A Reality of Quality of Life Lived! Socio-economic Impact of Selected Informal Settlements on Neighbourhood Quality in Port Harcourt Metropolis, Nigeria

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration between both authors. Both authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Original Research Article

ABSTRACT

The study assessed the selected informal settlements on neighbourhood quality in the Port Harcourt metropolis, Nigeria, and the Quality of Life (QoL) lived by residents. The objectives of the study were to describe the socio-economic characteristics of the residents of the selected informal settlements; identify the causes of informal settlements development in the study area; identify and assess the impact of informal settlements development on the neighbourhood quality of residents' QoL lived; and identify physical planning measures to improve the neighbourhood quality and QoL of the selected informal settlements. The study adopted a quantitative approach and a descriptive research design. The study employed purposive and simple random sampling techniques for the selection of two (2) settlements namely: Mgbushimini and Nkpor and one hundred (100) respondents were determined and sampled for the study using the Taro Yamane formula at a 10%

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precision level. The study found that the socio-economic characteristics of residents of the settlements are age bracket 39-48 years of adults and mostly married with an average of 4-5 persons per household. Educational qualification is mostly vocational education, employed temporary, casual and contract and engaged in trading/business and craft/technical. The development of these informal settlements is attributed to low rent, cheap land and free access to land. The buildings are permanent structures, rented apartments of rooming houses of 2-3 rooms as habitable spaces on average. The impacts are poor sanitary conditions, poor layout of buildings and a dirty environment. These conditions have made the residents rate their neighbourhood quality and QoL lived as mostly "fair", "unsatisfied" and "very unsatisfied". The study recommended that urban studies should be carried out on the settlements to ascertain the socio-economic characteristics of residents and where needs a priority for improvement, the government should declare the study area blighted and carry out urban renewal schemes to improve the physical, social, and economic conditions, basic urban infrastructure, facilities and services should be provided to improve residents' access, neighbourhood quality and QoL lived.

1. INTRODUCTION

Informal settlements are synonymous with squatter, slum, and squalor characteristics, and are home to the poorest of urban populations globally including the African continent (United Nations Human Settlements Programme [1,20]. The informal settlement is characterised by neighbourhoods where residents have no security to the tenure of land and dwellings they occupy, lack essential infrastructure and services, and not comply with planning and building codes and regulations and are mostly found within the geographically and environmentally sensitive environment [1]. The social and economic pathology of residents presents overcrowding from the crowding index, deterioration and unsanitary conditions that do not demonstrate environmental sustainability and particularly unplanned condition that prevent the provision of basic urban infrastructure and services to the settlements that make life meaningful [2,3].

The rapid increase in the urban population in recent times promotes the development of informality thereby increasing attention to the informal settlements and the QoL of the residents. QoL has several definitions but consensually, the concept has been described as the summation of the living condition of individuals and societies considering the positive and negative conditions in the perception of their living environment [4,3,12]. The living conditions of residents of informal settlements affect their QoL and this is orchestrated by social and economic strata and conditions in life. Unplanned and poorly managed urbanisation accentuates informal settlements development and reduces QoL in urban areas especially in developing economies [5,6]. These informal settlements portray increasing unemployment and underemployment, an increase in inequality and disparity in the provision of urban infrastructure and services, crime and social violence, poor public health and sanitary condition, and environmental degradation [6].

Port Harcourt metropolis, located in Nigeria, as any other urban centre in the global south is breeding informalities such as informal settlements across her landscape. These settlements display poor social and economic conditions impacting the neighbourhood quality and affecting the QoL of the residents. The housing condition of these informal settlements showed unplanned nature, overcrowding in densification in neighbourhoods, prone to flooding and beset with poor public health and sanitation and no public water supply and poor public electricity supply. The prevalence of informal settlements in the Port Harcourt metropolis in Nigeria has significantly affected the quality of residential quality and QoL in the urban society. However, this research will find out the socio-economic impact of selected informal settlements on neighbourhood quality and residents' QoL to improve living conditions and achieve urban sustainability socially and economically.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

The rapid and incremental increase in the development of informal settlements in the Port Harcourt metropolis is becoming worrisome to urban authorities, international organisations, professional urban planners, urban communities,

and residents. The continuous development of informal settlements in the metropolis is observed to be impacting neighbourhood quality thereby affecting the QoL lived by residents of these settlements. These phenomena can be attributed to the socio-economic conditions of the residents and the unplanned nature of the settlements. This is impacting the neighbourhood quality portraying deteriorating housing conditions and overgrowing occupancy ratio, public health and sanitation problems, environmental degradation, poor access to basic urban infrastructure and services and prone to regular flooding. These conditions are affecting the QoL lived by residents of the settlements and will continue to proliferate the urban landscape with informal settlements and an increased burden on urban authorities to handle if not handled. There is a need to assess the socio-economic impact of selected informal settlements on neighbourhood quality in the Port Harcourt metropolis, Nigeria, as affecting the QoL lived by residents and proffer sustainable and workable solutions to achieve a sustainable living environment that will improve the QoL lived by the residents. Furthermore, this will add to the body of knowledge and stock of literature on neighbourhood quality and QoL, especially in developing economies such as Nigeria and other countries of the global south.

1.2 Aim and Objectives of the Study

The study aims to assess the socio-economic impact of selected informal settlements on neighbourhood quality in the Port Harcourt metropolis, Nigeria, and the QoL lived by residents.

The following are the objectives of this study:

i. Describe the socio-economic characteristics of the residents of the selected informal settlements in the study area,
ii. Identify the causes of informal settlements development in the study area;
iii. Identify and assess the impact of the development of the informal settlements on the neighbourhood quality of residents' QoL lived; and
iv. Identify physical planning measures to improve the neighbourhood quality and QoL of the selected informal settlements in the study area.

1.3 Scope of the Study

The content scope covered describing the socio-economic characteristics of the residents of the selected informal settlements in the study area, identifying the causes of informal settlements development in the study area, identifying, and assessing the impact of informal settlements development on the neighbourhood quality of the lived QoL of residents and identifying physical planning measures to improve the neighbourhood quality and QoL of these informal settlements in the study area (Fig. 1).
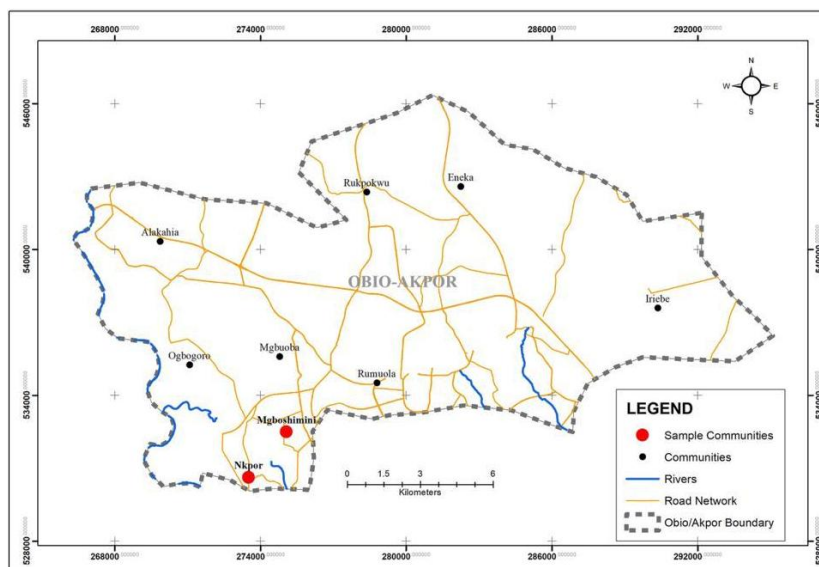
Fig. 1. Map of Obio/Akpor LGA and the Study Communities (Settlements)
Source: GIS Lab, Department of Urban & Regional Planning, RSU, Port Harcourt, 2022

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Informal Settlement and Neighbourhood Quality: An Overview

Urban centres are becoming the focal point for planning discussions, governments and urban communities' concerns. According to UN-Habitat [7], urban centres are housing the highest human assets and population in contemporary times. The concentration of these assets and population has generated the development of informal settlements across her landscapes mostly urban centres of developing economies. As conceptualised by the UN-Habitat [1], the definition of informal settlement connotes settlement where residents have no legal tenure over the land or structure they occupied, the settlement is not planned as the buildings built do not adopt any established planning and building codes and regulations. Furthermore, from the definition, the settlement is located in an environmentally sensitive environment such as marginal lands and lacked essential urban infrastructure and services that will make life worthwhile and improve living conditions. However, the settlement with the described characteristics within an urban region cannot provide the basic living conditions necessary for its residents to live in a safe and healthy environment. This demonstrates that residents without basic living features such as durable housing of a permanent nature, insufficient living space, uneasy access to safe water and adequate sanitation provided are living in informal settlements [1].

Informal settlement characteristics as described present the description of a neighbourhood quality from the perceptions of the residents and equally from the professional perspective of academics within the built environment and other social scientists and international agencies that deal with human settlements and community development. Conceptually, neighbourhood quality is defined as a sense of well-being and satisfaction to its residents in its environment [8] covering physical, social and economic aspects of living conditions in the settlement [9]. Neighbourhood quality assessment considers dwelling units, available facilities and services, the surrounding environment and its condition, the local economy (employment and income) and social coherence (friendliness, ethnic and racial compositions) [9]. The relationship between informal settlement and neighbourhood quality cannot be separated in assessment as both

concepts present the general QoL of the residents living in such settlements. In some cases, informal settlements may be legal with residents having legal titles to the land or dwellings they occupied but having inadequacy as multifamily tenements or rooming houses built to rent to poor people or converted for other use [10].

Hence, improving the situations of informal settlements requires the improvement upgrading and provision of various essential aspects of the living conditions of residents in the settlements. The process of intervention for physical, social, economic, organisational and environmental improvement to such settlements requires the collaboration undertaken by advocators, community groups, governments (national or local) and any other development partners (non-governmental, multi-lateral/ bilateral organisations) such as the United Nations agencies and other donor agencies. Though the reasons for upgrading the settlements may vary from place to place, the main push factors have included the demand for affordable term options, environmental health considerations and poverty reduction [11]. In this case, informal settlement and neighbourhood quality should be considered collectively before addressing their challenges to improve the QoL of residents occupying the settlement and the general well-being to achieve a sustainable urban environment in all ramifications.

2.2 Synchronisation of Neighbourhood Quality and Quality of Life in Informal Settlement

The concepts of neighbourhood quality and QoL are complementary in nature and multidisciplinary as tools for the assessment of the well-being and satisfaction of individuals and societies in their living environment. The indicators used for the assessment of neighbourhood quality according to Rahman et al. [9] are residents' dwellings, facilities and services available within the settlement, sanitary conditions of the settlement, residents' income and employment status, and their social intricacies in the settlement. These indicators are used to characterised in the description the neighbourhood quality of a settlement from the perceptions of the residents that lived in them.

QoL as a concept uses indicators several indicators to build its index for the assessment of

society. Some of the indicators used are physical health, family, education, employment, wealth, safety, security to freedom, religious beliefs and environment [12]. The UN-Habitat [13] uses indicators such as life expectancy at birth, under-five mortality rate, vaccination coverage, maternal mortality, literacy rate, mean years of schooling, early childhood education, net enrolment rate in higher education, homicide rate, theft rate, accessibility to open public space and green area per capita covering health, education, safety and security and public space as domains for measurement of QoL. Furthermore, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) [14] applied indicators such as housing, income, job, community social support network, education, environment, governance, health, life satisfaction, safety and work-life balance for measuring the QoL of individuals and their societies. All these indicators used by the various organisations are crucial for the assessment of QoL in any given society to assess the performance of the government and the living conditions of their citizens. These indicators are interrelated and interconnected and depend on one another for performance generally.

In the synchronization of the concepts of neighbourhood quality and QoL, both concept indicators used for assessment cover physical, social and economic aspects of individuals and societies. Both concept indicators are similar and complementary in nature and output, though, neighbourhood quality indicators are subsumed into QoL Index to assess the well-being and satisfaction of individuals and societies as QoL is the egg while neighbourhood quality is inside the egg. Applying socio-economic factors to assess neighbourhood quality in an informal settlement will help in the understanding of the QoL lived through the perceptions of the residents residing in such settlements. Neighbourhood quality and QoL work together in

all ramifications to measure individuals' level of satisfaction and well-being.

3. METHODOLOGY

Successively, to obtain information and data to achieve the aim and objectives of the study, the study employed a quantitative approach and descriptive research design to understand and explain the socio-economic impact of informal settlements development on neighbourhood quality and the perceived QoL lived by residents [15,16]. The study also employed judgmental and simple random sampling techniques for data collection. Taro Yamane formula with a 10% level of precision was employed to determine the size of the selected settlements (communities) for the study in which one hundred respondents were determined and interviewed (see Table 1). Judgmentally, two (2) settlements were selected namely: Mgbushimini and Nkpor settlements for the study which have the characteristics of an informal settlement in Obio/Akpor LGA in the Port Harcourt metropolis. Consequently, to determine the sample size, the population of the settlements were projected for the study year (2022) using 1991 population census results with a 6.5% growth rate (National Population Commission [17,18]. To achieve the sample size, an average of five (5) persons per household was used to determine the number of households in the selected settlements (National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) [19]. Hence, the Taro Yamane formula was used and proportionately distributed to the selected households across the settlements selected for the study. A simple random technique was employed to select respondents (household heads) that were interviewed. Also, physical observations and photographs were used to characterise the socio-economic and neighbourhood quality and the QoL lived by the residents in the study area. However, for collation and analysis, 90 questionnaires were retrieved and valid for analysis.

Table 1. Settlement population and sample size determination

S/No.	Sample ettlements (Communities)	1991 Population	2022 Pop. (Projected Using 6.5% Growth Rate)	No. of HH (5 Pers. per HH)	No. of HH to be Sampled
1	Mgbushimini	2,070	14,581	2,916	58
2	Nkpor	1,435	10,108	2,022	40
	Total	**3,505**	**24,689**	**4,938**	**100**

Source: NPC, 1991; NPC, 2018; NBS, 2016; Researchers' Computation, 2022

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Socio-Economic Characteristics of Respondents

Table 2 shows the frequency of gender distribution in the study area. The data showed that 54% of the respondents were female while 46% of the respondents were male. Hence, Table 3 indicates the age distribution of respondents in the study area. The data indicated that the age bracket 39-48 years has the highest age bracket with 66.7%, followed by age brackets of 18-28years and 29-38years accounted for 11.1% each. Other respondents' age brackets are 49-58 years, 59-68years and 69+ years recorded at 5.6%, 3.3% and 2.2%, respectively. To further characterised the social-economic characteristics of the respondents of the study area Table 4 reveals the marital status of the respondents. The data showed that 77.8% of the respondents are married, followed by those whose marital status is single and widow/widower accounting for 11.1% each, respectively. Table 5 showed the number of people (s) in respondents' households in the studied communities. This was determined by the marital status of the respondents. The data distribution showed that the modal number of persons in the households is 4-5 persons represented by 88.9% and followed by 2-3 persons and 6-7 persons represented by 5.6% each, respectively. This showed a corresponding average number of 5 persons in a household in Nigeria according to NBS [19].

Table 6 shows the educational qualification of respondents in the study area. The data presented showed most of the respondents have vocational education qualifications accounting for 77.8% of the responses while the rest of the respondents' educational qualifications are no formal education, basic education, secondary education and tertiary education accounting for 5.6% each, respectively. This revealed that over 75% of the residents sampled had vocational education. The educational qualification of the respondents portrayed the employment status of the residents in the study area. Table 7 shows the employment status of respondents of the study area revealing that all sampled respondents are employed, reflecting 100% as no unemployed and retired were recorded from the analysis. The status of employment when further probed showed that the employment of the respondents was mostly temporary, casual and contract in status. The employment status further showed the occupations the respondents are into. Table 8 showed that the prevalent occupation of the respondents was trading/business, followed by craft/technical, farming and fishing accounting for 55.6%, 27.8&, 11.1% and 5.6%, respectively. This showed that more than 50% of the respondents sampled in the study area are into trading/business as an occupation. The income of respondents translates from the occupations they are into. Table 9 showed that the modal income bracket earned by the respondents is earned N39,000 - N48,999 accounting for 77.8%, followed by those that earned between the income brackets of N18,000-N28,999 and N29,000-N38,999 represented by 11.1% each, respectively.

Table 2. Gender distribution of respondents

S/No.	Gender	No.	%
1	Male	41	46
2	Female	49	54
	Total	**90**	**100**

Source: Researchers' Survey, 2022

Table 3. Age distribution of respondents

S/No.	Age	No.	%
1.	18-28years	10	11.1
2.	29-38years	10	11.1
3.	39-48years	60	66.7
4.	49-58years	5	5.6
5.	59-68years	3	3.3
6.	69+years	2	2.2
	Total	**90**	**100**

Source: Researchers' Survey, 2022

Table 4. Marital status of respondents

S/No.	Marital Status	No.	%
1.	Single	10	11.1
2.	Married	70	77.8
3.	Divorced	0	0
4.	Widow/Widower	10	11.1
	Total	**90**	**100**

Source: Researchers' Survey, 2022

Table 5. Number of Person(s) in respondents household

S/No.	Number of Persons	No.	%
1.	1 person	0	0
2.	2-3 Persons	5	5.6
3.	4-5 Persons	80	88.9
4.	6-7 Persons	5	5.6
5.	8 Persons+	0	0
	Total	**90**	**100**

Source: Researchers' Survey, 2022

Table 6. Educational qualification of respondents

S/No.	Educational Qualification	No.	%
1.	No formal education	5	5.6
2.	Basic education	5	5.6
3.	Secondary education	5	5.6
4.	Vocational education	70	77.8
5.	Tertiary education	5	5.6
	Total	**90**	**100**

Source: Researchers' Survey, 2022

Table 7. Employment Status of the respondents

S/No.	Employment Status	No.	%
1.	Employed	90	100
2.	Unemployed	0	0
3.	Retired	0	0
	Total	**90**	**100**

Source: Researchers' Survey, 2022

Table 8. Occupation of respondents

S/No.	Occupation	No.	%
1.	Civil/public service	0	0
2.	Trading/business	50	55.6
3.	Teaching	0	0
4.	Farmer	10	11.1
5.	Fishing	5	5.6
6.	Contracting	0	0
7.	Military/paramilitary personnel	0	0
8.	Medical	0	0
9.	Retired	0	0
10.	Religious	0	0
11.	Local manufacturing	0	0
12.	Company (private)	0	0
13.	Craft/technical	25	27.8
	Total	**90**	**100**

Source: Researchers' Survey, 2022

4.2 Identified Causes of Informal Settlements Development

There are several motivating factors to causes of informal development. Table 10 shows one of the determinants that trigger informal settlement development. The data from Table 10 showed the type of building of the residents of the settlements were rooming houses being occupied by 98.9% of the residents while 1.1% occupied blocks of flats which is an insignificant percentage in the distribution. Though, a large quantity of the status of buildings are permanent structures and rented apartments as the buildings are not owned by the occupants (see Table 11). Table 12 further reveals the number of habitable space(s) (rooms) occupied by residents' households in the study area. The data showed that the modal habitable space occupied by the residents' household is 2-3 rooms accounting for 62.2%, followed by those occupying 1 room and 3-4 rooms representing 35.6% and 2.2%, respectively. This condition showed a reflection of the status of buildings available in the study area. The reasons given by residents living in the neighbourhood were revealed in Table 13. Most of the residents said, they are living in the neighbourhood because of low rent accounted for 92.2%, followed by those that said cheap land and free access to land accounted for 4.5% and 3.3%, respectively. The latter reasons were triggered by the physical condition of the study area as marginal lands that did not attract most developers in the metropolis.

Table 9. Income of respondents (Naira)

S/No.	Income (Naira)	No.	%
1.	Less than N18,000	0	0
2.	N18,000-N28,999	10	11.1
3.	N29,000-N38,999	10	11.1
4.	N39,000-N48,999	70	77.8
5.	N49,000-N58,999	0	0
6.	N59,000-N68,999	0	0
7.	N69,000-N78,999	0	0
8.	N79,999 and above	0	0
	Total	**90**	**100**

Source: Researchers' Survey, 2022

Table 10. Type of building of respondents

S/No.	Type of Building	No.	%
1.	Rooming house	89	98.9
2.	Block of flats	1	1.1
3.	Bungalow (standalone)	0	0
4.	Storey building (standalone)	0	0
	Total	**90**	**100**

Source: Researchers' Survey, 2022

Table 11. Ownership of building of respondents

S/No.	Ownership of Building	No.	%
1.	Renter	90	100
2.	Owner occupier	0	0
	Total	**90**	**100**

Source: Researchers' Survey, 2022

Table 12. Number of habitable space of respondents

S/No.	No. of Habitable Space (Rooms)	No.	%
1.	1 room	32	35.6
2.	2-3 rooms	56	62.2
3.	3-4 rooms	2	2.2
4.	5 rooms+	0	0
	Total	**90**	**100**

Source: Researchers' Survey, 2022

Table 13. Reason(s) for living in the neighbourhood

S/No.	Reason(s)	No.	%
1.	Low rent	83	92.2
2.	Cheap land	4	4.5
3.	Free access to land	3	3.3
4.	Ethnicity	0	0
	Total	**90**	**100**

Source: Researchers' Survey, 2022

4.3 Identified and Assessed the Impact of Informal Settlements Development on Neighbourhood Quality of Residents' QoL Lived

This aspect of the study has identified and assessed the impact of neighbourhood condition as it is influenced by the socio-economic characteristics of the residents to determine the neighbourhood quality and QoL lived by the residents. Table 14 reveals the impacts of the informal settlements' condition on the neighbourhood quality. Thus, from the data, as presented, 77.8% of the responses from the residents revealed that "poor sanitary condition" is the most prevalent impact, followed by those that said "poor layout of buildings in the neighbourhood" accounted for 11.1% of the responses. Other responses showed that "dirty environment" and "reduction of quality of life" accounted for 5.6% each, respectively. These impacts identified from the neighbourhood condition of the settlements presented the perceived rating of neighbourhood quality of the settlements. Table 15, shows the residents' rating of their neighbourhood quality. However, the rating showed that 41.1% of the residents rated the neighbourhood quality as "fair", closely followed by those that rated the neighbourhood quality of the settlements as "unsatisfied" and "very unsatisfied" accounting for 36.7% and 11.1%, respectively. Other residents rated the neighbourhood quality of their settlements as "satisfied" and "very satisfied" accounting for 7.8% and 3.3%, respectively.

These ratings by the residents from assessment have demonstrated their perceived QoL lived showing from the ratings of the neighbourhood quality of the settlements studied as "fair" and below but mostly "fair" and "unsatisfied". The "fair" rating and others such as "satisfied" and "very satisfied" ratings were guided by observations and photographs showing quite a quantity of neighbourhood facilities and services available in the study area. These facilities and services include medical (health centres) and educational (public primary and secondary schools) facilities and some forms of access roads to access the settlements (see Figs. 2 and 3). All studied informal settlements have primary health centres and public primary schools within them while Mgbushimini settlement has a public secondary school. Though, there are privately owned healthcare and educational facilities, privately provided water supply for domestic uses and public electricity supply even if it is not regular in supply to the settlements to support the living conditions of the residents (see Fig. 4). Hence, some measures suggested by residents to improve their neighbourhood quality where community leaders should abide by the State land-use laws and regular sanitation to clean their environment.

Table 14. Identified impact of neighbourhood condition on neighbourhood quality

S/No.	Identified Impact of Neighbourhood Quality	No.	%
1.	Poor layout of buildings in the neighbourhood	10	11.1
2.	Poor sanitary condition	70	77.8
3	Dirty environment	10	5.6
4.	Reduction in quality of life	5	5.6
	Total	**90**	**100**

Source: Researchers' Survey, 2022

Table 15. Rating of neighbourhood quality of respondents settlement

S/No.	Rating of Neighbourhood Quality	No.	%
1.	Very satisfied	3	3.3
2.	Satisfied	7	7.8
3.	Fair	37	41.1
4.	Unsatisfied	33	36.7
5.	Very unsatisfied	10	11.1
	Total	**90**	**100**

Source: Researchers' Survey, 2022

Fig. 2. Public Secondary School at Mgbushimini Neighbourhood Source: Researchers' Survey, 2022

Fig. 3. Primary Health Centre at Nkpor Neighbourhood Source: Researchers' Survey, 2022

Fig. 4. Private Borehole at Mgbushimini Neighbourhood as Source of Water Supply
Source: Researchers' Survey, 2022

5. CONCLUSION

Informal settlements are important to the planning and management of urban societies. In this condition, neighbourhood quality and QoL have become a yardstick for the assessment of the living conditions of individuals and their well-being within the societies they lived. This is not different from the assessment of neighbourhood quality and QoL in informal settlements which has become a prominent phenomenon in urban areas especially in developing economies in contemporary times. In assessing neighbourhood quality and QoL informal settlements such as Mgbushimini and Nkpor in Obio/Akpor LGA of Port Harcourt metropolis, socio-economic characteristics of the residents of these informal settlements portrayed residents having more of age bracket 39-48years of adults who are mostly married and having an average of 4-5 persons per household. Their educational qualification is mostly vocational education, employed (mostly temporary, casual and contract in status), with the prevalent occupation of trading/business and craft/technical earning between the income bracket of N39,000-N48,999 as modal. The formation of these informal settlements was attributed to low rent, cheap land and free access to land as the settlements are within marginal lands in the metropolis. Though, the buildings are permanent structures and rented apartments of rooming houses and a few blocks of flats occupying mostly 2-3 rooms as habitable spaces. These characteristics have impacted the neighbourhood quality having poor sanitary conditions, poor layout of buildings in the neighbourhood and a dirty environment. These conditions have made the residents rate their neighbourhood quality and QoL lived as mostly "fair", "unsatisfied" and "very unsatisfied" demonstrating mixed feelings as perceived. Based on the findings it can be ascertained that informal settlements development does not encourage quality neighborhood's and QoL thus must be improved upon for a better living environment. This can be done through the following recommendations.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

From the findings, the study recommends that:

1. Urban studies should be carried out in these neighbourhoods to ascertain the socio-economic characteristics of residents to know the aspects of their lives that need priority attention for improvement;

2. Government should declare the study area blighted and carry out urban renewal schemes to improve the physical, social and economic conditions of the neighbourhoods through the physical planning policy and projects in the study area;

3. As a priority basic urban infrastructure, facilities and services should be provided to improve residents' well-being, neighbourhood quality and their QoL lived; and

4. Government should collaborate with international donor agencies such as UN-Habitat, African Development Bank (AfDB), and World Bank to fund developmental projects and programmes that will improve residents' QoL and neighbourhood quality.

CONSENT

As per international standard or university standard, respondents' written consent has been collected and preserved by the author(s).

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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