

Environmental Sanitation, Provision of Amenities and Traders' Welfare in Lagos, Nigeria: Understanding Traders' Experiences in Oyingbo Market

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Abstract

Markets are spaces where economic, social, and political activities take place. Research evidence suggests that marketplaces are busy with influx of people and goods, and as such generate huge waste. This study investigated the impact of environmental sanitation and provision of amenities on traders' welfare in Oyingbo market, Lagos State, Nigeria. The study adopted the mixed method research approach by using 211 copies of questionnaires administered to traders and conducting interviews with traders' association executives. Pearson correlation was used for analysing quantitative data while the responses for interviews were presented using case study. Findings revealed that proper environmental sanitation and provision of adequate facilities within markets improve traders' welfare.

Keywords: Oyingbo Market, Environmental Sanitation, Market, Traders' Welfare, Nigeria

1.0 Introduction

In the traditional Nigerian society, people produced the bulk of the food they eat, and exchanged the surplus with other people who had what they didn't produce (Aliu & Solanke, 2022). This was termed trade by barter. Market activities have now metamorphosed into having a central location for the buying and selling of goods, in exchange for money and this was how traditional markets emerged. Statistics of market men and women in Nigeria is not available however their activities are captured among the informal sector operators. The rate of informal employment (excluding agriculture), accounted for 90.9% and 89.4% in the last quarter of 2022 and the 1st quarter of 2023 respectively (NBS, 2023). The reason for the high number of participants in the informal sector, especially for parts of Africa had been unemployment (Meki, 2015) and the ability to balance work and family responsibilities better than the rigid structures in formal workplaces (Gbajumo-Sheriff & Sogunro, 2019).

Aliu & Solanke (2022) defined market as any arrangement that brings buyers and sellers together: a place of business activities in any given environment (p. 16). Being a collectivist society, traditional markets hold immense importance in the economic well-being of communities in Nigeria; they fulfil other needs; they provide social, economic, and political needs (Oyewale, 2021; Sudrajat et al., 2019). Researchers such as Good (1976:364) and Febrianty, 2013, also recognised the varied roles of market and defined markets as specific sites or a workplace, where sellers and buyers assemble on appointed days to exchange goods and services and to participate in a variety of social activities, complementing routine business transactions. Generally, in Nigeria, market activities are regulated by Federal, State and Local government although it is within the purview of Local Government to oversee their day-to-day activities (Oyewale, 2021; Sudrajat et al., 2019). These spaces serve as crucial hubs for distributing goods and products, bolstering a town's economic foundation, and supporting the local government financially.

Markets most often are associated with lots of problems which tend to deter their effective functioning to traders and buyers. Such likeable problems include waste management, provision of adequate facilities/amenities and prompt environmental sanitation. A report issued by the Federal Ministry of Water Resources (FMWR), Government of Nigeria, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and UNICEF in 2020 provides more information as shown in the table below:

Table 1.1: Access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in markets and motor parks in Nigeria.

WASH services	Proportion
Access to basic hygiene services	5%
Access to basic water supply	27%
Access to basic sanitation services	24%
No access to toilets for public use	53%

Source: Federal Ministry of Water Resources (FMWR), et. al., (2020:8)

In traditional markets, day-to-day consumables are traded, like fruits, vegetables, grains and other non-consumable items like toiletries and household items. Perishable food items are sold at the market. A lot of wastes are generated in this space, especially amongst traders selling perishable items that have short life span. The waste generated from markets contribute immensely to environmental degradation and if not well managed, tend to affect traders' welfare negatively, especially if business transactions are conducted in an uncondusive environment. At the global level, a link has been established between sanitation and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) -(Parikh et al., 2021). Research evidence shows that the maintenance and sustenance of a hygienic market environment in developing countries continues to be a challenge (Ekong, 2015; Ogundele, Rapheal, & Abiodun, 2018; Tomita et al., 2020), hence the need to study some factors that can affect the effective functioning of markets. This study tends to investigate how environmental sanitation and the provision of adequate facilities/amenities within the market affect traders' welfare in Oyingbo market in Lagos State. The research questions are:

- 1) Does environmental sanitation have a significant impact on traders' welfare in Oyingbo market?
- 2) Does the provision of facilities and amenities within the market have a significant impact on traders' welfare in Oyingbo market?

This study provides useful information to all levels of government (especially the state and local governments who oversee market activities) in Nigeria in policy formulation and in understanding the supports needed for markets to function effectively and efficiently. It also provides research evidence for researchers who are interested in investigating the role of traditional markets in the society.

2.0 Literature Review

The Oyingbo Market and the Market Association

Market occupies a significant place in the lives of inhabitants of any community in all nations of the world. The term 'market' and the equivalent term 'Oja' in Yoruba language has many connotations (Olukoju, 2015). It could be referred to as an authorised and physically defined location where people meet to engage in business transactions at a defined time.

In Nigeria, there are different types of markets; periodic markets (where major trading activities take place after a particular number of days which could be every 4 or 8 days), at periods (morning or evening markets) or daily markets (Hodder, 1965). Oyingbo Market is an ultramodern daily market located in Oyingbo, a metropolitan city in Ebute Metta area of Lagos State. The market is one of the oldest and busiest markets in Lagos thereby contributing a large quota to the economy of the state (Udodinma, 2015). Oyingbo market was established during the early 1920s as a depot for agricultural produce. The market gradually expanded due to developments around the Oyingbo, Ebute Metta and Lagos Mainland regions (Oyebade, 2015).

In Lagos State, market unionism is also known as market association in which trader with the same commodities belong. The market association acts as a formidable economic and political network among all traders in the market as well as liaising with similar associations in other markets at local and state levels (Ikioda, 2014). This includes having representation at the local government level wide market associations as well as the very important state-wide chapter association, headed by an “Iyaloja” of Lagos and the President General of the Market Men and Women of Nigeria (Olukoju, 2015). Each association formed gives short term loans to members to improve their welfare. There is a strong relationship among members of each association and any defaulter could be punished under the statutory law that formed the associations. Every market in Lagos state is managed and headed by Iyaloja and Babaloja, including the Oyingbo market. Oyingbo market has a group of people elected by the members of the markets, and they are saddled with the responsibility of managing and overseeing the affairs of the markets. These elected group of people in each of the market are called the Market Council (Asoju Oja).

In Lagos, market association leaders draw power and legitimacy from their connections with government rather than from the traders; this is like the findings from other West African countries, such as Benin (Prag, 2013) and Ghana (Clark, 2004). This legitimacy turns market associations into quasi-governments and reflects Meagher’s analysis that there may be a ‘blurring of the distinction between the formal and informal institutions, and the ways in which informal institutions shape power relations’ in some African contexts (Meagher 2017:412).

2.1 Environmental Sanitation, Provision of Facilities and Traders’ Welfare

The study established the following hypotheses to attain its objectives:

H₁: There is a positive significant relationship between environmental sanitation and traders’ welfare in Oyingbo Market.

Sanitation refers to the maintenance of hygienic conditions through services such as garbage collection and waste disposal (Ekong 2015:593). According to Ekong (2015), sanitation includes food sanitation, waste management, market and abattoir inspection, adequate water supply and hygiene education (p.593). Environmental sanitation is aimed at protection and promotion of public health which is meant for the improvement of environment (Fotio & Ngueta, 2022; Uchegbu, 2010). Sanitation has been documented to support the achievement of the SDGs and research has also linked adequate sanitation to economic and social benefits (Fotio & Ngueta, 2022; Parikh et al., 2021). Consequently, sanitation has become a vital specialized sector essential for maintaining the health and livability of cities (Fobil, 2010). There has been various studies linking environmental sanitation to the welfare or health of residents. Improper sanitation has been connected to causing the World economy about \$260 billion per year (Parikh et al., 2021). Using the South African National Income Dynamics Study between 2008 and 2015, Tomita et al. (2020), in their

study investigating the connection between exposure to waste sites and adverse health outcomes found out that residing within 5km to a waste site was significantly associated with asthma, tuberculosis, diabetes and depression. Ogundele et al. (2018) also found a significant relationship between healthy ecosystems and the health of communities in their study investigating environmental characteristics and population health in Ibadan, Nigeria.

H₂: There is positive significant relationship between provision of facilities and amenities within the markets on traders' welfare in Oyingbo Market.

Literature on the provision of facilities and traders' welfare is scanty so this section will also rely on literature that provide evidence of a relationship between working conditions/facilities and employees' welfare generally. Markets is a place where there is a beehive of activities and this suggests that there is a need for adequate facilities to ensure its smooth running. As such, research on facilities has linked adequate sanitation to economic and social benefits (Fotio & Nguea, 2022).

Generally in markets, day-to-day management is controlled by a central body, which could be an association, a committee or a related body. For example, in Zambia, management of sanitary facilities is within the purview of a committee. This committee oversees the daily cleaning of the facilities in the markets. The frequency of cleaning varies in different market; some were cleaned once, twice, thrice or more than three times a day. In Zambia some markets had health inspectors.

In terms of facilities, there were evidence of inadequate infrastructure (fixing of damaged sanitary wares, blocked sewer systems) or facilities (sanitary disposables-tissue). In her study involving 386 traders in 12 markets in Zambia, Meki (2015) found out that 73% of respondents said toilets were inadequate, 60% said hand washing facilities were inadequate and 69.2% said they used these facilities because they had no other option (p.41-42) and one market did not have any facility at all (p.49). Generally, the maintenance culture of the facilities was generally poor and this was attributed to the lack of regulations covering the welfare activities of markets (Meki, 2015). Bambra et al., (2014) found out in their study investigating the association between working conditions and health in Europe that working conditions and the physical work environment had an impact on employee health.

3.0 Research Method

Oyingbo market has been chosen as an appropriate location for this study because it is situated in Lagos, the Centre of excellence, where a lot of trading activities take place (Ekong, 2015). Markets consist of male and female traders, and they all form the population of this study. This study adopted a mixed-method research approach. For the qualitative study, interviews were conducted with the market sector association leaders and key actors in the markets such as the Chairman (Baba Loja) and Chairlady (Iya Loja). Executives of the market association and committee members were interviewed, and the questions centred around environmental sanitation and the facilities available within the market. The choice of market association executives was because they serve as an institution saddled with the responsibility of managing and overseeing market activities and they will be able to provide useful information for the study. The interviews were conducted in Yoruba.

For the quantitative aspect of data collection, questionnaires were administered. The questions in the questionnaire were divided into 2 sections. Section A had questions on demographic information of respondents; gender, age, marital status, level of education while Section B contained information about facilities available within the market, including the role of the market association in market management. The contents of the questionnaire were explained in Yoruba, a language predominantly spoken in the South-Western part of Nigeria. Participants that preferred to fill the questionnaire themselves were given a copy while those that needed the assistance of an interpreter were provided with interpreters. For respondents that requested that the questionnaires be filled on their behalf, the contents were explained to them after which the field researcher ticked the options picked by each respondent.

The research methods, instrument and focus are shown in the table below:

Table 3.1: Information about research instruments

Research method	Instrument	Technique	participants	Focus
Qualitative	Semi-structured Interview Case study	Open-ended questions	Market association executives	-Management of market council -Toilet -Waste disposal -Social functions -Environmental sanitation
Quantitative	Questionnaire	Multiple choice dichotomous	Traders* ¹	-Demographic information -Facilities within the market -Environmental sanitation -Role of market association

Source: Researcher, 2024

*¹ The target population for this study comprised male and female adults who were traders or sellers in the markets. The population of market traders was averagely two thousand and five hundred (2500) daily sellers. Traders were stratified into zones based on products sold. For questionnaire administration, stratified sampling technique was adopted to ensure that different groups of traders were included in the study.

The Research hypotheses for this study are:

H₁: There is a positive significant relationship between environmental sanitation and traders' welfare in Oyingbo Market

H₂: There is a positive significant relationship between provision of facilities and amenities within the markets on traders' welfare in Oyingbo Market.

4.0 Results and Discussions

Frequency distribution was used to summarize the demographic information of respondents and their responses to questions like environmental sanitation practices and the amenities within the market. To test the two (2) hypotheses, Pearson Correlation was used to check the strength of the relationship between the variables in each hypothesis (Warne, 2021).

4.1 Presentation of results

Over 70% of the respondents were females while 29.9% were males. Up to half of them were between the ages of 31 to 40 years and 35.6% were over 40 years of age. 29.4%, 38.4%, 20.4%, 11.8% of respondents were single, married, divorced/separated, and widowed respectively. 9.5%, 32.7% and 42.2% of respondents had no formal education, primary and secondary school education respectively. Only 15.6% attended any form of Higher Education Institution (HEI).

A summary of the findings is presented in tables 4.1 and 4.2 below:

Table 4.1: Questions on facilities available and waste management^{*2}

Questions on provision of facilities and amenities	Yes (%)	No (%)
Does government provide sufficient sanitary facilities and equipment in the market?	75.4	24.6
Are toilets accessible?	83.9	16.1
Questions on waste management	Yes (%)	No (%)
Is the waste management facility insufficient?	63	37
Does the waste management authority (LAWMA) collect waste generated in the market promptly?	40.8	59.2
The current waste management system in the market is not sufficient to manage the quantum of waste generated	30.8	69.2
Are the drainages blocked with waste?	97.6	2.4

Source: Researcher, (2024)

^{*2} Higher percentages are in bold

Table 4.1 shows that 75.4% of respondents believed that government had provided sufficient sanitary facilities and 83.9% of respondents stated that toilets were accessible. Overall, this meant that the sanitary facilities were sufficient vis-à-vis the number of traders that used these facilities. However, the same success cannot be said about waste management. 63% said the waste management facility was insufficient while 37% said it was sufficient. In assessing the effectiveness of the waste management system, 59.2% said waste was not collected promptly while 40.8% felt otherwise. In the same vein, 69.2% believed the current waste management system was not adequate for the quantum of waste generated while 30.8% said it as adequate. The largest percentage of respondents however attested to the blockage of the drainages. Overall, the waste management system was insufficient at Oyingbo market.

Table 4.2: Types of facilities available

Sanitary facilities	Types		
	Type of drain in markets	Piped drain- 0	Covered drain- 25
Source of water supply	Borehole- 46	Tap water- 4.7	Water vendor^{*3}- 49.3
Type of toilet	Water closet- 100	Pit laterine- 0	Bucket laterine- 0

Source: Researcher, (2024)

^{*3} Water vendors are individuals that supply traders with water using plastic jerrycans arranged in a wheelbarrow.

In terms of the facilities available, the most common type of drain was the open drain, and the most common type of water source was water vendor, although this was closely followed by the borehole.

4.2 Test of Research Hypotheses

Two hypotheses were formulated for the study sequel to the research questions generated. The hypotheses were tested using the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient (PMCC). Therefore, the decision rule is to reject the null hypothesis if p-value is less than 5% (0.05) significant level, however, if p-value is greater than 5% (0.05) significant level, the null hypothesis is accepted.

Table 4.3: Hypothesis 1- Correlation between environmental sanitation and traders’ welfare

		Environmental Sanitation	Traders’ Welfare
Environmental Sanitation	Pearson Correlation	1	.720*
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.046
	N	211	211
Traders’ Welfare	Pearson Correlation	.072*	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.046	
	N	211	211

Source: Researcher, 2024

Table 4.3 shows the result of the PMCC carried out for the relationship between environmental sanitation and traders’ welfare. A Pearson Correlation result of 0.72 showed a positive correlation between the environmental sanitation and traders’ welfare. The correlation was significant at 0.046 and therefore indicated that the correlation observed exist within the population. The null hypothesis will be rejected while the alternative hypothesis will be accepted. The findings of this study align with earlier documented research evidence on the relationship between environmental sanitation and health outcomes of respondents.

Table 4.4: Hypothesis 2- Correlations between facilities/amenities and traders’ welfare

		Facilities and Amenities	Traders’ Welfare
Facilities and Amenities	Pearson Correlation	1	.126**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.001
	N	211	211
Traders’ Welfare	Pearson Correlation	.126**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	
	N	211	211

Source: Researcher, 2024

Table 4.4 showed the result of the Pearson’s’ product Moment Correlation Coefficient (PMCC) carried out for the relationship between provision of facilities and amenities and traders’ welfare. Table 4.4 showed

that there was a positive correlation of 0.126 between the provision of facilities and amenities and traders' welfare. The correlation was significant at **0.1**. The null hypothesis will be rejected while the alternative hypothesis will be accepted.

Information retrieved from interview converted to a Case study.

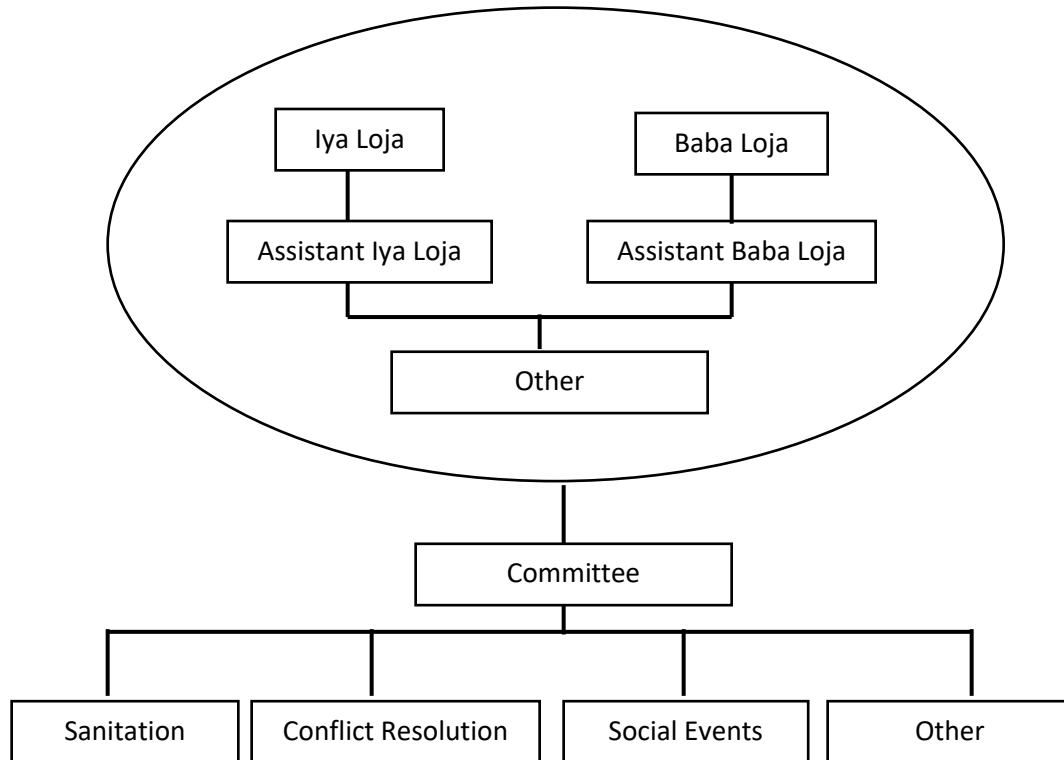


Figure 4.1: Market Association Executives Organogram

Source: Researcher, 2024

4.3.1 Case Study

The case study provides a detailed insight into sanitation and other welfare activities in Oyingbo market. The questions in the interview guide were designed open-ended and the responses provided specific information to this study. Narratives and other stories shared during the interviews by different executives have been summarized below:

Oyingbo market had market executives headed by Iya Loja and Baba Loja literally translated as mother and father of the market respectively. In addition, there were other executives, and they were saddled with the responsibility of managing and overseeing the affairs of the markets. There were weekly executive meetings where issues requiring attention were discussed. There were also committees saddled with

different responsibilities. The executives resolve conflicts and conflicts were settled internally before the consideration of external dispute resolution mechanisms.

Cleaning and waste management were centrally controlled by the market association. Market activities were divided into 3 sessions; morning, afternoon and night. Cleaners were recruited to clean after each session, meaning cleaning was done thrice in a day; morning, afternoon, and night. This was to make the space suitable for the next batch of traders. There was also compulsory Thursday environmental sanitation enforced by Local Government officials and supervised by the executives, which must be complied with by traders and others willing to carry out business activities in the market. Defaulters were sanctioned and fines were issued. The duty of cleaning stalls rested majorly with the stall users. The association supervised these activities. They also checked the activities of miscreants.

Toilet facilities management was outsourced by the government to third-party organisations who cleaned and maintained them. Water was not available in the market, and it was the responsibility of the operators to make water available in the toilets for a token (N50). The executives ensured the toilets were in good condition and they were cleaned twice daily; morning & evening. This was to ensure users do not contact diseases from the toilets. Waste generated were stored in a central bin and the waste management authority was informed when the bin became full, to empty the bin. LAWMA billed the market monthly, as such, each trader in the market was levied N500 for refuse disposal. Executives were trying to make the waste management system effective, but it was inadequate as at the time of this research.

4.4 Discussion of findings

Findings from the study revealed that there is positive significant relationship between environmental sanitation and traders' welfare in Oyingbo Market. This is in line with the findings of Fobil (2010) and Ogundele et al. (2018), who emphasized that good environmental sanitation could lead to healthier communities and better welfare of people. There is the need for capacity building, attitudinal change and self-help collaborating effort of market unions in Oyingbo Market areas to promote a hygienic and safe environment.

The findings of the study revealed that there is positive significant relationship between provision of facilities and amenities and traders' welfare in Oyingbo Market. Responses from the executives of the market association also buttressed their role in the effective and efficient functioning of the market. This is in line with the findings of Meki (2015) which found a relationship between the presence of facilities and amenities and better health and welfare outcomes.

The market is a place where people provide value; goods or services. Just like other employees in the workplace, the welfare of traders is important to enhance their quality of work life. To ensure an effective and efficient operation and organisation of markets in Nigeria, Federal, State and Local governments should take steps to ensure regular monitoring (of hygiene & waste disposal) and other maintenance activities of markets. The key actors; market traders and market association leaders also have a role to play in this.

5.0 Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1 Summary

Markets hold a crucial position in the economic activities of communities, serving as pivotal points in the distribution of commodities. The management and coordination of markets is crucial for the development and growth of the society, especially because markets fulfil not only economic roles but also social and political roles. Markets serve as workplaces for many and as such the welfare of traders is important in human resource management. The mixed-method research approach was adopted by using questionnaire (quantitative) and interviews (qualitative) for data collection.

Findings from this research shows a link between environmental sanitation and positive health outcomes. There have also been studies that had established a relationship between unhealthy environmental and unhealthy communities and negative health outcomes.

5.2 Conclusion

This study investigated the impact of environmental sanitation and provision of facilities/amenities on traders' welfare in Oyingbo market, Lagos State, Nigeria. Interviews conducted with market association executives illuminated the issues of environmental sanitation and traders' welfare in Oyingbo Market. There were statutory obligations enforced by the market association executives in the market to ensure a clean, viable and healthy physical environment. There were three schedules of cleaning routine done in the market every day and this had contributed greatly to the maintenance of a clean and healthy market. The modern Oyingbo market had provision of facilities and amenities within the markets, and this positively influenced traders' welfare in market. This basic infrastructure includes public toilets, security of goods, and waste containers for waste disposal.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the literature review and the findings from this study, the following recommendations will be useful for government and other agencies overseeing market activities:

- i. There should be an effective and efficient management committee different from market association that would comprise at least a member of each market sector association to see to the maintenance, management and coordination of the amenities, facilities, and utilities in markets. The management committee would see to the implementation and enforcement of effective general sanitation of the markets.
- ii. To make market management self-sustaining, revenue generated by market association should be properly used to provide facilities, amenities, and equipment in the market.

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