

Knowledge and Attitude of Market Women towards the Practice of Waste Disposal in Ekiti State, Nigeria

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Abstract

This study examined knowledge and attitude towards the practice of waste disposal among market women in Ekiti State. This study assessed the level of market women towards the practice of waste disposal and it also assessed their attitude towards waste disposal as well revealed the practice methods the market women adopts in disposing their waste in Ekiti State. A descriptive research design was adopted in this study. The target population for this study consisted of all market women spread across the three (3) senatorial districts which are; Ekiti Central, Ekiti North and Ekiti South Senatorial districts. The sample for the study was 108 market women whose selection was based on multistage sampling technique. A self-structured questionnaire was used to collect data for this study. Data obtained were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The findings of this study showed that the age of the respondents was evenly distributed among the age groups while majority of them were female and lived in urban areas. Also, nylon and fruits wastes were the most commonly disposed waste among market women while waste from glass and metal work were the never given attention among the waste category. Furthermore, the study indicated that the market women showed adequate knowledge of waste disposal. Lastly, the market women demonstrated a good practice of waste disposal in the market area. Based on the findings, it was recommended that the government and non-governmental organizations should engage the market women in various workshops to improve their knowledge on waste disposal methods. They are also encouraged to clean up their stalls, stands and environments after the days' work.

Keywords: Women • Knowledge • Disposal methods • Sampling technique • Waste disposal

Introduction

A clean environment influences good health and improves quality of human life. An unhygienic environment, on the other hand, constitute a risk factor for environmental pollution and health hazard. Proper waste disposal is important for the protection of the people in our society.

Reno described waste as materials or eliminated by-products which are no longer useful [1]. It could be garbage, sludge, gaseous and other discharged materials resulting from various homes. They are unwanted domestic or industrial materials that are produced from human and animal activities and are described as useless. Human waste include solid, liquid (sewage) and gaseous waste. Solid waste includes; metal waste, aluminum materials, rubber, nylon, papers, husks or animal parts [2].

According to Ayuba, Manaf, Sabrina and Sulaiman, liquid wastes are waste materials such as dirty water from toilet and bathroom, running water from roads, useless diesel oils from factories and

industrial effluents [3]. Others are running water from rivers, waste waters from kitchen, hospitals, schools, hostels, markets and other public places. Gaseous waste includes industrial waste, burning fire, tire, and exhaust from vehicles which are dangerous to our life.

Waste disposal is an act of removing and destroying or proper storage of damaged, used or other unwanted materials such as papers, glass, plastic for domestic, commercial and agricultural benefits [4].

Disposal of waste could be through landfill that involves burying waste in the land, incineration or combustion involving burning or composting that involves bio-degradation process that turns them into organic materials serving as nutrients which are useful in the farm to assist in growing plants.

The fact that wastes are generated daily calls for the need to have adequate knowledge of its disposal so as to guide against disease outbreak. Reno implies that knowledge is familiarity, awareness and understanding of the phenomenon of something which can be formal

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or informal. Knowledge can be acquired in different ways and from many different sources including education, reason, memory, inquiry, exploration and practice.

Bortoleto Kurisu and Hanaki, submitted that knowledge of individuals about waste disposal is recognized as an important and influential factor in effective waste disposal practices [5]. However, Amasuomo and Baird expressed that most people while having good knowledge of waste disposal do not practice what they now properly [6]. Inadequate and inappropriate knowledge of handling household waste may have serious health consequences and a significant impact on the environment. Adequate knowledge of waste disposal can, to an extent, change the attitude of people towards proper waste disposal.

Adogwu Uwakwe and Egenti, described attitude as a set of emotions, beliefs and behaviors toward a particular thing, object, person or event [7]. It connotes a predisposition or tendency to respond positively or negatively towards a certain a certain idea, object, person or situation. Attitudes are often the result of experience or upbringing and they can have a powerful influence over behavior. Attitude of people towards waste disposal is their positive or negative behavior towards waste disposal in all public places.

One of the public places that is prone to high rate of waste generation is the market. Markets are characterized by a lot of buying and selling activities which will involve generation of waste. Due to the nature of activities that occur in the market, waste generation are on the high side. If proper hygiene is not maintained, there is a risk of a disease outbreak.

Adeyemo and Gboyesola, submitted that good knowledge and positive attitude are essential before an individual can dispose of their waste properly [8]. Poor waste disposal practices can lead to contamination of the environment hereby increasing the burden on infection and diseases among the people. Waste disposal practices can be improved by providing enlighten programs through the media; television, radio, social media etc., household meetings, through peer groups and other means of interaction among the people.

Adeyemo et al. also opined that stepping up of efforts by the government and non-governmental organizations in assisting the market women towards proper disposing methods of these wastes. Small amount of money can be collected from individuals to ease the cost spent on disposing the wastes generated by the market users. There is the introduction of environmental sanitation achieved by setting aside a day for proper cleaning of the environment whereby everyone is involved and being supervised by a task force. Offenders (those who do not participate) are penalized by being compelled to pay a certain amount of money as fine which will serve as a determinant to everyone in the market.

It has been noted by the researcher that the efforts of government and non-governmental organizations in ensuring proper waste disposal has yielded little success. In view of this, the researcher wants to investigate knowledge and attitude of market women towards the practice of waste disposal in Ekiti State, Nigeria.

Research questions

- What is the level of knowledge of waste disposal in Ekiti State?
- What is the level of attitude of market women towards waste disposal in Ekiti State?

Research hypothesis

There is no significant relationship between knowledge and attitude of market women towards waste disposal in Ekiti State.

Materials and Methods

This study adopted a descriptive research design for the purpose of describing and interpreting situations, beliefs, attitudes and prevailing practices. All the market women in Ekiti State will be the constituted population for this study that comprises of sixteen local governments and three senatorial district of Ekiti State; which have many towns and villages with about 150 market in all. The sample comprised of 108 market women selected from 6 local government area across the three senatorial district of Ekiti State. A simple random sampling procedure was used to select 2 local governments from each senatorial districts making 6 local government areas in the State. At the second stage, same procedure was used to select one town and one village from each of the 6 selected local government. At the third stage, same technique was used to select one market from the town and one from the village markets. The fourth stage, same simple random sampling technique was used to select 25 market women from each of the selected town and villages to give a total of 108 market women to serve as a respondent for the study.

Section A: This was used to gather information on the demographic characteristics of the respondents.

Section B: This was used to gather information on commonly disposed wastes among market women.

Section C: This was focused on information relating to knowledge of market women on waste disposal.

Section D: This was used to gather information on the practice of market women on waste disposal.

Results

Analysis

The age of the respondents was evenly distributed among the age groups while majority about 76.9% and 64.8% were female and lived with urban location respectively (Table 1).

S/N	Item	Frequency (N=108)	Percentage (N=100%)
1	Age (Years)		
	10-20	23	21.3
	21-30	31	28.7
	31-40	27	25
	41-50	16	14.8
	51 Above	11	10.2
2	Gender		
	Male	25	23.1
	Female	83	76.9
3	Educational status		
	Pry	9	8.3
	Sec	49	45.4
	Tert	44	40.7
	None	6	5.6
4	Location		
	Urban	70	64.8
	Rural	38	35.2

Table 1. Demographic values.

Overall, waste from nylon 64.8% and waste from fruits 66.7% were the most commonly disposed waste among market women while waste

from glass 42.6% and waste from metal work % were the never dealt with waste category (Table 2).

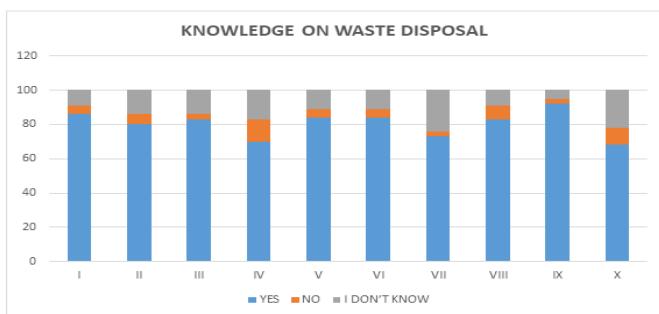
S/N	Item	Frequency N=108	Percentage N=100%
1	Food scraps		
	Never	28	25.9
	Occasionally	33	30.6
	Often	22	20.4
	Always	25	23.1
2	Paper products		
	Never	23	21.3
	Occasionally	37	34.3
	Often	27	25
	Always	21	19.4
3	Glass		
	Never	46	42.6
	Occasionally	43	39.8
	Often	9	8.3
	Always	10	9.3

4	Plastic		
	Never	24	22.2
	Occasionally	36	33.3
	Often	21	19.4
	Always	27	25
5	Metal work		
	Never	45	41.7
	Occasionally	46	42.6
	Often	8	7.4
	Always	9	8.3
6	Ashes		
	Never	26	24.1
	Occasionally	52	48.1
	Often	16	14.8
	Always	14	13
7	Waste from wood		
	Never	37	34.3
	Occasionally	29	26.9
	Often	19	17.6
	Always	23	21.3
8	Waste from clothes		
	Never	15	13.9
	Occasionally	52	48.1
	Often	20	18.5
	Always	21	19.4
9	Waste from nylon		
	Never	8	7.4
	Occasionally	17	15.7
	Often	13	12
	Always	70	64.8
10	Waste from leather product		
	Never	13	12
	Occasionally	42	38.9
	Often	18	16.7
	Always	35	32.4
11	Animal waste		
	Never	21	19.4
	Occasionally	26	24.1
	Often	19	17.6

12	Waste from fruits	Always	42	38.9
		Never	11	10.2
		Occasionally	11	10.2
		Often	14	13
		Always	72	66.7

Table 2. Commonly disposed waste among market women.

The market women demonstrate good knowledge on waste disposal as majority have high knowledge index in the knowledge questions (Figure 1).

**Figure 1.** Knowledge of market women on waste disposal.

S/N	Practice item	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
1	I	16 (14.8)	10 (9.3)	26 (24.1)	56 (51.9)
2	II	6 (5.6)	11 (10.2)	30 (27.8)	61 (56.5)
3	III	6 (5.6)	10 (9.3)	24 (22.2)	68 (63.0)
4	IV	10 (9.3)	26 (24.1)	34 (31.5)	38 (35.2)
5	V	10 (9.3)	26 (24.1)	34 (31.5)	38 (35.2)
6	VI	13 (12.0)	17 (15.7)	38 (35.2)	40 (37.0)
7	VII	24 (22.2)	26 (24.1)	24 (22.2)	34 (31.5)
8	VIII	8 (7.4)	7 (6.5)	28 (25.9)	65 (60.2)
9	IX	10 (9.3)	23 (21.3)	46 (42.6)	29 (26.9)
10	X	6 (5.6)	9 (8.3)	18 (16.7)	75 (69.4)
11	XI	9 (8.3)	27 (25.0)	28 (25.9)	44 (40.7)
12	XII	8 (7.4)	4 (3.7)	33 (30.6)	63 (58.3)
13	XII	8 (7.4)	28 (25.9)	33 (30.6)	39 (36.1)
15	XV	20 (18.5)	18 (16.7)	36 (33.3)	34 (31.5)

Table 3. Practice of market women on waste disposal.

Discussion

This study revealed that the respondent's age was evenly distributed among the market women age groups. This was in line with Bortoleto et al. who submitted that age has no significant relationship

with proper disposal of refuse which was in line with the view of Amasuomo et al. that various age groups can be find as market women. The findings also revealed that majority of the respondents were women and lived in urban areas. This was in line with Adeyemo et al. submitted that women are more involved in market activities than men.

The study further revealed that nylon and fruits with domestics waste were the commonly disposed waste among the market women while metal and glass waste were not given any consideration or seen as a waste. This view was in agreement with the report of Onazi et al. that domestic waste like unused fruits and other domestic waste that were not useful are commonly nylon and other common waste. It was also in-line with Adeyemo et al. that most market waste do sell their unused metals and glasses for further reuse by other people.

The result of this study also showed that market women have a good knowledge of waste disposal which was similar to that of Ayuba et al. this may be so because of public health education and enlightenments of people about the importance and good method of waste disposal that were done by government officials on proper waste disposal. This was also in agreement with the view of Yoada et al. that periodical enlightenments program helps in refreshing the memories of the people about proper disposal of waste [9].

This study also revealed that market women demonstrated a good practice of waste disposal in the market area. This finding was in agreement with Ferronato et al. report which stated that market women do ensure proper disposal of waste which may be due to a well-coordinated activities of the enlightenments program of the government and some non-governmental organisations in various communities on ways to disposed individual waste properly.

Finally, the study revealed there is no significant difference in the practice of waste disposal among rural and urban market women in Ekiti State, this may be so because of adequate supply of disposal materials for market women for effective and hygienic practices of waste disposal.

Conclusion

Conclusively, the activities of government and non-governmental organization in spreading the good news of proper waste disposal must be sustained. This will continue to enhance good practice of waste disposal methods helps to prevent the outbreak of diseases from the markets which can easily be spread to the community at large. In the same vein, government should sustain the punishment meted out to offenders who defaulted in engaging in the environmental sanitation.

Recommendations

The government and non-governmental organizations should engage the market women in various seminars and workshops to improve their knowledge on the proper waste disposal methods. Also, proper

implementation of environmental sanitation and sanctions should be maintained by the government in areas that they are less strict. The government should provide more waste bins to ensure their adequacy in the markets. Every market users should also be encouraged to clean up their stalls, stands and environments after the days' work. Lastly, the government should put machineries in motion to fumigate the market and its environments to kill insects, pests, reptiles and other inhabitants that are in the market.

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