# SEEING WASTE PROJECT

Transcription of interviews which were conducted on 3rd December, 2019 by Jonathan Kwangulero at Sunny Side Park on seeing waste project.

# INTERVIEW NUMBER ONE

**Interviewer:** Hello, my name is Jonathan kwangulero, I’m a researcher at the Polytechnic. I’m conducting research investigating attitudes and perceptions towards waste in an urban environment. As an important stakeholder in this community, I am requesting that you participate in this research by granting me an interview. The information collected will only be used for research our purposes only.

**Interviewee:** Mmmh!

**Interviewer:** Sure! In order to gauge these perceptions and understandings you will be asked to tidy up the path from that end to that end. You will also be asked to keep any item that you may consider helpful. After this you will be asked to order the objects you interacted with from the most helpful to the most harmful. Then after that we will have an interview that may take 10 – 20 minutes.

**Interviewee:** (Silent) yeah!

**Interviewer:** Umm, yeah, so I`d just like to start by finding out some of the, your background information. You have known me, let me know you?

**Interviewee:** My name is *male*

**Interviewer:** Okay, how old are you?

**Interviewee:** I’m 52

**Interviewer:** Okay, what is your occupation?

**Interviewee:** I work with City Assembly as a landscaper.

**Interviewer:** Oh! That’s interesting, our objective is almost the same, make Blantyre clean.

**Interviewee:** (laugh) yeah.

**Interviewer:** Which object did you see/interact with first and why?

**Interviewee:** Eeh, what can I call this?

**Interviewer:** Okay, you can just give a description of the object if you can name it.

**Interviewee:** I would say the plastic water bottle without a lid because it was out of place and making this place look unpleasant.

**Interviewer:** I believe most of the objects you cleared up were out of place and making the place look unpleasant, so what was special about that one?

**Interviewee:** yeah, but this one is bigger than the other ones, and could be seen from a far.

**Interviewer:** Sure, which objects did you interact with and why?

**Interviewee:** I cleared out plastic bags, plastic bottles, and glass bottles, tins because these objects are out of place and should not be here.

**Interviewer:** why are you saying they are out of place and where should they be?

**Interviewee:** They are making this place unpleasant and some can bruise people**.**

**Interviewer:** Okay, when you were tidying the path, which objects did choose to keep and why? Start from the most helpful to least helpful

**Interviewee:** Mmmh, out of the all the objects, I would say the new Shoprite bag because I can use it to carry my work suits home during this rainy season. After that, it’s the glass bottle of wine because people use that to keep traditional beer.

**Interviewer:** Oh, so is the glass bottle of wine helpful to you?

**Interviewee:** To me it’s not helpful.

**Interviewer:** Okay! You have talked about object you would keep because they might be helpful to you, can you talk about those objects you interacted with from the most harmful to the least harmful?

**Interviewee:** The most harmful object I interacted with is the broken glass because sometimes people walk around this path barefooted and it may easily bruised them**.** After that it is the blue plastic bag because it degrades the environment because it does not decompose. For example, if you can sow seeds where there is plastic, the seed does not germinate because, like I said plastic does not decompose. It may take even 100 years without decomposing. So plastic should always be disposed carefully.

**Interviewer:** Ooh, how should it be disposed?

**Interviewee:** By putting it in a bin and dispose it at the landfill.

**Interviewer:** Okay, You have only talked about blue plastic bag not decomposing, what about other plastics?

**Interviewee:** Let me just say plastic does not decompose, not just the blue plastic bag, all plastic does not decompose.

**Interviewer:** Okay! Keep on!

**Interviewee:** Moving further I would say the broken crockery, damaged soda can and tins because these objects have the potential of bruising people.

**Interviewer:** Okay, sure! Reflecting on the context, did it impact your categorization of each object?

**Interviewee:** In a park I expect to see flowers and tree, any other object other than that is trash. But as far as my categorization of object, this context did not impact

**Interviewer:** Let’s move around the path, Sir, I can see some objects left on the path. Why did you leave those objects and why?

**Interviewee:** I left some of the objects because I did not see them. For example, I left the maize cob (with and without) kernels, leaves and sugarcane chafe because their colors are not bright enough. Take the yellow scrap of cloth, how can you miss that one?

**Interviewer:** Haha

**Interviewee:** Some of the materials are too small I couldn’t clear up, Mmmh maybe I had a bloom I would have.

**Interviewer: (**Laughs) okay, let’s suppose you had seen those objects you did not seen, would you have them cleared up? If not, why you stop you to do so?

**Interviewee:** (laughs) Sure, I would have cleared those objects, the only thing that can stop me is when the object is too gloss to handle with bare hands like that mango seed.

**Interviewer:** Why concerned with bare hands?

**Interviewee:** They may infect my hands with bacteria, left on them by the flies.

**Interviewer:** What about the other objects you mentioned earlier, are they not infected with bacteria.

**Interviewee:** I don’t think so, because they are not attracting flies as the mango seed.

**Interviewer:** okay. About the objects you left on the path because didn’t see, which ones would you keep and which ones are harmful if you had seen them?

**Interviewee:** I can keep the maize cob with kernels because it`s food. The rest I wouldn’t! They are useless and making this place look unpleasant.

**Interviewer:** Which object belong in this context?

**Interviewee:** Flowers, tree and green grass because these objects are making this place look beautiful.

**Interviewer:** Which objects are out of place in this context?

**Interviewee:** All these objects, the bottles, plastics and broken glass because they are making this place look unpleasant. These objects should be gathered in a bin and disposed at the landfill.

**Interviewer:** Okay, lastly, how do you see and understand waste?

**Interviewee:** Haha, that’s a hard one. Any object which is out of place and making a place look unpleasant is waste.

**Interviewer:** Thanks a lot, sir!

# INTERVIEW NUMBER TWO

**Interviewer:** Hello, my name is Jonathan kwangulero, I’m a researcher at the Polytechnic. I’m conducting research investigating attitudes and perceptions towards waste in an urban environment. As an important stakeholder in this community, I am requesting that you participate in this research by granting me an interview.

**Interviewee:** Okay!

**Interviewer:** Sure! In order to gauge these perceptions and understandings you will be asked to tidy up the path from that end to that end. You will also be asked to keep any item that you may consider helpful. After this you will be asked to order the objects you interacted with from the most helpful to the most harmful. Then after that we will have an interview that may take 10 – 20 minutes.

**Interviewee:** Mmmh.

**Interviewer:** Umm, yeah, so I`d just like to start by finding out some of your background

information. What’s your name? **Interviewee:** I’m John Kasimu. **Interviewer:** Okay, how old are you? **Interviewee:** I’m 22

**Interviewer:** Okay, what is your occupation?

**Interviewee:** I`m a student.

**Interviewer:** Which object did you see/interact with first and why?

**Interviewee:** Mainly, aaah! I started with the plastic bag.

**Interviewer:** Okay, which plastic bag in particular and why?

**Interviewee:** The thin blue plastic bag (dirty) because they are found everywhere. For instance, if you buy chips or donuts you are given those, and after eating people just throw them anyhow. You can’t move around town and not see them. In addition, they are making the city look unhygienic especially during the rainy season because they hold water and the left overs left in them attract flies which spread diseases like cholera in the city.

**Interviewer:** Sure, which objects did you interact with and why?

**Interviewee:** I interacted with damaged bottles, plastic bags, tins because these materials are out of place. They are supposed to be in a bin.

**Interviewer:** why are you saying they are out of place and where should they be?

**Interviewee:** They are making this place unpleasant and some can bruise people**.**

**Interviewer:** Okay, when you were tidying the path, which objects do consider as harmful, please start with the most harmful to the least harmful

**Interviewee:** Mmmh, it`s hard to specify to rate them in that order.

**Interviewer:** Why is that?

**Interviewee:** Because these objects are all bad.

**Interviewer:** Okay, but which one is the worst? And how bad is it?

**Interviewee:** The worst is the broken glass because it may bruise a person unexpectedly.

**Interviewer:** Okay, what else?

**Interviewee:** Plastic, the left-overs of salad/chips attract flies which spreads diseases. Sugarcane chafe.

**Interviewer:** Why is sugarcane chafe harmful?

**Interviewee:** Mmmh, We are in a city and a city must look beautiful all times, so these things make the city look unpleasant, at the same time, they attract flies that facilitate spread of diseases like diarrhea.

**Interviewer:** Which objects would you find helpful? Start with the most helpful going down

**Interviewee:** Clean plastic bag because I use it to lit fire at home. Soda can, tin foil because I can use it to store sugar or salt.

**Interviewer:** okay! Reflecting on the context, did it have an impact on your categorization of each object?

**Interviewee:** Yes, I find all the objects useless, but if I was home some of these objects would have been useful like the tins and plastic bags which I can use to lit fire.

**Interviewer:** okay let’s look around the path, I see objects you left behind. Which objects did you leave and why?

**Interviewee:** uuh, maize cob without a kernel, sugarcane chaff because it was difficult to spot because of their dull color.

**Interviewer:** Uuuh, cigarette but, matchstick box

**Interviewee:** Yeah, Cigarette butt, matchstick box because those objects are too small to spot. I left the dry leaves because they are too many and I can only use a bloom to clean up.

**Interviewer:** Would you have cleared up some of the objects you did not see if you had seen them?

**Interviewee:** Yes, because it is out of place and its making the place look unpleasant.

**Interviewer:** Out of curiosity, what reason would make you not clean up an object which is out of place?

**Interviewee:** If the object is too gloss or dirty to touch with bare hands.

**Interviewer:** Okay, of the objects you did not see, what is your categorization in terms of being harmful and helpful?

**Interviewer:** Which objects belong in this context?

**Interviewee:** Flowers, trees because they beautify places like the parks

**Interviewer:** Which objects are out of place in this context?

**Interviewee:** Plastic bags, bottles, maize cob without a kernel and leaves, and everything which is here except the things earlier.

# INTERVIEW NUMBER THREE

**Interviewer:** Hello, my name is Jonathan kwangulero, I’m a researcher at the Polytechnic. I’m conducting research investigating attitudes and perceptions towards waste in an urban contact. As an important stakeholder in this community, I am requesting that you participate in this research by granting me an interview. The information collected will only be used for research our purposes only.

**Interviewee:** Okay!

**Interviewer:** Sure! In order to gauge these perceptions and understandings you will be asked to tidy up the path from that end to that end. You will also be asked to keep any item that you may consider helpful. After this you will be asked to order the objects you interacted with from the most helpful to the most harmful. Then after that we will have an interview that may take 10 – 20 minutes.

**Interviewee:** Okay!

**Interviewer:** Let me start by asking your name.

**Interviewee:** John Mwanjapansi

**Interviewer:** What’s your occupation?

**Interviewee:** I’m a security officer for Festus Security at Magalasi.

# Interviewer:

How old are you?

**Interviewee:** I’m 25 years old.

**Interviewer:** Okay, great, which was the first object you interacted with, and why?

**Interviewee:** Dirty blue plastic bag because it is dirty, making this place looking unpleasant, and it cannot decompose in soil as such plants cannot grow under that soil.

**Interviewer:** Sure! Which objects did you interact with and why?

**Interviewee:** I interacted with the damaged milk tin because it can be recycled using machines. I also interacted with the piece of cloth because I can use it as a handkerchief, and this plastic bottle without cover for storing water. I also interacted with the plastics because they degrade the environment.

**Interviewer:** Okay, can you explain?

**Interviewee:** Plastics take a long time to decompose in soil, and as such trees cannot grow under that soil.

**Interviewer:** Okay, Of all the objects you interacted with, which objects would you keep and for what purpose. Start with the most helpful

**Interviewee:** The most important item is the milk tin because I can easily sell it to companies that recycle metals.

**Interviewer:** have you ever sold such an object to any company?

# Interviewee: No

**Interviewer:** Do you know any company which buy and recycle objects like the milk tin?

**Interviewee:** No, but I have heard people talking about it.

**Interviewer:** Okay, what did they say?

**Interviewee:** Uuh, if you can collect enough tins you can sell them at a good price.

**Interviewer:** Proceed.

**Interviewee:** After the damaged milk tin is wine bottle because I can easily sell it to people who sell traditional beer and even to companies like southern bottlers. Then it is the plastic bottle because I can use it to store water.

**Interviewer:** Ummhu.

**Interviewee:** Then is the usable tin can because I can use it to keep things like popcorn is the absence of plastic bag. After that, I would say the scrap of cloth because I can use it as handkerchief. Then, I would say the maize cob with kernels because I can use to make maize floor. The last one is the crockery (usable) because, even it does not have a handle I would still use it.

**Interviewer:** Okay, what about the other objects you interacted with? How harmful are they?

**Interviewee:** Number one is the broken plastic bottle without a lid because when it is left in the ground it cannot decompose and even if it can be burnt it can pollute the environment.

**Interviewer:** Okay, explain.

**Interviewee:** Plastic contains chemicals that when burn they release smoke that pollutes air.

**Interviewer:** Okay.

**Interviewee:** Number two is blue plastic because it does not decompose. In general, number two I would put any plastic as number two because all plastics do not decompose thereby polluting the environment.

**Interviewer:** mmhu

**Interviewee:** Thirdly, it the broken glass because it can bruise a barefooted individual passing through the path or walking around the park and at the same time glass does not decompose. Fourthly, mango seeds and maize cobs because they attract flies which spread food borne diseases.

**Interviewer:** Was your categorization impacted by the context?

**Interviewee:** Yes, because in a park there should be flowers, trees and grass. So any object apart from these I would say its waste.

**Interviewer:** There is a cigarette butt, matchstick box …. Which objects did you leave and why?

**Interviewee:** Cigarette butt because I did not to see because it. There are other small things I did not see like the airtime scratch card and bottle top cover but I could have cleared them up if I had seen them because are making this place look unpleasant. These object are supposed to be in a bin!

**Interviewer:** Out of curiosity, what reason would make you not clean up an object which is out of place?

**Interviewer:** If the object is too gloss or dirty to touch with bare hands.

**Interviewer:** Which objects belong in this context?

**Interviewee:** Flowers, trees, grass because they beautify places like these places.

**Interviewer:** Which objects are out of this context?

**Interviewee:** Plastic paper, bottles. I cannot say the dry leaves because these act as manure so they are not out of place.

**Interviewer:** Thank you very much Sir!

**Interviewee:** You’re Welcome.