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Research Paper

Examining The Potential of Dry Construction in Addressing Temporary Housing Deficit in Gujba Internally Displaced Person Camp of Yobe State

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Abstract
This study investigates thepotential of dry construction methods within the Gujba Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp in Yobe State, Nigeria. Given the urgent need for efficient and sustainable housing solutions for displaced populations, this research emphasizes the role of dry construction in addressing these challenges.The literature review explores global housing conditions in IDP camps, the principles and benefits of dry constructionin housing provision. These insights set the context for understanding the housing situation in Gujba IDP camp.The methodology employed a quantitative approach, utilizing structured questionnaires to collect data from camp residents. This method provided a comprehensive understanding of residents' experiences with different housing types, including tents, dry construction houses, temporary shelter containers, and mud houses.The results reveal a diverse range of housing within the camp, with dry construction methods standing out for their efficiency, sustainability, and adaptability. Despite their potential, challenges such as material shortages and logistical constraints were identified. The analysis also highlighted gender disparities in perceptions of housing suitability, emphasizing the need for gender-sensitive approaches in housing interventions.

Keywords: *Dry construction, housing deficits, IDP camp, sustainable building, emergency housing.*

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I. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, Yobe State, in northeast Nigeria, has been besieged by a persistent humanitarian crisis due to the ongoing insurgency waged by Boko Haram. The prolonged conflict has forcibly displaced thousands, leading to the establishment of numerous Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps across the state. Amidst the myriad challenges posed by this crisis, there is an urgent need toexplore innovative solutions to one of its most critical aspects: housing for the displaced population.

Housing holds immense significance in human history, serving as a primary indicator of an individual's standard of living and societal status (UNCHS, 1993). Housing conditions also reflect the living standards of a community (Venkatarama, 2004). Therefore, the need for access to adequate housing becomes paramount. Unfortunately, most internally displaced people lack access to decent housing units due to lack of temporary accommodation and high costs of building materials (Ekhaese, et al. 2024). This has spurred research into developing new and innovative dry construction techniques to improve housing accessibility for all.

FIGURE 1: THE IMAGE SHOWING A MAKESHIFT LIVING ARRAGEMENT AT MARTAI IDP CAMP, WITH PERSONAL BELONGINGS AND COOKING SUPPLIES GATHERED AROUND A TREE. THIS HIGHLIGHT THE IMPROVISED NATURE OF THE LIVING CONDITIONS IN THE CAMP. (UNDP 2013)

This study embarks on an examination of the potential impact of dry construction methods on housing within the Gujba IDP camp. Traditional construction methods in IDP camps, which often rely on locally available materials and techniques, have shown limitations in resilience and environmental sustainability(Enwerekowe& Ibrahim, 2019). These methods, constrained by limited resources and infrastructure, struggle to meet the increasing demand for durable and cost-effective housing solutions within these camps. In light of these challenges, dry construction presents itself as a promising alternative.

Dry construction is a modern technique that deviates from the conventional use of wet materials like concrete and mortar. Instead, it utilizes prefabricated components such as light steel frames, timber framing, and modular construction (Bris, 2008). These methods have gained attention for their benefits, including faster construction timelines, enhanced cost-effectiveness, reduced on-site labor dependency, and improved quality control. Describing the dry construction system as a modern building system that transforms the building process into an industrial process, Le (2014) emphasized its versatility and speed, allowing up to 70 percent time savings compared to traditional wet construction with bricks and blocks.

The unique situation of IDPs (traumatized, tired, vulnerable, women and children dominated) add complexity to the housing equation. The speed to shelter IDPs makes It crucial to assess how dry construction methods can be adapted to proffer housing solutions while withstandingenvironmental conditions, ultimately improving the resilience and sustainability of housing solutions for the displaced population. This study aims to delve into these aspects, providing a comprehensive understanding of the potential of dry construction to address temporary housing deficits in the Gujba IDP camp effectively.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The humanitarian crisis in northeast Nigeria, exacerbated by the Boko Haram insurgency, has led to the displacement of thousands of individuals, necessitating the establishment of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps across the region. One of the critical challenges faced in these camps is the provision of adequate temporary housing for displaced populations. Traditional construction methods often used in these settings, reliant on local materials and manual labor, struggle to meet the demand for safe, durable, and cost-effective housing solutions. In response to these challenges, dry construction methods have emerged as a viable alternative, offering advantages in speed, efficiency, and sustainability.

Dry construction refers to building techniques that minimize or eliminate the use of wet materials – concrete, mortar, and other solvent based materials – relying instead on prefabricated components assembled on-site (Adebayo, 2013). This method encompasses various systems, including light steel framing, timber framing, modular construction, and prefabricated panels. The core principles of dry construction include precision in manufacturing building materials and components; ease and accuracy of assembly; minimal on-site errors and material wastage, material/construction adaptability to diverse architectural designs and environmental conditions (Dam, 2024).

Dry construction methods offer several advantages over traditional wet methods. Firstly, they facilitate faster construction times due to the prefabricated nature of components, leading to reduced labor costs and shorter project durations (Taylor et al., 2018). This efficiency is particularly beneficial in emergency situations such as IDP camps, where rapid deployment of housing units is crucial.Secondly, dry construction promotes cleanliness and organization on construction sites by minimizing dust, debris, and construction waste (Johnson, 2019). This attribute is essential for maintaining hygienic conditions within IDP camps.Employing dry construction can eliminate some of the waste and contribute to the overall well-being of residents.Moreover, dry construction methods are known for their structural integrity and durability. Systems like steel framing and prefabricated panels ensure high-quality construction that meets or exceeds building standards, enhancing the safety and longevity of housing units (White & Davis, 2012). This durability is vital in regions prone to environmental stressors common in the northeast region of Nigeria.

Sustainability and Environmental Impact

Environmental sustainability is a key consideration in modern construction practices, particularly in contexts where resources are limited or environmental degradation is a concern. Dry construction methods contribute to this sustainability aspect via different means.When compared to conventional methods, it usually uses less water during building, which lowers water consumption and its impact on the environment(Brown, 2019). Dry construction's potential for dismantling helps to enhance resource management, which lowers waste in IDP camps. Unlike conventional construction methods, a true temporary structure can be disassembled (moved or enlarged) and reassembled with less waste (Resta et al., 2024).Additionally, the precision manufacturing of components allows for reiterative constructions techniques teachable to IPDs for easy assembly, further supporting sustainable building practices (Miller, 2019).

Furthermore, the adaptability of dry construction systems allows for the integration of energy-efficient technologies and sustainable building materials. Innovations such as insulated panels and renewable energy systems can be easily incorporated into prefabricated components, enhancing the overall energy performance of buildings in IDP camps (Johnson, 2011).

Challenges and Considerations

Despite the numerous advantages, dry construction methods face several challenges that must be addressed to optimize their effectiveness in IDP camps. One significant challenge is the initial cost of setting up manufacturing facilities for prefabricated components, which may be prohibitive for some humanitarian organizations or local governments (Anderson, 2019). Collaborative efforts between governmental bodies, NGOs, and private sector entities are essential to overcome financial barriers and scale up the adoption of dry construction in humanitarian settings.

Another consideration is the need for skilled labor and technical expertise to assemble prefabricated components on-site. Training programs and capacity-building initiatives are necessary to equip local communities with the skills required to participate in and benefit from dry construction projects (Taylor et al., 2018).

Moreover, the cultural and aesthetic preferences of displaced populations must be taken into account when designing housing solutions using dry construction methods. Engaging communities in the planning and design process ensures that housing units are not only functional and durable but also culturally appropriate and conducive to community well-being (Lopez et al., 2022).

Application of Dry Construction Methods in IDP Camps

Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps worldwide face substantial challenges related to housing, exacerbated by conflicts, natural disasters, and socio-economic instability. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR, 2021) highlights the global scale of forced displacement, emphasizing the urgent need for effective housing solutions in such settings. Similarly, the International Organization for Migration (IOM, 2020) underscores the critical role of shelter in the well-being of displaced populations, further illustrating the housing deficits that plague IDP camps.

Traditional housing methods, including the use of tents, temporary shelter containers, and mud houses, have been extensively documented. These methods, while providing immediate relief, often fall short in terms of durability and comfort (World Architecture Community, n.d.). Oxley and Smith (2012) discuss the role of

housing in the resettlement and integration of refugees, highlighting the limitations of temporary shelters in fostering long-term stability and community cohesion.

Dry construction methods, encompassing prefabrication and modular construction, have emerged as promising alternatives to traditional housing solutions. Bredenoord (2017) outlines the benefits of sustainable housing and building materials for low-income households, noting the efficiency and adaptability of dry construction techniques. Investopedia (n.d.) defines dry construction as a method involving the assembly of prefabricated components, which reduces construction time and labor costs.

The efficiency of dry construction is particularly pertinent in emergency settings like IDP camps, where rapid housing provision is essential. Shah and Sheth (2015) argue that dry construction can address housing needs more effectively by leveraging standardized components and streamlined processes. This approach not only expedites the construction process but also ensures consistency in quality and design.

Gender-sensitive approaches to housing are crucial in ensuring inclusivity and addressing the unique needs of displaced populations. Herbert and Monroe (2019) emphasize the importance of integrating gender-specific considerations into housing interventions, pointing out the disparities in housing preferences and requirements among different genders. Addressing these disparities can enhance the overall effectiveness and acceptance of housing solutions within IDP camps.

Community involvement in housing projects is another critical factor in the success of housing interventions. Active engagement of residents in the planning, implementation, and maintenance of housing projects fosters a sense of ownership and empowerment. Ritchie and Lewis (2003) highlight the importance of community participation in ensuring the relevance and sustainability of development initiatives.

Despite its advantages, dry construction is not without challenges. Material shortages, logistical constraints, and local conditions can impact the feasibility of dry construction projects (World Bank, 2017). Addressing these challenges requires a collaborative approach involving local authorities, humanitarian organizations, and construction suppliers.

The literature also points to the importance of continuous monitoring and evaluation of housing projects to ensure their effectiveness and sustainability. Freeman and Freeman (2018) advocate for regular assessments and adjustments based on feedback from residents and other stakeholders. This iterative process helps refine strategies and improve outcomes over time.

Case Studies and Applications

Several case studies demonstrate the successful application of dry construction methods in addressing housing deficits in various global contexts. For instance, projects utilizing light steel framing systems have been implemented in refugee camps in the Middle East, providing durable and weather-resistant housing solutions (Jones et al., 2020). Similarly, modular construction techniques have been deployed in disaster-prone regions of Asia and Latin America, showcasing the versatility and scalability of prefabricated building systems (Miller, 2019).

In the Nigerian context, pilot projects employing dry construction methods have shown promise in improving housing conditions for displaced populations. Research conducted by Adebayo (2013) highlights the efficacy of timber framing systems in achieving rapid construction timelines and cost efficiencies in IDP camps. These case studies underscore the potential of dry construction to transform housing delivery in humanitarian settings, offering sustainable and resilient solutions to complex challenges.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study focuses on Gujba IDP Camp in Yobe State, providing an in-depth analysis of the application and effectiveness of Dry Construction in alleviating housing challenges within the camp.

Population of the Study

The population under consideration comprises individuals residing in Gujba IDP Camp who have been directly affected by housing deficits. This includes men, women, and children who have experienced various forms of displacement and currently rely on the housing solutions provided within the camp. By focusing on this

population, the study aims to capture a comprehensive understanding of the housing challenges faced by IDP camp residents and the potential impact of Dry Construction techniques.

Sample and Sampling Procedure

A convenience sampling technique will be employed to select a proportionate and diverse sample from the population. Convenience sampling is chosen for its practicality and efficiency in accessing participants within the camp setting. This approach ensures that the sample is representative of the various demographics and experiences within the camp, providing a broad range of insights into the housing situation and the effects of Dry Construction. Efforts will be made to include participants from different age groups, genders, and backgrounds to ensure a well-rounded perspective.

Instrumentation

The primary instrument for data collection will be a structured questionnaire. The questionnaire will be designed to gather qualitative data on residents' experiences with Dry Construction and its effects on housing within the IDP camp. It will include sections on demographic information, housing conditions, satisfaction levels, and perceived benefits and challenges of Dry Construction.

Procedure for Data Collection

The data collection process will involve administering the questionnaires to selected respondents in Gujba IDP Camp. Trained research assistants will distribute the questionnaires and provide necessary assistance to ensure accurate and complete responses. This approach will allow researchers to clarify any ambiguities and gather additional contextual information that may not be captured in the written responses.

Procedure for Data Analysis

Collected data will be subjected to qualitative analysis to provide a comprehensive understanding of the impact of Dry Construction in addressing housing deficits. Thematic analysis will be applied to the qualitative responses from the open-ended questionnaire items. This method involves identifying recurring themes and patterns within the qualitative data, providing deeper insights into residents' perceptions, experiences, and suggestions.

The qualitative analysis will involve coding the responses, identifying key themes, and interpreting the data to uncover significant insights. By focusing on the qualitative aspects, the study aims to present a holistic view of the housing situation in Gujba IDP Camp and the potential role of Dry Construction in improving housing conditions.

The integration of these analytical methods will ensure that the study's findings are robust, reliable, and reflective of the diverse experiences and perspectives within the camp. Ultimately, this methodology will contribute to a better understanding of how Dry Construction can be utilized to address housing deficits in IDP camps, offering valuable insights for policymakers, humanitarian organizations, and construction practitioners involved in housing provision for displaced populations.

IV. ANALYSIS OF THE FINDINGS

Assessing the Current State of Housing in IDP Camps

The investigation into the housing conditions at the Gujba IDP camp reveals significant insights into the diverse living arrangements and the demographic characteristics of the residents. A notable gender disparity was observed among the respondents, with a higher number of male (37) compared to female (16) participants. This imbalance could reflect the broader camp population demographics or possibly an overrepresentation of male respondents in the survey.

The length of residence varied widely among respondents, indicating different levels of familiarity and adaptation to the camp's living conditions. Fourteen individuals had been residing in the camp for less than six months, while four had been there for over five years. This variation in residence duration is crucial for understanding the different perspectives on housing conditions and needs. Longer-term residents may have more

insights into the evolving housing situation and its challenges, whereas newer arrivals might provide fresh perspectives on immediate needs and initial impressions.

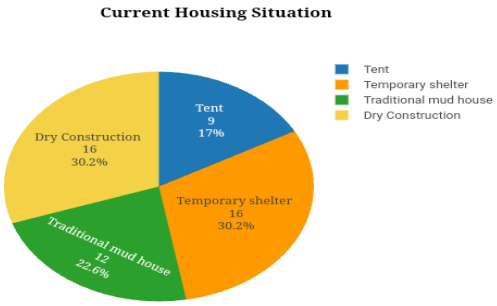

FIGURE 2; Current Housing Situation.

Temporary shelters, particularly tents, were prevalent among newer arrivals, with 16 respondents, primarily male, residing in these structures. This suggests that tents are the immediate solution for incoming displaced persons, providing quick, albeit temporary, relief. On the other hand, dry construction houses, which are more sustainable and offer better living conditions, were more commonly inhabited by individuals who had been in the camp for six months to one year. This trend indicates a potential shift towards more permanent and stable housing solutions over time.

Other housing types included temporary shelter containers and traditional mud houses. Each of these has its own set of advantages and disadvantages, influenced by factors such as construction speed, cost, durability, and cultural acceptance. Temporary shelters and dry construction methods together accounted for 30.2% of the respondents' housing. Interestingly, there were gender differences in housing preferences and conditions. Females more frequently resided in temporary shelters (50%), possibly due to specific allocation strategies or personal preferences. In contrast, dry construction houses were favored by those with six months to one year of residence (44.44%), suggesting a transition phase where residents move from temporary to more durable housing solutions.

Figure 3; The Image Depicts Dry Construction Building Within GujbaIdp Camp Of Yobe State.

Assessing the Effectiveness of Dry Construction for Housing in IDP Camps

The study highlights dry construction methods as a promising solution for improving housing conditions in IDP camps. Over one-third of the respondents found dry construction suitable for their needs, indicating a positive reception to this modern construction approach. However, gender disparities in perceptions were evident. Women, in particular, emphasized the importance of safety, comfort, and functionality in their housing. These priorities underscore the need for housing solutions that not only provide shelter but also create a secure and livable environment, especially for vulnerable groups.

The benefits of dry construction, such as faster construction times and sustainability, were highly valued by the respondents. In the context of IDP camps, where the need for rapid and scalable housing solutions is critical, these attributes of dry construction are particularly advantageous. Female respondents, who often face additional challenges in displacement settings, highlighted the importance of faster construction times, likely due to the urgent need for secure and stable housing.

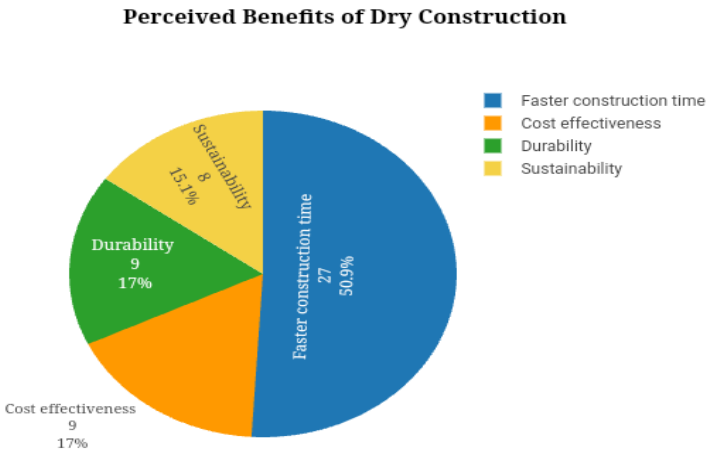

Figure 4; Perceived Benefits of Dry Construction

The Implementation of Dry Construction in Gujba IDP Camp

Residents of Gujba IDP camp showed a strong sense of optimism regarding the potential of dry construction methods to improve housing quality. A significant 69.2% of respondents expressed positive views about the future use of dry construction, indicating a broad acceptance and anticipation of its benefits. This optimism was consistent across different genders and lengths of residence, although there were variations in specific needs and expectations.

Gender differences and the length of residence highlighted the importance of tailored interventions. New arrivals might prioritize immediate shelter needs, while long-term residents could focus on housing improvements and sustainability. Addressing these diverse needs requires a nuanced approach that considers both the immediate and long-term requirements of the residents.

Figure 5; Difference in Length of Residence

Analyzing Challenges in Implementing Dry Construction Methods

Despite the positive reception, several challenges were identified in implementing dry construction methods in the Gujba IDP camp. The most significant challenge was the lack of materials, cited by 41.8% of respondents.

This shortage can severely hinder the scalability and sustainability of dry construction projects. Gender disparities were also evident in this context, with female respondents more frequently identifying material shortages as a primary obstacle. This difference might reflect varying levels of involvement in housing-related activities or differing perspectives on resource availability.

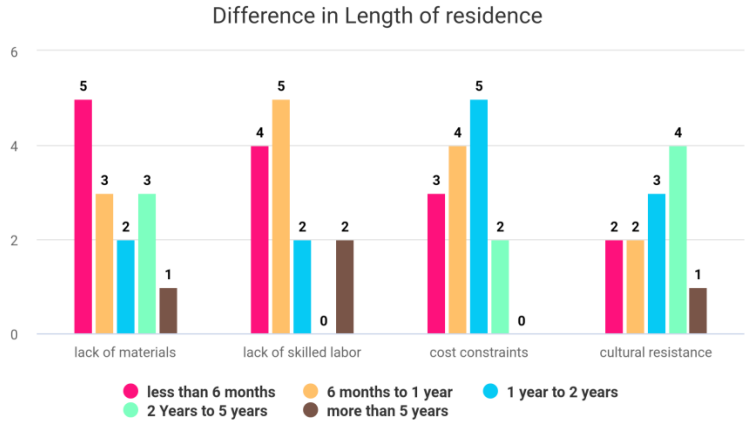

Figure 6; Difference in Length of Residence

Variations based on the length of residence indicated that newcomers urgently needed materials for immediate shelter, while long-term residents faced ongoing cost constraints. These insights underscore the need for a robust supply chain and financial support mechanisms to ensure that materials are consistently available and affordable for all residents.

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V. CONCULUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Conclusion

The analysis of housing conditions in the Gujba IDP camp highlights diverse housing types, including tents, dry construction houses, temporary shelter containers, and mud houses. Dry construction methods emerged as a promising solution, offering efficiency, sustainability, and adaptability. Community involvement and gender-sensitive approaches are crucial for the success of these initiatives. Despite the benefits, challenges such as material shortages and logistical constraints must be addressed to ensure effective implementation.

Recommendations

1. Address Material Shortages: Collaborate with local authorities, humanitarian organizations, and suppliers to establish sustainable supply chains and explore alternative materials. Invest in research to identify locally available and suitable materials for dry construction.

2. Community Involvement: Engage residents in planning, implementation, and maintenance of housing projects. Establish community-based organizations to oversee these initiatives and provide training for effective participation.

3. Continuous Monitoring and Evaluation: Implement regular monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the effectiveness of housing projects, gather feedback, and refine strategies. Ensure these processes are participatory and inclusive.

4. Infrastructure Development: Integrate infrastructure projects with housing initiatives to improve access to water, sanitation, and healthcare. Collaborate with stakeholders to create holistic solutions that meet the needs of the IDP community.

5. Livelihood Support: Offer vocational training, entrepreneurship development, and microfinance initiatives to empower residents economically and reduce dependency on aid.

6. Psychosocial Support: Provide counseling services, peer support groups, and recreational activities to address trauma and promote mental well-being among residents.

7. Capacity Building: Enhance residents' skills in construction-related areas through technical training, enabling them to participate actively in housing projects and pursue employment opportunities in the construction sector.

8. Research and Innovation: Invest in research to improve dry construction methods, enhance durability and thermal performance of housing units, and reduce environmental impact. Foster collaboration between researchers, practitioners, and community members.

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