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Waste Management Policy and Its Effectiveness in Lagos State of Nigeria: An Empirical Analysis of Cleaner Lagos Initiative

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ABSTRACT
This article examined the effectiveness of Lagos State waste management policy put in place under the caption "Cleaner Lagos Initiative (CLI)". As the commercial hub of the State, the City of Lagos is experiencing difficulty in waste disposal which involves getting rid of huge dumps of waste matters coming from various commercial and industrial activities in Lagos. Thus, the objective of this study was to assess the effectiveness of waste management policy under Cleaner Lagos Initiative (CLI). Descriptive research design was adopted in this study. A sample size of 500 respondents was obtained through random sampling method across Lagos metropolis. Data were collected through structured copies of questionnaire administered to respondents. Out of the 500 copies of questionnaire administered, 380 were returned correctly completed and fit for analysis. Two hypotheses were formulated and tested using SPSS and regression analysis. Specifically, the study examined the extent to which proper implementation of CLI serves as panacea solution to waste management problem in Lagos State. The study also assessed how public cooperation affects smooth collection and disposal of waste matters in Lagos State. The result of the hypotheses tested showed that proper implementation of CLI has significant positive effect on waste management. Also public cooperation has significant effect on smooth waste collection and disposal in Lagos State. Based on the findings, the study recommended active implementation of CLI by the government and genuine cooperation of the public in order to record sustainable break-through in waste management in Lagos State.
Key word: Waste Management Policy, Effectiveness, Cleaner Lagos Initiative.
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INTRODUCTION

Waste management has become a daunting problem in the city of Lagos as a commercial and industrial nerve centre (Adebisi, 2021). Effective waste management is a critical component of good urban governance, public healthcare, and environmental sustainability. In rapidly urbanizing cities such as Lagos which is one of Africa's most populous metropolises, the challenge of managing municipal solid waste has become increasingly complex. This complexity is largely driven by exponential population growth, unregulated urban expansion, rapid industrial development, and the growing demand for goods and services by Lagos inhabitants (Adeleke et al., 2019; Olayiwola & Adeleye, 2020). As the infrastructure of the city struggles to sustain demographic and economic pressures, waste generation has surged, leading to serious environmental problems, healthcare challenges and infrastructural concerns (Velis et al., 2023).

In response to the mounting waste crisis, the Lagos State Government has implemented various policies and programmes aimed at improving waste management practices and ensuring environmental hygiene. Among these efforts is the Cleaner Lagos Initiative (CLI), introduced in 2017 during the administration of Governor Akinwunmi Ambode. The CLI was conceived as a comprehensive reform strategy designed to overhaul the state's existing waste management system, which had long been criticized for inefficiency, poor coordination, and inadequate service coverage (Akinyemi & Adepoju, 2021).

The CLI marked a significant shift from the earlier Public Sector Participant (PSP) model to a more centralized and privatized framework. This new initiative was anchored by Visionscape Sanitation Solutions, an

environmental utility firm contracted to manage waste collection, street sweeping, landfill management, and environmental enforcement across the state (Eze & Onuoha, 2022). A key institutional innovation under the CLI was the establishment of the Lagos Environmental Sanitation Corps (LAGESC), charged with the responsibility of enforcing environmental laws and promoting public compliance with sanitation standards. However, despite the ambitious scope of the initiative, the implementation of the Cleaner Lagos Initiative was marred by a series of operational and structural challenges. Stakeholders—including PSP operators, environmental NGOs, civil society groups, and residents—expressed concerns about job losses, inadequate consultation, and poor service delivery (Aluko, 2020; Uwadiegwu & Chukwu, 2023). For instance, many of the original PSPs were sidelined, leading to workforce displacement and a breakdown in the localized waste collection system that had previously serviced many neighborhoods.

In addition to logistics and labor-related issues, the CLI suffered from poor public sensitization and limited grassroots participation. As a result, many Lagosians were either unaware of the new waste management protocols or unclear about the roles of various actors in the new system. This lack of stakeholder engagement contributed to resistance, misinformation, and noncompliance thereby exacerbating the city's sanitation problem (Ajayi & Abubakar, 2019). Furthermore, critics argued that the CLI was hastily executed without adequate infrastructural support, leading to visible waste accumulation in several areas and a decline in the overall level of cleanliness in the city (Ogunleye, 2021).

Waste management in Lagos, therefore, reflects deeper governance challenges such as poor inter-agency coordination, inadequate funding, policy discontinuity, and the absence of effective monitoring and evaluation frameworks. As scholars like Aina and Ayodele (2018) noted, policies, no matter how well-designed, often fail at the implementation stage when institutional capacity, community buy-in, and resource mobilization are lacking.

Evaluating the performance of the Cleaner Lagos Initiative offers valuable insights into the interplay between urban policy, environmental governance, and civic participation in megacities. The CLI presents a compelling case for examining how public-private partnerships, when not transparently managed and inclusively designed, can falter despite good intentions. It also highlights the need for integrated urban planning that aligns environmental objectives with socio-economic realities on ground (Ogunyemi, 2022).

This study investigates the Cleaner Lagos Initiative as a case study in public policy implementation within the urban environmental management sector. It seeks to assess the effectiveness of the CLI in achieving its stated objectives—namely, improving waste collection, enhancing urban cleanliness, and promoting sustainable environmental practices. Specific focus will be placed on measuring public satisfaction with the initiative, identifying implementation gaps, and evaluating its long-term sustainability and institutional resilience. Thus, to lend empirical evidence and validity to the study, the following hypotheses have been formulated to drive the investigation. They will be tested in the course of the study to establish the rationale behind the acceptance or rejection of the null hypotheses.

Hypotheses of the study stated in null form

Ho1: Proper implementation of CLI has no significant effect on lasting solution to waste management problems in Lagos State.
Ho2: Public cooperation and participation have no significant effect on smooth collection and disposal of waste in Lagos State.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Conceptual Framework

Waste management refers to the processes involved in managing waste from cradle to grave. This includes the collection, transportation, disposal/recycling and monitoring of waste materials produced as a result of human activity. Waste management encompasses all types of waste, such as household, industrial and hazardous wastes. Waste can also be solid, liquid or gaseous, each of which has its own method of management and disposal. The ultimate purpose of waste management is to reduce the amount of waste that goes into landfill and instead to process, condition and use rubbish as a valuable resource (Zaman & Laymann, 2022). Effective waste management enables us to look after the cleanliness of our environment. The way in which waste is managed can have a significant impact on the health of the entire population. So, it is vital to put measures in place for smooth and successful management of waste in the society. According to Ajani, 2018; World Bank, 2019), the goal of waste management is to reduce the harmful effects of waste on human health, environmental

quality, and overall societal well-being (Ajani, 2018; World Bank, 2019). In a rapidly urbanizing city like Lagos, waste management is more than just a logistic function, it is a cornerstone of public health, environmental protection, and sustainable urban development. Lagos generates thousands of tonnes of solid waste daily due to its dense population, high commercial and industrial activities (LAWMA, 2020). Without an efficient waste management system, the city risks facing severe public health crises, flooding due to clogged drains, groundwater pollution, and the proliferation of indiscriminate dump-sites, which collectively threaten the quality of urban life (Aina, 2020; Aluko, 2021). Modern waste management practices aim to incorporate principles of the waste hierarchy, which includes the "3Rs"—Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle—prioritizing waste minimization before disposal. In addition, integrated waste management approaches are being adopted, which combine technical, environmental, economic, and social perspectives to develop comprehensive waste management strategies (Anifowose & Uche, 2020).

In Lagos city, waste management involves both public and private sector actors. The Public Sector Participant (PSP) model, introduced in the early 2000s, delegated waste collection to licensed private operators. However, challenges such as inconsistent service delivery, poor regulatory enforcement, and underfunding plagued the system. In response, the Cleaner Lagos Initiative (CLI) was launched in 2017 to centralize and reform waste governance through a more privatized and technologically advanced model, led by Visionscape Sanitation Solutions (Aluko, 2021; Lagos State Government, 2017). Despite its ambitious goals, the CLI faced criticisms including inadequate stakeholder engagement, displacement of local PSP operators, and logistic setbacks in waste collection and transfer. These issues highlight that effective waste management is not solely about infrastructure or privatization, but also depends on transparent governance, inclusive policymaking and community participation. (Adedibu, 2017; Chukwuemeka, 2018).

Globally, organizations such as the World Bank and UN-Habitat have emphasized the need for sustainable and inclusive waste management strategies, especially in low- and middle-income countries. These strategies must consider local socio-economic dynamics, support waste-to resource technologies, and empower local governments to lead in planning and enforcement (UN Habitat, 2020; World Bank, 2019). In essence, waste management in urban areas like Lagos has multi-dimensional challenges that require integrated approaches involving policy reform, infrastructure development, behavioral change, and robust institutional capacity. As cities continue to grow, the importance of managing waste sustainably cannot be overemphasized. It is a critical indicator of urban efficiency, environmental responsibility, and effective governance.

Public Policy on Waste Management

Public policy refers to the strategic framework of decisions and actions undertaken by governmental institutions to address public issues, solve societal problems, and achieve developmental goals. It encompasses a broad spectrum of activities including the formulation, implementation, evaluation, and revision of laws, regulations, funding decisions, programs, and administrative directives that influence and shape public life (Dye, 2017; Anderson, 2019).

At its core, public policy is both a process and a product. As a process, it involves various stages—from agenda-setting and policy formulation to implementation and impact assessment. As a product, it results in tangible outputs such as laws, executive orders, public programs, and regulatory guidelines. These outputs are aimed at addressing pressing societal needs such as healthcare, education, economic development, infrastructure, and environmental protection (Pressman & Wildavsky, 1973).

Public policy is shaped by multiple actors, including elected officials, bureaucrats, civil society organizations, academics, interest groups, and citizens. The effectiveness of any public policy, therefore, often depends on how inclusive and transparent the decision-making process is, as well as how well the policies are aligned with the needs and expectations of the population (Ezeani, 2017).

In the context of environmental governance, public policy plays a vital role in addressing issues such as pollution control, natural resource management, and urban waste management. Waste management policies, in particular, form a critical subset of environmental policies. These policies define how cities like Lagos approach the collection, transportation, processing, recycling, and disposal of waste. They also establish institutional responsibilities, performance standards, and enforcement mechanisms for both public and private actors involved in waste management (Aina, 2020; Anifowose & Uche, 2020).

For example, the Cleaner Lagos Initiative (CLI) was introduced as a major policy reform to restructure solid waste management in Lagos. The initiative represented a shift in public policy from a decentralized, PSP-led

system to a centralized model driven by private-public partnership and international expertise. However, the CLI also exemplifies how policy design and implementation gaps, such as, inadequate stakeholder engagement or poor monitoring can lead to public resistance and policy failure (Aluko, 2021). Public policy is also inherently dynamic and contextual. It evolves in response to changing political, economic, environmental, and social realities. In urban governance, especially in developing environments as we have in Nigeria. public policies must be adaptive, inclusive, and evidence-based to ensure they remain relevant and effective in addressing complex challenges such as waste management, housing deficits, and infrastructural decay (Adedibu, 2017; Chukwuemeka, 2018). Public policy also serves as fundamental tool for governance, enabling governments to translate political intentions into actionable strategies that promote public welfare. When well-formulated and effectively implemented, public policies serve as veritable instruments for societal transformation, sustainable development, institutional accountability and citizen engagement.

Policy Effectiveness

Policy effectiveness refers to the extent to which a public policy achieves its intended goals and addresses the issues it was designed to solve. It involves a multidimensional assessment that goes beyond mere implementation to consider the real-world impacts of the policy on the target population and environment. According to Anderson (2019), effectiveness in public policy signifies the degree to which objectives are fulfilled and public problems are mitigated or resolved. Evaluating policy effectiveness involves examining both outputs (what the policy produces, such as regulations or services) and outcomes (what changes result from those outputs, such as improved sanitation or reduced waste). This evaluation often includes qualitative and quantitative indicators such as improved public health, citizen satisfaction, environmental sustainability, and cost-effectiveness (Aluko, 2021; Aina, 2020).

In the context of waste management in Lagos, the effectiveness of initiatives like the Cleaner Lagos Initiative (CLI) depends not only on how well the policies are rolled out but also on their tangible impact—for instance, whether they reduce street litter, increase recycling rates, or improve service delivery. An effective waste policy would demonstrate high levels of compliance, equitable access to waste services, and improved environmental and public health indicators (Anifowose & Uche, 2020). Moreover, effectiveness is also linked to stakeholder engagement, institutional capacity, and the ability of the policy to adapt to local contexts and challenges. Policies that fail to consider sociocultural dynamics, for example, may face resistance and underperformance despite being technically sound (Pressman & Wildavsky, 1973).

Urban Environmental Governance

Urban environmental governance refers to the set of institutions, processes, rules, and actors involved in the management of environmental issues within cities. It represents how decisions are made and implemented concerning urban sustainability, resource use, pollution control, and waste management (UN-Habitat, 2020). This concept emphasizes the roles of various stakeholders, including government agencies, private companies, civil society groups, and citizens in shaping and executing environmental policies. Effective urban environmental governance requires coordination, transparency, accountability, and inclusiveness. It encompasses not just the formal governmental apparatus but also informal networks and community-based efforts aimed at improving the urban environment. Governance mechanisms include regulatory frameworks, planning instruments, public-private partnerships, and participatory platforms (Chukwuemeka, 2018; Arowolo, 2019).

In rapidly urbanizing contexts such as Lagos, urban environmental governance plays a critical role in addressing challenges like waste accumulation, air and water pollution, and green space degradation. The effectiveness of governance depends on institutional capacity, political will, inter-agency cooperation, and the active participation of residents. Programs like the CLI aim to reform waste management through such governance structures but often face setbacks when governance fails to align with the realities on ground, such as poor community involvement or overlapping responsibilities (Adedibu, 2017; Aluko, 2021). Urban environmental governance also promotes resilience and sustainability, ensuring that cities can respond proactively to both current environmental challenges and future risks, including those posed by climate change and population growth.

Theoretical Framework

Policy Implementation Theory is used to drive this study on Waste Management in Lagos State under Clean Lagos Initiative (CLI) policy. This policy is designed to provide sustainable solution to waste management problems in the State.

Policy Implementation Theory

Policy Implementation Theory was developed by Jeffrey Pressman and Aaron Wildavsky (1973) in their seminal work Implementation: How Great Expectations in Washington Are Dashed in Oakland. The theory highlights the complexity and challenges of turning policy intentions into actual outcomes. The theory argues that policy success is not guaranteed by good design or intentions alone, rather, it critically depends on how effectively the policy is executed at the grassroots level. At its core, the theory suggests that implementation is a multi-layered process involving various actors, institutions, and environmental factors, all of which must align for successful outcomes. The theory introduces the idea of a "chain of implementation"—a sequence of decisions and actions taken by numerous individuals and agencies. Each link in the chain presents a risk of distortion or failure, which may reduce the likelihood of the policy achieving its original goals.

In applying this theory to the Cleaner Lagos Initiative (CLI), the focus shifts from the design of the initiative to the practical realities of its execution. Key questions emerge, such as:
Were the necessary institutional frameworks in place to support the initiative?
Did the implementing bodies (e.g., Visionscape, LAWMA, local councils) have the capacity, coordination, and resources to deliver on their mandates? Were stakeholders, especially residents and waste workers, adequately engaged and informed? How did administrative bottlenecks, political interference, or logistical challenges affect the policy's outcomes?

For instance, Pressman and Wildavsky (1973) argue that implementation tends to fail when multiple actors with differing interests must cooperate over extended periods. The CLI, which involved a public-private partnership (PPP) between the Lagos State Government and the private firm Visionscape Sanitation Solutions, exemplifies this issue. Lack of synergy between old waste management institutions like LAWMA and the new operator Visionscape, coupled with public resistance and unclear communication strategies, hindered seamless execution and reduced the initiative's impact (Aluko, 2021; Anifowose & Uche, 2020).

Moreover, contextual dynamics—such as urban density, informal settlements, and weak enforcement—further illustrate how environmental and social factors influence implementation outcomes. The theory therefore encourages researchers and policymakers to investigate not just "what was planned" but also "what actually happened" and why gaps emerged between policy and practice. Ultimately, Pressman and Wildavsky's theory helps to explain why even well-intentioned policies can falter during execution and stresses the importance of implementation planning, institutional coordination, and stakeholder alignment in ensuring policy effectiveness.

Empirical Evidence

Accumulation of refuse in urban centers

The perceived sidelining of established public waste agencies like LAWMA. According to Systems Theory, this feedback loop is critical. A functional policy system should adapt to such feedback by reassessing, modifying, or even reversing policy decisions to align with societal needs. In the CLI's case, the Lagos State Government eventually scaled back Visionscape's role and reinstated LAWMA's operational prominence—illustrating a system that absorbed feedback and attempted course correction. Moreover, Systems Theory sheds light on why some policies fail: when feedback is ignored or distorted, or when there's a breakdown in any part of the system (e.g., poor communication channels, political interference, inadequate administrative capacity), the entire cycle is disrupted, and policy goals are not achieved. Thus, applying Systems Theory to CLI enables researchers and practitioners to assess not just policy content but also how well the system responded to real-world complexities and adapted to emerging challenges in the urban waste management ecosystem.

Waste Management in Developing Countries

Waste management in developing countries, particularly in Africa, remains a critical issue due to rapid urbanization, limited resources, and governance challenges. The growing population in many African cities has placed a heavy strain on municipal waste management systems, leading to inefficiencies in waste collection, disposal, and recycling. While various initiatives have been undertaken to address these challenges, developing nations continue to grapple with several systemic issues that hinder the success of waste management policies.

Lack of Funding: One of the primary challenges faced by developing countries in waste management is the lack of funding to build and maintain waste management infrastructure. Without sufficient financial resources, municipalities often struggle to invest in the necessary equipment, personnel, and technologies needed to implement effective waste collection, sorting, and disposal systems. In many cases, waste management services are either underfunded or rely on external support from international donors or nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).

Weak Institutional Frameworks: Many developing countries have weak institutional frameworks for waste management. In some cases, there is a lack of coordination between national, regional, and local governments, resulting in fragmented waste management systems. Inadequate governance structures can lead to inefficiencies in waste policy implementation, poor regulation of waste management practices, and a lack of accountability for waste management actors.

Poor Infrastructure: Insufficient infrastructure is another major issue. In many urban areas, there is a lack of proper waste disposal sites, waste sorting facilities, and waste recycling centers. The absence of an organized waste management system often results in improper disposal methods, including open dumping and burning, which pose significant health risks to local communities.

Limited Public Engagement: Public engagement in waste management is often minimal in developing countries. Limited public awareness of the importance of waste segregation, recycling, and the environmental consequences of improper waste disposal leads to low participation rates in waste management programs. Public education campaigns are often inadequate, and citizens may lack the motivation or knowledge to engage in sustainable waste practices.

Waste Management in Nigeria

Waste management in Nigeria is a significant challenge, particularly in urban areas where population growth and urbanization have put immense pressure on existing waste management systems. The country generates over 32 million tonnes of waste annually, with Lagos State, the economic capital, accounting for more than 10,000 metric tonnes of waste every single day (LAWMA, 2020). As the largest city in Nigeria and one of the fastest-growing cities in Africa, Lagos faces unique challenges in waste management, making it a focal point for both local and national waste management policies.

Gaps and Sustainability Issues

The lack of a comprehensive and sustainable policy framework in many African countries often means that waste management solutions are fragmented and short-term. Policies may focus on waste collection and disposal but fail to address critical aspects such as waste reduction, recycling, and public education. As a result, these policies struggle to provide long-lasting solutions to the waste crisis.

Moreover, many of the waste management policies in developing countries focus heavily on government intervention and top-down regulation, often without meaningful involvement from local communities or the private sector. Effective waste management requires cooperation between local authorities, private companies, and citizens to be truly successful. Without proper collaboration, waste management solutions are likely to be unsustainable and ineffective in the long run.

Cleaner Lagos Initiative (CLI)

The Cleaner Lagos Initiative (CLI), launched in 2017, was a major reform policy aimed at addressing the persistent waste management challenges in Lagos State, Nigeria. The initiative was designed to centralize waste collection, improve the cleanliness of the streets, and ensure more effective waste management through the use of modern trucks, digital technology, and a more structured approach to waste management services. The initiative's goal was to create a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable environment for the people of Lagos by implementing innovative waste management practices that could meet the demands of the rapidly growing urban population.

Objectives and Implementation of the CLI The primary objectives of the CLI were to:
Centralize waste management: By bringing waste collection services under one umbrella, the initiative aimed to improve coordination, accountability, and efficiency in the waste management sector. Upgrade waste collection infrastructure: The CLI involved the use of modern waste collection trucks, automated waste disposal systems, and digital technology to streamline waste management processes and increase the efficiency of service delivery.

Enhance cleanliness: The initiative sought to improve the overall cleanliness of the city by reducing waste in open spaces, preventing illegal dumping, and improving waste segregation at the household level. Promote recycling: A major component of the CLI was the promotion of recycling programs to reduce the amount of waste that ends up in landfills and encourage resource recovery. However, despite these ambitious goals, the

implementtation of the CLI has been marred by several challenges, which have hindered its success and led to mixed reactions from the public.

Criticisms against CLI include displacement of Private Sector Participation (PSP) Operators. One of the most significant controversies surrounding the CLI was the displacement of existing Private Sector Participation (PSP) operators who had been responsible for waste collection in various parts of Lagos for several years. The abrupt removal of these operators from the system led to backlash from the PSP operators, who had invested heavily in waste management infrastructure and had developed local expertise in the process. Critics argued that the displacement of PSP operators was poorly managed and led to a loss of continuity in waste management services (Aluko, 2021). The PSP operators, who had a better understanding of the local waste management context, were replaced by Visionscape, a private waste management company tasked with implementing the CLI.

Inexperience of Visionscape: The Company selected to manage the CLI, Visionscape, was criticized for its inexperience in dealing with the complex waste management challenges in Lagos. Lagos, being one of the largest and most populous cities in Africa, has a unique and diverse waste management landscape that requires deep local knowledge and a high level of operational expertise. According to Aluko (2021), Visionscape's lack of experience in the Nigerian waste management sector led to significant operational challenges, including delays in waste collection, poor coordination, and a failure to meet the expectations of residents. Additionally, the company faced issues with the maintenance of waste collection trucks and lack of technical personnel, further undermining the effectiveness of the initiative.

Poor Public Awareness and Communication: Another significant issue with the CLI was the lack of effective communication with the public regarding the objectives and benefits of the initiative. Many residents were unaware of the goals of the CLI and how they were expected to participate in the waste management process (Oduwole, 2022). Public engagement efforts were often seen as inadequate, with limited outreach to educate citizens on the importance of waste segregation, proper waste disposal, and the new waste collection schedules. This lack of public awareness led to confusion and frustration, as many people were unsure of how to comply with the new waste management protocols. According to Oduwole (2022), the failure to engage citizens in the process was a major factor contributing to the initiative's poor public reception.

Implementation Delays and Service Gaps: While the CLI aimed to improve waste collection services across Lagos, the rollout of the program was delayed and faced several logistical challenges. Reports indicate that waste collection services were sporadic in some areas, particularly in informal settlements where waste management infrastructure was either underdeveloped or non-existent. Additionally, many residents reported that waste accumulated on streets, causing health hazards and environmental pollution. These service gaps created frustration among residents, who expected timely waste collection services under the new initiative. Conflicts with Informal Waste Collectors: The CLI also encountered resistance from informal waste collectors, commonly known as scavengers or waste pickers, who had previously played a key role in waste management in informal settlements. These waste collectors were not adequately integrated into the CLI, leading to conflicts over jurisdiction and the distribution of waste management duties. The exclusion of these actors from the formal waste management system has been a source of tension, as they represent an important part of the informal waste recycling sector in Lagos.

METHODOLOGY

This study adopted descriptive research design and quantitative method was used to gather data from respondents. Structured copies of questionnaire were administered to respondents made up of people gathered from diverse public in Lagos in order to serve as true representation of the total population in the State.

Sampling

The study population universe consists of 500 respondents gathered from random sampling from the resident population of people in Lagos. Structured copies of designed by the researchers were administered to 500 respondents. However, at the end of the exercise, only 380 copies were correctly completed and found fit for analysis.

Measures

The research benefitted from the works of extant scholars who have undertaken extensive studies in waste management in large cities around the world. Specifically, details from the works of Chukwuemeka, (2018); Bamidele, (2021); and Eze, (2020) were used in drafting the quantitative research instrument.

Validity and Reliability of the instrument

The content validity was used for this study. Content validity tries to establish whether or not the instrument contains all the necessary elements that enable the researcher to measure correctly the attributes of interest. To certify content validity, the questionnaire items were generated from established prominent authors in waste management as; (CITATION -A. B and C). Other experts in this research area were given access to the draft questionnaire in order to provide feedback on the effectiveness of each statement or question included in the questionnaire in measuring the constructs. Their comments were noted and reflected in the final draft of the research instrument.

The reliability test used for this research is the internal consistency method. The Cronbach alpha (α) is the most popularly used measure of internal consistency (Pallant 2005). The Cronbach Alpha internal consistency of the items of the questionnaire was analyzed using the reliability procedure in SPSS version 22. The Cronbach alpha value (α) for the research instrument was 0.88, which surpassed the recommended benchmark of 0.7 for reliability acceptance.

Table 1 Analysis of response rate on the administered questionnaires

Questionnaire	**Respondents**	**Percentage of Respondents**
Number of Questionnaires Administered	500	100%
Number of Questionnaires Returned	380	76%
Number of Questionnaires not Returned	120	24%
Total	500	

Source: Researcher's Field Survey (2025)

Demographic Characteristics of Respondents (Bio-data)

This section provides a detailed description of the characteristics that make up the public population engaged in the study. The data is provided in terms of gender, age, educational qualification and marital status.

Percentage distribution of Gender

Table 2 Gender

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male	178	46.8	46.8	46.8
	Female	202	53.2	53.2	100.0
	Total	380	100.0	100.0	

Source: Researcher's Field Survey (2025)

Interpretation:

Table 2 above contains information concerning the Gender of the sample population. It shows that 178 (46.8%), are male respondents and 202 (53.2%) are female respondents in which the female gender constitutes the higher percentage. This simply implies that majority of the research questionnaire were completed by female employees.

Percentage distribution on Age

Table 3 Age

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	18-21 years	256	67.4	67.4	85.5
	22-25 years	48	12.6	12.6	98.2
	26-29 years	5	1.3	1.3	99.5
	30 years and above	76	20.0	20.0	100.0
	Total	380	100.0	100.0	

Source: Researcher's Field Survey (2025

Percentage distribution on Educational Qualification

Table 4 Educational Qualification

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Primary	297	78.2	78.2	78.2
	WASC/SSCE	75	19.7	19.7	97.9
	BSC/HND	8	2.1	2.1	100.0
	Total	380	100.0	100.0	

Source: Researcher's Field Survey (2025)

Interpretation:

The analysis on table 4 above shows that majority of the respondents have only completed their first school leaving certificate at 78.2% while the remaining 19.7% and 2.1% are respondents who has completed their WASC/SSCE and BSC/HND respectively.

Percentage distribution showing Marital Status of respondents

Table 5 Marital Status

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Married	379	99.7	99.7	99.7
	Single	1	.3	.3	100.0
	Total	380	100.0	100.0	

Source: Researcher's Field Survey (2025)

Interpretation:

The analysis on table 5 above shows that majority of the respondents are married at 99.7% while the remaining 0.3% represents single

Testing of Hypotheses

Hypothesis 1

Ho1: Proper implementation of CLI has no significant effect on lasting solution to waste management problems in Lagos State.

Decision Criteria

The significance level which falls below 0.05 implies a statistical confidence of above 95%. Therefore, we reject the null hypothesis whenever the P-value 0.000 is less than 0.05.

Computation of the Statistics

Table 6 Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.471[a]	.221	.219	.62463

a. Predictors: (Constant), Implementation of CLI

Table 7 ANOVA[a]

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	41.954	1	41.954	107.529	.000[b]
	Residual	147.480	378	.390		
	Total	189.434	379			

a. Dependent Variable: Waste Management Problem
b. Predictors: (Constant), Implementation of CLICorporate image

Table 8 Coefficients[a]

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	1.970	.212		9.287	.000
	Implementation of CLI	.530	.051	.471	10.370	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Waste Management Problem

Interpretation

The Regression analysis was used in evaluating hypothesis 1. **Table 6** which represents the "Model Summary" gives information concerning the overall goodness fit of the model being tested. The R value represents the simple correlation and is 0.471 which indicates a high degree of correlation. The R^2 value shows how much of the variance in the dependent variable (waste management problems) is explained by the independent variable (Proper Implementation of CLI). In this case, the R square value is 0.221 which is translated as 22.1% effect on the variance waste management problems.

The ANOVAa table **(Table 7)** reveals the assessment of the statistical significance of the result. The null hypothesis is rejected because the P-value is less than 0.05. The model in this table reaches statistical significance (sig = 0.000), in which the P-value is equal to 0.000 and less than 0.05. The coefficient table shows the extent to which the independent variable contributed to the prediction of the dependent variable. In this table, the beta coefficient is 0.471, which implies that a slight change in proper implementation of CLI would result in up to 47.1% change in waste management problems. Therefore, we reject the null hypothesis. Thus the result of the hypothesis tested shows that proper implementation of Cleaner Lagos Initiative (CLI) has significant effect on lasting solution to waste management problem in Lagos State.

Table 8 which is the coefficient table shows the extent to which the independent variable contributed to the prediction of the dependent variable. In this table, the beta coefficient is 0.530. This implies that a change in proper implementation of CLI would result in about 53% change in lasting solution to waste management problems in Lagos State.

Decision

From the table above, it can be concluded that waste management problems of the State are directly influenced by proper implementation of CLI. Therefore, this implies that proper implementation of Cleaner Lagos Initiative (CLI) has significant effect on lasting solution to waste management problems facing Lagos State government.

Hypothesis 2

Ho2: Public cooperation and participation have no significant effect on smooth collection and disposal of waste in Lagos State.

Table 9 Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.563[a]	.317	.315	.56900

a. Predictors: (Constant), Public Cooperation and participation

Table 10 ANOVA[a]

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	56.737	1	56.737	175.247	.000[b]
	Residual	122.380	378	.324		
	Total	179.118	379			

a. Dependent Variable: Smooth collection and Disposal of Waste
b. Predictors: (Constant), Public Cooperation and Participation

Table 11 Coefficients[a]

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	.874	.250		3.497	.001
	Public cooperation	.770	.058	.563	13.238	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Smooth Collection and Disposal of Waste

Interpretation

Table 9 presents the "Model Summary". The R value represents the simple correlation and it is 0.563 which indicates a high degree of correlation. The R^2 value shows how much of the variance in the dependent variable (smooth collection and disposal of waste) is explained by the independent variable (public cooperation and participation). In this case, the R square value is 0.317 which is translated as 31.7% effect on the variance smooth collection and disposal of waste.

The ANOVA **Table 10** reveals the assessment of the statistical significance of the result. The null hypothesis is rejected because the P-value is less than 0.05 the model in this table reaches statistical significance (sig = 0.000), in which the P-value is equal to 0.000 and therefore less than 0.05. We therefore state that public cooperation and participation have significant effect on smooth collection and disposal of waste.

Table 11 which is the coefficient table shows the extent to which the independent variable contributed to the prediction of the dependent variable. In this table, the beta coefficient is 0.563. This implies that a change in public cooperation and participation would result in about 56.3% change in the collection and disposal of waste.

Decision

From the table above, it can be concluded that waste management problem in Lagos State is directly influenced by public cooperation and participation in the exercise. This implies that public cooperation and participation significantly influence smooth collection and disposal of waste in Lagos State.

CONCLUSION

The Cleaner Lagos Initiative was launched with the noble intention of transforming Lagos into descent and sustainable city through improved waste management system. Based on the results from the hypotheses formulated and tested. it is clear that Cleaner Lagos Initiative (CLI) has positive impact on waste management in Lagos State. Empirical investigation established that proper implementation of CLI has significant effect on solution to waste management problems in Lagos State and that public cooperation and participation have significant positive effect on waste collection and disposal in Lagos State. The study highlights that policy success in urban waste management is not only about infrastructure and adaptation to new technologies but also hinges on public cooperation and participation, effective service delivery, and strong institutional frameworks. Therefore, for CLI waste management policy to remain successful and sustainable, it must be dynamic, inclusive, and well-coordinated between government agencies, private sector operators and the general public.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In consonance with the findings of the study, two recommendations are provided below to serve as guide to sustainable waste management in Lagos State:

Lagos State government should enforce timely and regular waste collection across all zones by introducing performance tracking tools and holding contractors accountable wherever there are lapses and shortcomings in service delivery.

The success of CLI will be enhanced by genuine involvement of the general public in doing the needful to improve the process of refuse dumping and refuse. Therefore, a taskforce should be set up to actively monitor continually the activities of all the parties involved in the management of waste in Lagos State.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

The findings of this paper and the revelations gathered from exhaustive literature review validated the postulation that the success of waste management in Lagos State stands on the pedestal of sound operational policy, effective implementation and down-to-earth cooperation of the general public in the State. To this end, future researchers can compare the Cleaner Lagos Initiative (CLI) with waste management practices in developed nations and a few urban centers in Nigeria such as Enugu, Kaduna and Kano to identify new approaches that could be deployed to improve the general management of waste in Lagos State and beyond.

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