

CAMP ENVIRONMENT, SOCIAL DISPLACEMENT AND WELL-BEING OF FEMALES IN SELECTED INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS' (IDPS) CAMPS IN THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY (FCT) ABUJA.

**ORIOLA, Bolanle; ADEOYE, Beatrice Damilola;
FASORANTI, Temitayo Victor**

&

ODEDOKUN, Ezekiel Adeyemi.

Department of Sociology

Federal University Oye-Ekiti

Ekiti State

bolanle.oriola@fuoye.edu.ng;

beatrice.adeoye@fuoye.edu.ng;

fasoranti@fuoye.edu.ng;

adeyemi.odedokun@fuoye.edu.ng

Abstract

The frequency and intensity of violence in Northern Nigeria with its associated humanitarian crises have necessitated the establishment of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camps in the region. While these camps offer temporary shelters for displaced vulnerable groups, especially women and children, there are certain conditions in such camps like lack of social and basic facilities, unsafe buildings, lack of economic opportunities and security that may predispose them to further incidence of gender-based violence while seeking shelter and survival. Thus, the study examined the relationship between the social environment of IDPs camps and the well-being of female inmates in some selected IDPs camps located in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja, Nigeria. The study adopted a combination of quantitative and qualitative design methods. The simple random sampling technique was utilized to select eight hundred and fifty-two (852) females on whom copies of questionnaire were administered. Findings revealed that there are diverse manifestations of gender-based violence in the IDPs camps due to the poor camp environment such as no access to basic needs and facilities, insecurity, poor buildings, drug use etc. The study findings show that the camp environment conditions have significant effects on the experience of sexual and gender-based violence $F(3,840) = 132.41, p < .05$. This has implication for the social well-being of the females in the IDP camps. The study recommends that the government should provide proper incentives for a comfortable camp environment and proper management of the displaced persons' social well-being.

Keywords: Camp Environment; Humanitarian Crises; Internally Displaced Persons; Social Displacement; Social well-being.

Introduction

Natural disasters such as earthquake, volcano, land slide and social disasters, among them, ethno-religious, herders-farmers conflicts and terrorism, are a threat to human existence. They constitute security threats and challenges that contemporary societies have had to contend with, including developing societies (Mohammed, 2017). Incidentally, Nigeria is currently battling with the phenomenon of internal displacement occasioned by the activities of religious sects like *Boko Haram* and ISWAP (Islamic State West Africa Province), herders/farmers conflicts and other non-state armed groups conflicts in the country (Onuoha, 2016; Mohammed, 2014). Consequently, the number of displaced people has continued to rise exponentially owing to these conflicts that have overwhelmed the country since the return to democracy in 1999 (Lenshie (2016). The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA, 2020) specifically estimated that attacks by the Boko-Haram sect alone, had resulted in the social displacement of over 60,000 people. Women, the elderly and children are the most affected by the activities of non-state armed groups like the Boko-Haram Islamist sect in Nigeria (Mohammed, 2014).

The social environment includes the cultures, the families, the organisation of individual work and its strategies to manage their lives. Any environment is a function of a constant contact between natural and human elements, social processes and interpersonal relationships, so as not to exist in an isolation environment (Barnett, & Casper, 2001). According to WHO (2010), for women and young adolescent girls living in overcrowded displacement camps, resources are recoiling and their flexibility is pushed to the limits. Even though early/forced marriage was usually practiced among different communities in Northern Nigeria before the armed conflict started, the figure of such marriages have severely risen consequent upon their displacement status (Human Rights Watch, 2016), and somewhat due to the security and socio-economic complications families are going through in the camps; including increased poverty levels, reduced freedom of movement, lack of occupation opportunities and food availability and narrow access to education (Oladeji, 2015).

Conceptual Clarifications

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Internally displaced persons are people who have been forced or coerced from their homes or places of habitual residence, especially as a result of, or in order to avoid the effects of military conflict, general disorder or human rights violations and who have not crossed a recognised State.(United Nations Humanitarian Right, 2021). IDPs may also be defined as individuals who have been forced to flee or leave their own country because of armed conflicts, human rights violations, widespread violence, or natural catastrophes within their own boundaries (WHO, 2010).

The plight of displaced persons has developed into a daunting global issue in recent years (Ladan, 2012). Globally, the total number of displaced people is reportedly estimated to be about 50 million people, with the majority residing in Africa and Asia. Displacement throughout the nation is a frequent occurrence as a result of sectarian unrest and internal armed conflict. While some tensions tend to be motivated by religious or ethnic disparities, the violence in a nation with endemic poverty, low levels of education, and a large and marginalised young population is typically motivated by political, social, and economic gains (Ocha, T. (2003). Among the factors examined in this report are insurgency, terrorism, and natural disasters.

Social well-being alongside physical and mental prosperity add to great well-being. At the point when we experience disquiet or apprehension in friendly circumstances it very well may be

not difficult to accept that you have social uneasiness. This can here and there be troubling as individuals are intrinsically friendly animals. We live respectively in gatherings, grouping in urban communities and towns with families or companions. The great majority of people do not spend a lot of time alone. The desire to be part of a group is a common motive. As a general rule, our well-being may be influenced by the number and quality of our supportive groups and social ties (Mariachiara 2014).

The term "social well-being" refers to one's ability to establish and maintain regular, meaningful relationships with the people around him or her, such as family, friends, co-workers, and neighbours. Having connections and behaving appropriately in these interactions, as well as adhering to appropriate social norms, is an essential part of social success. The most significant influence on our lives comes from our relationships with our families, the fundamental social unit (Sinclair, 2021). Nearly all camps and many local communities housing displaced individuals in and around Maiduguri reported high levels of sexual assault, including rape and other types of sexual abuse. Sexual harassment and rape against internally displaced individuals are often ignored by the Nigerian government, a UNCHR (2018) poll found. Terror, shame, and other cultural factors have intensified this pandemic of violence, and abusers have gained immunity as a consequence, leading to under-reporting of incidents to the right authorities.

Social Displacement

Social displacement refers to the disengagement and loss of personality, home, or culture experienced by individuals and groups. It can occur among migrants as well as in communities where people feel isolated or excluded. Displacement can result from conflicts in society, job loss, and disconnection from cultural ties, leading to weaker connections among individuals and groups, and a loss of integration in society. Displacement is a complex issue that arises during major crises and the majority of displaced people seek safety in neighbouring countries or as internally displaced persons (Jeffrey & Yongmeil (2022).

Literature Review

Camp Environment

The interaction of social and economic powers within a society is primarily of social economic concern. Social economics may assist in describing how a particular social group or socio-economic division functions within a society, including its behaviour as a consumer. A person's socio-economic status may have a significant impact on his or her educational and financial security. The contact that may take place in person or through communication channels, may be private or one-way, and may not mean social equality. The term "social setting" encompasses a wider range of concepts than "social class" or "social circle" (Barnett& Casper, 2001).

The physical environment, social relationships, and cultural environments in which defined groups of individuals operate and communicate provide a human social environment, depending on human social background. Climate building, industrial and labour market, social and economic systems, wealth, social, individual, health, power relations, government, racial relations and social inequality are all components of a social environment and include cultural values, architecture, religious institutions and activities as well as the mindset towards local and cultural affairs. The social universe includes many aspects of the physical environment as modern forests, water supply and other natural resources have at least partly been influenced by social processes (Barnett & Casper 2001).

The social environment includes the cultures, the families, the organisation of individual work and its strategies to manage their lives. Any environment is a function of a constant contact between natural and human elements, social processes and interpersonal relationships, so as not to exist in an isolation environment (Yen & Syme, 1999).

Camp Social Environment of the IDPs

Indeed, displacement has several serious consequences, including economic insecurity, such as loss of livelihood, unemployment, and limited access to natural resources on which individuals and communities depend, as well as a lack of access to shared resources and involuntary removal of aid, both of which make it difficult to maintain a situation where displacement is a possibility (Oyefera & Alabi, 2016). Cernea (2000) said that food poverty is one of the pressing problems for displaced people and is caused by hunger, displacement and lack of access to basic facilities. Similarly, malnutrition among displaced persons, especially adolescent females and women, is recognised as a particularly serious issue. One of the direct social impacts of migration that was extensively studied in literature has been the deterioration of state of health (Oyeferas&Alabi, 2016), primarily as a result of a lack of access to safe potable water and sanitation, as well as a direct impact on progressive economic degradation leading to psychological distress, mental illness and loneliness, as groups particularly vulnerable to health risks associated with development-induced relocation, adolescent females, mothers or elderly persons whose prosperity was much lower than men under normal terms (Terminski, 2013) have been found.

According to the UNHCR (2010), a significant majority of internally displaced people in the world are women. The women make up an important part of the overall internal displacement community and, since they lose their livelihoods, have less access to aid and are unable to find jobs, they are considered to be more at risk than any other communities impacted. They also lose permanent social and cultural ties, which threaten their relations and disturb or lose educational opportunities for their children (Oyefera & Alabi, 2016). Furthermore, their claims to housing, land and property are difficult to exercise and they are also removed from decision-making processes. They are also more vulnerable to physical, mental, and other domestic abuse depending on gender. This is often compounded by an increasing alcoholism, which is common for men to feel hijacked and insecure (Ghimire, 2012; Oyefera & Alabi, 2016). All of these are thought capable of leading to depression and physical deterioration, as a post-traumatic stress syndrome (Oyefera&Alabi, 2016). The widespread perception of insecurity is used to describe defamation, victimhood, deprivation, shame, and the reliance on specific classes within a society (Olanrewaju et al., 2019).

Social Well-being, Camp Coping Style and Strategies

The primary tactic used by all IDPs is to seek assistance from nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) and individuals. The invisibility of IDPs refers to host societies' institutional/governmental laxity against IDPs. Charity groups are the primary providers of humanitarian aid. Unlike those living in Government-run camps, those living in unaccredited facilities depend on contributions from FBOs, individuals, and non-governmental organisations (Olanrewaju et al., 2019).

Theoretical Framework

Social Disorganization Theory

The Social disorganization theory is one of the prominent classical sociological theories of crime. This theory which was the brain child of the Chicago school of thought, was prominent in the works of Shaw and McKay (1942). The duo utilized spatial mapping system to study the residential dynamics and incidents of criminality in Chicago city. The theory of social

disorganization is anchored on the notion that social disorganization results from a sudden and unexpected breakdown in the usual and habitual way of life of a people. The theory argues that whenever and wherever there is social disorganization, there will be a spike in the rate and propensity of crime.

Shaw and McKay developed their assumptions from the premise that criminality is not evenly dispersed across time and space in the city, but that crime is concentrated in a particular area of the city noting that the incidence of crime is relatively consistent within some areas of the city despite continual changes in the population dynamics. For instance, they observed that in some particular areas of the city, despite changes in the socio-demographic characteristics of the resident's crime rate remains stable in such areas.

Applied to this study, it could be argued that gender-based violence such as verbal abuse, sexual harassment, as well as denial of rights and coercion, are the consequences of social displacement. This implies that many of the victims of displacement are individuals that have experienced one form of social disorganization or the other in their places of abode. For example, many of the displaced persons from Northeastern Nigeria, especially women and children, who moved into the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja, did so as a result of Boko Haram activities. Mohammed (2014) attributed the social displacement of many people living in IDP camps in Nigeria to the activities of insurgents.

Methodology

The study is both quantitative and qualitative in nature. It utilized the simple random sampling technique to select eight hundred and fifty-two (852) female respondents on whom copies of the questionnaire were administered. Four camps were purposively selected. Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and Key Informant Interview (KII) sessions were carried out among selected displaced women and girls, camp officials, NGO officials. Data collected from the FGDs and KIIs were sorted using content analysis while data from questionnaire were analysed with Two-Way Ancova, Correlation and Regression Analysis.

Findings and Discussion

Table 1.1: Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

| Characteristics | Frequency | Percentage | X² |
|------------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Age | | | 67.690 (3), p =.001 |
| 15-20 | 113 | 13.3 | |
| 20-25 | 273 | 32.0 | |
| 25-30 | 236 | 27.7 | |
| 30 and above | 230 | 27.0 | |
| Total | 852 | 100.0 | |
| Marital Status | | | 1494.0 (3), p = .001 |
| Married | 697 | 81.8 | |
| Single | 113 | 13.3 | |
| Separated | 10 | 1.2 | |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Widow | 32 | 3.8 | |
| Total | 852 | 100 | |
| Religious Affiliation | | | 69.878 (1), p = .004 |
| Christianity | 304 | 35.7 | |
| Islam | 548 | 64.3 | |
| Total | 852 | 100.0 | |
| State of Origin | | | 1506.1 (2), p = .001 |
| Borno | 818 | 96.0 | |
| Adamawa | 15 | 1.8 | |
| Yobe | 19 | 2.2 | |
| Total | 852 | 100.0 | |
| Original Place of Residence | | | 1512.7 (4), p = .001 |
| Gwoza | 619 | 72.2 | |
| Adamawa | 42 | 4.9 | |
| Yobe | 81 | 9.5 | |
| Maiduguri | 3 | 0.4 | |
| Chibok | 107 | 12.6 | |
| Total | 852 | 100.0 | |
| Sex | | | 844.0(1), p = .003 |
| Females | | | |
| Total | 852 | 100.0 | |
| IDPs Centres | | | 175.587 (3), p = .010 |
| Wassa | 361 | 42.4 | |
| Durumi | 237 | 27.8 | |
| Kuje Pegi | 135 | 15.8 | |
| New Kuchingoro | 119 | 14.0 | |
| Total | 852 | 100.0 | |

Source: Author's fieldwork, 2023

Table 1.1 shows the socio-demographic characteristics of the participants. The distribution of the respondents according to their age reveals that more than one-quarter are between 20 and 25 years (32.0%), 25-30 years (27.7%) and above 30 years. Less than 20.0% are between 15 and 20 years. The chi-square goodness-of-fit conducted to ascertain whether the distributions were due to chance ($X^2 = 67.690$, $df = 3$, $p = .001$). The findings show that majority of the respondents were youths, in their economically active ages. Also, the table indicates that most (81.8%) of the respondents are married, while less than 20.0% are single (13.3%), widowed (3.8%) and separated (1.2%). This finding is significant ($X^2 = 1494.0$, $df = 3$, $p = .001$). The observed high number of married among the respondents is high. The religious characteristics of the respondents indicated that majority of the respondents are significantly ($X^2 = 69.878$, $df = 1$, $p = .004$) Muslim (64.3%). This is expected because the far northern part of Nigeria is believed to be dominated by Muslims.

A close observation of the table also reveals that almost all of them (96.0%) were from Borno State, while the remaining respondents were from Yobe (2.2%) and Adamawa (1.8%). The outcome here is that Borno accounted for the highest percentage of displaced respondents because it is the epicentre of the Boko-Haram activities. This is in line with the study conducted by Busuguna (2022) which found that majority of current internally displaced persons in Nigeria were from Borno followed by Adamawa and Yobe States. The distribution of the respondents according to their places of origin indicated that more than half of them were from Gwoza (72.2%), very few of them were from Chibok (12.6%); Yobe (9.5%), Adamawa (4.9%) and Maiduguri (0.4%). These distributions were found to be statistically significant ($X^2 = 1512.7$, $df = 3$, $p = .001$). This finding complements the already established fact that the northern Nigeria is faced with more serious security challenges than any other part of the country. This finding is statistically significant ($X^2 = 67.690$, $df = 3$, $p = .001$).

Table 1.2 Environmental Characteristics of IDP Camps in Abuja

| Camp Variables | Environment | Freq. | % | \bar{X} | SD | X^2 | Rank of Camp environment challenges faced |
|--|-------------|------------|--------------|-----------|--------|----------------------------|---|
| Unsafe Building: <i>The building I live in is unsafe</i> | | | | 2.808 | 1.8852 | 214.739(2), $p = .001$ | 4th |
| Strongly Agree & Agree | | 423 | 49.6 | | | | |
| Indecisive | | 88 | 10.3 | | | | |
| Strong Disagree & Disagree | | 341 | 40.0 | | | | |
| Total | | 852 | 100.0 | | | | |
| Drug use prevalence: <i>Rowdy camp environment & prevalence of miscreants and drug addicts</i> | | | | | | | |
| Strongly Agree & Agree | | 228 | 26.8 | 4.592 | 1.1482 | 1144.711(2), $p = .000$ | 5th |
| Indecisive | | 30 | 3.5 | | | | |
| Strong Disagree & Disagree | | 594 | 69.7 | | | | |
| Total | | 852 | 100.0 | | | | |

Access to economic opportunities:*No access to economic activities within the camp*

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------|--------------|-------|--------|-------------|-----|
| Strongly Agree & Agree | 626 | 73.5 | 2.061 | 1.7669 | 187.793(1), | 3rd |
| Undecided | 0 | 0.0 | | | p =.002 | |
| Strong Disagree & Disagree | 226 | 26.5 | | | | |
| Total | 852 | 100.0 | | | | |

Access to basic provision:*Women's basic needs are not provided in the camp*

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------|--------------|-------|--------|--------------|-----|
| Strongly Agree & Agree | 771 | 91.2 | 1.352 | 1.1299 | 1287.634(2), | 2nd |
| Undecided | 1 | 0.1 | | | p=.021 | |
| Strong Disagree & Disagree | 74 | 8.7 | | | | |
| Total | 852 | 100.0 | | | | |

Access to services:*Limited Supply of relief materials:*

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------|--------------|-------|-------|--------------|-----|
| Strongly Agree & Agree | 838 | 98.4 | 1.038 | .3043 | 1621.211(2), | 1st |
| Undecided | 12 | 1.4 | | | p =.014 | |
| Strong Disagree & Disagree | 2 | 0.2 | | | | |
| Total | 852 | 100.0 | | | | |

Source: Author's fieldwork, 2023**(a) Unsafe Building**

As seen from the table almost half of the respondents strongly affirmed that the building, they resided in were unsafe (49.6%), while 40.0% held a different view. A few (10.3%) of them were indecisive of whether the buildings unsafe or not. This finding was found significant ($X^2 = 214.739$, $df=2$, $= .001$). Living in unsafe buildings has implications for the health and wellness of the respondents. These views as expressed by the participants in this study, account for why the vulnerable populations of the displaced, do all sorts of odd jobs in the course of which many end up being sexually abused. One of the respondents noted thus:

“When we got here, I didn’t believe this will be our place of residence for this long. But I am already used to it now though very porous and uncondusive for all weather”.FGD1/20years/Durumi/Borno/Trader

From the views canvassed above, one could say that the participants were just coping with their present environment and the government seems not to care about their well-being. This shows that there is a perception of bad camp environment which could predispose these vulnerable populations to sexual and gender-based violence.

(a) Drug Use Prevalence

Regarding camp population density, many (67.9%) of the respondents noted that the camp was not rowdy and that miscreants and drug addicts were not much in the camp. A very few (3.5%) were undecided about this view. More than one-quarter (26.8%) of the respondents indicated that the camp was rowdy, and dominated by miscreants and drug addicts. Chi square-goodness-of-fit analysis shows that these findings were significant ($X^2 = 1144.711$, $df=2$, $= .000$).

(b) Access to economic opportunities

The opinion of respondents on accessibility to economic opportunities revealed that majority (73.5%) of the respondents were significantly ($X^2 = 187.793$, $df=1$, $= .002$) in support of the view that females do not have access to economic activities within the IDPs camps in Abuja, while 26.5% thought otherwise. The above finding is supported by the response of some of the FGD participants.

A young adolescence girl who was not comfortable with the camp situation regarding economic opportunities had this to say:

“...Initially I engaged in petty trading outside the camp for my parents because no money to sustain myself and my old parents. I believe government is at fault; they did not care about us here at all”.FGD3/ 15years old/Kuje-Pegi/Borno/Single.

Another participant had this to say in Hausa language:

I have no husband again; he was killed by Boko-haram elements. We live from hand to mouth here...it has not been easy at all (FGD1/ 27/Durumi/Borno/widow).

(c) Access to Basic Provision

A close observation of the responses of the respondents in table 1.2 on the provision of their basic needs in the camp shows that a significant proportion ($X^2 = 1287.634$, $df=2$, $= .021$) noted that women's basic needs were not adequately met in the camps. Only few (8.7%) had a contrary view, while a negligible segment was undecided (0.1%). Access to basic needs is one of the challenges faced by many of the respondents in their various camps. The impact of diets on their families and especially their children, and elderly was a significant concern expressed by six of the respondents as follows:

I am concerned about my family. My child should be well fed, even if I can't get enough. My elderly husband as well. We need proteineous foods. (FGD1/ 29/Durumi/Borno/married).

Another respondent added thus;

Some members and I in this camp used to eat cooked root flakes, especially the cassava flake raw rather than the cooked/processed ones because there is no place to get kerosene or gas to cook (FGD1/ 30/Durumi/Borno/married).

A respondent further shared her experience thus.

“We came here with our children, and we struggled very much for children to get the food they require. Because you know, as children, they require good food, so that they can live but no means of working to achieve this (FGD3/24/Kuje-Pegi/Yobe/married)

In the view of a participant who is twenty years of age, lack and poverty were highlighted as some of the challenges in the camp. She reacted thus:

No bath room pace to bath, I always do my bathing around 5am before morning prayers. In fact, the experience here is bad. This made me suffer a lot (FGD/Durumi /20 years/Borno/married/skilled).

The response above shows that participants had problem with access to bathroom inside the camps. Probing further, a participant confessed that she would do better if she is given financial assistance. Another participant expressed her frustration as follows:

I do feel bad when having urge to urinate or defecate, because the toilet here is bad and no alternative means. Life has been difficult living or staying here doing nothing (FGD 4/Wassa / 15 years/Adamawa /Single)

Another participant said:

“In the last one year of my being in this camp, insufficiency of water and electricity has been a recurrent issue. I think the government is not really concerned about us here at all and we have little or nothing to live on here (FGD2/New-Kuchingoro/2years/Borno/married).

Furthermore, internally displaced people (IDPs) face a variety of challenges inside the camp, the most common of which are food shortages, overcrowding, inadequate medical treatment, and general safety concerns. Many IDPs in the camp say they are starving to death because of lack of food supplies. An FGD informant at the New-Kuchingoro camp confirmed that:

We have not enough food to eat here in the camp; we are always hungry because, in the past two months, the government people have not brought us food. As I am talking to you now, I and my kid siblings have not eaten since morning. We always eat our little breakfast late in the afternoon to be able to take us till the second day (FGD2/New-Kuchingoro/28years/Adamawa/married).

Another respondent shared his ordeals thus:

The camp is not fit for human shelter because it lacks adequate facilities such as; light, water, and good roads. (FGD3/Kuje-Pegi /28years/Yobe/married).

Despite the purported efforts of the governments, there were cases of inadequacy of social amenities among the IDPs.

(d) Access to Services

From table 1.2, it is evident that almost all of the respondents affirmed that relief materials supplied to women in the camp were limited (98.4%), while 1.4% of the respondents was undecided about the adequacy of relief materials. A small segment (0.2%) however, held a different view. Lack of access to basic services such as health, security, education, etc., makes the respondents more socio-economically vulnerable.

Table 1.3: Social Wellbeing and Lived Experiences of Female IDPs

| Social Wellbeing Lived Experience of Female IDPs | Freq. | % | \bar{X} | SD | Chi square | Rank |
|--|------------|--------------|-----------|--------|-------------------------|------|
| Peace: | | | | | | |
| <i>There are enough security agents in my camp</i> | | | | | | |
| Strongly Agree & Agree | 376 | 44.1 | 2.357 | 1.3537 | 174.958(2), p = .022 | 2nd |
| Indecisive | 374 | 43.9 | | | | |
| Strong Disagree & Disagree | 102 | 12.0 | | | | |
| Total | 852 | 100.0 | | | | |
| Social Stability: | | | | | | |
| <i>There is no proper arrangement of people in my camp</i> | | | | | | |
| | | | 1.10 | .635 | 766.272(1), p = .021 | 5th |

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------|--------------|
| Strongly Agree & Agree | 830 | 97.4 |
| Strong Disagree & Disagree | 22 | 2.6 |
| Total | 852 | 100.0 |

Happiness:

4th

Women in the camp live lonely

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------|--------------|-------|-------|-------------------------|
| Strongly Agree & Agree | 791 | 92.8 | 1.230 | .8692 | 1357.951(2), p =.003 |
| Indecisive | 24 | 2.8 | | | |
| Strong Disagree & Disagree | 37 | 4.3 | | | |
| Total | 852 | 100.0 | | | |

Good Relationships:

*Women are reservedly verbally
abused in my camp*

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------|--------------|-------|--------|----------------------------|
| Strongly Agree & Agree | 341 | 40.0 | 2.664 | 1.5559 | 1293.092(2), 1st p=.001 |
| Indecisive | 313 | 36.7 | | | |
| Strong Disagree & Disagree | 198 | 23.2 | | | |
| Total | 852 | 100.0 | | | |

Freedom and equal right:

*Women are often denied right to freely
expressed themselves*

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------|--------------|-------|--------|-----------------------------|
| Strongly Agree & Agree | 731 | 86.4 | 1.526 | 1.3384 | 1621.211(2), 3rd p =.010 |
| Indecisive | 8 | 0.9 | | | |
| Strong Disagree & Disagree | 108 | 12.7 | | | |
| Total | 852 | 100.0 | | | |

Source: Author's fieldwork, 2023

(i) Peace

Table 1.3 presents the lived experiences of females in IDPs camps in Abuja in relation to their social well-being. As seen in the table, more than one-quarter of the respondents affirmed that there was enough security in the camp while less than 20.0% disputed adequate security in the camp. These findings are statistically significant ($X^2 = 174.958$ df =2, = .022). Feeling safe, stable and secure are important parts of man's sense of wellbeing.

(ii) **Social Stability**

As seen in table 1.3 almost, all (97.4%) of the respondents argued that people were not socially stable while only 2.6% of the respondents supported that people were socially stable. The table further shows that these findings are statistically significant ($X^2 = 766.272$ df=1, = .021).

(iii) **Happiness**

Happiness is related to social wellbeing, as it provides different physical and psychological strength to continue to enjoy different activities of life as well as living with family and friends. Despite being with their husbands in the camp, majority (92.8%) of the respondents significantly ($X^2 = 1357.951$ df=2, = .003) affirmed that women lived a life of loneliness in the camp, as seen in table 4.3, while only 2.8% were undecided. Nonetheless, less than 10.0% were not in support of the view that women in the camp lived a lonely life. The implication of this finding is that respondents who are unhappy and do live a lonely life are less likely to be mentally and economically stable and productive, than those who live happily.

(iv) **Good Relationship**

It is observable from table 1.3 that more than one-quarter of the respondents (40.0%) concurred that women were verbally abused in their camps, while 36.7% were unable to affirm this. However, more than 20.0% of the respondents indicated that women were not verbally abused in their camps. It is further seen in table 1.3 that these findings are statistically significant ($X^2 = 1293.092$ df=2, = .001). In support of the above finding, the head of the women unit in the camp on social functioning, had this to say:

I have to tell you this, some of these people are not acceptable to the society, they are experiencing a different world entirely, and they need to be reconnected to the society (KII / 30years/Government Official /BSC /Married

On social well-being, she said;

Some of them are not emotionally stable even as there not enough medical facilities to help them; I can't imagine you (researcher) helping us out. We need help"

(v) **Freedom and Equal Right**

Table 1.3 examines the state of freedom and right of women in IDP camps in the study area. It is evident from the table that women were often denied the right to freely express themselves, while less than 1.0% were undecided about this. Nonetheless, some (12.7%) of the respondents were not in support of the opinion that women in the camps were often denied their right to free express themselves.

The implication of this is that many women in the camp are likely to be unhappy as found in table 1.3 because they were regularly verbally abused either by family members or other camp members and are denied the right to self-expression. This might have caused them to withdraw and reduce their social interaction within the camp. All indications from Table 1.3 show poor social wellbeing among the respondents. The implication of this is that the socio-economic wellbeing of the respondents is negatively affected. A participant conveyed the reservation this way:

What happened to me is as a result of Boko Haram insurgency separation from my family which create my difficulty (FGD2/Durumi/ 18years/Borno/ single).

Another participant, expressed herself in this way:

“I love been okay; but my situation here is worst and so, I have to sell my body at times for survival despite that I was married before I got here”. (FGD3/Wassa/21years/Adamawa/Separated).

The issue of social well-being was also demonstrated in the words of another adolescent female participant in the following words:

I love going out to celebrate/felicitate with my friends and people of like passion in my usual place of residence and it is difficult for me to do so here am not feeling well here at all. (FGD1/Borno/17years/Kuje-Pegi /married).

A participant noted that:

...because of intra-camp petty stealing and brutality, especially among children in the camp. We have been living in fear. Unknown men are mostly perceived as dangerous. No rest of mind (FGD4/Adamawa/27years/Wassa/married).

Summarily, there are reports which identified unconducive environment as a major plight confronting the IDPs in Abuja.

Summary of Major Findings

The summary of major findings of the research are:

- i. The accommodation facilities in the IDPs camp are unsafe and the condition of the environment is unpleasant. ($X^2 = 214.739$, $df=2$, $= .001$).
- ii. The level of females' social and physical activities experienced across the selected camps was found to poor. ($X^2 = 187.793$, $df=1$, $= .002$).
- iii. In line with this concept, it could be inferred that females in IDPs camps are still battling with conflict of social safety as they are faced with increased risk of gender-based violence as a result of living in unsafe buildings. ($X^2 = 214.739$, $df=2$, $= .001$).
- iv. The study revealed high levels of hunger and inadequacy of basic needs among the females in the IDPs camps ($X^2 = 1287.634$, $df=2$, $= .021$).
- v. The study revealed that there is a significant association between participants' camp environment and their social well-being. ($X^2 = 1357.951$ $df=2$, $= .003$)

Conclusion

The aim of the study was to examine the correlations between camp environment and social well-being of females living in IDP camps in Abuja, Nigeria. The specific objectives were to: assess the effect of unsafe building on social well-being of women and young adolescent girls in IDPs; examine the effect of overcrowded camps on the social well-being of women and young adolescent girls in IDPs; assess the effects of low economic opportunities on the social well-being of women and young adolescent girls in IDPs; examine the effects of exposure to gender-based violence (GBV) on the social well-being of women and young adolescent girls in IDPs & assess the effect of inadequate facilities on the social well-being of women and young adolescent girls in IDPs.

Recommendations

In order to improve the social environment of displaced females in the IDPs camps covered by this study and enhance their well-being, the following recommendations are made:

- (a) There is need to improve the camp situation and make it more habitable for the dwellers by providing adequate facilities for improved living.

- (b) Proper and adequate skill acquisition programmes should be put in place to keep the displaced females in the IDP camps busy and safe within the confines of the camps.
- (c) There is need to develop an intervention programme as well as coping skill strategies to harness the needs of those displaced in the camps and prepare them for integration into society, taking cognizance of the trauma they encountered, especially the challenge of meeting their daily needs within and outside the camps.
- (d) There is a further need for administrative restructuring of the displaced persons' camp environment to give the dwellers a sense of positive social well-being.

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