Title of Article: Implementation of Quality-Management Procedures In The Production And Utilisation of Cement Stabilized Laterite Interlocking Blocks In Nigeria
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Abstract: The challenges associated with building materials in Nigeria have been largely blamed for the high cost of housing delivery in the country. As a result, there has been a clarion call for the introduction of cheaper building materials into the Nigerian building construction market. Consequently, various research and development efforts have resulted in the introduction of alternative building materials and their associated technologies. Building materials are expected to meet stipulated standards which will ensure not only their aesthetics but also their appropriateness for their intended uses including structural stability, safety and health of building occupants. A major criticism of alternative building materials in the country has been their non-compliance to quality management procedures in their production and use. This study explores the extent to which quality control measures have been implemented in the production and use of alternative building materials and challenges encountered. The study has been motivated by series of building collapse in the country. Qualitative research method was adopted for the study and involved interviews with purposively selected persons involved in the production and use of alternative building materials in the Lagos area. Findings indicate a low level adoption of quality management procedures due to insufficient training, non-optimum performance of equipment, lack of manuals, time constraints, low education and motivation of workers involved in the production and use of alternative building materials. The paper concludes that in order for the potentials of alternative building materials to be realized in the country, there is a dire need for quality control procedures.