

Cities, Communities and Homes: Is the Urban Future Livable?

- **Paper / Proposal Title:**

What is 'Adequate' About Adequate Housing in Nigeria? Assessing Housing as a vehicle for Community building and Development

- **Format:**

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- **Author(s) Name:**

Dr Chuba O. Odum and Dr Victor U. Onyebueke

- **University or Company Affiliation:**

University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus

- **Abstract (300 words):**

“We shape our buildings, and afterwards, our buildings shape us.” SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL, British Prime Minister (1940-1945).

Amidst conditions of dwindling national resources, rising inflation rate and other development challenges, many countries in the Global South are grappling with the seemingly intractable policy target of providing 'adequate housing for all'. Despite experiencing rapid population growth coupled with expanding housing backlog, most of these countries, if not all, are falling gravely short of this vaunted target. In this losing

'development race' to mass produce housing, many nation states and shelter organisations hardly stop to consider how exactly houses provided have contributed, like in the opening quote, in shaping individual lives, community ethos and sustainable cities. The current study assesses the nature and strength of community connectivity in three public housing estates in Enugu, Nigeria, with a view to highlighting the determinant social, cultural and spatial factors. This process was carried out using social network analysis which helped to define the major *nodes* (individual actors or places) and their *ties* or *links* (interactions and /or relationships). Surveys were conducted in the estates in order to generate base data that were analyzed, using Social Network Visualizer (SocNetV). The study found out in the study area that the function of housing as a vehicle for community building and development is dependent on community formation between the dwelling units and nearest neighbours, engendered by community interests.

Keywords: *Adequate Housing, Global South, Mass Produce Housing, Shelter Organisations, Sustainable Cities.*

• **Author(s) Biography (200 words each):** SHORT BIOGRAPHY

1. Dr. Chuba Onyechi Odum – A Senior Lecturer in the Department of Architecture, University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus, Nigeria. Holds a B.Sc. and B. arch Degrees from Howard University Washington D.C., an M. arch degree from Morgan State University Baltimore Maryland, USA, and a Ph.D. degree from the University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus. He is actively involved in teaching, research and consultancy. Research interests include housing and urban infrastructure, sustainable development, and sustainable human settlement and architecture. Has published several articles in academic journals and presented papers in many reputable conferences. Co-edited and authored two chapters in a book titled Fundamentals in Architecture. He has served as Associate Dean, Faculty of Environmental Studies, University of Nigeria, and Head of Department of Architecture in the same University. He has served as a sabbatical staff at Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria, and as External Examiner to the Department of Architecture of a number of universities in Nigeria, such as: University of Jos, (Jos), Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi, Imo State University, Owerri, and Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State. He is registered with the Architects Registration Council of Nigeria; a full member of the Nigerian Institute of Architects, and Association of Architectural Educators in Nigeria.

2. Dr Victor Udemezue Onyebueke is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Urban and Regional of the University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus (Nigeria), where he is involved in teaching, research and consultancy. Onyebueke holds a Ph.D. degree in Geography

and Environmental Science from the Stellenbosch University, Matieland, South Africa. His research interests include urban land use dynamics, urban informality and inclusive planning. He published several articles in academic journals like *Cities*, *Habitat International*, *Urban Forum*, *International Development Planning Review*, among others; and co-authored a chapter on informal business relocation in the book, *Planning and the Case Study Method in Africa: The Planners in Dirty Shoes* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2014) edited by James Duminy, et al. Dr Onyebueke is a qualified Town Planner and is a registered member of the Nigerian Institute of Town Planners (NITP) and Town Planning Registration Council of Nigeria (TOPREC). He is also an Associate Member/Fellow of national and international research groups like: African Heritage Institution (2000); Institute for Innovations in Development (2016); IHS Alumni Association (2006), Regional Science Association International (2015); and African Studies Centre Leiden Community (2015).