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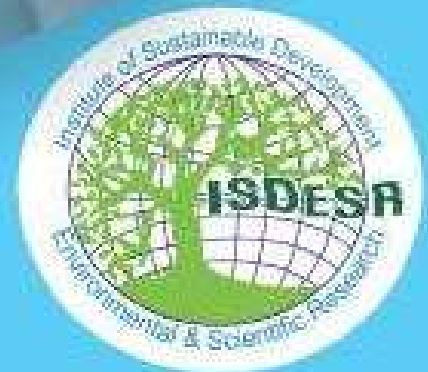
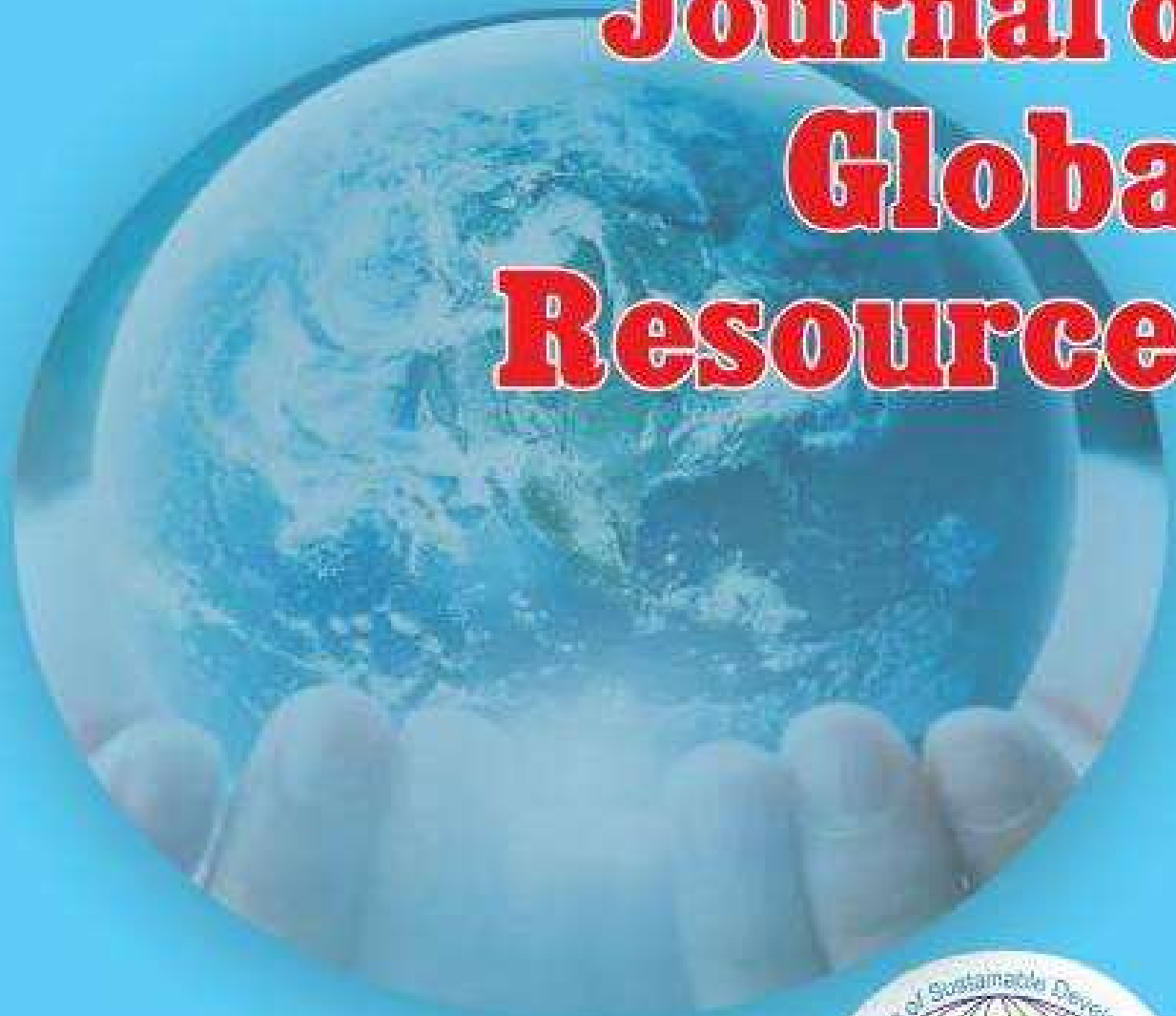
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THE CONCEPT OF WASTE MANAGEMENT

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Abstract:

Waste never a good part of the Environment, whether sometimes it is useful when it is recyclable. However in this present situation the waste liable for a lot of unwanted event. In many underdeveloped & developing countries still it is a major problem due to lack of proper management. This creates a lot of problems to the environment. Several studies and researches have been conducted on the sources and characteristics of wastes as well as the possible adverse effect of inappropriate handling and best international practices. One thing that is still not clear however is what exactly constitutes a waste? How much do we know about what should be classed as waste? What are the historical contexts of waste management's? The present paper seeks to examine these vital questions with a view to providing answers from previous studies. The paper employed a desktop approach to provide answers to the research objectives. Specifically, the paper uses a descriptive approach to gather information from peer reviewed publications such as, journal articles, environmental organizations reports and books. It was found that, waste is to a large extent subjective in meaning as a substance can only be regarded as a waste when the owner labels it as such.

Keywords: Environment, waste, wastes classification

INTRODUCTION

Most human activities generate waste¹. Despite that, the production of wastes remain a major source of concern as it has always been since pre historic period². In recent times, the rate and quantity of waste generation have been on the increase. As the volume of wastes increases, so also does the variety of the waste increases³. Unlike the prehistoric period where wastes were merely a source of nuisance that needed to be disposed of. Proper management was not a major issue as the population was small and a vast amount of land was available to the population at that time. In those days, the environment easily absorbed the volume of waste produced without any form of degradation⁴.

An important question in modern day wastes management is – what exactly is a waste? Waste is the useless by product of human activities which physically contains the same substance that are available in the useful product⁵. Wastes have also been defined as any product or material which is useless to the producer⁶. Dijkema et al, pointed out that, wastes are materials that people would want to dispose of even when payments are required for their disposal⁷. Although, waste is an essential product of human activities, it is also the result of inefficient production processes whose continuous generation is a loss of vital resources⁸.

METHODOLOGY

This paper which is a review of literatures relied heavily on secondary data as is the case with most desktop study where existing information are used for analysis and to draw vital conclusions. Some of the specific sources of data for the study include books, journal articles, unpublished papers, and government reports, organizational and private WebPages. This type of research approach is employed when a substantial amount of work has been done on a research topic and