

ANALYSIS OF THE SPATIAL PATTERN OF AWARENESS AND DISTRIBUTION OF REUSABLE SANITARY PAD AMONG SOME SCHOOLS IN THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY ABUJA, NIGERIA

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Abstract

Awareness of menstrual hygiene and utilization of reusable sanitary pads aids in preparing girls with the right information about menstruation and reusable pads. Having access to menstrual materials enables girls to become confident in themselves thereby protecting them from contracting infectious diseases due to unhygienic practices. This research analyzed the awareness of reusable sanitary pad in some selected schools in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. Nearest Neighbor Analysis was used to determine the pattern of distribution of the selected schools, and a questionnaire was used to collect data on the level of awareness of reusable pads. From the result of the awareness of reusable pad, majority (50.8%) of school girls did not have any knowledge of reusable sanitary pad. About 26.8% of the respondents provided sanitary pads for themselves, while, 25.3% got it from relatives, about 24.5% from teachers and 23.4% from mothers and 30.6% missed school due to lack of sanitary pad, 30.1% hold on to traditional belief. The study showed that the nearest neighbour ratio for the spatial distribution of selected schools in Federal Capital Territory (F.C.T.) is 0.75654 with p-value of 0.002861 and from the emerging result, the overall nearest neighbor ratio of 0.002861 indicates a clustered distribution for the selected schools. The study advocates that due to the lack of knowledge about reusable pad, a well-informed continuous school education program such as personal hygiene, sanitary education and with information on safe hygiene and menstrual practices should be included in the school curriculum by Universal Basic Education Board (UBEB), and or State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB). Also, menstrual products should not only be made affordable but free and accessible to girls of reproductive age because menstruation is not a choice

Keywords: Geographic Information System (GIS), awareness, Reusable pad, knowledge, menstruation, Distribution.