GEOGRAPHY

School Based Assessment



Land Pollution

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TITLE OF STUDY: Land Pollution in Brickdam of Georgetown

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Gratitude is also handed out to those individuals who took their time off to answer the questionnaires presented to them by the researcher. Their contributions have given the researcher a keen analysis on this topic.

Gratitude is also handed out to the readers who take their precious time off to read this assessment.

Thank you.

RESEARCH QUESTION

What are the effects of land pollution in the community of Brickdam of Georgetown and efforts made to reduce these problems?

AIM

Land pollution is very a prevalent problem in our modern day society and this very problem has been affecting the researcher’s community for over 10 years. It is the polluting of the soil due to garbage and other factors. It has attracted pests and disease outbreaks and has led to other forms of pollution such as air, visual and water pollution.

The researcher chose this topic mainly to investigate:

* The main cause(s) of land pollution in the community.
* The effect of land pollution on the community and its population.
* Measures to reduce land pollution.

METHODOLOGY

How: The researcher chose the questionnaire method to carry out his investigation. The researcher chose the respondents using random selection. The addresses of all respondents in the community were each written on a separate piece of paper. Each piece of paper was placed in a jar. The jar was shaken abruptly to ensure a good mixing of the papers. A total of 25 pieces of paper were drawn from jar.

Where: The investigation was conducted at Brickdam in Georgetown. 100% of the questionnaires handed out were used in this investigation.

When: The researcher distributed 25 questionnaires on the 19th January, 2014 at 01:30.p.m and received them back on the 26th January, 2014 at the same time one week after distributing them.

DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENT

TOPIC: LAND POLLUTION IN MY COMMUNITY

Research Question: What are the effects of land pollution on the community of Brickdam of Georgetown and the efforts made to reduce these problems?

Instruction: Please tick 🗹 the box which best suits your response.

1. How long have you been residing in your community?
   * 1-3 years
   * 4-7 years
   * 8-9 years
   * 10 years and over
2. How do you dispose of your garbage?

* Bury it
* Dump in vacant land
* Burn it
* Garbage collection by city collection

1. How often is your garbage collected in the community?

* Once a week
* Once every two weeks
* Once every three weeks
* Once a month

1. Approximately how much do you dump?

* Once barrel a week
* Two barrels a week
* A normal black bag a week
* Once every two weeks
* Once a month
* If others, please state:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. What causes garbage to buildup in the community?

* Overflow of bins
* Seldom collection of garbage
* Lack of bins
* Destruction of bins by stray animals
* If others, please state:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. What kind of garbage causes land pollution in the community?

* Plastics
* Styrofoam boxes
* Food containers, cans, rappers
* Unused car parts
* Cardboard boxes
* Discarded household items
* If others, please state:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. In what way does the buildup of garbage affect you?

* Visual discomfort
* Outbreak of disease
* Causes ill-health
* Causes breeding of household pests

1. How long were you affected by this problem?

* Lately
* For about one year
* For years now

1. What have you done about this problem?

* Report it to the relevant authorities
* Assist in cleaning up of area
* Did nothing
* Encourage persons to clean their area
* If others, please state:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. How recent were there any outbreaks of diseases?

* Lately
* During the last month
* During the last 6 months
* During the last year
* As long as I can remember
* There were no outbreaks of diseases

1. What solution do you think should be put into place to reduce land pollution in your community?

* Do not dump garbage, secure them properly and wait for the collection day
* Recycle materials such as containers, bags, etc.
* Clean my area on a regular basis

1. How can the community assist with reducing garbage?

* Have a regular cleanup campaign
* Have the authorities place severe penalties for dumping garbage in areas around the community
* Encourage residents to reuse materials

1. What are some of the things affected as the result of land pollution in your community?

* Soil
* Air
* Water
* Surroundings
* If others, please state:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. How many times have you recycled materials over the past month?

* Less than 5 times
* 6-10 times
* 11-25 times
* Over 25 times

1. What methods of control has the community taken to reduce land pollution?

* Recycling of used materials
* Cleaning of garbage
* Moving garbage to a different place
* Used no methods of control

PRESENTATION OF DATA

Fig. 1: Illustrates the various objects which cause land pollution.

Fig.2: Illustration of the effects of buildup of garbage on the community.

Fig.3: Illustration showing some measures implemented by the respondents to reduce land pollution.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Fig.1 shows that of the 25 residents interviewed, 36% of them felt that plastics contribute to land pollution, 28% chose food containers, cans, and rappers, 20% chose discarded household items, 8% chose styrofoam boxes, 8% chose cardboard boxes and 0% chose unused car parts. It can be clearly seen that plastics are the main objects contributing to land pollution in the researcher’s community. This material is very harmful for the community as it creates fossil fuels when trying to burn it which may lead to air pollution. It may also block waterways which causes stagnant water which causes the infestation of pests and outbreaks of diseases. Food containers, cans and rappers were the second most popular object contributing to land pollution. These items are also made of plastic and have the same severe effects on the community as the plastics. Discarded household items consists mainly of metal and cannot be burnt and can only be buried. They do not particularly cause any harm but visual discomfort and the breaking up of the soil. Styrofoam boxes are very hard to dispel as they are broken down into very small pieces and block waterways and water channels. Cardboard boxes cannot be burnt because they emit gases which are harmful to inhale and have drastic effects. Unused car parts are also made of metal and have the same effects to the community as that of discarded household items.

As it can be seen in Fig.2, 36% of the respondents thought that garbage buildup causes outbreak of disease, 24% chose visual discomfort, 20% chose ill-health and 20% chose breeding of household pests. These drastic effects were caused by the buildup of those objects identified in the previous paragraph and most of those objects cause outbreak of diseases. All of those materials causes visual discomfort. Those objects block waterways causing ill-health and breeding of household pests.

From Fig.3, 40% chose to recycle materials, 36% chose to clean the area and 24% chose to abstain from dumping garbage and to wait for the collection day. Recycling is to modify used materials in a way that they can be reused. Cleaning the area is a good measure in a small scale but on a large scale as the community, it is require large amounts of time and effort. Abstaining from dumping garbage is the best measure as it would prevent any more garbage from being increasing land pollution but only a measly 24% chose it.

CONCLUSION

It can therefore be concluded, from this experiment, that

* The main causes of land pollution are plastics; Styrofoam boxes; food containers, cans, and rappers; unused car parts; cardboard boxes, discarded household items.
* The effects of these objects is that they causes visual discomfort; outbreak of diseases; ill-health and breeding of pests.
* The measures implemented to prevent this are abstaining from dumping garbage, recycling and cleaning of the surroundings.

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