

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF SOURCES OF HOME ACCIDENTS BETWEEN TWO TYPES OF URBAN HOUSING UNITS IN PLATEAU STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract— This study was a descriptive survey conducted to compare the sources of home accidents between two types of urban housing units in Plateau State, Nigeria. Four research questions guided the study and four hypotheses were tested. The population for the study was 391,247 households. The sample for the study was 504 workers drawn from the population of study. A multi-stage sampling technique was used to select the sample. The instrument for data collection was a structured questionnaire. Mean and Standard Deviation were used to answer the four research questions, while the four hypotheses were tested using student t-test at 0.05 significance level. The findings revealed that there was no significant difference in the general perception of respondents on the main sources of home accidents in the kitchen area. Comparatively, the mean scores of respondents on the two types of housing units based on main sources of accidents had critical t-values of $t=0.775$ $P>0.05$ for kitchen, $t=2.100$ $P<0.05$ for toilet and bathroom, $t= 2.060$ $P<0.05$ for living room and $t=2.576$ $P<0.05$ for compound areas respectively. The study found that most of the items listed were agreed upon as sources of home accident but the rating differed in the extent to which these sources were assumed to be sources of home accident. It was recommended that this study be carried out in all types of housing units and in both rural and urban areas of Plateau State.

Index terms- Home accidents, Urban, Housing units, Functional areas, Household members.

I. INTRODUCTION

Household members live and interact with each other as a small social unit within the larger community. According to the National Population Commission (2008), a household is a communal unit which interacts with its members and with the immediate surrounding environment. This interaction takes place in different activity areas and in different types of housing units. These housing units could be traditional or modern. Some of them include detached houses, flats in block of flats, houses on a separate stand and nomad dome, among many others (National Bureau of Statistics, 2008; Keswet and Anyakoha, 2013). These types of housing units could be found in both rural and urban areas.

Urban areas in Nigeria are cities or towns which are characterized by a large population density. The urban housings units are usually of different shapes and sizes with

modern facilities like electricity and pipe born water supply (National Population Commission, 2008). Households living in these urban housing units also use modern gadgets like gas/electric cookers, kerosene stoves, generators, televisions and computers. The modern facilities and gadgets where households live could be serious sources of home accident among all its members both young and old. The areas where these duties take place are known as activity or functional areas.

The number of activity areas in a home usually depends on many factors such as number of household members, their gender, their ages and other socio-economic influences. Whatever the type of housing unit one dwells in, there must always be a sleeping area, cooking area, working area/compound and toilet/bathing areas. The activities that household members perform in the various activity areas could include, food preparation, production and consumption, cleaning and dusting, fetching of water, washing and ironing, among very many others. While performing these activities, household members or workers could be involved in various types of accidents in the different activity or functional areas (Evan, 2010; Keswet and Anyakoha, 2013).

Kitchens, living rooms, compound areas, bathrooms and toilets are considered essential and important part of every home irrespective of its type and number of people dwelling in it. They are also very busy activity areas of the home. This is so because they house a lot of equipment, tools, furniture and furnishings that can pose safety hazards to all household members when adequate care is not taken (Evan, 2010; Keswet and Anyakoha, 2014; Anyakoha, 2015).

A consumer report (2006-2015) showed that kitchens, being the heart of the home, houses a lot of equipment that pose safety hazards. According to the report, cooking fires top the list of things that can go wrong in the kitchen followed by injuries from knives, cookware, food processors, microwaves, and blenders. Another consumer report by The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (2015), has revealed that the highest amount of children's accidents in the home occur in the living room area. This is because the living area, otherwise known as the sitting room is the meeting and resting point for all household members after a hard day's work.

Furthermore, research findings by Bakalar (2011) revealed among others that about 235,000 people over age 15 visit emergency rooms every year because of injuries suffered in the bathroom while almost 14 percent of the cases are hospitalized. He said that more than a third of the injuries happen in the bathroom while more than 14 percent occur in the toilet area. Hence, for households to enjoy maximum safety, these sources of home accidents must be deliberately identified. When they are known, the safety of the household members and the entire environment can be successfully planned and achieved.

In order to live productively, all household members must be free from all forms of accidents. Unfortunately, most homes are potentially dangerous and need to be carefully studied (Bakalar, 2011; Anyakoha, 2015). This is what has motivated the interest in undertaking a comparative study on the common sources of accidents in four activity areas of two types of urban housing units in Plateau State.

A. Statement of the Problem

It is generally presumed that home accidents happen to careless people, illiterate people and those who stay long hours at home, this however is not completely true. Literatures from both developed and developing countries in the background of this study have confirmed the fact that accidents are caused as a result of various activities carried out in various parts of the home and that all household members could be involved, whether young or old. The sources of these accidents have not been well organized and itemized according to activity areas. There is no known study on accident sources specifically geared on housing types and activity areas in Nigerian homes and particularly in Plateau State. This has created a gap in knowledge which needs to be filled. As a result the reason for this research work on accident sources of urban households in Plateau State is considered very important and timely.

B. Research Questions

In order to achieve the purpose of this study, the following research questions were answered which are:

1. What are the main sources of accidents in kitchen areas of Houses on a Separate Stand and those in Flats in Block of Flats?
2. What are the main sources of accidents in toilet and bathroom areas of Houses on a Separate Stand and those of Flats in Block of Flats?
3. What are the main sources of accidents in living rooms of Houses on a Separate Stand and those of Flats in Block of Flats and?
4. What are the main sources of accidents in compound areas of Houses on a Separate Stand and those of flats in block of flats?

C. Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were tested at 95% confidence level:

1. The main sources of accidents in kitchen areas do not differ significantly in Houses on a Separate Stand and those in Flats in Block of Flats

2. The main sources of accidents in toilet and bathroom areas do not differ significantly in Houses on a Separate Stand and those in Flats in Block of Flats
3. The main sources of accidents in living rooms areas do not differ significantly in Houses on a Separate Stand and those in Flats in Block of Flats
4. The main sources of accidents in compound areas do not differ significantly in Houses on a Separate Stand and those in Flats in Block of Flats.

II. METHODOLOGY

A. Design of the Study

The study adopted a descriptive survey research design to obtain the responses of the workers on the sources of accidents in activity areas based on two types of housing units and four activity areas (Plateau State National Population Commission, 2009). A descriptive survey research design is a study which makes use of a questionnaire or interviews to collect data from a sample that has been selected to represent a population to which the findings of the data analysis can be generalized. Descriptive survey allows a researcher to document what is existent on the present status of the phenomenon being investigated (Gall, Gall and Borg, 2007).

B. Area of the Study

The area of the study was Plateau State, Nigeria. The State is made up of three senatorial zones and seventeen administrative Local Government areas (National Population Commission, 2008). The State is characterized by a large household population with seven main types of housing units, four of which are urban. The housing units are often equipped with modern amenities and facilities like electricity and pipe born water while homemakers often use modern equipment like electrical appliances, gas and kerosene cookers, among many others. Plateau State was chosen for this study because of the frequently reported cases of various forms of home accidents (Report of Fire Brigade, 2009; Jos University Teaching Hospital, 2009).

C. Population of the Study

The population for the study consisted of 391,247 households dwelling in two major types of urban housing units in Plateau State. One worker from each of the household constituted the respondents for the study.

D. Sample and Sampling Technique

The sample for the study was 504 workers drawn from the population of households. Multi-stage sampling technique was used for the selection of the sample. This is considered ideal because according to Eboh (2007), the multi-stage technique is used where the selection of units into the sample is organized into stages. All the three Senatorial Zones of Plateau State were selected for the study.

First stage: Local Government Area (LGA) that were mainly urban were purposively selected from each of the three Senatorial Zones.

Second stage: Two urban towns were purposively selected from the 17 LGAs in the State, making a total of six urban towns for the study. This was considered ideal for the purpose of representation. The selected towns were: Jos North and South in the Northern senatorial zone, Pankshin and Mangu in the central senatorial zone and Qua'anpan and Shendam in the Southern senatorial zone respectively.

Third stage: A total of six communities were purposively selected from the six urban towns for the study. This selection was based on the fact that there are many urban communities within each town.

Fourth stage: Two types of urban housing units were purposively selected from the six urban communities which were: houses on a separate stand and flat in block of flats. From each housing unit, four activity areas (the kitchen, bathroom and toilet, living room and compound), were selected for the study.

Fifth stage: seven households were purposively selected from each type of urban housing units for the purpose of the study.

Finally, one respondent was selected, who was solely accountable for work in the four activity areas of the home.

E. Instrument for Data Collection

A five items (Likert) questionnaire was developed and used for data collection. It was structured into five point response options, which were assigned values as Strongly Agreed (SA) = 5; Agreed (A) = 4; Not Sure (NS) = 3; Disagree (D) = 2 and Strongly Disagree (SD) = 1. Any item whose mean value was 3.0 and above were regarded as agreed while those items whose means were below 3.00 were regarded as disagreed (Decision Rule).

F. Validation of the Instrument

The instrument was validated by three experts from the Faculty of Education, University of Nigeria, Nsukka. Their comments and suggestions were integrated to improve the final copy of the instrument.

G. Method of Data Collection

The researchers along with two trained research assistants interpreted, administered and collected all the questionnaires while the researchers collated the retrieved questionnaires for data analysis.

H. Method of Data Analysis

The four research questions were answered using Mean and Standard deviation while the four hypotheses were analyzed using t-test at 0.05 level of significance.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Research Question One

What are the sources of accidents in urban kitchen areas of Houses on a Separate Stand and those of Flats in Block of Flats, in Plateau State?

Table 1: Distribution of respondents' means scores and standard deviation on sources of accidents in urban kitchen areas of houses on a Separate Stand and those of Flats in Block of Flats

S/N	Common Sources of Home Accidents	House on a separate stand		Flat in block of flats	
		Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D
1.	Poor floor layout arrangement	3.00	0.860	4.10	0.95
2.	Inadequate work spaces and walkways	3.70	0.96	4.20	0.955
3.	Rough/ uneven work surfaces	3.60	1.011	4.30	1.054
4.	Lack of water supply	3.48	1.014	3.30	1.105
5.	Poor grouping of tools, equipment & appliances in work spaces	3.60	0.92	4.30	0.991
6.	Faulty electrical/gas operated appliances	3.50	0.952	4.40	0.886
7.	Dilapidated sink/ wash basins	3.70	0.982	3.80	1.04
8.	Cooking pots & sauce pans with broken handles	3.50	1.025	4.70	1.052
9.	Improper clothing during food handling, preparation & production	4.40	1.057	4.00	1.074
10.	Wrong footwear	4.60	1.116	4.02	1.138
11.	Physical disability and ill health e.g. catarrh	3.40	1.009	4.29	1.121
12.	Not using hand gloves & kitchen cloth when handling hot pots, etc.	3.30	1.019	4.30	1.080
13.	Lack of skills in operating equipment.	3.40	0.974	4.55	0.970
14.	Spills and peels on floors e.g. water, oil, vegetable & fruit peels	3.50	0.935	4.10	1.043
15.	Careless/poor handling of sharp utensils like knife, scissors, & graters.	4.58	0.908	4.50	0.886
16.	Lifting of heavy equipment & sacks of foodstuff.	3.50	1.020	4.30	1.058
17.	Grinding, blending, pounding and mixing of food items.	3.20	0.994	3.90	1.015
18.	Cutting, slicing, and shredding of food items like vegetables.	3.10	1.021	4.60	0.951
19.	Boiling, frying, baking and roasting of food.	3.70	1.103	4.00	1.067
20.	Poor routine/ scheduling of work.	3.00	1.179	4.40	1.194
21.	Choking from bleached oil & smoke from burnt food while cooking	3.32	1.016	4.30	1.048
22.	Mistaken ingestion of chemicals e.g. kerosene, liquid soap & others.	3.70	0.916	4.90	0.942

Table 1 shows the various mean scores of the respondents on the common sources of accidents in the kitchen areas of houses on a separate stand and those of flats in block of flats. Respondents agreed on all the sources of accidents with the highest mean scores of 4.58 for houses on a separate stand and 4.54 for flats in block of flats with corresponding SD scores of 0.908 and 0.970 respectively for the two types of housing units.

B. Research Question Two

What are the main sources of accidents in toilet and bathroom areas of Houses on a Separate Stand and those of Flats in Block of Flats?

Table 2: Distribution of respondents' means scores and standard deviation on sources of accidents in toilet and bathroom areas of houses on a Separate Stand and those of Flats in Block of Flats

S/N	Common Sources of Home Accident	House on a separated stand		Flat in block of flats	
		Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D
1.	Slippery bath tub and shower floors	3.40	0.983	4.33	0.940
2.	Open water ways.	3.38	0.960	4.32	1.012
3.	Broken/cracked bath tub, toilet bowl or seat, shower pipes & tap.	3.52	1.036	4.09	0.944
4.	Poorly fitted rails, nails, mirror, shower curtains and other accessories.	3.48	0.951	4.39	1.056
5.	Carelessness in the use of soap, shampoo, detergents, and other chemical	3.48	0.955	4.46	0.963
6.	Stumbling over cluttered buckets and water containers.	3.46	0.916	4.33	1.079
7.	Not covering the water cistern after use.	3.48	0.908	4.33	1.118
8.	Mistaken use of very hot water left/kept in the bath tub.	3.48	0.963	4.34	1.221
9.	Allowing young children to take bath without supervision	3.31	1.094	3.37	0.857
10.	Washing of under wears and other clothes.	3.73	1.054	4.15	1.200
11.	Wrong storage of cleaning agents e.g. bleach, harpic & vim.	3.54	0.937	4.27	1.095
12.	Cleaning and clearing of used items like buckets and other containers.	3.84	0.987	4.37	1.042

Results in table two shows that all respondents agreed on the sources of accidents in both types of housing units. The mean scores of 3.84 was the highest for houses on a separate stand and 4.46 for flats in block of flats respectively.

C. Research Question Three

What are the main sources of accidents in living rooms of Houses on a Separate Stand and those of Flats in Block of Flats and?

Table 3: Distribution of respondents’ means scores and standard deviation on sources of accidents in living rooms of houses on a Separate Stand and those of Flats in Block of Flats

S/N	Common Sources of Home Accidents	House on a separated stand		Flat in block of flats	
		Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D
1.	Worn out floor coverings e.g. carpet, rug & tiles.	3.42	0.956	4.41	0.959
2.	Worn out furniture & furnishings.	3.21	0.987	4.14	1.074
3.	Crawling/playing toddlers & very young children.	3.22	1.016	4.15	1.005
4.	Overflowing window, door blinds & curtains.	3.13	0.939	4.05	1.119
5.	Hot water, food or beverage on dining table/work tops.	3.42	1.040	4.28	1.091
6.	Ill fitted household items like fan or electrical bulb.	3.32	1.027	4.38	0.953
7.	Littered floor with toys & other small object/items.	3.29	1.005	4.28	1.076
8.	Swallowing of sharp objects like pins & beads while playing eg toddlers.	3.50	1.004	4.52	0.976
9.	Carelessness in manipulating power sources.	3.51	0.980	4.47	0.959
10.	Wrong handling of silver wares, glass wares & cutleries while eating.	3.42	0.901	4.34	1.025
11.	Eating hot foods and beverages while pampering a baby.	3.45	0.971	4.37	1.037
12.	Failure to unplug electrical gadgets when not in use.	3.55	0.871	4.39	1.018
13.	Running/rushing to perform a task or house chore.	3.36	1.006	4.29	1.134
14.	Eating of food from contaminated carpet or rug e.g. rat poison.	3.51	1.047	4.37	1.101
15.	Poor table manners like talking/playing while eating.	3.44	0.928	4.22	1.131
16.	Obstruction during cleaning/dusting of furniture.	3.17	1.121	4.15	1.084
17.	Lack of careful supervision of used toys by children.	4.38	1.013	4.25	1.099
18.	Wrong connection of electrical cords to gadgets like T.V. or computer.	3.48	0.844	4.28	1.077
19.	Inappropriate hanging of wall fixtures like pictures and frames.	4.02	0.952	4.33	0.986
20.	Use of chipped items like plates, glasses or teacups.	3.00	0.976	4.30	0.979

In table three, all respondents scored both houses on a separate stand and flats in block of flats with mean scores above 3.00. The highest mean score as shown on the table is 4.02 for Houses on a separate stand and 4.47 for Flats in block of flats respectively.

D. Research Question Four

What are the main sources of accidents in compound areas of Houses on a Separate Stand and those of flats in block of flats?

Table 4: Distribution of respondents’ means scores and standard deviation on sources of accidents in urban compound areas of houses on a Separate Stand and those of Flats in Block of Flats

S/N	Common Sources of Home Accidents	House on a separated stand		Flat in block of flats	
		Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D
1.	Stony topography	4.30	1.007	4.29	1.033
2.	Over grown grasses and lawns	4.20	1.134	4.27	1.036
3.	Dried braches of tree that could fall off at the slightest touch or wind.	4.35	0.964	4.35	1.008
4.	Indiscriminate disposal of refuse bins.	4.41	0.951	4.31	1.068
5.	Heaping of firewood or not so useful household equipment for a long time	4.42	0.947	4.41	1.016
6.	Inadequate dressing while cutting grasses e.g. not wearing boots.	4.40	0.964	4.28	1.116
7.	Burning flammable containers at a close range e.g. used cans of chemicals.	4.35	1.005	4.24	1.128
8.	Bending so low to draw water from the well.	4.38	0.943	4.25	1.061
9.	Spreading wet clothes on electric wires.	4.49	0.864	4.41	0.988
10.	Sharp edged cutlasses, hoes, rakes while working in the garden.	4.55	0.754	4.32	1.087
11.	Storage of water in large uncovered containers for works e.g. drums.	4.47	0.876	4.34	0.979
12.	Worn out ladder or climbing aid.	4.44	0.894	4.36	1.028
13.	Scattered household equipment like buckets, basins, cans and drums.	4.41	0.934	4.37	0.891

Table four shows the mean scores and SD for sources of accidents in houses on a separate stand and those in flats in block of flats. The highest means for houses on a separate stand as shown on the table is 4.55, while it is 4.41 for flats in block of flats with corresponding SDs of 0.754 and 0.988 respectively. All the respondents agreed that the listed items were sources of accident in the two types of housing units.

Ho1

The main sources of accidents in kitchen areas do not differ significantly in Houses on a Separate Stand and those in Flats in Block of Flats

Table 5: Mean comaparism of respondents among the two types of housing units on the main sources of accidents in the kitchen areas of the house

Types of house	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t-value	Decision
House on a separated stand	252	3.0245	0.18178	0.775	NS
Flat in block of flats	252	3.3827	0.17610		

NS= not significant

Table five compares the responses of respondents on the two types of housing units based on the main sources of accidents in their kitchen areas. The results shows that the main sources of accidents in kitchen areas of houses on a separate stand and those in flats in block of flats do not differ significantly. The critical t-value shown on the table is 0.78, hence, the hypothesis was accepted.

Ho2

The main sources of accidents in toilet and bathroom areas do not differ significantly in Houses on a Separate Stand and those in Flats in Block of Flats

Table 6: Mean comaparism of respondents among the two types of housing units on the main sources of accidents in the toilet and bathroom areas of the house

Types of house	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t-value	Decision
House on a separated stand	252	3.408	0.089	2.293	S
Flat in block of flats	252	3.328	0.082		

S= significant

Table six shows a significant difference in the respondent's scores on sources of accident in the toilet and bathroom areas of Houses on a separate stand and those of flats in block of flats. A t-value of 2.30 means that the hypothesis was reject.

Ho3

The main sources of accidents in living rooms areas do not differ significantly in Houses on a Separate Stand and those in Flats in Block of Flats

Table 7: Mean comparism of respondents among the two types of housing units on the main sources of accidents in the living room area of the house

Types of house	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t-value	Decision
House on a separated stand	252	4.395	0.114	2.639	S
Flat in block of flats	252	4.298	0.117		

S= significant

Ho4

The main sources of accidents in compound areas differ significantly in Houses on a Separate Stand and those in Flats in Block of Flats with a t-value of 2.64, hence the hypothesis rejected.

Table 8: Mean comparism of respondents among the two types of housing units on the main sources of accidents in the compound area of the house

Types of house	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t-value	Decision
House on a separated stand	252	4.398	0.088	2.576	S
Flat in block of flats	252	4.323	0.056		

S= significant

The main sources of accidents in compound areas differ significantly in Houses on a Separate Stand and those in Flats in Block of Flats with a t-value of 2.64, hence the hypothesis rejected.

IV. DISCUSSIONS

The study has revealed various sources of home accidents in four activity areas of two types of housing units in Plateau State. Some of the sources include: Use of cooking pots & sauce pans with broken handles, use of worn out ladder or climbing aid, wrong storage of cleaning agents and Lack of careful supervision of used toys by children. These findings are consistent with other research reports (Colles 2000; The Consumer Reports, 2006-2015; Bakalar, 2011; Anyakoha, 2015). Two research reports by Keswet and Anyakoha, all in 2013 also revealed that since some activities are meant to be performed in some designated locations of the home which are known as activity or functional areas, sources of home accidents will vary with the type of activity area. For example, the kitchen, living room, compound, bathroom and toilet areas

are unique areas because they are present in virtually every type of urban housing unit.

Also all members of the household use these activity areas at one time or the other, although some members use some areas more than others. For example, young children are often allowed to use the living room and compound areas more than other areas for play, while the homemakers use more of the kitchens for work purpose. Some of the activities performed by household members in these functional areas of the housing units include: food production, food consumption, relaxation or playing, washing and bathing, among very many others. When care is not taken, the activities do cause accidents like falls, suffocations, burns and scalds because of household member's involvement with items like cookers/stoves, nails, razor blades, chairs, tables, ropes, buckets, wells and tress (Fermie, Keech and Shephard, 2005; ROSPA, 2010; Keswet and Anyakoha, 2013).

Based on research questions 1 to 4 of the study, respondent's responses showed that they agreed with all sources of accidents listed in all the four activity areas as shown on tables 1 to 4. Hypothesis 2, 3 and 4 on the other hand showed a significant difference based on type of housing unit. The results of this research work should be very important to all households in various types of housing units. House hold heads must select housing units with due consideration to the number of household members, their age category, type of facilities to be used and the type of activities to be performed.

Furthermore, because of the increasing use of time saving devices and equipment like microwave ovens, electric kettles other gas operated equipment, it is becoming important that all house hold members become educated and informed about sources of accidents, especially in different types of housing units and their activity areas. This will go a long way in reducing the types of accidents that are claiming the lives of many household members both young and old.

V. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the researchers found out that most of the studies cited in this work showed the occurrences of accidents in various activity areas alone, but this one has gone a step further to show that household members must consider not only types of housing units to live in, but compare the risks found in those types of units based on the types of activities that will be performed, marital status, number of household members and their ages, among other things. Safety of all household members must therefore be the concern of all household members, the community, the country and the world at large.

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