

# On the Physical Composition of Solid Wastes in Selected Dumpsites of Ogbomosoland, South-Western Nigeria

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## Abstract

Solid wastes have varied compositions and constituents from place to place. The study area is not an exception. The entire 5 Local Government Area (LGA)s of Ogbomosoland were surveyed and about 40 major dumpsites were identified across the spread. Twenty-five (25) of these were selected, five (5) each per LGA, for the study. The wastes were collected from the dumps, sorted, weighed and classified according to their constituents. The densities of wastes from the 25 dumpsites were also determined. The overall average composition using the main classes of wastes were found to be food; 68.4%, metals; 7.2%, textile; 4.6%, papers; 4.4%, plastic; 3.9%, glass; 3.6%, wood; 3.1%, and miscellaneous; 4.8%. The average waste density for the study area was 438.1 kg/m<sup>3</sup>. Putrescible materials dominated the waste composition of the study area. The components of wastes in the city revealed a higher standard of living when compared with those of the residents in the environs. Rural residents generate denser wastes when compared with the urban centres and as such are prone to leachate pollution emanating from these organic wastes. The ingress of leachate is a threat to the groundwater resources of the study area.

**Keywords:** Solid Wastes, Leachate, Pollution, Ogbomosoland

## 1. Introduction

Generally speaking, waste is an unwanted item or material but it has been tersely defined as an asset of negative value [1]. Waste stands for some undesirable products emanating from human activities. It is any material that is considered to be of no further use to the owner and is, hence, discarded. Waste is any unavoidable material generated from domestic activity or industrial operations for which there is no economic demand and, which must be disposed [2]. Waste, therefore, is any fluid or solid, which because of its quantity, physical, chemical or infectious nature can cause hazards to human health or environment when improperly treated, stored, transported or disposed of [3].

Waste is generated universally and is a direct consequence of all human activities. The general classification of waste is into solid, liquid and gaseous [4]. Gaseous waste is normally vented to the atmosphere either with or without treatment depending on composition and the specific regulations of the country in-

involved. Liquid wastes (sewage, storm water, and sullage) are commonly discharged into sewers or water bodies or allowed to infiltrate into the ground.

Solid waste on the other hand, refers to non-liquid, non-soluble materials from municipal refuse to industrial wastes that contain complex and sometimes, hazardous substances. Solid waste also includes sewage sludge, agricultural refuse, construction demolition, and mining wastes [5]. Solid waste could mostly be referred to as an unwanted residual or semi-solid materials from industrial, commercial, agricultural and community operations. Solid wastes include items like garbage, tyres, appliances, combustible and non-combustible materials and contaminated soil that have been excavated. Solid wastes are not earth, clean soil, concrete, non-toxic fly ash or foundry sand.

Technically, solid waste is any material thick enough to be held by hand; thus liquids and gases in containers may be referred to as solid wastes. Solid waste is any substance in the material flow pattern, which is rejected by the society [6]. Wastes generated by the full extent of

human activities range from relatively innocuous substances such as food and paper waste, to toxic substances such as paints, batteries, asbestos, healthcare wastes, sewage sludge and radioactive wastes [4]. Numerous classifications of solid wastes have been proposed [7], [8]. The following represents a simple classification of waste into broad categories according to its origin and risk to human and environmental health: household wastes; municipal wastes (MSW); commercial and non-hazardous industrial wastes; hazardous (toxic) industrial wastes; construction and demolition (C & D) wastes; health care wastes (generated from health care facilities in hospitals and medical research centres); human, animal; and incinerator wastes.

Household wastes represent those generated in the home and collected by municipal waste collection services. Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) includes this plus shop and office waste, and food waste from restaurants also collected by municipal waste collection systems, plus waste derived from street cleaning, and green (organic) waste generated in parks and gardens. Hazardous wastes are materials considered waste, which are reactive (*i.e.* explosive), radioactive, corrosive, ignitable/flammable and/or toxic in nature. The general public faces some hazards from these wastes. These include explosive hazard of solvents, petroleum, toxic chemicals used as pesticides, cleaning solutions, solvents, etc [6].

Radioactive substances are hazardous because prolonged exposure to ionization radiation often results in damage to living organisms, and the substances may persist over long periods of time [9]. Medical wastes are generally defined as solid wastes that are generated in diagnosis, treatment, or immunization of human beings or animals, including but not limited to: Soiled or blood-soaked bandages; culture dishes and other glassware; discarded surgical instruments -scalpels; needles—used to give shots or draw blood; cultures, stocks, swabs used to inoculate cultures; removed body organs (tonsils, appendices, limbs); lancets—the little blade the doctor picks a finger with to get a drop of blood [10]. Human and animal wastes are usually not disposed of in landfills, although animal carcasses and waste from abattoirs may be found in some waste-dumps. Human corpses are not generally regarded as waste, but when buried they degrade in a similar way to other organic waste, and also produce leachate in significant quantities.

Solid waste composition, rate of generation and methods of treatment and disposal vary considerably throughout the world and largely determine the potential of waste to impair groundwater quality. Also, the rate at which waste is generated corresponds roughly with levels of income. In high-income countries of Europe and North America, between 500 and 750 kg of solid

wastes are produced per person per year [11]. In contrast, urban populations in most low-income countries like Nigeria and Cote d'Ivoire, generate between 100 and 200 kg of solid waste per person per year [12]. Despite this lower rate, rapid urbanization, particularly in low-income developing countries has left little space for disposal of the increasing amounts of waste material being generated in urban settings [13]. As a result, uncontrolled disposal *i.e.* "fly tipping" is rampant in many countries, and is a diffuse source of groundwater contamination.

The present study focuses mainly on the composition and constituents of wastes in the selected dumpsites of the 5 LGAs of Ogbomoso. The urban LGAs are Ogbomoso North and South while the rural ones are Oriire, Ogo Oluwa and Suurulere LGAs. The study also determined the waste densities.

## 2. Methodology

### 2.1. Selected Dumpsites

About forty (40) main dumpsites were identified in the study area out of which Twenty-five (25), 5 each were selected per LGA. Findings revealed that most of the dumpsites which were found too close to residential buildings were unauthorized by the Local Health Authorities. Again some of these dumpsites were located along the river courses and on undeveloped plots of lands. The dumps therefore serve as breeding places for the insects, flies, and rodents capable of spreading diseases like diarrhea, dysentery, typhoid and cholera (Plates I, II and III). The location, age and spread of the waste types in the selected dumpsites are presented in **Tables 1** and **2**.

### 2.2. Instrumentation on Wastes Composition in the Dumpsites

The tools, instruments and items employed included measuring tape, weighing balance, riffle box, portable waste bucket, hand-glove, rain-boot, rake, and spade.

### 2.3. Site Preparation and Measurements

The following steps were taken in determining the composition of wastes at the selected dumpsites:

- 1) 1 m<sup>2</sup> portion of the dumpsites area was measured with the tape for the first trial.
- 2) The measured portion was raked and packed into a head-pan of pre-determined weight.
- 3) The waste in the head-pan was then measured by the use of weighing balance.
- 4) Sorting, separation, and categorization of waste materials in the head-pan were performed.

**Table 1. Classification of the dumpsites studied in Ogbomosoland.**

S/N	Dumpsite Location	Age	Type of waste	LGA
1	R.A Bello street, stadium area	18	Residential	Ogbomoso North
2	Attenda abattoir	19	Industrial (Animal products)	“
3	Owode area	15	Commercial	“
4	SUB area, LAUTECH	10	Institutional	“
5	Masifa area	13	Residential	“
6	Aarada market	20	Commercial (Agricultural products)	Ogbomoso South
7	Laka river bank	18	Residential	“
8	High School area	13	Institutional	“
9	Odokoto area	12	Residential	“
10	Adeleke sawmill	10	Industrial (Wood products)	“
11	Olorombo dumpsite	14	Residential	Oriire
12	L.A primary school	13	Institutional	“
13	Behind Iluju market	15	Commercial	“
14	Adafile dumpsite	11	Agricultural	“
15	Ahoro Dada dumpsite	12	Residential	“
16	Ikolaba area dumpsite	11	Commercial (Agricultural products)	Ogo Oluwa
17	Otamokun dumpsite	15	Residential	“
18	Behind Ajaawa Hotels	12	Residential	“
19	Iwo-Ate, behind Ile Baale	10	Residential	“
20	Lagbedu dumpsite	14	Agricultural	“
21	Behind central market, Iresa-Adu	13	Agricultural	Suurulere
22	Dumpsite at Oko market area	11	Commercial	“
23	Behind Gambari motor park	14	Industrial (Automobile)	“
24	Behind primary school, Iresa-Apa	14	Institutional	“
25	Baaya Oje dumpsite	12	Agricultural	“

**Table 2. The spread of waste types in the study area.**

LGA	Industrial			Domestic			Total
	Agricultural	Automobile product	Wood product	Residential	Commercial	Institution	
Ogbomoso North	1	-	-	2	1	1	5
Ogbomoso South	-	-	1	2	1	1	5
Oriire	1	-	-	2	1	1	5
Ogo-Oluwa	1	-	-	3	1	-	5
Suurulere	2	1	-	-	1	1	5

5) Each category of weight was weighed and recorded for all samples from selected dumpsites.

6) The results obtained were tabulated and the percent composition of each waste type was determined.

## 2.4. Determination of Waste Density

Waste density was determined using the riffle box, rake, spade, and hand-gloves. Wastes were packed into the cubical riffle box of dimension 0.3 m × 0.3 m × 0.3 m and tapped continuously until it was filled to capacity. The weight of the riffle box was determined before and after the filling. This enabled the determination of the mass of wastes contained in each of the box. Since the volume of the box had been determined as 0.027 m<sup>3</sup>, the density of waste was estimated from the ratio of its mass and volume. The exercise was then carried out in all the selected dumpsites in the study area.

Calculations:

Mass of the cubical form (Plank) = 2.50 kg

Mass of wastes + cubical forms =  $x$  kg

Mass of wastes =  $(x - 2.50)$  kg

Volume of the cubical forms (m<sup>3</sup>) = 0.3 × 0.3 × 0.3 = 0.027m<sup>3</sup>

Density of wastes =  $\frac{(x - 2.50)}{0.027}$  kg/m<sup>3</sup>

## 3. Results and Discussion

### 3.1. Physical Composition of the Wastes

The results of field work comprising the average values of the mass of wastes and their respective percent composition for the various LGAs are presented in **Table 3**. The putrescible components constitute about 70% of the wastes. The data show that the high proportion of biode-

gradable component could be linked to traces of leachate pollution in both surface and underground water sources around the selected dumpsites. Higher values of metallic component (7.2%) among the non-decomposable wastes could be attributed to some industrial activities in the study area such as automobile works, black and silver smith works, etc. Wood wastes were however intangible probably due to the fact that most cooking was done in the study area using fire-wood and coals. The rest unclassified wastes included ashes, leaves, animal remains, nylons, etc.

In Ogbomoso North LGA, putrescible components, the largest one, constitute about two-fifth of the total wastes, metals had 16.6%; paper 11.8%; plastic 7.9%; textile 5.9%; glass 5.0%; wood 3.9%, nylon 4.9% while other unclassified components were 3.9%. When compared with the values in the rural LGAs, the putrescible component was found to be lower. An earlier finding by [14] showed that the percent food component of wastes in Yola, a North-Eastern Nigerian city was 46, the 40% value obtained in this urban LGA is therefore reasonable. The higher values of the metals and plastic components here, relative to the rural LGAs could be traced to some industrial activities taking place within the city. Similar reason could be given for high percent of paper component as products of educational institutions like the University, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Theological seminary, secondary and primary schools mostly located in the North LGA. The textile component is attributable to fashion and large population of people with high taste. The standard of living of the people in this LGA is considered high (urban LGA) as the wastes composed of new cartons, ragolis and other plastic containers, metallic cans and other fairly-used items. This finding agrees with the earlier discovery that the quantity of solid waste generated at a given period is an indirect reflection of life-

**Table 3. Average composition of waste materials by mass in Ogbomosoland.**

Waste Materials	Ogbomoso North	Ogbomoso South	Oriire	Ogo Oluwa	Suurulere	Overall Mean % Composition
Paper	11.8	4.0	2.4	1.8	2.0	4.4
Food	40.1	51.7	78.3	85.7	86.3	68.4
Plastic	7.8	4.8	2.4	2.1	2.2	3.9
Glass	5.0	8.2	1.7	1.3	1.5	3.6
Metals	16.6	13.4	2.6	1.6	1.9	7.2
Wood	3.9	6.0	1.9	2.1	1.6	3.1
Textile	5.9	7.9	4.0	3.1	2.4	4.7
Nylon	4.9	2.1	4.3	1.8	1.6	2.9
Others	3.9	2.2	2.3	0.3	0.6	1.9

style in a community [15]. Most of these items could be recycled as against what obtained in the rural LGAs.

The components of waste in Ogbomoso South LGA are similar to those of North LGA basically due to the fact that the two are within the city. Food items constituted about 52% of the total wastes (**Table 3**). The selected dumpsite in this LGA located at Aarada market could have led to higher food waste components even when compared with that of Ogbomoso North. The market is known for buying and selling of food and agricultural products at cheaper prices. The lower percentage of paper could equally be deduced from similar reason, unlike in the R.A Bello street dumpsite of Ogbomoso North where many students reside. The metal components of the wastes of the two LGAs are about the same but are generally higher than those obtained in the suburb LGAs where automobile works and other related activities are less. Plastic components here were lesser than those obtained in the North LGA, probably due to the fact the Alata Plastic Store is located in the North LGA.

Putrescible materials constitute the highest waste in Oriire LGA as shown in **Table 3**. The higher values of food items than what obtained in the city LGAs could be attributed to heavy agricultural activities taking place in the LGA. The paper, plastic, glass, metal and wood components were however of lower values when compared with the ones within the city. Residents of the villages use less of these items. Broken calabashes, worn and torn rags, baskets and mats dominated the waste components. These are pointers to the fact that the income levels of the residents are lower than those of LGAs within the city. Similar to what obtains in Oriire and Suurulere LGAs, the food components have the highest mass. These bio-degradable materials constitute about 86% of the total waste being generated in this LGA. Other components with 4% or less include paper, plastic, glass, metals, wood and textile. The lower standard of living of the residents perhaps explains these compositions. Less educational and industrial activities in the area could have led to the smaller quantities of paper, plastic, glass and metals in the waste.

The composition of wastes in Suurulere LGA was similar to those of Oriire and Ogo Oluwa LGAs except for the general lower values of paper, wood and textile. In one of the selected dumpsites that were close to a motor-park, the quantities of paper, wood and textile being disposed of were insignificant. The food/bio-degradable component was however very high in all the dumpsites considered. This could be due to several commercial activities and residential houses around the dumpsite. The glass component in the waste (1.5%) exceeded those found in Ogo Oluwa LGA (1.3%) probably owing to the fact that the Suurulere dumpsite is surrounded by more

residents with louver buildings and glasswares than those of Ogo Oluwa.

The overall average composition of wastes in the study area (**Table 3**) corroborates an earlier finding of [16] about the putrescible materials being the highest in wastes of Ibadan city, south-western Nigeria. It is however observed that wastes in Ogbomosoland still have higher organic materials than those in Ibadan, perhaps because of the latter being more urbanized. Wastes composition in developed countries like the United States of America and France have paper and textile as dominating materials ([4,11,12,16,17]). This is in contrast with the food items leading in the third world countries like the study area.

### 3.2. Waste Density

The summary of results of the measured densities of wastes in the 25 selected dumpsites in the study area is as presented in **Table 4**. The wastes from Oriire had the highest density of  $490.4 \text{ kg/m}^3$  while those of Ogbomoso South had least value of  $397.8 \text{ kg/m}^3$ . The result shows that rural areas generate denser wastes when compared with the urban centers. This may be attributed to cartons, tins and other light-weight packaging materials dominating urban wastes in contrast with bulky items in the rural dumpsites [18]. The overall average waste density for the study area was found to be  $438.1 \text{ kg/m}^3$ . The finding is in line with a previous report by [19] that puts the waste density of a tropical country as  $400 \text{ kg/m}^3$ . Waste density is relevant in predicting the total amount of wastes generation per head, which serves as a useful input data in the waste planning and control system. It is noteworthy that since most organic wastes possess higher water content, the denser the waste the higher the leachate generation rate. The study area is therefore found prone to leachate pollution emanating from the dumpsites.

## 4. Conclusions

The denser biodegradable component was about 7 in 10

**Table 4. The Average waste density in Ogbomosoland.**

Local Government Area	Average waste density $\text{kg/m}^3$
Ogbomoso North	403.0
Ogbomoso South	397.8
Oriire	490.4
Ogo Oluwa	448.3
Suurulere	451.1

Overall average waste density  $438.1 \text{ kg/m}^3$ .

of total wastes which could actually produce leachates which threaten the water resources of the area. The composition of wastes from R.A. Bello Streets, Town planning, showed presence of new cartons, ragolis containers and other fairly-used items suggesting a high standard of living in the urban LGAs. On the other hand, dumpsites like Laka Abogunde, Ita-Alasa, Aarada etc., have rags, baskets, calabashes and completely worn-out items, all pointing to a standard of living which is below the average. The higher the income, the lighter the waste and the lesser the water pollution risks.

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