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HOUSING QUALITY AND THE HEALTH OF THE URBAN DWELLERS IN ENUGU METROPOLIS

A Dissertation submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirement for the Degree of Masters in Urban and Regional Planning (MURP)

BY

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PG/MURP/93/17532

MARCH, 1999
ABSTRACT

The deterioration of existing housing environment and dearth of housing accommodation in Enugu Metropolis have constituted nuisance and health hazards. Government and non-governmental agencies have taken measures to eradicate such diseases as measles, tuberculosis, gastro-enritis, etc. they are still endemic with a resultant rise in mortality rates.

The goals of this dissertation is to: Determine the relationship between Housing quality attributes and Health status of urban dwellers in Enugu Metropolis. The objectives of this study are: To assess the level of housing amenities and infrastructure provision in Enugu Metropolis, To ascertain the relationship between housing quality and health status in Enugu Metropolis and to ascertain whether there exist significant difference in the occurrence of diseases in different residential densities in Enugu metropolis.

Indeed, these research questions were used. What are the levels of housing amenities and infrastructure provision in Enugu Metropolis? To what extent do housing quality attributes relate to health conditions of residents in Enugu Metropolis. Does the prevalence of diseases differs in each residential densities of Enugu Metropolis?

Primary and secondary data were collected by the researcher. Secondary data were obtained from epidemiological and vital statistics of government health institutions in Enugu
Metropolis from 1986 - 1997. Primary data were gotten from household structured questionnaires, personnel observation and oral interview. The stratified, systematic and simple random techniques were employed to select 387 heads of households interviewed in the study area.

A - 3 point Likert Scale ranging from between 1 and 3 from worst to the best was employed to assess the housing qualities of the respondent, the number of persons infected with the diseases in each household were recorded. Multiple linear regression (MLR) was employed to test the level of relationship between the health conditions and housing quality of the respondent. While ANOVA was employed to test whether there are significant difference in the prevalence of diseases in different residential densities in Enugu Metropolis.

The result showed that there exists a strong relationship between housing quality and health condition of residents in Enugu Metropolis since the coefficient of determination $R^2 = 0.98$ and the F calculated values is greater than the critical value at 5% and 10% significant levels. The result of the second hypothesis showed that there exist significant difference in the occurrence of diseases in different residential densities in Enugu Metropolis.

Deterioration of housing environment, dearness of housing accommodation, lack of