over-all environmental and human poverty, decline in the quality of life, housing and associated facilities such as; potable water, waste disposal, electricity that are being grossly inadequate. Several thousands of people in Port Harcourt reside in substandard environments called slums, plagued by squalor and grossly inadequate social amenities, gradual waning of traditional social values and the collapse of family cohesiveness and communal spirit, increase in juvenile delinquency and crime. Besides, the ineffectiveness of law enforcement institutions to prevent, control and combat crime has increasingly become a source of concern and it is hampered by dearth of technological and resource limitations experienced in Nigeria today.

Statement of the Problem

The concept of “false urbanization”, defined urbanization as a direct consequence of demographic forces, particularly rural-urban migration rather than resulting from dynamic economic and industrial forces (Hatsorn 1992 cited in NITP, 2013). These characterizes Nigerian cities and has resulted in negative consequences such as those asserted by Osuntokun (1997) that there is no Nigerian city where electricity and potable water are regular, where waste is scientifically disposed off and where life is not the ‘Hobbesian parlance’ of ‘short and brutish’. This analogy succinctly describes the condition of the study area Diobu.

The spatial growth of Port Harcourt – particularly the Diobu villages (Rumuwoji, Mile II (Mgbundukwu) and Mile III (Nkpolu-Oroworukwo), and the other suburbs has continued rapidly since 1913 and it is pertinent to note that these are indigenous enclaves exist within the urban fabric of Port Harcourt.

Much of the recent urban growth however, has occurred in the squatter settlements at the waterfronts of the rivers that virtually surround the city. As noted by Obinna *et al* (2000), squatting commenced because not all the Nigerian civil war (1976-70) returnees and in-migrants from their respective villages could find or afford conventional housing.

Studies reveal that the growth of the proportion of urban population rose from about 10% in 1950 to 48% in 2010 and is projected to rise to over 60% by the year 2025 (FMLHUD, 2012). The 1991 population census puts the population of the city of Port Harcourt at 406, 738 persons (National Population Commission, 1992), of which 65% were squatters Obinna *et al*, (2000).

In addition to the socio-economic pathological conditions (high crime rate, urban gangs, juveniles) these settlements are not planned, have deplorable housing, lack space and are not provided with basic services. The incidence of rapid urbanization has also led to the near and total loss of farmlands for the indigenous population. Therefore, the problems of interest in this research can be identified as follows;

- The deplorable housing conditions, inadequate space and absence of basic services in the study area and;
- The impact of urbanization on the indigenous communities.

Goal

The goal of this study is to evaluate the quality of life of urban dwellers in selected parts of Diobu, Port Harcourt.

Objectives

The specific objectives are:

- To assess the happiness and contentment of the residents even amidst circumstances of deprivation.
- To ascertain residents’ satisfaction with life as a whole and;
- To identify the planning response and mechanisms for improving residential quality of life in the community.

Scope of Research

Several Quality of Life domains such as the physical, social, economic and psychological and indicators such as housing and building quality, neighbourhood quality, community cohesiveness, intense group and inter-personal activity, employment, income, nature of livelihoods, community identity and pleasing milieu were used for the assessment of QoL of some Diobu residents.



Literature Review

Brief History of Port Harcourt

The city of Port Harcourt, capital city of Rivers State, lies 40km up the mouth of the Bonny River in the Niger Delta. It is one of Nigeria's fast growing cities founded in 1912. From being just a port it metamorphosed to a provincial headquarters and on to its current status as state capital Ogonwo, (1979). Port Harcourt has since become a major hub of activities and a new frontier of opportunity for a varied range of economic, social and political interests.

The greatest part of Port Harcourt's population was composed of what may be called short-distance migrants from the various districts of eastern Nigeria (Ogonwo, 1979). Other long-distance migrants of different ethnic groups including, the Hausas, Fulanis, Yorubas, Edos, and other related groups were amply represented in the early days of the city.

The city today is a major educational, administrative and industrial centre and is regarded as the oil capital of Nigeria, since it hosts most of the nation's multi-national oil and gas exploration and production companies, two refineries, petroleum related service companies, as well as a fast expanding commercial sub-sector (Wokekoro and Owei, 2014).

Conceptual and Theoretical Definition of Quality of Life (QoL)

Quality of Life (QoL) is a multidisciplinary and multifaceted concept and there is a plethora of attempts in the literature to define it. Marans and Stimson (2011) as well as other researchers assessing and evaluating QoL agree that the concept, though it attracts widespread interest, is by no means precisely defined (EPA, 1973). The concept of QoL remains mainly theoretical as it contains a large element of subjectivity and thus it is difficult for it to be treated as an unambiguously measurable dimension (Eva *et al*, 2011).

Recent research on QoL such as asserted by Costanza *et al* (2008) has focused on two basic methodologies of measurement. The first termed "subjective well-being" which focuses upon self-reported levels of happiness, pleasure, fulfilment and the like. The latter utilizes so-called "objective" measurement of QoL such as quantifiable indices generally of social, economic and health indicators as prescribed by the UNDP in 1998. Furthermore, the approach reflects more on the extent to which human needs are or can be met.

Quality of Life could be translated into livability of a place; it means that in an urban society, QoL relates to the common experiences of urban residents and the ability of the city to meet livability needs. People's perception about their environment may differ in different cultural environments Lotfi, *et al*, (2010).

Quality of Life Paradigm

The Quality of Life paradigm here refers to the content of its operational construct. This construct as identified by QoL researchers (Santos and Martins, 2014, Sarah, 2012) would include an understanding of the dimensions of QoL and the delineation of the selected domains and indicators for measuring the QoL of the selected areas.

It is however important to note that as already stated above there are a variety of dimensions for explaining and understanding QoL assessment.

Quality of Life Dimensions

The assertion of Ventegodt *et al*, (2003) on quality of life is that there are three dimensions: religious, philosophical and cultural (which includes, happiness, fulfilment of needs, functioning in a social context, etc.). This study however considers the conventionally accepted dimensions – subjective and objective.

Subjective Dimension

According to Ventegodt *et al*, (2003) subjective QoL entails individual feelings or, put succinctly, individual contentment with life and subjective happiness. There is a consensus on this dimension of life quality.

Focusing on subjective evaluations of quality of urban life, Marans and Stimson (2011), examined research by Michalos and Zumbo (1999), McCrea *et al*, (2005), Turksever and Atalik (2001), Sirgy and Cornwell (2001) and Sirgy *et al*. (2000), noting that assessment of the QoL is also dependent on the individual's subjective evaluation of his immediate environment (urban environment). McCrea, (2007), conceptualizes further that, subjective urban QoL refers to satisfaction with urban domains: housing, neighbourhood, community and regional. These domains would be explored in detail further in this study cited in (Marans and Stimson 2011).

Nonetheless, subjective QoL is an individual's perception of his immediate environment in relation to satisfaction and happiness drawing on the research of Diener and Suh (1997) which includes three interrelated components: life satisfaction (cognitive sense of satisfaction with life), pleasant and unpleasant affective (emotional) experiences of the individual.



Objective Dimension

Marans and Stimson (2011) asserts that this dimension of QoL as including many objective characteristics of the urban environment, often weighting objective indicators to generate an objective quality of urban life index for ranking places. Serag El Din, et al (2012) expresses the objective dimension as indicators based on quantitative statistics of urban environment characteristics that fulfill the basic resident's needs.

Quality of Life Domains

Under the microscope of QoL experts, these are some determinants of residential QoL. Drawing from a variety of sources, Sarah (2012), identifies several domains which are common to most QoL studies. These domains include.

Table 1: Quality of Life Domains

Social Domain	Urban Domain	Economic Domain	Politics Domain
.Education	Housing	Work/employment	.Political rights and general
.Leisure	Land use	.Consumption	values
.Health	Transportation	Food/ nutrition	.Government
.Social environment/ stability	.Physical environment		.Justice
.Public security/ crime and safety	.Natural environment		
.Social opportunity/ participation	.Recreation and culture		
.Community stress	.Population resources		
.Community affordability	.Government services		
.Social well-being	.Education and health services		

Source: Adapted from Sarah (2012)

Quality of Life and planning

The comprehensive notion of community quality of life holds important opportunities for planning. Until recently, planners have focused largely on individual elements of quality of life such as transportation or housing (Myers, 1988). Many planning statements and projects refer to the term QoL as either the outcome of conditions – economic, environmental, social, aesthetic, civic, etc. or the causes of impressions about QoL, and these impressions can influence the perceived or actual prosperity or attractiveness of a place (Massam, 2002). Sarah (2012) assesses QoL as it relates to planning by reviewing contemporary planning theories and approaches. Some of these include, New Urbanism, Smart Growth, Compact Cities, Green Infrastructure, neo-traditional planning, sustainable development and the like.

Quality of Life Surveys

The study of QoL in planning in the rendering of Massam (2002) hinges largely on the assumption that variations in QoL among individuals, groups or places can be identified and that prescriptive measures can or should be taken to eradicate the differences. As there are different approaches for measuring and assessing urban QoL or one of its dimensions. The work of Wokekoro and Owei (2014) tried to evaluate the residential quality of life of residents in informal settlements in Port Harcourt municipality noting the approach of Giannais (1996) in obtaining quality of life ranking of six cities in Southern Ontario, Canada namely: Guelph, Kitchener, London, Sarnia, St. Catherine and Windsor. Giannais's study further employed a structural approach to hedonic equilibrium model and found that residential quality of life is a function of housing and neighbourhood characteristics (number of rooms, age of house, crime rate, air quality and mean annual temperature) (cited in Wokekoro and Owei, 2014).

The Hedonic model approach has been used in many studies to estimate a quality of life ranking of a number of cities and to examine the relative influence of cultural amenities, prestigious schools accessibility, mixed land uses, socio-economic factors and housing characteristics on the price structure of residential property Sarah (2012). In (Giannais 1996 cited in Wokekoro and Owei 2014) the model was estimated using census tract data for the six cities. The study revealed that each of the six cities provides a different QoL distribution to its residents.

Other approaches identified by Sarah, (2012), for assessing life quality includes, Life Satisfaction Approach (LSA), a combination of the Hedonic approach and the Life Satisfaction Approach, the Conjoint Analysis Approach, Analytical Hierarchy Process Approach (AHP), and Analytical Network Approach (ANP).



Some global patterns of Quality of life

Massam (2002) has analysed the prevalent conditions of the world considering patterns. He states "If the population of the world was reduced to a village with 100 people and the same global ratios were preserved then we would find:

- 57 Asians;
- 21 Europeans
- 14 from the Western Hemisphere
- 8 Africans
- 52 women and 48 men
- 6 people would possess 59% of the entire world's wealth, and the 6 would be from USA
- 80 would live in substandard housing
- 70 would be unable to read
- 50 would suffer from malnutrition
- 1 would be near death
- 1 would have a college education
- 1 would own a computer

A further point is worth noting that as QoL increases in one place this can reflect an increase in differences among places in terms of QoL the inequalities are more and more pronounced.

According to the World Bank (2011) report estimates, over 90% of urban growth is occurring in the developing world, adding an estimated 70million new residents to urban areas each year. During the next two decades, the urban population of the world's two poorest regions South Asia and Sub-Saharan is expected to double (UN-HABITAT, 2014).

Quality of Life Surveys in Asia

Sheng (2010) assesses the urban challenges in South-East Asia. According to him, South-East Asia is considered a distinct sub-region of Asia, but there is a wide diversity within the region. It includes a very populous country (Indonesia) and a country with a small population (Brunei Darussalam), an economically highly developed country (Singapore) and least developed countries (Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar). South-East Asia is steadily urbanizing with an urban population increase from 15.5% in 1950 to 41.8% (about 250 million people) and an expected increase to 50% by 2025.

Further, it was reported in 2014, during the World Habitat Day (2014), that 30% of Asia's urban population resides in slums (State of the World Cities Report, 2012/13), and this continent is currently home to half of the urban population of the world (UN-HABITAT, 2014).

Quality of life Survey-Singapore

Large-scale sample surveys of 1093 and 2187 respondents from 81 census divisions in Singapore were conducted in 1997 and 1998, respectively, to measure overall life satisfaction (or quality of life, QoL) as well as levels of importance and satisfaction towards various aspects of life (Seik, 2000). Seik (2000), found that in 1997 the mean QoL score for Singaporeans, or QoL index, was moderately high at 3.61 (using a 5-point Likert scale) but this later dropped by 2% to 3.55 in 1998. On importance and satisfaction with different aspects of life, respondents consistently rated health and family life as more important than other aspects of life, and they were most satisfied with the aspect of family life. Respondents considered aspects of life such as politics, religion and leisure as least important and they were least satisfied with aspects of life such as wealth and consumer goods.

Quality of Life Survey-Malaysia

A study conducted in the high density, mixed-use neighbourhood located in Kuala Lumpur Central area (city centre) which is one of the six strategic zones in the Kuala Lumpur metropolitan area of Malaysia with 1,813 hectares; Sedaghatnia *et al*, (2013) assert that the residents' satisfaction with the overall QoL. Residents' choice about their neighbourhood location is influenced by many factors including socio-economic characteristics, life cycle, location of work, and other major facilities such as schools, shopping, family, etc. also notable is the proximity to facilities - shopping services, public transport services, educational services, and workplace. The respondents rated their satisfaction on four graded scale from very dissatisfied to very-satisfied. The highest levels of residents' satisfaction were with respect to neighbourhood physical characteristics including access to public transport services, educational services, availability of good conditions for children, housing quality, greenery, and quietness (mean scores of 3.20 – 3.03).



Table 2: Satisfaction with Neighbourhood Characteristics in Malaysia

Neighbourhood Characteristics	Level of Satisfaction (Mean Score)
Housing quality	3.08
Greenery and quietness	3.03
Good condition for children	3.10
Educational services	3.12
Shopping services	2.97
Public and private services	2.90
Proximity to workplace	3.04
Public transport services	3.20
Recreational facilities	2.70
Health services	2.93
Safety and security	2.58
Social contact with neighbours	2.77
Little social cohesion in neighbourhood	2.68

Source: Sedaghatnia *et al*, (2013)

Using a Likert rating scale from as good as can be to as bad as can be respondents were asked to rate their QoL for which more than two-third of the respondents (68%) were satisfied with their overall QoL, while the rest (32%) expressed their feelings otherwise (Sedaghatnia *et al*, 2013). Summarily, the residents declared their satisfaction with the neighbourhood in terms of the above mentioned indicators – the overall residents' quality of life rated as high.

Quality of Life in Africa

The UN-Habitat (2012) reports that over half of the urban population (61.7%) in Sub-Saharan Africa resides in slums. Based on the state of the World's Cities Report (2010/11) every year, 10 million or more people are added to the existing urban population of Sub-Saharan Africa and approximately one-third of these, or 3 million move to formal urban areas and act as both agents and beneficiaries of formal urban and economic growth. The remaining two-thirds, or 7 million, move to informal settlements or slums. Of these, only 2 million can expect to lift themselves out of slum conditions and the other 5 million will remain confined on the wrong side of the urban divide.

Quality of Life Survey – South Africa

In South Africa, more than 32% of the population resides in only six metropolitan areas, and with rapid urbanization (exceeding 4% per annum) the quality of metropolitan city life will increasingly become an indication of the overall QoL in the country (Naude *et al*, 2006). The research employs an index construct for South Africa's six metros consisting of both economic and non-economic QoL indicators, including measures of the quality of the environment and of life. Rankings identified for this study of the 6 metropolitan areas range from 1st to 6th position. Cape Town ranks 1st, Johannesburg 2nd, Ekurhuleni ranks 3rd and so on. These rankings reveal that in spite of the rapid urbanization over the decades South African cities play an important role in improving human QoL (*ibid*). Not only are average incomes in cities much higher than in rural areas in South Africa, there is general improvement in the non-economic QoL in the various cities.

Quality of Life Survey-Nigeria

The work of Amao (2014) assessed the QoL of poor residential neighbourhoods in Oshogbo, Nigeria. It was deduced that the high cost of housing has forced the increasing population to live in substandard housing and unhealthy conditions giving rise to poor residential neighbourhoods. This study was aimed at identifying the poor residential neighbourhoods in selected areas, examining the characteristics of these neighbourhoods, and examining the socio-economic characteristics of the residents in these selected areas. Results show that poor residential areas are characterized by informal sectors, inadequate access to basic facilities, both social and physical infrastructure and housing finance. Other characteristics identified included, lack or inadequate access to basic public services, substandard housing and inadequate building structures, illegal subdivision of buildings, poverty, criminality and social exclusion, and unhealthy living conditions. With respect to their socio-economic status, the study revealed that 55% of the respondents were of low income status, 25% were low-



medium income, 15% were upper-medium and only 5% were high income suggesting that only a few people are comfortable with their income and the deficit are poor.

A similar study conducted in Port Harcourt city, Nigeria by Wokekoro and Owei (2014) involved a comparative study of inter-city neighbourhoods (planned and unplanned). Using a set of sampling stages which included: selection of neighbourhoods from informal settlements; listing of buildings, selections of households and respondents to achieve a representative sample of households in each neighbourhood. The Taro Yamane formula was applied at 10% level of precision. Informal settlements examined included Marine Base waterfront and Afikpo waterfront settlements.

Thus, a comparative analysis was carried out to identify specifically the residents' perception of neighbourhood attributes, the residents' perception of residential QoL, the Perceived Neighborhood Quality Index (PNQI) and the variables that are most important to residents in improving residential QoL in Port Harcourt.

Methodology

Data was collected from primary, secondary and direct observation by the researchers. The data was collected and collated and analyzed with the aid of Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS).

However, the purpose of this study was to examine the quality of life of residents in some selected places in Diobu Port Harcourt. It further examined whether the various indicators of life domains selected for this study such as, housing and building quality, neighbourhood quality, community cohesiveness, intense group and inter-personal activity, employment status, income level, nature of livelihoods, community identity and pleasing milieu affected the perceived quality of life of the residents in selected places Diobu.

Research Design

The study adopted the Passive-Observational survey design. It involves studying the research subjects' in-situ i.e. where they are, without experimental manipulation. Furthermore, the research population was studied using a "snapshot approach" or cross-sectional study (1-3 days) strategy.

Findings

Physical Domain

Type of dwellings

Table 3 below shows the types of dwellings in some selected parts of Diobu. Rooming house (courtyard) has the highest representation in the study area with 49.5%, followed by the Rooming house (wagon) 23.2%. Some of the other dwelling types are family compound housing with 6.3%, traditional buildings are about 6.3%, and duplexes and flats are 2.1% respectively.

Table 3: Type of Dwellings in the study area

Dwelling Type	Percentage (%)
Duplex	2.1
Flat	2.1
Semi-Detached (Bungalow)	4.2
Detached (Bungalow)	4.2
Rooming House (Courtyard)	49.5
Rooming House (Wagon)	23.2
Family Compound Housing	6.3
Traditional	3.2
Other	5.3
Total	100

Source: Authors' field trip, 2015

Perceived Neighbourhood Rating of Quality of Life

Figure 1 represents the respondents' subjective rating of the quality of the neighbourhood. About 38% of the respondents said the quality of the neighbourhood was low, on the other hand 34% said the quality of the neighbourhood was high while 19.60% did not know or were uncertain and 8.20% rate the neighbourhood as very low.



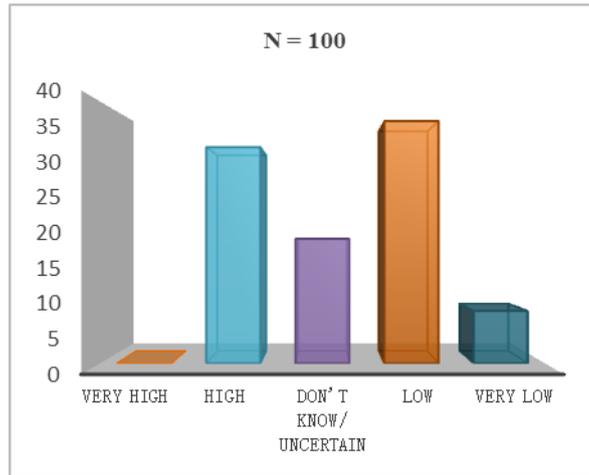


Figure 1: Perceived Neighbourhood Rating (PNR)
Source: Authors' field trip, 2015

Social Domain

Place of Origin

Figure 2 shows the percentage of the respondents who are indigenes and those who are non-indigenes of Mile II Diobu. Indigenes are 23% while the non-indigenes are 77% of the total respondents. This is evidence of the rapid urbanization noticeable in the study area. It was discovered that most of the residents are from neighbouring states of Nigeria that migrated to the city of Port Harcourt for a variety of reasons as would be revealed in later sections of this study.

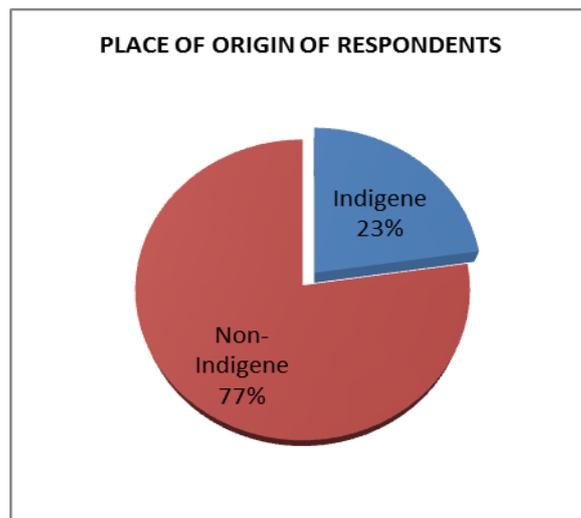


Figure 2: Place of origin of respondents
Source: Authors' field trip, 2015

Nature of Recreation

Figure 3 shows how the residents recreate in the study area; 35% of the respondents prefer football and jogging, 26% prefer viewing television and 19% prefer passive recreation playing draughts/card/Ludo and the like



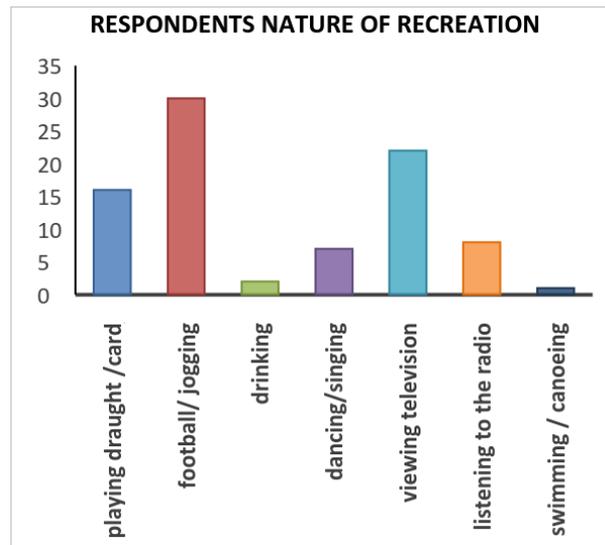


Figure 3: Respondents nature of recreation

Source: Authors' field trip, 2015

Economic Domain

Employment Status

Figure 4 elucidates the employment status of the respondents in the neighbourhood. 38% are employed, 55% are unemployed, 3% are under-employed and 4% of the respondents are housewives.

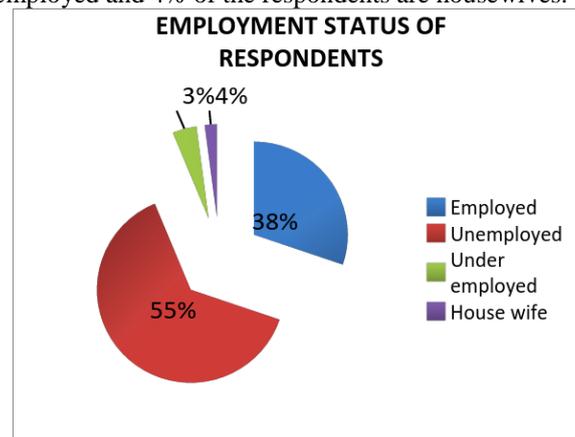


Figure 4: Employment status of respondents

Source: Authors' field trip, 2015

Income Level of Respondents

Table 4 below shows the monthly income level of the residents in the study area. The modal income group was less than ₦7,500 naira. Analysis of the results reveal that the average daily income of the respondents is \$3.85 USD per day and since their average daily income is slightly above the standard poverty line of \$1 per day, they are not considered to be poor.

Table 4: Monthly Income of Respondents

Income Category (₦)	Percentage (%)	True Limits		f_i	$f_i m_i$
less than 7,500	18.4	-0.5	7,500.5	3,750	3,3750
7,500 - 10,999	6.1	7,499.5	10,999.5	9,249.5	27,748.5
11,000 - 14,999	8.2	10,999.5	14,999.5	12,999.5	51,998
15,000 - 18,999	14.3	14,999.5	18,999.5	16,999.5	118,996.5
19,000 - 22,999	16.3	18,999.5	22,999.5	20,999.5	167,996
23,000 - 26,999	2	22,999.5	26,999.5	24,999.5	24,999.5
27,000 -31,999	8.2	26,999.5	31,999.5	29,499.5	117,998
32,000 - 35,999	2	31,999.5	35,999.5	33,999.5	33,999.5
36,000 - 39,999	8.2	35,999.5	39,999.5	37,999.5	151,998
40,000 - 43,999	4.1	39,999.5	43,999.5	41,999.5	83,999



44,000 - 47,999	2	39,999.5	43,999.5	41,999.5	41,999.5
48,000 - 51,999	4.1	47,999.5	51,999.5	49,999.5	99,999
52,000 - 62,999	6.1	51,999.5	62,999.5	57,499.5	172,498.5
Total	100			381,994	1,127,980

Source: Authors' field trip, 2015

$$\text{Mean monthly income of respondents} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^k f_i m_i}{N}$$

$$N = 49$$

$$\text{Average monthly income of respondents} = \frac{1,127,980}{49} = \text{₦}23,020$$

$$\text{Average Daily income of the respondents} = \frac{23,020}{30} = \text{₦}767.3$$

Using ₦198.94 as exchange rate to \$1 USD (as at 23/09/2014)

Conversion to USD = 767.3/198.94 = \$3.85 USD

Psychological Domain

Residents' Perception of Neighbourhood

During the survey it was observed that 76% of the respondents like the neighbourhood while 24% do not like the neighbourhood as was illustrated in figure 5 below.

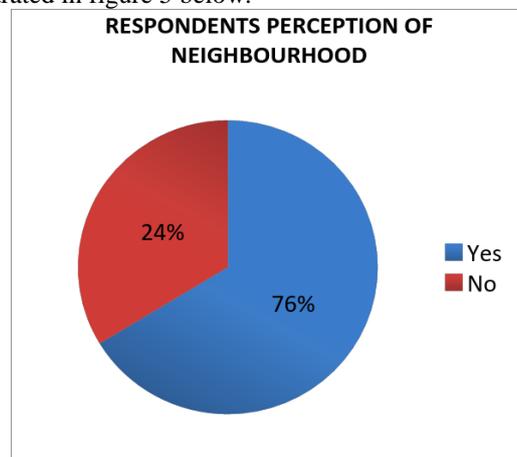


Figure 5: Residents perception of neighbourhood

Source: Authors' field trip, 2015

Reasons for Liking the Neighbourhood

Respondents who liked the neighbourhood were given the opportunity to state three (3) reasons why they liked it as was represented below in table 4. About 29% liked the neighbourhood because it is safe, 26% liked it because the rent is cheap, 25.0% liked the neighbourhood because of its closeness to relatives and townfolk, and 25% liked it because they perceive the neighbourhood to be clean and 24.2% preferred the neighbourhood because of its proximity to their place of work.

Table 5: Reasons for liking the Neighbourhood

Reasons	First (%)	Second (%)	Third (%)
It Is Near My Place of Work	15 (24.2)	7 (13.5)	3 (9.4)
Rent Is Cheap	16 (25.8)	12 (23.1)	2 (6.3)
The Neighborhood Is Safe	18 (29)	10 (19.2)	6 (18.8)
The Neighborhood Is Quiet	7 (11.3)	10 (19.2)	5 (15.6)
Leaving Near Relations or Town Folk	4 (6.5)	6 (11.5)	8 (25.0)
Neighborhood Is Safe	2 (3.2)	1 (1.9)	0(0)
The Neighborhood Is Clean	0(0)	6 (11.5)	8 (25.0)
Total	62 (100)	52 (100)	32 (100)

Source: Authors' field trip, 2014

Reasons for Disliking the Neighbourhood



Respondents who disliked the neighbourhood were also given the opportunity to state three (3) reasons why they liked it as is represented below in Table 6. Some 35.3% of the respondents do not like the neighbourhood because it is dirty, 32.4% said it is noisy, 27.3% said it is congested, 14.7% said it was safe and 12.1% said the neighbourhood smell horrible.

Table 6: Percentage Distribution of First, Second and Third Reasons for Disliking the Neighbourhood

Reasons	First (%)	Second (%)	Third (%)
The Neighborhood Is Quiet	1 (2.9)	1 (2.9)	2 (6.1)
The Neighborhood Is Noisy	11 (32.4)	5 (14.7)	7 (21.2)
The Neighborhood Is Dirty	12 (35.3)	14 (14.7)	7 (21.2)
The Neighborhood Is Safe	4 (11.8)	5 (14.7)	4 (12.1)
The Neighborhood Stinks	1 (2.9)	4 (11.8)	4 (12.1)
The Neighborhood Is Congested	5 (14.7)	5 (14.7)	9 (27.3)
Total	34 (100)	34 (100)	33 (100)

Source: Authors' field trip, 2015

Satisfaction with Dwelling Conditions

Subjective assessment of the physical condition of the buildings in the study area included factors such as the roofing, walls, doors, windows, ceiling, electricity, storage, room size, orientation, flooring, bathroom/toilet system and waste disposal system. The results shown in the Table 4.13 below reveal that subjectively the respondents were fairly satisfied with some aspects of the dwellings but were largely dissatisfied with the substandard residential conditions.

Table 7: Respondents' satisfaction with dwelling conditions

Dwelling Conditions	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dk/Uc	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Total
Toilet (N = 97)	5.2	36.1	3.1	49.5	6.2	100
Room Size (N = 97)	4.1	69.1	3.1	22.7	1	100
Size Of Rooms (N = 93)	4.3	69.9	6.5	19.4	0	100
Kitchen	3.2	38.9	9.5	43.2	5.3	100
Bathroom (N = 95)	1.1	31.6	5.3	40	22.1	100
Roofing (N = 96)	2.1	22.9	11.5	39.6	24	100
Walling (N = 95)	0	32.6	11.6	49.5	6.3	100
Internal Layout (N = 93)	0	25.8	31.2	36.6	6.5	100
Orientation (N = 86)	2.3	10.5	64	23.3	0	100
Water Supply (N = 96)	7.3	30.2	2.1	47.9	12.5	100
Electricity (N = 96)	1	12.5	1	40.6	44.8	100
Storage Space (N = 93)	2.2	21.5	36.6	31.2	8.6	100
Internal Facilities (N = 91)	2.2	14.3	35.2	39.6	8.8	100
Parking (N = 94)	0	6.4	10.6	68.1	14.9	100
Distance To Other Buildings (N = 95)	3.2	34.7	25.3	30.5	6.3	100

Source: Authors' field trip, 2015

The acronym "Dk/Uc" is used here to represent "Don't Know/ Uncertain"

General Assessment of Quality of Life



The goal of this study was to evaluate the overall quality of life of the residents in the neighbourhood of Mile II Diobu. To achieve this, the respondents were asked to rate their overall quality of life. Figure 6 below illustrates their responses. Some 29% rate their quality of life high, 25% said their quality of life is low, 23% do not know/were uncertain, 14% rate their quality of life as very high and 9% rate their quality of life as very low.

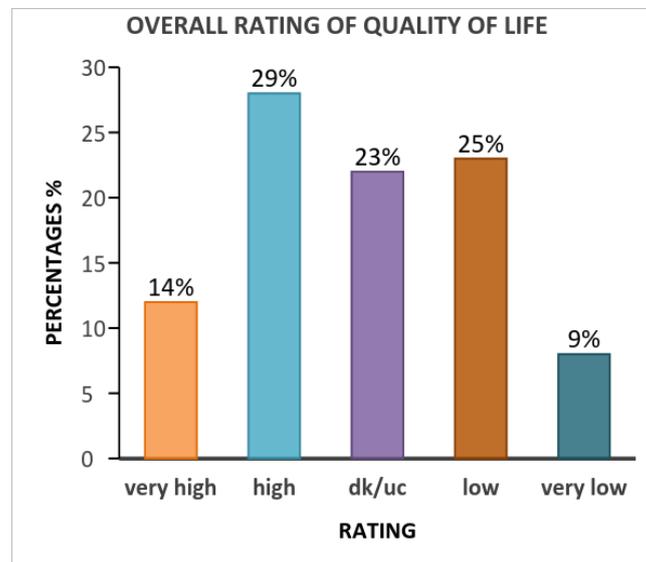


Figure 6: Respondents overall rating of Quality of Life
Source: Authors' field trip, 2015

Conclusion

The study was set out to assess the quality of life of the residents of selected places in Diobu, Port Harcourt considering the deplorable housing conditions, inadequate space, and absence of basic services in the neighbourhood including the impact of urbanization on the indigenous community. The study also sought to identify the perceived quality of life of the residents determining the happiness and contentment with the community even amidst circumstances of deprivation. Clear answers to questions such as:

1. What is the perceived quality of life of residents in the selected streets in Diobu?
 2. What are the determinants of perceived quality of life even when objective residential conditions are manifestly substandard under the microscope of the experts? And;
 3. Is there an association between residential conditions and the perceived quality of life of the residents?
- This study set out to examine the perceived quality of life of the residents in the selected streets in Diobu, using a set of indicators across four (4) selected life domains namely: the physical, economic, social and psychological.

It was discovered that objectively the neighbourhood is of very low quality since it meets all the criteria stated by Ogionwo (1979). Although residential conditions were poor the respondents rated the neighbourhood as being of high quality. These reasons were attributed to the level of cooperation between the residents, community cohesiveness/ solidarity, social interaction between the residents, security, friendliness of neighbours and income.

Recommendations

- Roads and streets should be maintained. Government intervention is needed to ensure proper maintenance of the roads and streets as well as the residents cooperation is needed with respect to how they use the roads for ease of accessibility.
- Security is an essential issue and should be provided by the government through provision of street lighting and the frequent patrol of the police and law enforcement agencies. There should be community policing, neighbourhood watch and the introduction of gated neighbourhoods to assist the government.
- Adequate recreational facilities (e.g. playground) should be provided in the neighborhood for the residents to recreate. As this would enhance the socio-physical well-being of the residents.



- Improve on the drainage network systems in streets without paved drainages such as Nwachukwu Street, Achi, Chief Hobobo and Osina streets. Residents should be taught how to use open drains and avoid clogging the drains to enhance free flow of runoffs.
- A workable and effective waste management system should be developed and implemented to prevent dumping of refuse in the drains. As this will enhance livability in the neighbourhood.
- Electricity supply should also be upgraded to reduce the noise and air pollution from generators in the neighborhood. Residents should be encouraged to use solar panels and/or other noiseless power supply system as a backup for public power supply.

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