



ENVIRONMENTAL CONCIOUSNESS AND WASTE DISPOSAL AMONG WOMEN: A CHALLENGE

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Abstract: Domestic waste behaviours, trash disposal, and waste and health attitudes are all investigated in this study. Amongst women, most of what were used at home in the olden days would quickly decompose organically. Modern is rationalization, metals, chemical and other non-organic utensils, food, and materials became prominent use at homes, resulting in improper disposal of domestic wastes, now constitute a significant environmental threat in the domestic front. If storage, collection and disposal of waste is not properly done, it will pollute the environment. This would pose a major threat on the wellbeing of the people as well as the environment. Cross-sectional design through systematic and purposive sampling techniques was used in the selection of the study area and respondents by the researcher. In the survey, 202 household heads were questioned, with six key informants interviewed as part of the in-depth interviews. The findings revealed that majority of the respondents (93.1%) dispose food debris as waste, while more than half of the respondents (64.3%) dispose plastic products as waste. Around 83 per cent of those polled were aware of the situation. The study shows that poor management of waste contributed to transmission of disease. It was suggested that there be a common opinion that children ought to be in charge of transporting disposal from homes to dumpsites.

Keywords: *Waste disposal, Environmental consciousness, Women, Nigeria*

Introduction

Early African women did not have the initial challenge of how to dispose of their domestic waste because most of what we're used at home in the olden days would quickly decompose organically. Women's opinions toward garbage disposal have been shaped by the perception of waste as an undesired material with no intrinsic worth. If storage, collection and disposal of waste is not properly done, it will pollute the environment. This would pose a major threat on the wellbeing of the people as well as the environment.

The Oxford Advanced Dictionary defines waste as "anything that is no longer usable and is thrown away or disposed of." Science in Africa, 2000). According to Doron (2018), waste refers to physical objects and their formation as psychological and physical processes. The European Union defines waste as an item that the owner disposes of, plans to dispose of, or needs to dispose of.

Pramoda (2017) opined that when the primary of any object, be it liquid or solid substance has been used is thrown away. The object is faulty, useless, or worthless and could be considered as waste. Majorly in the African setting, waste could be subdivided into two significant types. These include liquid and solid

Liquid waste: These are wastes generated from the use of fluid matter examples are human stool, domestic liquid waste. Stagnant water, industrial liquid waste, oil and paints

Solid waste: These wastes include a wide range of materials, such as paper products, fabrics, food and garden waste, glass, metals, and plastic (Ruston, 2003). Directgov (2011) disagrees that the term 'hazardous' does not always mean that such waste is immediately harmful, though some can.

Problem Statement

Due to public health and environmental concerns, solid waste and sewage management is becoming more of a challenge in most high-rise cities. Waste has dominated women's ideas regarding disposal as an unappealing substance without any inherent value. If it is not properly stored, gathered, and discarded of, it poses a risk to environment and human health.

Objectives

- To determine the sorts of garbage that are produced, calls for proper handling for environmental safety consciousness.
- To assess the effect of improper waste management

Review of Literature

According to Wikipedia, practices of waste management vary. The management of nonhazardous waste, domestic and organisational refuse in a metro region is typically the responsibility of government at the local level in developed and emerging nations, urban and rural areas, and industrial and residential producers. In contrast, non hazardous industrial and commercial trash is mainly managed by the generator's responsibility.

Effect of Poor Domestic Waste Disposal on Women, on the population and the environment

- Indiscriminate disposal of waste could affect humans' health and lead to degradation of the environment
- It can constitute atmospheric hazards, destroying the layer of ozone and causes illnesses such as cancer as a result of climate change. Air pollution could cause corrosive rain, which is harmful to the life of crop because it accelerates the expulsion of soil nutrients from the ground's surface.
- It wreaks havoc on drainage channels and gutters, resulting in flooding.
- Dangerous to aquatic life
- Death of animals
- Display negative environmental scenarios that may have an impact on the tourism industry.
- Source of underdevelopment.

Women are majorly at the center of this kind of activity. Generally, they handle domestic waste and are involved in cleaning the surroundings. These days, the nature of garbage has called for appropriate handling for environmental safety consciousness. Mismanagement of waste may lead to an excellent level of contamination of soil, air, and water, constituting a more significant challenge to women. Domestic duties relating to waste generation and disposal, which emanate from women's responsibilities for sanitizing, preparation of food, family health and home maintenance, make women play critical roles in environmental safety. Every day, numerous tons of solid waste in the municipal are produced around the world. Issues of managing waste within the City is attracting the attention of scholars in recent times and it was observed that excessive amount of waste is left in the streets without collection, causing harm, contamination of the environment, and poses serious threat to risk of human health (Zia et al., 2008).

1. Uncontrolled rural-urban migration of people in countries of Sub-Saharan Africa entails a quick build-up of garbage. Since the 1960s, most African countries have experienced social and economic transformations contributing to a rise in waste generated per capita. Owusu, et al (2002) and Ahmed, et al (2011) asserted that appropriate management of waste is civic responsibility and more beneficial to the public. Indiscriminating waste dumping by one person has an impact on the whole community; As a result, countries have made it a policy to enlist the help of every citizen, business, and institution in keeping their towns and environment clean as cholera kills. Osun State, Nigeria's population was below two million in the previous years, then waste was properly managed.

2. Poor waste management has resulted in an increase in the frequency of sewage-related illnesses, such as waterborne diseases, roundworm, and scarlet fever. Different challenges were experienced at every stage of managing waste, especially gathering, movement, and dumping. The facilities available, which include waste disposal facilities, are not adequate in serving the teeming population, as well as the massive amounts of solid waste produced within the municipality is excruciating. Existing garbage disposal systems are not adequate to handle the quality and quantity of trash produced. However, there is a growing belief that poor sanitation education is blamed in Osun State's poor management of waste, poor attitudes and apathy toward ecological

concerns, as well as increased concentrations of poverty and unseemly waste disposal activities, all contribute to this situation. Abel et al., Mosler et al., Mosler (2007). As in most nations of the third-world, waste management in Nigeria is a complicated subject that has been high on successive governments' priority lists. Even though enormous funding is required to enhance the management of waste, behavioral and social factors must also be considered if management of waste in Osun state is to be successful. This research intends to evaluate community activities and views on the management and disposal of solid waste in this light. its implications for health in Osun State.

Methodology

Study Area

The study took place in Owode market in Ede north local government, one of the seven-day markets. Ede is one of the towns in Ede North and Osogbo local government area, Igbonna in Osun State. It was predicated on the assumption that about half of all households would appropriately discharge of their own waste. Purposively selected for this study and a total of two hundred and two (202) copies of questionnaires were administered. The community includes residential densities of high, medium and low. The occupations that dominate the local government areas are public services and trading. A significant percentage of the workers in the Local government areas are not working. This reflects the poverty situation of the study area.

Design

For data collection, the study used both quantitative and qualitative approach, such as the administration of questionnaire and in-depth key informant interviews. In the selection of study area and respondents, the researcher used a cross-sectional survey that combines purposive and systematic techniques. Igbonna market was purposively chosen as a result of the fact that it is one of the most urbanised areas in the LGA. Simple random technique was used in the selection of Oja Oba area in the study area from among thirty –local government areas of Osun state. There were four primary areas in which data were collected (1) demographic and household characteristics; (2) methods of household waste disposal; (3) cultural and social views related to domestic waste disposal—The disposal of waste; and (4) the involvement of private sectors in waste management. Six (6) target respondents were purposively selected for interview sessions based on their understanding of the community's waste management needs. Four officers from were among those interviewed from Ede North Local government area, Osogbo local government, One Member of Assembly, One Staff of a corporate garbage collector company, and a Health and Sanitation unit. Domestic waste treatment methods, corporate enterprise involvement in the management of waste, economic and social variables influencing management of waste, and the consequences of inadequate management of waste among women were among the key topics discussed.

Data Analysis

The data was analyzed using SPSS application software. For continuous variables, descriptive statistics such as means, medians, and minimum and maximum values were calculated, whereas proportions were analyzed for ordinal data.

Results

The survey questionnaire was completed by 200 of the total sample. Table 1 revealed the distribution of gender of the household heads indicating that 56.97% being male while 43.1% were woman. The modal age of the respondents ranged from 31 to 40 years old, with 41.3 per cent falling into this category. Most of the household heads (49.1%) had primary education, and 38.2% had both secondary and tertiary education, while about 2.1.2% of the household head had not formal education. Close to three-quarter of the respondents (29.4%) were employed whilst 45.1% were not gainfully employed.

Table 1: Socio-Economic Attributes of Residents

Socio-economics	Frequency	Percentage
Gender		
Male	115	56.9
Female	87	43.1
Marital status		
Single	56	28.4
Married	105	53.2
Divorced	15	7.6
Widowed	21	10.7
Age-group		
≤20years	17	8.5
21-30years	62	30.8
31-40years	21	10.5
41-50years	62	30.8
50years	39	19.4
Religion		
Christianity	182	92.4
Islam	14	7.1
Traditional	1	0.5
Educational Attainment		
None	41	21.2
Primary	44	22.8
Secondary	83	43.0

Tertiary	25	13.0
Occupation		
Farming	89	44.3
Hunting	16	8.0
Trading	20	10.0
Waste disposal company	17	8.5
Health workers	58	28.9
Others	1	0.5

Source: Survey 2018

Table 2: Willingness to pay for Waste Disposal

Amount(N)	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 500	130	64.4
500-999	24	11.9
1000-1499	1	0.5
1500-1999	2	1.0
2000 and above	7	3.5
Free of charge	38	18.8

Source: Survey 2018

Willingness to pay for Disposal Activities

The data for residents' willingness to pay for the various disposal activities offered by state and private waste disposal companies is in table 5. The majority (76.3%) of the local people were willing to pay less than N 1000 (64.4% were willing to pay less than N 500, while 11.9% were willing to pay N500 and N999). This is followed by those who want free access to free disposal of their wastes (18.8%).

All 202 families who used private contractors to dispose of rubbish reported paying for pickup and disposal. Some of the significant informants verified this.

Another crucial informant, on the other hand, learned that the charges are based on the sort of residential neighborhood.

Table 3: Residents’ perception of the effect and Impacts of Improper Waste Management

Does improper waste disposal management have an impact on women’s livelihood?	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	116	57.0
Positive	89	44.1
Negative	27	13.4
No	86	43.0

Source: Survey 2018

Residents’ perception of the effect and impacts of Improper Waste Management

The majority of the respondents in the local government areas (LGAs) were fully cognizant of the faulty management of waste contributes to disease cause and effect; the majority of the household heads thought that improper waste management could lead to dengue fever and indigestion (57%), while 44.1% of the respondents said that these impacts were positive, 13.4% said otherwise. 43% claimed that waste disposal activities are the widely held notion that children should be in more responsible for transfer of garbage from residences to dumpsites. The perceived benefits outlined by the residents include employment opportunities (39.3%), a Better collection system (31.5%) and increased interest in patronising the waste company (21.3%). The other benefits (7.9%) outlined include socio-cultural interactions between the waste company, health officer, community representative and the host communities.

Six key informants were purposively selected for in-depth interviews based on their knowledge of the topic under research. Four officers were interviewed from Ede North Local government, Osogbo Local government, one officer from the members of Assembly, one staff of a corporate enterprise company (non-government organization on trash collection), and a Health and Sanitation unit. Household refuse collection methods, corporate organisation involved in the management of waste, economic and social factors determining management of waste, and the detrimental effects of improper management of waste among women were among the key topics explored.

Table 4: Respondents’ Household Attributes and Possessions

How waste was generated.	Percentage
Solid waste	93.1
Plastic	64.3
Bottle/can	47.29
Paper	35.90
Old clothes	21.19

Source: Survey 2018

Table 4 shows the groups of solid trash created and the ways that households employ to dispose of it. Food debris was the most common type of waste in the research area, with 93.1 per cent of respondents reporting it as solid waste. Plastics (64.3%), bottles/cans (47.29%), paper (35.90%), and old bottles/cans (36.0%) are the most common types of waste. garments (36.0%) were the remaining waste kinds reported (21.2 per cent). Most homes (82.69%) did not segregate their solid waste into various sort before dumping it at the disposal site, and 74.9% left their waste uncovered while it was stored.

Table 5: Households’ Generated Waste Types

Designated sites	Percentage
Big communal bins/ dump truck paid collection services	61
Indiscriminate disposal of was gutter, bush and streets	39

Source: Survey 2018

61.0 per cent of the 202 respondents dumped their trash at specified areas, such as large communal bins and paid collection vehicles, while 39.0 per cent dumped their waste in an inappropriate manner (in the close by gutter, in a bush or hole or on the streets of residential densities)

The Table shows that 29.9% of the respondents frequently store their waste in plastic bins while 25.0% preferred the use of baskets in the storage of their waste. About 17.6% of the respondents used polythene bags, 9.1% uses paper cartons, 4.1% used old buckets while 13.5% uses other means of storage. Most household solid trash is transported to the community disposal centre by contracted agents. The proportion of the 34.3% of the surveyed respondents opined that money is paid for waste disposal with reference to gathering and movement from the collection point to disposal site. Other respondents indicated that rubbish is carried by themselves (23.4%), 24.5%, 14.0%, and 3.8% were of the opinion that it was carried by their children or housemaids, transport it and utilised some other methods respectively.

Summary of Chi-Square Analysis Result

Parameters	P-Value	Inference
Sex vs Residents’ perception of the impact of waste disposal activities by women	0.031	Significant
Age vs Resident perception of the impact of waste disposal activities	0.087	Not significant
Level of education vs resident perception of the impact of waste disposal activities	0.025	Significant
Occupation vs Residents’ perception of the impact of waste disposal activities	0.001	Significant

Source: Survey 2018

Resident perceptions of the effect and impact of improper waste management among women were compared across sex, age group, level of education and occupation. Sex and educational level had a significant association at P values of 0.031, 0.025 and 0.001. These associations are significant

Discussion

The central waste disposal management increased domestic and household activities and generated high volumes of domestic waste, Azeez (2006). Evidence shows that some debris is dumped on roadways, open drains, openings, and shrubs. This could turn into a recruiting place for insects and rodents, increasing the likelihood of bloodsucking and pathogens diseases trying to spread. Moreover, inappropriate dumping of unhygienic food debris might block drainage system as well as hinder waterways, increasing the risk of floods during the rainy season. This investigation supports the assertion that polycarbonate generation of waste is growing in the study area, with a household plastic waste generation of 64.3%, Osei et al. (2005). Because polycarbonate is not degradable, the problem of steadily increasing waste plastic is likely to have an impact on dumpsite. Usually, waste is burned in the outdoors at dumpsites, contributing to harmful exhaust gases emission into the atmosphere, contaminating the air and damaging the ozone layer's protective properties.

3. This can lead to a rise in health hazards, including cancers. When governments strive to manage the growing amount of plastic waste, they risk incurring financial and socioeconomic losses. According to estimates, over 77.9% of families created plastic garbage as part of their household waste.

More than half (61%) of the household head used enclosed plastic containers to keep their garbage. Using enclosed plastic containers stores the garbage from contact to flies, vermin, and waste pickers directly. This could prevent contaminated odour and unsightliness, Asase et al. (2008). Regrettably, if wastes are not properly stored, collected, and disposed of, they pose serious threats to human health and the environment. This condition fosters the reproduction of disease vectors such as mosquitoes and cockroaches, as well as the proliferation of rodents such as rats and mice, both of which pose a danger to human health.

The private sector performs the waste collection service in these local government areas under state agreement and the use of communal bins provided by private contractors. Nevertheless, the private sector's services were revealed to be unsatisfying. In total, 62.89% of the respondents were unsatisfied with the services of waste management in the study area. A more significant percentage of the respondents made complaints about infrequent pattern of the collection of waste and the exorbitant prices of contract work with private collectors.

4. The importance of private sector participation in solid waste management on these goals cannot be underestimated, especially in the case of Goal 7, which is the most important. Emphasises ensuring environmental sustainability, Asase. Et al. (2009), Coad. Et al. (2005). The understanding of the respondents toward waste management seemed to be generally low.

According to the report, 19.78% of respondents do not believe that management of waste is vital, and 8.45% are unsure whether it is. This may be because 21.2 per cent of them have no formal schooling. Poor attitudes, a lack of concern for environmental issues, and other factors as abject poverty and misguided waste disposal practices, all contribute to this scenario. Mosler et al., (2006). 84% of the respondents were aware that waste not appropriately managed could lead to sicknesses or diseases. This awareness of the consequences of waste management does not match the reported practices. Household heads who educate their residents have several reasons for properly dumping the waste, including hygienic, fear of pathogens, and unpleasant smell. Domestic solid waste consisted primarily of wasted food and polycarbonate, which were discarded without sorting and deposited in exposed plastic containers. Some collected and disposed of in appropriate manner at collective sites, while others are simply dumped in drainage channels, pits, roadways, and bushes. The majority of respondents said they would be extremely happy if more gathering containers were made available and waste material was collected on a regular basis for disposal sites. Some expressed willingness to pay if the charges were increased. Most households were aware of the health implication of waste mismanagement, although some had no primary education. Countless families generally opined that children must be in charge of management

of waste. Appropriate waste management can improve poor waste management, on the other hand, can lead to air pollution and mosquito breeding, resulting in sickness.

Conclusions

The study examined environmental consciousness and waste disposal practices among women. The study discovered that most household solid waste consisted primarily of food debris and plastics, stored mainly in uncovered plastic containers and discarded without separation. Although garbage was disposed of appropriately at communal sites, some community members practiced indiscriminate dumping in any available space, including drainages, holes, streets, and bushes. Although inappropriate, the community indicated an interest in limiting garbage disposal through containers and regular pickup to dump sites, as dumping was common.

The paper also contends that government agencies responsible for waste management are not doing enough to tackle the menace of improper waste disposal in the environment. It thus recommends that now is the time for all and sundry to pay the needed attention to proper waste management to save the environment from avoidable environmental hazards.

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