

IMPACT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION ON PUBLIC HEALTH STATUS IN ESAN WEST LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, EDO STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

Environmental sanitation is a key determinant of public health in developing regions. Despite interventions by government and non-governmental agencies, rural and semi-urban communities in Nigeria still experience poor waste disposal, open defecation, and inadequate drainage. These conditions contribute to a high burden of preventable diseases such as cholera, typhoid fever, malaria, and diarrhea, which cause significant morbidity and mortality. This study examines environmental sanitation and public health status in Esan West Local Government Area of Edo State, Nigeria. A descriptive survey research design was adopted, utilizing a quantitative approach. Data were collected via a structured questionnaire administered to a sample of 400 respondents selected through multistage sampling techniques; 345 copies of the questionnaire were successfully retrieved and analysed using linear regression. The findings revealed that waste collection has a positive and significant impact on disease prevention in Esan West Local Government Area, Edo State ($B_1 = 0.352$, $t\text{-value} = 6.519 > p\text{-value} = .000$). The findings further showed that waste disposal has a positive and significant impact on disease prevention in Esan West Local Government Area, Edo State ($B_2 = 0.281$, $t\text{-value} = 4.607 > p\text{-value} = .000$). The results also indicated that the relationship between water supply and disease prevention in Esan West Local Government Area, Edo State is positive and significant ($B_3 = 0.318$, $t\text{-value} = 5.483 > p\text{-value} = .000$). The study concludes that improved environmental sanitation is essential for enhancing public health outcomes. It recommends increased government investment in sanitation infrastructure, improved enforcement of sanitation policies, and greater community participation in sanitation activities to achieve sustainable disease prevention and better health outcomes in Esan West and similar local government areas in Nigeria.

Keywords: Environmental Sanitation, Disease Prevention, Public Health Status, Semi-Urban Area