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Original Research Article

Assessment of Environmental Control Policy Elements' Somersaults in Ilupeju - Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria

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KEYWORDS
Policy elements,
Environmental control,
Policy implementation,
Policy somersault,
Policy strategies.

ABSTRACT
Environmental policy elements are crucial for safeguarding natural resources, reducing pollution, and promoting sustainable development in Nigeria, particularly in Ilupeju Ekiti, Ekiti State. Despite national frameworks like the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) Act and state-level statutes, environmental degradation persists. A study assessed the existing Environmental Control Policy Elements (ECPE), implementation extent, strategies, and factors influencing ECPE in the area. Researchers surveyed 124 stakeholders, including farmers, traders, artisans, teachers, commercial drivers, and students, using simple random sampling. Results showed that respondents, mostly females (50.8%) with tertiary education (57.5%), were aware of ECPE guiding environmental use (83.3%) and enacted laws (71.7%). However, 73.3% rated implementation strategies as ineffective, and 99.2% were unaware of specific government strategies. Political factors (70.8%) were major contributors to ECPE somersaults, with negative impacts on waste management (65.0%) and overall environmental quality. Logit regression analysis revealed that age (-4.09), educational status (0.000), and awareness of policy enforcement agencies (0.256) influenced ECPE implementation. The study confirms robust ECPE existence but highlights ineffective implementation and enforcement. The study concludes that prohibition laws are a step in the right direction, and recommends government support for enforcement agencies to ensure effective compliance monitoring and ECPE implementation.

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INTRODUCTION

Environmental policy elements are a critical component of governmental responsibility, aiming to safeguard natural resources, reduce pollution, and promote sustainable development. Across the world, nations implement environmental policy elements to confront ecological challenges and protect public health. Additionally, government implement environmental policy elements to control human activities in order not to endanger the lives of plants and animals. These policy elements typically cover areas such as waste management, water and air quality, land use, and biodiversity conservation. Nevertheless, the effectiveness of environmental policy elements hinges not only on its design but also on its stability and continuity over time. Frequent shifts in policy elements, often termed as "policy elements somersaults," disrupt environmental initiatives, undermine public trust, and hinder sustainable progress (Eke, 2020). Perceptively, government should be continuum as it will help in sustaining not only environmental policy elements but also other government policy elements.

In Nigeria, policy element somersaults are a common challenge across various sectors, particularly in the field of environmental management. Others are health, agriculture, finance, information and communication, transportation sector, etc. A policy element somersault occurs when the government frequently changes policy elements or reverses prior decisions without a clear, long-term strategic vision. In addition, when the successor refuses to take the policy element up from where the predecessor stopped, the existing policy element might eventually be a failed policy element. Such shifts are often influenced by political changes, financial constraints, or administrative inefficiencies. When environmental policy elements lack continuity, programmes that address pressing issues like waste management, deforestation, and climate adaptation become compromised, leaving the ecosystem vulnerable to degradation (Adeyemi and Adekunle, 2019).

Just like every other States in Nigeria, Ekiti State, situated in southwestern Nigeria, exemplifies the detrimental effects of policy elements inconsistency on environmental protection efforts. Ekiti State faces numerous environmental challenges, such as land degradation, deforestation, improper waste disposal, and loss of biodiversity. Over the years, the State government has implemented several environmental policy elements and programs aimed at addressing these issues. It is important to know that frequent changes in political leadership and administrative priorities have led to a lack of continuity, stalling the progress of these initiatives and making it difficult to establish sustainable practices. Policy element somersaults in Ekiti State does not only lead to unfulfilled environmental objectives but also create inefficiencies, as new administrations often abandon or reformulate policy element initiated by previous governments without adequate evaluation (Oluwole and Oladimeji, 2021).

Ilupeju-Ekiti of Ekiti state, Nigeria, faces numerous environmental challenges, including deforestation and land degradation, mis-management of wastes, water pollution, climate change and energy, and agricultural practices such as unregulated use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers, water pollution from agricultural runoffs, etc. which necessitate effective environmental policy elements. Despite the existence of environmental policy elements, Ilupeju-Ekiti area continues to experience environmental degradation, suggesting that policy element somersaults may be a significant obstacle to effective environmental management. The frequency and severity of environmental problems in the area underscore the need for a comprehensive assessment of environmental policy element somersaults (Agunbiade, 2022). Therefore, this study identified the existing environmental control policy elements, assessed the extent of environmental control policy elements' implementation, identified strategies for successful environmental control policy elements' implementation, determined factors responsible for environmental control policy elements' somersaults, evaluated the impact of policy elements somersaults on specific environmental area and determined factors influencing environmental control policy elements' implementation in Ilupeju-Ekiti.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The Study Area

The study area is Ilupeju - Ekiti in Ekiti State, Southwestern Nigeria. The area lies between longitude 5°20'30"E to 5°22'30"E of the Greenwich, and between latitude 7°47'30"N to 7°48'30"N of the Equator (See Figure 1). Ilupeju Ekiti is in Oye Local Government Area of Ekiti State. It falls within the Ekiti speaking area of Yoruba land. Ilupeju-Ekiti lies on the strategic Lagos-Abuja Highway. Its geographic location is unique as the town is almost equidistant from Nigeria's economic capital, Lagos and the Federal capital, Abuja. The town is bounded in the east by Itapa Ekiti, to the west by Oye-Ekiti, to the South by Ire-Ekiti, and to the North by Imojo Ekiti. Ilupeju Ekiti is known for its rugged terrain, with the town being referred to as the "plateau town of Ekiti" due to its topography. The area is rich in natural resources, including water resources, with several streams, springs and brooks, such as Etikun, Obunkolamum, Aseo, and Egbudu. The town's fertile land supports the cultivation of various crops, including yam, maize, cassava, cocoa, oil Palm, and kola nuts. To date, Ilupeju Ekiti remains the only Yoruba Town where two communities, Eseta and Egosi decided to merge to become a community without rancour or animosity. According to 1991 population census report, Ilupeju Ekiti has a total population of 21,584 people (NPC, 2006)

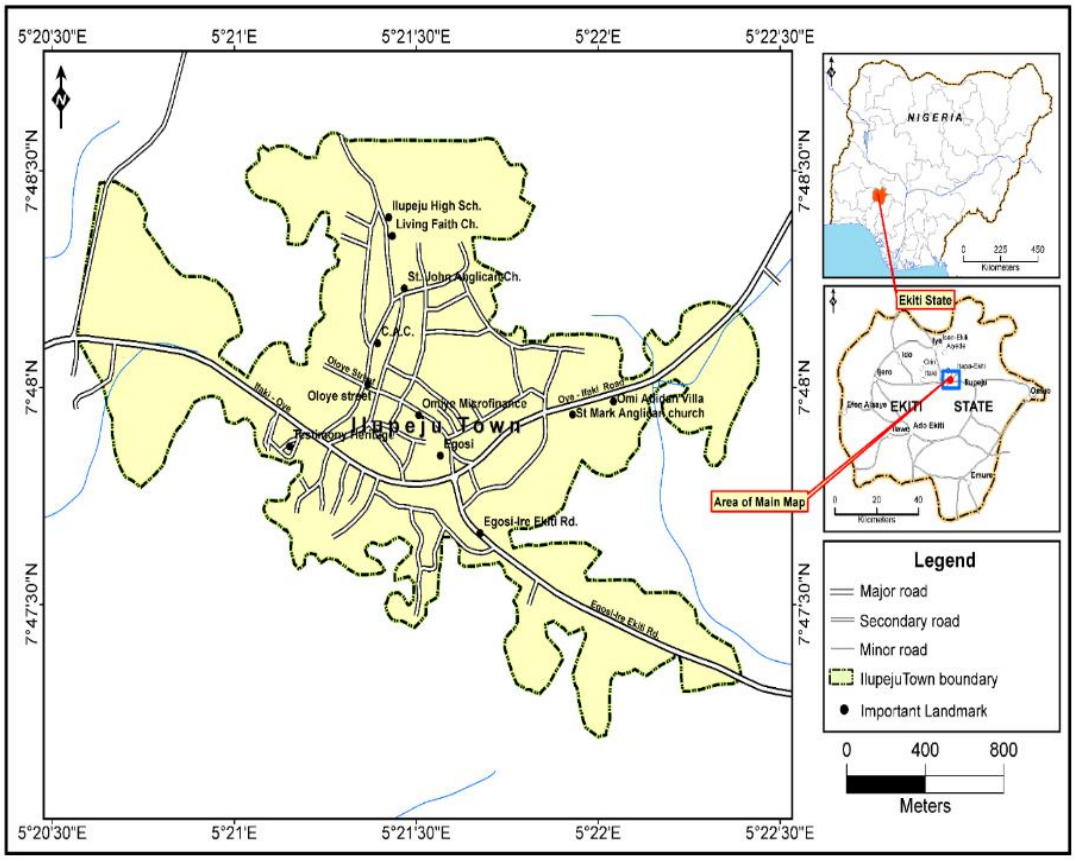

Figure 1: Road Network Map of Ilupeju Ekiti Town

Data Collection and Sampling Procedure

The target population for the study were farmers, traders, artisans, teachers, commercial drivers and students in the study location. A total of 1,233 stakeholders were identified through their various associations and other affiliations in the study area: Farmers (150), Traders (283), Artisans (446), Teachers (69), Commercial drivers (140) and Students (445). Simple random sampling was used to select 124 respondents whose activities bothers much on environment (Stakeholders): Farmers (15), Traders (28), Artisans (45), Teachers (7), Commercial drivers (14) and Students (15). Samples were drawn in proportion to the total size of the identified population. Precisely, Diaw *et al.* (2002) was used to sample from the identified stakeholders, where 10,5,2.5 percent sampling intensity were used to select respondents in Ilupeju where the identified stakeholders are less than 500, between 500 and 1000 and over 1000 respectively. A set of structured questionnaire was designed and used as the instrument of data collection for the study. However, 124 copies of structured questionnaire were administered while only a total of 120 were retrieved from the field which represents 96.8% returns. Secondary data were also collected where necessary from the Department of Environmental Policy of Ekiti State Ministry of Environment.

Data Analysis

Data collected were subjected to both descriptive and inferential statistics. Precisely, Logit regression model was used to estimate factors influencing environmental control policy elements' implementation.

The regression models are implicitly specified as:

Factors Influencing Environmental Control Policy Elements' Implementation.

$Y = b0 + b_1X_1 + b_2X_2 + b_3X_3 + b_4X_4 + b_5X_5 + b_6X_6 + b_7X_7 + b_8X_8 + b_9X_9 + U$

where,

Y = Policy implementation (1 if implemented, otherwise 0)

X_1 = Age (in years)

X_2 = Gender (1 male, 2 female)

X_3= Education (years)

X_4 = Awareness of environmental policy (if aware=1, otherwise 0)

X_5 = Awareness of policy enforcement agencies (if aware=1, otherwise 0)

X_6= Sources of awareness of policy (1 if radio; otherwise, 0)

X_7= Witnessing any case of arrest as a result of violation of environmental laws (if witness=1, otherwise 0)

e = error term

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socio-Economic Characteristics of the respondents

Gender of Respondents

Gender determines the ability to perform some physical work. It is generally believed that men are more efficient in activities than women. This perhaps is because they are more energetic and can handle more tedious work than their female counterpart. Sex has been found to influence access to productive resources (Yahaya *et al.,* 2011). It is therefore necessary to describe the sex of the respondents for possible inference and generalization on how sex influences their patronage of tourist centre. Results in Table 1 shows the gender distribution of respondents in the study area. The table revealed that out of the 120 respondents that were captured in this survey, 50.8% were female while 49.2% were male. This is an indication that both genders were involved in this study and thus the finding of the study did not suffer from gender bias.

Age of Respondents

The age of the respondents is an important factor that affects their level of productivity and overall coping ability. Age is believed to influence the level of physical work most especially as it related to issues that has to do with environment. Table 1 presents frequency distribution of respondents by age. This finding revealed that majority (43.2%) of the respondents were between the age brackets of 18-25 years. This result is in line with the findings of Umeh and Chukwu (2015) who noted that young people are always ready to accept new ideas and take risk of accepting and utilizing production practices.

Marital Status of the Respondents

Among the 120 respondents, the result on Table 1 revealed that 74.2% were married. This implies that majority of the respondents are married and thereby, engaging in diverse economic activities that might be linked with environmental use. Akinbile, 2007 had earlier reported that marriage confers responsibilities.

Educational Status of Respondents

Formal education is a widely known avenue for improving knowledge and rate of skill acquisition. Formal education is also important in business because it determines the degree of level of adoption of innovation and new technologies. It also determines the degree of excellences in any activity. The distribution of education status of the respondents is shown in Table 1. 57.7% of the respondents had tertiary education. Result on educational background of the respondent have thus revealed that most of the people were educated. This could positively influence their participation in environmental development programmes, awareness and adoption of innovations and risk management practices (Babalola and Babalola, 2015).

Table 1: Socio-Economic Characteristics of the Respondents

Socio-Economic Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage
Gender		
Male	59	49.2
Female	61	50.8
Age group		
18-25 years	52	43.2
26-33 years	32	26.7
34-41 years	19	15.0
50-57 years	17	14.1
Marital Status		
Single	31	25.8
Married	89	74.2
Educational level		
No formal education	17	14.2
Primary education	3	2.5
Secondary education	31	25.8
Tertiary education	69	57.5
Total	120	100.0

Existing Environmental Control Policy Elements in Ekiti State, Nigeria

The existing environmental control policy elements in Ekiti State are as follows;

Operation of Engineered Landfill and Other Waste Management Facilities

A person or organization, whether private or public, shall not operate any waste management facility including landfill, waste dumping sites, incinerators or similar facility without the express permission of the Agency (Ekiti State Environmental Protection and Watershed Management Agency Law, 2024). In the area of waste management, the state government through the ministry of

environment has equally adopted an efficient waste management programs e.g recycling thereby noting that the government is committed to ensuring "effective waste management, to attract investors to the sectors," and emphasizing recycling's key role in converting waste into wealth.

Prohibition of Dumping and Use of Chemicals in Water Bodies

It is an offence to discharge, dump, deposit and use any chemical listed as prohibited or in any Federal or State regulations including insecticides, herbicides, industrial chemicals, and other such substances, which are harmful to plant and animal species in streams, rivers and other water bodies in the State. Violators face arrest, seizure of dangerous materials, and prosecution in Environmental Sanitation Courts. Sanctions may include fines, mandatory community service, and cleanup orders (Ekiti State Environmental Protection and Watershed Management Agency law, 2024).

Minimum Set Back of Land Use and Development

The minimum set-back for land use and development shall be as follows -

Streams - 30m, Rivers - 60m, Dams and Large Water Bodies - 100m, Local Roads -4.5m,

State Roads - 30m, Federal Roads - 50m, Low Tension (Domestic) Power Line - 4.5m, Medium Tension Power Line - 15m, High Tension Power Line - 45m, GSM Cell Radio Antenna - 10m, Optic Fibre Line - 4.5m, Main Water Pipe Lines - 15m, Quarry -100m, Railway - 30m and Gas Pipeline - 30m.

It is illegal to construct any temporary or permanent built structure within the setback area unless a valid planning permit is secured from the relevant State MDAs (Ministries, Departments and Agencies), with consent obtained from the Governor. It shall be illegal to construct any temporary or permanent built structure in areas designated by the Agency as eco-fragile areas and flood plains in the State, consequent upon the receipt of the Governor's approval for the designation of such areas as eco-fragile or of importance for biodiversity conservation. Without prejudice to subsection above, no structure or infrastructure or operations shall be constructed or carried out within or outside the setback area without a cleared and approved Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Report from the Agency (Ekiti State Environmental Protection and Watershed Management Agency Law, 2024).

Control of Emissions from Vehicles, Plants and Equipment

All emissions from vehicles, plants and equipment including generating plants in residential, commercial and industrial areas within the State shall meet air emission standards prescribed by the Agency. Any person who owns, sells or maintains any vehicle, plant and equipment operating and discharging gaseous substances or waste at an emission level above the agreed emission standards shall apply for a permit from the Agency, which shall be granted with or without conditions, as prescribed by the Agency (Ekiti State Environmental Protection and Watershed Management Agency Law, 2024).

Prohibition of Discharge of Injurious Gases

It is an offence to discharge into the environment any gaseous waste or gases containing substances or hazardous substance which is likely to cause pollution, and be injurious to the environment of the State and the health of its people. Violating this prohibition is a criminal offense. Under provisions similar to Section 27 of the earlier Ekiti Environmental Protection Law, convictions can lead to Fines (often up to ₦1,000,000) and/or Up to 5 years imprisonment. Corporate offenders face daily fines for ongoing non-compliance (Ekiti State Environmental Protection and Watershed Management Agency Law, 2024).

Dumping, Burning and Burying Toxic, Radioactive, Medical and Harmful Waste

A person shall not authorize the disposal, dumping, burning, burying of any solid, liquid or gaseous substances designated as toxic or hazardous or radioactive in any part of the land and water of the State, without the written approval and participation of the Agency. The Agency's inspectors have authority to search sites, collect samples, review documentation, and seize illegal waste. Criminal sanctions and penalties apply for unlawful handling of harmful waste, including life imprisonment—for improper dumping of harmful or radioactive waste (Ekit State Environmental Protection and Watershed Management Agency Law, 2024).

Desiltation of Drains

Any facility or building owner, occupier or tenant shall be responsible for cleaning up and desilting the drains that surrounds their building. No person or organization shall leave silt, earth or other materials excavated during construction or maintenance of drains on the roadside beyond 48 hours. It is illegal to introduce silt, sand, waste or any other materials into public drains. Any contravention of this Section shall attract a fine of One Hundred Thousand Naira (₦100,000) or an imprisonment not exceeding six months or to both fine and imprisonment (Ekiti State Environmental Protection and Watershed Management Agency Law, 2024).

Control of Effluents

No public or private facility shall discharge or cause to be discharged any effluent into the environment without a

permit from the Agency. The permit to discharge shall be renewable every year. Where a facility constructs an effluent treatment plant or facility, the Agency shall inspect and certify the facility as fit for purpose, ensuring that the treated samples from the facility complies with the Agency's standards. When the designated official of the Agency is satisfied that the plant is the Best Available Technology and produces effluents which comply with the standards set by this Law or the Agency as it prescribes from time to time, the Agency shall issue a permit to the facility (Ekiti State Environmental Protection and Watershed Management Agency Law, 2024).

Supervision and Approval of Design of Hydraulic Structures

The Agency shall review, vet and approve the engineering design of drainages, culverts, bridges and other such hydraulic structures before construction activities commence. The Agency shall supervise the construction of hydraulic structures to ensure compliance with the approved design (Ekiti State Environmental Protection and Watershed Management Agency Law, 2024).

Prohibition of Noise in Public and Private Places

A person or organization shall not use a public address system that causes or is likely to cause nuisance or discomfort to the general public to disseminate information, ideas or engage in activities. It is an offence to use public address system or loud speakers to advertise any good or solicit and disseminate information in areas that are strictly residential. In the event whereby a person or an organization seeks to use public address system to disseminate information or host/carry out an event, that may likely cause discomfort to the public, including noise sources from industrial, commercial, domestic, sports, recreational, entertainment, rallies, transportation and other similar activities, such person or organisation is required to apply for a permit from the Agency (Ekiti State Environmental Protection and Watershed Management Agency Law, 2024).

Prohibition of Manufacturing or Storage of Chemicals in Residential Areas

Manufacturing and/or storage of chemicals, gases and petroleum products shall not be carried out in residential areas. A person or organization engaged in the business of storage and/or containerizing of chemicals, gases, lubricants, oils, petroleum products, and cement (except for use in construction) shall procure an insurance policy from an approved insurance company (Ekiti State Environmental Protection and Watershed Management Agency Law, 2024).

Registration of Underground Storage and Surface Storage Tanks

An owner or occupier of a facility who owns, uses, operates and maintains an Underground Storage Tank (UST) and Surface Storage Tank (SST) for storage of chemicals, gases, lubricants, petroleum products, shall register such tank with the Agency. The Agency shall conduct annual inspection of the Underground Storage Tank (UST) and Surface Storage Tank (SST) to determine its suitability for use and issue a permit for the Underground Storage Tank (UST) and Surface Storage Tank (SST), when it has been determined that the facility as well as the condition of the UST and SST complies with safe environmental standards. The permit shall be renewed annually for an amount to be determined by the Agency. In addition to other determining tests, the owner or occupier of a facility containing a UST or SST must conduct periodical integrity test to confirm the fitness of the tanks for use. Whenever an integrity test confirms leakage of tanks, the permit issued for those tanks is automatically invalidated. The owner or occupier is required to empty the tank immediately and discontinue its usage, decommission and remove the tank from its operating location within seven (7) days, conduct clean-up and remediation of the impacted environment (both soil and underground water). When, in the judgment of the designated officers of the Agency, the above has been carried out satisfactorily in line with Federal and State Laws, a certificate of fitness for use will be issued upon inspection of the new or repaired tank, subject to presentation of a fresh integrity test for the tank. An owner or occupier of a new or existing facility with a Underground Storage Tank (UST) and Surface Storage Tank (SST) on its grounds shall be required to submit a report on the baseline conditions and geology of the subsurface soil and the underground water around the site area. The above provision will only be exempted for SSTs containing very light, non-flammable, non-toxic gases. An owner or occupier of facility containing a UST shall be required to drill a monitoring borehole along the direction of flow of underground water under the UST and periodical water quality tests will be carried out on water samples obtained from the borehole. The Agency shall in relation to emission and discharge standards regulated under this Law and applicable to new or existing sources of hazardous air, water, and land pollutants, require the maximum degree of reduction or prohibition where achievable, in emission and discharge of the hazardous air, water and land pollutants and the Agency, through the following steps:

1. reduction in volume of, or elimination of emissions of such pollutants through process changes, substitutions of materials or other modifications;
2. enclosure or circularity of systems or process to eliminate emissions,

3. collection, capture or treatment of such pollutants when released from a process, stack or storage or fugitive emission point; and
4. re-design of equipment, work practice, or operational standards as well as compliance with industry standard operator training or certification.

The Agency shall take into consideration the cost of achieving such emission reduction, and any non-air quality health and environmental impacts and energy requirements, and the achievability of these steps whilst recommending the steps to be taken for reduction or elimination of discharge or emission (Ekiti State Environmental Protection and Watershed Management Agency Law, 2024).

Inspection of factories, hotels, guest houses, regulated food premises, schools and cemeteries

The Director of Environmental Health and Sanitation or his authorized officers shall from time to time inspect factories exiting in the State to ensure proper sanitation of the premises and collect samples of waste water discharged from factories to ensure that it does not contain chemicals in concentrations which exceed the maximum permissible limits.

The Director of Environmental Health and Sanitation or his authorized officers shall from time to time inspect hotels guest houses, regulated food premises, schools and cemeteries to ensure proper sanitation of the premises. Every owner or director of private establishment such as factories, hotels, guest houses, regulated food premises, schools and cemeteries shall be required to pay annual sanitary inspection fees to be determined by the Ministry of Environment and in the default, the owner or director or their agent shall be guilty of an offence and liable to pay a fine of twenty-five thousand naira or six months imprisonment (Ekiti State Environmental Health and Sanitation (Re-enactment) Law, 2020).

Prohibition of Discharge of Untreated Waste onto the Environment

No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged untreated waste into any public drain, water course, gorge, storm water drains or into any open space (Ekiti State Environmental Health and Sanitation (Re-enactment) Law, 2020).

Prohibition of sales of drinking water without approval

The Ministry of Environment in collaboration with other relevant Government agencies shall ensure the regular monitoring of drinking water quality. The Environmental Health and Sanitation Department shall register all water points from where water is collected for sale to the public. No person shall sell water to the public for consumption without the approval of National Agency for Food, Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDAC). Any person who contravenes the provisions of the Section of this Law shall be guilty of an offence and on conviction shall be liable to a fine of ten thousand naira or three months imprisonment (Ekiti State Environmental Health and Sanitation (Re-enactment) Law, 2020).

Regulation of activities that produce excessive noise

Noise means any unwanted sound exceeding 90 decibels (dB) known as the safe limit, which causes adverse health condition. Any noise resulting from commercial and recreational activities such as parties, record stores, advertisements, sports programmes, religious worship or any other such activities that is above 90 decibels, is prohibited. All forms of vehicles and ground transport systems such as railways or metroline that is above 145 decibels, is prohibited and vibration tools and industrial machines such as electric motors, grinding machines, blowers, generators and other such equipment that is above 145 decibels, is prohibited. No person shall make noise exceeding 90 decibels in a residential area unless under special circumstances which can only be permitted by the Ministry of Environment. No person shall make noise exceeding 145 decibels in an industrial area unless under special circumstances which can only be permitted by the Ministry of Environment. Any person who contravenes or fails to comply with the provisions of this Section shall be guilty of an offence and on conviction be liable to a fine of five thousand naira or three months imprisonment and in the case of corporate body shall be liable to a fine of ten thousand naira for first offence and twenty thousand naira and a closing order for subsequent offence (Ekiti State Environmental Health and Sanitation (Re-enactment) Law, 2020.

Power to Inspect and Condemn Unhygienic Food

A Health Officer may at all reasonable times examine any food intended for human consumption which has been sold, or is offered or exposed for sale or is in possession of or has been deposited with or consigned to any person for the purpose of sale or of preparation for sale and if it appears to him to be unfit for human consumption or diseased or unwholesome may condemn the same and order it to be destroyed or so disposed of as to prevent it from being used for human consumption. Any person to whom food condemned under this section belongs or in whose possession or premises it was found shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction for the first offence to a fine of one thousand naira for each article condemned and for every subsequent conviction to a fine of five thousand naira or imprisonment for six months. In any proceedings for an offence under this section the proof that any food condemned was not sold, offered, exposed for sale or in the possession of or deposited with or committed to any person for the purpose of sale or preparation for sale or that any such food was not intended

for human consumption shall be upon the party charged with the offence (Ekiti State Environmental Health and Sanitation (Re-enactment) Law, 2020.

Maintenance of drainage and dumping of waste on streets

Owners of premises shall provide and maintain adequate drains in their houses and no domestic waste water shall be allowed to drain into streets or neighbouring building. Owners of premises shall ensure free flow of drains or run-offs into public drainage channels and all rubbish there in shall be removed and deposited into the approved dino bins or communal dustbin to be removed or emptied by the appropriate agents, failure of which shall be liable to a fine of ten thousand naira or three months imprisonment. Owner of premises where there is stagnant water or a pit capable of holding water for mosquito breeding shall be liable to a fine of ten thousand naira or one month imprisonment. Within seven days of the commencement of this Law, owner or occupier of unauthorized shed, rubbish, temporary structure, or building erected within the set back or insanitary attachment to an existing building, or hut shall demolish it, failure of which shall be liable to a fine of five thousand naira and where it is demolished by the Task Force, the cost of demolition shall be payable to the coffers of the Environmental Sanitation Task Force. No person shall dump or drop building materials on streets, or walk-ways, in the default of which the owner shall be liable to a fine of two thousand naira or three months imprisonment, and where he fails to remove same within twenty-four hours, he shall pay the cost of removal to the coffers of the Environmental Sanitation Task Force (Ekiti State Environmental Health and Sanitation (Re-enactment) Law, 2020).

Provision of sanitary toilets at public places

All public institutions, private or Government owned i.e. Schools, Colleges, Post Offices, Club Houses, Banks, Supermarkets, Petrol Fillings, etc, must have adequate sanitary toilets and urinals, failure of which the Proprietor or head shall be liable to a fine of ten thousand naira or three months imprisonment. Any person who causes sewage effluent or liquid waste to be discharged to any drain or drainage system, road, gorges, or water course shall be liable to a fine of one hundred thousand naira or three months imprisonment (Ekiti State Environmental Health and Sanitation (Re-enactment) Law, 2020.

Monthly environmental sanitation exercise

Every owner or occupier of premises shall observe the monthly environmental sanitation exercise within the required time specified by the State Government. Any person who willfully contravenes or fails to comply with the provision of the above subsection shall be guilty of an offence and shall upon conviction be liable to imprisonment for one month or a fine of five thousand naira. All vehicles such as cars and trucks shall not move during the exercise except vehicles on special duties (Ekiti State Environmental Health and Sanitation (Re-enactment) Law, 2020).

Licensing of Water Well Drillers

As from the commencement of this Law, all water well drillers must be registered and licensed by the Ekiti State Water, and Sanitation Regulatory Agency (WASRA) before drilling any household, commercial, or industrial boreholes in Ekiti State (Ekiti State Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Sector Law, 2021).

Extent of Environmental Control Policy Elements Implementation

The results of the analysis in Table 2 showed the extent of environmental control policy elements implementation. The results showed that majority of the respondents (83.3%) were aware that there are environmental control policy elements that are guiding the use of environment and also 71.7% were aware that there are environmental laws enacted by the government to ensure adequate implementation of environmental control policy elements. Majority of the respondents (75.0%) sourced information about environmental protection policy elements through radio/television. This will align with the submission of Emeribe (2000) that environmental education and public participation is essential for proving environmental sustainability. The environmental policy elements aim to address waste management as indicated by 75.8% of the sampled respondents. It is of note that majority of the respondents (75.8%) have never for once come across any environmental officers enforcing environmental laws in their area, those who did was on yearly basis (95.9%). About 97.5% of the sampled respondents were not aware that there are laws guiding waste disposal around them (Ekiti State Waste Management Authority, 2024) and same applies to about 81.7% of the respondents who weren't aware that government seriously frowns at deforestation. About 71.7% were unaware that tree planted around them cannot be cut-down without permission from the government. There was no noticing of the activities of Uniform men (Forest guards) in them trying to enforce forestry laws as indicated by 86.7% of the respondents. Majority of the respondents (58.3%) disposed their waste by burning which contributed to the air pollution of the environment. This is in tandem with article published by Ljiljana *et al* (2009) that condemned waste management practices in the Republic of Serbia, especially the cities of Medredja and Western Balkan due to uncontrolled burning of refuses at dumpsites and landscape, degradation by improper waste disposal, and contamination of soil and water. About 84.2% of the respondents were not privileged to witness any case of arrest as a result of violation of

environmental laws. From the opinion of the respondents regarding the effectiveness of the implementation of environmental protection policy elements in their area, about 60.8% were of the opinion that the policy elements were ineffective. This was so because environmental control policy elements are not being consistently applied across their areas as indicated by 66.7% of the respondents. On the rating of the performance of environmental officers towards enforcement of environmental control laws in ensuring adequate policy elements implementation in the area, majority of the respondents (44.2%) scored them 11-20%. All indices from the findings pointed to the fact that there was none or little implementation of environmental policy elements' implementation in the study area.

Table 2: Extent of Environmental Control Policy Elements' Implementation

Extent of environmental control policy elements implementation	Frequency	Percentage
Are you aware that there are environmental policy elements that are guiding the use of our environment		
Yes	100	83.3
No	20	16.7
Are you also aware that there are environmental laws enacted by the government to ensure adequate implementation of environmental control policy elements		
Yes	86	71.7
No	34	28.3
Sources through which you learned about environmental protection policy elements in your area		
Radio/TV	90	75.0
Community meeting	13	10.8
Newspaper/Poster	10	8.3
Personal communication	7	5.8
What are some of the environmental issues these policy elements aim to address		
Waste management	91	75.8
Erosion	15	12.5
Flood	14	11.7
Have you for once come across any environmental officers enforcing environmental laws in your area		
Yes	29	24.2
No	91	75.8
How often do you normally see them		
Every month	6	5.0
Every year	114	95.0
Are you aware that there are laws guiding waste disposal around you		
Yes	3	2.5
No	117	97.5
Are you also aware that government seriously frowns at deforestation		
Yes	22	18.3
No	98	81.7
Are you aware that any tree planted around you cannot be cut-down without permission from the government		
Yes	34	28.3
No	86	71.7
Have you been noticing the activities of Uniform men (Forest guards) in your area trying to enforce forestry laws		
Yes	16	13.3
No	104	86.7
How do you dispose your waste		
By burning	70	58.3
Dump at the refuse dump site	48	40.0
Refuse collector	2	1.7

Have you been privileged to witness any case of arrest as a result of violation of environmental laws		
Yes	19	15.8
No	101	84.2
In your opinion, how effective has the implementation of environmental protection policy elements been in your area		
Very effective	9	7.5
Effective	31	25.8
Neutral	7	5.8
Ineffective	73	60.8
Do you believe that environmental control policy elements are being consistently applied across your area		
Yes	40	33.3
No	80	66.7
How would you rate the performance of environmental officers towards enforcement of environmental control laws in ensuring adequate policy elements implementation in your area		
1-10%	18	15.0
11-20%	53	44.2
21-30%	49	40.8
Total	120	100.0

Strategies for Successful Environmental Control Policy Elements' Implementation

The results of the analysis in Table 3 showed the strategies for successful environmental control policy elements implementation. The results revealed that 99.2% of the respondents were unaware of any specific strategies put in place by the government to ensure that environmental control policy elements are successfully implemented in their area and this is one of the major factors needed for implementation of any policy element. The policy element implementation strategies were rated to be very ineffective by 73.3% of the respondents. Community meetings was suggested by majority of the respondents (73.3%) as a channel most effective for raising awareness about the importance of adhering to environmental control policy elements. It was revealed from the result of the analysis that 88.3% of the respondents or their communities never participated in any initiatives related to environmental protection or policy elements' implementation. Their participation level was occasionally (84.2%). Creation of awareness was suggested by majority of the respondents (97.5%) as the best strategy towards the improvement of environmental control policy elements implementation in the study area. The study conducted by Manuti, 2013 had earlier stressed that awareness is often considered to be important at the first stages of the adaptation process or even in research.

Table 3: Strategies for Successful Environmental Control Policy Elements' Implementation

Strategies For Successful Environmental Control Policy Elements Implementation	Frequency	Percentage
Are you aware of any specific strategies put in place by the government to ensure that environmental control policy elements are successfully implemented in your area		
Yes	1	0.8
No	119	99.2
How effective do you believe these strategies have been in achieving successful implementation		
Very effective	2	1.7
Effective	30	25.0
Very ineffective	88	73.3
What channels do you think are the most effective for raising awareness about the importance of adhering to environmental control policy elements		
Radio/TV	6	5.0
Town criers	26	21.7
Community meetings	88	73.3

Have you or community participated in any initiatives related to environmental protection or policy elements implementation in your area		
Yes	14	11.7
No	106	88.3
How would you characterize your level of participation in environmental protection efforts		
Active involvement	19	15.8
Occasional involvement	101	84.2
How best do you think environmental control policy elements implementation can be improved in your area		
Creation of awareness	117	97.5
Proper monitoring	3	2.5
Total	120	100.0

Factors Responsible for Environmental Control Policy Elements' Somersaults

The results of the analysis in Table 4 revealed the factors responsible for environmental control policy elements' somersaults in the study area. The major factors considered to be responsible for environmental control policy elements' somersaults in the area were political factors (70.8%), economic interest (11.7%), changes in government leadership (10.0%) and lack of comprehensive understanding of environmental issues (7.5%). The findings correlated with the scholarly contribution of Fabiyi *et al*. (2021).

Table 4: Factors Responsible for Environmental Control Policy Elements' Somersaults

Factors Responsible for Environmental Control Policy Elements' Somersaults	Frequency	Percentage
In your observation, have there been significant changes or shifts in environmental policy elements or their priorities in your area over time		
Yes	15	12.5
No	105	87.5
What are the factors responsible for environmental policy elements somersaults in your area among the following		
Political factors	85	70.8
Economic interest	14	11.7
Lack of comprehensive understanding of environmental issues	9	7.5
Changes in government leadership	12	10.0
Total	120	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2025.

Impacts of Environmental Control Policy Elements' Somersaults on Specific Environmental Areas

The results of the analysis in Table 5 showed the impacts of environmental control policy elements' somersaults on specific environmental areas. The results revealed that 80.0% of the respondents noticed specific negative impacts on the environment in their area which they believe might be linked to changes or inconsistencies in environmental policy elements. According to Idehen and Oaikhena, (2021), the environmental governance framework in Nigeria remains fraught with systemic challenges, including policy elements inconsistency, corruption, weak institutional coordination, and inadequate funding. The negative impact was observed on the waste management area as indicated by 65.0% of the respondents. About 74.2% of the respondents were somewhat in their opinion on how the changes or inconsistencies in environmental policy elements affected the overall environmental quality in their area. This also conforms with the study of Obasi, 2014 which stated that environmental policy elements and programmes are frequently abandoned or altered by succeeding administrations, regardless of their effectiveness or potential impact. These inconsistencies lead to fragmented development and persistent environmental degradation. 67.5% of the respondents couldn't ascertain how the changes in environmental policy elements had any impact on the livelihoods or well-being of people in their community.

Table 5: Impacts of Environmental Policy Elements' Somersaults on Specific Environmental Areas

Impacts of Environmental Policy Element Somersaults on Specific Environmental Areas	Frequency	Percentage
Have you noticed any specific negative impacts on the environment in your area that you believe might be linked to changes or inconsistencies in environmental policies		
Yes	96	80.0
No	24	20.0
Indicate the environmental area (s) where you have observed negative impacts		
Waste management	78	65.0
Water resources	11	9.2
Land use	2	1.7
Pollution	29	24.2
In your opinion, how have these changes or inconsistencies in environmental policy elements affected the overall environmental quality in your area		
Significantly worsened	22	18.3
Somewhat	89	74.2
Worsened	8	6.7
No noticeable impact	1	0.8
Have these changes in environmental policy elements had any impact on the livelihoods or well-being of people in your community		
Yes	19	15.8
No	20	16.7
Don't know	81	67.5
Total	120	100.0

Factors Influencing Environmental Control Policy Elements' Implementation in the Study Area

The logit regression model was estimated using STATA 13 software in estimating factors influencing environmental control policy elements' implementation in the study area. The estimated coefficients of the model, along with the t-values are presented in Table 6. Age of the respondents had an estimated coefficient of - 4.029 and statistically significant and have inverse relationship with factors influencing environmental control policy elements' implementation at 1% probability level. This implies that increase in the age of the respondents will lead to decrease in environmental control policy elements' implementation in the study area. Educational status of the respondents had an estimated coefficient of 0.000 and statistically significant and have direct relationship with factors influencing environmental control policy elements' implementation at 1% probability level. This implies that increase in the educational status of the respondents will lead to increase in environmental control policy elements' implementation in the study area. Awareness of policy enforcement agencies had an estimated coefficient of 0.256 and statistically significant and have direct relationship with factors influencing environmental control policy elements implementation at 1% probability level. This implies that increase in the awareness of policy enforcement agencies will lead to increase in environmental control policy elements' implementation in the study area. Yes, an increased awareness of policy enforcement agencies by the public can lead to greater compliance and improved implementation of environmental control policy elements because greater public awareness fosters accountability, encourages citizen participation in monitoring, creates a more receptive environment for regulatory activities, ultimately enhancing policy effectiveness and environmental outcomes.

Table 6: Factors Influencing Environmental Control Policy Elements Implementation in the Study Area

Variables	Co-efficient	S. Error	T-value
Age	- 4.029	6.368	-2.63
Gender	0.046	0.042	1.09
Education level	0.000	0.000	3.67
Awareness of environmental policy	-0.000	0.000	-0.56
Awareness of policy enforcement agencies	0.139	0.256	2.55
Sources of awareness of policy	-0.229	0.394	-0.58
Witnessing any case of arrest as a result of violation of environmental laws	-0.040	0.111	-0.36
Constant	-10.579	18.651	-0.57

*Note: 1% Significance level= ***, 5% Significance level= ** and 10% Significance level= **

CONCLUSION

This study confirmed the existence of a robust environmental control policy elements in Ekiti State and concludes that the prohibition laws are a step in the right direction in bringing an end to the discontinuity, reversals and somersault of environmental policy elements. Nigeria's environmental policy elements face significant challenges in implementation and enforcement thereby leading to limited effectiveness in protecting the environment. Weak political will, inadequate resources for regulatory agencies, and corruption had been the major factors hindering the enforcement of environmental policy elements. Furthermore, a lack of public awareness regarding environmental rights and responsibilities also adds to the complexity of achieving sustainable environmental management. Therefore, government should support enforcement agencies for effective compliance monitoring and enforcement of effective environmental control policy elements' implementation. There should be a strong and continuous political commitment on the side of the government for the effective implementation of environmental policy elements. Also, Stiffer sanctions and penalties should be prescribed to defaulters and strictly adhered to curb the factors responsible for environmental policy elements' somersaults. Finally, government should put measures in place to reduce to the barest minimum the impacts of environmental policy elements' somersaults on specific environmental areas.

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