



RESEARCH ARTICLE

FUNCTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN GATED AND NON-GATED NEIGHBOURHOODS IN KANO METROPOLIS, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Gated communities have become a widespread feature of contemporary urban landscapes worldwide. In many cities, their rapid expansion has accompanied accelerated urban growth, rising security concerns and uneven provision of public services. This study examines the functional relationships between gated and non-gated neighbourhoods in Kano Metropolis, with the aim of moving beyond simplistic narratives of exclusion to empirically assess the nature and extent of social and economic interactions between these residential forms. The study adopts a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative household surveys with qualitative interviews. A total of 2,656 housing units across 32 fully occupied gated estates constituted the study population. Convenience sampling based on accessibility and respondent availability was employed. Guided by the Krejcie and Morgan (1970) sample size determination table, a minimum of 297 households was required for the survey. Findings reveal that most gated estates in the area employ security personnel, with approximately 77% maintaining round-the-clock gate control, while others are guarded only at night. Social interaction between gated and non-gated communities is generally limited, largely confined to visits by relatives and acquaintances. Nonetheless, a degree of economic interaction persists, particularly through informal domestic services such as housework, maintenance and gardening sourced from surrounding neighbourhoods. The study concludes that while gated communities in Kano are socially segregated from their immediate surroundings, economic linkages, especially in less exclusive estates, remain evident. Highly exclusive estates, however, depend largely on formal corporate service providers. The study recommends that urban planning policies promote more socially inclusive residential environments through the provision of shared and accessible public facilities.

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1.0. INTRODUCTION

Urban residential forms have seen significant transformations in recent decades as cities respond to rising concerns over security, service delivery and lifestyle preferences. Enclosed and privatized housing developments, commonly described as gated communities, compounds or residential estates, are now a prominent global phenomenon associated with the privatization of public space, differentiated access to services and new patterns of urban governance. Contemporary global assessments highlight how these developments both reflect and reinforce socio-spatial inequalities while also responding to legitimate resident concerns about safety and infrastructure quality (UN-Habitat, 2022).

Studies across many African cities show that gated developments have proliferated alongside rapid urbanization and uneven public service provision. Literature indicates that gated forms vary widely from small privatized streets to large master-planned estates but commonly emerge where markets, insecurity and limited municipal capacity create incentives for residents and developers to privatize amenities and security. These developments thus reshape urban form, access to public goods and neighbourhood interdependencies across metropolitan areas (Bandauko, Arku & Nyantakyi-Frimpong, 2022).

In the Nigerian context, the expansion of gated and privatized residential forms has accelerated over the last decade, particularly in major cities where rising middle-class demand, developer activity and perceptions of risk converge. Empirical work in Nigerian cities shows that gated estates often provide superior infrastructure and attract better-off and more formally employed households, yet their relationship with adjacent non-gated areas is complex; in some cases gated estates function as socially and economically distinct enclaves, while in others they are functionally integrated with neighbouring communities through shared labour markets, service use and housing spillovers. Comparative studies from Ibadan, Lagos and other urban centres underscore this mixed picture and call for context-sensitive analysis of gating's socio-spatial impacts (Makinde, 2022).

Kano Metropolis, one of Nigeria's largest and fastest-growing urban agglomerations offers a particularly instructive local setting to investigate these dynamics. The city's spatial expansion, planning history and mixture of formal estates and organic neighbourhoods have produced a mosaic of gated and non-gated areas that coexist within short distances of one another (Kano State Development Plan, 2021). Local studies and planning documents point to multiple housing typologies in Kano from longstanding public housing estates to recent gated developments and to evolving functional ties between these residential forms in terms of tenure, labour, services and daily mobility (Abba, 2025). Understanding whether and how gated neighbourhoods in Kano operate as isolated enclaves or as functionally connected parts of the urban system is therefore crucial for both equitable urban policy and practical neighbourhood planning.

This paper investigates the functional relationship between gated and non-gated neighbourhoods in Kano Metropolis, focusing on spatial proximity, socio-economic composition, service and infrastructure linkages and patterns of interaction. By comparing multiple gated–non-gated pairs across the metropolis, the study aims to move beyond binary assumptions about exclusion and enclosure and provide empirical evidence on the degree and forms of integration or separation that characterize contemporary residential landscapes in northern Nigerian cities.



2.0. CONCEPTUALIZATIONS AND THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1. Literature Review

The rise of gated communities is part of a broader, global trend toward privatized residential space and the fragmentation of the urban commons. Internationally, recent assessments show that gated and other privatized neighbourhood forms are tied to concerns about insecurity, uneven service provision and the commodification of urban land, and that they can both respond to and reinforce socio-spatial inequality (UN-Habitat, 2020). In the African context scholars note that gated developments have proliferated in response to weak municipal capacity, market incentives, and residents' desire for improved services and security.

A systematic review of African studies finds diversity in forms from privatized streets to large master-planned estates and concludes that gating both reflects and shapes urban transformation across the continent (Bandaiko, Arku & Nyantakyi-Frimpong, 2022). Recent comparative work characterises gated communities as heterogeneous: some operate as socially exclusive enclaves, others as aspirational middle-class neighbourhoods with functional ties to adjacent areas (work, shopping and schools) (Atanga, *et. al.*, 2024).

In Nigeria, empirical studies document similar complexity. Research in several Nigerian cities (e.g., Ibadan and Ilorin) finds that gated estates typically attract middle-to-upper income, better-educated residents and provide superior infrastructure and private security, yet their relationships with nearby non-gated neighbourhoods vary, sometimes showing integration through service use and housing spillovers, and sometimes clear socio-economic separation (Makinde, 2022). Macro-level evidence on Nigeria's urban political economy (poverty, labour markets, rapid urbanization) provides the broader backdrop that shapes who can access gated housing and how neighbourhoods evolve (World Bank, 2024).

Local studies in Kano underline relevant dynamics for this paper. Recent investigations into Kano's housing estates, neighbourhood infrastructure and built-heritage emphasise rapid spatial expansion, varied housing delivery (public estates, developer estates), and an evolving mosaic of planned and informal areas conditions that create opportunities for both gating and strong functional interactions between gated and non-gated areas (Habibu, 2023). Taken together, the literature suggests that gating's socio-spatial effects are context-specific. While gated estates can institutionalize separation, they may also be functionally integrated into urban life via labour markets, services and housing supply dynamics. Empirical, place-based analyses like this are therefore essential to move beyond binary assumptions of enclosure vs. integration (Makinde, 2022).

2.2. Theoretical Framework

The Functional Integration and Segregation Model

The model suggests that whether gated and non-gated neighbourhoods are functionally integrated or segregated depends jointly on structural context, built-form attributes, socio-economic composition and the resulting flows or interactions. The model explains that the functional relationship between gated and non-gated neighbourhoods is driven by three interacting domains: (a) Socio-economic composition (income, education, occupation and tenure); (b) Spatial-infrastructure attributes (location, connectivity and service/infrastructure quality); and (c) Interaction flows (labour commutes,

schooling, retail/service use and social networks). These domains are embedded within a policy and market context (planning regulations, developer strategies, housing supply and broader urban inequality), which conditions who lives where and how neighbourhoods connect (Figure 1).

Based on the model, the Structural / Contextual Drivers are the macro-scale forces shaping urbanization such as economy, policy, planning, security and housing demand. The Neighbourhood Attributes are the physical and infrastructural characteristics distinguishing gated versus non-gated areas such as layout, connectivity, amenities and tenure regime. The Socio-Economic Composition and Dynamics on the other hand are to do with the demographic and economic profile of households in each area like income, education, occupation and mobility patterns. Lastly, the Functional Relationships between Neighbourhoods are the actual interactions and linkages across neighbourhoods which include commuting flows, shared services and housing spillover (Figure 1).

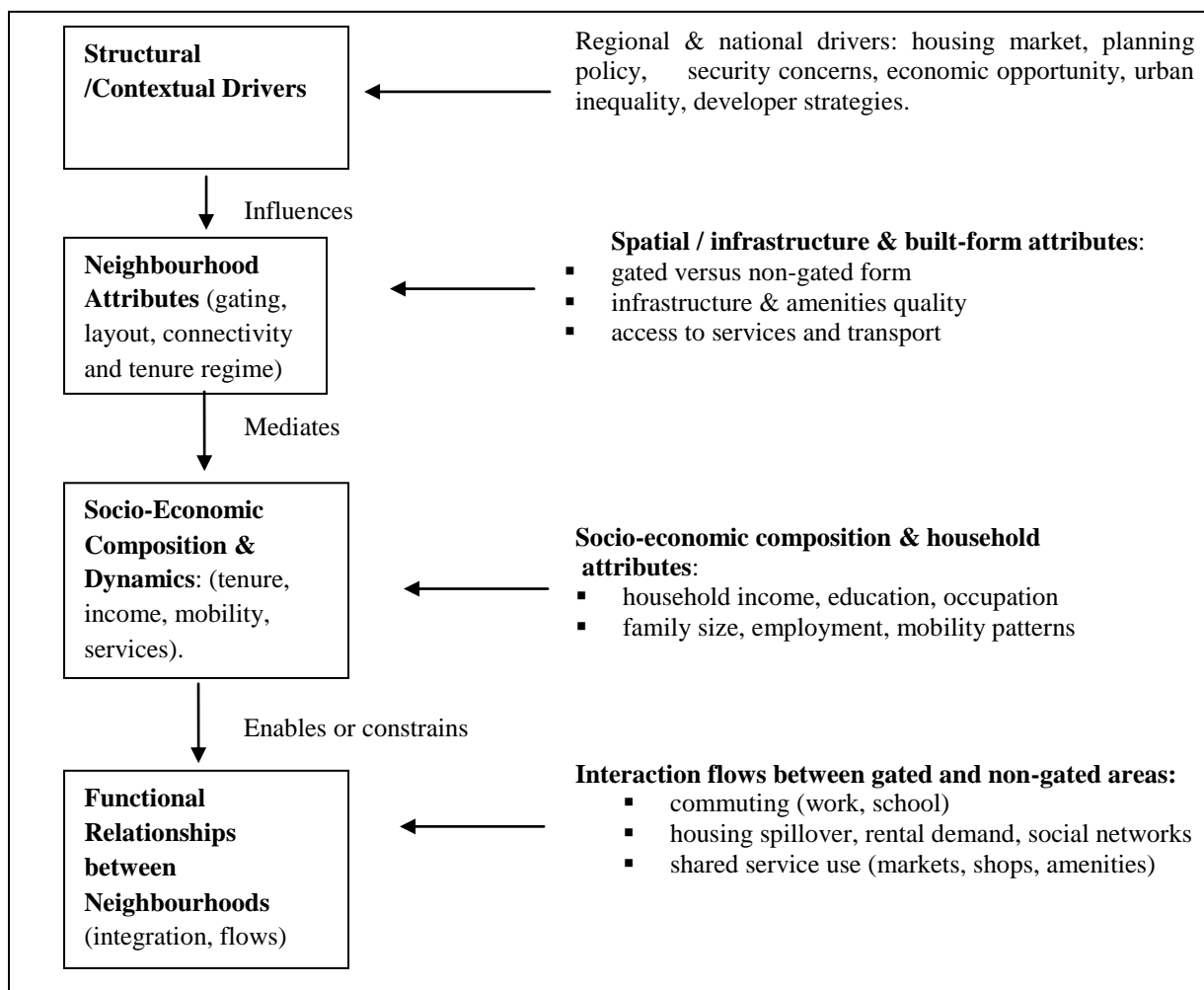


Figure 1: Drivers of Functional Interactions between gated and Non-gated communities

Source: Author’s work (2025).

The functional relations between the gated and the neighbouring non-gated neighbourhoods require some input, output as well as some intermediary elements. The inputs are the structural drivers which

include regional economy, housing market, planning regulations and security conditions (World Bank, 2022). The mediators are the neighbourhood infrastructure and built form (gating, roads and amenities); tenure regime (owner vs. renter); accessibility (distance/time to jobs, markets, schools) (Makinde, 2022). While the outputs elements which represent the functional relationships include: (a) Degree of integration measured by cross-neighbourhood commuting, shopping and schooling patterns; (b) Socio-economic spillovers, example diffusion of services, rental markets (c) Social interaction/clustering (networks, shared organisations) (Atanga, *et. al.*, 2024). Higher infrastructural parity such as similar service and infrastructure levels between gated and adjacent non-gated areas predicts greater functional integration in the form of shared usage of services, cross-commuting (Makinde, 2022). Where gated estates have persistent tenure or income barriers, functional separation (limited cross-flows) will be higher (Bandauko, Arku & Nyantakyi-Frimpong, 2022).

3.0. METHODOLOGY

3.1. The Study Area

Kano Metropolis lies between latitudes $11^{\circ}50' - 12^{\circ}07'N$ and longitudes $8^{\circ}22' - 8^{\circ}47'E$, with an average elevation of about 472 m above sea level (Olofin, 2014). The metropolitan area is bounded by Minjibir LGA to the northeast, Gezawa to the east, Dawakin Kudu toward the southeast and Madobi and Tofa LGAs to the southwest. As one of Nigeria's most rapidly expanding urban centres (Nabegu, 2010), Kano Metropolis now spans eight Local Government Areas, forming the core of one of the country's largest urban regions (Figure 2).

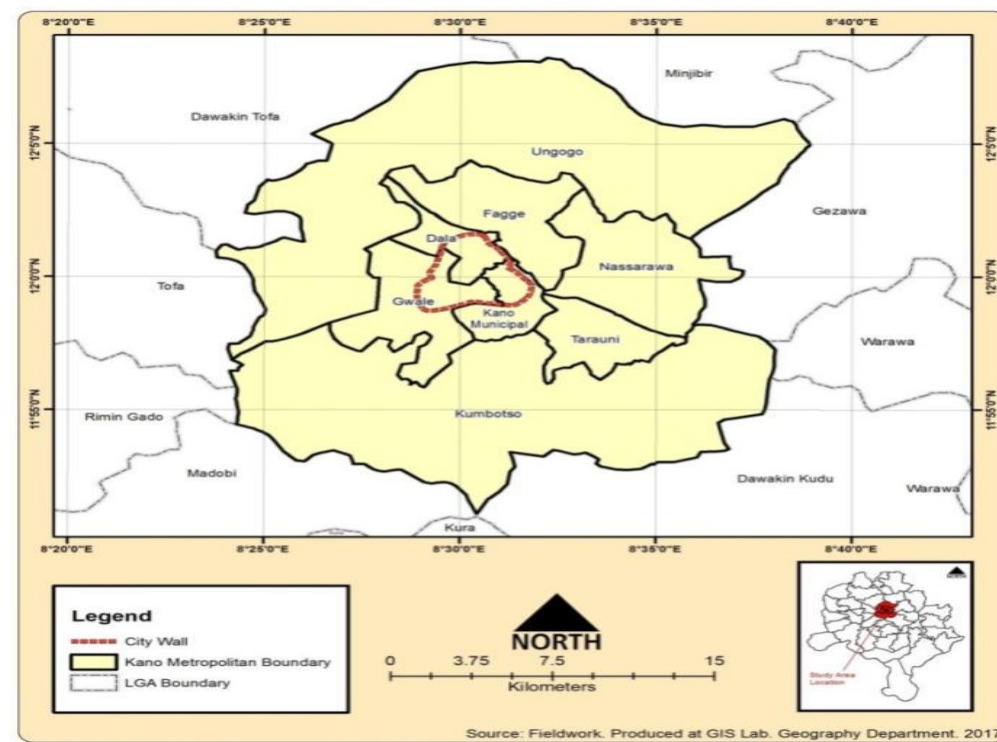


Figure 2: Kano Metropolis

Source: Cartography Lab. Dept. of Geography, BUK (2019).



Population growth has been particularly intense. By 2019, the metropolis was estimated to host nearly 4.5 million residents (Mohammed *et al.*, 2019), reinforcing its position as Nigeria's second-largest city after Lagos (Liman, 2015). More recent global urban datasets also identify Kano as one of Africa's fastest-growing agglomerations, driven by natural increase, in-migration and economic opportunity (UN-Habitat, 2020; World Bank, 2023). This demographic surge has contributed to both outward expansion, absorbing surrounding rural settlements, and inward densification, through the occupation of previously undeveloped pockets within the built-up area (Maiwada, 2014). Kano's location at the centre of the "closed-settled zone" continues to account for its exceptionally high population and building densities (Ibrahim, 2014).

Ethnically and culturally, Kano has evolved into a cosmopolitan urban space, shaped by trade, industrialisation, education, and regional mobility dynamics. Some analysts describe Kano as part of a growing network of multi-ethnic secondary cities in West Africa undergoing rapid socio-spatial change (UN-Habitat, 2023). Residential development in the metropolis is traditionally divided into two major clusters (Liman & Adamu, 2003; Liman, 2015). The first is the Old City, comprising the historic walled area and the adjoining Fagge district. The second is the Township Area, which includes:

- (a) Nasarawa G.R.A., covering Nasarawa, Bompai and Magwan;
- (b) Lebanese–Syrian quarters around Fagge-Ta-Kudu, between the railway station and Kantin Kwari;
- (c) Sabon Gari, a historically migrant-dominated district; and
- (d) Tudun Wada Area, incorporating neighbourhoods such as Gwagwarwa, Gama, Dakata and Dawakin-Dakata.

To address escalating housing demand, successive governments have developed numerous public estates including Kundila, Shagari Quarters, Gwammaja, Ja'oji, Kabuga, Danladi Nasidi, Zawaciki and Ibrahim Kunya (Abdullahi, 2004). Between 2011 and 2014, the state constructed Kwankwasiyya, Amana and Bandirawo Estates, designed primarily for higher-income groups and equipped with modern amenities. Various public institutions such as the police, military, Federal agencies, universities and hospitals have also produced dedicated staff housing, further expanding the city's residential landscape. Contemporary studies note that Kano now exhibits a growing mix of formal estates, informal settlements, and emerging gated communities, reflecting wider trends in African urban transformations (Abba, 2023 and Abba, 2024). These dynamics continue to reshape the spatial, social and functional character of the metropolis.

Methods

The paper utilizes both quantitative and qualitative data. The quantitative data used relate to the number of residential units and residents of each estate. The data also included the number of amenities, facilities and services available. The qualitative data were on the functional relationships between the gated communities and their non-gated neighbourhoods in terms of flow of people, services, goods, ideas and information. The data were sourced from various estate management firms and private land developers that operate in the metropolis.

Probability sampling was not feasible for selecting individual households for structured interview survey. This was primarily due to the absence of a reliable sampling frame for households in the gated



communities and the restricted access associated with many of these estates. Consequently, a convenience sampling approach, based on accessibility and respondent availability, was adopted for the household survey. During the inventory, it was observed that, beyond formal gated estates, numerous gated or “privatized” streets exist across the city. To capture this additional dimension, a few gated streets were purposively selected for detailed study, using criteria such as street length, level of enclosure and number of residential units. Based on these parameters, Unity gated street, Janbulo gated street, and Hausawa gated street were chosen.

Altogether, the investigation covered 2,656 residential units located within the 32 fully occupied gated estates, representing the broader population of gated housing in the metropolis. However, seven of these estates were found to be highly exclusive, with restricted entry that prevented access to individual households. For such enclaves, a separate interview instrument targeting estate managers was deployed to obtain general socio-economic information. These include: Hassan Estate, Dantata Estate, Abubakar Rimi Memorial Estate, Alu Avenue Estate, President Avenue Estate, Burma Road Estate, and Oyo Road Estate.

Table 1: Determination of Sample Size

S/N	Gated Communities	Location	Population (Occupied Houses)	Sample Size	Sample Collected
1	Ibrahim Kunya Estate	Farawa/Mariri	90	21	21
2	Abba Maikwaru	Farawa	41	10	11
3	Sabo Nanono Housing	Tarauni GRA	24	6	6
4	Shehu Musa Estate	Tarauni GRA	24	6	6
5	UDB Quarters	Hotoro/Kwanar Magi	20	5	5
6	CBN Quarters	Hotoro GRA	30	8	5
7	NIPOST Quarters	Hotoro GRA	40	10	9
8	Nigerian Airways Quar.	Kwairanga Road	85	22	19
9	Hadejia Jama'are Quar.	UDB Road	12	3	3
10	NTA Quarters	UDB Road	7	2	3
11	Lamido Crescent Estate	Lamido Crescent	12	3	0
12	Gida Tara Estate	Ahmadu Bello Way	10	3	2
13	Batawa Estate	‘Yankaba	10	3	9
14	Al'mukab City	Tamburawa	30	8	9
15	Wailari Estate	Western Bye – pass	50	13	15
16	BUK Staff Quarters	Court Road	64	16	0
17	Sahelian Ranch Estate	Dorayi Babba	210	53	35
18	GTC Quarters	State Road	72	18	15
19	Divine Estate	Jaba/ Panisau Road	60	15	16
20	Unity Estate	Jaba/ Panisau Road	87	22	22
21	NCCA Quarters	Jaba/ Panisau Road	63	16	4
22	Aviation (FAAN) Estate	Jaba/ Panisau Road	16	4	4
23	Janbulo Streets	Janbulo Quarters	167	42	32
24	Borno Avenue	Off – Sokoto Road	33	8	9
25	Hausawa Gated Estate	Hausawa Quarters	95	24	21
			1352	342	281

Source: Field work (2022); Krejcie and Morgan (1970).



Thus, only 25 less-restrictive gated communities were eligible for the structured household survey. The total number of occupied residential units across these 25 estates was 1,352, which constituted the effective study population. Using the Krejcie and Morgan (1970) sample size determination table, a minimum sample of 297 households was required. An additional 15% (45 households) was incorporated to account for non-response, yielding a final target sample size of 342 households. This sample was proportionally allocated to each estate based on its number of housing units. Despite this target, only 281 households were ultimately surveyed, as these were the households that were accessible and willing to participate (Table 1).

Structured observations were carried out to take inventory of gated residential areas and to collect information on their physical and spatial characteristics. The availability of some facilities and amenities inside the estates such as streets, sidewalks, parking spaces, shops, schools, community halls, gardens and parks, were observed and documented. Structured interviews were conducted on the residents of gated communities and that of neighbouring non-gated areas. Data on the socio-economic functions performed by the gated communities in relation to the neighbouring non-gated residential areas were also collected through this technique. Qualitative data on the functional relationship between the gated and non-gated neighbourhoods were aggregated, summarized and presented in a tabular form.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Guarding Entrances and Restriction of Access

Individual gated communities are usually occupied by residents who are homogeneous in one or more demographic, social or economic variables. For instance, they can be homogeneous by age, class, race, ethnicity, social status, occupation, income, etc (Grant & Mittlesteadt, 2004). Apart from being separated from other neighbourhoods by physical barriers, gated communities may also have security personnel guarding their entrances. These physical barricades and the presence of security apparatus at the entrances of the estates may exacerbate social distance and consequently affect spatial interaction between the gated estates and their neighbourhoods (Ozkan & Kozaman, 2006).

The extent of relationships between the gated communities and the neighbouring non-gated residences in terms of movements of people, goods and services was examined. The majority of the gated estates in Kano metropolis had security personnel guarding their entrances, and about 77% of these had their entrances manned 24-hours a day, while the rest were either manned during the night or had no security operatives. Also, in almost half of the estates visitors, must identify themselves or even be subjected to security checks before gaining entrance (Table 2).

The presence of guards to man the entrances of most of the estates throughout the day, as well as the security checks at the gates, made these estates, to certain extent, highly private and exclusive in nature. These considerably limited the level of interactions between the estates and their neighbouring non-gated areas. Estates such as Abubakar Rimi Memorial Estate, Alu Avane Estate, Dantata Estate and Hassan Estate had security personnel throughout the day guarding their gates; they also required visitors to undergo security checks before gaining entrance (Table 2). These were more exclusive in nature, hence maintained relatively minimal interactions with their neighbours. Others, such as GTC quarters, Batawa Estate and Sahelian Ranch Estate had their entrances manned only during the night (Table 2), thus have more interactions with other areas than the former estates.



The variation in security measures across estates creates gradients of permeability. Highly guarded estates tend to limit flows of people, goods and informal social exchanges. This supports the argument that gated communities create micro-geographies of restricted access within cities, which can weaken everyday interactions, reduce informal surveillance networks, and reinforce territorial fragmentation. The demographic and socio-economic similarity among residents fosters a sense of internal solidarity and shared identity within gated estates. However, this same uniformity strengthens boundary-making practices, contributing to perceptions of “insiders” and “outsiders.”

Table 2: Modes of Gaining Entrance into Gated Communities

S/N	Gated Communities	Presence of Guards at the Gates	Duration of Guarding the Gates	Gaining Entrance into the Estate
1.	Abba Maikwaru	Present	Throughout the day	Permission
2.	Abubakar Rimi Memorial	Present	Throughout the day	Permission/ Security check
3.	Al'mukab City	Present	Throughout the day	Permission
4.	Alu Avenue Estate	Present	Throughout the day	Permission/ Security check
5.	Aviation Quarters	Present	Throughout the day	Permission/ Security check
6.	Batawa Estate	Present	During the night	No restriction during the day
7.	BUK Staff Quarters	Present	Throughout the day	Permission/ Identification
8.	Burma Road Estate	Present	Throughout the day	Permission
9.	Borno Avenue	Present	During the night	No restriction during the day
10.	CBN Quarters	Present	Throughout the day	Permission
11.	Dantata Estate	Present	Throughout the day	Permission/ Security check
12.	Divine Estate	Present	Throughout the day	No restriction during the day
13.	Gida Tara Quarters	Present	Throughout the day	Permission
14.	Lamido Crescent Quart.	Not Present	No Guards	No restriction
15.	GTC Quarters	Not Present	During the night	No restriction during the day
16.	Hadejia Jama'are Quarters	Not Present	No Guards	No restriction
17.	Hassan Estate	Present	Throughout the day	Permission/ Security check
18.	Hausawa gated streets	Not Present	During the night	No restriction
19.	Ibrahim Kunya Estate	Present	Throughout the day	Permission
20.	Ishaq Rabi'u Estate	Present	Throughout the day	Permission
21.	Kabuga gated streets	Present	During the night	No restriction
23.	Nigerian Air Quarters	Not Present	No Guards	No restriction
24.	NTA Quarters	Not Present	No Guards	No restriction
25.	Oyo Street Estate	Present	Throughout the day	Permission
26.	President Avenue state	Present	Throughout the day	Permission
27.	Sabo Nanono Housing	Not Present	No Guards	No restriction
28.	Sokoto Road Estate	Present	Throughout the day	Permission/ Security check
29.	Sahelian Ranch Estate	Present	During the night	No restriction
30.	Shehu Musa Estate	Present	Throughout the day	Permission
31.	UDB Quarters	Not present	No Guards	No restriction
32.	Unity Estate	Present	During the night	No restriction
33.	Wailari Estate	Not present	No Guards	No restriction

Source: Field work (2022).



In the Kano context, this may reduce cultural and economic exchanges with adjacent non-gated communities, especially where income disparities are significant. Even where social interactions are limited, functional relationships such as employment (domestic workers and artisans), commercial exchanges and shared infrastructure may still occur between gated and non-gated neighbourhoods. The level of control at entry largely determines how fluid or restricted these interactions are.

Socio-economic Interactions between the Gated Communities and the Neighbouring Non-Gated Areas

Since gating may create communities that are separated on the bases of religion, nationality, income, or common interests, depending on the nature or purpose of particular communities; they exert spatial influences critical for understanding the interdependence between neighbourhoods (Morgan 2013). They may employ labour from the adjacent non-gated areas; such as housework, cleaning and security services. However, they may also prefer the expert services from utility firms, instead of utilizing the existing informal services in their neighbourhood (Ozkan & Kozaman, 2006). The present research also found that some gated neighbourhoods in Kano metropolis make use of casual workers from the nearby areas for domestic services while others employ the services of formal utility companies.

Almost all the gated estates in Kano metropolis maintain considerably minimal social interactions with their adjacent non-gated neighbourhoods. Apart from visits by relatives and friends from the nearby quarters and other parts of the city, the majority of the estates maintained little social interaction with their neighbours and the larger city (Table 3). Only five gated estates maintained some other forms of social relations with the neighbouring communities. In Divine Estate, for instance, people from outside were allowed to bring their children to a private school located within the gated estate. Similarly, in Bayero University (BUK Court Road) Staff quarters, Government Technical College (G.T.C) quarters, Hausawa Gated Streets and Wailari Estate, people from outside were permitted to attend the mosques located inside the gated estates (Table 3).

In B.U.K Staff quarters in particular, only known individuals from outside are allowed into the estate for prayers. This implies that other social relations, such as sporting activities, community meetings, attending churches or viewing centres, do not take place between these separate communities. This result is consistent with what was reported from Istanbul, Turkey, that there were few social and economic interactions between residents of gated communities and the immediate local communities (Tanulku, 2009). A study in Alexandria, Egypt, also reported that gated communities have been criticised for disconnecting residents from their neighbours outside the gates and reducing social encounters between them (Boonjubun, 2019).

However, some of the gated residential areas maintained some economic interactions with the non-gated areas, especially in terms of some petty domestic services. Nineteen out of the thirty-three gated estates enjoyed various forms of domestic services such as housework, laundry, utility (electrical and plumbing services), and gardening, directly from the neighbouring communities and from other parts of the city (Table 22). In addition to these services, the residents of Sahelian Ranch Estate also employ babysitting services from their neighbours. A retail shop business was also operating inside Unity estate by a non-resident of the estate (Table 3).



Table 3: Socio-economic Relationship between Gated and Non-gated Neighbourhoods

S/N	Gated Communities	Social Interactions	Economic Interactions and Services
1.	Abba Maikwaru	Mainly visiting	Housework and utility services
2.	Abubakar Rimi Memorial	Mainly visiting	Expert services from utility firms
3.	Al'mukab City	Mainly visiting	Services provided by estate managers
4.	Alu Avenue Estate	Mainly visiting	Expert services from utility firms
5.	Aviation Quarters	Mainly visiting	Services provided by estate managers
6.	Batawa Estate	Mainly visiting	Housework, laundry, utility services
7.	BUK Staff Quarters	Visiting, attending mosque	Housework, laundry, utility services
8.	Burma Road Estate	Mainly visiting	Services provided by estate managers
9.	Borno Avenue	Mainly visiting	Housework, laundry, utility services
10.	CBN Quarters	Mainly visiting	None
11.	Dantata Estate	Mainly visiting	Services provided by estate managers
12.	Divine Estate	Visiting attending school,	Housework/ utility services
13.	Gida Tara Quarters	Mainly visiting	Services provided by estate managers
14.	Lamido Crescent Quart.	Mainly visiting	Housework
15.	GTC Quarters	Visiting, attending mosque	Housework, laundry, utility services
16.	Hadejia Jama'are Quarters	Mainly visiting	Housework, laundry, utility services
17.	Hassan Estate	Mainly visiting	Services provided by estate managers
18.	Hausawa gated streets	Visiting, attending mosque	Housework, laundry, utility services
19.	Ibrahim Kunya Estate	Mainly visiting	Housework/ utility services
20.	Ishaq Rabi'u Estate	Mainly visiting	Services provided by estate managers
21.	Kabuga gated streets	Mainly visiting	Retail shop, housework, utility
22.	NCCA Quarters	Mainly visiting	Housework, laundry, utility services
23.	Nigerian Air Quarters	Mainly visiting	Housework, laundry, utility services
24.	NTA Quarters	Mainly visiting	Housework, laundry, utility services
25.	Oyo Street Estate	Mainly visiting	Services provided by estate managers
26.	President Avenue Estate	Mainly visiting	Services provided by estate managers
18.	Hausawa gated streets	Visiting, attending mosque	Housework, laundry, utility services
19.	Ibrahim Kunya Estate	Mainly visiting	Housework/ utility services
20.	Ishaq Rabi'u Estate	Mainly visiting	Services provided by estate managers
21.	Kabuga gated streets	Mainly visiting	Retail shop, housework, utility
22.	NCCA Quarters	Mainly visiting	Housework, laundry, utility services
23.	Nigerian Air Quarters	Mainly visiting	Housework, laundry, utility services
24.	NTA Quarters	Mainly visiting	Housework, laundry, utility services
25.	Oyo Street Estate	Mainly visiting	Services provided by estate managers
26.	President Avenue Estate	Mainly visiting	Services provided by estate managers
27.	Sabo Nanono Housing	Mainly visiting	Housework, laundry, utility services
28.	Sokoto Road Estate	Mainly visiting	Expert services from utility firms
29.	Sahelian Ranch Estate	Visiting, attending mosque	Housework, laundry, baby-care, cleaning Utility services
30.	Shehu Musa Estate	Mainly visiting	Housework, laundry, utility services
31.	UDB Quarters	Mainly visiting	Utility services
32.	Unity Estate	Mainly visiting	Retail shop, housework, laundry, utility
33.	Wailari Estate	Visiting, attending mosque	Housework, laundry, utility services

Source: Field work (2022).



Thus, these categories of gated estates have some degree of economic interactions, in terms of services and economic activities, with their neighbours. This result is similar to what was reported from Rio de Janeiro city of Brazil that gated communities show some symbiotic relationships, with the surrounding lower class or traditional communities, based on the workplace potentials in construction, domestic service and security guards which are partly in the direct vicinity of the gated communities (Coy & Pohler, 2002).

Three estates, Abubakar Rimi Memorial Estate, Alu Avenue Estate and Sokoto Road Estate, relied mainly on services from utility firms (Table 2) and formal corporate service providers such as security firms, waste disposal and other utility companies. Thus, they maintained significantly minimal economic interactions with their non-gated neighbourhoods. On the other hand, some nine gated estates, such as Hassan Estate, Almuqab City, Oyo Street Estate, President Avenue Estate and others, depended solely on services provided by their estate managers. The managers of these estates were responsible for the provision of essential services such as waste disposal, water supply, electrical and plumbing repairs, security, landscaping, etc. to the residents. They therefore have significantly minimal economic interactions with their neighbourhoods (Table 2).

All of the gated estates had guards controlling their entrances throughout the day and maintained minimal social interactions with the rest of the communities, as depicted in Tables 2 and 3. Thus, they were socially and economically more exclusive than those estates that employed informal services from their non-gated neighbourhoods and had their entrances manned only at night. These exclusive gated estates are similar to the Prestige community which, according to Grant and Mittlesteadt (2004) reflect desire for image, privacy and control. They focused on exclusivity over community, thus they had few shared amenities and facilities. They were characterised by secured and guarded privacy to restrict access for the celebrities and the very wealthy and are found in attractive locations.

The findings reveal a strong pattern of limited social interaction between gated estates and their surrounding non-gated neighbourhoods in Kano metropolis. This aligns with global evidence showing that gating tends to limit routine social engagement while selectively permitting only highly regulated forms of contact. The observation that most estates allowed only family visits **or** religious access (and even then, only under strict conditions as seen in BUK Staff Quarters) indicates a deliberate strategy of controlled permeability, whereby social encounters are filtered to protect privacy and maintain internal homogeneity. The minimal social interactions observed, restricted largely to school attendance (Divine Estate) or mosque access (BUK Court Road, GTC, Hausawa, and Wailari) illustrate that even when social facilities exist inside gated estates, access is often conditional and selective. This behaviour mirrors observations in Istanbul (Tanulku, 2009) and Alexandria (Boonjubun, 2019), where gating fosters social withdrawal and reduces spontaneous encounters with surrounding communities.

6.5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study concludes that gated communities in Kano metropolis generally maintain minimal social interaction with their surrounding non-gated neighbourhoods, reflecting a strong preference for privacy, exclusivity, and controlled access. While social relations remain highly restricted often limited to visits from relatives or limited religious access economic interactions are more common,



particularly in estates that depend on informal labour and domestic services from nearby communities. However, the most exclusive estates rely primarily on corporate service providers, further reducing external contact.

Overall, the findings show a spectrum of exclusivity, where gating contributes to social separation, selective economic ties, and growing urban fragmentation. Government and planning authorities should encourage more socially inclusive residential designs by integrating shared public facilities (parks, schools, recreation spaces) that can be safely accessed by both gated and non-gated residents without compromising security.

Estate management bodies should establish structured community forums or liaison committees that facilitate communication and cooperation with neighbouring communities, especially in areas of security, waste management and local development initiatives. Urban planners should develop clear guidelines that balance the need for security with broader urban cohesion. This includes regulating wall heights, defining gate access protocols for essential services, and ensuring that gated estates contribute to local infrastructure and community development.

Conflict of Interest

The author declares that no conflict of interest exist in this manuscript.

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