

**RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HOUSING CONDITION, SOLDIERS' SOCIAL
LIFE AND MORALE IN CORAL BARRACKS, NIGERIA**

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**RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HOUSING CONDITION, SOLDIERS' SOCIAL
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DEDICATION

This Project is dedicate to my loving wife, Hajiya Suhaima Usman Aliyu, my lovely children, Ahmad, Maryam and Aisha for their sacrifices

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ABSTRACT

Housing is one of the trio basic necessities of all human beings that comprises of homes in neighbourhoods whose characteristics can affect people's life chances and outcomes in many ways, including health, education, work outputs and access to wider resources. Despite the numerous empirical studies that have been conducted on housing condition, there is still very little conducted on military barracks life, the impact of barracks' accommodation condition on soldiers' social life and morale. Accordingly, this research aimed to assess the relationship between housing condition, soldiers' social life and morale in Coral Barracks and covers only the non-commissioned officers' quarters. Quantitative method using questionnaire survey was used and the population size was 774 apartments with a sample size of 260, while the data were analysed using descriptive statistics as well as parametric measurements. A total number of 194 questionnaires retrieved from the respondents were used in the analyses. The findings from the physical condition attributes showed that the number of bedrooms, wall and floor were in fair condition, while roof, kitchen and toilet/bath were in poor condition. Neighbourhood attributes of hospitals, worship centres, sport facilities and schools were in fair condition, building services attributes of security, water supply, fire protection, sewage & solid waste disposal and road networks were in fair condition, while laundry, internet and drainage are in poor condition. The correlation result showed a positive, weak but significant relationship between physical housing attributes and community life, while neighbourhood attributes and community life had significant positive but moderate relationship. Building services attributes had strong and significant positive correlation. Moreover, neighbourhood and soldiers' life correlate significantly, negative but weak, while physical housing attributes and neighbourhood attributes correlate significantly but negative and weak with children life. Neighbourhood attributes and soldiers' morale recorded significant, negative but weak correlation. The study recommends that a standard strategic plan for an efficient barrack housing construction, management and maintenance is designed.

ABSTRAK

Perumahan merupakan salah satu daripada tiga keperluan asas semua manusia yang terdiri daripada rumah di kawasan kejiranan yang ciri-cirinya dapat mempengaruhi peluang hidup dan hasil kehidupan rakyat dalam pelbagai cara, termasuk kesihatan, pendidikan, output kerja dan akses kepada sumber yang lebih luas. Walaupun banyak kajian empirikal yang telah dijalankan pada keadaan perumahan, masih terdapat sedikit sekali yang dilakukan terhadap kehidupan barak ketenteraan, kesan keadaan penginapan barak pada kehidupan sosial dan semangat tentera. Sehubungan itu, kajian ini bertujuan untuk menilai hubungan antara keadaan perumahan, kehidupan sosial dan semangat tentera di Barak Coral dan meliputi hanya pihak pegawai yang tidak bertugas. Kaedah kuantitatif menggunakan kaji selidik kuesioner telah digunakan dan saiz penduduk adalah 774 pangsapuri dengan saiz sampel sebanyak 260, manakala data dianalisis dengan menggunakan statistik deskriptif serta pengukuran parametrik. Sejumlah 194 soal selidik yang diambil dari responden digunakan dalam analisis. Penemuan dari ciri-ciri keadaan fizikal menunjukkan bahawa bilangan bilik tidur, dinding dan lantai berada dalam keadaan yang adil, manakala bumbung, dapur dan tandas / mandian berada dalam keadaan yang lemah. Ciri-ciri kejiranan hospital, pusat ibadat, kemudahan sukan dan sekolah berada dalam keadaan yang adil, ciri-ciri perkhidmatan bangunan keselamatan, bekalan air, perlindungan kebakaran, pembuangan sampah & pelupusan sisa dan rangkaian jalan berada dalam keadaan yang adil, sementara dobi, internet dan saliran berada di keadaan miskin. Hasil korelasi menunjukkan hubungan positif, lemah tetapi signifikan antara sifat-sifat perumahan fizikal dan kehidupan masyarakat, sementara sifat-sifat kejiranan dan kehidupan masyarakat mempunyai hubungan positif tetapi sederhana. Atribut perkhidmatan bangunan mempunyai korelasi positif yang kuat dan ketara. Lebih-lebih lagi, kejiranan dan kehidupan askar berkorelasi dengan ketara, negatif tetapi lemah, sementara ciri-ciri perumahan fizikal dan sifat kejiranan menghubungkan dengan ketara tetapi negatif dan lemah dengan kehidupan kanak-kanak. Atribut kejiranan dan semangat tentera mencatatkan korelasi yang signifikan, negatif tetapi lemah. Kajian ini mengesyorkan bahawa satu pelan strategik standard bagi pembinaan, pengurusan dan penyelenggaraan perumahan kerangka yang cekap direka.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	TITLE	PAGE
	DECLARATION	ii
	DEDICATION	iii
	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iv
	ABSTRACT	v
	ABSTRAK	vi
	TABLE OF CONTENTS	vii
	LIST OF TABLES	x
	LIST OF FIGURES	xi
	LIST OF APPENDICES	xii
CHAPTER 1	INTRODUCTION	1
	1.1 Research Background	1
	1.2 Problem Statement	4
	1.3 Research Questions	7
	1.4 Research Aim	7
	1.4.1 Research Objectives	7
	1.5 Significance of the Students	7
	1.6 Scope of the study	8
	1.7 Organisation of the Research	9
CHAPTER 2	LITERATURE REVIEW	11
	2.1 Introduction	11
	2.2 Concept of Housing	11
	2.2.1 Housing as an Investment and Economic Commodity	13
	2.3 Public Housing	15
	2.4 Soldiers Housing Accommodation	17
	2.4.1 Tangibles of Housing Condition	19

2.5	Challenges of Barrack Accommodation Management	20
2.6	Housing Condition Attributes	20
2.6.1	Physical Attributes of Housing	24
2.6.2	Neighborhood Attributes of Housing	25
2.6.3	Services Attributes of Housing	27
2.7	Social Life/Quality of Life	28
2.8	Soldiers' Morale	33
2.9	Research Gap	35
2.10	Summary of Literature	35
CHAPTER 3	RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	37
3.1	Introduction	37
3.1.1	Research Design	37
3.2	Population, Sample Size and Sampling Technique	37
3.2.1	Population and Sample Size	37
3.2.2	Sampling Technique	39
3.3	Method of Data Collection	41
3.4	Data Collection Instrument	41
3.5	Data Presentation and Analyses	42
3.6	Validity and Reliability in the Study	42
CHAPTER 4	DATA ANALYSES AND DISCUSSION	45
4.1	Introduction	45
4.2	Questionnaire Administration	45
4.3	Data Screening and Posting	45
4.4	Normality Test	46
4.5	Reliability of the field survey questionnaire	47
4.6	Respondents Profile	48
4.7	Rating Scale	52
4.8	EFA results for housing condition, soldiers' social life and morale constructs	56
4.9	Result and Discussion	61

4.9.1	Discussion of Research Objective 1: To identify the attributes and level of housing condition in Coral Barracks, Nigeria.	61
4.9.2	Discussion on Research Objective 2: To assess the relationship between housing condition, soldiers' social life and morale in the study area.	63
CHAPTER 5	CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	67
5.1	Research Outcomes	67
5.1.1	Objective One: To identify the attributes and level of housing condition in Coral Barracks, Nigeria.	67
5.1.2	Research Objective 2: To assess the relationship between housing condition, soldiers' social life and morale in Coral Barracks Nigeria.	68
5.2	Contributions to Knowledge	68
5.3	Limitations of the Study	69
5.4	Recommendations for Future Research works	70
5.5	Conclusion	70
5.6	Recommendations	71
REFERENCES		73

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE NO.	TITLE	PAGE
Table 1.1	An Overview of Research method	9
Table 3.1	Population Size per Block	38
Table 3.2	Sample size	40
Table 3.3	Summary of data analysis and statistical technique applied	43
Table 4.1	Normality test	46
Table 4.2	Reliability test	48
Table 4.3	Gender profile of respondents	48
Table 4.3.1	Age profile of respondents	49
Table 4.3.2	Educational background profile of respondents	51
Table 4.3.3	Rank profile of respondents	52
Table 4.4	Three Likert scale criteria for mean ranking	53
Table 4.5	Attributes and level of housing condition	54
Table 4.6	Housing condition attributes group mean ranking	55
Table 4.7	EFA for housing condition, soldiers' social life and morale construct	57
Table 4.8	Factor analysis for soldiers' social life construct	57
Table 4.9	Correlation between housing condition and soldiers' social life	59
Table 4.10	Correlation between housing condition and soldiers' morale	60

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE NO.	TITLE	PAGE
Figure 4.1	Gender distribution of respondents	49
Figure 4.2	Age distribution of respondents	50
Figure 4.3	Educational background of respondents	51
Figure 4.4	Rank distribution of respondents	52

LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX	TITLE	PAGE
Appendix A	Bartlett, Kotrlik & Higgins sample size table	83
Appendix B	Sample Questionnaire	84

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Research Background

Housing is one of the trio basic necessities of all human projects far more than bricks and mortar but comprises of homes in neighbourhoods whose characteristics can affect people's life chances and outcomes in many ways, including health, education, work outputs and access to wider resources. According to Foley (1980), housing comprises much more than physical shelter, encompassing -a complex bundle of considerations, including privacy, location, environmental amenities, symbolic characteristics, and investment that contributes to a range of societal outcomes that go beyond providing shelter (Lubell and Brennan, 2007). Furthermore, Hulse et al (2011) opined that housing is a combined article that satisfy so many needs of human beings. The principal requirement is said to be dwelling, it is also a space for social gathering with family and friends alike in order to attain aspired social ladder which could be the purpose individuals required housing services.

Housing, from social point perspective, is not just a dwelling unit, but a medium that provides health services, access to jobs, privacy, security, status neighbourhood and social relations. It also offer status symbol, community facilities and services as well as access to jobs and control over environment. Consequently, being ill-housed may mean deprivation along any of the aforementioned dimensions. In some societies such as Spain, housing is considered to be a basic need and therefore so protected by constitutional arrangement. K Hulse et al (2011). This importance and constitutional requirement compel public authorities to provide housing to the populace. Public housing is the provision of low-cost housing by governments for civil occupancy geared towards the satisfaction of housing occupant (Ishiyaku, 2016). This definition is, however, narrowed to civil occupancy. Public

housing is beyond just houses constructed or developed by government for civilian use but encompasses the housing accommodation provided by government for service men occupancy. This include housing accommodation provided in military barracks, police barracks and other paramilitary barracks. A more encompassing definition of public housing considered public housing as a method whereby housing accommodation are developed by government authorities at both central and local levels for people uses (Hutchinson, 2009). This definition considered all classes of people, civilian and non-civilians alike, who could benefit from housing accommodation provided by government at all levels.

Governments are compelled to provide housing accommodation to the people particularly in developing countries due increasing unabated urbanisation occasioned by enormous rural urban migration in search for greener pasture. Similarly, the need for adequate, affordable and qualitative housing has compelled public authorities to intervene in the provision of housing through various scheme with the anticipation of reaping the expected benefits – affordability, adequacy, and quality of housing (Adejumo, 2008). Such expected benefits of housing are inherent in the housing condition.

According to Streimikine (2015), the concept of housing condition is all-encompassing in both the dwelling's physical attributes and housing satisfaction. Generally, having a satisfactory housing accommodation is among the most prized aspects of human begins' lives and a key component of people's material living standards. It is therefore necessary to meet certain basic needs which include shelter from weather elements, give sense of personal security, personal space and privacy. Decent housing conditions are equally vital to occupants' health and also may affect child development. Another essential element of the quality of housing conditions is availability of ample space within. The principal pointer developed to describe space problems is overcrowding rate, as defined by available number of rooms and space to the household size. Housing quality depends on several other factors such as wader residential space and quality of dwelling in itself.

However, Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF) in 2014 reported that quality of housing can directly affects the mental and physical health as well as

productivity of people. The study shows that diseases, disability and death thrive in conditions of overcrowding, deficient infrastructure and sanitation arising from inadequate or poor housing put pressure on social services provision (NSITF, 2014).

Soldiers housing accommodation are called barracks which are –large building or group of buildings used to house soldiers (Delgado-Howard, 2018). Barracks are greatly unique from other housing types and by nature very different in that its design evolved in response to a temporary and highly controlled activity by a group of people in service to a specific placed-based function separate from where they originate from. The major objectives of barracks housing accommodation for soldiers is to ensure safe, habitable, and sufficient housing for soldiers, allows unfettered control and command by the units, and to reduce off-post housing allowance and associated costs.

Military barrack could also be seen as a supervised living accommodation consisting of shared facilities and essential service amenities for the community of military personnel who use it. It is normally built and owned by the military institutions, provided for inexpensive chargeable rooms, and administered to accommodate military men and women alike. Likewise, barracks are housing types specifically designed to accommodate both commissioned and non-commissioned officers, such as a ‘live-in’ residential college, boarding house or other purpose built development containing soldier/soldiers units with other essential service facilities such as good water supply, electricity, study areas, communal lounge and kitchens amongst others. Similarly, a barrack accommodation can also be referred to as a building which contains a dwelling unit occupied by two or more soldiers. This form of housing can also be referred to as –other ranks hall of residence or soldier accommodation or soldiers’ barrack or ‘boarding house’ (Renaud 2000).

The Nigerian military comprises an Army, Navy and Air Force with primary mandate to defend the state from external aggression and internal insurrection (Toppo, 2015). The Military Institutions according to Nigerian Military Policy (FRN, 2013) are pivotal to national development based on their contributions through provision of high level manpower development. To concretize the foregoing, the military policy (FRN, 2013) has it that military institutions ought to achieve high

standard in the provision of housing units with essential quality services and resources to all military personnel. These essential services comprise of water supply, electricity, health facilities, barrack maintenance level amongst others. In alignment with the aforementioned, the Nigerian Government provide accommodation units for Nigerian Military at an affordable rate with perceived required facilities and services. These soldiers' accommodations (barracks) are core components of military institutions and traditionally, exclusively used for military habitation (Sagada, 2009).

Consequently, Coral Barracks is synonymous to other Nigerian military barracks in terms of housing conditions. It is against this backdrop that this study was proposed to examine the relationship of housing condition of Coral Barracks to soldiers' social life and morale.

1.2 Problem Statement

Barracks are group of permanent buildings built to house military personnel. They are residential housing units that are not only one of the basic military needs, but also the indicator of living standard of the military personnel. Housing according to Henilane (2015), has to be comfortable, economical and reasonably maintainable, as well as architecturally pleasant and compliant with the environment, which provides the occupants with sound social status and residential fulfilment.

Housing condition in barracks is a very important issue as it deals with the soldiers' social life, status, happiness, morale building, information to policy makers and planning of interventions. As it has been revealed, measures of housing condition provide additional insights regarding individuals' experience with housing, and can be used to evaluate the success of the provided housing programmes (Aigbavboa, 2013). Then soldiers' objective and subjective evaluations of their housing units determines the way in which they respond to the residential environment and form the basis of demand for government action. However, these ideal situations are not always tenable. In Nigeria, explosion in soldiers' population and non-proportional availability of resources compared with increase of population

generally, has led to shortage of barracks and excessive use of few available barrack housing units, barracks' facilities and use of off-barrack housing all over Nigeria (Adewunmi *et al.*, 2011). This has resulted in unprecedented pressure and overutilization of few available essential services bringing lag in required specifications and socio-cultural preservation of the residents of Nigerian Military barracks and the users of available essential services, which indicates a low measure in the quality of some essential services provided (Rosaline *et al.*, 2015).

Soldiers' population explosion, degradation and intentional misuse of facilities have also caused changes to quality of building condition as well as essential services provided in soldiers' barracks, thus posing serious challenges to military institutions in Nigeria. Nonetheless, the present issues of inadequate, degraded housing units, building services and similarly the general neighbourhood in soldiers' quarters had, for long, been complained about (Iheduru, 2015).

Lundquist and Xu (2014) reported that despite the numerous empirical studies that have been conducted on housing condition, there is still very little research work carried out on military barracks life, the impact of the condition of the barracks' accommodation on the soldiers' social life and morale. This is because none of these studies have organized these variables into a conceptual framework, so as to be able to study and analyse their causal relationship. Also, previous studies that have been conducted on residential satisfaction in Nigeria which centred on measuring residents satisfaction in the informal settlement areas (Nwaka, 2005), privately owned medium and low-income estates (Ademiluyi & Raji, 2008), and public housing performance (Ishiyaku, 2016), with very few making reference to military housing.

Similarly, previous studies that were conducted on the condition on housing condition were mainly on private and public housing both in Nigeria and other countries (Olokesusi & Okunfulure, 2000; Konadu-Agyemang, 2001; Ilesanmi, 2010; Arku, Luginaah, Mkandarwire, Badien & Asiedu 2011; Baker, Bentley, & Mason 2013; Olotuah and Taiwo, 2013; Yoade, 2015). For instance, Ishiyaku (2016) evaluated the housing performance of public estate based on occupants experience and satisfaction using Structural Equation Modelling (SEM). The study confirms the

influence of housing condition on occupants experience and satisfaction. The study however did not show how the housing condition affects occupants' social life and wellbeing.

Previous studies, as noted, focus more on other forms of housing neglecting the military housing condition and its influences. Empirical studies that evaluate the housing condition of Military barracks are relatively few (Chukwu, 2001; Amole, 2010). Similarly, most of the previous studies relate housing condition to residential satisfaction which centred on measuring residents satisfaction in the informal settlement areas privately owned medium and low-income estates, and public housing performance (Ojo & Oloruntoba; 2012; Carlotta & Joyce, 2013; Danquah, Jeanette & Ankrah, 2014; Momtaz, Rafieian & Aghasafari, 2016; Byun & Mikiyoung, 2016; Ishiyaku, 2016) with very few focusing on military barracks (Amole, 2010).

Although previous studies considered military barracks housing condition (Chukwu, 2001), soldiers social life (Marshall & Meiselman, 2006) and soldiers morale (Jones, 2012; Degraff, O'Neal, & Mancini, 2016; Delgado-Howard, 2018) the studies were mostly not empirical but conceptual paper. Thus, empirically evaluating the military housing condition reveals more accurate picture of the military housing condition.

Similarly, the identified studies (Chukwu, 2001; Marshall & Meiselman, 2006; Jones, 2012; Degraff, O'Neal, & Mancini, 2016; Delgado-Howard, 2018) consider the military housing experiences individually and fragmentally without holistically and empirically integrating the relationship of the housing conditions, soldiers' social life and morale in Military Barracks, at least in Nigeria.

Even though several studies were carried out which indicated that the existing barrack houses and facilities are faced with problems such as dilapidation (Okoronkwo, 2003; Karimu, 2015), but little is known on their relationship with soldiers' social life and morale. Consequently, due to numerous complaints about the level of housing condition, neighbourhood/environment and service quality, there is the need to empirically examine the attributes and level of housing conditions and its

relationship with soldiers' social life and morale Coral Barracks, Nigeria. Hence, this study determined to overcome the aforementioned gap in literature in order to achieve a better understanding of the relation of attributes and level of housing condition in Coral Barracks with soldiers' social life and morale.

1.3 Research Questions

1. What are the attributes and level of housing condition in Coral Barracks, Nigeria?
2. What is the relationship between housing condition soldiers' social life and morale in Coral Barracks Nigeria?

1.4 Research Aim

The aim of the research project is to assess the relationship between attributes & level of housing condition soldiers' social life and morale in Coral Barracks, Nigeria with a view to suggest measures for improvement in the level of housing conditions.

1.4.1 Research Objectives

The objectives of the research are:

- (a) To identify the attributes and level of housing condition in Coral Barracks, Nigeria.
- (b) To assess the relationship between housing condition, soldiers' social life and morale in the study area.

1.5 Significance of the Students

Findings of this research will be of importance to Government and Nigerian military authority/high command in terms of housing provision as well as housing

and maintenance policies design. It will also enlighten government on the need and how to improve soldiers housing accommodations in military institutions. It will help the military institutions tremendously in identifying and quantifying the need to improve building services & controls, barrack maintenance, space efficiency, functional performance to allow fine-tuning and learning lessons for the future. It will also help in enlightening government on the need and how to improve quality of essential services in military institutions.

This research in the study area will also assist policy makers to understand the relationship between the housing condition in Coral Barracks and soldiers' morale and their readiness to performance of duties. It will further provide guidance to provision of dwelling units and other essential services needed to build soldiers morale and enhance their combat readiness. This study will also be of importance to the soldiers to understand how housing condition affect their social life and guide them for improvement where applicable. This study can develop the public culture of learning from feedback and experience; by enlightening them on the need for improvement of housing condition for good and healthy social coexistence. The study is capable of also contributing to the body of knowledge and be a starting point to other research works in the future.

1.6 Scope of the study

The study was designed to evaluate the relationship between housing condition Coral Barracks, soldiers' social life and morale. The area scope for this study is non-commissioned officers dwelling units. The concept scope include assessing the attributes and level of housing condition in the study are; comprising of the physical, neighbourhood and building services. This include water supply, electricity supply, health facilities, barrack maintenance, information and communication technology (ICT) Services, neighbourhood markets and trade outpost, religious/worship centres amongst others shall be considered. These will be considered because housing condition is beyond shelter. The social life examine are social decadents and vices, sleeping out of barrack and observing religious rites. The soldiers' morale to be assessed is readiness to carry out assigned duties and functions

within and outside Nigeria. The respondents' scope covered all non-commissioned officers living in the study area.

An overview of the research methods used is presented in Table 1.1 below. The table describe the research objectives, research approach, research strategy, population and sampling technique. Others are data collection and data analysis techniques used for each objective.

TABLE 1.1: An Overview of Research Methods

Research Objective	Research Approach	Research Strategy	Population, Sampling Technique	Data Collection Technique	Data Analysis Technique
(1) To identify the attributes and level of housing condition in Coral Barracks, Nigeria.	Quantitative	Exploratory by Case Study	774 Non-Commissioned Officers in Coral Barracks Nigeria, Systematic Sampling	1. Literature Review 2. Questionnaire Survey	1. Content Analysis 2. SPSS
(2) To assess the relationship between housing condition, soldiers' social life and morale in the study area.	Quantitative	Exploratory by Case Study	All Non-Commissioned Officers in Coral Barracks Nigeria	1. Literature Review 2. Questionnaire Survey	1. Content Analysis 2. SPSS

1.7 Organisation of the Research

This research has Five Chapters, Chapter One focuses on the general research background, problem statement, research questions, research aim & objectives, significance and scope of the study as well as the overview of research methodology framework. Chapter Two is the review of the related theories and literatures relating to housing condition attributes, soldiers' social life and morale. This Chapters elaborates the theoretical framework for the study. Chapter Three presents the research methodology which systematically explains how the research would be

conducted. Chapter Four covers presentation, analysis and discussion of primary data, thus it gives the details of the relationship between housing condition attributes, soldiers' social life and morale in Corral Barracks, Nigeria. Finally, Chapter Five presents the research outcomes, conclusion and recommendations.

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