MULTI-TENANTED RESIDENTS IN LOW INCOME COMMUNITIES IN LAGOS: THE RECEPTION AND PRECAUTIONS THROUGH MUSIC DURING COVID 19 ERA.

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Abstract:

Music generally served as a crucial tool of enlightenment, especially in awakening consciousness on COVID-19 preventive measures. The research was motivated by concern about the capacity of residents of multi-tenanted houses to adhere to these instructions via music presented in the form of jingles to an environment that lacks basic amenities and is overcrowding. The remarkable silence on coping strategies for these people emanating from both the state and the federal government and the Nigerian Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) directives on COVID-19 protection at the initial stage of the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown necessitated the use of music. Many residents of multi-tenanted housing in Lagos continue to bear the impact of the sixweek lockdown of 2020. Through an online survey as well as a virtual focus group discussion with selected members of the public and engagement through radio call-in programs on selected radio stations, the study concludes that the lockdown allowed people some quality time with their family. Many families experienced a significant loss of income, increased business instability, emotional stress, increased expenditure on food, and restiveness by homebound children and young adults. The role music played during the Ebola epidemic breakout was mentioned by callers during the call-in programs on radio, adding the influential role of music in enlightening the public on preventive measures. Such measures were imbibed by some of these residents who listened to musical jingles way back.

Keywords: Residents, Arts forms, Music, enlightenment, engagement, Face me I face you.

1.0 Introduction:

The lifestyle and the living conditions within the multi-tenanted housings, some of which are built in the 'face-me-I-face-you' style have exacerbated risks posed by the several exposures to the multiple impacts of the pandemic. Little wonder at the beginning of March 2020, experts from different fields of health and social sciences have warned of the particular and disproportionate vulnerability of casual settlements in the global South in the face of COVID-19, according to Corburn et al. (2020); Riley et al. (2020); Vera et al. (2020); Wilkinson (2020a). In 2019, the United Nations affirmed that over a billion people globally reside in casual settings. This is a gory scene, but it has a negative outcome on different aspects of life. These are inclusive of, but are not limited to the historical stigma, low incomes, restricted accessibility, high risks, climate change hazards associated with living in such areas (Wilkinson, 2020). Million confirmed COVID-19 cases at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic were from these casual, less organized, and densely populated communities (PAHO, 2020). Some urban settlement outbreaks, too, were reported to have been due to overpopulated areas where more than four persons live per room, according to Oxfam (2020). These reveal that access to adequate housing is a fundamental condition to protect the right to life and grant the most vulnerable population protection (Ortiz and Di Virgilio, 2020).

This project was conceived in March 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak in Nigeria. The COVID-19 Index Case in Nigeria was announced on February 27, 2020, in Lagos. As of April 27, 2020, the pandemic had reached over 32 of 36 states in the country, with 1,337 confirmed cases, 40 deaths, 225 recovered cases, and allegations of vast under-reporting from various interest groups. Lagos was the epicenter of the pandemic, with 57% of confirmed cases. Although the mortality was low compared to other countries, the confirmation of community spread in Lagos heralded higher mortalities that needed to be pre-empted. The city was thus subjected to a series of partial and total lockdowns from March 30, 2020. As at April 22, all 36 State Governors in Nigeria imposed another 14-day ban on interstate travel until May 6, 2020, to contain the spread of the pandemic. Of all states in Nigeria, the containment of community spread in Lagos was most critical because of its vulnerability as a very high-density city, the quantum of deficient housing, and the number of slum communities it hosts, where housing conditions are undoubtedly deplorable.

Expectedly, the housing situation in some parts of Lagos state seemed to be the Achilles heel in bids to slow the spread of the COVID-19. As this research proposed mitigating actions, it sought to address the challenge of its over 100 slums as a high-risk factor in propelling the community spread of a deadly disease in Lagos. Oyalowo et al. (2018) call on the reduction of the ever-expanding casual communities; this made Nubi& Oyalowo (2010) suggest that policies that are in tune with local realities and are flexible and responsive to change should be put in place to ensure this feat is achieved within the shortest possible time. Unfortunately, it isn't easy to conduct health messages that will educate everyone equally at the same level. For example, in

some localities, inequalities thrive in poorer districts and highland areas (Annear *et al.*, 2008). In these multi-tenanted housing patterns, educational inequality is unavoidable, a massive impediment to accessing health information and services. The literacy rate in rural areas (53.9%) is much lower than in urban areas (89.3%) (Steering Committee for Census of Population and Housing, 2006).

Unfortunately too, people with little or no education rarely pay attention to the health messages delivered by printed media such as posters and pamphlets and tend to rely on traditional health beliefs and practices, which sometimes mislead people regarding health matters (Steering Committee for Census of Population and Housing, 2006).

Therefore, finding a way to create awareness on being healthy and remaining healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic, is required to close health inequalities in urban settings. Rather than being led from medical science, the larger study from which this paper is based, utilized arts-led interdisciplinary research methods, weaving in literature, creative arts, and music with housing issues in data collection, analysis, output design, and dissemination.

Identifying other non-medical tools has worked for residents in some communities over the years; for example, Nweke et al. (2020) reported that "the arts go beyond what medical practitioners would tell us about keeping safe; the arts restore one's confidence and assure one that there is hope!" Nweke (2021) asserts further that "in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic with its global spread can also be more effectively done if music is used as an instrument in mobilizing the Nigerian populace in the battle against COVID-19." Kidd and Byram (1978) assert that most developing countries used "folk media such as puppet shows, dramas, folk songs, and dance to engage the interest of large numbers of people with the aims of community education and development." "These folk media have often been combined with mass media such as radio and television to disseminate health messages widely and effectively." (Panford *et al.*, 2001; Singhal *et al.*, 2004). They emphasize the roles of the artists who perform a double role in being a performer and a therapist. Potash et al. (2020) reported that "Art therapists recommended public health psychosocial guidelines by disseminating information on developing coping and resilience, maintaining relationships, and amplifying hope." that will help increase the people's well-being.

Evidence revealed in the work of Potash et al. (2020) that when Liberia faced a massive Ebola epidemic (2014–2015), a lot of casualty in the country found. However, the government restored the state of damage using the arts to create awareness and enable people to take preventive measures that helped to reduce the rate of deaths at that time. Macdonald (2020) reported the many roles music played during the COVID-19 pandemic. "These included local communities chanting a song of support in Wuhan, Italians singing from their balconies in Sicily, and a DJ playing dance music for the community from his balcony in Glasgow. These growing concerns emphasized how music enhanced health and well-being within a medical and non-medical context." In Africa, the Tanzanians also exaggerated the influential role of music during the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak. Uimonen, 2012 reported the aesthetic parts of music, adding that

some musicians addressed the COVID-19 pandemic in their songs, a tool for educating the masses on sensitive or essential issues.

This study, therefore, discusses the reception and the precautions taken by Nigerians during COVID-19 using music as a sensitizing tool.

1.2 Methodology: The study adopted Discourse Analysis and the Focus Group Discussion.

The discourse analysis is neither tilted towards the qualitative nor the quantitative, but it is interpretive and constructive. The ideas and contents are created and used in media content, dealing with a conversation. In dealing with conversation in this study, the materials employed were the multimedia aids: the radio, television, and videos (carton animations) with musical lyrics as the content.

This method enables access to the research's general assumptions (the arts' role in a covid-19 pandemic). The radio call-in programs allow talks between the presenter and the callers who tuned in to that radio station; therefore, population for the study is called these callers. The languages of expression were the four prevalent languages in Nigeria; Pidgin, Yoruba, Igbo and Hausa as well as the English language. The study adopted a purposive sampling in selecting the radio stations used for this broadcast, which was essentially based on the radio station consistencies in handling such programs and as well on the researchers' discretion.

The selected stations were:

Bond FM (92.9) broadcasting in the three Nigerian languages (Yoruba, Igbo, and Hausa)

Radio Nigeria 1 (103.5 FM). Women FM (91.7). The study engaged the same radio stations for the jingle broadcasts also with the Metro FM (97.7FM), Wazobia FM (95.1FM), and Nigeria Info (99.3FM).

For the cartoon animation production with music at the background, the study engaged the following television stations: African Independent Television (AIT), and Television Continental (TVC).

The study categorized the research objectives into six questions simplified into the open-ended questionnaires for callers to understand. Each question was done for 15 minutes, three times a week while the radio call-in program lasted for three weeks for BOND FM and Radio Nigeria 1, the English broadcast lasted for two weeks via the WFM.

The study used animated cartoons that were played on television and went viral via social media platforms. In addition to the above audio-visual materials, flyers, and posters were distributed and posted respectively in strategic places in Lagos state. Partners who were members of the community were engaged in publicity were loud speakers playing the Jingles were mounted on vehicles and patrolled within the selected communities where we have densely populated residence.

Also, the jingle broadcasts were done in the major languages in Nigeria; the messages contained in the jingle explained in details the presence of COVID-19 pandemic and the preventive measures. Three jingles were composed, and the one formed in four different languages was so voluminous that, it exceeded the statutory 60 seconds regulations by the Advertising Practitioner Council of Nigeria (APCON). The other jingles that were 64 and 60 seconds were aired. Nonetheless, the messages contained in the jingles ware clear, concise, and persuasive. The radio jingle started with instructive statements like "Make you dey wash your hands.... To kick corona out" while the one in the English version is a reminder to stay alive "Life is for the living.... So you stay alive." The last Jingle was a chant in the Yoruba language; it was also simple and convincing.

Furthermore, a focus group discussion with selected members of the low income community was held via a zoom platform. The respondents emphasized music's sensitization roles and the positive vibes music gave them during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown.

Focus Group Discussion: A focus group discussion took place on the 16th of December, 2020, in which 12 residents from 6 low income communities in Lagos State were in attendance. The discussion took place via Zoom and lasted for about 2 hours. Participants explained how members of their communities —who are mainly low income earners— were coping with the pandemic. They also highlighted safe keeping actions that were taken by residents of their communities and nearby communities. The respondents added that, they receive most of their awareness about COVID-19 through music sang in their languages anytime they tune in to a particular TV or radio station.

Radio Call-Ins:Radio call-in programs were conducted over a period of 3 weeks, from the 4th-24th of December, 2020. The Call-ins were carried out in 5 languages: English, Yoruba, Igbo, Hausa and Pidgin via 2 radio stations: BOND FM (92.9FM) and Radio One (103.5FM). The Call-ins provided insight into how residents of multi-tenanted housing were coping with the COVID-19 Pandemic.

1.3 Research Findings

The study reported high response from callers who are living in multi-tenanted apartment from low income community in Lagos State, Nigeria. Some information provided by callers during one of such radio call-in programs revealed that, residents in some of these multi-tenanted housing lacked space. For instance, some callers from the next Lagos said "we really don't have space. After 3 days of being indoors, I went out and saw everywhere rowdy. 70% were not complying with the protocol." Another from Akowonjo said "People are not practicing social distancing because people don't believe in COVID-19 outbreak. A lot of people are not taking it too seriously." Few callers affirmed that, music inform of jingles informed them that Covid-19 is in the air and reawakened them to awareness. This study has further reports below.

About the source of information of COVID-19 pandemic; more people, 35 percent claimed they heard about COVID-19 through social media (such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and WhatsApp), 22 percent from broadcast media (TV, radio, jingles and cartoons), 7 percent each from print media, music, words of mouth, animation and others (see Table A1.22). Nearly 2 in 5 (36 percent) claimed that their current source of information about COVID-19 is social media, 3 in 10 (29 percent) from broadcast media, 1 in 5 (21 percent) from music, animation and words of mouth while other sources account for 7 percent (see Table A1.23) and more people source the information daily (see Table A1.24). Nearly 1 in 4 (27 percent) claimed music helps cope with the pandemic (see Table A1.25) and it balances the psyche, calm nerves, overcome boredom, emotional stress, entertains, inspires, increased awareness and orientation and keep hopes alive (see Table A1.26). The majority, 51 percent said they have seen cartoons/animation that changed their perceptions about COVID-19 (see Table A1.27) mostly on social media and TV programmes (see Table A1.28).

Table A1.1: Gender

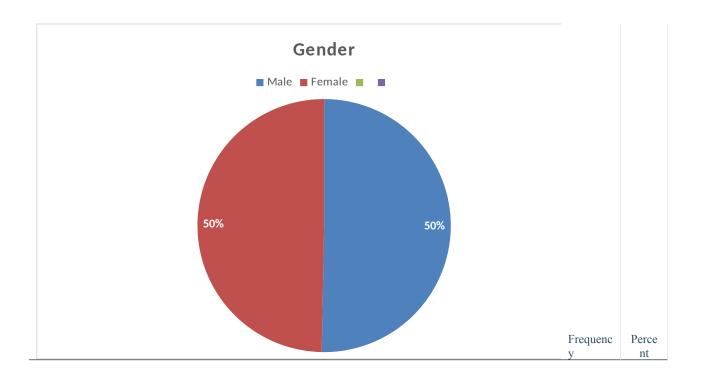


Table A1.2: Age band

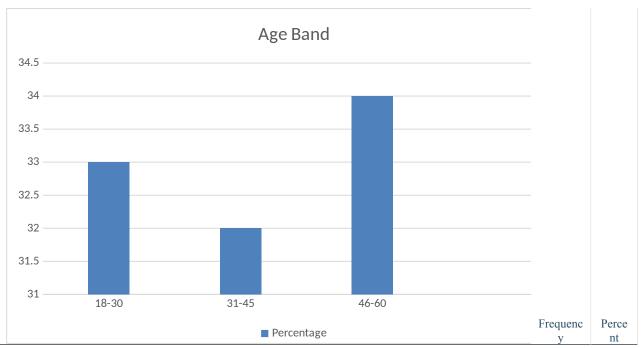


Table A1.3: Education

	Frequency	Percent
Secondary	377	13.7
Undergraduate/OND/Technical School	378	13.8
BSc/HND	403	14.7
Masters	428	15.6
PhD	401	14.6
None	391	14.2
Others	369	13.4
Total	2747	100.0

Table A1.22: We heard about COVID-19 through TV programmes

	Frequency	Percent
TV programmes	1411	7.6
radio programmes	1355	7.3
Jingles	1317	7.1
Music	1350	7.3
Newspaper reports	1356	7.3
Twitter	1320	7.1
Facebook	1320	7.1
Instagram	1318	7.1
LinkedIn	1275	6.9
WhatsApp	1326	7.1
words of mouth	1344	7.2
Cartoons	1274	6.9

Animation	1279	6.9
other source	1321	7.1
Total	18566	100.0

Table A1.23: Our current source of information on COVID-19 is through

	Frequency	Percent
TV programmes	1420	7.6
Radio programmes	1341	7.1
Jingles	1333	7.1
Music	1295	6.9
Newspaper reports	1376	7.3
Twitter	1352	7.2
Facebook	1393	7.4
Instagram	1313	7.0
LinkedIn	1311	7.0
WhatsApp	1420	7.6
Word of mouth	1341	7.1
Cartoons	1264	6.7
Animation	1337	7.1
other sources	1288	6.9
Total	18784	100.0

Table A1.24: How frequently do you seek information on COVID-19?

	Frequency	Percent
Highly frequently (i.e every day)	746	27.2
Fairly frequently (i.e at least once a week)	716	26.1
Less frequent (i.e at least once a month)	672	24.5
None (i.e I don't seek out information on COVID-19)	608	22.2
Total	2742	100.0

Table A1.25: Has music played any role in helping you cope with the pandemic?

	Frequency	Percent
No	672	24.5
Yes	740	27.0
I don't know	654	23.9
I don't listen to music	676	24.7

Total 2742 100.0

The poll on the role of music during the lockdown got a total number of 430 votes with Yes option having the highest percentage of votes of 68.1%, I don't Know option having 13.7% votes, No option having 12.1% votes and lastly I don't listen to music option with 6% votes of the total poll percentage. A further analysis on those that responded with a 'yes' was carried out using wordcloud and manual analysis.



Table A1.26: If yes, what was the role?

Figure 1.26 Word cloud showing role of music

The word cloud above shows a pictorial analysis of the perceptions of the respondents on the role of music during the pandemic. The words 'music', 'helped', 'mind' are most prominent, followed by the word 'whenever' and others such as 'boredom', hope' 'away'. 'Nerves' and 'calm' are also visibly prominent.

Manual textual analysis showed that music is associated with these words in various contexts. For example one respondent stated that:

^{&#}x27;Music has **helped** to relieve the stress of being restricted to the house' (respondent 52)

^{6...}Helped me clear my **mind**' (respondent 16)

'Sometimes it takes away my **mind** from the negative side of COVID-19 and I'm lost in that exciting feeling, **whenever** my favourite music is on' (respondent 65).

All of these accounts indicate the importance of the role of music as a coping strategy during the pandemic.

Table A1.27 Have you seen any cartoon or animation that changed your perception of COVID-19?

	Frequency	Percent
No	1356	49.4
Yes	1391	50.6
Total	2747	100.0

Table A1.28: If yes, where did you see it (e.g. Face book, etc)

	Frequency	Percent
Facebook	84	6.0
Twitter	251	18.1
WhatsApp	261	18.8
YouTube	4	0.3
TV programmes/advert	667	48.0
Social Media	69	5.0
Instagram	10	0.7
Google	8	0.6
Cartoon Network	36	2.6
Total	1390	100.0

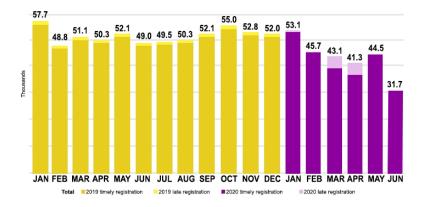
The presence of the COVID-19 pandemic, though very devastating to the health sector, it however has focused attention as never before on the cultural sector (Jeannotte, 2021), Kapoor & Kaufman, (2020) added that, some individuals, firms, and countries displayed resilient and creative responses in coping with pressing demands on healthcare and basic sanity. The daily statistical reports during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown show a picture of gloom and doom. As at December, 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in 1.4 million deaths and over 58 million infections worldwide (Dong et al., 2020).

Therapeutic and killing **boredom**'(respondent 73)

^{&#}x27;Keeping hope alive positively knowing that the pandemic is not a death sentence' (respondent 46)

^{&#}x27;The role of focusing my **mind** on things that are more eternal knowing fully well that this phase too shall pass away' (respondent 71)

^{&#}x27;Calming my nerves' (respondent 6)



Source: Philippine statistics authority

Locally too, since the virus was first reported in March, "Nigerian authorities have confirmed 1,242 deaths, 81,963 infections and 69,651 recoveries in 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory, according to figures released by the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC). As a country, Nigeria witnessed a second wave of the pandemic, a spike in infections has been seen in Africa's most populous nation, leaving six killed and 1,041 infected as of June, 2020, according to the NCDC.

Some residents stayed glued to their social media platforms to get updates on COVID-19 death rates and probably if it's gradually declining so as to continue life as before. Fortunately, people got informed about how to take precautions to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Importantly, the prevalence of the COVID-19 public health awareness was not limited to the healthcare or social workers only, neither was it being led from medical science, but the study also utilized arts-led interdisciplinary research methods, creative arts, and music were part of the campaign. The arts have helped in difficult times when society is going through a distress phase.

Sheldon and Preskorn (2020) reported that "the media can inform the population, but they can also hype topics to increase audience ratings. Nevertheless, the mortality rate reported for COVID-19 has declined since the earliest days of the pandemic" these sources reported. This is partly due to music which has helped to reach the lowest of the lowest in the society, as found in our study, most people's health started improving as the prevention methods was been emphasized on the daily music being aired on various media. The art has a great way to calm you and decrease stress levels. It is used in more serious cases by certified professional to help people and deal with mental illness and other emotional challenges. The arts can prevent disease. Patients found it hard to adhere to instructions by physicians e.g. a campaign to decrease heart disease in England found that people were much more responsive to the message, "dance makes the heart grow stronger" than to "exercise makes Heart grow stronger." Dance is one of the best ways to improve health in a number of ways enhancing social engagement apart from the physical benefits which is important to overall health and wellbeing. A host of programs have patients in various settings create art to increase their sense of control, distract them from pain, decrease their stress level and blood pressure, providing them with an outlet for emotional

exploration and expression (Macneil, 2011). This is to say that, the role of public enlightenment through music and other cultural activities helped people to manage the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 is an attack on the immune system. Music helps in building and boosting the immune system. This study finds out that, music and the cartoons are veritable tools of getting the attention of the masses where poster and signage will not get to, music and jingles penetrated such places. Furthermore, Kapoor & Kaufman (2020) suggested that, "regularly engaging in some creative activity can be associated with improved well-being and coping during the pandemic, adding that, people could engage in some form of creative activities such as using videos a form of documented intervention, storytelling, and photography. This is assumed to reduce boredom to the barest minimum and also to enhance creative skills.

CONCLUSION

Many residents of multi-tenanted housing in Lagos continue to bear the impact of the six-week lockdown of 2020. Although the lockdown allowed people some quality time with their family, in some countries, the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown had adverse effect on family, adding tension, boredom and stress. Some families experienced significant loss of income, increased business instability, emotional stress, increased expenditure on food and restiveness by homebound children and young adults. However, we found that music generally served as a crucial tool of enlightenment, especially in awakening consciousness on COVID-19 preventive measures. As there are comparable conditions of dense, sub-standard housing in most developing world cities facing the pandemic, our recommendations are to be adopted by other African countries. WHO, (2020) in response to COVID-19, mentioned that individual, co-operate bodies, governments at both local and international level has made efforts to suppress the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic infection in the community. Ali, 2020 reiterated that:

The most effective tool to protect this COVID-19 pandemic from spreading far and wide is to create public health awareness. Therefore, Public health awareness helps and reduces the intensity of spreading rate and reduces death rate, and preventive measures are required to control this pandemic disease across all societal strata. All hands must therefore be on deck from professionals to commoners to ensure the information on public health awareness during the COVID-19 pandemic is disseminated appropriately.

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