



**PLACE ATTACHMENT, CULTURAL VALUES, COMMUNITY
COHESIVENESS AND SECURITY IN FOSTERING CONFLICT-
AFFECTED PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENTS' RESILIENCE IN
MAIDUGURI, NIGERIA**

By

BUTU HAUWA MAI

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia,
in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy**

August 2024

FEM 2024 1

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Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment
of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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August 2024

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Across time and space, neighbourhoods are faced with natural or man-made disasters that disrupt their livelihood. The security situation due to terrorism is a threat that destroys the lives of communities and forces many residents to relocate to safer neighbourhoods to save their lives. However, some residents are reluctant to leave neighbourhoods even when they are under threat. This study therefore, examines the influence of place attachment, cultural values, and community cohesiveness on resilience, while also investigating the mediating role of a sense of security in the relationship between place attachment, cultural values, community cohesiveness, and resilience among residents of public housing in Maiduguri, Borno State, Nigeria. Ecological resilience theory, place attachment theory and Hofstede cultural values model were adopted. Using quantitative method and cross-sectional design, the study used questionnaire to collect data from the respondents. This study used a systematic sampling technique to select 345 participants from a population of 1,732. The selected respondent criteria are among those aged 18 years and above, male and female and

living in housing estate locations 202, 303, 505, 777, and 1000 and it yield a 100% response rate. The data were analysed using simple descriptive statistics, T-test, ANOVA, Pearson Product Moment correlation, and multiple regression. Mediation analysis was also conducted using the bootstrapping technique. The study found that cultural values ($\beta=.404, p <.001$), place dependence ($\beta=.282, p <.001$), and community cohesiveness ($\beta=.227, p <.001$) were statistically significant, with 58.5% variance. Also, the study found that a sense of security mediates the relationship between place attachment, cultural values, community cohesiveness and resilience. This study enriches the literature by introducing a sense of security as a mediator among the selected variables. Therefore, the study recommended that the government should establish workshops aimed at raising awareness about coping strategies, such as resilience-oriented planning to effectively address the security situation. The study suggested that future research can be conducted using similar variables among residents in other neighbouring states that have also been affected by insurgency, in order to provide more robust information on the topic. Thus, allowing for the generalization of results.

Keywords: Community Cohesiveness, Cultural Values, Place Attachment, Resilience, Security

SDG: GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah

**KETERIKATAN TEMPAT, NILAI BUDAYA, KESEPADUAN KOMUNITI,
DAN KESELAMATAN DALAM MEMUPUK KETAHANAN PENDUDUK
PERUMAHAN AWAM TERKAIT DENGAN KONFLIK DI MAIDUGURI,
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Sepanjang sejarah dan ruang, kawasan kejiranan sering dihadapi dengan bencana alam atau kejadian buatan manusia yang menggugat sumber mata pencarian mereka. Keadaan keselamatan yang terancam ini merupakan ancaman serius terhadap kehidupan masyarakat, dan seringkali memaksa ramai penduduk untuk berpindah ke kawasan kejiranan yang lebih selamat demi keselamatan nyawa mereka. Walau bagaimanapun, terdapat sesetengah penduduk yang enggan meninggalkan kawasan kejiranan meskipun dalam situasi yang berbahaya. Oleh itu, kajian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji pengaruh keterikatan tempat, nilai budaya, dan kesepaduan komuniti terhadap ketahanan dalam kalangan penduduk, sambil juga menyelidik peranan faktor keselamatan dalam hubungan antara keterikatan tempat, nilai budaya, kesepaduan komuniti, dan ketahanan dalam kalangan penduduk perumahan awam yang terkait dengan konflik di Maiduguri, Borno State, Nigeria. Teori daya tahan ekologi, teori keterikatan tempat dan model nilai budaya Hofstede telah diterima pakai dalam kajian ini. Kajian ini menggunakan teknik persampelan sistematik untuk memilih 345 peserta

daripada populasi 1,732. Kriteria responden yang dipilih adalah dalam kalangan mereka yang berumur 18 tahun ke atas, lelaki dan perempuan dan tinggal di lokasi taman perumahan 202, 303, 505, 777, dan 1000 dengan kadar responnya 100%. Soal selidik digunakan sebagai kaedah pengumpulan data dari responden, dan data dianalisis menggunakan pelbagai teknik statistik seperti statistik deskriptif, ujian T-Test, ANOVA, korelasi Momen Produk Pearson, dan analisis regresi pelbagai faktor. Analisis pengantaraan juga dijalankan menggunakan teknik bootstrapping. Hasil kajian menunjukkan bahawa faktor-faktor seperti nilai budaya ($\beta = 0.404$, $p < 0.001$), keterikatan tempat ($\beta = 0.282$, $p < 0.001$), dan keharmonian masyarakat ($\beta = 0.227$, $p < 0.001$) adalah signifikan dari segi statistik, dengan peratusan varians sebanyak 58.5%. Kajian mendapati bahawa perasaan keselamatan berperanan sebagai pengantara dalam hubungan antara keterikatan tempat, nilai budaya, kesepaduan komuniti, dan ketahanan dalam kalangan penduduk. Kajian ini memberikan sumbangan penting dalam literatur dengan memperkenalkan konsep perasaan keselamatan sebagai faktor pengantara dalam konteks pembolehubah yang dikaji. Berdasarkan hasil kajian ini, cadangan yang diberikan adalah agar kerajaan mempertimbangkan untuk menjalankan program-program kesedaran yang bertujuan untuk menghadapi situasi keselamatan dengan lebih efektif, termasuk perancangan yang berorientasikan kepada ketahanan. Selain itu, penyelidikan masa depan yang serupa boleh dijalankan di negeri-negeri jiran yang juga terjejas oleh pemberontakan untuk memberikan maklumat yang lebih komprehensif mengenai topik ini dan membolehkan hasil kajian digeneralisasikan.

Kata Kunci: daya tahan, Keselamatan, Kesepaduan Komuniti, Keterikatan Tempat, Nilai Budaya

SDG: MATLAMAT 11: Bandar dan Komuniti yang Mampan

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ABSTRACT	i
ABSTRAK	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	v
APPROVAL	vii
DECLARATION	ix
LIST OF TABLES	xiv
LIST OF FIGURES	xvi
LIST OF APPENDICES	xvii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xviii
 CHAPTER	
 1 INTRODUCTION	 1
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	6
1.3 Research Questions	10
1.4 Research Objectives	12
1.5 Research Hypothesis	13
1.6 Significant of the Study	16
1.6.1 Theoretical Significance	16
1.6.2 Practical Significance	18
1.6.3 Policy Significance	19
1.7 Scope of the Study	20
1.8 Conceptual Definitions of Terms	22
1.8.1 Resilience	22
1.8.2 Place Attachment	22
1.8.3 Cultural Values	24
1.8.4 Community Cohesiveness	25
1.8.5 Sense of Security	26
1.8.6 Public Housing	26
1.9 Organization of the Study	27
 2 LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK	 28
2.1 Introduction	28
2.2 Resilience	28
2.3 Place Attachment	32
2.3.1 Place Identity	37
2.3.2 Place Dependence	40
2.4 Cultural Values	43
2.5 Community Cohesiveness	47
2.6 Sense of Security	52
2.7 Sociodemographic Background	58
2.8 Relationship between Place Attachment, Cultural Values, Community Cohesiveness, Sense Security and Resilience	63

2.9	Theoretical Framework	70
2.9.1	Social-Ecological Resilience Theory	71
2.9.2	Place Attachment Theory	74
2.9.3	Hofstede Cultural Values Model (HCVM)	77
2.10	Conceptual Framework of the Study	83
2.11	Summary of Chapter	84
3	METHODOLOGY	85
3.1	Introduction	85
3.2	Research Design and Approach to the Study	85
3.3	Location of the Study Area.	86
3.3.1	Public Housing in Borno State	91
3.3.2	Historical Background of the Selected Public Housing for the Study	92
3.4	Population of the Study	93
3.5	Sample Frame	94
3.6	Sample Size and Sampling Procedure	95
3.7	Instruments of Measurements	99
3.7.1	Sociodemographic Background	100
3.7.2	Resilience	102
3.7.3	Place Attachment	103
3.7.4	Cultural Values	105
3.7.5	Community Cohesiveness	106
3.7.6	Sense of Security	108
3.8	Pilot Study	110
3.9	Ethical Considerations	111
3.10	Data Collection Process	111
3.11	Validity and Reliability of Research Instruments	112
3.11.1	Validity	113
3.11.2	Reliability	114
3.12	Common Method Bias Assessment	117
3.13	Data Analysis	118
3.14	Test of Normality Using Exploratory Data Analysis	121
3.15	Statistical Techniques Used for Data Analysis	124
3.15.1	One-Way ANOVA for Mean Comparison	124
3.15.2	Independent Samples t-test for Mean Comparison	125
3.15.3	Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Coefficient and Its Rule of Thumb	125
3.15.4	Collinearity Diagnostic Test as a Prerequisite for Linear Regression Analysis	126
3.15.5	Multiple Linear Regression Analysis	128
3.15.6	Mediation Analysis	129
3.16	Summary of Chapter	131
4	DATA ANALYSIS, INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION	133
4.1	Introduction	133
4.2	Descriptive Analysis	133
4.2.1	Sociodemographic Characteristics of the Respondents	133
4.2.2	Levels of the Variables	144

4.3	Inferential Analysis	161
4.4	ANOVA Test of Mean Difference	161
4.5	Independent Sample T-Test of Tenure on Dependent and Independent Variables	172
4.6	Relationship between the Independents Variables and Dependent	177
4.7	Predictive Effects of Independent Variables on Dependent Variable	187
4.8	Mediating Effect of Sense of Security in the Relationship between Predictor and Outcome Variable	196
4.9	Summary of Chapter	208
5	SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	211
5.1	Introduction	211
5.2	Summary of the Study	211
5.3	Conclusions	219
5.4	Implications of the Study	219
5.4.1	Theoretical Implications of the Study	220
5.4.2	Policy Implications of the Study	220
5.4.3	Practical Implication of the Study	221
5.5	Recommendation for Further Study	223
	REFERENCES	224
	APPENDICES	260
	BIODATA OF STUDENT	285
	LIST OF PUBLICATIONS	286

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
1.1 Formulated Research Hypothesis to Determine the Differences	15
1.2 Formulated Research Hypothesis to Determine the Relationships	15
1.3 Formulated Research Hypothesis to Determine the Mediating Effect	16
3.1 Showing the Total Number of Estates for Study	95
3.2 Sample Distribution of the Five (5) Selected Public Housing Estates	97
3.3 Section 1 Sociodemographic Background	100
3.4 Items Were on 5 Point Likert Scale	101
3.5 Resilience Instrument	103
3.6 Place Identity Instrument	104
3.7 Place Dependence Instrument	105
3.8 Items of Cultural Value instruments	106
3.9 Community Cohesiveness Instruments	107
3.10 Sense of Security Instruments	109
3.11 Reliability Coefficients for Pilot Test and Final Test	117
3.12 Statistical Tools for Data Analysis	119
3.13 The Strength of Relation for the Correlation Coefficient in Term of 'r '	126
3.14 Collinearity Diagnostic Test	128
4.1 Background of the Respondents (N = 345)	135
4.2 Level of Residents Resilience (N = 345)	146
4.3 Level of Place Attachment (N = 345)	149
4.4 Level of Cultural Value (N = 345)	153
4.5 Level of Community Cohesiveness (N = 345)	155
4.6 Level of Sense of Security (N = 345)	158

4.7	ANOVA Test of Marital Status on the Independents and Dependent Variables	162
4.8	ANOVA Test of Family Size on Independent and Dependent Variables	166
4.9	ANOVA Test of Education Level on Independent and Dependent Variables	168
4.10	ANOVA Length of Stay Level on Independent and Dependent Variables	170
4.11	T-Test Results for Tenure on the Independent and Dependent Variables	173
4.12	Correlation Matrix of Independent Variables and Resilience	178
4.13	Multiple Linear Regression on Level of Resilience	189
4.14	Standardized Direct and Indirect Effects of Regression Coefficients of Resilience in the Hypothesized Path Model	198

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
1.1 Number of Attacks	8
2.1 Residential Location Decision Process: A Behavioural Model	70
2.2 Place Attachment of Person Place Process Model	75
2.3 Conceptual Framework of the Study	84
3.1 Map of Nigeria showing Borno State	86
3.2 Map of Borno showing Maiduguri	88
3.3 Map showing Borno State and International Borders	89
3.4 Land Use Map showing the Public Housing under Study	91
3.5 Layout Maps showing the Public Houses under Study	94
3.6 Chart of Proportional Sampling Procedure	97
3.7 Unmediated Model	129
3.8 Mediated Model	130
4.1 ANOVA Mean Plot of Marital Status	163

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix	Page
A Questionnaire	260
B Approval Letter (Ethics Committee)	265
C Approvals Permission to Use Scale	266
D Test of Normality	271
E Common Method Bias Result	283
F Multiple Comparisons	284

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

FHA	Federal Housing Authorities
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
BRS	Brief Resilience Scale
HCVM	Hofstede cultural value model
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
PPP	Place Person Process
CMB	Common Method Bias
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Science
EDA	Exploratory data analysis
GTD:	Global Terrorist Database
JTF:	Joint Task Force
CJTF:	Civilian Joint Task Force
NHST:	Null Hypothesis Significance Testing
IBM	International Business Management

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Housing evolved from its early use of caves to its modern form, which offers protection from harsh environments (Sanni-Anibire et al., 2016). Housing is universally acknowledged as one of the fundamental human needs, essential for survival (United Nations, 1992; Leijten & de Bel, 2020; Nissanka & Manori, 2020; Elwidaa, 2020; Oren & Alterman, 2021). It represents a basic requirement for personal contentment, encompassing the physical and material aspects of life (United Nations, 1992; Massimo et al., 2021).

According to the World Health Organization (WHO, 2004), a house is more than just a crest over one's head; it should provide protection, and privacy, and contribute to the physical and psychological well-being of its occupants, fostering their development and social integration. Prochorskaite (2016) suggests that healthy housing should be a comprehensive concept, considering various factors that influence housing quality and the living environment. Thus, it's clear that housing's value isn't solely based on its physical attributes but on its impact on people's lives. This is why the United Nations recognizes housing as a fundamental right, as articulated in Article 25 (1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It's a necessity that must be accessible to all to ensure a good life and security.

However, in various parts of the world, human environments have been faced with so many ranges of disasters, including natural disasters, like landslides (Khan et al.,

2020), floods (Anacio et al., 2016), earthquakes (Jansen, 2020), and droughts (Stain et al., 2011). Additionally, man-made disasters, such as crime/ violence (Wickes et al., 2022; Krymets et al., 2023) and in terrorism (Jore, 2023), have had a significant impact. Specifically, in Africa, and more notably in Nigeria, there has been an ongoing security crisis due to insurgency since 2009. This has been particularly pronounced in Maiduguri, Borno state (Alegbeleye, 2014). The insecurity has led to vulnerabilities along the fringes where some public housing is located, prompting many residents to relocate to other areas or Internal Displaced Persons Camps (IDPs). Borno Housing Corporation records indicate that around 51% of residents have left this environment.

Despite the persistent insecurity and threats to life and property in these areas, some residents have chosen to remain in their homes. According to data from the Global Terrorism Database (2021), 144 of insurgent attacks occur in the fringes where these houses are situated. Despite the challenges, some residents display resilience and determination to stay, which highlights the complex nature of disaster management and the importance of considering local context in addressing these issues.

Resilience, as described by Smith et al. (2008); Lyon and Parkins (2013); Nofal and Van De Lindt (2022) and reiterated by Ballesteros et al. (2023), can be defined as the capacity to adjust, thrive, and recover from stress. It encompasses the ability to endure and bounce back from a wide range of difficulties, such as natural disasters, human-made threats, and challenging situations Robinson (2019), proposes an alternative perspective that characterizes resilience as a society's ability to absorb change and turn it into a positive outcome. This concept has been found practical applications in addressing various environmental issues.

Certainly, residents who are reluctant to move in situations like natural disasters or human insecurity often demonstrate a significant ability to cope, which can be seen as a form of resilience. Resilience has proven to be an effective approach to reducing risks in many communities dealing with these challenges. Several studies have identified likely reasons why people resist leaving their current locations:

1. **Attachment to Place:** Strong emotional connections to a specific place can make individuals reluctant to leave. They may have a profound sense of identity and emotional ties to their homes or communities (Proshansky & Fabian, 1987; Shdema Martin & Abu-Asbeh, 2021). Place attachment refers to a positive emotional bond to physical and social surroundings that support a person's identity and psychological well-being (Altman & Low 1992; Dang et al., 2022). It is often measured in two ways: place identity (emotional attachment) and place dependence (functional attachment). Place identity reflects an individual's connection to the physical environment, while place dependence relates to the functional aspects that connect people to a specific place (Schreyer et al., 1981; Williams & Roggenbuck, 1989). Place attachment is considered an important component in the study of resilience. (Zwiers et al., 2018)
2. **Dependence on Local Livelihood:** When people's livelihoods are closely tied to a particular location, they are less inclined to consider relocating, fearing the loss of their means of sustenance (Stokols & Shumaker, 1981; Prayitno et al., 2021).
3. **Cultural values and traditions** can also play a significant role in residents' resistance to moving. Cultural identity and heritage can create a strong bond with a place, leading people to endure difficulties rather than leave (Holtorf, 2018). More so, resilience placed culture as fundamental to the concept of resilience (Panter-Brick, 2015). According to Holtorf, (2018), culture in the context of resilience can be defined as the capability of a cultural system (comprising of cultural processes in relevant communities) to absorb adversity, deal with change and continue to develop. Most communities depend on ancient social culture for their survival, cultural

values reinforce livelihood resilience and maintain that the desire for change may arise from external influences, but adaptation is within, through a dynamics process, which is precise to the cultural values of the people (Daskon, 2010). Culture is considered fundamental to the concept of resilience.

4. **Integration and Cohesion:** People may resist relocation because they feel deeply integrated and connected with their community. This sense of belonging offers emotional support and social bonds that make them want to stay (Manzo & Perkins, 2006; Tiittanen & Turjamaa, 2022). Community social networks are gradually seen as the basic unit to respond to disaster, and their strength and efficiency influence the ability of the individual/community to respond. Buckner (1988) refers to the strength of social connections and the sense of community among residents in a neighbourhood, a sense of togetherness, unity, and social bonding. Various studies have reached a consensus that social networks positively influence community recovery from threats (Sanyal & Routray, 2016; Misra et al., 2017). Community social networks are increasingly being recognized as fundamental in addressing disasters. The effectiveness and robustness of these networks have a significant impact on an individual's or a community's ability to respond to various threats. The community social networks of individuals are essential, because resisting relocation by residents means strong relationships, and trust exists among the local organizations (vigilante groups) through which communities prepare and respond to threats. Additionally, the involvement of the youth in these efforts can harness their potential to contribute to the community's overall resilience. In addition, when residents perceive the presence of social network measures, it tends to instill a sense of security and increases their attachment to the neighbourhood, ultimately leading to increased resilience.
5. **Sense of Security** is indeed a critical factor in improving people's resilience and quality of life. It can have a significant impact on an individual's well-being and ability to cope with challenging situations. Past studies (Pan et al., 2018; Geng et al., 2021) and (Ye et al., 2021), have consistently demonstrated

a significant indirect mediating effect of the sense of security as a fundamental human need, as outlined by Maslow (1958), and it plays a crucial role in shaping human behaviour within the built environment, as highlighted by Shach-Pinsly (2019). People's perception of safety significantly enhances their overall sense of security. Effective security management, as suggested by Innes and Jones (2005), relies on the cooperation of both formal and informal sectors in implementing control mechanisms. According to Zabadi (2005), a sense of security enables individuals to perceive safety, facilitating their adaptation and comfort in their neighbourhood.

Considering these various reasons that contribute to residents reluctance to relocate, it is important for both physical and psychological aspects when planning for the well-being and safety of communities facing natural disasters or human insecurity. Nurturing resilience within these communities can be a valuable strategy for mitigating risks and facilitating recovery when difficulties occur.

Numerous studies on resilience within the human context have predominantly concentrated on natural disasters and threat scenarios, including crime, violence, and terrorism, as evidenced by the work of Anacio et al. (2016), Boon (2014), Carpenter (2013), Chester and Duncan (2022), and Jansen (2020). These investigations are largely situated within developed nations. However, resilience research about terrorism in developing countries remains comparatively underexplored, particularly in regions such as Northeast Nigeria, where terrorist activities have persisted for over a decade.

Given the aforementioned context, the present study seeks to investigate the impact of place attachment, cultural values, and community cohesiveness on resilience among

residents of public housing in Maiduguri. This research also aims to examine the mediating role of a sense of security in the relationship between place attachment, cultural values, community cohesiveness, and resilience. The rationale behind using a sense of security as a mediator is based on the hypothesis that an enhanced sense of security may encourage individual participation in social networks as stated by Van Dijk et al. (2013), thereby making residents feel safer and more attached to their environment, which may improve their coping strategies.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Communities in both developed and developing countries face a wide range of devastating issues, including hurricanes (Comfort et al., 2009; Sou 2022; Sayers et al., 2022; and Carvalhaes et al., 2022), flood disasters (Gupta, 2020; Boon, 2014; Nofal & Van De Lindt, 2022; and Vardoulakis et al., 2022), wildfires (Plush & Cox, 2019; Montesanti et al., 2021), crime and violence (Wickes et al., 2022; Krymets et al., 2023), and insecurity due to terrorism (Okeke & Chendo, 2019; Agwu, 2023; Jore, 2023). These challenges push communities to adapt in various ways, as seen in countries like Syria, Iraq, Ukraine, and Palestine, where individuals display a remarkable ability to survive and stay put despite the destruction around them (Korosteleva, 2020).

Similar to how communities have different collective risk profiles for violence and harm (Ahmed et al., 2004; WHO, 2002), it is believed that they also develop various material, physical, political, cultural, and psychological strategies to cope with adversity in the face of threats and danger.

In recent years, Northeast Nigeria, particularly Maiduguri in Borno State, has been plagued by security problems due to the activities of the radical insurgent group “*Boko Haram*,” which opposes Western education (Ogundele et al., 201). Since 2009, *Boko Haram* has launched devastating attacks, resulting in significant destruction of lives and properties in the region (Onakuse & Jatula, 2021). The insurgent group has claimed the lives of over a million people, displacing nearly 3.3 million inhabitants of the Lake Chad Basin and disrupting over 2.5 million individuals across north-eastern Nigeria (United Nations Refugee Agency, 2018). According to the Humanitarian Response Plan Report (2016), about 14.8 million people in four states of Northeast Nigeria - Adamawa, Borno, Gombe, and Yobe - were affected by the insurgency, with about 7 million in need of humanitarian assistance. Additionally, a document from the Independent Monitoring Board of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, assessing advancements in Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan in 2018, reveals that around 2 million individuals are displaced within their own countries. More than 80% of these displaced people are located in Borno state, the epicentre of the insurgency, with over 60% residing in host communities. (Ogundele et al., 2019; United Nations Refugee Agency, 2018). The group’s activities have severely affected public housing estates, particularly those located on the fringes of the city, making them vulnerable to attacks. According to the Global Terrorism Database (2021), there were 144 attacks recorded along the four major fringes of the city. Among these attacks, 28.5% occurred on Gamboru Road, where 505 public housing estates are located, 26.4% occurred along Kano-Jos Road, where 777 and 1000 public housing estates are located, and 23.6% occurred on Bama Road, where 303 and 202 public housing estates are situated. The road with the lowest recorded attacks was Damboa-Biu Road, accounting for 21.5% of the total attacks, as shown in Figure 1:1.

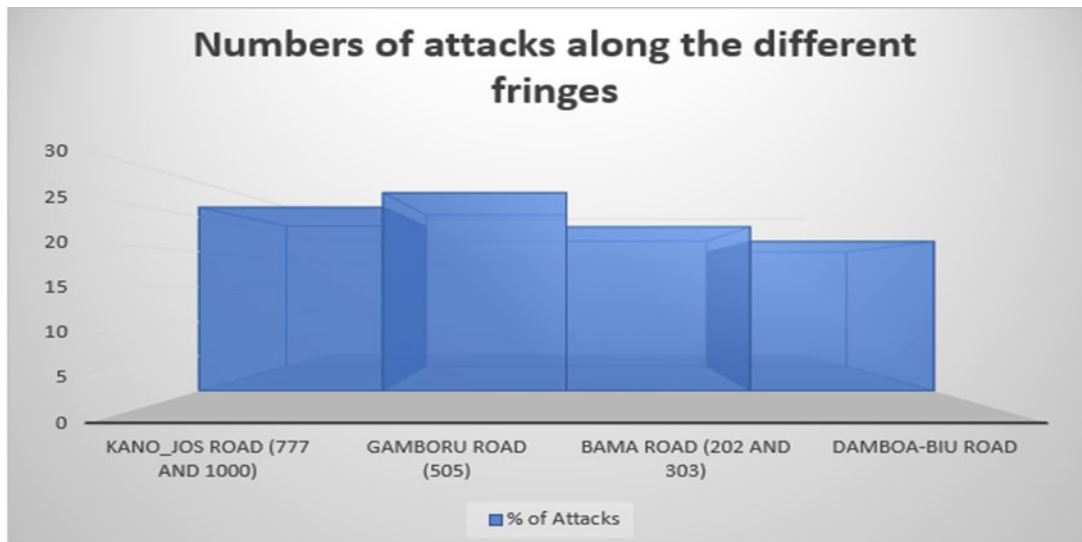


Figure 1.1 : Number of Attacks

From 2010 to 2014, the area encountered challenges from insurgents, resulting in the evacuation of over 600 houses across 5 estates. Recent preliminary survey shows that 613 residents have moved to other areas, such as Internally Displaced Person Camps (IDPs) or safer locations,

Despite the severe security threats, some residents continue to stay in these public houses, maintaining and adapting their homes to suit their needs. This raises the question: What factors contribute to their resilience and willingness to remain in such vulnerable locations? Resilience, defined as the capacity of a community or society to bounce back and adjust in the face of hazards (Smith et al., 2008; UNISDR, 2004), varies across different individuals and groups.

Previous studies have identified factors that may contribute to resilience, including sociodemographic characteristics (Blondin, 2021), such as age (Goroshit & Eshel, 2013); resident's length of stay (Anacio et al., 2016); tenure (Lee, 2012), place attachment (Jorgensen & Stedman, 2001; Anton & Lawrence, 2014; Blondin, 2021),

cultural values (Obboh, 2016; Triandis, 2018), sense of security (Scannell & Gilford, 2017; van Hoof et al., 2022), and community cohesiveness (Buckner, 1988; Giuliani, 2003; Tiittanen & Turjamaa, 2022). These characteristics were selected based on the well-established roles in shaping individual and community-level resilience in crisis-prone areas. Each characteristic is chosen based on its influence on various aspects of resilience in different disasters. Individuals with strong place attachment tend to exhibit higher resilience because they are more invested in maintaining and protecting their community, especially in crises. Moreso cultural values and community cohesiveness are key elements that influence community resilience, especially in crisis-prone areas like Maiduguri. These factors can contribute to the collective ability of a community to withstand, recover from, and adapt to external stressors, such as security threats and insurgencies. In times of crisis, cultural traditions, beliefs, and values provide a sense of stability and continuity. They help individuals and communities maintain a sense of normalcy and identity despite external challenges. Cultural values often emphasize collective well-being, mutual support, and cooperation. This shared cultural identity fosters a sense of belonging and psychological security, which is crucial for resilience in times of uncertainty.

A cohesive community is characterized by strong social bonds and trust, which are essential for mutual support during crises. These networks help communities mobilize resources, share information, and provide emotional and material support. Collective action enhances the community's ability to adapt to changing circumstances and enhances resilience. Community cohesiveness fosters a sense of security and belonging, reducing feelings of fear. This psychological resilience can mitigate the impact of external threats on individuals and the wider community.

A sense of security underpins the effectiveness of cultural practices, social cohesion, and community resilience. Even if communities have strong cultural traditions, without a basic sense of security, these practices may not adequately buffer against insecurity and threats.

The sense of security is chosen as a mediating variable because the perceived safety of one's environment influences psychological well-being and the ability to plan and take action, both of which are key to resilience. Previous studies have shown that a sense of security acts as a psychological resource that helps individuals and communities remain resilient amid adversity. The sense of security facilitates mental and emotional stability, essential for resilient responses (Igarashi et al., 2012; Krevers & Milberg, 2014). Based on the above argument

Given the ongoing human insecurity in Northeast Nigeria, this study aims to examine the resilience of public housing residents in Maiduguri, Borno State Nigeria. Additionally, it seeks to explore whether the sense of security has a mediating effect on the relationship between place attachment, cultural values and community cohesiveness with residents' resilience of these residents.

1.3 Research Questions

Five (5) research questions were generated to cover the research context. Thus, the below research questions were framed to guide the study: -

1. What are the sociodemographic characteristics of the respondents of Maiduguri public housing?

2. What is the level of resilience, place attachment (place identity and place dependence), cultural values, community cohesiveness, and sense of security among residents of Maiduguri public housing?
3. What is the difference between sociodemographic characteristics (marital status, family size, level of education, tenure, and length of stay) with place identity, place dependence, cultural value, community cohesiveness and resilience among residents of Maiduguri public housing?
4. What is the relationship between place attachment (place identity and place dependence), cultural values, community cohesiveness and resilience among residents of Maiduguri public housing?
5. Does a sense of security mediate the relationship between place attachment (place identity and place dependence), cultural values, and community cohesiveness on resilience among residents of Maiduguri public housing?

The research primarily focuses on community-level variables such as community cohesiveness, sense of security, place attachment, and cultural values, which are directly linked to resilience. Demographic factors such as age, gender, employment status, and income levels are considered when describing the characteristics of the respondents. The study emphasizes psychological and social aspects, such as place attachment, sense of security, and community cohesion, as key factors in understanding resilience in crisis-prone areas. Meanwhile, demographics like age, gender, and income are viewed as background variables rather than primary factors that drive resilience, based on the study's scope, phenomena and context. However, the researcher posits that the inclusion of marital status, family size, level of education, ownership or occupancy status, and length of stay could have a substantial impact on resilience due to the unique nature of the conflict

1.4 Research Objectives

The main objective of this study is to examine the influence of place attachment, cultural values, and community cohesiveness on resilience and to determine the mediating effect of a sense of security in the relationship between place attachment, cultural values and community cohesiveness in fostering resilience among conflict-affected public housing residents in Maiduguri Borno state Nigeria.

To achieve the above aim below are the specific objectives.

1. To describe the sociodemographic characteristics of the respondents in Maiduguri public housing.
2. To describe the level of resilience, place attachment (place identity and place dependence), cultural value, community cohesiveness and sense of security among respondents of Maiduguri public housing.
3. To determine the difference between sociodemographic characteristics (marital status, family size, level of education, tenure, and length of stay) with place identity, place dependence, cultural value, community cohesiveness and resilience among residents of Maiduguri public housing.
4. To determine the relationship between place attachment (place identity and place dependence), cultural values, community cohesiveness and resilience among the respondents of Maiduguri public housing.
5. To examine the mediating effect of a sense of security in the relationship between place attachment (place identity and place dependence), cultural values and community cohesiveness on resilience among the respondents of Maiduguri public housing.

1.5 Research Hypothesis

This study used null hypothesis to evaluate its proposed claim, the justification behind the use of a null hypothesis is that empirical research typically begins with the idea that there may be a relationship between a specific factor and an outcome within a population. This idea is known as the alternative hypothesis (H_1). Its counterpart, the null hypothesis (H_0), usually assumes no relationship or effect, though it can also be used to test other effect sizes besides no effect. During data analysis, the probability of observing the given association, or a more extreme one, is calculated based on the assumption that there is no effect on the population (H_0) along with several inferential assumptions (Trafimow, 2019). This probability is referred to as the 'p-value,' which indicates the level of compatibility between the observed data and the expected data under the null hypothesis, ranging from 0 (complete incompatibility) to 1 (perfect compatibility) (Greenland et al., 2016). When the p-value is less than a predetermined threshold (commonly set at 5% or 0.05), the results are typically considered statistically significant. Researchers then often reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis (Greenland et al., 2016). This process of determining statistical significance by comparing data against the null hypothesis is known as Null Hypothesis Significance Testing (NHST). NHST is the most widely recognized and used statistical method for making inferences about population effects, having become the dominant approach in empirical science (Szucs & Ioannidis, 2017). The null hypothesis serves as a baseline, indicating that there is no effect or difference in the population from which a sample is drawn. Using a null hypothesis is important because it provides a starting point for testing statistical evidence. It allows researchers to determine if the collected data provides enough evidence to reject the assumption. This approach is critical as it establishes a standard method for deciding whether

observed results are due to chance or reflects a real effect. According to Cohen (1994), the null hypothesis is essential for determining if the observed data significantly deviates from what is expected under the assumption of no effect. Rejecting the null hypothesis implies that the observed effect is statistically significant. This process is crucial for maintaining scientific consistency and reducing the likelihood of conclusions based on random data variations (Fisher, 1925). Additionally, the null hypothesis approach helps mitigate researcher bias by requiring strong evidence to overturn the assumption of no effect. This approach supports the replicability of findings, which is fundamental to the scientific method (Nickerson, 2000)

The following research hypothesis was developed to determine the significant differences, relationships, and mediating of variables in this research study based on research questions and objectives.

Table 1.1 is the research hypothesis, based on objective 3: “to determine the difference between sociodemographic characteristic (marital status, family size, level of education, tenure, and length of stay) with place identity, place dependence, cultural value, community cohesiveness and resilience among residents Maiduguri public housing in Borno state”.

Table 1.1 : Formulated Research Hypothesis to Determine the Differences

Research hypothesis	
Ho1:	There is no significant difference between sociodemographic characteristics (marital status) with place identity, place dependence, cultural value, community cohesiveness and resilience among residents of Maiduguri public housing.
Ho2:	There is no significant difference between sociodemographic characteristics (family size) with place identity, place dependence, cultural value, community cohesiveness and resilience among residents of Maiduguri public housing.
Ho3:	There is no significant difference between sociodemographic characteristics (level of education) with place identity, place dependence, cultural value, community cohesiveness and resilience among residents of Maiduguri public housing.
Ho4:	There is no significant difference between sociodemographic characteristics (length of stay) with place identity, place dependence, cultural value, community cohesiveness and resilience among residents of Maiduguri public housing.
Ho5:	There is no significant difference between sociodemographic characteristics (tenure) with place identity, place dependence, cultural value, community cohesiveness and resilience among residents of Maiduguri public housing.

Table 1.2 is the research hypothesis based on objective 4: “to determine the relationship between place attachment (place identity and place dependence), cultural values, community cohesiveness and resilience among the respondents of Maiduguri public housing in Borno state.”.

Table 1.2 : Formulated Research Hypothesis to Determine the Relationships

Research hypothesis	
Ho6:	There is no significant relationship between place attachment (place identity and place dependence), cultural values, community cohesiveness and resilience among the respondents of Maiduguri public housing.

Table 1.3 is the research hypothesis based on objective 5: “to examine the mediating effect of sense of security in the relationship between place attachment (place identity and place dependence), cultural values and community cohesiveness on resilience among the respondents of Maiduguri public housing in Borno state.

Table 1.3 : Formulated Research Hypothesis to Determine the Mediating Effect

Research hypothesis

Ho7: There is no mediating effect of sense of security on the relationship between Place Attachment (place identity and place dependence), cultural values, community cohesiveness and resilience among residents of Maiduguri public housing.

1.6 Significant of the Study

The present research holds substantial importance and conveys profound implications for addressing the issue of resilience among residents facing insurgency. Therefore, the significance of this study is vital and can be categorized into three main dimensions: theoretical, practical, and relevant to policymakers.

1.6.1 Theoretical Significance

This research makes a significant theoretical contribution by addressing gaps in previous studies on resilience in conflict-affected regions. Its value lies in several key areas, particularly its focus on community resilience, place attachment, and social cohesion in crisis-prone environments like Maiduguri. The study enhances the understanding of resilience by exploring how cultural values, place attachment, and a sense of security contribute to individuals' and communities' ability to withstand insecurity and insurgency. It also emphasizes the indirect influence of psychological factors, such as place identity and place dependence, on resilience, expanding existing resilience models with a more place-centered approach in high-risk settings.

Theoretical significance is further provided by the study's in-depth analysis of how these factors—place attachment, cultural values, and a sense of security—shape resilience in crisis-affected areas. By extending existing frameworks on resilience,

place attachment, cultural values and social cohesion, the research offers valuable context-specific insights that could inform future studies and interventions in similar conflict settings.

This work contributes to the theoretical understanding of resilience in contexts of conflict and insurgency by examining how place attachment, cultural values, community cohesion, and the mediating role of a sense of security interact to influence individuals' capacity to cope with adversity. It builds on existing theories of psychosocial resilience by providing empirical evidence on the mechanisms through which these elements either enhance or limit resilience, paving the way for more layered, context-specific models of resilience.

The study also enriches the literature on cultural and social capital, framing cultural values and community cohesiveness as resources that individuals and communities can tap into during crises. Understanding how these forms of capital function in conflict zones adds depth to theories of social capital. Additionally, research on place attachment in such settings can contribute to place attachment theory by exploring how people's emotional and psychological connections to their environment shift in response to violence and displacement.

Insights from this research could also inform policy and interventions aimed at fostering resilience and supporting the well-being of residents in insurgency-affected areas.

1.6.2 Practical Significance

The results of this present study complement residents of their status and the bond they have with the place. Understanding how place attachment, cultural values, and community cohesiveness influence resilience can help conflict resolution practitioners adapt strategies to specific contexts. For instance, identifying the importance of place attachment might lead to more effective strategies for preserving and reconstructing communities that have strong ties to their land or homes

Identifying the factors that contribute to resilience can help residents and communities build on their strengths, by strengthening place attachment, cultural values, and community bonds, residents may become more resilient in the face of ongoing challenges, including insurgency-related threats and take action to mitigate the impact of insurgency

Practically the findings may motivate the government to assist in empowering local communities to take ownership of their resilience-building efforts which is essential. Government agencies and NGOs can allocate resources more effectively based on the findings of this research. They can prioritize initiatives that strengthen place attachment, cultural values, and community bonds, which may have a positive ripple effect on overall resilience to raise awareness

Findings from such studies can inform educational programs that aim to about the importance of these factors. These programs can help residents and outsiders alike appreciate the unique strengths of the affected communities. Understanding the role of community cohesiveness can help in developing and maintaining social support

networks. These networks can provide emotional, social, and practical assistance to residents in times of crisis. Promote community cohesiveness to mitigate the risk of radicalization among vulnerable individuals who might otherwise be drawn to extremist ideologies.

Finally, the findings from this study may pave the way for long-term development and stability in the region, because it will help the government to understand that resilient communities are better positioned to engage in sustainable development efforts, which can lead to improved living conditions, economic opportunities, and social well-being.

1.6.3 Policy Significance

The results of this study can guide decision-making, especially in the context of resilience-building in conflict-affected regions like Maiduguri. By offering insights into how place attachment, cultural values, community cohesion, and a sense of security influence resilience, this research can provide valuable recommendations for shaping effective policies and interventions.

The findings from cultural values and community cohesion in fostering resilience. Policymakers can use these findings to design programs that strengthen community bonds and support cultural traditions, which can help residents cope better with insecurity and displacement. This could include community-based initiatives that foster social support networks and promote collective activities, building a shared sense of security.

The study emphasizes the link between a sense of security and resilience, showing that security measures influence residents' ability to adapt to crises. Policymakers can develop strategies that enhance security not just through military presence but by addressing the psychological needs of residents, by creating more secure living conditions through urban planning, improving law enforcement, and fostering community vigilance could strengthen overall resilience.

The findings could also help policymakers to focus on providing access to resources, psychological counselling, or community engagement opportunities, which could further boost their resilience, benefiting the broader community.

The study's exploration of place attachment and its impact on resilience can guide policies that promote long-term community engagement and investment in local infrastructure. For instance, policies aimed at improving housing conditions, public spaces, and livelihood opportunities in conflict-affected areas can increase residents' attachment to their environment, enhancing their psychological resilience.

Finally, the findings provide a framework for crafting more holistic, culturally sensitive, and community-driven policies that can significantly enhance resilience in insurgency-prone regions.

1.7 Scope of the Study

Borno state has witnessed phenomenal public housing delivery and infrastructural development, particularly in the administrative capital by successive administrators, since the emergence of democratic rule in Nigeria, but over the years, these houses

where been affected by the insecurity challenge, which provide a good platform to conduct this study in Borno state. Other northeast state is not considered in this study, owing to time constraints, and security challenges in the study area.

This study focused on public housing estates in Maiduguri, Borno state and was limited to five (5) public housing, 202, 303, 505, 777 and 1000 housing estates located at the fringes of the city and not necessarily representative of the whole community. The selection criteria were based on the vulnerability of their location. The choices of these housing estates are based on their location being vulnerable to insecurity, and they are determined to be consistent across the 5 public housing estates in the jurisdiction, square footage, low income, ownership, site layout, age of stock interval not wide, housing price and history of design and development is the same.

Therefore, the study specifically described the sociodemographic of the respondents, (age, gender, marital status, religion, level of education, occupation, family size, tenure, monthly income and length of stay) and also described the level of place attachment (place identity and place attachment), cultural values, community cohesiveness, sense of security and resilience. Compare the significant differences between sociodemographic (marital status, family size, education level, tenure and length of stay with place identity, place dependence, cultural value, community cohesiveness and resilience. To further determine the influence or relationship between place attachment, cultural values and community cohesiveness on resilience, and. Finally, to determine whether a sense of security has a mediating effect between the independent variables and the dependent variable (resilience) among residents of Maiduguri public housing only.

1.8 Conceptual Definitions of Terms

1.8.1 Resilience

Conceptual definition: A lot of definitions of resilience have been ongoing in different dialogues with no generally accepted single definition (Manyena, 2006). Conceptualizing resilience in human-environment interactions or socio-ecological systems as the ability of individuals to effectively anticipate, mitigate and cope with disasters and minimize or reduce the effect of future disasters (Saja et al., 2019); Smith et al., (2008); Lyon and Parkins (2013); Nofal and Van De Lindt (2022) defined resilience as the ability to withstand and recover from natural disaster, man-made threats or any difficult incidents. Also, Muggah, (2014) defined resilience as the continuing process of individuals or communities to cope and grow despite stress and shocks.

Operational Definition; In the context of this research, resilience can be defined as the capacity of residents in an area affected by insurgency to bounce back, withstand pressures, recover rapidly from adverse circumstances, and overcome their fear of threats posed by *Boko Haram* insurgents, ultimately choosing to remain in their homes despite the risks.

1.8.2 Place Attachment

Conceptual definition: Place Attachment is a multifaceted construct that has been defined by several scholars, that signifies the link between people and specific (van Riper et al. 2019). Places that capture the feelings, thoughts and behaviours that reveal a commitment to one's local setting (Jorgensen & Stedman, 2001; Zahnow & Tsai,

2021). Place attachment refers to the beliefs about the relationship between self and place, feelings toward the place and behavioural uniqueness of place concerning alternative places (Jorgensen & Stedman, 2001). Giuliani (2003) ascertained that place attachment is the relationship between people and their significant place. Aliakbarzadeh Arani et al. (2022) described place attachment as a positive emotional relationship between a person and a particular place. They added that the concept of place attachment was categorized as a psychological process between people and places at both functional and emotional levels. (Pourjafar et al., 2016; Aliakbarzadeh Arani et al., 2022)

Operational definition: in this study place attachment refers to the positive emotional relationship between residents of Maiduguri public housing and their environment. Based on the conceptual definition of place attachment, for this study, the operational definition of place attachment can be divided into two concepts. Place identity and place dependence. Both these two conceptual and operational definitions are shown below.

1.8.2.1 Place Identity

Conceptual definition: Place identity is one of the multifaceted set of concepts that highlights the emotional bonding between a person or group of persons and various places, it refers to the cognitive connection between oneself and the physical setting (Prohansky, 1978; Jorgensen & Stedman, 2001; Hernández et al., 2007; Shdema et al., 2021). Place identity emphasis on connections between individuals, social groups, and the physical environment, which includes home and neighbourhood. Based on the work of Jorgensen and Stedman, (2001); Hernández et al., (2007); van Riper et al.,

(2019) and Shdema et al. (2021) the researcher perceived their understanding of place identity is in line with the present study.

Operational definition: Place identity in the context of this research refers to the connection of residents to the physical setting (the public housing) reflecting resident's self-identity with a particular place which serves as a self-reference.

1.8.2.2 Place Dependence

Conceptual definition: Place dependence signifies the suitability of a place to fulfil one's functional needs and objectives (Suntikul, & Jachna, 2016), Place dependence is a functional dimension of place and the perception of the value of the place to meet residents' needs as compared to other alternative places. It is also defined as a functional bond formed when place capacity meets the needs of residents of the place (Jorgensen & Stedman, 2001; van Riper et al., 201; Prayitno et al., 2021)

Operational definition: Operationally place dependence in this study refers to the significant reliance of residents on a specific geographic location that fulfils their functional needs.

1.8.3 Cultural Values

Conceptual definition: According to Holtorf (2018), resilience within the framework of culture can be described as the capacity of a cultural system, consisting of cultural processes within relevant communities, to withstand challenges, adapt to change, and persist in its development. Additionally, cultural resilience involves the aptitude to sustain livelihoods that fulfil both material and moral requirements despite facing

adversity and unexpected disruptions (Sharma, 2010). Other scholars have defined culture as being the collective programming of the mind that differentiates the members of one group or set of people from another (Hofstede & Bond, 1988; Berger et al., 2021). Culture is a personal characteristic of human existence that determines the process of creating a civilized human realm

Operational definition: cultural values in this study refer to the collective idea of the mind that differentiates the members of public housing from another. It involved preserving and maintaining the customs, heritage, morals, and traditions within their locality.

1.8.4 Community Cohesiveness

Conceptual definition: community cohesiveness is the frame or gum that bonds the members of a group together as a family, as organisations, or as a member of the same neighbourhood, it describes strongly integrated relationships between individuals and groups with undoubted loyalty and support for each other when a conflict arises with another (Dekker, 2006; Hofstede, 2011). Also, community cohesion is the bonding of people together in their place of residence which incorporates shared norms and values, social solidarity, social control, and social networks. Community cohesion refers to shared norms and values, the presence of positive relationships, and feelings of recognition and belonging to a particular place that is characterized as neighbourhood (Buckner, 1988; Forrest & Kearns, 2001; Oh et al., 2022).

Operational definition: Community cohesiveness in this research refers to the degree of unity, solidarity, and social bonds that exist among the members of Maiduguri

public housing amidst ongoing insurgency. It implies a collective sense of purpose and shared goals among residents, despite the challenges and dangers posed by the conflict.

1.8.5 Sense of Security

Conceptual definition: A sense of security is characterized by the lack of threats to a nation's peace, stability, overall cohesion, and socio-economic objectives (Nwanegbo & Odigbo, 2013; Krevers & Milberg, 2014). According to Buzan (Bako et al., 2018), security can be understood as a delicate equilibrium between power and peace. It refers to a state in which individuals or entities are shielded from potential dangers or risks, be they physical or moral threats, accidents, theft, or deterioration (Zabadi, 2005). Although the concepts sense of security is defined by Igarashi et al. (2012) and Krevers & Milberg (2014), is generalized sense of institutional trust that makes people feel supported.

Operational definition: Sense of security in the context of this study refers to the residents' perception of safety in the public housing which encompasses their feelings of being safe and confident in the neighbourhood and a reduced sense of threat.

1.8.6 Public Housing

Conceptual definition: Public housing, refers to housing that is financed, constructed and allotted by the local, state or federal government, especially for people of low- and medium-income class. (Amao & Ilesanmi, 2022).

Operational Definition: Public housing in the context of this study refers to mass similar dwellings built by the government in a particular location to provide accommodation to citizens of low-income and medium-income classes. Low-Income and medium-income classes here refer to those with income within the range of N30,000 naira (US18.86 dollars) to N50,000 naira (US31.43 dollars), while the medium-income class are those who earn between N50,000 naira (US US31.43 dollars) to N200,000 naira per month (US125.71 dollars) approximately (all the currency exchange is for the year 2024)

1.9 Organization of the Study

To enhance clarity, the conventional research design method with five chapters is employed. Chapter 1 introduces the study's background, problem statement, research questions and objectives, hypothesis, significance, scope, operational and conceptual definitions, and the study's organization. Chapter 2 covers the literature review, encompassing the theoretical and conceptual framework. Chapter 3 details the research methodology, including design, study approach, study area location, study population, sample size, sampling procedure, measurement instruments, sample frame, data collection process, instrument validity and reliability, ethical considerations, pilot study, data analysis, normality testing, and statistical techniques used. Chapter 4 involves data analysis, interpretation, and discussions. Chapter 5 includes a summary, conclusion, and study implications, recommendations for further research, a bibliography, and a research appendix.

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