

**Deku, Pearl & Duram, Leslie. The Perceived Role of Communities and State Officials in Solid Waste Management in Ghana, West Africa.**

This study examined the role of community members and state officials in solid waste management (SWM) and identified options to improve waste management in Ghana. The mixed methods approach was used in research design, data collection, and analysis. Data was collected from 81 community members drawn from three areas (Kanda, Asylum Down, and Nima) in the Accra Metropolitan Area (AMA), and four state officials. Data sets were analyzed using manual transcription and coded for analysis. The study revealed that communities are actively involved in managing waste. However, education and enforcement measures have not been effective due to political interference and a lack of resources. Furthermore, the study found that greater support of local government and all stakeholders is needed in managing waste. The study recommends educating community members to better integrate them into Ghana's waste management stream in order to reduce costs involved in SWM.

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