Original Research Article

Influence of housing and accommodation in disease prevalence and control in Ugba, Umuahia north local government area of Abia state

Ozims,S.J.[1]*, Izuchukwu,I.F.[2], Agu,G.C[2]., Amah,H.[3], Onu, I., Opara,A.U[3]., Oze,G.O[4]., Okorie,H[3].,Nwosu,D.C[3]. and   Nwanjo,H.U.[3]

[1.]Department of Public Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, Imo State University, Owerri.
[2.]Department of Optometry, Faculty of Health Sciences, Imo State University, Owerri..
[3.]Department of Medical Laboratory Science, Faculty of Health Sciences, Imo State University, Owerri..
[4.]Department of Medical Biochemistry, Faculty of Health Sciences, Imo State University, Owerri.
*Corresponding author

Abstract

Looking into this study of the influence of Housing and accommodation in disease prevalence and control in Ugba Community in Umuahia North Local Government Area of Abia State, it has been death with bringing to limelight the objectives of the study which includes, to determine some of the problems associated with housing and accommodation in disease prevalence and control, to also determine the extent of understanding of the people concerning the influence of housing and accommodation in disease prevalence and control. Additionally, evaluative Survey method using four areas of the Community in Umuahia North Local Government Area and a set of constructed questionnaire used for the study while the respondents were randomly selected from the population by the researcher. Percentage analysis was used in analyzing the data and the following findings were made in the course of the study, some of the problems associated with Housing and accommodation in disease prevalence and control were determined, also the extent of the understanding of these people with regard to influence of housing and accommodation in disease prevalence and control brought to the fore, better solutions to the healthier ways of housing and accommodation proffered. Suggestions were made by the researcher for further studies that more research work be conducted in another location researcher made a remarkable impact to recommend that, Medical officers of Health and indeed public health officers be incorporated in planning "of Housing and accommodation to its citizenry.

Keywords: influence of Housing, disease prevalence, Abia State.

Introduction

A timely intervention is not just rewarding but to a large extent creative for a positive impact and a stitch in time saves nine because there would have been no better time than now hence the venture to do a research work on this topic; the influence of housing and accommodation in disease prevalence and control, considering the menaces caused by the former in the society.

Housing is seen as houses, flats or apartments that people live in especially when referring to their type, price or conditions, using the indices of housing programme housing market, housing policy.Whereas accommodation is simply a place to live, work or stay in.

The relationship between housing and health has been investigated in various studies, and several major reviews have attempted to pull the disparate evidence, fragmented between different disciplines, together. All these reviews are prefaced with a health implication on the quality of the evidence which draws attention to some conditions as people in poor housing and accommodation suffer so many deprivations that assessment of any one risk factor is almost impossible (Marsh,1982).

The direction of cause and effect which is often not clear considering people who already suffer from ill health may tend to live in substandard housing by virtue of low income, indices for measuring health quality of housing are often insensitive and linked all the above, methodological problems in designing and conducting appropriate research.

Despite the menaces resulted from influence of housing and I accommodation in disease prevalence and control in Ugba Community of Umuahia North Local Government Area in Abia State, not much efforts have been put to abate the situation hence the interest to do a research study on this topic.

Ugba Community is strategically but naturally situated at the sub-urban area of Umuahia metropolis thereby housing a proper population mix of the artisans, civil servants, elderly men and women.

The housing structure in Ugba Community has been patterned in such a way that it is not far from being called urban slum. Majority of the houses are either "face me, 1 face you" as it's popularly called or built in the pattern of low income housing, some the houses are built with mud. But lately, due to rural urban drift, more homes have been built majority of them have no facilities for good water supply and or drainage.

Due to increasing rise in the cost of building materials, it has become increasingly difficult for people to live comfortably in an apartment. A family of five can manage to live in two rooms, some of the accommodations are without good toilet system such accommodation has its consequences on human health.

Objectives of the study

1) This research study intends to determine the influence which housing and accommodation poses in disease prevalence and control.

To also determine how often the people are made aware of the influence emanating from housing and accommodation in disease prevalence and control as well as the basic principles of healthful housing and accommodation.

To be able to proffer solution on better ways of planning housing and accommodation with regard to its influence in disease prevalence and control.
4)   To make necessary recommendations.

Research questions

1) What influence does housing and accommodation pose in disease prevalence and control to the people of Ugba Communky in Umuahia North Local Government Area.

How often are the people made aware of the influence of housing and accommodation in disease prevalence and control as well as basic principle of housing and accommodation?

What are the solutions on better ways of planning for housing and accommodation with regard to its influence on disease prevalence and control.
What are the necessary recommendations.

Methodology

Area of study

Basically, this research work is conducted in Ugba Community which is located geographical at the northern part of Umuahia municipal authority and it is in the Umuahia North Local Government Area. It traverses the major road linking Bende and Ohafia to Umuahia metropolis to the capital of this Abia State.
The people of the area have good mix of occupations, civil servants, artisans farmers, traders and business man and women and are naturally endowed with good climatic conditions.

Research design

In this study evaluative survey method was used while observation and questionnaire use helpful tools.Thus creating an enabling atmosphere to reach out one on one with the population of study.

Population of study

The population or universe for this research study, consists of all the community members, civil servants

and artisans, however, since a theoretical population may include all conceivable elements or members of the population of 640 community members which infact may not be easily reached in practice, there is the need to identify with this population which is small in scope due to their relevance in this study of housing and accommodation in disease prevalence and control, in providing useful data for the study.

Sample of the study

For the purpose of this study, a sample of one hundred and sixty people of Ugba Community in Umuahia North Local Government Area were chosen from 640 community members, women, elders, artisan and civil servants.

Status, age - sex, religion, colour, ethnicity, lifestyle, nationality, social class, educational background are not barriers to selection of sample of study.

Sampling techniques

To achieve effective use of the target group under study, a kind of stratified sampling method has been adopted. It was taken that the entire community; civil servants and artisans and some elders and women of the community. It was taken from the entire population community consisting mainly on civil servants and artisans and some elders were distributed in a number of specific strata according to their status. Due to large population, simple random sampling in selecting a total number of one hundred and sixty from various members of the community were selected.

Instrumentation

Adopted method of data collected relevant to this study is the use of survey questionnaire construction with open ended questions whereby respondents are asked from the questions each o£ which has multiple parts about individuals data duties, how housing and accommodation in diseases prevalence control are influential.

The questionnaire were constructed and drawn from the research question and hypothesis and validated by the researchers supervisor.

Data collection procedure

Apparently, in view of the fact that this study is restricted to Ugba Community in Umuahia North Local Government Area, the researcher distributed the

questionnaires personally to the people who accepted willingly to participate and were also collected personally by the researcher. All the questions were filled and returned as this was done as the village square when most of the people have come back from work.

The questionnaire for the collection of data for this study were distributed personally by hand after informing the people earlier through the village head.

Data processing or scoring

In view of the large number of items, designed in the questionnaire and the very relevance of the findings to support the prevalence factors, the data were analyzed such as the sex, age, trade and others. In relevant areas responses were gathered from respondents.

Methods of data analysis:-

The data generated from the respondents were tallied, grouped and converted to percentage and represented in tabular forms.

Data analysis

Hypothesis

Finding out the underlying phenomenon of determining what influence housing and accommodation in disease prevalence and control pose to the people of Ugba Community.
The solutions on better ways of planning for housing and accommodation in disease prevalence and control to be determined.
sampling technique. In order to effectively carry out this study within the time frame
*
and for the fact that the population under study was too enormous a stratified random sampling was used, a method aimed at selecting a sample from a population that has different groups with specific characteristics so that equal representation of subject are selected using the formula below.

where N= Number of variable (each stratum) EN= entire population N= Sample size

All the questionnaires distributed to the people in the community were collected back, conclusion therefore based on the questionnaires. Moreover those who filled and gave back their questionnaires are referred

to as the "respondents" for the purpose of this research project.

Hypothesis

Finding out the underlying phenomenon of determining what influence housing and accommodation in disease prevalence and control pose to the people of Ugba Community.
The solutions on better ways of planning for housing and accommodation in disease prevalence and control to be determined.

sampling technique. In order to effectively carry out this study within the time frame
*
and for the fact that the population under study was too enormous a stratified random sampling was used, a method aimed at selecting a sample from a population that has different groups with specific characteristics so that equal representation of subject are selected using the formula below.
where N= Number of variable (each stratum) EN= entire population N= Sample size

A total number of 160 subjects will be reached for this study.

Civil servants   80x   40   -160   20
                              1

40   x
Artisans
Elderly40   = 10
 160   1

 20   x   40

 160   1

Women   20   x   40 -160

Table 1 Showing Population and Relative Percentage

Community members	Population	Sample	Percentage
Civil servants	80	20	50%
Artisans	40	10	25%
Elderly men ;	20	5	12.5%
Women	20	5	12.5%
Total	16O	4O	1OO%

Source field survey Nov 2012
Table 1 above shows 80(50%) are civil servant, 40(25%) are artisans, 20 (12.5%) elderly (12.5%) are women
Classification by age, sex, and status

Table II showing age distribution of respondents.

Age	No. of Respondents	Percentages
35 years	40	25%
45 years	80	50%
50 years	20	12.5%
55 years	20	12.5%
Total	16O	1OO%

Table II above shows that 40 (25%) of the respondents fall within the age of 35 years, 80 (50%) within the age of 45 years 20 (12.5%) within the age of 50 years and 20 (12.5%) within the age of 55 years.

Table iii. Showing sex of the Respondents

Sex	Number of Respondents	Percentages of Respondent
Female	80	50%
Male	80	50%
Total	16O	1OO%

Table iii above showing sex of respondents 80 (50%) females and 80 (50%) males.

Table iv Distribution of Status of Respondents

S/N	Designation	No. of Respondents	Sample Size	Percentage of
1	Clerk	40	10	25%
2	Mechanics	80	20	50%
3	Titled Chiefs	20	5	12.5%
4	Women	20	5	12.5%
	Total	16O	4O	1OO%

Table v above shows the designation of the population, it shows that 40 (25%) are clerks, 80 (50%) mechanics, 20 (2.5%) 20 (12.5) tilled chefs and 20 (12.5%) women.

Table v. Marital Status of Respondents

Marital status	No. of Respondents	Percentages
Married	40	25%
Single	80	50%
Divorced	20	12.5%
Widowed	20	12.5%
Total	160	1OO%

It could be gathered from table v above that 40 (25%) respondents are married 80 (50%) are single, 20 (12.5%) are divorced, while 20* (12.5%) are widowed.

Table vi. What is the size of your Family

Family size	No. of Respondents	Percentage of Resp.
Below 3	40	25%
3 -5	80	50%
5 and above	20	12.5%
None	20	12.5%
Total	160	1OO%

It could be drawn out from table v above that 40 f25%) have family size below 3, 80 (50%) 3-5, 20(12.5%) 5 and abtfve and 20(12.5%)none.

Table vii. What is the Nature of your Accommodation

Nature of Accommodation	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Family House	40	25%
Rented flat	80	50%
Rented one room	20	12.5%
Rented below	20	12.5%
Total	16O	1OO%

Table vii shows that 80(50%) live in family house accommodations, 40(25%) in rented house, 20(12.5%) in rented one room, and 20(12.5%) in rented bungalow.

Table viii. Do you have good water supply connected to your home?

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	80	50%
No	80	50%
Total	160	1OO%

Table viii above gathered that 80 (50%) say yes that they have good water supply connected to their house while 80(50%) say no.

Table ix. What type of toilet facility do you have in your apartment?

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage of Respondent
Pit latrine	80	50%
Water system	80	50%
Total	16O	1OO%

Table ix above shows that 80(50%) of the respondents say they have pit latrine and 80(50%) say no.

Table x. Have you suffered from, typhoid fever in the recent past?

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage of Respondent
Yes	80	50%
No	80	50% •
Total	160	1OO%

Table xi. above shows that 80(50%) say have suffered from typhoid fever in the recent past and 80 (50%) say no

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage of Respondent
Yes	80	50%
No	80	50%
Total	160	100%

Table xii. How often have governmental agencies made the community, aware of the influence of accommodation and housing problems taking cognizance of prevailing disease.

Table xii above shows that 80(50%) say none that no awarness have been created by the government, 20 (12.5%) say once in 5 years, 20 (12.5%) say no idea, while 40(25%) say it's a mirage.

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage of Respondent
None	80	50%
Once in 5yrs	20	12.5%
No. idea	20	12.5%
It's a mirage	40	25%
Total	160	1OO%

Table xiii. Is there any control measure adopted by the government to check poor facilities in housing and accommodation and associated prevailing disease.

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage of Respondent
Yes	80	50%
No	80	50%
Total	16O	1OO%

Table xiii above shows that 80(50%) of the respondents say yes that there is control measure by the government, while the other 80 (50%) say no.

Table xiv. What do you think is the solution to housing and accommodation where diseases are prevalent?

S/N	Response	No. of Response	Percenta
a	Setting housing and accommodation uniform standards by the government.	80	50%
b	Government reducing cost of building materials	40	25%
r c	Environmental health officer, medical officer of health & architects forming team work	20	12.5
d r	Employing a multi-sectoral Approach	20	12.5
	Total	160	100

Table xiv above, shows that 80(50%) say setting housing and accommodation standards, 40(25%) say government reducing cost of building materials, 20 (12.5%) say environment health officers, medical officer of health and "architects while 20 (12.5%) say employing team approach.

Discussion

In determining what influence of housing and accommodation In disease prevalence and control pose to the people of Ugba Community, I observed that indoor pollution from exhaust pipes, generating sets, piggery farms, poultry farms contributed immensely to disease prevalence due largely to where they are sited, either near the windows, nearby neighbourhoods(Kiron,1980;Whittaker,1975). Also open sewage systems from broken soakaway pits, gutters as well as refuse dumps constituted housing and accommodation health risk(Gado,1990)..

How often the people are made aware of these influences posed by housing and accommodation are unduly prolonged.

In finding solution to influence of housing and accommodation, in disease prevalence and control, setting uniform housing standards and reduction in cost of building materials are top in priority.

Conclusion

Inferentially, it is established and upheld that the people of Ugba Community understand to a large extent the influence of housing and accommodation in disease prevalence and control evidenced by clarion call for government intervention.

Also the people of Ugba Community are aware that periodical sensitization of the community in housing and accommodation influence with regard to disease prevalence and control will enhance better housing and accommodation thereby eliminating and or reducing disease prevalence and its control.

Moreso, the people of the community now believe that government can curb this menace posed by housing and accommodation by setting healthy uniform standard on housing and accommodation and cost of building materials reduced to the barest minimum so that the poor can have access to good and healthy accommodations.

References

Gado, P (1990) the Ecology of Urbanization Macmillan Education, Lagos.

Kiron, N.Y. (1980), solid waste treatment and Disposal. An Arbo Science Publishers incorporation, New York.

Marsh B: Housing and Health: the role of the environmental health practitioner. J environ Health 1982 P - 123-128 Pub Med.

Whittater, H.W (1975) community Ecosystem 2nd Edition Macmillan Publishers Company Incorporation, New York.

Access this Article in Online	
Quick Response Code	**Website:** **www.darshanpublishers.com**
	Subject: **Health Sciences**