

# Assessment of the Level of Awareness of E-Waste Management and Concern for the Environment amongst the Populace in Onitsha, Southeastern Nigeria

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## ABSTRACT

**This study was carried out to ascertain the peoples' level of awareness of the regulation, their mode of disposal of the e-wastes and their awareness of the dangers inherent in improper handling and disposal of wastes. Data for this study were collected through the distribution of 247 well-structured questionnaires. Likert Scale was adopted for the analysis of the respondents. The results revealed that awareness is critically low. Though the respondents have concern for their environment in various degrees, majority dispose their e-waste alongside municipal wastes without knowing the implications. Awareness strategy was designed for sensitization campaign.**

## KEYWORDS

**Awareness; Disposal; E-Waste; Strategy; Campaign**

## 1. Introduction

The present level of development globally cannot be sustained without steady advances in information and communication technology (ICT). The increasing demand for consumer electronics and electric products combined with the accelerated pace at which technology is evolving has inevitably resulted in an increase amount of obsolete, discarded, broken or abandoned products that must be treated by the society [1]. Currently, waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) or electronic waste (e-waste) generation, trans-boundary movement and disposal are becoming issues of concern to the solid waste management professionals, environmental experts, international agencies and governments around the world [2,3].

Consumer electronics are the fastest growing sector of municipal solid waste (MSW) in both developed and developing countries and arguably one of the most toxic [4]. For instance, it has been estimated that 500 million PCs worldwide reached the end of their life in the decade

between 1994 and 2003 [5,6]. All these wastes contain valuable materials as well as large quantities of potentially hazardous materials.

Trans-boundry movement of e-waste from developed countries and rapidly rising sales of electronic goods have led to astronomical increase of hazardous electronic wastes in developing countries. Presently, large quantities of e-wastes which are largely and illegally imported are being managed in Nigeria using various inappropriate routes that create the possibility for environmental pollution (e.g. disposal with municipal solid waste and open burning) [7]. An estimated 400,000 units of secondhand desktop computers (PCs or monitors) are imported into Nigeria every month [8,9]. A large proportion of the imported used electronic are non-functional and are never reused but rather disposed of with municipal solid waste into open dumps which are most often set on fire. Various studies have assessed the public's perception of the local environmental quality, environmental awareness, and environmental performance and their willingness to pay extra for efforts aimed at improving environmental quality [7]. Considering the global increase in awareness

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of the problems of electronic waste management, studies have been focusing on the willingness of residents to purchase environmental friendly “green” products and to participate in e-waste recycling [10-12].

Onitsha, in Anambra State houses one of the biggest markets in West Africa. Several containers of electronic goods including those that are brand new and fairly used come into the commercial city on daily basis. Due to the current urbanization trend, traders from various countries, states and tribes live in the city or visit the town steadily. This has increased exponentially the amount of e-waste generated. The informal waste collectors (scavengers) are mainly the set of people that sort and collect these e-wastes from waste bins and dumps in the city. The scavengers, technicians and repairers process these e-wastes in unsound environmental manner even without their personal protective equipment. All these contravene the provisions of the “National Environmental (Electrical/Electronic Sector), 2011”; the enforcement/implementation of which is yet below sea level. Hence, there is an urgent need to ascertain the peoples’ level of awareness of the provisions of the regulation, whether they adhere to it or have concern for their immediate environment. The study equally seeks to find out people’s mode of disposal of the e-wastes and their awareness of the dangers inherent in improper handling and disposal of wastes. This will not only inform the government on the extent of awareness creation needed but will also make plans to embark on an e-waste recycling program that at least provides deposit centers for the people .

## 2. Methodology

### 2.1. Questionnaire Distribution

Data for this study were collected through the distribution of 176 well structured questionnaires distributed among different respondents ranging from importers (11), scavengers (55) and householders (110). Onitsha was selected because it houses one of the biggest markets in West Africa where both new and “fairly” used electronics are imported in the largest quantity in southeastern Nigeria.

The survey instrument focused on the various respondents’ level of awareness of government regulation and their adherence to it on e-waste management as well as their concern about the environment. It also investigated the respective respondents’ mode of disposal of e-waste as well as their awareness of the harmful nature of the waste. The questionnaires were distributed by hand which created room for one on one interaction with the respondents.

### 2.2. Statistical Analysis

Statistical approach adopted for the analysis of the res-

pondents was Likert Scale Analysis in which responses were coded using figures to quantify the responses. Means of coding values were used as critical region and mean responses were compared with the critical region to determine the hypothesis to accept.

Also, charts were used for better understanding of available data, as well as, the demographic information of respondents.

### 2.3. Data Analysis

**Table 1** shows demographic information of respondents. The factors are grouped as shown in the questionnaire with sex, age, marital status and educational qualification as factors to be considered. 72.7% of the respondents are male and 27.3% are female, this implies most of the respondents are male as shown in **Figure 1**. Also, most of the respondents are within age bracket of 40 to 49 which implies they are mature to answer questions in the questionnaire with little or no error as shown in **Figure 2**. 72.7% of the respondents are married, although single, widowed and divorced were considered as well as shown in **Figure 3**. In terms of educational qualification, most of the respondents possess senior secondary school certificate as shown in **Figure 4**.

Section 2

**Table 2** and **Figure 5** show the years of involvement of respondents in importation and the percentage in column three of **Table 2** shows most of the respondents have 6 to 15 years of experience. This implies they have adequate knowledge to answer the research questions.

A) Testing level of awareness among *importers* of electronics/electrical appliances

### 2.4. Hypothesis to be Tested

1)  $H_0$ : Awareness of government regulation of E-waste management is low.

$H_1$ : Awareness of government regulation of E-waste management is high.

Statistical tool; Likert Analysis

Coding; yes = 2 and no = 1 (for the coding method, two was assigned to Yes while 1 to No)

Critical region = 1.5. Accept the null hypothesis if the mean response is less than 1.5 and reject if it is more than 1.5

$$\text{Mean response} = \frac{(2 \times 0) + (1 \times 11)}{(11 \times 1)} = 1.00$$

Conclusion: The mean response is 1.0 which is less than 1.5 and it implies there is enough evidence to accept the null hypothesis and conclude that awareness of government regulation of E-waste management is low.

2)  $H_0$ : Importers do not follow government regulation

**Table 1. Demographic Data of Respondents (Importers).**

	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	8	72.73
Female	3	27.27
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Age</b>		
20 - 29	1	9.09
30 - 39	0	0
40 - 49	7	63.64
50 and above	3	27.27
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Single	1	9.09
Married	8	72.73
Divorced	1	9.09
Widowed	1	9.09
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Educational Qualification</b>		
SSCE	10	90.91
ND	0	0
HND/B.SC/B.A	1	9.09
PGD	0	0
M.A/M.SC	0	0
PH.D	0	0
No formal education	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100</b>

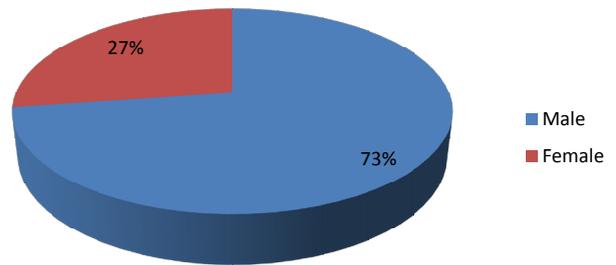
Source: Field Survey, 2012.

**Table 2. Involvement in Electrical/Electronic waste generation.**

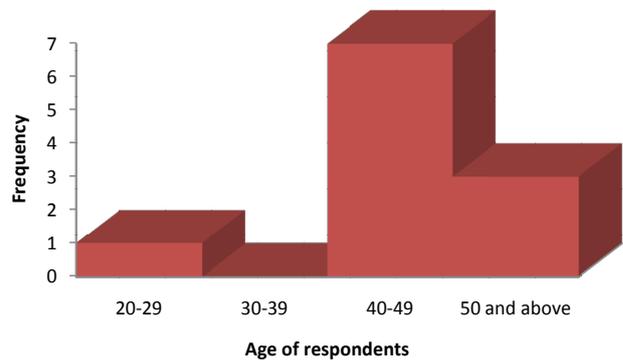
YEARS OF INVOLVEMENT	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	Percentage
2 to 5	1	9.0909
6 to 10	3	27.2727
11 to 15	3	27.2727
16 to 20	2	18.1818
above 20	2	18.1818
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100</b>

for e-waste management.

H<sub>1</sub>: Importers do follow government regulation for e-waste management.



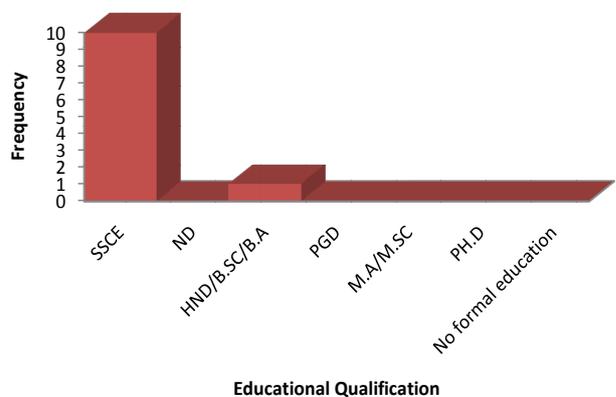
**Figure 1. Pie Chart of Sex of Respondents.**



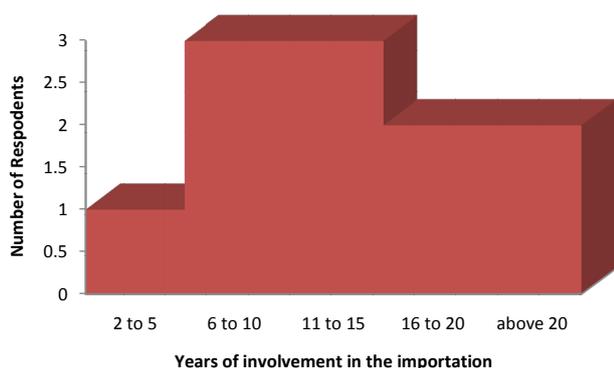
**Figure 2. Bar Chart of Age Distribution of Respondents.**



**Figure 3. Bar Chart of Marital Status of Respondents.**



**Figure 4. Bar Chart of Educational Qualification of Respondents.**



**Figure 5.** Bar chart of years of involvement of respondents in importation of electrical/electronic equipment.

Statistical tool; Likert Analysis

Coding; yes = 2 and no = 1

Critical region = 1.5. Accept the null hypothesis if the mean response is less than 1.5 and reject if it is more than 1.5

$$\text{Mean response} = \frac{(2 \times 0) + (1 \times 22)}{(22 \times 1)} = 1.00$$

Conclusion: The mean response is 1.0 which is less than 1.5 and it implies there is enough evidence to accept the null hypothesis and conclude that importers do not follow government regulation for e-waste management.

**Section 3**

Generation and Management of E-waste

3)  $H_0$ : Most importers do not import second-Hand product/components.

$H_1$ : Most importers import second-Hand product/components.

Statistical tool; Likert Analysis

Coding; yes = 2 and no = 1

Critical region = 1.5. Accept the null hypothesis if the mean response is less than 1.5 and reject if it is more than 1.5

$$\text{Mean response} = \frac{(2 \times 11) + (1 \times 0)}{(11 \times 1)} = 2.00$$

Conclusion: The mean response is 2.0 which is greater than 1.5 and it implies there is enough evidence to accept the alternative hypothesis and conclude that most importers import second-Hand product/components.

**2.5. Management of e-Waste by the Importers**

The above computation shows that most of the respondents dump their e-waste in designated places or refuse dump as shown in Table 3 above.

**Section 4**

Care for environment by selected importers

**Table 3.** Method of disposal of e-waste.

Mode of disposal of e-waste	Number of respondents	Percentage
Dump in designated places/refuse dump	8	72.7273
Sell to recycler	1	9.0909
Dump in any available place(s)	2	18.1818
Dump in river or sea	0	0.0000
Burning/incineration	0	0.0000
Others	0	0.0000
Total	11	100

Source: Field survey, 2012.

4)  $H_0$ : Most importers are not concerned with environmental conditions.

$H_1$ : Most importers are concerned with environmental conditions.

Statistical tool; Likert Analysis

Coding; Not concerned 1

Barely concerned 2

Concerned 3

Very concerned 4

Critical region = 2.5. Accept the null hypothesis if the mean response is less than 2.5 and reject if it is more than 2.5

$$\text{Mean response} = \frac{(4 \times 1) + (3 \times 9) + (2 \times 1) + (1 \times 0)}{(11 \times 1)} = 3.00$$

Conclusion: The mean response is 3.0 which is greater than 2.5 and it implies there is enough evidence to accept the alternative hypothesis and conclude that most importers are concerned with environmental conditions.

**2.6. Awareness of Harmful Effect of Content of Electronics**

5)  $H_0$ : Most importers are not aware of harmful content of electronics.

$H_1$ : Most importers are aware of harmful content of electronics.

Statistical tool; Likert Analysis

Coding; yes = 2 and no = 1

Critical region = 1.5. Accept the null hypothesis if the mean response is less than 1.5 and reject if it is more than 1.5

$$\text{Mean response} = \frac{(2 \times 1) + (1 \times 10)}{(11 \times 1)} = 1.09$$

Conclusion: The mean response is 1.09 which is less than 1.5 and it implies there is enough evidence to accept

the null hypothesis and conclude that most importers are not aware of harmful content of electronics

Also, the responses on negative impact of mode of disposal of electronic waste show that most of the respondents are not aware of the harmful effect of their action.

B) Findings from questionnaires on electrical/electronic waste (e-waste) generation and management study in Anambra state (*Scavengers*)

**Table 4** shows the personal information of respondents which can be referred to as demographic information of respondents. The factors are grouped as shown in the questionnaire with sex, age, marital status and educational qualification as factors to be considered. Based on the responses from respondents, 100% of the respondents are male which implies men are into the business than

**Table 4. Demographic Data of Respondents.**

	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	55	100
Female	0	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Age</b>		
20 - 29	20	36.3636
30 - 39	30	54.5455
40 - 49	5	9.0909
50 and above	0	0.0000
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Single	20	36.3636
Married	35	63.6364
Divorced	0	0.0000
Widowed	0	0.0000
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Educational Qualification</b>		
SSCE	55	100
ND	0	0
HND/B.SC/B.A	0	0
PGD	0	0
M.A/M.SC	0	0
PH.D	0	0
No formal education	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

female as it was difficult to see a female scavenger during the field survey. Also, most of the respondents are within age bracket of 20 to 39 which implies they are mature to answer questions in the questionnaire with little or no error as shown in **Figure 6**. 64% of the respondents are married, and 36% are single, widowed and divorced were not seen among the selected group as shown in **Figure 7**. In terms of educational qualification, all respondents claim to have senior secondary school certificate.

**Section 2**

**Table 5** shows the extent of involvement of scavengers in Electrical/Electronic waste generation. 35% of the respondents have 6 to 10 years of involvement in e-waste collection while 15 of them have 2 to 5 years of involvement as shown in **Figure 8**.

**2.7. Hypothesis to be Tested**

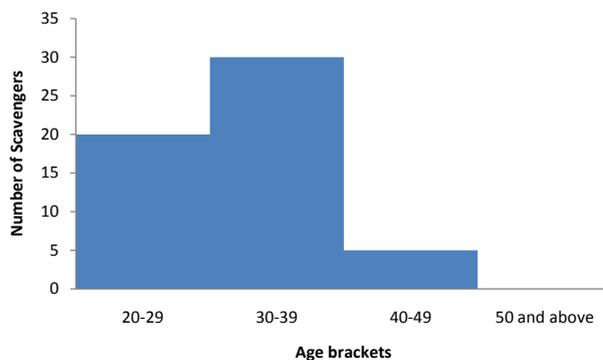
H<sub>0</sub>: Awareness of government regulation of E-waste management is low.

H<sub>1</sub>: Awareness of government regulation of E-waste management is high.

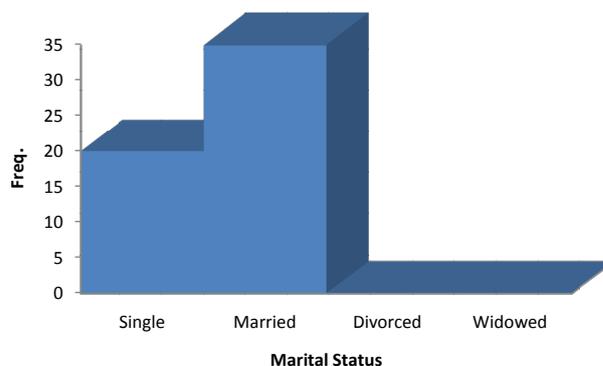
Statistical tool; Likert Analysis

Coding; yes = 2 and no = 1

Critical region = 1.5. Accept the null hypothesis if the



**Figure 6. Bar chart of age distribution of respondents.**

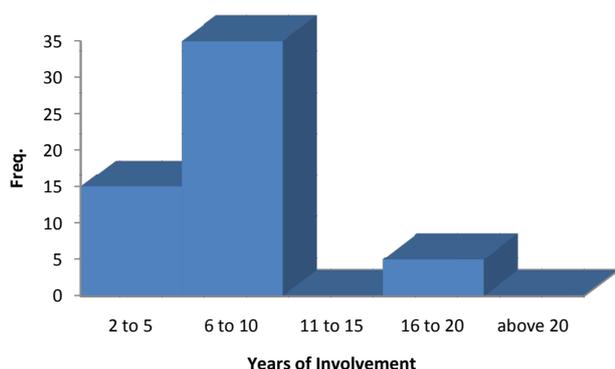


**Figure 7. Bar chart of marital status distribution of respondents.**

**Table 5. Involvement in Electrical/Electronic waste collection.**

YEARS OF INVOLVEMENT	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	Percentage
2 to 5	15	27.2727
6 to 10	35	63.6364
11 to 15	0	0.0000
16 to 20	5	9.0909
above 20	0	0.0000
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field survey, 2012.



**Figure 8. Bar chart of years of involvement of respondents.**

mean response is less than 1.5 and reject if it is more than 1.5

$$\text{Mean response} = \frac{(2 \times 0) + (1 \times 55)}{(55 \times 1)} = 1.00$$

Conclusion: The mean response is 1.0 which is less than 1.5 and it implies there is enough evidence to accept the null hypothesis and conclude that awareness of government regulation of E-waste management is low.

Table 6 above shows that the major item commonly found by scavengers is TV.

Table 7 above shows that the major component commonly found by scavengers is plastic. The scavengers revealed they sell the products to recyclers.

**Section 4**

Care for environment by selected scavengers

H<sub>0</sub>: Most scavengers are not concerned with environmental conditions.

H<sub>1</sub>: Most scavengers are concerned with environmental conditions.

Statistical tool; Likert Analysis

Coding; Not concerned 1

Barely concerned 2

Concerned 3

Very concerned 4

**Table 6. Items mainly recovered by Scavengers.**

Items	Number of Respondents	Percentage
PC	15	20.0000
Laptop	5	6.6667
TV	55	73.3333
Mobile Phone	0	0.0000

Source: Field survey, 2012.

**Table 7. Component mainly found.**

Items	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Circuit Board	25	22.7273
Battery	0	0.0000
Plastic	50	45.4545
Iron	10	9.0909
Copper	25	22.7273
Aluminium	0	0.0000

Source: Field survey, 2012.

Critical region = 2.5. Accept the null hypothesis if the mean response is less than 2.5 and reject if it is more than 2.5

Mean response

$$= \frac{(20 \times 0) + (15 \times 9) + (10 \times 2) + (5 \times 0)}{(55 \times 1)} = 2.81$$

Conclusion: The mean response is 3.0 which is greater than 2.5 and it implies there is enough evidence to accept the alternative hypothesis and conclude that most scavengers are concerned with environmental conditions.

**2.8. Awareness of Harmful Effect of Content of Electronics**

H<sub>0</sub>: Most scavengers are not aware of harmful content of electronics.

H<sub>1</sub>: Most scavengers are aware of harmful content of electronics.

Statistical tool; Likert Analysis

Coding; yes = 2 and no = 1

Critical region = 1.5. Accept the null hypothesis if the mean response is less than 1.5 and reject if it is more than 1.5

$$\text{Mean response} = \frac{(2 \times 0) + (1 \times 55)}{(55 \times 1)} = 1.00$$

Conclusion: The mean response is 1.09 which is less than 1.5 and it implies there is enough evidence to accept

the null hypothesis and conclude that most scavengers are not aware of harmful content of electronics

The responses on negative impact on negative impact of the waste on environment show that most of the respondents are not aware of the harmful effect of the products. Likewise, they do not know the implication of E-waste on their personal health.

C) Findings from questionnaires on electrical/electronic waste (e-waste) generation and management study in Anambra state (*Householder*).

**Table 8** shows demographic information of respondents. The factors are grouped as shown in the questionnaire with sex, age, marital status and educational qualification as factors to be considered. 45.45% of the respondents are male and 54.54% are female. Also, most of the respondents are within age bracket of 30 to 39 which

**Table 8. Demographic Data of Respondents.**

	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	50	45.45
Female	60	54.54
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Age</b>		
20-29	30	27.27
30-39	70	63.64
40-49	10	9.09
50 and above	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Single	30	27.27
Married	80	72.73
Divorced	0	0
Widowed	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Educational Qualification</b>		
SSCE	10	9.09
ND	0	0
HND/B.SC/B.A	50	45.45
PGD	0	0
M.A/M.SC	40	36.36
PH.D	10	9.09
No formal education	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

implies they are mature to answer questions in the questionnaire with little or no error. 72.73% of the respondents are married, and 27.27% are single, widowed and divorced were not seen among the selected group. In terms of educational qualification, most of the respondents are degree holders.

**Section 2**

**Table 9** above shows that most of the respondents possessed phone than other appliances.

54.54% of the householders keep their e-wastes at home whereas 36.36 dump theirs at the designated refuse dumps. The remaining 9% sell theirs to the recyclers as shown in **Table 10**.

**2.9. Hypothesis Tested**

H<sub>0</sub>: Awareness of government regulation of E-waste management is low.

H<sub>1</sub>: Awareness of government regulation of E-waste management is high.

Statistical tool; Likert Analysis

Coding; yes = 2 and no = 1

Critical region = 1.5. Accept the null hypothesis if the mean response is less than 1.5 and reject if it is more than 1.5

$$\text{Mean response} = \frac{(2 \times 10) + (1 \times 100)}{(110 \times 1)} = 1.09$$

**Table 9. Electronics mainly possessed by respondents.**

Electronics	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	Percentage
TV	80	21.05
PHONE	110	28.95
IRON	60	15.79
LAPTOP	50	13.16
RADIO	80	21.05
<b>Total</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field survey, 2012.

**Table 10. Model of disposal of e-waste.**

Mode of disposal	Number of respondents	Percentage
Dump in designated places/refuse dump	40	36.36
Sell to recycler	10	9.09
Keep at home	60	54.54
Dump in river or sea	0	0
Burning/incineration	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field survey, 2012.

Conclusion: The mean response is 1.09 which is less than 1.5 and it implies there is enough evidence to accept the null hypothesis and conclude that awareness of government regulation of E-waste management is low among the selected householders.

## 2.10. Care for Environment by Selected Householders

$H_0$ : Most householders are not concerned with environmental conditions.

$H_1$ : Most householders are concerned with environmental conditions.

Statistical tool; Likert Analysis

Coding; Not concerned 1

Barely concerned 2

Concerned 3

Very concerned 4

Critical region = 2.5. Accept the null hypothesis if the mean response is less than 2.5 and reject if it is more than 2.5

$$\text{Mean response} = \frac{(4 \times 0) + (3 \times 90) + (2 \times 20) + (1 \times 0)}{(110 \times 1)} = 2.81$$

Conclusion: The mean response is 3.0 which is greater than 2.5 and it implies there is enough evidence to accept the alternative hypothesis and conclude that most householders are concerned with environmental conditions.

## 2.11. Awareness of Harmful Effect of Content of Electronics

$H_0$ : People are not aware of harmful content of electronics.

$H_1$ : People are aware of harmful content of electronics.

Statistical tool; Likert Analysis

Coding; yes = 2 and no = 1

Critical region = 1.5. Accept the null hypothesis if the mean response is less than 1.5 and reject if it is more than 1.5

$$\text{Mean response} = \frac{(2 \times 30) + (1 \times 80)}{(110 \times 1)} = 1.27$$

Conclusion: The mean response is 1.27 which is less than 1.5 and it implies there is enough evidence to accept the null hypothesis and conclude that most householders are not aware of harmful content of electronics.

The responses on negative impact on negative impact of the waste on environment show that most of the respondents are not aware of the harmful effect of the products. Likewise, they do not know the implication of E-waste on their personal health.

## 2.12. Summary of Results and Discussion

The hypothesis “Awareness of the respondents on government regulation is low” served as the null hypothesis while the opposite served as the alternate. The coding and the mean response were obtained thus for the *importers*:

Coding; yes = 2 and no = 1 (for the coding method, two was assigned to Yes while 1 to No)

Critical region = 1.5. Accept the null hypothesis if the mean response is less than 1.5 and reject if it is more than 1.5

$$\text{Mean response} = \frac{(2 \times 0) + (1 \times 11)}{(11 \times 1)} = 1.00$$

The mean response is 1.0 which is less than 1.5 and it implies there is enough evidence to accept the null hypothesis and conclude that awareness of government regulation of E-waste management is critically low for the importers. This was equally the case for the analysis conducted for the *scavengers* and the *householders*. This simply implies that government is yet to make any meaningful effort in educating the major stakeholders on the relevant provision of the National Environmental (Electrical/Electronics sector) regulations. This ignorance coupled with corruption and poor implementation and enforcement of the regulations will create room for continuous importation and poor management of e-wastes.

Another hypothesis was tested in the same way on whether the *importers* follow the government regulations. Again, it was concluded that they do not follow government regulation (Part1, Section 3) [13] for e-waste importation.

The responses of the *importers* mode of disposal of e-waste revealed that 72% dispose theirs in the general waste receptacle; 18% dump theirs in any available space while only 10% give to the recyclers. For the *householders*, 55% of them prefer to keep their e-waste at home hoping that the need for them might arise any day; 41% dumped theirs in the receptacles while 4% give out theirs to the scavengers. This calls for an urgent need for enlightenment campaign on the need and benefits of recycling e-waste and the implication of mixing e-waste with other municipal wastes in the state.

The responses of the *importers* on the kind of electronics they import shows that 22% import only “fairly” used electronics; 60% import both brand new and “fairly” used while 18% import only brand new electronic goods.

On the concern about the environmental conditions, 82%, 70% and 96% of the importers, scavengers and householders respectively are concerned about their environment. The awareness of the harmful content of e-waste was also tested for the respondents. The result shows that the importers (82%), the scavengers (94%)

and the householders (78%) are not aware of the hazardous nature of e-waste.

The items mainly sort after by the scavengers are CRT (54%), mobile phones (30%), laptops (6%) and other (10%). It was revealed during the interaction with the scavengers that in most cases they resort to incineration to extract the valuable component of the e-waste just as in most developing countries. They expressed their willingness to use another environmentally friendly means provided they will not incur extra expenses.

### 2.13. Awareness Campaign Design

Public awareness is critical in achieving environmental attitudes, skills and behaviour consistent with sustainable development and environmental protection. Awareness is an important tool for sensitization of public opinion on environmental issues and challenges. Educating all and sundry on the importance of environmental protection is one of the most effective ways to protect nature. An effective strategy must put into consideration the characteristics of the target community, the major stakeholders view point about the environmental challenges and efforts being made by the government in solving the environmental problem

In the framework, experts shall train environmental NGOs and persons from line ministries and parastatals to acquire basic understanding of e-waste management and a motivation to participate in activities for improving the quality of the environment and develop skills for proper waste management. This training shall be directed at helping implementers to increase their understanding, interest and skills in e-waste management. It is the duty of these trained people to inculcate into the populace strong feelings fundamental to developing a concern for e-waste waste management.

The development of community based awareness programme on e-waste should consider the following aspects:-

- The programme should help the participants to develop interest in improving the quality of their immediate environment and increase the awareness on environmental health.
- The programme should increase the awareness of and knowledge about e-waste management, impart positive attitudes and motivate action about it.
- It should provide continuity and progression because behaviour modification is a long term habit
- It will be linked with community realities and cater for the community's e-waste problems as best as it could.

In urban areas where the problems is more paramount, the following target groups shall be worked with:-

- Community leaders

- Church/religious leaders
- Market unions
- Town unions
- Armed forces personnel
- Land lord associations
- Transport unions
- Scavengers and informal waste collectors

The media including the television and radio stations should also organize periodic programmes with experts and also jingles. Information posters and pamphlets containing information shall be printed and distributed amongst the citizens. Some of the stakeholder's interview suggested that citizens should be enjoined to speak informally to offenders. The visits to the aforementioned groups shall avail the citizens the opportunity to participate in planning, maintain services and develop knowledge of waste management. Provision shall be made for little working aids like bags, caps, T-shirts to attract all these participants

At the state level workshops and discussions shall be held with the members of the State House of Assembly and top government officials. All these will not be meaningful, if the government does not have the political will to embark on strong enforcement mechanisms whereby erring citizens will be decisively dealt with.

### 3. Conclusion

E-waste must be generated because of the need to key into the technological age. However, it is both valuable as source for secondary raw material, and toxic if treated and discarded improperly. Hence, recycling of such wastes, thus assumes significant importance from the commercial standpoint while proper disposal is crucial from the health and environment point of view.

From the foregoing, the facts on ground is a clear indication that while most of e-waste are being brought down to developing countries in addition to the ones on ground, people are yet to appreciate the difference between the regular municipal solid waste and e-waste, the potential benefits of recycling e-waste and the health implication of not handling them well. This therefore calls for a serious environmental sensitization campaign whereby if the recommended awareness model is adopted, it will go a long way into awakening both the people and the government on this environmental challenge.

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**Appendix**

**QUESTIONNAIRE ON ASSESSMENT OF THE LEVEL OF AWARENESS OF E-WASTE MANAGEMENT AND CONCERN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AMONGST THE POPULACE IN ONITSHA**

**FOR IMPORTERS OF ELECTRICAL/ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT**

**SECTION 1: Personal Data**

- 1.1 SEX: Male  Female
- 1.2 AGE: 20 - 29  30 - 39  40 - 49  50 and above
- 1.3 MARITAL STATUS: Single  Married  Divorced  Widowed
- 1.4 HIGHEST QUALIFICATION: SSCE  ND  HND/B.Sc/B.A   
PGD  M.A/MSc  PhD   
No formal education
- 1.5 LOCATION/ADDRESS OF BUSINESS (Not P.O BOX):.....

**SECTION 2: Involvement in Electrical/Electronic Waste Generation**

- 2.1 How long have you been involved in the importation of electrical/electronic equipment?  
2 - 5 yrs  6 - 10 yrs  11 - 15 yrs  16 - 20yrs  above 20yrs
- 2.2 Which electrical/electronic equipment?  
TV  PC  Laptop  Mobile phone
- 2.3 a) Do you belong to any trade association?  
Yes  No
- b) If yes, name the association and its address: .....
- 2.4 Are you aware of of any government regulation on e-waste management?  
Yes  No
- 2.5 a) Do you have rules guiding your activities in the association?  
Yes  No
- b) If yes,
  - i) Are the rules in compliance with government regulation for waste management?  
Yes  No   
Others (please specify).....
  - ii) How effectively are the rules enforced?  
Strongly  Fairly  Not enforced

**SECTION 3: Generation and Management of E-Waste**

- 3.1 What brand of new electronic equipment/component do you import? .....
- 3.2 Indicate the volume of import per year for each product/component .....
- 3.3 Country of Import?  
European Union  USA  China  India  Others (please specify) .....
- 3.4 Mode of Importation:  
Container  Trucks  Buses
- 3.5 Route of Importation:  
Sea port  Airport  Land Border
- 3.6 a) Do you import any second- hand product/component(s)?  
Yes  No
- b) If yes, which product(s)/component(s)?  
Computer (PC)  Laptop  Mobile phone  Monitor  CRT  Circuit board
- c) From which country?  
European Union  USA  Others (please specify).....
- 3.7 Percentage of obsolete/defective items in the import i.e. requiring service/repair before sale?  
0% - 2%  3% - 5%  6% - 8%  9% - 12%  Others (please specify) .....
- 3.8 Percentage of obsolete/defective items that is repairable?  
10% - 20%  21% - 30%  31% - 40%  41% - 50%  above 50%

3.9 a) Do you regard the unrepairable items as waste?

Yes  No

b) If yes, how do you manage the waste/unserviceable items?

Dump in designated places/refuse dump  Sell to recycler  Dump in any available place(s)

Dump in Sea/River  Burning/incineration

Others (please specify) e.g. export .....

**SECTION 4: IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT**

4.1 Are you concerned about your environment?

Not concerned  Barely concerned  Concerned  Very concerned

4.2 a) Do you know that some components of electronic devices contain toxic/hazardous materials?

Yes  No

b) If yes, are you aware that these toxic/hazardous materials require special treatment for environmentally sound disposal?

Yes  No

4.3 a) Does the disposal/treatment method in use for electronic waste have any impact on the environment?

Yes  No  Not sure

b) If yes, indicate the part(s) of the environment affected and rate the impact

PARTS OF ENVIRONMENT AFFECTED	IMPACT			
	VERY STRONG	STRONG	FAIRLY	NO EFFECT
Land				
Air				
Surface water				
Underground water				
Vegetation				

ii) a) Does your involvement in handling of/ being in contact with electronic waste have a negative impact on your health?

Yes  No  Do not know

b) If yes, what is the nature of health hazard? Rate severity.

NATURE OF HEALTH HAZARD	SEVERITY			
	HIGHLY SEVERE	SEVERE	FAIRLY	NOT SEVERE
Headache				
Body Pain				
Dizziness				
Cough				
Others specify				

**QUESTIONNAIRE ON ASSESSMENT OF THE LEVEL OF AWARENESS OF E-WASTE MANAGEMENT AND CONCERN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AMONGST THE POPULACE IN ONITSHA**

**FOR SCAVENGERS**

**SECTION 1: Personal Data**

1.1 SEX: Male  Female

1.2 AGE: 20 - 29  30 - 39  40 - 49  50 and above

1.3 MARITAL STATUS: Single  Married  Divorced  Widowed

1.4 HIGHEST QUALIFICATION:

SSCE  ND  HND/B.Sc/B.A  PGD  M.A/MSc  PhD  No formal education

1.5 LOCATION/ADDRESS OF BUSINESS (Not P.O BOX):.....

**SECTION 2: Involvement in Electrical/Electronic Waste Generation**

2.1 How long have you been involved in scavenging?

2 - 5 yrs  6 - 10 yrs  11 - 15 yrs  16 - 20yrs  above 20yrs

2.2 a) Do you belong to any trade association?

b) If yes, name the association and its address: .....

2.4 Are you aware of any government regulation on e-waste management?

Yes  No

2.5 a) Do you have rules guiding your activities in the association?

Yes  No

b) If yes,

i) Are the rules in compliance with government regulation for waste management?

Yes  No

Others (please specify).....

ii) How effectively are the rules enforced?

Strongly  Fairly  Not enforced

**SECTION 3: Generation and Management of E-Waste**

3.1 What volume of electrical/electronic waste do you handle per day?.....

3.2. Do you recover any of the electrical/electronic equipment/components from waste?

Yes  No

b) If yes, which equipment?

PC  Laptop  TV  Mobile phone

c) Which component do you recycle/recover

Circuit board  Battery  Plastics  Iron  Copper  Aluminium

Others (please specify) .....

3.3 What do you do with the recovered equipment/components?

Sell to repairers  Sell to recyclers  Reuse

3.4 Indicate the volume of reusable, recyclable and residue from your work .....

**SECTION 4: Impact on the Environment**

4.1 Are you concerned about your environment?

Not concerned  Barely concerned  Concerned  Very concerned

4.2 a) Do you know that some components of electronic devices contain toxic/hazardous materials?

Yes  No

b) If yes, are you aware that these toxic/hazardous materials require special treatment for environmentally sound disposal?

Yes  No

4.3 a) Does the disposal/treatment method in use for electronic waste have any impact on the environment?

Yes  No  Not sure

b) If yes, indicate the part(s) of the environment affected and rate the impact

PARTS OF ENVIRONMENT AFFECTED	IMPACT			
	VERY STRONG	STRONG	FAIRLY	NO EFFECT
Land				
Air				
Surface water				
Underground water				
Vegetation				

4.4 a) Does your involvement in handling of/ being in contact with electronic waste have a negative impact on your health?

Yes  No  Do not know

b) If yes, what is the nature of health hazard? Rate Severity.

SEVERITY				
NATURE OF HEALTH HAZARD	HIGHLY SEVERE	SEVERE	FAIRLY	NOT SEVERE
Headache				
Body Pain				
Dizziness				
Cough				
Others specify				

### FOR HOUSE HOLDERS

#### SECTION 1: Personal Data

1.1 SEX: Male  Female

1.2 AGE: 20 - 29  30 - 39  40 - 49  50 and above

1.3 MARITAL STATUS: Single  Married  Divorced  Widowed

1.4 HIGHEST QUALIFICATION:

SSCE  ND  HND/B.Sc/B.A  PGD  M.A/MSc  PhD  No formal education

1.5 LOCATION/ADDRESS OF BUSINESS (Not P.O BOX):.....

#### SECTION 2: Involvement in Electrical/Electronic Waste Generation

2.1 List some of the electronics mainly possessed in the house.....

2.2 Which of the following is the model of disposal of e-waste adopted in the house?

Dump in designated places/refuse dump  Sell to recycler

Keep at home  Dump in river or sea  Burning/incineration .

2.3 Are you aware of any government regulation on e-waste management?

Yes  No

2.4 a) Do you have rules guiding your activities in the association?

Yes  No

b) If yes,

i) Are the rules in compliance with government regulation for waste management?

Yes  No  Others (please specify).....

ii) How effectively are the rules enforced?

Strongly  Fairly  Not enforced

#### SECTION 3: Generation and Management of E-Waste

3.1 What volume of electrical/electronic waste do you handle per day?.....

3.2 Do you recover any of the electrical/electronic equipment/components from waste?

Yes  No

b) If yes, which equipment?

PC  Laptop  TV  Mobile phone

c) Which component do you recycle/recover

Circuit board  Battery  Plastics  Iron  Copper  Aluminium

Others (please specify) .....

3.3 What do you do with the recovered equipment/components?

Sell to repairers  Sell to recyclers  Reuse

3.4 Indicate the volume of reusable, recyclable and residue from your work .....

.....

#### SECTION 4: Impact on the Environment

4.1 Are you concerned about your environment?

Not concerned  Barely concerned  Concerned  Very concerned

4.2 a) Do you know that some components of electronic devices contain toxic/hazardous materials?

Yes  No

b) If yes, are you aware that these toxic/hazardous materials require special treatment for environmentally sound disposal?

Yes  No

4.3 a) Does the disposal/treatment method in use for electronic waste have any impact on the environment?

Yes  No  Not sure

b) If yes, indicate the part(s) of the environment affected and rate the impact

IMPACT				
PARTS OF ENVIRONMENT AFFECTED	VERY STRONG	STRONG	FAIRLY	NO EFFECT
Land				
Air				
Surface water				
Underground water				
Vegetation				

4.4 a) Does your involvement in handling of/ being in contact with electronic waste have a negative impact on your health?

Yes  No  Do not know

b) If yes, what is the nature of health hazard? Rate severity.

SEVERITY				
NATURE OF HEALTH HAZARD	HIGHLY SEVERE	SEVERE	FAIRLY	NOT SEVERE
Headache				
Body Pain				
Dizziness				
Cough				
Others specify				