

THE DEVELOPMENT OF LITERACY LEVEL, PRACTICE AND DISPOSITION OF PEOPLE TOWARDS INDISCRIMINATE WASTE DISPOSAL IN IBADAN METROPOLIS

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Abstract

Despite international commitment to achieving a 50 percent reduction in global illiteracy by 2015, progress remains slow as approximately 759 million adults, two-thirds of which are women still lack basic literacy skills. In Nigeria, various efforts and initiatives have been put in place by successive governments (from federal to local government) and non-governmental organisations toward the development of adult literacy. However, the problem of illiteracy has negative implications on the populace, economy, and it continues to pose significant challenges to the country in the daily activities of people towards waste product disposal. This study, therefore, examines the development of literacy level, practice, and disposition of people towards indiscriminate waste disposal in Ibadan Metropolis, Nigeria. This study is a descriptive research design with the population consisted of all male and female adults in Ibadan metropolis across eleven Local Government Areas of Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria. Six hundred (600) (300 males and 300 females) were selected using stratified random sampling technique from two out of eleven Local Government Areas of Ibadan, Oyo State. The findings of the study revealed that there was a significant difference between the steps taken by the government and citizens towards indiscriminate waste disposal ($t= 5.245$; $p<0.05$). It was equally revealed that the effects of indiscriminate waste disposal have a great impact on people ($t= 5.432$; $p<0.05$). Moreover, it was also revealed that the level of literates education has a significant influence on indiscriminate waste disposal ($t= 1.011$; $p<0.05$). It was concluded that the level of education of the people influenced their attitude and their disposition to waste product disposal. Therefore, it is recommended that government should be actively and practically involved in educating people on early warning messages and awareness programmes through radio jingles, seminars, workshops, conferences, handbills on various ways of disposing waste product.

Keywords: *Development, Literacy level, Practice and Disposition, Waste Disposal.*

Introduction

The importance of education in the lives of human beings cannot be overemphasized. Education is a right that should be provided for all human being irrespective of where they live. There are several international human right instruments stating that education is a fundamental human right. Literacy education is an age-old practice that cannot be renounced as it is required by all men, even the work of Henry Morry in the establishment of village colleges in rural Cambridge shire during the 20th century could not have amounted to an invention.

The literacy education originated as the idea of African traditional education has always been a practical reflection of ways of life of the people and had underlined the collective communalistic and largely democratic approach common to African communities (Omolewa, 2001). However, Adesanya (2010) stated that the application of literacy education has helped individuals and communities to develop themselves in different ways. Literacy education goes beyond reading and writing as conventional education is about lifelong education as well as a sense of common ownership of the education enterprise that is significantly based upon the needs of the people. It goes beyond the thinking that all forms of education should be subjected to the disciplines of people. Also, it reflects the expectations of the people that it serves and links up with the development of a new idea. Literacy education is non-formal education and it is an integral part of the entire system of education. More so, it is a product of change and development in our society

and covers a wide range of activities depending on the prevailing social, economic and political circumstance. Its essential characteristic is that it caters for the education and training needs of people outside the formal system of educational provision.

The concept of literacy can then be summarized to mean the acquisition of knowledge and skill needed for development in contemporary society to improve efficiency and productivity. Anyanwu (2010) confirms that "people cannot certainly learn useful information required for their survival and happiness in the society without literacy". This implies that literacy is crucial for professional development in contemporary society. The combination of literacy and some other skills helps an individual to acquire the right kind of skill and experience that would make them marketable in the society. The knowledge of people towards indiscriminate waste disposal which could have helped them to know where refuse can be erected is insufficient, thereby making people ignorant of proper way to dispose their waste product. This leads to people throwing refuse into the gutter and it brings blockage of erosion channel which results into flooding. In addition to this, so many people are used to throwing their waste product to nearby rivers in which if they are knowledgeable about indiscriminate waste disposal, they would have been properly oriented on appropriate way of disposing their waste product.

Population growth and distribution, the condition of human settlement, infrastructural expansion and other

causative factors such as environmental degradation demand some level of public awareness on the dynamics of public policy and environment of indiscriminate waste disposal in Ibadan. Ibadan is one of the ancient cities in Oyo State and is a home to different sets of people ranging from nearby West-African countries like Benin-Republic, Togo etc but predominantly populated by Yorubas in Nigeria. The Ibadan indigenes by their nature are accommodating and this encourages many people to come and reside in the city. Apart from this, the city is known for its commercial activities and a lot of industries and companies are established in Ibadan. As a result of a large population, land demand increases and this results in acute problem with residents using every available space along river banks or any other areas for personal use (Sangodoyin et al., 2012).

People live there and they generate waste, the question is how do they dispose their wastes product? The attitude and disposition of people towards indiscriminate waste disposal in Ibadan are of concern in this research. For instance, many people dispose their waste in gutter or erosion channels, especially, when it rains. This could lead to flooding or other

disasters like building collapse and road-accident etc. Due to the large population, which gives rise to different strata of economy classes, the poor at the lower stratum do construct their buildings with inferior materials. This could enhance widespread destruction during fire disasters or flooding and perhaps other man-made disasters.

The incessant occurrence of disaster in Nigeria is a reflection of the fact that much has not been achieved in the area of disaster management in this country and Oyo State in particular, despite massive campaigns against human activities that engender disaster by the national and international bodies towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The international grants and money budgeted each year by the Nigerian government for the control and management of indiscriminate waste disposal had not yielded enough fruits. Perhaps Nigerians' low level of disaster preparedness, indiscriminate waste disposal, and inadequate knowledge of disaster management, attitude, and disposition of people towards indiscriminate waste disposal accounted for this.



Thus, this study aimed at investigating the development of literacy level, attitudes and disposition of people towards indiscriminate waste disposal in Ibadan. Specifically, the objectives to be achieved are as follows:

1. To find out the extent of the knowledge of people towards indiscriminate waste disposal.
2. To investigate how education develop citizens towards indiscriminate waste disposal.
3. To examine the effect of indiscriminate waste disposal on the people of Ibadan Metropolis.
4. To ascertain attitudes of citizens towards indiscriminate waste disposal.

5. To find out the step taken by the government towards indiscriminate waste disposal.
6. To find out the proactive steps taken by the citizens towards the disposition of indiscriminate waste disposal.

Research Hypotheses

This study tested the following hypotheses:

H₀1: There is no significant difference between the steps taken by the citizens and the government towards indiscriminate waste disposal.

H₀2: The level of education has no significant influence on indiscriminate waste disposal.

H₀3: Indiscriminate waste disposal has no significant influence on people.

Methods

Research Design

This study used descriptive research design with the use of questionnaire from respondents across Ibadan Metropolis.

Population of the Study

The study population consists of youth and adult (male and female) living in Ibadan metropolis which comprises of eleven (11) Local Government Areas in Ibadan Metropolis, Oyo State, which are Ibadan South-east, South-west, North, North-east, Ido, Ona-Ara, Egbeda, Oluyole, Lakelu, Ibadan North-west and Akinyele Local Government in Ibadan, Oyo State.

Sample and Sampling Technique

In this study, stratified random sampling technique was employed to select respondents from two Local Governments Areas purposively for the study because they are within Ibadan and shared the same boundary, also have the same attitude towards indiscriminate waste disposal. The total number of 600 respondents, (300 male and 300 female) Adults were selected as actual sample size. Efforts were made to ensure that only respondents who are eighteen years in the two Local Government Areas were selected for the study. A stratified random sampling technique was used to select the participants from the selected two Local government Areas in Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria.

Table 1. Selected Sample Size (Literate and illiterate) in Ibadan

S/N	Local Government Respondents	Literate		Illiterate		Population of Sample
		M	F	M	F	
1	Ibadan South-East (Mapo)	75	75	75	75	300
2	Ibadan South West (Alesinloye)	75	75	75	75	300

Research Instrument

The researcher deployed the used of questionnaire titled “Indiscriminate Waste Disposal Questionnaire (IWDQ)”. The questionnaire was divided into two sections. Section A focused on the bio-data of the respondents, while Section B consists of 26 items structured to elicit information from the respondents on indiscriminate waste disposal.

Validity of the Instrument

To ascertain the validity of the instrument, the instrument was given to lecturers in the Faculty of Education who attested to both face and content validity of the instrument. The corrected and modified version of the instrument was used to collect necessary data from the respondents.

Reliability of the Instrument

The reliability of the research instrument was ascertained using the test-retest method. The research instrument was administered to 60 respondents (both males and females) that are not part of the sample for the study in Lagelu Local Government Area of Ibadan, Oyo State. The 60 respondents did not take part in the actual research. The instrument was administered to the respondents twice (2) at an interval of two weeks. The two sets of scores from the two administrations of the same instrument were analyzed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation statistics. The coefficient of correlation indicated the reliability of the instrument.

Instrument and Data Collection

The Administration of the instrument was conducted by the researchers. The

researchers went to the field and distributed the questionnaire to the respondents. The researchers firstly explained the questionnaire to the respondents on the importance of the research work. They were given little time to fill it later returned to the researchers.

Data Analysis

Data analysis was carried out with the used of descriptive statistics such as mean, standard deviation, percentage, and inferential statistics such as t-test and ANOVA to test the hypotheses generated at 0.05 level of significance.

Testing the Hypotheses

H₀1: There is no significant difference between the steps taken by the citizens and the Government and indiscriminate waste disposal.

Table 2. Summary of the T-test showing difference between the steps taken by the Government and citizens towards indiscriminate waste disposal

	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	t-cal	Df	p-value	Remark
Government	600	31.3640	3.85284	5.246	598	.000	Sig.
Citizen	600	15.5190	2.70425				

The result findings in Table 2 shows that there was a significant difference between the steps taken by the citizens and the government and indiscriminate waste disposal (t=5.246; df=598; p<.5). Therefore, the null hypothesis which states that there is no significant difference between the steps taken by the government and citizens towards indiscriminate waste disposal is rejected. Hence, there was a significant difference between the steps

taken by the government and citizens towards indiscriminate waste disposal. The table reveals that there are significant differences between the steps taken by the government and citizens towards indiscriminate waste disposal. It shows clearly the efforts of the government towards indiscriminate waste disposal. This finding corroborates the study of Aderinoye (2015), whose studies on Governmental and Non-governmental

Organisations towards literacy education in Nigeria Governmental agencies have significant influences towards indiscriminate waste disposal. Curtis and Mills (2010) stated that the people attitude towards indiscriminate waste disposal is poor even though some drums were provided by the government, people are still adamant with their ingenious attitude as some complain that it had not been placed in strategic places across the State, where people will have access to it. Also, some had been destroyed and even those that are placed in the right places are not evacuated when full with waste product, disasters have spatial footprint of culture,

human places and interactions. Both the Government and the citizens have interrelated together for a long and have come to develop some culture of doing things. Although some people know that certain attitudes are wrong, they still throw refuse through the window of a moving vehicle the way they like. If the literates have inculcated good culture, the illiterates would have imitated the culture. It is still believed that there was a significant difference between the steps taken by Government and citizens towards indiscriminating waste disposal.

H₀2: The level of literates’ education has no significant influence on indiscriminate waste disposal

Table 3 Summary of t-test showing significant influence of education level of people on indiscriminate waste disposal

Model	Sum of square	Df	Mean square	F	Sig	R	R Square	Model
Regression	9129.938	1	9129.93	1598.6	.000	.785	.616	Regression
1Residential	5699.566	99	8	6	^b	^a		n
al	14829.50	8	5.711	2				1Residential
Total	4	99						Total

The result of the research in Table 3 shows that level of education has a significant influence on indiscriminate waste disposal (t=219.896; df=599; p<.5). Therefore, the null hypothesis which states that the education level of literates has no significant influence on indiscriminate wastes disposal is rejected. Hence, education level of literates has a

significant influence on indiscriminate wastes disposal. These findings agree with the study of Aderinoye et al. (2016) which states that people cannot certainly learn the useful information required for their survival and happiness in the society without literacy. Also, the finding corroborates the study of Curtis and Mills (2010) that most people have a spatial

footprint of culture, human places, and interactions. Those literates and leo-literates have interrelated for long and have come to develop some culture of doing things. Although some educated people know that certain attitudes are wrong, they still involve themselves in such attitudes, like throwing refuse through the window of a moving vehicle

the way they like. If those who are educated have inculcated good culture, those who are not educated would have imitated the culture. But the result still revealed that there was a significant difference between the level of education of literate towards indiscriminate waste disposal.

H₀3: The effects of indiscriminate waste disposal has no significant influence on people

Table 4. Summary of t-test showing difference between the disposition of literates and leo-literates towards indiscriminate waste disposal

	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	t-cal	Df	t-cal. (P)	Remark
Literate	300	48.3020	4.52944	1.225	598	1.96	Not Significant
Leo-literate	300	49.8720	6.41263				

The result in Table 4 further revealed that the effect of indiscriminate waste disposal has no significant influence on people (t=1.225; df=598; p<.5). Therefore, null hypothesis which states that the effect of indiscriminate waste disposal does not influence people is rejected. Hence, the effect of indiscriminate waste disposal has a significant influence on people. Because both literate and leo-literate are living together and have interrelated for long, they have come to develop some culture of doing things. Although some educated people know that certain attitudes are wrong, they still involve themselves in such attitudes like throwing refuse through the window of a moving vehicle the way they like. If those who are educated have inculcated good culture, those who are not educated would have imitated the culture

which might affect both of them positively.

Summary

This study creates awareness on the part of citizens, government, NGOs various stakeholders, and the populace on the level of literacy in Nigeria, how the development of literacy level has promoted sustainable waste disposal by strengthening national capacity to mitigate the effect of indiscriminate waste disposal which have resulted to a man-made disaster such as flooding, building collapse and so on. It is worthy of note that indiscriminate waste disposal preparedness and among citizens, is better than disaster relief and response. Also, it centred on the level of literacy development in Nigeria and the need to take positive steps towards the eradication of illiteracy in the country.

The study would influence government right from Federal to Local Government to improve on their literacy development. The content of the study would add to the knowledge of Environmental health workers, Waste Management Board, Non-governmental Organisation, and the general public on the issue of effective waste disposal among the citizens. Some of the trainings needed for effective and timely spatial information of flood monitoring and their effects are essential for the flood prevention programmers. The study also proposed the adoption of a sustainable waste disposal system (SWDS) to lower the risk of indiscriminate waste disposal that can result in floods, building collapse and others in the urban centers etc.

This study used the descriptive research design and the information gathered through the use of questionnaire. Two Local Governments were purposefully selected for the study because the two local governments are within Ibadan and shared the same boundary. They also have the same attitudes towards indiscriminate waste disposal. The total number of 600 respondents (both male and female) adults was stratified randomly from the two Local Government Areas of Oyo State. Efforts were made to ensure that only respondents who are eighteen (18) years old and above were selected for the study. The questionnaire was divided into two sections. Section A focused on the bio-data of the respondents, while section B consisted of 26 items structured to elicit information from the respondents on indiscriminate waste disposal. The administration of the instrument was

conducted by the researchers through personal distribution to the respondents. The researchers explained the importance of the research work to them and gave them little time to fill it and later returned back to the researchers. Data were analysis using descriptive statistics such as mean, standard deviation and percentage and Inferential statistics such as t-test and ANOVA statistics to test the hypotheses generated at 0.05 level of significance.

Recommendations

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

1. It is discovered that the people lack adequate knowledge on various ways of guiding against indiscriminate waste disposal. So, government needs to intensify its efforts in educating people through seminars, workshops, conferences and handbills to get their refuse properly disposed. Also, the Office of the Community Health Extension Workers (CHEW) and Waste Management Board need to be well funded, adequate provision of vehicles, human resources, and materials needed to be put in place.
2. Government should also provide adequate refuse disposal facilities such as trash cans, baskets, dustbins at strategic places in all the Local Government areas and this should be distributed with equity among the Local Government areas, not only in the state capital.
3. Government should also ensure that refuse and sewage are evacuated at the appropriate time by the environmental Agencies in order to avoid indiscriminate waste disposal.
4. The citizens should avoid indiscriminate waste disposal by making use of the

facilities provided by the Government for sewage refuse.

5. Provision of adequate funds for proper waste disposal across the Local Government Areas and not in the state capital alone.

6. Government should also enact law against improper practice on indiscriminate waste disposal.

7. Government should monitor the effectiveness of the money allocated for the facilities at the end of the year.

8. The citizens should respond positively to awareness messages from governmental agencies.

9. The citizens should also know that they are at the receiving end of whatever happens as a result of improper waste disposal.

10. Every individual should be concerned with the ways they are disposing of their refuses.

11. Government should create a task force that will work alongside with Community Health Extension Workers (CHEW)

12. There should be strict follow-up of a master plan of any market, motor park, community, or city to avoid indiscriminate waste disposal.

Conclusion

The findings of this study revealed that there was a significant difference between the steps taken by the government and the citizens towards indiscriminate waste disposal. The level of literates' education has a significant influence on indiscriminate waste disposal. Also, the effect of indiscriminate waste disposal has a significant influence on people. Also, there are no significant differences between the attitudes and disposition of

people towards indiscriminate waste disposal because people's attitude towards the disposition of waste product was not encouraging. Some people disposed waste product into erosion channel which can result in blockage of drainage which could also damage life and property. This attitude is rampant among market women and motor parks. Also, the researchers observed that government or government agencies have not been placing sanctions on the erring individuals on indiscriminate waste disposal whether literates or leoliterates who are living in Ibadan. Even the sanction claimed to be placed on the defaulters used to be influenced later through bribery or other forms of corruption. It is important to know that the level of education of the citizen influence their attitudes and their disposition towards indiscriminate waste disposal. Also, the effectiveness of the governmental steps in different areas such as awareness programme, training of individuals on indiscriminate waste disposal prevention and its management, early warning messages, radio jingles, and the effectiveness of various government agencies such as Community Health Extension Workers (CHEW), National Emergency Management Agency, State Emergency Management Agency and Local Emergency Management Agency cannot be overemphasized, as it helps the citizens to respond positively toward disposition of waste disposal.

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