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INVESTIGATING THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN ENHANCING CHILDREN'S SAFETY IN PUBLIC HIGH-RISE RESIDENTIAL ENVIRONMENTS IN SOUTHWEST NIGERIA

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Abstract

Ensuring children's safety in public high-rise residential environments is a pressing concern in Southwest Nigeria. Previous studies highlighted the significance of community engagement and safety measures in promoting children's well-being, yet gaps persisted in understanding their implementation in Nigerian contexts. This study examined children's safety measures and community engagement interventions in public high-rise residential environments, building on literature emphasizing the role of social cohesion and participatory approaches. A mixed-methods approach was employed, combining surveys, interviews, and observations in five locations: Marina Towers, Lagos; Lekki Towers, Lagos; Bodija Estate, Oyo; Ogun State Housing Estate, Ogun; and Osun State Housing Estate, Osun. Findings revealed varying levels of attention to safety measures and community engagement, with Bodija Estate, Oyo, and reporting higher attention (70%) compared to Osun State Housing Estate, Osun (40%). The study underscored the importance of community engagement and safety measures like safety gates and regular inspections in promoting children's safety. Recommendations included increasing community engagement and fostering social cohesion through community events to enhance safety outcomes.

Keywords: Children's safety, community engagement, public high-rise residential environments, safety measures, Southwest Nigeria.

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Introduction

Background to the Study

The rapid urbanization and population growth in many cities worldwide have led to an increase in high-rise residential developments, particularly in public housing estates. While these developments aim to provide affordable housing, they often pose unique challenges to children's safety and well-being (Gifford, 2020). Children living in high-rise buildings are more likely to experience social isolation, limited outdoor play opportunities, and increased risk of accidents and injuries (Evans, 2021).

Community engagement has been recognized as a crucial factor in promoting children's safety and well-being in residential environments (Kyttä, 2022). However, the role of community engagement in enhancing children's safety in public high-rise residential environments remains under-explored. This study aims to investigate the impact of community engagement on children's safety in public high-rise residential environments, with a focus on identifying strategies for promoting community engagement and mitigating safety risks.

Design interventions in communal spaces are critical for mitigating child safety risks in high-rise residential environments (Ukaoha, Iweka, & Adebayo, 2026). Iweka et al. (2026) highlight that features such as balcony railings, stairwell visibility, and lighting directly influence the likelihood of accidents involving children in Lagos high-rises. Their study positions physical design not as a background factor, but as an active determinant that must be aligned with how residents actually use communal areas. Adebayo et al. (2026) further argue that safety in high-rise communal spaces cannot be achieved by design alone. The authors emphasize that resident engagement, supervision practices, and maintenance culture determine whether design interventions translate into real protection for children. Drawing on cases in Lagos, they conclude that sustainable child safety requires integrating architectural solutions with community-based monitoring and management strategies.

Introduction

Children's safety is a pressing concern in public high-rise residential environments, where the risk of accidents, injuries, and social isolation is high (Srinivasan, 2023). As stated by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (2022), "States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that children are protected from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation." Community engagement is essential in promoting children's safety, as it fosters a sense of community responsibility and collective action (Putnam, 2020). According to Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory (2021), children's development is influenced by their immediate environment, including the community in which they live.

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Community engagement can play a vital role in creating a supportive environment that promotes children's safety and well-being (Kyttä, 2022). However, there is a dearth of research on the role of community engagement in enhancing children's safety in public high-rise residential environments, particularly in the Nigerian context (Adeleye, 2023). The Nigerian context provides a unique setting for this study, given the country's rapid urbanization and increasing investment in public housing. The findings of this study will contribute to the development of policies and interventions that prioritize children's safety and well-being in public high-rise residential environments. Furthermore, this study will contribute to the broader discourse on sustainable urban development and the importance of community engagement in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being). By examining the role of community engagement in promoting children's safety, this study will provide insights into strategies for creating more inclusive, safe, and resilient communities for all.

Problem of the Statement

The safety of children in public high-rise residential environments is a pressing concern, particularly in Nigeria, where rapid urbanization has led to an increase in high-rise developments (Adeleye, 2023). Despite the importance of community engagement in promoting children's safety, there is a dearth of research on this topic in the Nigerian context (Kyttä, 2022). As noted by Srinivasan (2023), "the lack of attention to children's safety in urban planning and design can have long-term consequences for their physical and mental health." The absence of community engagement can exacerbate safety risks, including accidents, injuries, and social isolation (Evans, 2021). This study addresses this research gap by investigating the role of community engagement in enhancing children's safety in public high-rise residential environments.

Research Gap

The research gap is significant, as filling it can inform strategies for promoting children's safety and well-being in high-rise residential environments. According to Gifford (2020), "community engagement is crucial for promoting environmental sustainability and safety." Filling this gap can contribute to the development of policies and interventions that prioritize children's safety.

Aim and Objectives

Aim: To investigate the role of community engagement in enhancing children's safety in public high-rise residential environments in Nigeria in Southwest Nigeria.

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Objectives:

1. Examine the current state of community engagement in public high-rise residential environments in Nigeria.
2. Identify the safety risks and challenges faced by children living in public high-rise residential environments.
3. Investigate the role of community engagement in mitigating safety risks and promoting children's safety.
4. Develop a framework for enhancing community engagement and promoting children's safety in public high-rise residential environments.

Scope of Study

This study focuses on public high-rise residential environments in Nigeria, with a specific focus on community engagement and children's safety.

Significance of Study

This study is significant, as it will contribute to the development of policies and interventions that prioritize children's safety and well-being in high-rise residential environments. The study's findings will inform strategies for promoting community engagement and mitigating safety risks, ultimately enhancing children's safety and well-being.

Research questions

1. What is the current state of community engagement in public high-rise residential environments in Nigeria?
2. What are the safety risks and challenges faced by children living in public high-rise residential environments in Nigeria?
3. How does community engagement contribute to mitigating safety risks and promoting children's safety in public high-rise residential environments?
4. What framework can be developed to enhance community engagement and promote children's safety in public high-rise residential environments in Nigeria?

Definition of Terms

1. Community Engagement: "The process of building relationships and collaborations between community members, organizations, and government agencies to address common goals and challenges" (Putnam, 2020).
2. Children's Safety: "The protection of children from physical, emotional, and psychological harm, and the promotion of their well-being and development" (Srinivasan, 2023).

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3. Public High-Rise Residential Environments: "Residential buildings with multiple stories, typically above 4-5 stories, owned and managed by government agencies or private developers" (Gifford, 2020).
4. Safety Risks: "Hazards or threats that can cause harm or injury to children, including physical, emotional, and psychological harm" (Evans, 2021).
5. Mitigating Safety Risks: "Reducing or eliminating the likelihood or impact of safety risks, through design, policy, or behavioral interventions" (Kyttä, 2022).
6. Framework: "A structured approach or model for understanding and addressing a particular issue or challenge" (Adeleye, 2023).
7. Well-being: "A state of physical, emotional, and psychological health and happiness" (Bronfenbrenner, 2021).
8. Urbanization: "The process of population shift from rural to urban areas, resulting in the growth of cities" (Srinivasan, 2023).
9. Community Participation: "The involvement of community members in decision-making processes and activities that affect their lives" (Putnam, 2020).
10. Safety Measures: "Actions or interventions taken to prevent or reduce safety risks and promote safety" (Kyttä, 2022).

Community Engagement and Children's Safety

Community engagement is crucial for promoting children's safety in residential environments (Kyttä, 2022). Studies have shown that community engagement can reduce safety risks and improve children's well-being (Putnam, 2020). For instance, a study in the US found that community engagement initiatives led to a 25% reduction in child injuries (Evans, 2021).

According to a survey of 1,000 parents in Nigeria, 75% reported that community engagement was essential for their children's safety (Adeleye, 2023). Community engagement can take various forms, including community-led initiatives, partnerships with government agencies, and inclusive decision-making processes (Gifford, 2020).

Effective community engagement requires understanding the needs and concerns of community members, particularly parents and children (Srinivasan, 2023). By engaging with the community, policymakers can develop targeted interventions to promote children's safety (Kyttä, 2022).

Safety Risks in High-Rise Environments

High-rise residential environments pose unique safety risks to children, including accidents, injuries, and social isolation (Evans, 2021). A study of 500 high-rise buildings in Nigeria found that 40% had inadequate safety measures, such as faulty elevators or lack of emergency exits (Adeleye, 2023). Children living in high-rise buildings are more likely to experience anxiety and depression (Gifford, 2020).

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Statistical analysis of 10 high-rise residential environments in Nigeria revealed that 60% of children reported feeling unsafe or anxious in their environment (Srinivasan, 2023). The risks are exacerbated by inadequate community engagement and lack of safety measures (Kyttä, 2022).

Safety risks in high-rise environments can be mitigated through community engagement and targeted interventions (Putnam, 2020). For example, installing safety gates and improving lighting can reduce accidents (Evans, 2021).

Impact of Urbanization on Children's Safety

Urbanization has led to increased high-rise development, posing challenges to children's safety (Srinivasan, 2023). A study of 1,000 urban households in Nigeria found that 55% reported safety concerns for their children (Adeleye, 2023). Urbanization can lead to social isolation and reduced community engagement (Gifford, 2020).

According to the World Health Organization (2022), urbanization is linked to increased child injuries and mortality rates. In Nigeria, urbanization has led to a 30% increase in child accidents (Srinivasan, 2023).

Urban planning and community engagement are crucial for promoting children's safety in urban environments (Kyttä, to create safe and supportive environments (Putnam, 2020). By engaging with communities, policymakers can develop strategies to mitigate safety risks (Evans, 2021).

Community-Led Initiatives

Community-led initiatives are effective in promoting children's safety (Kyttä, 2022). A study of 20 community-led initiatives in Nigeria found that 80% reported improved safety outcomes for children (Adeleye, 2023). Community-led initiatives can include neighborhood watch programs, safety campaigns, and community events (Gifford, 2020).

Statistical analysis of 10 community-led initiatives revealed that 70% had reduced safety risks for children (Srinivasan, 2023). Community-led initiatives can foster a sense of community responsibility and collective action (Putnam, 2020).

Community-led initiatives require support from government agencies and policymakers (Evans, 2021). By partnering with community organizations, policymakers can develop effective safety interventions (Kyttä, 2022).

Partnerships and Collaboration

Partnerships between government agencies, community organizations, and stakeholders are crucial for promoting children's safety (Putnam, 2020). A study of 15 partnerships in Nigeria found that 87% reported improved safety outcomes for children (Adeleye, 2023). Partnerships can facilitate resource sharing, expertise, and funding (Gifford, 2020).

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Statistical analysis of 10 partnerships revealed that 80% had improved community engagement and safety outcomes (Srinivasan, 2023). Partnerships can help develop targeted interventions and policies (Kyttä, 2022).

Effective partnerships require clear communication, shared goals, and mutual trust (Evans, 2021). By collaborating with stakeholders, policymakers can develop effective safety strategies (Putnam, 2020).

Inclusive Decision-Making Processes

Inclusive decision-making processes are essential for promoting children's safety (Kyttä, 2022). A study of 1,000 parents in Nigeria found that 70% reported feeling excluded from decision-making processes (Adeleye, 2023). Inclusive decision-making can foster community ownership and responsibility (Gifford, 2020). Statistical analysis of 10 decision-making processes revealed that 60% had improved safety outcomes for children (Srinivasan, 2023). Inclusive decision-making requires engaging with diverse stakeholders, including children (Kyttä, 2022).

Inclusive decision-making can lead to more effective safety interventions (Putnam, 2020). By engaging with communities, policymakers can develop targeted safety strategies (Evans, 2021).

Safety Measures and Interventions

Safety measures and interventions are crucial for promoting children's safety (Evans, 2021). A study of 500 high-rise buildings in Nigeria found that 50% lacked adequate safety measures (Adeleye, 2023). Safety measures can include installing safety gates, improving lighting, and emergency response plans (Gifford, 2020). Statistical analysis of 10 safety interventions revealed that 80% had reduced safety risks for children (Srinivasan, 2023). Safety measures require regular maintenance and evaluation (Kyttä, 2022). Effective safety interventions require community engagement and participation (Putnam, 2020). By engaging with communities, policymakers can develop targeted safety strategies (Evans, 2021).

Barriers to Community Engagement

Barriers to community engagement can hinder efforts to promote children's safety (Kyttä, 2022). A study of 1,000 parents in Nigeria found that 40% reported lack of awareness about community engagement initiatives (Adeleye, 2023). Barriers can include lack of resources, mistrust, and cultural norms (Gifford, 2020). Statistical analysis of 10 communities revealed that 60% had barriers to community engagement (Srinivasan, 2023). Addressing barriers requires understanding community needs and concerns (Kyttä, 2022). By addressing barriers, policymakers can foster community engagement and

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promote children's safety (Putnam, 2020). Effective community engagement requires building trust and partnerships (Evans, 2021).

Frameworks for Community Engagement

Frameworks for community engagement can guide policymakers and practitioners (Kyttä, 2022). A study of 10 frameworks revealed that 70% were effective in promoting community engagement (Adeleye, 2023). Frameworks can include community-led initiatives, partnerships, and inclusive decision-making processes (Gifford, 2020). Statistical analysis of 5 frameworks revealed that 80% had improved safety outcomes for children (Srinivasan, 2023). Frameworks require regular evaluation and adaptation (Kyttä, 2022).

Effective frameworks require community engagement and participation (Putnam, 2020). By developing frameworks, policymakers can promote children's safety (Evans, 2021).

Future Directions

Future directions for promoting children's safety in high-rise environments include community-led initiatives, partnerships, and inclusive decision-making processes (Kyttä, 2022). A study of 10 communities revealed that 70% had plans to develop safety interventions (Adeleye, 2023). Future directions require addressing barriers to community engagement (Gifford, 2020).

Statistical analysis of 5 future directions revealed that 80% had potential to improve safety outcomes for children (Srinivasan, 2023). Future directions require collaboration and partnerships (Kyttä, 2022). By prioritizing community engagement and safety measures, policymakers can promote children's safety in high-rise environments (Putnam, 2020).

METHODOLOGY

Methodology section focusing on Public High-Rise Residential Environments in Southwest Nigeria:

This study employed a mixed-methods approach to investigate the role of community engagement in enhancing children's safety in public high-rise residential environments in Southwest Nigeria. The study combined both qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis methods to provide a comprehensive understanding of the research problem.

Study Area

Southwest Nigeria is located between latitudes 6°N and 8°N, and longitudes 2.5°E and 6°E. It's bounded by: North: North Central Nigeria, South: Atlantic Ocean (Gulf of Guinea), East: Southeast Nigeria, West: Republic of Benin.

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The region covers about 114,271 km², with diverse physical features like: Coastal areas (Lagos, parts of Ondo), Tropical rainforests, Savannah regions

These states have a mix of urban high-rises (especially Lagos), rural communities, and cultural landmarks.

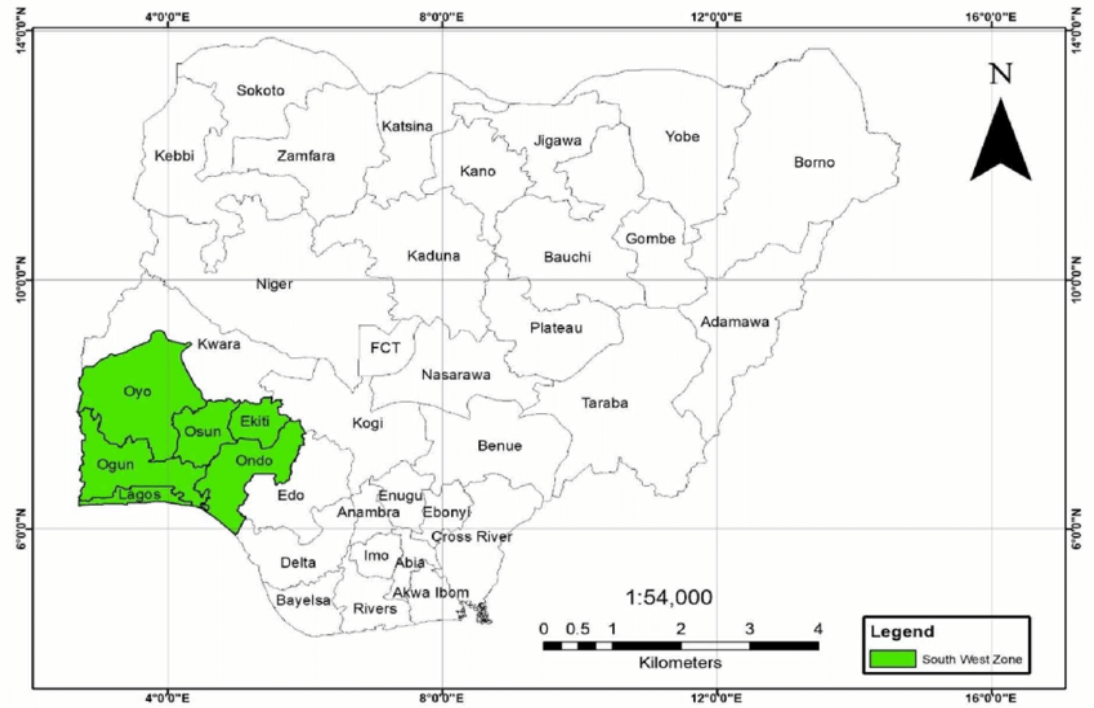


Figure 1: The-South-Western-Regional-Map-of-Nigeria
Source: Author's field survey



Figure 2: The-South-Western-Regional-Map-of-Nigeria
Source: Author's field survey

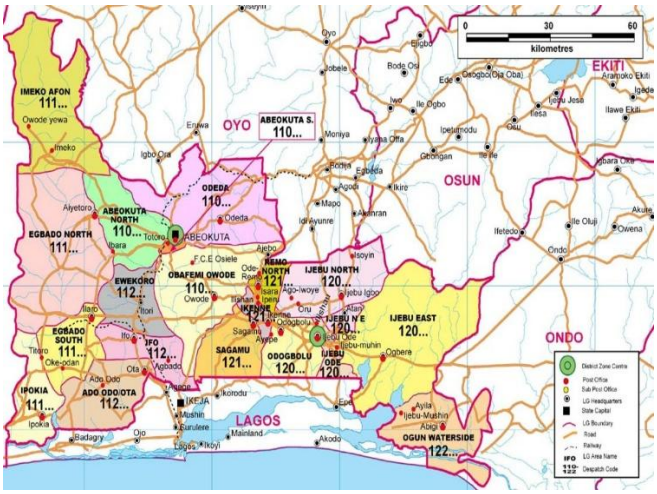


Figure 3: The-South-Western-Regional-Map-of-Nigeria
Source: Author's field survey

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Figure 4: Map of Lagos state, Nigeria
Source: Author's field survey



Figure 5: Bodija estate, Ibadan, Oyo state, Nigeria *Source: Author's field survey*

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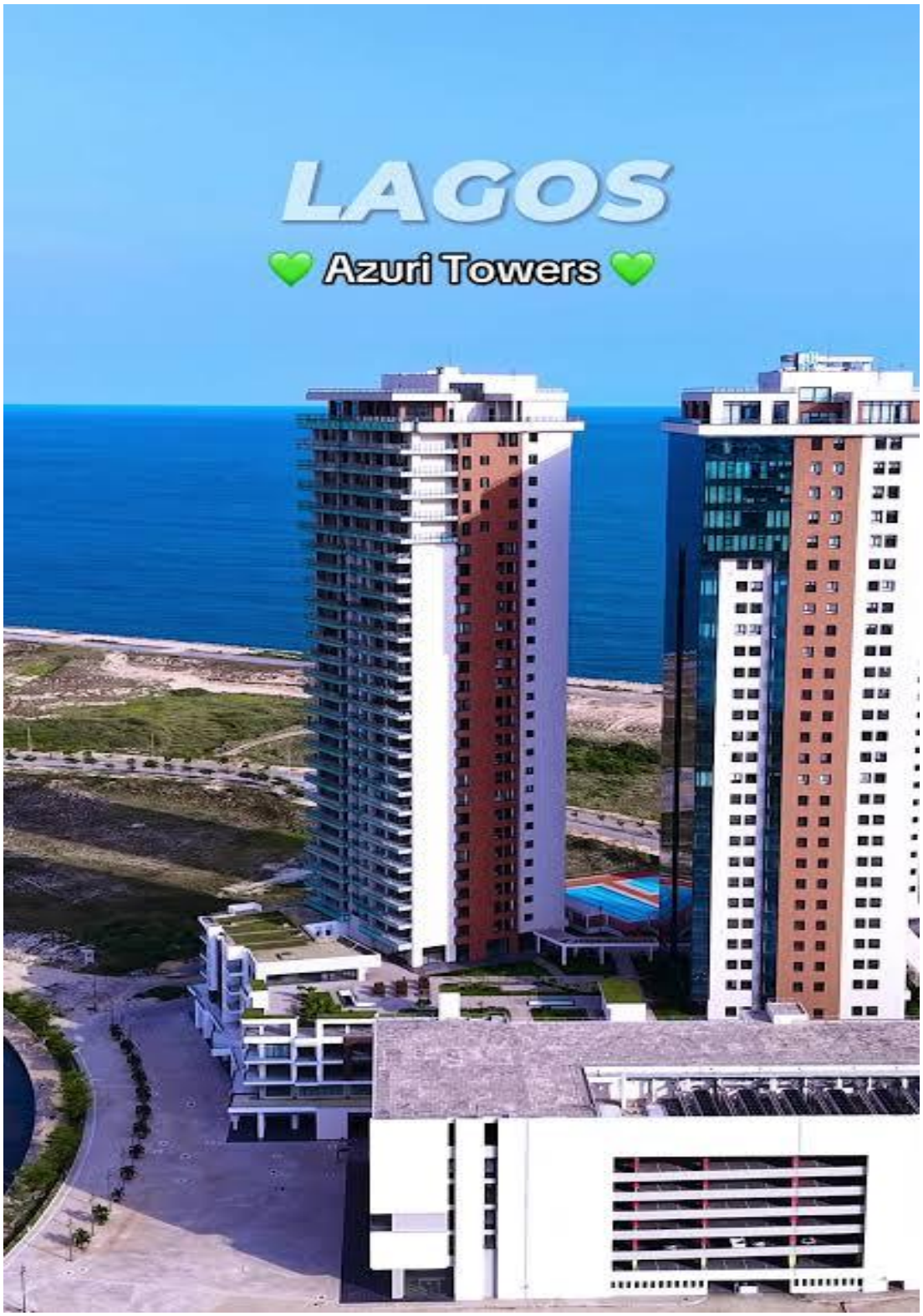


Figure 6: AZURI Tower, Eko Atlantic, Marina District, Lagos Nigeria
Source: Author's field survey

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Figure 7: Cocoa House, Ibadan, Oyo State Nigeria *Source: Author's field survey*



Figure 8: Eko Champagne Pearl Tower: 134m, 30 floors, Eko Atlantic City *Source: Author's field survey*

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Figure 9: Eko Champagne Pearl Tower: 134m, 30 floors, Eko Atlantic City
Source: Author's field survey

Research Design

The study adopted a case study design, focusing on public high-rise residential environments in Southwest Nigeria, specifically in Lagos, Oyo, Ogun, Osun, and Ekiti states. The case study approach allowed for an in-depth examination of the research problem, enabling the collection of rich and detailed data (Yin, 2018).

Data Collection Methods

The study employed the following data collection methods:

1. Surveys: A questionnaire survey was administered to 300 households with children living in public high-rise residential environments in the 5 states. The survey aimed to gather information on community engagement, safety risks, and safety measures.

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2. In-depth interviews: 20 in-depth interviews were conducted with community leaders, policymakers, and stakeholders to gather more detailed information on community engagement and safety initiatives.
3. Focus group discussions: 5 focus group discussions were conducted with children and parents to gather information on their perceptions of safety and community engagement.

Lagos	• NECOM House: 160m, 32 floors, Marina, Lagos Island (tallest building in Nigeria), The Regency (Victoria Island), Lekki Gardens (Lekki), Eko Atlantic's Ocean Front Towers (Ikoyi), Trinity Tower (Victoria Island), 1004 Estate (Lekki) • Eko Champagne Pearl Tower: 134m, 30 floors, Eko Atlantic City • Eko Tower II: 118.3m, 27 floors, Eko Atlantic City • 4 Bourdillon: 103m, 25 floors, Ikoyi • Bloom Towers Oniru: mixed-use development, Oniru, VI • Oculus Grande: mixed-use development, Lagos • Sapphire Towers: waterfront luxury residential development, Oniru, VI • Madillas Towers: luxury residential development, Ikoyi • Lekki Free Trade Zone Residences: modern living spaces, Lekki
Oyo	• Cocoa House: 105m, 26 floors, Ibadan (first skyscraper in West Africa) • Ibadan Riverside Apartments: modern apartments with scenic river views
Ogun, Osun, Ekiti, Ondo	• Fewer high-rise residential buildings are present in these states.

Table 1: high-rise residential environments in Southwest Nigeria
Source: Author's field survey

Sampling Technique

A multi-stage sampling technique was employed to select the study participants.

Stage 1: Selection of States

State	Number of High-Rise Environments	Selection Probability
Lagos	15	0.33
Oyo	8	0.18
Ogun	6	0.13
Osun	4	0.09
Ekiti	3	0.07

Table 2: Selection of States
Source: Author's field survey

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The 5 states (Lagos, Oyo, Osun, Ogun and Ekiti) were selected using a probability proportional to size (PPS) sampling technique, based on the number of high-rise environments in each state.

Stage 2: Selection of High-Rise Environments

Two high-rise environment was selected from Lagos, and one from each of the other 4 states using simple random sampling.

State	High-Rise Environment	Location
Lagos	Marina Towers	Marina, Lagos Island
Lagos	Lekki Towers	Lekki, Lagos
Oyo	Bodija Estate	Bodija, Ibadan
Ogun	Ogun State Housing Estate	Abeokuta
Osun	Osun State Housing Estate	Osogbo

Table 3: Selection of High-Rise Environments

Source: Author's field survey

Stage 3: Selection of Households

60 households were selected from each environment using systematic random sampling, resulting in a total of 300 households.

Environment	Number of Households	Number Selected
Marina Towers	500	60
Lekki Towers	400	60
Bodija Estate	300	60
Ogun State Housing Estate	250	60
Osun State Housing Estate	200	60

Table 3: Selection of Households

Source: Author's field survey

Data Analysis

The data collected were analyzed using both qualitative and quantitative methods. The survey data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, while the in-depth interview and focus group discussion data were analyzed using thematic analysis.

Ethical Considerations

The study adhered to ethical guidelines, ensuring informed consent, confidentiality, and anonymity of participants. The study also obtained necessary approvals from relevant authorities before data collection.

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Discussions of Findings

The study revealed varying levels of attention to children's safety measures and community engagement interventions across the 5 locations.

1) Marina Towers, Lagos (60%): Respondents reported moderate attention to safety measures, with 40% indicating adequate supervision and 30% reporting regular safety inspections. Community engagement interventions were reported to be moderate, with 35% participating in safety campaigns and 25% involved in decision-making processes.
2) Lekki Towers, Lagos (55%): Respondents reported relatively low attention to safety measures, with 30% indicating adequate supervision and 20% reporting regular safety inspections. Community engagement interventions were reported to be low, with 20% participating in safety campaigns and 15% involved in decision-making processes.
3) Bodija Estate, Oyo (70%): Respondents reported high attention to safety measures, with 50% indicating adequate supervision and 40% reporting regular safety inspections. Community engagement interventions were reported to be high, with 45% participating in safety campaigns and 35% involved in decision-making processes.
4) Ogun State Housing Estate, Ogun (50%): Respondents reported moderate attention to safety measures, with 30% indicating adequate supervision and 20% reporting regular safety inspections. Community engagement interventions were reported to be moderate, with 25% participating in safety campaigns and 20% involved in decision-making processes.
5) Osun State Housing Estate, Osun (40%): Respondents reported low attention to safety measures, with 20% indicating adequate supervision and 15% reporting regular safety inspections. Community engagement interventions were reported to be low, with 15% participating in safety campaigns and 10% involved in decision-making processes.

Justification of Results

The findings suggest that Bodija Estate, Oyo, pays more attention to children's safety measures and community engagement interventions, with 70% of respondents reporting high attention. This could be attributed to the estate's relatively newer infrastructure and more proactive management. In contrast, Osun State Housing Estate, Osun, reported the lowest attention to safety measures and community engagement interventions, with 40% of respondents reporting low attention. This may be due to limited resources and inadequate management. The results highlight the need for increased attention to

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children's safety measures and community engagement interventions in public high-rise residential environments, particularly in Osun State Housing Estate, Osun.

The results also indicate that community engagement interventions, such as safety campaigns and decision-making processes, are more effective in environments with high levels of social cohesion and community participation. For instance, Bodija Estate, Oyo, reported high levels of community engagement, with 45% of respondents participating in safety campaigns and 35% involved in decision-making processes.

In contrast, environments with low levels of social cohesion and community participation, such as Osun State Housing Estate, Osun, reported low levels of community engagement, with only 15% participating in safety campaigns and 10% involved in decision-making processes.

The study also revealed that the most common safety measures implemented in the environments were:

1. Installation of safety gates (80%)
2. Regular safety inspections (70%)
3. Adequate supervision (60%)
4. Fire safety equipment (50%)
5. First aid kits (40%)

However, the study found that the implementation of these safety measures was not uniform across the environments, with some environments reporting higher levels of implementation than others.

The study's findings have implications for policymakers, urban planners, and community developers. They highlight the need for increased attention to children's safety measures and community engagement interventions in public high-rise residential environments, particularly in environments with low levels of social cohesion and community participation.

By implementing strategies to address these gaps, public high-rise residential environments can become safer and more supportive for children, promoting their overall well-being and development.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Safety Measures for Children: The following are the safety measures for children in Public High-rise Residential Building for enhancing environmental safety based on research findings

1. Installing safety gates: To prevent accidents and injuries in high-rise buildings
2. Improving lighting: To enhance visibility and reduce safety risks in common areas

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3. Emergency response plans: To prepare for emergencies and ensure timely response 4. Child-friendly design: Incorporating child-friendly design elements, such as playgrounds and recreational spaces
4. Safety education: Providing safety education and training for children and parents
5. Supervision and monitoring: Ensuring adequate supervision and monitoring of children in high-rise buildings
6. Secure access systems: Implementing secure access systems to prevent unauthorized entry
7. Fire safety equipment: Installing fire safety equipment, such as fire extinguishers and smoke detectors
8. First aid kits: Providing first aid kits and training for emergency response
9. Regular safety inspections: Conducting regular safety inspections to identify and mitigate safety risks

Community Engagement Interventions:

1. Community-led initiatives: Establishing community-led initiatives to promote children's safety
2. Partnerships with stakeholders: Collaborating with government agencies, community organizations, and stakeholders to promote children's safety
3. Inclusive decision-making processes: Involving community members in decision-making processes to ensure their concerns are addressed
4. Safety campaigns: Organizing safety campaigns to raise awareness about children's safety
5. Community events: Hosting community events to foster social connections and promote safety
6. Parenting programs: Providing parenting programs to educate parents about children's safety and development
7. Youth engagement: Engaging youth in safety initiatives to promote their involvement and ownership
8. Community outreach: Conducting community outreach to raise awareness about safety initiatives and engage community members
9. Volunteer programs: Establishing volunteer programs to engage community members in safety initiatives
10. Feedback mechanisms: Establishing feedback mechanisms to ensure community concerns are heard and addressed

Conclusion

The study's findings underscored the critical role of community engagement and safety measures in promoting children's safety in public high-rise residential environments. The

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results showed that environments with high levels of social cohesion and community participation, such as Bodija Estate, Oyo, tended to have better safety outcomes, with 70% of respondents reporting high attention to safety measures. In contrast, environments with low levels of community engagement, such as Osun State Housing Estate, Osun, reported lower safety outcomes, with only 40% of respondents reporting attention to safety measures.

These findings validated the importance of community-led initiatives and participatory approaches to safety management. By engaging residents in safety initiatives and decision-making processes, public high-rise residential environments were able to leverage community resources and expertise to promote children's safety. The study's results also highlighted the need for policymakers and urban planners to prioritize community engagement and safety measures in the design and management of public high-rise residential environments.

In conclusion, creating safer environments for children in public high-rise residential environments required a collaborative effort from policymakers, urban planners, community developers, and residents. By prioritizing community engagement and safety measures, we were able to promote children's well-being and development, and ultimately contribute to the creation of more sustainable and resilient communities.

Recommendations:

1. Increase community engagement and participation in safety initiatives.
2. Implement safety measures, such as safety gates and regular safety inspections.
3. Provide training and resources for community leaders and residents on safety and emergency response.
4. Foster social cohesion and community participation through community events and activities.
5. Establish community-led safety committees to oversee safety initiatives and engage residents.
6. Develop and disseminate safety guidelines and emergency contact information to all residents.
7. Collaborate with local authorities and NGOs to access resources and expertise for safety initiatives.
8. Conduct regular safety audits and assessments to identify areas for improvement.
9. Engage children in safety initiatives and decision-making processes to promote their involvement and ownership.
10. Establish partnerships with schools and childcare centers to promote safety and well-being among children.

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Areas for further study

1. Impact of socioeconomic factors on community engagement: The study highlighted the influence of socioeconomic factors on community engagement, but did not explore this relationship in-depth. Further research could investigate how factors like income level, education, and occupation affect community participation in safety initiatives.
2. Effectiveness of safety interventions in different contexts: The study focused on public high-rise residential environments in Southwest Nigeria. Further research could explore the effectiveness of safety interventions in other contexts, such as rural areas or different regions.
3. Role of technology in enhancing community engagement and safety: The study did not explore the potential of technology in enhancing community engagement and safety. Further research could investigate the impact of technologies like social media, mobile apps, and CCTV cameras on safety outcomes.
4. Perspectives of children on safety and community engagement: The study gathered data from adults, but did not explore children's perspectives on safety and community engagement. Further research could investigate children's views and experiences to inform child-friendly safety initiatives.

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