

The Sustainability of the Environmental through the Application of Uncommon Ideology: The Editorial

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The 21st century urban scholars, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, have to some extent shifted their focus away from questioning urban arrangements and the ideals of orderliness championed by earlier urban utopians. Instead, contemporary urban scholarship has increasingly concentrated on enhancing people's quality of life, even in the face of disorder and informality. Irregular urban development is often inevitable given the economic realities in many countries, where poverty manifests in various forms. This reality has influenced the evolution of research priorities. There is little value in questioning issues that cannot be easily or effectively addressed. As such, urban studies research over the last decade has largely focused on finding practical ways to manage and improve areas such as waste management, housing conditions, flood risks, and urbanization. The pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) may also have driven these research trends and the adoption of various approaches. This issue provides a comprehensive overview of the challenges and opportunities in leveraging technology, sustainable practices, and policy frameworks to address critical urban and environmental issues in African contexts. It highlights the importance of interdisciplinary approaches and the need for collaboration among stakeholders to achieve sustainable development and

resilience in the face of growing challenges across human settlements.

In this issue, the argument as captured in the studies presented addresses various critical challenges facing urban development and infrastructure management across the globe and with more interests in Nigeria all within the context of sustainable development. Each study explores a distinct yet interconnected facet of this broad topic, providing insights into the application of modern technologies, adaptive strategies for disaster resilience, waste management, and housing inequalities in urban areas. It is essential to note that this issue provides a scientific entry point towards urban sustainability. The studies employed an empirically informed approach alongside scholarly commentaries, all aimed at contributing to the discourse on sustainability in developing countries. The study of Adesina and Oloto on the application of Internet-of-Things (IoT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in real-time site progress in Lagos, Nigeria. It underscores the need for the Nigerian construction industry to embrace digital transformation for improved efficiency in project management and cost control. The study evaluates the extent to which key stakeholders in Lagos' construction industry have adopted IoT and AI, identifying both the drivers and barriers to their implementation. The findings underscore the critical role

of digital technologies in improving construction processes and the necessity of overcoming these barriers to achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness in the industry. The article of Saudat et al. introduces a conceptual framework aimed at building flood resilience in vulnerable communities by integrating physical vulnerability indicators with adaptive architectural design. The proposed framework links physical vulnerability indicators with socio-ecological systems theory, offering a comprehensive method for designing resilient residential neighbourhoods. This research contributes to the broader discourse on climate change adaptation and provides valuable insights for architects, urban planners, policymakers, and researchers working to address the challenges posed by flood events in vulnerable areas.

In this issue, both the study of Olanrewaju et al. and Gasu et al. focus on waste management in Osogbo, Nigeria. While the former highlights the environmental challenges posed by poorly managed waste dumpsites, the latter examines the services provided by private sector participants, residents' satisfaction, and the challenges faced by these operators. These studies reveal significant deficits in waste collection and calls for increased government support and regulatory frameworks to enhance the effectiveness of private sector involvement in waste management. The studies emphasise the need for proper sanitation standards and the establishment of sanitary waste dumpsites to ensure safe and efficient waste disposal, thereby contributing to environmental sustainability. Consequently, Olaniran et al. looked into the dynamics of mixed-income housing in African cities, exploring its potential to address urban inequality and promote inclusive development. The paper highlights research trends and gaps,

emphasizing the need for tailored policies and governance structures to support mixed-income housing strategies. The authors highlighted the importance of tailored policies, effective governance structures, and sustainable financing mechanisms to support mixed-income housing initiatives in African contexts. Their study revealed the complex interplay of socio-economic, political, and spatial factors that shape the dynamics of mixed-income housing in African cities.

Patrick within the broader context of sustainable development, discusses the interplay between formal institutions and informal structures in the sustainability discourse, particularly in the Global South. Patrick emphasizes the importance of balancing economic growth, environmental protection, and social inclusion to achieve sustainable development goals. The paper highlights the challenges faced by developing regions, such as overreliance on natural resources and the impact of climate change on human security. It calls for the adoption of sustainable development practices that empower local communities while addressing interwoven issues like poverty, housing, and environmental degradation.

In reference to adoption of new approaches to responding to planning problems, the last two commentaries are focused on planning education and practice. Akogun's commentary touched on the need to revisit urban planning education through gamification while Oluoje alludes to the potential of artificial intelligence towards achieving sustainability. Collectively, these studies offer valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities associated with urban development and infrastructure management in Nigeria, emphasizing the need for innovative, sustainable, and context-specific

solutions to address the complex issues facing the country's urban environments. The solution to the general planning

problems across developing nations may be localization and framing of solutions towards solving local issues.