

Waste Management Practices of Selected Lounges in Ibadan Metropolis: Implications for Sustainable Urban Tourism

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Abstract

Waste management practices are a critical component of sustainable tourism development. To better understand the implications of waste management procedures for sustainable tourism, the study aimed to investigate the waste management practices of some selected lounges in the city of Ibadan. The method used in this study was a qualitative research approach using semi-structured interviews and content analysis to explore waste management practices. In addition, the research offers a thorough evaluation of the approaches now in use, the difficulties encountered, and their effects on environmental sustainability. The findings reveal that most lounges rely primarily on basic waste disposal methods and lack formal recycling or composting systems. Significant obstacles to efficient waste management techniques are expensive trash disposal, a lack of room for waste storage, and poor staff training. Furthermore, it highlights how crucial it is to promote sustainable tourism by modernizing waste management infrastructure and enhancing compliance with legal requirements. The study recommends improving staff training, investing in recycling infrastructures and strengthening waste management regulations. Lounges in the city of Ibadan can improve their waste management procedures by implementing these approaches, which would ultimately advance environmental sustainability and help achieve the more general objectives of sustainable urban tourism. Although these lounges contribute to fostering a cleaner urban environment, there are notable gaps in their approach, as seen by the ways their practices do not entirely fit with overall waste management sustainability goals. This study offers beneficial insights into how waste management is currently going in the hospitality industry and makes feasible suggestions for promoting sustainability in the city of Ibadan.

Keywords: Waste management, Sustainable tourism, Hospitality Industry, Lounges

Introduction

Waste management according to (Carpintero, 2013) refers to the collection, transportation, processing, recycling, or disposal of waste materials. It includes strategies and actions to manage

waste from its inception to its final disposal, aiming to reduce its impact on the environment and human health. One of the main problems affecting the world's health, society, and environment at large is waste (*Sankoh et al.*, 2013). “Any and all internal materials and non-hazardous wastes, such as waste gotten from the commercial and institutional sector, street sweepings, and construction debris, that has been disposed of or has been planned to be disposed of, or is expected to be disposed of, due to requirements of the law” is what the United Nations Environmental Programme defines as waste (UNEP, 2004, p.3).

Nigeria is one of the leading producers of waste in Africa. A report by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization reveals that Nigeria generates a staggering 32 million tonnes of waste annually, with daily waste production ranging from 0.65 to 0.95 kilograms per person (*Ike et al.*, 2018). *Mu'azu et al.* (2014) state that Nigerian hospitality facilities produce large amounts of both liquid and solid waste. Negligent waste handling can have detrimental effects on the ecosystem, contaminating the land, the air, and the water. The undesirable and hazardous conditions brought on by inadequate waste management processes not only damage the environment but also jeopardize the hospitality sector's capacity to survive.

According to (*Azarmi et al.*, 2019), Travel-related activities have played a major role in the inappropriate release of waste, raw sewage, and hazardous substances into the environment worldwide. Some believe that waste generation is the most obvious impact the hospitality industry has on the environment. This is likely because many of the establishments in this industry, like hotels, rely heavily on consumer goods for daily operations (*Bohdanowicz*, 2005); hence, effective waste management is crucial for sustainable tourism. Sustainable tourism refers to tourism that fulfills current demands without endangering the ability of future generations to fulfill their own needs. The primary goal is to better the local economy while reducing adverse effects on the environment and culture (*Bramwell et al.*, 2013). The hospitality industry has a significant impact on the environment, especially when it comes to the generation of hazardous materials, the release of liquid and solid waste, and air pollution (*Aboelmaged*, 2021; *Ioannidis et al.*, 2021).

The hospitality sector includes businesses like lounges, hotels, bars, and restaurants that provide food, drink, or accommodation (Cambridge Dictionaries Online, 2014). Lounges refer to private social clubs or recreational facilities that offer various services and amenities to their members.

These establishments, though primarily focused on leisure, play a role in urban tourism by attracting visitors and locals alike (Evans, 2003). Studies conducted in 2020 by Lee and in 2018 by *Pham Phu et al.*, demonstrate that improper and non-scientific waste management processes are detrimental to society and the environment.

Despite the growth of hospitality establishments in Ibadan, there is limited research examining or investigating waste management practices in lounges and their implications for sustainable urban tourism. In view of the above, this study aims to investigate the waste management practices of some selected lounges in the city of Ibadan and their implications for sustainable urban tourism. In addition, it objective examines the current waste management practices in selected lounges in Ibadan city, their challenges and limitations, the impact of waste management practices on the sustainability of tourism in Ibadan city and propose strategies for improving waste management practices in lounges to promote sustainable tourism in Ibadan city.

Study Area

This research was carried out in Ibadan, the capital of Oyo State. Ibadan metropolis is the most populous city in Oyo State, Nigeria with a population of approximately 4.3 million and an area of 3,080 square kilometers, the city is characterized by expanding population and urbanization, which has resulted in an increase in commercial and hospitality activities. The metropolis provides a diverse range of tourist and hospitality operations, such as lounges, hotels, guesthouses, marketplaces, event centers, and institutional facilities that cater to business travelers, visitors, and students. Residential, business, and hospitality activities are combined in areas like Jericho, Dugbe, Bodija, Agodi GRA, Sango, Ring Road, Akala Express. This increases consumption and, as a result, waste generation.

Nevertheless, the city is confronted with substantial urban solid waste management challenges, which are exacerbated by socio-economic disparities, urban expansion, and rapid population growth. Structured storage systems are more prevalent in high- and medium-income neighborhoods, while low-income areas frequently employ informal methods or dispose of refuse in streams, roads, and drainage channels. refuse management practices are subject to variation across income areas. Furthermore, waste management is further complicated by inadequate infrastructure, including inefficient collection systems and restricted access to appropriate disposal sites. The Oyo State Solid Waste Management Authority (OYOWMA) and

private contractors, operating under the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, are tasked with waste collection and disposal; however, the system is plagued by collection inefficiencies, constrained recycling capabilities, and dependence on informal waste sorting.

Conceptual Framework

This research is led by a conceptual framework that connects waste management practices to sustainable tourism results. Effective waste management helps to improve environmental quality, which increases tourist satisfaction and destination appeal. Poor waste management procedures on the contrary can deteriorate environmental conditions, negatively impact tourists' experiences, and jeopardize sustainable tourism growth.



Methods

The study adopted a qualitative methodology which does not involve the use of numerical data. The justification for using this approach is because it will help to provide a holistic insight into the waste management practice of lounges within the selected study area, as supported by *Caniato et al.*, (2014). Specifically, it utilized a direct interview for data collection. Eight lounges were purposively selected based on their size, customer volume and location within Ibadan metropolis to capture variations in waste management practices. The lounges were located in Ibadan Northeast, Ibadan Southeast, Ibadan North, Ibadan Northwest, Ibadan Southwest,

Oluyole, Ido and Egbeda. Furthermore, to present insights into lounges characteristics, customer volume was classed as low (less than 100 customers), moderate (100-199 customers), and high (200 customers or more). Similarly, lounges sizes were classified according to operating capability (small, medium, large). These divisions are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Profile of the Lounges

Lounge Code	Location in Ibadan	Size	Customer Capacity/Volume	Years of Operation
L1	Ibadan Northeast	Large	High	5
L2	Ibadan Southeast	Medium	Moderate	4
L3	Ibadan North	Medium	Moderate	4
L4	Ibadan Northwest	Large	High	7
L5	Ibadan Southwest	Large	High	4
L6	Oluyole	Small	Moderate	4
L7	Ido	Small	Moderate	5
L8	Egbeda	Small	Low	5

This sample size was justified by Guest *et al.*, (2006). A semi-structured interview was carried out using voice recording equipment to ask relevant staff members responsible for waste management descriptive and explanatory questions. Each of the interviews lasted approximately between 15 to 25 minutes. After data collection, the audio recording was transcribed and subsequently analyzed using a content analysis technique. The analysis involved coding which were grouped into broader themes, including waste disposal practices, informal recycling activities, absence of composting systems, hazardous waste handling, and challenges to effective waste management. This study prioritized ethical principles such as confidentiality of collected data, anonymity of study participants, and prevention of unauthorized access to collected data by another party. To maintain confidentiality, the lounge identities were anonymized using codes (L1, L2, L3, L4, L5, L6, L7, L8). Participation was optional, and respondents provided informed consent prior to the interviews. All findings were also reported with integrity, loyalty, and transparency.

Findings

Table 2: Waste Management Practices Identified

Waste Management Practice	Interview Quotes	Implication
Biweekly collection by private contractor from the lounge	<i>"An authorized waste management company comes to pick it up every two (2) weeks".</i>	Long storage causes unpleasant odor and unhygienic environment
Reliance on informal waste pickers for recycling	<i>"Waste like cartons, pet bottles, and even canned drinks are picked very early in the morning by some women"</i>	Low recycling efficiency and lack of control
Donation of organic waste (leftover food)	<i>"We do not have any composting program; leftover food are collected by dog owners that come around"</i>	Limit waste but lacks structured sustainability
Mixing of hazardous and general waste	<i>"We dispose battery from remote control or touch light and even our mic"</i>	lead to inefficient waste handling and environmental risks

Theme 1: Waste Disposal Practices

The majority of lounges use a process in which waste management providers pick up the wheelie bins filled with trash that cleaners have gathered at the end of each day. Waste collection private waste management providers occur at intervals ranging from two weeks to one month. This may be due to low municipal support and limited financial resources. The following response by the participant respectively confirms these finds:

"After our cleaners clean the whole area, they take the waste round the back and throw it inside our waste drum. An authorized waste management company comes to pick it up every two (2) weeks".

In accordance with a study by (Epstein 2008), to provide positive results for the environment and other stakeholders, including visitors, business owners, managers and employees, and financial

success, it is imperative that environmental sustainability be carefully considered. Poor disposal practices can cause unpleasant odors, environmental pollution and unhealthy surroundings which has negative effect on visitors' perception and reduces interest in hospitality facilities.

Theme 2: Informal Recycling Activities

Informal waste pickers pick up things such as plastic bottles, can drinks made from aluminum and cartons, while majority of the lounges do not have structured recycling initiatives. The following response by the participant respectively confirms these finds:

"Waste like cartons, pet bottles, and even canned drinks are picked very early in the morning by some women, I think they sell them".

"We separate pets from the rubbish when it has been taken out the back and we sell them when there is plenty. It reduces the amount of waste the waste company pick so it save us money too"

The dependent on informal recyclables collectors likely reflects a lack of awareness about proper or formal recycling, absence of internal recycling policy. An absence of a formal recycling initiative reduces recovery of resources and can contribute to environmental degradation and affect the lounge reputation.

Theme 3: Absence of Compositing Systems

There are no official composting programs in any of the lounges, their leftovers from meals are donated to people who request or use them as animal feed. The following response by the participant respectively confirms these finds:

"We do not have a composting program, some of our customers and outsiders come to beg for leftover food for their dogs".

"We do not have any compositing program, leftover food are collected by dog owners that come around"

This could be because of limited space, insufficient knowledge of the benefits of composting and the perception that it is have high cost of implementation. Although giving leftover food to dog owners reduces waste going directly to the landfill, it does not fully address organic waste

management. A lack of formal composting contributes to Environmental inefficiency and limits the lounge ability to demonstrate sustainable practices.

Theme 4: Hazardous Waste Handling

Hazardous waste is often disposed of with general waste; hazardous waste such as batteries, electronic device or equipment and expired products are not specifically managed. The following response by the participant respectively confirms these finds:

"We dispose battery from remote control or touch light and even our mic but we do not have a separate bin for disposing it, they all go to the wheelie bin of all our waste".

"We use to dispose some damage electronic in the waste bin, if they are no longer repairable".

Unsafe handling may result from unlimited staff training, absence of regulation enforcement. Improper hazardous waste management can lead to environmental contamination, health risks for staff and guests and negative publicity which can reduce attractiveness of the hospitality facilities and undermine the objective of sustainable tourism.

Theme 5: Challenges to Effective Waste Management

The majority lounges acknowledge the importance of waste management but find that disposing of rubbish presents a major financial burden that affects their waste handling plans. A common problem in many lounges is the lack of room for disposing of waste, which can result in smells and an accumulation of waste. Furthermore, inadequate training and expertise among cleaning personnel are frequent problems that compromise the efficacy of waste management processes. In addition to this, the present rules and regulations pertaining to waste management are frequently not followed. The following response by the participant respectively confirms these finds:

"The cost of waste disposal is now more expensive than before. We used to pay a very small amount for waste disposal during the OYOWMA but now it is so expensive, about 200 percent if I am not mistaken".

"We do not have enough space in our facility so, we try to designate a place at the back as far as it can be to put our waste bin to reduce the smell of waste and request for a waste pick from the waste management provider as early as possible".

"We do not know much about the rules guiding waste management, we just try to do what we feel is right and make sure the atmosphere is healthy for our customers to breath"

"The cleaning staff just trash waste as they see fit, they do not dispose it in a proper way, I think they lack knowledge of waste management"

These challenges arise from financial constraints, lack of government support and minimal awareness of sustainable practices. Search challenges hinder effective waste management; it reduces environmental performance and compromises the lounge's ability to contribute to sustainable tourism development.

Table 3: Challenges to Effective waste management

Challenge	Interview quotes	Implication
High cost of waste disposal services	<i>"The cost of waste disposal is now more expensive than before"</i>	Reduce the ability of lounges to adopt sustainable waste management
Insufficient space for waste storage	<i>"We do not have enough space in our facility"</i>	Prevent effective sorting, recycling and overall waste efficiency
Limited awareness of waste management law	<i>"We do not know much about the rules guiding waste management "</i>	Lead to non-compliance and unsustainable waste practices
Poor staff training	<i>"The cleaning staff just trash waste as they see fit"</i>	Results in inefficient practices

Discussion of Findings

The hospitality sector's stakeholders have the opportunity to support an organization's endeavors to improve its environmental sustainability. This may be accomplished by recognizing the importance of environmental issues and how they directly affect the stakeholders (Epstein 2008). This result aligns with this study finding which shows that sustainable waste management is not in practice in most of the lounges. Sustainable initiatives such as waste sorting, food waste to energy, recycling are not in place.

In an investigation conducted by *Perkumienė et al., (2023)*, results show that insufficient infrastructure, inadequate number of waste bin, noncompliance with regulations, lack of control and supervision, shortage and inadequate knowledge of staff, food waste, packaging, a lack of a respectful culture, and a sluggish rate of technological advancement in waste disposal are the most common problem in hospitality sector. *Perkumienė et al., (2023)* investigation resonates with this study findings showing that lounges require adequate knowledge in waste management. The employees such as cleaners especially need to be well sensitized and trained in the management of waste. Furthermore, decision makers in the lounges such as the owners, managers need to be conversant with environmental law and regulation and implement a sustainable practice *Perkumienė et al., (2023)*. Additionally, frequent waste evacuation by waste management providers and adequate space needs to be designated for waste storage to protect the employees, visitors, public health and environment.

Tourism activity is approaching pre-pandemic levels yet again, according to the United Nations World Tourism Organization's 2023 report (UNWTO. 2023). However, the circular economy has grown to be an important issue that affects communities everywhere from local to global and every industry including the hospitality industry. Despite being crucial to a nation's economic growth, the tourist and hospitality industries should implement circular economy policies into their operations because they rely heavily on natural resources *Sahin et al., 2024*. In a study conducted by *Zhu et al., (2023)*, *Thullah et al., (2021)* and *GhulamRabbany et al., (2013)* results show that tourism contributes significantly to economic growth and impacts the whole world and its inhabitants, it is also often condemned for the environmental harm it poses.

The tourism and hospitality industries are said to have detrimental effects on the environment because of things like high energy consumption, ecological degradation and pollution, large

waste generation *Zhu et al.*, (2023), *Thullah et al.*, (2021), *GhulamRabbany et al.*, (2013). The study aligns with this finding which revealed most lounges need to adopt a circular economy which includes reusing, recycling, and converting their compost to energy. This sustainable practice in the lounges will reduce the cost spent on waste evacuation by waste management providers, save as means to generate electricity and reduce green gas emission, attract more customers and increase the overall value and reputation of the lounges.

Strategies for Improvement

According to Remolador (2013), waste minimization is widely regarded as the most resourceful, economical, and long-term approach to managing waste during a product's life cycle. It involves redesigning products, altering societal patterns (through education and training), and making eco-aware (green) purchases. It is essential for employees to receive adequate training on waste management best practices *Perkumiené et al.*, (2023). Some of the strategies to increase sustainability are to introduce green purchases, composting programs and increase recycling activities. It's advised to make an investment in more effective waste storage options to control overflow and smells *Perkumiené et al.*, (2023). It is recommended that there be a greater understanding of and adherence to waste management regulations in order not to be fined or lose value and reputation which would have a negative effect on the lounges existence. *Urban et al.*, (2021) posited that to guarantee the effective implementation of national strategy and regulatory rules for an environmentally friendly waste management process and to achieve successful outcomes, raising the knowledge and awareness of all stakeholders particularly those in the hospitality sector is essential.

Limitation of the study

The study's limitations include a limited sample size of eight lounges, which may restrict the generalizability of the findings. Another drawback in the usefulness of self-reported information from lounge employees, which may induce bias. Finally, this study is confined to the Ibadan metropolitan, therefore the results may change in other urban hospitality contexts.

Conclusion

This investigation has given a thorough analysis of the waste management processes used by lounges in the city of Ibadan, shedding light on their present practices, difficulties, and areas for development. With the use of qualitative method and purposive selection; through the process of semi-structured interview data collection and content analysis, we have tackled important research goals, recognized real-world problems, and put forth practical suggestions. Findings reveal that lounges mostly rely on simple waste disposal processes, with limited recycling initiative, absence of composting system, and inconsistent handling of hazardous waste. The key challenges include high cost of disposal, limited or inadequate space to store waste, and lack of staff training. These work against effective waste management techniques and lead to a larger need for resources and assistance.

Even though present methods help to keep the environment cleaner, they are insufficient to achieve full sustainability. The current practices have direct implications for sustainable urban tourism because inefficient waste management can result in environmental pollution, unhygienic environment, bad odor and health risk which reduce tourist or guest appeal of hospitality facilities. Formal recycling and composting programs should be established, employee training should be improved, and waste management infrastructure should be improved.

In addition, further studies could expand the research to include hotels, restaurants and event centers across multiple Nigerian cities. By addressing these issues, we may overcome current obstacles and match practices with sustainable goals.

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