



Exploring housing satisfaction and quality of life in selected informal settlements of Port Harcourt municipality

Ilenikhena Stacy-Young^{1*}, Evangeline Nkiru Anthony Le-ol², Udom Mina Elsie L³, Ikiriko Tamunoikuronibo Dawaye⁴
¹⁻³Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Rivers State University, Nkpolu-Oroworukwo, Port Harcourt, Nigeria

* Corresponding Author: **Ilenikhena Stacy-Young**

Article Info

ISSN (online): 2582-7138

Impact Factor: 5.307 (SJIF)

Volume: 04

Issue: 06

November-December 2023

Received: 05-09-2023;

Accepted: 06-10-2023

Page No: 88-96

Abstract

This study delves into the intricate dynamics of Housing Satisfaction and Quality of Life (QoL) within selected informal settlements situated in Port Harcourt Municipality. Informal settlements, characterized by substandard housing conditions and limited access to basic amenities, present profound challenges to residents' overall well-being. In this exploration, the study examines the multifaceted factors that influence housing satisfaction and their direct implications on residents' QoL. Through a quantitative research approach and a descriptive research design, four representative informal settlements (Rex Lawson Waterfront, Okrika Waterfront, Bundu, and Nembe Waterside) were purposively chosen for analysis. Data was collected from residents through structured questionnaires, direct observations, and photographs to comprehensively assess the physical, social, and environmental aspects of their living conditions. The study reveals a complex interplay of challenges, including overcrowding, inadequate infrastructure, lack of secure tenure rights, and environmental degradation, which collectively contribute to the compromised QoL of residents. Furthermore, it highlights variations in housing satisfaction and QoL across different settlements, emphasizing the importance of tailored solutions to address the unique needs of each community. In light of these findings, the study recommends a multifaceted approach to enhance housing satisfaction and QoL in these informal settlements. Key measures include infrastructure upgrades, improved access to basic services, secure land tenure, healthcare and education provisions, environmental improvements, community empowerment initiatives, and collaborative partnerships among stakeholders. This research underscores the urgency of addressing housing and well-being challenges within informal settlements, ultimately striving for healthier, happier, and more inclusive communities in Port Harcourt Municipality.

Keywords: Housing Satisfaction, Quality of Life, Informal Settlements, Port Harcourt Municipality, Urban Living Conditions, Well-being in Informal Housing

1. Introduction

Housing Satisfaction (HS) and Quality of Life (QoL) in informal settlements are intricate and multifaceted issues. It is widely acknowledged that substandard housing conditions in these settlements have significant adverse impacts on individuals' QoL. Inadequately constructed and overcrowded residences, the absence of access to clean water and sanitation facilities, and uncertain property rights contribute to health problems, both physical and mental, and perpetuate a cycle of poverty and social exclusion.

Informal settlements, often referred to as slums or shantytowns, are characterized by deficient housing conditions, a lack of basic amenities, poor environmental quality, and limited access to essential services such as healthcare, education, and transportation.

These settlements typically emerge due to rapid urbanization, rural-to-urban migration, and a shortage of affordable housing options. The QoL in such settlements can be assessed across various dimensions: land use and infrastructure, natural environment, health and wellness, economic well-being, education and lifelong learning, public well-being, arts and cultural vitality, civic engagement, enrichment, and innovation (Lanrewaju, 2012) ^[3].

QoL measures the degree of satisfaction that inhabitants have with their living conditions in their settlement area. It reflects individual well-being based on satisfaction and dissatisfaction (Morley & Bennie, 2013) ^[7]. It is a subjective and relative measure that includes intangible elements such as spiritual beliefs and a sense of belonging. Measuring QoL implies that we value the quality of people's lives and aim to maintain or enhance the aspects that contribute to their well-being (Woekoro & Owei, 2014) ^[15]. The study of QoL among informal dwellers may appear complex, but it provides a comprehensive understanding that can vary according to individuals' perspectives and beliefs. In this research, we assess the QoL and HS of individuals living in informal settlements to gauge how well their needs are being met and to serve as a criterion for understanding their level of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with their lives.

Housing satisfaction is often employed to assess residents' perceptions and feelings about their housing units and the surrounding environment. It is determined by three factors: the objective characteristics of the household, the objective features of the housing environment, and the subjective well-being based on their own perceptions, values, and aspirations. Objective features can include the size of the dwelling unit, the number of rooms, spatial layout, and so on, while objective features of the housing surroundings can encompass access to the dwelling unit, parking availability, proximity to green areas, social services, and more (Silvija, Maric, & Cavric, 2018) ^[8]. Mohammad & Adel (2014) noted that various authors define housing satisfaction from both single and multi-dimensional perspectives, with some defining it as the level of contentment experienced by an individual or a family member regarding their current housing situation.

Souza, James, Szafara, & Fries (2009) ^[10] observed that regulations tend to drive up the cost of informal housing, causing the informal housing sector to shrink in areas with high housing prices. People often move to more affordable but less desirable areas due to financial constraints. However, in regions with fewer regulations, informality in housing tends to increase. Distortions in the housing market caused by income disparities and strict regulatory requirements make investing in informal housing more attractive. Nevertheless, households in informal settlements are mobile, so when regulations and enforcement vary across regions, informal dwellers relocate accordingly (Souza *et al.*, 2009) ^[10]. A significant portion of the urban population resides in informal settlements, yet there is a lack of a consistent planning framework for improving these settlements. As a result, the rapid expansion of informal settlements has led to challenging economic, social, and environmental circumstances (Wahab, 2017) ^[14].

1.1. Statement of Problem

Housing satisfaction plays a pivotal role in determining the overall Quality of Life (QoL) of individuals, encompassing their contentment with various aspects of their living environment, including the type of housing, its structural quality, access to essential services like water and electricity, available space, and location. In Port Harcourt Municipality, informal settlements present a distressing situation, with housing units that are often unsuitable for human habitation. Housing satisfaction varies according to individual preferences, necessitating an investigation into the level of satisfaction within these informal settlements in Port Harcourt Municipality.

It is evident that a significant number of housing units in the study area are in a state of disrepair, lacking fundamental amenities such as water, sanitation, and electricity, as well as convenient proximity to employment opportunities and essential services. Moreover, overall satisfaction with the living environment is notably low. Previous research has consistently highlighted the poor environmental conditions prevalent in informal settlements, characterized by inadequate sanitation, improper waste disposal, and suboptimal sewage management methods (UN-Habitat, 2015; Eyenghe, Ibama & Ibisiki, 2022; Surajit, 2017) ^[13, 1, 12]. This study aims to delve into the issue of housing satisfaction and its impact on the QoL in the study area. Additionally, it seeks to identify measures that can be implemented to enhance the QoL within these settlements, ultimately leading to improved housing conditions and overall well-being for the residents of the study area.

1.2. Aim and Objectives

This study seeks to investigate Housing Satisfaction and its impact on the Quality of Life (QoL) within selected informal settlements of Port Harcourt Municipality.

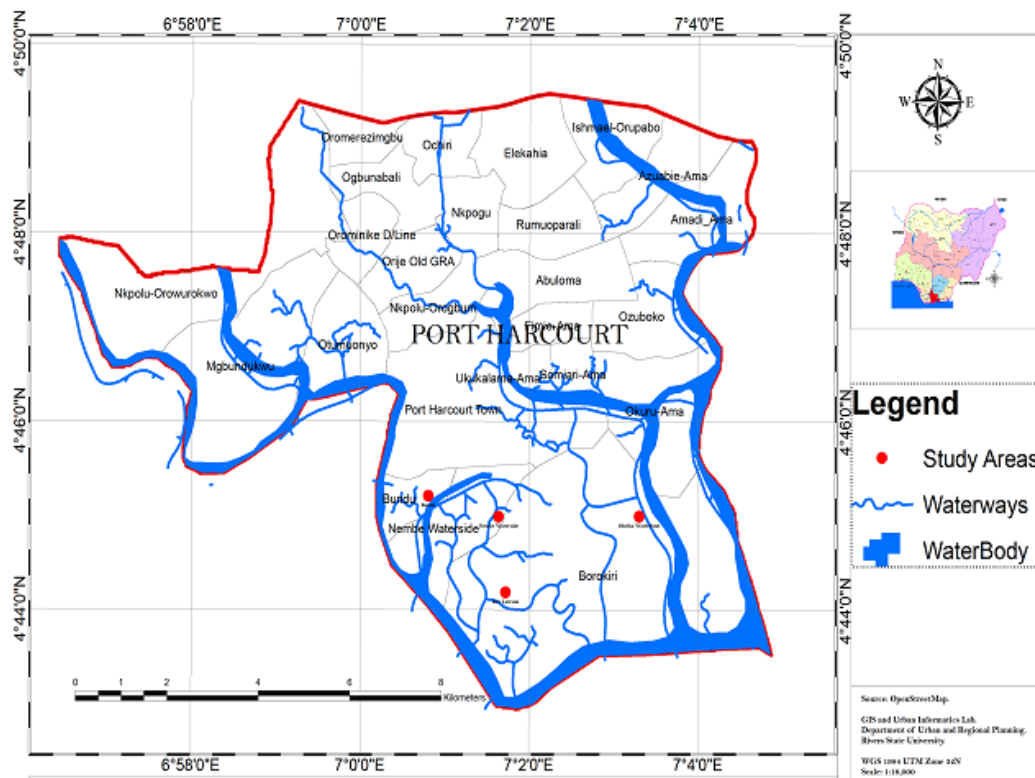
To achieve the study's aim, the following objectives have been outlined:

1. Identify the primary factors that significantly influence housing satisfaction within informal settlements.
2. Assess the extent to which housing satisfaction affects the overall Quality of Life (QoL) of the residents in the study area.
3. Identify and recommend measures and strategies aimed at enhancing housing satisfaction and consequently improving the QoL of individuals residing in the informal settlements under study.

1.3. Scope of the Study

The geographical scope of this study encompasses four (4) specifically chosen informal settlements situated within Port Harcourt Municipality, Rivers State. These settlements include Nembe Waterside, Rex Lawson Waterfront, Okrika Waterfront, and Bundu (See Fig. 1: Map Showing Port Harcourt Municipality and the Study Area)

The content scope of this study revolved around the exploration of Housing Satisfaction and its relationship with the Quality of Life (QoL) within the specified informal settlements situated in Port Harcourt Municipality.



Source: Authors GIS Studio Work, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Rivers State University

Fig 1: Map Showing Port Harcourt Municipality and the Study Area

2. Literature Review

2.1. What is Quality of Life?

The concept of Quality of Life (QoL) is a comprehensive one, encompassing a wide array of indicators that pertain to an individual's physical, mental, and social well-being. It encompasses various factors, including but not limited to health, income, education, social connections, safety, and environmental conditions. QoL delves into an individual's perceptions and opinions regarding their physical and economic status, personal values, social relationships, belief systems, and how these aspects relate to the significant features of their environment. This evaluation is inherently subjective and takes into account the cultural, social, and environmental context in which an individual resides.

One prominent QoL theory draws inspiration from Abraham Maslow's human developmental perspective. This theory posits that a developed society consists of individuals who are primarily engaged in fulfilling higher-order needs, such as those related to their social lives, self-esteem, and self-actualization. In contrast, a less developed society is characterized by individuals primarily focused on fulfilling lower-order needs, including basic biological and safety-related needs. According to this theory, an individual's QoL is determined by the extent to which their needs are satisfied. In essence, the greater the overall need satisfaction among the majority in a given society, the higher the QoL of that society (Sirgy, 2006) [9]. It's important to note that QoL is a contextual concept, and its interpretation varies from person to person. This means that what constitutes a good QoL for one individual may not necessarily hold the same significance for others. QoL can be categorized into three distinct approaches:

1. **Normative Ideals Approach:** This approach defines the characteristics of QoL based on normative ideals rooted in philosophical, belief systems, and other frameworks.

These ideals are not dependent on the subjective experiences of individuals.

2. **Satisfaction of Preferences Approach:** In this approach, QoL is assessed based on whether individuals can attain the things they desire. It revolves around the extent to which citizens can satisfy their preferences.
3. **Subjective Experience Approach:** This approach emphasizes the individual's personal experiences and emotions, such as feelings of joy, pleasure, contentment, and overall life satisfaction, as the primary factors in evaluating QoL (Lanrewaju, 2012) [4].

2.2. What is Housing Satisfaction and Its Determinants?

Housing satisfaction serves as a fundamental cornerstone for gauging an individual's perception of their Quality of Life (QoL). To elevate QoL, it becomes imperative to provide housing that is not only adequate but also of high quality, coupled with well-organized urban services (Mekebo & Dong, 2021) [5]. The theory of housing satisfaction presents a conceptual framework designed to unravel the elements contributing to an individual's subjective experiences and their sense of contentment within their living environment (Silvija, Maric, & Cavric, 2018) [8]. This framework takes into account a multitude of dimensions associated with housing, encompassing the physical attributes of the dwelling itself, the social and neighborhood context, and individual psychological factors.

Housing satisfaction is recognized as a paramount priority, given its direct reflection on the Quality of Life of an individual or a family, and its potential to trigger negative processes, including demographic shifts, migrations, and economic ramifications. To attain a certain level of housing satisfaction, the residential environment must align with the desirable aspects of the broader social system. In essence, housing satisfaction pertains to the degree of contentment an

individual derives from their present housing situation (Mekebo & Dong, 2021) ^[5]. It represents a subjective assessment of the essential elements that contribute to an individual's sense of fulfillment and well-being within their living space.

3. Methodology

This study adopts a Quantitative Research (QR) approach and employs a descriptive research design to assess Housing Satisfaction and its impact on the Quality of Life (QoL) within specific informal settlements located in Port Harcourt Municipality, Rivers State. Four informal settlements, namely Rex Lawson Waterfront, Okrika Waterfront, Bundu, and Nembe waterside, were purposively selected as the study areas. To determine the sample size, an average household size of five (5) persons was utilized to estimate the total number of households in the study area, which amounted to 131,582 households. The Taro Yamane formula, with a precision level of five percent (5%), was applied to calculate

a sample size of three hundred and ninety-nine (399). This sample size was proportionally distributed across the four (4) selected informal settlements using a random sampling technique to select household heads who were subsequently interviewed (refer to Table 1). Data collection involved the distribution of questionnaires to respondents within the selected informal settlements. Additionally, direct observation and photographic documentation were employed to characterize and validate the physical conditions of the study area. To manage and analyze the collected data, a database was developed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) Version 22. This software facilitated the processing and analysis of data obtained from the field survey. The choice of a quantitative research approach, coupled with a descriptive research design, provides a systematic framework for assessing housing satisfaction and its impact on QoL within the selected informal settlements, allowing for a structured and data-driven exploration of the research objectives.

Table 1: Determination of Sample Size for the Study

S/No.	Sampled Communities	1991 Population	2022 Population (6.5%)	Number of Households Size (5)	Sample Size
1	Bundu	16,266	114,513	22,903	69
2	Nembe Waterside	71,388	502,571	100,514	305
3	Okrika Waterfront		22,725	4,545	14
4	Rex-Lawson Waterfront (Borikiri)		18,100	3,620	11
	Total		657,909	131,582	399

Source: Author's Computation (2023)

4. Result and Discussion of Findings

4.1. Identification of key Determinants of Housing Satisfaction

Within the context of this study, housing satisfaction is defined as a subjective assessment, shaped by an individual's overall perception of the essential elements present in their current housing environment (Silvija, Maric, & Cavric, 2018) ^[8]. It's worth noting that residents who have a positive attachment to their living spaces tend to express higher levels of satisfaction, even when residing in housing of lower quality. Moreover, the degree of satisfaction often hinges on the specific housing situation, with those presently living in a particular housing arrangement reporting greater satisfaction (Jansen, 2012) ^[2].

To comprehensively examine the determinants influencing housing satisfaction within informal settlements in Port Harcourt Municipality, we considered both physical and environmental aspects of these settlements. The physical characteristics encompass factors such as the availability of crucial amenities like electricity, water supply, indoor sanitation facilities, bathroom provisions, cooking amenities, building types, structural integrity, construction material

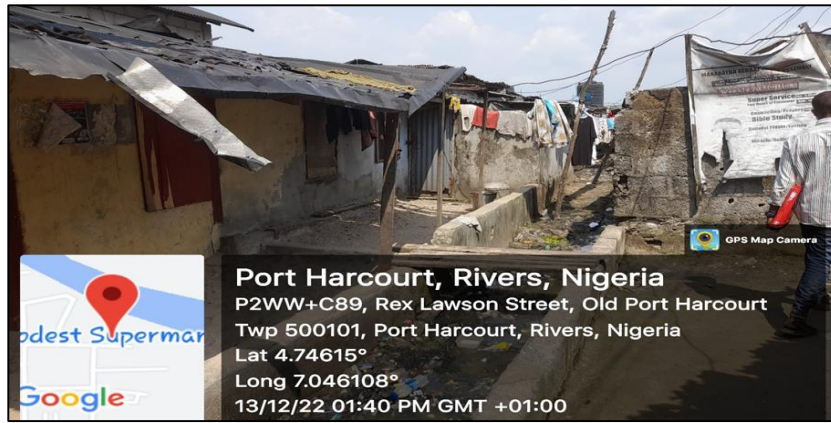
quality, and the presence of deterioration or damage within the dwellings (see Plate 1, 2, and 3). Simultaneously, the environmental characteristics relate to the location of these dwellings and their exposure to environmental factors, including noise and indoor pollution (refer to Plate 4 and 5). Table 2 within our study data offers insights into the percentage distribution of the types of buildings inhabited by respondents in the selected informal settlements. This data reveals that a substantial portion of our study participants reside in Rooming Houses, making up 43.6% of the population. Following closely are residents of Blocks of Flats, constituting 26.7% of the respondents. The remaining participants are distributed across Story buildings (detached), Bungalow (semi-detached), and Bungalow (standalone), comprising 12.2%, 8.6%, and 8.1% of the population, respectively.

In essence, within the study's scope, the crucial determinants of housing satisfaction within the selected informal settlements encompass subjective perceptions of housing environments, the type and quality of amenities and structures, as well as the environmental conditions prevalent in these settlements.

Table 2: Building Type

S/N	Building Type	Rex Lawson Waterfront		Okrika Waterfront		Bundu		Nembe-Waterside		Aggregate	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
1.	Rooming house	2	18.2	5	35.7	20	29	145	48.3	172	43.6
2.	Block of flats	6	54.5	5	35.7	15	21.7	79	26.3	105	26.7
3.	Bungalow (standalone)	1	9.1	0	0	4	5.8	27	9	32	8.1
4.	Bungalow (semi-detached)	1	9.1	0	0	9	13	24	8	34	8.6
5.	Storey building (detached)	1	9.1	4	28.6	21	30.4	22	7.3	48	12.2
6.	Other (Specify)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	NA	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1.0	3	0.7
	Total	11	100	14	100	69	100	300	100	394	100

Source: Author's Field Survey, January 2023



Author's Field Survey, January, 2023

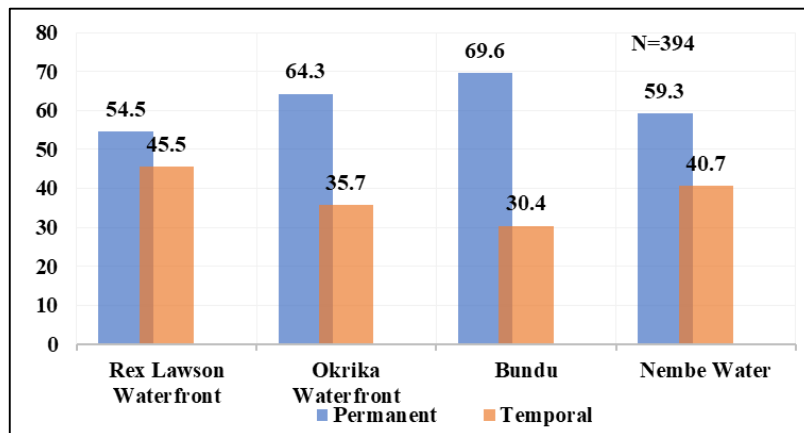
Plate 1: Building Type of Rex Lawson Waterfront

Furthermore, in Fig 1, we present the percentage distribution of the types of structures found in respondent buildings within the study area. The data highlights significant variations across the settlements. Notably, 69.6% of respondents in Bundu reside in permanent building structures, while 45.5% of respondents in Rex Lawson occupy temporary structures.

Turning our attention to Fig 2, we delve into the percentage distribution of water supply conditions within respondent buildings across the study areas. The findings illuminate disparities in access to water supply. Specifically, 81.8% of respondents in Rex Lawson reported a lack of water supply in their buildings, contrasting with 78.6% of respondents in Okrika Waterfront who enjoy water supply within their

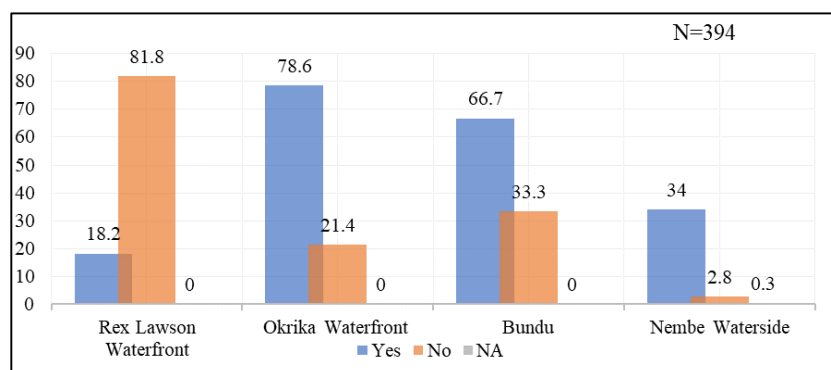
buildings.

Fig 3 takes a closer look at the percentage distribution of the types of pollution experienced by residents in the study area. This data underscores the environmental challenges faced by residents in different settlements. Notably, a significant portion of respondents in Nembe Waterside, amounting to 47.7%, reported experiencing water pollution. In contrast, the majority of respondents in Bundu face both air and water pollution, accounting for 33.3% and 46.4%, respectively. These figures provide valuable insights into the specific conditions and challenges residents encounter within the selected informal settlements, shedding light on critical aspects that influence housing satisfaction and overall Quality of Life (QoL) within these communities.



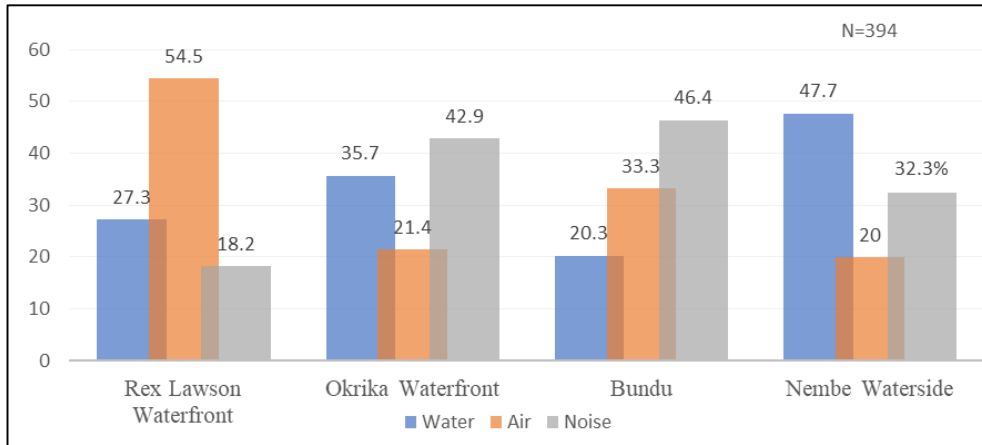
Source: Author's Field Survey, January 2023

Fig 1: Structure Type



Source: Author's Field Survey, January 2023

Fig 2: Water Supply in the Building



Source: Author’s Field Survey, January 2023

Fig 4: Type of Pollution Experienced



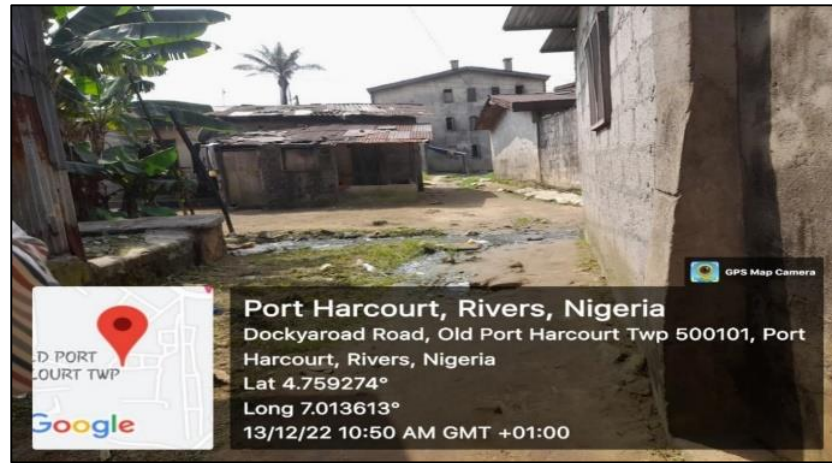
Author’s Field Survey, January, 2023

Plate 2: Structure Type of Rex Lawson Waterfront



Author’s Field Survey, January, 2023

Plate 3: Structure Type of Nembe Waterside



Author's Field Survey, January 2023

Plate 4: Environmental Condition in Bundu

Author's Field Survey, January 2023

Plate 5: Environmental Condition in Rex Lawson Waterfront

4.2. Housing Satisfaction and QoL of the Study Area

Housing Satisfaction and Quality of Life (QoL) in the study area are intricate and multi-faceted concepts. It is widely acknowledged that substandard housing conditions within these informal settlements have significant adverse effects on the well-being and QoL of individuals residing there. Poorly constructed and overcrowded dwellings, coupled with limited access to clean water and sanitation facilities, as well as uncertain tenure rights, contribute to a myriad of health issues, both physical and mental. These conditions perpetuate a cycle of poverty and social exclusion.

Table 2 presents an assessment of Housing Satisfaction's impact on the QoL of the selected informal settlements within the study area. The study employed a 5-point indicator weight in measuring and evaluating housing satisfaction. The SPSS mean scores for these indicators provide valuable insights:

Building Type Indicator: Bundu scored the highest at 2.94 points, followed by Okrika Waterfront with 2.50 points, Rex Lawson Waterfront with 2.36 points, and Nembe Waterside with the lowest score of 2.01 points.

Structure Type Indicator: Rex Lawson Waterfront received the highest score of 1.45 points, followed by Nembe Waterside with 1.41 points and Okrika Waterfront with 1.36 points. Bundu scored the lowest at 1.30 points.

Habitable Space Indicator: Okrika Waterfront led with 3.21 points, followed by Bundu with 2.81 points and Rex Lawson with 2.73 points. Nembe Waterside had the lowest score at 2.64 points.

Source of Cooking Energy Indicator: Nembe Waterside had the highest score of 2.29 points, followed by Rex Lawson Waterfront with 1.91 points and Bundu with 1.58 points. Okrika Waterfront scored the lowest at 1.43 points.

Access to Water Supply Indicator: Rex Lawson Waterfront received the highest score of 1.82 points, followed by Nembe Waterside with 1.73 points and Bundu with 1.33 points. Okrika Waterfront had the lowest score at 1.21 points.

Access to Electricity Indicator: Rex Lawson Waterfront led with 1.18 points, followed by Bundu and Nembe Waterside with scores of 1.17 and 1.13, respectively. Okrika Waterfront had the lowest score of 1 point.

Availability of Access Road Indicator: Rex Lawson Waterfront scored the highest at 1.82 points, followed by Nembe Waterside and Bundu with scores of 1.46 and 1.28 points, respectively. Okrika Waterfront scored the lowest at 1.14 points.

Neighborhood Condition Indicator: Nembe Waterside received the highest score at 4.05 points, followed by Rex Lawson and Bundu with scores of 3.55 points and 2.42 points, respectively. Okrika Waterfront scored the lowest at 2.07 points.

Available Toilet Indicator: Rex Lawson Waterfront led with 3.82 points, followed by Okrika Waterfront and Bundu with scores of 3.71 points and 3.51 points, respectively. Nembe Waterside scored the lowest at 2.86 points.

These findings provide a comprehensive overview of how various housing indicators relate to the QoL of residents in

the selected informal settlements, shedding light on critical aspects that influence housing satisfaction within these communities.

Table 3: Housing Satisfaction's impact on the QoL of the Study Area

	Indicators	Rex Lawson Waterfront	Okrika Waterfront	Bundu	Nembe Waterside
Housing	Building type	2.36	2.5	2.94	2.01
	Structure type	1.45	1.36	1.3	1.41
	Habitable space	2.73	3.21	2.81	2.64
	Source of cooking energy	1.91	1.43	1.58	2.29
	Access to water supply	1.82	1.21	1.33	1.73
	Access to electricity supply	1.18	1	1.17	1.13
	Availability of access road	1.82	1.14	1.28	1.46
	Neighbourhood condition	3.55	2.07	2.42	4.05
	Availability of toilet	3.82	3.71	3.51	2.86
Sub-total		20.64	17.63	18.34	19.58

Author's Field Survey, January 2023

4.3. Measures to Improve Housing Satisfaction and the Overall QoL

The study has provided valuable insights into the specific challenges faced by residents in the study area and the suggestions they have put forward to improve their housing satisfaction and overall QoL. To address these challenges effectively, the following measures are proposed:

Tailored Housing Solutions

Develop housing solutions that consider the unique challenges related to structure types within each settlement. This may involve renovation, rebuilding, or upgrading housing structures to meet safety and comfort standards.

Water Supply Enhancement

Invest in initiatives to improve the source and accessibility of water supply, particularly in settlements like Rex Lawson Waterfront, where residents face water supply challenges. This may include the development of community water sources or distribution networks.

Pollution Mitigation

Implement pollution mitigation strategies, especially in settlements like Nembe Waterside, where water pollution is a prevalent issue. This can involve wastewater treatment, waste disposal, and awareness campaigns on environmental protection.

Environmental Improvement

Focus on enhancing the environmental conditions within these settlements, particularly in areas identified as having environmental challenges. Implement greening projects, waste management systems, and air quality improvement initiatives.

Access Road Infrastructure

Improve access road infrastructure in settlements where it has been identified as a challenge, such as Nembe Waterside, Rex Lawson Waterfront, and Bundu. This can enhance mobility, connectivity, and overall safety.

Community Engagement

Foster active community engagement to involve residents in decision-making processes related to housing and infrastructure improvements. This ensures that solutions are aligned with the specific needs and priorities of each settlement.

Collaboration with Stakeholders

Collaborate with local government authorities, non-governmental organizations, and community-based groups to mobilize resources and expertise for implementing the proposed measures.

Additionally, to enhance housing satisfaction and Quality of Life (QoL) in the study area, it is imperative that Town Planners and Architects prioritize residents' satisfaction by placing increased emphasis on the neighborhood attributes. These attributes encompass various dimensions, including social, physical, and economic aspects within the study area.

Town Planners and Architects can contribute to improving housing satisfaction by Social Attributes

Designing neighborhoods that foster a sense of community and social cohesion. This includes creating communal spaces, parks, and community centers that encourage interaction among residents.

Physical Attributes

Paying close attention to the layout and design of neighborhoods to ensure they are safe, walkable, and aesthetically pleasing. Implementing urban greening initiatives, pedestrian-friendly pathways, and well-maintained public spaces can significantly enhance the physical environment.

Economic Attributes

Promoting economic opportunities within the settlements by integrating mixed-use zoning and commercial spaces. This can stimulate local economies, create jobs, and improve residents' access to essential goods and services.

By considering and addressing these neighborhood attributes, Town Planners and Architects can play a pivotal role in creating environments that not only meet residents' basic housing needs but also enhance their overall QoL. This collaborative effort, involving various stakeholders and professionals, is essential for achieving sustainable and inclusive urban development in Port Harcourt Municipality.

Data-Driven Solutions

Continuously collect and analyze data on housing conditions, pollution levels, environmental quality, and infrastructure needs to inform targeted interventions.

Capacity Building

Offer training and capacity-building programs to empower residents with the skills and knowledge required to actively participate in community development and improvement initiatives.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Establish a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the impact of implemented measures on housing satisfaction and QoL, allowing for adjustments and improvements over time.

By tailoring interventions to the specific challenges and needs identified within each settlement, these measures aim to significantly enhance housing satisfaction and overall QoL in the informal settlements under study.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the exploration of Housing Satisfaction and Quality of Life (QoL) in the selected informal settlements of Port Harcourt Municipality has provided valuable insights into the complex dynamics of living conditions within these communities. This study has shed light on the challenges faced by residents and the critical factors influencing their housing satisfaction and overall well-being.

It is evident from this research that inadequate housing conditions in informal settlements have profound negative effects on residents' QoL. Issues such as poorly constructed and overcrowded dwellings, limited access to clean water and sanitation facilities, insecure tenure rights, environmental pollution, and substandard infrastructure contribute to a cycle of poverty, social exclusion, and compromised physical and mental health.

Moreover, the findings have highlighted the diversity of challenges across different settlements, emphasizing the importance of tailored solutions that consider the unique circumstances of each community. Residents have provided valuable suggestions for improving their housing satisfaction and QoL, addressing concerns related to housing structure, water supply, pollution, environmental conditions, and access to essential services.

To enhance the housing satisfaction and QoL of residents in these informal settlements, it is imperative that policymakers, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and community-based groups collaborate to implement a comprehensive set of measures. These measures should encompass infrastructure upgrades, improved access to basic services, secure land tenure, healthcare and education provisions, environmental improvements, and community empowerment initiatives.

Furthermore, a data-driven approach, coupled with ongoing monitoring and evaluation, should guide the implementation of these measures to ensure their effectiveness and adaptability to changing circumstances. Empowering residents to actively participate in the decision-making processes that affect their lives is key to the success of any intervention aimed at enhancing housing satisfaction and QoL.

In closing, the study underscores the urgency of addressing the housing and well-being challenges faced by residents in informal settlements. By taking concrete steps to improve housing conditions and overall QoL, we can contribute to breaking the cycle of poverty and social exclusion, fostering healthier, happier, and more inclusive communities in Port Harcourt Municipality.

References

1. Eyenghe T, Brown I, Ibisiki T. Developing Sustainability in Analysing Sanitary and Environmental Conditions to Improve Quality of Life in Selected Informal Settlements of Port Harcourt Municipality, Nigeria. *Asian Journal of Geological Research (AJGER)*. 2022; 5(3):40-51.
2. Jansen SJ. Why is Housing Always Satisfactory? A Study into the Impact of Preference and Experience on Housing Appreciation. *Social Indicator research*, 2012, 785-805.
3. Lanrewaju FA. Urbanization, housing, and environmental generation in Nigeria. *Journal of Geography and Regional Planning*. 2012; 5(16):422-429. DOI: 10.5897/JGRP12.060.
4. Lanrewaju FA. Housing Quality in Informal Settlements and Urban Upgrading in Ibadan, Nigeria. *International Institute for science Technology and Education*, 2012, 2225-0565.
5. Mekebo T, Dong H. A Literature Review on Satisfaction with Housing and Neighborhood Attributes. *International Journal of Academic Multidisciplinary Research (IJAMR)*, 2021, 228-233.
6. Mohammad AM, Adel MM. Residential Satisfaction-Concept theory and emperical studies. *Planning Malaysia: Urban Planning and Local Governance*, 2014, 47-66.
7. Morley G, Bennie R. Quality of Life Treatment and Workplace Problems. *Treating Worker Dissatisfaction During Economic Change*, 2013, 241-263.
8. Silvija Š, Maric I, Cavric B. Theories of Housing Quality Satisfaction: An Overview. *Researchgate*, 2018, 53-84.
9. Sirgy JM. A Quality-of-Life Theory Derived from Maslow's Developmental Perspective. *American Journal of Economics and Sociology*, 2006, 329-342.
10. Souza JC, James ML, Szafara KL, Fries BE. Hard times:the effects of financial strain on home care services use and participant outcomes in Michigan. *The Gerontologist*, 2009, 154-165.
11. Streimikiene D. Quality of Life and Housing. *International Journal of Information and Education Technology*. 2015; 5:140-145.
12. Surajit D. Quality of Life in Slums of Nabadwip Town: A Comparative Study. *International Journal of Recent Research in Social Sciences and Humanities (IJRSSH)*. 2017; 4(1):21-33.
13. UN Habitat. *United Nations Human Settlements Programme Informal Settlements. (Habitat III Issue Paper 22)*. Nairobi, Kenya: UN-Habitat, 2015.
14. Wahab B. *Transforming Nigerian Informal Settlements into Liveable Communities: Strategies and Challenges*. ResearchGate, 2017.
15. Wokekoro E, Owei OB. An Assessment of Residential Quality of Life in Informal Settlements in Port Harcourt Municipality. *IOSR Journal Of Humanities And Social Science*, 2014, 11-26.