

ILLEGAL WASTE DUMP SITES IN SABON WUSE, RESIDENT AREA OF NIGER STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Solid waste or refuse is any solid material which is discarded by its owner or user. It is a material that is seen as valueless, and useless, though it has been proved that solid waste is a matter of time and place. Solid waste is generated by human activities, it can be found in our homes, offices, industries and playground. The effect of indiscriminate solid waste disposal is the health risk and wellbeing. The process of solid waste management is sequentially enormous which are: solid waste generation, storage, transportation and disposal into areas that would least affect people in proximity to dump site or collection, be it designated or undesignated points. The aim of this study is to assess the risk of illegal waste dump site on the lives of the residents of Sabon Wuse. The objectives of the study include: evaluating the methods of solid waste disposal, examining the quantity of municipal solid waste generated and the relationship between solid waste generated and the household size. Questionnaire was used to obtain data from the site and a total of 370 respondents were selected for the study. A systematic sampling technique was used to collect the data. The data was analysed using both descriptive and inferential statistics. The result of the findings shows that there are 20 dump sites in the study area with only one being legal and 19 illegal dump sites. The study also shows that 1,898 houses (53.2%) were at risk of health hazard in the study area. The waste generated ranges between 0.52 kg/capita/day and 0.62 kg/capita/day. This is synonymous with the research finding of Northern Nigeria. The result also shows that the extent of proximity to dump site shows the level of exposure to hazard. For example, those houses that are within 100 meters of dump sites have severe cases of health hazard such as malaria, foul smell, and rodent invasion of the home, while those that are about 200 meters from dump sites have mild risk. It also shows that there is significant correlation between household size and volume of waste generated. From the findings, it was recommended that the responsible agency (NISEPA) should intensify effort to clear the dump sites regularly and the people should imbibe good cleanliness as a way of stopping the health risk. It is concluded that proper sanitation and personal hygiene is necessary in the study area.