

## **Determination of Physiochemical Qualities of Abattoir Effluent on Soil and Water in Gandu, Sokoto State**

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**Abstract:** *The effect of abattoir effluent on Gandu area of Sokoto State was examined for the physio-chemical properties during the rainy and dry season. The value pH, phosphate, Nitrate, nitrogen contents dissolved oxygen (DO), BOD, potassium, percentage calcium magnesium and electrical conductivity was determined. The pH of well water DO, dissolved oxygen and nitrate all fall below the WHO tolerance level for drinking water quality standard these parameters shows that the water is not fit for human animal consumption.*

**Key Words;** *Pollution, Abattoir, waste- water- treatment, waterborne diseases*

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### **I. Introduction**

Environmental problems have increased in geometric proportion over the last three decades with improper health practices being largely responsible for the gross pollution of the aquatic environment with concomitant increase in waterborne diseases, especially typhoid, diarrhea and dysentery (Atuanya *et al.*, 2012)(Osibajo and Adie, 2007). Efforts have been geared towards curbing the menace of pollution around the world, particularly by the United Nations Organizations such as World Health Organization (WHO), and United Nations Environmental programs. There are many international conferences and protocols to this effect. Rio de Janeiro conference of 1992 was a major effort, collating previous environmental issues and bringing them to light (Oyesola, 1998).

Abattoirs, also known as slaughter houses are places where animals are butchered for food? Abattoir act (1998) defined abattoir as any premises used for or in connection with the slaughter of animal whose meat is intended for human consumption and include a slaughter house, but does not include a place situated on a farm (Bridges *et al.*, 2000).

The continuous drive to increase meat production for the protein needs of the ever increasing world population has some problems attached. In many countries, pollution arises from activities in meat production as a result of failure in adhering to good manufacturing practices (GMP) and Good Hygiene Practices (GHP). Consideration is hardly given to safety practices during animal transport to the abattoir, their slaughter and their dressing. For example, during dressing the oesophagus of cattle and sheep should be sealed to prevent leakage of animal contents. These ineptitudes often lead to contamination from hide, hooves and content of alimentary tract during evisceration and negatively impact on the environment, including microbes in the soil and surface and ground water (Hinton *et al.*, 2000).

A specific example of what happen is logging of contaminated water in the soil. In that situations, oxygen becomes less, available as an electron acceptor, promoting denitrifying bacteria to reduce available nitrate into gaseous nitrogen which enters the atmosphere with resultant negative effects. Also, anaerobic archaea (methanogens) may produce excessive methane at a higher rate than aerobic methane oxidizing bacteria (methanotrophs) could cope with, thus contributing to greenhouse effect and global warming. Increase in methane is of concern because it is five times more effective as a greenhouse gas than CO<sub>2</sub> (Madigan *et al.*, 2003). Leaching into groundwater is another concern, especially due to the recalcitrant nature of some contaminants (Lapygina *et al.*, 2002). The processes of absorption of water and trapping by fine sandy materials, clays and organic matter can filter out/trap microorganisms and pathogens and some dissolved organic matter during the passage of polluted water through the soil, thus reducing the microbial load. However, if there is a departure of the conditions from normalcy, beyond the carrying capacity of the natural process, the diversity of auto-chunos species could diminish while count of individual species that are able to survive may increase with the possibility of grave consequences on ground water (Atlas and Bartha, 1998).

Different methods of waste treatment have been developed, for reasons of public health and conservation, which results in the destruction of pathogens and the mineralization of the organic components of sewage prior to discharge. Anaerobic waste water treatment using granular sludge reactor is one of such methods (Liu *et al.*, 2002). However, in Nigeria, like many developing countries, the control of the discharge of untreated wastes into the environment is still a problem, despite the establishment of Federal Environmental

Protection Agency (FEPA) since 1998 (Adeyemo, 2003). Better inspection of abattoirs and strict enforcement of the law are needed to be able to reduce environmental contamination and related diseases. Attempts to control the hygienic conditions of slaughter houses should include physical assessment of the premises and animals themselves as those that are “visibly unacceptably dirty” or are affected by disease are not to be allowed for slaughter (Adeyemo, 2003).

## II. Material and Methods

### Determination of Physio-chemical qualities

The physic-chemical analysis carried out include pH, Phosphate, nitrate, nitrogen content, dissolved oxygen, BOD, potassium, phosphorus, sodium magnesium particle size analysis, calcium and percentage sand silt and clay

## III. Results and Discussion

The physicochemical properties of abattoir waste water during rainy and dry season showed the mean pH of the waste water to be 5.6 during the rainy season and 6.5 during the dry season. This showed that the pH of waste water was acidic and falls below the Federal Ministry of Environment (FMENV) effluent limit of 6-9, (Table 4.1), the mean pH of the contaminated soil was 7.63 for the dry season and 6.49 for the rainy season. The pH of rainy season and the dry season was neutral. A pH near 7.0 (neutral) plays a part in determining both the qualitative and quantitative abundance of micro flora (Edward, 1990, Federoret al.,1993;). It could be inferred then, that more hydrogen ion became available, lowering the pH value of contaminated soil and affecting the pattern of microbial population. The pH of the well water for the rainy season was 6.06 while for the dry season a mean pH of 5.6 was obtained. Both values fall below the standard

**TABLE 4.1:**  
**Physico-Chemical Properties Of Abattoir Waste Water During Rainy And Dry Seasons**

PARAMETERS	RAINY	DRY
pH	5.15	6.15
E.C (µs/cm)	1-	1-
NO <sub>3</sub> (Mg/l)	10.764	9.001
P (mg/kg)	0.143	0.111
K (mg/kg)	3.88	39.86
Na (mg/kg)	22.62	7.5
Ca(%)	0.29	0.56
Mg (%)	1.30	0.15
DO (mg/l)	13.89	13.23
BOD (mg/l)	11.12	8.88

**KEY:** Mg/kg: milligram per kilogram E.C Electrical Conductivity

**TABLE 4.2:**  
**Physico-Chemical Properties Of Abattoir Soil During Rainy And Dry Seasons**

PARAMETERS	RAINY	DRY
pH	6.49	7.63
E.C (µs/cm)	5438.92	733.44
NO <sub>3</sub> (mg/l)	0.0384	0.061
P (mg/kg)	2.096	2.364
K (mg/kg)	78.4	9.575
Na (mg/kg)	43.8	1.203
Ca(%)	0.394	0.094
Mg (%)	14.08	0.121
Sand (%)	861.8	89.61
Silt (%)	7.47	7.12
Clay (%)	6.25	3.27

**KEY:**Mg/kg: milligram per kilogram E.C Electrical Conductivity

**TABLE 4.3: PHYSICO-CHEMICAL PROPERTIES OF ABATTOIR WELL WATER DURING RAINY AND DRY SEASONS**

PARAMETERS	RAINY	DRY
pH	6.06	5.6
E.C (µs/cm)	5376.2	1192.6
NO <sub>3</sub> (mg/l)	3.12	0.92
P (mg/kg)	0.034	0.034
K (mg/kg)	26.94	3.26
Na (mg/kg)	5.98	1.44
Ca(%)	2.32	0.47
BOD (mg/l)	7.3	0.94
DO (mg/l)	10.95	4.68
CI (mg/l)	24.24	1.4

**KEY:** Mg/kg: milligram per kilogram E.C Electrical Conductivity

limit (Federoret *et al.*, 1993). The pH obtained for the well water is not within the WHO pH tolerance level for drinking water quality standards (WHO 1996). This is as a result of washing of abattoir waste water by rain and human activities, which is in conformity with Sanjodoyinet *al* (1992) they reported that wells in the vicinity of abattoirs, which serve as sources of water to the abattoir dwellers is being polluted by effluent from the abattoir and constitute health risk to the butchers and users of the wells.

The Dissolved Oxygen (DO) value obtained for the waste water in the rainy season varies between 6.6 – 21.6mg/l and 6.8 – 22.7mg/l for the dry season. The standard for sustaining aquatic life is stipulated at 5mg/l a concentration below this value adversely affects aquatic life, while concentration below 2mg/kg may lead to death of fishes (Chapman, 1992). This value is within the limit of the World Health Organization. The mean DO of the well water for the rainy and dry seasons, 3.1 – 3.9mg/l and 4.2 – 5.3mg/l respectively which was below the standard limit of 5mg/l set by the WHO tolerance level for drinking water quality standard.

Mean phosphate values for wastewater, soil and well water are 0.14mg/l, 2.096mg/kg and 0.03mg/l respectively in the rainy season while the dry season recorded a mean value of 0.11mg/l, 2.36mg/kg and 0.03mg/l, all falling within the standard limit of 0.1. The reason could be that no detergent was used to wash the roasted carcass. Nitrate value for waste water ranging from 9.72-12.24mg/l during the rainy season was high, while in the well water the range of 0.8 – 5.4mg/l in the rainy season and 0.7 – 1.0mg/l in the dry season was quite acceptable compared with WHO and Nigerian water quality standard of 0.5 and 5 as reported by WHO, (1996).

The nitrogen content of the abattoir soil ranged from 0.049 – 0.07% in the dry season and 0.028 – 0.053%. This was also below the WHO (1996) standards. The abattoir effluent appeared to have influenced, to some extent the total nitrogen content of the polluted soils. A substantial amount of the nitrogen may have been lost through volatilization because of the pungent smell that was emanating from the effluent as reported by Prasad and Datta (1979).

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