

Evaluation of Housing for the Aged in Akure North Rural Communities

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Abstract

The three major necessities of life are food, shelter (housing) and clothing. Thus, housing is of great necessity for all ages. This study analysis some of the challenges being faced by aged people in the rural area as regards accommodation. Proper care are for the aged are itemized. The proper suggests the need for evolving effective housing policy for the aged by the government and all relevant stakeholder and conclude that improving poor living conditions and infrastructure for aged in the rural areas will help in the making of valuable contributions to the society.

Keywords: *Aged, Challenges, Housing, Policy, Rural Community*

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I. INTRODUCTION

Housing is defined as part of environment that has intense influence on health, productivity, social behavior, satisfaction and also on general welfare of the community. It also reflects the Cultural, Social and economic values of a society (Olotuah & Aiyetan). It is supported by continuous maintenance of the built environment for the daily living activities of individuals/families within the community while reflecting their socio-economic, cultural aspirations and preferences. In addition, housing includes the sustainability attributes of energy efficiency and resource conservation for improved quality of life (National Housing Policy 2012).

The population of aged in Nigeria is 3.1% or 5.9 million of the total population of about 191 million Perpetua and Peter (2018). The population of aged has enhanced the need for care and assistance. It will increase markedly as people move into older age cohorts, particularly for those of eighty-five (85) years and above (productivity Commissions, 2008). However, older people without savings and with minimal or no pension earnings have minimal capacity to cover any increase in housing and living costs that may arise from a more age-appropriate housing, particularly if they are not homeowners (Morris 2009).

The provision of aged care in different organizations, governance arrangements, funding instruments, accommodation types and providers, and the cost associated with service provision are highly variable (Productivity Commission 2008). The legislative and policy framework for government interaction and regulation of these housing types is undeveloped and fragmented.

This paper examines the provision for affordable houses for the well-being of the aged in the rural communities by analyzing the current housing condition in the rural communities. It states some major affordable housing issues in the rural communities and obstacles that have prevented affordable housing development. This study also shows some of the challenges significant to the provision of affordable housing development for the aged.

II. Review Of Related To The Study

Housing, in all its ramifications, is more than mere shelter, since it embraces all the social services and utilities that makes a community or neighborhood a livable environment. The problems of housing in Nigeria are enormous and complex, exhibiting marked regional differences. Furthermore, the challenges faced by the rapid rate of uncontrolled and unplanned urban growth are immense (Aropet 2011). Millions of people live in sub-standard and sub-human environment characterized by slum, squalor and grossly inadequate social amenities. Housing has been universally accepted as the second most important essential human need. The right to adequate housing is considered a core human right. The right to affordable housing was first codified on the universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted and proclaimed by UN General Assembly in 1948. Article 25 of Declarations states:

UN Declaration 1948 stated that everyone deserves a good standard of living both for his health and his family for food, clothing, housing and medical service. But the high increase for unemployment, sickness, widowhood, old age, or lack of good source of income are beyond control.

According to the research done on the write up, 40 per cent of aged live independently, that means they live alone or lived with their spouse only. Independent living is more rampant in the developed countries, where about three quarters of older persons live independently. Compared with only a quarter in developing countries and one eighth in the least developed countries. As countries develop and their populations continue to age, living alone or with a spouse only will likely become much more common aged in the future.

Some aged still wish to work, especially in developing countries. In 2010, Perpetua et al; 2018 the labour force participation of persons aged 65 years or over was around 31 per cent in the less developed regions. Labour force participation among older men is decreasing in the less developed regions, but it is increasing in the more developed regions. In both development groups, despite their numerical disadvantage, men made up a large majority of the total labour force among older persons.

The labour earnings of older persons are an important source of economic support in old age, especially in developing countries. Masa, Richard & Bostjan (2018) suggested that Public transfer is a major source of old-age support in developed countries and in some developing countries with substantial part of the consumption of older persons, especially in counties with less expensive public transfer systems. In most countries available data, older persons are net givers of familial transfer.

Le Houerou (2013) stated in his speech at (occasion) that, close to 40 percent of the world population are in need of basic infrastructure (i.e. Housing) and other essential needs. He further said achieving this will not only require capital but a delivery mechanism that ensures adequate targeting and does not distort the housing market. The housing market factors function well when there is an adequate supply of affordable housing suitable for financing effective demand (Youth and Aged). The government has a paramount role to play in this aspect. Especially in Nigeria where Economy is not friendly.

Masa et al (2018) talked about the aged in Slovenia preference to stay in present house and not to move to other apartment based on the fact that they are already used to such. But here in Nigeria especially in the rural areas where the housing situation are so terrible, aged always wished and are hoping for the better, that things will turn around for good for them even before their death.

NUMBER OF AGED IN THE SOCIETY

The world population prospects (2019) gives details of Percentage of population aged 65 years or over for the world, selected groups of countries, 2019, 2030, 2050 and 2100, according to the medium-variant projection Region 2019, 2030 and 2100 indicated in the table below.

Location	No Aged In 2019	Propose No In 2030	Propose No In 2100
World	9.1	11.7	22.6
Sub-Saharan Africa	3.0	3.3	4.8
Northern Africa & Western Asia	5.7	7.6	22.4
Central & Southern Asia	6.0	8.0	25.7
Eastern & Southern Asia	11.2	15.8	30.4
Latin America & Caribbean	8.7	12.0	31.3
Australia/New Zealand	15.9	19.5	28.6
Oceania	4.2	5.3	15.4
Europe & Northern America	18.0	22.1	29.3
Least developed countries	3.6	4.2	15.3
Land locked developing countries	3.7	4.5	16.8
Small Island developing States (Sides)	8.7	11.9	23.7
Sources: World Population Prospects	2019		

In view of this data, no doubt the population of the aged is increasing, and the aged in sub -Sahara Africa is not left out in which Nigeria is major. As the world population increases, so also the population of the aged increases.

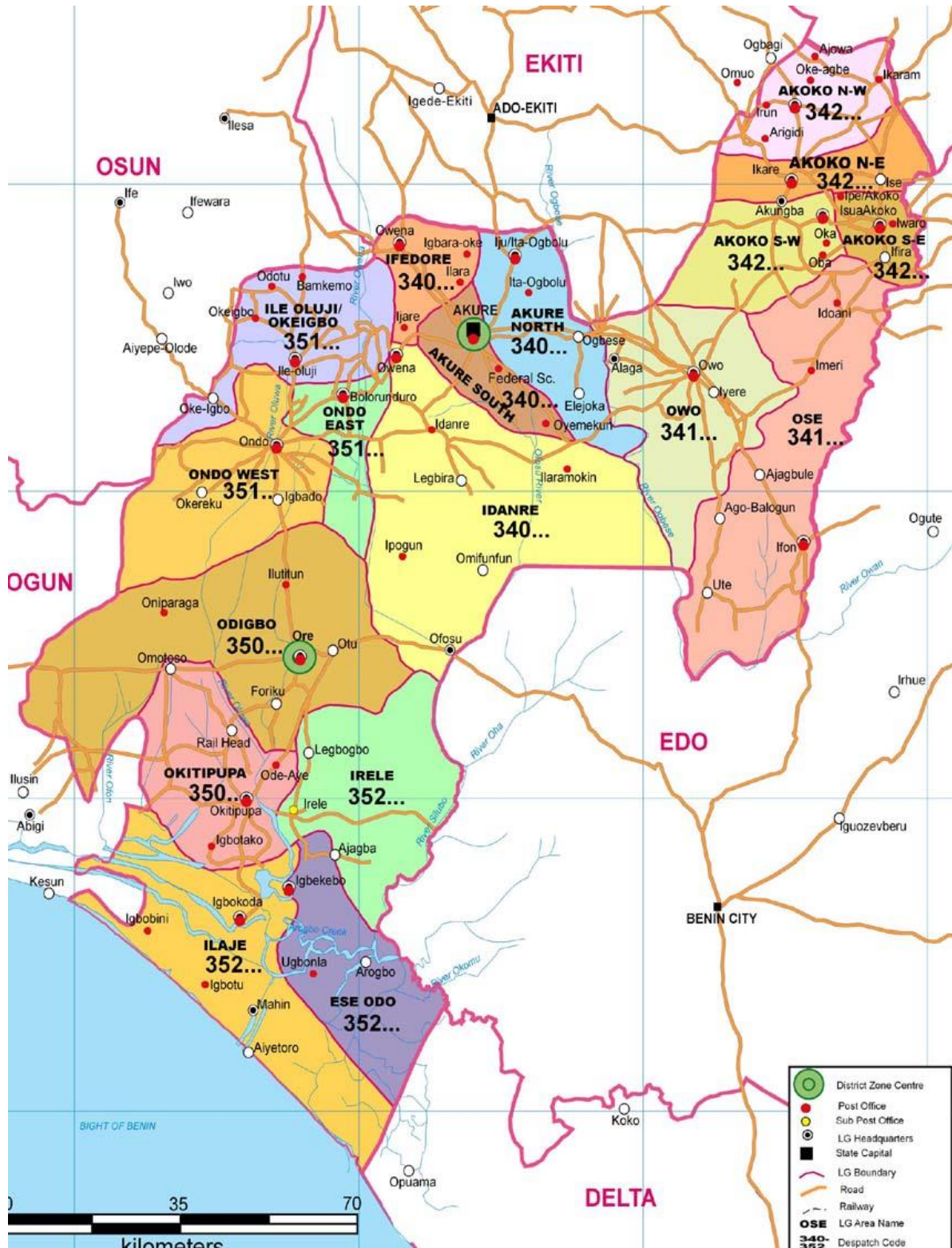
Aged housing desire

Both indoor and outdoor spaces for aged must be adequately planned for. Yang Tian (2017) describe the outdoor spaces for aged in four sections: security of communication space, controllability of multiple space, legibility of space environment and Fitness of outdoor environment. Security of communication space as psychological security: using of materials that can enhance free movement of aged, not too slippery materials with barrier free. Controllability of multiple space which means creating quit and public spaces that can enhance

mutual contact, places for exchange and common entertainment. Legibility of space environment; a well-planned landscape for the aged to exercise and live through the negative emotion. Fitness of outdoor environment: it is creating a beautiful outdoor that will help the rehabilitation training of the aged and also reduce the tension on them. Gardening improves the moral of aged and brighten their mood (Yang tian 2017)

STUDY AREA

The study area is located in Akure-North Local Government Area of Ondo State, Nigeria. It comprises among others Iju/Itaogbolu, Irese and Odudu. In Ondo State is located in South-Western Nigeria which covers the total area of 14,788 square kilometers and with the population of 3,460,877(Wikipedia). it is bounded in the East by Edo and Delta States. Iju/Itaogbolu is the capital of Akure North Local Government Area in Ondo state. It has an area of 660 km² with a population of 131,587 as at 2006 census. It is on latitude 7⁰ 22' 6"N, longitude 5⁰ 14' 48" with the distance of 3.2 km (2.0 Miles) and Bearing of 205.1⁰ (SSW). Irese is located at Akure North Local government area in Ondo State. It is located on Latitude 7⁰ 20' 7"N, longitude 5⁰ 11' 53" with the distance of 9.4 km (5.8 Miles) and Bearing of 225.7⁰ (SW). While Odudu is close to Iju/Itaogbolu. (Wikipedia) The map below indicates the map of Ondo State in Nigeria, showing the three (3) study location Iju/Itaogbolu, Irese and Odudu.



Sources: Google source

III. Methodology

The study adopted quasi-quantitative approach for the collation of data. Questionnaire were conducted one on one by the researcher on the respondents due to the low level of their Educational Background. A total number of 500 elderly citizens that ranged between 65-85 years were randomly selected. A total of 240 constituting sixty percent of respondents were assessed at Iju/Itaogbolu being the Local Government Area (LGA) capital with higher population as shown in table 1. Also 180 and 60 respondent were selected at Irese and Odudu respectively. Consequently, a through content analysis was carried out in order to make inferences.

While the secondary sources were derived from the review of published Journals, Government agencies documents and Archival records.

IV. Result and Discussion

During the interview season with the aged, one of them inform us that her only child who is a medical doctor travels abroad and died there. Since the death of this son, she becomes vulnerable. These are some of the challenges the aged face. Some of them are even abandon by their own children. Some of the children did it intentional with the belief that if they go to the village the witches in their village will be attack them. While some do not visit them because of the circumstances facing them (trying to make earns meal). The economic instability in the country has also affected the average citizen. To the extent that, the take home of citizen is no longer taking them to their bus stop, not to talk of taking care of the aged.

According to the result of the interview, 30% of the respondents live alone. 40% of the respondents live with partner, While 30% of the respondents lives with children/relatives/ friends. Aged who stays with their children in the city often get bored between the times, when their children are not around. Ondo state (case study for this Journal) being a civil servant state, most Workers works within the periods of 8:00am -4:00pm Mondays to Fridays. Most aged who stays with their children in the city never wish for this Period because of their idleness/boringness. Study has shown that aged always wish to talks, get busy and walk around accordingly to their capability. Aged who are adequately care for in the village lives longer than those in the city. This is cause by the restriction given to them in city by their children or the environment in which they lives. Often times these can lead their untimely death.

Most houses in Nigeria are often faced with diversity of problem. some of which are high cost of building materials, high cost of approving the building plans, processing of certificate of occupants, high level of poverty, shortage of infrastructures facilities, use of locally made materials which are mostly not durable, incompetent housing finance for fund mobilization (Ibimilua and Ibitoye, 2015). The rapid increase in our country (Nigeria) population also amount to housing problem (Usen 2018). The rural community is majorly operating owner-occupant tenure system. They have little or no income on their investment. This level of this socio-economy activities makes maintenance difficult (Usen 2018) even at old age.

One of the challenges of the rural areas structures is the use of cheaply made available materials which are often times not durable because they are transient in nature and are susceptible to erosion agents and fire disaster (Aliyu et al.). It will require high level of maintenance (Usen 2018). And most of this house are not newly constructed, they have been constructed a long time ago. Obviously, they need renovation or probably rehabilitation. Unfortunately, there is no resource for it.

V. Conclusion

Good housing can protect aged from a harsh effect of weather that can have adverse effect on their health. It can either shortens their lives or makes life difficult to live. The development appropriate that will help to improve the health and care of the aged is very important. Therefore, aged requires more health care. The need for creating housing policy for the aged in Nigeria is paramount and hereby recommended.

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