FAMILY HOUSING

One of the basic needs of man is shelter. The nature of the environment of man usually determines the type of materials used for building a house. However, technological advances have made wide range of building materials now available.

Different types of houses exist in Nigeria. These include:

Mud House: These are houses built with bamboos or sticks and muds. The roofs may be thatched woven leaves or grass. Some use corrugated aluminum sheets.

Bamboo Houses: They are usually found in remote villages. It is constructed with bamboo stems, trunks of trees and reeds. The roof is usually thatched.

Modern Houses

Modern houses have some features: they are usually constructed with cement blocks or burnt bricks. The roofs are built either with corrugated iron sheets or asbestos sheeting. Walls may be finished with cement plaster or tiles or both. The floor can be made of concrete, wood, vinyl tiles, terrazzo, or marble. Windows are made of wood, steel frames, and glass or irons. Doors can be made with wood, steel, frames and glass or iron.

Modern house could be bungalows or storey building.

Bungalow: It is a self-contained house with bedrooms, living rooms, toilets, bathroom, stores, kitchen, and dining room. It is usually occupied by

one family. Privacy and freedom of movement are enjoyed in this type of housing.

Story-building: This can be either in block of flat houses or duplex houses.

Flat houses: these are storey buildings which have equal number of rooms in each apartment. It can be one, two, three, or four bedroom flat. Many families live in one building of many block of flats. There is usually lack of space for children to play. There is also limited amount of privacy and freedom of movement here.

Duplex houses: duplexes are mainly in one storey types. It can be built to accommodate one or two separate family units. The living room, visitor's room, dining room, kitchen, toilet and bathroom can be on the ground floor, while bedrooms, toilets, and

bathrooms are located upstairs. Family living in it enjoys maximum comfort and privacy.

Factors that Influence the Location and Choice of Family Housing

1. **Economic Factors:** The type of housing a family builds or chooses depends on the economic status of the family. This implies the money available to the family. High income families can build big houses unlike the low income families.
2. **Location of the Houses:** The family should consider a location that is near or easily accessible to (i) school, (ii) workplace, (iii) market or shopping centre, (iv) church, etc. The location also have to be safe in terms of health and property.
3. **Size of the family:** A large family would need a large house than a smaller family.

4. **Stage of family:** Every family goes through stage in its cycle. At the beginning stage, the family needs a smaller house, at the expanding stage they need a bigger house. At the contracting stage they would need a smaller house.
5. **Special needs of family members:** Some family members may have special needs that will make living in a type of house difficult. For instance: a person with a leg injury might have to live in a bungalow and not in a storey building.
6. **Design of the house:** A family ought to choose or build a house such that its design suits the need of the family.