

Awareness and Perception of Green Building by Occupants in Selected Certified Office Buildings in Lagos Nigeria

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Abstract.

Globally, human needs for survival have exerted enormous pressure on the environment due to urbanization. Office buildings consume excessive amounts of energy and other resources, thereby releasing greenhouse gases into the environment. Green building (GB) has been used globally as a tool to reduce these negative environmental impacts, which in turn increase the building's performance and value. The benefits of GB have helped most developed cities mitigate environmental issues. Despite the various GB benefits from which the occupants and owners can derive, the level of awareness of GB implementation in Nigeria is extremely low, with no reliable assessment tools. Therefore, the study assessed occupants' awareness and perception of GB in selected certified office buildings. 73 of 100 structured questionnaires were used to collect data and returned for analysis using frequency counts and the relative perceptive index. The study revealed that 78.1% of the occupants were not aware of the GB office being certified, while 21.9% were aware of the GB office being certified. A mean score of 2.89 (RPI = 0.5078) on cost-efficient, 1.93 (RPI = 0.386) on ease of maintenance, and 1.86 (RPI = 0.372) on landscaping were perceived based on economic and environmental views, which implies that the occupants viewed GB as being high in cost and maintenance. The study recommends more public awareness of the benefits of GB, and its rating system, government intervention on enabling policies and bureaucracy in building approval processes, and empowerment of the existing GB certification council in Lagos.

Keywords: *Green Building Certifications, Awareness, Occupants' Perception, certified Office Building, Lagos*