



Housing – A Critical Perspective.

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Abstract / Initial Proposal Form:

1. Paper / Proposal Title: Issues and perspectives of housing for older persons in Nigeria- In search of a tipping point

2. Format: Written paper

3. Author(s) Name: Oludele Albert Ajani

4. University or Company Affiliation: Obafemi Awolowo University

5. Abstract (300 words):

Planning for the housing situation of an ageing population is one of the challenges of many countries today. In Nigeria, housing provision is majorly a matter at the family level where the individual take on the responsibility for their housing plans. Though, there is increasing involvement of the private sector, governments and mutual aid groups in housing provision, the government takes more on the responsibility for facilitating for the different actors to realize their housing plans and for influencing the situation in the housing market. In order to do this successfully, knowledge about the housing preferences of the different actors is crucial. In Nigeria today, most people remain in ordinary housing all through life, while an infinitesimal proportion of the population age 65 and above move to assisted living or other forms of housing (e.g. living with children or family members). As the Nigeria population continues to age and the near absence of aging in its policy discourse, this paper portends on the need to ascertain that suitable housing is provided for the Nigerian elderly. With the country's current housing deficit of about 17 million and the fact that most individual remain in

ordinary housing through life, lack of adequate policy intervention may culminate in a very specific housing crisis. For example, many houses in the city centres are becoming dilapidated because of the inability of their aging owners to maintain or repair them. This situation is even worse in the rural areas. This exacerbates an already ingrained set of problems about housing quality and suitability in Nigeria. The research underlying this paper asked the following questions: what issues are developing regarding elders living with their family as the population ages? What housing options exist for elders with varied degrees of disability? What is needed to address housing issues for older Nigerians?

7. Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Oludele Albert Ajani

Senior Lecturer, Obafemi Awolowo University, Sociology and Anthropology

Ajani Oludele is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria. He holds a Ph.D degree in Sociology and Anthropology with specialization in social change and development studies. He also holds a postgraduate specialist certificate in Applied Gerontology from the University of North Texas, Denton. His major areas of research include social inequality, informal organizations, social change, environment, aging and gender issues.