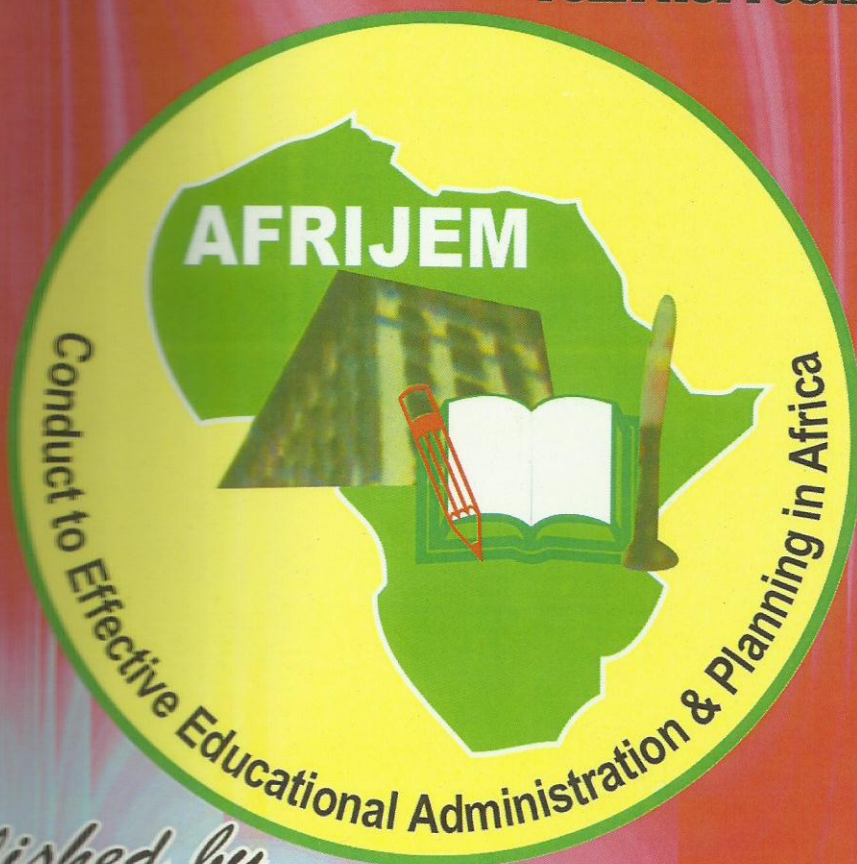


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WASTE MANAGERS' VIEWS ON LEVEL OF PUBLIC ENLIGHTENMENT ON WASTE MANAGEMENT PRACTICE IN BENIN METROPOLIS, EDO STATE

***BABA DARE A.¹; OSAYANDE, E.I.²; ABDULLAHI JIMOH³
BIBIRE, A.H.⁴ AND DAGWA, M.¹**

Abstract

This paper investigated waste managers' views of level of public enlightenment on waste management practice among people of Benin metropolis, Edo State. One hundred and forty waste managers that were systematically drawn within the metropolis constituted respondents used for the study. A cross sectional survey design method was adopted for the study. A structured questionnaire scrutinized by experts in the field of health promotion and environmental health education and educational management was used for the study. A reliability value of 0.83 coefficient of correlation was obtained with the use of test-re-test method. Descriptive statistics of frequency counts and percentages were employed to analyse data collected for the study. The result of the study shows that language problems, poor emphasis by waste disposal authorities, poor funding and non-challant attitude of people hindered effective waste generation and elimination. The finding also revealed that there are poor public attitudes towards effective waste generation and management. Based on the findings of the study, it is recommended that more funds should be put into the scheme of waste management by the respective body or waste management authority. Also, waste bins and waste collection and disposal points should be easily accessible to people for effective waste generation and elimination.

Introduction

It has been observed from time immemorial that at the onset of human existence a cordial relationship existed between man and his environment (Baba, 2008). Okpei (2002) noted that the insatiable quest by man for technological advancement pushed by the problem of survival has continued to tamper with existing ecological equilibrium to the point of his own detriment.

It is a truism that cleanliness is next to godliness. This old adage still holds sway despite the threat of modernization that seems to be throwing dust to this age-long axiom. A critical look at the streets of our major towns and cities, shows that people dump refuse indiscriminately on them. This is especially so in this era of the so-called "pure water" or "sachet water". It is common habit by people after drinking pure water to dump its sachet(s) on the street and gutters. Asije (2005) observed that the environment is every minute being abused by all and sundry. It is no exaggeration to say that today in Benin metropolis, the presence of these empty pure water sachets could be likened to snow when view from a distance.

It has been reliably gathered that the coming of seasonal fruits and crops like mango and maize, unauthorized refuse dump sites in our cities have exceeded what they used to be. Some streets are no longer accessible due to overflow of cobs of maize dumped indiscriminately or heaped right at the centre of the road (Baba, 2008). Asije (2005) reiterated that corn vendor who usually cash in on the maize season are not helping matters in any way as they litter every spot with cobs of maize. Consumers of Mango fruits also have a helping hand in damaging the environment after consuming the flesh and throw the seed about without consideration for the hazard it poses.

Apart from the scenario presented above, most of the drainages and gutters have been subjected to total blockage as a result of

are impassable and inaccessible due to flooding as a result of blocked drainages. A building collapse in Lagos on the 19th April 2003, killing about ten (10) people and properties worth thousands of Naira were lost. An eye witness accounts that the collapse was due to flood diverted in the direction of the building as a result of blocked drains in the area; (Nigerian observer, February 21, 2005).

The rate of wastes generation in Nigeria environment is too high and poses serious problem to waste managers and government at large. Smart (2004) and Oluwande (1977) stated that the magnitude of waste management problems in Nigeria is enormous and attempts at getting rid of wastes from human settlements have been greatly hindered. The researchers confirmed that unlike the developing countries, the developed countries have effective systems for the removal of waste from within their settlements, in which monetary costs and environmental resources pollution posed serious problems.

Review of Related Literature

Solid waste according to Slack, Gronow and Voulvoulis (2005) and Moeller (2005) solid waste is any garbage, refuse sludge from waste treatment plant, water supply treatment plant or air pollution control facility and other materials including solid, liquid, semi-solid, contained gaseous properties resulting from industrials, commercials, mining and agricultural operations from community activities. Smith (2010) asserted that there are basically three types of solid waste which include municipal solid waste, hazardous waste and hospital waste.

Solid waste could be unwanted or desecrated waste materials from residential and commercial activities which have resulted in such things as garbage, rubbish and ashes. Solid waste management focused on developing environmentally sound methods of handling

management for residential and institutional waste in the metropolitan areas is usually the responsibility of local government authorities, while management for commercial and industrial waste is usually the responsibility of the generators.

In the developed countries, solid waste collection is a straight forward business. All houses have access roads. The refuse vehicles drive to the house and the dustbins are emptied into the vehicles. However, in the developing countries, solid waste collection from the majority of the houses have no access road and

house to house collection is not practicable. The solid waste from such houses has to be carried by the people themselves to collection depot located carefully at strategic places. These collection depots take different forms in many places. In some places, it takes the form of open dumping spaces where the solid waste may be left permanently or burnt from time to time. The collecting depot may also be a container with or without wheels. It may also take the form of built structure on ground or elevated with or without a roof (America Public Work Association, 2006, Oluwande, 1983).

Table 1: Source of solid waste generation

Sources	Typical waste generators	Types of sold waste
Residential	Single and multi family dwellings	Food wastes, paper, cardboard, plastics, textiles, leather, yard wastes, wood, glass, metals, ashes special waste (e.g. bulky item, consumer electronics, white goods, batteries, oils, tyres and household hazardous wastes
Industrial	Light and heavy manufacturing, fabrications, construction sites, power and chemical plants	House keeping wastes, packaging, food wastes, construction and demolition materials, hazardous wastes, ashes, special wastes
Commercial	Stores, hotels restaurants, markets office building e.t.c	Paper, cardboard, plastics, wood, food waste, glass metal, special wastes, hazardous wastes same as commercial
Institutional	Schools, hospitals, prison, government centers	Same as commercial
Construction and demolition	New construction sites road repairs, renovation sites, demolition of building	Wood, steel, concrete dirt e.t.c.
Municipal services	Street cleaning, landscaping, parks, beaches, other recreational areas, water and waste water and waste water treatment plant	Street sweepings, landscape and tree trimmings, general wastes, from park, beaches and other recreational areas, sludge
Process (manufacturing e.t.c)	Heavy and light manufacturing refineries, chemical plants, power plants, mineral extraction and processing	Industrial process wastes scrap materials, off specification products, slay, tailings
Agriculture	Crops, orchards, vineyards, diaries, feedlots, farm	Spoiled food wastes, agricultural wastes, hazardous wastes (e.g. pesticides)

(Hoornvery and Thomas 1999)

The government frantic efforts at sustainable development both in the rural and urban centre most especially giant step at remarkable urbanized transformation have contributed to uncontrollable waste generation in Nigeria. Smart (2004) asserted that the rapid growth of our population, particularly the urban population, and the growing level of industrial activities present a significant challenge as well as timely opportunity for the application of environmental and conservation management practices in Nigeria.

It has been adequately observed that waste generation and management in Nigeria poses danger to health and well being of the entire populace (Baba, 2008). There are many factors responsible for this scenario, which include poor attitudes of people, poor public awareness, poverty, over population and so on. Ogwuru (1995) Ojikutu (1994) and Falomo (1995) posited that the problem of waste generation with its impact on human life and property value in Nigeria has become increasingly worse and for which not much would seem to have been achieved inspite of huge investment of financial resources.

The uncontrollable of nature of environment as evident in the big cities, most especially the urban centres in the areas have

of her gutters have become open sesame part dumping grounds, part-peeing and defaecation places.

One of the very by which effective and result – oriented waste management can be achieved is to change negative and poor attitude of people to its generation and disposal. Osuji (1994) stressed that the problem of waste generation and control is further compounded by the unconcerned elite who have an “out-of-sight, out of mind” attitude towards piles of waste which they drive past on the streets enroute their offices.

There are numerous problems associated with poor disposal of solid waste in Nigeria which include contamination of foods, breeding of mosquito, pollution, food poisoning, to mention but few. Owadugbe (2010), Sofoluwe and Bennet (1995) and Nonye (2007) corroborated that improper handling and poor waste disposal methods were identified as major causes of environmental pollution, which provides breeding grounds for pathogenic organisms and encourage the spread of infectious diseases like cholera, diarrhoea and typhoid fever.

The problems of waste management and disposal are further compounded by the non-challant attitudes of people towards

mental attitude, as the unconcerned elite who have an "out-of-sight, out-of-mind" attitude towards piles of waste which they drive past on the street en-route their offices. The second category according to the researcher are the ignorant poor people who have an attitude of helpless resignation to living with the filth.

It has been authoritatively gathered that the urban centres are much more bedeviled by piles of waste products and their associated problems (Baba, 2008). This scenario was further worsen by the poor attitudes exhibited by staff of disposal authorities. This is one of the reasons that made people to be lawless and defy sanitation law.

In the recent time there have been little public participation in waste generation and disposal (Baba, 2008). It has also been insinuated that men play dominant roles in waste management and disposal when compare with women involvement as sole generators of solid waste. Sridha (1996) asserted that there is need for public involvement and participation in waste management, most especially total involvement of the ultimate generators of wastes in the policy making as well as all other stages of waste management. The researcher added that as it is today, the planning and technology for sanitation and waste management rest squarely in the hands of men with little women participation.

Research Questions

In carrying out this investigation, the following questions were raised to guide the study:

1. What are the hinderances to public enlightenment on waste management?
2. What are the factors responsible for poor public attitude towards waste collection and disposal?
3. Is lack of awareness on the ways waste are disposed contributes to an absence of proper waste management culture?
4. Are waste managers equipped with adequate knowledge, skills and techniques for proper waste management?

Purpose of Study

The main aims of this study is to find out the opinion of the waste managers on level of public enlightenment on waste management practice among people of Benin metropolis, Edo state. The study also focused among other on:

- Determining hinderances to public enlightenment on waste management;
- Identifying the factors responsible for poor public attitude towards waste collection and disposal;
- Determining impacts of awareness on the proper waste management culture;

- Finding out level of efficiency and effectiveness of waste managers in proper disposal of solid waste.

Methodology

The study adopted a cross sectional survey method. The population of study comprised of waste managers and general public in Benin metropolis. In all, a total of one hundred and forty respondents were systematically selected from the public and private waste management staff within Benin metropolis, Edo state. A researcher structured questionnaire was used to gather data employed for the study. The instrument was adequately validated by experts in the department of health promotion and environmental health education and educational management department in University of Ilorin. The reliability of instrument was established with the use of test-re-test method. A reliability coefficient of correlation of 0.83 was obtained. The data collected were analysed with the use of descriptive statistics of frequency counts and percentage.

Research Question 1: What are the hinderances to public enlightenment on waste management

Table 2: Hindrances to public enlightenment on waste

S/N	Items	Frequency			Percentage		
		Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total
1	Do you think the officials of waste management board and environment health officials are corrupt and inefficient.	124	16	140	88.57	11.43	100
2.	Does poor emphasis by the government on waste management hinder public enlightenment?	120	20	140	85.71	14.28	100
3.	Is language barrier an obstacle to proper enlightenment on solid waste management?	65	75	140	46.43	53.57	100
4.	Do funds hinder enlightenment programmes on waste management?	98	42	140	70	30	100

Analysis of data in table 2 above shows that 124(88.57%) of the respondents were of the opinion that the officials of the waste management board and those of the local government are corrupt while 16(11.43%) were of the opinion that they were not corrupt. Also from the same table above 12(85.71%) of respondents declared that poor emphasis of the government on waste management hindered public enlightenment while 20(14.28%) disagreed to this.

Meanwhile 65(46.43%) of the respondents were of the opinion that language barrier was an obstacle to proper enlightenment on waste management while 75(53.57%)

responded that language barrier was not on obstacle. And also 98(70%) of the respondents posited that funds hindered enlightenment programmes on waste management while 42(30%) responded that funds does not hinder enlightenment programmes on solid waste management. It has been adequately revealed that language, poor emphasis by government funds and non-challant attitude of people hindered effective waste generation and elimination.

Research Question 2: What are the factors responsible for poor public attitude towards waste collection and disposal.

Table 3: Public attitudes towards waste collection

S/N	Items	Frequency			Percentage		
		Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total
1.	Do you prefer to dump waste indiscriminately, even when waste bins are provided?	29	111	140	20.71	79.29	100
2.	Does inadequate waste bins prevent proper disposal of waste?	92	48	140	65.71	34.29	100
3.	Does poor environmental consciousness of the public prevents proper solid waste disposal?	101	39	140	72.14	27.86	100
4.	Do people dispose waste indiscriminately because laws are not properly enforced?	122	18	140	87.14	12.86	100
5.	Should there be fines or punishment on those who dump refuse indiscriminately in the environment?	124	16	140	88.57	11.43	100

Analysis of data from the table 3 above shows that 29(20.71%) of respondents admitted that they preferred to dump waste indiscriminately even when waste bins are provided while 111(79.29%) ascertained that they do not dump waste indiscriminately. Also 92(65.71%) responded that inadequate waste bins was the reason why waste was not disposed properly while 48(34.29%) declared that inadequate waste bins does not prevent proper waste disposal.

From the above 101(72.14%) of the respondents agreed that poor environmental consciousness of public prevents proper solid waste management while (27.86%) responded that poor environmental consciousness does not prevent proper waste disposal. Also, 122(87.14%) responded that people dispose their waste indiscriminately because law were not properly enforced while 18(12.86%) declared

that laws not being enforced were not the reason for improper waste disposal. The analysis above showed that there is poor public attitudes towards effective waste generation and management. The poor attitudes were due largely to inadequate placement of waste dust-bins, ineptitiveness of waste managers, poor public enlightenment on proper ways of disposing waste products to mention but few.

Also 124(88.57%) of the respondents agreed that there should be fines or punishments on those who dump refuse indiscriminately in the environment while 16(11.43%) disagreed that there should be fines or punishment on those who dispose waste indiscriminately.

Research Question 3: Is lack of awareness on the ways waste are disposal contributes to an absence of proper waste management culture.

Table 4: Ways in which waste are disposed

S/N	Items	Frequency	Percentage %
1	How do you dispose of your waste?		
	(a) Private refuse workers	37	26.43
	(b) Government refuse workers	58	41.43
	(c) Burn or bury	33	23.57
	(d) In the bushes	12	8.57
		140	100

Analysis of data in table 4 above, indicated that 37(26.43%) of respondents disposed their waste through private refuse workers 58(41.43%) disposed theirs through government refuse workers 33(23.57%) burned or buried their waste while 12(8.57%) threw their waste in the bush. The result of the table analysis above revealed that majority of

respondents disposed their waste products through constituted waste disposal authorities, while some of them result to non-conventional methods.

Research Question 4: Are waste managers equipped with adequate knowledge, skills and techniques for proper waste management.

Table 5: Waste managers efficiency and experience in solid waste disposal

Years of service	Frequency	Percentage %
3 months	4	20
4 months	3	15
5 months	2	10
6 months	8	40
2 years	1	5
4 years	2	10
Total	20	100

Analysis from the above table 5 on respondent's years of service showed that 4 (20%) of the respondents had worked for 3 months 3(15%) had served for 4 months 2(10%) had worked for 5 months 8(40%) had served for 6 months 1(5%) for 2 years while 2(10%) had worked for 4 years. A critical analysis of the

above data shows variance in the experience of waste managers which is considered good and formidable enough for effective waste management.

Discussion of the Findings

It has been adequately revealed from table 2 above that language, poor emphasis by government and waste disposal authorities, poor funding and non-challant attitude of people hindered effective waste generation and elimination. This findings is in line with Smart (2004) and Oluwande (1977) finding that the magnitude of waste management problems in Nigeria is enormous and attempts at getting rid of wastes from human settlements have been greatly hindered.

The result of analysis in table 3 above showed that there is poor public attitudes towards effective waste generation and disposal. The poor attitudes were due to inadequate placement of waste dust-bins, ineptitiveness of waste managers, poor public enlightenment on proper ways of disposing waste products and so on. This finding substantiates Osuji (1994) and Falomo (1995) findings that the problem of waste generation and control is further compounded by the unconcerned elite who have an "out-of-sight, out-of-mind" attitude towards piles of wastes which they derive past on the street enroute their offices.

The finding from analysis in table 4 revealed that majority of people disposed their wastes through constituted waste disposal authorities, while some of them disposed their waste through non-conventional method. This finding tallies with Smith (2010) and Wanless Environmental Services (2008) findings that institutional waste in the metropolitan areas is usually the responsibility of local government authorities, while management for commercial and industrial waste is usually the responsibility of the generators.

The result of the analysis in table 5 showed that the waste managers have varied experiences and skills that are sufficient for better and effective waste management outcomes. American public work association (2006) and Oluwande (1983) noted that in the developed countries, solid waste collection is a straight forward business. The waste collectors drive waste vehicle to various houses to empty their dust-bins. This shows the level of commitment of waste management authorities.

Conclusion

Based on the result of analysis in table 2,3,4 and 5 on this study, the following conclusions were drawn:

1. Language problem, poor emphasis by government and waste disposal authorities, poor funding and non-challant attitude of

people hindered effective waste generation and elimination;

2. There are also poor public attitudes towards effective waste generation and management;
3. Majority of people disposed their waste products through constituted authorities, while others disposed waste through non-conventional method;
4. Waste managers have varied experiences and skills that are sufficient for better and effective waste management outcome;

Recommendations

Based on the findings from the study, the following recommendations were made:

1. More fund should be put into scheme of waste management by the respective body or waste management authority;
2. Training and re-training should be encouraged among waste managers for better performance and discreet skills acquisitions;
3. The charges placed on collection of waste should be affordable by each citizen.
4. Waste bins and waste collection and disposal points should be easily accessible for effective waste generation and elimination.
5. More women should be involved in scheme of waste management;
6. Waste management boards or authorities should endeavour to employ able body men and women for expected and result oriented outcome.

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