

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION: THE CORNERSTONE FOR THE EFFICIENCY OF INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS FOR HOUSEHOLD SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT IN LOW-INCOME RESIDENTIAL AREAS IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The positive relationship between economy expansion and urban population explosion in Nigeria has generated a corresponding proliferation of household solid waste in low income residential areas of the urban centres of the country. Studies have shown indiscriminate disposal of the household solid waste is rampant in the low-income residential areas and this has been a grave concern of the government at the grassroots. In spite of several institutional frameworks set up by the Local Authorities to attain proper management of the waste, the expectation and the reality are not in tandem and among the most cited reasons is that the management procedures and frameworks are not community-based. Based on the assertions of social innovation theory, this systematic review highlights and emphasizes the significance of community participation, via Community-Based Organizations preferably the Landlords Association, in ensuring the efficiency of the set up institutional frameworks in low-income residential areas, in particular.

Keywords: Institutional Frameworks, Waste Management, Community Participation, Community-Based Organisations.

INTRODUCTION

In the contemporary period, human activities and waste generation are inseparable (Ajani & Fakunle, 2021). Studies around the world have established that generation of household solid waste is global (Abila & Kantola, 2017; Joshi & Ahmed, 2016; Bernstad, Schott, & Canovas, 2015; Dahiya, 2015; Duwal, 2015). With the application of comparative analysis, these studies have indicated that the urban centres of the advanced countries produce more tons of household solid waste than the urban centres of the developing countries. However, the surprise is that studies have

established that the volume of the household solid waste found in the streets of the urban centres of the developing countries is more than that of the advanced countries.

The danger inherent in the deplorable condition of household solid waste in low-income residential areas is one of the factors that prompt government at the grassroots to declare a state of emergency that is aimed mainly at coordinating resources towards effective disaster prevention by creating National Emergency Management Agency in 1999 (Godwin & Paul, 2018). Also, efforts of Nigerian governments at different levels to prevent diseases and enhance public health, via maintenance of environmental sanitation, are evident in different institutional frameworks set up to maintain proper management of the solid waste generated by the households, in particular, in low-income residential areas. However, a number of indigenous studies have established that the expectation and the reality are not in tandem.

The divergence between the expectation and the reality as well as environmental sustainability has further made the environment the prime concern of scholars. Also, in the academic discourse, advocacy of adopting bottom-top approaches to solving various community problems including promoting public health has been a popular and current trend. Moreover, extant sociological studies have affirmed the grand relevance of Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) in boosting development in general at the grassroots level (Waheduzzaman, Assaber, & Hamid 2018; Adegbola, 2011; Islam, 2016; Chowdhury et al., 2020; Olayiwola, 2011). Therefore, this study reviews a number of relevant available previous studies to highlight and emphasize the significance of community participation via CBOs, preferably the Landlords Association, in ensuring the efficiency of the set up institutional frameworks in low-income residential areas, in particular.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The review adopts social innovation theory as the theory advocates adopting a new dimension that encompasses innovations that are not technologically oriented but the innovations that encompass new orientation, in particular, for a group of people (Logue, 2019; Van der Have & Rubalcaba, 2016; Benneworth & Cunha, 2015). This theory suggests that exploring the strength and influence of the existing CBOs in household solid waste management denotes a new dimension in promoting public health in Nigeria. Moreover, replacing old capacities with new ones for action to generate development, in particular at the local level, is among the assertion of the theory. Therefore, the theory solicits the abandonment of the old culture of dependency on only government for proper management of household solid wastes.

Also, as the theory is optimistic about generating positive change and development via the involvement of local associations, social innovation theory prompts this study to assume that the involvement of the CBOs in household solid waste management will generate competence and a positive change in enhancing public health in communities. Social innovation theory drives this study to basically focus on the underlying significance of the dynamic force and active collaborative efforts of members of a CBO as a nonprofit association that could be directed towards promoting proper management of household solid wastes and public, in general, in the study location. Also, according to the theory, the collaborative efforts and integration of the members of a CBO generate results that are laden with social values which further promote the involvement of the whole community in achieving a particular goal. However, advocacy of adopting bottom-top approaches to solving various community problems and the grand relevance of CBOs, as a form of community participation, in management of household solid wastes generated in low-income residential areas of some selected cities in Southwestern Nigeria are the main concern of this study.

DISCUSSION OF RELEVANT STUDIES

A. Overview of institutional frameworks for household solid waste management in Nigeria

Among the reasons often cited for the prevalence of diseases in the world is improper management of household solid waste (Salami et al., 2018). For instance, improper disposal of household solid waste breeds harmful odour, acrid smoke, flies that pathogen carriers, mosquitoes that cause malaria, rats that cause Lassa fever, blockage of drainage resulting in flooding among others. Therefore, international agencies, government and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have directed concerted efforts to prevent diseases and enhance public health through many programmes initiated in different regions of the world. For instance, governments at different levels in Nigeria have established various institutional frameworks for proper management of the solid waste generated by the households in urban centres.

Stanley and Owzor (2018), Rominiyi, Fapetu, Owolabi, and Adaramola (2017) as well as Adekomaya and Ojo (2016) highlighted rules and regulations to discourage indiscriminate disposal of waste in Nigeria. According to these scholars, the State and Local Governments enact and implement laws to reduce indiscriminate disposal of household solid waste. Also, to complement this effort, both the State and Local Governments created specialized agencies to enforce the laws made on proper disposal of solid waste and to sensitize the public on maintenance of environmental sanitation to prevent diseases. Moreover, Salami, et al. (2018) observed that government at the grassroots have embarked on strategic placement of municipal containers, provision of trucks for waste collection, designating legal dumpsite for household solid waste, designating a particular period for environmental sanitation, and strategic placement of notice boards as a warning to curb indiscriminate dumping of house solid wastes.

Also, at the federal level in Nigeria, the government's concern about the deplorable condition of environment has lent credence to the establishment of National Environment Protection Agency with the sole purpose of protecting the environment. Moreover, Nigeria at the federal level has initiated several intervention programmes and found different agencies to maintain and enforce environmental sanitation and balance the ecosystem. For instance, the introduction of the defunct War Against Indiscipline (WAI), the defunct compulsory environmental sanitation practice that took place every last Saturday of the month and the establishment of various Ministries, Agencies and Departments (MDAs) such as the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA), Federal Ministry of Environment (FEM).

At the State level, the State Environment Protection Agencies (SEPAs), State Ministry of Environments (SMEs), State Ministry of Health (SMH) and State Waste Management Authorities/Boards (SWMA/B) were established. For instance, in the Southwestern Nigeria, State governments in the zone have introduced various strategies and initiated diverse programmes to keep their territory, in particular urban centres, clean. For instance, in Oyo State, there exists Oyo State Management Agency, in Ogun State; the government has created Ogun State Environmental Protection Agency, while Lagos State has Lagos State Environmental Sanitation Enforcement Agency. Moreover in Ondo State, Ondo State Environmental Protection Agency is created while O' CLEAN and some groups of Osun Youth Empowerment Scheme are all targeted at ensuring improved and sustainable public health, and maintaining proper disposal of solid waste in particular. Also, at the local level, the Local Government Environmental Health Officers (LGEHO) were all created to implement environmental regulations and enforce stern sanctions on violators of the law and a number of others that are directly or indirectly involved in issues of proper management of waste (Nabegu & Mustapha, 2015). All these efforts and other pro-environmental

programmes are among the institutional frameworks established to manage the waste generated in the country.

Salami, et al. (2018) as well as Ebikapade and Baird (2017), however, asserted that the deficiency of these pro-environmental programmes becomes evident in the current deplorable condition of volume of solid waste generated in low-income residential urban communities of the country region and thereby indicates that the reality and the expected outcome from these services are not in tandem. Aliyu and Amdu (2017) opined that the efficiency of the government at the grassroots in ensuring proper management of municipal solid wastes is marred by limited available resources such a number of available trucks for waste collection and the poor condition of the trucks, poor implementation of household solid waste management schemes, rules and regulations, poor condition of the facilities provided to maintain proper management of the wastes and low level of cooperation from the masses.

On the other hand, studies have provided another vantage point to view the reason for the ineffectiveness of the set-up institutional frameworks (Ajani & Fakunle, 2021). According to these studies, the efficacy of any institutional framework that is established for development at the grassroots level mainly hinges on community participation, via the CBOs as a typical case. In the pre-colonial period, as an integral part community capacity, social and economic lives of people in many communities in Nigeria were sustained through various Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) set up by the people themselves.

Moreover, Draper Hewitt and Rifkin (2010) noted that in many instances, CBOs provide platforms for people at the grassroots to develop concerted efforts and have control over resources, regulative institutions and social situations. Therefore, studies have propounded that CBOs are capable of providing platforms to inspire and persuade to people to support any institutional framework established to promote public health in their communities (ElSaid & Aghezzaf, 2017; Rigasa, Badamasi, Galadimawa, & Abubakar, 2016). In contemporary era, Landlords Association is a typical example of such local organisations. In many communities in present day Nigeria, Landlords Association gives a firm support to policy that promotes development in their local area and has enabled people to expand their capabilities, develop self-help projects and promote popular participation as this association covers residence of people.

B. Community participation and public health

Participation as a concept came to the lime light as a result of rising advocacy for the end of the top-down strategies and to promote bottom-top approaches to development, in favour of greater inclusion of the subjects of the development programmes (Waheduzzaman et al., 2018). These scholars further explained that participation is a social transformation mechanism, where the power of the implementing agency is transformed by civil society. In this way, effective participation is evident when people's empowerment reaches a position that enables cooperative and collective actions to be performed with the implementing agency, resulting in enhanced influence over decision-making, monitoring and evaluation processes. They added that people's participation in development programmes helps to ensure a successful and sustainable development. These assertions indicate that participatory content creation is an important tool for achieving and improving public health and development in general.

McEvoy et al. (2019) and Okinono et al. (2015) emphasized discarding the culture of total reliance on government as a way of defying some challenges in improving public health at the grassroots level. These scholars presented people's participation as the synergic action of individuals to raise awareness and bring about change in the implementation of development

programmes and services at the grassroots level. Sinthumule and Mkumbuzi (2019) also noted that collaborative action helps to form a network among local people and this facilitates the rapid flow of information in particular on achieving high standard level of public health in society.

In the same vein, studies have embarked on working out innovative and experimental approaches for proper management of household solid waste management (ElSaid & Aghezzaf, 2017; Indrianti, 2016; Rigamonti, Sterpi, & Grosso, 2016; Aljaradin, Persson, Sood, 2015; Topic & Biedermann, 2015; Wan, Chen, & Craig, 2015). Earlier, Igoni, Ayotamuno, Ogaji, & Probert (2007) had noted that the challenges posed by household wastes in a number of developing countries are compounded because the management procedures and framework are not community-based. The convergence of the results generated by these studies is that community approach is the most appropriate in particular in developing countries. The reason cited for selecting the community approach is that it is cost effective and encourages community participation in household waste management.

C. Overview of the roles of the CBOs in ensuring the effectiveness of institutional frameworks for household solid waste management

Roles of the CBOs manifest in various forms of their functions and participation in their immediate environment. These functions are all embedded in their physical and social activities, financial capacity and influencing government policies.

Physical and social activities involvement of the CBOs: Studies have advocated the active involvement of the whole community, via their CBOs, for instance the Landlords Association, in any programme targeted at generating positive development in the concerned community (Blandon & Jaramillo, 2020; Sinthumule & Mkumbuzi, 2019). In other words, these CBOs have the capacity to generate and encourage the convergence of the whole community to cooperatively get involved in a particular activity is a source of motivation for people that might not be initially interested in the activity to be involved.

This is a way to support and ensure the success of the institutional frameworks that the government at the grassroots has established for proper management of waste in the community. For instance, in proper management of household solid wastes, the involvement of the whole community, via their CBOs, in environmental sanitation, imbibing hygienic culture and other pro-environmental behaviour encourages each household to be involved in the activities, as any household that refuses to participate is considered emanating disapproved social behaviour and the household is considered a sociopath.

Financial capacity: In community capacity building, the vitality and involvement of community participation tend to appear in form of fundraising to boost the financial capacity of the community to achieve a purpose (Winter & Ujoh, 2020; Amusan et al., 2018; Ayantoyinbo & Adepoju, 2018; Aliyu & Amdu, 2017; Ameen & Mourshed, 2017). In most instances, there is a need for people in the concerned community to pool their resources together to achieve a particular goal that is beneficial to the whole community. The CBOs form one of the major means of achieving this.

In household solid waste management, for instance, the concerted effort of the whole community to maintain hygienic environment also becomes manifest in the whole community, via their CBOs, pooling resources together to purchase a refuse bin for each household that need it and a big dump can and collectively make solid arrangements with the waste collectors to collect the for proper management of the wastes (Ayantoyinbo & Adepoju, 2018). This process is one of the ways for each household to achieve what the household would not otherwise achieve.

Influencing government policies: Community participation also emanates via public opinion and the pressure group that people form (Brunton et al., 2017). Via the opinion of people in a particular community, the government at the grassroots becomes aware of the needs of the people of the concerned community. The involvement of the whole community in a series of actions aimed at influencing the government policies provides a platform for the people, in particular the minorities that otherwise would be left out. The CBOs serve as a veritable springboard to form the platform, in particular, for the minorities.

Moreover, CBOs enhances community participation, as a platform for community members to articulate their various opinions and this further helps to provide direction for public policy and to guide government in policies formulation and implementation. The CBOs further make community participation politically significant when government decisions and actions are guided by the decisions of the whole community presented via their CBOs (Maiyaki, Marzuki, & Ahmed, 2019). In the same vein, in proper management of household solid wastes, CBOs enhance the involvement of the whole community to form a platform for the people of the concerned community to present their needs and seek help from the government at the grassroots to maintain hygienic environment.

CONCLUSION AND REVIEW IMPLICATION AND PROSPECTS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

This review aligns with other previous studies that have emphasized the significance of local associations that people at the grassroots form in ensuring the success of the institutional frameworks for proper management of household solid waste, which governments at various levels in Nigeria have set up. Therefore, this systematic review advocates conducting a number of experimental studies to empirically corroborate this assertion, and devise ways to improve the involvement of the CBOs in proper management of household solid waste. This is also another means of sustaining hygienic environment and promoting public health in general in low-income residential areas.

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