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**ASSIGNMENT**

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**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION**

**FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE**

**UNIVERSITY OF UYO.**

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**QUESTION**

From the perspective of Environmental Health Administration outlined and explain in detailed a policy guideline on Environmental Health to the newly inaugurated Federal Government of Nigeria.

**AN OVERVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT IN NIGERIA**

The Nigerian environmental health management is a system established to manage and protect the environment in Nigeria. It includes various policies, laws, and regulations that aim to prevent environmental pollution, degradation, and improve public health.

Some key aspects of Nigerian environmental health management include:

* **Waste Management:** Waste management is a critical aspect of environmental health management in Nigeria. The government has established the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) to regulate and manage waste disposal in the country.
* **Water Management:** Access to clean and potable water is a significant challenge in Nigeria. The government has established the Federal Ministry of Environment to manage water resources and develop policies to promote water conservation and management.
* **Air Pollution Control:** Air pollution is a significant environmental and health issue in Nigeria due to high levels of industrial activities, poor maintenance of vehicles, and open burning practices. The National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) has established air quality guidelines and regulations to regulate and control air pollution in the country.
* **Public Health:** Nigerian environmental health management also includes programs and policies that promote public health. This includes disease management, food safety, and hygiene promotion.
* **Environmental Education and Awareness:** To promote environmental protection and conservation, the Nigerian government has established environmental education and awareness programs. These programs aim to educate the public on environmental issues and promote sustainable practices that protect the environment and improve public health.

Conclusively, Nigerian environmental health management is essential to protect public health, prevent environmental degradation and promote sustainable development.

**REVIEW OF RECENT ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH POLICIES**

Nigeria has undertaken several recent environmental health policies to address public health concerns related to the environment. These policies are aimed at ensuring that environmental factors do not contribute to the spread of diseases or cause harm to the general populace. Nigerian government has made significant efforts to improve environmental health in the country through several policies and initiatives implemented in recent years and some of the recent policies include:

* **National Policy on Environment:** This policy was instituted in 2018 and its primary aim is to create an enabling environment for sustainable development in Nigeria. It is geared towards ensuring that the environment is sustainably managed and that its resources are conserved for future generations. The policy also ties in with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and addresses issues such as climate change, pollution, and biodiversity.
* **National Environmental Sanitation Policy:** The Nigerian National Environmental Sanitation Policy was created to address issues related to sanitation, hygiene, and cleanliness in the country. It was introduced in 2005 and has been revised over the years. The policy is intended to provide guidelines for the safe disposal of waste, promote personal hygiene, and improve the working environment.
* **National Policy on Solid Waste Management:** This policy was launched in 2020 and is aimed at addressing the challenges of solid waste management in Nigeria. It identifies the necessary steps for solid waste management, which include collection, storage, transportation, and disposal. The policy recognizes the need for recycling and safe disposal of solid waste to protect public health and the environment.
* **National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) Act (2007) and National Environmental (Sanitation and Wastes Control) Regulations (2009)**

The NESREA Act was enacted in 2007 to regulate and enforce environmental standards and regulations in Nigeria. The Act establishes NESREA as the agency responsible for enforcing environmental regulations and establishing environmental monitoring systems across the country. Additionally, the National Environmental (Sanitation and Wastes Control) Regulations was developed in 2009 to provide guidelines for waste collection, disposal, and handling practices in Nigeria.

* **Ogoniland Cleanup Project (2011-present)**

The Ogoniland cleanup project was launched in 2011 by the Nigerian government to address the environmental damage caused by oil spills in the Niger Delta region. The project aims to restore degraded ecosystems, improve water quality, and promote sustainable livelihoods in the affected communities. The project is being implemented by the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) and is expected to take up to 25 years to complete.

* **National Integrated Water Resources Management Policy:** This policy was introduced in 2020 and seeks to address water management issues in Nigeria. The policy aims to ensure that water resources are sustainably managed, conserved, and used in a manner that contributes to economic growth and social development. The policy aims to provide a framework for efficient water management while ensuring that all stakeholders are included in decision-making processes.
* **National Climate Change Policy:** The National Climate Change Policy was introduced in 2013 and sets out the framework for addressing climate change and its impact in Nigeria. The policy is aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing energy efficiency, and promoting renewable energy. It also seeks to build resilience in communities that are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

Hence, Nigeria has made significant efforts to address environmental health concerns through policies that cut across various sectors of the economy. These policies are geared towards addressing sanitation, water resources, climate change, waste management, and sustainable development. The successful implementation of these policies will require adequate resources, political will, and strong institutions.

**CONSIDERATIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH POLICY GUIDELINE**

Environmental health is a critical area of concern for any government, as it directly impacts the health and well-being of the population. The following are some factors to consider in developing a future policy guideline on environmental health:

* **Establish Environmental Health Standards:** The government needs to establish environmental health standards for water quality, air quality, food safety, and waste management practices. This should include national hygiene and sanitation standards in public places such as markets, schools, and hospitals. These standards should be regularly reviewed, updated, and enforced.
* **Improve Monitoring and Surveillance:** The government should establish a comprehensive monitoring and surveillance system to identify and address environmental health risks across the country. This is necessary to generate data and reports that help in identifying areas that require intervention.
* **Health Education and Awareness:** The government should embark on health education and awareness campaigns at all levels to sensitize the population about the importance of environmental health practices. This could include public health information on hygiene, the effects of environmental pollutants and other health hazards, and ways to prevent diseases.
* **Strengthen Institutional Capacity:** The government should enhance institutional capacity of public health authorities at the national, state, and local government levels. This should include the development of legal and regulatory frameworks, adequate resource allocation, and training of personnel.
* **Employ Evidence-Based Approaches:** The government should adopt evidence-based approaches based on scientific research and knowledge to inform policy formulation and decision-making in environmental health. This will require cooperation with research institutions, universities, and other relevant stakeholders.
* **Promote Public Participation:** The government should encourage public participation and engagement in environmental health issues. This could include consultation with civil society organizations, community leaders, and residents. This will help to ensure that policies are responsive to community needs, and planned interventions are effectively implemented.
* **Foster International Cooperation:** The government should work closely with relevant international organizations to promote knowledge- and experience-sharing, technical assistance, and financial support, to improve environmental health conditions in Nigeria.

In summary, any future comprehensive environmental health policy should involve the establishment of environmental health standards, monitoring and surveillance systems, health education and awareness campaigns, institutional capacity development, evidence-based approaches, public participation, and fostering international cooperation.

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH STANDARD**

Environmental health standards refer to the set of guidelines and regulations that aim to protect the public from potential risks associated with the environment. Environmental health standards cover a wide range of issues such as air and water quality, waste disposal, food safety, and occupational health and safety. These standards are put in place to ensure that the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the food we eat is safe and healthy for consumption.

Environmental health standards are enforced by government agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the Nigeria. The EPA sets standards for drinking water quality, air quality, and hazardous waste disposal. The agency also regulates the use of pesticides and other chemicals that may have harmful effects on human health.

The World Health Organization (WHO) also plays a critical role in setting global environmental health standards. The WHO sets guidelines for safe levels of pollutants in the air, water, and soil. The organization also provides technical support to countries in enforcing environmental health standards and developing new regulations.

By setting environmental health standards, governments and organizations can reduce the risks associated with pollution and exposure to hazardous substances. Standards such as emission limits on vehicles and factories help to ensure that air quality is maintained at safe levels. Guidelines for the disposal of hazardous waste help to prevent contamination of soil and water sources.

Environmental health standards also play a critical role in preventing foodborne illnesses and ensuring food safety. Regulations around food processing and handling help to prevent the spread of harmful bacteria and viruses in the food supply. Standards for the use of pesticides and other chemicals in agriculture are essential to prevent contamination of crops and reduce exposure to harmful substances.

Occupational health and safety standards are also critical to protecting workers from hazards in the workplace. Regulations around the use of protective equipment, exposure limits to chemicals, and safety protocols help to prevent accidents and illnesses in the workplace.

In conclusion, environmental health standards are essential for protecting public health and the environment. They help to ensure that the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the food we eat is safe and healthy for consumption. Governments and organizations must continue to set and enforce standards to reduce the risks associated with pollution, exposure to hazardous substances, and workplace hazards.

**IMPROVED ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND SURVEILLANCE**

Improved environmental monitoring and surveillance refers to the implementation of advanced technology and techniques to detect, measure, and analyze changes in the natural environment. This includes monitoring air, water, and soil quality, as well as tracking changes in wildlife populations and habitats. The goal is to enhance our understanding of environmental conditions and impacts, support the management of natural resources, and provide early warning systems for potential hazards or environmental emergencies. This can involve the use of sensors, remote sensing, geographic information systems (GIS), data analytics, and other advanced technologies to gather and interpret environmental data. Overall, improved environmental monitoring and surveillance is essential for protecting human health, preserving biodiversity, and promoting sustainable development. Environmental monitoring and surveillance refer to the systematic collection, analysis, and interpretation of data on the physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of the environment. The purpose of environmental monitoring and surveillance is to assess the state of the environment, identify any existing or potential threats, and inform decision-making processes related to environmental management and conservation efforts.

There are several types of environmental monitoring and surveillance, including air quality monitoring, water quality monitoring, soil quality monitoring, and biological monitoring. Each type of monitoring involves the use of specialized equipment and techniques to collect and analyze data on various environmental factors.

Air quality monitoring involves the measurement of pollutants in the air, such as particulate matter, ozone, and nitrogen dioxide. This type of monitoring is important for identifying sources of pollution, assessing the health risks associated with exposure to pollutants, and determining the effectiveness of air pollution control measures. Air quality monitoring is typically conducted using stationary monitoring stations, mobile monitoring units, or remote sensing technology.

Water quality monitoring involves the measurement of physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of water bodies, such as rivers, lakes, and oceans. This type of monitoring is important for assessing the health of aquatic ecosystems, identifying sources of contamination, and determining the effectiveness of pollution prevention measures. Water quality monitoring is typically conducted by collecting samples from various water sources and analyzing them in a laboratory. Soil quality monitoring involves the measurement of various physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of soil, such as pH, nutrient content, and microbial activity. This type of monitoring is important for assessing the health of soils, identifying sources of contamination, and determining the effectiveness of soil conservation measures. Soil quality monitoring is typically conducted by collecting soil samples and analyzing them in a laboratory.

Biological monitoring involves the collection and analysis of data on living organisms in an ecosystem. This type of monitoring is important for assessing the health of ecosystems, identifying species at risk, and determining the effectiveness of conservation efforts. Biological monitoring is typically conducted through surveys of plant and animal populations, as well as monitoring of ecosystems using remote sensing technology.

Overall, environmental monitoring and surveillance are critical components of environmental management and conservation efforts. Through the use of specialized equipment and techniques, environmental monitoring and surveillance provide valuable data that informs decision-making processes related to environmental policy and protection.

**ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AND EDUCATION**

Environmental health education and awareness are important components of improving the health and wellbeing of a community, especially in Nigeria where environmental health challenges are prevalent. In Nigeria, environmental health challenges such as poor sanitation and water supply, industrial pollution, hazardous waste, poor air quality, and climate change impacts are major threats to public health, and these challenges are exacerbated by limited access to health education and awareness.

Environmental health education is the process of providing knowledge and skills necessary to understand, manage and reduce the adverse effects of environmental hazards. It involves teaching individuals, communities, and organizations about environmental health risks, the effects of environmental pollution on public health, and how to promote good health and prevent diseases. Environmental health education can be provided in schools, communities, workplaces, and healthcare facilities. Environmental health awareness, on the other hand, is the level of knowledge and concern of individuals, groups, and communities about environmental issues, their impact on health, and their roles in preventing or managing them. Environmental health awareness can be promoted through the media, public campaigns, social media, and community-based activities.

In Nigeria, efforts are being made to promote environmental health education and awareness. For example, the Federal Ministry of Environment in Nigeria has developed policies and guidelines on environmental health education and awareness creation. Also, various non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as Health and Environmental Justice Support (HEJSupport) and Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria (ERA/FoEN) are actively involved in promoting environmental health education and awareness. These organizations provide training and awareness programs to various stakeholders on issues relating to environmental health.

Moreover, academic institutions in Nigeria are incorporating environmental health education into their curriculum. For instance, the Department of Environmental Health, University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, offers degree programs in Environmental Health that provide students with a comprehensive understanding of environmental health issues and their management.

Effective environmental health education and awareness have been shown to have positive effects on the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities. A study carried out by the World Health Organization (WHO) revealed that environmental health education programs have resulted in improved knowledge, attitudes, and practices among the population, which led to reductions in the incidence of diseases related to environmental pollution.

In conclusion, promoting environmental health education and awareness in Nigeria is essential to promote a healthy environment and healthy living. It is important that government, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, and individuals collaborate to create sustainable environmental health practices. These efforts will require adequate resource allocation, multi-stakeholder involvement, and continued monitoring and evaluation to ensure its effectiveness.

**STRENGTHEN ENVIRONMENTAL INSTITUTION CAPACITY**

Strengthening environmental institutional capacity in Nigeria has been a critical issue in recent years. Nigeria is a country that has faced a range of environmental challenges, including deforestation, oil spills, air pollution, and poor waste management, among others. Despite several efforts to address these challenges, the effectiveness of environmental governance and management in the country has been weak. Thus, it is essential to strengthen the institutional capacity to protect the environment for present and future generations.

One way to strengthen environmental institutional capacity in Nigeria is through legislative reforms. The government can enact laws that protect the environment and ensure compliance with regulations. For example, the Nigerian Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) was established in 2007 to enforce environmental laws and guidelines. However, there is a need for more comprehensive regulations and enforcement to hold industries and individuals accountable for environmental damage and to promote sustainable practices.

Another important aspect of institutional capacity building is capacity development. This involves providing training and education to environmental stakeholders, including government officials, NGOs, and communities, to increase their knowledge and skills in environmental management. For example, the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA), established in 1988, has been providing training and capacity-building programs to stakeholders at all levels.

Furthermore, institutional capacity can be improved through technology adoption. The use of technology such as remote sensing, geographical information systems (GIS), and monitoring systems, can support real-time data gathering and analysis. This will enable more effective monitoring and enforcement of environmental regulations, which is crucial to mitigating environmental degradation. Adoption of cleaner and greener technologies in industrial and agricultural practices as well as the production of renewable energy can also be of great value to the environment. In addition, promoting public participation in environmental management can improve institutional capacity. This involves creating opportunities for communities to engage in environmental decision-making processes. For example, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) conducted before the start of major developmental projects is an opportunity for public participation and consultation. In conclusion, strengthening institutional capacity is critical to addressing Nigeria's environmental challenges. There is a need for legislative reforms, capacity development, technology adoption, and public participation. By improving institutional capacity, Nigeria can ensure that it protects its environment for present and future generations.

**EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACHES IN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

Evidence-based approaches in environmental policy refer to the use of scientific data to make informed decisions that promote environmental sustainability. In Nigeria, there has been a growing interest in the adoption of evidence-based approaches in environmental policy. The adoption of evidence-based approaches has the potential to promote effective decision-making, resulting in the implementation of policies that address environmental challenges. In this discussion, we will look at the use of evidence-based approaches in environmental policy in Nigeria, including some relevant references. The Nigerian government recognizes the importance of evidence-based approaches in the development of policies that address environmental sustainability. Nigeria launched the National Adaptation Strategy and Plan of Action on Climate Change (NASPA-CCN) in 2013. The strategy aims to address the impacts of climate change through a range of approaches, including the adoption of evidence-based approaches in policy development. NASPA-CCN recognizes the need for effective coordination of climate-related activities in Nigeria and the importance of evidence in supporting the development of policies, plans, and strategies to address climate change (Nigeria National Adaptation Strategy and Plan of Action on Climate Change). The Nigerian government has also established the Nigerian Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) to enforce environmental regulations and standards. NESREA takes an evidence-based approach to policy development, ensuring that policies are based on accurate environmental data. For instance, NESREA developed the National Environmental Data Management System (NEDMS) to collect, analyze, and disseminate environmental data. NEDMS provides reliable and up-to-date environmental information to support policy development (NESREA, 2021). The Nigerian government is also collaborating with international organizations in the adoption of evidence-based approaches in environmental policy. For instance, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supported the development of the Nigeria’s Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in alignment with the global climate change agreements. The NDCs were developed through a rigorous process of evidence-based analysis to provide a roadmap for Nigeria to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote sustainable development. Despite the progress made in the adoption of evidence-based approaches in environmental policy in Nigeria, there are still challenges. For instance, there is a lack of reliable data on environmental indicators, which makes it difficult to develop evidence-based policies. In addition, there is a need for capacity building among relevant stakeholders to ensure that they have the necessary skills and knowledge to collect, analyze, and use environmental data in policy development. There is also a need for increased political will to support evidence-based approaches in policy development.

In conclusion, the Nigerian government recognizes the need for evidence-based approaches in environmental policy development to address the challenges of environmental sustainability. The adoption of evidence-based approaches has the potential to promote effective decision-making and the implementation of policies that address environmental challenges. However, there is a need for increased efforts to address the challenges of data availability and capacity building to enhance evidence-based policy development in Nigeria.

**PROMOTION OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

In Nigeria, public participation in environmental policies is important for ensuring sustainable development and protecting the environment. However, promoting public participation can be challenging due to factors such as low levels of literacy, limited access to information and resources, and a lack of awareness and trust among the public. Overall, promoting public participation in environmental policies in Nigeria requires the collaboration of government agencies, NGOs, civil society organizations, the media, and the public. By engaging stakeholders, educating the public, providing incentives, and ensuring access to information, public participation can be enhanced, leading to better environmental policies and sustainable development.

**FOSTERING INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION**

Fostering international participation on the environment in Nigeria is crucial to addressing the country's environmental challenges. However, encouraging international partnerships and collaborations requires a multi-dimensional approach that incorporates political, economic, and social dimensions. One key way to foster international participation in environmental issues in Nigeria is through the creation of international agreements and partnerships. The country should seek to establish global environmental agreements and treaties that promote sustainable management of its natural resources and ecosystems. One such agreement is the Paris Agreement, which Nigeria signed in 2016, committing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote sustainable development. Nigeria can also partner with international organizations such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to promote environmental conservation efforts and engage in collaborative research and advocacy. In addition to international agreements, Nigeria should also create conducive economic policies that promote foreign investment in environmentally sustainable practices. The government can offer incentives to companies that invest in renewable energy production and waste management technology. This move will encourage eco-friendly investment in the country, promote sustainable development and reduce the environmental impact of industries. Another way to foster international participation in environmental conservation in Nigeria is through education and awareness campaigns. Education plays a vital role in shaping public opinion and behaviour towards environmental conservation. These campaigns can target schoolchildren, communities, and businesses to raise awareness on the importance of environmental conservation. The government can also encourage inter-cultural exchange programmes between Nigerian students and other nations that have a high level of environmental consciousness. Such exchange programmes will promote a better understanding of international environmental issues and encourage collaboration and cooperation. Finally, it is essential to establish partnerships between different sectors such as government agencies, the private sector, civil society organisations, and international entities. This approach will promote the exchange of resources, ideas, and expertise towards environmental conservation and development. Nigeria can learn from countries like Germany, which has established the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) partnerships after the adoption of the Paris Agreement. These partnerships bring together governments, civil society, private sector and academia towards achieving the SDGs. In conclusion, Nigeria needs to establish a multi-dimensional approach to foster sustainable international participation in the country's environmental conservation efforts. By implementing these strategies, Nigeria can provide the necessary leadership and frameworks for other developing countries to emulate.

**CONCLUSION**

From the review, it could be concluded that the Nigerian government over the years has employed strategies and environmental policies to mitigate the implications of pollution on public health but most of these policies generally lack positive impact caused by lack of feasibility and public participation as the population which the policy seeks to assist are less concerned of their health relative to the environment, hence, public participation in environmental health management policy guideline is recommended.

**RECOMMENDATION**

* **OBJECTIVES**

1. To help mitigate the challenges facing the environment
2. To assist the environmental agencies in time of natural disaster or threat
3. To help implement or continuity of previous environmental policies
4. To act as a monitoring and surveillance to the environment

* **SCOPE AND STRATEGY**

This policy guideline seeks to employ the public as a workforce to cub the challenges facing the environment, implement and continuity of previous environmental policies and to promote public participation in environmental policies in Nigeria, these strategies could be employed. These include:

1. **Stakeholder engagement:** Government agencies and other organizations responsible for environmental policy formulation and implementation should engage with stakeholders such as local communities, NGOs, and civil society groups. This can be achieved through public hearings, consultations, and other forms of engagement that allow stakeholders to provide input and feedback on environmental policies.
2. **Education and awareness:** There is a need to educate and create awareness among the public on environmental issues and the importance of their participation in environmental policy formulation and implementation. This can be achieved through public education campaigns, community outreach programs, and workshops.
3. **Engaging the media:** The media can play a critical role in promoting public participation in environmental policies. Government agencies and other organizations responsible for environmental policies should engage with the media to raise awareness and educate the public on environmental issues.
4. **Access to information:** The public should have access to information on environmental policies and their implementation. Government agencies and other organizations responsible for environmental policies should make information available to the public through various channels, including social media, websites and public libraries.
5. **Incentives and Rewards:** Providing incentives and rewards for public participation in environmental policies can be a useful strategy to motivate participation. This can be achieved through the use of awards, recognition, and other forms of incentives.
6. **Employment of Volunteers:** In times of serious environmental disaster or threat, a platform should be open for the citizens to volunteer and assist the Government parastatal either to evacuate the area or render other possible assistance.

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