Assessment Of Hair Barbing Salon Waste Management Practices In Bama Township Of Borno State, Nigeria

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Abstract

The study assessed hair barbing salon Waste Management Practices in Bama. A set of questionnaire was administered to barbing salon proprietors to obtain their current barbing salon waste management styles, viz a viz the types of waste generated and methods of waste disposal. Data obtained were analyzed descriptively and reveals hair as the dominant waste generated in barbing salon operations. The hair wastes are swept and packed using coconut brooms and plastic hand shovel and stored in paper cartons. They are hence disposed on weekly or monthly basis or whenever cartons are filled up at refuse disposal points along streets within the neigbourhood, outskirt of the town, a large trench left behind by Cubits Civil Engineering Construction Company and the Yedseram river valley or at best burnt or buried. The adoption of these disposal techniques is more or less the same technique used in the disposal of all forms of refuse in the study area where wastes are disposed with impunity. In the same vein, there is a significant level of awareness of the impact of salon waste management practices on the environment/society by perpetrators. The study recommended steps for better barbing salon waste management to include salon waste reuse and recycling by researching into how barbing salon wastes can be a resource.

Introduction

The vogue by people in keeping large hairs which were popular in the 60[s] and 70[s] has waned. The in-thing today is keeping the hair low, clean-shaven or well-trimmed, perhaps in the name of looking smart and corporate.

With the introduction of Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) in the mid-eighties coupled with increasing unemployment problems, a new dawn has come. The spate of modern barbing salon in the study area dates back to the mid-nineties, when youth in an attempt to adjust to unemployment took up to among other jobs hair-barbing, noted as a profession of the old-aged people. Thanks to the advent of electronically motorized barbing clippers which helped in revolutionizing of the profession.

The proliferation of barbing salons as a small scale enterprise has brought in a new wave of urban filth. Hair, defined by Hornby (2002) is a substance that looks like a mass of fine thread growing especially on the human head. It is human hair that is generated as a major waste in salon barbing processes. The concern is how these hair wastes are generated so fast and dumped carelessly in the study area.

Bama with a population of over 195, 124 people is located on latitude 11^0 35^1N and longitude 13^0 40^1E (Collins – Longman, 1976). It is the second largest urban centre after Maiduguri in Borno State (Mshelia, 2002) and understandably the second largest centre where barbing salon related activities are high, and consequent reciprocal high level of hair waste disposal which shows much to be desired. Human hair waste believed to be non-biodegradable is detested in most societies, particularly when they are found in food, open-dumped

carelessly or at most burnt. To say the least, they create an eyesore and equally considered unhealthy as it can easily contaminated food. In the same vein, some societies particularly in those of the study area believe that one can be charmed through ones hair waste if not properly disposed.

In most of the fast growing urban centres in Nigeria today, the most viable non-governmental form of employment found among youths is barbing salon business. The barbing salons proliferates most urban centres, generating waste types predominantly made up of hair. The research attempts a study of these new phenomena in Bama, by focusing on how these wastes are generated, processed and disposed.

Materials And Methods

An inventory of barbing salons in the study area was easily determined through physical counting as most of them are located along the single major road (Bama – Mubi road) that passes through the study area and some few streets. It was based on this inventory that a structured questionnaire was administered on each salon proprietor or operator so as to unravel the way they manage the bye product of their operation.

In all, twenty four (24) hairs barbing salons were obtained and interviewed using the questionnaire. The researcher was also able to see and make some observations about what happens outside the salons operation particularly salon waste disposal.

The major research instrument which is the questionnaire is divided into two sections; section A is on socio-economic characteristics of respondents while Section B is on barbing salon waste management practices, which primarily seeks to determine the following:
- The type of facilities used in hair barbing salon enterprises
- The major waste generated in the barbing salon processing
- The method of barbing salon waste collection and processing
- The method of barbing salon waste disposal
- Reasons for practicing such methods
- Perception of barbing salon practitioner's likely impact of salon waste on the community/environment.

To augment the questionnaire data and those data gather through on the spot assessment, published materials were used. Furthermore, data collected through the questionnaire were analyzed using tables of frequencies and percentages to compile occurrences into categories, indicating the magnitude of each class.

Results And Discussion

Table 1: Distribution of Barbing Salon

Residential units	Frequency	Percentage (%)
UIECEST	02	8.3
Kasugula	14	58.3
Custom	03	12.5
Abuja	02	8.3
Talbari	01	4.1
Mairi	01	4.1
Hausari	01	4.1
Total	**24**	**100%**

Table 2: Age Distribution

Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)
05 – 19	03	12.5

20 – 24	10	41.6
25 – 29	05	20.8
30 – 34	05	20.8
35 – 39	-	-
40 – 44	-	-
45 – 49	-	-
50 – 54	-	-
55 – 59	01	4.1
Total	**24**	**100%**

Table 3: Level of Education

Education	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Primary	-	-
Secondary	15	62.5
Tertiary	07	29.1
Quranic	02	8.3
Total	**24**	**100%**

Table 4: The Barber's Major Equipments and their uses

Tool		Uses
1)	Electric Clipper	major tool for barbing hair
2)	Manual clipper	as above
3)	Scissors	compliments the clipper
4)	Comb of different sizes	for raising the hair (combing) before barbing
5)	Brush	brushing off hair from client's body
6)	Cow tail brush	same as above
7)	Methylated spirit/Lighter	for sterilizing clippers blade before hair cut so as to guard against HIV and other infections and equally used as an after shave to prevent boils
8)	Dusting powder	to prevent rashes, heat absorbent and other Infectious diseases
9)	Shampoo	anti dandruff and hair conditioning
10)	paper carton/trash bin	for collection hair waste
11)	Hair cream	applied to dry scalp
12)	Plastic hand shovel	for packing hair waste
13)	Piece of cloth	to protect hair falling on client
14)	Peg	for pegging the piece of cloth
15)	Wall mirror	for facial viewing
16)	Generator	standby source of power
17)	Screw driver	for adjusting screws
18)	Lubricating oil	for oil clippers

Table 5: Number of hair cuts per day

Number	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1 – 4	01	4.1
5 – 9	04	16.6
10 – 14	03	12.5

15 – 19	06	25.0
20 – 24	04	16.6
25 – 29	03	12.5
30 – 34	01	4.1
35 – 39		
40 – 44	-	-
45 – 49	-	-
50 and above	02	8.3
Total	**24**	**100%**

Table 6: Rate of disposal

Rate	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Daily	-	-
Weekly	08	33.3
Monthly	13	54.1
Annually	01	4.1
No specific time	02	8.3
Total	**24**	**100%**

Socio-Economic Characteristics of Barbing Salon proprietors

The distribution of barbing salons in the study area is shown in Table 1. Kasugula ward (58.3%) has the greatest number of barbing salon shops in the study area. This fact is not unconnected to Kasugula, being where the townships main marke,t and other commercial related activities are concentrated. In fact the area is an urban field where people come to obtain different services among which hair barbing is one. Consequently many salon proprietors site their shops around Kasugula to capture people that throng the daily market.

Data gathered on sex of salon proprietors indicate that the barbing profession in the study area is male dominated (100%). This may not conform to barbing salon practices particularly in big cities where women are seriously involved in hair barbing profession. Infact, women have won first prizes in national barbing competitions in the past. The different trend in the study area can be traced to religion which has fashioned the tradition of the people there. Islam which is the predominant religion in the study area does not allow close contact between men and women except when married. Thus their female counterparts are dominantly engaged in hair dressing and hair plaiting profession. Data on age distribution is presented in table 2. The dominant age groups practicing hair barbing profession are youths, between the ages 15 – 34 (95%), who after completing either secondary or tertiary education look up to such profession (table 3).

Salon Waste Generation, Collection and Disposal

Data on the source of power utilized by the barbing salon proprietors' show that an overwhelming 95% use the national grid power source (PHCN) as a clean source of energy supply in barbing salon operations but in cases of power outages as it has been the case these years, a stand by generator is used to supply energy despite the noise and air pollution it generates as well.

Table 4 summarizes the data on the lists of commonly used equipments, found in salon proprietor's kitty in the study area, whereas the number of haircuts conducted per day is summarized in table 5. Twenty five percent of respondents have the heaviest haircuts which range Between 15 – 19 per day. This shows that most of hair wastes generated in the study area come from this category.

With the epileptic power supply experienced in the study area, all respondents charge each hair cut at the rate of one hundred naira (N100.00). The high charges is to off – set the cost of the stand by generating set and fuel bought in the absence of power form PHCN. However, the charges are lower with PHCN and respondents confirm it to be seventy naira (N70.00) per cut.

With regards to the types of wastes generated, all respondents (100%) affirm that they predominantly generate hair as wastes from salon operations. However, they were equally of the opinion that other not too significant kinds of wastes may be generated. Waste water which is also a source of concern could be generated if a client requests his hair to be washed, normally with medicated soap or shampoo. Other not too significant types of wastes that could be generated in hair-barbing salon processes, according to salon operators are worn out or outmoded equipments like brush, combs, and empty containers of shampoo, menthylated, dusting powdered and lubricating oil among others.

Salon Wastes Collection and Processing

Hundred percent (100%) of barbing salon operators in the study area practice the same method of waste collection and waste processing. the methods are very simple and involve the sweeping with coconut broom of hair fall-of that drops on the floor with increasing pile ups when the need arises. 959% uses plastic hand shovels to pack the heap of hair lint's into a paper carton, and covers it while 4.1% uses a plastic hand shovel and stores the hair wastes into a sack. More and more hair wastes are swept and deposited into such storage facilities until they are filled up before they are finally disposed off.

Hair Waste Disposal

In Bama town 8.3% of barbing salon operators collect hair wastes and simply set them ablaze amidst other refuse at refuse disposal points, normally within the neighborhood. This form of open incineration is simple but hazardous, with attendant air pollution. On a different perspective, 12% of barbing salon operators burry their hair wastes inside dogged pits whereas the bulk of hair wastes from barbing salons according to 79.1% respondents are open dumped. This corroborates the assertion that in Kampala city, collected refuse is simply dumped, without any control and perpetrators not charged. (Kabananukye, 1994).

The common waste dumpsites identified by respondents where hair wastes are dumped are the outskirt of the town, refuse disposal points along major streets within the vicinity of where barbing salon activities operates, cubits, a trench left behind by cubits construction comparing and now utilized as a refuse disposal point by people around customs area and the valley of the river yedseram, indicated by barbing salon operators around Abuja and Haursari areas. Where these types of poor sanitation is practiced as above, the environment is fouled and desecrated and in due course endangers health and aesthetic sense violated (Anozie, 1994).

In another dimension, table 6 summarizes data on the frequency of hair waste disposal and indicates that 54% of the respondents disposes their wastes once a month while 33.3% disposes theirs one weekly. A respondent 4.1% disposes his hair wastes annually. This is borne out of the fact that he experiences how patronage owing to the use of a manual clipper which implies that the sack he uses takes very long before they are filled up for disposal. In the same vein, 8.3% of respondents have no specific period as to when they dispose of their wastes. Rather, the hair wastes are tipped at refuse disposal points as the containers are filled up.

There is a consensus of opinion by respondents as to the probable reasons for adopting such barbing salon waste management methods. The opinion is simply that they may not have any particular reason for adopting such method.

The general opinion expressed by salon proprietors as to the reasons why they adopt the aforementioned salon waste management methods are:

- It is simple and cost-free to 'just' throw away hair wastes in any available refuse dump sports which are consequently burnt amidst other refuse or dig a pit and burry or disposed into Yedseram valley which is at the long run swept of by the flow of the river during rain season.

On the respondent perception of the likely impact of their method of salon waste management on the environment, all were affirmative that their practices may have some negative impact. However, they lack the technical know-how as to how best to handle the wastes they generate. Not withstanding though, they were able to enumerate the following impacts:

- Hair waste dumps create a nuisance by creating an eye and make the environment unkempt. This is not far from what Botkin and Keller (2002) observes. Them; open dumps create a nuisance by unsightly providing breeding grounds for pests and creating health hazards.
- Burning of hair wastes causes air pollution.
- Hair wastes can easily be lifted by wind, dropped into food and drinks hence contaminating them.
- Hair wastes can be inhaled and consequently induced respiratory.

Conclusion

Hair-barbing salon waste management in the study area shows so much to be desired as posit by the results. Consequently, concerted effort by perpetrators of this unwholesome practices, and environmental sanitation agencies in curbing the menace is eminent.

Recommendations

The study recommends that:

- Designated hair waste and refuse collection centre should be created and equipped with large cover topped dustbins and frequently evacuated for incineration using incinerator fitted with smokestacks to trap pollution.
- Hair waste should be considered a resource as waste from part of a system would be a resource for another system. Hence, a research should be conducted to find out the usability of hair waste in areas of re-use or recycling. For instance hair wastes can be used for making mattress and punching bags in gyms.
- Hair waste should be collected, grinded and flushed into sewer systems.

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