

Quality of Students' Accommodation in Nigeria's Tertiary Institutions

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Abstract: *The quality of students' accommodation has been one of the factors that influence students' academic performance and achievements. This has been shown in Sustainable Development Goals as related to education and housing. This paper thus assessed the quality of students' accommodation in a Nigeria's tertiary institution. The objectives are to determine the factors responsible for students' choice of accommodation and examine the variation in students' accommodation based on their quality. Multi-stage sampling technique was used to select 212 (10%) students living in 8 on-campus and 8 off-campus hostels in the study area. Questionnaires were used as research instruments in this paper. This study adopted descriptive, inferential, and spatial analytical techniques. The results reveal that the hostel fee was higher off-campus than on-campus, while the power supply was more stable at on-campus hostels than at off-campus hostels. At a p-value greater than alpha at 0.05, and an F-calculated value of 1.613 which was less than the F-tabulated value of 1.71 at $F_{0.05, 15, 196}$, there was no statistically significant variation in the overall mean value of the factors considered for the quality of students' accommodation across all sixteen hostels. This*

paper concludes that the quality of students' hostels is not significantly different in both on-campus and off-campus in the study area. This paper thus recommends that the quality of students' accommodation should be improved without exerting an exorbitant fee on students. There should also be a government policy regulating the off-campus and on-campus hostels in terms of fees and quality.

Keywords: Students, accommodation, tertiary institution, SDGs, management.

1. Introduction

Amidst different challenges, be it poverty, insecurity, or unemployment, among others, that are ravaging the globe, education for all has been promulgated as a way out. This has been enshrined in different initiatives formed by nations and international organisations, an initiative like Sustainable Development Goals (United Nations, 2015). For instance, ensuring quality education for all is the fourth of the Seventeen Goals of Sustainable Development which is to be achieved by 2030 (United Nations 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development). Bundy *et al.* (2018) proposed that SDG on education could only be realised through the global collaboration, cooperation, and investments across the different sectors, which could bring about optimisation of an absolute societal benefit of education. It is germane to provide an ideal environment that will stimulate learning without social or gender bias. These include the provision of water for drinking and washing, sanitation, and hygiene facilities and service for both the students and their teachers (Bundy *et al.*, 2018).

Different challenges are confronting the education system, right from basic to tertiary education in developing countries including Nigeria. For instance, it has been reported by Nielsen (2006) that "tens of millions of children in the developing world- mostly girls, the poor, and other disadvantaged remain out of schools, and hundreds of millions drop out before completing primary schools. Of those who do complete, a large proportion fails to acquire desired levels of knowledge and skills, especially in the poorest countries of South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa".

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Ogunode, Yilokun, and Akeredolu (2019) and Ogunode and Musa (2020) identified the challenges of the Nigerian University Education as a faulty strategic plan, bad leadership, poor teaching and learning process, inadequate research facilities, sub-standard infrastructure, unstable school calendar, corruption, and poor funding. It has been established in many types of research that education in Nigeria is not well-funded and designed. For instance, Olorundare and Kayode (2014) recognised the challenge of entrepreneurship education in Nigerian Universities as inadequate funding. Babatope (2010) revealed that the financial support to the universities was not adequate, and the universities were not provided with adequate facilities while students and staff maintenance culture contributed to high destruction of the available facilities. Magnusa and Tossebro (2012) have found out that the resistance and denial of students of accommodation is a great hindrance to tertiary education.

Nigeria is, however, witnessing the astronomical cost of providing tertiary education, including students' hostels which government alone may not be able to handle due to the persistent increase in the number of students. Many private organisations in Nigeria have ventured into university education through the buildings of schools and hostels, which in many cases have increased the school and accommodation fees due to demand pressure from the students (Adebisi, Esekoli, Oletubo & Alade, 2015; and Adetunji, Adetunji Adeleke & Maduibike, 2017). Adebisi *et al.* (2015), regarding the Federal University of Technology Akure (FUTA), inferred that the increased population of university students living in privately owned hostels leads to an increase in rental values of the private hostels. This signifies that demand pressure from students and residents influences the changes in rental values of private hostels in Nigeria. However, determining the rental value of the off-campus hostels in FUTA could not be sufficient until the quality of accommodation in both the off and on-campus are determined. This will allow the comparison and policymaking concerning the Nigerian universities' accommodations.

Other studies in other developing countries have shown that many factors determine the rental value and choice of accommodation among the students in tertiary institutions. For instance, Omar and Arbab (2018) considered the effects of the perceived mediating value on the relationship between the service quality dimensions and students' satisfaction in the University of Medical Sciences and Technology's Hostel Accommodation, Sudan, and revealed that there was a significant positive influence of perceived value on student's satisfaction of hostel accommodation in Sudan's tertiary institutions. Nimako and Bondinuba (2013) examined the student accommodation quality (SAQ) in College of Technology Education, Kumasi (COLTEK) and Kumasi Polytechnic (K-Poly) in Ghana, and noted that there was an unfavourable rating of the bathroom, security, toilet, access to transport, entertainment, kitchen and hostel fee based on the consideration of SAQ. The residential SAQ (on-campus) were better than the non-residential SAQ (off-campus) in term of distance to lecture and entertainment halls, but the non-residential SAQ was preferable in cases of other qualities (Nimako & Bondinuba, 2013). Availability of a reading room, security, and a serene environment were the major factors considered by students of Makerere University in Uganda in the choice of hostels (Lutalo, 2019). Harrison *et al.* (2020) opined that the provision of the hostel should be more focused on improving well-being outcomes and positive living conditions for the people.

Based on the previous studies, many recommendations have been made on how quality education could be achieved, especially by providing an enabling environment for students. Babatope (2010) recommended that funding of tertiary education should take priority in the annual budget of the government in Nigeria, and the issue of discontentment of students on accommodation should be addressed (Appiah, 2016). In consonance, international organisations have made significant contributions towards ensuring educational development worldwide, especially in funding. For instance, World Bank (2011) reported that the World Bank, through financial support for education, has invested \$69 billion on 1,500 projects across the world. This could only yield the expected result- "Education for All" if students' accommodation could be in a good condition that will enhance learning in students.

1.1 Research Questions

Based on the above problem, the following research questions were raised to pilot the study:

- What are the factors responsible for students’ choice of hostel accommodation?
- What is the variation in students’ housing accommodation based on their quality?
- What are the students’ preferences for accommodation?

1.2 Research Objectives and Hypothesis

This paper thus appraises the quality of students’ accommodation in Nigeria’s tertiary institutions with reference to the Federal University of Technology, Akure (FUTA), Ondo State Nigeria, and with specific objectives of determining the factors that are responsible for students’ choice of hostel accommodation; examining the variation in students’ housing accommodation based on their quality, and determining students’ preferences on accommodation. This paper was anchored around the hypothesis that there was no statistically significant variation in the overall mean value of the factors considered for the quality of students’ accommodation across all sixteen selected hostels in the study area.

1.3 The Study Area

Federal University of Technology, Akure, popularly called FUTA is situated in the Akure South Local Government Area of Ondo State (Figure 1). The buildings’ facilities in FUTA can be grouped into the lecture theatre, staff quarters, administrative buildings, Staff Schools, Clinic, bank layout, sports arena, and students’ hostels. There are eight undergraduate hostels on the campus of FUTA. These hostels are (Peter Adeniyi Hall, Chief Akindeko Hall, and MKO Hall) which are for male students; and (Jadesola Akande, Lady Deborah Jibowu, Annex 1, Annex 2, and Annex 3), which are for female students. Private individuals or organisations also own many off-campus hostels. In concomitant with the eight hostels within the campus (On-campus hostels), eight (8) off-campus hostels that were selected in this study were House of Rep., Beulah, Unicorn, Jesus Lives, Achievers, One-Ten, Adekunle and Okikiola (Figure 2).

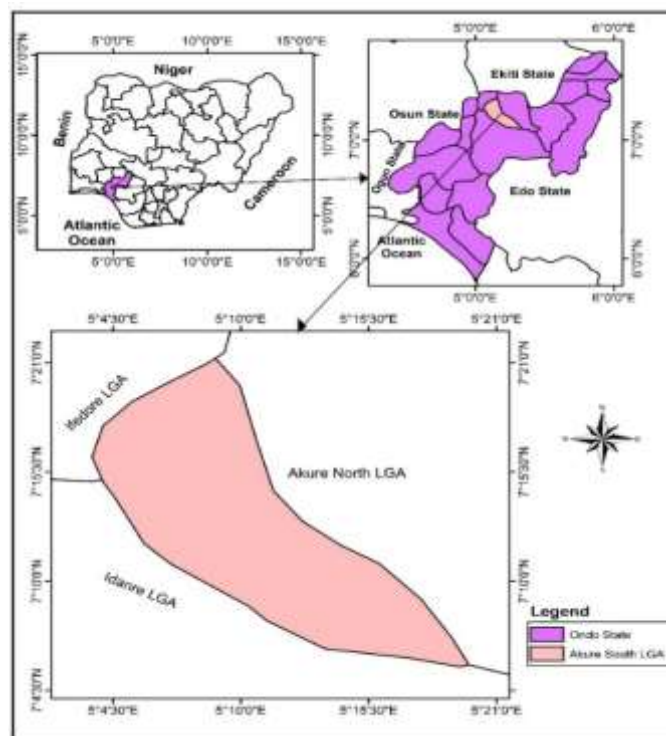


Figure 1: Nigeria; Ondo State and Akure South LGA

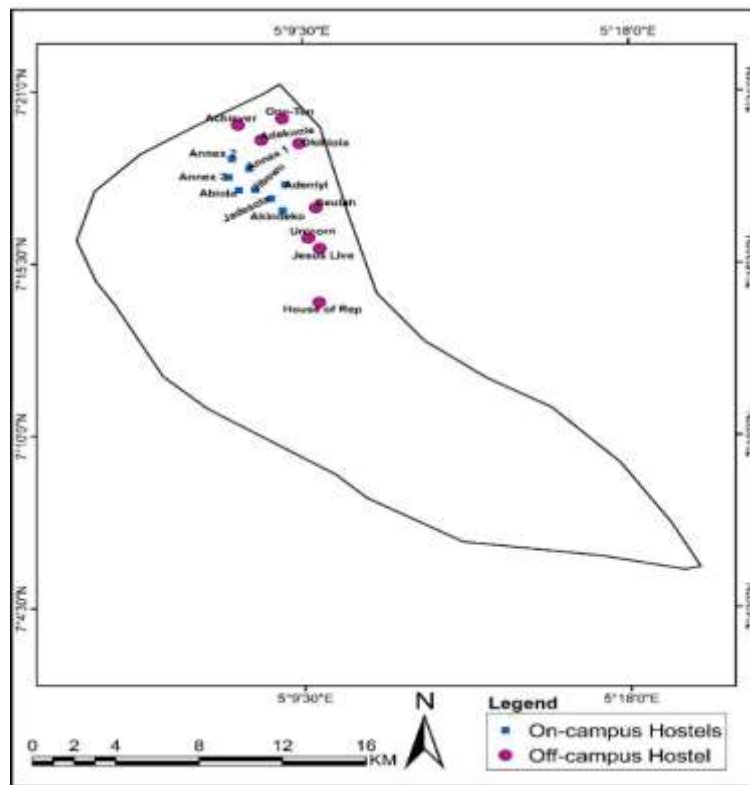


Figure 2: Akure South LGA Showing FUTA’s Hostels

2. Materials and Methods

This paper applied both primary and secondary data. The secondary data used were the responses from questionnaire administration and coordinates of selected hostels taken by the application of a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS). The questionnaire for this study consists of 37 variables cut across the socioeconomic attributes of the respondents, factors that are responsible for students’ choice of hostel accommodation, the variation in the quality of students’ accommodation, and students’ preferences of accommodation. A case study research design was adopted to select the Federal University of Technology, Akure (FUTA), one of Nigeria’s well-known Universities of technology. Multi-stage sampling technique was also applied. First, all eight hostels for undergraduate students within the campus of FUTA, and another eight hostels outside the campus of FUTA, making a total of sixteen hostels (8 on-campus and 8 off-campus hostels) that were selected for the study (Table 1). Second, 212 (10%) out of the 2,110 students that were living in the selected hostels were sampled. This was based on the recommendation of the researchers like Ogunsanya (1987) and Olawole (2013). The total sample size of 212 students was selected across the sampled hostels in proportion to the total number of students living in the hostels (See Table 1). In the last stage, the simple random technique was applied in selecting students for the administration of questionnaires in each hostel. The analytical techniques applied were descriptive techniques such as tables, bar charts, inferential technique (ANOVA) in SPSS, and geographic information system (GIS) technique.

Table 1: Number of Selected Hostels and Students

S/N	On-Campus Hostel	Number of Students in Hostel	Number of Students Sampled
1.	Peter Adeniyi Hall	630	63
2.	M.K.O. Abiola Hall	315	32
3.	Chief Akindeko Hall	188	19
4.	Lady Deborah Jibowu Hall	330	33

5.	Jadesola Akande Hall	220	22
6.	Annex 1	80	8
7.	Annex 2	80	8
8.	Annex 3	80	8
	Off-Campus		
9.	Unicorn Hall	25	3
10.	House of Reps Lodge	30	3
11.	Beulah Hostel	30	3
12.	Jesus Lives Hostel	43	4
13.	Okikiola Lodge	12	1
14.	Adekunle Lodge	14	1
15.	One-ten Lodge	18	2
16.	Achievers Lodge	15	2
	Total	2,110	212

3. Results and Discussion

This section of the paper was discussed mainly under the subsections of socioeconomic characteristics of the respondent, factors that students considered in the choice of hostels, quality of students' hostels, and students' preference of hostels.

3.1 Socioeconomic Characteristics of the Respondents

Before discussing other subsections, it is very germane to expatiate on the socioeconomic characteristics of the students living in these hostels. Based on this, Table 2 reveals that there were more male students than female students in FUTA, as 61.3% and 38.7% were recorded respectively. The same distribution pattern was shown in both the on-campus hostels (59.4% male and 40.6% female) and off-campus (80% male and 20% female). The larger number of males might be a result of being a university of technology which in most cases attracts more males than females. Irrespective of gender, more than 50% of these students (88.5% on-campus, 95% off-campus, and 89.2% in all) were in the age range of 18 to 25 years. The remaining percentage of students were either below 18 years or more than 25 years of age (Table 2). It was also obvious from Table 2 that students in their first year and final years stayed within the campus as none of them was found in off-campus hostels. In most tertiary institutions in Nigeria, particularly universities providing accommodation, there is a policy of preference for first and final-year students to be considered for accommodation. Students in 200 Level and 300 Level lived most in off-campus hostels as 35%, and 60% resided in the hostels respectively. Since most of the students depend on their parents for sustenance, Figure 3 reveals that 44.3% of the parents were civil servants, 26.9% were traders, 16.5% were farmers, 7.08% were artisans, and 5.19% were pensioners. The large percentage of parents in civil service indicates that the majority of students' parents depend on the government for income through their salaries.

Table 2: Demographic Characteristics of the Students

VARIABLES	On-Campus		Off-Campus		BOTH	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
SEX:						
Male	114	59.4	16	80.0	130	61.3
Female	78	40.6	4	20.0	82	38.7
Total	192	100	20	100	212	100
AGE:						
Less than 18 Years	13	6.8	1	5.0	14	6.6
18 to 25 Years	170	88.5	19	95.0	189	89.2
More than 25 to 28 Years	9	4.7	0	0	9	4.2
Total	192	100	20	100	212	100

ACADEMIC LEVEL:						
100 Level	48	25	0	0	48	22.6
200 Level	47	24.5	7	35.0	54	25.5
300 Level	45	23.4	12	60.0	57	26.9
400 Level	41	21.4	1	5.0	42	19.8
500 Level	11	5.7	0	0	11	5.1
Total	192	100	20	100	212	100

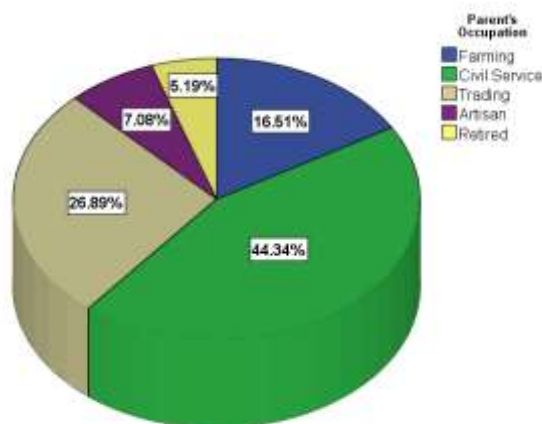


Figure 3: Students' Parents' Occupation

Another aspect of demographic attribute considered was the duration of their stay in the hostels. Based on Figure 4, more than half the total number of students, precisely 96.2 % have stayed beyond one year, while 2.4% of students have stayed for two years, 0.9% of students have stayed for three years, and 0.5% of students have stayed for four years. Comparing Figure 4 with the academic level of students in Table 2, it could be deduced that many students tend to change their hostel yearly. This might be a result of housing congestion experienced in their first year of living in the on-campus hostels and the deliberate policy that give preference to only first and final-year students in on-campus hostels. As revealed in Figure 5, the on-campus hostels were more congested than the off-campus hostels, as 40% and 45% of off-campus students lived in a room per person, and two students per room, respectively. None of the students in the on-campus hostels was entitled to a room per student. It was even revealed in Figure 5 that 84.9% of on-campus student hostels were occupied by nothing less than two students to as high as eight students due to the squatting of other students that was more rampant among on-campus hostels. Only 10% of the students in off-campus hostels lived in a maximum of four students per room, while the remaining 90% lived in a room with a maximum of three occupants. Scholars like Sisilawati (2001) have previously described students' hostels as congested.

Even the less room congestion enjoyed by students living in off-campus hostels was with exorbitant rent fees. With a persistent influx of students into tertiary institutions, there is a need for intervention of the government to build more accommodation in tertiary institutions so that the on-campus hostels would be less congested in terms of students per room. This would consequently reduce the demand for off-campus hostels and hence reduce the off-campus hostel's fee. This has been one of the requests of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) since 2009 that the Federal Government of Nigeria should furnish Nigerian tertiary institutions with necessary facilities. The issue of the revitalization of federal universities in Nigeria has been a consistent issue between the Federal Government and ASUU which has led to the strike many times. ASUU has often pronounced inadequate funding for the education sector, which cuts across all public universities in Nigeria (Vanguard, February 27th, 2022). The condition of government-owned students' accommodation and lecture halls are not excluded in this issue. This may impede

the attainment of the fourth Sustainable Development Goal (ensuring quality education for all) in Nigeria.

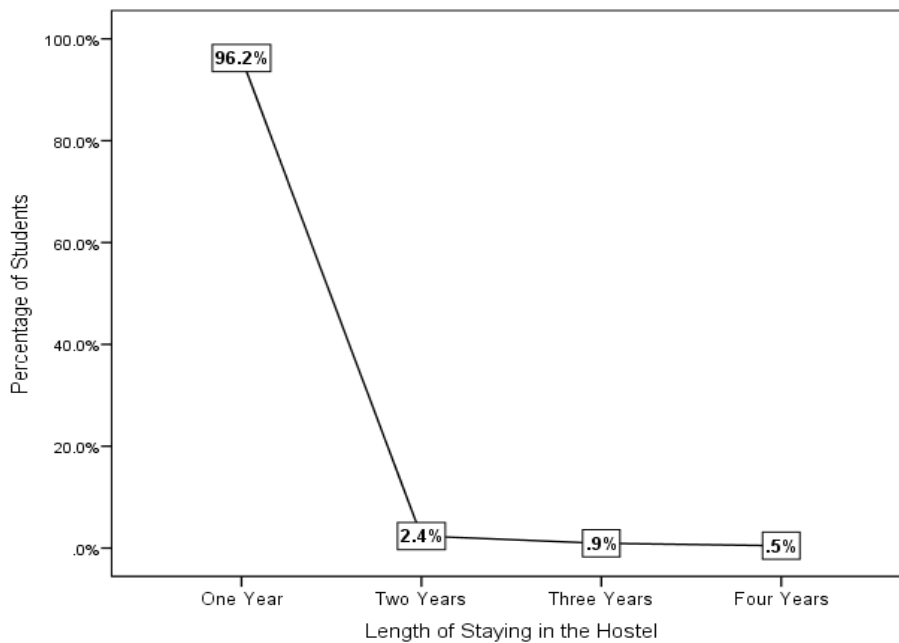


Figure 4: The Length of Staying

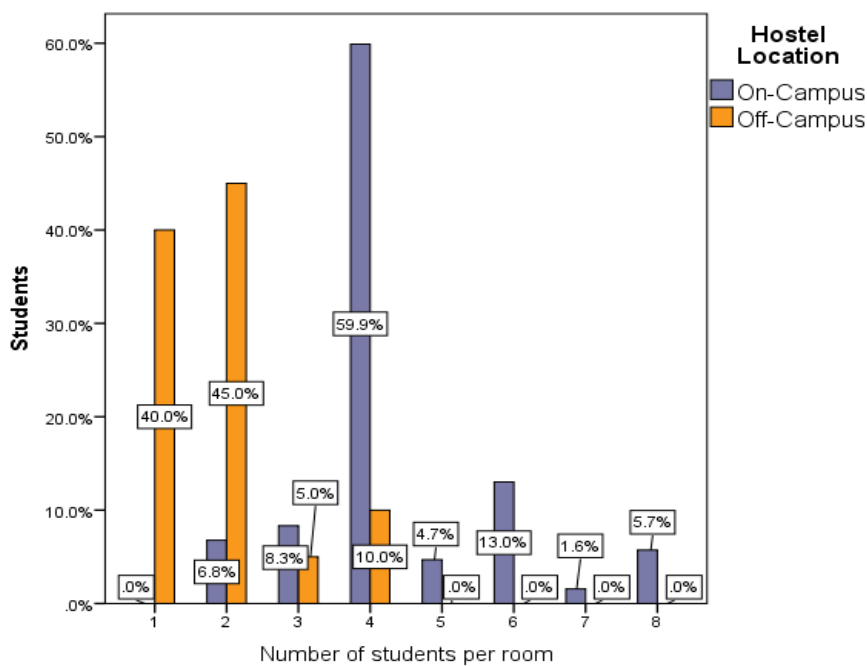


Figure 5: Number of Students per Room

3.2 Factors Responsible for Students' Choice of Accommodation

Students' choice of hostels was influenced by several factors such as fees, security, toilet facilities, power supply, water supply, room size, number of occupants per room, room ventilation, freedom, and privacy. Based on the magnitude of agreement on the Likert Scale, it was very clear that the

most considered factors were power supply, fees, freedom, proximity to class, and water supply. Power supply with the highest point of 4.17 was essential to students because most of their activities such as assignments, reading, and searching for additional information on any subject matter were mostly done either through desktop, laptop, or android phones which require stable electricity. This was more stable and cheaper to use in on-campus hostels than off-campus as Figure 6 reveals that the stable electricity was the most factor considered by the students residing in the two of the on-campus hostels (Annex 2 and Annex 3). This did not connote that students living off-campus did not enjoy electricity, but this was at a high rate in terms of electricity tariff and fuels for generators.

The amount to be paid as a hostel's fee was the second factor considered with the mean point of 4.14 as shown in Table 3. It was conspicuous that the fee was cheaper for hostels within the campus than off-campus. Figure 6 reveals that the most considered attractive factor for the occupants of three hostels (Abiola, Jadesola' and Akindeko hostels) was the fee that was considered cheaper than off-campus. The third most important factor which was freedom (with 3.98) meant different things to students on-campus and students living off-campus. Freedom, in the perspective of the on-campus students, was the movement of students within the campus without any restriction of time; whereas the students who resided off-campus interpreted freedom as doing things without being under any authority. Irrespective of the meaning, students in the three off-campus hostels (Unicorn, House of Rep., Okikiola, and Achiever) believed that there was more freedom off-campus than on-campus. It was occupants of only one on-campus hostel (Peter Adeniyi) considered the kind of freedom within the campus as most important in selecting the hostels.

Besides power supply, fees, and freedom; proximity to class/lecture hall and supply of water were considered important to students of the tertiary institution in choice of hostels (Table 3). Even those students who live in off-campus hostels prefer to stay at off-campus hostels that were very close to campus (see Figure 2). This was because the electricity was more stable in the off-campus hostels located around the campus than elsewhere. Another reason for considering the proximity to the classroom/lecture hall was to minimize distance in terms of length, time, and cost. Nimako and Bondinuba (2013) equally observed in their study of College of Technology Education, Kumasi (COLTEK) and Kumasi Polytechnic (K-Poly) in Ghana that the students' accommodation quality was better on-campus than off-campus in terms of distance to lecture and entertainment halls (Nimako and Bondinuba, 2013). Another factor that was responsible for the choice of the hostel was the supply of water with a mean of 3.97. This was considered important as students depend on water for bathing, cooking, and washing.

Apart from these first five factors, Table 3 presents other factors that were responsible for the choice of hostels as security (3.96), hostel facilities, especially toilet (3.79), management (3.70), room size (3.67), hostel environment (3.63), privacy (3.53), number of occupants (3.52), room ventilation (3.52) and drainage system (3.49). It was observed that security was more guaranteed within the campus than off the campus, as every tertiary institution in Nigeria has its stable security personnel. Despite this, students living in one of the off-campus hostels, precisely Jesus Live hostel, picked security that was enjoyed in the hostel as the most important factor to them (Figure 6) because they can boast of private standby security, which also increases the rental fee of such hostel. Despite the average score of 3.53, privacy was also the most determinant factor in three hostels- all off-campus, namely: Beulah, Adekunle, and One Ten. This was also found in the work of Najib and Yusof (2009) that security and privacy are among the housing needs of students.

It can be deduced that privacy was one of the important factors considered by the students living off-campus, while cheap hostel fees and regular power supply are the most determinant factors of students choosing the on-campus hostels (Figure 6). Even with different factors that were responsible for the choice of hostels by the students of tertiary institutions in Nigeria, Table 4 presents, at the F-calculated value of 0.92 less than the F-tabulated value of 1.71 at $F_{0.05, 15, 196}$ that there was no statistically significant variation in the overall mean of factors considered as the determinants of students' choice of hostels across the sixteen selected hostels (Table 5).

Table 3: Determinants of Students' Choice of Hostels

Factors	Mean
i Power supply	4.17
ii Fees	4.14
iii Freedom	3.98
iv Proximity to class/lecture hall	3.97
v Water supply	3.97
vi Hostel security	3.96
vii Hostel facilities	3.79
viii Hostel management	3.70
ix Room size	3.67
x Hostel's environment	3.63
xi Privacy	3.53
xii Number of Occupants	3.52
xiii Room Ventilation	3.52
xiv Drainage system	3.49

Table 5: ANOVA for the Variation in Determinants of Students' Hostel Choice

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	1264.940	15	84.329	0.923	0.540
Within Groups	17911.829	196	91.387		
Total	19176.769	211			

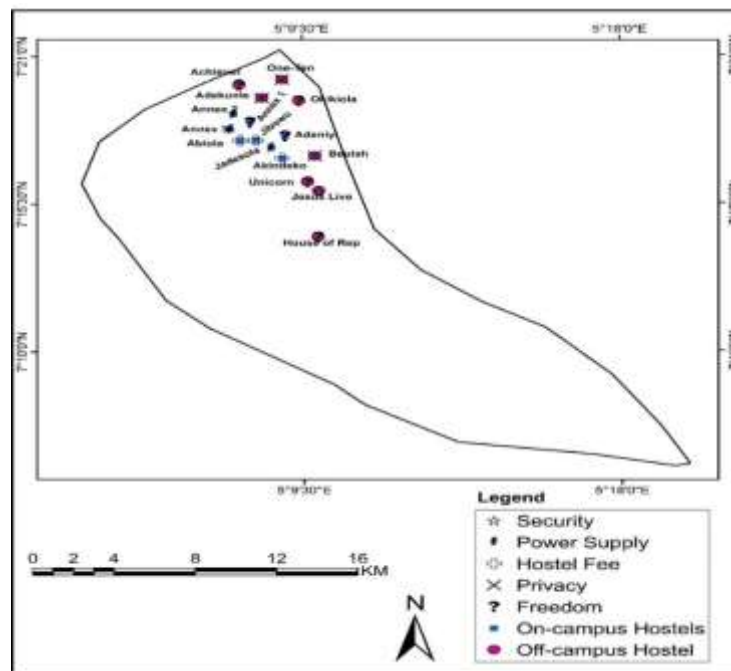


Figure 6: Most Determinant Factors of Student's Choice of Hostels

3.3 Quality of Students' Accommodation

In determining the quality of accommodation in which the students were residing, a 5-Likert Scale of very good (5), good (4), fair/average (3), poor (2), and very poor (1) was used. Table 6 reveals that the condition of facilities of the students' hostels was not far from average as each of the facilities scored below four (4). But in ranking, power supply (3.99) had the highest value, which might be a result of its being an indispensable facility in academic environments. Since air quality

is one of the factors that influence the health of man, it was considered second in the ranking. The other facilities such as roof (3.73), the structural condition of buildings (3.68), portable water (3.65), toilet (3.64), bathroom (3.60), kitchen (3.60), laundry (3.59), veranda (3.51) and drainage (3.51) were accordingly ranked, while the facility with the lowest value (3.49) was waste disposal. As studies have shown that improper disposal of waste could cause an outbreak of disease, there should be regulation on waste disposal in both on-campus and off-campus hostels. This is not only to ensure a neat environment but also to increase the demand for such hostels. According to Adebisi et al. (2015), demand for accommodation is influenced by its quality.

Considering the environmental quality of the hostels, Figure 7 shows the sources of water in both on-campus and off-campus students' hostels. It was shown in Figure 7 that 56.8% of on-campus respondents and 25.0% of off-campus respondents used taps as their source of water, 36.5% of on-campus hostel respondents, and 70.0% of off-campus hostel respondents relied on boreholes as their source of water. While 6.3% of on-campus hostel respondents and 5.0% of off-campus hostel respondents make use of deep wells as their source of water, 0.5% of on-campus hostel respondents and none of the off-campus hostel respondents make use of streams as their source of water.

Water quality and method of refuse disposal were other variables considered. Table 7 presents that 27.4% had access to drinkable water, 54.7% had access to non-drinkable water, and 17.9% had access to cooking and laundry water in the whole study area. Considering the on-campus hostels, 24% had access to drinkable water, 58.3% to not drinkable, and 17.7% had access to only water used for cooking and laundry. But off-campus, 60% had access to drinkable water, 20.0% to not drinkable, and 20.0% had access to only water used for cooking and laundry. It could be inferred from Figure 7 and Table 7 that more students in on-campus hostels had access to more tap or bore hole water which was less drinkable than that of students in off-campus hostels. This is a call for government and school management to take the health of students more important, especially to ensure more provision of drinkable water. According to (Bundy *et al.*, 2018) provision of water for drinking and washing, sanitation and hygiene facilities, and service for both the students and their teachers are essential.

Table 6: Quality of Facilities in the Hostels

S/N	Facilities	Mean
i	Power supply	3.99
ii	Air quality	3.98
iii	Roof	3.73
iv	Structural condition of building	3.68
v	Potable water	3.65
vi	Toilet	3.64
vii	Bathroom	3.60
viii	Kitchen	3.60
ix	Laundry	3.59
x	Veranda	3.51
xi	Drainage	3.51
xii	Waste dump	3.49
xiii	Waste dump	3.49

It was also lucid from Table 7 that students applied different forms of waste disposal. Table 7 reveals that, in the whole study area, 45.3% of students applied the burning method of waste disposal, 12.7% used dumping in water drainage, 8.0% used any available open space, and 32.1% applied communal dump, and 1.9% used roadside. On-campus, 44.8% used burning, 14.1% dump in water drainage, 6.8% use available open space, 32.8% use communal dump, 1.6% road-side dump. On off-campus, 50% applied a burning system, no dumped refuse in water drainage, 20% used available open space, 65.0% used communal dump, and 5.0% used roadside (Table 7). Table 7 also presents the condition of the wall as 35.4% lived in a room with no crack, 58.0% in a room with minor crack, and 6.6% in a room with a major crack. But considering on-campus hostels: 34.4%

lived in a room with no crack, 59.4% resided in a room with minor crack, and 6.2% in a room with a major crack. For off-campus, it was clear from Table 7 that 95.0% of students off-campus stayed in rooms with no crack, 5.0% with minor crack, and none of the off-campus students lived in a room with major crack. This connotes that the condition of off-campus hostels was better than the condition of on-campus hostels in terms of cracks on the walls.

Based on the overall mean condition of facilities' quality of the hostels, at an F-calculated value of 1.613, which was less than the F-tabulated value of 1.71 at $F_{0.05, 15, 196}$ (Table 48), there was no statistically significant variation in the quality of hostels in the study area.

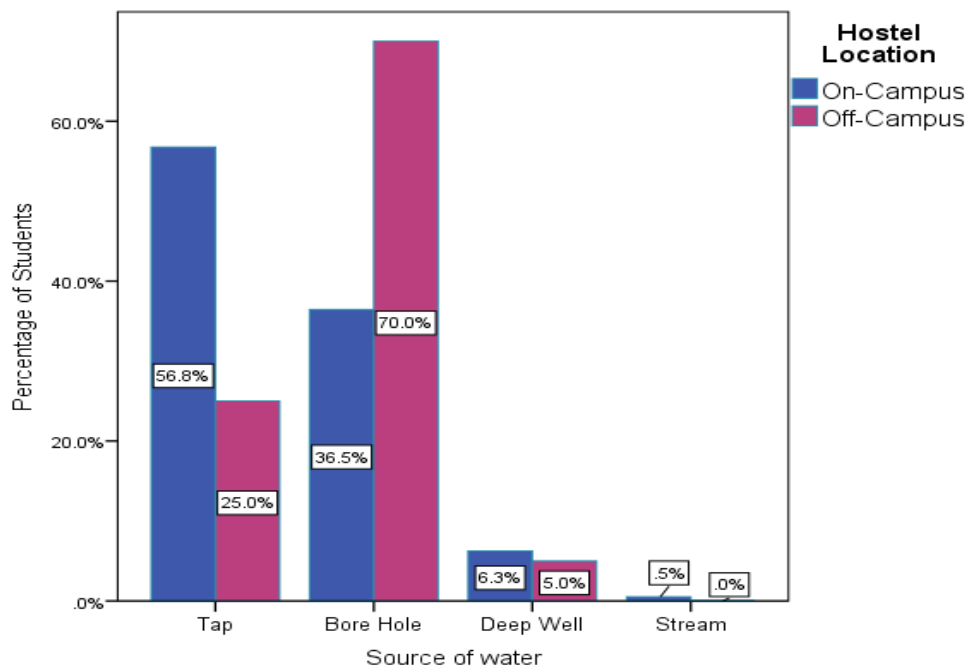


Figure 7: Source of Water

Table 7: Water Quality, Method of Waste Disposal, and Wall Condition of the Hostels

VARIABLES	On-Campus		Off-Campus		BOTH	
Water Quality:	F	%	F	%	F	%
Drinkable	46	24.0	12	60.0	58	27.4
Not Drinkable	112	58.3	4	20.0	116	54.7
Only for Cooking and Laundry	34	17.7	4	20.0	38	17.9
Total	192	100	20	100	212	100
Method of Waste Disposal						
Burning	86	44.8	10	50.0	96	45.3
Dump in Water Drainage	27	14.1	0	0	27	12.7
Available Open Space	13	6.8	4	20.0	17	8.0
Communal Dump	63	32.8	13	65.0	68	32.1
Road Side	3	1.6	1	5.0	4	1.9
Total	192	100	20	100	212	100
Condition of the Wall						
No Crack	66	34.4	19	95.0	75	35.4
Minor Crack	114	59.4	1	5.0	123	58.0
Major Crack	12	6.2	0	0	14	6.6
Total	192	100	20	100	212	100

Table 8: Hypothesis for the Variation in Quality of Students' Hostels

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	1258.169	15	83.878	1.613	0.073
Within Groups	10194.600	196	52.013		
Total	11452.769	211			

3.4 Students' Perception of Hostel Preference

Students exhibit their preferences by considering the quality of both on-campus and off-campus hostels. Figure 8 presents that 58% of students prefer on-campus hostels while 42% prefer off-campus hostels (Figure 8). The students gave various reasons for their preference as Figure 9 shows that 13.2% of students based their reason on good security, 12.3% on security and safety, 21.7% on power supply, 11.3% on proximity to lecture rooms, 22.6% on privacy, 1.4% on parent's choice, 8.0% on affordable and conducive, 5.7% on friendship, 2.8% on freedom, 0.9% on water supply.

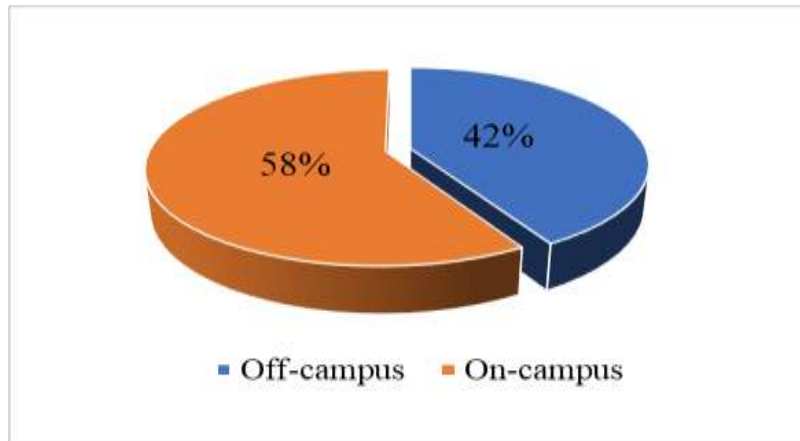


Figure 8: Students' Hostel Preference

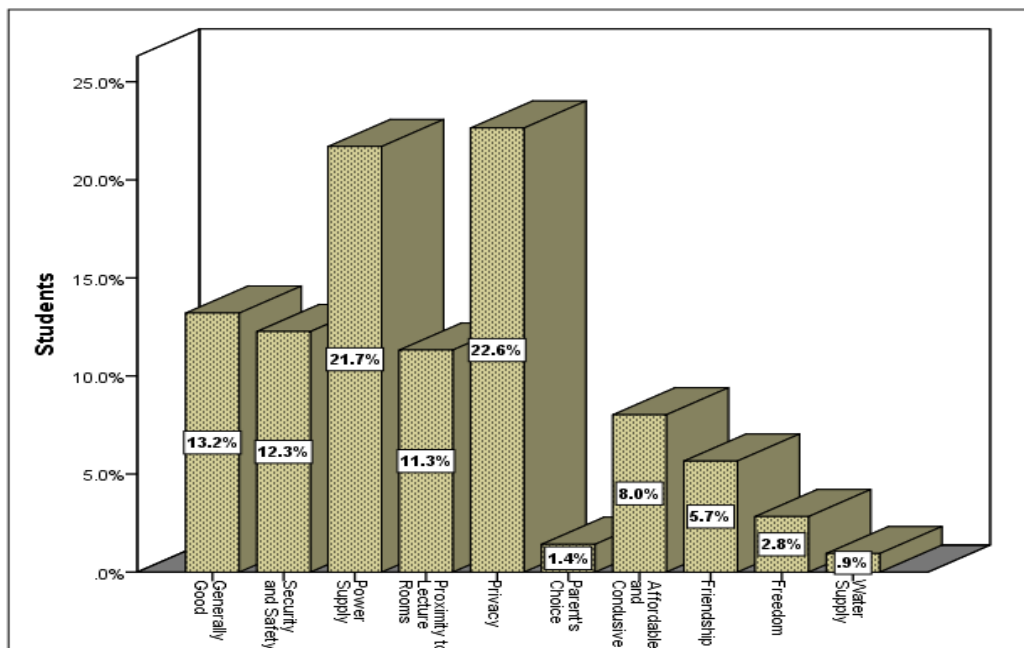


Figure 9: Reason for Hostel Preference

Table 9 shows the rating of both on-campus and off-campus hostels. Based on this, the results, therefore, show the rating of on-campus hostels as 4.7% very bad, 2.4% bad, 12.3% fair, 46.2% good, 34.4% very good; while off-campus hostels were rated as 1.9% very bad, 0% bad, 15.6% fair, 39.6%

good, and 42.9% very good. Table 10 reveals the ratings of hostel fees, hostel management, the density of occupants, and occupant’s attitude by all respondents (students) in both on-campus and off-campus hostel accommodation. For all the hostels, Table 10 shows that 4.2% of the students rated hostel fees as being 4.2% very low, 2.8% low, 45.3% moderate, 34.0% high, and 13.7% very high. But hostel’s fee on-campus was rated very low by 4.2%, low by 2.8%, moderate by 42.7%, high by 35.4%, and very high by 14.1%, whereas it was rated off-campus as 0% very low, 0% low, 70% moderate, 20% high, 10% very high. Even though the rental fee paid for hostels on-campus was lower than that of off-campus, a larger percentage of students still considered the on-campus hostel’s fee as high, being the government-owned hostels. Table 10 also presents how hostel management was rated among the students as 2.4% very bad, 2.4% bad, 33.5% fair, 12.3% good, and 12.6% very good. For on-campus hostels, it was rated as 2.1% very bad, 2.1% bad, 33.9% fair, 10.4% good, 37.5% very good, while off-campus hostels were assessed as 5% very bad, 5% bad, 30% fair, 60% good, 0% very good. In terms of the density of occupants in the entire study area, it was 4.7% low, 51.9% moderate, and 43.4% high. In on-campus, it was: 1.1% low, 51.0% moderate, and 47.9% high. Whereas off-campus it was rated as 40.0% low, 60.0% moderate, and 0% high. The occupant (housemate) attitude was described as being 2.8% very bad, 1.9% bad, 33.5% fair, 44.8% good, and 17.0% very good in the whole study area. On-campus, it was 2.1% very bad, 2.1% bad, 34.4% fair, 43.7% good, 17.7% very good. In off-campus, it was 10.0% very bad, 0% bad, 25.0% fair, 55.0% good, 10.0% very good (Table 10). The lower percentage of bad attitude of housemates recorded in the on-campus hostels was as a result of school regulation that does not encourage fighting or too loud quarrel or using of electronics, especially radio to disturb others, which most of the off-campus hostels lack.

Table 9: Rate of On and Off-Campus Accommodation

VARIABLES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
On-Campus Hostels:		
Very Bad	10	4.7
Bad	5	2.4
Fair	26	12.3
Good	98	46.2
Very Good	73	34.4
Total		
Off-Campus Hostels:		
Very Bad	4	1.9
Bad	0	0
Fair	33	15.6
Good	84	39.6
Very Good	91	42.9
Total	212	100

Table 10: Rate of Hostel Fee, Management, Density, and Attitude of Occupants

VARIABLES	On-Campus		Off-Campus		BOTH	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Hostel Fee						
Very Low	9	4.7	0	0	9	4.2
Low	6	3.1	0	0	6	2.8
Moderate	82	42.7	14	70.0	96	45.3
High	68	35.4	4	20.0	72	34.0
Very High	27	14.1	2	10.0	29	13.7
Total	192	100	20	100	212	100
Hostel Management:						
Very Bad	4	2.1	1	5.0	5	2.4
Bad	4	2.1	1	5.0	5	2.4

Fair	20	10.4	6	30.0	26	12.3
Good	92	47.9	12	60.0	104	49.1
Very Good	72	37.5	0	0	27	12.6
Total	192	100	20	100	212	100
The density of Occupants:						
Low	2	1.1	8	40.0	10	4.7
Moderate	98	51.0	12	60.0	110	51.9
High	92	47.9	0	0	92	43.4
Total	192	100	20	100	212	100
Occupant Attitude:						
Very Bad	4	2.1	2	10.0	6	2.8
Bad	4	2.1	0	0	4	1.9
Fair	66	34.4	5	25.0	71	33.5
Good	84	43.7	11	55.0	95	44.8
Very Good	34	17.7	2	10.0	36	17.0
Total	192	100	20	100	212	100

4. Conclusion and Recommendations

This paper has revealed that many students of the Federal University of Technology, Akure (FUTA) had an opportunity to live within the campus during their first year and last year of their study duration. It was deduced that on-campus hostels were more congested than off-campus hostels; but cheaper in terms of hostel fees than off-campus hostels. The most considered factors in the choice of hostels were power supply and hostel fees. Students chose their hall of residence based on other quality/factors such as fees, security, facilities, power supply, water supply, room size, number of occupants, room ventilation, freedom, privacy, proximity to lecture halls, hostel management, and drainage system. This paper also inferred that privacy was considered a more important determinant factor by the students living off-campus than in on-campus hostels, while cheap hostel fees and regular power supply were considered more determinant factors for students choosing the on-campus hostels than off-campus. This paper also reveals that the quality of hostels in tertiary institutions in Nigeria was not up to a good state. For instance, this study reveals that the condition of the walls of on-campus hostels was not as good as in off-campus hostels, as minor and major cracks in the walls were identified more in the on-campus hostels than in off-campus hostels.

This study recommends that there should be a policy toward improvement in students' accommodation as the present quality of the hostels' facilities in tertiary institutions is not far from an average. For instance, wall cracks should be amended and properly renovated; and good quality of water should be assured for students to ensure their safety. Therefore, there should also be enactment and implementation of a student-housing policy by the government that will guide the rent fee and quality of students' accommodation for both on-campus and off-campus hostels in the tertiary institutions of Nigeria. This has been corroborated with what was suggested in the other developing countries, as Lutalo (2019) observed that the availability of reading rooms, security, and a serene environment were the major factors considered by students of Makerere University in Uganda, in the choice of hostels. It is essential to provide an ideal environment (including better quality of students' accommodations) that will stimulate learning and improve well-being outcomes and positive living conditions of students in the tertiary institutions of Nigeria.

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