

INFORMAL SOLID WASTE DUMPSITES IN BIDA, KADUNA STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Community solid waste dumpsites are one of the popular methods of waste disposal around the world, but some developing countries still continue to practice indiscriminate dumping of waste. These informal dump sites pose a relatively high threat to the various elements of the environment. This research work focused on the assessment of the risk of informal solid waste dump sites in Bida. The objectives of the study which are to: identify the existing informal dump sites in the study area; analyze the hazards associated with the informal dump sites; examine the immediate and long term problems of the waste dump sites on the people and the environment and to identify the causes of the problems and determine the appropriate ways to reduce them. Five (5%) sample size of total number of household was used. A total of three hundred and thirty-eight (338) copies of questionnaire were administered to the sampled communities using systematic random sampling with an interval of every twenty (20) houses. The study found that, about 82.9% of the respondents attested to the fact that there are no government approved dumpsites. Most of the respondents adopted open dumping in unauthorized places and burning in open places. About 52.7% of the residents living close to the informal dump sites are not aware of the danger posed by the heaps of waste. Majority of the respondents in the sampled communities in Bida have their houses close to informal dumpsites at an estimated 26 -50 meter i.e. the impact of informal dumpsite will be more on the residents that are very close to the informal dumpsite. About one hundred and fifty-eight (56%) of the respondents revealed that they are aware of the health effects of informal dump site on their household. Finally, the residents of Bida area suffer from different health challenges as a result of informal dump sites present in their area which are malaria, typhoid, cholera and diarrhea. The study recommended that all illegal dumpsites in the study area should be properly handle and fumigate twice in a month in other to prevent diseases vectors, such as flies, from getting to the waste; The residents needs to be educated either by government, NGOs and community leaders on the danger of living close to informal dump sites in the study area; The residents of Lanzun community should be educated on the danger of disposing their household waste on water ways or drainage channels. The study also recommends that government should provide a well planned and standard dump sites in the study area in order to discourage people from dumping in an open place.