



CONSIDERING SHELTER AND CLOTHING AS SURVIVING FACTORS IN ALL INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLES CAMPS IN NIGERIA.

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ABSTRACT

Amidst the challenges faced by Internally Displaced People (IDP) in Nigeria, this study delves into the pivotal role that architecture and textiles play within IDP camps. The thesis asserts that the artistic synergy of these elements goes beyond providing mere shelter and clothing, ultimately contributing to the fostering of hope and resilience among the displaced population. Through a comprehensive exploration of how artists and their works utilize textiles and architectural designs, the article aims to unravel the intricate relationship between these factors and their impact on the lives of those residing in IDP camps. By understanding this relationship, we take a step closer to envisioning a future where displaced lives are not merely sustained but allowed to flourish despite the adversities they face. The core discussion revolves around how the collective efforts of architects and textile artists transform IDP camps into environments where hope thrives amidst adversity. This exploration into the significance of architecture and textiles in IDP camps seeks to highlight the transformative potential of these elements in creating spaces that transcend basic survival, offering a glimpse into a more promising future for those affected.

Keywords: Internally Displaced Peoples (IDP), Architecture, Textiles, Survival, Hope, Resilience, Adversity, Artist, Transformative Spaces, Nigeria.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The fundamental necessities of all displaced people for political or religious reasons in Nigeria is pegged doom to a “stop” in the continued emotional and psychological trauma being experienced within the Internally Displaced People’s (IDPs) camps which in essence, could not be called a habitation. As described by Alan (2003) internally displaced peoples camps settlement must have inviting and appetizing outlook which can solve psychological and emotional problems. He went further to explain that they are industrially produced colourful cotton clothing with batik-inspired

printing. People who were forced to flee from their natural habitat have not only lost their basic residencies but the beauty, glamour, naturality and peace are all gone. The IDPS therefore cannot be equated to mean an alternative to what has been left behind conditionally.

In as much as one is trying to justify the efficacy and relevance of IDPs as an alternative, the rationale for this should also be brought to bear... that the type of coverage (dressing-clothing) and habitation (shelter or structures provided should be the one that can at least, bring a source of temporary relief to

the camps clothing and shelter therefore form the core of the significance and relevance to ameliorate the pains of those in IDPs. The transformative seal of art realistically can be made effective in these camps by simply applying the survivalist strategies... bring colours into the activities of people. Let colour be reflected in their dressing alongside attractive wall paintings murals, and creative installations which can positively be worked on.

In these camps, where they see as another life and families find themselves in unfamiliar surroundings, the role of architecture and textiles becomes the devils' alternative. Imagine a place where the warmth of a well-designed shelter and the comfort of suitable clothing stand as shields against the harsh realities of displacement. This is where art comes to play. Pamela and Margaret (2016) aptly outlines it as a human creation for others to see, use and enjoy, as it is tied to man's cultural, technological and creative skills.

Architecture, the art of crafting living spaces, steps into the forefront, creating havens amidst adversity. The layout of these shelters isn't just about walls and roofs; it's about providing a sense of stability, security and privacy. The design considers the unique needs of those seeking refuge, ensuring that spaces are functional, safe, and offer a semblance of normalcy. In planning and designing of interior decoration (IDPs) inclusive, one must basically consider the content of quality design for the personal purpose of decoration (Ford, 2000).

Furthermore, the artistic touch in these architectural endeavors is not merely aesthetic. It's a language that speaks to the inhabitants, telling them that they matter, that their dignity and well-being are at the forefront of the design. The colors chosen, the arrangement of spaces, and the overall ambiance contribute to fostering resilience and a sense of community.

Textiles, often overlooked, play a dual role in the survival narrative. Beyond being mere coverings, they become canvases of expression and sources of comfort. Artistic endeavors breathe life into these fabrics, telling stories of strength and unity, as well as the vibrant hues and unity. The vibrant hues and patterns mirror the resilience of a community that refuses to be defined by adversity. In the warmth of a well-crafted textile, the displaced find solace, a reminder that beauty can endure even in the harshest conditions. Ojinta and Ipaye (2021) define textile as the production and manipulation of fibres through yarns to fabric.

In the face of adversity, the transformative power of art comes alive. Work of art if introduced in these camps adorns the very fabric of survival. Paintings, murals, and creative installations breathe life into the otherwise stark surroundings, offering a therapeutic escape from the harshness of reality. The art becomes a companion, a source of solace, and a testament to the resilience of the human spirit. Delving into the significance of shelter, clothing, architecture, and textiles in IDP camps, it's important recognizing the existing gaps. The gap is not just physical but emotional and psychological. It's a gap that this exploration seeks to close the void between the basic necessities and the intrinsic human need for dignity, identity, and connection. This is enough battle to be launched.

What this paper aims to achieve is, transformative change. Highlighting the importance of architecture and textiles in IDP camps. This is also an avenue where these elements are not just survival necessities but instruments of empowerment. The end result is to create awareness that can ignite initiatives that prioritize the holistic well-being of displaced populations, fostering a sense of belonging and resilience where human dignity remains unadulterated. It is somehow pathetic to organize IDPs to create a survivalist approach using architecture and textiles as contributing factors to the vitality

of IDP camps, thereby becoming not just shelters but sanctuaries of hope. In understanding this, we take a step closer to crafting a future where every displaced life is not just sustained but flourishes amidst the challenges. Textile is the manipulation of fibre to fabrics from the raw state to the designed and finished functional stage. Cyril-Egware (2013).

Furthermore, textiles play a crucial role in addressing the privacy and security concerns within IDP camps. The absence of proper shelter often leaves individuals vulnerable to the elements and compromises their safety. Textiles, when strategically integrated into the architectural design of shelters, offer a multifaceted solution. They provide a layer of protection against external elements while simultaneously creating partitions within communal living spaces, affording a semblance of privacy to the displaced populations. A lot of methods have been used to make body coverage work as explained by Kukoyi (2013). This explained according to him the integration of multifunctional values in such a common material which has become a special area of interest in recent years.

2.0 THE ROLE OF ARCHITECTURE AND TEXTILES IN INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLES CAMPS IN NIGERIA

The humanistic role of architecture which is (for general coverage) and textiles (for personal coverage) in Internally Displaced Peoples (IDP) camps in Nigeria cannot be overstressed, as these elements are fundamental to the survival and well-being of the inhabitants. The strategic planning and design of shelters within these camps directly impact the residents' living conditions and overall resilience. Architectural considerations go beyond mere physical structures; they encompass layout, ventilation, and communal spaces, influencing the social fabric within the camps. Textiles, on the other hand, serve as a vital medium for providing clothing and

enhancing the overall hygienic environment. The seamless integration of architecture and textiles not only addresses the immediate needs of shelter and clothing but also contributes to the psychological well-being of the displaced populations. Tetteh (2011) sees Adinkra as a cultural symbol of the Akan people, Accra where he sees a philosophical interpretation of the symbols and motifs used. He went further to say that there is a philosophical interpretation of these symbols and motifs used in African art, prints inclusive which in all, convey series of meanings.

In examining the architectural dimension, it is imperative to acknowledge the significance of climate-responsive designs. Nigeria's diverse climatic conditions demand structures that offer protection against extreme weather events, such as heatwaves or heavy rainfall. Adequate ventilation and insulation, embedded in the architectural planning, are crucial for the inhabitants' comfort and health. Furthermore, the spatial organization of the camps plays a key role in fostering a sense of community and security, mitigating the psychological impact of displacement. Effective utilization of available space ensures that the camps become more than temporary shelters; they become spaces that promote social cohesion and support networks among the displaced individuals.

Complementing these architectural considerations therefore, the role of textiles in IDP camps is pivotal for addressing basic human needs and dignity. Clothing, often overlooked in humanitarian efforts, is a critical aspect of a displaced person's well-being. Textiles provide protection from the elements, offer a sense of identity, and contribute to the preservation of cultural norms. Ojinta and Ipaye (2021) see fibres, yarns, fabric and other structures with added values of interest and function which have been developed for the range of application. Moreover, textiles are integral to the hygiene practices within the camps, as they play a role

in the creation of clean and safe living environments. The collaboration between architects and textile artists becomes paramount in ensuring that the fabrics used are not only functional but also culturally sensitive, aligning with the diverse backgrounds of the displaced populations.

In practice, successful examples of this integration exist, where architects and textile artists collaborate to create innovative solutions. Sustainable and locally sourced materials, combined with traditional weaving techniques, not only address the immediate shelter and clothing needs but also empower the displaced communities by involving them in the production process. Moreover, incorporating the artistic elements of textiles in the architectural design adds a layer of cultural richness to the camps, fostering a sense of identity and belonging. Dye as explained by Alozie (2017) can be made from plants, animals and mineral substances.

The role of architecture and textiles in IDP camps in Nigeria transcends basic provisions of shelter and clothing; it is a holistic approach that addresses the physical, social, and psychological dimensions of displacement. By recognizing the interconnectedness of these elements, we can pave the way for innovative, culturally sensitive, and sustainable solutions that go beyond short-term relief, contributing to the long-term resilience and well-being of internally displaced populations.

3.0 CHALLENGES FACED BY IDS: THE NEED FOR CLOTHING WITH TEXTILE MATERIALS

Internally Displaced Peoples (IDPs) in Nigeria grapple with formidable challenges, among which the dire need for adequate availability of textile materials for clothing the people which stands out prominently. Every facet of life has its challenges, IDP camps is therefore no exemption. Most time what happens is that the intention is hijacked by hoodlums who were not even displaced. Most of them find their ways to these camps

and register as displaced people. Other challenges come in the form of sanitation. Owing to their different sanitary orientation, it is difficult to sanitize the camps. For those who want to keep the rules, inadequate water supply becomes the big issue. clothing and shelter therefore become the issue. In these challenging circumstances therefore the scarcity of adequate clothing compounds the struggles faced by IDPs. Insufficient resources and limited access to basic necessities contribute to a situation where many displaced individuals lack proper attire. The consequences of this deficit are far-reaching, affecting not only the physical health of the IDPs but also their dignity and overall sense of well-being.

In examining the challenges faced by IDs in Nigeria, the critical importance of clothing and textiles emerges as a pivotal aspect in mitigating the adversities of displacement. Adequate attention to these fundamental needs not only preserves the physical health of the displaced individuals but also contributes to restoring a sense of normalcy and dignity in their lives. Moreover, the role of architecture in conjunction with textiles cannot be overstated in addressing the multifaceted challenges within IDP camps. Architectural interventions that incorporate textiles as integral components offer innovative solutions to the spatial constraints and privacy issues prevalent in these settings. Designing shelters with adaptable textile elements not only enhances the overall aesthetics but also contributes to a more functional and humane living environment.

In the face of limited resources and often overcrowded conditions, creative architectural solutions can optimize space utilization. Textiles, when skillfully integrated into shelter design, provide a cost-effective means to delineate private spaces within communal areas. La Gramma (2009) emphasize that the use of batik has extended from cloth to everything from home furnishing and table cloth to handicraft. This strategic use of fabrics not only addresses the

immediate need for privacy but also fosters a sense of individuality and personal space, which is crucial for the psychological well-being of IDPs.

Furthermore, the collaboration between artists and architects in leveraging textiles as a medium for expression brings a transformative dimension to IDP camps. Artistic interventions not only enhance the visual appeal of shelters but also serve as a means of storytelling, conveying the resilience and cultural richness of the displaced communities. Through the fusion of artistic elements with architectural design, these spaces become more than just utilitarian structures; they become symbols of hope and identity.

The challenges faced by internally displaced peoples in Nigeria underscore the indispensable role of clothing, textiles, architecture, and artistic endeavors in shaping the living conditions within IDP camps. The synergy between these elements not only addresses the immediate needs for physical comfort but also contributes to fostering a sense of dignity, security, and cultural continuity among the displaced populations. As we navigate the complexities of humanitarian crises, recognizing the profound impact of architecture and textiles becomes paramount in envisioning sustainable solutions for the well-being of those forced to seek refuge in these camps.

4.0 THE IMPORTANCE OF SHELTER IN IDP CAMPS: CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

In any IDPs camps, there are challenges among which is the provision of shelter in all IDPS in Nigeria. The importance of shelter therefore is categorized under there two factors. One, historical and two humanitarians. Under the first, shelter gives account of the number of causalities in an incident. The humanitarian aspect has to do with the use of available resources within reach to create a first aid kind of assistance to the displaced.

The climatic variations across Nigeria further complicate the design and implementation of suitable shelters as part of the challenges. From the arid regions of the north to the humid south, diverse weather patterns necessitate adaptive architectural solutions. Inadequate shelter exposes IDPs to harsh environmental conditions, exacerbating health risks and diminishing their chances of recovery.

5.0 SOLUTIONS

To address these challenges, innovative architectural approaches must be embraced. Prefabricated structures designed for swift assembly can significantly expedite the provision of shelter, offering a timely response to the urgent needs of displaced communities. Moreover, sustainable materials and energy-efficient designs can mitigate the environmental impact and contribute to long-term viability. The integration of eco-friendly practices in shelter construction not only addresses immediate needs but also aligns with a broader commitment to environmental stewardship.

In the realm of sustainable architecture, the utilization of locally sourced materials emerges as a crucial strategy. This not only reduces the carbon footprint associated with transportation but also bolsters local economies. By harnessing indigenous resources, architects can create shelters that seamlessly blend with the natural surroundings, promoting a sense of familiarity for the displaced populations. Energy-efficient designs play a pivotal role in enhancing the resilience of IDP camps. Incorporating renewable energy sources, such as solar panels, not only ensures a reliable power supply but also diminishes the dependence on conventional, often scarce, energy resources. This shift towards sustainability not only aligns with global environmental goals but also insulates IDP communities from the vulnerability associated with unreliable energy infrastructure.

Furthermore, the long-term viability of IDP camps necessitates a holistic approach that extends beyond the immediate provision of shelter. Sustainable architectural solutions should integrate communal spaces that foster a sense of community and support social cohesion. By designing spaces that encourage interaction and shared activities, architects contribute to the psychosocial well-being of displaced individuals, offering them a semblance of normalcy in challenging circumstances.

In essence, the incorporation of sustainable practices in shelter construction for IDP camps represents a conscientious effort to balance the urgent need for habitable spaces with a commitment to environmental and community well-being. By marrying innovative design with eco-friendly principles, we not only provide physical refuge but also lay the groundwork for a sustainable and resilient future for those navigating the complex landscape of internal displacement in Nigeria.

6.0 CLOTHING AS A BASIC NEED IN IDP CAMPS: ADDRESSING THE CLOTHING GAP

Clothing emerges as a fundamental need within Internally Displaced Peoples (IDP) camps in Nigeria, playing a crucial role in the survival and well-being of displaced individuals. The dire circumstances of displacement intensify the importance of adequate clothing, beyond its conventional role as a mere cover for the body. Jessy (2003) explains that colours of dyes offer us beauty and chance for self-expression... He went further to explain that the fabric for

interior design requires to be simple, pleasant and aesthetic, capable of stirring up appreciation and acceptance. In these camps, where individuals have been uprooted from their homes and often face harsh living conditions, clothing serves as a primary defense against the elements. This basic necessity becomes intertwined with broader challenges, such as health concerns and psychological well-being, making it imperative to address the clothing gap within IDP camps.

The clothing gap in IDP camps underscores the pressing need for targeted interventions to ensure that displaced individuals have access to sufficient and appropriate attire. Oguntona (2000) without missing words says that the choice of fabrics will depend on the colour selected and creative matching of the colour during design. This to him, is to give room for individual social, cultural and traditional settings and backgrounds of individuals in IDPs camps. Insufficient clothing not only exposes individuals to the harsh weather conditions prevalent in Nigeria but also poses health risks, including the spread of diseases. Addressing this gap involves a multifaceted approach, incorporating considerations of climate, cultural preferences, and individual needs. Collaborations between architects, textile experts, and artists become pivotal in developing innovative solutions that not only provide functional clothing but also contribute to the restoration of dignity and identity for those affected. Cyril-Egware (2013) buttresses this by saying that emphasis is made that fabric conveys information within a particular community by referring to mutual association of spirituality, historical and cultural integrity.



Internally Displaced Camp (IDP)
Source: PR Nigeria



Internally Displaced Camp (IDP)
Source: Google.com



Internally Displaced Camp (IDP)
Source: Vanguard News



Internally Displaced Camp (IDP)
Source: Amnesty International



Internally Displaced Camp (IDP)
Source: Amnesty International, 2012



Internally Displaced Camp (IDP)
Source: Google.com

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