

# **INTEGRATING WASTE SEGREGATION INTO SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM: A CASE OF SOME SELECTED MARKETS IN GA WEST MUNICIPALITY**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Proper solid waste management (SWM) has become one critical environmental issue Metropolitan, Municipalities and District Assemblies (MMDAs) in Ghana are facing. Despite the efforts by authorities to remediate the situation, it still remains a great challenge to contend with. The study assessed the viability of implementing waste segregation into solid waste management in some selected markets in the Ga West Municipality for effective solid waste management and good environmental sanitation. Questionnaires and interviews were conducted with stakeholders engaged in waste management in three (3) formal and three (3) informal markets in Pokuase, Amasaman and Ofankor. The study revealed that 42% of the waste generated in the markets to be organic. Waste were often stored in plastic bags and disposed into skips in formal markets whereas traders in informal markets burnt their waste. Whereas about 60% of 279 traders were willing to segregate waste, only 23.4% were willing to pay for its collection. Income, work experience and marital status were found to influence willingness to segregate ( $P < 0.05$ ). Persons within Age (20-30 years) and awareness were found to also have a significant influence on willingness to pay for collection ( $P < 0.05$ ). The study also showed the municipal authority had no policy on waste segregation at source and hence bye-laws did not address the implementation of waste segregation. It is therefore recommended that for waste segregation to be implemented in markets, the municipal authorities must formulate policies and by laws which must enforce source separation of municipal solid waste. There must also be communal skips provided for collection of segregated waste, awareness created among traders and market workers on waste segregation at source and providing incentives for those who handle waste with the right attitude in order to encourage others to emulate. The study also recommends the Municipal Authorities to expand its Public Private Partnership (PPP) arrangements with private waste collectors to promote waste segregation from source.

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