

NOISE LEVELS AND QUALITY OF LIVELIHOODS IN RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBOURHOODS OF PORT HARCOURT METROPOLIS, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The study examined the noise levels in the residential neighbourhoods of Port Harcourt Metropolis, Nigeria with a view to considering the quality of livelihood that the residents are being subjected to. The study made use of 891 copies of questionnaire to elicit information on the noise levels and quality of lives in selected communities namely Nkpolu/Oroworukwo, Elelenwo, Orije (Old GRA), Rumuepirikom, Choba, Rukpoku, Orominieke (D-Line), Eliozu, Rukpakwolusi, Agip Estate, and Iwofe. The digital sound level meter was used to measure noise levels in the morning (7:00am -8:30am), afternoon (12:00 pm-2:30 pm) and evening (4:00 pm-6:30pm). Descriptive statistics in form of mean noise levels and percentages; and inferential statistics which included the Analysis of Variance was used to determine the significant variations in the noise levels among the residential neighbourhoods at $p < 0.05$ significant levels. Findings revealed that highest mean noise level was found in Elelenwo (70.1 dB(A)) while the lowest was found in Orije (Old GRA) (57.5 dB(A)). However, on Sundays, the least noise level (65.3 dB(A)) was experienced while the highest was generated on Saturdays (66.0 dB(A)). The noise level was generally higher than the WHO standard noise level in the residential neighbourhoods. The use of generator set (56%) was a major source of high noise levels in the residential neighbourhoods. Findings revealed that 73.6% agreed that there was no awareness of the effects of high noise level on human health. Also, 64.0% were not satisfied with the noise level in the residential neighbourhoods while 94.1% agreed that the committers of noise pollution were not prosecuted. There was significant variation in the noise levels among the selected communities ($F = 42.439$, $p = 0.000$). The study therefore recommended among others that massive enlightenment campaigns on the adverse effects of noise pollution should be regularly carried out by government and other institutional agencies.

Keywords: Noise levels, Human health, Sound meter, Residential neighbourhood.