

Assessment of Housing Conditions of Maikunkele Slums of Minna, Niger State-Nigeria

Salihu Abdulrasheed¹, Samir Isa Yahaya² and Shaba, Timothy³

¹Department of Architectural Technology, Kogi State Polytechnic, Lokoja.

²Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Nasarawa State University Keffi.

³Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Kogi State Polytechnic, Lokoja.

E-Mail: binsalih10@yahoo.com, isasameer20@gmail.com, and shabatimothy5@gmail.com

Tel: 08083783760, 07030354031, 08065529031

Abstract: *The housing situation of slum dwellers particularly in urban areas is a source of deep concern to the stakeholders in the built environment. This worry is not only peculiar to the Maikunkele slums residents in Minna, Niger State but also in Nigeria as a whole. Slums settlement within cities have inadequate housing, poor living conditions and lack of basic services such as water and waste management facilities. It was revealed that Maikunkele slums in Minna actually exhibited slum condition which has negative impact on the socio-economic life styles and the health of the residents, as well as general outlook of the environment. This research focused on the assessment of housing conditions of Maikunkele slums in Minna, Niger State Nigeria, with a view to improving the socio-economic life style of slum dwellers in Maikunkele, Minna Niger State as well as improving the general outlook of the environment. The data for this research was collected through the administration of questionnaires. Fifty (50) questionnaires were distributed randomly in the area, out of which forty four (44) numbers were retrieved and then used for the analysis. The data were processed and analyzed using (SPSS) statistical package for social science. Also frequency percentages were applied. Therefore, there is need for upgrading through rehabilitation or renovation of existing old buildings as well as construction of new ones. These would bring out the structural and aesthetic quality of the area. The study recommended that enlightenment on importance of healthy lifestyle will change the condition of the people and environment of Maikunkele.*

Keywords: Slum dwellers, Housing, Urban, Maikunkele.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Housing can be described as a residential environment which includes the physical structure used for shelter, all necessary services, facilities, equipment and devices needed or deserved for the physical and mental health and social welfare of the family and individual (Kemeny, 2007).

Fenton (2010) explained that housing the urban poor is one of the major challenges facing mankind in the twenty first century. Housing impacts almost all aspects of our lives including safety, creating of social opportunities both within and outside the home, and shelter (Jansen, 2013). When housing fails us, it can negatively impact on our overall health and wellbeing. It can even influence how well our children do in school too (Friedman 2010).

Housing is often regarded as one of the basic human needed as it ranks second after food and cloths thereafter clothing (Adekemi and Olugbenga, 2013). It is a pre-requisite for the survival of man (Onibokun 1985). Housing as a unit of the environment has profound influence on the health, efficiency, social behavior, satisfaction and general welfare of the community. It reflects the cultural, social and economic values of a society, as it is the best physical and historical evidence of the civilization of a country. (Adedeji, 2004).

Housing constructions in most climes have served as the engine to national growth and has also demonstrated on several occasion, some healthy economic recoveries to these nations (Green 1997). Hirayama (2003) explained that those policies that encourage mass housing construction tend to yield national growth. Even expansion of homes promotes economic growth and promotes savings and investments (Arku, 2006).

This study was necessitated by the nature of the housing found in the study area. The whole community of Maikunkele is located in a slum. The hygiene condition is poor and there is no provision for drainage and dump sites so, concerns about the health of people is high hence, this study. This paper tends to assess the housing conditions of maikunkele slums of minna, niger state with a view of proffering solutions to better the lives of occupants.

1.2 SLUM

Lilford *et al.*, (2019) explained slum as a geographic clusters in which people are located and are exposed to microbiological, physical and social risks. In a slum, up to 60 -70% of the households are having poorly congested rooms with inadequate infrastructure, lack of proper sanitation and drinking water facilities (Arku, 2006). Slum can be seen by some few as a residential area that has been constructed illegally and the housing conditions in such area lacks compliance with current planning and building regulations (UN, 1996, Mohanty, 2019).

The phenomenon of slum is worldwide and no country or no city in any country is without a slum even is Europe and America but the definition and type varies from place to place. As the capitalist made of production started in 18th century, poverty, unemployment, lack of employment in rival areas and over population are the factors responsible for the existence of slums everywhere. No nation has ever been able to prevent the emergence of slums (Abrams 1970). Slum is clearly defined as a group of buildings or an area characterized by overcrowding, deterioration, unsanitary conditions, or absence of basic and essential facilities like portable water drainage system, schools health facilities, recreational grounds post office among other (George 1999). Slum is a bulk of traditional housing in dilapidated condition, while are unsuitable for habilitation. (Abiodun 1995)

Again Onibokun and Kumuyi (1996) identified slum areas as regular abodes for urban poor, Such are characterized by low income, unstable employment, low states of Job, poor housing conditions, large facilities and construct struggle for survival (Olarenwaju 2004)

1.3 STUDY AREA

1.3.1 Location

Niger State lies between latitude of 3.20⁰ Easts and longitude 11.30⁰ north. It is bordered by Sokoto State to the north, Kebbi State to the West, Kogi State to the South and Kwara State to the south-west. Niger State is also bordered by Kaduna State to the north-east and Federal Capital territory to the South-West. The State shares a common boundary with the Republic of Benin along New Bussa, Agwara and Wushishi Local Government Area.

1.3.2 Climate:

Niger State experiences distinct dry and wet seasons with annual rainfall varying from 1,100mm in the northern part to 1,600mm in the southern parts. The maximum temperature is obtained between March and June, while the minimum is usually obtained between December and January. The rainy season lasts for about 150 days in the northern part and 120 days in the southern parts of the State.

Slums have been described as a congested district, characterized by deteriorating, unsanitary housing environment and noticeably poverty area. Therefore, the areas chosen for this studies that is, maikunkele slums of Minna Niger State exhibit evidence of slum condition.

2.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The data for this research study was collected through the administration of questionnaire. Fifty (50) questionnaires were distributed using system random approach to select respondent in the area.

Out of fifty (50) questionnaires administered, forty four (44) numbers were retrieved, which were used for the analysis. The data were processed and analyzed using SPSS statistical package for social science. Descriptive statistics, using cross tabulation and frequency percentages were applied.

In the questionnaire, some variables were observed and they are; floor materials and the condition of floor, Wall materials and the condition of the wall, the Roofing material & condition of the roof, the age of the buildings and the overall condition of the buildings, the age of the buildings and the overall condition of the buildings, assessment of sanitary facilities and finally, the disease they normally experience and upon what environmental condition that influence it,

3.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results after the various respondents were analyzed are presented and discussed in this section. However, they are best presented in a pie charts and tables. The pie charts describe the architecture of the prevalent buildings in the study area and while the tables analyze the hygienic of the same study area.

3.1 Floor material and the condition of the floor:

In this case, the results are as presented in the figure 1 and the results reflect the minds of the respondents. The pie chart in figure 1 revealed that 30% of the buildings in the study area that have their floor constructed with concrete responded fair when compare with the condition of the floor, while 56% responded good and 14% responded poor. Therefore, it was observed that almost all the buildings in the study area constructed their floor with concrete, and it is recommended that, majority of the buildings in the study area should have their floor renovated.

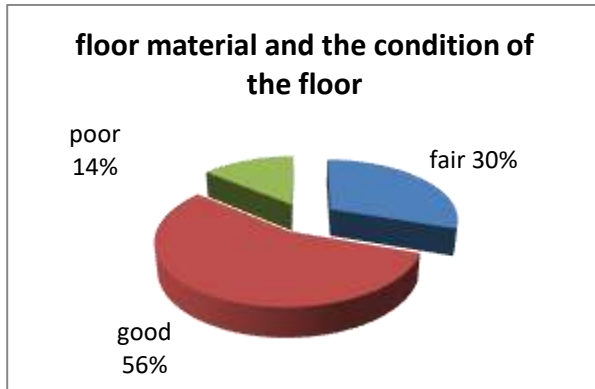


Figure 1: Floor material and the condition of the floor

Source: Field Survey, 2021.

3.2 Wall materials and the condition of the wall

The pie chart in figure 2 showed that 43% of the plastered/ half plastered walls are mud block; again, 28% of mud blocks of the buildings are plastered and painted while the 24% of the mud walls are cracked.

Therefore, it can be concluded that, larger percentage of the buildings in the study area are constructed with mud blocks and most of them are either plastered or half plastered. They also have largest percentage of cracked walls.

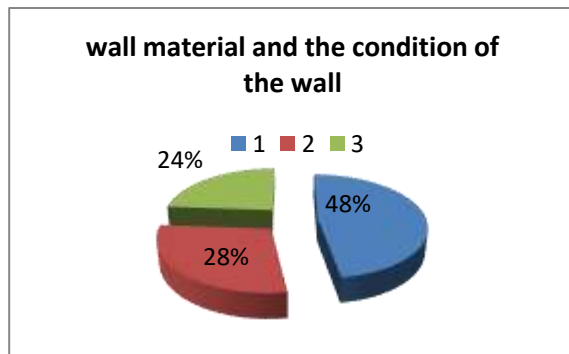


Figure 2: Wall material and condition of wall

Source: Field Survey, 2021



Plate I: The pictures show some of the walls constructed with mud block with signs of cracking.

Source: Field survey, 2021

3.3 The Roofing material & condition of the roof.

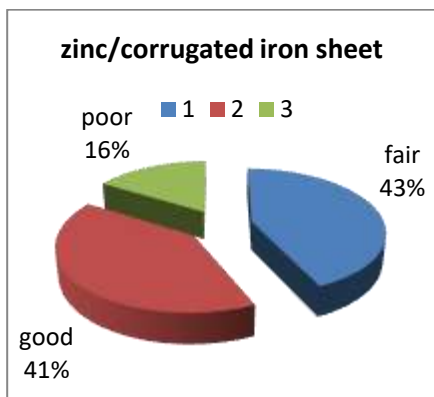


Figure 3: Roofing materials

Source: field survey, 2021

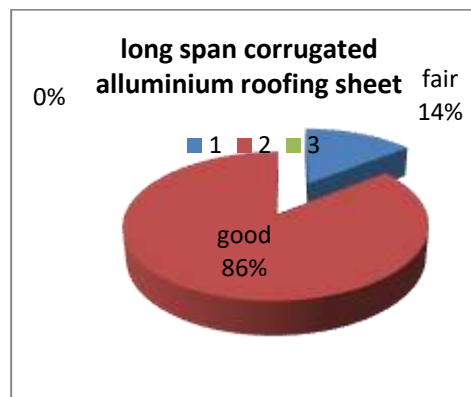


Figure 4: Roofing materials

The Pie chart in figure 3 also showed that 43% of the buildings constructed with zinc/corrugated iron sheet responded fair with the condition of the roof, while 41% responded good with the condition of the roof and 16% responded poor with the condition of the roof.

Again, the Pie Chart in figure 4 revealed that 14% of the buildings constructed with long span corrugated aluminum roofing sheet responded fair with the condition of the roof, while 86% responded good.

It was therefore observed that, most of the buildings in the study area have their roof, constructed with zinc/corrugated iron sheet, which are in moderate condition. While the few buildings with long span corrugated aluminum roofing sheet are in good condition.



Plate II: Showing some of the building with zinc corrugated roofing sheet

Source: Field Survey, 2021

3.4 The age of the buildings and the overall condition of the buildings

The pie chart in figure 5 showed that 6% of the building constructed between 10-20 years are physically in order, 63% of the buildings needs minor repair while 31% of the buildings need major repair.

Again in figure 6 the pie chart showed that 58% of the building constructed between 20-29 years need minor repair, while 26% needs major repair, and 16% are dilapidated and old.

More so, in figure 7, the pie chart revealed that 20% of the building constructed between 30-39 years need minor repair, 49% need major repair while 40% are dilapidated and old.

Therefore, it can be concluded that majority of the buildings in the study area need to be repaired.

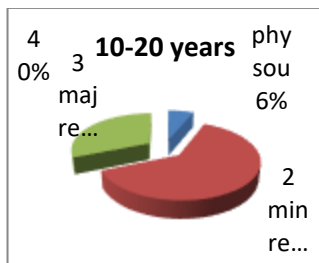


Figure 5: Age of the buildings
 Source: Field Survey, 2021

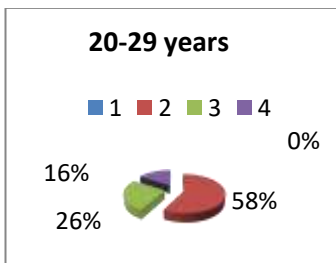


Figure 6

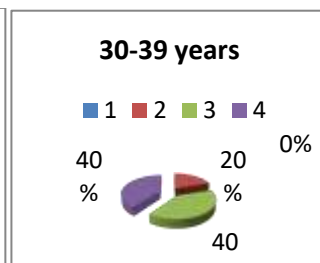


Figure 7

3.4 The disease they normally experience and upon what environmental condition that influence it.

The pie chart in figure 6 indicated that 7% of those who normally experience typhoid attributed it to poor drainage, while 93% attributed it to dirty environment. Also in figure 6 showed that 100% of those who normally experience malaria attributed it to dirty environment.

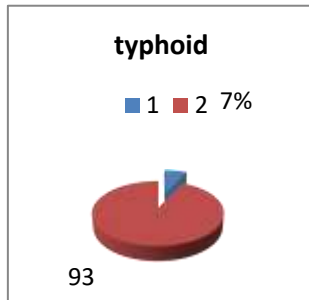


Figure 6a: The disease they normally experience

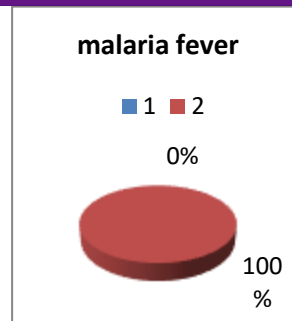


Figure 6b

Source: Field surveyor, 2021

3.5 Analysis of the hygienic of the study area

This subsection present an array of hygienic factors investigated in the maikunkele slum. In table 1, it was indicated that 68% of the building used pit latrine system, while 32% used water closet. Therefore the findings showed that pit toilet is rampant in the study area.

Again, the findings showed that in table 2, 11% of the building in the study area use self contain as their bathroom, while 32% shared and 55% use open court yard as their bathroom. Therefore the findings indicated that most of the buildings in the study area use open court yard as their bathroom which is highly inconvenient.

More so, table 3 revealed that 7% of the building in the study area shared kitchen facilities, while 48% used open court yard as their kitchen facilities, and 46% are not having kitchen at all.

Table 4 also revealed that 34% of the study area enjoy pipe born water that tap water or bore hole, which 66% obtain their water through underground well, some of which have shallow depth. This poses some problems because the water is not treated before using hence they are at greater risk of contacting acute water borne diseases.

Finally, findings in table 5 revealed that 52% of the occupants of the buildings at the study area dispose their waste at an open space while 41% burn their refuse waste.

It is very few that disposed their waste at a Government provided basin by the road side. Therefore, it was observed that, most of the occupants dispose their waste at an open space which serves as breeding grounds for flies, mosquitoes and capable of causing diseases in the area.

Table 1: Toilet Facilities

	Frequency	Percent (%)	Valid Percent (%)	Cumulative Percent (%)
Pit latrine	30	68.2	68.2	68.2
Water closet	14	31.8	31.8	31.8
total	44	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 2: Bathroom Facilities

	Frequency	Percent (%)	Valid Percent (%)	Cumulative Percent (%)
Shared	14	31.8	31.8	31.8
Self-contained	5	11.4	11.4	11.4

Open courtyard	24	54.5	54.5	54.5
Not available	1	2.3	2.3	2.3
Total	44	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 3: Kitchen Facilities

	Frequency	Percent (%)	Valid Percent (%)	Cumulative Percent (%)
Shared	3	6.8	6.8	6.8
Open courtyard	21	47.7	47.7	47.7
Not available	20	45.5	45.5	45.5
Total	44	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 4: Method of water Supply

	Frequency	Percent (%)	Valid Percent (%)	Cumulative Percent (%)
Pipe-Born water	15	34.1	34.1	34.1
Under ground Water	29	65.9	65.9	65.9
total	44	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 5: Method of waste Disposal

	Frequency	Percent (%)	Valid Percent (%)	Cumulative Percent (%)
Open space	23	52.3	52.3	52.3
government provide basin by the road side,	2	4.5	4.5	4.5
Burning	18	40.9	40.9	40.9
Not available	1	2.3	2.3	2.3
Total	44	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2021

4.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Conclusion

It was revealed that Maikunkele slums in Minna actually exhibited slum condition which has negative impact on the socio-economic life styles and the health of the residents, as well as general outlook of the environment. It is concluded that majority of the buildings at Maikunkele slums of Minna Niger state are in need of adequate renovation or repair. Finally, the non-challant attitude of the residents of the area which have constituted major environmental problems in the area has become a norm which must be changed.

4.2 Recommendations

The study was analyzed and the following recommendations were made;

1. There is need for upgrading through rehabilitation or renovation of existing old buildings as well as construction of new ones. These give the structural and aesthetic quality of the area.
2. The extensive renovation of the buildings is highly recommended.
3. There should be provision of sanitary services particularly water supply and waste disposal facilities.
4. Bore holes and public toilets in strategic places in the area are highly recommended.

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