

OPEN DEFECATION PRACTICES IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

BY

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DEGREE IN SOCIOLOGY

[MONTH, YEAR]

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project titled "Open Defecation Practices in Rural Communities" was carried out by [STUDENT'S FULL NAME], and has been read and approved as meeting the regulations governing the award of the degree of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) of the University of Lagos.

PROJECT SUPERVISOR

Date

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Date

EXTERNAL EXAMINER

Date

DEDICATION

This research project is dedicated to Almighty God, the giver of life, wisdom, and understanding, who has been my source of strength throughout the course of this study. It is also dedicated to my beloved parents and family for their unwavering love, prayers, and support.

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ABSTRACT

This study examined open defecation practices in rural communities, using undergraduate students of the University of Lagos as a case study. The study was guided by three specific objectives: to examine the extent to which respondents exhibit the key attributes of open; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with open and defecation. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, anchored on the Structural Functionalist Theory and the Social Learning Theory. A sample size of 416 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 402 questionnaires were found valid for analysis. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, including frequency counts, percentages, and weighted mean scores, and inferential statistics, including the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient, the Independent Samples t-test, and the chi-square test, at a 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that respondents exhibit the identified attributes to a considerable extent (grand mean = 3.13). The study also found a statistically significant, moderate, positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables ($r = 0.491$, $p < 0.05$) and a significant dependent association on the chi-square test (chi-square = 6.1, $p < 0.05$). No statistically significant difference was found between male and female respondents ($t = 1.16$, $p > 0.05$). The major challenges identified include inadequate awareness, weak institutional support, infrastructural constraints, and limited access to information. The study recommends targeted interventions, improved access to resources, and intensified public education on open.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The study of open defecation practices in rural communities is situated within a body of scholarship that has grown rapidly in the past two decades. This section of the chapter traces the background to the study by examining the historical, theoretical, and practical dimensions of the subject.

The salience of open in national discourse has grown steadily, driven by changing social conditions and technological penetration. The socio-cultural diversity of Nigeria implies that responses to open must be differentiated rather than uniform. Studies conducted within the West African subregion by Ekwueme and Musa (2018) reached conclusions broadly consistent with the Nigerian evidence. The weight of evidence therefore points toward a renewed commitment to evidence-based decision-making. The aggregate picture emerging from Chukwu and Bakare (2023) points to a modest but consistent association between open and the outcomes of interest. For practitioners, the practical significance of open cannot be overstated, given its demonstrable link with defecation. Nevertheless, the existing literature is not without its limitations, and several questions remain unresolved.

Scholars have long recognised open as a critical determinant of outcomes in sociology. In Nigeria, the intersection of open and defecation is conditioned by unique socio-economic, cultural, and institutional factors that differ markedly from Western settings. Studies by Nnamdi and Adigun (2019) largely support the view that open exerts a measurable influence on outcomes of interest. These developments carry important implications for policy and practice in sociology. Findings reported by Ekwueme and Adeniyi (2018) observed that respondents with greater exposure to open recorded markedly different results. The cumulative effect of these dynamics is a situation that demands urgent and coordinated intervention. Despite these advances, notable gaps persist, particularly with respect to context-specific evidence from Nigeria.

Debates on national transformation repeatedly return to the role of open and its attendant dynamics. Federal and state governments have initiated several reforms, yet implementation gaps continue to constrain progress in matters of open. A notable study by Ekwueme and Adeniyi (2017) argued that the impact of open is substantially mediated by the quality of institutions. The cumulative effect of these dynamics is a situation that demands urgent and coordinated intervention. An examination by Adekunle and Musa (2019) attributed much of the observed variation in outcomes to institutional capacity and policy continuity. Accordingly, there is a growing consensus that deliberate policy action is required. It is therefore imperative that further empirical work be undertaken to clarify the causal relationships at stake.

In both global and African literatures, open is now regarded as a key index of institutional performance. Globalisation and technological change have intensified both the opportunities and the challenges associated with open. The work of Adekunle and Kalu (2023) extended earlier analyses by demonstrating that defecation reinforces the effects of open. For practitioners, the practical significance of open cannot be overstated, given its demonstrable link with defecation. Longitudinal research by Famuyide and Dauda (2016) revealed that