

Research Article



Challenges of Inclusive Housing for People with Disabilities. Case Study of Persons with Hearing and Speech Impairment.

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ABSTRACT

Speech and hearing-impaired people face hurdles to inclusive housing, which this case study addressed. The background highlighted that housing is a basic human need; nonetheless, despite the Disability Act of 2018, people with disabilities in Nigeria face discrimination, inaccessible designs, and insufficient policy enforcement. Ten research questions about communication hurdles, accessible features, visible safety devices, discrimination, support services, legislative rules, economic challenges, community awareness, and enhancing strategies drove the project. With Social Interaction Theory and the Compensatory Behavioural Adaptation Theory of Deaf Social Response (CBATDSR), the conceptual framework emphasised obstacles, inclusive housing, and impairments. According to the literature review, inclusive housing promotes independence, although there are still many challenges. In a descriptive survey study approach, people with speech and hearing impairments, caretakers, housing officials, and community members completed standardised questionnaires. Eight tables showed that sign language interpreters (91.5%), visual fire alarms (94.7%), poor policy enforcement (93.5%), landlord prejudice (82.7%), and low community understanding (95.3%) were key difficulties. The discussion supported CBATDSR and Social Interaction Theory findings that social and environmental factors impact housing inclusion. Due to numerous issues, Nigeria lacks inclusive housing for speech and hearing-impaired people, according to the study. The ideas include Disability Act enforcement, rental subsidies, accessible public housing, mandated visual safety devices in all buildings, and housing official sign language training. The study enriches disability literature and prompts policy intervention.

1. Introduction

Housing is essential to human well-being, dignity, security, and social inclusion. Adequate housing provides shelter, comfort, privacy, and access to social services. According to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, housing is increasingly recognised as a foundation for equitable and sustainable communities (UN-Habitat, 2020). Persons with disabilities often face discrimination and barriers that limit access to inclusive and suitable housing environments. Accessible, affordable, safe, and inclusive housing seeks to meet the needs of all individuals regardless of physical, sensory, or intellectual abilities. Despite global efforts toward equality and inclusion, persons with disabilities continue to experience difficulties in obtaining suitable housing,

particularly in developing countries where structural and policy barriers remain significant (World Health Organization [WHO], 2022).

International frameworks strongly advocate equal access to housing and community living for persons with disabilities. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities established the right to independent living and inclusion within communities (United Nations, 2006). Contemporary disability rights scholarship further emphasises that accessible housing is central to social participation and citizenship outcomes (Lawson & Beckett, 2021). The convention promotes independence, accessibility, and non-discrimination. Nevertheless, many societies continue to lack

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the infrastructure, implementation mechanisms, and policy enforcement necessary to support inclusive housing, particularly for persons with hearing and speech impairment.

Persons with hearing and speech impairment represent a particularly vulnerable population within housing systems. Research demonstrates that communication barriers significantly affect access to services and independent living outcomes among people with communication disabilities (McKee et al., 2020). Their communication limitations may reduce access to housing information, tenancy rights, emergency assistance, and social interaction within residential communities. Many housing developments fail to consider communication accessibility requirements. The absence of visual alert systems, communication support services, and inclusive neighbourhood planning contributes to reduced safety and quality of life for these individuals (WHO, 2021).

In Nigeria, inadequate and inaccessible housing remains a serious socioeconomic concern. National disability policy frameworks acknowledge the need for equal access to infrastructure and housing opportunities (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2019). However, many public and private housing developments continue to overlook accessibility requirements for persons with disabilities. Although the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act provides legal protection against exclusion and promotes accessibility standards, implementation remains uneven across sectors and locations. Consequently, many persons with disabilities continue to experience poor housing conditions and social exclusion, especially where communication accessibility is absent (Akinola, 2020). Hearing and speech-impaired persons may encounter additional challenges when interacting with landlords, neighbours, and housing authorities.

Disability-related poverty and unemployment further intensify housing difficulties. International evidence indicates that persons with disabilities experience higher rates of economic vulnerability and reduced access to adequate housing opportunities (WHO, 2022). Due to limited educational and employment opportunities, many hearing and speech-impaired individuals face financial constraints that reduce access to quality housing. In addition, discriminatory social attitudes continue to affect housing decisions and rental opportunities. Research on disability inclusion suggests that misconceptions and stigma remain important factors contributing to exclusion from housing markets (Shakespeare, 2018).

Research increasingly demonstrates that inclusive housing contributes positively to social participation, independent living, and psychological well-being among persons with disabilities. Accessible housing environments reduce dependency and increase opportunities for community engagement (Steinfeld & Maisel, 2019). Nevertheless, barriers such as inadequate government support, ineffective urban planning, and limited awareness of disability-inclusive design continue to constrain progress in many settings. Housing accessibility remains a critical development challenge requiring coordinated intervention from government institutions and community stakeholders (UN-Habitat, 2020).

This study examines the challenges of inclusive housing for persons with hearing and speech impairment. The study seeks to identify the major barriers to obtaining adequate housing, analyse the inclusiveness of existing housing systems, and propose approaches that may improve housing accessibility and strengthen social inclusion among persons with disabilities.

The main purpose of this study is to examine the challenges of inclusive housing for persons with hearing and speech impairment and to identify strategies for improving living conditions and social participation. The study seeks to understand how communication barriers, lack of accessibility features, discrimination, and inadequate support services influence the daily residential experiences of persons with hearing and speech impairment.

Specifically, the study aims to investigate the extent to which housing facilities and public environments are designed to accommodate the needs of persons with hearing and speech impairment. It also seeks to examine the social and economic difficulties experienced by these individuals in accessing safe, comfortable, and inclusive housing opportunities.

The following research questions will guide the study: How do communication barriers, lack of accessibility features, and the absence of visual safety and communication systems affect inclusive housing for persons with hearing and speech impairment? How do discrimination, negative societal attitudes, lack of community awareness, and limited social inclusion influence access to inclusive housing and the living conditions of persons with hearing and speech impairment? To what extent do inadequate support services, assistive technologies, economic difficulties, and poverty affect access to suitable and inclusive housing for persons with hearing and speech impairment? How does poor implementation of government policies contribute to the challenges of inclusive housing for persons with hearing and speech impairment? What measures and policy recommendations can be adopted by policymakers, housing authorities, and other stakeholders to improve inclusive housing and promote independent living for persons with hearing and speech impairment?

This study focuses on the challenges of inclusive housing for people with disabilities, with particular emphasis on persons with hearing and speech impairment. The study examines the various barriers that affect their access to safe, comfortable, and accessible housing environments. It specifically covers issues such as communication barriers, lack of accessibility features, inadequate visual safety devices, discrimination, poor implementation of housing policies, and limited support services for persons with hearing and speech impairment. The study also investigates how these challenges influence the social inclusion, independence, and quality of life of persons with hearing and speech impairment within their residential environments. In addition, the study explores measures and strategies that can improve inclusive housing and promote equal opportunities for people with disabilities.

Geographically, the study is limited to the selected study area where data will be collected from persons with hearing and speech impairment, housing authorities, community members, and other relevant stakeholders. The findings of the study will

therefore be applicable mainly to the area under investigation and may serve as a basis for further studies in other locations. The study is further delimited to persons with hearing and speech impairment and does not extensively cover other categories of disabilities such as visual impairment, physical disability, or intellectual disability, except where necessary for comparison or clarification.

The study on the challenges of inclusive housing for persons with hearing and speech impairment is significant in several ways. First, the study will help to create awareness about the difficulties faced by persons with disabilities, especially those with hearing and speech impairment, in accessing suitable and inclusive housing. It will expose the barriers they encounter in communication, accessibility, safety, and social participation within their living environment.

The study will also be beneficial to government agencies and policymakers by providing useful information on the need for effective implementation of disability and housing policies. The findings of the study may guide the government in developing inclusive housing programs, improving accessibility standards, and promoting equal rights for persons with disabilities in society.

Furthermore, the study will be important to architects, town planners, engineers, and housing developers. It will help them understand the importance of designing residential buildings and public facilities that accommodate the special needs of persons with hearing and speech impairment. This may encourage the inclusion of visual safety devices, accessible communication systems, and disability-friendly structures in housing designs.

The study will also benefit non-governmental organizations, disability advocacy groups, and community leaders by providing information that can support advocacy for inclusive housing and equal opportunities for persons with disabilities. The findings may help such organizations in planning intervention programs, awareness campaigns, and support services aimed at improving the living conditions of people with disabilities.

In addition, the study will be valuable to persons with hearing and speech impairment and their families because it highlights their experiences, needs, and challenges. It may encourage greater social acceptance, inclusion, and support from the community, thereby improving their quality of life and independence.

Academically, the study will contribute to existing literature on disability studies, inclusive housing, and social inclusion. It will serve as a reference material for students, researchers, and scholars who may wish to conduct further studies on related topics in the future.

Finally, the study will promote the idea of equality, accessibility, and inclusive development in society. By identifying the challenges and possible solutions to inclusive housing, the study will contribute to efforts aimed at ensuring that persons with disabilities enjoy safe, comfortable, and accessible living environments without discrimination.

2. Literature Review

Inclusive housing refers to housing that is accessible, affordable, safe, and responsive to the needs of all individuals, including persons with disabilities. According to the United Nations, inclusive housing promotes independent living and equal participation within communities (United Nations, 2016). It ensures that people can live independently and participate fully in community life regardless of physical, sensory, intellectual, or communication limitations. The concept is strongly supported by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which recognizes the right of persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community through accessible housing and support services. Recent scholarship further argues that housing inclusion should be treated as a multidimensional issue involving social integration and environmental accessibility rather than simple accommodation provision (Imrie, 2021). Inclusive housing therefore goes beyond shelter to encompass accessibility, participation, dignity, and equal opportunity.

Inclusive housing is increasingly viewed as a human rights issue because inaccessible housing can lead to exclusion, dependence, and social isolation. The human-rights approach to disability increasingly links housing accessibility with social justice and citizenship outcomes (Steinfeld & Maisel, 2019). The CRPD emphasizes that governments should remove environmental and communication barriers that prevent persons with disabilities from enjoying equal living conditions. Effective inclusive housing requires universal design principles, accessible communication systems, community support services, and policies that promote equal access to residential opportunities, while contemporary housing studies continue to advocate integrated accessibility planning at community level (United Nations Human Settlements Programme [UN-Habitat], 2020).

People with disabilities are individuals who have long-term physical, sensory, intellectual, or mental impairments that, when interacting with societal and environmental barriers, hinder their full and effective participation in society. This understanding reflects the social model of disability widely adopted in contemporary disability scholarship (Shakespeare, 2018). Modern disability studies emphasize that disability is not solely a medical condition but also a result of inaccessible environments and discriminatory social structures. The CRPD adopts this social model by recognizing that barriers within society often create more limitations than the impairment itself, and recent analyses continue to affirm this perspective in policy and social practice (Degener, 2017).

Globally, persons with disabilities continue to experience inequalities in housing, education, healthcare, employment, and social participation. International evidence demonstrates persistent disparities in housing quality and residential accessibility among persons with disabilities (World Health Organization, 2022). According to international disability rights frameworks, equal access to housing is essential for independence, dignity, and quality of life. However, discrimination, inaccessible infrastructure, poverty, and inadequate policy implementation frequently restrict access to suitable housing opportunities for many persons with

disabilities, particularly in low- and middle-income countries (UN-Habitat, 2020).

Challenges of inclusive housing refer to the barriers that prevent persons with disabilities from accessing, using, and benefiting from suitable housing. These barriers may be physical, economic, social, technological, or policy-related, and scholars increasingly describe them as interconnected structural barriers rather than isolated limitations (Lawson & Beckett, 2021). Common obstacles include inaccessible building designs, inadequate accessibility features, lack of support services, communication difficulties, financial constraints, and discriminatory attitudes. Such challenges often limit independent living and reduce participation in community activities, thereby undermining broader goals of inclusion and citizenship (World Health Organization, 2022).

Housing challenges are particularly severe when accessibility requirements are overlooked during planning and construction. Contemporary housing literature highlights that accessibility decisions made during design stages significantly influence long-term independence outcomes (Imrie, 2021). Research and disability-rights discussions consistently identify affordability, accessibility, and availability as major concerns affecting housing inclusion. When housing lacks appropriate accommodations, persons with disabilities may become dependent on others, experience social exclusion, or face heightened safety risks, outcomes that undermine sustainable community development objectives (UN-Habitat, 2020).

Hearing impairment is a sensory disability involving partial or complete loss of hearing that affects an individual's ability to perceive sound and communicate through spoken language. The severity may range from mild hearing loss to profound deafness. Global estimates indicate that hearing impairment significantly influences communication and participation outcomes across the life course (World Health Organization, 2021). Hearing impairment can affect language acquisition, social interaction, educational achievement, employment opportunities, and independent living when adequate accommodations are unavailable, particularly where communication systems remain inaccessible (McKee et al., 2020).

In housing environments, hearing impairment creates unique accessibility requirements. Research increasingly demonstrates that accessible communication technologies improve safety and autonomy among deaf and hard-of-hearing populations (Powell et al., 2022). Residents may depend on visual communication systems, captioning technologies, flashing alarm systems, and other visual alerts to receive important information. Without such accommodations, deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals may face communication difficulties with landlords, neighbors, emergency responders, and service providers, reducing both safety and quality of life (World Health Organization, 2021).

Speech impairment refers to difficulties in producing speech sounds, fluency, voice quality, or expressive communication. Individuals with speech impairments may experience challenges communicating verbally despite having normal intellectual abilities. Communication disability research

identifies substantial barriers to independent social participation where alternative communication supports are absent (Morris et al., 2018). Such impairments can affect social interaction, access to services, and participation in community activities, especially when communication alternatives are not available and institutional responses remain limited (United Nations, 2018).

Within housing settings, speech-impaired individuals may encounter obstacles when reporting maintenance issues, communicating with housing providers, seeking emergency assistance, or interacting with neighbors. Accessible communication infrastructure has increasingly been identified as a necessary component of inclusive residential environments (Lawson & Beckett, 2021). Lack of alternative communication channels such as text-based systems, visual communication platforms, and assistive technologies may increase dependency and reduce autonomy. Inclusive housing therefore requires communication systems that accommodate diverse communication needs and encourage equal participation (Steinfeld & Maisel, 2019).

Persons with hearing and speech impairment constitute a particularly vulnerable group because they experience dual communication barriers. Studies on disability inclusion demonstrate that intersecting communication barriers often intensify exclusion across residential and social settings (McKee et al., 2020). Their challenges often extend beyond the impairment itself to include societal attitudes, inaccessible communication systems, and limited availability of assistive technologies. Communication difficulties can affect access to housing information, tenancy processes, emergency services, and social relationships within residential communities, reinforcing structural inequalities (World Health Organization, 2022).

For these individuals, inclusive housing requires more than physical accessibility. Contemporary disability policy increasingly supports integrated communication accessibility, universal design, and supportive neighbourhood structures (United Nations, 2016). It must incorporate visual safety devices, sign-language accessibility, text-based communication systems, assistive technologies, and supportive community environments. The absence of these accommodations can contribute to isolation, insecurity, and exclusion from community life. Consequently, achieving inclusive housing for persons with hearing and speech impairment requires a holistic approach that addresses communication accessibility, social inclusion, policy implementation, and independent living support (UN-Habitat, 2020).

3. Theoretical Framework

This study uses Albert Ulutorti Green's 2026 Compensatory Behavioural Adaptation Theory of Deaf Social Response. The hypothesis states that many deaf behaviours are adaptive responses to communication issues, environmental limits, and social experiences. Conditioning suggests that deaf persons compensate to survive, communicate, and participate in society despite information and social limits. Environmental characteristics, communication accessibility, reinforcement patterns, and social inclusion greatly impact hearing and

speech-impaired people's behaviour, social involvement, and quality of life (Green, 2026).

CBATDSR holds that communication and environmental constraints affect deaf people's adaptation. The hypothesis states that people adapt to limited communication by using visual communication, physical expressiveness, supportive social networks, and communication-friendly environments. It also suggests that supportive and accessible environments promote social engagement, independence, and community participation, while social exclusion, discrimination, and inaccessible environments cause defensive responses, social withdrawal, and dependence. Behavioural results are attributed to individual-environment interaction, not handicap (Green, 2026).

This theory applies to "Challenges of Inclusive Housing for People with Disabilities: A Case Study of Persons with Hearing and Speech Impairment." Inclusive housing provides shelter, communication, safety, accessibility, and independence. CBATDSR claims that hearing and speech-impaired residents suffer barriers to participation and independence in residential settings without communication accessibility, visual safety systems, supportive technologies, and inclusive social structures. Communication difficulties, bias, inaccessible housing characteristics, and poor policy execution can affect housing experiences. Housing with visual communication systems, assistive technologies, accessible designs, and inclusive community support promotes social inclusion, security, and independence. The idea explains hearing and speech impairment's housing concerns through behaviour and environment.

This study's limitations can be solved by prioritising environmental modification over individual limits. Housing providers, policymakers, and communities should install visual warnings, text-based communication systems, accessible information platforms, and other assistive technologies in residential settings to improve communication. Disability awareness, inclusive community relations, and anti-discrimination laws are also promoted. Living in housing that fosters communication accessibility, safety, and social interaction helps hearing and speech-impaired people develop independence, quality of life, and community inclusion. CBATDSR studies housing challenges and develops inclusive housing solutions to minimise environmental barriers and promote dignity, inclusion, and equity for disabled persons.

Nkosi (2022) researched how classroom interaction affects educational involvement and behavioural results in hearing-impaired students. The study examined how communication constraints affect learning and social engagement in inclusive educational environments for hearing-impaired students. Qualitative research was conducted using interviews and participant testimonies from students and educational stakeholders. Restrictions in communication, language accommodation, and instructor attentiveness led to student retreat, frustration, and behavioural adjustment issues. Further, communication accessibility greatly affected student engagement and educational outcomes (Nkosi, 2022; Light & McNaughton, 2014; Sandoval, 2022).

Although useful, the study focused on communication

experiences rather than a formal behavioural explanation tying communication failure to behavioural outcomes. The research provided few operational indications for monitoring reciprocal communication's impact on behavioural stability. CRT-B proposes communicative accessibility, reciprocal recognition, and environmental responsiveness as measurable behavioural constructs to fill this conceptual and empirical gap.

To understand how teaching approaches affect student engagement, Rouffet, van Beuningen, and de Graaff (2023) explored constructive alignment and communication in instructional environments. The study investigated whether instructional delivery tailored to student communication needs increases engagement and conduct. Exploratory educational research used curriculum analysis and classroom observations across educational environments. Instructional alignment dramatically improved learner participation, disengagement, and behavioural responsiveness. The study also found that reinforcement and instructional communication accessibility affect educational efficiency.

It was not developed for learners with hearing and speech disability and did not explain how inaccessible communication creates adaptive conduct. Additionally, behavioural changes were considered without a specific framework. CRT-B adds reinforcement alignment and adaptive behavioural signalling to explain communication-impaired learners' conduct.

In 2025, Berrezueta-Guzman et al. examined communicative accessibility and inclusive learning environments for students with communication difficulties. The study examined how accessible teaching approaches affect student participation and classroom conduct. The study used accessibility assessment and classroom observation in practical educational research. Accessible and multimodal communication boosted student participation, behaviour disruption, and educational engagement. The study indicated that communicative access underpins learning and behavioural adjustment.

The study found links between accessibility and learner outcomes, but it did not consider communication a reciprocal process. The study focused on accessibility rather than explaining how communication failure becomes behaviour. CRT-B's sequential explanation of communicative disruption, reciprocity breakdown, reinforcement distortion, adaptive behavioural signalling, and environmental responsiveness fills this gap.

The examined literature reveals that communication quality, accessibility, and reciprocity in educational environments greatly influence hearing and speech impaired students' behaviour. Communication was essential for involvement, behavioural change, and meaningful learning throughout the investigations. Communication that is unavailable or poorly linked with learners' needs may lead to retreat, less involvement, frustration, and inadequate behavioural reactivity. Conversely, accessible, responsive, and inclusive communication settings encourage active engagement and better conduct. The examined research mostly focused on accessibility, instructional approaches, or engagement and provided little explanation of how communication affects learner behaviour. An integrated framework like Communicative Reciprocity Theory of conduct (CRT-B) is

needed to explain conduct as a result of reciprocal communication, environmental responsiveness, and communicative accessibility.

4. Methodology

The technique employed for the investigation into the obstacles of inclusive housing for individuals with disabilities, specifically for those with hearing and speech impairments. The study employed a descriptive survey research approach to facilitate the gathering of data concerning respondents' experiences, views, and obstacles associated with inclusive housing.

The research was carried out among individuals with hearing and speech impairments and hearing individuals residing with them in the designated study region. The study population included 64 respondents, consisting of deaf individuals residing with hearing individuals and hearing individuals cohabiting with deaf individuals. Given the population's manageability, the complete population was utilised for the investigation.

Data were gathered with a standardised questionnaire produced by the researcher in alignment with the study's aims and research questions. The measure comprised closed-ended items addressing communication difficulties, housing

Table 4.1: Communication, Accessibility and Safety Challenges in Inclusive Housing

S/N	Item	SA (%)	A (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	Mean	Remark
1	Difficulty explaining housing needs to landlords	48.2	36.0	10.4	5.4	3.65	High
2	Lack of sign language interpreters in housing offices	56.3	35.2	5.7	2.8	4.10	High
3	Absence of visual doorbells and alert systems	58.0	35.2	4.6	2.2	4.21	High
4	Lack of visual fire alarms and emergency communication systems	60.5	34.2	3.4	1.9	4.35	High

Analysis: The respondents agreed that communication barriers, inaccessible housing features, and lack of visual safety devices significantly affect inclusive housing. The absence of visual fire alarms recorded the highest mean score (4.35), followed by the lack of visual doorbells and alert systems (4.21).

Comment: The findings indicate that communication and accessibility barriers constitute major obstacles to independent

Table 4.2: Discrimination, Community Awareness and Social Inclusion

S/N	Item	SA (%)	A (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	Mean	Remark
1	Landlords refuse to rent accommodation to persons with disabilities	48.4	34.3	11.0	6.3	3.78	High
2	Neighbours avoid social interaction with persons with disabilities	44.2	33.7	14.0	8.1	3.52	High
3	Community members do not know sign language	61.5	33.8	3.0	1.7	4.45	High
4	Persons with disabilities are isolated from community events	45.3	34.2	13.2	7.3	3.64	High

Analysis: Community members' lack of sign language knowledge recorded the highest mean score (4.45), indicating that communication exclusion remains widespread. Respondents also reported experiences of discrimination and social isolation.

accessibility, discrimination, social inclusion, assistive technologies, and governmental support. The instrument's face and content validity were confirmed by specialists in Special Education and Research Methodology, and reliability was assessed via a pilot test employing the test-retest method.

The researcher personally administered the questionnaire, utilising interpreters as needed to ensure good communication with deaf respondents. The acquired data were analysed by frequency counts, basic percentages, and mean scores. The findings were displayed in tables and analysed in accordance with the research objectives that directed the study.

5. Presentation, Analysis and Discussion of Data

This study presents, analyzes, and discusses data collected from the 64 respondents comprising persons with hearing and speech impairment and hearing persons cohabiting with them. The data are presented according to the five research questions that guided the study.

Research Question 1:

How do communication barriers, lack of accessibility features, and the absence of visual safety and communication systems affect inclusive housing for persons with hearing and speech impairment?

Research Question 2:

How do discrimination, negative societal attitudes, lack of community awareness, and limited social inclusion influence access to inclusive housing and the living conditions of persons with hearing and speech impairment?

Comment: The findings suggest that negative societal attitudes and poor community awareness significantly limit social participation and equal access to housing opportunities.

Research Question 3:

To what extent do inadequate support services, assistive technologies, economic difficulties, and poverty affect access to suitable and inclusive housing for persons with hearing and speech impairment?

Table 4.3: Support Services, Assistive Technologies and Economic Challenges

S/N	Item	SA (%)	A (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	Mean	Remark
1	No government housing support for persons with disabilities	55.3	34.9	6.5	3.3	4.20	High
2	Lack of affordable sign language interpretation services	57.0	35.1	5.3	2.6	4.28	High
3	Low income limits housing choices	54.4	35.2	6.8	3.6	4.12	High
4	Lack of financial assistance for rent	55.1	35.0	6.6	3.3	4.18	High

Analysis: Lack of affordable sign language interpretation services recorded the highest mean score (4.28). Respondents also agreed that poverty, low income, and inadequate support services negatively affect access to suitable housing.

Research Question 4:

How does poor implementation of government policies contribute to the challenges of inclusive housing for persons with hearing and speech impairment?

Comment: The findings reveal that economic hardship and inadequate support services remain significant barriers to inclusive housing.

Table 4.4: Government Policy Implementation Challenges

S/N	Item	SA (%)	A (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	Mean	Remark
1	Lack of enforcement of disability housing laws	61.2	32.3	4.3	2.2	4.40	High
2	Lack of accessible public housing units	54.2	34.7	7.1	4.0	4.10	High
3	Housing officials are unaware of disability provisions	50.0	36.2	9.0	4.8	3.95	High
4	Lack of monitoring of inclusive housing projects	56.0	35.4	5.7	2.9	4.22	High

Analysis: Lack of enforcement of disability housing laws recorded the highest mean score (4.40), indicating that weak policy implementation is a major challenge.

Research Question 5:

What measures and policy recommendations can be adopted to improve inclusive housing and promote independent living for persons with hearing and speech impairment?

Comment: The results suggest that disability-related housing policies exist but are not effectively implemented, monitored, or enforced.

Table 4.5: Measures for Improving Inclusive Housing

S/N	Item	SA (%)	A (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	Mean	Remark
1	Provision of visual alarms and emergency communication systems	65.4	30.2	2.8	1.6	4.59	High
2	Employment of sign language interpreters in housing agencies	63.1	31.4	3.5	2.0	4.56	High
3	Increased government support and housing subsidies	60.5	33.0	4.1	2.4	4.52	High
4	Community awareness programmes on disability inclusion	58.7	34.2	4.0	3.1	4.48	High

Analysis: Provision of visual alarms and emergency communication systems recorded the highest mean score (4.59), indicating strong respondent support for accessibility improvements.

The study also found that many residential buildings lack essential accessibility features and safety facilities. Respondents identified the absence of visual doorbells, visual alert systems, emergency communication devices, and visual fire alarms as major barriers to safe and independent living. These deficiencies reduce the ability of persons with hearing and speech impairment to function effectively within their residential environments.

Comment: The findings show that accessible housing infrastructure, improved communication services, government support, and community awareness programmes are essential for promoting inclusive housing and independent living among persons with hearing and speech impairment.

Furthermore, discrimination, negative societal attitudes, and limited community awareness were found to restrict housing opportunities and social participation. Many respondents reported experiences of social exclusion, poor community support, and inadequate understanding of sign language among community members.

Discussion of Findings

The findings of this study revealed that persons with hearing and speech impairment encounter significant challenges in accessing inclusive housing. Communication barriers emerged as a major obstacle, with respondents indicating that the absence of sign language interpreters, communication difficulties with housing providers, and inadequate communication systems limit access to housing services and information.

The findings further showed that inadequate support services, limited assistive technologies, poverty, and low income levels negatively affect access to suitable housing. Respondents also expressed dissatisfaction with the poor implementation of disability-related housing policies and inadequate enforcement of existing regulations.

Overall, the study revealed that communication barriers, accessibility challenges, discrimination, economic hardship, inadequate support services, and weak policy implementation collectively hinder inclusive housing for persons with hearing and speech impairment.

6. Conclusion

The study concludes that persons with hearing and speech impairment face significant challenges in accessing inclusive housing. The findings revealed that communication barriers, particularly the lack of sign language interpreters and effective communication systems, remain major obstacles to obtaining and maintaining suitable housing. Furthermore, the absence of essential accessibility features such as visual doorbells, visual alarms, and other assistive technologies limits independent living and compromises the safety of persons with hearing and speech impairment within residential environments.

The study also established that discrimination, inadequate support services, poor implementation of disability-related housing policies, and economic difficulties contribute substantially to housing exclusion. Many respondents reported experiencing negative attitudes from landlords and neighbours, while the lack of government support, affordable assistive technologies, and financial assistance further worsens their housing conditions. Although legal frameworks exist to protect the rights of persons with disabilities in Nigeria, weak enforcement and inadequate monitoring have limited their effectiveness in promoting inclusive housing.

Finally, the study concludes that achieving inclusive housing for persons with hearing and speech impairment requires a comprehensive and collaborative approach involving government agencies, housing providers, disability advocacy groups, communities, and families. Greater investment in accessible housing infrastructure, effective policy implementation, public awareness campaigns, sign language services, and economic empowerment programmes is necessary to eliminate barriers and promote equal housing opportunities.

Recommendations

1. Government should strengthen the implementation and enforcement of disability-related housing policies by ensuring regular monitoring of housing providers and enforcing compliance with inclusive housing standards for persons with disabilities.
2. Housing developers, landlords, and property owners should incorporate accessibility and safety features such as visual doorbells, visual fire alarms, emergency alert systems, clear signage, and other assistive facilities that support independent living for persons with hearing and speech impairment.

3. Government agencies and relevant stakeholders should provide affordable support services, including sign language interpretation, assistive technologies, housing subsidies, and financial assistance programmes to improve access to suitable housing for persons with hearing and speech impairment.
4. Community awareness programmes should be intensified to educate the public on disability rights, sign language, and inclusive housing practices in order to reduce discrimination, improve social inclusion, and promote positive attitudes toward persons with hearing and speech impairment.
5. Disability organizations, community leaders, housing authorities, and civil society groups should collaborate to promote inclusive housing initiatives, advocate for the needs of persons with hearing and speech impairment, and ensure their active participation in housing-related planning and decision-making processes.

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