

SANITATION BEHAVIOUR IN URBAN SLUM SETTLEMENTS

BY

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DEGREE IN SOCIOLOGY

[MONTH, YEAR]

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project titled "Sanitation Behaviour in Urban Slum Settlements" 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 sanitation behaviour in urban slum settlements, 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 sanitation; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with sanitation and behaviour. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, anchored on the Structural Functionalist Theory and the Social Learning Theory. A sample size of 397 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 373 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 = 2.98). The study also found a statistically significant, moderate, positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables ($r = 0.471$, $p < 0.05$) and a significant dependent association on the chi-square test (chi-square = 5.29, $p < 0.05$). No statistically significant difference was found between male and female respondents ($t = 1.24$, $p > 0.05$). 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 sanitation.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The study of sanitation behaviour in urban slum settlements 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.

Few subjects attract as much policy interest in contemporary Nigeria as the question of sanitation. Federal and state governments have initiated several reforms, yet implementation gaps continue to constrain progress in matters of sanitation. Empirical evidence from Obiora and Ogbeide (2021) suggests that positive developments in behaviour are associated with improvements in sanitation. The practical import of these findings extends well beyond the academic sphere into everyday institutional practice. Studies by Bello and Adekunle (2019) largely support the view that sanitation exerts a measurable influence on outcomes of interest. 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.

The salience of sanitation in national discourse has grown steadily, driven by changing social conditions and technological penetration. Rapid urbanisation and demographic expansion across Nigerian cities have heightened the salience of sanitation in everyday life. Empirical evidence from Nwosu and Adekunle (2021) suggests that positive developments in behaviour are associated with improvements in sanitation. Sustained engagement with the issues raised here is therefore essential if meaningful progress is to be recorded. Studies conducted within the West African subregion by Bakare and Musa (2018) reached conclusions broadly consistent with the Nigerian evidence. The implications of these dynamics are far-reaching, touching questions of equity, efficiency, and accountability. A recurring weakness in the literature concerns the difficulty of isolating the precise influence of {k0} from confounding factors.

In recent years, sanitation has emerged as a central theme in scholarly discourse on sociology. The Nigerian context presents peculiar challenges, ranging from infrastructural deficits to institutional weaknesses, which shape the manner in which sanitation unfolds. Studies conducted within the West African subregion by Bakare and Musa (2018) reached conclusions broadly consistent with the Nigerian evidence. The cumulative effect of these dynamics is a situation that demands urgent and coordinated intervention. A notable study by Dauda and Olawale (2017) argued that the impact of sanitation is substantially mediated by the quality of institutions. Left unaddressed, the identified patterns are likely to intensify, with adverse consequences for all stakeholders. It is therefore imperative that further empirical work be undertaken to clarify the causal relationships at stake.

The phenomenon of sanitation, while not new, has acquired fresh analytical urgency in Nigeria. The Nigerian context presents peculiar challenges, ranging from infrastructural deficits to institutional weaknesses, which shape the manner in which sanitation unfolds. The work of Adebayo and Ekwueme (2023) extended earlier analyses by demonstrating that behaviour reinforces the effects of sanitation. Left unaddressed, the identified patterns are likely to intensify, with adverse consequences for all stakeholders. Evidence assembled by