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**IMPACT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ON  
WOMEN'S ATTITUDE TO WASTE MANAGEMENT  
IN IJEBU ODE LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

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**Abstract**

*Women, being primarily responsible for domestic and household management, interact more intensively with the natural environment and build the environment more than men. The study examined the impact of environmental education on women's attitude to waste management in Ijebu Ode Local Government area of Ogun State. Descriptive survey research was adopted because it enables the researcher to effectively address the research problem without manipulation of any form of variables. Stratified and simple random sampling techniques was used to select a sample size of one hundred respondents. The instrument used was a self-structured questionnaire while the hypotheses was tested using T-test. Findings revealed that there was significant difference  $\bar{X}=3.00$ , 31-40 years, =2.91, 41-50 years, =2.48, 51 and above, =2.95) between the attitude of old and young women's level of environmental education towards waste management in Ijebu Ode local government area of Ogun State. Findings*

*also revealed that there is a significant difference between the attitude of illiterate and literate women's level of environmental education towards waste management. Based on the findings, it was recommended that women should be educated on how to manage waste properly. For example, by using gloves, appropriate clothes, masks etc for handling waste. That government should put in place measures to deal with challenges associated with waste management.*

**Keywords:** Women, Environment, Environmental Education, Attitude, Waste Management.

## **Introduction**

Environmental education is a process that allows individuals to explore environmental issues, engage in problem solving and take action to improve the environment. It also enable individuals to develop a deeper understanding of environmental issues and skills to make informed and responsible decisions. Environmental education help and empowered the citizens to make sound decision that will ensure the sustainability and healthy condition of the environment. (Fayemi, 2020). Environmental education has been integrated into basic and secondary school curriculum as cross cutting concepts. These efforts by the Nigerian government do not seem to have yielded the much desired result as waste are still been dump in open places in the urban and rural areas. It should be emphasized that environmental education has to do with change of attitudes, norms, values, beliefs and awareness toward a friendly environment. Attitude refers to acquiring a set of values and feeling of concern for the environment and the motivation for actively participating in environmental improvement and protection (Momoh and Oladeboye, 2017).

Environmental attitude constitutes the provision of a good understanding of the set of beliefs, interest or rules that influences pro-environmental action (Ballarityne, Duttad and Ray, 2016) this presumes that if women inculcated positive values and attitudes

toward waste management they would take an active role in environmental conservation and also preserve environmental resources for future generation. Attitude according to Kasapoglu (2017) is a cognitive, affective and behavioral response, which is organized on the basis of experience and knowledge of the individual on event around the environment. Oskamp and Schultz (2018) defined attitude as a predisposition to respond in a favorable or unfavorable manner to a given situation or object. Also, attitude are often associated with multiple and even contradictory values. Human attitude therefore are our disposition, feelings, behavior, influenced by our thoughts to act towards some other people, objects and things around us. Adenuga (2017), support this notion when he defined attitude as psychological tendencies that are expected by evaluating a particular entity (for example the environment with some degree of favour or disfavour).

Women tend to have a closer relationship with land and other natural resources and the environment, ensuring that the coming generation can meet their needs. Women's attitude, perspective and values for the environment differ from men (Tartiu, 2015). Women give greater priority to protection and improving the capacity of nature, maintaining farm lands and caring for nature and environments future.

Education is one of the essential tools to create awareness among people, particularly in developing countries like Nigeria. According to Singhirunnusorn (2017), waste separation slightly improves with age, the elderly practice more waste segregation than the young. Other studies conducted with developing countries also indicated that most older generation are willing to sort out their waste because they may become more aware of environmental consequences and value the planet. Lack of education or illiteracy and awareness of effective waste management practices is one of the major issues in developing nations. According to McAllister (2015), a study in Nigeria, found that even though citizens are aware of recycling and other sustainable waste management techniques this does not necessarily translates into participation in pro-environmental activities such as recycling initiatives. When people lack interests in environmental issues, it means that they are not

well informed which affect their actions and also makes them feel not included in waste management decision making. In Nigeria, due to lack of education and awareness in waste management, individuals in various communities turn to blame the government for improper waste management. When women are given education and awareness of waste, they turn to be informed as well as know the essence of waste management which will make them responsible. Keeping them informed or educated means improving their knowledge in waste management which will call for participation in decision making.

Evidences of findings of research carried out by scholars on women and environment have shown that women are very important actors in natural resources management and they are crucial contributors to environment rehabilitation and conservation. Adeyemo, Oyadiran and Afemikhe (2017) investigated the knowledge, attitude, and practice on waste management of women in Ogbomoso, Oyo state Nigeria. A descriptive survey design was adopted, the result indicated that the respondent are knowledgeable in refuse management but the knowledge was not adequate. Mutungwe (2018) examined women attitudes towards initiatives to improve waste management and how this impacts on behavioral change. The residents were stratified according to their respective area of residence in six high density suburbs. A total of 200 women were then randomly sampled from the six groups for the study. Findings show that negative attitude towards initiative put in place to improve disposal of solid waste is hindering behavior change in solid waste disposal in urban high density suburbs.

Rodzidah (2019) examined the awareness and attitudes of the women towards environmental issues in Malaysia. The objective of the study was to measure the level of environmental awareness and attitudes toward waste management among 248 respondents from TVET institutes, Kuala Lumpur. The results show that women with high awareness of pro-environmental issues did not necessarily have a positive attitude. Ahmadi (2017) investigated the effects of the environmental attitude and responsibility on household waste separation: Evidence from Iranian married women. Cross-sectional survey was conducted on 562 married women in two Iranian

provinces. Research findings reveal that the environmental attitude and responsibility positively affect waste managements. Dauda, Adeyemi and Adeyemo (2015) examined waste management practices at the Bodija abattoir. Women knowledge and attitude toward waste management, questionnaire was used to collect data. The findings indicated that women had a low knowledge level of solid waste management but their attitudes towards it were positive.

Shettima (2015) argued that women are not only knowledgeable about the environment, they are also protective and caring. Women being primarily responsible for domestic and household management interact more intensively with both the natural and human-made environment more than men. Dankelman and Davidson (2015) observed that women play a major role in managing their natural surrounding and adopt several mechanism to deal with the kinds of environmental crisis they face. As rightly noted by Sayoe (2016) without the enhanced perception of a gendered analysis to guide into future environmental programmes, a crash is inevitable. Therefore, there is the need to examine the impact of environmental education on women's attitude to waste management.

### **Purpose of the Study**

The general objective of this study is to examine the impact of environmental education on women's attitude to waste management in Ijebu Ode Local Government while the specific objectives is to:

- i. access impact of environmental education on old and young women's attitude to waste management.
- ii. find out the impact of environmental education on illiterate and literate women's attitude to waste management.

### **Hypotheses**

Ho1: There is no significant impact of environmental education on old and young women's attitude to waste management.

Ho2: There is no significant impact of environmental education on

illiterate and literate women's attitude to waste management in Ijebu Ode Local Government area of Ogun State.

### **Methods**

Descriptive survey research design was adopted because it enables researcher to effectively address the research problem without any form of manipulation of variables. The target population of the study were women in Ijebu Ode Local Government area of Ogun State. Stratified and simple random sampling techniques were used for this study. Stratified sampling techniques was used to stratify five political wards in Ijebu Ode Local Government. Simple random sampling technique was used to select twenty (20) women from the five stratified political wards to make a total of 100 sampled size. The instrument used for data collection was a self-constructed questionnaire tagged questionnaire on impact of environmental education on women's attitude to waste management. The questionnaire consists of two sections, section A elicited information on demographic characteristics of the respondents and section B consisted of 15 items that addressed the two formulated hypotheses. The instrument was structure based on a modified 4 points Linker Scale of strongly agreed, agreed, strongly disagreed and disagreed.

The face and content validity of the instrument was ascertained by two experts in Educational Foundations, Tai Solarin university of Education, Ijagun, Ogun State. The expert's comments and observations were used to modify the instrument before administering to the respondents. The reliability of the research instrument was determined using a split half technique by dividing the items into two halves of even and odd numbers. The two halves was administered to a sample of women from a ward not selected for the main study. The Pearson Correlation coefficient was used to determine the reliability of the instrument. A co-efficient value of 0.70 was obtained, hence it was adopted for getting the desired information for the study. The researcher visited the study area with two research assistants. The purpose of the research was explained to the respondents before the questionnaire was distributed. The collection of the distributed questionnaire was done

immediately to ensure high rate of retrieval. Data collected were analyzed using simple percentage for the respondent's demographic data, while T-test was used to test the formulated hypotheses.

## Results

**Table 1: Analysis of Respondents Age**

Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)
18-30 yrs	11	11
31-40 yrs	23	23
41-50 yrs	32	32
51 and above	34	34
Total	100	100

Source: Field Survey Data, 2022

Table 1 shows that 11% of the respondents are of the age range of 18-30 years, 23% of the respondents are of the age range of 31-40 years, 32% of respondents falls between the age range of 41-50 years while 34% of the respondents falls in the age range of 51 and above. The result shows that majority of the respondents falls within the age range of 51 and above.

**Table 2: Analysis of Respondents Educational Level**

Educational Level	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No formal education	20	20
Primary School Certificate	35	35
Secondary School Certificate	30	30
B.Sc	15	15
Others	–	–
Total	100	100

Source: Field Survey Data, 2022

Table 2 shows that 20% of the respondents have no formal education, 35% of the respondents have primary school certificate, 30% of the respondents have secondary school certificate, and 15%

of the respondents have BSc while none of the respondents are others. The result shows that majority of the respondents have primary school certificate.

### Testing the Hypothesis

**Table 3: t-test showing Old and Young Women's attitude to Waste Management**

<b>Attitude to Waste Management</b>	<b><math>\bar{x}</math></b>	<b>Std. Dev.</b>	<b>Std. Error</b>	<b>df</b>	<b>t</b>	<b>Sig.</b>
18-30 yrs	3.00	.554	.030			
31-40 yrs	2.91	.436	.321			
				99	18.068	.003
41-50 yrs	2.48	.641	.235			
51 and above	2.95	.126	.050			

Source: Field Survey Data, 2022

Table 3 shows the impact of environmental education on old and young women's attitude to waste management in Ijebu-ode local government area of Ogun State. The result shows that 18-30 yrs. had  $\bar{x}$  = 3.00, 31-40 yrs. = 2.91, 41-50 yrs. = 2.48 and 51 and above = 2.95. Hence, there is significant impact of the environmental education on old and young women's attitude to waste management. The result t.cal 18.068, Sig.003 ( $p < 0.005$ ) also revealed significant difference in the attitude of old and young women's attitude to waste management.



**Table 4: t-test showing Impact of Environmental Education on Illiterate and Literate Women's attitude to Waste Management**

Level of Education	$\bar{X}$	Std. Dev.	Std. Error	df	t	Sig.
No formal Education	2.47	.041	.026			
Primary School Certificate	2.58	.526	.030			
SSCE	2.61	.045	.054	99	28.064	.002
B.Sc.	2.90	.519				

Source: Field Survey Data, 2022

Table 4 shows the impact of environmental education on the illiterate and literate of women's attitude to waste management. The result shows that with no formal education had =2.47, women with primary certificate had =2.58, women with SSCE had =2.61, women with BSC had =2.90. Hence, there is significant impact of the environmental education on old and young women's attitude to waste management. T.cal result 28.064, Sig .002 ( $p < 0.05$ ) also revealed significant difference in the attitude of literate and illiterate women's attitude to waste management.

### Discussions

The finding of this study show there is impact of environmental education on old and young women's attitude to waste management, and there is significant difference in the attitude of old and young women's attitude to waste management. The findings is in line with the findings of Oskamp and Schultz (2018) whose findings also shows a significant difference in the attitude of old and young women's attitude to waste management. This findings also corroborate the findings of Ahmadi (2017) who investigated the effects of environmental attitude and responsibility on household waste separation and discovered that household waste management was significantly different in terms of

demographic variables of age, education, job, city of residence, years of marriage and number of children. The implications of this findings shows that older women manage waste properly than young women. This may be due to experience gained as result of old age.

The findings of the study also shows that there is impact of environmental education on the literate and illiterate in Ijebu-Ode local government. Findings also reveal that there is significant difference in the attitude of literate and illiterate women. The findings corresponds with the findings of Mobogunje (2018) whose findings shows a clear significant difference in the attitude of educated and non-educated women toward waste management. This findings shows that women who are educated properly managed waste while those who are not educated improperly dispose waste. This may be due to the fact that element of environment education cut across all the contents of former education.

### **Conclusion**

Women have a crucial and vital role to play in the environmental management and development. Their full participation is therefore essential to achieving sustainable development. Women particularly have a special relationship with the environment and thus need right attitude to properly manage waste. This positive attitude towards waste management is often shape with environmental education. Conclusively, the more women are educated about the environment the more they properly manage waste.

### **Recommendations**

On the basis of the above findings, it is recommended that women should be educated on how to manage waste, such as using gloves, appropriate clothes, masks etc. for handling waste. Government should put in measures to deal with the challenges associated with waste management. The waste management officials in the local government should be encouraged to help mobilize and install bins in the street, at shopping centers and bus stops for the public to properly dispose waste. Since more women are involved in waste

management initiatives, there is need to ensure that they participate in decision making process that focus on environmental issues so that their concerns are forwarded and addressed. Government should encourage private/government partnership in wastes management at affordable rate. Laws should be publicized on safe refuse disposal method, this should be adequately promoted and advertised.

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