

WASTE DISPOSAL PRACTICES IN URBAN SLUMS

BY

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BEING A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH, FACULTY OF
HEALTH SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, AKOKA, LAGOS STATE

IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.Sc.)
DEGREE IN PUBLIC HEALTH

[MONTH, YEAR]

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project titled "Waste Disposal Practices in Urban Slums" 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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My profound gratitude goes to Almighty God for His grace, protection, and guidance throughout the duration of my study and the successful completion of this research project. I am deeply grateful to my supervisor, [SUPERVISOR'S NAME], for the patience, guidance, constructive criticism, and invaluable direction provided throughout the course of this research. I also wish to appreciate the Head of Department, the lecturers of the Department of Public Health, and my course mates for their support and friendship. My appreciation also goes to my parents and siblings for their unwavering support, both financial and emotional, throughout my academic journey.

ABSTRACT

This study examined waste disposal practices in urban slums, 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 waste; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with waste and disposal. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, anchored on the Technology Acceptance Model and the UTAUT. A sample size of 391 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 360 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 = 3.01). The study also found a statistically significant, moderate, positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables ($r = 0.543$, $p < 0.05$) and a significant dependent association on the chi-square test (chi-square = 8.5, $p < 0.05$). No statistically significant difference was found between male and female respondents ($t = 1.1$, $p > 0.05$). 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 waste.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The study of waste disposal practices in urban slums 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.

waste occupies a prominent position in contemporary debates about disposal and national development. The socio-cultural diversity of Nigeria implies that responses to waste must be differentiated rather than uniform. An examination by Olawale and Ogunlana (2019) attributed much of the observed variation in outcomes to institutional capacity and policy continuity. Left unaddressed, the identified patterns are likely to intensify, with adverse consequences for all stakeholders. Studies conducted within the West African subregion by Ogunlana and Umeh (2018) reached conclusions broadly consistent with the Nigerian evidence. Accordingly, there is a growing consensus that deliberate policy action is required. Despite these advances, notable gaps persist, particularly with respect to context-specific evidence from Nigeria.

The phenomenon of waste, while not new, has acquired fresh analytical urgency in Nigeria. Within Lagos State, the country's most populous commercial hub, the dynamics of waste are observed in their starkest form. A notable study by Nwosu and Aderemi (2017) argued that the impact of waste is substantially mediated by the quality of institutions. The weight of evidence therefore points toward a renewed commitment to evidence-based decision-making. Studies conducted within the West African subregion by Adeniyi and Nwosu (2018) reached conclusions broadly consistent with the Nigerian evidence. The cumulative effect of these dynamics is a situation that demands urgent and coordinated intervention. It is therefore imperative that further empirical work be undertaken to clarify the causal relationships at stake.

The relationship between waste and disposal has been the subject of sustained academic interest across several disciplines. The socio-cultural diversity of Nigeria implies that responses to waste must be differentiated rather than uniform. The work of Adeniyi and Nwosu (2023) extended earlier analyses by demonstrating that disposal reinforces the effects of waste. The practical import of these findings extends well beyond the academic sphere into everyday institutional practice. A notable study by Ekwueme and Adebayo (2017) argued that the impact of waste is substantially mediated by the quality of institutions. 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.

Scholars have long recognised waste as a critical determinant of outcomes in public health. Federal and state governments have initiated several reforms, yet implementation gaps continue to constrain progress in matters of waste. An examination by Bello and Musa (2019) attributed much of the observed variation in outcomes to institutional capacity and policy continuity. The practical import of these findings extends well beyond the academic sphere into everyday institutional practice. A notable study by Kalu and Ogbeide (2017) argued that the impact of waste is substantially mediated by the quality of institutions. Left unaddressed, the identified