

Municipal and Communal Reactions to Open Defecation in Badeku Community, Oyo State, Nigeria

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Abstract

The World Health Organisation (2022) estimated that 1.4 million Nigerians die yearly from unsafe water, poor sanitation/hygiene largely traceable to open defecation. Given the deadly effects of open defecation, this study investigated its incidence in Badeku Community, Oyo State, Nigeria through ascertaining socioeconomic characteristics of people in the community, ascertaining percentage of people who practice open defecation in the community, ascertaining communal reactions of people towards open defecation, identifying municipal efforts at controlling open defecation in the community.

Using survey design, clustered sampling was adopted in selection of 2000 residents of Badeku community as participants of the study. Descriptive statistics of tables, percentage, bar charts and frequency count were used in analysing responses obtained in respect of research questions.

The study found that most people of Badeku community are aged 30-49years, literate, of low income, and live in average household size of 5 people. It is also found that at least 60% of sampled participants have ever engaged in open defecation; yet government and local community leaders do not take punitive steps to control the menace.

Giving these findings, the study recommends that government needs to invest in public toileting facilities in Badeku community and possibly in many other low-income communities in Nigeria and this public toilet, when built can be commercialised so that in time government could realise revenue from the facilities.

Keywords

Community, Municipal Authority, Open defecation, Public Sanitation.