

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-54991

Title: STUDENTS Å' PERCEPTION OF SANITATION IN THE CAPE COAST MUNICIPALITY

Recommendation:

Accept as it isYes.....

Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality			√	
Techn. Quality			√	
Clarity			√	
Significance		√		

Reviewer Name: Professor Dr Dillip Kumar Mohapatra

Detailed Reviewer's Report

1. Strengths

Relevant Public Health Topic

The manuscript addresses an important environmental health issue (sanitation) with high national and global relevance, especially for developing countries.

Clear Objectives

The study clearly outlines its objectives—prevalence, causes, sanitation-related diseases, and improvement strategies.

Use of Mixed-Methods Approach

Combining quantitative (Likert-scale survey) and qualitative (open-ended responses) provides richer and more comprehensive insights.

Adequate Sample Size

A sample of 294 distance learners offers reasonable representation for the targeted population.

Strong Reliability of Instrument

The Cronbach alpha value of 0.89 indicates strong internal consistency and methodological rigor.

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Well-structured Analysis

Appropriate use of descriptive statistics and ANOVA to answer research questions.

Contextualized Discussion

The discussion draws on relevant literature, strengthening the interpretation of results.

Policy-Relevant Findings

Recommendations (infrastructure, education, enforcement) are actionable for local authorities.

2. Weaknesses

Lengthy and Over-Detailed Introduction

The introduction is too long, contains repeated information, and includes sections that can be condensed.

Clarity and Flow Issues

Some sentences are verbose, with grammatical inconsistencies affecting readability.

Sampling Method Limitations Not Well Addressed

Convenience sampling and cluster sampling biases are not sufficiently discussed in the limitations section.

No Ethical Approval Statement

Ethical considerations (IRB approval/ref. number) are not clearly mentioned, which is required for human participant studies.

Insufficient Description of Qualitative Analysis Method

Responses were "grouped into themes," but no clear explanation of thematic analysis procedures, coders involved, or validation strategy.

Tables Not Provided in Manuscript

The text refers to several tables, but the reviewer cannot evaluate them since they are absent.

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ANOVA Interpretation Could Be Clearer

Effect size values (η^2) are not provided, which help interpret practical significance.

Discussion Lacks a Clear Limitations Section

Limitations should be presented as a separate, explicit subsection.

Conclusion Is Repetitive

Some statements in the conclusion repeat earlier results without synthesizing implications.

3. Significance of the Study

Contribution to Local Sanitation Research

Provides primary data on sanitation perceptions among educated youth in Cape Coast, filling a gap in the literature.

Policy and Planning Relevance

Findings can guide Municipal Assemblies, sanitation NGOs, and environmental health authorities in designing targeted interventions.

Supports SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation)

The research aligns with national and global agendas to improve sanitation access by 2030.

Useful Reference for Environmental Health Researchers

Adds evidence on behavioural and infrastructural contributors to sanitation problems.

Basis for Future Comparative Studies

The framework can be replicated in other municipalities, enabling national-level comparison

4. Key Points of the Manuscript

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Refuse Dumps Identified as the Most Prevalent Insanitary Condition

Students ranked refuse dumps and choked drains as the main sanitation issues in Cape Coast.

Attitude Identified as the Leading Cause of Poor Sanitation

Behavioural factors were ranked higher than infrastructural or economic factors.

Malaria Ranked as the Most Common Sanitation-Related Disease

Followed by cholera and diarrhoea, highlighting public health risks.

Three Main Strategies Suggested by Students

Adequate sanitation infrastructure

Public education

Stronger enforcement of sanitation laws

Level of Education Not a Significant Predictor

ANOVA shows diploma, post-diploma, and master's students have similar perceptions.

Mixed-method design strengthens validity

Both quantitative rankings and qualitative themes support the findings.