

Conclusion:

Dimensions in the measure of people-space relationships

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The continuous evaluation of people and space remains a phenomenon whose dimension has gained closer focus of the UN's sustainable development goals. The United Nations has recognised the undue neglect of indigenous people, their land, territories and resources. It recommends the recognition of indigenous people's issue as key towards the attainment of sustainable development goals. Thus, through the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples' Issues, the UN has emphasised recognition and regard for the conservation of indigenous peoples' right to land, territories and resources. As a result, subjects related to Indigenous peoples' relationships with their root as a basis of their mainstream cultural, spiritual and social values for which their traditional knowledge systems were built and which determined their physical and economic well-being requires research (UN, 2018). Moreover, the UN sustainability indicators are found to lack adequate integration with positive and negative impacts of human interactions on sustainable development hence the need for discrete measurement tools for specific sustainable development issues (Brandon and Lombardi, 2011). In view of the foregone, identifying appropriate research procedures or a lead to it becomes paramount to social scientists.

The scientific procedure for the conduct of research in people and space transactions is characterised with a plethora of approaches which most of the

time could be confusing especially to a beginner researcher. However, this book showcases five (5) different research methods conducted in different contexts of people and space transactions. Significantly, this book provides illustrative dimensions in the measurement of people and space interactions in the built environment towards responsive development. This covers the consideration of different settings of the built environment that include mountainous landscapes, urban neighbourhoods, hospital built environments, public housing settings and a cultural landscape of a typical rural ethnic community. These settings are influenced by culture and technology in space optimisation, linking urban dynamics with mainstream indigenous cultural and social values in both tangible and intangible expressions.

Consequently, a multidimensional data collection strategy has been established as more suitable for measuring people and space relationships in the built environment. Also, a time horizon where measurement of people and space transactions are assessed based on time scale was found to be essential in explicit and responsive research in the built environment. For example, this is shown in the study of "human wellbeing in mountain landscape environment employed multiple" measurement strategies that combines both subjective and objective measures as represented in Figure 7.1.

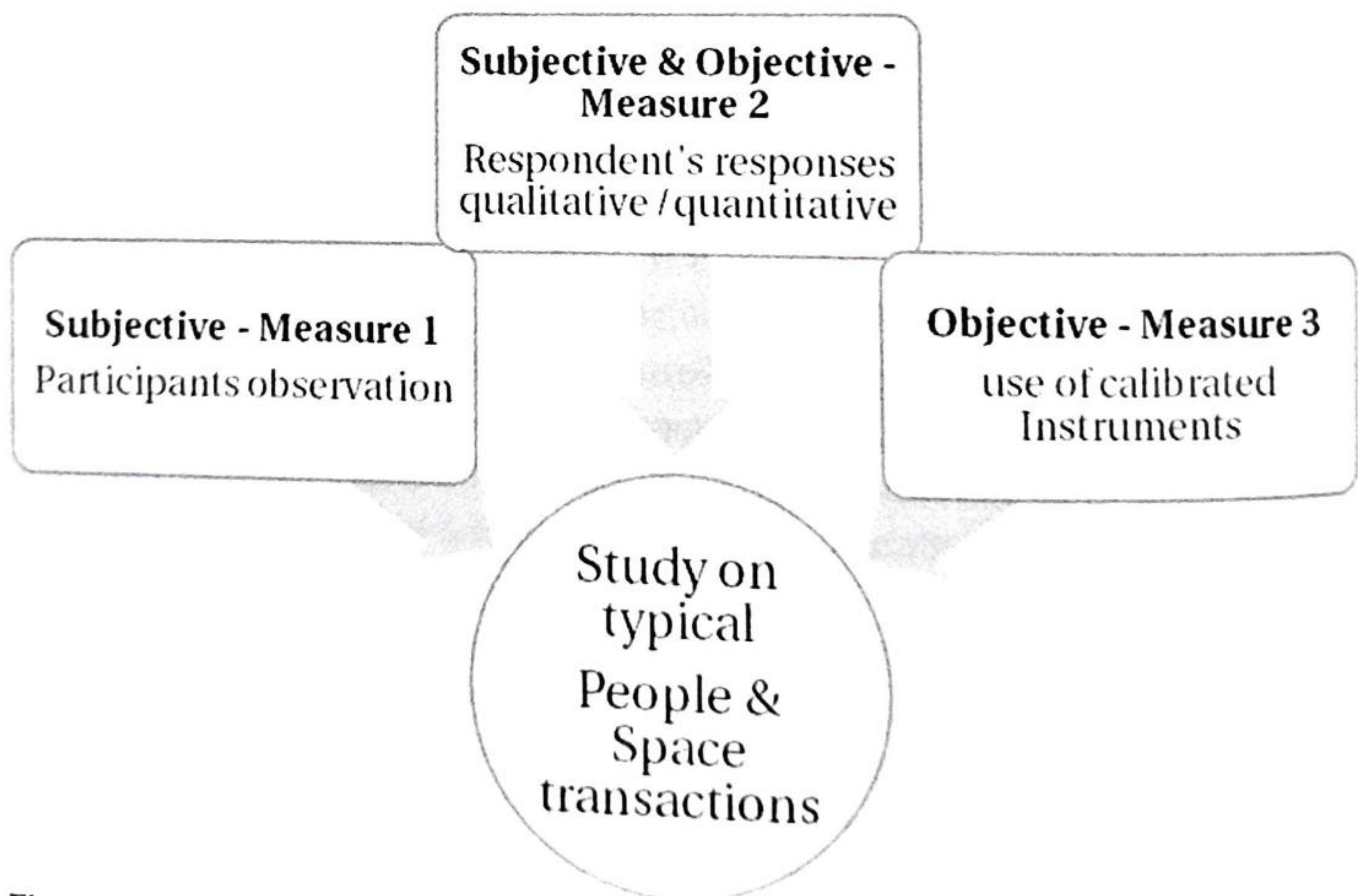


Figure 7.1 The use of Multi-dimension strategies in the collection of data

The objectives of a study determine what and how research information is sought and measured (Yin, 2013). As showcased in Figure 7.1, the same study had three of its objectives measured differently towards the attainment of the research goal.

It is also important for the researcher to establish a philosophical stance in a people-place relationship. Exemplifying this is Chapter 4 where the researcher chose a philosophical stance of pragmatism. This is because the research objectives required the consideration of both subjective and objective measures and as such pragmatism was chosen as the philosophical stance- a middle ground between constructivism and positivism.

Equally important is the underpinning of constructs of measure based on literature. Such underpinning of research constructs does not necessarily have to be exactly the same but similarities in the factors to be measured could serve as a good reason for adoption. It is however required that an overview of the dimensions is presented and thereafter an appropriate measure in the context of the study is established. Contrastingly, explorative research such as ethnography may pose some challenges in the underpinning of measures, because most of the findings are likely to be inductive as well as grounded on data (Mannay & Morgan, 2014). It is therefore required that strategies are employed towards reliability and validity in the collection of data. Appropriately, this book showcased five (5) different research dimensions on the strategies for validity and reliability of measures towards responsive sustainable development.

Most importantly, these studies utilised outstanding strategies in their methodologies which makes the researches unique, original and thus contributing to the broad knowledge of research methodology in different ways. Significantly it shows that measure of people and space transactions in particular and qualitatively dominated research studies, in general, requires dynamic approach in the dimensions of measure with each case study developing new and unique strategies based on the field situation and the phenomenon being examined.

Beyond these, this book achieved one of its cardinal objectives by innovatively establishing an overtly meaningful assessment platform where both experts and the lay public share value systems underlying criteria and performance in people and space transactions through multiple methods.

In sum, this book provides direction in social science research methodology built on evidence-based scientific inquiry of the built environment which can guide young researchers in projecting methods for social research problems. It is also a foundation of methodological template for seasoned researchers to explore options in research process innovation. A

significant deduction that is drawn from the methodological approaches are that first each investigation needs to be established on a philosophical stance and this goes a long way in determining the type of data to be collected, analysed and interpreted. This means that the nature of research should not be methodologically led but rather philosophically led.

References

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