

LOCATIONAL PATTERN AND PHYSICAL FORMS OF GATED COMMUNITIES IN KANO METROPOLIS, NIGERIA

Mahmud Abba

Department of Geography, Bayero University Kano

Corresponding Author's email: mabba.geog@buk.edu.ng



Abstract

As emerging residential spaces, gated communities have been in the limelight of urban researches as well as housing and neighbourhood studies since the 1970s. In Nigeria, they are gradually assuming a major expression of the country's urban growth as their increasing emergence is obvious in major cities such as Lagos, Abuja, Kano and Port Harcourt. The aim of this paper is to describe the locations and physical forms of gated residential developments in Kano metropolis. Quantitative data on the location, number, size and distribution of the gated housings were used. These were sourced from structured observations, interpretation of satellite imageries and the use of GPS device. The metropolis was divided into eight major residential areas which were used as sampling units. GIS based Nearest Neighbour Analysis was used to determine the spatial pattern of distribution of the Gated Neighbourhoods. A total of 34 major gated residential developments and a number of gated streets or "privatized public streets" were identified. These are found in almost every part of the city. More than half (57%) of the gated residential areas are located in Nasarawa and Tarauni local government areas. All the identified housings are located either on or close to important streets or roads of the metropolis. With the nearest neighbour index of 0.5 and z-score of -5.1, the gated developments have a cluster spatial pattern of distribution. It is recommended that policies should be in place to provide guidelines and regulations for locating and construction of gated estates in the metropolis.

Keywords: *Gated Communities, Metropolis, Estates, Cluster, Location, Size.*