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RIVERS STATE: A STUDY OF PORT HARCOURT METROPOLIS**

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**SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF RIVERS STATE: A STUDY OF PORT HARCOURT METROPOLIS**

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**ABSTRACT**

The paper examined sustainable waste management and economic development in the Rivers state of Nigeria, with core focus on Port Harcourt metropolis. The paper adopted the descriptive survey design with the aid of an in-depth questionnaire to determine the nature and practice of waste management by households, Rivers State Waste Management Agency (RIWAMA) and waste collection/disposal service providers. Based on the Taro Yamani's statistical formula, 263 was determined as the sample size of the study with a 98 percent response rate. Simple percentages, mean, frequency distribution, Pearson Product Moment Correlation and ANOVA were utilized as the statistical instruments of data analysis. The paper revealed that waste disposal with water bodies is the highest practised method in waste management followed by open dump method. However, the respondents expressed no confidence in the sustainability of waste management in Rivers state; because it is found culpable of causing environmental degradation and pollution to the ecosystem. The study also discovered a positive and significant relationship between sustainable waste management and economic development in Rivers state. From the findings, the study recommends amongst others, that waste managers should pay adequate attention to the methods of waste disposal as it relates to the environment and human welfare.



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