



Waste governance agenda in Nigerian cities: A comparative analysis



Chukwunonye Ezeah*, Clive L. Roberts

School of Applied Sciences, University of Wolverhampton, City Campus-South, Wulfruna Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1LY, UK

A B S T R A C T

Keywords:

Nigeria
Solid waste management
Waste governance
Public–private partnership
Informal sector

Waste is the most visible evidence of inefficiency in any environment. As in many Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries, the waste problem in Nigeria is of serious concern to stakeholders. While some investigation to understand the nature of the drivers and barriers affecting sustainable solid waste management in Nigeria has been undertaken, there is little understanding of the interface between solid waste management and governance. This paper is based on a study carried out between 2008 and 2010. The study reviews available literature on solid waste governance in Nigerian cities with a view to making some comparisons and proffering new strategies to enhance waste governance. Findings indicate that absence of good governance in the case studied has negatively impacted on solid waste management performance. This situation has tended to influence individuals to resort to self help. Results also indicate that a rethinking of the current top-down approach to waste governance in Nigeria is urgently required. The main lessons from this study are: (1) a number of governance-related barriers currently constrain sustainable solid waste management (2) public–private partnership is an effective waste management strategy in evolving political systems such as Nigeria (3) mainstreaming the informal sector into the waste management infrastructure in Nigeria will enhance efficiency.

Crown Copyright © 2013 Published by Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

Introduction

In the context of Nigeria, Abuja and Lagos exemplify the current crisis situation facing solid waste governance in many Nigerian cities as they grapple with the twin challenges of waste and population growing at unsustainable rates. This situation is compounded by the near absence of waste management infrastructure on the one side and debilitating governance-related constraints on the other. As a result of these problems, gross inefficiencies have been reported (Agunwamba, 1998; Ezeah, Roberts, Phillips, Mbeng, & Nzeadibe, 2009). In some local councils for instance, between 20 and 50% of their annual budget is said to be spent on municipal waste services yet such services are available to less than 50% of the urban population (Bartone, Leite, Triche, & Schertenleib, 1991; Pearce & Kerry, 1994).

In recognition of the challenges posed by solid waste governance, the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) established the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (FEPA) in the late 1980s. The Agency was mandated by Decree 58 of 1988 with, among other functions, to oversee solid waste management at all three tiers of government in Nigeria – federal, state and local. FEPA was upgraded to a fully fledged environmental department with a cabinet

minister at the federal level in the year 2000. With these institutional reforms, the overall responsibility for solid waste management in Nigeria is currently discharged by the Federal Ministry of Environment, Housing and Urban Development at the Federal level. Another positive consequence of this development was the eventual enactment of the harmful waste decree in 1990, providing a legal framework for the management of waste, particularly of the hazardous genre (Akpofure & Echefu, 2001; Chokor, 1993).

Taking a cue from the Federal government, many state governments in the country also established their individual State Environmental Protection Agencies (SEPA) in the mid 1990s. At the local or municipal levels however, waste management functions were left as before to environmental services or works departments. In essence, recent reforms in waste governance infrastructure at the federal and state levels in Nigeria were not reciprocated at the local or municipal level. This situation has tended to exacerbate waste governance outcomes at the local or city level. Nzeadibe and Anyadike (2010) also ascribe the current waste governance situation in Nigerian cities to the larger issues of failure of governance in the country. As in many developing countries, this situation has continued to sustain inherent deficits in service delivery particularly in the waste sector (Bhuiyan, 2010; Solomon, 2009). It is believed that the first step in overcoming identified governance-related barriers to sustainable management of solid waste in cities of developing nations such as Nigeria lie in gaining a proper understanding of not only the drivers but impacts of failure in

* Corresponding author. Tel.: +44 (0)7534467777.

E-mail addresses: C.Ezeah2@wlv.ac.uk, salemtide@yahoo.com (C. Ezeah).

governance (Ezeah, 2010; Okereke, 2011). Adopting a multi-methods research approach, this paper makes an attempt at highlighting current trends in municipal solid waste governance in two Nigerian cities with the aim of suggesting appropriate responses to identified negative impacts of failures in governance (see Fig. 1).

Waste governance in developing countries

The subject of governance is broad, multi-faceted, and of great complexity (Andrews, 2008). The concept was first highlighted in a developing country context in a 1989 World Bank report on Sub-Saharan Africa: From Crisis to Sustainable Growth, A Long-Term Perspective Study (in Bhuiyan, 2010). In the broadest sense, governance concerns performance of the government, including public and private sectors, global and local arrangements, formal structures, informal norms and practices, and spontaneous and intentional system of control (Roy, 2006).

There is nearly unanimity of opinion from available literature that waste governance in most developing countries, particularly Sub-Saharan Africa, is nearly at a crisis situation (Agunwamba, 1998; Ahmed & Ali, 2004; Bhuiyan, 2010). Compared with significant improvement in performance indicators in developed countries such as Western Europe, the situation in Africa becomes even more glaring. For instance, in South Africa, Godfrey and Dambuzza (2006) reported an increasing trend of poor service delivery with regards to waste management. In their study, municipal capacity assessments, they showed that 60% of the 231 local municipalities could not perform their waste management functions. Despite having approximately 77 statutes that relate to environmental concerns, Kazungu (2010), argues that the failure of the laws and regulations for waste management in Kenya to address governance-related problems is largely due to a systemic inability and or an unwillingness on the part of state actors to sanctions or deal with those who flout such laws. These problems continue to threaten waste governance in most urban areas and call into question the capacity of African countries to provide effective waste governance for their cities. The situation is not much different in South East Asian countries either; for instance, Bhuiyan (2010), reported that in Bangladesh, in spite of increasing utilization of public resources, city governments have apparently failed to provide satisfactory conservancy services to residents.

Moore (2001) argues that 'bad governance' is neither inherent in the culture or traditions of the people of poor countries nor a

product of poverty. It is rather the result of the ways in which state authority in the developing countries has been constructed – and is being maintained – through economic and political interactions with the rest of the world. He further points out that the policies and practices of developed countries governments and the pattern of international economic transactions help sustain poor governance in developing countries (Moore, 2001).

Methods

This investigation utilizes a mix of qualitative and quantitative research approaches, in a three stage process, covering desk top study, field work and data analysis/prescription stages. Fig. 2 below is an outline of the three stage methodological approach adopted for this investigation. The preliminary stages involved the identification and review of relevant literature on solid waste governance in developing countries (Bhuiyan, 2010; Godfrey & Dambuzza, 2006; Kazungu, 2010; Nzeadibe, Ayadiuno, & Akukwe, 2010; Onibokun & Kumuyi, 1999; Owusu, Oteng-Ababio, & Afutu-Kotey, 2012) Following this, at the data collection stage, two major Nigerian cities were selected, Lagos, in the South and Abuja in the North. Apart from being geographically representative both cities are major commercial and administrative centres respectively. Using various instruments such as questionnaires, focus group studies, participant observation/and key-informant interviews, primary data on waste governance in the two cities were collected between 2008 and 2010.

Questionnaire survey

Given that postal services in Nigeria at the time of this study were not as reliable as in most developed countries, a decision was made to use the direct door step questionnaire administration approach after the method adopted by Phillips, Holley, Bates, and Freestone (2002) and Read, Gregory, and Phillips (2009). An obvious advantage of this strategy is that the rate of return is enhanced, since the questionnaires were normally delivered directly by hand to the respondents and taken back immediately on completion. In their study, Phillips et al. (2002) reported a return rate of about 98%. An important drawback of this approach is that it is laborious, time consuming and expensive. In order to determine a suitable sample size, a sample size calculator provided by Research Information (2008) was utilized. Respondents were asked to outline the main barriers affecting waste governance in the country

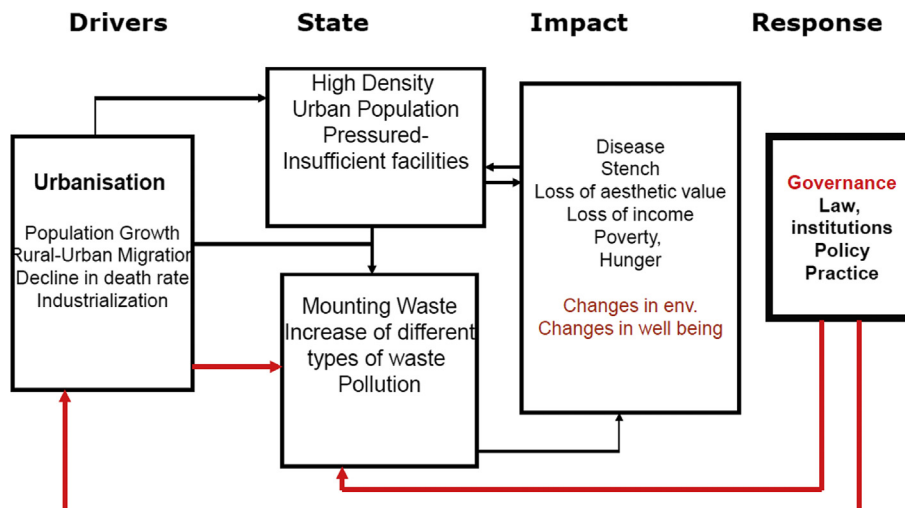


Fig. 1. Waste governance conceptual framework. Source: Okereke, 2011.

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/1047851>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/1047851>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)