HOUSING QUALITY IN THE URBAN FRINGES OF Ibadan, Nigeria

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Abstract. Recent increases in poverty and inequity combined with rapid population growth in developing countries have created substantial pressures on housing provision. Housing supply shortages and the deterioration in the quality of the housing stock have become serious problems that need to be addressed in these countries. The non-consideration of relevant socio–economical parameters by organizations responsible for housing provision has been identified as one of the major reasons for the housing inadequacies and poor quality in most urban fringes of developing countries - Ibadan inclusive. On this position, paper examines the influence of socio-economic factors in the determination of housing quality in the urban fringes of Ibadan. This study identifies the urban fringes in Ibadan, Oyo state, Nigeria. The paper examines the causes and characteristics of the urban fringes in the assessment of housing quality. The paper identifies the critical factors causing the formation of urban fringe to: (i) poverty; (ii) rapid urbanization and influx of people into urban areas; (iii) growth of informal sector, (iv) war, natural disasters and earthquakes leading to massive movement of people to places of opportunity and safety; (v) Ineffective Housing Policies; (vi) housing shortage; (vii) inefficient public administration, inappropriate planning and inadequate land administration tools. The paper asserts that the urban fringes have serious adverse effects on the people’s health, their built environment and housing quality. The secondary data was obtained from books, journals and seminar papers while the primary data relating to housing quality were obtained by means of structured questionnaire. The study revealed a gap in quality between the low- and medium-income resident. This paper suggests the implementation of policies and planning, physical infrastructural development, social-economic improvement, environment and health improvement. Government, private and communities interventions on the urban fringes are required in order to check and prevent further decay for sustainable development. Therefore, government is encouraged to see urban fringes as a solution to new city planning rather than problem to the urban areas.

Keywords: housing quality, housing affordability, informal sectors, urban fringes

1 INTRODUCTION

In developing countries, a substantial and growing proportion lives in or around metropolitan areas and mega cities, including the zone termed the 'urban fringe', where their livelihoods depend to some extent on natural resources such as land for food, water and fuel, and space for living (Adesina, 2007). The population pressure means that resources in such zones are often overexploited. Although heterogeneous in its social composition, the urban fringe constitutes the habitat of a diversity of populations, including lower income groups.
who are particularly vulnerable to negative externalities of both rural and urban systems. These include; risks to health, life and physical hazards related to the occupation of unsuitable sites, lack of access to clean water and basic sanitation and poor housing conditions. Environmental changes also impinge upon the livelihood strategies of these communities by decreasing or increasing their access to different types of capital.

Nigeria has been experiencing a great transition from rural to urban oriented economy, which has been accompanied by the increasing mobility of production factors such as: capital, labour, technology and information to the urban fringe near these cities such as Ibadan, Lagos, Kano, Benin, Aba, Kaduna etc. Consequence to the wide spread beliefs that the urban fringes are fashionable area in urban literature especially in developed countries. Empirical studies have revealed a contrary view regarding the fate of cities in developing countries (Dupont 2005). The UN-Habitat report (2005) has indicated that, in the year 2025, 61% of the 5 billion world population will be urban and most mega-cities will stand in what we call the ‘south clusters”. About 85% of these development will occurs at the urban hinterland widely referred to as peri-urban, suburbs, urban fringe, city edge, metropolitan shadow amongst other. Because of proximity to the city, and urban bias nature of development policies in Nigeria, the zone experiences much of urbanization processes and serves as buffer for future urban development.

There are forces that shape the urban fringe landscape. One-prominent features in Nigeria, particularly Ibadan is the informal sector activities and its attendant problems on urban fringe political economy, these constitute about 65% of the economy. Informal sector response to the failure of urban governance has various dimensions. Such as the informal residential development, incongruous mixed land uses that inadvertently affected the housing quality and the environment in the area.

1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENTS

The urban fringe is often defined as a conflict zone at the interface between urban and rural landscape. It is frequently ignored as a specific area within the study of Urban Housing. Recently, there has been an extraordinary revival of interest on urban fringe issues as a result of the exceptional evolution in urban growth. However, in spite of multitude of generalizations in urban theories, little is known on the housing quality of this area.

This study therefore, identify the urban fringes, examines the characteristics of the urban fringe with a view to providing explanations on the housing quality of residential buildings in the urban fringe as measured by the physical, socio-economic and environmental conditions in the city of Ibadan-Nigeria. The conceptualization of changes we once had of urban fringe was stereotyped and relatively simplistic, but it is now more complex. There is interest in the discipline of Housing on the physical characteristics of the fringe zone.

This study seeks to fill the gap on the emerging socio-spatial transformations by advances knowledge on the physical structure and socio-economic characteristics of the residents of the urban fringe in developing countries using Ibadan as a case study.

This paper therefore is to examine the relationship between housing quality, informal sectors and urban fringes. Social, economic and cultural characteristics as well as environmental issues associated with people living in this area are to be examined so as to impact knowledge that can transform these areas. This is because, it has been observed that little is known about the people living in the urban fringe of Ibadan and those that have worked on it have not done much on Ibadan fringe but rather on central city slum.
1.3 RESEARCH AIM AND OBJECTIVES:

The aim of the study is to assess the influence of Socio-economic factors on housing quality in the urban fringes of Ibadan. The specific objectives of the study were to:

- To identify the urban fringes in Ibadan
- To examine the causes of urban fringes
- To examine the socio-economic characteristics of the residents in the selected areas
- To evaluate the physical characteristics of residential buildings in the selected areas

1.4 METHODOLOGY

In order to reach the above mentioned objectives, the study will include a study intended to consolidate secondary data. The secondary data will include available land use maps of Ibadan from previous publications and Oyo State Ministry of Land to demarcate fringe areas of Ibadan. The National Population Commission, NPC census figure will be used for projecting population of the area and determination of sample size, official documents, case studies of successful intervention and other relevant secondary literature.

In addition, this assessment will be based on existing information from reports, such as the most recent UN-HABITAT Global Reports on Human Settlements and State of the World Cities Reports. The analysis draws on comparative evaluations on the topic carried out by major international organizations such as UN-HABITAT, the World Bank (ECA), UNHCR, international research institutes, the UNECE Country Housing Profiles and Land Administration Reviews, as well as statistics from officially published sources of information and international databases.

Primary data relating to housing quality were obtained by means of structured questionnaire administered on a systematic sample size of 500 household heads, from a sampling frame of 5000 housing units. The primary data includes five hundred household questionnaires, this will be used to elicit information on the socio-economic characteristics of respondents of the urban fringe, physical and neighbourhood characteristics and housing quality in the selected six Local Government Areas of Iddo, Lagelu, Oluyole, Akinyele, Egbeda and Ona-Ara of Ibadan metropolitan region.

1.5 EXPECTED CONTRIBUTION TO KNOWLEDGE

The study of housing quality is expected to provide useful information for the implementation of policies and planning, physical infrastructural development, environment and health improvement. The study will also contribute to knowledge by providing understanding on methods of evaluating physical and neighborhood characteristics and housing quality in the urban fringes. This can be used to generate a Housing Quality Index (HQI)/Standards that policy makers and government can use in providing sustainable housing policies.

2 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Housing

The Housing has been universally acknowledged as one of the most essential necessities of human life and is a major economic asset in every nation. Adequate housing provides the foundation for stable communities and social inclusion (Oladapo, 2006). Konadu et al. (1994)
have established a strong correlation between housing, good health, productivity and socio-economic development. Also, Gilbertson et al. (2008) have observed that there is a significant association between housing conditions and physical and mental health of an individual.

Osuide (2004) suggests that: “Having a safe place to live in is one of the fundamental elements of human dignity and this enhances human development”. People’s right to shelter is thus a basic one and the provision of decent housing to all requiring them should be the guarantee of every civilized society and one of the criteria for gauging development.

Furthermore, So and Leung (2004) have also established a significant correlation between the housing quality and the comfort, convenience and visual acceptability of the house. Therefore the significance of adequate housing to the social well-being of the people in any society cannot be overemphasized. However, the provision of adequate housing in Nigeria and other developing nations alike still remains one of the most intractable challenges facing human and national development. Previous attempts by all stakeholders, including government agencies, planners and developers to provide necessary recipe for solving the housing problem have yielded little or no success. Thus, for the past few decades, access to adequate housing has remained one of the most unattainable expectations of the majority of urban dwellers in Nigeria (Jiboye, 2010).

2.1.1 The Housing Situation in Nigeria

The housing situation in Nigeria is characterized by some inadequacies, which are qualitative and quantitative in nature (Oladapo, 2006). While the quantitative housing problem could be solved by increasing the number of existing stock, the qualitative inadequacies are enormous and complex. Despite Federal Government access to factors of housing production, the country could at best expect 4.2% of the annual requirement.

Market failure to provide affordable housing has created problems for households living below the poverty level by forcing them to occupy low-quality and overcrowded dwellings located either in decayed areas within the central city or in informal settlements located at the urban fringe (Meng, Hall, & Roberts, 2006). Inadequate housing affects a large proportion, perhaps more than 50%, of all urban residents in the developing world (World Bank, 2000). Moreover, poor urban infrastructure and deficient services, the absence of formal land titles, and generally poor local environmental conditions are now common characteristics of cities in developing countries.

The social and financial distance between the urban poor and the economically better-off classes are reflected in the limited opportunities for the former to obtain housing through anything other than informal means. This limitation has produced a highly uneven and segregated distribution of housing quality across socio-economic classes and also over space (UNCHS, 2001; Meng et al., 2006). The most negative effect of housing supply shortages and housing inequities in Nigeria is the formation of slum areas at the fringes of virtually all urban areas. These areas are typically occupied by recent rural in-migrants and other low-income groups, and are often abandoned in terms of political and economic support (UN-HABITAT, 2003). High population and dwelling unit densities, poor housing conditions, limited services, high levels of pollution, and a lack of opportunity to obtain jobs, education, and accessible health care has contributed to entrenching a complicated poverty cycle that places great stresses on the health, livelihoods and overall well-being of the urban fringe poor (Andersen, 2003). Effective housing policies are needed to help remediate some of these problems and to close the gaps created by market-based housing shortages. In particular, access to housing of
reasonable minimum quality must be promoted for those living below the poverty line.

2.2 Urban Fringe

The term ‘urban’ and ‘rural’ is not new in literature. There is no confusion in the concepts and differences between these two. The sharp distinction between urban and rural settlements generally assumes that the livelihood of rural area is agriculture based whereas the urban area is manufacture and service based. But the recent research suggests that at certain part of the city there is simultaneous existence of two sectors – rural and urban which are neither totally urban nor rural in character. Rather, combination of both, which is often called as ‘urban fringe’.

The term urban fringe has many different indicators in the literature in terms of its definition and characteristics. A study of available literature reveals that the term urban fringe was introduced by Smith (1937) to describe built up area just outside the corporate limit of the city. Later the concept of the 'rural-urban fringe' was formulated by George Wehrwein in 1942 as the area of transition, between well recognized urban land uses and the area devoted to agriculture. After the notable scope of study on urban fringe the term urbanization was introduced by Balk in 1945.

According to Pasquini and Maconachie (2005) studies on urban fringe have been influenced by the optimistic or the pessimistic schools. The optimistic school view urban fringe as capable to evolving in a sustainable way promoting urban and rural livelihoods and coping with the pressures and dynamics of population and land use changes. The pessimists however argue otherwise. Using Malthusian gloom and doom analysis, they argue that urban fringe lead to progressive degradation of the environment, collapse of institutions and put unnecessary pressure on natural and human resources. The varying views expressed by different authors above, show the difficulties in defining the concept of urban fringe. It should be noted that although urban fringe may exhibit similar characteristics, they tend to be quite different in origin, history and functions.

Urban fringe development is not only a process of transition of land from its rural use to urban use; rather, it is a complex process that involves many concerns such as change in landownership pattern, land transfer process, types of development, regulatory measures and their enforcement. The process of fringe development is not monolithic and may be taken place either by rural actors or by urban actors, may be in formal way or in informal way.

2.2.1 Causes of Urban Fringe

There is increasing interest in urban fringe and this evident from the studies and researches that have been carried out on this area in the last twenty years. The interest stems from various reasons, perspective and views that different people and researchers have on urban fringe. For many, urban fringe pose great challenges for resource use and management. To others, it is an area of potential conflicts: social, economic and environmental. There is also concern on the sustainability of urban fringe, and indeed the delicate balance between rural and urban areas within this interface which appears to be collapsing in the midst of an ever increasing pressure of urbanization and urban growth into the urban hinterlands. Yet, there is no acceptable definition of what urban fringe means, their nature, causes, changing dynamics and the factors propelling change and challenges in these areas, how they may change in the future.

The critical factors causing the formation of urban fringe are notably related to several
major interrelated changes: (i) poverty; (ii) rapid urbanization and influx of people into urban areas; (iii) war, natural disasters and earthquakes leading to massive movement of people to places of opportunity and safety; (iv) Ineffective Housing Policies; (v) inefficient public administration, inappropriate planning and inadequate land administration tools. Manifestations of informality are attributed to the lack of effective planning, effective land management system and zoning regulations for urban development. According to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), poverty and social ostracism are the primary causes of urban fringe in most nations.

Rapid urbanization and influx of people into urban areas is another major cause of urban fringe. Rapid industrialization and urbanization have brought an increase in the number of people living in urban areas.

2.2.2 Characteristics of urban fringe

Urban fringe are often studied in the context of informal and formal housing, recognizing the fact that they incorporate predominantly informal housing developments. Urban fringe are mainly characterized by inadequate access to basic services, both social and physical infrastructure and housing finance (Vienna, 2004). Other characteristics of urban fringe include: (i) lack of secure tenure; (ii) housing that contradicts city by-laws; (iii) housing built on land not owned by the housing owner; (iv) lack or inadequate access to basic public services; (v) substandard housing and inadequate building structures; (vi) illegal subdivision of buildings; (vii) poverty, criminality and social exclusion; and (viii) unhealthy living conditions and hazardous locations (UN-HABITAT, 2003 and Payne and Majale, 2004).

USAID has described urban fringe, as areas characterized by uncertain land tenure, inferior infrastructure, low incomes and lack of recognition by formal governments. It is observed that third world cities are made of two distinct elements, the formal and informal; with the urban fringe constituting the informal section where planning and control of development is outside formal public institutions, but where traditions institutions are still strong. Ayorinde who examined urban fringe in Ibadan, Nigeria points out that the areas contain substantial but continuous areas of urban developments mixed with stretches of more extensive and traditional rural areas utilized for agriculture and forestry.

2.3 HOUSING QUALITY

A normative definition of housing quality or housing quality standards generally refers to the grade or level of acceptability of dwelling units and their associated and immediate residential environment, including the design and functionality of housing structures, building materials used, the amount of internal and external space pertaining to the dwelling, housing utilities, and basic service provision (Meng and Hall, 2006). Housing quality standards are often used as norms or measures that are applicable in legal cases where there is some question as to the acceptability of construction relative to prevailing laws or conventions that operate within the residential building industry.

The definition of housing quality embraces many factors which include the physical condition of the building and other facilities and services that make living in a particular area conducive. The quality of housing within any neighborhood should be such that satisfies minimum health standards and good living standard, but should also be affordable to all categories of households (Okewole and Aribigbola, 2006).

However, housing quality is a rather more complex concept with broader social and
economic meaning. It accounts for both quantitative and qualitative dimensions of residential units, their immediate surroundings, and the needs of the occupants. Moreover, the concept of housing quality is relative as it relates to local standards and conditions. What is considered to be reasonable quality in one context may be considered poor quality in another context and vice versa.

The quantitative dimension of housing quality refers primarily to objective structural, material, social and economic constituents of housing products or outcomes that can be measured and that result from the performance of the housing sector. These factors include considerations such as price, quantity, tenure, economic impacts, environmental impacts, and structural norms of housing standards. On the other hand, the qualitative dimension is much more subjective and difficult to measure. It represents the perceived meanings and values of factors such as the ‘comfort’ or ‘quality of life’ that are afforded by different dwelling types, lifestyles, and the preferences and expectations of the inhabitants. Obviously, because of the high local and regional variations in the quantitative and qualitative dimensions of housing quality it is not possible to define one standardized set of criteria and indicators that apply equally to all areas at all times.

2.3.1 Indicators for Evaluating Housing Quality

The need to appreciate the relevance of a habitable (qualitative) housing therefore, requires an understanding of the concept of ‘quality’ which according to Onion, cited in (Afon, 2000), is a mental or moral attribute of thing which can be used when describing the nature, condition or property of that particular thing. McCray, cited in (Jiboye, 2004), noted that getting a definition of quality depends not only on the user and his or her desires, but also on the product being considered.

In essence, quality is a product of subjective judgment which arises from the overall perception which the individual holds towards what is seen as the significant elements at a particular point in time (Anantharajan, 1983 and Olayiwola, et al, 2006). In assessing the quality of housing, qualitative studies have identified some criteria as relevant indicators for quality evaluation in residential development. Among such is (Ebong,1983) acknowledged aesthetics, ornamentation, sanitation, drainage, age of building, access to basic housing facilities, burglary, spatial adequacy, noise level within neighbourhood, sewage and waste disposal and ease of movement among others, as relevant quality determinants in housing.

However, Hanmer et al. (2000) conclude that qualitative housing involves the provision of infrastructural services which could bring about sustainable growth and development through improved environmental conditions and improved livelihood. In determining the quality of residential development, Neilson (2004) stipulates five basic criteria which provide that housing must be in compliance with tolerable standard, free from serious disrepair, energy efficient, provided with modern facilities and services, and that it must be healthy, safe and secure.

These indicators consist of variables such as; access to basic housing and community facilities, the quality of infrastructural amenities, spatial adequacy and quality of design, fixtures and fittings, building layout and landscaping, noise and pollution control as well as security. There are however indications from these various studies that a single variable may not be sufficient to assess the qualitative nature of residential development; therefore, housing acceptability and qualitative assessment should also take into account type of constructions, materials used, services, spatial arrangement and facilities within dwellings, function and
Previous studies have indicated that a more appropriate method of evaluating the quality of the built environment is through the affective responses based on the user’s assessment (Weldemann and Anderson, 1985; Ilesanmi, 2005). In this study therefore, qualitative evaluation will be based on user’s assessment of the physical criterion of housing. This will consider among other variables identified above, the quality of housing in terms of adequacy of basic infrastructures, suitability of the building design; integrity of the building elements, as well as that of fixtures within the dwellings.

2.3.2 Housing Quality Criteria

Four criteria provide the basis for identifying indicators to produce a meaningful Housing Quality Indicator, namely: objective criteria, scientific/technical criteria, management criteria and social and cultural criteria (Hall and Meng, 2006). Each class of criteria has its own considerations that govern the selection of specific indicators from available data resources, as noted below:

Objective criteria indicators should:
• represent the local environment and should be comprehensive enough to address issues that include poverty and inequity in the housing sector;
• be sensitive to changes between different socio-economic classes, especially in terms of economic status indicators such as accumulated wealth and income.

Scientific/technical criteria indicators should:
• be separable into geographically localized components and should be based on household-level data so that they can be measured both locally and globally as well as spatially in order to identify statistical and spatial distributions of the HQI within a study area;
• be technically feasible to measure.

Management criteria indicators should:
• be easy to obtain from available data and subsequent calculations;
• be easy to understand, and cost-effective so that the analysis of housing quality and housing segregation can be effectively utilized by policy makers;
• be consistent and comparable so that housing quality and housing segregation can be monitored over time and can be compared between cities.

Social and cultural criteria should:
• include the preferences and priorities of the community in the housing programs;
• enable local participants to evaluate indicators selected from the above criteria to make housing improvement proposals acceptable relative to local norms and expectations.

2.4 URBANIZATION IN NIGERIA

The phenomenon of urbanization is a consequence of population increase and migration from rural to urban areas and growth-centres. The urban growth rate in Nigeria today is put at 5.8% per annum (Draft NUDP, 2004). Rural economy is principally agricultural. But, under conditions of increasing population and diminishing rural resources, some contingent of rural population migrates to urban areas for helpful job security, higher education, higher income, better health and longer life. The result usually is disappointed and disillusion as the poor in some cities have a better life than those in rural areas. Old settlements are congested and crowded, new formations emerge without preliminary design and planning, and without preliminary design and planning, and without infrastructure.
The problem of uncontrolled urbanization in Nigeria is already with us in all our cities. The Draft National Urban Development Policy (NUDP, 2004) notes that, Nigeria towns are growing without adequate planning. Millions of Nigerians live in sub-standard and sub-human environment, plagued by slum, squalor and grossly inadequate social amenities (Amao, 2012a). The result is manifested in growing overcrowding in homes and increasing pressure on infra-structural facilities and rapid deteriorating environment.

In Europe, urbanization brought increased wealth and economic earnings, higher education, lower fertility, better health, longer life and more amenities. But in Africa, and indeed, in Nigeria, the opposite is the case.

2.4.1 Urbanization and Urban Growth

Nigeria has been experiencing a rapid rate of urbanization. In 1952, 10% of the population lived in urban centres with a population of 20,000 people and above. This increased to 20 and 38% in 1970 and 1993 respectively. By the year 2010, it is estimated that 60% of the population will live in cities. The growth in the size of cities has been equally rapid, in 1960; Lagos and Ibadan were the only two cities with more than 500,000 people. The number increased to 9 by 1980, and 14 by 1990. This is expected to rise substantially by 2010 (UNCSD, 1997).

A feature of urban environments, especially in Africa is the influx of rural dwellers into the urban areas in search of jobs. These jobs are sometimes unavailable and large segments of the unemployed in this migrant group are usually without a sustainable means of livelihood and may eventually be classified among the urban poor, thereby making up a part of the estimated 70% of the urban population that live in unplanned squatter settlements with no basic infrastructural services in cities (NHCS, 1998).

2.4.2 Urbanization, Urban Growth and Urban Fringe in Nigeria

Rapid urbanization has changed the urban landscape of most Nigerian cities. There have been the processes of concentration and congestion in inner cities and the opposite process of dispersal at the urban fringes. The process of growth was stimulated during the colonial period as new towns were planted adjacent to traditional cities to avoid direct contact with the indigenous people based on the policy of indirect rule and residential segregation. Urban growth had led to even higher densities of population and physical developments in the urban fringe.

2.4.3 Urbanization and Housing Quality

As a result of urbanization and lack of economic opportunities in rural areas, many people move to the cities. They move to the cities that are already dealing with issues of overcrowding, infrastructure and high cost of living. This forces them to seek shelter in slums and urban fringe. United Nation Habitat in 2006 found that 90% of slum residents are in the developing countries with struggling economies. In addition, cities were not mean to handle millions of people streaming in when designed. This impact the availability and affordability of housing, forcing millions to live in substandard dwellings with poor housing quality (Amao, 2012b). This is mainly because substandard accommodation there is very cheap. Substandard housing is the type of housing that does not meet the standards for living by people. These standards are usually set by governments and deal with how safe the dwelling
is for people to live.

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