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## ASSESSING THE AWARENESS, KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICE OF THE INHABITANTS CLOSE TO A SOLID WASTE DUMPSITE TOWARDS HUMAN INTESTINAL PARASITE IN ABA MUNICIPAL, ABIA STATE, NIGERIA

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### ABSTRACT

Solid waste management has remained a major problem in most developing nations, Nigeria inclusive thus posing serious public health issues to those living around such solid waste dumpsites. This study was conducted in Aba dumpsite to investigate the residents' awareness, knowledge, attitude and practice on the solid waste disposal practices and its effect consequences towards human intestinal parasite. A structured questionnaire was administered to elicit the resident responses on their knowledge, attitude and practices towards solid waste disposal and human intestinal parasites. In the study, majority of the residents' were male 296(70.0%), and 127(30.0%) were females. Most of them 103(24.3%) were of the age group 11 – 20years, then 93(22.0%) 0 – 10 years, 84(19.9%) 21 – 30 years, 75(17.7%) 31–40years, 41(9.7%) and 27(6.4%) were 51 and above. Majority 155(36.6%) of the residents' attended Primary education, 123(29.1%) Secondary education, 78(18.4%) Polytechnics, and 41(9.7%) University while 26(6.1%) had no educational qualification. Most of the residents 121(28.6%) have stayed less than 9 years while 85(20.1%) have stayed less than 6 years. Most of the respondents 159(37.6%) resides closer to the dumpsite while 37(8.7%) are farther apart. Analysis of the questionnaire revealed that majority (87.5%) of the residents are aware that they are at risk of contracting human intestinal parasite for living close to the site. Most 365(86.3%) know that intestinal parasites can be contracted through poor hygiene. Majority 197(46.6%) dispose waste at the dumpsite daily. Most of the respondents 216(51.1%) disagreed to the fact that wastes at the site are managed regularly. Majority 329(77.8%) agreed that one can get the parasites from dumpsite. The dumpsite workers strongly agreed 11(78.6%) that increase in industrialization and consumption of fresh raw was the major factor militating them against their level of efficiency in the management of waste at the dumpsite. Wastes not properly managed have a negative impact on health, environment and aesthetic values. A well-planned waste management and proper health education programme for residents living around the dumpsite will go a long way in reducing the potential of epidemic risks posed by dumpsites in Aba municipal.

**Keywords:** Residents' Awareness, knowledge and Practice, Solid Waste Dumpsite, Health Implications.

### Introduction

Human activities produce waste materials which are often discarded because they are considered useless. These wastes are mainly solid, and the

word waste places them in the class of useless and unwanted. However, some of these wastes can become of great resource if they are reused or

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recycled. They can serve as a resource for further industrial production or energy generation when managed properly. (Tchobanoglous *et al.*, 2007).

Waste has been defined by the Glossary of Environment Statistics (2001) as a material which is a prime product (i.e. products produced for the market) in which the initial user has no need for further usage with regards to him/her own purposes of production, transformation and consumption and of which him/she wants to discard. These wastes can be produced during the extraction and processing of raw materials into intermediate and final products and other human activities. According to the United State Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA, 2013), solid waste are referred to as any useless, unwanted and discarded materials produced during human activities which cannot be discarded through the sewer pipe. Solid waste accumulates in the environment as a result of its sticky and non-free flowing nature in the form of refuse dumps.

Solid waste as stated by Ovu (2008) comprises of all solid products that are made up of wholly or partly of materials such as garbage, rubbish, litter, cleanings, sweepings, trash, industrial solid waste or domestic solid waste including organic wastes and residues of animals, meat, animal excreta or carcasses of animals; grains or fish; fruit, vegetables, rubbish including, wood, leaves, vegetables, tree trimmings, dead trees and shrubs, branches, sawdust, shavings, grass, paper products, straws, rags, clothing and other combustibles; waste mater composed of soil, clay, sand, earth, gravel, fill, stones, bricks, plaster, glass, glassware, crockery, ashes, cinders, shells, metals and other non-combustibles; waste debris that results from construction, repair or alteration of structures or building, demolition,; accumulated waste material made of cans, containers, tires, junk, vehicle parts or other substance which may become a nuisance (Ovu, 2008).

Solid waste disposal and management has been a global issue with regards to environmental

contamination, social inclusion, and economic sustainability (Gupta, *et al.*, 2015), and this needs an integrated assessments and holistic strategies to solve this problem (Bling *et al.*, 2016). Waste management in developing and transition countries appears to be battle against the harmful consequences of unsystematic refuse collection and disposal and the actualization of clean healthy environment. It has become a common sight in Nigeria today to see heaps of festering refuse dumps in our urban and commercial cities (Adewole, 2009) These wastes are aesthetically unpleasant, constitute eyesores, generates unpleasant odours especially when the activities of putrefying bacteria act on their organic compositions (Onyido *et al.*, 2009). Sule (2004) stated that most of the Nigerians life styles today is a reflection of their consumption and solid waste generation pattern they adopted. This is evident in their attitudinal problem of indiscriminate refuse disposal in visually all sides of residential apartments, highways, corners of major and minor streets, drains and undeveloped plots of land by many households (Akinwale, 2005). These indiscriminate refuse dumps support the breeding of biological vectors such as mosquitoes and rodents which enhances disease transmission such as malaria, diarrhea, and Lassa fever which are of public health concern (Sule, 2004; Bassavanthappa, 2008; Onyido *et al.*, 2009).

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plots of land by many households (Akinwale, 2005). These indiscriminate refuse dumps support the breeding of biological vectors such as mosquitoes and rodents which enhances disease transmission such as malaria, diarrhea, and Lassa fever which are of public health concern (Sule, 2004; Bassavanthappa, 2008; Onyido *et al.*, 2009). According to Drew *et al.* (2007) a designated place set aside for waste disposal and management is known as, municipal waste dumping sites. Depending on a city's level of waste management, waste can be discarded in an indiscriminately, separated for recycling purposes, or simply burnt. Poor waste management poses a great challenge to the health of the city residents, particularly those living close to a solid waste dumpsite due to potential of waste to pollute the water, food source, air, land and vegetation (Lou and Nair, 2009). Poor waste disposal and handling therefore leads to environmental degradation, destruction of the ecosystem and poses great risks to public health. Access to improved sanitation promotes human health, dignity, security and well-being of the people (Sida, 2012). Similarly, poor sanitation is an indicators of health problems (Prasad, 2013). Due to rapid urbanization, environmental sanitation problems are at the heart of the woes of African countries. The rapid increase of urban population brings about a rising demand for food and other essential services which in turn increases waste generation daily by each household (Zhu *et al.*, 2008).

Refuse, soil, animal waste and sewage sludge are common sources of manure, used to fertilize agriculture fields (Okoronkwo and Onwuliri, 1998). Studies carried out by Adeyeba and Akinbo (2002) revealed the incidence and distribution of many pathogenic intestinal parasites and bacterial agents from refuse that affects both man and animals.

Intestinal parasites are life threatening in many communities and are of a major international health concern (Liza *et al.* 2004) and it has been shown

that refuse dumps are significant source of transmission for intestinal parasitic infection in Kampala, Uganda and Jos, Nigeria (Okoronkwo and Onwuliri, 1998).

Cletus, *et. al.*, 2015 The implications of ineffective waste collection and poor management of waste is uncountable. Insufficient collection and poor disposal practices leads to serious health related problems to both human and the environment (Loboka *et al.*, 2013). In Sub-Sahara Africa for instance, poor disposal practices have aggravated health related problems (Zhu *et al.*, 2008). Emily (2004) asserted that when waste is not collected, it results to the development of unsanitary conditions and thus poses environmental and human health risks.

Modernization and progress in urbanization and development of our environment have its share of disadvantages and its main aspects of concern is on pollution of the environment (land, air, and water). With rapid increase in population which also result to increase in food consumption and other necessities of life, there is an increase in the amount of waste generated on daily basis by each household. These wastes are collected by the area municipalities at the municipal waste collection centers to be thrown into the landfills and dumpsites. However, not all of this waste gets collected and transported to the final dumpsites, either due to resource crunch or inefficient infrastructure. Improper waste management and disposal at this stage causes serious health problems to the surrounding environment.

Solid waste therefore, that is not properly managed, is a serious health hazard and lead to the spread of infectious diseases. Thus, this study aims at assessing the awareness, attitude, knowledge and practice of residents close to the solid waste dumpsite and its influence in the distribution of intestinal parasite.

## Materials and Methods

### Study Area

The study was conducted in Aba municipal, Abia State, Eastern Nigeria. Aba is located on coordinates  $5^{\circ}10'N$ ,  $7^{\circ}19'-23'E$  (Obianyo and Ugwu, 2018). The vegetation is typical of the tropical rain forest with a relief of about 0-200 ft (0-61m) above the sea level. The mean annual temperature ranges from  $25.5^{\circ}C$  to  $26.5^{\circ}C$  (Etusim et.al., 2013). The population as of 2016 was estimated to be 2,534,265 (Abia-Population, 2016) Aba was selected for the study because it is a big city and a big trading centre in Abia State. Aba is divided into three local government areas namely; Aba South, Aba North and Osisioma. Aba south is considered to be the commercial hub of the city as most of the commercial activities take place in that part of the city. The inhabitants of Aba metropolis are predominantly traders, with a few civil servants and others who work in Industries. There are also owners of small and medium scale enterprise. It is notorious for its high record of improper waste disposal. It is a common sight to see waste littered in the streets and heaps of refuse in some corners of the street. Aba is a major urban settlement and commercial centre in the region that is surrounded by small villages and towns. The indigenous people of Aba are the Ngwa. Aba is well known for its craftsmen.

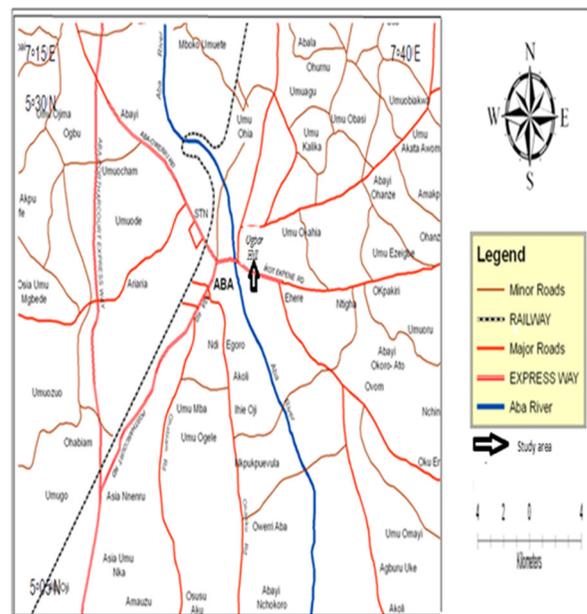
### Ethical Consideration

This work was approved by Abia State Ministry of Health (AB/MH/AD/904/T.159), Abia State Ministry of Environment (MENV/AD/63/T/28) and Aba South Local Government Environmental Health (ABLG/ENV./001).

### Data Collection

Data was collected from students, workers (which include teachers, Dumpsite workers, eatery owners and other petty traders/shop owners) who are closer to the dumpsites, informal recyclers (Scavengers) and residents living close to the dumpsite through

structured questionnaire. The objective of the questionnaire survey method was to obtain views and ideas of different people living, working and schooling near the dumpsite concerning solid waste disposal. The following aspects were considered in the survey; disposal methods, awareness of the health implications with regards to intestinal parasites, satisfaction with the management practices, their length of stay in the dumpsite area and distance of their houses or work place from the dumpsites.



**Fig. 1:** Location map of Aba showing Ogbor hill, the study area (Amadi, 2012).

### Data Analysis

PATS version 3.1 statistical package was used for the data analysis.

### Results

Out of the 471 residents contacted, majority of the respondents 296(70.0%) were males and 127(30.0%) were females. Most 103(24.3%) of the respondents were 11 – 20 years old, 0 – 10 years old 93(22.0%), 21 – 30 years old 84(19.9%), 31 – 40 years old 75(17.7%), 41 – 50 years old 41(9.7%) and 51 and above were 27(6.4%). On level of

education, 155(36.6%) of the respondents indicated that they are in the primary school and below, 123(29.1%) are attending secondary school, 78(18.4%) and 41(9.7%) are either attending or holding Polytechnic and University and 26(6.1%) have no educational qualification. Most of the residents 121(28.6%) have stayed for less than 9 years while others have stayed 109(25.8%) above 9 years, 108(25.5%) less than 3 years and 85(20.1%) less than 6 years, respectively. As for the distance between their houses or work place from the dumpsite, 159(37.6%) were less than 3 houses apart, 120(28.4%) were less than 6 houses apart, 107(25.3%) were more than 9 houses apart and 37(8.7%) were less than 9 houses apart (Table 1).

Table 2 shows the awareness on hazards/risk of parasitic infections associated with the dumpsite. Majority 370(87.5%) of the residents are aware that they are at risk of contracting human intestinal parasite for living close to the site, very few 14(3.3%) are not aware and 39(9.2%) are not sure. Only 48(11.3%) responded that the highest hazard\risk they face for living close to the site was all the hazards listed in table 4.1.9, majority 413(97.6%) responded to odour, 384(90.8) leachate water, 258(61.0%) litter, 225(53.2%) birds, 121(28.6%) pest and 113(26.7%) surface water contamination, while fire and smoke had the least responses of 48(11.3%) each. The residents 307(72.6%) were aware that waste from the site can breed flies, insects or worm that can cause intestinal parasites and 329(77.8%) believed that intestinal worms can be gotten from the site. About 304(71.9%) of the residents were aware that waste from the dumpsite can be washed into nearest water body causing intestinal worms to those that uses it.

The result on the Knowledge of residents, towards contacting intestinal parasites from solid waste dumpsites showed that 407(96.2%) have heard about it, 13(3.1%) have not and only 3(0.7%) are not sure if they've heard about it. About 59(13.9%) of all the residents agreed that it can be gotten through the means list in table 4.1. with majority

365(86.3%) of them pointing at poor hygiene. Most of the residents 283(66.9%) agreed that it has affected somebody in the family before, 111(26.2%) were not sure while 29(6.9%) says it's no it has not. Majority 312(73.8%) of the residents disclosed stomach ache as the symptoms of intestinal parasites while 301(71.2%) disclosed vomiting, 298(70.4%) diarrhea, 232(66.9%) fever and 43(10.2%) don't know the symptoms of intestinal parasites. The greater percentage 329(77.8%) of the residents disclosed that one can get intestinal worms from the dumpsite, 53(12.5%) responded no while 41(9.7%) are not sure about getting it from dumpsite (Table 3). When the residents were asked how one can get intestinal parasites from the dumpsite, 47(14.3%) of the residents agreed that it can be through all the means listed below in table 4, majority 319(97.0%) of the residents responded by playing around the site, through leachate water at the site 317(96.4%) and through indiscriminate dumping of refuse in the site 302(91.8), only a few 47(14.3%) responded through rats, rodents, snakes and other animals found around the site.

Residents attitude towards solid waste disposal at the site. Majority 385(91.0%) of the residents disposes waste at the dumpsite. Most 197(46.6%) disposing it on a daily basis, 75(17.7%) twice a week, 62(14.7%) once a week, 54(12.8) once in a while, and 28(6.6%) are not sure whereas a few others 7(1.7%) says it's thrice a week. Most of the respondent 320(75.7%) don't defecate at the site. About 47(11.1%) of the residents disclosed that intestinal parasites can be prevented through all the measures listed below with almost 419(99.1%) all of them pointing at maintaining good hygiene as the most preventive measures followed by 417(98.9%) avoiding leachate water in the site, 402 (95.0%) properly disposing waste at the site, 329(77.8%) avoiding eating at the site while more of them 253(59.8%) says avoiding defecating around the site and 194(45.9%) avoiding walking around the site on bare foot. Only a few of them 47(11.1%)

responded to avoiding contact with insect, flies, rodents and other animals around the site. (Table 4)

Table 5 showed the residents awareness on waste management practices at the site. Most 222(52.5%) of the residents 222(52.5%) are aware that clean environment are vital to their health while others 195(46.9%) are not aware that all waste are not unwanted and useless. Majority 312(73.8%) agreed strongly that waste segregation at the site can reduce the amount of waste at the site. While some 216(51.1%) disagreed to the fact that waste at the site are managed regularly. Majority 312(75.9%) agreed that the waste is used to fill the holes at the site. To them, it doesn't concern them if waste is managed regularly at the site or not. They are of the view that law should be put in place to guide waste disposal at the site and strongly disagreed that

**Table 1:** Socio-demographic characteristics of residents living close to a dumpsite in Aba municipal

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION		
Variable	No of Respondent	Percentage (%)
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	296	(70.0)
Female	127	(30.0)
<b>Total</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Age (years)</b>		
0 – 10	93	(22.0)
11 – 20	103	(24.3)
21 – 30	84	(19.9)
31 – 40	75	(17.7)
41 – 50	41	(9.7)
51 and above	27	(6.4)
<b>Total</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Educational background</b>		
No education	26	(6.1)
Primary education	155	(36.6)
Secondary education	123	(29.1)
University	41	(9.7)
Polytechnics	78	(18.4)
<b>Total</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Length of stay in the area</b>		
Less than 3 years	108	(25.5)
Less than 6 years	85	(20.1)
Less than 9 years	121	(28.6)
Above 9 years	109	(25.8)
<b>Total</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Distance of your house or work place from the dumpsite</b>		
Less than 3 houses apart	159	(37.6)
Less than 6 houses apart	120	(28.4)
Less than 9 houses apart	37	(8.7)
More than 9 houses apart	107	(25.3)
<b>Total</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>100%</b>

proper management of waste at the site will not make it a safer place for people. Some of the view that environmental policy for those living around the dumpsite is not necessary and that it doesn't matter how they dispose their waste at the site.

Majority of the respondents 78.6% believed that increased industrialization and consumption of fresh raw is the major factor militating against the level of efficiencies of Aba municipal, council in terms of waste management at the dumpsite, followed by material increasing population and lack of pollution control device 64.3% each while Poor enforcement of the waste management regulations is the least 7.1% factor militating against the level of efficiencies waste management at the site.(Table 6).

**Table 2:** Awareness on hazards/risk of parasitic infections associated with the

CHARACTERISTICS	NO OF RESPONDENT N = 423	PERCENTAGE (%)
<b>Are you exposed to any risk of intestinal parasitic infection for living close to the dumpsite?</b>		
Yes	370	87.5
No	14	3.30
Not sure	39	9.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Which of these hazards/risks are you experiencing for staying close to the dumpsite?</b>		
Odour	413	97.6
Fire	48	11.3
Smoke	48	11.3
Pest(fly, rats and vermin)	121	28.6
Birds	225	53.2
litter	258	61.0
Leachate (black liquid from dumpsite)	384	90.8
Surface water contamination	113	26.7
All of the above	48	11.3
None of the above	0	0
<b>Total for each variable</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Waste at the site can breed flies, insect or worms, which can cause intestinal parasites</b>		
Yes	307	72.6
No	81	19.1
Not sure	35	8.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Waste from the dumpsite can be washed into nearest water body such as waterside and cause intestinal worms to those that uses it</b>		
Yes	304	71.9
No	21	5.0
Not sure	98	23.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 3:** Knowledge of the residents towards intestinal parasites from solid waste dumpsites.

CHARACTERISTICS	NO OF RESPONDENT N = 423	PERCENTAGE (%)
<b>HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT INTESTINAL PARASITES OR WORMS?</b>		
Yes	407	96.2
No	13	3.1
Not sure	3	0.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>IF YES, HOW DO YOU GET IT?</b>		
Through under cooked meats and vegetables	282	66.7
Insect bite	59	13.9
Poor hygiene	365	86.3
Bad habits such as walking around on bare foot	213	50.4
Juju and witchcraft	129	30.5
Animals such as rats, rodents, vermin etc	213	50.4
Food	189	44.7
All of the above	59	13.9
None of the above	0	0
<b>Total for each variable</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>HAVE ANYBODY BEEN INFECTED WITH IT IN YOUR FAMILY BEFORE?</b>		
Yes	283	66.9
NO	29	6.9
Not sure	111	26.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>WHAT SYMPTOMS TELLS YOU THAT YOU HAVE A PARASITE IN YOUR BODY?</b>		
Fever	232	66.9
Diarrhea	298	70.4
Vomiting	301	71.2
Stomach ache	312	73.8
I don't know	43	10.2
All of the above	0	0
<b>Total for each variable</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>CAN ONE GET INTESTINAL WORMS FROM SOLID WASTE DUMPSITE?</b>		
Yes	329	77.8
No	53	12.5
Not sure	41	9.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>IF YES, HOW CAN ONE GET IT FROM THE SITE?</b>		
By playing around the site	319	97.0
Defecating at the site	253	76.9
Walking around the site on bare foot	194	59.0
Eating around the site	172	52.3
Through rats, rodents, flies and other animals found around the site	47	14.3
Through leachate water at the site	302	91.8
Indiscriminate dumping of refuse in the site	317	96.4
All of the above	47	14.3
<b>Total for each variable</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 4:** Residents attitude towards solid waste disposal at the site

CHARACTERISTICS	NO OF RESPONDENT N = 423	PERCENTAGE (%)
<b>DO YOU DISPOSE WASTE AT THE DUMPSITE?</b>		
Yes	385	91.0
No	38	9.0
Not sure	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>HOW REGULAR DO YOU DISPOSE YOUR WASTE AT THE DUMPSITE?</b>		
Daily	197	46.6
Once a week	62	14.7
Twice a week	75	17.7
Thrice a week	7	1.7
Once in awhile	54	12.8
Not sure	28	6.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>DO PEOPLE DEFECCATE AT THE SITE?</b>		
Yes	65	15.4
No	320	75.7
Not sure	98	9.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>HOW DO YOU PREVENT GETTING IT FROM THE SITE?</b>		
By avoiding defecating around the site	253	59.8
Avoid eating at the site	329	77.8
Avoiding the leachate water in the site	417	98.9
Properly disposing waste at the site	402	95.0
Avoiding contact with insects, flies, rodents and other animals around the site	47	11.1
Avoid walking around the site on bare foot	194	45.9
Maintaining good hygiene	419	99.1
All of the above	47	11.1
None of the above	0	0
<b>Total for each variable</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 5:** Residents awareness on waste management practices at the site.

CHARACTERISTICS N = 423	SA (%)	A (%)	SD (%)	D (%)
Having a clean environmental is vital to health.	222(52.5)	126(29.8)	41(9.7)	34(8.0)
All waste is unwanted and useless.	57(13.5)	13(3.1)	195(46.9)	158(37.4)
Segregation of waste at the site helps to reduce the amount of waste at the site.	312(73.8)	56(13.2)	12(2.8)	43(10.2)
The wastes at the site are managed regularly.	117(27.7)	56(13.2)	34(8.0)	216(51.1)
Wastes at the site are used to fill the hole in the land.	321(75.9)	75(17.7)	8(1.9)	19(4.5)
It concerns me if I see waste scattered anywhere in the dumpsite area.	22(5.2)	47(11.1)	192(45.4)	162(38.3)
There should be rules and regulations guiding waste disposal at the dumpsite.	197(46.6)	76(18.0)	98(23.2)	52(12.3)
If waste is managed properly, the dumpsite will be safe for people.	113(26.7)	106(25.1)	124(29.3)	80(18.9)
There should be environmental policy for those living around the dumpsite.	57(13.5)	73(17.3)	137(32.4)	156(36.9)
It doesn't matter how I dispose my waste at the site.	52(12.3)	78(18.4)	143(33.8)	150(35.5)

**Table 6:** Extent at which the following factors militate against the level of efficiency of waste management at the dumpsite.

Variable N = 14	High (%)	Moderate (%)	Low (%)	No (%)
Insufficient fund	4(28.6)	7(50.0)	3(21.4)	0(0)
Inadequate trained personnel	0(0)	2(14.3)	11(78.6)	1(7.1)
No financial sacrifices for environmental Protection	5(35.7)	7(50.0)	1(7.1)	1(7.1)
Lack of proper education by the people	6(42.9)	7(50.0)	1(7.1)	0(0)
Negligence of duty	2(14.3)	3(21.4)	7(50.0)	2(14.3)
Increasing population	9(64.3)	5(35.7)	0(0)	0(0)
Lack of adequate awareness on the part of the public on waste management	8(57.1)	6(42.9)	0(0)	0(0)
Lack of pollution control devices	9(64.3)	5(35.7)	0(0)	0(0)
Poor enforcement of the waste management regulations	1(7.1)	2(14.3)	8(57.1)	3(21.4)
Culture of the people seems not to respect human dignity and decency	4(28.6)	6(42.9)	1(7.1)	3(21.4)
Increased industrialization and consumption of fresh raw materials	11(78.6)	3(21.4)	0(0)	0(0)

## Discussion

The number of respondents 370(87.5%) that are aware that they are at risk of contracting human intestinal parasitic infections for living close to the dumpsite is a clear indication of the existence of the infection. When asked about the hazards that they experience for staying close to the site, 48(11.8%) responded positively to all the hazards, but majority of them 413(97.6%) agreed that odour was the most serious hazards experienced. This confirmed the finding of Aluko (2001) that people are aware of the offensive odours that emanate from refuse dumps and that they diminish the aesthetic quality of the environment. This also supported the insertion of Mirian (2011) in Delta State, who stated that waste left unattended to for a long time constitute serious hazards and produces offensive odour which can cause serious health challenges to those living around the site. In identifying the specific type of environmental problem, they are facing, 72.6% of the respondents' agreed that solid waste is a breeding ground for flies, insects or worms that can cause the intestinal parasite. This is in line with the report by Olaniran (1995) that the link between environment and health is fairly misunderstood by the average person in most developed and developing countries. The result indicated that most (71.9%) of the respondents are aware that waste from the site can be washed into the nearest water body thereby causing intestinal parasitic infections to those that use it. In his study, Owoh (2000) also reported positive correlation with frequent contact with solid waste polluted river and incidence of water related diseases of which intestinal parasite infections were inclusive.

Majority of the respondents (77.8%) have the knowledge that intestinal parasites can be contracted from the dumpsites. When they were asked how one can contract it from the site, (14.3%) responded that it can be through all the means while 97.0% is of the view that it can be

contracted by playing around the site, others says that is gotten from the leachate water at the site and the refuse dumped at the site. A good number of them 66.9% agreed that at least one member of their family has been previously infected with most (73.8%) of them reporting stomach ache, diarrhea 71.2%, vomiting 70.4% and fever 66.9% as the symptoms of the infections. Onibokun and Kumuyi (1996) in South Africa ascertained that the knowledge about solid waste being the sources of transmission of diseases are supposed to be publicized as often as possible so that individuals at all levels will be aware of the effects of indiscriminate waste disposal.

Most of the residents (91.0%) dispose waste at the site and almost half of the respondents dispose refuse on daily basis. Majority said specifically that it is gotten through poor hygiene and are aware that by maintaining good hygiene these diseases can be prevented. These are in consonance with the impression of Akpan (1995) in Calabar when he advised educationist to note that people know that their health is affected by the environment, and they sometimes know how to practice environmental hygiene.

The respondents strongly agreed that having a clean environment is vital to their health and strongly disagreed that all wastes are useless and unwanted. Also, most (73.8%) individuals are aware that segregation of waste helps to reduce the amount of waste generated from the site but they strongly disagreed that waste management at the site is done regularly. This implied that there is improper management of waste at the site. Most of the individuals (75.9%) are aware that the wastes at the site are used for landfilling. However, some disagreed strongly saying that it's not their concerns if they see waste scattered anywhere around the dumpsite. Although there are laws guiding environmental protection agency in Abia State, the respondents strongly believed that there should be rules and regulations guiding waste disposal at the dumpsite and few (29.3%)

strongly disagreed that the dumpsite will never be safe for people even when waste is properly managed. Uchegbu (2002) found that lack of sound judicial setup to try offenders tended to make the populace indifferent to the hues and cries about waste management. However, few of the residents disagreed to the view that there should be environmental policy for those living around the dumpsite saying that it does not matter how they dispose waste at the site. This is in line with the suggestion of Achalu (1997) in Kaduna about waste management who suggested that social control is most effectively guaranteed by the exercise of individual and corporative self-discipline, not punitive legislation.

The major factor revealed by the dumpsite workers that militates against their level of efficiency in waste management was increased industrialization and consumption of fresh raw materials. Lack of pollution control devices and increasing population were the second most militating factors against the efficiency in waste management. This agreed with the findings of Attah and Schuller (2000) who found that high rate of population growth in the city of Dema and requirement of urban development resulted in an increase in the amount of human services which increased the amount of solid waste generation. Similarly, Zhu *et al.* (2008) ascertain that due to rapid urbanization, environmental sanitation problems are at the heart of the woes of African countries that the proliferation of urban population comes with its rising demand for food and other essential services which in turn increases the waste generated daily by each household. This contradicted the findings of Sule (2004) in Lagos which revealed labour related problems like low remuneration and inadequate equipment. Sampson –Akpan (2009) in Calabar ascertained that the problems and challenges of the current waste management process are these: scavengers unearth the disposed waste and remove useful materials for sale or recycling, inadequate equipment's, inability to maintain

vehicles due to continuous use and wearing out of parts, lack of funds because waste management is a capital intensive project, rapid turn-over of workers because of exhaustion, body pains and offensive odour and compliance with safety precaution because workers do not feel comfortable wearing gloves, masks, boots and protective clothing because they feel clumsy. However, Yap (2010) in Kenya stated that the overall process of providing adequate universal sanitation, health and hygiene entailed a high degree of integration across disciplines but historically, the sanitation sector has been characterized by poor funding, fragmentation and disorganization.

### Conclusion

It is glaring that people living close to solid waste dumpsites are not ignorant of the fact that human intestinal parasites can be contacted from solid waste dumpsites. The percentage of those that have had about intestinal parasites and the possibility of contracting it from solid waste dumpsite were relatively high. Most residents dispose waste at dumpsites on daily basis and maintain that waste management at the site should be carried out on a daily basis. The dumpsite workers revealed that increased industrialization and consumption of fresh raw materials, lack of pollution control devices and increasing population were the most militating factors against the efficiency in waste management at the site. Therefore, the government and relevant agencies should encourage municipality participation in sanitation improvement programmes. Intensify efforts in public health education and manage the waste generated. This will go a long way to reduce the risk of being infected with waste related diseases since the waste will not be left untreated for a long time as it used to be.

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