

Effect of Small Scale Enterprises (SSEs) on Environmental Quality in Mubi Metropolis, Adamawa State-Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

The result of small scale enterprises on the environment leaves the ecosystem worse-off comparatively. Most of such activities come through the release of waste as well as extraction of forest resources. Environmental degradation has been and continues to be a major factor causing damage to the environment, affecting the land, water, vegetation and all other features that constitute the natural environment. The objective of this study is to assess the impact of Small Scale Enterprise (SSEs) on environmental quality in Mubi Metropolis. Survey method of research was adopted for the study. The data for the study was obtained using a structured questionnaire administered on a sample of fifty (50) workers of Small Scale Enterprises in Mubi Metropolis. The data was subjected to percentage (%) analysis. The result signifies that the Small Scale Enterprises' operators in Mubi are not aware of environmental laws and policies; majority of those who claimed to be aware of such laws and policies do not comply with them. They are more concerned with profit maximization than environmental protection. Therefore, based on the findings, the study recommends that environmental impacts assessment should be made compulsory for enterprises whose operations have negative environmental impacts. In addition, training programs such as lectures and seminar on environmental management should be organized for the owners and employees of such enterprises.

Keywords: Small scale Enterprises, Environmental Quality, Environmental Degradation, Environmental Health.

INTRODUCTION

The curiosity in Small Scale Enterprises (SSEs) in Nigeria arises from recognition that Small Scale Enterprises occupy a central place in economic development. This is because they tend to solve the problems of slow growth, unemployment, underemployment, and poverty. Thus, they exert considerable influence on development (Okongwu, 1986; Wiklund, 1998; Okafor, 2000; Aderibigbe, 2001; Ajayi, 2003; Adrangi, Allender, & Anderson, 2003). The Small and Medium Scale Enterprises in turn utilise the available opportunities in the society or their environmental area, to create or develop new products or services, thus adding value to humanity while equally maximising benefits or profits.

The impact of the activities of the Small Scale Enterprises (SSEs) on the socio-economic life of Nigeria is quite understandable. In Nigeria, the Small and Medium Scale Enterprises sub-sector has been expanding, especially since the mid-1980s, following the prolonged recession in the economy which forced many large enterprises to

lay off large proportion of their work-force (Iyang & Enuoh, 2009). The sector accounts for 70 % of industrial employment (World Bank, 1995). Also the agricultural sector, which largely consists of Small Scale Enterprises, employs over 60 % of the nation work-force (Salami, 2003). Small Scale Enterprises cover wide range of business activities some of which have environmental impacts.

Regardless of the contributions of Small Scale Enterprises in the environment, the environment suffers from their activities day by day. These attacks, more often than not, leave the lands, waters, air, vegetation and all other features that constitute the natural environment with damage done to them. This damage reduces the productivity of the environment and even reduces, if not completely extinguishes, the pleasure we can derive from it (Kasum, 2010). Hence, environment needs to be effectively managed in order to be conducive for human habitation and business productivity. Thus, there is need to plan, organise, supervise, monitor and

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control the environment to suit desired purpose-residential or/and business outfits.

The environment has become one of the most significant issues of present situation. The challenge is to find approaches to environmental management that will give people the quality of life they seek while protecting the environmental systems that are also the foundations of our well being. Environmental management is one of the neglected areas of management in many parts of the world, Nigeria inclusive (Okotoni, 2004). The State Environmental Protection Agencies (SEPAAs) are charged with the responsibility of protection of environment in various States. But in Adamawa State it is inadequate.

Therefore, there are no understandable formulated policies in the State aimed at coordinating and monitoring the relationship between environmental management and Micro, Small and Medium Scale Enterprises especially the informal sectors operations. This is in spite of the efforts of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (FEPA). Presently, the environmental protection legislation in the State is poorly enforced. There are no incentives for the adoption of pollution abatement measures and very few disincentives for polluting the environment. Wastes are disposed indiscriminately, and environment is degraded illegally especially for small scale.

Consequently, little consideration has been given to the effect of the activities of confectioneries on the environment including the health of the people engaged in such activities and those living around places where such activities are carried out. The augment in number of small scale enterprises brings into question the extent to which such enterprises take into cognisance the environmental impacts of their activities. Also it is not clear if small scale enterprises are aware of the pollutions they are releasing into the environment. The Small Scale Enterprises are among those businesses that have negative environmental impacts. Such impact may include pollutions and deforestation which leads to degradation especially due to the source of raw materials (fire wood) and their location very close to residential buildings respectively.

Members of the public are complaining of pollutions, and they are not aware of where to forward the environmental problems due to inadequate environmental policies and laws guiding the activities of Small Scale Enterprises in the State. Therefore, the objective of this

study is to assess the effect of small scale enterprise on environmental quality with specific reference to Mubi metropolis.

CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Concept of Environment

The idea of environment has been examined from various point of views and defined in various ways. The variety of definitions and conceptions of environment is closely linked to the fact that the study of environment is multidisciplinary, and thus each discipline tended to develop and adopt definition(s) in line with its interest. This multiplicity of definitions, concepts and usage of the term in various disciplines was clearly captured by Porteous, (1977) in Daramola and Ibem, (2010) when he Stated that: "the multiplicity of the usage and concept of the term environment have resulted in a variety of adjectival forms which include social environment, molar environment, physical environment, home environment, psychological environment, behavioural environment and geographical environment". The World Bank (1980) defines environment as "the natural and social conditions surrounding all mankind, and including future generations".

It was alleged by Robbin and Coulter, (2000) as institutions or forces that are outside the organisation and potentially affect the organisation performance. Small and Medium Scale Enterprises can be seen as a system. This is because it is made up of interdependent factors including individuals, groups, attitudes, motives, formal structures, interactions, goals, status authority (Kenyon, 1993 cited in Itodo, 2009). In view of this, the Small Scale Enterprises' is an open social system that made up of internal and external environments. These reveal that in a classified system; the manager is truly accountable for coordinating the system in order to realise the organisational goals and objectives. From the above definitions therefore, it is logical to view environment as all physical, non physical, external, living and non living situations surrounding an organization that determine the existence, development and survival of a business organizations and the nation at a particular time.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND HEALTH DEGRADATION,

Environmental degradation is the deterioration of the environment through depletion of

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resources such as air, water, and soil, the destruction of ecosystems and the extinction of wildlife. It is defined as any change or disturbance to the environment perceived to be deleterious or undesirable (Johnson, *et al*, 2009). When the environment becomes less valuable or injured, environmental degradation is said to occur. There are many forms of environmental degradation. When habitats are destroyed, biodiversity is lost, or natural resources are depleted, the environment is hurt (Etuonovbe, 2009). Environmental degradation can occur naturally, or through human processes. The largest areas of concern at present are the loss of rain forest, air pollution and smoke.

Developing countries need to develop their resources through industrialisation so as to improve the quality of her people. Interestingly, industrialisation leads to degradation of environment'. The reduction in value and quality of the environment which is referred to as degradation could be caused by "movement of waste, ozone layer depletion, endangered species and land use planning, management and control" (Owolabi, 2000).

Environmental degradation is posing serious threats to health in both the urban and rural areas of Nigeria. It is observed that waste disposal, mining activities, and cutting down of trees had caused hazardous deformation in different parts of the country. The problem is what it leaves behind of the environment. Ward, (2008) argue that development that meets the need of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs, is what could be referred to as sustainable. She further stated that it is the development that takes the impact on the environment into account and tries to minimise environmental damage, which is real development.

Environmental protection definition includes all available practices used to protect the environment, whether on individual, organizational or global (international) level. Environmental protection is a practice of protecting the environment, on individual, organizational or governmental level, for the benefit of the natural environment and (or) humans. It can also be defined as the measures taken by an enterprise whose primary aim is to collect, process, reduce prevent eliminate the emissions, waste or other environmental hazards caused by its activity (OSF, 2011).

Therefore, from several definitions given above, it logical to conclude that environmental protection is an action designed to look after the environment and protecting it from damage caused by human or industrial activities. Due to the pressures of population and the technology the biophysical environment is being degraded, sometimes permanently. This has been recognized and governments began placing restraints on activities that caused environmental degradation.

The general opinion is that the environment is in the constant State of degradation due to so many different environmental problems (climate change, all forms of pollution, deforestation, and biodiversity loss). The scientists have been issuing warnings about the negative State of the environment for quite some time but unfortunately world leaders do not listen to science and global action to protect the environment from further degradation still looks like mission impossible. This was best demonstrated in talks about the new climate change deal where world leaders once again failed to find the mutual language being divided by different individual interests. Human population is constantly growing, and world still fails to find the right balance between the increase in human population and environmental needs. More people on this planet means more environmental problems quite simply because the society doesn't have the ecological conscience. In the world where everything is about the money it is impossible to develop global ecological conscience, and install it into the society.

Some environmentalists even say that the environmental protection has become a lost cause because environmental problems keep on growing at rapid pace, giving us a zero chance to do something about it. Calling environmental protection a lost cause is going too far because as long there is at least one healthy environment left in the world, environmental protection has its purpose, and is not completely useless as some may think it is. Without the environmental protection the environment would look much worse than it looks today, and we certainly must look for more ways to protect the environment. Because of their impact on the environment, businesses have an obligation to try to mitigate the effects of their activities in an effort to protect the land and water resources. Many businesses act voluntarily to reduce their environmental impact. Businesses that use or

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produce hazardous waste are mandated by law to regulate their businesses. In any case, reducing their environmental impact is a sensible approach to business that can have many benefits. Such benefits according to Rogers, (2009) include:

1. Businesses benefit by protecting the environment through cost savings. An efficiently run business that generates minimal waste saves money.
2. A business that is conscious of its role in the environment creates environmental awareness in its employees, providing additional benefits.
3. Businesses which follow green practices portray a good message to consumers who may be more likely to support a business that considers its role in the environment.

Environmental health is a branch of public health concerned with all aspects of the natural and built environment that may affect human health. Other phrases that concern or refer to the discipline of environmental health include environmental public health and environmental health and protection. The field of environmental health differs from environmental science in that environmental health is concerned with environmental factors affecting human health whereas environmental science is concerned with the environment as it affects ecosystems. "Environmental health addresses all the physical, chemical, and biological factors external to a person, and all the related factors impacting behaviours. It encompasses the assessment and control of those environmental factors that can potentially affect health. It is targeted towards preventing disease and creating health-supportive environments. This definition excludes behaviour not related to environment, as well as behaviour related to the social and cultural environment, and genetics (World Health Organization, 2007)"

Environmental health is defined by the WHO (2007) as "those aspects of the human health and disease that are determined by factors in the environment". It also refers to the theory and practice of assessing and controlling factors in the environment that can potentially affect health. Environmental health as used by the WHO Regional Office for Europe, includes both the direct pathological effects of chemicals, radiation and some biological agents, and the effects (often indirect) on health and well being

of the broad physical, psychological, social and cultural environment, which includes housing, urban development, land use and transport.

Environmental health services are defined by the World Health Organization as: those services which implement environmental health policies through monitoring and control activities. They also carry out that role by promoting the improvement of environmental parameters and by encouraging the use of environmentally friendly and healthy technologies and behaviours. They also have a leading role in developing and suggesting new policy areas.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

It could be deduced from Middleton, (1995) submission which particularly refers to uniting, that there could only be theoretical justification for the removal of resources from environment in the comparative benefit of the removed resources and in the ability to ensure that the environment is generally not worse off. The benefit from mining, he said, must be worth the impact of mining on the environment and damages done to the environment if the environment could be restored. With particular respect to corporation activities, social contract theory and quality of life theory from the work of (Ramanathan, 1976), explained the relationships. Social contract theories view the company as an integral part of the society that the society supports and is expected to follow the law of that society. In line with this, it is expected that they contribute to the society proportionately enough to what the society has given to them. Quality of life theory is about the expectation of society. 'Unrestrained economic development...evident from environmental pollution and social ills triggered society's negative attitude towards industrialisation'. Industrialisation tends to be associated with environmental pollution and social ills and therefore seen to reduce quality of life and increase social costs. The extent to which an organisation balances back the quality of life of people in the environment where it operates is a good yard stick for measurement here.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The adopt survey method of research. The population of the study were carved from the small scale enterprise out of Small scale enterprises in Mubi metropolis, Adamawa State. The survey utilise both primary and secondary sources of data. The instrument for data

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collection of this research is the structured questionnaire for small scale enterprises enterprises and Environmental Quality (SSEEQ) designed by the researcher. Fifty questionnaires was administered to small scale enterprises using convenience sampling techniques. It is an established fact that, the collected data will be

immaterial if they are not properly organised and analysed using adequate statistical instruments. For the sake of this study, Data collected are analysed, summarised, and interpreted accordingly with the aid of descriptive statistical techniques such as frequency distribution and percentage analysis.

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

Table 1: Personal Details of Respondents

| Details | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Sex: | | |
| Male | 46 | 92 |
| Female | 4 | 8 |
| Age: | | |
| Under 15 years | 0 | 0 |
| 16-25 years | 13 | 26 |
| 26-35 years | 18 | 36 |
| 36-45 years | 11 | 22 |
| 46-years above | 8 | 16 |
| Educational qualification: | | |
| Primary certificate | 1 | 2 |
| SSCE/WASSCE | 23 | 46 |
| ND/NCE | 21 | 42 |
| HND/Degree | 5 | 10 |

Source: Field Survey, 2018

In the case of Small Scale Enterprises business, the personal details of the respondents covered sex, age, educational qualifications and marital status. The data in table 1 above reveals that males consist of 92% and females 8%. It also shows in the table that majority of the respondent are between the ages of 26-35 years old (36%), 26% are between 16-25 years, 22% are between 36-45 years and 16% are 46 years and above. In the area of qualifications the majority (46%) of the respondents are SSCE holders. The implication of this is that most of the respondents are males, falls within the youthful age and has little knowledge.

Table2. Types of Small Scale Enterprises business in Adamawa State

| Response options | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Conventional Small Scale Enterprises | 46 | 92 |
| Modern Small Scale Enterprises | 4 | 8 |
| Total | 50 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Table 2 indicates that 92% of the respondents operate conventional Small Scale Enterprises, while 8% operate the modern form of baking. This implies that majority of the bakeries in Adamawa State are conventional Small Scale

Enterprises. This makes contribute to environmental degradation as they firewood in the process of their business activities.

Table3. Sources of power available to Small Scale Enterprises operators

| Response options | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|-------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Generator | 2 | 4 |
| Electricity | 1 | 2 |
| All of the above | 47 | 94 |

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Table 3 indicates that 94% of the respondents use both generator and electricity. 4% of them depend on generator and only 2% rely on electricity.

Table4. Nature of generator used by Small Scale Enterprises businesses

| Response options | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|-------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Leister generator | 43 | 86 |
| Sound generator | 7 | 14 |
| Total | 50 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Table 4 indicates that 86% of the respondents employed the use of leister generator and 14% make use of sound generator. This implies that majority of the respondent utilize leister generator which can result to environmental

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degradation through uncoordinated sound (noise) and smoke pollution.

Table5. Disposing of waste products by Small Scale Enterprises operators

| Response option | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|---------------------|-----------|----------------|
| On the land surface | 31 | 62 |
| Inside the pit | 13 | 26 |
| In the stream | 6 | 12 |
| Total | 50 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Table 5 indicates that 62% of the respondents dispose their waste products on the land surface openly, while 26% dispose inside the pit and 12% dispose their own in the stream. This implies Small Scale Enterprises operators cause environmental degradation as a result of wrongful disposal of their waste products on the land surface.

Table6. Waste products in Small Scale Enterprises businesses of Adamawa State

| Response option | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Charcoal | 3 | 6 |
| Ashes | 1 | 2 |
| Dead engine oil | 4 | 8 |
| All of the above | 43 | 84 |
| Total | 50 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Table 6 indicates that 84% of the respondents have charcoal, ashes, and dead engine oil as their waste products. These waste products contributed to environmental degradation as Small Scale Enterprises operators formed a habit of unnecessary disposing of them.

Table7. Awareness of environmental law and policies that control SSEs operations

| Response option | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|-----------------|-----------|----------------|
| Yes | 2 | 4 |
| No | 48 | 96 |
| Total | 50 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Table 7 indicates that majority of the respondents (96%) are not aware of environmental laws and policies regulating their business operations. Further investigation revealed that those who claimed to be aware of the laws and policies were not really aware of such policies since they fail to explain some of the provision of the law. Also the environmental sanitation is not regarded as a policy that ensure effective environmental product in the Small Scale Enterprises business in Mubi

Table8. Degree of compliance with environmental laws and policies

| Response options | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Yes | 6 | 1 |
| No | 44 | 88 |
| Total | 50 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey 2018

Table 8 indicates that 88% Of the respondents do not view compliance with environmental laws and policies as necessary. This is because majority of the respondents are not aware of the environmental laws and policies. Even those who claimed to be aware of the policies fail to comply with them.

Table9. Influence of the economic motive of the SSEs on environmental protection

| Response options | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Yes | 5 | 10 |
| No | 45 | 90 |
| Total | 50 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Table 9 indicates that 90% of the respondents agreed that the economic motive of profit maximization could affect their compliance with environmental laws and policies. This means, the desires to maximize profit could make them to violate environmental laws and policies.

Table10. Attitudes of SSEs operators toward environmental impact analysis

| Response option | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|-----------------|-----------|----------------|
| Yes | 3 | 6 |
| No | 47 | 94 |
| Total | 50 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Table 10 indicates that 94% of the respondents never carried out environmental impact analysis of the activities of their business. This implies that they are not concerned with the effects of their operation on the environment. The 6% respondents that claimed to have conducted environmental impact analysis seems to be given a socially acceptable answer since they still engage in operations that negate the essence of the environmental impact assessment.

Table11. Response of SSEs operators towards environmental protection

| Response option | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|-----------------|-----------|----------------|
| Positive | 33 | 66 |
| Negative | 9 | 18 |
| Indifference | 8 | 16 |
| Total | 50 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2018

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Table 11 indicates that 66% of the respondents put more interest toward protecting of environment, while 18% of them has negative attitude towards environmental protection and 16% are indifferent. This implies Small Scale Enterprises operators are interested in environmental protection in Mubi.

Table12. *Types of bags used by Small Scale Enterprises business*

| Response option | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Poly bags | 46 | 92 |
| Paper bags | 4 | 8 |
| Total | 50 | 100 |

Source: Filed Survey, 2018

Table 12 indicates that 92% of the respondents employed poly bags compare to papers which is 8%. This implies the Small Scale Enterprises businesses in Mubi are contributing to environmental degradation as they are not using environmental friendly bags.

Table13. *Efforts of SSEs operators in reducing environmental degradation in Mubi*

| Response option | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Yes | 6 | 12 |
| No | 44 | 88 |
| Total | 50 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Table 13 indicates that 88% of the respondents indicate that nothing have been done to minimize environmental degradation in Small Scale Enterprises businesses. This implies that even sanitation has no be done in the business.

CONCLUSION

It is becoming increasingly evident to government and policy makers that the role of Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SMEs) is very significant to the development and growth of Adamawa State. Small and medium scale enterprises (SMEs) play a marvellous role in their day-to-day operations. They provide employment opportunities, generate revenue for the government, alleviate poverty, ensure efficient utilization of local resources, mobilisation of domestic saving and investment, and many more.

Regardless of all the contributions of SMEs in the environment, the environment suffers from their activities on a daily basis. Though the businesses considered in this study do have both positive and negative impacts on the environment. The positive impacts are more in

the nature of social services to their host communities and job opportunities for the country. However, of greater importance to this study are the negative impacts of the selected businesses on land and human beings. Environmental pollution of environmental elements resulting from unrestrained activities of the Small Scale Enterprises businesses has impacted negatively on environment of Adamawa State that also results into environmental degradation.

In spite of the vital role small and medium scale enterprises play in economic growth and development, efforts should be made to guarantee that their activities do not risk our environment. This can be ensured if suitable actions are taken to guarantee strict conformity with environmental laws and policies. Environmental impact assessment should be made obligatory for SMEs whose activities have pessimistic environmental impacts.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to protect the environment from the adverse effects of Small Scale Enterprises businesses, a number of mitigation measures and management options that should be implemented are hereby recommended:

1. The utilization of the best available technology; payment of optimal liability compensation to local communities and institutionalization of adequate abatement measures be adopted.
2. The manufacturing processes should be designed to maximize recycling potential and minimize the generation of wastes. For example, new low and non-waste technologies which can reduce environmental impacts should be adopted.
3. Environmental impact assessment should be made necessary for businesses whose activities have negative environmental impact.
4. Training programs on environmental management should be organized for operators and owners of Small Scale Enterprises business in the State for example seminar on environment management.
5. Micro finance institutions should encourage environmental protection by requesting their clients who want financial assistance to describe the general environmental effects of the businesses and strategies to minimize such effects.

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6. To this end, environmental education such as public enlightenment campaigns in the mass and print media, churches, mosques, and community-based organizations is exceedingly necessary.

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