

**NEWPORT INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ENGINEERING  
AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES (NIJEP)  
Volume 3 Issue 1 2023**

## **Improper dumping of solid waste and refuse in the environment**

**Jane O. U. T.**

**Department of Engineering Kampala International University Uganda**

---

### **ABSTRACT**

Improper management of solid waste is one of the main causes of environmental pollution and degradation in many cities, especially in developing countries. The poor disposal and handling of waste leads to environmental degradation, and destruction of the ecosystem which poses great risks to public health. The need to protect the environment is pertinent and a global concern. This study focused on the need for the involvement of the religious institutions in the reduction of environmental pollution in Abia State. It drew attention to the fact that environmental pollution, through indiscriminate dumping of refuse, is a major concern to the human society at both global and national levels. It further highlighted one of the cardinal teachings of the church which is taking good care of the environment so that life will flourish in it. This calls for a collaborative effort between church members and relevant agencies in the reduction of pollution in their environment.

**Keywords:** Improper, Dumping, management, solid waste and refuse

---

### **INTRODUCTION**

Improper management of solid waste is one of the main causes of environmental pollution and degradation in many cities, especially in developing countries. The poor disposal and handling of waste leads to environmental degradation, destruction of the ecosystem poses great risks to public health [1]. The need to protect our environment is pertinent and a global concern. This led to the 1992 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment –‘Stockholm Conference’ -and the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The conference came up with AGENDA 21 which spelt out the strategies for improving the quality of the environment. This document emphasized the need for environmental education as a weapon that could be used by all nations to arouse people’s consciousness, positively change their attitudes and instil in them those values and skills that can promote effective environmental management [2]. [3], has noted that the Nigerian government, through the Federal Ministry of Environment (FMENV) formerly known as Federal Environment Protection Agency (FEPA) and other relevant agencies, has been making efforts to educate the public on environmental issues using both print and electronic media. One of the recommendations of FEPA is that Environmental Conservation Clubs be set up in secondary schools. The agency is in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Education on the development of environmental Educational Masterplan and Curricula for both formal and informal educational system in Nigeria. In its efforts to provide the public with excellent and up-to-date reading materials on environmental issues, the Agency established an environmental reference Library at its Headquarters in Abuja in 1994 in addition to the existing Library in Lagos office. In spite of the remarkable progress made in providing environmental information, there are still substantial constraints to the effective management and development of the environment. These include uncoordinated policies and legal instruments, weak data base, inadequate enforcement, institutional conflicts, inadequate and untimely funding, and lack of public awareness [4]. The research of [5] on environmental pollution shows that environmental awareness is a pre-condition for pro-environmental behaviour and sustainable environmental management. Their study showed that most of their respondents are only aware of environmental problems that directly affect them and their immediate environment and are largely unaware of how their behaviour might contribute to global ecological changes such as global warming and ozone layer

© Jane

This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

**Publications**

depletion. In line with the above study, [6], noted that Nigeria is gradually being condemned to desolation and barrenness by sustained and unmitigated pollution of her air, land and sea that sometimes one wonders what the state of the health of Nigerians would be in the next 20 years given the sustained and worsening nature of the environment. This paper thus analysed the role of religious institutions in alleviating the impact of indiscriminate disposal of refuse in Abia state.

**Impact of Indiscriminate Disposal of Waste on the Environment**

In a bid to achieve the Vision and Mission of NESREA, many states in Nigeria have regulations and agencies for the management and disposal of waste as well as the protection of environment from various forms of pollution. In Abia state, the agency that is responsible for waste management and environmental protection is Abia State Environmental Protection Agency (ASEPA). This agency designates areas for the collection of refuse within the urban centres in order to increase efficiency in waste management. The expectation is that people will dispose the refuse that they generate in their households at these designated places while the agency disposes the refuse that are collected at these designated places to the dumping sites designated for waste disposal. It is common for one to see some refuse from households being dumped indiscriminately inside the gutter and/or street corners instead of them being taken to the designated places. This implies that some people do not take their refuse to the designated areas for refuse disposal. This constitutes illegal dumping of refuse of which perpetrators could be prosecuted by the ASEPA.

In 2012 the General Manager of ASEPA issued a warning to residents in Aba, the commercial city of Abia State over their indiscriminate disposal of refuse and the concomitant environmental pollution. He warned that the government can no longer condone a situation where residents of the city prefer to dump refuse at non-designated places, defecate indiscriminately and urinate everywhere without regard for their health and those of other people. He said that he will introduce Mobile courts and that enforcement officers will be sent out to monitor the situation. Anybody caught for any of the offences on environmental pollution will be given appropriate punishment because the agency has given enough sensitisation (5). The indiscriminate dumping of refuse is not only restricted to Aba, but other cities. Although there are many designated areas for refuse collection within the state, yet one finds refuse dumped indiscriminately in gutters and various street corners. When it rains, those who live close to the drains will notice packs of household refuse being carried by the flood. Eventually most of these refuse block the drainage thereby increasing the amount of flooding in some areas. Also, after the rains, some of these refuse are littered on the streets where the flood has carried them to. What this implies is that some people dump their refuse inside the gutter with the hope that while it rains the flood will carry them away. Such people do so without bothering that these refuse may end up in front of the house of another person, on the road or block the drainage.

Dumping refuse indiscriminately in Umuahia makes it difficult for ASEPA to effectively dispose the waste that is generated within the state. These refuse give a bad sight to the environment. They also produce a bad and uncomfortable smell, aid the breeding of mosquitoes as well as pollute the environment. The activities of those who dump refuse indiscriminately demonstrate the fact that in order to reduce the pollution within any environment, the residents would need to play a very active positive role. This necessitates the co-operation of various organisations that the people are affiliated to. Against this backdrop is the need for religious organisations to play a key role in sensitizing their members on the dangers of environmental pollution through indiscriminate dumping of refuse. If every adult Church member ensures that the refuse generated in their household are disposed at the designated places, this will drastically reduce the amount of refuse that are disposed illegally.

**The Role of the Church on Environmental Pollution**

Missiology is the ordered study of the motivations and approaches to the mission of the Christian Church [6, 7]. It is a discipline within theology, incorporating a number of strands. Because of the wide scope of missiology, it has an important role to play in the integration of other areas of theology. Put another way, every aspect of Christian theology cannot escape from reflecting on missiological dimension, for each one exists for the sake of the Church's mission. Lausanne Covenant stipulates that the stewarding of the material resources of creation should form a cardinal aspect of missiology in the following terms: Mission is to be involved in taking care of the material resources of creation. This means encouraging a wise and harmonious use of the natural order created by God, by engaging in the numerous aspects of conservation and the elimination of pollution. The need for the Church and mosques to be involved in the reduction of pollution in Nigeria has been buttressed. For example, in 2009, the Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency (LASEPA), with specific regard to noise pollution, demanded the co-operation of Churches and mosques to control the noise emanating from their worship centres to nationally acceptable limit of 55 decibels, (db) during the day and 45 db at night [8]. This demand was based

© Jane

This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

## Publications

on scientific evidence that continuous exposure to noise level above 85 db in the day can lead to hearing impairment and other health problems. Experts say it can raise blood pressure, increase heart beat rates, result in headaches, loss of concentration and reduce quality of work and service [8]. In more advanced countries, 45 db is the highest acceptable level. Anything beyond 45 decibel is loud and therefore unacceptable. Unfortunately, in Nigeria, noise level reaches as high as 90 db and beyond, even in residential quarters. This value is not only unbearable, but constitutes a grave environmental pollution. The order was however not obeyed, forcing the Lagos State government to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU), with the Christian Association of Nigeria, (CAN), Lagos State branch in July 2010. Following this MoU, Churches and mosques in the State were directed to remove all external speakers from their worship centres. In February 2012, LASEPA shut down seven Churches and two mosques for violating the law on environmental pollution. (8). The action of shutting down Churches over noise pollution generated reactions in favour and against the move of LASEPA. While some Church leaders and members commended the stand of LASEPA, others condemned it. The above proceedings show that Churches are involved in environmental pollution. It also shows that the co-operation of Churches is needed for a reduction of some aspects of environmental pollution. This study encourages a pro-active involvement of the Church towards reduction of environmental pollution.

## REFERENCES

1. Kimani, Njoroge G (2011) 'Implications of the Dandora Municipal Dumping Site in Nairobi, Kenya' *United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Report Summary* Retrieved From [http://www.unep.org/urban\\_environment/pdfs/dandorawastedump-reportsummary.pdf](http://www.unep.org/urban_environment/pdfs/dandorawastedump-reportsummary.pdf) (4/2/13)
2. UNESCO (1992). Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June. Retrieved from <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/conf151/aconf15126-1annex1.htm> (11/01/13)
3. Babalola, Yemisi T, Babalola Akinola D. & Faith O. Okhale (2012) 'Awareness and Accessibility of Environmental Information in Nigeria: Evidence From Delta State' Retrieved From <http://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/~mbolin/babalola-babalola-okhale.htm> (11 Feb, 2013)
4. Uzokwe, Alfred Obiora (2013, January 25). 'DEVASTATING EFFECTS OF POLLUTION IN NIGERIA' Nigerian News World. Retrieved from <http://nigeriaworld.com/columnist/uzokwe/081103.html> (4/3/13)
5. Duru, Ben, (2012, May 17) Daily Independent. 'Abia Plans Mobile Courts to Prosecute Environmental Offenders' Retrieved from. <http://dailyindependentnig.com/2012/05/abia-plans-mobile-courts-to-prosecute-environmental-offenders/> (02/02/2013)
6. Bosch, David J., (1991) *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission*, Maryknoll, N. Y.: Orbis
7. Kirk, J. Andrew (1999) *What is Mission? Theological Explorations*, London: Darton, Longman & Todd; Minneapolis: Fortress Press
8. Uzondu, James (2012 February 4) 'Curbing Noise Pollution' Nigerian News World Retrieved from <http://www.nigeriannewsworld.com/content/curbing-noise-pollution> (2/3/13)

**Jane O. U. T. (2023). Improper dumping of solid waste and refuse in the environment. *NEWPORT INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ENGINEERING AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES (NIJEP)* 3 (1): 20-22.**