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## A Socio-Legal Approach: Gender and Domestic Solid Waste Management in Ashaiman, Ghana

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### **Abstract:**

*This article deals with the gender aspects of waste management in Ghana. Whilst both men and women could equally contribute to a successful domestic waste management in Ghana, my empirical data shows that the absolute majority of local actors perceive this task to be the duty of women. When asked, respondents often referred to local tradition and values saying “we [they] have been educated this way”. This suggests that the local attitudes could be linked to the way and manner members of the society are “enculturated” and socialized. This study aimed to examine the following: the relationship between gender<sup>3</sup> and domestic waste management<sup>4</sup>, the patterns in attitudes towards waste management, and whether waste management based on gender created problems for households. The study used In-depth interviews, questionnaire, and observation to collect data. The study is situated within the social context theory which will be discussed in detail. The data showed that women seemed to be more responsible towards waste management compared to men. It was also found that whilst both women and men wanted improved waste management services, the women were less willing to pay for such services. The study recommends high involvement of women at local, sub-national and national level decision making (since they [women] in most cases deal directly with domestic waste) processes to help overcome the domestic waste management challenges confronting Ghana.*

**Key words:** Gender; domestic waste; social context; Ashaiman

### **1. Introduction**

Ghana is a country shaped by cultural diversity. Among other characteristics, biased gender relations such as patriarchal attitudes are still prevalent in most communities especially in the hinterlands. Social roles are constructed with reference to local culture and social variety. These social roles are based on gender specifics, that is, one being a woman or a man. These assigned roles have no official legal basis as they are neither enshrined in the 1992 constitution of the republic of Ghana nor are they supported by any Act of parliament. Rather, it seems that the roles are the offshoot of society, that is to say they are socially constructed or created. Whilst it is clear to observe a gender distinction based on the kind of occupation one has (e.g. Women are secretaries, receptionist/front desk officers etc. whilst the men are engineers, doctors etc.) this gender distinction is also not different from the roles spouses play in various homes. Domestic waste management is not dissimilar from this general pattern of role play as it is common to observe in most homes in Ghana that it is the duty of women to handle household chores (Tsiboe & Marbel, 2004), of which waste management is just but one. This depicts a gendered allocation of rights, duties and obligations in the Ghanaian society.

The essence of performing these tasks by women is with the aim of keeping their homes clean, and to some extent to show that they were nurtured well to please their husbands. This apparent internalization of social expectations has slowed down the pace of the development of women in Ghana as our empirical data showed that some residents considered the education of women as not relevant as they [women] were more likely to end up in the kitchen compared to their male counterparts.

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<sup>3</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gender> retrieved on 18/11/2013

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.toowoombarc.qld.gov.au/environment-and-waste/waste-and-recycling/rubbish-dumps/7413-what-is-domestic-waste>  
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According to Tukwariba (2013), this common knowledge or kind of value orientation can be linked to the way and manner in which members of the society are socialized. That is, women are defined as kitchen friendly people and having that responsibility of waste management can be directly or indirectly be related to culture, as it is generally not perceived to be a male responsibility of performing such tasks. This kind of waste management practice, according to Tukwariba (2013), is a social routine that has been passed on from one generation to the other. It has now become a normal way of life in the Ghanaian society and for that matter a social order. In referring to this practice as a social order we mean that it is generally accepted as a 'normal' way of relating to or behaving towards waste although in recent times the practice is being contested by some local residents. As already stated these assigned roles are not evocative that the official laws support the course but rather the practice is based on the shared norms of the society.

There are numerous studies related to solid waste management in Ghana (see Mariwah, 2012; Oduro-Kwarteng, 2011; Puopiel, 2010; Tsiboe & Marbell, 2004; Anomanyo, 2004). Oduro-Kwarteng (2012) for example looked at the involvement of private sector in the urban solid waste collection, and the factors explaining differences in performance (productivity and service quality) of solid waste companies. Tsiboe and Marbell (2004) attempted to answer why municipal solid wastes handling in Accra continues to be a problem and how this situation can be improved with a partial focus on traditional practices and attitudes. Puopiel (2010) also examined the factors affecting effective solid waste management in the Tamale metropolis and suggested possible measures to tackle the problems. It seems that the literature mentioned above focuses on the institutional arrangements and problems affecting solid waste management. The focus in the literature in no doubt has contributed a lot to the understanding of domestic solid waste management. However, the point of departure that distinguishes this study from others is that previous studies have centered on problems and institutional arrangements with neglect for the relationship between gender and domestic waste management. To the best of our knowledge none of the numerous studies on solid waste management made it a point to solely look at the gender aspects of waste management in Ghana. This paper aims to examine the relationship between gender and domestic waste management in Ghana. It will attempt to examine the patterns in attitudes with reference to some socio-demographic variables such as age, education and the residential area of respondents. It will also examine in brief whether domestic waste disposal based on gender created problems for households. This study will fill in an important gap in the literature and also explain why domestic waste management is such a nerve-racking one in Ghana.

## 2. Social Context (SC) Theory

Whilst most studies on solid waste management have adopted the theory of planned behaviour and the theory of behavioural matrix by Ajzen (2002) and Pred (1967) respectively which in a way neglects the social context in which behaviour takes place, this paper will take into consideration the fact that people's behaviour does not just occur in a vacuum, but is shaped by the society in which one finds him or herself. This means that the social context theory will play a very important role in this paper. At the same time it will inform other scholars about the importance of taking into consideration behaviour towards domestic waste management as a social product and not as an individual matter.

The social context theory, according to Leone Earle and Tony Earle (1999), studies social changes over time. It is based on the interplay between social forces that affect individual behaviour and group actions that change society. The theory recognizes social structures, social processes and social realities as its major components.

The social structures in this regard relate to the factors and institutions that shape behavior. They may include education, religion, family, and politics etcetera. These institutions in part determine how domestic waste is to be managed or how one should relate to the environment. For example, socialization through the family and education may shape environmental behaviour. These factors therefore determine peoples' attitudes and how they are viewing waste management. If a person lives in a society/family where all the domestic chores including waste management is left in the hands of the female, such a person grows up with that mentality embedded in him or her. This shows how societal pattern of behaviour influences people and how local order can create and maintain gender bias attitudes within a society.

The social processes are how people view and interact with social structures. The processes of interaction with social structures are shaped at an early age by other social structures, particularly education, religion, but are subject to family relations (Briggs, 2012). That is, how one is socialized within the family. If a person is taught how to dispose of waste at the right place (determined by society) and the social consequences of indiscriminate dumping at the family level; it eventually shapes the person from childhood to adulthood. If this fails, then it means it is the family and other relevant structures that have failed and therefore making people behave the way they do. In the same vein, if people do not develop the idea that domestic waste management is the duty of both genders then it is the family and other relevant structures that have failed to instill such ideas and practices in its people. It is the failure of these institutions to develop equal gender attitudes towards domestic waste management that leads to gender bias found within households. Notwithstanding education to some extent may attempt (as this study will show) to develop equal attitudes towards waste, though the local people may not want to let go their traditions and beliefs about certain social roles. In social processes people learn through observing other people's behaviour, attitudes, and outcomes of those behaviours. Most behaviour observed today in relation to gender attitudes and domestic waste management was learned from the past. As most human behaviour is learned observationally through observing others, people form ideas of how new behaviours are performed, and on later occasions this coded information serves as a guide for future action (See Bandura, 1963, 1973, and 1977). Consequently, observing how people relate to domestic waste and for that matter gender specific roles influences others behaviour towards waste. This indicates how social behaviour is important in understanding an individual behaviour in the society. In this regard, the society or the environment defines who should perform such tasks.

Social realities are ideas or behaviours that all individuals within a given society recognize, even if they do not always accept or practice them (Briggs, *ibid*). Positive attitudes in terms of equal gender relation towards waste may be recognized by a society, but

may not be practiced because of various cultural reasons. This situation can emanate from the idea that giving a positive gender attitude towards waste could lead to the breakdown of family values. Therefore, people may be well aware of how wrong the gender bias roles in respect of domestic waste management may be but would still adhere to it so long as the cultural values are concerned. The justification of the Social Context theory in this paper is that it takes into consideration the social and cultural context in which behaviour takes place which is of prime concern to both sociologists and anthropologists. It is not individualistic in content. The Social Context theory also serves as a tool to identify, understand, and make predictions in relation to social issues and societal needs (Earle & Earle, 1999). This theoretical underpinning is to give a deep insight and understanding of the setting and the social conditions in which the waste problem is embedded, but not deliberately meant to exclude other important theories.

### 3. Study Area and Methods

This study was undertaken in Ashaiman (a sub-urban area of Accra, Ghana). It lies within the southeastern part of Ghana and is located about 4 km in the Northern part of Tema. It is 30 km from the capital city, Accra. In the year 2000 the population stood at 160,000 with a growth rate of 4.6% which is above the national average of 3.1%. According to the population and housing census in 2010, the population stood at 190,972. It is however currently estimated to be about 201,072 at a growth rate of 4%. The majority of the population [females (28.5%), males (27%)] falls between the ages of 15 to 49. The reason for the high growth rate in Ashaiman is largely because the city is increasingly a recipient of a large number of migrants from all over Ghana and other neighbouring West African countries. This has made the population heterogeneous with diverse socio-cultural practices. There are mainly two income groups in Ashaiman; middle and lower income groups as determined by the Ashaiman municipal assembly.

This paper draws from data collected for an MA thesis submitted to the International Institute for the Sociology of Law in Onati Pais Vasco, Spain. The approaches to data collection were observation, in-depth interviews (IDIs), and the use of a questionnaire survey. The respondents were household members, local opinion leaders (assembly members), and officials of the waste management department. The views of waste management officials and opinion leaders were excluded since it did not impact this paper. Households' views were important because the households basically generated the waste behaviour which served as a guide for subsequent behaviours related to waste management. Also, they performed the function of socializing members of the society into the already existing waste practices that has become a local order.

As already stated Ashaiman is a heterogeneous community with diverse people of different cultural and social background. In respect of this, a quota of 75 sample size was assigned to the number of respondents in the questionnaire survey. Most of the houses in Ashaiman had house numbers, but haphazardly done. As a result, the houses were selected at random. One member of each household in one house (as most of the houses were compound-type) was selected based on accidental sampling to participate in the study. This was done until the assigned number (75) was reached. This was to give households an equal opportunity to participate in the study. Respondents were from the two income divisions. This sample size was not for generalizing purpose but rather to garner basic information from a cross section of households on waste management and to complement the in-depth interviews.

Purposive technique was used to select some household members and opinion leaders to participate in the IDIs. As stated earlier since Ashaiman is largely made up of low and middle income groups, respondents were interviewed for this already mentioned income divide. This method of categorization was informed by the basic assumption that socio-economic factors played a major role in how people handled waste. The respondents were selected upon showing they had time and enough information to inform the study. They were identified during the piloting stage of the MA thesis. There were six (6) respondents comprising of two (2) household members, two (2) waste management officials and two (2) opinion leaders. It was based on the principle of saturation. According to Strauss and Corbin (1998), data saturation is reached when new cases no longer reveal new features. Throughout the research project the data were analyzed and as a result the researcher began to find certain patterns and similarities emerging in the first four (2 household members and 2 opinion leaders) interviews. Each interview took a minimum of 1 hour and 30 minutes and a maximum of 3 hours. The researcher therefore concluded that another two interviews with waste management officials would be manageable within the time allotted for the thesis. The reason for this technique was to help the study achieve its aim and to ensure that the study would get/gain respondents who can provide enough information with varied opinions given the time for this thesis. The number of six respondents for the IDIs is justified by Myers (2000) who argued that a small sample size is often accurate to offer in-depth and useful data in conducting qualitative research. Notwithstanding the six respondents, this paper will make use of only the data from the two household members.

Another important data collection technique that was employed in this study was the use of an observation guide. With observation the researchers paid close attention, watched, and listened carefully while being in the field. Here, the physical setting of the atmosphere was captured and scrutinized (Neuman, 2006: 396). According to Silverman (2000) good field researchers are intrigued about details that reveal "what's going on here" through careful listening and watching. Field researchers believe that the core of social life is communicated through the mundane, trivial, and everyday minutia. This is what people often overlook. Notes were taken through direct and indirect observations with the use of an observational protocol which according to Creswell (2007: 135) helps researchers to organize their thoughts. Households' reaction and attitudes towards waste management were observed.

It happened in the data collection process that a wide range of issues were simply not amenable to observation. Therefore, to Bryman (2008: 466) asking people about such issues represented the only viable means of finding out about them. This also justified why the study adopted triangulation to complement each other.

With the qualitative data, and with reference to the research aims, after transcribing and coding, the concepts were carefully put into themes and categories for manual analysis. This process helped to cut out conversations which were slightly off topic and also allowed the study to focus on the text pertinent to the paper. The Statistical Product for Service Solutions (SPSS) software version 16 was used to analyze the data collected with the questionnaire. The questionnaire with the responses was coded and entered into

the software. A statistical analysis of the data was made using bivariate analysis and cross tabulations at a significance level of 0.05.

#### 4. Results and Discussion

##### 4.1. Gender, Attitudes and Waste Management

In Ghana, issues related to gender equality are discussed in both print and electronic media. The various perspectives shared by some social commentators' give the indication that the country is gradually moving towards achieving that goal of equality, but whether those perceptions represent the reality may be demonstrated in the attitudes of residents towards household waste management. In this respect, the discussion below may attempt to bring to light some of the gender related issues and practices in Ghana in terms of domestic waste management.

Out of the total respondents, 40% were males while 60% were females. The reason for the unequal number of genders for this study was that at the time of data collection it was realized that most men had gone to work or in search of jobs. Most women were at home because they regarded themselves as housewives whilst doing small-scale businesses (e.g. selling water, food etc.) in front of their houses. This study shows that in the case of age, the age group (35-49) who participated in the study was more positive and conscious of their attitude towards waste management compared to those below and above the stated age group. Nevertheless, there is no significant relationship between respondents' attitude towards willingness to participate in household waste management and age ( $p = 0.512$ ).

In terms of gender, the women seemed to be more 'responsible' towards waste disposal compared to the men. Through the in-depth interviews it was revealed that the women feared being caught disposing at unapproved places because of the negative signals it will send to others about their attitudes as well as the shame it will bring to their family.

*"It will be a shame to me and my children if I am caught dumping in the gutter or somewhere which is not accepted. My children may be teased by their friends about this if they find out I am involved in dumping in a gutter. This will be a shame on my entire family" (Sarah, Age 48).*

This in a way made the women avoided negative disposal behaviour. From the interview it was deduced that shaming has been a form of social control just like the laws in the local community. This means that if an actor considers a social or legal sanction more costly than the easy way to perform an act that actor may change behaviour. All the same, it also means that some members of society usually consider the cost and benefits of their actions before engaging in them.

This 'responsible' attitude of women may also be because of the way the women are socialized within the family unit as regards their responsibility towards waste and not necessarily because of fear of shame. These positive attitudes of women and the negative attitudes of some men (as in the case of neglecting domestic waste management to the women, see Table 5) were not the situation in all cases as some women and men respectively behaved otherwise. Through the IDIs it was revealed that the women saw waste management as their duty.

*"...This has been my duty since childhood and even when I got married" (Akosua, Age 39).*

This implies that indeed a gender attitude towards waste management was something related to culture. This also finds expression in the fact that when individuals absorb their culture and learn to practice and communicate with it, the individuals intend form part of the social relationships that become the weft of the society as argued by Bohannan (2007).

As regards who takes the container and its waste contents out to be emptied, 68% of the respondents said any adult female (see Table 1). This confirms that it was a female responsibility and not that of males to manage household waste. This suggests a reflection on the socialization process as well as giving the impression that culture is one of the most important qualities in which social relationships are made empirically manifest even in respect of waste management tasks. The non-involvement of males in the management of domestic waste can be cited as one of the major bottlenecks confronting household waste management in Ghana. This is because participatory approach to domestic waste management may inform the younger ones of equal attitude towards waste rather than what is observed.

			Who usually takes the container with its waste contents out to be emptied?			Total
			Any adult female	Any child between the ages of 13 and 18	Any child between the ages of 6 and 12	
Gender	Male	Count	25	0	5	30
		% of Total	33.3%	0.0%	6.7%	
	Female	Count	26	8	11	45
		% of Total	34.7%	10.7%	14.7%	
Total	Count	51	8	16	75	
	% of Total	68.0%	10.7%	21.3%	100.0%	

Table 1: Gender and Responsibility Towards Waste Management

Source: Fieldwork, 2013

The data presented in Table 2 revealed that 57.4% of respondents were not satisfied with the waste collection services provided by the waste management institutions though 14.7% were uncertain about their level of satisfaction with 28% claiming to be satisfied. Respondents who were unsatisfied attributed it to the following two reasons: irregular collection of bins and poor attitudes of waste management workers.

			What is your level of satisfaction with the waste collection services rendered to you?			Total
			Unsatisfied	Uncertain/ Undecided	Satisfied	
Gender	Male	Count	20	5	5	30
		% of Total	26.7%	6.7%	6.7%	40.0%
	Female	Count	23	6	16	45
		% of Total	30.7%	8.0%	21.3%	60.0%
Total		Count	43	11	21	75
		% of Total	57.4%	14.7%	28.0%	100.0%

Table 2: Level of Satisfaction with the Waste Collection Services Rendered to Respondents  
Source: Fieldwork, 2013

The study revealed that all the respondents wanted improved services, but as to whether they were willing to pay for such improved services was another thing. Table 3 presents the willingness to pay for improved waste management services. It can be seen that two-thirds of the respondents were not willing to pay for improved services. For those who were willing to pay for improved services, the majority of them were males.

			Are you willing to pay more for improved services render to you?		Total
			Yes	No	
Gender	Male	Count	24	6	30
		% of Total	32.0%	8.0%	40.0%
	Female	Count	1	44	45
		% of Total	1.3%	58.7%	60.0%
Total		Count	25	50	75
		% of Total	33.3%	66.7%	100.0%

Table 3: Willingness to Pay for Improved Waste Services  
Source: Fieldwork, 2013

The respondents who were unwilling to pay for waste services said they did not have money to pay (26.7%) whilst 40% said it was the duty of the government to pay for the said services. The gender disparity in terms of attitude towards willingness to pay for waste services was partly because most of the men were employed (as stated in the data collection stage; in respect of why more women were involved in the study) and therefore earned some form of income compared to the women. The p-value of the chi-square test ( $p=0.01$ ) indicates that the relationship between employment status and willingness to participate in terms of payment for waste services was significant. This gives the impression of how economic or monetary power can influence the attitudes of some residents towards accepting or rejecting a particular service even in terms of domestic waste management. In terms of waste sorting, it was found that none of the respondents sorted their waste before disposal (Table 4).

			Do you sort your waste before disposal?	Total
			No	
Gender	Male	Count	30	30
		% of Total	40.0%	40.0%
	Female	Count	45	45
		% of Total	60.0%	60.0%
Total		Count	75	75
		% of Total	100.0%	100.0%

Table 4: Attitude Towards Waste Sorting  
Source: Fieldwork, 2013

This attitude towards sorting is embedded in the social context theory which argues that behaviour is based on the normal practice of society which becomes a social order. Thus, the practice of not sorting waste may be attributed to the socialization processes that members of the society go through, as evidenced in one of the in-depth interviews:

*"I have not been taught to separate my waste. I have never seen anyone including my parents sorting their waste. No one in this community does that. After all waste is waste, so why should I even spend my time to separate my waste?" (Sarah, Age 48).*

The bivariate analysis proved that there were no differences in attitude between both genders as the chi-square test ( $p = 0.823$ ) indicated that respondents' willingness to sort waste is not significantly related to their genders.

#### 4.2. Gender Attitude Towards Waste and Some Socio-Demographics

Attitude towards waste in respect of where one lives (i.e. the locality; middle and low income areas); the differences in attitude existed only when it came to payment for waste services, but in terms of disposal and the attention given to waste around the neighborhoods the attitudes towards waste disposal were almost the same. The chi-square test ( $p = 0.657$ ) shows that the willingness to participate in domestic waste management is not dependent on the locality in which one lives. The gender bias attitudes towards waste disposal seem identical in this already mentioned income area.

An attempt was made to find out whether or not women and children's responsibility towards waste management created problems for waste disposal. At the individual level, this did not create a serious problem for waste disposal since most women and children accepted that responsibility in good faith. This is a cultural issue as the women from their childhood were socialized into this way of life. Observations show that it was common to find even in some educated homes that waste management was still the duty of women and the children. The most fascinating thing was that, both men and women accepted that each had a specified role in the home, but for waste management it seems to be the sole duty of the woman without any hesitation. Problems only emanated when one woman in a particular household (in terms of households living in compound type houses) refused to perform her domestic waste management responsibilities. In respect of the children and the problems it created for waste disposal, at times the children could not stretch their hands to put the garbage in the container because of its size and thereby making them dump on the floor.

Women and children who also did not want to walk a long distance dumped into corners, gutters, and in some uncompleted structures which worsened the worst situation and therefore created problems for the waste management institutions and those living around. It was also revealed that there were instances in which conflicts erupted between siblings. These conflicts were more related to 'responsibilities', that is, which child [gender] should perform what? The IDIs revealed that resolving this conflict meant sharing responsibilities among siblings.

*"... Sometimes I have to make the girls do the sweeping whilst the boys did the disposal" (Akosua, Age 39).*

This means that the equal sharing of duties and obligations can help minimize conflict at the household level as well as promote the internalization of social processes that may endorse gender equality attitudes toward household chores which domestic waste management is part.

Based on the findings of this study, whether or not education played a major role in terms of waste disposal and gender equality attitude towards waste, the findings of the study showed that (with all the data gathered from the various methodological approaches), it is a 'yes' and a 'no' answer. The study made two cases in respect of the level of education and waste disposal. The study first established that the level of education in respect of all genders did not have significant bearing on waste disposal attitude. This was manifested in the middle income areas where most respondents had had some form of tertiary education. One would be tempted to believe that because education is assumed to increase one's income, the middle income areas were well kept due to the regular payment for waste services compared to the lower income areas. This necessarily did not mean the level of education impacted waste disposal attitude because income had a role to play here. Secondly, the study also showed that education determined one's attitude towards waste. According to a respondent in the IDIs:

*"... Education will inform you about what to do and what not to do. With education and the waste facilities available you are able to dump at the right place" (Akosua, Age 39).*

As stated in the social context theory, if a person is taught/educated (both formal and informal) on how to dump at the right place (determined by society) and the social consequences of indiscriminate dumping at the family level, it eventually shapes the person from childhood to adulthood. The response also shows that whether members of a society will dump at the right place or not depended on the available waste facilities.

A bivariate analysis showed that one's attitude towards waste was not dependent on the educational background of the respondents as the chi-square test indicated ( $p = 0.742$ ). Education did not impact gender attitude towards waste, but the income level did as the chi-square test indicated ( $p = 0.0154$ ). Notwithstanding, most households felt education was still the way forward to improving waste management. This means that whether one is educated or not the attitude towards waste disposal/management highly depended on the person in question, the economic situation, the political conditions, other important socio-cultural variables, and not necessarily on specific gender.

Table 5 indicates that in respect of the roles both genders played in the management of waste in their community, the women claimed to be performing a major role compared to the men. These roles, through observation, manifested itself in the daily gathering and disposal of household waste by most women and children whilst it was hardly observed that the men performed the said roles. Nevertheless, through the IDIs it was shown that the men in most cases provided the finance for payment of the waste services. This gives a composed image of the complementary expectations about the nature of the roles women play and the nature of roles the men play all in terms of waste management, and the way the two roles fit together. This also depicts that the

roles spouses play in terms of domestic waste management form a part of the social relationships and expectations held by the people in the society who play such roles. All these roles and relationships find expressions in the kind of social structure made manifest in Ghana.

		<b>I play an important role in the management of garbage in my community</b>		<b>Total</b>	
		<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>		
Gender	Male	Count	1	29	30
		% of Total	1.3%	38.7%	40.0%
	Female	Count	35	10	45
		% of Total	46.7%	13.3%	60.0%
Total		Count	11	64	75
		% of Total	14.7%	85.3%	100.0%

*Table 5: Roles in the Management of Waste in the Community*

*Source: Fieldwork, 2013*

This means that in order to overcome the challenges of waste management in various community women have huge tasks at hand as they serve as a model to accelerate development in terms of waste management.

### 5. Conclusion and Policy Implications of the Study

The responsibility of handling waste is viewed as the duty of women. This is a social creation as most women are socialized into this way of life. The women to a very large extent accept waste management as part of their domestic duties, which instead, is supposed to be a shared responsibility. Whilst this practice of gender bias attitude may be viewed as negative it could serve as a tool to hasten national development and overcome waste management challenges in Ghana. This is only when women are integrated into the decision making processes of waste management at the local, sub-national and national levels. More so, if all genders agree to these shared responsibilities it will improve waste management at the household level and to the community at large, and thereby serve as a model of education for generations. Educating and sensitizing the public about this gender bias attitude may go a long way to promoting equal gender attitudes towards domestic chores of which waste management has been just but one, and to a very large extent promote an equal gender attitude in all spheres of society.

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