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Assessing the effect of urban informal economic activity on the quality of the built environment for sustainable urban development in Lagos, Nigeria

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Highlights:

- This study assesses the effect of urban informal economic activities (UIEA) on the quality of the built environment in residential areas of Lagos, Nigeria for sustainable development.
- It adopts a case study methodology with survey research design, disproportionate sample size, and multi-stage sampling techniques.
- This study state that negative statistical relationships exist between UIEA and the quality of the built-up environment in the residential densities of Lagos metropolis regarding aesthetical disorder, street trading, traffic jam, visual obstruction, indiscriminate disposal of waste and land use conversion
- The effect of UIEA on the quality of the built-up environment is associated with several factors, among which population growth, infrastructure, socio-economic, physical planning, and political system are identified significant in the metropolis.
- Recommendations such as socioeconomic and environmental improvement strategies, integration of operators in decision-making, the planning of UIEA in land use allocation and built-up environment operational policies among others were identified appropriate for the sustainable development of the Lagos metropolis.

Abstract

Informal economic activities not only contribute to the economic growth of most countries, they also have a significant effect on the built environment. This study assesses the effect of urban informal economic activity (UIEA) on the quality of the built environment in residential areas of the metropolis of Lagos, Nigeria. It adopts a case study methodology with survey research design, disproportionate sample size, and multi-stage sampling techniques. Data collection utilises questionnaire surveys and personal observations from 1,345 informal economic operators in 52 administrative wards of the 16 local government areas (LGAs) of Lagos. This research uses descriptive and inferential statistical tools for analysis and interpretation of 973 completed questionnaires (73.9%) returned from the survey. The results reflect an adverse effect of UIEA on the quality of the built

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