

Important Practices for Accidents Prevention in Kitchen Areas of Urban Households in Plateau State

Keswet Larai

*Department of Science and Technology Education
University of Jos, Nigeria.
keswetl@unijos.edu.ng*

Prof. E.U. Anyakoha

*Department of Vocational Teacher Education
University of Nigeria, Nsukka.*

Abstract

This study was designed to investigate the accident prevention practices in urban kitchen areas of Plateau State. Four specific purposes guided the research work. One hypothesis was also formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance. The study adopted a descriptive survey design. The population for the study was comprised of 490,643 households. The sample for the study was 1,008 home makers drawn from the population of study. A multi-stage sampling technique was used to select the sample. A structured questionnaire was constructed and used as the instrument for data collection. Mean and Standard Deviation were used to answer the research question while t-test was used to test the hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed 17 important accident prevention practices in the kitchens of Houses on a Separate Stand, 16 in Flats in Block of Flats, 16 in Detached Houses and 16 in Let-in –Houses respectively. Some of the important practices for preventing accidents include providing adequate and safe/covered containers for the storage of water, avoiding the use of faulty electrical appliances like cookers, kettles and toasters. Based on the hypothesis formulated and tested, there is no significant mean difference in urban kitchens in Plateau States based on ownership status. The study recommends safety awareness creation campaigns and training on important accident prevention practices among urban households in Plateau State.

KEY WORD: Households, Housing Unit, Functional area, Homemaker, Urban area, important practices, Accident prevention, Owned, Rented

Introduction

There are different types of houses where households dwell in various countries of the world. These houses are classified in various ways by different countries. Households live and interact in different types of houses such as traditional house, farm house, wooden house, underground house, nomad dome, bungalow, duplex, semi-detached or detached houses (National Bureau of Statistics, 2008; Keswet and Anyakoha, 2013). Some of these housing units like bungalow, duplex and detached houses are more commonly found in urban areas.

Urban houses are generally those types of dwelling places found in cities or towns. They are often characterized by a high population density as well as the availability of some essential household facilities and amenities (Reynells, 2000). In Nigeria, urban houses are characterized by large population density and the availability of such modern facilities like electricity, pipe born water supply and use of modern gadgets like generator, electric or gas cookers, kerosene stove, television, computer, air conditioner or fan (National Bureau of Statistics, 2008; National Population Commission, 2008).

In Plateau State, urban houses are characterized by a large household size in addition to the other features mentioned. The Plateau State Housing population Commission (2009) listed four common types of urban housing units which includes: houses on a separate stand, flat in block of flats, semi-detached or detached and let-in -houses respectively. No matter the type of houses, workers or homemakers carry out various practices in the home. These practices are carried out in functional areas, which include the kitchen, dining area, bedroom, bathroom, toilet, garage, laundry area and compound. Hence they are involved in home accidents.

Home accidents are the types of accidents that occur in the house or in its immediate surroundings and do not include those connected with sports, vehicles and markets (Stranks, 2007; Toledo, 2010; Office of the National statistics, 2002). In order for households to enjoy maximum fulfillment, home practices must be deliberately planned to prevent accidents. A significant factor for a happy home is a clean environment and good health. Health is considered by many in terms of effective and pleasant living. It is that quality of life which enables households to live successfully and enjoyably in their physical and physiological environment.

In order to live successfully, homes must be free from all forms of accidents. Unfortunately, most homes are described as potentially hazardous (Park, 2005; Toledo, 2007). Household accidents are prominent causes of the death rates of all age groups as well as destruction of properties of households. These mean that home accidents must therefore be prevented or reduced to the barest minimum.

Home accident prevention is associated with events and practices which usually take place in the home on a daily basis. According to Phil Lincoln (2006), home accident prevention is a means of stopping the activities within the home that could lead to accidents. In order to prevent these accidents, basic practices of households must be outlined and necessary accident prevention practices also identified.

Prevention practices are those routine actions carried out by all homemakers with an attempt to achieve safety. It has to do with all the movements and actions that take place in each functional area of the home. It could result from the interactions between the household members, the environment and the various activity areas of the home.

They include cleaning, arrangement of furniture and furnishing, installation of equipment in different functional areas, arrangement of household electrical gadgets and types of storage facilities, including how they are arranged. Home accident prevention practices are therefore activity related and culture bound (Galal, 1999). It is the result of interactions between the household members, their environment and the different activities in each functional area of the home. Hence the

researcher intends to identify and document important home accident prevention practices, specifically in the kitchen areas of urban households in Plateau State.

Statement of the Problem

It is generally assumed that Home accidents occur to people that stay long hours at home, this however is far from the truth. Literatures from both developed and developing countries in the background of this study have confirmed the fact that accidents occur as a result of the different practices carried out in various functional areas of the home, especially in the kitchen. These practices have been casually mentioned by some researchers but not extensively researched and itemized. There is no known study on accident prevention practices of households, specifically geared on housing types and the kitchen as a functional area in Nigerian homes and particularly in Plateau State. Also, there is no known document on urban practices relating to household chores. This has created a gap in information and knowledge which needs to be filled. Therefore, the reason for this research work on accident prevention practices of urban households in Plateau State.

Purpose of the Study

The major purpose of this study is to investigate the accident prevention practices of urban households in Plateau State. The study was specifically intended to identify some accident prevention practices of households in the four main types of urban housing units, which are:

1. Houses on a separate stand
2. Flats in block of flats
3. Detached houses and
4. Let –in- houses

Research Questions

The following research questions were answered by the study:

What are the practices for preventing accidents in the kitchen areas of:

1. Houses on a separate stand?
2. Flats in block of flats?
3. Detached houses and
4. Let –in- houses?

Hypothesis

The study tested the one null hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance:

HO: There is no significant difference in the mean ratings of homemakers on the practices for preventing accidents in urban kitchens in Plateau State based on household ownership status.

Significance of the Study

The study will be of enormous benefit to households, Home Economists; health related workers and other Governmental and Non-Governmental Agencies, as well as educationists and researchers who may be interested in household studies.

The study will create a general awareness to all the stakeholders on the accident prevention practices common in four types of kitchens of urban housing units. Moreover, the research work will aid Home Economists in teaching, especially in Secondary Schools as home accident prevention is an integral part of the Home Economics curriculum at all levels. The study will be an important

document in conducting research work on household accidents in functional areas of the home. It will also assist specialists in planning and implementing accident prevention practices programmes in Plateau State and Nigeria in general.

Scope of the Study

The scope of this study was limited to identifying the accident prevention practices of urban housing units in Plateau State. One major functional area was identified within each type of housing unit. The functional area studied included the kitchen. The geographical scope of the study was also limited to only urban areas and based on the four types of urban housing units selected. The four types of urban housing units are: (1) Houses on a separate stand (2) Flat in block of flats (3) Detached houses and (4) Let- in- houses.

Design of the Study

The study adopted a descriptive survey research design to obtain the responses of the respondents on the practices for accident prevention in activity areas based on four common types of kitchens found in urban housing units (Plateau State National Population Commission, 2009).

Area of the Study

The area of the study was Plateau State, Nigeria. The State is made up of three senatorial zones and seventeen (17) 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).

Population of the Study

The population for the study consisted of 490,643 households dwelling in four major types of urban housing units in Plateau State. One homemaker or worker from each of the households, constituted the respondents for the study.

Sample and Sampling Technique

The sample for the study was 1,008 homemakers drawn from the population. Multi-stage sampling technique was adopted for the study. 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 the state were involved in the study.

First, Local Government Area (LGA) that was predominantly urban was purposively selected.

Secondly, from the LGAs, two urban towns were purposively selected from each of the three senatorial zones of the state; making a total of six urban towns for the study. The selected towns include: 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.

Thirdly, within the towns, a total of six communities were purposively selected for the study. This selection was based on the fact that there are many urban communities within each town, therefore communities selected were based on the availability of four types of urban housing units mentioned by the Plateau State National Housing Commission (2009) and Independent National Electoral Commission (2010).

Fourthly, from the six urban communities, four types of urban housing units were purposively selected for the study, which were: (1) house on a separate stand (2) flat in block of flats (3) semi-detached house and (4) let in house, respectively. From each housing unit, the kitchen as a functional area was selected.

Fifthly, seven households were purposively selected from each type of housing unit; this gave a total of 28 households from each of the 36 communities.

Finally, from each household, one homemaker was selected, who was mainly responsible for the activities in the kitchen area of the home. This gave an overall sample size of 1,008 homemakers for the study.

Instrument for Data Collection

A structured questionnaire was developed and used for data collection. It was structured to answer the research questions for the study. The instrument was structured into five point response options. The 5-point response options 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.

Validation of the Instrument

The instrument was validated by three Lecturers from the Institute of Education, the Departments of Vocational Teacher Education and that of Health and Physical Education from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. Their comments and suggestions were integrated to improve the final copy of the instrument.

Reliability of the Instrument

A trial testing of the instrument was done in Bauchi State where 20 copies of the questionnaires were administered to homemakers. Bauchi State was chosen because the household characteristics are the same with those of Plateau State. For the purpose of obtaining the internal consistency of the instrument, Cronbach Alpha reliability method was used and reliability coefficient of 0.81 was obtained.

Method of Data Collection

Three trained research assistants from each of the three zones were involved in the administration and retrieval of the questionnaires. The researcher collated the retrieved questionnaires for data analysis.

Method of Data Analysis

The data were analyzed using Mean (\bar{X}) and Standard deviation (SD) to answer the research question while t-test was used to analyze the hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance.

Research Question

What are the important practices for preventing home accidents in urban kitchens of Plateau State?

Table 1: Mean Responses (X) and Standard deviation (SD) of homemakers on important home accident prevention practices of households in urban kitchens of Houses on a Separate Stand

S / N	Important Home Accident prevention practices of Households.	Houses on a separate stand		
		\bar{X}	SD	Dec
A Work Place Related Practices				
1	Construct work shelves of comfortable sizes and heights for ease of work.	4.5	.96	I
2	Organize work spaces in accordance to use e.g. washing and cooking.	4.7	.71	I
3	Provide enough electrical outlets for large equipments like cookers.	3.7	1.1	N
4	Provide good drainage for used water in the sink area.	4.6	.75	I
5	Provide adequate and safe/covered containers for the storage of water.	4.7	.77	I
6	Keep floors free from liquid spills & peels of fruits and vegetables.	4.7	.66	I
7	Use correct tools for the right work eg tin cutters for opening of cans.	4.7	.75	I
8	Provide emergency escape routes in case of fire outbreak/emergencies.	3.6	.88	I
Worker Related Practices				
9	Use plastic electrical kettle for less heat generation.	3.5	.96	I
10	Use various types and sizes of knives for their specific purposes.	2.6	.84	N
11	Use items like chopping boards skillfully.	3.4	.98	I
12	Use appropriate clothing like apron, shoe and head tie while cooking.	2.7	1.1	I
13	Use hand gloves or kitchen towels when handling hot pots & other items.	2.8	.80	I
14	Avoid using faulty electrical appliances like cookers, kettles and toasters.	3.6	.83	I
Work Related Practices				
15	Cut, slice and shred foods on chopping boards for ease of operation.	3.7	.66	I
16	Store and stack all clean breakable plates, cutleries & silverwares properly.	4.7	.67	I
17	Label and properly store all food items in appropriate containers.	3.7	.79	I
18	Supervise cooking so as to avoid burning of foods & cooking equipment	4.7	.62	I
19	Ensure proper use of items like blenders & grinding machines.	4.6	.78	I

Key: Mean =(X), Standard Deviation= (SD), Decision = Dec., I= Important, NI= Not Important.

Table 1 shows the various mean responses of respondents on important practices for home accident prevention in the kitchen area based on work place; worker and work related practices. 19 items were listed and the respondents agreed with 17 items to be important practices for accident

prevention in the kitchen unit with their lowest and highest mean scores from 2.6 to 4.7 and corresponding mean score of .62 to 1.1 based on Houses on a Separate Stand. Two items were rated Not Important while only 2 items had SD values of 1.0 and above, indicating that the ratings were comparable for most of the items rated by the respondents.

Table 2: Mean Responses (X) and Standard deviation (SD) of homemakers on important home accident prevention practices of households in urban kitchens of Flats in Block of Flats

S/ N	Important Home Accident prevention practices of Households.	Flat in block of flats		
		X	SD	Dec
A. Work Place Related Practices				
1	Construct work shelves of comfortable sizes and heights for ease of work.	4.6	.88	I
2	Organize work spaces in accordance to use e.g. washing and cooking.	4.7	.79	I
3	Provide enough electrical outlets for large equipments like cookers.	2.4	1.1	NI
4	Provide good drainage for used water in the sink area.	3.7	.81	I
5	Provide adequate and safe/covered containers for the storage of water.	4.6	.78	I
6	Keep floors free from liquid spills & peels of fruits and vegetables.	4.8	.79	I
7	Use correct tools for the right work eg tin cutters for opening of cans.	4.7	.69	I
8	Provide emergency escape routes in case of fire outbreak/emergencies.	3.6	.78	I
Worker Related Practices				
9	Use plastic electrical kettle for less heat generation.	2.5	1.0	NI
10	Use various types and sizes of knives for their specific purposes.	2.7	.96	NI
11	Use items like chopping boards skillfully.	3.5	.89	I
12	Use appropriate clothing like apron, shoe and head tie while cooking.	4.5	.97	I
13	Use hand gloves or kitchen towels when handling hot pots & other items.	4.5	.99	I
14	Avoid using faulty electrical appliances like cookers, kettles and toasters.	3.5	.95	I
Work Related Practices				
15	Cut, slice and shred foods on chopping boards for ease of operation.	3.6	.80	I
16	Store and stack all clean breakable plates, cutleries & silverwares properly.	4.7	.83	I
17	Label and properly store all food items in appropriate containers.	3.6	.85	I
18	Supervise cooking so as to avoid burning of foods & cooking equipment	3.6	.80	I
19	Ensure proper use of items like blenders & grinding machines.	4.6	.91	I

Key: Mean =(X), Standard Deviation= (SD), Decision = Dec., I= Important, NI= Not Important.

Table 2 indicates mean responses of respondents in Flats in Block of Flats based on work place; worker and work related practices. Out of the 19 items listed, the respondents agreed with 16 items to be important practices for accident prevention in the housing unit with their lowest and highest mean scores from 2.4 to 4.8 and corresponding mean score of .69 to 1.1. Three items were rated Not Important with SD of .69 to 1. Only one item was above 1.1, indicating that the ratings were comparable for most of the items.

Table 3: Mean Responses (X) and Standard deviation (SD) of homemakers on important home accident prevention practices of households in urban kitchens of Detached Houses.

S/N	Important Home Accident prevention practices of Households.	Detached houses		
		\bar{X}	SD	Dec
A. Work Place Related Practices				
1	Construct work shelves of comfortable sizes and heights for ease of work.	4.5	.99	I
2	Organize work spaces in accordance to use e.g. washing and cooking.	4.3	.65	I
3	Provide enough electrical outlets for large equipments like cookers.	2.8	.98	NI
4	Provide good drainage for used water in the sink area.	2.4	.68	NI
5	Provide adequate and safe/covered containers for the storage of water.	3.8	.53	I
6	Keep floors free from liquid spills & peels of fruits and vegetables.	4.2	.51	I
7	Use correct tools for the right work eg tin cutters for opening of cans.	4.5	.50	I
8	Provide emergency escape routes in case of fire outbreak/emergencies.	3.7	.73	I
Worker Related Practices				
9	Use plastic electrical kettle for less heat generation.	3.0	.81	I
10	Use various types and sizes of knives for their specific purposes.	3.2	.78	I
11	Use items like chopping boards skillfully.	3.6	.78	I
12	Use appropriate clothing like apron, shoe and head tie while cooking.	4.4	.67	I
13	Use hand gloves or kitchen towels when handling hot pots & other items.	2.2	.66	NI
14	Avoid using faulty electrical appliances like cookers, kettles and toasters.	3.7	.84	I
Work Related Practices				
15	Cut, slice and shred foods on chopping boards for ease of operation.	3.6	.77	I
16	Store and stack all clean breakable plates, cutleries & silverwares properly.	4.3	.65	I
17	Label and properly store all food items in appropriate containers.	3.3	.75	I
18	Supervise cooking so as to avoid burning of foods & cooking equipment	4.1	.65	I
19	Ensure proper use of items like blenders & grinding machines.	3.5	.62	I

Key: Mean =(X), Standard Deviation= (SD), Decision = Dec., I= Important, NI= Not Important.

Table 3 also shows the mean responses of respondents on important practices for home accident prevention in the kitchen area of this housing unit based on work place; worker and work related practices. 19 items were listed and the respondents agreed with 16 items to be important practices for accident prevention with mean scores from 2.2 to 4.5 and corresponding mean score of .62 to 1.1 based on Detached Houses. Three items were rated Not Important by the respondents and had lowest and highest SD of .51 and .99. This generally indicates that the ratings of the respondents were comparable for all of the items rated.

Table 4: Mean Responses (X) and Standard deviation (SD) of homemakers on important home accident prevention practices of households in urban kitchens of Let-In- Houses).

S/N	Important Home Accident prevention practices of Households.	Let –in- houses		
		\bar{X}	SD	Dec
A. Work Place Related Practices				
1	Construct work shelves of comfortable sizes and heights for ease of work.	4.5	1.0	I
2	Organize work spaces in accordance to use e.g. washing and cooking.	3.5	.65	I
3	Provide enough electrical outlets for large equipments like cookers.	2.7	1.0	NI
4	Provide good drainage for used water in the sink area.	4.8	.64	I
5	Provide adequate and safe/covered containers for the storage of water.	4.7	.67	I
6	Keep floors free from liquid spills & peels of fruits and vegetables.	4.8	.54	I
7	Use correct tools for the right work eg tin cutters for opening of cans.	2.4	.43	I
8	Provide emergency escape routes in case of fire outbreak/emergencies.	2.8	.89	I
Worker Related Practices				
9	Use plastic electrical kettle for less heat generation.	2.6	.88	NI
10	Use various types and sizes of knives for their specific purposes.	3.8	.79	I
11	Use items like chopping boards skillfully.	3.6	.86	I
12	Use appropriate clothing like apron, shoe and head tie while cooking.	2.7	.66	NI
13	Use hand gloves or kitchen towels when handling hot pots & other items.	4.7	.67	I
14	Avoid using faulty electrical appliances like cookers, kettles and toasters.	3.7	.67	I
Work Related Practices				
15	Cut, slice and shred foods on chopping boards for ease of operation.	3.6	.74	I
16	Store and stack all clean breakable plates, cutleries & silverwares properly.	4.7	.73	I
17	Label and properly store all food items in appropriate containers.	3.8	.62	I
18	Supervise cooking so as to avoid burning of foods & cooking equipment	4.8	.62	I

19	Ensure proper use of items like blenders & grinding machines.	3.7	.65	I
----	---	-----	-----	---

Key: Mean =(X), Standard Deviation=(SD), Decision = Dec., I= Important, NI= Not Important.

Table 4 shows the various mean responses of respondents on important practices for home accident prevention in this kitchen area of the housing unit based on work place; worker and work related practices. 19 items were listed and the respondents agreed with 16 items to be important practices for accident prevention in this activity area with their lowest and highest mean scores from 2.4 to 4.7 and corresponding mean score of .43 to 1.0 based on Let-In-Houses. Five items had SD of 1.0 and below. The ratings were therefore comparable for most of the items.

Hypothesis

There is no significant difference in the mean responses of homemakers on the practices for preventing accidents in urban kitchens based on household ownership status.

TABLE 5: t-test for Mean Responses of Owned and Rented Households on the Practices for Preventing Accidents in Urban kitchens

S/N	Accident Prevention Practices of Households.	Means		SD		t-value	Sig	Remark
		X1	X2	SD1	SD2			
	KITCHEN							
A	Work Place Related Practices							
1	Construct work shelves of comfortable sizes and heights for ease of work.	4.58	4.50	1.062	.933	1.331	.184	NS
2	Organize work spaces in accordance to use e.g. washing and cooking.	4.71	4.72	.731	.700	-.079	.937	NS
3	Provide enough electrical outlets for large equipments like cookers.	3.54	3.36	.981	1.208	2.563	.011	S
4	Provide good drainage for used water in the sink area.	4.70	4.72	.719	.720	-.314	.754	NS
5	Provide adequate and safe or covered containers for the storage of water.	4.67	4.77	.753	.594	-2.372	.018	S
6	Keep floors free from liquid spills & peels of fruits and vegetables.	4.86	4.75	.233	.657	.938	.348	NS
7	Use correct tools for the right work e.g tin cutters for opening of cans.	4.75	4.79	.640	.522	-.909	.364	NS
8	Provide emergency escape routes in case of fire outbreak or emergencies.	3.60	3.65	.847	.783	-.960	.337	NS
	Worker Related Practices							
9	Use plastic electrical kettle for less heat generation.	3.49	3.58	.956	.893	-1.410	.159	NS
10	Use various types and sizes of knives for their specific purposes.	3.58	3.63	.867	.793	-1.074	.283	NS

11	Use items like chopping boards skillfully.	3.53	3.59	.894	.820	-1.003	.316	NS
12	Use appropriate clothing like apron, shoe and head tie while cooking.	4.75	4.65	.299	.784	.814	.416	NS
13	Use hand gloves or kitchen towels when handling hot pots & other items.	4.61	4.64	.793	.786	-.640	.522	NS
14	Avoid using faulty electrical appliances like cookers, kettles and toasters.	3.65	3.69	1.128	1.240	-.448	.654	NS
	Work Related Practices							
15	Cut, slice and shred foods on chopping boards for ease of operation.	3.59	3.68	.799	.676	-1.865	.063	NS
16	Store and stack all clean breakable plates, cutleries & silverwares properly.	4.72	4.72	.693	.742	-.025	.980	NS
17	Label and properly store all food items in appropriate containers.	3.71	3.70	.725	.801	.201	.841	NS
18	Supervise cooking so as to avoid burning of foods & cooking equipment	4.73	4.75	.689	.639	-.377	.706	NS
19	Ensure proper use of items like blenders & grinding machines.	4.68	4.66	.720	.799	.551	.582	NS

Foot note: X1=Owned means, X2= Rented means, SD1= Standard deviation owned, SD2= Standard deviation rented, S=Significant, NS =Not significant, df = 1,007.

Table 5 shows the influence of household ownership status of respondents on their ratings based on the practices for preventing accident among households in the kitchen areas of urban households in Plateau State. From the table, 19 items were rated in the kitchen area with 17 of them rated not significant based on ownership status and with their various t-values. The null hypothesis is therefore accepted at $P \leq 0.05$ level of significance.

Discussion of Findings

The study revealed important practices for accident prevention in the urban kitchens of households in Plateau State. Some of the accident prevention practices are workplace related, workers related and work related. Some of the important practices listed are: construct work shelves of comfortable sizes and heights for ease of work, avoid using faulty electrical appliances like cookers, kettles and toasters. Label and properly store all food items in appropriate containers and monitor the use of candles, lanterns, and charcoal during lights out periods.

According to Dixey (1999), programs from other countries must be adopted with caution. Hence, this study is an attempt to identify practices based on indigenous practices and on the responses of respondents who are also homemakers in the study area. Literature on home accidents by authors from developed and some developing countries (World Health Organization, 1996; Colles, 2000; Hamzaoglu, Ozaku & Janson, 2002) mentioned the need for proper supervision of young children, using of non-skid floor covers and keeping guns away from young children. This study confirms some of these practices and even more, to be important for home accident prevention in the kitchen areas as well.

These findings are consistent with the Home Accident Surveillance Report (W.H.O., 1996; Keswet and Anyakoha, 2013), which explained that some activities and practices are meant to be performed in some designated locations, perhaps due to their delicate nature. The kitchen apparently is one of those delicate areas of the home where all households (young and old) enter on a daily basis. This implies that kitchen areas are meeting points for both the young and old and as such, busy areas for various types of practices which make the area susceptible to accident. This is also consistent with literature reports by Evan (2010).

From the analysis of respondents on ownership status on the important practices for home accident prevention in the urban kitchens, the results of the findings generally mean that ownership status does not necessarily influence people's views and opinions on important accident prevention practices of households. This implies that whether owned or rented, accident prevention practices are very important skills necessary in every home in order to practice and maintain healthy living.

Findings of W.H.O (1992) however, are contrary to this view where they noted that owners of houses had fewer accidents than those who lived in rented houses. This may have other contributing factors like types of facilities, number of households and types of equipment used in performing household chores in developed and developing countries. The less developed countries have more challenges in terms of available facilities and equipment for use, thus many of these items are sometimes improvised.

Conclusion

There are many important practices for home accidents prevention in urban kitchens in Plateau State which must be discovered and used in order to keep households safe in all types of housing units and among all categories of homemakers. Some of these accident prevention practices highlighted in this research work are an attempt to safe guard homemakers and indeed, all households against home related accidents.

References

- Colles S. (2000). Home safety – making it happen. UK National Home Safety Strategy Retrieved from www.eurosafe.eu.com/csi/eurosafe.nsf/index/CBED10A8DFCD6797C1256E2F004
- Dixey, R.A. (1999) ‘Fatalism’, accident causation and prevention: issues for health promotion from an exploratory study in a Yoruba town, Nigeria. Health Education Research. Oxford University Press, Leeds, U.K.
- Eboh, E.C. (2009). “Social and economic research: principles and methods.” African Institute for Applied Economics, Enugu: Nigeria.
- Evan B. (2010). Sledding mishap victim. Retrieved from www.pottstowermercury.com/articles/2010/12/20/news/srv
- Fire Brigade of Nigeria (2009). Quarterly/Annual Reports. Fire Brigade Head Office, Jos Nige
- Galal, S. (1999). Working With Families to Reduce The Risk of Home Accidents in Children. *Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal* 5(3)572-582.
- Hamzaoglu, O. Ozaku, O. Janson, S. (2002) Incidence and causes of home accidents at Ankara Cigiltepe apartments in Turkey. *Acc Anal Prev.* 34(2)23-28.
- Independent National Electoral Commission (2010). A Directory of Polling Units, Plateau State, Nigeria’s
- Jos University Teaching Hospital, JUTH, (2009). Quarterly/Annual Reports. JUTH Record Office, Jos Nigeria.
- Keswet, L.M. & Anyakoha, E.U. (2013), Common Sources of Accidents in the Kitchen Areas of Urban Households in Plateau State. *Journal of Home Economics Research* (18)112-122.
- National Bureau of Statistics Annual Abstract of Statistics (2008) Produced under auspices of Federal Government Economic Reform and Governance Project (ERGP)
- National Population Commission (2008), Housing Characteristics and Amenities Priority Tables (LGA) Vol. 11. Abuja, Nigeria.
- Office of the National Statistics (2002). Mortality Statistics; Injury and Poisoning. England and Wales. Series DH4 no. 27.
- Park, K. (2005). Environment and health: textbook of preventive and social medicine (18th ed.). Banarsidas Hhanot Publishers: India.
- Phil Lincoln (2006). Somerset Prevention Strategy. Somerset, Coast PCT. Mallard Court Express Park. Bridgwater TA64RN.

Plateau State National Population Commission (2009), Housing Characteristics and Amenities Priority Tables, Nigeria.

Reynnells L. (2008) what is rural? United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Information Center, National Agricultural Library. U.S.A. retrieved from http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/ricpubs/what_is_rural.shtml

Stranks, J. (2007). Human factors and behavioural safety. Butterworth: Heinemann press, UK.

Toledo, M. G. (2010). Protecting toddlers from any potential accidents at home. Retrieved from [Http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Micheal Grace Toledo](Http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Micheal+Grace+Toledo).

World Health Organization (1992) International Statistical Classification of diseases and related health problems. Ninth and Tenth Revisions. Geneva, Switzerland

World Health Organization (1996) International Statistical Classification of diseases and related health problems. Ninth and Tenth Revisions. Geneva, Switzerland