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**NEWS INTEREST OF STUDENTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL
ISSUES: THE CASE OF THE DELTA STATE
POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS**

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ABSTRACT: Environmental news is not so prevalent with students in higher institutions. This is because they are preoccupied with social issues in the social media and their studies. The study examines interest on environmental news among students in the Delta State Polytechnic, Otefe-Oghara in Delta State, Nigeria. The main objective is to determine students' interest in environmental news. The study was anchored on attention restoration theory which explains the extent of that exposure to environmental issues enhance concerns for the environment. A total of 209 sample size was drawn from 214 respondents. Questionnaire was the instrument for data collection. The data collected and analysed in percentage and mean showed that students' of the Delta state polytechnic were listened to environmental issues as a result of immediate environmental problems like floods, oil spills, gully erosion and solid waste management. However, the level of interest is based on the level of the frequency of environmental news from different sources of mass communication. The study among other things recommends consistent environmental news in the media. Also, young should have interest in environmental news for this will enhance interest in participatory environmental management.

Keywords: Environmental management, Environmental News, Interest, Students.

INTRODUCTION

There are considerable studies relating to young people's awareness on environmental knowledge and attitude (Raudsepp, 2001; Ifegbesan, 2009; Longe, Longe, & Ukpebor, 2009) For instance, in a study of secondary school students' understanding and practices of waste management in Ogun State, Ifegbesan (2009) found that students possessed high environmental awareness and knowledge of waste problem but have low attitudes towards waste management. Raudsepp (2001) had shown that age and level of education have strong and consistent relations with environmentalism. He study showed that older people with their exposure and experience show more concern for the environment than younger ones with less exposure and experience. Age with the right attitude is expected to play a significant role in environmental management because an individual's maturity could affect level of awareness on environmental health and sanitation.

In addition, a study had shown that environmental concepts like global warming and climate change and environmental management were not new to secondary school students in Delta State, Nigeria (Akpoghiran & Arimitan, 2017). By implication, young people at the

secondary school level have knowledge on environmental communication and management. Also, a study had shown that environmental issues are of great importance to young people (Mifsud, 2011). In the view of Mifsud, college students are an important segment of society and warrant attention in terms of studying environmental attitudes, as they have been the leading crusaders in the modern environmental movement.

A study by Eilam and Trop (2012) examined processes of influence on environmental attitudes and on environmental behaviour in school in Israel. The first study examined differences in the processes by which environmental schools programmes influence students' environmental behaviour and attitude as well as students' parents. The results obtained from that study showed that environmental studies in schools (environmental curriculum and programme) are successful in influencing students' environmental behaviour and attitudes. Also, environmental studies in schools are very successful in creating direct influence on parents' environmental behaviour and in creating indirect influence through intergenerational attempts to influence behaviour. The conclusions of the results provided new insights into the relationship between attitudes and behaviour with regard to environmental education.

Environmental news may not be trendy among many young people in Nigeria. This is because young people are more concerned about politics, entertainment, sports and fashion trends. Even if environmental matters have become global among world leaders and nations of the earth as seen in different World Earth Summits and Conferences over the past decades, the average Nigerian still sees environmental concerns as remote (Akpoghiran & Arimitan, 2017). This is why Soola (2016) states that concern for the environment in Nigeria is a relatively recent phenomenon.

Many of these studies on environmental issues on young people have focused on secondary school populations and environmental education. However, less emphasis has been placed on studies that concern polytechnic students' interest on environmental news in the polytechnic. There are no considerable studies relating to students' interest in environmental news, first in Delta state and Nigeria as a whole. Many of the studies on young people and environmental attitude have been based on foreign environments, however, time, location, age of the respondents and the fact that the study is directed to students in polytechnic make this study distinct from others. Polytechnic students were adopted because perhaps, there are no adequate works as at the time of this study on polytechnic students and environmental management. Also, many of the studies on environmental management and students have been directed to university education.

Consequently, the aim of this paper among others is to:

1. Determine polytechnic students' interest in environmental news
2. Ascertain level of students' interest in environmental news
3. Determine aspects of environmental news to students in polytechnic
4. The determine sources of environmental news to students

Therefore, knowing the interest of students to environmental news will help to establish better understanding of their knowledge and attitude of environmental issues and management

Literature Review and Theoretical Backing

The areas reviewed in this study were students' interest on environmental news and attitudes of students to environmental issues.

Interest on Environmental News

Environmental news is beyond the conventional style of reporting of news and giving of information but rather, it is the creation of awareness, education and knowledge in order to influence change and promote responsible environmental behaviour. As a process of gathering, collecting, verifying and presenting of news about the environment through a medium for audience consumption (Nwabueze, 2007), interest in environmental news on students is based on:

- Self-consciousness and perception of the environment
- Level of class activities on environmental subject
- Level of environmental awareness, education and knowledge
- Level of exposure to mass media environmental news and reportage
- Level of environmental exposure
- Access to sources of environmental news and information
- Pattern of environmental news consumption

All these factors lead to environmental attitude and behaviour.

Environmental interest or concern is believed to be one of the first steps towards environmental management. It incorporates multiple dimensions such as awareness of ecological problems, support for environmental regulation, green movement, and exhibition of eco-conscious behaviour (Bao, 2009). Fundamentally, environmental interest has to do with one's attitude towards the environment or the relationship between humans and the ecosystem Bao (as above) viewed environmental interest as a proactive attitude towards the ecosystem and one's behaviour regarding environmental preservation and protection.

Research on environmental interest has been examined. Duan and Fortner (2005) found that students possessed high environmental awareness and knowledge of local environmental issues than global environmental issues. A study by Longe, Longe and Ukpebor (2009) showed that environmental conscious people were young and educated. It explains that environmental conscious people were willing to adopt a responsible environmental behaviour as they grow older. There also exists research asserting that environmental consciousness is necessary and essential to pro-environmental behavioural changes (Haytko and Matullich, 2009). Also, a study by Bao (2009) suggested that personal attachment or interest in the environment can motivate pro-environmental behaviours, ranging from

environmental activism, such as ecological relevant petition for pro-environmental laws and regulations, membership in anti-pollution organisations, to energy conservation and responsible use of resources. Environmental concern is likely to have a bearing on an individual's propensity to behave in favour of the environment like solid waste management.

There are studies to show that students' environmental attitude is related to knowledge and interest. For instance, Lavonen and Meisalo (2004, as cited in Yousuf & Bhutta, 2012) examined Finnish students' environmental attitudes across gender. They found overall positive attitude towards environment across gender. In a comparative study by Huang and Yore (2003), they reported that both Canadian and Taiwanese 5th grade students held positive behaviour and attitudes towards the environment. Moreover, they expressed a high emotional disposition towards the environment and high concern about environmental problems and issues as well as a moderate level of environmental knowledge.

Attitudes of Students towards Environmental Issues

Environmental issues in the higher institutions in Nigeria have been on teaching instead of also trying to practically influence students' attitudes and values about environmental problems. In a study on behaviour and attitudes of students towards environmental issues in Turkey, Budak, Budak, Zaimoglu Kecec and Sucu (2005) found that students from rural areas were more concerned about environmental issues than urban ones while male students were more reluctant to environmental issues than female students. Their study also showed that students have positive behaviour towards environmental issues. However, students' environmental behaviour was significantly related to their age. In a similar study by Yousuf and Bhutta (2012) on secondary school students' attitude towards environmental issues in Karachi, Pakistan, the results showed that there was no significant difference between male and female students' attitude towards environmental issues. The results of the study provide significant insights into male and female students' attitude towards environmental issues towards discipline in both government and private secondary schools. The results of various researchers' findings on students' attitude to environmental issues have been inconsistent and inconclusive. Nevertheless, all findings point to the simple fact that right attitude is more significant in environmental management or issues than gender difference, age and education.

A research had shown that formal environmental education helps students to develop more favourable attitudes towards the environment (Lee, 2008). Eilam and Trop (2012) in their study argued that the ultimate goal of environmental education is to influence behaviour and to develop active citizenship. Ibimilua (2015) shared the same thought with Eilam and Trop, when he states that the major aim of environmental education is to increase public knowledge and awareness about environmental issues and to provide opinions or the skills to make rational decisions and implement actions in the environment. The goals include fostering awareness about socio, political and ecological interdependence in urban and rural areas, value and attitude to improve the environment, provision of opportunities to acquire the knowledge, and the creation of new patterns of behavior of individuals towards the environment. To Ibimilua (2015), environmental education enables us to assess the impacts

of proposed development projects on the bio-geo-physical environment. It is of vital importance when it comes to the creation of an enabling environment that is conducive and convenient for working, circulation and recreation.

Theoretical framework

The study is anchored on Attention Restoration Theory (ART). The attention restoration theory was postulated by Heather-Ohly; White; Wheeler; Bethel; and Ukoumunne, in 2016. In their work titled: Attention Restoration Theory: a systematic review of the attention restoration potential of exposure to natural environments, Heather-Ohly et al. (2016) believe that there is increasing practice and policy interest by governments all over the world in the potential for natural environments to provide positive human health and well-being benefits. The theory suggests the ability to concentrate may be restored by exposure to natural environments. Attention Restoration Theory (ART) is commonly referenced to explain how this benefit might accrue. The theory further explains that attention or exposure to environmental issues increase concerns for the environment. The theory seeks to challenge individual to pay attention to the environment, and to look for what will bring about 'the restorative benefits of nature'. ART proposes that individuals should be engaged in activities that are compatible with the environment and the restore natural or environmental values. This implies that environmental attention should be directed to what will be benefits to nature. Heather-Ohly *et al.* (2016) are of the view that attention can be restored to environmental management in the cause of disasters like floods, hurricane, typhoon and so on. People seem to be more concern about health and safety during environmental problems. By implication, attention to environmental news can restore environmental benefits.

The application and justification of this theory to the study is that attention to news helps to restore environmental interest, and then, attitude. One of the assumptions of this theory is that impact to the natural environment is the aftermath of exposure to news and environmental issues. Attention is a strong factor or variable in attitude and environmental behaviour. Attention, beliefs, motivations and knowledge are components of attitude. Exposure to environmental news is as a result of environmental concern, which in turn leads to environmental attitude. Students' can develop environmental attitude if attention is given to environmental news consistently.

Research Method

The materials consulted were books and journals; and primary data from questionnaire administer to target respondents. The survey research method was adopted because it allows respondents' (students) to express their ideas, feelings, views, opinion, attitude and behaviour on the subject matter (interest in environmental news).

Population of the Study

The population of the study was adopted from two departments from the School of Business Studies in the Delta State Polytechnic, Otefe-Oghara. The school of business and

management studies was adopted because it has the highest number of departments. The departments are accounting; banking and finance; business administration and management; mass communication. The two departments were selected through a balloting numbering technique. The departments were banking and finance and business administration and management. The population of the study was HND 2 of these two departments. Official record in the 2017/2018 academic session for the department of banking and finance was 102 students while that of the department of business administration and management was 380 students. The total population for both departments is four hundred and eighty-two (482).

Scope of the Study

The conceptual scope of the study is interest of students' in environmental news. The geographical scope is the Delta State Polytechnic, Otefe-Oghara. Demographically, the scope is limited to regular students of the polytechnic in Higher National Diploma (HND 2) programme. It is believed that at this final level of HND2, a respondent might be matured enough to understand the concepts as contained in the instrument for data collection. Polytechnic students were adopted because some of the studies on students' and environmental knowledge have been directed to university and secondary (Budak; Budak ; Zaimoglu; Kekec; & Sucu, 2005; Duan, & Fortner, 2005;. Lee, 2008; Yousuf, & Bhutta, 2012; Akpoghiran & Arimitan, 2017).. The Delta State Polytechnic, Otefe-Oghara polytechnic was established in 12th November, 2002 and has three Schools. The schools are: The school of applied sciences and technology; school of business and management studies; and school of engineering.

Sample Size

To have a definite sample size for this study, the Research Advisors' (2006) sample size table was used and it produced a sample size of 214 at 95 per cent confidence level and a margin of error (degree of accuracy) of 2.5 per cent. The sample size was developed by Krejcie Robert and Morgan Daryle in 1970. Krejcie and Morgan sample size has been used by many researchers over the years. For example, the population ('N') of our study is 482, the sample size ('S') is 214 (see the Table below). Two hundred and fourteen (214) therefore represents the population of study.

Table for Determining Sample Size from a given Population

N	S	N	S	N	S	N	S	N	S
10	10	100	80	280	162	800	260	2800	338
15	14	110	86	290	165	850	265	3000	341
20	19	120	92	300	169	900	269	3500	246
25	24	130	97	320	175	950	274	4000	351
30	28	140	103	340	181	1000	278	4500	351
35	32	150	108	360	186	1100	285	5000	357
40	36	160	113	380	181	1200	291	6000	361
45	40	180	118	400	196	1300	297	7000	364
50	44	190	123	420	201	1400	302	8000	367
55	48	200	127	440	205	1500	306	9000	368
60	52	210	132	460	210	1600	310	10000	373
65	56	220	136	480	***214	1700	313	15000	375
70	59	230	140	500	217	1800	317	20000	377
75	63	240	144	550	225	1900	320	30000	379
80	66	250	148	600	234	2000	322	40000	380
85	70	260	152	650	242	2200	327	50000	381
90	73	270	155	700	248	2400	331	75000	382
95	76	270	159	750	256	2600	335	100000	384

NOTE: “N” is population size, “S” is sample size

Source: Krejcie, Robert V., Morgan, Daryle W (1970).

Sampling Technique

The cluster and purposive sampling techniques were employed as sampling techniques. From the cluster sampling technique, the multi-stage sampling was adopted. This stage starts from selecting one school or college from the three (3) schools in the Delta State polytechnic, Otefe-Oghara. Two departments were randomly selected from the four (4) departments of the school of business and management studies. The departments were banking and finance and business administration and management. Using the multi-stage cluster sampling technique, the respondents were drawn from two different departments from the school of business and management. The purposive or judgmental sampling involves the desired elements. The desired elements or target respondents were only students in HND 2 of these two departments.

Instrument for Data Collection

Questionnaire was the instrument used to collect data. The copies of the questionnaire were administered to target students in these two departments. It should be noted that similar nature and structure of this questionnaire had been used by Babalola; Babalola and Okhale (2010), Mifsud (2011) and Akpoghiran and Arimitan (2017).

However, to obtain the number of copies of the questionnaire that were administered to respondents in these two departments; and based on the different population of these departments, a proportional administration of copies of the questionnaire was obtained, thus:

$$\frac{N \times S}{TN}$$

Where:

N = population

S = sample size (214)

TN = total population (482)

Sample size for banking and finance department

$$\frac{102 \times 214}{482} = 45$$

Sample size for business administration and management

$$\frac{380 \times 214}{482} = 169$$

$$45 + 169 = 214$$

This technique showed how the sample size (n-214) was administered among the two departments.

Results

Table 1: Most Common Words That Come to Mind When You Hear the Word Environment

What is first word that comes to your mind when you hear the word environment?

	Items provided	Freq. (209)	(%)
Earth		39	18.6%
Solid waste		-	-
Floods		-	-
Plants/trees/forest		14	6.69%
Ozone layer		-	-

Global warming and climate change	23	11.0%
Weather	09	4.31%
Natural disasters	-	-
Our surroundings	51	24.4%
Mountains/hills/valleys	-	-
The air/atmosphere	-	-
Buildings and roads	04	1.91%
Living and non-living things	61	29.2%
The society we live	08	3.83%

Field work, 2018

Table 2: Respondents' Familiarity with Environmental Concepts

Which of these environmental concepts you are more familiar with?

Items provided	Freq. (209)	(%)
Greenhouse effect	02	0.95%
Renewable sources/energy	02	0.95%
CFC's and ozone depletion	03	1.44%
Ecology	09	4.31%
Alternative energy	-	-
Hurricanes	17	8.13%
Tsunami	-	-
Typhoons	-	-
Volcanic eruption	11	5.26%
Environmental Impact Assessment	06	2.87%
Solid waste management	70	33.5%
Biodiversity	02	0.95%
Gas flare	13	6.22%
Sustainable development	03	1.44%
Gully erosion	20	9.55%
Global warming and climate change	51	24.4%

Field work, 2018

Table 3: Sources of Environmental News to Students

Which one of these is your main source of environmental news?

Items provided	Freq.(209)	(%)
Community leaders	--	-
Government/ Environmental officials	05	2.40%
Officials	--	-
Health officials	--	-
Books	--	-
School	02	0.95%

Radio	46	22.0%
Television	50	23.9%
Newspaper	18	8.61%
Social media	87	41.6%
Family	--	-
Friends	01	0.47%

Field work, 2018

Table 4: Aspect of Environmental News Most Received by Students

Which one of these aspects of environmental news that is most received by you from the media?

Items provided	Freq. (209)	(%)
Weather report	91	43.5%
Flood disaster	44	21.1%
Health	-	-
Food	-	-
Solid waste management	39	18.6%
Bush burning	-	-
Oil spills	11	5.30%
Gas flare	17	8.13%
Erosion	04	1.91%
Tree falling	-	-
Improper Sewage disposal	-	-
Global warming and climate change	03	1.44%

Table 5(a): Level of Access to Environmental News by Respondents'

Rate your level of access to environmental news.

I have access to environmental news on.....basis:

Options provided	Freq. (209)	(%)
Daily	53	25.4%
Weekly	72	34.4%
Monthly	42	20.1%
Occasionally	42	20.1%
Not at all	--	-

Table 5(b): I listen to environmental news on.....basis:

Options provided	Freq. (209)	(%)
Daily	17	8.1%
Weekly	27	12.9%
Monthly	44	21.1%
Occasionally	121	57.8%
Not at all	-	-

Table 6: Personal Interest in Environment News

Indicate what you have done from environmental news received?

Options	Freq. (209)	%
I have changed my ways in order to reduce the amount of waste generated	23	11.0%
I usually clean my surroundings to reduce mosquitoes and waste	103	49.3%
Participate in the monthly sanitation in my area	41	19.6%
Dump refuse at the approved site	16	7.65%
Put waste in polythene bag and in container	-	-
Stop indiscriminate bush burning	-	-
Stop oil pipe vandalism	-	-
Decided to reuse and recycle something rather than throw away	-	-
Use energy bulbs in order to reduce energy consumption	-	-
Protect green vegetations	-	-
Stop tree falling	-	-
Put off electrical appliances when I am not using it or when I am out	05	2.39%
Clear stagnant water channels to prevent flood	18	8.61%
Often talk with friends about environmental management	03	1.44%
Correct someone unfriendly environmental attitude	-	-
Involved in climate change campaigns and environmental management	-	-
Attend training, seminars on environmental management	-	-
I spend so much time in friendly issues on the social network sites not on environmental issues.	-	-

Table 7: Students' Interest in Environmental News

S/N	Items	SA	A	UD	D	SD	X	Decision
1.	Issues on environmental education and management are hardly discussed among students and youths of my age.	96	21	21	23	48	3.44	Accepted
2.	Students' are not so much interested in environmental news unless when it directly affects them.	28	65	28	88	0	3.15	Accepted
3.	Students' are much more involved in social issues in the social media than environmental issues	144	55	0	10	0	4.64	Accepted
4.	I only get involved in environmental issues in school as assignment not out of personal concern.	48	23	0	69	69	2.57	Rejected
5.	Students pick interest in environmental news at the time of disaster like floods and land slide.	132	34	0	43	0	4.22	Accepted
6.	Consistent interest in environmental news can bring about responsible environmental behaviour.	151	47	11	0	0	4.66	Accepted

Point of acceptance or rejection=3.00

Discussion of Results

From the sample size administered (n-214), two hundred and nine (209) copies were returned. This represented 98% of the sample returned and used for analyzing the data. The data collected were pooled and analysed using descriptive statistics of frequency counts, percentage and mean. The sample size returned (209) consisted of 97 representing 46.4% of the male respondents' and 112 responses representing 53.5% of the female respondents'. In the age ranges, ages between 17-21 were 88 responses representing 42.1% of the respondents; between 22-26 were 73 responses representing 34.9% of the respondents; those between 27- above were 22.9% of the respondents. There were 171 respondents representing 81.8% that were not married while 38 respondents representing 18.2% were married.

On age distribution, a study by Akpoghiran and Arimintan (2017) showed that respondents' between the ages of 16 to 18 and above in secondary were completely involved in the answering of questions in questionnaire administered to them. This shows that age and education are factors that helped to explain environmental management (Ifegbasan, 2009; Longe, Longe and Ukpebor, 2009 & Raudsepp, 2001).

Tables 1 and 2 were to determine polytechnic students' understanding of the concept of environment. These first-two Tables and Table 7 provided answers to objective one.

Objective one was to determine polytechnic students' interest in environmental news. Table 1 showed that 61 of the 209 respondents' representing 29.2% indicated living and non-living things as the first thing that comes to their minds when the word environment is mentioned while 51 of the 209 respondents' representing 24.4% claimed 'surroundings' as the first thing that comes to mind when they heard of the word environment. The 'earth' was indicated by 18% of the respondents. By indicating living and non-living things as our environment, it showed that respondents' understood the concept of environment. In the same vein, Table 2 provided various environmental concepts that the respondents' were more familiar with. The result showed that 70 of the 209 respondents (being the highest) representing 33.5% were more familiar with solid waste management as environmental concept while 51 of the 209 respondents' representing 24.4 % indicated global warming and climate change. Solid waste management and global warming and climate change are very common concepts in environmental issues in Nigeria. Both solid waste and climate change effects are causes of floods in our cities today. Many of our water channels in various parts of our towns are covered by solid wastes while climate change is caused by massive global pollutions and other factors over time resulting to ozone layer depletion which result to heavy rain fall and consequently, rain floods. A study had shown that the concept of climate change has proven to be of a remote understanding to the average Nigerians while the concept of solid waste disposal and management was practically clear to Nigerians (Akpoghiran, 2013). Respondents were also familiar with other environmental concepts like gully erosion representing 9.56% of the respondents; hurricanes representing 8.1% of the respondents; and gas flare representing 6.22% of the respondents. Gas flare is very common phenomenon in the Niger-Delta of Nigeria while gully erosion is a regular occurrence in the south-east and in Edo state of Nigeria. Hence, respondents' were familiar with these concepts.

In answering to objective one, data in Table 7 revealed the following results. At the point of $3.44 > 3.00$, respondents' answered in the affirmative that issues on environmental education and management are hardly discussed among students and youths of their age. Environmental issues do not make headlines in our Dailies unless in the occurrence of floods and oil spills. The result implies that, as shown in item 2 that students' were not so much interested in environmental news unless when it directly affects them (where, $3.15 > 3.00$) during the time of disaster like floods and land slide ($4.22 > 3.00$). On the other hand, they (students) were much more involved in other social issues on the social media than environmental issues. Social media have become the in-thing in this attention-getting age. In line with the result, Akpoghiran, Umukoro and Okoro (2018) in their study found that social media are dominated by social issues such as politics, entertainment, sports and so on but attention has not been given to issues bordering on environmental management like solid waste. The results from Tables 1; 2 and 7 in answering to objective one imply that students' were interested in environmental news and information especially when it has to do with floods and land slide which are frequent occurrence in Nigeria.

Objective two was to ascertain level of students' interest to environmental news. Tables 5 and 6 provide answers to objective two. Table 5 has two tables (a & b). Table 5(a) determines respondents' access to environmental news. The result obtained showed that the

respondents have access to environmental news on weekly basis. This was represented by 34% of the respondents. In Table 5(b), result showed that 57.8% of the respondents listened to environmental news occasionally. This means that they rarely listen to environmental news. This may not be shocking because undergraduate students spend much of their time browsing the Internet or chatting in the social media or surfing for one thing or the other on the social media. The social media are the in-thing among young people. The social media can be used to promote environmental issues among students if they direct their attention towards such by creating social sites or chat group where environmental issues can be discussed among people.

It should be noted that the level of students' interest in environmental news was ascertained through practical response to environmental management as shown in Table 6. Results in Table (6) clearly showed that 103 of the 209 respondents representing 49.3% usually clean their surroundings to reduce mosquitoes and solid waste. In the same vein, 19.6% of the respondents claimed that they have participated in the monthly sanitation in their area. This is an environmental exercise done every month in many states of the country for inhabitants' to clean their immediate surroundings. Also, 8.6% of the respondents claimed that they cleared stagnant water channels to prevent flood. In order to reduce amount of waste generated, then pattern of consumption must be reduced. In this wise, 11.0% of the respondents claimed that they have changed their ways in order to reduce the amount of waste generated while 7.7% of the respondents' dump refuse at the approved place.

The above results in Table 6 showed participatory level of respondents' interest in environmental news. This invariably means participatory environmental management can emanate from consistent environmental news. Environmental news therefore must be consistent in the mass media and other sources of communication in order to have participatory environmental management (PEM). PEM like waste clearing should not be a sort of government regulation or directives. Government directives on environmental management are not self-concern for environmental management. However, self-consciousness or concern for the environment is part of responsible environmental attitude.

Results in Tables 3 and 4 provide answers to objective 3 and 4. Objective three was to determine aspects of environmental news to students in polytechnic while objective four was to know sources of environmental news to students. As showed in the Table 3, one of the main sources of environmental news to students was the social media as represented by 41.6% of the respondents. It is obvious that students' spent most of their time on the social media. Other sources of environmental news were television (23.9%); radio (22.0%) and newspaper (8.61%) respectively. These channels were major sources of environmental news. However, aspect of environmental news that respondents' received more was also determined. The result in Table 4 showed that weather report was aspect respondents' received more in environmental news of the mass media. This was represented by 43.5% of the respondents. In addition, 21.1% of the respondents indicated flood disasters that have ravaged many states in Nigeria during the rainy seasons. Solid waste management was another aspect. This aspect was indicated by 18.6% of the respondents. Environmental news

like flood in many parts of Nigeria and solid waste problems have been frequently covered by the mass and social media in Nigeria in 2018.

Implication of the Findings and Contribution to knowledge

The findings among other things implies

- Environmental news are not consistently reported in the mass media. Regular environmental news is capable of bringing about responsible environmental behaviour.
- Social media will be good platforms for environmental news since the platform is very dominant among students.
- Students' interest on environmental news is as a result of environmental man-caused problems like floods, oil spills, landslide in Nigeria not out of self-consciousness and love for the environment.
- Environmental interest is largely determined by participatory environmental management not just receiving environmental news.
- There is need to increase environmental interest by having environmental courses in schools curriculums from secondary to post secondary.
- The theory used for this study, the attention restoration theory finds credence to the results of the study. The theory holds that attention or exposure to environmental issues increases concerns for the environment. The theory seeks to challenge individual to pay attention to the environment, and to look for what will bring about 'the restorative benefits of nature'. All the findings in this study showed that consistent environmental news and information increase interest in environmental issues and management.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The study looks at students' interest in environmental news. Many higher institution students are pre-occupied with the social media. The social media are found to be major sources of news and information to students. However, environmental issues have never been of serious interest on the social media among students of higher institution like the polytechnic. Although students in the polytechnic were very familiar with different environmental concepts because they received environmental news from different sources but their interest in environmental news was not determined by these sources but largely by environmental problems like floods, oil spills, gully erosion and solid waste problems. Interest in environmental news appears occasionally whenever there was environmental problem reported in the mass media. Students' interest in environmental news is largely affected by the kinds of environmental news which frequently occurred in Nigeria.

Arising from the above, the study recommends consistent news and information on environmental management. The major source of environmental news which is the social media should be used to promote environmental issues by creating social sites for that purpose where they can chat on environmental issues among themselves. This will expose them to a wide range of issues in environmental management on local, national and global

scales. Consistent news and information on environmental issues will invariably increase interest.

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