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Challenges of Resettlement of Flooding Prone Communities in Abuja Nigeria

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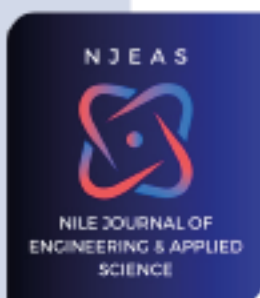
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ABSTRACT

Flooding is a natural disaster that causes great damage and destruction to life and property; besides the physical consequences and casualties, these events lead to disruption in the activities of the affected communities and the need for resettlement. Often the settlement of these Disaster-prone communities involves considerable challenges. The study was aimed at evaluating the effects of flooding, as well as challenges of resettlement of Lugbe community of Abuja Nigeria which is a flood disaster prone community. A total of 65 questionnaires were used to collect data of respondents and agencies/stakeholders responsible for resettlement. The data was analysed using relative important index (RII) technique because of its advantage of prioritising the variables on their perceived impact. After the data was analysed, the result revealed that Disruption of economic activities and Lack of social services were the most significant effects to resettlement while inadequate resettlement planning and improper financial analysis were the most significant challenges to resettlement. This study is limited to Lugbe community due to inadequacy of funds and security challenges. The implication of this study is to understand the difficulties and obstacles faced in relocating communities that are vulnerable to flooding. Government should therefore set a clear and standardized policy for resettlement of disaster-prone communities. Further study can be carried out on investigating the long term socio-economic and environmental impact of resettlement.

KEYWORDS: Resettlement, Disaster, Challenges, Community.



1 | INTRODUCTION

Flooding like other natural Disasters are hazards that pose risk on its areas of impact thereby causing disruption of human activities, loss of lives and damages to properties to that specific community (Schulenberg *et al.*, 2014). When flooding disaster occurs, affected communities often time seek help from outside/ nearby communities for survival (Holguin-Veras *et al.*, 2012). According to Ebenezer (2019) flooding prone communities are communities exposed to impending risk/disaster with increasing environmental risks through global change processes such as climate change According to Hino *et al.*, (2017) flooding disaster-prone communities are often faced with great social-economic challenges that sometimes the only solution is resettlement of the affected communities especially when the risk of such disaster is too high, or the cost of building standard buildings able to withstand such disaster is also too high. Resettlement is a process by which a number of homogenous people from one locale come to live together in a different locale (Bertana, 2019). According to Heslin (2018), resettlement enables persons to establish themselves permanently in a new location, with access to habitable housing, resources and services, measures to restore/recover assets, livelihoods, land, and living standards, and to enjoy rights in a non-discriminatory manner.

The settlement of these flooding Disaster prone communities involves considerable challenges which involves difficulty in resettling large communities, unfamiliarity of standard resettlement process by resettlement stakeholders, insufficient planning and lack of available resources (Fakhrudin *et al.* 2019). This study focused on the challenges of resettlement flooding disaster community of Lugbe village of Abuja Nigeria which is a flood prone community.

This study therefore, intends to provide answers to the following research questions which include:

What are the Effects of flooding on the community?

What are challenges of resettlement of flooding prone community of Lugbe village?

2 | LITERATURE APPRAISAL

2.1 An Overview of Flooding as Community Disaster

Disasters cause great damage and destruction, particularly in extremely dense urban areas; besides the physical consequences and casualties, these events cause functioning disruption of the affected communities and traumatic change of survivors' lifestyle and living conditions (Sadiqi *et al.*, 2016).

The negative effects of disasters which are debilitating and multifaceted, ranging from the destruction of the ecosystem, agricultural activities, infrastructural facilities and amenities, injury, illness, death, inhibition of access to education, health services, comfortable housing, drinking water and sanitation, aggravation of poverty and hunger among others (Mortreux *et al.* 2018). According to McAdams & Ferris (2015) Flooding disasters is usually associated with some social, economic and environmental consequences that critically threaten the ecosystem and human existence (Ebenezer 2019).

2.1.1 Flooding as a Type of Disaster

According to Becker & Ferrara (2019) flooding can simply be described as “water where it is not wanted”. It can also be conceptualized as a situation that results when a part of the earth surface that is usually dry is inundated and covered with water due to high amount of rainfall or the overflowing of a water body. Furthermore, flooding was expounded by Ujjwal *et al.* (2019) as a “natural hydrological phenomenon and its occurrence is usually the aftermath of metrological events such as seismic activities, astronomically influenced phenomena (high tides coinciding with occurrence of high rainfall). The effects of floods are always debilitating, though their intensity of human activities, quantum of water and the level of preparedness by the stakeholders.

2.2 Effects of Flooding Disaster in Nigeria

According to Usman (2012), although flooding is not the leading cause of death in Nigeria, it affects and displaces more people than any other natural disaster. Flooding is one of the most devastating natural phenomena in the world claiming lives, destroying properties and displacing many persons (Adeleye & Ayangbile 2016). In Nigeria, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), reported a total of 7.7 million people were affected by flooding in the year 2012, of which 2.1 million were officially registered across the country as internally displaced persons and over 300 people were killed during that period (Ebenezer 2019). The 2012 flood affected about 23 States of the Federation with Abuja inclusive. Nigeria's (2003) agenda 21 document spelt out objectives to combat floods which include providing a master plan for flood control and relief measures for victims; mitigate floods through the relevant land use laws and edicts; improve institutional capacity for flood prediction and public awareness programmes and minimize the impact of floods through the provision and maintenance of appropriate infrastructure (Nabegu, 2014). However, there is little effort by government to systematically

treat risk reduction from floods as an integrated, cross-sectorial objective. Instead, they have dealt with flood risk primarily within the very narrow framework of flood control, improved preparedness, relief and rehabilitation and preparedness capabilities and expose support to affected groups. Thus, flood hazards continue to cause great damage to infrastructure and loss of life.

2.3 Challenges of Resettling Disaster-prone communities

According to Ebenezer (2019) lack of adequate planning, insufficient management capacity and resources to implement resettlement programs are some of the challenges of resettling disaster-prone communities. Similarly, Carrasco *et al* (2016) identifies inadequate community consultation and engagement in the resettlement process as the main challenges of resettlement. The involvement of the communities in the decision-making during resettlement makes the process acceptability and sustainability (Bertana, 2019). For successful community relocation, measures such as geological studies and vulnerability assessments should be conducted and the issues of community safety, access to economic and livelihood opportunities, proximity to social infrastructure, physical security and safety of the relocation settlement must be adequately considered prior to relocation. (Bilau *et al*, 2018). High cost of building standard design buildings to resist such disaster and inadequate government funding are some of the fundamental challenges of community resettlement.

3 | RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Quantitative methodology was used for the study which involves the use of questionnaire to collect data on the effects of disaster and challenges of resettling disaster-prone communities. A pilot survey was first conducted within Lugbe east and west to determine some of the effects and challenges of resettlement in the study area. This was important as it provided the researchers with a clearer inside as to how the main survey should be conducted. Disruption of agricultural activities and increase in criminal activity was among the identified effects during the pilot survey which was included in the main survey. A structured questionnaire was design with two sections, section A and section B. Section A, which is the demography of respondents consist of profession of respondents, academic qualification, and years of the respondents as well as the number of flooding disasters they encountered. Sections B on the other hand consist of the effects and challenges

of resettlement in the study area. The target population was residential buildings in Lugbe area of Abuja. Purposive sampling technique was used to select Lugbe community due to its convenience of proximity to the researchers and it being a flooding prone area. Snow ball sampling technique was used for the selection of respondents in which a total of 88 questionnaires were distributed by the researchers by hand. After exhausting all the referrals, a total number of 65 questionnaires which were appropriately completed suitable for the research work were collected. This is so because snow ball sampling technique involves respondents referring the researcher to other respondent who also have similar experience or knowledge on the particular topic. Therefore, a total number of sixty-five respondents constituted the sample size for the study. The sampling frame for the research is residents of the five districts of Lugbe, namely Lugbe south, north, central, west and Lugbe east areas of Abuja and the agencies/stakeholders responsible for resettlement. The data obtained from the respondents was analysed using relative important index (RII) in other to ascertain the prevalence rate of the challenges and effects of flooding on the community.

4 | DATA PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

4.1 Demography of Respondents

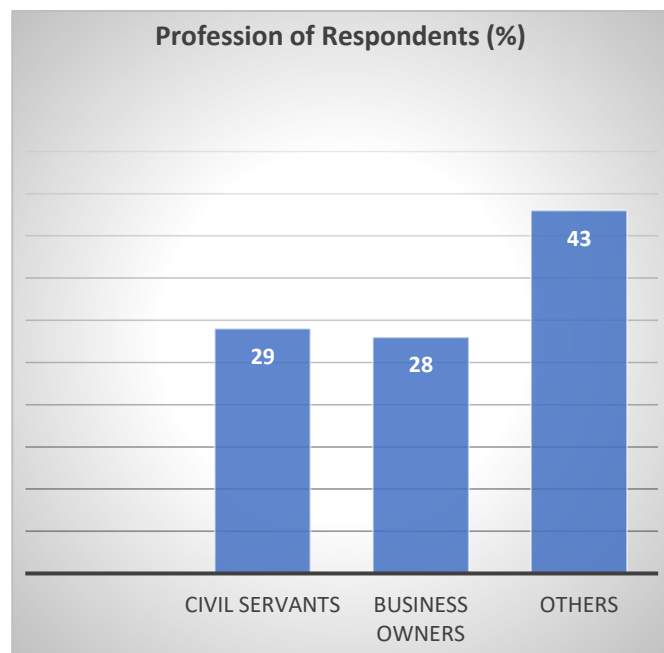


Figure 1: Profession of respondents

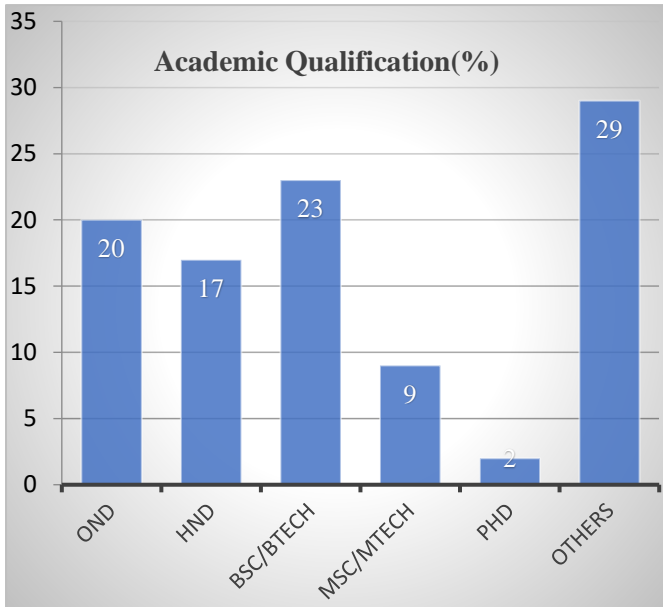


Figure 2: Academic qualification of respondent

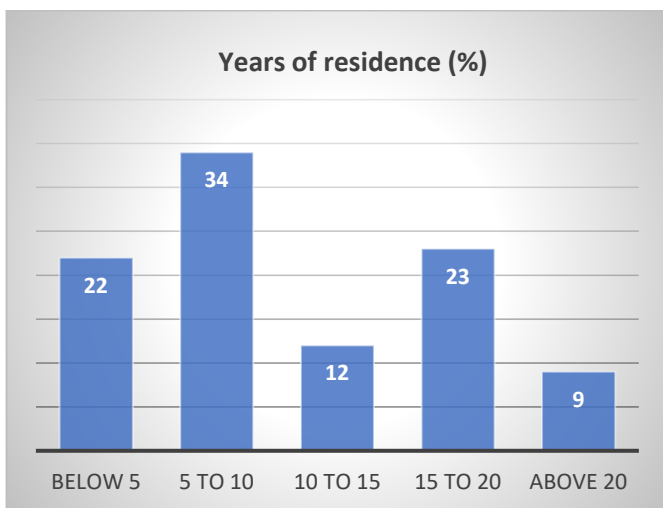


Figure 3: Years of residence

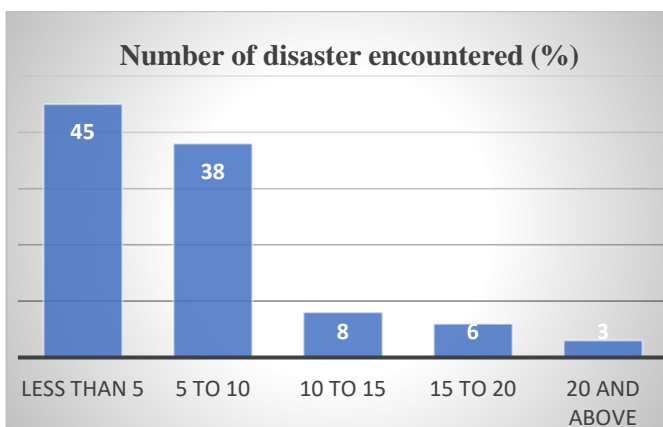


Figure 3: Number of disasters encountered

4.2 Effects of Disaster on the Communities

Table 4.1: Effects of disaster on the communities

s/no	Effects Disaster on the Communities	RII	Position
1	Increase in criminal activity	0.91	7th
2	Destruction to personal properties	0.96	3rd
3	Aggravation of poverty and hunger	0.96	3rd
4	Lack of social services	0.97	2nd
5	Exposure to disease outbreak	0.83	8th
6	Lack of water and sanitation	0.78	9th
7	Displacement of persons	0.75	10th
8	Disruption of economic activities	0.98	1st
9	Loss of source of income	0.93	5th
10	Disruption of agricultural activities	0.93	5th

Source: Field Survey (2023)

4.3 Challenges of Resettlement Flooding Prone Community of Lugbe Abuja

Table 4.2: challenges of resettling community prone to disaster in Abuja

s/no	Challenges of resettlement	RII	Position
1	Lack of accountability and corruption	0.92	4th
2	inadequate resettlement planning	0.98	1st
3	Unfamiliarity of standard resettlement process by resettlement stakeholders	0.82	9th
4	Improper financial analysis	0.97	2nd
5	Failure to attract vital materials	0.87	7th
6	lack of technical analysis	0.79	10th
7	Insufficient resources to implement resettlement programs	0.91	5th
8	Lack community engagement in the resettlement process	0.89	6th
9	Logistics difficulty in resettling large communities	0.87	7th
10	Inadequate government assistance in resettlement process	0.97	2nd

Source: Field Survey (2023)

4.2 Discussion of Results

From the survey carried out, the respondent ranked “Disruption of economic activities” as the most significant effect of disaster on the community as the flooding hampered the movement of traders to sell goods and provide services, most market stalls were washed away by the flood, also residents could not have access to the few available markets. Displacement of persons” was the least significant effect as the flooding had minimal effect on the accommodation of the residents. On the issue of challenges of resettlement, the respondents ranked “inadequate resettlement planning” as the most significant challenge of resettlement as government resettlement programmes were not adequately utilized to cater for the displaced persons. Also, non-governmental organisations and other stakeholder efforts were not sufficient to provide the necessary support for the displaced community. Government should therefore set a clear and standardized policy for resettlement of disaster-prone communities.

5 | CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusion

The study on the Challenges of Resettlement of Flooding Prone Communities in Abuja Nigeria revealed that the economic activities in the community of Lugbe was mostly disrupted due to poor accessibility to market resulting in residents having difficulty to access basic needs. Inadequate resettlement planning proved to be the most significant challenge as government resettlement programmes were little and its impact not felt in the community. While on the hand, non-governmental organisations and other stakeholder efforts were not sufficient to provide the necessary support for the displaced community. This has resulted in making life miserable to the residents of this community.

5.2 Recommendations

Government should therefore set a clear and standardized policy for resettlement of disaster-prone communities this will help in mitigating the challenges faced by disaster community. Government should as a matter of urgency declare flooding an annual national disaster as this will provide early preparation strategies, reduce the response time in accessing flooding areas, as well as providing adequate attention to flooding victims.

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Author Contributions: Garba Yunana Yusuf carried out the conceptualization and design of the study. Data collection, analysis, interpretation of results, review and approval of the final version of the manuscript was carried out by Umar Muhammed Idris, Bamgbade, A. A and Garba Yunana Yusuf respectively.

Availability of Data and Materials: The authors confirm that the data supporting the findings of this study titled “Challenges of Resettlement of Flooding Prone Communities in Abuja Nigeria”. are available within the article [and/or] its supplementary materials.

Conflicts of Interest: Umar Muhammed Idris, Bamgbade, A. A and Garba Yunana Yusuf solely declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the present study titled “Challenges of Resettlement of Flooding Prone Communities in Abuja Nigeria”.

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