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## **AN ANALYTICAL PERSPECTIVE OF RESIDENTS' VIEW ON THE PROVISION OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES USING WARP-PLS**

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### **Abstract**

Recreational facilities are among the vital services that aid in the development of a community, but its provision is complex. Hence, the need for the involvement of residents in the provision processes. This paper aims to examine the residents' view of the provision of recreational facilities in the Greater Jos metropolis of Nigeria. The data were collected from the field survey and analysed empirically. The partial least squares structural equation modelling technique was applied in analysing the responses. The results show that the provision has a significant positive effect on the relationship between appropriateness and stakeholders' involvement. In contrast, the provision had a significant negative effect on the relationship between accessibility indicators. Accessibility does not affect the relationship with the provision of recreational facilities. In conclusion, it has been determined that the relationship between the provision is stronger with the appropriateness in terms of categories and attractiveness of the facilities.

**Keyword:** Provision, recreational facilities, accessibility, appropriateness, stakeholders, Warp-PLS analysis

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The rapid pace of urbanisation and population growth pose significant challenges to most urban areas in developing countries. Therefore, the increasing population and demand for more services have outpaced local authorities' ability to provide or extent supportive services that should go hand in hand with urbanisation. This makes the urban system functional and, to some extent, influences the rate and trend of urban development lacking or inadequate (Kronenberg et al., 2020). Thus, it affects economic development through the shortage of the supply of the services (Fan et al., 2017).

The challenges of recreation facility provision relate to the services facilities' demand (Adesogan, Mohammed, & Kambu, 2018). Referring to the case study and according to the findings of Doxiadis in the Greater Jos Area Final Master Plan Report (Doxiadis Associates, 1975) and Shankland Cox Partnership (1980), the reports stated that there were limited cultural and recreational facilities. The most recent report, the Greater Jos Master 2009, has not been approved nor pro-action taken toward implementation. The problems of the provision of recreational facilities is generally a reflection in the whole of Nigeria. Gani (2018) in the study of Abuja found out that the major problems of the provision of recreational facilities include invasion of recreational areas by other competing land uses, long journey, inadequacy and poor maintenance of the recreational facilities. Hence, it is necessary to put a straight record of the current scenario to portray its true reflection considering the research outcome. Hence the aim of the paper is to examine the residents' view of the provision of recreational facilities in the Greater Jos. The study is part of a broader research project, which considered the Greater Jos Plateau State, Nigeria, which consists of the six Local Government Areas of Plateau North, Jos-North, Jos-South and parts of Jos-East, Bassa, Riyom and Barki-Ladi. Fola Konsult put the population at 1.3m in 2009 and, by current estimated 1.5 million people.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Policies and guides to planning with legislative principles are necessary for consideration, such as the facility's location, the capacity of the services, accessibility to the site and demographics, and the potential socioeconomic and environmental impacts. Likewise, equity, availability, engagement, integration of cultural significance, quality, efficiency and effectiveness, and fairly flexible are significant factors to behold (Davies & Laforteza, 2017; Onubi, Yusof, & Hassan, 2020). The elements mentioned above and many more as biodiversity, aesthetic, and usability, resolve residents' perception of the space (Yu, Che, Xie, & Tian, 2018).

Accessibility examines the degree of ease by which people can access the recreational facility. One of the most often objectively way to assess accessibility is centred on the gravity potential model, which is a function of

travel cost from an origin of the facility to all destinations possibly considered (in other words a distance decay function). It differentiates between areas with similar numbers of facilities serving different population densities, hence providing a better realistic impression of accessibility to services especially the recreational facilities (Jiao et al., 2015; Mavoia et al., 2019).

The choice for the type of activities, and what characteristics of recreation an individual pursues influences various types of activities. The concern is where the needs of the people and circumstances of the provision are not reasonably correlated, or evenly distributed to the desires of the individuals do lead to dissatisfaction (Gao, Song, Zhu, & Qiu, 2019; Wash & Mohammed, 2019).

The philosophy for recreational activity is said to have less responsiveness due to lack or inadequate research on motivation for recreational activities. Hence, the movement to connect research and practice and in this case, the stakeholders' impact is affected (Parr & Schmalz, 2019). Stakeholders with interest in parks and recreation usually perform a significant role in the provision recreational (Cavnar et al., 2004).

The above literature review informed the creation of the conceptual framework of the study considering Accessibility of Recreational Facilities, Appropriateness of RF, and Stakeholders' Involvement. Thus, the study emphasis is on the general alternative hypotheses in accordance with the independent variables and the dependent variable. The assumed hypotheses are backed by the study's conceptual framework as; H1: The spatial provision of recreational facilities have a significant influence on the accessibility of recreational facilities in the Greater Jos. H2: The spatial provision of recreational facilities has a significant influence on the appropriateness of recreational facilities in Greater Jos. H3: The spatial provision of recreational facilities has a significant influence on the stakeholders' Involvement of recreational facilities in Greater Jos.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The research procedure helps to identify and clarify problems, instruments development.

**Data collection:** The study adopted a simple random sampling technique for data collection. Respondents are chosen randomly among permanent residents (over five years of residency) residing in 10 sectors of Greater Jos and aged over 15 years old. The survey was self-administered in different parts of the sectoral areas, bus stations, streets, and restaurants. The distribution of the questionnaires was done according to density of the development of the sectors which depicts the population variation, and so administered. The surveys lasted for four (4) months between December 2018 and March 2019. The researchers settled for 450

respondents from the estimated one million five hundred population in Greater Jos, though, recovered 400 responses which were analysed.

**Data Analysis:** Based on the responses received, the data collected is understood to be the assessment of the RF provision. The analysis examines the relationships between the dependent variables and independent variables (Multiple Regression using Warp PLS version 0.6).

**Reliability test:** From the following statistical test (Table 1), the value is negative (-0.83) due to a negative average covariance among items. This violates reliability model assumptions. It is because of this unstandardized item that the researchers opted for WarpPLS which takes bigger data and solved to standardized form.

**Table 1: Reliability Test**

Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items <sup>a</sup>	N of Items
.074	-.083	9

(Source: Researchers, 2019)

## FINDINGS

The finding shows the statistical data analysis of this research. The presentation includes the background of the respondents, factor analysis results, main and supporting analyses that address the main research aim. Attention is focused on those indicators with high outer weights having indicators like distance to RF, Transport to RF and cost to enjoy RF being of more importance. The results show all significant being less than 0.05 (Table 2).

**Table 2. Accessibility (Measurement Model Exogeneity).**

Constructs	Item(s)	Weight	Convergent	P. Value	VIF	WLS	ES
<b>Accessibility to</b>	Walking	(0.146)	0.59	0.005	1.053	1	0.045
	Distance	(0.202)		<0.001	1.096	1	0.049
<b>Recreational Facilities</b>	Transport	(0.236)		<0.001	1.139	1	0.135
	Affordability	(0.107)		0.031	1.120	1	0.035
	Cost	(0.246)		<0.001	1.161	1	0.013

The results in Table 3 show that five indicators, residents' participation in planning, Not involved, management, lacking facilities and inappropriate are significant been less than 0.05, while seven indicators are not significant.

**Table 3.** Involvement of Residents (Measurement Model Exogenous).

Constructs	Item(s)	Weight	Convergent	P. Value	VIF	WLS	ES
<b>Involvement of Residents and Planning Authority</b>	Informed	(0.061)	0.55	0.145	1.103	1	0.001
	Planning	(0.229)		<0.001	1.147	1	0.131
	Not Involved	(0.099)		0.042	1.208	-1	0.006
	Develop Recreations	(0.008)		0.447	1.042	1	0.000
	Maintenance	(0.040)		0.244	1.258	1	0.009
	Management	(0.415)		<0.001	1.297	1	0.223
	Lacking	(0.129)		0.012	1.573	-1	0.005
	Inappropriate	(0.100)		0.041	1.921	1	0.002
	Unattractive	(0.077)		0.091	1.815	1	0.007
	Distance	(0.057)		0.160	1.417	1	0.012
	Insecurity	(0.026)		0.329	1.043	-1	0.000
	Insecurity	(0.043)		0.228	1.030	-1	0.001

In Table 4, the results show 20 indicators are significant, being less than 0.05, while eighteen indicators are not significant.

**Table 4.** Appropriateness and Adequacy (Measurement Model Exogeneity)

Constructs	Item(s)	Weight	Convergent	P. Value	VIF	WLS	ES
<b>Appropriateness and Adequacy of Recreational Facilities</b>	Importance	(0.011)	0.32	0.427	1.306	1	0.000
	Football	(0.177)		<0.001	2.202	-1	0.013
	Outdoor Table Tennis	0.000		0.495	2.133	1	0.000
	Outdoor Badminton Court	(0.022)		0.350	1.780	1	0.001
	Basketball	(0.138)		0.008	2.140	-1	0.010
	Volleyball	(0.022)		0.351	2.060	-1	0.002
	Squash	(0.006)		0.458	1.530	1	0.001
	Trekking/Walking	(0.142)		0.006	2.474	1	0.000
	Biking	(0.245)		<0.001	1.971	1	0.032
	Hiking	(0.181)		<0.001	1.583	1	0.006
	Swimming Pool	(0.168)		0.002	1.717	1	0.009
	Parks and Garden	(0.183)		<0.001	1.746	1	0.020
	Clubs	(0.112)		0.025	1.812	-1	0.001
	Gymnasium	(0.063)		0.139	1.499	1	0.002
	Picnic Sites	(-0.002)		0.485	1.916	1	0.000

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Skating	(0.124)	0.015	1.286	-1	0.006
Hockey	(0.038)	0.255	1.451	1	0.006
Rock Climbing	(0.080)	0.082	1.627	-1	0.003
Long Tennis	(0.129)	0.012	1.397	-1	0.005
Garden/ Park	(0.070)	0.111	1.706	-1	0.002
Polo game	(0.101)	0.039	1.493	-1	0.001
Golf	(0.024)	0.342	1.592	1	0.002
Museum/ Heritage Parks	(0.123)	0.016	2.453	-1	0.000
Zoo/ Wildlife Park	(0.158)	0.003	2.796	-1	0.027
Resorts	(-0.031)	0.293	2.445	-1	0.000
Often Visit	(0.208)	<0.001	1.389	1	0.075
Children Available	(0.120)	0.018	1.369	-1	0.005
Youth Available	(0.022)	0.354	1.532	1	0.003
Adults Available	(0.113)	0.024	1.333	1	0.040
Elderly Available	(0.022)	0.350	1.199	1	0.001
Disabled Available	(0.004)	0.471	1.208	1	0.000
Talking and greeting	(0.162)	0.002	1.431	1	0.029
Crowded with people	(-0.020)	0.368	1.273	-1	0.004
Children Underserved	(0.142)	0.006	1.320	1	0.016
Youth Underserved	(0.004)	0.476	1.528	1	0.002
Senior Citizens Underserved	(0.151)	0.004	1.444	-1	0.022
Disabled Underserved	(-0.141)	0.007	1.320	-1	0.018

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### **Structural Model Assessment**

The structural model is used to capture the regression effects of the endogenous construct upon one another. The results show two (2) statistical tests were

assessed at 5 percent level of significance except for accessibility with a path coefficient of 0.09 (Figure 1). The path coefficient estimated for hypothesised relationships being significant, having 0.47 and 0.16 with P. Values of 0.01 each. A path coefficient estimate is considered statistically significantly different from zero at a 5% significant level when its P. Value is below 0.5. R2 of 0.30 seems good enough.

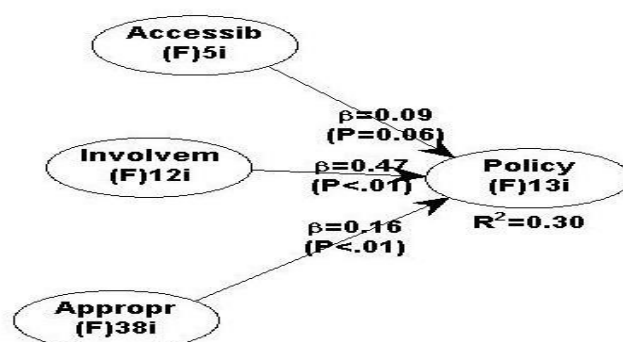


Figure 1: Structural Model

With this result, it will be reported and hypothesised that the spatial provision and distribution of RF has no significant influence on the accessibility of RF in the Greater Jos (**H<sub>1</sub>**) (Table 5). The spatial provision and distribution of RF do significantly influence the appropriateness and adequacy of RF in the Greater Jos (**H<sub>2</sub>**). The path coefficient value having a low significant value of 0.01 is accepted. It can also be hypothesised that the spatial provision and distribution of RF has a significant influence on the effectiveness of RF in the Greater Jos (**H<sub>3</sub>**). This is regarding the R2 value been 0.3 having an acceptable mid-value range is accepted.

Table 5. Hypothesis Testing Results

Hypothesis	Path Coefficient	P-Values	Decision
<b>H1:</b> Accessibility affects the provision of recreational facilities	<b>0.09</b>	<b>0.06</b>	<b>Not Supported</b>
<b>H2:</b> Appropriateness and Quality influence the provision of recreational facilities	<b>0.16</b>	<b>0.01</b>	<b>Supported</b>
<b>H3:</b> Involvement of community stakeholders affect the provision of recreational facilities	<b>0.47</b>	<b>0.01</b>	<b>Supported</b>

### Interpretation of Findings

For the test the accessibility was not supported, meaning that there are no issues with accessing recreational facilities, which is obviously influenced by the

respondents located in the densely populated areas at the core city. While, the test showed the variables with regards to appropriateness being supported, indicating that the indicators do influence the provision of the facilities. Adjudged by the response, the scores from the findings further strengthened the effects of the results. This indicates that the variables are important and about 100% of the variables were significant at  $p < 0.05$ . The test supported the variables that influenced the involvement of the stakeholders in the provision of the recreational facilities as presented. This further strengthened with the correlation coefficient analysis that tested viably influenced variables regarding the independent variables and the dependent variable.

## **DISCUSSION**

This section presents a detailed discussion of the results and defines the connections of the study's findings by comparing them with the findings of previous similar research works as presented in earlier discussed literature.

The finding has shown that there is no problem with accessibility using the empirical data. Though the respondents are from the predominantly densely populated areas of the core city, they tend to have a divergent view of the easy reach to the facilities. This agrees with Kelobonye et al. (2019) findings, reiterating that the outskirts are under-served as the facilities are mostly focused on the city centre. Given that more new developments have occurred in fringe areas than inner areas as time goes by, resulting in more people being at the disadvantage of the facilities. Also, the findings of Schultz, Wilhelm Stanis, Sayers, Thombs, & Thomas (2017) supported the claim from their study that shows increasing access to parks use considering the neighbourhood concept. This implies more participation within easy reach when the neighbourhood concept is applied. The need for easy reach to RF even at outskirt being new developing areas.

The findings identify inappropriate RF, lack and insufficient for all age groups, mostly the children and disabled. This study is similar to the findings of Lamanes & Deacon (2019), that in terms of lack of RF among a group of people indicated non-establishment of social ties, while the basis of social relations is the availability of the RF and Involvement in its activities. Though the study did not capture the rate of inappropriateness, perhaps due to the complete absence of RF, the findings Lyu & Lee (2016) gives an insight considering persons with disabilities, and they found out that among the several elements of leisure constraints to the participation of inappropriate recreation facilities is one of the major factors. Based on the findings, they recommended policies that would help people with disabilities develop the desire to participate in recreational activities. The finding also agrees with the finding of Muiga & Rukwaro (2017) and Mohd Shobri, Abdul Rahman, & Md Saman, (2021), considering the inappropriate location of the facilities within the development plan and poor organisation of the



facilities with regards to management, lack of security and safety. Though they were in good condition, but in short supply.

The residents' involvement in the provision of RF in Greater Jos is based on the stakeholders' involvement as private operators (Providers) and government agencies. The finding determined their role in initiating a plan for the provision of RF, being sources of information and agent in conveying the information to the authorities/government concerning the prevailing situations. This finding is an action to intervention, which supports the finding of Liu et al. (2019) toward dealing with the contradictions of processes of achieving aims and expected results. The finding found inactive participation in recreational activity to substantiate the purpose of provision of the facility. Hence the challenge to stir up the affected stakeholders to involve adequately in the provision plans and programmes. Here lies the novelty in establishing and the willingness of the stakeholders to initiate and participate in the planning processes. This fact also agrees with the findings of VermeerSch & VAnDenbroucke (2014). In stimulating participation and about socio-cultural participation, they concluded that promoting socio-cultural participation as a vehicle to build a more inclusive society is intended to be a right. This evidence suffices to adore the role of stakeholders in policy formulations. The finding of Sacchelli, Fabbrizzi, Geri, & Ciolli (2018) is contrary because of the priority placed for intervention for a five year interval. This helps in the effective managerial benefits in case of decision support.

### **CONTRIBUTION TO METHODOLOGY**

The choice of an approach must have a philosophical background to determine fit. This study adopted this analysis based on the uniqueness of the research and the paradigm shift in approach to arrive at an acceptable answer adequately and substantially to the issue at stake. The finding expresses the correlation between the variables, the independent and dependent, the other two shows positive response indicating support for the hypothesis. This invariably projects the method by determining that the variables are indicators to hold on to concerning the provision of RF, hence the benefit of quantitative approach. The quantitative approach is a novel in this area of study that is quite revealing regarding the finding of facts, knowledge, and understanding of the system of the provision of RF.

### **LIMITATIONS AND SUGGESTION FOR FUTURE RESEARCH**

The study only focused on the provision of RF, while the questionnaire was conducted based on a projected figure from literature instead of the National Population Commission (NPC). Therefore, further studies should investigate each facility critically with their attendant facilities (water, electricity, road and landscape) within the Greater-Jos.

## CONCLUSION

This implies that the provision of the RF is short of meeting the needs of the residents of the Greater-Jos. This study revealed that the elements connected with the four constructs were of utmost importance. The weak ones are the accessibility and the preferences of the categories of RF. The reasons are, as discussed earlier, having the dense population within the core city where the facilities abound, while the types of the facility options were vast compared to the chosen. Hence, this study is pioneering the reformation of the provision for a viable community of residents via a pragmatic system framework approach so that residents of Greater-Jos can have access to recreational activity areas near home and affordable. The findings supported the correlation as being one of the determinants to the provision of the RF. Therefore, the finding is serving as a piece of useful information for correcting the order of the provision for maximum use and meeting the desires of the people of the area.

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