Journal of Environmental and Tourism Education Vol. 8 No. 1 June 2025

Impact of Environmental Sanitation on Environmental Quality in Yala Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria.

By
Ogar, Blessing Omari
Department of Environmental Education,
University of Calabar, Nigeria.

Abstract
This study was carried out to determine the impact of environmental sanitation and the quality of environment in Yala local government area of Cross River state. To achieve this objective and as a guide to the study, five (5) research questions and five Hypotheses were formulated and tested. The questionnaire was the main instrument used for data collection while the independent t-test coefficient was employed for a data analysis. The researcher sampled the opinions of one hundred (100) respondents in Yala Local Government Area. From the result, it was concluded that the current level of people's participation in environmental sanitation within the study area in Yala Local Government Area cannot be said to be good enough to bring about the desired change and improvement in the quality of environment within the area. Therefore, it was recommended that laws and regulations be made by the government to help enforce the habit of environmental sanitation within the area.
Key words: Environmental sanitation, Environmental quality, Yala LGA, enforcement**.**

Introduction and background
A well-known fact United Nation Specialized agencies such as the world Heath Organization (WHO) UNICEF, UNESCO UNDP and world bank is that the Single most significant cause of morbidity and mortality in sub-saharan Africa and other third world Countries is poor Standards of environmental sanitation. This is because most of the tropical African countries do not have adequate facilities to achieve an ideal environmental Sanitation Nwankwo, 2004). With estimated population of about 120 million people, Nigeria has had a great leap in human population that has virtually doubled within 40 years. This repaid population growth without commensurate provision of infrastructure and service has led to poor Environmental sanitation Characterized by increased urban Slums, overstretched sanitary facilities, the generation of enormous waste, and general reduction in the quality of life of the people. Over the years, the poor Environmental sanitation condition has contributed significantly to the high prevalence of communicable diseases in the country. Most of these diseases, which include, malaria, cholera, typhoid, diarrhea, acute respiratory infections, and tuberculosis as well as helminthic infections account for significant percentage of morbidity and mortality.

Consequently, despite increased efforts by various successive governments at improving public health and quality of Life, basic health indicators have remained poor since this sanitation related diseases still play a large role in creating ill health and poverty. In our society today environmental sanitation is often a misconstrued subject matter.

Statement of problem

The environmental sanitation problems of Yala local government area like other parts of Nigeria are endemic. Today, four identifiable major environmental problems confront the local government area, and almost all of them are ecological in nature and scope. These problems are deforestation, erosion, soil degradation and pollution (Ukpong, 19911.Over the years, these problems have produced noticeable off- springs of their own namely, gully erosion, biodiversity loss and indiscriminate cutting of economic trees to varying extents and dimensions.

Purpose of the study

The main purpose of this study is to examine as well as to investigate the impact of environmental sanitation on the environmental quality in Yala Local Government Area of Cross Rivers State. In specific terms, the study intends to examine

1. The extent to which socio-economic status influence people's attitudes and ability to participate in environmental sanitation within the study area
2. The extent to which gender influence people's attitude and ability to participate in environmental sanitation within the study area.
3. The extent to which level of education influence people's attitudes and ability to participate in environmental sanitation within the study area

Research hypotheses

Based on the research questions, the following research hypotheses formulated for this study will be tested,

1. There is no significant influence of socio-economic status on the impact of environmental Sanitation towards the quality of environment in Yala local government area
2. There is no significant influence of gender on the impact of environmental sanitation towards the quality of environment in Yala local government area
3. There is no significant influence Of level of education on the impact of environmental sanitation towards a quality of environment in Yala local government area

Literature review

The literature review of this research work is presented in the following order,

1. Socio-economic status and Environmental Quality
2. Gender and environmental quality
3. Level of education and environmental quality

Research design

The research design adopted for this study is the descriptive design. This design was considered appropriate because it is concerned with findings, describing an interpreting what is". The descriptive design to some extent aims at discovering new phenomena, but is more concerned with conditions, beliefs, points of view or attitude that are held, process that are going on or trends that are developing. This design is useful to this study in the sense that it will help the researcher to describe or ascertain the impact of environmental sanitation on the quality of environment in Yala government area of Cross River State.

Research area

This research area this research study was carried out in Yala government area of Cross River State.

Yala Local governinent area is one of the 18 local government area in Cross River State with a population of 115,000 people (as at 2006 population census), the local government area comprises of 12 clans and 14 electoral wards. Its headquarters is in Okpoma wliere the local government area is situated. Its ecological setting is a territory which stands on latitude 866'0" North of the equator and Longitude 5°16'0" East with an altitude of 90 meters. Yala Local Government are is a multilingual society with a single culture in terms of marriage and dressing. The major occupation of the people includes peasant farming, trading, fishing. Palm produce processing and civil service work.

Population of the study

The population of this study comprises of four clans within the Yala local government area of Cross River. The population consisted of eighty-five thousand, four hundred and eighty-seven (85,487) Persons (as at 2006 population census).

The residents from these clans were considered appropriate for this study because of their maturity, clear understanding and exposure to the instrument for data collection.

Sampling technique

The simple random sampling technique was used to sample subjects for the study. This method was chosen because it ensures a fair and equal representation of the study population. The 4 clans were carefully Stratified into political wards Before the subjects we're identified and selected. The hart and draw method were used; numbers were used to represent names of participants which were written in pieces of papers folded and placed in a basket. This process resulted in 100 subjects being randomly selected for the study.

The Sample

The sample size for the study was one hundred (100) adults, made up of fifty-two (52) females and forty-eight (48) males, it is represented in a table 1 as thus,

Instrumentation

The main instrument used for data collection was a questionnaire designed by the researcher. The questionnaire was divided into two main sections; A&B. Section A dealt with personal information such as age, gender and marital status. While section B on the other hand dealt with the variables of the study and had twenty items, constructed on a four point likerty-type scale design. Each item required the respondents to indicate the frequency of his or her various acts under,

Strongly Agree (SA)	-	4 points
Agree (A)	-	3 points
Disagree (D)	-	2 points
Strongly disagree (SD)	-	1 points

110 questionnaires were administered out of which seven were wrongly filled, three were not returned and 100 were correctly completed, retrieved and used for the study.

Validity of the instrument

The items on the questionnaire were drawn in reflection of the hypotheses generated by the variables under study. Before using the instrument, the items developed were given to an expert in mathematics and statistic department for screening and vetting of the items. Those found relevant were retained while the irrelevant items were dropped.

Reliability of instrument.

The reliability estimate of the instrument was established through a trial testing using test-retest reliability method. Here, the researcher gave the instrument to the same respondents to complete and after a week interval were again given the same instrument.

The two sets of scores were correlated using the independent t-test analysis.

Data preparation and scoring

A four likerty type questionnaire ranging from strongly agreed (SA) to strongly disagreed (SD) was adopted for the responses of the questionnaire, The scoring of the questionnaire was done with the help of the scoring key. The scoring of questionnaire was done as follows:

Strongly Agree (SA)	-	4 points
Agree (A)	-	3 points
Disagree (D)	-	2 points
Strongly disagree (SD)	-	1 points

Hypothesis-by-hypothesis analysis and presentation of results

Ho_1

There is no significant influence of socio-economic status on the impact of environmental sanitation towards the quality of environment in Yala Local Government Area of Cross river State.

The Independent variable in this hypothesis is socioeconomic status while the dependent variable is quality of environment. The independent variable which is socioeconomic status categorized into the low and high. The mean and standard deviation were calculated and the data for the socioeconomic status were grouped under low and high.

Ho_2

There is no significant influence of gender on the impact of environmental sanitation towards the quality of environment in Yala Local Government area.

The two variables here are gender as independent variable and quality of environment as the dependent variable. Gender, which is the independent variable was grouped into male and female. The appropriate statistical analysis adopted to test this hypothesis was the independent t-test. The result of the analysis is presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Independent t-test analysis of influence of gender on the impact of environmental sanitation towards the quality of environment in Yala local government area. (N=100).

Group	N	X	SD	t-value	Sig
Male	30	5.95			
				.487	-703
Female	70	6.23	1.932		

Ho_3
There is no significant influence level of education on the impact of environmental sanitation towards the quality of environment in Yala Local Government area.

The two variables here are level of education as the independent variables and quality of environment as the dependent variable. The Independent variable was grouped into two, low and high level of education. The appropriate statistical analysis adopted to test this hypothesis was the independent t-test. The result of the analysis is presented in table 4.

Conclusion
Based on the results and findings of the study, it is concluded that the current level of people's participation in environmental sanitation within the study area (Yala Local Government Area) cannot be said to be good enough to bring about the design change and improvement in the quality of environment within the study area.

However, because the majority of the residents in the study area have a low level of environmental consciousness, it is required that the government of the state through its ministry of environment should collaborate with relevant agencies to intensify efforts so as to ensure that the people become more aware of the dangers that accompany deteriorating environment.

Recommendations
Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made;

1. There is a good need to create a body like the green police or an environmental task force to help monitor the progress of environmental sanitation in the Local Government Area.
2. Laws and regulations should be made by the government to help enforce the habit of environmental sanitation within the local government area

3. At the community level, offenders should be punished for not participating in environmental sanitation so as to prevent future occurrence

References

Anijah-Obi, F. (2001). Fundamentals of 1-Fundamentals of environmental Education and management, Calabar: University of Calabar press

Ayoade, J. O. (2003), Climate Charge: A Synopsis of its nature, cause, effects and management. University press, UNN

Barnes, F. (1997) Climate Change. A past and present issues. London: Nolivan publication

Braig N. (2000) Environmental Awareness and Environmental Attitude of Secondary and Higher Secondary School teachers and Students. Unpublished Ph.D. Thesis university of Rajasthan 4th Survey of Education Research 2, pp 33.36

Charles, P. (2005) Awareness and Attitude. Of people Towards Conservation of Forest Resources in Akamkpa LIGIA of Cross Rive, State, Nigeria B (ed) project, University of Calabar, unpublished

Cunningham and Saigo, M. (2005) Introduction to Environmental Science: Concept and principles. Medull publication New York

Fayose, 1. (2002). Environment Kerves in Nigeria: It's Consequences. Lagos: Macmillan. Nigeria published New York.

Kongshul, A. P. (2008) Influence of Environmental Hazards. National Development (s. (ed) Project, University of Calabar, unpublished.

Inyang-Abin m. E. (1995). Environmental Education for Teachers, Zaria, Nivrances publishing Company Ltd.

Inyang-Abia, M.E. (1995). Contemporary environmental problems in Cross River State. The Erosion Dimension. Paper presented at the CREPSIA – NERDC training. Prograin in EE. In Calabar July 30

Inyang-Abia, M. E. (2004) Essentials of Educational Technology. Calabar. Second Edition, Uwasen publisher.

IUCN UNEP (1980). World conservation Strategy: Living Resources conservation for Sustainable Development. Switzerland: IUCN.

Lawal, M. B. et- (1995). Education for Sustainable Development. Lagos: Macmillan Nigeria publisher limited.

Mishra, B. (2000) Population and Environ Mental 1 badan. Degradation. Daily Champion.

Mishra, M.P. (2000). Our Environment and green revolution, India publishers Chand and Company limited.

NEST (1991-Nigeria's Threatened environment: A Nations profile. Inter printers.

Uchegbu, S.N. (1789). Environment Management and protection: Enugu Precision Printers and Publishers.

Ukpong, S. J. (1991). Global Environmental Concerns: A paper presented at an Environmental Awareness and Education Seminar for Educational Administrators in Uyo. Akwa Ibom State, Feb. 28-March l'ots 1771.

Ukpong S.J. (1775). Improving Environment! Health Conditions in low income Settlements. London: Earth scan. Publication, inc

Uwetang, J.O., Akpan-Abosi, Ero. And Agba, pru. (2014) Our Environment. Awareness and Management. (Ushie printing and publishing Co. Calabar

W.H.O (1986). Solid Waste Disposal and Control Technical Report Sevier No.484, General W.H.O.