Research Article

AN ASSESSMENT OF HOUSING SATISFACTION IN POLICE BARRACKS OF GOMBE STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The study assessed housing satisfaction in Police Barracks of Gombe state, Nigeria. Quantitative research was employed where survey design method was used for the study. The target population consists of Five Thousand Six Hundred and Fifty Five (5,655) Police Officers in 23 divisions of the eleven (11) Local Governments Councils of Gombe State. Multi-stage sampling was employed for the selection of the study sites and for the respondents (police officers). At the first stage, a simple random sampling technique was used to select 20% of Police divisions and formations from each of the three (3) senatorial zones in the State. Three (3) divisions/formations namely; Gombe, Nafada and 34 mf divisions were chosen from the 13 formations and divisions within the North district, two divisions namely; Billiri division and Balanga division from Gombe South district, and one division namely; Kumo division was chosen from Gombe Central. Nominal roll of the police officers of the command was used as the sampling frame and a sample of 358 police men including rank and files and officers was determined using Krejcie and Morgan Sample Size Determiner. Descriptive and inferential statistical techniques were used for the data analyses. The result of the descriptive statistics shows that 13% of the respondents are satisfied with the condition of the barracks, 79% are dissatisfied and 9% are very dissatisfied. On the neighbourhood facilities, the majority 67.1% of the respondents used rechargeable lamps for lightening their houses, while 32.9% used generators. Furthermore, on the source of water for domestic uses, 58.2% depend on water vendors, 30.4% on commercial water tankers while the remaining respondents depend on other sources of water supply. On Environmental hygiene, 72.2% of respondents dump their refuse at the designated dumping sites while 27.8% burn the refuse. On the security of the barracks, 19% of the respondents believed that the barracks have fence while 81% said that the barracks have no available fence. Similarly, on availability of playground within the Barracks, 38% expressed the view that it is available while 62% said it is not available. Based on the high level of dissatisfaction with condition of the barracks expressed by the respondents, the study recommends the provision of new additional housing units in all the barracks. The renovation of all existing housing units and improvement of facilities to enhance the living standard of the personnel and their families.

INTRODUCTION

Housing is one of the most important basic needs of every individual, it provides protection against the vegaries of extreme weather and a reclining space and resting abode after a hectic day's work. In Nigeria the public and private sectors have been making efforts to provide their employees with decent and readily accessible housing accommodation as part of efforts to ensure employees welfare. Decent housing accommodation has been observed to directly influence employee's output and productivity (Huchzermeyer, 2006). The Nigeria Police Force is one of the important Government organisations that has provided housing units for its staff nationwide. The houses are usually constructed in a Barrack kind of settings to house both the Senior staff and the rank and file. The word Barrack is an English term that was originally derived from an old Catalan word "barraca" (hut), originally referring to temporary shelters or huts for various people and

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animals, but today it is used to refer to permanent buildings for military, paramilitary and other security agencies housing accommodation.

In the contemporary times the main objective of building barracks is to separate soldiers (security personnel) from the civilian population and reinforce discipline, training, and esprit de corps. They have been called "discipline factories for soldiers" some are considered to be shoddy or dull buildings, although others are known for their magnificent architecture such as Collins Barracks in Dublin and others in Paris, Berlin, Madrid, Vienna, or London. In line with the best practice in other parts of the world, improvement in the welfare condition of the police especially in emerging democracies like Nigeria is an important prerequisite that can ensure effective performance with regards to crime prevention , detection, control and law enforcement (Hills, 2008; Nyamwamu *et al.*, 2012).

However, in Nigeria the issue of poor welfare and working condition of the police personnel has been a cause for serious concern and this is aggrevated by the deplorable housing condition of their barracks. Most of the Barracks have old and dilapidated housing units that are grossly inadequate to cater for the officers and the rank and file. A great number of the serving personnel were not able to secure housing accommodation within the barracks and even for those who are lucky to have, the living condition is deplorable. The housing units are in a serious state of disrepair with no adequate living spaces and generally lacking infrastructure and social amenities. Consequent upon the above highlighted issues related to most of the Police Barracks in Nigeria, it is pertinent to find out whether officers and the rank and file in active service of the force accommodated in the barracks are satisfied or otherwise with their housing conditions.

According to Djebuarni and Al-Abed (2000) and Mohit *et al.* (2010), residential satisfaction is defined as the feeling of contentment which one has or achieves when one's needs or desires in a house have been met. It is an important indicator and planners, architects, developers, and policymakers use it in a number of ways. It has been used as (a) a key predictor of an individual's perception of general quality of life, (b) an indicator of incipient residential mobility and hence has altered housing demands and affected neighbourhood change, (c) an ad hoc evaluative measure for judging the success of housing constructed by private and public sectors, and (d) an assessment tool of residents' perception of inadequacies in their current housing environment in order to improve the status quo. According to Francescato (1998) and Darkwa (2006), residential satisfaction is influenced by the occupants` perceptions of the various aspects of the house, the aspects of the community and how the house and the community are managed. Occupants tend to make an immediate comparison between previous dwelling and their present housing and that also influences residential satisfaction. In the evaluation of residential satisfaction certain characteristics, services and amenities in the residential environment may be identified that play a vital role in housing satisfaction. Residential satisfaction gives an indication of how people respond to the environment in which they live. Francescato (1998) further noted that people evaluate the performance of their environment according to their needs and this influences residential satisfaction. The relationship of people with their environment is based on the

relationship between a person's characteristics (background, their feelings, beliefs, attitudes and behavioural tendencies) and the social and physical components of that particular environment. Amerigo and Aragones (1997) observed that if occupants` attitudes toward their community are favourable and their levels of satisfaction are high, they will behave in a way which will be beneficial to both the housing units and the community at large. The occupants will contribute towards the maintenance of the housing units and the neighbourhood in general and they will actively participate in community activities. Such occupants express higher levels of satisfaction. Residential satisfaction is based entirely on the occupant's individual definition of residential quality. For instance, one occupant's idea of good residential quality will be to have a toilet inside the housing unit whilst for another it may not be. Residential satisfaction also depends on culture and, in some cases, different socio-economic levels. Occupants usually compare what they consider to be high or good residential quality to the current residential environment in which they reside, when the gap between what they expect and what they have decreases, residential satisfaction increases. They also pointed out that psycho-social aspect play a bigger role in residential satisfaction than physical features. Therefore, occupants of housing units display higher levels of satisfaction when they relate well with their neighbours and when they are attached to their residential environment.

Theoretical underpinnings on residential satisfaction are based upon the idea that residential satisfaction measures the difference between household's" actual and desired or aspired housing and neighbourhood situations (Galster,1987). Households usually make their judgments about residential conditions based on their needs and aspirations. Satisfaction with households housing conditions indicates little or no complaints and a high degree of congruence between actual and desired situations. On the other hand, incongruence between housing needs and aspirations may lead to dissatisfaction. It is on the basis of this analysis of residential satisfaction and the observed condition of housing units in most of Police Barracks, this paper intends to assess the housing satisfaction of men of the police force accommodated in the barracks of Gombe State.

Study Area

Gombe State is located between latitude 9°30' and 12°30'N and longitudes 8°45' and 11 °45'E of the Greenwich Meridian (figure 1). It lies within the north-eastern region of Nigeria and occupies a total land area of about 20,265sq.km with an estimated population of 1,820,415 inhabitants in 1998. It has a climate characterized by tropical dry and wet seasons with each lasting approximately for six months (Olofin, 1993). As in other parts of the Nigerian Savanna, rainfall distribution is mainly triggered by a seasonal shift of the Inter -Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ). For the years 1977 to 1995, the mean annual rainfall is 835 mm and the mean annual temperature is about 26°C. The relative humidity has the same pattern with as high as 94% in August and dropping to sometimes less than 10% during the harmattan period (Balzerek *et al.* (2003),
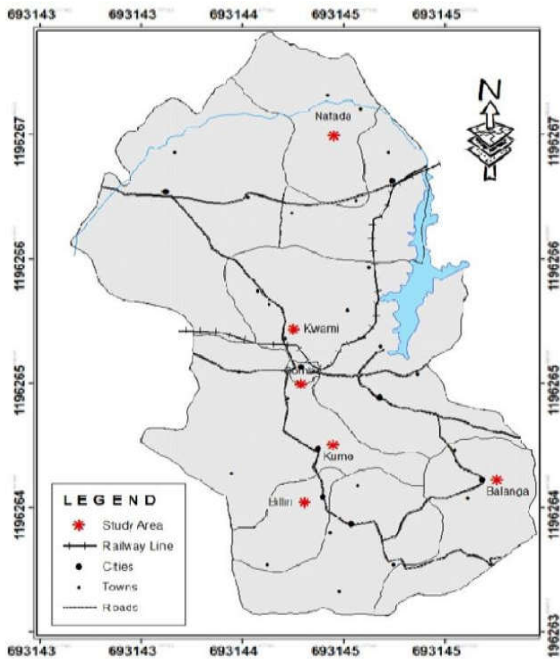
Figure 1 Map of Gombe State showing the Study Area

MATERIALS AND METHOD

The paper adopts quantitative research technique and employed a survey design method to explore the views of respondents who were accommodated within the housing units provided in the police barracks of Gombe State, Nigeria.

Sample and Sampling Technique

The target population consists of all the policemen at the Command headquarters, Area commands, Divisional police headquarters and the Mobile police Barracks in the state. Gombe state has a total number of five thousand six hundred and fifty five (5,655) police officers spread across the twenty three (23) divisions situated in eleven (11) local governments areas of the state. The state was further divided into three senatorial districts and in each of these districts; a police area command was stationed. The sampling frame comprises of the list of all the police officers in Gombe state police command. The officers were categorised into three (3) groups according to their cadre namely; Senior police officers, Inspectors and the Rank and file. From the total population of police officers in the command, two hundred and nineteen (219) are senior police officers (SPO), five hundred and fifty seven (557) are inspectors while four thousand eight hundred and seventy nine (4,879) are rank and file.

The first stage in the sampling procedure was the selection of 20% of police divisions and formations from each of the three (3) senatorial zones. The names of the police divisions were written on pieces of paper and were folded thereafter; the 20% was selected randomly. The essence of taking 20% of the police divisions and formations as sample is to be able to capture as many respondents as possible from the various formations. Furthermore, according to Arlosoroff *et al* (1987) and Umar, (2006) 20% of any population is sufficient to yield a meaningful statistical validity results.

In the second stage, three (3) formations namely; Gombe division, Nafada division and 34 mf were chosen from the 13 formations and divisions within the district, Billiri division and Balanga division were chosen from Gombe south district while Kumo division was chosen from Gombe central. Furthermore, to get the sample respondents the nominal roll of the police officers of the command was obtained and the sample size was determined using Krejcie & Morgan (1970). It provides a table for sample size determination, which was based on the following formula:

$$S = X^2 NP (1-P) \div (N-1) + X^2 P (1-P)$$

Where s = required sample size

X^2 = the table value of chi-square for 1 degree of freedom at the desired Confidence level ($1.96 \times 1.96 = 3.84$)

N = Population size

P = Population proportion (assumed to be .50 since this would provide the maximum sample size).

d = degree of accuracy expressed as a proportion (i.e. .05).

According to Krejcie & Morgan (1970), no calculations are needed to use the table and it is applicable to any defined population. They also noted that as the population size increases, the sample size increases at a diminishing rate and remains relatively constant at slightly more than 380 cases. Based on this method of sample size determination and considering the fact that the population of police officers in Gombe state is large, the sample size for the survey was fixed at 358 respondents. The rank and file constitutes 86%, inspectors account for 9.8% while the senior police officers constitutes 3.9% of the total population of officers in the commands.

A total of 308 copies of questionnaire were administered to the rank and files, 36 copies to inspectors while 14 copies were administered to senior police officers. The selection was done using systematic random sampling technique; a probability sampling method where respondents from a larger population are selected according to a random starting point and a fixed periodic interval. This interval, called the sampling interval, was calculated by dividing the population size by the desired sample size. Despite the sample population being selected in advance, systematic sampling is still thought of as being random, provided the periodic interval is determined before hand and the starting point is random (Nwana, 2008). The population of the areas where the sample is to be selected is not equal therefore the interval differs. For instance Gombe division with a population of 141 and a sample size of 70 respondents, the sampling interval was 2 while for the 34 mf with a population of 805 and a sample size of 148 the sampling interval was 5. After applying the above procedure, the samples were selected as presented on Table 1.

Table 1 Distribution of population and Sample Size

S/No	Division/formation	Sample size
1	Gombe division	70
2	Nafada division	22
3	34 pmf	148
4	Billiri division	50
5	Balanga division	15
6	Kumo division	53
	Total	**358**

Data Collection

The data was collected using structured questionnaire survey that was administered to the 358 respondents. The information elicited focused on the socio-demographic parameters of the respondents and their assessment of barrack housing satisfaction. Other secondary data was derived from the available records in the command which focus on the number of available houses in the barracks, the number of officers housed in the barracks, the total number of police officers in the state etc. Out of the 358 copies of the questionnaire that were administered, only 347 were retrieved and used for the data analysis. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software was utilised to help the data analysis using descriptive and inferential statistics.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data from the questionnaire survey provides the basis for the research findings, in most cases the secondary data was used to either support or provide background for comparison with empirical observations in the study area or in the literature. The secondary data collected revealed that there are 26 blocks of houses with 224 officers occupying the houses and six (6) flats of six, four and three bedrooms respectively. Twelve senior officers are occupying the two flats of six bedrooms which means each officer was allocated a single room in the house. Eight inspectors are occupying the two other houses in the 34 pmf barrack with each one of them allocated a single room while the other two flats of three bedroom at Billiri is housing two inspectors. The data also revealed that every officer (SPOS, Inspectors and Rank and File) in the command can be housed in the barrack irrespective of rank.

Socio-Economic Characteristics of the Respondents

The data analysis has shown that 89.9% of the respondents are male while 10.1% are female. This shows a gender disparity in the recruitment of personnel in the Nigeria Police Force, although this might be related to cultural and religious perception of the service among different ethno-cultural groups in Nigeria.

The finding further shows that majority of the respondents are are within the Rank and file with about 85.6%, 4% fall within the rank of Senior Police Officers (SPO) while only 1% are in the Inspectors cadre (Table 2).

Table 2 Distribution of Respondents by Rank

Rank	Frequency	Percent(%)
Spo	14	4
Inspector	36	10.4
Rank/file	297	85.6
Total	**347**	**100**

Source: Field Work 2016.

In terms of the educational qualification, table 3 clearly presents the distribution of the educational qualifications obtained by the respondents. It shows a great majority 66% had possessed Senior Secondary School leaving certificate, 31.4% had diploma or NCE equivalent, 1.4% possessed Higher National Diploma (HND), while 1.2% obtained a Bachelor's Degree certificate. This indicates that most of the personnel of the Nigeria police force in Gombe Command have low level of

education, which has serious implications on their competence and productivity.

Table 3 Educational qualification of Respondents

Edu/qualification	Frequency	Percent(%)
SSCE	229	66
Diploma	109	31.4
HND	5	1.4
DEGREE	4	1.2
Total	**347**	**100**

Source: Field Work 2016.

The analysis also shows that out of the 347 respondents interviewed, 280 (80.7%) were married while 67 (19. 3%) were single. This indicates that most of the respondents are married therefore needs a befitting, decent and well secured residential accommodation for their family in order to discharge their responsibilities effectively. When the respondents were asked to indicate whether they reside within the barracks or they hired apartments outside the barracks, only 22.2% indicated they live in the barracks while 77.8% said they live in rented accommodation outside the barracks. This shows that residential accommodation are grossly inadequate in all the barracks of the different formations in the state.

Further analysis of the respondents residing in the barracks has shown that 55.8% have family of between 1-5 members while 34.2% have family of between 6-10 members. It can therefore be observed that most of those who live in the barracks have relatively small number of family members,which may be due to the fact that most of the houses are only two bed rooms apartment designed specifically for staff with small family members.

Housing Characteristics of Respondents

The housing units in the Police barracks of Gombe State were observed to be basically of two categories; Flats and Block of room apartments. The data (table 4) has shown that 16.5% live in one bedroom apartments while 73.4% live in a 2-bed room apartments. About 7.6 % of the 79 respondents who are living in the barracks were accommodated in the flats while 92.4% were accommodated in the Block of room apartments. All (100%) of the respondents residing in the barracks confirmed that the toilets are water system and are located outside the main building. Furthermore, they attest to the fact that the kitchen is also detached away from the main house, which means the resident have to go out of the main house to use the toilet and the kitchen whenever the need arises.

Table 4 Housing characteristic of Respondents

Variable	Rating	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Type of house			
Flat	1	6	7.6
Block of rooms	2	72	92.4
Total		**79**	**100**
Number of rooms			
1 bed room	1	13	16.5
2 bed rooms	2	58	73.4
3 bed rooms	3	0	0
4 bed rooms	4	1	1.3
5 bed rooms	5	0	0
6 bed room	6	7	8.9
Total		**79**	**100**
Type of toilet			
Pit latrine	1	0	0
Water system	2	79	100

Total		79	100
Toilet location			
Within the house	1	8	10.1
Separate from the house	2	71	89.9
Total		**79**	**100**
Kitchen location			
Within house	1	8	10.1
Separate from house	2	71	89.9
Total		**79**	**100**

Source: Field Work 2016

Housing condition of Respondents

The housing condition of the respondents was measured using a five point Likert scale as follows; 1 = very good, 2 = Good, 3 = fairly good, 4 = poor, 5 very poor and table 4 presents the mean and standard deviation scores.The findings (table 5) show that the roof condition has a mean score of (M = 2.80, n = 79, SD = 0.516), ceiling condition (M = 3.42, n = 79, SD = 0.692), walls condition (M = 2.56, n = 79, SD = 0.499), door condition (M = 2.58, n = 79, SD = 0.496), floor condition (M = 3.19, n = 79, SD = 0.690), window condition (M = 2.58, n = 79, SD = 0.496), drainage condition in the barracks (M = 3.30, n = 79, SD = 0.563) and the toilet condition (M = 3.68, n = 79, SD = 0.6101). The result further revealed that mean for toilet condition was higher than the mean for all the other variables measured while the mean for the wall condition was the lowest.

Table 5 Respondents' Housing Condition

Variable	Mean	SD
Roof condition	2.7975	0.51589
Ceiling	3.4177	0.69074
Walls condition	2.557	0.49992
Door	2.5823	0.49634
Floor condition	3.1899	0.6808
Windows	2.5823	0.49634
Barrack drainage	3.3038	0.56283
Toilet condition	3.6835	0.61068

Source: Field Work2016

Responndents Neighborhood facilities

The assessment of Neighborhood facilities are presented on table 6a and 6b, which show the elements assessed that include: electricity, water, waste dumping, neighborhood drainage, health facilities, school, place of worship, security etc. The entire respondents (100%) attested to the presence of electricity in the barracks but were quick to note that the supply is not regular and therefore they have to resort to the use of alternative means of electricity generation. A total of 32.9% of the respondents living in the barracks use electricity generator as an alternative means of power generation while 67.1% of respondents' uses rechargeable lamps. Furthermore, the analysis on water supply within the barracks has shown that a reasonable number of the respondents (58.2%) buy water from vendors, 30.4% from commercial water tankers and 11.4% get water from Boreholes. On the assessment of availability of drainage facilities within the neighbourhood, a majority of the respondents (68.4%) rated it as poor, 29.1% rated it as fairly good while 2.5% rated it as good. The respondents further indicated that they dump their domestic waste at the designated dump sites with 72.2% while 27.8% indicated that they burnt it. Similarly, the analysis shows a general concensus of respondents that there are health care facilities in their neighborhoods and that the facilities are in good condition. A closer look at the breakdown of the respondents shows that

92.4% described it as good while 7.6% believed it is very good. They also indicate the availability of schools for their children in the neighborhoods and it was rated to be in good condition by 55.7% while 44.3% rated it fairly good. Furthermore, the entire respondents confirmed the availability of places of worship in the neighborhoods. With respect to children playground, 38% of the respondents attest to its availability in the neighborhoods while 62% were of the view that it is not available. A majority of the respondents (77.2%) expressed the view that security in the barracks is poor, 10.1% believed it is fairly good while 12.7% rated it as very poor. There was an overwhelming majority opinion among the respondents that the barracks are not fenced by 81% while 19% were of the view that their barracks are fenced. The inadequate perimeter fence in the barracks is responsible for the high rates of insecurity in the barracks.

Table 6a Neighborhood facilities of Respondents

Alternative electricity	Rating1	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Generator		26	32.9
Rechargeable lamp	2	53	67.1
Total		79	100
Water source			
Pipe borne water	1	0	0
Borehole	2	9	11.4
Hand dug well	3	0	0
Water vendors	4	46	58.2
Commercial water tankers	5	24	30.4
Total		79	100
Refuse dump			
Designate dump site	1	57	72.2
Burning refuse	2	22	27.8
Waste management agency	3	0	0
Total		79	100
Barrack fence			
Available	1	15	19.0
Not available	2	64	81.0
Total		79	100
Play ground in the hood			
Available	1	30	38
Not available	2	49	62
Total		79	100

Source: Field Work 2017

Table 6b Neighborhood facilities of Respondents

Variables Drainage	Rate	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Very good	1	O	0
Good	2	2	2.5
Fairly good	3	23	29.1
Poor	4	54	68.4
Very poor	5	0	0
Total		79	100
Health facility			
Very good	1	6	7.6
Good	2	73	92.4
Fairly good	3	0	0
Poor	4	0	0
Very poor	5	0	0
Total		79	100
Schools			
Very good	1	0	0
Good	2	44	55.7
Fairly good	3	35	44.3
Poor	4	0	0
Very poor	5	0	0
Total		79	100
Security			
Very good	1	0	0
Good	2	0	0
Fairly good	3	8	10.1
Poor	4	61	77.2
Very poor	5	10	12.7
Total		79	100

Source: Field Work2016

Housing Satisfaction in the Barracks

Housing characteristics and neighbourhood attributes are among the major factors influencing residential satisfaction. Therefore when the members of a household are comfortable with the facilities provided in their residences and the services available in the neighbourhood of residence, they express high level of satisfaction with the housing condition and when they are not comfortable with these, they usually express dissatisfaction. This paper found out that majority of the residents in the police barracks of the study area expressed serious dissatisfaction with the housing condition in their barracks. Table 7 presents the views expressed by respondents, which shows that only 12.7% are fairly satisfied with their housing condition while 78.5% are dissatisfied and 8.9% are very dissatisfied. This finding indicates that majority of the respondents are discontented or are not happy with the current housing conditions in the police barracks.

Table 7: Barracks Housing Satisfaction

Barrack satisfaction	Frequency	Percent(%)
Fairly satisfied	10	12.7
Dissatisfied	62	78.5
Very dissatisfied	7	8.9
Total	**79**	**100**

Source: Fieldwork, 2017

Table 8 below presents the results of the relationship between the socio-economic characteristics of respondents and the level of satisfaction with barrack housing accommodation using independent t-tests and analysis of variance (ANOVA). The result of the Independent t-tests shows that there was no significant difference between gender, marital status and satisfaction with type of housing accommodation in the barracks (t = -.335, df =16.847, p = 0.665), (t = .449, df = 12.744, p = 0.449). The paper therefore recommends to retain the null hypothesis.

Equally, the result of the ANOVA test shows that there was no significant difference between the rank of police officers and their satisfaction with the house they occupied in the Barracks (F =.615, df = 78, p = 0.543). Similarly, the ANOVA test also reveals that there was no significant difference between educational qualification of the respondents and satisfaction with type of house they occupied in the Barracks (F =1 .300, df = 78), p = 0.281). The findings of this paper however, did not conform with that of Toyobo *et al.* (2011) in their study of the correlates of socio-economic characteristics of housing quality in Ogbomosho township of Oyo State, Nigeria. In their findings, the hypothesis tested confirmed that there is a significant difference between the socio-economic characteristic and housing quality in the study area and that this is responsible for different form of houses in the study area. Although their study was not conducted in the barracks where prototype housing units were constructed, it is expected that residents with higher income may have access to better housing units.

The findings are also not in comformity with that of Bamidele (2013) in his analysis of the socio-economic characteristics and housing condition in the core neighbourhood of Akure, Nigeria. His findings show a positive and significant relationship between education and the type of housing occupied by respondents**.**

Table 8 Relationship between Gender, Marital status, Rank, Educational Qualification and satisfaction with type houses occupied by the Respondents

Variable	N	Mean	SD	F/t	p
Gender					
Male	65	5.9583	.44829	t = - .335	.665
Female	14	4.0000	.55470		
Marital status					
Married	70	1.9714	.48068	t = .449	.711
Single	9	3.8889	.33333		
Rank					
SPO	8	4.1250	.64087	F = .615	.543
Inspector	9	4.0000	.00000		
Rank and file	62	3.9355	.47463		
Educational Qualification					
SSCE	37	1.8919	.31480	F = 1.300	.281
Diploma	35	1.9714	.16903		
HND	3	4.3333	.57735		
Degree	4	4.2500	.50000		

Source: Authors field 2016

The data analysis also crosstabulates gender, marital status, rank, family size and educational qualification of respondents as the dependent variables with the type of house occupied by respondents as the independent variable (table 9). The result shows a continuity correction value of (0.236 with Asymp. Sig of 0.63) for gender; (0.06 with Asymp. Sig of 0.81) for marital status; (38.264 with Asymp. Sig of 0.000) for rank and (1.7980 with Asymp. Sig of 0.05) for educational qualification. This implies that gender and marital status of respondents has no positive association with type of house occupied by respondents which means that there is no significant association between these variables. Therefore, the paper retains the null hypothesis.

The result of the test further shows that rank and educational qualification of respondents has positive association with type of house they occupied, which means that there is a significant association between these variables. Consequently, the paper therefore resolves to reject the null hypothesis.

Table 9 Chi Square Test of Association between Gender, Marital Status, Rank, Educational Qualification and Type of House Occupied by the Respondents

Variable	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig.(2sided)
Gender			
Pearson Chi-Square	1.085a	1	0.298
Continuity Correction	0.236	1	0.627
Likelihood Ratio	0.928	1	0.335
Linear-by-Linear Association	1.072	1	0.301
N of Valid Cases	79		

Marital Status

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig.(2sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	.835a	1	0.361
Continuity Correction	0.06	1	0.806
Likelihood Ratio	1.513	1	0.219
Linear-by-Linear Association	0.824	1	0.364

N of Valid Cases	79		
Rank			
Pearson Chi-Square	38.264	2	.000
Likelihood Ratio	21.642	2	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	27.905	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	79		
Educational Qualification			
Pearson Chi-Square	7.980	3	0.046
Likelihood Ratio	8.799	3	0.032
Linear-by-Linear Association	0.282	1	0.596
N of Valid Cases	79		

Source: Field Work 2016.

CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, we have presented findings on the condition of housing accommodation in the Police Barracks of different formations in Gombe State, Nigeria. It has been the convention for Government and in some cases private organisations in Nigeria to provide residential accommodation for their staff in order to improve the welfare and enhance the productivity of employees. The government has provided houses within the Police Barracks across all Local Governments areas and State Commands with the sole objective of ensuring officers and the rank and file have access to decent housing accommodation. Although it was evident that a great number of the personnel in the service have desired to access the housing units in the barracks, the findings indicate that majority of the personnel live outside the barracks because the housing stock were grossly inadequate to cater for the needs of all the staff. The paper assessed the police barracks' housing accommodation with emphasis on resident's satisfaction about dwelling features, residential and neighborhood facilities provided in the barracks. The findings however, have shown that most of the residential buildings are in deplorable state that need urgent government attention. It further shows that residents are not comfortable with their housing condition. Generally, the paper found out that majority of the residents are dissatisfied with their housing accommodation because the number of bedrooms are inadequate, water supply is dependent on vendors, the barracks are not fully fenced, which makes them vulnerable and there are no enough children playground. Furthermore, the finding also shows that there is no significant difference between gender, marital status and housing satisfaction among the households living in the barracks. This was also the same findings between the rank of police officers and their housing satisfaction, which means regardless of the type of accommodation, whether flats that are occupied by the officers or the single bedrooms used by the rank and file, there is no difference as far as satisfaction/dissatisfaction is concerned.

Therefore, given the importance of readily available and decent housing accommodation in enhancing the productivity and effectiveness of the Nigeria police force, we argue that the government should engage in massive staff housing development within the police barracks across all police formations in the country. The paper further recommends the immediate renovation of the existing houses in the barracks and the timely upgrade of all neighbourhood facilities such as dumpsites, schools, children playgrounds and drainage facilities to improve the living standard of the men in service and their families. When these are accomplished, it will improve the condition and quality of residential accommodation provided within the police barracks. Achieving this will have its impact not only on increasing residential satisfaction among residents and their families within the barracks, but also on enhancing the productivity of the personnel in service.

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