

**CHALLENGES IN SHARING NEIGHBOURHOOD OPEN SPACE AMONG RESIDENTS IN SOUTH-WEST, NIGERIA****Oluwagbemiga Paul Agboola**Faculty of Built Environment,  
Department of Landscape  
ArchitectureUniversiti Teknologi Malaysia  
Post code 81310, Skudai, Johor  
**MALAYSIA****Mohd Hisyam Rasidi**Faculty of Built Environment,  
Department of Landscape  
ArchitectureUniversiti Teknologi Malaysia  
Post code 81310, Skudai,  
**MALAYSIA****Ismail Bin Said**Faculty of Built Environment,  
Department of Landscape  
ArchitectureUniversiti Teknologi Malaysia  
Post code 81310, Skudai,  
**MALAYSIA****ABSTRACT**

Researchers have attributed the collective sharing pattern of neighborhood open space such as the neighbourhood market square to various significant factors. The factors include users' socio-cultural background, personal identity and preferences. Similar factors are also rooted in socio-spatial determinants such as accessibility, features and facilities. It has been established that sharing open space among diverse ethnic groups often resulted to conflict, rift, and misunderstanding. As a result of this, little knowledge about ethnic groups sharing pattern in neighbourhood market square is known and thus become necessary to explore. Hence, this study highlights reasons adduced to the challenges targeting neighbourhood market located in socially and ethnically diverse communities of South-West, Nigeria. The significant of study focus on ways to sustain social interactions among the ethnic residents towards market square development. This exploratory research adopted a qualitative method in which "focus groups discussion" comprising thirty- five (n=35) participants from the three major ethnics groups representing three neighborhoods participated. The consensus group members' notes were transcribed arranged and analyzed using contents analysis and QSR N10 (Nvivo) software. The research findings identified the sources of associated problems to factors such as (i) challenges over the use of space, (ii) communication barrier and (iii) management problem. Notably, the paper recommends the following: (a) planning implication (i) re-planning and expansion of the market square to better accommodate more diverse users and facilities. (ii) Introduction of interactive social spaces within the market region. (b) Policy implication by instituting legal management committee in which all the ethnic groups will be adequately represented. The committee will be saddled with the responsibilities to oversee the affairs of market, and negotiate any disagreement among conflicting groups. Thus, study findings are beneficial to the professionals, society and the government at large. Proper planning, design and management of neighbourhood market square could better enhance residents' harmonious relationships which help in general neighbourhood development and sustainability.

**Keywords:** Neighbourhood Open Space; Sharing Attributes; Ethnic Groups; Nigeria.