

# Understanding The Social Drivers of Liveability in Osogbo, Nigeria

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## ABSTRACT

The study investigated the elements that affect the liveability of Osogbo, the Osun metropolis. Liveability entails safe, socially cohesive, inclusive and environmentally sustainable urban space. Previous studies on liveability have failed to consider the fact that social factors can have significant influence on liveability. Therefore, this paper examined the influence of social factors on liveability of Osogbo, Nigeria. Purposive specimens were employed to determine and test one hundred and nine (109) residents spanning the two urban government areas in the metropolis. A questionnaire with a sample framework was introduced to obtain statistics from tested residents. Relative Importance Index (RII), 8 x 8 correlation matrix, and factor analysis were used to configure the data that were gathered. There were eight (8) main components found to be altering the liveability of the city. In varied order of significance by the RII, they are Improvishment, crime, ethnicity, norms and values, social, interactions, culture, disability, and religion. The correlation matrix indicated that all other positive relationships were found between the variables except for ethnicity and crime which correlated negatively with one another. The suitability of the variables loaded for the analysis was verified by Bartlett's Test of Sphericity with a p-value of 0.001 and the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sample suitability (KMO) value of 0.647. A conclusion is reached that poverty alleviation efforts with deliberate policies of inclusion by the government and massive public awareness programme to sensitise the residents on the need to consider their neighbours irrespective of their race or tribe, ethnic origin, religious leaning, social status, and cultural background as brothers this will significantly help in addressing social challenges of liveability within the metropolitan area.

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## INTRODUCTION

The debate about the newly emerging phenomenon of liveability that has characterised urban governance has recently taken center stage in academic discourse. With the steep rise in urban growth globally, maintaining the growth of the cities index and sustainability is one of the major issues facing our government at the national and municipal grades (John-Nsa, 2021). In every nation, rapid urban expansion is reflected spatially in an unequal distribution of the urban population, with certain cities seeing a faster urban population increase than others. Rapid urbanisation frequently results in an uneven pattern of development at the local level, which is seen in certain neighborhoods that thrive while others decline. (Mouratidis, 2020). Typically, low-income areas endure a decline in liveability and offer huge issues, including reducing urban poverty, creating new infrastructure, providing adequate urban services and amenities, and setting up governance structures for the agencies in charge of running the cities (Auwalu et al., 2022). Liveability entails safe, socially cohesive, inclusive, and environmentally sustainable urban space. Such areas have affordable housing linked via public transport, walking, and cycling infrastructure, to employment, education, shops and services, public open space, and social, cultural, and recreational facilities (Australian Urban Observatory, 2020).

A well-planned metropolis that offers a vibrant, appealing, and safe environment for its residents to live in and have fun is considered liveable (The Centre for Liveable Cities, 2011). It has a competitive economic system, excellent quality of life, a green environment, and a good governing body. Because of this, it is an urban structure that supports each resident's social, physical, and personal growth (Song, 2011). Zhan et al. (2018) have argued that the social aspect of urban life must be carefully considered while developing livable communities and cities. As observed by Özkan & Yilmaz (2019), the most livable cities in the world are usually places with strong social connections, where people know their neighbours and feel comfortable in their community. Social support is one of the most important factors when it comes to liveability with those cities which have strong support networks for their citizens often ranking highly for liveability (Anton & Lawrence, 2014). Ujang et al. (2015) further observed that cities which are the most diverse, with a variety of different cultures and social backgrounds living together in harmony are much more liveable. Scholars have noted a dearth of attention in this field. Previous research on liveability significantly focused on financial aspects (Easterlin et al., 2012; Okulicz-Kozaryn, 2011). It has been variously claimed that rising urban fulfillment can be positively impacted by work options. Still, these studies have failed to take into consideration the fact that social factors can have a significant influence on liveability. For example, Baum & Gleeson (2010) have called the attention of researchers and urban managers to the growing disparity associated with urbanisation has left many people and households with disproportionate access to resources and opportunities in life. Thus, considering the speed at which our cities are changing, there is a pressing need to properly recognise the basic ideas of the social component of liveability and the ways in which contemporary urban life reflects them. With this knowledge, we can more effectively appreciate vital social matters that are significant to locals and their capacity to live there in the future. Thus, this research therefore explores the social factors that influence the liveability of traditional African cities using Osogbo, Osun State, Nigeria as a case study. The choice of the study area was informed by the fact that the city is highly urbanised with tremendous ethnic and socio-cultural diversity. Also, the socio-spatial structure of the city visibly revealed a division into the haves and the haves-not neighborhoods which makes the city a veritable ground for social exclusion and consequently liveability challenges.

Liveability describes the frame conditions of a decent life for all inhabitants of cities, regions, and communities including their physical and mental well-being (Norouzian-Maleki et al., 2015). This can also be seen in how the environment and society interact. (Wagner, 2018). Thus, how well a city works for its inhabitants is the central focus of liveability. As observed by Wheeler (2013), liveability comprises aspects of the area such as restaurants, grocery stores, parks, open spaces, sidewalks, and safety and health as well as the environment. It also takes into account factors like price and hospitality, which all enhance the appeal

and openness of communities (Manzini, 2022; Paul & Sen, 2020). Furthermore, livability takes into account the standard and accessibility of public transportation, educational institutions, and medical services. (Mirzahosseini et al., 2021; Rui & Othengrafen, 2023). It also takes into account a location's general cultural and social environment, which includes the availability of a variety of recreational opportunities and community engagement possibilities (Turner-Skoff & Cavender, 2019). All these factors combined create an environment that enhances the overall quality of life for residents. Scholars and policymakers around the world have established liveability principles for city development to guarantee that the planning, development, and administration of cities and towns foster the welfare and standard of living of their citizens. To build more resilient communities, these concepts frequently give sustainability and environmental concerns top priority and liveable civilisations for upcoming generations. For example, The United States Partnership for Sustainable Communities (2015) developed some liveability principles for the development of American cities. These include delivery of additional transportation options, promotion of equitable affordable housing, increasing economic competitiveness, supporting existing communities by boosting community revitalisation, managing and making the most of government resources and programs, and prioritising communities and neighbourhoods by making investments in safe, healthful, and walkable areas. Research has been done to determine whether cities, regions, or communities are livable. Chaudhury (2005) looked at Dhaka's livability. Bangladesh uses consumer goods, utility services, housing affordability, social security, and environmental conditions as indicators. The study revealed that the economic growth of the city makes it more liveable than other cities in the region.

Ekop (2012), in his analysis of housing quality in the Calabar metropolis, Nigeria, observed that the socioeconomic status, housing qualities, and neighbourhood attributes of a city are critical factors that determine how livable it is. He therefore concluded that the inadequacy of these features had resulted in the low liveability of the city. Lee's (2021) study of the affiliation between community ties, urban environmental happiness, and liveability in Seoul, South Korea, revealed that urban environmental factors, specifically accessibility to urban facilities and services as well as neighbourhood relations, were found to play a significant role in liveability of the city. Obayomi et al. (2023) investigated the living standards in the unregulated community of Kabawa, Kogi State, Nigeria, and concluded that the physical, economic, environmental, and social aspects of the Kabawa informal community's people's difficulties in their ability to live were multifaceted. The study found that the Kabawa informal community has many of the hallmarks of a slum, including unsanitary homes, a dirty atmosphere, careless waste management, and a severe lack of essential infrastructure. The main causes of the community's liveability issues were the residents' innate illiteracy, poverty, and lack of participation in governance (as shown by the inadequate infrastructure). Evidence from the literature reviewed above indicates that liveability is multi-dimensional having physical, economic, social, and environmental dimensions. However, previous studies have explored the physical, economic, and environmental dimensions while the social aspect of liveability has not received adequate attention from researchers. This is a knowledge gap this research seeks to address by examining the social factors influencing liveability in third-world cities with Osogbo, Nigeria as an example.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

### **Study Area: Osogbo**

Osogbo is located on Latitude 7°42'20" and 7°49'20" direction north of the tropic and longitude 4°30'20" and 4°38'20" East of the Greenwich Meridian (Akpootu & Rabi, 2019), bordered by Ilesa to the east, Iwo and Ede to the west, Ile-Ife to the south, and Ikirun and Iragbiji to the north (Eresanya et al., 2019). Osogbo is the capital of Osun State, which is one of the thirty-six (36) States in Nigeria. According to the findings of the 1963 census data, Osogbo had 152,424 residents. When Osun State was established in 1991, with Osogbo serving as the state capital, the overall population grew to 250,951 (National Population Commission of Nigeria, 1991). In 2006 the population of Osogbo was 381,405 (National Population Commission of Nigeria, 2006). Based on these numbers, the 2022 the total number of people

dwelling in Osogbo was determined to be 564,479 at the 3% yearly growth value that is the officially recognised rate. The population is a mixture of several ethnic groups which comprise Yoruba (the dominant ethnic group), Hausa, Igbo, Edo, Igede, Tiv, Ebira, Fulani, and some other minority tribes (Olayiwola & Olaitan, 2019). Osogbo commonly has a complicated and varied system of land uses since the town developed naturally without any formal planning from the beginning and there are no strict zoning laws (Ogunranti & Simon, 2020). Because there is no physical or land use planning, developments have happened erratically, particularly in the central sections (Ogunranti & Simon, 2020). According to the UN-Habitat (2014), land uses in Osogbo metropolis can be categorised as public or semi-public. It is possible to classify the land uses in Osogbo Metropolis as public or semi-public (9.30%), private (58.02%), general (6.36%), industrial (4.40%), educational (7.34%), recreational (6.6%), water bodies (1.67%), religious (4.23%) and mixed land-uses (2.08%). Osogbo comprises two Local Government Areas (LGAs), viz: Olorunda and Osogbo. There are fifteen (15) political wards in Osogbo LGA and thirteen (13) political wards in Olorunda LGA. (INEC, 2015). There is a concentration of high, medium, and low-density neighbourhoods in each ward, according to residential density trends. Consequently, each LGA's high-density wards—which were thought to house the urban poor—were chosen. Given that each LGA's wards differ in size based on population (National Bureau of Statistics, 2022), the largest ward was chosen from each LGA's high-density wards. There are Alagba and Aare Ago, respectively. Two (2) deprived neighbourhoods with visible manifestations of liveability problems such as poverty, unemployment, low income, poor housing, and poor access to infrastructure were selected for survey in the city. Thus, based on preliminary investigations, the following neighbourhoods (with their population) were selected for the survey: Oroki (31,754) and Idi-Ogun (23,461) in Osogbo LGAs; Igbona (38,219) and Oke-Ayepe (25,600) in Olorunda LGA's.

## **SAMPLE SIZE AND SAMPLING PROCEDURE**

The selection of sample size was based on Neuman's (1994) assertion that the smaller the population, the bigger the sampling ratio must be for an accurate sample. Neuman (1994) opines that Reduced sampling ratios are possible for similarly high-quality samples in bigger demographics. This, he argues, is because the accuracy returns for larger sample sizes decrease as the population increases. Thus, a substantial sample ratio (about 30 percent) is required by researchers for small populations (less than 1,000). A sample size of approximately one thousand (1,000) and a sampling ratio of approximately 10% percent are required for reasonably large populations of ten thousand people (10,000). Smaller sampling for large populations (more than 150,000) ratio (one percent) is feasible, and 1,500 sample sizes can yield extremely accurate results. Using a low sampling ratio (0.025 percent), or roughly 2,500, one can attain accuracy when sampling from very large populations (over 10 million) (Neuman, 1991).

Considering the population of the sampled neighbourhood (I.e Oroki- 6351; Ifi Ogun- 4692; Igbona-5600 and Oke Ayepe- 5120; Total 21763) and following Neumans (1994) assertion (using 0.5% in order to reduce the cost of data collection and have a manageable data), the following samples were taken Oroki (32), Idi-Ogun (23), Igbona (28), and Oke-Ayepe (26) in Osogbo. Thus, a total of 109 adult members of the communities who have resided in the neighbourhoods for at least five years were purposively sampled (Bernard, 2000). The purposive selection was done to ensure that respondents with sufficient liveability experiences were selected for the survey. All the hundred and nine (109) questionnaires administered were satisfactorily completed and returned for analysis.

## **DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS**

A cross-sectional survey design was used for this study, which involved the administration of a set of structured questionnaires. A review of prior research was used to generate and refine the poll questions. A Likert scale with five points was used for evaluating the items. These items include poverty, crime, ethnicity, norms and values, social interactions, culture, disability, and religion. The data collected then

were cleaned, organised, and entered SPSS version 25 software for further processing. The social factors influencing the liveability of Osogbo were assessed through the Relative Importance Index (RII). As noted earlier, eight (8) variables that could influence the liveability of the city were identified. It is believed that the level of agreement of the sampled residents of the city to these variables would indicate the level of influence these variables have on people's decision to live and continue to live in the city. The inhabitants in the sample were asked to rate the variables on a scale of 1 to 8, 8 denoting very significant and 1 denoting not significant, in order of significance. To measure the variables quantitatively, the Relative Importance Index (RII) method was used. The RII analysis method evaluates each factor's relevance by comparing it to a scale (Tholibon et al., 2021). The ranking of the various factors is then determined by converting the scale into RII for each factor (Tholibon et al., 2021). This formula is used to calculate RII:

$$RII = \sum W/AN \dots\dots\dots(1)$$

Where:  $\sum W$  = total of the participants' weights (values), which ranged from 1 to 8, for each element in the study (Table 1)

A = the greatest weight (i.e.8 in this study).

N = total number of participants (i.e.109)

Furthermore, 8x8 Correlation Matrix and Factor Analysis were used to evaluate the variables affecting a city's livability statistically. The goal of the study, information in the analytical tool, the acknowledgment of participants' privacy rights, and the anonymity of the information were all considered when addressing ethical issues. Also, the respondents' readiness to reply and their informed consent was acquired.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

### Analysis of the Social Factors Influencing the Liveability of Osogbo

Table 1. Relative Importance Index of the Social Factors Influencing the Liveability of Osogbo

Factors	N (Total number of respondents)	$\sum W$ (Sum of weighting given to each factor by respondents)	RII	Ranking
Poverty	109	824	0.945	1 <sup>st</sup>
Crime	109	644	0.739	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Ethnicity	109	534	0.612	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Norms and values	109	405	0.464	4 <sup>th</sup>
Culture	109	300	0.344	5 <sup>th</sup>
Quality of Social Interaction	109	219	0.251	6 <sup>th</sup>
Disability	109	130	0.149	7 <sup>th</sup>
Religious differences	109	71	0.081	8 <sup>th</sup>

Source: Authors, 2023

The outcome of the research is as seen in Table 1 below, which shows that in the order of rank, poverty severity using Relative Importance Index of 0.945 is a highly important Social Component impacting liveability.

This is followed by crime prevalence with RII of 0.739. ethnicity takes third in the raking of the factors with RII 0.612 while norms and values (RII 0.464), culture (RII 0.344), Quality of Social Interaction (0.251) and disability (RII 0.149) ranked fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh respectively. Religious differences is the least significant social factor influencing liveability with RII of 0.081.

### Bivariate Analysis of Variables Influencing the City Liveability

An 8x8 correlation matrix of the variable that could influence city liveability was computed. The correlation co-efficient ( $r = 0.457$ ;  $p < 0.001$ ) suggested that the correlation between crime and poverty was positive. A correlation co-efficient between ethnicity and crime. The correlation coefficient ( $r = 0.203$ ;  $p < 0.001$ ) indicated a strong positive correlation between norms and ethnicity. Furthermore, there existed a positive correlation ( $r = 0.119$ ;  $p < 0.001$ ) between culture was positively low ( $r = 0.035$ ;  $p < 0.001$ ); in addition, the correlation between disability and social interactions. Lastly, the correlation coefficient ( $r = 0.024$ ;  $p < 0.001$ ) established that the correlation that the correlation between religion and social interactions was positive.

Table 2. Matrix of Correlations

Variable	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
(1) Poverty	1.000							
(2) Crime	0.457	1.000						
(3) Ethnicity	0.232	-0.163	1.000					
(4) Norms	-0.234	0.152	-0.203	1.000				
(5) Culture	0.046	-0.099	0.500	0.119	1.000			
(6) Interactions	-0.085	0.175	0.030	-0.055	0.035	1.000		
(7) Disability	0.049	-0.207	-0.129	-0.030	-0.205	0.084	1.000	
(8) Religion	0.176	0.034	-0.017	-0.040	-0.040	0.024	0.013	1.000

Source: Authors, 2023

### Factor Analysis of Variable Influencing City Liveability

The eight (8) variables that could influence the city liveability were loaded for factor analysis to extract the components for the factors influencing the city liveability. As stated earlier, these factors include Poverty, Crime, Ethnicity, Norms, and values.

Social interactions, culture, disability and religion. The analysis's variables were deemed adequate based on the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin measure of Sample Adequacy (KMO) value of 0.647 and Bartlett's Test of Sphericity result of  $p \leq 0.001$  (Table 3)

Table 3. KMO and Bartlett's Test

<b>Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sample Adequacy</b>		<b>0.647</b>
<b>Bartlett's Test of Sphericity</b>	Approx. Chi-Square	1.125E2
	Df	81
	Sig.	0.000

Source: Authors, 2023

## DISCUSSIONS

A number of factors were found to influence the liveability of Osogbo, Nigeria. These factors include poverty, crime, ethnicity, norms, and values, social interactions, culture, disability and religion. Application of the Relative Importance Index (RII) indicates the severity of Poverty and Austere economic situation characterised the incidence of poverty as the major factor influencing the liveability of the city. According to the Nigerian Bureau of Statistics (2022), 63% of Nigerians are multi-dimensionally poor. Thus, 63% of

Nigerians live below the poverty line of \$2 (USD) per day. As explained earlier, the tool employed was the RII, which was used to analyse the factors influencing the liveability of Osogbo. The results of the analysis are presented in Table 1.

Other deprivations such as poor access to infrastructure. This indicates that the incomes of most urban settlers are mostly too low even for subsistence living. This situation has also been compounded by the increase in inflation level. According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), in 2024, the inflation rate in Nigeria in December 2023 was 28.9% against 8.05% in 2014 (NBS, 2015). Inflation affects not only the ability of urban residents to afford decent meals and clothing but also their ability to afford decent accommodation and other essential and fundamental needs. Therefore, the persistence of poverty and futile attempts by many sampled residents of Osogbo to overcome the unpleasant situation have made living in the city highly unpleasant for most residents. The high and persistent rate of criminality was considered the second most important factor affecting the city's liveability. The increase in urban crime and violence in recent times globally has been attributed primarily to intricate social, political, and economic conditions (Zubairu, 2017). Urban crime is mostly caused by the physically crippling effects of racially and ethnically divided neighbourhoods, as well as patterns of economic discrimination and political disenfranchisement (Ojo and Ojewale, 2018). There will be a high crime rate if members of racial or ethnic minorities believe they are marginalised and that crime is the only way they can succeed economically. There will be violent crime if these marginalised people also gain access to weapons. Around the world, this pattern is observed in numerous locations. Specifically, metropolitan crimes in Nigeria have been linked to poverty.

As observed by Awojibi (2014) poverty levels and income inequality are accepted instigators of crime and violence. Poverty undermines the ability of urban inhabitants to provide for their families and to benefit from service delivery in an urban setup, thus leading the poor to opt for crime as a survival strategy (Oguniyi et al., 2016). It has equally been argued that the high rate of poverty in Nigeria has made the youths enlist in the ranks of the same criminal organisations or form criminal groups to foment crisis in the cities purely for economic gains (Chukwu et al. 2017; Adelaja et al., 2019) Osogbo has recorded several high-profile criminal cases which have made liveability of the city a bit low. Cases of infrastructural vandalism (Ola & Adewale, 2014), robbery, stealing and theft (Badmus, 2024), street fighting, and hooliganism (TVC, 2023) have been reported in several parts of the city. This undoubtedly has made the city less liveable for many respondents. The third major social factor affecting the liveability of Osogbo is ethnic differences and attempts by the dominant ethnic group to suppress other minority ethnic groups. Some respondents who are of minority ethnic extraction have complained of discrimination against them in resource allocation and access to basic facilities and services as well as employment opportunities. Ethnic background equally determines access to land for residential housing. There were also restrictions on celebrating cultural festivals and other traditional religious practices by the minority ethnic groups, which were imposed by the dominant ethnic group in the city. The apparent lack of freedom to freely express their sociocultural beliefs and practices has made the liveability of the city a herculean task for some residents. This finding conforms with conclusions from earlier studies that ethnically motivated discrimination is commonplace in multi-ethnic and multi-racial communities (Armstrong et al., 2022; Wolf & Gordon, 2023).

The result of RII also presents norms and values as the fourth important factor affecting the city's liveability. Norms are shared standards of acceptable behaviour by members of a social group (Simmons & Jo, 2019). Norms may be internalised, for example, incorporated within the individual so that there is conformity without external rewards or punishments, or they may be enforced by positive or negative sanctions from without (Lantis & Wunderlich, 2018). Conversely, values are beliefs of a person or social group in which they have an emotional investment either for or against something (Feldman, 2021). The value systems are prospective and prescriptive beliefs that affect a person's ethical behaviour or are the basis of their intentional activities (Sagiv et al. 2022). Norms and values can shape individuals' behaviour in social situations, including expectations around appropriate behaviour and interactions. This can vary

widely between different cultures and impact social behaviour and interaction significantly (Doering & Ody-Brasier, 2021). Thus, norms and values are somewhat tied to the ethnic backgrounds of individuals. The probable clash of values between the dominant ethnic group and minority ethnic nationalities in Osogbo appeared to have influenced the low liveability of the other city by some sampled residents. Another factor influencing the city's liveability is social interactions among the residents. Social interaction has a crucial role in developing liveable cities, providing people with high-quality life, enhancing the living experience, and promoting the well-being of the residents (McMahon & Isik, 2023). To achieve a liveable city, it is crucial for individuals and organisations to actively participate in and contribute to the development of the city (Elshater et al., 2019). Community participation enables people to collaborate, share knowledge and resources, and work toward common goals, leading to a more effective and efficient community (Ahmed et al., 2019). Furthermore, a sense of belonging and connection to a city can motivate individuals to act toward sustainable urban development and inspire others to do the same (Vallance et al., 2022).

However, the spatial structuring of Osogbo into has not engineered low interactions between the high-class and low-class residents, thereby undermining the willingness of the low-class residents to continue to live in the city. Also, while intra-ethnic interactions were high, the apparent lack of willingness of the ethnic groups to work together towards sustainable city development has undermined the dream of achieving a liveable urban community. Cultural differences are the sixth (6) major factor influencing the liveability of Osogbo, as indicated by the result of RII. Cultural factors are complex and can interact with other social, economic, and environmental factors to shape the lived experiences of people in different ways. Cultural inclusivity and social cohesion within a city can significantly influence liveability, including access to housing, food, education, and economic opportunities. Cities that promote diversity, equality, and social harmony tend to be more liveable (De Voldere et al., 2017). Accepting different cultural backgrounds, tolerance, and opportunities for social interaction and integration contribute to the community and overall well-being (Cicerchia, 2018). European Commission (2018) further averred those cities with rich cultural offerings, including museums, art galleries, theatres, music venues, festivals, and diverse culinary experiences, often rank higher among the liveable cities. These cultural amenities enhance the quality of life, provide opportunities for leisure and recreation, and contribute to a city's overall vibrancy and attractiveness (Conciliolio et al., 2019). Rausell-Kösteret et al. (2022) observed that cities with strong educational institutions, research centres, and thriving intellectual environments tend to be considered more liveable. Access to quality education, lifelong learning opportunities, and intellectual engagement contribute to residents' cultural vitality and personal development. However, cultural exclusion and an attempt to derogate a particular cultural group at the expense of others, particularly a majority group, tends to trigger social stress, create division within the city, and reduce the liveability of such a city (Montalto et al., 2019). This appears to be the major challenge in Osogbo, with some sampled residents emphasising cultural exclusion as the major reason for finding the city less liveable. This finding also confirms the assertions of Montalto et al. (2019).

Another factor influencing the liveability of Osogbo is the physical and mental disability of some residents. Residents' attitudes towards people with disabilities can also have an impact on liveability. Disability is considered a condition of being unable to perform because of physical and mental unfitness (Vikström et al., 2020). United Nations (2020) has posited that, for the most part, disabilities are still only seen as medical issues, and personal tragedies are still linked to discrimination and stereotypes. Thus, in some cultures, people with disabilities have limited opportunities to participate in the workforce or make decisions about their own lives, which can limit their economic opportunities and overall well-being (Ireland, 2020). For instance, according to statistics, individuals with disabilities are one of the largest underemployed groups in the worldwide workforce—if not the largest (United Nations, 2020; Gelfgren et al., 2020). Fekete et al. (2020) reported that disability reduced employment opportunities from 30% to 75%, depending on the type of impairment, particularly for men in Europe. About 14.6% of the 10.3 million Swedish population have one form of disability or another; although these individuals constitute a sizable



population, they are still incredibly ostracised in the community (Vikström *et al.*, 2021). Attempts to marginalise people with disabilities in resource distribution and access to socio-economic opportunities in Osogbo have made the city's liveability less appealing to some sampled residents. As revealed by the result of RII, religion was ranked eighth as the factor influencing the liveability of Osogbo. Religion and spirituality can play a significant role in shaping living conditions in various ways. For example, in some cities, people may prioritise spending money on religious pilgrimages or building religious structures over investing in basic infrastructure, such as roads and schools. In addition, religion can shape attitudes towards healthcare and medical treatment, influencing dietary practices and affecting social norms around alcohol and drug use (Atran & Ginges, 2012). It has been argued that cities with rich religious activities promote healthy social interaction, tolerance, diversity, and cultural integration, leading to social harmony (Gómez *et al.*, 2017). However, the absence of opportunities to express or practice one religion may create a liveability problem for some urban residents, as revealed by some sampled residents in Osogbo.

## CONCLUSION

The study has established the major social factors influencing the liveability of Osogbo. Based on the findings from this study and evidence from the literature, it can be deduced that a city's social structure plays a crucial role in facilitating a city system where the residents can optimally enjoy all the benefits the city offers. It is, however, pertinent to note that a liveable city is achievable on a social level if the incident of poverty is adequately addressed. This can be done by creating employment opportunities through the government, semi-government, and private establishments for every urban resident, irrespective of his gender, ethnic and religious background, or physical ability. Also, municipal and state governments should pursue a deliberate policy of social inclusion where resources will be equitably distributed to every segment and social group in the city. In addition, the problem of sociocultural and religious segregation should be addressed through massive public awareness programmes in the print and electronic media as well as town hall meetings to sensitise the city residents on the need to see their neighbourhoods irrespective of their ethnic or religious background as brothers that must be accommodated. In this regard, any erring residents should be appropriately sanctioned through the instrumentality of the law.

Crime within the city should also be addressed. Preventive and controlling approaches should be deployed in combating crime. The most potent preventive measure is spatial manipulation to deter crime. In this regard, Crime can be prevented with Environmental Design (CPTED), which is recommended. CPTED is a reputable collection of guidelines and policies that minimise the likelihood of crime in public areas, including parks, pedestrian walkways, and transit stops. The use of CPTED in private dwellings, infrastructures, ventures, banks (including those with automated teller machines (ATM), businesses, and additional private constructions has also been extensively researched. Therefore, urban design for physical safety measures that could deter and lessen crime without necessarily encouraging a siege culture should be encouraged. Crime control measures such as police patrol, private security guards, and community vigilante services offer opportunities for a sustainable, crime-free, liveable city.

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## CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

The authors state that they have no competing interests with the funders and concur that this research was free from financial, commercial, or self-benefit conflicts.

## AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

Siti Hajar Misnan and Adewale Yemi Yekeen conceptualised the central research idea and provided the theoretical framework. Adewale Yemi Yekeen conducted the research and wrote the first draft, while Siti Hajar Misnan revised the article. Both authors agreed and approved the article submission

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