

Demographic Variables and Commitment to Environmental Management among Residents of Ogoja Education Zone of Cross River State, Nigeria

Dr. Michael Obun Etan

Department of Environment Education
Faculty of Science Education
University of Calabar

Abstract

This study examines demographic variable and commitment to environmental management among residents of Ogoja Education zone of Cross River State, Nigeria. to achieve this study two research questions were posed and two null hypotheses were formulated to guide the study and was tested at .05 level of significance. The population of the study is 1,163,721 residents. A sample of 580 were adopted using stratified random sampling techniques. The instrument for data collection was structured questionnaire with 10 items. A four-point modified Likert scale was used to gather responses, and one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) were applied to analyze data. The result indicates that resident educational attainment, income status has a significantly influence commitment to environmental management in the study area. It was recommended among others that residents should be included in any environmental management programme which would be designed to improved commitment to environmental management in spite of the educational attainment.

Key words: Demographic Variables, Commitment, Environmental Management

Introduction

Human beings and other living creature interact in a common environment. Human environment in all ramification is evolving. However, dwindling productivity, pollution, high population growth rate and other environmental ills caused by man's activities have made environmental knowledge and skill imperative as well as question man's commitment to the task of effective management of the environment. This therefore call for the need to handle causes of environmental degradation of all sorts whether in the urban or rural setting.

Irrespective of an individual's point of view, humans have always had the desire to live comfortably in any environment they find himself. This desire for comfort and other basic needs are responsible for man's exploration and exploitation of the environment. The result of man's activities are most time not friendly towards animals, plants and to himself. This make man to constantly live in want and reduce him to explore and exploits his environment

thereby creating risk of greater magnitude such as plant and animal. Species extinction, environmental degradation and the effect on human health.

Environmental issues have occupied central attention in politics, economic, military and scientific discourse (Oko, 2007). This trend is not unconnected with the environmental problems of various dimensions and magnitude witnessed across the length and breadth of the earth. Traversing the various of the earth, the coastal and internal waters as well as the different climes, the cities and the country side, environmental problems due to human activities have assume an intimidating dimension in contemporary times (Mbu, 2006).

The need to preserve the environment from harmful change and permanent deterioration is quickly becoming one of the century's most pressing development issues (Anija-Obi, 2001). Consequently, this has called the attention of every individual to be properly educated on the need to develop and involved themselves to the wise use of environment resources. This can reduce the problem of waste generation, management, misuse of resource and poor timing in the management of environmental resources.

Petters (2007) cites Ozone depletion, global warming, acid rain, chemical contamination of ground water, tropical deforestation, more large and lethal chemicals, oil and hazardous spills, and uncontrolled human activities such as indiscriminate trash disposal as major environmental threats. Some, if not all of these problems have been linked to development or technical advancement (Anija-Obi, 2001). This mean that increasing development is associated with declining environmental quality.

Educational attainment refers to the highest level of education an individual successfully completed. This can include formal education with associated degree. It serves as a quantitative indicator of educational progression and is typically represented by diplomas, degrees, or certification earned (UNESCO, 2023). This is typically measured by tracking the percentages of adults (age 25 years and older) who have completed in various levels of education as defined in the international standard classification of education (ISCED). Educational attainment plays a significant role in environmental management, as it can influence an individual understanding of and commitment to environmental issues.

Education helps individuals understand the importance of environmental conservation and the impact of human activities on the environment. Sustainable practices programs are facilitated through educational programmes which provide individuals with the skills to implement environmentally friendly solution. Etan el at (2025) management commitment, is

strong leadership commitment which is importance to effective environmental health and safety programs. This involvement direct petrification from various level of environmental management.

Income status: refers to the money received by the residents over a certain period from government or its agencies especially as payment for work or as interest on investment, or as fund to people with low earnings. It also refers to the monetary accumulation of or by an individual. Flores (2001) income is generally seen as a difficult variable to measure especially among individuals who do not keep records. The author maintains that individuals differ in their income level depending on the type of crops planted, farm size, type of farming or work done and the amount of commitment to the farm or job. From every indication, it is obvious, that can individual's level of income influences his standard of living and general attitude to life issues as a whole. This study want to find out whether this can be attributed to lack of awareness or education of the populace or due to the background that the inhabitants of a given locality find themselves. Put differently, this study wants to find out whether the problem is traceable to insufficient education of the rural and urban populace or whether it has a situational foundation where it is tied to income level of the masses. It is on this backdrop, this study seek to examine demographic variable such as educational attainment and income status influence commitment to environmental management among residents of Ogoja education zone of Cross River State.

Methodology

The design employed in this study is ex-post facto research design. The designed considered appropriate because their manifestations have already occurred or because they are inherently not able to be manipulated. Isangedighi, Joshua, Asim and Ekuri (2004) added that in addition to the attributes outlined by Kerlinger, in ex-post facto research, inferences about relationship among variable are made, without direct intervention from concomitant variable of independent and dependent variables.

The study is conducted in Ogoja Education zone of Cross River State, Nigeria which is a coastal state located in the south-south geopolitical zone of the country. The study population consist of 1,163,721 residents of the zone and a sample of 580 were adopted using stratified random sampling techniques.

Two research question was raised to guide the study:

- i. How do residents with different level of education attainment influence the commitment to environmental management?

ii. To what extent does income status of residents of Ogoja education zone influence their commitment to environmental management

Two statement of hypotheses were formulated to guide this study:

i. There is no significant influence of income status on commitment to environmental management.

ii. There is no significant influence of income status on commitment to environmental management.

The questionnaire was the instrument used for data collection for the study. The researcher first introduced themselves to the respondents and informed them of the exercise and the essence of giving objective responses to the items.

The respondent were advise to be honest in their responses to the items as the information obtained with be treated with amount of confidentially in analyzing the data. Hypotheses were tested by the statistical tool employed. Data was analyzed using one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA). There is significant influence of educational attainment, income status on commitment to environmental management.

Instrument

Data was collected using a structured questionnaire, titled Demographic Variable and Commitment to Environmental Management Questionnaire (DVCEMQ).

Results

The results of the study are presented hypothesis by hypothesis. Each hypothesis was tested at 0.05 level of significance.

HO₁

How do residents with different level of education attainment influence the commitment to environmental management?

Table 1: One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) of the influence of educational attainment on commitment to environmental management

Educational attainment	N	Mean	SD
Non formal education	113	56.13	9.82
FSLC/SSCE	178	60.25	8.34
First degree	263	60.32	8.81
Total	554	58.09	8.99

Source of variance	Sum of squares	Df	Mean square	f-ratio	p-level
Between groups	1555.213	2	777.607	9.853	.000
Within groups	43483.439	551	78.917		
Total	45038.652	553			

*Significant at .05 alpha level; $p < .05$.

The result in this table above show that the calculated f-value of 9.853 was significant at p-value of .000 with 2 and 553 degree of freedom at .05 level of significance with this result, the null hypothesis was rejected. This result therefore implies that there is a significant influence of educational attainment on commitment to environmental management. This study is in line with study of Sampson (2018) examine level of educational attainment associated with commitment to environmental management in Plateau State of Nigeria.

HO₂

To what extent does income status of residents of Ogoja education zone influence their commitment to environmental management

Table 2: One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) of the influence of income status on commitment to environmental management

Income status	N	Mean	SD
1,000 – 18,000	259	56.51	9.62
19,000 – 45,000	152	61.36	8.29
46,000 and above	143	62.69	6.75
Total	554	60.19	8.22

Source of variance	Sum of squares	Df	Mean square	f-ratio	p-level
Between groups	4319.350	2	2159.675	29.224	.000
Within groups	40719.302	551	73.901		
Total	45038.652	553			

*Significant at .05 alpha level; $p < .05$.

The result in the table above show that the calculated f-value of 29.224 was significant at p-value of .000 with 2 and 553 degrees of freedom at .05 level of significance. With this result, the null hypothesis was rejected. This result therefore implies that there is a significant influence of income status on commitment to environmental management. This study is in line with the study of Umoh (2006) carried out in Akwa Ibom State to investigate the dimension of poverty that the individual in the state are faced and how it affects the practices of family household. The study is also in line with Greenwell (2001) submits that there is a significant influence of individual level of income on life issues generally.

Discussion of findings

The discussion of the study is presented, hypothesis by hypothesis. The finding from the first hypothesis revealed that there is a significant influence of educational attainment on commitment to environmental management. This result is in tandem with Aina (2011) that inhabitant who have attained up to the tertiary level of education are more aware of their interrelationship with the environment than those who are illiterates. The study also support Iyam (2017) that a person who has gone to school understand easily what is taught in school and beyond-either in a formal school setting or through the mass media, newspaper, radio and television. It is also easier for the literate than the illiterate person to exhibit changes in attitude toward the environment and its resources.

The finding agrees also with Akomaye (2008) that education eradicates illiteracy; and that when society is full of educated masses, environmental sustainable will tend to be enhanced, natural resources will be on the path towards sustainable management and poverty will tend to be reduced to a manageable standard.

Conclusion

This study aimed at examining demographic variable and commitment to environmental management among residents of Ogoja Education zone of Cross River State, Nigeria.

The finding from the study showed that residents educational attainment, income status have a significant influence on commitment to environmental management.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study; the following recommendations are considered.

- i. Residents should be considered or included in any environmental management programme which would be designed to improve commitment to environmental management in spite of the educational attainment.

ii. Residents of Ogoja Education zone should be sensitized through programmes which would be designed to improved their environmental commitment.

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