



Assessment of Claimants' Attitudes towards Compulsory Land Acquisition and Compensation in Osogbo, Nigeria

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Article Information

DOI: 10.9734/JSRR/2024/v30i11817

Open Peer Review History:

This journal follows the Advanced Open Peer Review policy. Identity of the Reviewers, Editor(s) and additional Reviewers, peer review comments, different versions of the manuscript, comments of the editors, etc are available here: <https://www.sdiarticle5.com/review-history/109922>

Review Article

Received: 15/10/2023

Accepted: 19/12/2023

Published: 02/01/2024

ABSTRACT

Comprehending the attitudes of claimants towards compulsory land acquisition and compensation is crucial in assessing the overall efficacy of the process. This exploration aids not only in gauging public sentiment but also in shaping policies and approaches that foster cooperation and equitable outcomes. This study focused on the assessment of claimants' attitudes towards compulsory land acquisition in Osogbo, Osun State, Nigeria. Data on claimants were obtained from 244 landholders whose lands were compulsorily acquired for rail track construction at Phase I, Osogbo. Frequency distribution, weighted mean scores, and factor analysis were employed to analyze the collected data in order to examine the behaviors exhibited by claimants and the factors contributing to those behaviors. The study revealed that the lack of a resettlement plan, inadequate time given for relocation, and insufficient compensation award to replace assets were triggers for the various behaviors exhibited by claimants. Factor analysis was used to analyse a 14-item factor instrument

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employed to examine the factors influencing claimants' behavioral attitudes toward compulsory land acquisition and compensation in the study area. The result yielded four distinct factors which include "Preliminary Factors leading to Inadequate Compensation" as Factor 1, "Factors Leading to Resistance by Claimants," as Factor 2, "Factors Leading to Inadequate Relay of Notices," and "Inadequacies in the provisions of the Land Use Act on Valuation Methods for Compulsory Land Acquisition and Compensation," as Factors 3 and 4 respectively. The study recommended that the Land Use Act be amended to align with present-day realities, incorporating considerations for land values and associated impacts, including the costs of claimants' relocation. This would alleviate the stress and social challenges faced by those affected by land acquisition, dousing the society tensions associated with it.

Keywords: Claimants' attitude; compulsory land acquisition; compensation.

1. INTRODUCTION

Government infrastructure and services that guarantee public health and safety, welfare, social and economic advancement, and environmental preservation and restoration are necessary for sustainable urban development [1]. Providing these infrastructures in some cases may require acquiring specific parcels of land situated at appropriate locations, sometimes yearning for development or already developed. The government can compulsorily acquire needed land for infrastructural development to override public interest, even when these lands may not be for sale at the time and the place in which they may be required [2,3]. This is also called eminent domain, compulsory purchase, land acquisition, and resumption. In furtherance to the acquisition process, compensation is paid to landowners who give up their properties for a public project according to the stipulation of the law governing the entire process.

Due to the importance of land amongst users across the world, landowners exhibit varied attitudes and reactions, especially during compulsory acquisition and compensation [4]. While these acquisitions, undertaken in the name of public interest, generally come with compensation, some landowners still grapple with anxiety, confusion, and frustration in the wake of this government actions which curtail their property rights. Moses and Sophia [5] further argued that these varying viewpoints might have emerged due to diverse stakes involved in acquiring the land, hence leading to different attitudes among claimants. This can result in a range of unfavorable and disjointed reactions, as individuals realized their inability to fully reap the economic advantages of the subject properties. Consequently, physical dispossession, trauma, upheaval caused by

removal from their residences and businesses amongst other forms of discomfort might be experienced [6-9].

No matter how noble the public goal may be, Nigerian landowners are usually hesitant, apprehensive, and sometimes aggressive. They are often unwilling to give up their rights. The social acceptability of compulsory acquisition and compensation process has continued to generate rancour and in some cases resulting in serious disagreements [10,11]. However the government's unified rights to expropriate private lands or estates and interests in the lands for public purposes have broad legal acceptance [12]. This may be attributed to perception of fear, distrust, and uncertainty arising from previous government antecedents of lands taken without due process and payment of compensation. Hence, understanding claimants' behaviors is crucial as it stimulates the evidence of an effective compulsory land acquisition and compensation process. In light of the considerations above, this paper aims to delve into the behavior of land owners towards compulsory land acquisition and intricate factors influencing claimants' attitudes towards compulsory land acquisition and compensation processes in Osogbo [13-15]. The remainder of this paper is structured as follows: Section 2 provides a comprehensive review of the existing literature on the subject matter, offering valuable insights and perspectives. Section 3 presents a detailed description of the data used in this study. Section 4 encapsulates a comprehensive conclusion that combines the key findings and implications discussed throughout this paper and presents actionable recommendations. By adhering to this systematic framework, this paper aims to provide a cohesive and insightful analysis of the perception and reactions of

claimants towards compulsory land acquisition and compensation.

1.1 Objectives of the Study

Given the background above, the specific objectives are to:

- i. identify the various behavioral attitude of claimants towards compulsory land acquisition in the study area.
- ii. examine the factors that influence claimants' attitude towards compulsory land acquisition in the study area.

The outcome of the study is expected to help acquiring authorities and investors gain insights into claimants' grievances, fostering a more empathetic approach and promoting adherence to best practices in compulsory land acquisition, as this will also encourage the government to formulate new policies or amend existing ones related to compulsory land acquisition.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Behavioral Attitude of Claimants towards Compulsory Land Acquisition

The indispensability of land in fulfilling the fundamental necessities of life has been highlighted by Salil [16] and this explains the consistently high demand for land. Different landowners hold varying perspectives on land, thereby exhibiting diverse attitudinal behaviors and reactions, particularly in cases of compulsory land acquisition and the subsequent compensation mandated by governmental authorities [4]. Within the spectrum of observable actions and expressions, individual behaviour ranges from highly positive to severely adverse.

The behavioral attitudes of claimants play a pivotal role in shaping the outcome and significance of compulsory land acquisition and compensation processes. While the body of literature focusing on claimants' behavioral attitudes toward these processes remains limited, a handful of studies have delved into claimants' perceptions regarding land acquisition and the associated compensation arrangements. For instance, Kakulu [17] investigated compensation within the context of oil and gas-bearing lands' compulsory acquisition. This study revealed that when communities are dissatisfied with the compensation amount, their reactions

may escalate to violence and legal actions. Conversely, Rowan-Robinson [18] earlier noted that generous and adequate compensation could foster a positive perception of compulsory acquisition by property owners, but the generous compensation could be impossible in a world of limited resources.

Oladapo and Ige [19], in exploring claimants' contentment with varying levels of compensation in compulsory land acquisition scenarios, identified protests and grievances as negative attitudinal responses among claimants. Similarly, Ndjovu Ndjovu [20] and Martin [21] emphasized that regardless of the noble intentions underlying a public purpose, landowners consistently exhibit apprehension, reluctance, and resistance when relinquishing their property rights. This sentiment aligns with the findings of Thomas, Ashaolu, Onifade, and Adewusi [22] and Martin [11], both of whom identified distrust and a pervasive sense of uncertainty as common challenges associated with compulsory land acquisition and compensation procedures.

However, Kuma et al. [12] present the most comprehensive compilation of claimants' attitudes. The extensive study by Kuma et al. [12] on the effectiveness and challenges of the compulsory land acquisition process identified several negative attributes among claimants, including difficulties in identifying claimants themselves, manifestations of greed, uncooperativeness, and instances of outright refusal to accept compensation. The above studies are pivotal to this research but are however limited by locational scope. The study of Kuma et al [12] was carried out in Abuja, Nigeria, while Oladapo and Ige [19] was undertaken in Ondo State. No verifiable study on claimants' attitude towards compulsory land acquisition process have been carried out in Osogbo, Nigeria which this study intends to achieve.

2.2 Factors Influencing Claimants' Attitude towards Compulsory Land Acquisition

Numerous studies have delved into the factors influencing claimants' perceptions of the compulsory land acquisition process and their resultant impediments to the process's intended goals. The principle of compensation aims to ensure fairness, where affected individuals are neither disadvantaged nor advantaged compared to their prior status before the land acquisition.

However, a prevailing sentiment suggests that compensation granted for compulsory land acquisition and damages is insufficient. This sentiment has been expressed by scholars such as Kakulu [17] and Odudu [23], who attributed the inadequacy of compensation to inconsistencies, lack of clarity, and ambiguity in statutory interpretation (particularly the Land Use Act No. 6 of 1978).

Deeyah and Akujuru [24] investigated the effectiveness of compulsory acquisition in road infrastructure development in Rivers State. They underscored concerns about transparency, unfairness, and disparities in property value assessments for compensation. The study identified a lack of awareness among affected landowners about compensation items and the assessment process, leading to suspicions about the fairness of the compensation awarded.

Obineme et al. [25] studied compensation practices in southeastern Nigeria and identified delayed compensation, absence of resettlement plans, insufficient compensation to replace assets, and a requirement for building plans as factors inciting resistance from claimants. Considering the psychological impact of compulsory land acquisition, ensuring claimant satisfaction is crucial for a smooth process from notice relay to compensation and relocation. Deeyah and Akujuru [24] also highlighted issues like inadequate notice service, insufficient time for relocation, and a lack of transparency as elements that deviate from international best practices, thereby potentially triggering negative reactions from claimants. Eminent domain, a government's power expressed through compulsory acquisition, is typically legislatively supported. Before the Land Use Act of 1978 in Nigeria, various statutes governed compulsory acquisition and compensation. Deeyah and Akujuru [24] however noted that these laws lack explicit measures to assess compensation adequacy.

Empirical evidence amassed over time underscores that compensation determined under the Land Use Act in Nigeria often falls short. Obineme, Udobi & Ifediora [25] observed that the Act does not specify a timeframe for claimants to relocate after receiving compensation. In a separate study, Okolo [26] attributed inadequate compensation issues to Nigeria's legal landscape regarding compulsory acquisition and compensation, while Kakulu [17] noted that Section 29 of the Land Use Act is

insufficient to achieve fair compensation due to its limitations and exclusion of certain claims. Ezeanwa [27] argues that the Land Use Act's compensation provision does not guarantee "adequate compensation," as affected individuals naturally expect funds to cover property replacement, losses, and relocation expenses. The principle of "Just Compensation," which aims for satisfactory financial reparation, is often lacking in these scenarios.

Deeyah & Akujuru [24] extensively cataloged issues related to compulsory land acquisition, highlighting poor consultation due to inadequate notice, insufficient time for preparation, and a lack of claimant perspectives in compensation. These inadequacies often diverge from best practice standards. The valuation of assets and compensation adequacy have also been studied extensively. Kakulu [17] and Udoekanem [28] emphasized the existence of differing methods and standards for valuation, leading to inconsistency in compensation outcomes. Louis [29] points out the lack of a universally accepted model for defining adequate compensation, while Kakulu [17] and Odudu [23] identified the application of multiple valuation standards resulting in wide disparities and potential conflicts between governments and landowners.

Shikoya and Olayiwola [30] further supported these findings in their analysis of claimants' satisfaction with the land acquisition and compensation process in Oyo state. The study highlighted various factors, including difficulties in identifying claimants, insufficient funds, delayed compensation payments, inaccurate asset enumeration, sentimental value attached to land, government policies, government unwillingness to pay claimants, lack of transparency, corruption activities by officials, uncooperative claimants, low assessment rates for crops and trees, introduction of fictional claimants, and claimants' refusal to accept compensation, as significant influences on satisfaction with compulsory land acquisition and compensation in the study area.

In summary, studies on the compulsory land acquisition process and compensation reveal consistent themes of inadequacy, lack of transparency, inconsistencies in valuation methods, and non-adherence to best practices. These issues collectively impact claimant perceptions to compensation fairness, and the overall effectiveness of the process. Addressing

these concerns is imperative for achieving equitable outcomes in land acquisition.

3. DATA COLLECTION AND METHODOLOGY

The data used in this study were elicited from landholders whose lands were compulsorily acquired for rail track construction at Phase I, Osogbo. This study adopted the location pattern stratification method in Ogunba [31] to stratify the affected communities into six (6) communities namely, Egbeji, Kuse, Onibueja, Aduragbemi, Okemokun, and Adeleke communities [32]. The total number of claimants according to FMWH [32] was eight hundred and twenty-nine (829) and this constituted the sampling frame. Yamane [33] sample size determination in Adebisi et al. [34] was adopted and the sample size arrived at was two hundred and seventy (270) claimants. The spread of the claimants according to the communities is shown in Table 1. The data elicited from the sampled respondents were analyzed using frequency distribution, weighted mean score, and factor analysis.

3.1 Data Analysis and Discussion of Results

This study adopted a descriptive survey method, and copies of structured questionnaire were administered to 270 landholders whose lands were compulsorily acquired. However, subjecting the retrieved copies of questionnaire to preprocessing by considering incomplete and missing observations, a total of two hundred and forty-four (244) copies of questionnaire were found usable, representing 90.3% complete responses from which the inference drawn on this study was based.

3.2 Various Behavioral attitude of Claimants towards Compulsory Land Acquisition

This section examined claimants' behaviors in response to compulsory land acquisition. Collected data from claimants were analyzed using frequency distribution, presenting the significance level of observed categorized behaviors, as presented in Table 2.

Table 1. Sample for claimants in each community

S/N	Communities	Sampling Frame	Sampling Size
1	Egbeji	116	38
2	Kuse	163	53
3	Onibueja	242	79
4	Aduragbemi	77	25
5	Okemokun	155	50
6	Adeleke	76	25
Total		829	270

Source: Author's compilation from The Federal Ministry of Works and Housing (2022)

Table 2. Various Behaviors Exhibited by Claimants in the Study Area

Behavior	Classification	Frequency	Percent (%)
Violence and litigation	No	128	52.5
	Yes	116	47.5
Acceptance	No	150	61.5
	Yes	94	38.5
Protests and varying grievances	Yes	147	60.2
	No	97	39.8
Reluctance and apprehensiveness	Yes	144	59
	No	100	41
Distrust and feeling of uncertainty	Yes	149	61.1
	No	95	38.9
Unwillingness to identify as claimants	Yes	147	60.2
	No	97	39.8
Greed	Yes	130	53.3
	No	114	46.7
Refusal to accept compensation	Yes	157	64.3
	No	87	35.7

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 2 outlined diverse behaviors exhibited by claimants in response to compulsory land acquisition and compensation. 52.5% (128) of the claimants refrained from engaging in violence or litigation throughout the acquisition process, while the remaining 47.5% displayed violent tendencies. Furthermore, a significant 61.5% showed resistance towards accepting both the proposed project and the compensation amount for the acquired land; in contrast, 38.5% accepted without objection. Regarding grievances related to the land acquisition, 60% of claimants expressed their discontent through protests, while others chose not to voice their concerns. Among the claimants, 59% (144) exhibited reluctance and apprehension towards the acquisition process, while the remaining 41% did not share these sentiments. Additionally, around 62% of the claimants displayed distrust and uncertainty concerning the reasons behind the compulsory land acquisition, while 40% did not hold such reservations. A substantial 60.2% of claimants demonstrated behaviors complicating the identification of the rightful recipients, contrasting with those who cooperated more readily. Greed emerged as a prevalent sentiment, with over 50% of claimants desiring compensation beyond the assessed property value. Conversely, 46.7% were content with and satisfied with the compensation received. Furthermore, results from the table indicated that a significant 64.3% (157) of claimants declined the compensation offered for their acquired property. In contrast, 35.7% accepted the compensation without objection or

difficulty. These findings collectively provided insight into the complex spectrum of behaviors displayed by claimants during the compulsory land acquisition and compensation process. The outcomes from the findings highlight that the primary behavior demonstrated by claimants is the refusal to accept the compensation offered for the acquired land. This is closely followed by the challenge of identifying the rightful claimants, as well as engaging in protests and expressing varying grievances. These observations align with previous studies by Kuma et al. [12] and Oladapo and Ige [19], which similarly identified common hurdles in the effective compulsory land acquisition process. These challenges encompass difficulties in pinpointing claimants, instances of greed, uncooperativeness, refusals to accept compensation, and the expression of grievances through protests. This correspondence underscores the consistent occurrence of negative attitudes among claimants across different studies.

3.3 Factors Influencing Claimants' Attitude toward Compulsory Land Acquisition and Compensation

This section presents the result of the analysis of factors influencing claimants' attitudes towards compulsory acquisition and to achieve this, the mean scores of responses on the perception of the claimants on the factors responsible for the various behaviors exhibited were measured as preliminary analysis. The result is presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Factors Influencing Claimants Behavioral Attitudes

Factors	Mean	Std. Dev	Rank
Lack of resettlement plan	3.50	0.706	1st
Inadequate time given for relocation	3.47	0.669	2nd
Insufficient compensation award to replace assets and demand of building plan as a criterion for payment	3.44	0.737	3rd
Poor service of public notice	3.41	0.664	4th
The application of multiple standards	3.31	1.043	5th
Lack of transparency	3.27	0.865	6th
Interpretation of enabling statutes (Land Use Act)	3.26	0.695	7th
Delayed compensation	3.21	0.93	8th
Inconsistency	3.15	0.859	9th
Lack of clarity	3.07	0.824	10th
Procedures and methods of valuation result in alarmingly wide discrepancies in compensation values over the same interest in land	3.06	0.932	11th
Ambiguity in content	3.02	0.753	12th
Unfairness	2.82	1.122	13th
Inconsistencies in the assessment of property values for compensation	2.79	1.117	14th

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 3 revealed that the most significant factor influencing claimants' behavioral attitudes is the absence of a resettlement plan, marked by a mean score of 3.50. This is closely trailed by the inadequate time allotted for relocation, insufficient compensation for asset replacement, and the requirement of a building plan as a payment criterion, all scoring means of 3.47 and 3.44 respectively. On the other hand, the least prominent factor is inconsistencies in property value assessments for compensation, which received a mean score of 2.79. This discovery aligns with Obineme et al. [25], who similarly identified delayed compensation, the absence of a resettlement plan, inadequate compensation for asset replacement, and the demand for a building plan as payment criteria triggering resistance among claimants.

In furtherance to the above, a 14-item factor instrument was employed to examine the factors influencing claimants' behavioral attitudes toward compulsory land acquisition and compensation in the study area. Data from 244 respondents were subjected to principal component analysis. The Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) test indicated adequate shared variance (0.688), surpassing the 0.50 threshold, making the data suitable for analysis. Bartlett's test of sphericity showed a significant correlation matrix (Chi-square = 1718.304, $p < 0.001$), confirming the appropriateness of Principal Component Analysis. This KMO test indicates that the

research data met all prerequisites for reliable factor analysis.

Table 4 illustrates the communalities of the factors, reflecting values that range between 0 and 1. These values indicate the extent to which the shared factors account for the variance observed. Evaluating the communalities serves to confirm the suitability of the sample size for conducting factor analysis. It is worth noting that the importance of the sample size primarily arises when communalities are low. Remarkably, Table 4 underscores that a substantial majority of the communalities surpass 0.60, signifying the sufficiency of the sample size for effective factor analysis, as discussed by Field (2013).

Before analysis, the dataset revealed the identification of fourteen (14) linear components or factors. The eigenvalues associated with each factor gauge the variance explained by the linear arrangement, conveyed as a percentage of the total variance. Notably, four (4) components were extracted with a minimum variance of 7.93. These components, which signify factors impacting claimants' behavioral attitudes towards compulsory land acquisition within the study area, were clustered into four categories. These components collectively contributed to a cumulative sum of squared loading, totaling 69.543%. This suggests that these four (4) components encapsulate 69.543% of the characteristics exhibited by the original

Table 4. Communal of factors influencing claimants' behavioral attitudes Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis

Factors	Initial	Extraction
Inconsistency	1	0.786
Lack of clarity	1	0.846
Ambiguity in content	1	0.728
Interpretation of enabling statutes (Land Use Act)	1	0.581
Lack of transparency	1	0.604
Unfairness	1	0.792
Inconsistencies in the assessment of property values for compensation	1	0.767
Delayed compensation	1	0.662
Lack of resettlement plan	1	0.494
Insufficient compensation award to replace assets and demand of building plan as a criterion for payment	1	0.634
Poor service of public notice	1	0.733
Inadequate time given for relocation	1	0.702
The application of multiple standards	1	0.749
Procedures and methods of valuation result in alarmingly wide discrepancies in compensation values over the same interest in land	1	0.657

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 5. Cluster grouping of factors influencing claimants' behavioral attitudes

Cluster Groupings	Communalities	Factor loadings	Eigen values	Variance (%)
Preliminary Factors Leading to Inadequate Compensation				
Ambiguity in content	0.728	0.809	3.53	25.218
Lack of clarity	0.846	0.783		
Inconsistency	0.786	0.782		
Factors Leading to Resistance by Claimants				
Delayed compensation	0.662	0.58	3.115	22.249
Lack of resettlement plan	0.494	0.564		
Insufficient compensation award to replace assets and demand of building plan as a criterion for payment	0.634	0.582		
Factors Leading to Inadequate Relay of Notices				
Poor service of public notice	0.733	0.609	1.98	14.146
Inadequate time given for relocation	0.702	0.557		
Lack of transparency	0.604	0.743		
Inadequacies in the Provisions of the Land Use Act on Valuation Methods for Compulsory Land Acquisition and Compensation				
Unfairness	0.792	0.68	1.005	7.93
Inconsistencies in the assessment of property values for compensation	0.767	0.642		
Procedures and methods of valuation result in alarmingly wide discrepancies in compensation values over the same interest in land	0.657	0.645		
The application of multiple standards	0.749	0.576		
Interpretation of enabling statutes (Land Use Act)	0.581	0.681		
Total Variance				69.543

Source: Field Survey, 2023

fourteen (14) factors. Therefore, the cumulative impact of these four (4) components effectively accounted for 69.543% of the overall variation in factors influencing claimants' behavioral attitudes towards compulsory land acquisition in the study area. Hence, efforts aimed at identifying the factors influencing claimants' behavioral attitudes in the context of compulsory land acquisition within the study area should be directed toward understanding and addressing the intricacies embedded within the four (4) extracted components.

Table 5 contains the clusters of factors influencing claimants' attitude towards compulsory land acquisition in Osogbo, Nigeria. Each of the variables was grouped in their respective cluster. The nomenclature for each factor is presented in Table 5. The analysis of factors influencing claimants' behavioral attitudes towards compulsory land acquisition yielded four distinct factors. Factor 1, labeled "Preliminary Factors leading to Inadequate Compensation," encompasses variables like 'Ambiguity in

content,' 'Lack of clarity,' and 'Inconsistency.' These variables collectively accounted for a total variance of 25.218%. These preliminary issues relate to the absence of necessary foundational elements for effectively implementing the compulsory land acquisition and compensation process. The complexity arising from the lack of clarity, inconsistency, and certainty within this factor has been noted as a central point of contention between acquiring authorities and claimants [17,23].

Factor 2, termed "Factors Leading to Resistance by Claimants," includes four components: 'Delayed compensation,' 'Lack of resettlement plan,' 'Insufficient compensation award to replace assets,' and 'demand of building plan as a criterion for payment.' These elements, reflecting challenges leading to claimants' resistance, collectively explain 22.24% of the variance. This factor highlights how the confidentiality of the compensation assessment process fosters suspicion among claimants regarding the compensation received.

Factor 3, labeled "Factors Leading to Inadequate Relay of Notices," consists of three factors: 'Poor service of public notice,' 'Inadequate time given for relocation,' and 'Lack of transparency.' These factors, accounted for a total variance of 14.146%, and centered on issues arising from the initial relay of notices. Akujuru [24] emphasizes the significance of satisfaction among individuals or communities undergoing compulsory land acquisition, underscoring how factors like poor public notice service, inadequate relocation time, and a lack of transparency can hinder adherence to international best practices.

Factor 4, "Inadequacies in the provisions of the Land Use Act on Valuation Methods for Compulsory Land Acquisition and Compensation," encompasses five sub-factors. These include 'Unfairness,' 'Inconsistencies in the assessment of property values for compensation,' 'Procedures and methods of valuation results in wide discrepancies in compensation values,' 'The application of multiple standards,' and 'Interpretation of enabling statutes (Land Use Act).' This factor explains a variance of 7.93%. These findings align with prior studies by Okolo [26], Kakulu [17], Udoekanem [28], and Odudu [23], which observed concerns and issues arising from the Land Use Act's provisions on compulsory land acquisition and compensation. Such concerns can lead to negative attitudes among affected property owners and potentially give rise to conflicts between the government and landowners.

4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

This study analyzed the factors influencing claimants' behavioral attitudes towards compulsory land acquisition and compensation in Osogbo, Nigeria by assessing the various behaviors exhibited by landholders whose lands were compulsorily acquired for the rail track construction at Phase I, Osogbo. The study highlighted the claimants' most prominent behavior to be the refusal to accept the compensation offered for acquired land, accompanied by protests, varying grievances, and intentional complications of the identification of the rightful recipients. The weighted mean score revealed that the lack of a resettlement plan, inadequate time given for relocation, and insufficient compensation award to replace assets were triggers for the various behaviors

exhibited by claimants. Furthermore, the results of the factor analysis of the factors influencing claimants' behavioral attitudes towards compulsory land acquisition and compensation revealed that inadequate relay of notices, inadequate compensation, and inadequacies in the provisions of the Land Use Act on valuation methods for compulsory land acquisition and compensation contributed to the various behaviors exhibited by claimants in the study area. Since adequate compensation and claimants' satisfaction is the overall measure of the effectiveness of any compulsory land acquisition exercise, there is a need to amend the Land Use Act to align with present-day realities, incorporating considerations for land values and associated impacts, including the costs of claimants' relocation. Such amendments would alleviate stress and social challenges faced by those affected by land acquisition. In addition, the government should focus on educating the public on compensation's collective value, prioritizing accurate claimant identification, and improving notice procedures to prevent conflicts during acquisition and compensation processes.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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