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Public Awareness and Perceptions of Environmental Protection Initiatives: A Survey in Nyanya, Abuja

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Abstract:- This study investigates public awareness and perceptions of environmental protection initiatives in Nyanya Community, Abuja. Data from 310 participants were analyzed, focusing on demographic characteristics, awareness levels, associations between demographics and awareness, public perceptions of initiative effectiveness, and factors influencing public engagement. The result showed that most respondents were females (51.5%), and a significant portion had a Bachelor's degree (50.2%). Employment status varied, with 53.2% employed and 21.3% unemployed. 69.4% were aware of environmental protection initiatives, 20.6% were not, and 10% had no response. Females demonstrated a higher awareness level (69.4%) than males (39.9%), significantly associated with gender (p-value = 0.000). Also, Youth (25-34 age group) showed the highest awareness (69.4%), with a significant association (p-value = 0.000). Those with a Bachelor's degree had a higher awareness (71.5%), a significant association (p-value = 0.000). Respondents were skeptical; 30.6% found initiatives 'not effective at all.' Females showed higher skepticism (35.5%), significantly associated with gender (p-value = 0.000). With respect to factors Influencing Public Engagement, Environmental concern (64.8%) and lack of time (81.1%) were predominant. Lack of information (9.3%) and social influence (6.6%) also played roles. For effective environmental protection intervention, community should be encouraged to get involved through awareness campaigns led by leaders and stakeholders, comprehensive education campaigns should be conducted to address public perceptions and increase understanding and proper waste disposal and recycling practices should be promoted. Enhancing public awareness and engagement in environmental protection initiatives requires a multi-faceted approach involving community leaders, educational campaigns, and government interventions.

Keywords:- *Awareness, Environmental Protection, Initiatives, Perception.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Sustainable environmental practices are crucial for the well-being of both current and future generations (Chin et al., 2019). The importance of environmental protection has become increasingly evident in recent years. Public awareness and perceptions of environmental protection initiatives play a significant role in shaping the success of such initiatives (Oruonye & Ahmed, 2020). The natural settings in which humans, animals, and plants coexist and communicate with one another are referred to as the environment (Chin et al., 2019). The collection of external physical elements, such as air, water, soil, and plants that have an impact on and impact the growth, development, and survival of living things is sometimes referred to as the environment (Akpafun et al., 2020). Human beings depend on the environment for many essential services, natural resources, modern amenities, life-sustaining equipment, and the ability to dispose of trash (Backhaus et al., 2019). Man has a system that supports his life in the environment, the environment has changed over time due to a multitude of factors, including political, economic, and environmental issues (Habibullah et al., 2021). As a result, it is no longer possible to forecast the near future with great accuracy using the evolutionary tendency of the environment (Molotoks et al., 2020). Particularly in emerging nations, the rapid growth of the human population is causing growth in construction, urban sprawl, and agricultural practises that are spreading on land at the edges. Similar to this, urbanisation is simultaneously endangering the earth's resources that support life through pollution (Backhaus et al., 2019). An increasing number of natural disasters, including earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, droughts, storms, flooding, and mass waste, are making these problems worse (Habibullah et al., 2021). There are a plethora of laws in place to improve environmental preservation. Nigeria, a country with a nominal GDP per capita of US$2,640, has many environmental concerns that could have a major impact on human security (Ruggerio, 2021). Yet, its institutional frameworks and regulations are still in a state of collapse (Ruggerio, 2021). In addition, a plethora of regulations have been implemented to provide sufficient safeguarding of the environment against human activities (Thaler & Seebauer, 2019).

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Numerous international accords and protocols have also been ratified and adopted by the nation. The Federal Republic of Nigeria's constitution contains provisions supporting these conventions, protocols, and regulations. In order to guarantee conformity, the government has also established organisations tasked with enforcing these rules. The institutions have also developed a number of frameworks to guarantee efficient environmental protection (Tian et al., 2019). Effective adherence has vanished in the nation despite the institutional and statutory frameworks, which is attributable to lax or nonexistent enforcement of the laws (Oruonye & Ahmed, 2020).Despite the fact that these frameworks are in place in the nation, evaluating these policies and frameworks has become essential in light of the growing environmental dangers to human safety (Oruonye & Ahmed, 2020). In light of this, the apparent incompetence of Nigeria's government and its institutions at all levels in addressing environmental issues further highlights the urgent need to assess the policies and structures in place for both protecting the environment and maximising its benefits for human development (Christian, 2017). Environmental issues have a significant correlation with insecurity and severe implications for peace and development throughout the nation (Christian, 2017; Chin et al., 2019). In light of this, the research aims to assess the level of awareness and perceptions of environmental protection initiatives among the residents of Nyanya, Abuja, and to identify areas for improvement in these initiatives.

➢ *Specific Objectives*

The primary objectives of this research are as follows:

- To determine the level of public awareness of existing environmental protection initiatives in Nyanya.
- To determine the impact of demography on the perception of environmental protection.
- To determine the Awareness of Environmental Protection Initiatives.
- To determine the effectiveness of environmental protection initiatives in addressing local environmental issues.
- To determine the factors that influence public engagement with environmental protection efforts..

➢ *Research Questions*

- What is the level of public awareness of existing environmental protection initiative in Nyanya?
- What is the public's perception of the effectiveness of these initiatives in Nyanya?
- What are the factors that influence public engagement with environmental protection efforts?
- What recommendations are needed for enhancing environmental protection initiative based on the research findings?

➢ *Research Hypotheses*

- **$H0_1$**: There is no statistical relationship with the level of Public awareness of existing environmental protection initiatives in Nyanya.
- **$H0_2$:** There is no statistical relationship in the public perception of the effectiveness of these initiatives in Nyanya.
- **$H0_3$:** No statistical relationship exists between the factors influencing public engagement with environmental protection efforts.
- **$H0_4$:** No statistical recommendation for enhancing the environmental protection initiative based on the research findings.

II. METHODOLOGY

➢ *Research Design*

The research will employ a cross-sectional study design. A structured questionnaire was used to collect quantitative data.

➢ *Study Area*

The Abuja Metropolitan Area Council neighbourhood of Nyanya is located in the Federal Capital Territory. The drive takes 10 minutes, while the distance to the city centre is about 12 km. Nyanya was a Gwari community, as were most traditional groups in the Federal Capital Territory. Urban regeneration took place there. It is separated into four sections: Nyanya Phases I, II, IV, and the Nyanya Labour Camp, constructed to house low-level public employees in temporary housing before giving them access to government-built estates for permanent residence (Kandi, 2019). It is about 16.2 square kilometres in size.

Nyanya is encircled by a range of hills to the north and northeast, the Maraba district of Nasarawa state to the east and southeast, and the Federal housing Karu site to the south. By Abuja City on the west (Fig. 2). Even though it's a satellite town with a general hospital and five different neighbourhoods for a precise count, people in the same group, as well as middle-class and lower-class public employees, reside there since they cannot afford the pricey housing in Abuja. Nyanya is managed and administered by the Abuja Municipal Area Council, the third administration tier.

This is regulated by the Federal Capital Territory's Minister (MFCT). The development of the federal capital area falls within the purview of one of the MFCT's agencies, the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA). To establish satellite towns like Nyanya, the FCDA works with institutions such as the Satellite Towns Development Agency (Kandi, 2019).

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➢ *Target Population of the Study*

All residents of Nyanya community who fall within the legal age of 18 – 65years of age at the time who resided in the Nyanya community at the time of this survey.

➢ *Sampling Procedure and Sample size Determination*

A random sampling technique was employed to ensure the representation of various demographics. The sample size was determined using appropriate statistical methods to ensure adequate statistical power. The sample size calculation used was Slovin's formula to determine the sample size.

$n = N/ 1+ N (e)^2$ (Glen, 2023).

By substituting N (1,210) into formula (i) with a margin of error of 0.05, a sample size of 300 was obtained.

➢ *Data Collection*

The electronic version of the research instrument (questionnaire) was used for data collection. This was done by interviewing study participants to collect data. Data collected through a structured questionnaire made available online (https://odk.ona.io/theophilusnoun/forms/hellens_excel) and in print administered by the interviewer.

➢ *Data Analysis*

Quantitative data collected through the survey was analysed using a statistical software program (SPSS Version 25) for analysis. The result was presented in tables and figures as can be seen in chapter four with 95% confidence intervals at 0.05 significance level. Chi-square was used to determine association between dependent and independent variables.

➢ *Ethical consideration*

Ethical approval for the research was obtained from the Faculty of Health Science ethics committee, the National Open University of Nigeria and the Health Services Department, Federal Capital Territory Administration. Consent was sought from the eligible Participants after the researcher gave them a clear explanation of the study. Participation was entirely voluntary, and respondents were free to opt out of any interview stage if they so wished. The confidentiality information received from respondents was assured.

III. DISCUSSION OF FINDING

The research findings indicate that 69.4% of the population in Nyanya is entirely aware of the environmental protection activities that are currently in place, which is noteworthy given the level of public knowledge of these initiatives. Compared to the male respondents (85), the female respondents (123) had higher public awareness. This study bears similarities to that conducted by Ahmad et al. (2015), who examined the relationship between 895 students from 16 higher education institutions' knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) about the environment and the efficient transmission of environmental messaging. The results showed that pupils' general environmental understanding is good. While Ahmad et al. (2015) study focused solely on KAP, the current research and students' knowledge are comparable in that they both concern knowledge levels. Additionally, the current study is connected to Ahmad et al. (2015) study because, as the respondents in Nyanya showed, there was little correlation between students' knowledge levels and sustainable environmental activities. Therefore, a more accurate predictor of sustainable environmental activities is required. Another study by Debrah et al. (2021) on increasing solid waste management awareness through education for sustainability in developing nations reveals that waste management has become one of the most critical problems metropolitan areas face because of exponential urban growth. The study's conclusions show that the disparity in environmental awareness between young and older adults in developing nations exacerbates ecological problems or waste management challenges, leading to unsustainable development with severe repercussions in low-income nations. The study by Debrah et al. (2021) is consistent with the current study and the study by Ahmad et al. (2015) because evidence gathered from the review was carried out to identify and analyse environmental knowledge, awareness, attitudes, and practice studies on solid waste management from 2010 to 2019 in developing countries. Research indicates that secondary and university students are highly aware of environmental issues and have positive attitudes towards the environment. Nonetheless, to help students implement solid waste management, teachers still need to receive further practical training. Teachers' lack of practical experience in solid waste management is linked to students' inadequate environmental understanding and environmental sustainability. Differences in awareness, attitudes, and practices of solid waste management associated with age and education were also discovered, as was the interaction between teachers' and students' knowledge and attitudes towards the subject. People with bachelor's degrees and those between the ages of 25 and 34 demonstrate high levels of awareness, which is consistent with the current study's findings. Exposure due to schooling and the decline in the labour force could cause this. Tree planting is recognised as an adaptable technique for sustainable development, according to a study by Okon et al. (2022) on the creative use of poetry in tree planting education for a sustainable environment in Nigeria. This is consistent with recent research since planting trees contributes significantly to biodiversity and is one method of maintaining the environment.

Furthermore, research by Oruonye and Ahmed (2020) demonstrates that the environment provides a man with a life support system. As a result, several laws and regulations have been implemented to guarantee that the environment is sufficiently protected from human activity. This result validates the current study since compliance—a mirage throughout the nation—can only be ensured by relevant

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entities implementing environmental protection rules and regulations. The study results show that environmental regulations are broad guidelines and particular measures implemented by administrative bodies to manage natural resources and reduce pollution to safeguard the environment. The study results show that the government, which established these systems, is the main offender of the laws and regulations intended to safeguard the environment. This frequently results in system failure, where nothing functions appropriately, and the environment is negatively impacted. Environmental sustainability, job creation, and environmental preservation are all advantages of enforcing environmental standards. The report suggests updating antiquated environmental laws and regulations, hiring more personnel, and boosting financing for environmental enforcement organisations. This was in line with the current study's finding, which showed that just 7% of respondents thought environmental protection programmes helped resolve regional environmental problems. Nevertheless, The respondents require a deeper understanding of the rule of law despite the rules and regulations. The literature reviews are pertinent to the current investigation since they demonstrate how the findings align with the goals and research questions.

IV. RESULTS

This study on the Public awareness and perception of Environmental Protection initiative was carried out in Nyanya Community-Abuja. Data on the perception and awareness was collected from 310 participants. The data was analysed and results are presented in tables and figures as shown below.

A. Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Table 1 reports the socio-demographic information captured in the survey. The specific socio-demographic information captured in this segment includes the respondents' gender, Age, level of education, and Employment status. The participants' demographic assessments revealed that males numbered 120, representing 39.9% of the respondents, while females numbered 155, representing 51.5%. Also, respondents who preferred not to say were 23, which represents 7.6%, and others were 3, representing 1% of the respondents. Further, the survey result revealed by the Age of the respondents showed that 6 were under 18, representing 2% of the respondents, and 70 were between the ages of (18 – 24), representing 23.3% of the respondents. Similarly, 106 were between the ages of (25 – 34), representing 35.2% of the respondents, while 63 were between the ages of (35-44) accounting for 20.9% of the respondents. In addition, 24 and 7 were between the ages of (45-54) and (55-64) representing 8% and 2.7%, respectively. Those between the ages of 65 and above were 2, representing 0.7% of the respondents, while those who prefer not to say were 23, representing 7.6%. Also, considering the educational background of the respondents, 21 were less than high school, representing 7%, were high school graduates representing 12.3%; 36 had some college/Associate degree, representing 12%; 151 had Bachelor's degree, representing 50.2%, 32 were graduate / had post-graduate degree representing 10.6% of the respondents while 24 of the respondents representing 8% prefer not to say. Further, data on the respondents' employment status, 160 were employed, representing 53.2% of the respondents; 64 were unemployed, representing 21.3%; 37 were students, representing 12.3%; 8 were retired, representing 2.7% of the respondents. (Table 1)

B. Awareness Level of Environmental Protection Initiatives

This section covers the analysis of respondents' awareness of environmental protection initiatives. The data reveals whether the respondent knows of any environmental protection initiatives or programmes in Nyanya. The results from Table 2 and figure 1, showed that 209, which represent 69.4% of the respondents, said that they are aware of existing environmental protection initiatives in Nyanya; 62, which represent 20.6% of the respondents, said they were not aware of environmental protection initiatives in Nyanya; and 30, representing 10% of the respondents, could not provide answers to the question.

C. Association between Gender and the Respondents' Awareness of Existing Environmental Protection Initiatives.

Association between demographic information and level of awareness of existing environmental protection initiatives. This chapter segment encapsulates the discussion between selected socio-demographic profiles (gender, age, and level of education) and the awareness and non-awareness of existing environmental protection initiatives using Chi-square analysis.

- *Association between Age and the Respondents' Awareness of Existing Environmental Protection Initiatives.*

When we compare the Association between genders on the awareness of existing environmental protection initiatives in Table 3, the result reveals that females are 123 out of the 209 (69.4%) that said yes. This is an indication that the level of aware of existing environmental protection initiative is higher in females compared to the males which was 85 out of the 209 that said 'Yes'. Also, the level of awareness among the females will increase gender inclusion in environmental sustainability through mitigation of negative environmental impact because the vulnerability of the environment will affect the women and the children more. Interestingly from the Chi – Square tests result, this association is statistically significant at a 1% critical level, judging from the Pearson Chi–square value (231.202) and its resulting probability value of .000 (Asymptotic Significance (2-sided) (Table 4).

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Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Description		Frequency	Percent
Gender	Not Applicable	23	7.6
	Male	120	39.9
	Female	155	51.5
		3	1
Age	Not Applicable	23	7.6
	Under 18	6	2
	18-24	70	23.3
	25-34	106	35.2
	35-44	63	20.9
	45-54	24	8
	55-64	7	2.3
	65 and over	2	0.7
Education Level	Not Applicable	24	8
	Primary school	21	7
	Secondary school	37	12.3
	Diploma/NCE	36	12
	Bachelor's Degree	151	50.2
	Graduate/Postgraduate Degree	32	10.6
Employment Status	Not Applicable	25	8.3
	Employed	160	53.2
	Unemployed	64	21.3
	Student	37	12.3
	Retired	8	2.7
	Other (please specify)	7	2.3
	Total	**301**	**100**

Table 2 : Awareness of Environmental Protection Initiatives

		Frequency	Percent
Awareness of Environmental Protection Initiatives	Not Applicable	30	10
	Yes	209	69.4
	No	62	20.6
	Total	**301**	**100**

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Table 3 : Association between Gender and the Respondents' Awareness of Existing Environmental Protection Initiatives.

		Gender			Total	
		Not Applicable	Yes	No		
	Not Applicable	23	0	0	23	
	Male	6	85	29	120	
	Female	1	123	31	155	
	3	0	1	1	3	
Total		**30**	**209**	**62**	**301**	

Table 4: Association between Age and the Respondents' Awareness of Existing Environmental Protection Initiatives.

	Gender						
	Not Applicable	Yes	No	% 'yes'	% 'No'	Chi-square	P-Value
Not Applicable	23	0	0	0.0	0.0	231.202	0.000
Male	6	85	29	369.6	126.1		
Female	1	123	31	534.8	134.8		
3	0 1	1	1	4.3	4.3		
Total	30	209	62			301	

- *Association between Ages and the Respondents' Awareness of Existing Environmental Protection Initiatives*

When we compare the Association between ages on the awareness of existing environmental protection initiatives in Table 5, the result reveals that the age category between '25-34' demonstrated the highest level of awareness out of the 209 (69.4%) that said yes. This indicates that the awareness of existing environmental protection initiatives is highest among youth compared to older persons. This indicates that the youth are more knowledgeable about environmental protection initiatives, which will increase the community's sustainability initiatives. Interestingly from the Chi–Square tests result, this Association is statistically significant at a 1% critical level, judging from the Pearson Chi–square value (251.29) and its resulting probability value of .000 (Asymptotic Significance (2-sided) (Table 5).

- *Association between Level of Education and the Respondents' Awareness of Existing Environmental Protection Initiatives*

When we compare the association between levels of education and awareness of existing environmental protection initiatives in Table 6, the result reveals that 108 of 209 (69.4%) respondents with bachelor's degrees said they were aware of existing environmental protection initiatives. This indicates that a better understanding could result from their exposure to issues relating to environmental protection initiatives. Remarkably, from the Chi-Square Test result, this association is statistically significant at a 1% critical level, judging from the Pearson Chi-Square value (220.340) and its resultant probability value.000 (Asymptotic Significance (2-sided) (Table7).

Table 5 Association Between Age and Awareness Level of Study Population on Environmental Protection Initiative.

Age	Not Applicable	N(%)	No % No	Total	Chi-square	P-Value
Not Applicable	23	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	23	251.29	0.00
Under 18	0	0(0.0)	6(100.0)	6		
18-24	3	52(74.3)	15(21.4)	70		
25-34	3	78(73.6)	25(23.6)	106		
35-44	1	52(82.5)	10(15.9)	63		
45-54	0	20(83.3)	4(16.7)	24		
55-64	0	5(71.4)	2(28.6)	7		
65 and over	0	2(100.0)	0(0.0)	2		
Total	30	209		301		

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Table 6 : Association between Level of Education and the Respondents' Awareness of Existing Environmental Protection Initiatives.

Education	Not Applicable	Yes	% yes	No	% No	Chi-square	P-Value	Total
Not Applicable	23	1	4.2	0	0.0	220.3	0.0	24
Primary School	0	15	71.4	6	28.6			21
Secondary school	0	31	83.8	6	16.2			37
Diploma/NCE	2	30	83.3	4	11.1			36
Bachelor's Degree	5	108	71.5	38	25.2			151
Postgraduate Degree	0	24	75.0	8	25.0			32
Total	30	209		62				301

Table 7 : Effectiveness of Environmental Protection Initiatives in Addressing Local Environmental Issues

	Frequency	Percent
Not applicable	27	9
Don't know	74	24.6
Not effective at all	92	30.6
Not very effective	65	21.6
Somewhat effective	22	7.3
Very effective	21	7
Total	**301**	**100**

4.5 Factors that influence public engagement with environmental protection efforts issues. Table 9 and Figure 3 reveal the factors influencing public engagement with environmental protection issues in the study area. The result from the survey shows that 195 respondents, representing 64.8%, said it is true that environmental concern influences public engagement with environmental protection effort issues; 75 respondents, representing 24.9%, said it is false, and 31 respondents, representing 10.3% of the participants, did not answer the question. Also, 239 respondents, representing 79.4%, said it was false that convenience influences public engagement with environmental protection effort issues, while 31 respondents, representing 10.3%, said it was true. Further, 31 respondents, representing 10.3%, did not answer the question. Moreover, 244 respondents, representing 81.1% of the population, said lack of time does not influence public engagement with environmental protection issues, and 31, representing 10.3%, said lack of time influences public engagement with environmental protection issues.

In comparison, 31 respondents, representing 10.3%, did not participate in the question. Furthermore, 242 respondents, representing 80.4%, said lack of information does not influence public engagement with issues related to environmental protection efforts. In comparison, 28 respondents, representing 9.3%, confirmed that lack of time influences public engagement with issues related to environmental protection efforts. Similarly, 250 respondents, representing 83.1%, said social influence does not influence public engagement with environmental protection efforts issues, and 20 respondents, representing 6.6%, said it is true that social influence is a factor that influences public engagement with environmental protection efforts issues (Table 9).

Table 8 Level of Education and the Effectiveness of Environmental Protection Initiatives in Addressing Local Environmental Issues.

		Education Level						
	Freq/ %	**Not Applicable**	**Don't Know**	**Not Effective at All**	**Not Very Effective**	**Somewhat Effective**	**Very Effective**	**Total**
Not Applicable	Count	23	0	1	0	0	0	24
	% within	95.8	0	4.2	0	0	0	100
Less than High School	Count	0	5	9	1	0	6	21
	% within	0	23.8	42.9	4.8	0	28.6	100

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Secondary School	Count	1	11	17	6	0	2	37
	% within	2.7	29.7	45.9	16.2	0	5.4	100
Diploma/NCE	Count	0	8	17	7	3	1	36
	% within	0	22.2	47.2	19.4	8.3	2.8	100
BS.c.	Count	3	43	31	47	17	10	151
	% within	2	28.5	20.5	31.1	11.3	6.6	100
Postgraduate Degree	Count	0	7	17	4	2	2	32
	% within	0	21.9	53.1	12.5	6.3	6.3	100
		9	24.6	30.6	21.6	7.3	7	100

Table 9: Factors in Public Engagement with Environmental Protection Efforts Issues

Factors		Frequency	Percent
Environmental concern influence	Not Applicable	31	10.3
	FALSE	75	24.9
	TRUE	195	64.8
	Total	**301**	**100**
Convenience influence	Not Applicable	31	10.3
	FALSE	239	79.4
	TRUE	31	10.3
	Total	**301**	**100**
Lack of time influence	Not Applicable	31	10.3
	FALSE	244	81.1
	TRUE	26	8.6
	Total	**301**	**100**
Lack of Information influence	Not Applicable	31	10.3
	FALSE	242	80.4
	TRUE	28	9.3
	Total	**301**	**100**
Social Influence	Not Applicable	31	10.3
	FALSE	250	83.1
	TRUE	20	6.6
	Total	**301**	**100**

Source: Author's Computation from the Underlying Survey Data, 2023.

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V. CONCLUSION

By giving a more complex picture of the viewpoint of people in Nyanya, this study adds to the body of knowledge on environmental preservation measures. Most people who participated in this study concluded that they were not involved in environmental conservation initiatives. This results from their ignorance of the harm their garbage and pollutants inflict on the environment and human health. This statement supports Abia et al. (2019), who reported that environmental ethics is the term used to describe how perceptions about the environment influence human attitudes. Further, it aligns with the findings of Chinyere et al. (2022), who reported that an individual's level of environmental knowledge is directly correlated with their awareness of environmental conservation. This scenario will probably worsen into a calamity if it continues since the government is powerless to protect the natural surroundings on its own. The management of environmental pollution is heavily dependent on public awareness. This is because we can motivate the general public to participate in environmental protection and the conservation of natural resources by raising public awareness and facilitating information access. Many resources are available to support public awareness and communication, including school programmes, outdoor education initiatives, conventional and mass media, and school programmes. This aligns with the findings of Thaler and Seebauer (2019), who opine that community-based environmental protection programmes are essential for advancing sustainability and tackling local environmental issues. Waste management, climate action, environmental education, tree planting, sustainable agriculture, water conservation, community sanitation, biodiversity protection, and corporate social responsibility are a few of the frequent projects that communities engage in (Thaler & Seebauer, 2019). The findings presented here must also be supported by research with larger sample sizes to conclude the prevalence of environmental concerns among the broader public. Policies for environmental management are crucial because they open doors to attaining sustainable development. Partnerships and exchanges are essential for stakeholders to engage in conversations and debates about environmental management challenges. States can only accomplish their worldwide environmental goals if the government enacts rigorous environmental legislation and everyone plays a vital role in the environment.

The implications of this research are enormous for public health. The research findings will impact the environment by improving air quality and cutting down on greenhouse gas emissions from industrial production of goods and services and human activities.

Improving air quality will decrease respiratory-related diseases and increase longevity because air pollutants are responsible for or linked to various respiratory problems. Also, clean and safe water is vital in preventing waterborne diseases; environmental protection measures targeted to prevent water pollution can ensure the safety of clean water supplies for the populace's domestic use. Further, environmental protection efforts will help mitigate climate change issues related to various health challenges, food insecurity, global warming, and flooding in the community. Mental health can be improved by planting trees and securing green space. Above all, eco-friendly environmental practices and sustainability can improve the well-being of all and make the community a better place now and in the future.

LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The respondents were reluctant to complete the questionnaire, stating that the government and wealthy individuals overlook informed decisions that will positively affect their health and lives. They were not willing to participate in the survey. Time was a severe challenge, and combining the data collection with my job took work. Financial constraint was a big challenge as the economy faced hardship, seriously affecting income and expenditure. However, despite these limitations, the study seems promising, possible, and achievable.

RECOMMENDATION

The following recommendations are suggested to improve environmental protection initiatives in the community based on the findings from this study:

- Community mobilisation, involvement, and participation should be encouraged by various community leaders and stakeholders through a broad awareness campaign to sensitise and educate the masses about the importance of environmental protection initiatives and how individuals and the public can impact environmental conservation and sustainability.
- Tree planting should be encouraged at all levels to combat deforestation, which is vital to mitigating climate change's impact and ecosystem balance.
- Environmental education should be continuous using mass media and by physical contact at community level by the Federal Ministry of Environment and non- governmental organisation to increase the knowledge on the impact of Environmental Initiatives.
- The government should enhance and strengthen existing environmental protection laws and regulations. The government task force should ensure compliance and punish offenders who violate the laws.

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