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Influence of Marital Status on Attitude of Women Towards Solid Waste Management in Calabar Metropolis, Cross River State, Nigeria

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Abstract

The main purpose of this study was to investigate influence of marital status on attitude of women towards solid waste management in Calabar Metropolis, Cross River State, Nigeria. To give direction to this study, a research questions and null hypothesis respectively guided the study. The review of related literature was carried out based on specific objective of the study. Survey research design was adopted for the study. The targeted population comprises of all female household inhabitants in Calabar Metropolis, age 18 and above in Cross River State in the year 2023. Multiple sampling techniques such as stratified,

	purposive and accidental sampling techniques were adopted in selecting five hundred (500) respondents used for the study. A twenty (20) items four point Likert-type scale questionnaire titled "Marital Status and Attitude of Women Towards Solid Waste Management" (MSAWTSWM) was used for data collection. To test the hypothesis formulated for the study, Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) statistical tool was used for data analysis. The hypothesis formulated was tested at .05 level of significance. The result of the finding revealed that marital status significantly influenced attitude of women towards solid waste management in Calabar Metropolis. Based on the findings it was recommended among others that awareness should be created using social media, electronic media etc to enable women know and learn how to management solid waste.

Introduction

In Calabar metropolis, the generation of waste and its disposal, both domestic and industrial, continues to increase in cycle with growth in consumption and its association with health problems. For instance, per capita waste generation increased nearly three-folds over the last two decades on the Cross River State capital, reaching a higher level than that in developed countries (UNEP, 2022). However, out of these huge waste generations on the State capital, the State spend as much as 10 to 15 percent of their district, municipal or metropolitan revenues on waste management. Yet, two-thirds of the solid waste generated is not collected (Agbor, Unimtiang, Usang, Ogbaji, Igwe &Akpo, 2023). Such inadequate waste collection and disposal practices create problems on the environment as well as human health and consequently economic and other welfare losses. Even the collected waste ends up in an uncontrolled dump sites or burnt.

The issue of attitude of women towards solid waste management (SWM) is one of serious environmental worry particularly in Calabar Metropolis major cities and urban centers. It is obvious that there has been a remarkable increase in the daily amount of solid waste generated in Calabar Metropolis today. Following about 2 million metric tonnes of solid waste is generated annually in Calabar Metropolis (Agbor, etal, 2023). The consequence of uncollected waste could be great when a State capital is fronting rapid population growth, and waste generated cannot be sufficiently and adequately managed. Major streets in Calabar Metropolis experience the persistent accumulation of indiscriminate dumps of wastes from the households or commercial sources.

Attitude to effective solid waste management could be seen as an embodiment of character for both men and women. According to Oden (2007), the resulting environmental problems constitute a threat to man's continued existence on earth. These problems bring about degradation, pollution, erosion and hence, introduce various diseases which threaten human existence. According to Anjah (2012), information on the age structure of the populations is essential to the various dimensions of population analysis. Human beings are socially classified according to either age or sex. That is, every society makes social distinctions according to age or sex. In most growing societies, individuals are being rated in terms of their age to attract respect to the society and also in terms of sex in position of class systems. These distinctions are some of the bases for the differentiation of social roles in society.

The process of solid waste management consists of the storage, collection, transportation and final disposal stages in a way to bring about good environmental sanitation. Sanitation on the other hand is the science and practice of effecting a healthy and hygienic condition of living environment or the arrangement by which the health of a community is protected from dangers caused by dirt or refuse in the surrounding (Adedibu, 2018). Solid waste management involves the interplay among generation, storage, collection, and disposal of waste. The lack of adequate waste collection and disposal systems in developing countries causes public health problems resulting in diseases, which aggravate poverty and lead to negative consequences such as loss of income due to illness, increased spending on health care, and the deprivation of the poor's capability to live in a safer environment (World Bank, 2006).

People's demographic variables, bad consumption patterns and the attitudes of people, high-living standards, resource exploitation and institutional structure are amongst the major problems regarding waste management moreover causing serious threats towards health and environment that need to be managed efficiently and effectively from industrial to domestic sectors. Attitude of women towards solid waste management perception and people's demographic variables or personal variables such as marital status is understood as the relationship human beings have towards solid waste. This relationship determines the attitudes of the people in favor of or against Attitude of women towards solid waste management (Dagne, 2018).

Therefore, Attitude of women towards solid waste management are understood as favorable or unfavorable feelings towards some feature of solid waste and the physical environment or a problem related to it. On account of this, Attitude of women towards solid waste management attitudes are the basis of many individual decisions as guided by the factors of values, beliefs, culture, environmental activism, gender, age, marital status as well as marital status. Attitudes have been widely studied through cultural (values), psychological (beliefs) and personal factors. In some homes mostly in Calabar metropolis, Cross River State, residents bury their refuse due to their negative attitudes and perceptions towards solid waste disposal. Hence, it is on this premise this research is carried out a research to assess marital status and attitude of women towards solid waste management in Calabar Metropolis.

Statement of problem

Increasing population, urbanization, industrialization, changing consumption patterns and people's attitudes are resulting in the generation of increasing amounts of solid waste and diversification of the type of the solid waste generated in Calabar metropolis. Solid waste is the most visible environmental problem among many in urban areas specifically in Calabar Metropolis in Cross River State. Increased solid waste generation creates more environmental problems, as many cities are not able to manage it due to institutional, regulatory, financial, technical, and public participation shortcomings. There is a need to investigate attitude of women towards solid waste management approach such as: Incorporation of more environmental and economic friendly concepts of source separation: recovery of waste; legitimization of the informal systems: partial privatization and public participation.

Although government has formulated policies for environmental protection, they were only implemented in the national capital cities. In many urban areas such as Calabar Metropolis, open dumping is still considered the most popular method of solid waste disposal. Adverse environmental impacts from improper attitude of women towards solid waste management are rooted in inadequate collection, recovery of recyclable and disposal of wastes as well as people's attitudes. These impacts are also due to inappropriate location, design, operation, or maintenance of dumps and landfills. These in effect improper waste disposal attitude, have negative health implications for some residents of the area. It is against this backdrop this research is carried to assess influence of marital status on attitude of women towards solid waste management in Calabar Metropolis.

Statement of hypothesis

Marital status does not significantly influence attitude of women towards solid waste management

Literature Review

Marital status and solid waste management

Marital status is the combination of family status with the number of children a parent has Some married women or parents depend on their children foe waste disposal which in most cases is not properly handled by those children On the other hand a single woman or man who manages and dispose their waste, does so sustainably with sense of maturity (Oluwabamide, 2011). Proper attitude of women towards solid waste management can be achieved through good marital status background where parents educate their children on the benefits and dangers of indiscriminate waste disposal and management.

Al-Khatib, Kontogianni. Abu Nabas, Alshami and Al-Sari' (2015) investigated the influence of household attributes on waste minimization behavior in Shah Alam City, Malaysia. Through a household survey, 300 respondents were randomly chosen. Findings from the study revealed that respondents behaviour has statistically significant associations with 4 socio-demographic,

namely gender [F (298) 733. p=0.00]: occupation [F(2, 297) = 3.22, p= 0.04): marital status [F(2, 297) -3.51.p 0.03]: and home ownership [F(2, 295) =7.57. p = 0.00]. The results of the analysis on the influence of household attributes on waste minimization behaviour in Shah Alam City, Malaysia. The implementation of policies for sustainable solid waste minimization According to Oden (2007) positive attitude towards attitude of women towards solid waste management can be stimulated by positive feelings towards the environment an individual feelings and understanding of environmental problems can affect his attitude to towards the environment. This means that an individual who has a positive attitude towards attitude of women towards solid waste management would, over a period of time be influenced by other family members who have a negative attitude.

In previous studies Butu, Ageda and Bichi (2022) asserted the existence of related values within the socio-demographic characteristics and psychological factors (knowledge and behaviour) that affect participation in waste minimization The purpose is to understand and to focus on the categories of households based on the socio-demographic factors that can encourage environmentally responsible behavior in the residential sector Knowledge about the impact of waste recycling on the environment has a positive relationship with recycling practice/attitude and behavior of married men and women, The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (2009) organized a workshop on people's attitude to waste disposal in Jakarta bay, Indonesia. The workshop involved adult residents of Jakarta (male, female, married and single) of the area to evaluate the people's attitude towards alternative means of waste disposal into the rivers, and at the same time, collecting more data on the coral reefs of the bay It was found out that, in addition to serious statutory provisions, the people are now showing serious concern for their bay Their attitude to waste disposal and attitude of women towards solid waste management has changed. The primary objective of attitude of women towards solid waste management activity is to make the environment sound and safe for human health through disposal of wastes in a well-organized manner. However, through a process the stakeholders of the management system, especially in the developed nations, did not stop disposal of waste in open dump or landfill only, rather they tried to convert the trash/solid wastes to cash and make strong their economy in addition to environmental aspect (UNESCO, 2009) Attitude of women towards solid waste management (SWM) has been a big challenge to both the developed and developing countries all over the world.

A research according to UNESCO (2016), on the population growth as a result of increased families (marital status) and the rate of urbanization are alarmingly increasing throughout the African continent thereby accelerating waste generation and disposal problem. But the technology, technical knowhow, financial capacity, culture, and understanding of the community required to properly manage solid wastes are not adequately available (Alemayehu, Regasa, Mengestie & Alemayehu, 2017). Urbanization with inadequate waste management practices, specifically, widespread disposal of waste in water bodies, dumping on the road and uncontrolled dump sites aggravate the problems of generally low sanitation levels across the African continent (Dagne, 2018). Obot (2022) conducted a study on attitude towards environmental sanitation. It revealed that psychologically, ego involvement through public participation reduces friction, resentment and resistance. In this regard, it is those who have

been part of the process of conceiving, articulating and implementing attitude of women towards solid waste management policies who appreciate and identify more in the programme. A complementary strategy to Nigerians is the development of an effective environmental education programme, capable of helping both married and unmarried to capture awareness of the environment to help them develop skills for proper waste management, educational status and attitude of women towards solid waste management.

Kayode and Omole (2011) examined the influence of some socio-economic factors on solid waste generation and disposal in Ibadan Metropolis. The nature and composition of solid waste generated, methods of disposal and relationship that exists between the socio-economic characteristics of the people and solid waste generation and disposal were also identified. The researcher adopted a survey design. Questionnaire was administered on 215 respondents in Ibadan metropolis selected randomly. Data for this study were obtained through the administration of questionnaire and review of existing literature. The information obtained from the field was analyzed using frequency and correlation matrix. The finding showed that the composition of waste generated in lbadan Metropolis was a reflection of the variation in socio-economic factors of the people. Also, socio-economic factors such as income, marital status, age, education, occupation and building types had greater influence on the choice of method of disposal in Ibadan Metropolis. It was recommended that effective attitude of women towards solid waste management can be achieved through the adoption of urban renewal strategy on the chaotic areas, provision of sizable fund by the government and proper education of the people, among others.

Kabiru (2017) examined the environmental and public health impact of poor solid waste disposal in Kano metropolis. The study was a cross sectional descriptive study. Simple random sampling technique was applied to sample 554 households, with a response rate of 539 (98%) Structured questionnaire was used for data collection secondary data sources were used. The result revealed that overall demographic characteristics of respondents indicated 236 (449%) males, 303 females (56%), marital status of the respondents indicated 198 (37%), were marriage, and other demographic characteristics. The result showed significant findings that relate to poor solid wastes disposal and the impact on environment and public health. 75% of household engaged in open mass dumping of solid wastes. Other factors that contribute to poor solid waste disposal were observed and documented distance to disposal sites, household storage of wastes, and poor separation of wastes. Over 77% of households had perception about disease transmission from poor solid waste disposal. 53% had good knowledge about diseases related to solid waste disposal. Significant awareness as well as perception was good among the households but there is poor behaviour in terms of effective management of solid waste. Proper health education message dissemination must be enforced for better behavioural change by the relevant authorities.

Alemayehu, Regasa, Mengestie and Alemayehu (2017) assessed status of attitude of women towards solid waste management, associated factors and service delivery performance of private solid waste collectors in Dire Dawa town from February 27-March 27, 2015. A community based cross sectional survey was conducted. Data were collected from 511 households, which were selected through multi-stage sampling from three kebeles, and further information from responsible staff and private participants using interviews, focus group discussion, and field observation. The obtained data were entered using Epidata and finally analyzed using SPSS Version 20. Bivariate and multivariate analyses were done to identify the independent predictors of improper attitude of women towards solid waste management. Results showed that majority of the households (352 (69%) disposed solid wastes in improper manner. Plastic, Ashe and "Chat geraba" constitute the major waste bulk generated by the households. Educational level of the household heads (AOR- 2.035, 95% Cl (1.255-3.301), marital status of the respondents (AOR 1.688, 959% Cl (1.081-2.634), distance (AOR 1.547, 95%% CI (1.060-2.257), awareness of household heads on Attitude of women towards solid waste management (AOR 3.863, 959% CI (2.386-6.252), attitude of Household head on attitude of women towards solid waste management (AOR = 1.759, 95% C] (1.005-3.081), law enforcement(AOR 2.872, 95% CI (1.768-4.664) and access to micro and small scale enterprises (AOR 5.029, 95% CI = (3.277-7.717) were associated with improper household attitude of women towards solid waste management in the study area. Manpower, budget, and facilities such as inadequate vehicles were the reasons for low performance of Micro and Small Scale Enterprises were recommended. In further revealed that solid waste disposal system of most households was improper and unauthorized. Educational and marital status, family size, monthly income, year of stay, location of household, access to micro and small scale enterprises, awareness on attitude of women towards solid waste management, attitude on attitude of women towards solid waste management and law enforcement were found to be associated with improper attitude of women towards solid waste management.

Afangideh, Joseph and Atu (2012) examined the attitude of urban dwellers to waste disposal and management. One hundred and fifty copies of questionnaire were administered to residents in the area. Information such as the various classes of waste, frequency of waste disposal and methods of waste evacuation were obtained from the questionnaire. Finding revealed that family size and marital status had a great influence on waste disposal and generation which was evident in the hypothesis with a calculated value of 7.32 greater than the critical value of 2.43 at 0.05 level of significance. Besides, environmental enlightenment has changed people's attitude towards waste generation and management in the area. This was affirmed in the calculated f-value of 3.18 greater than critical t-value of 1.97 at 0.05 level of significance. However, this result indicated that effective environmental enlightenment would help avert the attitude of urban dwellers to waste disposal and management in the area.

Awosusi (2010) assessed the environmental problems and methods of waste management in Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria. Data were collected through random administration of two hundred (200) copies of questionnaire on categories of respondents in the study area. The simple percentages and frequency table were used in analyzing the data. Results from the study showed that, marital status and household attitude significantly influence waste management; waste

management personnel contributed immensely to the management of waste in the area. However, they are confronted with some problems, which, if given the necessary encouragements, would be of great help in the management of waste system in the area. This study was of great help to environmentalist, planners, researchers and policy makers.

A lot of studies are carried out at international level on the effect of socio economic factors on waste disposal and management which significant effects socio economic factors are well documented in the literature reviewed. This study seeks to fill the gap in assessing influence of marital status on attitude of women towards solid waste management in Calabar Metropolis, Cross River state where no literature or study has been documented or carried out.

Research Methodology

The survey research design was adopted for this study because the study utilized a representative sample from a population and drew inferences from the results of analysis of available data. It involved the collection of data to accurately and objectively describe influence of marital status towards solid waste management in Calabar Metropolis, Cross River State. The design also involved the use of questionnaires and personal interview as means of data collection for data analysis and interpretation of results.

The study was carried out in Calabar Municipality, Cross River State. It lies in the coastal Area of the Southern part of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. It is bounded on the North by Calabar Municipality, of the East by Akpabuyo Local Government Area, on the west by Odukpani Local Government Area and on the South by Atlantic Ocean. The study area is located between Latitudes 4.66^0 and 5.00^0 North of the equator and Longitude 8.15^0 and 8.30^0 east of the Greenwich meridian. The population of the study comprises of the total number of inhabitants in Calabar Metropolis. According to 2022 projected population from the National Population Commission (NPC) Calabar Metropolis is made up of 73,578 males and 65,512 females making a total of 139,090 inhabitants.

Stratified random sampling, simple random sampling and purposive sampling techniques (balloting) were used to select the samples for this study. The stratified random technique will involve dividing the entire population of the study into twenty-one (21) different wards making the Calabar Metropolis. Then, ten wards were chosen at random. The selected wards were thereafter divided into communities, where two communities were randomly selected from within each selected ward making a total of twenty communities in all. For the balloting technique, names of the twenty communities were written on pieces of paper, folded, placed inside a basket and thoroughly mixed to avoid bias. ten communities were selected from the basket, one after another with replacement using the blind folded method. Replacing each piece of paper after selection ensure that at each time, there were ten pieces of paper in the basket, thus giving the researcher equal chance of selecting each community. Any piece of paper picked the second time was dropped back into the basket without recording until the desired

number of communities was obtained. After picking the twenty communities from ten wards, the questionnaire was administered randomly to any fifty (50) respondents from each community making a total of five hundred (500) respondents.

The instrument for the study was questionnaire title "Marital Status and Women Attitude Towards Solid Waste Disposal". The instrument was divided into two parts. Section A required the respondents' personal information: gender, age and level of marital status; while section B contained the items measuring solid waste management methods. In section B, a modified 4-point Likert-type scale with responses ranging from 'strongly agree', agree, disagree', and 'strongly disagree' with corresponding scores of 4, 3, 2 and 1 respectively was used for the positively worded items while the negatively worded items were scored reversely i.e. strongly agree (1), agree (2). disagree (3), strongly disagree (4). The instrument as constructed by the researcher and validated by five experts. These include two lecturers from the Department of Environmental Education, one from Social Science Education and two from Educational Foundations, University of Calabar.

To ascertain the reliability or internal consistency of the instrument after modification, the Cronbach Coefficient Alpha method was adopted. A study involving 50 copies of questionnaire, which forms a basis of the main study, was performed on a small sample size outside the sample population but with similar characteristics. An internal consistency test on reliability of items on the questionnaire was between 0 and 1 (0.81) was high enough (above 0.5) and infer a reliable instrument for the study. Out of the 500 copies of questionnaire distributed only 488 was correctly filled and returned.

Result

Hypothesis

Marital status has no significant influence on solid waste management

The independent variable in this hypothesis is marital status (single, married, divorce/widowed); while the dependent variable is solid waste management. To test this hypothesis, solid waste management from single, married, divorce/widowed were compared using analysis of variance. The result of the analysis is presented in Table 1.

Table 1

Summary of data and one-way ANOVA of the influence of occupation on solid waste management (N=488)

Occupation	N	X	SD		
Single - 1	63	22.00	.00		
Married – 2	267	25.14	1.20		
Divorce/Widowed -3	158	27.20	.75		
Total	488	25.40	1.89		
Source of variance	SS	Df	Ms	F	Sig. of F
Between group	1259.887	2	629.944	645.391*	.000
Within group	473.392	485	.976		
Total	1733.279	487			

The result on Table 1 revealed that the calculated F-value of 645.391 is civil/public servant than the critical F-value of 3.00 at .05 level of significance with 2 and 485 degree of freedom. With this result the hypothesis was rejected. This result therefore implied that, marital status significantly influenced solid waste management. Since marital status has a significant influence on solid waste management, a post hoc analysis was employed using Fishers' Least Significant Difference (LSD) multiple comparison analysis. The result of the analysis is presented in Table 2.

Table 2
Fishers' Least significant difference (LSD) multiple comparison analysis of the influence of marital status on solid waste management

(1) Marital status	(J) marital status	Mean Difference (i-J)	Std. error	Sig.
Single-1	2.00	-3.13858(*)	.13838	.000
	3.00	-5.20253(*)	.14721	.000
Married-2	1.00	3.13858(*)	.13838	.000
	3.00	-2.06395(*)	.09916	.000
Divorce-3	1.00	5.20253(*)	.14721	.000
	2.00	2.06395(*)	.09916	.000

*The mean difference is significant at the .05 level.

The result of the analysis in Table 2 showed that marital status of married women are significantly different in solid waste management from those whose marital status is either single, divorce/widowed. Also women whose marital status is single are significantly different from those whose marital statuses are divorced in solid waste management.

Discussion of findings

This section is concerned with the discussion of finding that emerged from the results of the analysis. The discussion is presented in accordance to the variables of the study.

Marital status and solid waste management.

The result of the hypothesis indicated that, marital status has a significant influence on solid waste management. The findings are in line with the view of Marital status is the combination of family status with the number of children a parent has. Some married women or parents depend on their children for waste disposal which in most cases is not properly handled by those children. On the other hand a single woman or man who manages and dispose their waste, does so sustainably with sense of maturity (Oluwabamide, 2011). Proper attitude of women towards solid waste management can be achieved through good marital status background where parents educate their children on the benefits and dangers of indiscriminate waste disposal and management.

Al-Khatib, Kontogianni, Abu Nabaa, Alshami and Al-Sari' (2015) investigated the influence of household attributes on waste minimisation behaviour in Shah Alam City, Malaysia. Through a household survey, 300 respondents were randomly chosen. Findings from the study revealed that respondents behaviour has statistically Significant associations with 4 socio-demographic, namely gender [F (298) = 7.33. p =0.00]: occupation (F(2, 297) = 3.22, p = 0.041: marital status (F(2, 297)= 3.51, p 0.03]; and home ownership [F(2, 295) = 7.57, p = 0.001. The results of the analysis on the influence of household attributes on waste minimization behaviour in Shah Alam City, Malaysia. The implementation of policies for sustainable solid waste minimization According to Oden (2007) positive attitude of women towards solid waste management can be stimulated by positive feelings towards the environment. An individual feelings and understanding of environmental problems can affect his attitude to towards the environment. This means that an individual's who has a positive attitude towards attitude of women towards solid waste management would, over a period of time be influenced by other family members who have a negative attitude.

Conclusion

The main thrust of this study was to assess influence of marital status on attitude of women towards solid waste management in Calabar Metropolis of Cross River State. To achieve the purpose of this study the following hypothesis was formulated to guide the study.

Ho. There is no significant influence of marital status on attitude towards solid waste management in Calabar metropolis.

Literature review was carried out accordingly, survey research design was adopted for the study. This research design was used for study because it was considered appropriate. A sample of four hundred and eighty-eight (488) student's was used for the study. The sample was selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques. The questionnaires was the main instrument used for data collection. The reliability estimate of the instruments was established through cronbach alpha reliability method.

One Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) and independent t-test were the statistical techniques employed to test the hypotheses under study. Each hypothesis was tested at 0.5 level of significance. The result of the analysis revealed that, age, occupation, sex, marital status and religion significantly influenced solid waste management in Calabar Education Zone.

Based on the results of the study the following conclusions were reached.

Marital status significantly influences solid waste management

Recommendations

On the basis of the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made:

1. Awareness should be created using social media, electronic media etc to enable women know and learn how to management solid waste.
2. Every child should be taught waste management, this way, even when they growth old, they will not depart from it.

3. Work place waste management technique should be integrated during workers orientation.

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