

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL SANITATION PROJECT CARRIED OUT BY GRASSROOT ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTHCARE INITIATIVE (GEHI) IN COLLABORATION WITH ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICERS REGISTRATION COUNCIL OF NIGERIA (EHORECON), FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND OTHER PARTNERS IN KUJE AREA COUNCIL, FCT BETWEEN APRIL AND JUNE, 2019

Introduction:

Grassroot Environmental Healthcare Initiative (GEHI) is a non-governmental, non-profit making organisation committed to promotion of environmental sanitation. GEHI is made up of professionals who have background and passion for sanitation and hygiene and who are willing and ready to contribute for the promotion of environmental sanitation.

GEHI obtained approval from FCT Secondary Education Board to carry out a school sanitation project at all public secondary schools in the FCT. All the public secondary schools in Bwari Area Council had been covered during a pilot stage of the project in 2018. The report was shared with partners.

The entire public secondary schools in Kuje Area Council, Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Nigeria was covered in 2019, hence this report.

Project Title: School Sanitation; Models and Modelling

Project thematic areas:

1. Proper Waste Management for Health, Economic and Educational Development.
2. Dangers of Open Defecation
3. Menstrual Hygiene Management

Aim:

The aim of the school sanitation project is to create environmental health awareness and raise the consciousness of students on environmental sanitation for health, economic and educational development.

Objectives:

- i. To provide basic relevant information on proper waste management principles.
- ii. To sensitize students on the dangers of improper management of wastes.

- iii. To educate students on the economic potentials of proper waste management.
- iv. To trigger students quest for proper waste management for health, economic and educational development of the society.
- v. To create awareness on the public health implications and economic effects of defecating at open places.
- vi. To trigger students desires on appropriate excreta disposal methods.
- vii. To encourage proper hand washing before and after use of toilet and during other activities.
- viii. To educate students on the Menstrual Hygiene Management.
- ix. To advocate for improved sanitary conditions in schools.

Methodology:

- i. Advocacy
- ii. Pre-test questions to establish baseline knowledge level.
- iii. Presentation of Environmental Sanitation talk by professionals.
- iv. Questions and Answers session.
- v. Post -test questions to ascertain current knowledge level.

Activities:

1. Advocacy Visits to stakeholders:

As a build-up to the project, advocacy visits were paid to the following institutions:

- a. FCT Secondary Education Board. The Board granted approval for the project to be extended to all the public secondary schools within Kuje Area Council of the FCT.
- b. Environmental Health Officers Registration Council of Nigeria (EHORECON). The Council offered technical and logistic supports..
- c. Executive Chairman, Kuje Area Council, FCT. The Chairman gave goodwill support for the project.
- d. Department of Pollution Control & Environmental Health, of the Federal Ministry of Environment, Abuja. The Ministry gave good will and enabling environment and technical support.
Also, the department in collaboration with GEHI and other partners carried out a press conference to commemorate Global Menstrual Hygiene Day.
- e. Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB).The Board acknowledged receipt of GEHI's invitation to the field activities.

2. In-house training of team members:
Field Teams: A-C were trained in-house. Checklists were produced. Thematic areas were developed, etc.
3. Liaison with beneficiary schools:
Letters were sent to each of the participating schools proposing an itinerary plan. Schools approved/adjusted the plan. Schools detailed some staff who conducted GEHI and partners round the school premises.
4. Base line observation/Assessment of the schools:
On reaching each of the schools, GEHI and partners were conducted round the school premises where observations were made on the sanitation situation of the school. Twenty Foci areas on sanitation were considered and conditions were ranked as follows: Excellent (5), Very good (4), good (3), fair (2), poor (1) and very poor (0). Observed status were ranked using a checklist and summed up to determine the cleanest schools.
5. Pre-test to ascertain baseline knowledge:
On getting to the hall or approved venue for the health talk/awareness, a set of structured questions are administered to a sample of the available students to ascertain the baseline knowledge level of the students on sanitation and hygiene. Students' responses on the pre-test enhanced presentation strategies.
6. Presentation of Environmental Sanitation Talks:
Environmental Sanitation talks were presented by professionals on the following topics:
 - a. Proper Waste Management for Health, Economic and educational development.
 - b. Dangers of Open Defecation
 - c. Menstrual Hygiene Management
7. Post-test to ascertain current knowledge:
Post-test questions were administered to a sample of the students to find out the current level of knowledge after the presentations.
8. Presentation of Sanitation materials to the schools:
Sanitation materials had been exhausted during the previous projects. Only samples were used for the modelling but were not handed over to the schools. Only the last visited school received the samples such as: waste

bins for outside class room use, medium size waste bins for class room use, detergents, Izal, toilet tissues, hand sanitizers, etc

9. Report compilation and dissemination:

Reports were compiled and copies sent to some partners.

Results/Findings

Number of students and teachers contacted

S/N	NAME OF SCHOOL	DATE VISITED	TOTAL NO.OF STUDENTS CONTACTED	NO.OF MALES	NO.OF FEMALES	TOTAL NO.OF TEACHERS CONTACTED	NO.OF MALES	NO.OF FEMAL ES
01	GSS KUJE	6/5/2019	731	310	431	50	15	35
02	GSS PEGI	8/5/2019	308	150	158	20	8	12
03	GSS GAUBE	10/5/2019	750	300	450	35	15	20
04	GSS KWAKU	13/5/2019	731	300	431	18	6	12
05	GSS GWARAG WADA	20/5/2019	720	320	400	30	13	17
06	GSS GUDUN KARYA	22/5/2019	711	303	408	50	24	26
07	GSS RUBOCHI	30/5/2019	650	340	310	24	14	10
SUB-TOTAL			4602	2023	2579	227	95	132
TOTAL NO.CONTACTED			4829					

GSS: Government Secondary School

Observations and status on the sanitary conditions of the schools

S/ N	NAME OF SCHOOL	Availability of Perimeter fence	Availability of Functional water supply facility	Accessibility of the water facility to students	Availability of Refuse bins in each class room	Availability of Refuse bins outside class room	Method of refuse disposal	Frequency Of refuse disposal	Availability of toilet facilities (male/female)	Cleanliness of toilet facilities	Availability of functional Hand washing facilities	Evidence(s) of open defecation within the school	Any Health Talk in last 12 months	Teachers participation Health Talk in last 12 months	Any Self-help project to enhance the aesthetic	Is school premises littered with refuse	Cleanliness of the class rooms	Cleanliness of the students(nails, hair & uniforms)	Any Environmental Sanitation Club in the school	Are there Over grown weeds within the school	Is hygiene & Sanitation Education taught in school	Environmental Sanitation Status in Percentage (%)
1	GSS KUJE	4	5	4	4	4	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	2	4	4	3	0	3	3	62
2	GSS PEGI	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	2	4	2	3	3	2	3	2	4	4	0	3	2	53
3	GSS GAUBE	1	3	4	4	4	3	3	5	4	3	2	3	2	3	3	2	4	3	2	3	61
4	GSS KWAKU	4	0	1	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	4	4	0	4	3	3	3	4	4	57
5	GSS GWARAG WADA	4	4	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	2	3	3	3	1	3	4	4	5	3	2	63
6	GSS GUDUN KARYA	3	3	2	2	0	2	3	3	3	1	2	3	2	0	3	2	3	2	3	3	45
7	GSS RUBOCHI	4	4	3	2	0	4	3	3	4	3	1	3	3	0	2	4	3	0	3	4	53
	Average	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	1	3	3	3	2	3	3	56

Ranking: Excellent (5), Very good (4), good (3), fair (2), poor (1) and very poor (0).

- i. The entire schools operate at an average sanitation status of 56%.
- ii. GSS Gwaragwada is by our assessment the cleanest public secondary school in Kuje. It operates at 63%.
- iii. The Schools have poor self-help efforts on environmental sanitation. They require motivation through training of teachers.
- iv. Majority of the schools do not have active environmental clubs.
- v. Presence of faecal matters within the premises of some of the schools were evidence of open defecation practices in the school.
- vi. Most of the schools need improved waste disposal methods and facilities.
- vii. Students happily received the environmental awareness message and requested for regular revisit and extension to their communities.

Challenges:

1. Most of the schools were located in hard-to-reach areas which required for easier access, special vehicles such as Hilux vans which GEHI do not have.
2. Some Sanitation Materials desired to be used as models were inadequate due to paucity of fund.
3. Training of GEHI's field teams was limited to in-house due to lack of fund.

Conclusion:

The school sanitation project 2019 carried out in all public secondary schools within Kuje Area Council of the FCT, Nigeria was successful and needs to be replicated in the entire FCT and Nigeria.

Attached are samples of the pictures taken during project implementation at the schools.

Recommendations:

1. There is need for extension of the project to all the 62 public secondary schools and entire primary schools in the FCT.
2. There is need to reward the cleanest schools to serve as motivations for others.
3. Formation of environmental sanitation clubs in schools should be encouraged and the existing ones strengthened.
4. There is need to organise seminar for the teachers on environmental sanitation
5. There is need for intervention in schools which had no functional sanitary facilities such as toilet facilities, water supply facilities, waste disposal facilities and so on such as in GSS Kwaku.

6. Interested individuals and groups are requested to sponsor the extension of the sanitation project to more schools and communities.