

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

This chapter of the study contains issues like the background of the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, research questions, and significance of the study, limitations and delimitations, and the organization of the study.

Background to the study

According to Graham (1968) environmental degradation is the deterioration of the environment through depletion of 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. Environmental degradation is one of the Ten Threats officially cautioned by the High Level Threat Panel of the United Nations. The World Resources Institute (WRI), UNEP (the United Nations Environment Programme), UNDP (the United Nations Development Programme) and the World Bank have made public an important report on health and the environment worldwide on May 1, 1998.

The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction defines environmental degradation as “The reduction of the capacity of the environment to meet social and ecological objectives, and needs”. Environmental degradation is of many types. When natural habitats are destroyed or natural resources are depleted, environment is degraded. According to Rogers (2001) environmental Change and Human Health, a special section of World Resources 1998-99 in this report describes how preventable illnesses and premature deaths are still occurring in very large numbers. If vast improvements are made in human

health, millions of people will be living longer, healthier lives than ever before. In these poorest regions of the world, an estimated 11 million children, or about one in five, will not live to see their fifth birthday, primarily because of environment-related diseases. Child mortality is larger than the combined populations of Norway and Switzerland, and mostly due to malaria, acute respiratory infections or diarrhoea — illnesses that are largely preventable (Rogers, 2001).

Cholera has claimed some lives recently at Akim Nkwantanang, near Kade in Ghana's Eastern Region (Ghanaweb.com; January 16, 2002). This preliminary news report indicated further, "about 40 others are on admission at the Kade Health Center and the St. Dominic's Hospital at Akwatia following a cholera outbreak." Cholera killed a lot of people at Akwatia, last year. At the center of this story is the fact that most causes for the incidence of cholera are man-made and preventable. Therefore, the issue for discussion, here, focuses on why preventable environmental conditions that tend to take the lives of citizens have been allowed to persist by responsible people for a long period of time. In the case of Ghana, it is defensible to say that reckless and insensitive public policies in the mining industry operations have contributed, nefariously, towards persistent incidences of infectious diseases.

Akwatia and Kade share some common characteristics besides proximity: they are both located in the diamond belt along the Birim River; majority of the people in these townships are poor; people in these townships do not have access to fresh drinking water; and both towns do not meet anybody's sanitation standards. This scenario is not a product of one's imagination. The Assemblyman, told the GNA (Ghana News Agency) that health personnel, members of the Ghana Red Cross Society and staff of the District Assembly had

launched a campaign to educate the people on the need to ensure environmental cleanliness to bring the epidemic, which broke-out about five days ago, under control,” according to the report cited above.

What the referenced news report did not mention is the interconnection between diamond mining operations, pollution of the Birim River and the incidence of cholera and other infectious diseases afflicting the people of Akwatia and Kade as well as most people living in Ghana’s diamond belt.

Statement of the problem

Education is one of the most important things every child is entitled to acquire.

Despite all efforts educational stakeholders are making to entice pupils to be in the classroom, some couldn’t make regular attendance to school due to various health conditions. Environmental degradation has been known as one of the factors that lead to health problems in most Ghanaian communities which consequently result in low output of work among both adults and children.

Mampong is a town in Eastern Region in the Akwapem North district with poor environmental conditions like improper waste management, poor drainage systems, pollution, only to mention a few. The deterioration in the environment of Mampong Township has adversely made an impact in the lives of the people. The study is to investigate into environmental degradation and its impact on the lives of inhabitants of Mampong more especially pupils and to recommend ways of solving the problem.

Purpose of the study

The study is focused on investigating into environmental degradation in Mampong Township, its economic implication and impact on the people. This will be achieved through the following objectives. To identify;

- the factors that degrade the environment.
- the measures of protecting the environment.

Research questions

In consonance with the purpose of the study, the following research questions have been formulated to provide a guide to the study

- What is environmental degradation?
- What are the causes of environmental degradation?
- What are the effects of environmental degradation?
- How can environmental degradation can be prevented?

Significance of the study

It is the duty of every teacher to find ways of improving the standards of students and education as a whole. The significance of the study is to expose pupils what environmental degradation is, its' causes and effects on the lives on people in the society. The study will further help to sensitize members of the Mampong community on the dangers of deteriorating the environment and identify ways of preventing the menace. Lastly, the study will serve as reference material for future researchers who may like to study into a topic of similar nature.

Delimitations

It could be very appropriate to carry out this study nation – wide or in the district but researcher decided to delimit it to that intensive nature of Mampong community in the Akwapem North District due to insufficient time and resources.

Limitations

Researchers who work on projects always want to be successful. The problems and setbacks are not absent especially when dealing with issues concerning individuals. The following are the limitations the researcher faced during the research work. Firstly, teaching, preparing of lesson notes, teaching and learning materials, etc do not give the researcher enough time to carry out the study. Furthermore, insufficient time schedule for lesson in the school affected the study because the researcher uses 30 minutes for a period. Lastly, absenteeism on the part of some students affected the results. This is because some student were absent from school on some days of the intervention process.

Organization of the study

This aspect of the study talks about what is entailed in each of the chapters of the project work. This project has been written and arranged in a systematic order to make it very comprehensive. The first chapter of this work deals with the introduction. It consist of the background to the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study the research questions, significance of the study, delimitations, organization of the study and lastly the definition of terms.

The second chapter also covers the literature review. This entails the discussion of the finding of other researchers on the topic. The methodology of the project work is found in the third chapter. It describes the way the research was carried out, the population, and the

specific action taken to make the project a success (intervention procedures) and the limitation.

The fourth chapter deals with data collection and its analysis. The summary, conclusions and recommendations made at the end of the study are found in the fifth chapter.

Definition of terms

AIDS- Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome

TB - Tuberculosis

WHO – World Health Organization

WRI - World Resources Institute

UNEP - United Nations Environmental Programme

UNDP - United Nations Development Programme

WCED - World Commission on Environment and Development

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

Introduction

This chapter review related literature. It involves the findings of other researchers on the topic. The review will be based on the following sub – topics.

Definition of environmental degradation

According to Rogers (2001), environmental degradation is the deterioration of the environment through depletion of resources such as air, water and soil, the destruction of the ecosystems and the extinction of wildlife.

Also, Jasim (2008) defined environmental degradation as the activities that cause harm or destruction to features in the environment. He stated that, environmental degradation is one of the key problems in Ghana today. If we carelessly destroy the features of the

environment, our continued existence will be in jeopardy or danger. We must therefore show disinterest in activities that may cause harm to the environment.

For the purpose of information, scientific researcher from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology has found that Birim River's water level is dwindling, according to a reliable source. It is well known that water basins get their protection from forest overgrowth. The fact that Birim River's water volume is thinning is an indication that both the forest's undergrowth and overgrowth are degraded, most probably from indiscriminate diamond prospecting along its banks.

That the banks of the Birim River are dotted with timber process sawmills could not be sheer coincidence with respect to the dwindling of water in the basin. In addition, the diamond mining company based at Akwatia since 1947 has been dumping excessive silt leftover from its processing plants into the Birim River. It should not take any great imagination to understand that excessive silt deposit into the Birim River contributes to the thinning of the water volume.

To anybody's thinking, the problems mentioned above call for public policy solutions; and this is where the government of the day comes in. In spite of the need for public policy action to solve the problem of environmental degradation along the banks of Birim River, Ghana's Minister of Mines recently advised the Board of the ailing Ghana Consolidated Diamond Company to extend its operations downstream towards Akim Oda. One wonders whose interest the Honorable Minister Kwadwo Adjei-Darko is protecting, the voters in the community or profits of the mining company?

For an unexplained reason, it appears the directives of the Minister of Mines are in conflict

with the concerns raised recently by Ghana's Vice President Alhaji Aliu Mahama regarding degradation of the forest cover for water basins in Ghana. In a recent speech, the vice president is reported to have charged District Assemblies "to deal drastically with environmental offenders ..." (Environmental Protection Program", Ghanaweb.com, Jan. 12, 2002). In this context, why shouldn't Kwaebibirem District Assembly and the other District Assemblies along the banks of Birim River "deal drastically" with mining operators and prospectors that degrade the ecology of the areas under their jurisdiction?

Causes of environmental degradation

According to Nikoi (2008), there are many human activities which adversely affect the environment. These include;

- Poor farming methods: Poor farming methods such as bush burning and continuous farming are two main poor farming practices that degrade the environment. The burning of the bush after clearing the vegetation reduced nutrients in the soil and leads to desertification.
- Surface mining: It refers to the process of obtaining minerals by removing the surface layer of the earth.
- Overgrazing by livestock: Overgrazing by animals such as cattle, sheep and goats deprive the land of its vegetative cover.
- Industrialization: The establishment of industries had led to environmental problems such as air and water pollution.
- Fishing with poisonous chemicals: The use of poisonous chemicals for fishing in rivers and seas pollutes these water bodies and reduces their ability to support the growth of aquatic species.

- Deforestation: It refers to indiscriminate felling of trees from the forest. It often reduces the vegetative cover in an area.
- Stone quarrying and sand winning: This creates large and deep channels or ditches in the landscape making it difficult for people to build or farm on the affected land.

Effects of environmental degradation

According to Armento, (1986), cholera belongs to the group of deadly illnesses classified as “diarrhoeal disease” among other infectious diseases. Diarrhoeal diseases cause their victims to lose body fluids and matter rapidly and excessively, often resulting in death quickly if left untreated. Besides diarrhoeal diseases, the World Health Organization, WHO, identifies pneumonia, AIDS, TB, malaria and measles as the leading infectious diseases afflicting the world today, (Johnson et al, 1997).

Thornton and Vukelich (1986), explain that in layman’s terms, the diseases identified above are described as “infectious” precisely because once they come into existence they are communicated or transmitted from the sources or agents to their human victims. Humans who have the misfortune of hosting the infectious agent of the diseases pass them on directly or indirectly to others leading to a multiplying effect or epidemic.

To the Association of American Colleges (1985), other direct transmission of infectious disease agents includes exposure of open tissue to affected soil, decaying vegetable matter, animal bites and transfer from a pregnant mother to the foetus. “Contaminated objects such as soiled bedding or dressings, or poorly cleaned utensils, as well as water, food, milk, blood and serum”. The potential for micro-organisms to cause disease outbreaks is dependent on exposure of humans to environmental risks, the overall health of the individual, and the

ability of the pathogen to affect humans (Thornton and Vukelich,1986). “There is an intrinsic relationship between pathogen, host, and environment (physical, biological, social, cultural, and economical).” (Stone, 1986),

Polluted water features prominently as vehicle for the causes and transmission of infectious diseases and that is where the concrete situation of Akwatia, Kade and the outlying villages come into focus relative to the contradiction between diamond mining operations in the area and public health policy of Ghana (or the lack of it.) Since 1947, diamond mining operations based at Akwatia have resulted in the dumping of waste water into the Birim River which historically has been the source of drinking water for citizens living along its banks. The Birim River since 1947 has lost its value and essence for the people at Akwatia and downstream. It is a joke among some circles familiar with the unhealthy quality of Birim River downstream from Akwatia that even frogs cannot survive in the water.

Elliot (1991) contended on the effects on environmental degradation that, the resource base generally translates into decreases in production or income and thus in the availability of food. Declining soil fertility leads to lower crop yields while rangeland depletion reduces off-take, and any deterioration in water quality adversely affects the fish catch. Degradation of common property resources pulls labour away from directly productive activities towards gathering - simply collecting non-wood and minor forest products - and probably diminishes opportunities for deriving income from this source.

Slavin (1981) and Stanley (1985), agreed that linkages with food security can also be less direct. Shortages of biomass may result in a transition to lower-nutrition foods that require less fuel for cooking. In addition, recurrent drought or natural calamities also directly result

in progressive loss of food security prospects. In their quest for food security, the rural poor have sometimes little choice but to overuse the limited resources available to them. The resulting environmental degradation imposes further constraints on their livelihood in what has been called a "downward spiral" or "vicious circle".

They are often forced to make trade-offs between immediate household food requirements and environmental sustainability both in production and consumption. Their negligible man-made capital assets, ill-defined or non-existent property rights, limited access to financial services and other markets, inadequate safety nets in time of stress or disaster, and lack of participation in decision-making can result in their adopting "short time horizons", which favour immediate imperatives over longer-term objectives. This can result in coping strategies that rely on the drawing down of the capital available to them, mainly in the form of natural resources. It also makes them more vulnerable to environmental degradation, including degradation wrought by others than the poor themselves.

A research done by Berkowitz and Gibbs (1983), identified that the poor may be both agents and victims of environmental degradation, especially in marginal areas, where the resource base is ill-suited to agriculture. But it cannot be assumed that the poor have an intrinsic propensity to degrade environmental resources. On the contrary, many poor traditional communities demonstrate an admirable environmental ethic and have developed complex resource management regimes. There is little evidence that the rural poor, when offered an appropriate environment - including secure tenure and access to markets - pursue resource-degrading strategies. Thus, while poverty may be an underlying cause of

environmental degradation, it is more accurately seen as a proximate cause influenced by a complex of policy and institutional factors.

The very same processes that lead to and perpetuate poverty constrain the poor in their decision-making with regard to natural resource management. Affluence and poverty affect the environment in different ways: poverty eradication would not erase environmental degradation but change the nature of environmental problems facing society.

According to Jasim (2008), our environment has been under serious threat as a result of our everyday activities. He outlined the following effects of environmental degradation on the climate.

- Reduction in rainfall: When we cut trees indiscriminately without re-planting, we reduce the rate of transpiration, which is a contributory factor to the formation of rain.
- Formation of acid rain: some of the harmful factory wastes which pollute the air are poisonous. For example, sulphur dioxide is a poisonous gas released when oil and coal are burned. It is also released from factories that generate electricity.
- Destruction of Eco-system: Land degradation through improper mining activities removes surface soil, causing soil erosion and preventing plant growth. It also destroys our forests and natural climate.
- Increase in weather temperature: When we cut trees in our environment, the coolness of the atmosphere is also affected. As a result, the weather temperature goes up. This can also reduce the rainfall we get and affect our farming seasons and yields.

Measures of preventing environmental degradation

Jasim (2008) identified the following measures of preventing environmental degradation.

- We must avoid wrong methods of farming and mining.
- We must avoid indiscriminate bush burning.
- We must avoid deforestation.
- Building contractors must not encourage sand winning from unauthorized places.
- People must contact Town and Country Planning Department for proper layout of our township before they put up building.
- We must dispose our refuse safely.
- We must not rely on tress for firewood.

Graham (1968) explained that, environmental degradation can be prevented through ecologically sustainable development. Ecologically sustainable development is the environmental component of sustainable development. It can be achieved partially through the use of the precautionary principle, namely that if there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation.

Also important is the principle of intergenerational equity, namely that the present generation should ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment is maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations; the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity; and improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms, namely that environmental factors should be included in the valuation of assets and services, (Downey, 2001).

Environmental issues are negative aspects of human activity on the biophysical environment. Environmentalism, a social and environmental movement that started in the 1960s, addresses environmental issues through advocacy, education and activism.

Another way of preventing environmental degradation as outlined by Awoyemi (1957) is through 'Scientific grounding'. The level of understanding of Earth has increased markedly in recent times through science especially with the application of the scientific method. Environmental science is now a multi-disciplinary academic study taught and researched at many universities. This is used as a basis for addressing environmental issues. Large amounts of data have been gathered and these are collated into reports, of which a common type is the State of the Environment publications. A recent major report was the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, with input from 1200 scientists and released in 2005, which showed the high level of impact that humans are having on ecosystem services.

Furthermore, Elliot (1991) stated that, environmental issues are addressed at a regional, nation or international level by government organisations. He continued that, the largest international agency, set up in 1972, is the United Nations Environment Programme. The International Union for Conservation of Nature brings together 83 states, 108 government agencies, 766 Non-governmental organizations and 81 international organizations and about 10,000 experts and scientists from countries around the world. International non-governmental organizations include Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth and World Wide Fund for Nature. Governments enact environmental policy and enforce environmental law and this is done to differing degrees around the world.

To Rogers (2001) sustainability is the key to preventing or reducing the effect of environmental issues. There is now clear scientific evidence that humanity is living unsustainably, and that an unprecedented collective effort is needed to return human use of natural resources to within sustainable limits. For humans to live sustainably, the Earth's resources must be used at a rate at which they can be replenished. Concerns for the

environment have prompted the formation of Green parties, political parties that seek to address environmental issues. Initially these formed in Australia, New Zealand and Germany but are now present in many other countries.

A publication by a popular Ghanaian Newspaper, The Chronicles on combating environmental degradation stated that, many organizations including the World Resources Institute (WRI), United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank made public an important report on health and the environment sighting how the activities of man has contributed to the degradation of the environment and how the situation can be rectified. In spite of these campaigns, it is quite disheartening that people are still degrading the environment to the suffering of the mass.

The landmark report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, entitled "Our Common Future", warned that unless we change many of our lifestyle patterns, the world will face unacceptable levels of environmental damage and human suffering. The Commission, echoing the urgent need for tailoring the pace and the pattern of global economic growth to the planet's carrying capacity, said that: "Humanity has the ability to make development sustainable and to ensure that it meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Summary of literature review

In the final analysis, the environmental crisis affects everyone on the planet, but the degree to which the inhabitants of different parts of the world contribute to this crisis depends on the level of their economic development and their consumption patterns. As much as 70%

of the world's consumption of fossil fuel and 85% of chemical products is attributable to 25% of the world's population. Water consumption is also unevenly distributed. Consumption of water in developing countries ranges between 20 to 40 m. The consumption patterns for forest products and many other commodities have the same direct inverse proportion to the size of population of the top 20% of the richest societies.

This wasteful demand puts excessive pressure on both national and global natural resources. The rest of the world, comprising 80% of its population with a share of less than 20% of global income, has a far more modest consumption level.

While international environmental concerns are often expressed in broad terms such a desertification or climatic change, the environmental problems of concern to vulnerable groups in marginal areas are generally quite localized in nature, revolving around immediate issues, such as the degradation of a particular rangeland or soil erosion on farmland or the progressive shortening of fallow. These affect the poor because they are directly related to household food security (Atwood, 1986, Turiel 1983, and Stone, 1986).

According to Nikoi (2008), the environment can be protected many ways. These include;

- Improper farming systems.
- Increase the use of organic manure.
- Encouraging proper disposal of industrial waste.
- Encouraging proper disposal of domestic waste.
- Monitoring lumbering activities.
- Enforcing the ban on the use of chemicals for fishing
- Enforcing environmental laws
- Controlling soil erosion
- Replanting felled trees
- Afforestation
- Recycling

- Educating

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

Introduction

This chapter is devoted to the task of addressing the problem through the application of an intervention. It throws lights on the research design, the population for the study, sample and sampling procedure, instrument(s) used, pre – intervention, intervention and post – intervention aspects of the research.

Research design

The design used in the project is traditional research. Traditional research is a kind of research used to find solutions to a problem through oral and written interventions. By extension, the researcher works collaboratively with other people to solve a perceived problem. This approach aims at improving a problem – related situation through change.

The traditional research has a lot of benefits so far as teaching and learning is concerned. It assists the teacher to evaluate his or her teaching effectiveness. Traditional research helps people to get in-depth knowledge on a perceived problem and how it could be solved. The design was chosen because it is the most convenient means of finding immediate solution to problems in the community.

Population

Mampong is a town in the Akwapem North District of the Eastern Region. The population of inhabitants is about three thousand and five hundred. Almost every occupation exists in

the community. The community can boast of resources like light, accessible road, good drinking water and schools. The town has one senior high school, three junior high schools and four primary schools beside three private basic schools. Majority of the population are literates but only a few had obtained tertiary education. This makes it possible for effective allocation of public facilities.

Sample and Sampling Procedure

According to Amedahe and Gyimah (2002), the sample consists of a carefully selected subset of the units that made up the population. Mampong community was selected as the population for the study through purposive sampling technique.

Method of data collection

Questionnaire

Questionnaire was the main instrument used for the collection of data. According to Vander, (1985) a questionnaire is list of question or a set of questions used to gather information in a survey. The researcher chooses questionnaire as one of the instrument used since it is less expensive in terms of time and resources. The questionnaire was administered to members of the community.

The researcher educated them individually and in groups. The researcher gave them two weeks to complete the questionnaires. The researcher went round to collect the questionnaires. Other samples also submitted the questionnaires themselves.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

Introduction

This chapter deals with the presentation of data and its analysis. These data presented was based on the observation and the interviews administered. Simple figures and percentages were used in the analysis.

Table 1

Awareness of environmental conservation measures

Awareness of environmental conservation measures	Number of peoples	Percentage (%)
Number of people aware	10	25
Number of people not aware	30	75
Total	40	100

Table 1 shows data on the number of people in Mampong who are aware of the measures of conserving the environment. It reveals that, 10 people forming 25% are aware of some

measures while as many as 30 people representing 75% responded that they know of no measure of conserving the environment.

This implies that, most of the people are not aware of the measures or practices that protect the environment.

Figure 1

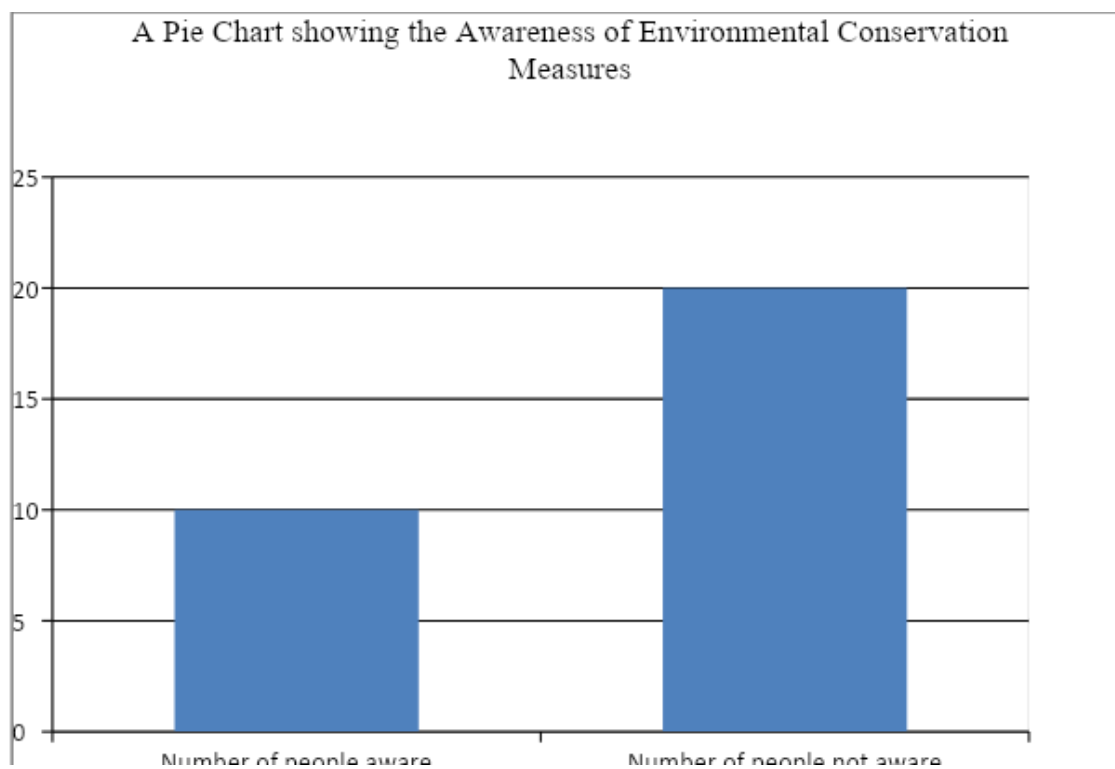


Table 2

Waste management method at home

Method	Number of people	Percentage (%)
Refuse dump	13	32.5

Pit	1	2.5
River	5	12.5
Bush	15	37.5
Not precise	6	15
Total	40	100

According to table 2, 13 people representing 32.5% responded that they keep their refuse in a refuse dump. Moreover, a person (2.5%) also said he/she dumps the waste in a pit. Furthermore, 5 people representing 12.5% responded that, they keep throw their waste into the river that run through the town. 15 people forming 37.5% ticked that, they throw their waste products into the bush. 6 people representing 15% responded that they are not precise where their children throw off their waste.

The data presented implies that, majority of the people indiscriminately dispose refuse into the bush and only a few properly dispose off their waste.

Figure 2

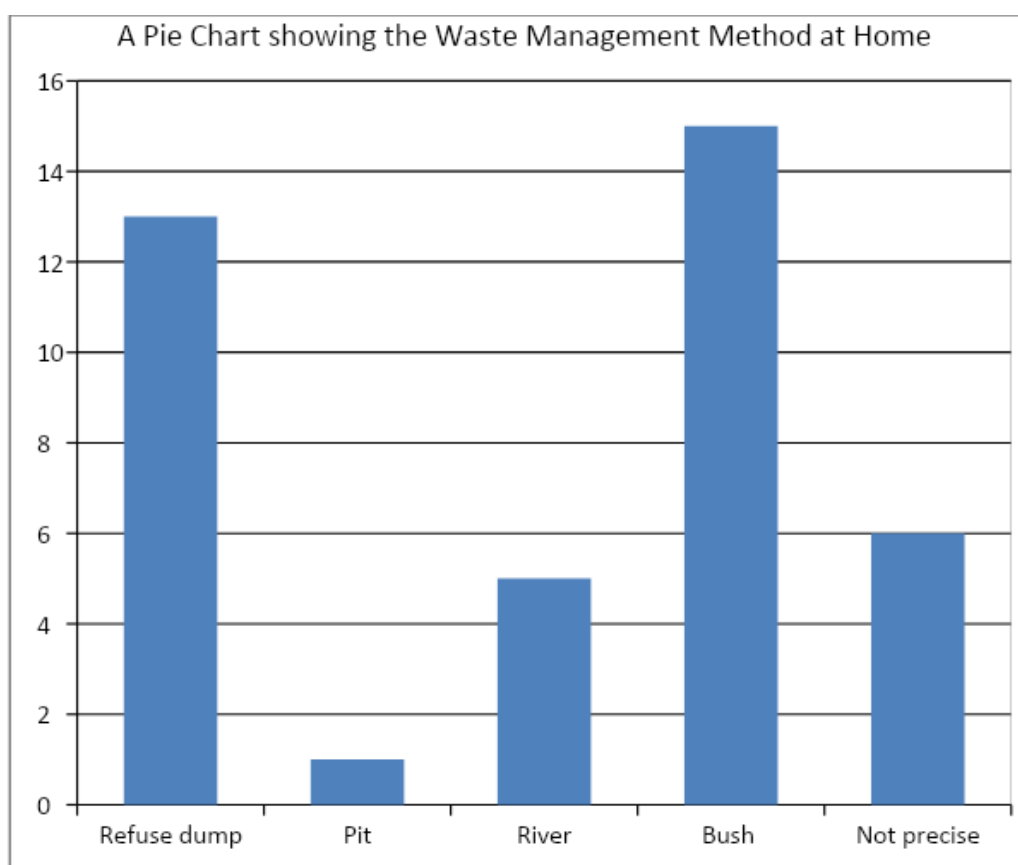


Table 3

Do you know of any proper way of managing or disposing waste?

Proper waste management	Number of people	Percentage (%)
Yes	8	20
No	32	80
Total	40	100

Table 3 also shows data on samples knowledge on proper waste management. The data revealed that, 8 people representing 20% responded yes whiles 32 people also representing 80% responded no. The data implies that, majority of the people in the community do not know of appropriate ways of managing or disposing their waste.

Figure 3

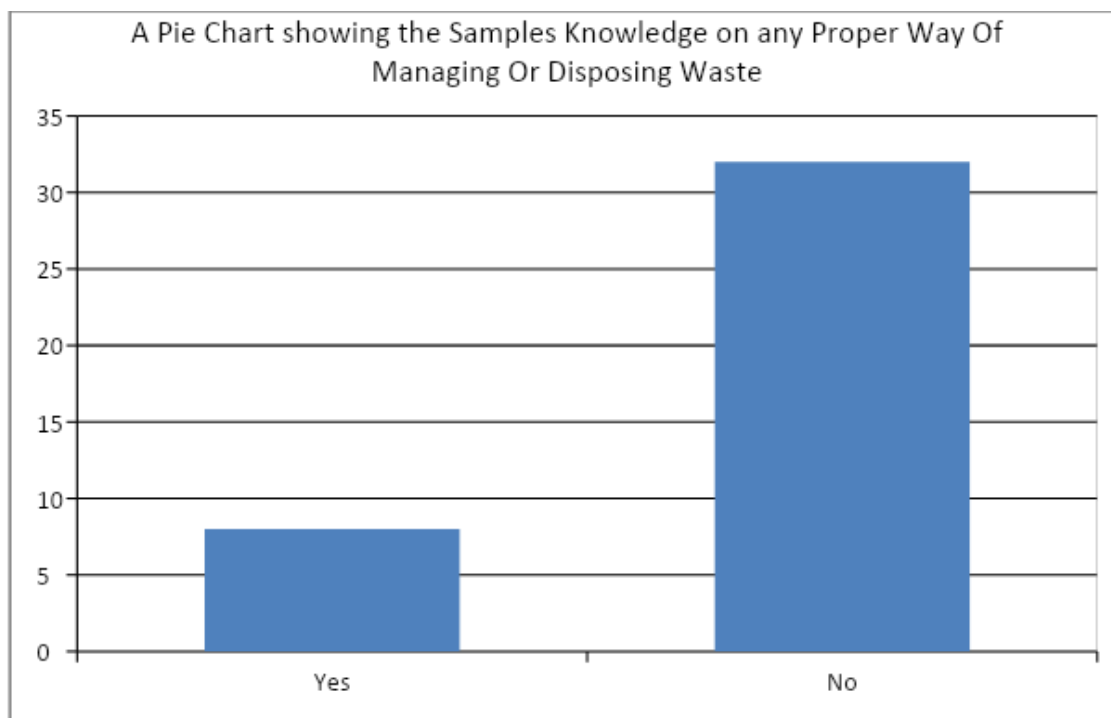


Table 4

Who disposes off waste at home?

Who disposes waste	Number	Percentage (%)
Children	31	77.5
Parents	9	22.5
Total	40	100

Table 4 shows data on the response ticked by samples to who dispose off waste at home. According to the data, 31 people making 77.5% said their children are responsible for waste disposal. Moreover, 9 people forming 22.5% also said the dispose off waste themselves. The result of the data revealed that, children at responsible for disposing off waste at home. Only a few parents take responsibility for that. Nevertheless, these children throw the waste anywhere.

Figure 4

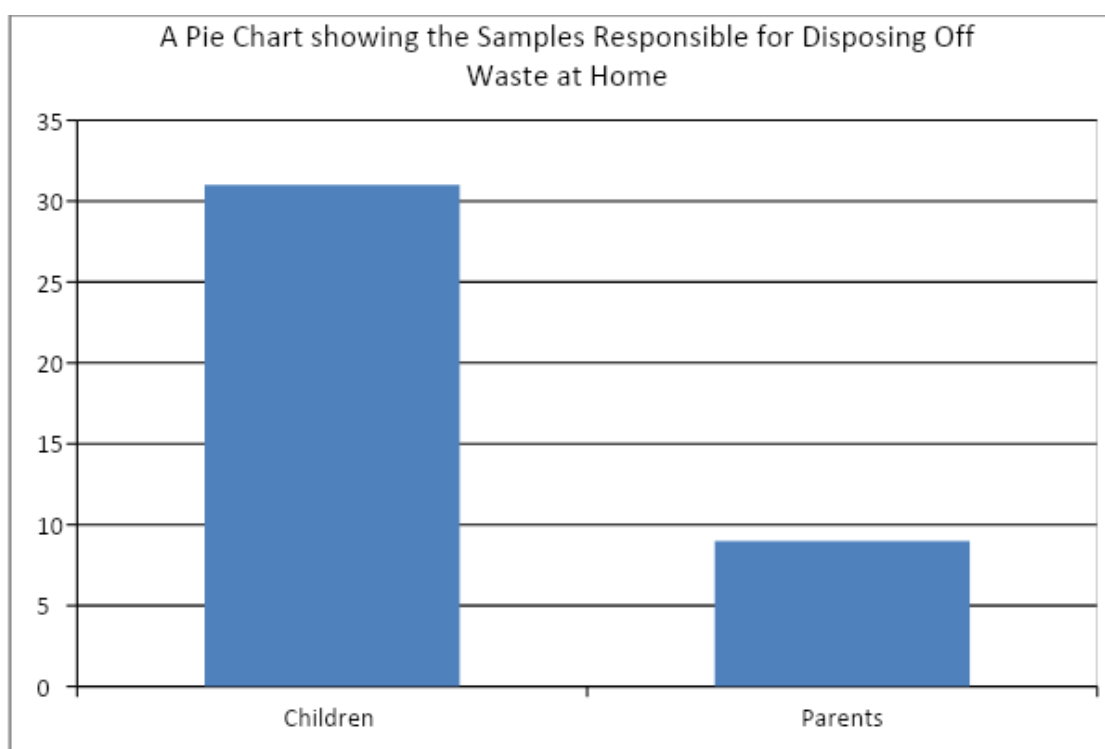


Table 5

Do you teach children about waste management?

Teaching of waste management	Number of people	Percentage (%)
Yes	4	100
No	0	0
Total	4	100

Table 5 presents data on teachers' teaching their pupils on waste management. All 4 teachers representing 100% responded 'yes'. This implies that, pupils are taught how to manage waste in school but do not practice what they learn home.

Figure 5

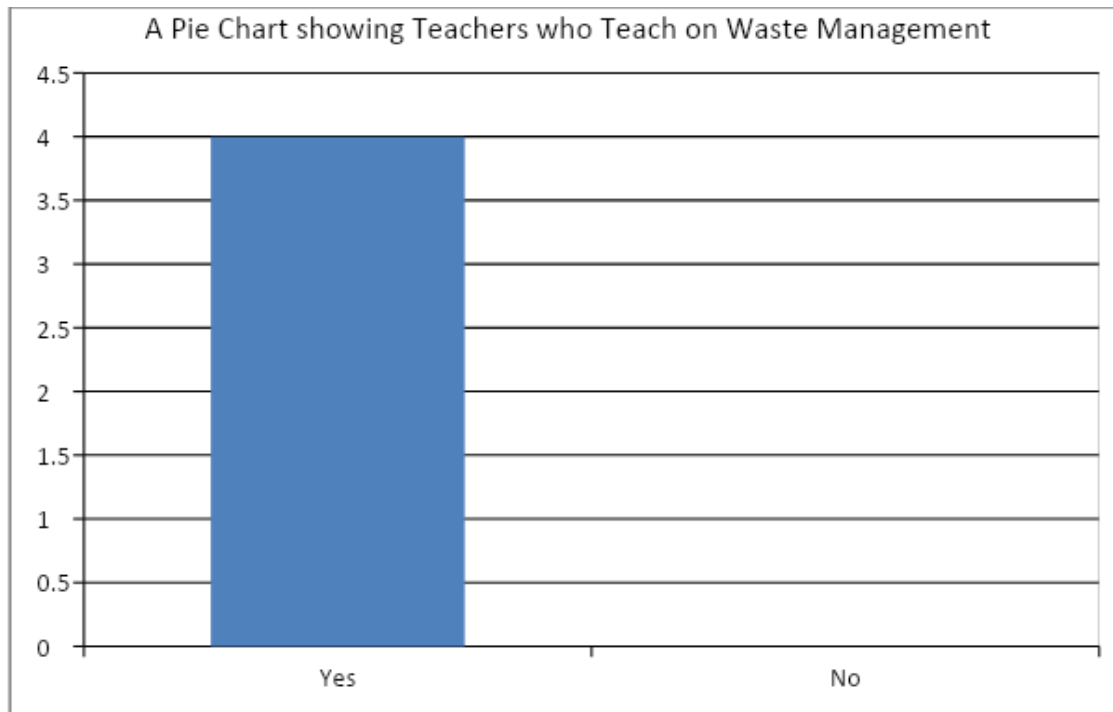


Table 6

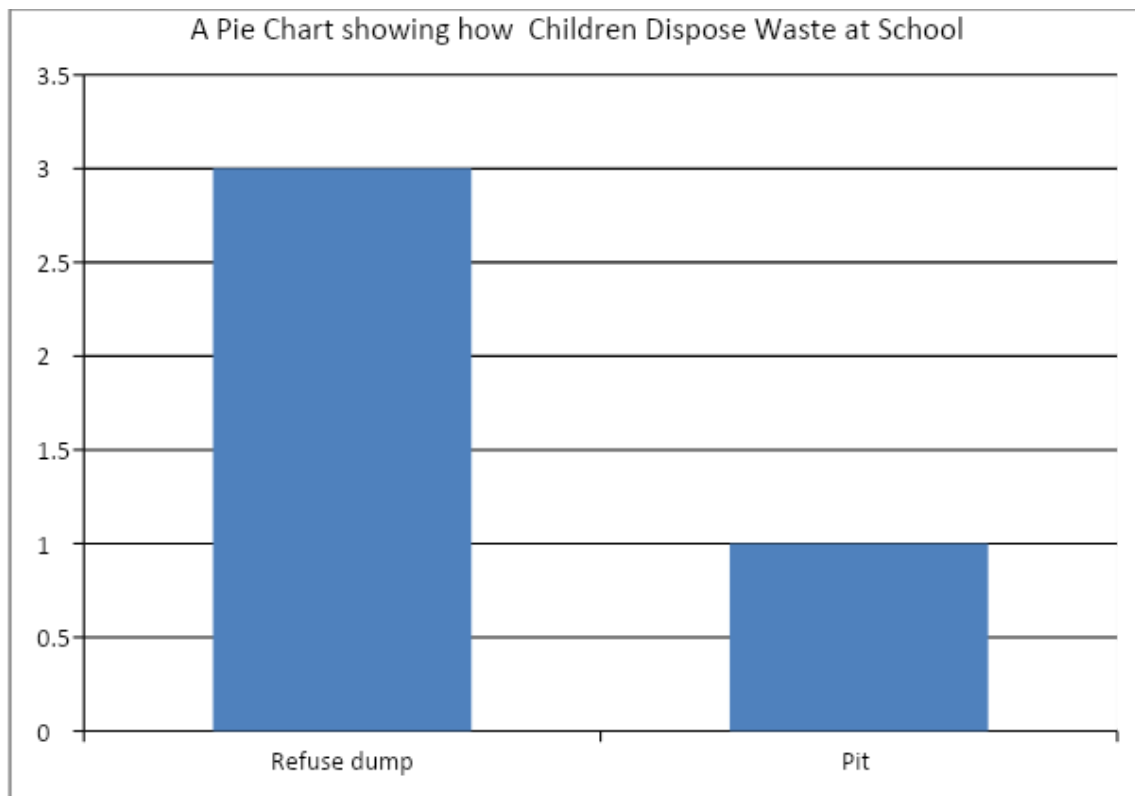
How do children dispose waste at school?

Waste disposal in school	Number of respondents	Percentage (%)
Refuse dump	3	75
Pit	1	25
Total	4	100

According to table 6, 3 teachers representing 75% responded that their wards throw waste onto the refuse dump anything the dust bin is full. Also, 1 teacher representing 25% said

waste is thrown into a dug pit in the school. The data presented implies that, at school, most of the pupils dispose waste onto the refuse dump than into the pit because it is closer to the school.

Figure 6



CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

In this chapter, an attempt is made to summarize the findings of the study. Conclusion and recommendations are made to all stakeholders in the study.

Summary of findings

The study is a traditional research focused on investigating into environmental degradation in Mampong Township, its economic implication and impact on the people. Mampong is a town near Akropong in the Akwapem North District of the Eastern Region. Mampong community was selected as the population for the study. Questionnaire was the main instrument used for the collection of data. The study was limited by insufficient time and resources.

The following findings were made by the researcher during the study. Firstly, information gathered revealed that only few people know of the measures of conserving the environment with majority of the people ignorant. Another finding made was that, in managing waste at home, inhabitants use the refuse dump or dug pit. Others also throw rubbish in to the river, the bush, and the last group not precise.

Moreover, a finding made is that, majority of parents leaves that task of waste disposal to children. Most of the teachers responded that they teach their children proper waste of

managing domestic waste. It was also found out that, waste management methods in the schools in the community are quite appropriate since refuse dumped into a dug pit and burnt occasionally. The study recorded a positive change in the attitude of inhabitants after series of public education on proper ways of managing waste.

Conclusion

It can be therefore concluded that, a healthy mind is found in a healthy body. Poor sanitation is an enemy to progress because it affects the health of people. Strong and energetic men and women lay sick in bed due to unhygienic conditions prevailing in the community. School going children are not regular and punctual in school because of ill health. It pays to live in a clean environment.

Recommendations

Based on the findings highlighted, the researcher would like to make the following suggestions.

- ✓ Educationist and curriculum planners should include environmental degradation as a topic in the primary school syllabus.
- ✓ The study could involve a larger sample say pupils in the school or members of the community.
- ✓ The District Assembly should ensure that every community is provided with containers for gathering waste materials so that inhabitants do not indiscriminately dispose off waste.

Suggestions for further research

- ✓ Future researchers could involve a greater population instead of a pupil.
- ✓ Future research could also be carried out as a traditional research throughout some selected school in the district.
- ✓ Questionnaires could also be administered as research instrument in future research.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A

UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA

INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EXTENSION

TITLE: An investigation into environmental degradation in Mampong Township, its economic implication and impact on the people in the community.

This questionnaire is mainly for an academic purpose and the researcher promises to treat all your information you would give very confidential.

PLEASE TICK [☐] WHERE APPLICABLE

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Age: 15 – 18 [☐] 19 - 25 [☐] 26 – 30 [☐] 30 and above [☐]

2. Sex: Male [☐] Female [☐]

3. Occupation:

Farming [☐] Trading [☐] Civil Servant [☐] Any Other (specify)

4. Marital status:

Married [] Single [] Divorced []

5. Level of education: Primary []

Middle school []

Secondary school []

Tertiary level []

Uneducated []

6. Who sweeps at home?

Children [] Mother [] Any other (specify)

7. Where do you throw rubbish after sweeping?

Refuse dump [] Into the river [] Into the bush [] Any where [] Any other
(specify).....

8. How often do you organize communal labour?

Every week [] Once in a month [] Never [] Any other

9. Do you attend communal labour? Yes [] No []

If 'No' why?

10. Do you practice bush burning in the farm? Yes [] No []

11. Do you know some human activities can destroy or cause harm to the environment?

Yes [] No []

If 'Yes' mention some of these activities.....

12. Do you know of the effects of degrading the environment? Yes [] No []

If 'Yes', mention some of these effects

.....

13. Do you know of any means of protecting the environment? Yes [] No []

If 'Yes', mention some of these effects

.....