



The major utilities people derive in artefacts and sacred objects from the perceptions of Estate Surveyors and Valuers in Umuahia, Abia State

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Abstract The general believe behind preservation of any property is such property's utility: as any property without utility becomes a refuse and its discarded or destroyed. Artefacts and sacred objects are heritage properties preserve by individuals, group of individuals and government. This journal paper examined various utilities people derive from artefacts and sacred objects from the perceptions of Estate Surveyors and Valuers in Umahia, Abia State. This paper examined those major utilities people derive in artefacts and sacred objects from the perceptions of Estate Surveyors and Valuers in Umuahia, Abia State. Through snowball sampling method, data were collected with a set of questionnaires (having close-ended, open-ended and Likert-scale questions) and analysed through descriptive analysis. Data collected and analysed indicated that the major utilities people derive from artefacts and sacred objects from the perceptions of Estate Surveyors and Valuers in Umahia, Abia State are prestige, uniqueness/identity, goodwill, ligature, pleasure, satisfaction, income and profit.

Keywords Utilities, Estate Surveyors and Valuers, Artefacts, Sacred Objects

Introduction

Artefacts and sacred objects are created or modified by human culture, which are fruit of the fieldwork endeavour, describing the material culture of a people, or phase in history. Artefacts and sacred objects are not limited to any and all forms of pottery, (whether they are fully intact or fragmented), tools, mace-heads, made of wood, stone, bone, flint or metal, cultural monuments, archaeological sites, cultural landscapes, parks and works (singly or grouped), cemeteries, religious buildings, museum, relics and movable objects' components, contents, spaces and views, that transcend to generations via inheritance [1-2]. According to Tadesse [3], artefacts and sacred objects are rarely engaged in utilisation and are rarely sold or traded in markets but are taken directly from the ecosystem and cultural services, which when valuation is carried out, they are considered to have non-use values as well as use-values.

According to Trigger [4], all these artefacts and sacred objects kept for studying and memorabilia in museums are often recognised as being of diagnostic value for ascertaining the age and cultural affinities of sites. It is against this backdrop that this paper examined the major utilities people derive in artefacts and sacred objects from the perceptions of Estate Surveyors and Valuers in Umuahia, Abia State.

Materials and Methods

Design and setting

The research design was survey research and the primary sources of data was employed. A set of questionnaire (with close-ended, open-ended and Likert-scale questions) was as the instrument for data collection. Snowball sampling technique was employed because population of Estate Surveyors and Valuers in Umuahia that carryout valuation artefacts and sacred objects are countable and hidden.



Sample/participants

The target population included all members of Nigeria Institution of Estate Surveyors and Valuers in Umuahia, Abia State. As at the year 2017, Umuahia has one hundred and sixteen (116) Estate Surveyors and Valuers (NIESV, 2017), which is the sample frame and the sample unit was seventy-two (72) Estate Surveyors and Valuers which is 62.07% of the sample frame. They are registered and practising Estate Surveyor and Valuer in Umuahia that have participated in valuation of artefacts or sacred objects in Umuahia. They were gotten from the study area through snowball sampling.

The inclusion criteria included were Probationer members of Nigerian Institution of Estate Surveyors and Valuers, Associate members of Nigerian Institution of Estate Surveyors and Valuers, Fellow members of Nigerian Institution of Estate Surveyors and Valuers and Past Presidents of Nigerian Institution of Estate Surveyors and Valuers in Umuahia.

Data collection

Pilot survey was conducted to ensure data reliability and data validity. Data reliability was conducted using retest method of 10 questionnaires. In this retest method, five (5) questionnaires were first shared to Estate Surveyors and Valuers in Umuahia Metropolis, Abia State and retrieved, while the same five (5) Estate Surveyors and Valuers in Umuahia Metropolis, Abia State. The validity test was content validity. The researcher gave the four (4) proposed questionnaires to four (4) professionals in the field of valuation to assess the worthiness of the questionnaire before pilot survey and research survey. All the observations were effected before the questionnaire was administered for the pilot and field survey.

Data collection was performed using a two-section questionnaire. The first section collected the participants' demographic characteristics including the gender of the respondents in the study area, the profession professional grading of respondents, respondents' ages, the academic qualification of respondents, the professional qualifications of the respondents, number of years of becoming members of Nigerian Institution of Estate Surveyors and Valuers, the period of working with firms of Estate Surveyors and Valuers, numbers of ESVs in the firms. The second section was on Professional Values of Estate Surveyors and Valuers. This second section has questions on source of your education and level at which valuation of artefacts and sacred objects taught, seminars on valuation of artefacts and sacred objects attended and Names of artefacts and sacred objects valued by Estate Surveyors and Valuers in Umuahia, Abia State.

Ethical concern was also given a priority by avoidance of ambiguous questions and none of the questionnaires has means of identity. The respondents remain confidential and anonymous throughout to avoid any problem that may be detrimental to these Estate Surveyors and Valuers.

Statistical analysis

Data were analysed via SPSS version 25 using descriptive statistics (frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation).

Results and Discussion

Results

Table 1: Utilities people derive from artefacts and sacred objects from the perceptions of Estate Surveyors and Valuers

Services	Mean	Standard Deviation	Rank
Prestige	4.4118	0.60434	1
Uniqueness/Identity	4.3971	0.49293	2
Goodwill	4.2794	1.20751	3
Ligature	4.1912	0.99637	4
Pleasure	3.3088	1.68627	5
Satisfaction	2.8382	1.67163	6
Income	2.7353	1.15407	7
Profit	2.2647	1.15407	8

Source: Field Survey (2018)



Table 1 analysed kind of utilities people derived in artefacts and sacred objects from the perceptions of Estate Surveyors and Valuers while carryout valuation on artefacts and sacred objects. Prestige as a utility in artefacts and sacred objects has a mean score of 4.4118 and standard deviation of 0.604343. Uniqueness/Identity as a utility in artefacts and sacred objects has a mean score of 4.3971 and standard deviation of 0.49293. Goodwill as a service valued in artefacts and sacred objects has a mean score of 4.2794 and standard deviation of 1.20751. However, Ligature as a utility in artefacts and sacred objects has a score of 4.1912 and standard deviation of 0.99637. Pleasure as a utility in artefacts and sacred objects has a mean score of 3.3088 and standard deviation of 1.68627.

Meanwhile, Satisfaction as a utility in artefacts and sacred objects has a mean score of 2.8382 and standard deviation of 1.67163. Income as a service valued in artefacts and sacred objects has a mean score of 2.7353 and standard deviation of 1.15407.

In addition, Profit as a utility in artefacts and sacred objects has a mean score of 2.2647 and standard deviation of 1.15407

Discussion

What are the major utilities people derived in artefacts and sacred objects from the perceptions of Estate Surveyors and Valuers in Umuahia, Abia State?

The findings from the field survey conducted indicated that utilities people derive from artefacts and sacred objects from the perceptions of ESVs in Umuahia, Abia State are prestige, uniqueness/identity, goodwill, ligature, pleasure, satisfaction, income and profit. This aligned with the studies of Geisbusch [5], Chaim, Alias, Khalid and Rusli, [6], Simcock [7], SFU [8], Sox [9] and Smith [10]. However, the mean score of these services indicated that the major services people derive in artefacts and sacred objects from the perceptions of ESVs in Umuahia, Abia State are prestige, uniqueness/identity, goodwill, ligature, pleasure, which ranked 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th respectively.

Conclusion

This paper appraised the major utilities people derived in artefacts and sacred objects from the perceptions of Estate Surveyors and Valuers in Umuahia, Abia State. From data collected and analysed, it was revealed that artefacts and sacred objects are of other major utilities aside memorabilia, which include prestige, uniqueness/identity, goodwill, ligature, pleasure, satisfaction, income and profit.

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