

Housing Affordability as a Factor in the Creation of Sustainable Environment in Developing World: The Example of Akure, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT Housing affordability has been widely recognized as an essential issue in creating sustainable built environment especially in the context of developing world cities. Consequently, global efforts at meeting human needs for shelter found expression in its inclusion among the objectives of sustainable development programme and the Habitat Agenda agreed to by the International Community at Istanbul, Turkey in 1996. This paper discusses the growing problems of housing affordability in cities of developing world using Akure in Nigeria as a case study with a view to ascertaining extent of the problem as well as challenges it poses to creating sustainable built environment. The data utilized in the paper was generated through a systematic survey of 1,266 householders in the nine political wards into which the city was stratified. Findings of the study revealed the problems associated with urban housing in the area of which affordability is a major one. The paper argues that this poses a great challenge to sustainable development of the built environment. Thus, it was suggested that the institutional framework to promote, enhance and encourage affordable housing provision should be created in the city.